



# Seldovia Gazette

Serving Seldovia, Alaska and Kachemak Bay southeast

Seldovia, AK

23 °F / -5 °C

Light Snow  
at 4:53 PM



[Click for Forecast](#)

Thursday, Jan. 19, 2006

Just another day in paradise

Vol. 2, No. 3, January 19, 2006

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## Opinions



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## Spotlight

### Congrats to our SBE Basketball players!



**Friday night** the SBE Highschool Boys and Girls teams both lost but they were great games and everyone had fun. **Saturday**, the SBE JV Boys and Girls teams both won! Way to go Seldovia Sea Otters!

See the Seldovia Gazette on Thursday for a PhotoStory. [www.seldoviagazette.com](http://www.seldoviagazette.com)

## Marketplace



**234-7652**  
Serving Seldovia with your real estate needs



*Come In, Browse, Have Fun!*

**Herring Bay Mercantile**  
Seldovia, AK



**Jenny Chissus**  
234-8000

Your Seldovia Connection

[www.seldoviaproperty.com](http://www.seldoviaproperty.com)  
RE/MAX of Homer

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



**Seldovia Boat Slips for Rent**  
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

## 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 continues to erupt

*"Concern Level" floated up and down between Red to Orange all week*

▶ Joy Smith, ready to succeed.



Augustine volcano, January 18. Photo courtesy of John Eichelberger and Alaska Volcano Observatory.

**School**

▶ Basketball & School News



Although Augustine was relatively quite Wednesday and Thursday, several significant eruptions have occurred since last Friday. Per the Alaska Volcano Observatory, earthquake activity at Augustine Volcano remains at low levels but is still well above background. Based on the characteristics of previous eruptions, it is likely, but not certain, that more explosive eruptions will occur. These events are likely to be similar to those of January 13, 14, and 17 and it is possible for them to occur with little or no warning. AVO is monitoring the situation closely and the observatory is staffed 24/7.

**Notices & Newsletters**

▶ Senator Gary Stevens December Newsletter

▶ Representative Paul Seaton January Newsletter **NEW!**

▶ 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)

Observations made on an aerial over flight Thursday afternoon indicated that the summit continues to steam vigorously, consistent with the formation of a new lava dome, although the amount of steam obscured conclusive views of the summit and it is still uncertain if a dome has formed at the summit. A white ash-poor steam plume was observed rising to just above the summit and drifting to the east. AVO scientists were able to measure volcanic gases in the plume, but results are not yet available.

**What to do if there is an ashfall**

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](#)

**Volcano Ash and how it may affect our public drinking water system (submitted to the Seldovia Gazette by the Seldovia City Office)**

Volcano ash may adversely impact our public water system. Ash may raise the turbidity of the water, and elevated turbidity interferes with disinfection. Since our water supply uses surface water, we need disinfection to kill disease-causing micro-organisms such as bacteria, viruses and parasites. If we are impacted by volcano ash, we will run the water treatment plant as long as it is safe to do so and we will increase the chlorine levels. However, if you should notice ash in your water you should not use it for drinking water purposes.

**Corrections**

▶ None this week

**PhotoStory**

**Archive** NEW!

- ▶ [SBE Christmas Play 2005](#)
- ▶ [Halloween Carnival 2005](#)

**Photo Archive** NEW!

- ▶ [Click here for photo list](#)

**Classified Rates**

- ▶ [Instructions and rate sheet](#)



PDF files require a special "Reader" in order to view pdf files. Click the Adobe button above to get a **FREE pdf reader!**



**Large print version of this page - click here.** Please note that we do not have large print versions of the other pages on this site.

In the event that the plant shuts down we will notify you. If we are not making water, the amount of water we will have in storage will be limited. Water conservation measures may be necessary in order to save water for fire protection and other essential services.

**PLEASE NOTE: Alaska's emergency service personnel recommend that each individual have enough bottled drinking water on hand to last seven days for any type of emergency (volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, etc.) We also recommend that you use bottled water for all drinking and cooking purposes during times of ash fall.** In extreme emergencies, boiling water with ash in it for one minute will kill the microbes, but it can also concentrate the inorganics in the water and some concentrated inorganic components can be harmful to your health. We will not know if the water is safe to drink until we take additional water tests after the ash fall has subsided. Therefore, be prepared, and have some bottled water on hand in case the plant needs to shut down during emergencies.

