



# Seldovia Gazette

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Thursday, Sep. 29, 2005

Just another day in paradise

Vol. 1, No. 16, September 22, 2005

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## Top Stories

### A visit with our Representative Paul Seaton *A perfect "fit" for the Community of Seldovia....*

by *Tamara Blodgett*

Having met with Representative Paul Seaton was a great experience. He is knowledgeable about the areas he represents as well as being down-to-earth and committed to serving the unique needs of our community. Mr. Paul Seaton represents the following areas: Anchor Point, The Russian Villages at the head of the bay, Homer, Seldovia, Port Graham, Nanwalek, Seward, Cooper Landing, and he represents 10,000 square miles on the west side of Cook Inlet (which has only 6 people; he is faithful!). A map is available to see these areas at Representative Seaton's [website](#). Rep. Seaton is also a commercial fisherman and has been long-lining for halibut since 1975. He is mainly tendering for salmon and herring at this time. Seaton has drift fished for 19 years in the upper part of Cook Inlet.



Seldovia Gazette reporter Tamara Blodgett and Representative Paul Seaton.

Rep. Seaton attended an economic conference held in Seldovia in spring of 2002. This conference addressed the issues that make a community viable. Those were: transportation, medical and communication. As Seldovians know, transportation has been addressed with the progression of plans for the fast

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Support the Seldovia Sea Otter Booster Club  
Help keep sports and academic travel programs alive for our school!



Seldovia Boat Slips for Rent



**School**

▶ **Volleyball and wrestling starts at SBE**



**Notices**

▶ **Comprehensive Plan Public Final August 10, 2005 (pdf)**

▶ **Amended FY05 Seldovia City Budget 7-8-2005 (pdf)**

▶ **Boys and Girls Club September 2005 Calendar**

▶ **Boys and Girls Club Newsletter **NEW!****

▶ **Harbor Survey Priority Results (pdf)**

**Corrections**

▶ **None this week. . .**

**Classified Rates**

▶ **Instructions and rate sheet**



ferry. This should promote growth in our community by giving residents, or potential residents, the option to commute to jobs. Thus having easier access to facilities that we do not offer and may not wish to have here in our community. The medical issue was addressed with the grant application that applied for a new and much needed x-ray machine. The current x-ray machine was 25 years old with obsolete parts that are no longer available. Repair was no longer an option as the manufacturer was unwilling to repair a machine of that vintage. The grant languished for a time but has been rejuvenated by our current City Manager, Kurt Reynertson, with a plan for delivery of the unit this October. A request has also been submitted to Reynertson for fund availability to update the electrical in the medical building so that the facility can support the more sophisticated electrical needs this unit will require. Lastly, we are thrilled as a community that DSL is here! Thanks to Seaton's (and other key figures) work in this area and being the proverbial, "dog with a bone," he had a part in the success of getting this great service to Seldovia. Our next link in the chain of updating is to get cell service to Seldovia. We have put the bug in his ear and he is aware we would like to see this happen. There is currently a petition making the rounds for interested residents to sign if they would like to have this service made available. Rep. Seaton emphasized that it is imperative that the needs of our community's Legislative Priority List be submitted to the city so he can facilitate the allocation of funds.



I am also pleased to mention there was a representative from the public. Sunni Hilts, Susan B. English School board Member, visited with Rep. Seaton about issues she, and many other Seldovians are passionate about, our children! Ms. Hilts said, "to declare children the top priority of the State of Alaska." Hilts also mentioned that Seldovia has been improperly designated an "urban" school, instead of rural, for the last 20 years. This is a mistake that has not been rectified as it only effects our school district, and may take funding away from Matsu and Anchorage.

