



Seldovia Gazette

Serving Seldovia, Alaska and Kachemak Bay southeast

Seldovia,
20 °F / -7
Overcast
at 9:53 AM

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Thursday, Jan. 12, 2006

Just another day in paradise

Vol. 2, No. 2, January 1

- Local News
- Calendar
- Opinions
- Spotlight
- School
- Classifieds
- Archives
- Seldovia.com
- Gazette Search

[Top Stories](#) | [City Managers Corner](#) | [Police Report](#) | [Notices & Newsletters](#) | [Corrections](#) | [PhotoStory Archive](#) | [This page in Large Print](#) |

Headlines

- ▶ [Augustine volcano still very active](#)
- ▶ [Seldovians - what to do about volcanic ash?](#)
- ▶ [Seldovia City Council regular meeting of January 11](#)
- ▶ [P&Z regular meeting of January 9](#)
- ▶ [Martin Luther King Jr. Day - January 16](#)
- ▶ [SBE School needs help with the athletic program](#)
- ▶ [Special notices . . .](#)
- ▶ [Tidbits . . .](#)
- ▶ [City Manager's Corner](#)
- ▶ [Seldovia Police Report](#)

Opinions



▶ 2 Cents Worth

- ▶ [Letters to the Editor](#)
- Tim & Isabelle Harbaugh
- Dick Wyland
- Happy Schneider
- Kurt Reynertson, City Manager, response
- NEW!**

Spotlight

Marketplace

Herring Bay Mercantile
Seldovia, Alaska

Jen Chis
234-8
Your Service Connection
www.seldoviaprop.com
RE/MAX of Homer

234-7652
Serving Seldovia
your real estate

Support the
[Seldovia Sea Club](#)
[Booster Club](#)
Help keep sport
academic travel pro
alive for our school

Seldovia Boat for Rent
The Seldovia harbor foot and 42 foot skiff for rent. Call for details
Harbor Mast
(907) 234-7811
City Office (907) 234-7811

NEWS FLASH

Augustine volcano activity decreased to "Orange Concern" on Wednesday, Jan 18

>> [New WebCam2 at the volcano site](#)

WebCam1
Seismograph
Main Page

News Releases and other information from Alaska Volcano Observatory (AVO) and National Weather Service are posted on SELDOVIA.COM (click here)

Thanks to the [Alaska Volcano Observatory](#) for keeping their monitoring sites running and allowing the rest of us to peek in on them!

Top Stories

Augustine volcano still very active by Tom Glover

"Concern Level" lowered from Red to Orange Thursday

▶ Susan Mumma, an artist at heart



Augustine volcano, January 12, 12:05pm. Photo courtesy of Alaska Volcano Observatory WebCam

School

▶ Basketball & School News



At 4:15 p.m. (AST), Tuesday, January 10, AVO (Alaska Volcano Observatory) seismographs at the site began showing increased activity. By 4:44 a.m. (AST), Wednesday, January 11, AVO began recording seismic signals interpreted as explosions at the summit of Augustine Volcano that likely marked the onset of an eruption. Concern Level was elevated from Orange to Red.

Notices & Newsletters

▶ Senator Gary Stevens December Newsletter

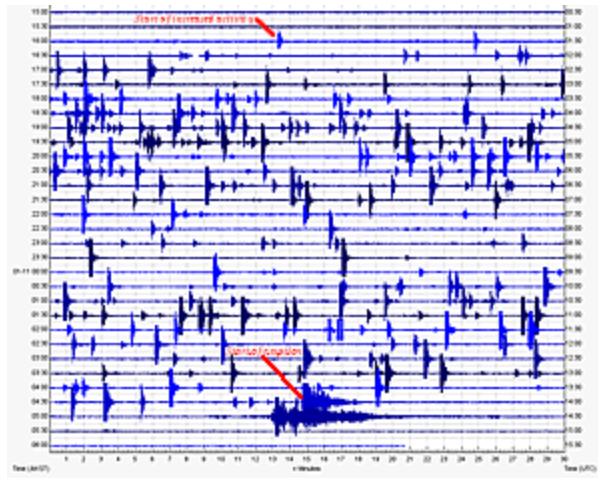
▶ Comprehensive Plan Public Final August 10, 2005 (pdf)

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

▶ Boys and Girls Club December 2005 Calendar

▶ Boys and Girls Club Newsletter

▶ Harbor Survey Priority Results (pdf)



Augustine volcano seismograph from approximately 3:00 p.m. Tuesday until 6:00 a.m. Wednesday. Click image for full size view.

