



Seldovia Gazette

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Thursday, Aug. 25, 2005

Just another day in paradise

Vol. 1, No. 12, August 25, 2005

[Local News](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Opinions](#)

[Spotlight](#)

[School](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Archives](#)

[Seldovia.com](#)

[Gazette Services](#)

[Top Stories](#) | [City Managers Corner](#) | [Police Report](#) | [Repeats & Notices](#) | [Corrections](#) | [Click here for Large Print version of this page](#)

Headlines

- ▶ [KPBSD says "Stop pirating our kids!"](#)
- ▶ [Where were you when the lights went out?](#)
- ▶ [Wedding bells ring for two locals](#)
- ▶ [Fierce wind storm leaves much damage](#)
- ▶ [City Council meeting summary report](#)
- ▶ [SBE student count increases](#)
- ▶ [Tidbits . . .](#)
- ▶ [City Manager's Corner](#)
- ▶ [Seldovia Police Report](#)

Opinions



▶ [2 Cents Worth](#)

▶ [Letters to the Editor - none this week](#)

Spotlight

▶ [Meet the new principal - Mr. Curtis Liberty](#)



The Classifieds Section is finally completed
▶ [Click here for instructions and rates](#)

Top Stories

KPBSD says "Stop pirating our kids!"

Raven Schools local recruiting stirs up anger by Tom Glover

Raven Correspondence & Alyeska Central Schools (Yukon-Koyukuk School District) are coming to Seldovia next week in order to promote their home schooling program to Seldovia families and local school district officials are not happy about it.

Donna Peterson, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, Kenai Peninsula Borough School District made the following statement:

"The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District has a vibrant program for home-school students called Connections. We have high levels of accountability and support for students in the program. Unfortunately, state law allows correspondence programs to operate statewide. That means that other school districts can operate outside of their boundaries and offer services to students who live in our district. If the district had no quality services available (which was the original intent of statewide programs) that would be one thing, but at this time that is not the case. This is a several million dollar problem for KPBSD because *state funding goes to the district where the student is enrolled, not where the student resides*. Beyond the financial implications, KPBSD has concerns with the premise of other school districts competing within our boundaries and concerns with the track record for statewide programs. The state has 53 separate school districts with distinct boundaries. It is the strongly held belief of KPBSD that other districts should not be operating in districts where there is a viable program

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Seldovia Boat Slips



available. That practice has been referred to as pirating or poaching of students. KPBSD could easily expand its program beyond the boundaries set by the state but chooses not to cross this line. The District believes that allowing this practice to continue is not in the best interests of Alaskan students. "

Sunni Hilts noted, with dismay, about the recruitment by Raven Schools home schooling program:

"This is a Yukon Koyukuk School District Program. Probably a very good program for the students in their district, and even in districts who do not provide that particular service for their students. Kenai Peninsula Borough School District does budget for and provide an excellent Home School Program for students in our district, the Connections program. Students do the correspondence courses and also are welcome to participate in the brick and mortar facilities that we provide. We do not try to enroll pupils that properly belong to another district. We feel that that is not an ethical way to do business, and our school district is known for the high standards of its operations."

Lee Young, KPBSD Connections Principal, stated that some of our most powerful talking points with parents are:

- Lightening fast reimbursements
- Extremely competitive allotments for educational resources
- Brand new Dell Flat Screen Computer
- Offices in Soldotna-Seward-Homer
- Personal service and attention to detail---Advisors dedicated and specifically trained in specific grade levels which provides parents with the most knowledgeable and professional advisors on the Kenai!!
- Largest available supply of resource materials available to our students on the entire Kenai!
- A staff that listens and is responsive to family needs. If we can do it better...just let us know...and we will!!

[Click here for a detailed flyer on the Connections Program](#) (PDF file and requires a free [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) to view)

Principal Young will be in Seldovia on August 31 for an 11:00 am public meeting in the SBE Commons. The purpose of the meeting is to present the Connections program to interested Seldovia families and answer questions. If you are home schooling your kids, please support your local school and give serious consideration to the KPBSD Connections Program first.

