



Seldovia Gazette

Serving Seldovia, Alaska and Kachemak Bay southeast

Seldovia, AK
52 °F / 11 °C
Mostly Cloudy
at 11:06 PM



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Sunday, Aug. 14, 2005

Just another day in paradise

Vol. 1, No. 10, August 11, 2005

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Top Stories

Fast Ferry takes first steps forward

by *Damara Burnett*

On a recent sunny, summer afternoon, two men - one representing the Seldovia Native Association, the other representing the City of Seldovia - sat down to coordinate their efforts to bring daily ferry service to Seldovia. Although the entities the men represent have not always seen eye-to-eye in the past, the first official Kachemak Bay Daily Ferry meeting between SNA CEO Mike Beal and City Manager Kurt Reynertson was productive, according to both men.

"This is a model of how we can work together for the benefit of everyone," said Beal.

Phase One of the project - the design and development of a daily ferry for Kachemak Bay - officially started July 20th, when SNA, under the direction of the Seldovia Village Tribe, received 2 million in federal grant dollars for the project.

The first step of the grant, according to Beal, is to hire a group of consultants to manage various aspects of the project. Then, public meetings need to be set at the communities potentially affected by the daily ferry - Seldovia, Port Graham, Nanwalek, Halibut Cove, and Homer - and environmental assessments need to be completed. Following public comment, a Steering Committee formed by the City of Seldovia will recommend to SNA a specific type of vessel best suited for Kachemak Bay and the communities it would serve.

At that point, proposals will be taken from companies wishing to design the ferry. Two companies will be chosen to produce a more in-depth design of the ferry and then one will receive an award of \$1,175,000 for the final design of the vessel. Beal noted the design and award process will be competitive; he said three companies - including Lockheed-Martin, Allen Marine, and Kitsap - have already shown considerable interest in designing and constructing the ferry.

Once final design of the vessel is completed, the City of Seldovia will begin to

Marketplace

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Help keep sports and academic travel programs alive for our school!



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The Seldovia harbor has 32 foot and 42 foot slips for rent. Call for details:
Harbor Master (907) 234-7886
City Office (907) 234-7643



research and develop a Port Authority to operate the ferry. The municipality would then vote whether or not the City of Seldovia should manage the ferry's operation.

Does this mean Seldovians will definitely see a daily ferry cruising the waters of Kachemak Bay in the near future? Not quite, according to Beal.

"I still need to find 6 million" to complete actual construction of the ferry, he said. "But I'm pretty confident they won't leave us with half the money to build a boat."

Beal also noted that despite the fact the ferry would probably be built in either a Ketchikan, Sitka, or Seattle boatyard, some local construction work should be available.

"We're going to try really hard to carve out some piece of the construction pie for Seldovia," he said.

School

▶ [School registration begins August 17th](#)

Notices

▶ **NEW!** [Comprehensive Plan Public Final August 10, 2005 \(pdf\)](#)

▶ [Amended FY05 Seldovia City Budget 7-8-2005 \(pdf\)](#)

▶ [Boys and Girls Club August 2005 Calendar](#)

▶ **NEW!** [Boys and Girls Club June - July Newsletter](#)

▶ [Harbor Survey Priority Results \(pdf\)](#)

Corrections

▶ None this week. . .



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Marine salvage operation in Seldovia Bay

by Tom Glover

Seldovian Marie McCarrell salvaged a marine vessel this past week while he was tending salmon nets . . . the vessel is about seven inches long. The small wooden boat was one of 5,000 schooners launched into the St. Lawrence River, Québec, Canada by the Fêtes du Québec maritime. It was boat #3052, captained by Donald Bélanger, the launching site was Rimouski, and the launching date was June 19, 2002. It arrived in Seldovia 3 years and 2 months later and was picked up by Mr. McCarrell in Seldovia Bay while tending Fred Elvsaas' salmon nets.



