



Seldovia Gazette

Serving Seldovia, Alaska and Kachemak Bay southeast

Seldovia, AK

33 °F / 1 °C

Light Rain
at 8:53 AM



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Thursday, Feb. 16, 2006

Just another day in paradise

Vol. 2, No. 7, February 16, 2006

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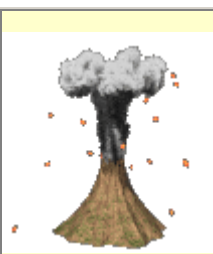
Opinions



▶ [2 Cents Worth](#)

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

Augustine Volcano News



Augustine volcano activity decreased to "ORANGE Concern" on Wednesday, Feb 1

[WebCam1](#)

[Seismograph](#)

[Main Page](#)

[WebCam2 at the volcano site](#)

[Ashfall](#)

Current news releases are posted daily on [Seldovia.com](#) ([click here](#))

Get your tickets to the Lumberjack Dinner/Theater Night!
Sponsored by the Seldovia Chamber of Commerce
(February 25, 630pm • see article below)

Top Stories

Girls basketball team wins Sportsman Award!



The SBE girls basketball team won the Sportsman trophy during their recent trip to the Valdez tournament. Naomi Gallien and Colton Collier won All Tournament.

[Click here for additional details](#)

Marketplace



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RE/MAX of Homer



234-7652
Serving Seldovia with your real estate needs



Herring Bay Mercantile
Seldovia, AK

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

Spotlight

▶ Seth Suydam, college bound



School

▶ Basketball, School News



Notices & Newsletters

▶ Senator Gary Stevens December Newsletter

▶ **NEW!** Representative Paul Seaton February 13 Newsletter

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

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

▶ Boys and Girls Club February 2005 Calendar

▶ Boys and Girls Club Newsletter

▶ Harbor Survey Priority Results (pdf)

Corrections

▶ None this week

Susan B. English Spelling Bee

by Tamara Blodgett

A fun challenge for kids...

Students in 4th through 8th grades lined up at 3:30 pm on Monday for a school spelling bee. Each “contestant” was given a word, with the word encapsulated in a sentence for context. If the student spelled the word correctly, they stayed in the Bee. If that student did not spell the word correctly, they were eliminated.



It was tight at the end, with two, eighth grade girls doing battle. Finally, one girl spelled “fiesta” incorrectly, with the winning girl spelling that word correctly in addition to one more word to win the Bee. Courtney Collier was the winner of the Susan B. English Spelling Bee this year! Way to go Courtney!

Valentine’s lunch at SBE

by Tamara Blodgett

Look who got struck with the Cupid’s arrow...

On Valentine’s Day this year the 7th through 12th graders received a special “arrow” from Cupid’s bow in the form of a special luncheon sponsored by Seldovia Bible Chapel.

SBE aide, Ronene Gain, conceptualized the idea of doing something special for the upper grades in celebration of the holiday. However, the challenge would be working around the grueling basketball and wrestling schedules. With daily practices and extensive travel on all surrounding weekends, Gain knew that to celebrate Valentines Day for the kids would be tricky at best. Gain determined a Valentines Luncheon during the school lunchtime would be the best timeframe. Bible Chapel offered to sponsor the purchase of 4, 3’ long subs from Subway that were flown over that morning and brought to the school through the tireless volunteer efforts of Lisa O’Leary, who also brought the chips and pop. O’Leary made a heart-shaped, 12” diameter chocolate chip cookie that was later raffled off. Pastor Jonathan Hoard’s daughter drew a number that corresponded with a number on the bottom of one lucky kid’s plate. Oren Kroll had the corresponding number (18) and was the lucky winner of the monster cookie! Gain handed out Valentine goodie bags for all the kids that included: pencils, candy and a bookmark that read, “Happy Valentine’s Day from Seldovia Bible Chapel. Jesus Loves You and so do we.”