Editorial comment:

Our school district has enough difficulty in making ends meet without having to spend more dollars and time fending off a band of Yukon pirates. It is this reporter's opinion that the families of our community should stand behind our local school system. Every dollar that is scalped out of our school district makes our funding problems worse. Do you really want to help destroy what is left of our school system by diverting

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School

▶ [The Seldovia Gazette welcomes Joy Smith as our school reporter](#)



▶ [Although the power was out . . . school wasn't!](#)

▶ [Susan B English School starts August 22nd - repeat story](#)

Notices

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

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

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

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

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

Corrections

▶ [None this week. . .](#)

Classified Rates

► [Instructions and rate sheet](#)



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these precious home schooling dollars to another school district?

Where were you when the lights went out?

by Tom Glover

By 10:10 pm Monday evening, raging winds finally took down power lines that feed Seldovia and the rest of Kachemak Bay south. Gale force winds during the night left 15 to 20 trees on power lines from Jakolof Bay to McKeon Flats and HEA line crews could not start clearing the damage until first light Tuesday morning.



A glitch in the PLC (programmable logic controller) prevented the 16 cylinder Mitsubishi diesel engine from providing power to Seldovia. After several attempts to bring standby power online, power was finally restored at about 5:45 am Tuesday morning. But problems with the standby generator were not over. Another problem with the PLC as well as the engine losing it's fuel prime (fuel sensor switch problem) shut the system down again at 8:45 am. Power remained off in Seldovia for the remainder of the day but was eventually restored at 7:50 pm when the main lines were cleared. Problems with the standby generator were still not resolved. Two EPS (the engineering company responsible for the plant design) engineers were flown in to help resolve the switch and fuel problems. At 2:00 am Wednesday morning, another downed tree knocked out the power again but the standby generator was activated within 10 minutes and ran without problems. According to HEA reps onsite, the entire fuel system control unit will be replaced shortly and the problems with the PLC have already been resolved.

Problems with the two standby generators have continued to plague HEA and over the past several months a full rebuild program has been in the works on both engines. One engine is currently down because of a rebuild job on the head and cylinders. The second engine, the one having problems fuel control problems on Tuesday, is nearly rebuilt and will be completed when it's rebuilt turbochargers arrive and are installed. Special, new exhaust silencers have also been ordered for both engines and will be installed as soon as the arrive.

Representatives from HEA will be scheduling a public meeting in Seldovia

sometime in the near future to explain the problems that occurred and provide a time estimate and description of the remaining repairs.

Thank you to HEA representatives Gerry Willard and Joe Gallagher for the updates. Thanks also to Darrell Birkhimer for the power line photo.

Wedding bells ring for two locals *by Tom Glover*

In two separate wedding ceremonies earlier this month, locals Tracy Bond and Chris Bond tied the knot.



Andy and Tracy Smircich

[Click image for larger view](#)

Photo by Mary Bond

Tracy Bond and Andy Smircich were married on August 12, 2005 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Tracy is the daughter of Randy and Mary Bond of Seldovia, Alaska and Andy (you know him from Homer Air) is the son of Tom and Sharon Smircich of Port Angeles, Washington. Tracy and Andy will be living in the Seldovia area.

Chris and Christina Bond

(That's Kaleb on Christinas lap)

[Click image for larger view](#)

Photo by Mary Bond



Christopher Bond and Christina Callaghan were married on August 13, 2005 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Chris is the son of Rand & Mary Bond of Seldovia, Alaska. Chris and Christina will be living in Anchorage.



Dad spiffs up
pretty good doesn't he!

(Wish we had a good one
of mom too.)

Photo by Mary Bond

Fierce wind storm leaves much damage

by Tom Glover

Monday evenings gale force winds disrupted power in the Seldovia area for over 20 hours but also left many broken trees in town and severe damage to boats at the Jakolof Dock.