Captain Bélanger's message on the website reads "Bonjour à toi qui lis ce message! Aie un but dans la vie. Ne te décourage pas et aide les autres à vivre

we do not have large print versions of the other pages on this site.

en paix.” (You’ll have to translate it yourself, I don’t speak French!)

Update 8-14-2005: Thanks to Jenny Chissus, the translation is "Hello to the one who reads this message. Have a goal in life. Don't loose heart and help others to live in peace."



Their website is <http://www.fqcm.com> if you would like additional details. The website is in French but there is a link to click which will provide an English version of the site.

▶ [Click here for a location map of the St. Lawrence River](#)

▶ [Click here for a location map of Rimouski](#)

***Libby* play to be performed in Seldovia on Saturday night**

by Susan Zerwick, SAC



Don't miss the one woman play 'Libby' this Saturday, August 13 at 7:30pm in the Susan B English Commons.

Ticket prices are \$15/adult, \$8/child, or \$35/family. For more information call the Seldovia Arts Council at 234-7614.

In the late 1870's, during the depression that followed the Civil War, Washington D.C. socialite Libby Beaman convinced President Rutherford B. Hayes to offer her husband a job in the Pribilof Islands. Over the objections of his supervisor, she accompanied her husband to the Pribilofs where they spent the next year and a half. Through her diaries and letters Libby vividly recorded her life on these remote islands, weaving a passionate tale of a brave woman who conquered her own fears and prejudices and grew to love the native people and natural beauty that surrounded her. Based on the actual experiences of the first non-native woman to set foot on the Pribilof Islands, this one woman show is 'a play worth waiting for... a play to learn from and laugh

with' (Anchorage Daily News). 'Libby' is brought to Seldovia by Edgeware Productions (www.edgewareproductions.com), with Elizabeth Ware in the title role. Elizabeth appeared in Seldovia as Titania and Hyppolyta in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

AMHS to alter summer service to 3 x's per week

by *Damara Burnett*

Public comments sought on schedule changes

The Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) has produced a draft schedule of ferry service to and from Seldovia for the remainder of the year and part of the 2006 season. According to the draft, which was released late last week, the M/V Tustumena would run three days per week - Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays - from October 1st - November 14th, at which point the Tustumena would go out of service and be replaced by the M/V Kennicott until mid April. During that time, the Kennicott would make runs to Seldovia twice per week, every other week. There would be no service from November 14th - November 28th. According to the draft, in May 2006, Seldovians would once again see three visits per week by the Tustumena.



[Click images on this page for full size views](#)

City Manager Kurt Reynertson said he was pleased to see an increase in summer ferry visits, but wished weekly service could continue through the winter months.

"Just because our highway is on the water doesn't make it any less a highway," Reynertson said.

AMHS is seeking comments from current and potential users of the ferry

system regarding the schedule changes. Individuals wishing to provide comments and suggestions should e-mail AMHS at amhs_comments@dot.state.ak.us or send correspondence to:

Alaska Marine Highway System
Scheduling Coordinator
6858 Glacier Highway
Juneau, Alaska 99801

[Click here for the AMHS Website and schedules](#)

In other City news . . .

by Damara Burnet

Milli Martin, Seldovia's Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Representative, dropped in on the Wednesday night City Council meeting just to say hi and listen in on the meeting. Her visit to Seldovia was short and only included meetings with City Manager Kurt Reynertson, Mayor Wyland and SVT/SNA.

On Wednesday, August 10th, the City Council unanimously approved a bid from Alaska Elevator to modify the elevator in the Multi-Purpose Building in order to make it a safe, functioning system. The bid, which had a total project cost of \$5,350, includes installation of a non-fire rated door on the bottom floor, installation of a safety gate on the top floor, two interlocks for both the door and the gate, and inspection of the vertical wheelchair lift.