If ash gets into our distribution lines, we will flush and disinfect the lines after the problem has subsided, and we will take additional water tests to ensure that our water continues to be safe to drink.

If you have questions regarding how to prepare your home for an emergency such as volcanic ash or earthquakes, you may call the Alaska Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office at 1-800-478-2337, or see their internet website at [www.ak-prepared.com](http://www.ak-prepared.com).

The State of Alaska's Air Quality Division has a website with many useful links at [www.dec.state.ak.us/air/volcano.htm](http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/volcano.htm).

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>

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## College Bound!

*by Tamara Blodgett*

### *Local boy, Bill Payton, pursues his dream...*

Twenty-year old Bill Payton, born and raised in Seldovia has left a decided "void" here in our community since his departure for college once again. Bill is the son of Josh and Marcia Patrick, long-time Seldovian residents since 1974 and grandson to Nancy and Norm Opheim, and Gerry Patrick also long-time residents.



Bill is pursuing a degree in either Quantum Physics or Business. He is currently attending Sitka College and will decide on a major in the near future. His aptitude in the math and science arenas has led him to possibly pursue a (highly specialized) science degree. Payton has done very well at Sitka and is currently on the dean's list. The qualification for the dean's list is a 3.75 GPA or higher.

Payton is a well-loved community leader amongst the younger set. His heavy involvement as an employee at The Boys and Girls Club has been much appreciated in the past and continues to be missed while he is away at college. Bill makes an effort to come home to stay with and visit his extended family here in Seldovia during his college breaks. He can also make time to work at the B & G Club at that time. Payton is willing to be a role model and work in non-traditional roles. He is skilled in crafts and enjoys working with the children, in addition to his famous, "Baking with Bill," days that he routinely did each month at The Club. During the summer Bill would also go on the all-day hikes sponsored by The B & G Club and SVT, while putting together puzzles on those rainy days!

Payton works on computers for the college as part of his Merit Scholarship. He will get his Associates Degree next year, and if Quantum Physics were his choice then he would transfer to another school to pursue this advanced degree. This summer Bill will be looking for an internship as part of his Merit Scholarship requirement. Combining experience and pay to further his goal of completion, this internship will last three months and he is currently looking for something in the business field.

The Payton family is originally from Kodiak prior to their arrival in Seldovia during the mid-1970's. Bill has made a successful transition to a new and exciting life in college and loves the independence this provides while having the great support of his family and community firmly behind him. We wish Bill the best of luck in his endeavor.

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## **Rezoning presentation by City Manager Kurt Reynertson**

A special meeting of the Seldovia City Council is scheduled for Friday

afternoon, January 20, 3:00pm to hold a public hearing and take action on [Ordinance 06-05](#), an Ordinance of the City of Seldovia adopting an amended [Zoning Map](#). A copy of the City Managers presentation will be included in its entirety in this section of the Gazette after the meeting on Friday.

TO: City Council & Concerned parties with properties on Main Street  
 FROM: Kurt Reynertson, City Manager  
 DATE: January 20, 2006  
 RE: Discussion paper concerning the changing of zoning districts

There was much discussion on the topic of changing the zoning from Commercial Residential (CR) to Commercial Marine (CM) on the following Seldovia Waterfront Plat lots:

Block 9 lots 5, 6, 7, 8, 9  
 Block 8 lots 5, 6, 7, 8  
 Block 7 lots 7, 8

One of the concerns raised was concerning the definition of a business (since CM zoning codes calls for either retail or service business, with attached residences being only a secondary permitted use). The following is the definition of a business defined by Alaska State Statue:

*According Alaska Statute 43.70.110(1) [Alaska Business License Act]  
 “‘business’ means a for profit or nonprofit entity engaging or offering to engage in a trade, a service, a profession, or an activity with the goal of receiving a financial benefit in exchange for the provision of services, or goods or other property[.]”*

Another question was raised about the difference between a hotel, lodge, or inn and a bed and breakfast. The following is an established definition for a B&B:

*The term ‘Bed and Breakfast’ is defined as meaning “a **home** occupation where lodging, and no more than one meal per day, is provided by the **homeowner** for compensation to transient guests on a day-to-day basis.”  
 Lodge means the same as ‘Inn’ and is defined as any building or group of buildings in which there are five or less guest rooms, used for the purpose of offering public lodging on a day-to-day basis, not including a bed and breakfast home.”*

A third concern raised was how this would affect existing property owners. Here I can offer speculation as I am not privy to what property owners plan to do with their property.