PhotoStory Archive

- ▶ [SBE Basketball Feb 2006](#)
- ▶ [SBE Basketball Feb 2006](#)
- ▶ [SBE Basketball Jan 2006](#)
- ▶ [SBE Christmas Play 2005](#)
- ▶ [Halloween Carnival 2005](#)

Photo Archive

- ▶ [Click here for photo list](#)

Classified Rates

- ▶ [Instructions and rate sheet](#)



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After lunch, SBE teacher, Miss Hilts took a musical singing tour around the school with her choir class. The choir spent the next half an hour serenading various students by request. Students could put a special someone on their list that they wished to have sung to, and the choir would sing that tune to the special someone.



For some, listening to the choir practice is music to your ears . . . but as you can see, that's not a universal opinion.

Another great idea for the holiday and the students loved it! You could feel the embarrassment/angst/joy! Everyone was so pleased to be the "special someone" chosen. Miss Hilts had the spotlight trained on her for a tune as her daughter had put in her request for her mom! It was a special holiday for the kids at SBE.





The SBE Chorus Troop also made it out to a few homes before school. What a great group of kids!

Seldovia Bible Chapel has a Sweetheart of a Time

by Tamara Blodgett

A special party for special kids....

Bible Chapel sponsored a special party for Valentine's Day this year from 3:30 to 5:00 on Valentine's Day. Pastor Jonathan Hoard and wife Melanie had just come off a day of festivities from Susan B. English School and knew they would have more celebrations to come at the Chapel.

Right at 3:30 a handful of kids burst (with stragglers still marching in) in anticipating more fun. Boy, did they get that! There was Valentine "bingo" using heart-shaped candies, and heart shaped peanut butter and jelly sandwiches with a huge, 12" diameter heart-shaped chocolate chip cookie all made by Mrs. Lisa O'Leary to brighten up one lucky little kids Valentine Day!

A special Bible Story was told by 12-year-old Sarah O'Leary that was about the love of Jesus which was from the scripture, John 3:16. A well-known scripture which reads, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." After the Bible lesson, all the kids had received a lot of candy and some spiritual candy besides. Valentine's Day turned out to be filled with candy and a *whole lot more* for the children of Seldovia.

Seldovia Oil Spill Response Team - January 4 meeting

by Mark Janes

Present Board Members

President-Sera Baxter, Sadi Synn, Walter McInnes, Josh Patrick, Mark Janes, Tim Robertson, Micheal Ophiem

SOS Staff Present

Sharon Bond

Public Present

None

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7 pm
- II. The meeting agenda was read and approved
- III. The minutes from the December board meeting were read and approved
- IV. Sharon Bond gave the Treasurers report.

- Buckley & Associates has made the final adjustments for 2003 and fixed the payroll liabilities
- SOS has received full payment from the Hopkins Bros. for the dock demolition services
- Payment for the barge watch contract with CIPSPRI have been received.
- The first payment for the 650 Barge of \$25,000.00 has been received

Tim Robertson commented on the professional manner the books have been kept and that Sharon is doing an excellent job.

V. Old Business

1. 650 Barge- Sera reported that Alaska Clean Seas (ACS) agreed to the boards minimum price of \$50,000. Tim made the motion : the sale of the 650 Barge for \$50,000 to Alaska Clean Seas should be approved. Mark seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sera reported that the barge will stay put until Spring when SOS will have to deliver it to Homer. Once in Homer ACS will take possession.
2. Training-8/24/40 Hour HAZWOPER Course- Sera continues to talk with ADEC regarding expanding to a 40 hour certification course. Currently there are 25+ individuals interested in the course. A sign up sheet has been posted and contact will be made by Sharon with Nanwalek and Port Graham to see if they would be interested in having people attend.
3. CISPRI Barge watch- Sharon reported that the Barge was repositioned by CISPRI and no other issues have been encountered.