The benefits that SBE school would gain through a change in designation would be: the student/teacher ratio would drop, with supplies being provided for teachers and basic supplies and textbook purchases frequent and timely, among other direly needed amenities. Ms. Hilts said, "We are the most cost-efficient school district in the state." We have had to be, as we have been under funded for years. Hilts spoke of the caretaking of the school building as timely and efficient. With that being the case we are in a preventative position, rather than reacting to neglect. Some of the monies that went out last year were specifically designed for deferred maintenance of school property. Since SBE are good caretakers of their property, we saw very little of that money. "We have a good relationship with the Borough and they help maintain buildings." Hilts stated. Early funding was mentioned as being critical so that teachers can be retained, and lack of security with non-tenured teachers is not causing newer teachers to resign, finding work elsewhere so their job's stability is not in question. Hilts thinks that Representative Seaton has done a good job for us on the economic side, and would like to encourage all of our legislatures to be proactive to publicly and officially declare, "Children are first."

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

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It is really good to know that we have a representative for our community like Paul Seaton that is willing to take the time and frequently visit one of the communities that he serves. Seaton has proven he is willing to work and communicate our needs clearly and with conviction.

## Boys and Girls Club of Seldovia

*Can it continue?*

*by Tamara Blodgett*

The Boys and Girls Club of Seldovia is winding down this month on it's grant money that it received three years ago in October of 2002. These types of grants are getting harder to come by and are generally given to clubs at conception.



The grant that was written by the former Boys and Girls Club Unit Director, in collusion with the Seldovia Village Tribe, is no longer available. Fifty percent of the club's annual budget of \$100,000-110,000 is satisfied through this current grant that ends on September 30, 2005. After October 1, the Boys and Girls Club will have to reallocate its budget based on the new, lower amount of monies available. They will be running at 50% of their annual budget and it cannot maintain the present standard of programs, staffing and hours of operation with that amount. This will greatly impact the current programs the club offers. The grant that is operating now was focused primarily toward the teen population as a way to keep them off the streets and safe in addition to keep the club self-sustaining. The Boys and Girls Club serves ages 6 through 18. The "teen nights" are a main focus with the club. The last teen night had a high attendance of 30. Current Club Unit Director, Paul Chissus mentioned that was virtually all the teens in Seldovia! What a great benefit to our community that we have a safe place for our older children (and younger ones) to have fun!



The club runs 27-30 hours per week, excluding The Boys and Girls Club Pottery Program and the Power Hour Program, with these programs included, it would be closer to 40 hours per week. Club-sponsored activities are not excluded to the preceding two. The B & G Club also funds (with assistance from The Seldovia Village Tribe) hikes and camping trips for youth as well.



The Power Hour Program (PH) is an essential program to the B & G Club. PH is a program that involves different entities for its success. Susan B. English School provides the facility for the kids to meet in, with the teacher's willingness to stay after school and provide one-on-one assistance. PH Coordinator and certified tutor, Michelle Massion, is responsible for the supervision, instruction and direction during this timeframe.

The kids come to PH and get a 15-20 minute "talk time," with a snack provided (all food provided at the B & G Club and at PH comes directly from the grant money aforementioned). It is crucial that children get an "energy boost" in the form of food so that there is sufficient "fuel" to complete their schoolwork without distraction. Michelle has been generous in this capacity, often making homemade "goodies" to augment her standard PB & J sandwich and juice drink. After "talk time" is over, the students buckle-down and get a head start on their homework. Paul Chissus has mentioned that at the last school he taught for, they followed students that were enrolled in the PH and noted that for the quarter they attended the students were a grade higher, on average, than students that did not participate. It has also been noted that students are most vulnerable during the after school hours (the time when

school ends and before their parents' return from work) to abusing alcohol and drugs. These "latch-key" kids need to be protected and afforded this scholastic opportunity. This program is two-fold; it allows a safe environment for children to do their schoolwork, while also engaging them in a task that is beneficial instead of potentially detrimental. There are other dedicated people that assist greatly in the success of PH and Michelle feels that Vivian Rojas is a key player in this success. Vivian is a long-time Seldovian resident and Title VII aide, knows the kids, what their needs are, and is able to work efficiently toward the mutual goal of homework completion. Michelle says that this year she has noticed that the students seem progressively more self-motivated and thinks this is a wonderful trend that should continue.

Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Clubs' for the Kenai Peninsula, Brenda Ahlberg, is responsible for: assisting the seven Boys and Girls Clubs in her jurisdiction, attending to the overall longevity of each club, seeking grants for clubs in need and allocating funds toward that end. Ms. Ahlberg is a crucial element in obtaining a future grant, working as an intermediary for the clubs and is grateful for the assistance of Seldovia Village Tribe CEO, Crystal Collier, for her efforts in this pursuit. Ms. Ahlberg will be supplementing the lost grant money, in part, for this intermediary timeframe before another grant can be funded. However, she stressed that we should not rely solely on grant money, as it is not always available to draw on. That, as has been the historical precedence, faithful volunteers & donations from the community are a terrific source of additional support.

The club's fall/winter hours run Tuesdays through Fridays from 3 to 6 pm and Saturdays 1 to 6pm. The B & G Club also offers teen night programs on Tuesday & Friday nights from 7 to 9pm with Saturday night having extended hours 7 to 11. Paul Chissus, with the remainder of the staff is very grateful for the tremendous support network of volunteers that are already working, along with generous donations of new, packaged food and cash donations that have been provided all along and hopes for that to continue. He would also like to acknowledge the assistance he has received from the Seldovia Village Tribe to help make the club the success it is.

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## **PAC meeting synopsis**

*by Jenny Chissus*

September 20, 2005 at 7:00 pm, the PAC held it's monthly meeting in the school commons with Trinket Gallien, Jenny Chissus, Karen Bornheimer and Curtis Liberty in attendance.

The principal, Mr. Liberty, brought to the PAC member's attention that a local paper had made a comment that this meeting is not open to the public, and he wanted to make it publicly known that this is NOT the administration's policy or desire. All the members were in complete agreement, and have always wished that we could see more public attention and support at our meetings. EVERYONE is welcome and encouraged to come to our meetings.

It was also brought up that the community would like to see a synopsis or some kind of announcement as to what has transpired at our meetings. As a council, we all agreed that we would submit a brief summary of the meeting to both local newspapers, and reiterated that if anyone is interested in what is happening in the school and with the students, that they are welcome to attend

the meetings!

Mr. Liberty brought up the issue about the quality piece of major playground equipment that has been purchased by Head Start and is currently in Homer, waiting for delivery. There have been questions about the placement of this equipment in the playground where the old tire swing used to be located. If we dedicate that space for this use, then it may not be available for any further equipment allocated to SBE by the district. We received our current playground by the borough, and have yet to see new playground equipment coming to us from the district, but do we want to allocate that space permanently to a structure that meets the needs of preschool age children? Even though this particular piece of equipment was designed for 2-5 year olds, it has been confirmed to be safe for all ages. This was a concern in placing this equipment in our school playground since it is frequented daily by the "older" elementary students. This is the only community playground in Seldovia and it would enhance the area to provide safe equipment that meets the abilities of the younger children of our community. As a council we agreed that the district should continue to inquire about the feasibility of that area to place the equipment, and if it meets the safety requirements, we would support its installation. The other issue was that Head Start may not always reside in the SBE building, and we were assured that the equipment would be a permanent fixture in the playground. Thank you to Head Start for purchasing such a nice piece of equipment that the whole community will be able to enjoy!

Principal Liberty also reported that Alvin Swick is going to continue to coach girls and boys Jr. High basketball, and that the position is still open for High School girl, and Dan Blodgett is coaching wrestling.

Upcoming elections for the PAC will be on October 4, 2005 in the multi-purpose room, and sign up sheets for volunteers to run the booth will be in the office with Sandy. The position is a 3-year term, and we do not have a list of candidates at this time. If you would like to become a part of the PAC, or you would like to help with the voting booth, please call Sandy at the school, at 234-7616 or stop by and sign up!

Thank you for your support, and we'll see you at our next meeting on October 25, 2005 at 7:00 pm!

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## **Traveling exhibit finishes Seldovia tour**

*by Mary Glover*

Have you visited the exhibit, "The Hunter and the Hunted," at the Seldovia Village Tribe's Museum and Visitor's Center (SVT)? If you haven't, you will now need to go to Port Graham to see it! A video compliments the exhibit and tells of a modern day seal hunt by a native who obviously respects the land and its resources, just as his father taught him. The video showed the hunt, skinning and preparation of the animal. All parts of the seal have a use and the hunt is shared with the elders of the community. The video becomes the living history in its preserved form.