Corrections

▶ None this week

Subsequent to the above seismic events, Augustine has been fairly quiet. The Concern Level was reduced to Orange on Thursday, January 12, 2006 8:25 a.m. AKST. The volcano did, however, continue to vent steam and small amounts of ash throughout the day on Thursday.

PhotoStory Archive **NEW!**

▶ SBE Christmas Play 2005

▶ Halloween Carnival 2005

Detailed, up to day information on Augustine is available at the following AVO website (click the link below to go to their website) <http://www.avo.alaska.edu/activity/Augustine.php>

The following daily report was issued by AVO on Thursday, Jan 12

Level of Concern Color Code: ORANGE

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Photo Archive NEW!

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▶ [Click here for photo list](#)

..

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Classified Rates

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▶ [Instructions and rate sheet](#)

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

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The level of earthquake activity at Augustine Volcano has declined since yesterday's eruptions but remains elevated above background. The volcano continues to steam vigorously. Field crews reported seeing steam and minor ash emissions from a new vent on the 1986 lava dome and estimate that the top of the plume is 8000 to 10,000 ft (2400 to 3050 m) above sea level. Satellite data show a faint thermal anomaly at the summit. Field crews confirmed mudflows (also visible in the on-island web camera) on the flanks of the volcano. These flows are the likely source of false reports of new lava flows on the volcano.

There is no indication that an eruption similar that which occurred Tuesday is imminent, but one could occur with little warning.

AVO scientists have been to the volcano today to perform helicopter-based thermal image surveys, collect ash samples, and upgrade instrumentation.

AVO continues to monitor the volcano closely with staff in the office 24 hours a day. AVO will issue further updates as new information and analyses become available.

According to AVO, the following is the most likely Augustine scenario: **Eruption similar to those of 1976 and 1986:** Unrest continues to escalate culminating in an eruption that is similar to those that occurred in 1976 and 1986. An eruption such as this would likely spread volcanic ash throughout and perhaps beyond Cook Inlet depending upon the prevailing winds. Much of Augustine Island would be inundated by pyroclastic flows, mud flows, ash fall, and ballistic showers.

Seldovians - What to do?

by Mary Glover

Are you ready for an ashfall?

With the imminent volcanic eruption of St. Augustine, attention is turn to disaster response readiness. The question is "What do I need to do if St. Augustine should erupt?" In the event of an eruption and if the winds carry the ash to our little community as it did in 1986, we can plan for approximately three or more days of disruption into our "normal" daily routines. The following could happen:

We might have a power outage for an extended period of time. We could have a shortage of fresh clean water. The airplanes would not be flying. The boats would not be coming into Seldovia. You probably should not drive your car very far or very fast. It could be dark at noonday! Does this sound like fun? Probably not. Let's remember there are other natural disasters that are more serious. Realistically, we probably only will get a dusting of ash.

OK, to minimize the problem- here are the steps to do BEFORE the ashfall occurs:

1. Have 2 gallons of water per person per day on hand. One gallon is designated for drinking water and the other for cooking or personal care. If the disaster happens, you can always turn off the main water valve into the house and use the

water in your hot water tank for drinking water. If you do not turn off that valve, it is possible that when the external water system's pressure is diminished, you could lose all your water in your house to the outside system.

2. Make sure you have food for both your family and pets on hand for at least a week.

3. Have readily accessible NIOSH approved dust respirators (coded TC-21C-XXX) for all members of your family. Make sure they are the appropriate size for children. Breathing ash can be dangerous for humans and pets.

4. Make sure you have working flashlights and extra batteries. Test your radio to make sure you can tune into the emergency station.

5. If you need medicine, make sure you have a sufficient supply.

6. Have a disaster plan for your family. Talk to your children about this plan and tell them what they could expect to happen.