VI. New Business

1. Annual Meeting/Potluck- The annual meeting was established for Thursday February 16, 2006. Sharon has obtained some great door prizes and coordinate the meeting.
2. Presidential Kudos- Tim congratulated Sera on her executing the sale of the barge. All board members agreed that it was a long and difficult process with very little precedent on how it should be done. The funds brought in will allow SOS to continue to serve the Kachemak Bay area.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10

Seldovia Village Tribe and Genealogy

by Tamara Blodgett

The tribe endorses and enables ancestral research...

“You don’t come to America by chance, you get on board by choice,” was a comment made by SVT Counselor Sandee Elvsaa in a recent interview with she and Crystal Collier, SVT CEO. Ms. Elvsaa has a personal interest in genealogy, having researched her family tree to Norwegian and Irish descent. Her Irish grandfather moved from North Carolina and came to Alaska in the pre-gold rush years of 1898. Her family has a long-time Alaskan association and she would like to offer her knowledge and expertise to the community. Ms. Collier (daughter of Darlene Crawford who came from Stewart) was born in Seldovia and remains a life-long Seldovian. She heralds an Aleut heritage. Collier is very interested in fostering anything the community can do to make it strong, viable and valuable to the community. The genealogical branch is one way to do this.



Crystal Collier on the left, Sandee Elvsaa on the right

The scoop on researching your native heritage...

The tribe has been instrumental for almost 15 years in making sure that services have been provided on a frequent basis for people to research their family lines. Lineage is very important for the Tribe. They encourage everyone to find their roots; native and non-native alike. Researching a Native line is different than non-Native. Elvsaa can get you started on the road of who to contact for this specific work. Unlike the census, there was not a census for Indian Peoples. There was often an “Indian Agent,” a person that counted Indians when they were initially placed on a reservation. This agent was responsible for gathering names, ages, genders and household size. Often times, Indian People would be assigned names that were not their own, but manufactured by the agent. In some cases, this makes documentation very difficult. Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB), procured through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, is a way to achieve documentation and will be recognized by all agencies that need proof of documentation for social or health services. Another way to document Indian heritage is through birth or death certificate information. Native American heritage can be American Indian or Alaska Native. Any person can become a member of The Seldovia Village Tribe with the proper documentation of any native blood. There is not a certain percentage of Native blood required to become a member.

Clearing up some confusion about native blood...

Collier filled me in on some of the history of what it means for natives *to be* natives in the eyes of various entities. Back in 1971 the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) law was passed that defined anyone that was 25%

or more to be Native and able to claim shares. Under the provisions of this settlement, the Native received title to a total of 40 million acres, to be divided among some 220 Native villages and twelve Regional Corporations established by the Act. Unlike SVT, this Act requires a 25% Native blood quantum to be recognized. SVT is not a corporation, but is a tribal government. The Tribe works for its membership and is not "for-profit." Furthermore, Collier mentioned SVT does not have to work through the state, like the city would; SVT's hierarchy is different. SVT works directly with the Federal Government, which greatly enhances their communication and efficiency. The Tribe uses these communication advantages for the good of everyone in the community.

People come from far and away...

Pam Darwin and Nylah Jimenez are two ladies that have been a crucial part in the earlier years of making headway on the genealogical trail. Darwin was instrumental in bringing over some of the earlier equipment, such as microfiche to make research of census records obtainable for people looking for lost ancestors. Elvsaa mentioned that Darwin is a direct descendant of Johnny Kanaback and The McKeon flats were named after her grandfather. Darwin owns a quilt shop in Wasilla and makes regular trips to Seldovia to keep interest alive in our community.

Scheduled meeting times are as follows: Jan Wyland can meet with people every Sat. between the hours of 12:30-4:30 , Sandee Elvsaa can meet with people by appointment and can be reached at: # 7898, ext. 226 or *home*: #7465. John and Mary Sanger are also available

The meaning of Valentines Day *by Tamara Blodgett*

The origins of a romantic holiday...