Gale Parsons, Director of Exhibits and Cultural Liaison of the Pratt Museum and "The Hunter and the Hunted" exhibit.

This year, the Pratt Museum has attained a great distinction. It was awarded the Governor's Award at an Anchorage awards ceremony. It was for its work with native communities in its participation in community based videos.

Seldovia (via the SVT) has the distinction of being the first to host this exhibit in a long line of scheduled travels. This exhibit is a down-scaled version of the exhibit at the Pratt Museum in Homer, Alaska and was produced by the Pratt Museum. It was funded by major grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Rasmuson Foundation. After the exhibit leaves Port Graham, it will go to Nanwalek, then the Chugach Museum in Seward, then on to Chenega and Tatitlek.

Gale Parsons, Director of Exhibits and Cultural Liaison of the Pratt Museum, Homer, Alaska graced us with her presence and knowledge. Ms. Parsons has been involved with video productions about native heritage and the preservation of the native culture. On Tuesday evening, Ms. Parsons showed about 5 short videos created for this purpose. One of the videos was choreographed by a community group of natives, both old and young.

The subject of one of the videos was how the native language has almost been lost in the current generation. The older generation told how they were forbidden to speak a native language in the school and were forced to speak English. Now two generations later, the children are no longer learning the native tongues. Seldovia's very own, Lillian Elvsaa, was one of persons in the video. She was with a group of natives located in Anchorage who were interviewed.

Seldovia thanks you, the Pratt Museum, Gale Parsons and the SVT, for all your work and efforts in creating and bringing this great exhibit to our community.

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**Coming to the Pole -** by *Tamara Blodgett*

### *A National Phenomenon . . .*

This is an annual practice that was initiated by a few hundred kids that were not allowed to pray at school, and found a way to do so without school involvement.



Some say it takes an "act of God" to get our kids out of bed before 7:00 am . . . 12% of the student body were present.

Sunni Hilts, Seldovia School Board Member said, "This is an event that started in '89 or '91, the last time I heard a number it was 14,000,000 kids across the country that gathered, 7 am, at a flagpole at their school, they gathered to pray for their school, they gathered to pray for comfort for schools like Columbine and kids at Pudukka, they gathered to pray for direction and protection and guidance, and it just expanded, our kids have been doing it for... six or seven years at least."

When Ms. Hilts was asked do you think it has a positive effect on the morale of the student body?"

"I think the children know they are taking some responsibility for what happens in their school and so I think it is a really positive effect. It is student-directed, student-led, no adults are involved, except maybe we'll bring them some cinnamon rolls or something when they're done; otherwise, it's done by the kids, they know the importance of it."

["See You At The Pole" website](#)

### **Tidbits . . .**

**Ahhh, the first day of Fall has arrived. Our favorite time of the year.**



### City Manager's Corner

by Kurt Reynertson

It has been a very busy last couple of weeks. One of the more exciting events has been the award of the cannery dock demolition project to Hopkins Bros. Construction. We had a “pre-project” meeting yesterday with Jim Hopkins, our city engineers Michael L. Foster & Associates, Shirley Kelly of the EDA, and me. We discussed many items concerning the project and it appears that Jim hopes to actually start the demolition in a couple of weeks.

We are also going after some grant money to help us repair the city dock. There are a number of pilings that need wrapping or re-wrapping as the case may be. Additionally, the approach ramp to the dock is in need of some work as it is being eroded away (the fill material under the approach ramp). This approach ramp does not seem to be in any eminent distress, but will require looking after in the near future. I do not know if we will be able to meet the timelines that are associated with this grant deadline, but we are working hard to do just that.

The city has put in for a VISTA member to help in the researching, writing, and follow-up on available grants that are out there. There are eleven (11) openings for VISTA Members State wide. The position will start in November and run for one full calendar year. The program recruits individuals to serve in their community and assist the city with grant research and writing. The City Council passed a resolution last week supporting the application, and the Seldovia Village Tribe sent a letter of support for the City to the VISTA Program Managers. I do not know if we will be successful in attaining one of the 11 positions, but I feel we have a strong application package.