Considerable damage occurred to boats at the Jakolof Dock, including two of the Kasitsna Bay Lab NOAA boats. The wind came up suddenly and very quickly whipped up the surface into 5 foot seas. Connie Geagel at the Lab reported that at least a half dozen people were scrambling to get boats off of the dock and off of each other so they could be towed out of Jakolof Bay. She said that her husband Mike ran a boat around the corner to Kasitsna bay, where the wind was fairly calm, and by the time he drove back to Jakolof Bay, three trees had fallen across the road. As they chainsawed there way back to Jakolof another tree fell behind them and clipped the back of Mikes truck. Moments later, another tree fell on the location where he was cutting one of the other trees. Connie's final comment . . . "Worst storm we've seen in the nine years we've been here!" Mike said he had been in 70 knot winds before and this storm felt a lot stronger than that.



The 200hp Honda engines shown above are on one of the NOAA boats and were damaged when the NOAA Whaler boat, tied up behind it, was thrown on top of the engines. At least one skiff sank and many others were damaged. Dan and Kathleen George reported that their sail boat almost sank but they were able to save it. Kathleen said that at one point the boat had been thrown out of the water and onto the dock where it sustained heavy damage.

Editorial comment: sounds like a script for a good Hollywood disaster movie to me!

City Council meeting summary report

by *Mary Glover*

Last night's City Council Meeting, August 24, 2005, covered a great amount of information in a relatively small amount of time given the number of subjects and people talking. The Council consisted of Steve Lewis, Mark Massion (via telephone), Tom Glover, Walter McInnes, Peggy Boscacci (excused), and Keith Gain. Mayor Dick Wyland officiated along with Rhonda Hayes as City Clerk. Kurt Reynertson as City Manager was also in attendance.

Steve Howell gave a public presentation of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (RCAC) Status. Seldovian, June Rueling, is Seldovia's representative to the Cook Inlet RCAC (and a Board Member, Vice President). June was also present at the meeting and stated she would be attending the Kenai Peninsula Borough LEPC Meeting in Soldotna on September 14, 2005. Mr. Holland handed out the Cook Inlet RCAC 2004 Annual Report to the audience and expounded upon Cook Inlet RCAC's roll of accomplishing the goal of an environmentally sound Cook Inlet. Mr. Holland informed the public that another Seldovian, Tim Robertson, NUKA Research, is also involved with work for Cook Inlet RCAC. Cook Inlet RCAC is concerned with the statewide oil spill response system: how to effectively manage it; how to minimize response time; how to conduct training exercises; and how to assess resources available in any given area in order to minimize response time. It prepares various reports on oil spills; is involved with the mapping of coastal shorelines and the scientific gathering of environmental data and associated research. Mr. Holland encouraged the audience to visit their [website](#), where their quarterly newsletter, the [COUNCIL BRIEFS](#), is published in .pdf format. Mr. Holland ended his presentation stating that Cook Inlet RCAC has sponsored the Shorezone Mapping System, a technique using streaming video (during low tide) of costal property and the mapping thereof. [Details click here.](#)

Next, William (Bill) Walker, Esq. from Anchorage (Attorney for the City of Seldovia) presented legal information about the formation of a port authority. Mr. Walker stated that a port authority is a legal entity for municipalities which functions similar to a corporation or limited liability company and affords the municipality, among other things, liability protection. Only municipalities can be a partner in a port authority and he also stated that the State of Alaska is also considered a municipality. The basis for the "municipality" qualification is the tax exempt status afforded a legally formed port authority. Mr. Walker stated that a port authority is governed and formed under the Alaska State Statutes, Alaska Municipal Port Authority Act (AS 29.35.600-730). [Details click here.](#)

The requirements for a port authority are: an ordinance (identical within each municipality) needs to be voted upon by each governing authority of the municipality for every municipality involved; then voted upon by the general public by the municipality or municipalities; then the developmental plan for the port authority needs to be adopted. Within the first year of operation, the preparation of an annual report needs to be completed, which is due 90 days prior to the end of the fiscal year. Finally, annual audit needs to be effected. A

port authority has no police power, nor any taxation powers. It can sell bonds, similar to revenue type bonds, and can acquire assets, including seed dollars for start up.