7. "One of the most important things you can do is to stay tuned into what's going on. KSRM, KDLL, KBBI and other radio stations are broadcasting information and if you have internet access, you can track the AVO and NWS updates from the KPBOEM website. Passing along good information to your friends and neighbors will help keep the emergency phone lines available and help you determine if it's time to shelter-in-place." Glenda Landau, Citizen Corps Coordinator, Office of Emergency Management, Kenai Peninsula Borough

Principal Curtis Liberty said that the school has an emergency plan in effect and that your child will be well taken care of. Supplies at the school are for the children and staff only. If it is dangerous for you to get to the school, you should not come, but trust the school personnel to take care of your child. If you do come to the SBE School, which is the emergency shelter for the community, you should think to bring water, clothing, bedding, food, medicine, and other necessary items for yourself and other adults and children that are not enrolled in the school. (Although the swimming pool is the large reservoir for emergency water, it might prove prudent to bring water, if possible.)

When talking with Laurel Hilt about the 1986 eruption, Laurel told me the only thing she really remembered other than it was very dark outside, was she damage her parents' family car's windshield. She did this by turning on the wipers to get the ash off and the ash is very abrasive and damaged the glass when the wipers swished back and forth. So, take note of this!

Another thing is that electronics should be protected from the ash. Computers can be covered with plastic and the keyboards turned over when not in use. Stay indoors and try to keep the ash out!

When initially thinking about what we should do in the event of an ash fall, I was wondering about my dog. Dogs should also be kept indoors and let out

occasionally for a short period of time. (Somehow the respirators just don't work for pets!) Then, when letting the dog back into the house, the dog should be vacuumed before being allowed back in the main part of the house.

While searching the web for ready emergency awareness, the following links are good ones to get you prepared and also direct you to the specific things you need or need to think about.

[What To Do If An Eruption Occurs](#)
[What To Do During Ashfall](#)
[Dept. of Homeland Security – What to Do/Information](#)
[Office of Emergency Management – Kenai Peninsula](#)
[Disaster Supply Kit](#)
[Family Disaster Plan](#)

Facts about volcanic ash:

"Volcanic ash is rock that has been pulverized into dust or sand by volcanic activity. In very large eruptions, ash is accompanied by rocks having the weight and density of hailstones. Volcanic ash is hot near the volcano, but it is cool when it falls at greater distances. Ash fall blocks sunlight, reducing visibility and sometimes causing darkness. Ash fall can be accompanied by lightning.

Fresh volcanic ash is gritty, abrasive, sometimes corrosive, and always unpleasant. Although ash is not highly toxic, it can trouble infants, the elderly and those with respiratory ailments. Small ash particles can abrade the front of the eye under windy and ashy conditions.

Ash abrades and jams machinery. It contaminates and clogs ventilation, water supplies and drains. Ash also causes electrical short circuits -- in transmission lines (especially when wet), in computers, and in microelectronic devices. Power often goes out during and after ashfall. Long-term exposure to wet ash can corrode metal.

Ash accumulates like heavy snowfall, but doesn't melt. The weight of ash can cause roofs to collapse. A one-inch layer of ash weighs 5-10 pounds per square foot when dry, but 10-15 pounds per square foot when wet. Wet ash is slippery. Ash resuspended by wind, and human activity can disrupt lives for months after an eruption." *Information courtesy Information prepared by the Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division, Camp Murray, Washington 98430-5122, and U.S. Geological Survey, Cascades Volcano Observatory, Vancouver, Washington, 98661, November 1999*

• [To read more click here](#)

City Council meeting of January 11

by Tamara Blodgett

The regular Seldovia City Council Meeting convened together with Council Member's: Keith Gain, Tom Glover, Tom Keesecker, Mark Massion, and Walter McInnes. Councilwoman Peggy Boscacci had an excused absence.

Ordinance Introduction: Ordinance 06-06, Amending Chapter 3.04 to levy an Aircraft Tax.

Action: Passed for introduction.

Committees

Arts Council will meet on the 12th at 4:30 pm at the Rowing Club Building.

Chamber of Commerce met and decided to have a fundraiser on February 25, 2006 for the Woodcarving Contest to be held on Memorial Day Weekend.

Fish and Game had a meeting and the minutes will be published in the near future.

SOS has made an agreement to sell the responder barge this coming spring.

Fire Dept. has picked up four new members and will start regular training times to work with the truck every other Saturday and every Thursday for regular meetings.