Believed to have its beginnings in the middle of the third century, Valentine's Day, like many of our modern holidays, has its roots in pagan beliefs. During this time, wolves were a concern in Rome for the shepards tending their flocks. The god Lupercus, was said to watch over these flocks. Every February the feast of Lupercalia was held to honor Lupercus so no harm would befall the flocks. However, to also honor the goddess Juno Februata, the names of eligible women were put into a box and names were drawn. The eligible people would be matched and considered partners for the year, which began in March. This feast was held after wolves were no longer an issue.

When Christianity became the main presence, the old pagan beliefs began to be supplanted with the newer, more widely accepted beliefs of the Christians. There were many saints that were in line to be honored so the Priests decided to change the name to Valentine's Day. They replaced the drawing of the girls' names to saints. Every saint's name that was drawn was the saint the person would need to emulate in the coming year. This practice did not prove nearly as popular as the drawing of the girls' names, which reverted back to use during the 14th century.

While the following legends cannot be proven historically, it is the best explanation of why we have the holiday named for a saint, and people around

the world still give out Valentine's to love ones.

The Saint behind our modern holiday...

The identity of Saint Valentine remains shrouded in mystery. We do know that the holiday has its origins in both Christian and Roman beliefs. February has long been the month of romance and owes this beginning to the martyred Saint Valentine.

One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, understanding the injustice to this sector, bravely defied Claudius while continuing to marry young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were uncovered, he was put to death.

Others stories point to his assistance in escape for Christians from prison that were beaten and tortured for their faith in Jesus Christ.

Valentine may have sent the first greeting himself! As the story goes, while in prison it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a girl, who may have been the jailor's daughter. Before his death, it is alleged that he composed a letter to her, which he signed, "from your Valentine." This exact expression is still in use today. With the truth of these wonderful legends still under the veil of mystery, it is no doubt that he was the most well loved saint during the Middle Ages in France and England. What about heroic, loving and brave acts does not appeal to the masses?

Once upon a birdie...

The French believed that February 14th was the day that birds began to mate. This led to boys giving girls a Valentine, with the girls name sometimes worn on the boy's sleeve. The boy kept her in his affections the entire year, giving written endearments and tokens of his love for her during that time. Later, this gave way to men giving these things to women and the tradition continues.

Beware the Cupid's arrow...

Long a popular symbol in Valentine lore, the Cupid is a mythological creature of the goddess of love, Venus. This creature is said to shoot its arrow at whom it pleases, inducing a "love stupor" surpassed by none. If you are struck with the Cupid's arrow, it is said the first person you lay eyes on is the one you will love. This concept has been immortalized on cards, notes and figurines for centuries.

The rose is not always a rose...

Roses are **the** traditional Valentine gift. The rose is said to be the supreme flower of beauty and no other flower will do for the woman you liken its beauty to. However, anciently, the color of the rose has meaning. White roses are for purity of mind and true love, red roses are for love and passion, yellow roses are for friendship, black roses mean farewell, pink roses mean friendship or sweetheart and lavender roses can mean love at first sight.

The one you love...

Nowadays, Valentines Day has many interpretations. A traditional lovers holiday has now also become a way to let a friend know how special they, or children send each other notes of friendship. No longer exclusively a lovers holiday but still the very best time to let that romantic someone know they are *your* special Valentine.

Rep. Paul Seaton Newsletter - February 13

Greetings from Juneau on this 34th day of the legislative session. This last week the staff kept all systems running while Tina and I joined my extended family in southern California to celebrate my father's 97th birthday. It was a wonderful visit with nieces, grandnieces, my sister and especially my Dad. Fortunately the timing was just right with new bills having been introduced but not yet scheduled for hearings. The Resources Committee Pebble Mine Prospect Resolution (HCR 29) was the most contentious issue I missed, but I was able to catch up by the Gavel-to-Gavel video coverage.