Mr. Mike Beal, Seldovia Native Association's CEO, gave an update on the Kachemak Bay Ferry Project. Mr. Beal stated that "They are actually moving forward." He has been working with this project for three years now until he got it and during the first phase of the project \$2 million dollars has been allocated for its "Design and Development." The total cost of the project to completion is \$14 million dollars. This grant administration was awarded to the Seldovia Village Tribe (SVT) and the SVT passed through the contract to the Seldovia Native Association (SNA). The federal funds are administered through the BIA. A copy of the document provided to the City Council and to the public is furnished herewith: Scope of Work, Design and Development. Click here for a pdf of the [Seldovia Village Tribe Ferry Project Budget](#), which explains and delineates the entire phase 1 of the project. Mr. Beal stated a target date of completion for the opening of the Kachemak Bay Ferry as March, 2008. Currently, in order to move ahead he stated that 1) Requests for proposals to design the boat; 2) Get a "Consultant Team" on board; 3) Re-establish the Steering Committee. Mr. Beal and City Manager, Kurt Reynertson, are the ex-officio members of the Steering Committee. They will take their recommendations to the Steering Committee and then the Steering Committee will then make decisions for progress. Mr. Beal stated that the entity who wins the design of the boat probably would be the one who would be awarded the building contract.

Tim Robertson of NUCA Research will also go through the bidding process as well as others on the advancement of the project. He stated that Kent Miller and Jim Van Altvorst are consultants they will have to bid on the process. "They helped form the Inter Island Ferry and the port authority down there," said Mr. Beal.

Mr. Beal is really excited that things are moving forward and that he is working well with Mr. Reynertson. He also stated that he wanted to conduct some feasibility studies to obtain some working capital for the ferry once it is running. He said that the consulting team will be determining feasibility studies, including ferry schedules and these will be presented to public. Mr. Beal also said that it might take a few years before the project breaks even. He stated it would take some time to see where we can get working monies to start the port authority. Mr. Beal stated that he was the Chairman of the Citizens' Committee for Commuter Rail in Southcentral. He said that position has given him a "synopsis into a lot of federal transit monies to start ...projects that help pay for grants and FTA money that might help this port authority get working capital." He stated that he "hopes to have a war chest of funds to start off the port authority" and be involved in identifying a source of money. He didn't know if it could be achieved, but it would be better than having to borrow money to form a port authority.

Resolution 06-03 (pdf), Kachemak Bay Ferry Steering Committee- passed by unanimous vote [Voting Record](#)

(Near the end of the meeting the City Council unanimously passed a motion for Steve Lewis to serve on the Kachemak Bay Ferry Steering Committee for the duration of this time frame of the Steering Committee.)

Resolution 06-04 (pdf), Appointment of October 4, 2005, Municipal Election Judges - passed by unanimous vote [Voting Record](#)

Resolution 06-05 (pdf), Opening of 17b Trails for Public Access- passed by unanimous vote [Voting Record](#)

Keith Gain stated when introducing the Resolution 06-05 stating that it was: "A process to get the dialogue started."

Another agenda item was the transfer of Liquor License #209 from the Mad Fish Restaurant to Isabelle's Fine Catering, Inc. (the prospective owners of the Mad Fish Restaurant) which also passed by unanimous City Council vote.

The letter to the City Council from Ken Morton was addressing the issue of public access in the form of stairs to be built so people could easily access the water's edge of the Seldovia Slough from the bridge. Mr. Morton states "Stairs would go a long ways toward alleviating at least the safety and trespass issues."

Mr. Reynertson presented his City Manager's Report. A copy of this report can be read below.

Prior to adjournment, Steve Lewis publicly thanked Pete Cain for his work in making sure the Fire & EMT Dispatcher System was in working order. He worked on the repeater located at the Susan B. English School. This was very timely as the Fire & EMT Dispatch System worked when the recent power outage occurred. It would not have been operational if Pete had not done the work.

Mayor Dick Wyland gave a short presentation at the end of the meeting time about the Mayors Conference in Skagway. He had just return from the trip today.

Susan B English student count increases

Final tally is 70 enrolled kids for this year.
That's up from 64 last year.

Tidbits . . .

Parking at school . . . wish they had these around when I was a kid!