Old Business

Ordinance 06-05, Adopting an Amended Zoning Map, City Manager Kurt Reynertson discussed a Point Paper that would change zoning on Main Street. The current zoning is Commercial/Residential. This means that a commercial business or a residence can be allowed. Reynertson proposes to change the zoning to Commercial Marine to keep businesses being on Main Street, along with garnering more revenue without penalizing homeowners with a higher tax, as Seldovians have the highest property tax rate in The Borough. Reynertson went on to emphasize that our revenue is slipping away due to an aging population. We need to do something to increase this revenue so The City can maintain solvency.

Public comment was made for a proposed park on Lot #1, Block 13 for the use of all. Additional public comment that was made emphasized the need to not rezone this lot from Public to Commercial Marine.

Councilman Massion emphasized that proper, lawful procedure had been followed to notify homeowners affected by the zoning change. In addition, Planning & Zoning Meetings have discussed this zoning change and have approved the change and now it has been presented to Council. Mayor Wyland added his comments of the importance of economic development for Seldovia.

Action: This ordinance will be tabled until Friday, January 20.
Council will meet at 3:00 pm in the multi-purpose room.

New Business

Civil Defense and Disaster Control Board Appointments, a protocol to follow in case of civil disaster for Seldovia.

Action: discussion only.

Trails Committee Appointments, Mayor Wyland recommended Councilmen Gain and McInnes for these appointments.

Action: appointments approved.

Discussion of Resolution 06-05, Marking BLM 17B Trails to Discuss Appropriate Action (McInnes), The City Council/City of Seldovia requesting implantation of the 17B access to public lands in the Seldovia area.

Action: Councilmen Gain and McInnes will send a cover letter with a copy of this resolution to the appropriate parties.

Informational items Not Requiring Actions

Gaming Permits, Susan B. English School has applied for permit for raffles and other fundraising activities. The Linwood Bar & Grill has also submitted its application for pull-tabs, which benefit the Firehall.

See **City Manager's Report** below ~ [click here](#)

Next **Regular Meeting** January 25, 2006

Meeting Adjourned, time elapsed one hour, 58 minutes and 41 seconds.

P&Z meeting of January 9

by Tamara Blodgett

P & Z convened together with members Chissus, Hopkins, Sweat and Carluccio in attendance and an excused absence for E. Boscacci.

Continued business

Zoning and Building Code Review: This is a revamped and updated set of building codes and zones organized by P & Z Chairwoman Paulie Carluccio. Residential General (RG) and Residential Special Multifamily (RSM) building heights will not be changed and remain at 35'. It was also emphasized that careful attention will be paid to setbacks on Kachemak Drive, in particular, with regard to lot 5A. One committee member expressed concern over a more detailed usage regarding multi-family residential. It was confirmed that Lakeside Terrace is the only structure that falls under multi-family residential and they currently comply.

Motion: Zoning and Building Codes will be presented to City Council.

City Manager Building Permit Approval Authority: City Manager Reynertson would like limited authority to approve some simple, non-controversial building permits. An example of this is the Linwood's submission to add the handicap ramp. Reynertson was requesting that building permits that fall under 100 square feet or less and will be attached to a structure would be the permit type that he could facilitate for P & Z.

Motion: Planning and Zoning would like to keep ultimate control over the final approval of building permits of all types but appreciate Reynertson's desire to assist in this process.

Committee Business: There will be a vacancy in the P & Z this January. Old members can reapply or a new member may be reappointed.

Final comments were made from the public and other members of the P & Z regarding the petition for a park. These specifically addressed what was best for the city's financial future and it was determined after some discussion that a park would not be in the best interests of the city. With P & Z supporting the proposed designation change for these lots.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

by Tamara Blodgett

January 16, 2006

A purposeful "dreamer" for civil rights...

A brilliant orator and character-driven man was born in Atlanta in 1929 to a minister and schoolteacher. Later, he became interested in the intrinsic rights of his fellow man, in particular, African-American People. This became his personal crusade during his lifetime, which he pursued with passion.

Young adulthood...

At the tender age of 19, he received his BA in Sociology from Morehouse College. This took King on the long path toward higher education. As he would later go on to receive a masters and then his PhD in Systematic Theology from Boston University in 1955.

In 1953 he married music student Coretta Scott who eventually became the mother to their four children.

Drawing attention to the cause...