The oil tax restructure proposal is in the final stage of bill preparation. The issue will require an extensive education for all Legislators so that we can make informed decisions regarding changes affecting the State's primary source of income. This will not be a quick or easy process, but replacing the ELF was a goal I set during my first campaign. Our current tax structure was not designed to accommodate the high variance in oil prices we have experienced recently and is no longer providing for the state to receive the highest benefit from its resources. Although there is a clear need for revision, we will still need to get a majority in both houses to make any substantive change.

[Click here to read the full newsletter](#)

Tsunami geology from Sumatra to Seldovia

> Repeat story <

by Tom Glover

Is Seldovia in a tsunami threat zone? Come find out!

On Thursday, February 23, Bret Higman will be doing a public presentation on his work with tsunamis, *including an overview of the relevance of that to Seldovia*. Another aspect he will include is his recent trips to the Indian Ocean and his strange experience of doing science during a media blitz.

Bret is from Seldovia and is currently a grad student at UW Seattle and working on the geologic records of tsunamis. To understand evidence left behind by ancient tsunamis, he studies modern day tsunamis. He is funded by the USGS, the Petroleum Research Fund and the UW Seattle Earth and Space Sciences Department.

Everyone is welcome and there will be ample opportunity to ask questions. Since this talk obviously has disaster relevance for Seldovia, Fire and EMS personnel should find it useful. This presentation is being sponsored by the City of Seldovia.

Special Notices

Hide-Tanning Workshop Sponsored by SVT

Join Red Kvarford to learn an old art...

SVT is sponsoring a hide-tanning workshop that explores the process of tanning a hide. If you are a hunter, or just looking to learn a valuable skill, this is the workshop for you.

Offered on Friday, February 17th from 1:00 to 4:00 at the Seldovia Village Tribe Boardroom.

Lumberjack Dinner/Theater Night - Feb. 25

Great food and great entertainment, don't miss it!

The Seldovia Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a fund raising dinner on Saturday, February 25, 2006 at 6:30 pm. The Dinner/Theater night will be held at the new Seldovia Tribal Conference Center. The Chamber is raising the seed money needed for the Seldovia Woodcarvers Chainsaw Carving Contest to be held on Memorial Day weekend (May 25-29, 2006).

The dinner will consist of a thick ribeye steak, salad, bread, baked potato and Seldovia blueberry crunch desert. Entertainment will be a mystery murder play put on by Jenny & Paul Chissus, Curtis & Ronanda Liberty, Mark & Michelle Massion, and Paul O'Leary. Tickets are \$35 per plate or \$70 per couple. If you are coming from Homer, we have a package deal that flies you to Seldovia, includes the dinner, arranges for overnight lodging and flies you back the next day to Homer. Tickets are on sale at the Herringbay Mercantile store (234-5500) or by calling 234-7859 Ext. 34 between 2:30-4:30 pm, Monday-Friday.

Buy a Ticket for your Sweetheart and give it to her/him for Valentines Day, but don't wait there is LIMITED SEATING. ***Come Join the Fun!***

Tidbits . . .

Winter workshop in Seldovia ???



City Manager's Corner

by Kurt Reynertson

The appraisals for some of the City owned property have finally been received. As some of you know, the City Council has authorized the sale of a couple of lots. One of the commercial lots, specifically lot 4 block 6 Waterfront Resub 2 (which is the lot between the Tide Pool and the Seldovia Harbor Inn), has been appraised for \$60,000 and we will be taking bids on this lot. There is a new Land Sale Bid Package available at the City Offices. We can either print a copy or we can email the package to any interested developers.

The term “developer” is used here in the broadest sense as any person who wishes to purchase the property must have a plan to develop the property that would conform to the Commercial Marine zoning codes. Very briefly the Bid Sale package consists of several sections and includes:

1. Legal description of the land
2. Bid/offer amount (numbers and words)
3. Land use plan
 - Business plan (for CM, C, I, CR, WCR) if applicable
 - Description of how the property will be developed (maximum of one page)
1. Plot plans (indicate structural locations)
2. Building plans (include all elevations)
3. Time table for development (include major milestones)
4. Agreement forms:
 - Payment agreement
 - Time table agreement
 - Overall project agreement

All bids will be reviewed by the City Council, who also accepts or rejects any of the bids. I will certainly recommend, but the City Council is the authoritative body.