The upgrade, according to City Manager Kurt Reynertson, does not include transportation costs. Other repairs to the building – including modifying the restrooms – still need to be made before the building can be considered completely wheelchair accessible and ADA-compliant.

Gail Cain, who spoke during the public comment portion of the meeting, urged the council members to approve the bid.

“I’ve gone through four city managers who said it was too expensive” to repair the elevator, Cain said. “It doesn’t look too expensive to me.”

Prior to approval of the bid, Reynertson stated the repair work could begin within a matter of weeks.

The City Council also unanimously approved Ordinance 06-01, which adopted the 2006 Comprehensive Plan for the City of Seldovia. The Council briefly discussed whether or not written additions meant for the current plan could be approved by the Council and inserted into the final document, even though the proposed additions had not been made public prior to the meeting or officially approved by the Comprehensive Planning Committee.

[Click here for a pdf version of the final Comprehensive Plan](#)

It was decided the additional information would have to be published in a revised copy of the Comprehensive Plan, which has an expected completion date of January 1st, 2006.

The City Council went into Executive Session near the end of the Council session; afterwards, City Councilman Steve Lewis made the following official statement:

- The Tank Farm Replacement Project and the Denali Commission: the Council was appraised of the fact that there was a concern raised about potential contamination of the site by a Seldovia citizen. The City has been in contact with all involved parties: DEC, Denali Commission and the individual. Work is proceeding as planned. It appears the concern will be resolved.
- Contract for the Boat Yard Environmental Work: The oil spill cleanup in the boat haulout storage area was discussed. A proposal from Michael Foster and Associated (the City Engineer for that work) was in keeping with the original plans for this project. No significant change and the signature amount is within the City Manager's signing authority.
- IBEW Contract Negotiations: work is proceeding.

Dick Rutan visits Seldovia

by Tom Glover

Seldovia had an interesting visitor staying at Alaska Tree Tops Fishing Lodge last week: Dick Rutan, pilot of the Voyager aircraft. Mr. Rutan piloted the Voyager aircraft on the first non-stop un-refueled flight around the world (26,366 statute miles). The flight took place in December, 1986 and lasted 9 days, 3 minutes, and 44 seconds.



You think the fishing stories are big in Seldovia??? Wait until you hear local pilot George Nathan (left) and Dick Ratan (right) start spinning flying yarns!

The Voyager was designed by Burt Rutan, Dick's brother, and took five years to build and test. The structural weight of the plane was only 939 pounds but took off with a gross weight of 9,694.5 pounds (over 6000 pounds of that was fuel). The plane took off from Edwards Air Force Base in California on December 23, 1986 and flew at an average altitude of about 11,000 feet. Copilot on the mission was Jeanna Yeager. Problems encountered during the flight included Libya refusing access to their airspace, a broken wingtip on

takeoff, severe thunder storms, and a blown fuel pump during the last few hours of the journey.



The Voyager Aircraft is on permanent display at the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC.

Thanks to Corky and Carole Meyers of the Alaska Tree Tops Fishing Lodge for the opportunity to meet a legendary historical figure (he'll love that; it sounds like he's two hundred years old!) The Myers lodge can be reached at (907) 234-6200 or emailed at csmyers3@msn.com.

Whopper lingcod weighs in at 73# *by Tom Glover*



Last Saturday, the fishing charter Peggy 'N' Me (Seldovia Fishing Adventures) brought home a huge 73 pound lingcod! The fisherman was Peter Schaller of Hampton Bays, New York. The current Alaska state record is 81lbs 6 oz and was caught off of Monty Island in 2002. Lingcod are not true cod, but rather are the largest member of the greenling family and are unique to the west coast of North America. Lingcod are predatory and reach a maximum age of about 25 years.

Seldovia Fishing Adventures can be reached at (907) 234-7417 or emailed at seldoviafishingadventures@yahoo.com

Brush fire behind school prompts Fire Department response

by Damara Burnett

A small brush fire in the woods behind Susan B. English School was extinguished by volunteer firefighters on Sunday, August 7th, following a concerned citizen's 911 call.