Many of you have been noticing our water quality deteriorating slightly primarily in appearance and possibly taste. Let me first say that our water is just as safe now to drink and use as it has been. We have been trying to figure out why the sudden change in appearance and taste (in some cases) and have been in contact with the Alaska DEC. Some *possible* reasons include an algae bloom in the reservoir due to the past two summers of higher than normal heat and lower than normal rain fall, a leak in the supply line from the reservoir to the chlorination building, or possibly a combination of the two. The ADEC has required an increased testing effort, which we have complied with, to insure that our water is still safe to drink and use. It is. Hopefully we will find the source of the problem and eliminate it. John Gruber, Public Works employee, has been working hard on this issue and is on top of the situation.

The Village Safe Water engineering design grant for our water and sewer system is getting closer to becoming a reality. This is **not** a grant for a water and sewer study, but rather a grant for complete engineering design of the system. We are in a good position to complete the design quickly and then go for construction grant money, possibly as soon as summer 2006.

Finally, I plan on calling for the continuation of the small boat harbor repair workshops that we started in the summer. If we can get our list of priorities to the engineers within the next month, there is an excellent chance of us seeing some harbor repair work starting by this next summer. We have approximately 2.6 million dollars available for the repair, which is not nearly enough, but we will do what we can with the money we have. We need to insure that we spend this grant money wisely and to the best advantage for the City of Seldovia.

### **Seldovia Police Report**     *by A.W. Anderson, Chief of Police*

A 911 call, reporting a man down and not breathing, resulted in a death investigation being conducted. Larry Stanley was found deceased in his vehicle in the driveway of his home located at 4 mile, Jakolof Bay Road. The Medical Examiner ruled the death to be from natural causes, following the Police investigation.

A written warning was left on a 4-wheeler after it was observed that no registration stickers were present on the vehicle. All ATV's have to be registered with the State of Alaska and display the registration stickers and expiration tabs.

Two separate reports were received regarding speeders on Jakolof Bay Road.

Reports were received, from two different sources, that shots were fired in the Barabara Heights Subdivision during the night time hours of 09/18. Investigation revealed a man had to put a black bear down after it had killed four of the family's cats and then charged him.

A report of an intoxicated man at the Seldovia Airport was received and the Police responded and contacted the man. He told the Officer he wanted to go home to Nanwalek but the pilot refused to take him. He was escorted back into Seldovia where he was instructed to have some coffee and then call the airlines in a few hours for transport to his home after he had sobered up.

Police were called a second time, later in the day after the airplanes had quit flying, and the caller reported an intoxicated man carrying moose antlers over his shoulder and walking down Main Street. The man, the same person as earlier in the day, was contacted and told the Officer he was looking for the owner of the antlers and was afraid someone would steal them from the airport where they had been delivered. The antlers were seized and, after some searching, a friend of the man's was located and agreed to put him up for the night. The antlers were delivered to their owner the following day after a call was received of his moose rack missing from the airport.

Since the last Police report Police have responded to 4 requests for assistance, notarized one document, responded to two suspicious circumstance reports, sealed 5 black bears and responded to 1 civil dispute.

Many people hesitate to get involved when they witness an illegal act or a dangerous situation and they leave it to others to call in the report. Most times the incident goes unreported because of our not wanting to get involved. If you want to see something addressed, and do not wish to get involved personally, all you need do is express to the person answering the phone that you wish to remain anonymous. It's that simple. Your name does not appear on any report and the situation, or criminal act, is addressed. Citizens of the area, through their involvement, decide what kind of community they wish to have. Overlooking criminal activity, because you don't want to have it known you reported it, no longer has to be of concern. We all have a responsibility to our neighbors, as well as to ourselves and our families, to report things that are detrimental to our area. We will honor your request to remain anonymous so please pick up the phone and call if you witness illegal or suspicious activity. Let's work together to keep this a safe environment for our children and for all of us.

#### 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)*