1. If a property is currently run as a business (see definition above) that meets the permitted uses of the CM district, then there would be **NO EFFECT** on the existing property owner. The owner may have a residence associated with the property as long as it is an ancillary use.
2. If the property is currently planned to be run as a business that meets the permitted uses of the CM district, and the owner follows through on those plans within a timely fashion, there will be **NO EFFECT**

on the existing property owner. The owner may have a residence associated with the property as long as it is an ancillary use.

3. If the property is currently used or is currently planned to be used a residence only (to include a B&B), then there **would be an effect**.

Mention has been made of enforcement of our current zoning and possible violations of such. The subject of enforcement of these zoning districts is a separate issue and one that the City will be addressing. There are at least two avenues the City may pursue. The first is a legal only course of action. The second involves a financial "carrot and stick" approach. The City is, regardless of how the vote turns out on Ordinance 06-05, going to pursue enforcement of zoning districts. We are in the process of finding the best avenue to pursue it from.

The City's Planning Commission recommended the zoning change. There were multiple public hearings and workshops going back to the September time frame (October 3, 2005 Planning and Zoning Meeting; October 17, 2005 Planning and Zoning Workshop; November 7, 2005 Planning and Zoning Meeting; November 16, 2005 joint Workshop with City Council and Planning Commission; December 5, 2005 Planning and Zoning Meeting; December 14, 2005 City Council Meeting; January 9, 2005 Planning and Zoning Meeting; January 11, 2005 City Council Meeting) All the hearings and workshops were publicized via physical postings and web site postings (City web site and Seldovia.com). I wrote about the workshops and public hearings in the Seldovia Gazette in the "Managers Corner" and in my manager's report to the City Council many times well prior to the hearings and workshops taking place. The Seldovia Gazette advertised the workshops and hearings prior to them taking place. All the postings and announcements specifically told the public what was being discussed and there is always an open invitation for the any member of the public to attend.

The City needs increased revenue. We are in a situation of raising expenses while revenue is decreasing. The City needs to take measures to increase its property tax and sales tax revenue for the general fund. We believe that **one** of the steps to insure a solid property tax base (not to mention a sales tax base that would be established with viable businesses) is to develop a business district. Changing the zoning from Commercial Residential to Commercial Marine will help insure that businesses are developed along Main Street, thus helping create this business district. In fact, changing the zoning from CR to CM is consistent with the historical use patterns of these properties in question, and further, this proposed zoning change is consistent with our Comprehensive Plan. Property in a Commercial Marine zone is not eligible for property tax exemption (based upon the age of the owner) for that part of the property that is for business use. Because CM allows residential uses as a secondary use, the bulk of the property will remain on the tax roles.

A specific example may be of help in describing what the rezoning is attempting to avoid. The property on the corner of Main Street and Harbor View Drive was sold to an individual in the fall of 1995. In his bid proposal he told Council that he was going to build and operate a business, which to date he has. He currently pays property tax on the business portion of the facility (less than 50% of the total tax bill), but he is exempt from over 50% of his property tax bill because of the senior exempt rule. Recently part of his business was sold (per the rumor mill) but the facility has not sold. He

could, under Commercial Residential zoning, turn the entire facility into a residence, thus allowing for a total property tax exemption due to the senior exemption rule imposed by the State. I do not believe that zoning waterfront property that would be fully tax exempt to part-time inhabitants is in the best interests of the citizens of Seldovia. A rhetorical question might be “where else could one find waterfront property for a summer vacation home, receive tax exemption, and pay less than \$400,000?” The amount of \$400,000 is a made up amount, but one that would not be that far off the mark. While \$400,000 may sound like a lot of money (it does to me at least), \$400,000 is not a lot of money to a lot of people especially for a prime piece of waterfront property in a pristine environment.