Dr. King led his first boycott march in 1955. In the year that followed desegregation of public transportation was implemented. Tragically, that same year wrought a personal toll when King's home was bombed. This did not dissuade King from his goal of equal rights. He continued on with the bus boycott movement and wrote a book called, "Stride Toward Freedom." This book speaks to the bus boycotts and their crucial roll in the civil rights movement. In 1963, King was jailed during the during a large protest in Alabama and wrote a famous piece titled, "Letter from Birmingham City Jail." This encapsulated that no individual should be bound to obey unconstitutional laws. In this year his famous, "I have a dream speech," was also delivered and immortalized in our consciousness for then and future generations' consideration.

Positive Progress is made...

In 1964 King was awarded the prestigious *Nobel Peace Prize*. The following year the *Voting Rights Act* was passed suspending (and later banning) literacy tests as a way of disallowing the black population from casting their votes. In the midst of the Civil Rights Movement, King also gained attention and collaboration from traditionally all-white activists for his opposition against

the Vietnam War. This gained King national attention and the disapproval of then-president Johnson.

A crusader cut down in his prime...

In a savage blow to the Civil Rights Movement, King was assassinated in 1968. Rather than break down his cause, this seemed to have the opposite effect. King became a martyr and gained power for his movement even after his death. Just four days after being killed in the prime of his life, John Conyers, a democrat from Michigan, first introduced legislation for a commemorative holiday in King's honor. Six million signatures were eventually gathered and submitted to congress in support of this holiday. Along with democrat Shirley Chisholm of New York, Conyers and she continued to resubmit this legislation every subsequent year until the civil rights marches in 1982 and '83 put media pressure and attention on the need for this commemoration. Congress finally passed this legislation in 1983 and President Ronald Reagan signed it into law.

Slow acceptance of the holiday...

Dr. King's birthday was the attended date for the holiday. However, to gain quicker approval, it was decided instead to make the holiday the third Monday of January. As it was thought that his actual birthday would be too close to Christmas and New Year's Day. There was also the issue of some of the states unwillingness to title the holiday as it was passed. While Illinois was the very first state to jump on the bandwagon prior to the holiday being signed into law in 1973, Arizona stubbornly refused to celebrate it until 1992. In fact, the governor of Arizona, as his first act in congress rescinded the holiday until a tourist boycott in 1992 forced his hand and the holiday was restored. It wasn't until 1993 that all states celebrated the holiday as a nation (and not always under the MLK title). In 1999, New Hampshire was the last state to make it a paid holiday. With South Carolina recently implementing it as a paid holiday for their state employees. Until now, workers had been forced to choose from the MLK holiday or three, Confederate-related holidays. In 2000, Utah was the last state to change the name of the holiday to MLK Jr. Day from Human Rights Day.

The significance of MLK Jr. Day...

It is our duty as citizens to vote, uphold our constitution to the standard it was written and think first of resolution instead of conflict. These were the cornerstone of King's beliefs' and the things that motivated his life's work. Let us think on that this coming Monday when we celebrate the achievements of a man of peace and equality.

SBE School needs help with the athletic program

by Sandy Geagel

We really need help!

> Repeat notice <

Susan B. English School is looking for CLOCK WORKERS and ANNOUNCER for the upcoming home basketball games. The school will

provide training for those interested in clock keeper.

WE REALLY NEED some HELP in these areas to keep our athletic program functioning.

Special Notices

Susan B. English Pool Schedule 2005-2006

Lap Swim 8:30 – 9:30am: Monday - Wednesday - Friday

Lap Swim 3:30 – 4:30pm: Monday & Wednesday

Saturday Open Swim: 3:00 – 4:30pm

50+ Ladies Exercise Swim: Tuesday & Thursday, 10:00 – 11:00 am

Swims above are SBE sponsored. A fee is required (see below).

(Accommodation for senior citizens can be made for those unable to pay, ask Pool Manager)

Adults \$4.00 • Students \$3.00

Punch cards are available:

Adult \$18.00/6 swims • Students \$16.00/8 swims

Seldovia Village Sponsored Swims • NO Fee charged at SVT Swims

Open Swim- Student Swims

Tuesday 3:15 – 5:00pm and Friday 6:30 – 8:30pm

Tidbits . . .