The fire, which was found at the base of a tree just off the Otterbahn Trail, produced a large column of smoke which triggered the concerned citizen's investigation and 10:23 a.m. call. Three Seldovia Volunteer Fire & EMS personnel responded to the call by 10:35 a.m.

According to a report filed by the department, firefighters surveyed, extinguished, and cleaned-up the scene by noon on Sunday. No one was injured in the response.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

SVF&EMS notes that due to recent warm, dry weather in Seldovia, all persons wishing to burn brush should call the department prior to beginning a controlled burn.

Tidbits . . .

Now there's a site you don't see very often . . . two seiners checking out Seldovia Bay for salmon!



City Manager's Corner*by Kurt Reynertson*

The lease contract with Seldovia Fuel and Lube has been signed and returned by Mr. Blodgett. Terms of the contract were as discussed in last night's City Council executive session.

The first official day of advertising for contractor services pertaining to the demolishing of the old cannery dock was Tuesday, August 08, 2005. The advertising was run again in Wednesday's paper and will be run on Sunday and Wednesday next week. There is a 30 day advertising period. Preliminary plans call for bids to be received by close of business September 8, with bids being opened on September 9. No one would be eligible to work in the water or to start the demolishing work prior to September 15.

The Kachemak Bay Ferry feasibility study has started. I worked with Mike Beale this afternoon and will be working with him most of Thursday and Friday. The first order of business will be to develop a comprehensive work plan. Here are some of the upcoming efforts that will be undertaken with some tentative dates:

- Week of August 22-26: Request for Proposals prepared and sent out; meeting to discuss the positives and negatives of Port Authorities with City Attorney; redesign information booklet for community outreach meetings that will take place later in the Fall.
- Middle of September: hold Kachemak Bay Ferry Steering Committee meeting to review and approve budget, review and approve information booklet, approve community outreach meeting dates.
- Last week of September: visit several potential competing boat yards to view operations.
- Middle of October: Steering Committee meeting to approve and award consulting proposals that will enable us to continue on with the feasibility study.
- Early November: hold community outreach meetings with all potentially effected communities concerned with the prospective Kachemak Bay Ferry.

I had a visit from Lujean Fedotov (Dept of Commerce Community and Economic Development Lending Section Supervisor) and from Michelle Kern (Vice President of the Alaska Business Development Center, Inc.). They outlined a couple of the respective services they offer. Lujean outlined the Rural Development Initiative Fund (provides loans for working capital, construction, equipment or other commercial purposes), the Small Business Economic Development Fund (provides for private sector employment by financing start-up and expansion of businesses that will create long-term employment), and two funds that provide long-term low interest loans to promote the development of resident fisheries and continued maintenance of commercial fishing vessels and gear for the purpose of improving the quality

of Alaska seafood products. The Alaska Business Development Center provides consulting services to small businesses of all types throughout Alaska. Fees are charged, but at substantially reduced rates. More information is available in the City Offices.

I have contacted Lt. Dan Lowden of the Alaska State Troopers concerning the Trooper contract and requested the clarifications and additions that were discussed in the last council meeting. He and I have communicated several times, but as of yet there is no resolution. Based upon our last communication, I do not expect a problem with our requests, but he has to gain approval from his management.

HEA technical representative Barney Jimenez, Jerry Willard, and I examined several different ways to bring the power line to the Seldovia Clinic for the new X-Ray machine. I expect a quote from Barney for the work required to bring the 480V 3-phase power to the Clinic by the end of next week.

Police Report

No report available this week

Repeats & Notices

- ▶ *Comprehensive Plan Public Final Version
Dated August 10, 2005 - **NEW!***
- ▶ *Amended FY05 Seldovia City Budget 7-8-2005 (pdf)*
- ▶ *Harbor Survey Priority Results (pdf)*