The other lots that were being considered for sale but are currently “off the

table” include lots 5 and 6 of block 10 and lot 1 of block 13 all from the Waterfront Resub 1. These lots, while not for sale at the current time, appraised for \$67,500, \$70,000, and \$57,500 respectively.

The “on-demand” water supply system is now fully functional. Any non City water subscriber that wishes to purchase water from the City can do so at the Harbor Master. The coin operated machine accepts tokens only (no cash value) and the tokens may be purchased at either the Harbor Master or at the City Office. Assuming the user has pre-purchased the tokens, the water supply is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Each token costs \$1 and for that one token the user will receive 20 gallons of water on a timed system. This is a source of revenue for the Water Revenue Fund. All City water subscribers pay into this Water Revenue Fund already, and I believe it is reasonable to expect everyone using City water to share the cost of operating and maintaining our system. Otherwise, those that do pay are subsidizing those that do not. Additionally, there are severe penalties associated with water subscribers knowingly dispersing bulk water to any non City water subscriber.

Lisa O’Leary is now on board as the VISTA (VISTA stands for Volunteer In Service To America) grant writer for the City. She and I will be working together putting together a comprehensive plan for her efforts over the next year (and hopefully longer). One of the priorities that we both agree on is finding grants and other sources of funding for the City’s infrastructure. This includes not only facilities but also equipment and recreation areas. She is preparing a community survey that will enable us to compile the thoughts and opinions of Seldovia citizens pertaining to desires and direction. In other words, we will be seeking input from the community as to what the community would like to see accomplished.

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

A gas can and hose were found stored under the front of a vehicle which was parked in the parking lot at the Seldovia Airport. It was evident by the footprints that a number of vehicles had been inspected by who ever left the can and hose. Anyone having information is encouraged to call the Police Department.

A report of water running out from under the porch of a vacant residence was received by the Police. The owners of the residence were contacted and the information was passed along. They found they had a broken water line inside the home and a significant amount of damage had occurred as a result.

A report was taken of five gallons of gas stolen from the back of a pickup truck. The gas can was returned to the vehicle with the gas and the gas caps missing.

A welfare check was conducted after a call was taken from a person who was concerned after having not been able to contact their party after repeated attempts. The subject was contacted and all was found to be in order. The caller was notified that all was well.

Eleven people came by the Police Department requesting documents be notarized, two vehicles were stopped for equipment violations and one person requested assistance from the Police.

Five people have been contacted about allowing their dogs to run at large in the City and two people have been contacted regarding their dogs barking excessively, which constitutes "Public Nuisance" under our Municipal Code. All of these people have agreed to deal with the problem and I have definitely observed a difference in the last couple days. These contacts were made following the receipt of some complaints and some observations by the Police. Given the number of dogs in Seldovia it is apparent that most people do care for their animals and keep them up but for those who fail to do so Ordinances have been enacted. At present the fines for this offense are \$10 for the 1 st offense, \$25 for the 2 nd offense and \$35 for the 3 rd offense, all within a 2 year period. The 4th and subsequent offenses are mandatory court offenses and the violator gets to explain to the Judge why the law does not apply to them. I personally do not think the \$10, \$25 and the \$35 fines are strong enough deterrents and I am going to ask the Council to make the fines \$50, \$100 and \$150 respectively. I'm hopeful this will have the impact needed to encourage those who do not keep their animals up, to do so. If you, as a citizen of our fair City, have any ideas in this regard I would love to hear from you. I am also working on an Ordinance that addresses "Vicious Dogs" and I hope to have something that better deals with this problem to give the Council in the near future.