This Augustine volcano aerial photo was taken by K.M. Wallace, courtesy of AVO, on January 12, 2006



City Manager's Corner

by Kurt Reynertson

Managers Report for the period covering December 11 - January 6

- Installation of the “on-demand” water system for non-water subscribers is nearing completion.
- The City Dock lights have been repaired and are operational (navigation and dock illuminators)
- Grant offer letter from the VSW has been signed and returned. MLFA will be submitting a proposal NLT January 12, 2006 . Engineering is expected to last through the summer. There is not enough money to accomplish all the work we want so we had to prioritize. Of the 8 listed major segments of work listed below, I believe we can expect no more than 4 to be accomplished (possibly fewer) with the engineering funds we have available. Priorities (in order) include:
 - Design of water treatment plant modifications to address corrosion and filtration issues and meet DEC regulatory requirements
 - Design of a new water transmission line
 - Design of water tank modifications and/or a second tank to increase retention time and facilitate tank cleaning
 - Design of new water pipe to replace existing thin walled steel pipe
 - Design of septic system improvements and a sludge disposal facility
 - Dam safety review and preparation of compliance plans
 - Design of an infiltration gallery at Fish Creek
 - Design of additional water and sewer pipe, as needed .
- I have submitted a grant application to the Rasmuson Foundation for the replacement of the Community Center elevator and modification of the upstairs restroom to an ADA compliant facility. We were turned down for this work via grant from the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development that I submitted earlier in the year.
- I will be attending the Rural CAP supervisor training later this month being held in Utah , and as such I will not be at the next Council meeting. This is required training for all new VISTA sites. The training and travel is being paid for by Rural CAP.
- I will begin work on changes and modifications to the City of Seldovia Land Bid package this next week.
- I anticipate the new X-Ray machine to be delivered in January (this month). We will store the new machine in the clinic until we have completed the electrical work necessary for the installation.
- Engineering on the Harbor is still progressing. I hope to be able to start ordering materials for the Harbor renovation by March or April. Renovation will hopefully be able to start in September

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

Police moved rocks from the roadway in two areas on Jakolof Bay Road after they had rolled off the hillside into the middle of the road. In rainy weather it is very important that motorists watch for rocks and mudslides on the roadways in areas where the banks are steep and close to the road. One such area exists on a curve and the rocks are difficult to see until you are to them.

A man was stopped and given a verbal warning after he was observed failing to stop at a stop sign.

A man was stopped and given a verbal warning regarding his driving in the middle of the roadway on Jakolof Bay Road after he was observed to remain in the middle of the roadway when rounding corners. This type driving creates a hazard for any oncoming vehicles and places everyone in danger.

Police checked a local vacant residence after the caretaker reported an outside light mysteriously came on. No evidence of forced entry was found and the residence was secure.

Two warnings for Dog At Large and one warning for Public Nuisance have been given regarding reports of problems with dogs in the City.

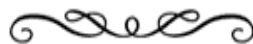
Three people came to the Police Department to have their fingerprints taken for employment purposes.

A local resident fell victim to identify theft after his bank debit card number was used to make some purchases by unknown persons. Fortunately the account was checked and action taken prior to large dollar items being purchased. The account was flagged and the card was destroyed. Any future attempts to purchase items using that debit card number will be refused. Investigation continues in the matter.

The Police investigation into minors being allowed to enter and remain on licensed premises in a local establishment has resulted in the Alcohol Beverage Control Board revoking the restaurant designation for the business. This does not negate the owners from operating a restaurant but it does insure minors can only enter for dining when in the presence of a person 21 years of age or older who is their parent, legal guardian or spouse. It also mandates that any employs in the establishment will be 21 years of age or older. The District Attorney has decided to hold in abeyance any charges in the matter for a period of six months, at which time the case will be dropped provided no violations occur within that time frame. It is our hope the restaurant will stay open and that the rules will be applied.

A local pilot's aircraft sustained some damage when his right landing gear collapsed upon landing at the Seldovia Airport . No injuries occurred in the mishap and the owner feels, after close observations, structural weakness in the gear contributed to the accident. No other damage could be found during the preliminary observations and the propeller did not strike the ground.

With Mount Augustine showing signs of eruption it is suggested that everyone prepare for the possibility of ash raining down on us. Have at hand masks and goggles to protect against ingesting the ash and be aware that the ash is very harmful to engines if it is allowed to enter them. It is suggested that air filters be changed often and nylons, panty hose or other material be placed over the air filters to help in the reduction of ash into the engine. Persons with respiratory problems should be very careful and not be in the ash if at all possible. Check with your doctor for other suggestions.



Seldovia Gazette Newspaper