City Manager's Corner

by Kurt Reynertson

- Mary Anne Agli has been hired as the City's new custodian.
- Manfred Kirchner has been hired in the soon to be vacated facilities maintenance/equipment operator position.
- We have received a quote from HEA to provide 480V 3-phase power to the clinic. The quote is for \$31,693.00 (representing a not-to-exceed price). This work could will be paid for via grant money for the community center building. We will still have to provide for wiring the electric panels for the new X-Ray machine. Again, this work will be paid for using the remaining grant money for the community center building.
- I have contacted Lt. Dan Lowden of the Alaska State Troopers again concerning the Trooper contract and requested status of the Trooper Contract. He said "I finally got through to Captain Bowman and got his thoughts. I now need to send it to the Commissioner, through the Director. Sorry it is taking so long, but we are making progress. I will keep you posted."
- I contacted Joe Gallagher, Brad Janorschke and Charlie O'Hare of HEA concerning the most recent outage. I stressed to them the anxieties Seldovia residents are feeling because of lack of trust in the backup generators. Here is a synopsis of the time line of events starting Monday night and all day Tuesday:
 - Wind storm caused no less than 20 tress to knock out approximately 3 spans of line sections along with at least one pole and several cross members (approximately 10PM)
 - The backup generator went on line, albeit for a very short period. The primary problem was that the logic in the PLC (Programmable Logic Controller) had incorrect set points and as a result the generator kept sensing too high of a frequency and would shut itself off.
 - The power came back on approximately 6AM and the generators worked as they should for a couple of hours. However, a couple of independent problems emerged.
 - The governor on the generator was not working correctly.
 - The level switch on the day-time fuel tank stuck, allowing the fuel to run dry without warning. This caused the pumps to loose their prime. Normal time

Police investigated the death of Andrew Jones, a 14 year old boy. The cause of death is not readily available and the Police are awaiting autopsy results.

The theft of a black, polar fleece jacket, with a cell phone in the pocket, was reported. The jacket and phone were taken from the area of the fish cleaning table in the harbor.

A strong odor of decaying flesh was reported and investigation resulted in the location of salmon being dumped on the Outside Beach Road. This is an illegal activity and anyone having information is asked to contact the Police Department.

A youngster was bitten by a dog when riding his bicycle. The owner was cited and the dog was quarantined. The dog was deemed vicious and the owner was warned he will be cited each time the dog is found running at large.

Two visiting youths were caught by parents after they took candy and cigarette lighters from a local grocery store. At the request of the parent, Grandparent and the store management the matter was handled informally by the Police. Community service was done by the youths after an agreement was reached by the store management and the parents of the youths.

Numerous shots being fired on two separate occasions were reported by persons on Jakolof Bay Road. Investigation into the allegations resulted in a notice to the suspect regarding "Reckless Endangerment" and other acts that could constitute a criminal offense in this area. The suspect denied any involvement.

A "Hit and Run" accident occurred between the hours of 3:45 and 4:50 a.m., on 8/13/05 while EMT's were at the Lakeside Terrace on a medi-vac. A parked vehicle sustained \$1800 - \$2000 damage when a second vehicle backed into the parked vehicles left side. Tracks indicated the vehicle then pulled ahead and backed around the damaged vehicle and left the area. Anyone having information regarding this accident is encouraged to contact the Police Department.

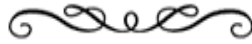
A report was received of doors left open at a local residence and no one around. The Police responded to find the owner had returned and nothing wrong.

The Police responded to 9 calls for assistance, assisted the EMT's on 2 occasions and notarized 9 documents for the public.

If you have any information regarding illegal activity in, or around, Seldovia you are encouraged to contact the Seldovia Police Department. The citizens of our area, by their involvement, set the tone for what is acceptable and what is not acceptable in our area. We only have one Police Officer who works a 35-hour work week so the Police depend on the public to make them aware of what is taking place. We all share the responsibility of keeping our area a safe environment for our citizens and our youth. Call 911 regarding any emergencies or 234-7640 to report your observations and concerns. If no one is present to take your call, leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Repeats & Notices

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



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