[Click here for full document in pdf format.](#)

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## Representative Paul Seaton Newsletter

Topics covered in this January 16 Newsletter include the following:

- HB 328 - Mixing Zone Legislation
- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Mixing Zone Regulation
- Governor’s Address
- House State Affairs Committee
- Pension Obligation Bonds
- Ways and Means Committee

[A complete copy can be viewed by clicking here \(pdf 25k\)](#)

All bills can be accessed through the state’s Bill Action and Status Inquiry System (BASIS). [Click here to track specific Bills.](#)

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## Senator Gary Stevens Applauds DEC’s Decision to Keep Prohibition on Mixing Zone Regulations

(Juneau) District R Senator Gary Stevens, R-Kodiak, is reacting favorably to news that the Alaska Department of Environmental Conversation (ADEC) will keep in place regulations prohibiting mixing zones in salmon spawning areas as part of regulations adopted Thursday, January 12.

Mixing zones are areas of fresh water designated as flushing tanks for waste from sewage plants and other pollution sources. ADEC had proposed loosing mixing zone restrictions in salmon spawning streams as a means of helping Alaska’s industry grow. On January 12, ADEC Commissioner Kurt Fredriksson announced that the department would maintain the prohibition on mixing zones in salmon spawning streams. The commissioner assured Senator

Stevens the decision was made because of the tremendous amount of input from the public, legislators and state officials concerned about the potentially negative impact on salmon marketing efforts.

“The state of Alaska has gone to great lengths to develop and improve the quality of fish heading into world markets, and it has not been an easy process. Granting waivers to allow mixing zones in fish-spawning areas would have completely undone the advances made to promote Alaska salmon as clean, fresh and wild,” Senator Stevens said. “I’m pleased the department listened to us on this critical issue. I am encouraged that ADEC will continue to be the leader in these protective measures.”

Senator Stevens and Representative Paul Seaton, R-Homer have introduced companion bills this session (SB 225 and HB 328) to prohibit mixing zones in spawning waters. Senator Stevens said he will scrutinize ADEC’s new regulations to determine if they meet the full intent of SB 225.

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## **Division of Elections sends second notice to update voter registration list**

( Anchorage) – Alaskans who haven't voted in several years but would like to vote in future elections should pay close attention to what's in their mailbox. The Division of Elections is sending a second notice to registered voters who have not voted in any election or had any contact with the Division since 2002. The first notice was sent December 9, 2005. If a voter on this inactive list does not respond to the Division by March 1, his or her name will be removed from the State’s master list.

The Division of Elections is required to keep an updated list of registered voters to maintain compliance with State and federal law. Voters’ cooperation in responding to the letters will improve the accuracy of the State’s voter registration list. To update voter information, such as changing an address, voters should contact the Division.

“It is important for people to respond to the notices so the State can maintain an accurate list,” said Whitney Brewster, Director of the Division of Elections. “There are numerous cases where voters move either out of State or elsewhere in Alaska and simply fail to notify the Division. This notice will remind voters who have had no activity on their voter record that they need to contact the Division to remain registered.”

To find out voter status please contact the Division of Elections at:

Region I office in Juneau at 465-3021  
Region II office in Anchorage at 522-8683  
Region III office in Fairbanks at 451-2835  
Region IV office in Nome at 443-5285

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## **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.

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## Special Notices

*Home High School Basketball Games  
Friday and Saturday - Come out and support the kids!*

### **Seldovia vs. Ninilchik**

Friday, January 20: Girls - 6:00pm; Boys - 7:30pm  
 Saturday, January 21: Girls - 10:00am; Boys - 11:30am  
 Entrance Fees: Adults - \$4, Students - \$2, Families - \$10,  
 Senior Citizens - Free, Pre-School Free when with an adult  
 Concession stand will be OPEN!

*Home games are also scheduled for next week.*

Thursday - Anderson  
 Friday - CIA

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## Tidbits . . .

This 10-minute-exposure image was taken from Homer by photographer Dennis Anderson in the early morning hours of January 17th 2006.



**City Manager's Corner***by Kurt Reynertson***>> Repeat Story <<****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***>> Repeat Report <<**

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.

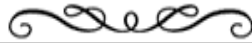
A local resident fell victim to identify theft after his bank debit card number was used to make some purchases by unknown persons. Fortunately the account was checked and action taken prior to large dollar items being purchased. The account was flagged and the card was destroyed. Any future attempts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



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