



Seldovia Gazette

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Thursday, Feb. 23, 2006

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2 Cents Worth:

*As an actor in the Lumberjack-Dinner/Theater event, what are your thoughts on the play?
(Event coming Saturday night, February 25th, held at the Seldovia Tribal Conference Center.)*



“We are having a great time. It is silly and fun. It will give people something to think about. Only the actors need to perform, there is no pressure on the guests. It will be great!”

Jenny Chissus

“This is going to be fun! As *Otto von Schnapps* says, 'I know nothing!' :)”

Kurt Liberty



“It is a murder mystery. It's quite creative and quite interesting. We (the actors) will be amongst the audience! The audience has to decide who did it!”

Mark Massion

“It's a fun little play people can come and watch. A lot of people can do it. It's mostly about the characters. I play a 81 year old gentleman named *Vito Santini*. ”

Paul O'Leary



Letters to the Editor

TO THE EDITOR:

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I wanted to take a moment to thank the wonderful folks at the SOS Team for the opportunity to speak recently at their annual meeting. I always love coming to Seldovia, especially in the winter, and I'll make sure to pass along the town's well-deserved reputation for incredible potlucks!

The grounding of the oil tanker *Seabulk Pride* is yet another wake-up call that we live in a delicate balance in this special place. The oil and gas and shipping industries play a vital role in the Cook Inlet economy, but it's critical we stay vigilant to avoid another *Exxon Valdez*. Kachemak Bay is especially vulnerable, because stricken vessels – such as the *Seabulk Pride* and numerous vessel casualties before here – naturally seek the ice-free safety of our Bay during harsh winter conditions.

Are we prepared to handle a badly leaking vessel in the winter in Kachemak Bay? In my opinion, the answer is an unequivocal “no.” While the SOS Team has done an incredible job training and preparing its members to respond to spill events, we still lack suitably powered, dedicated tug vessels and the other equipment, personnel and training needed to adequately address a serious spill throughout the entire Bay.

That's why it's so important for the communities around Kachemak Bay – including Seldovia, Homer, Port Graham, Nanwalek, Halibut Cove and Bear Cove – to come together to recognize the unique ties that bind us together around the Bay's incredible resources. Aside from protecting our fish, coastal resources and local businesses from oil and fuel spills, enhanced spill prevention and response capabilities can play a significant role bolstering our local economies around the Bay. Efforts are underway now to convene a Kachemak Bay Communities Gathering in April, so stay tuned for more details.

Before then, several other events will focus on the ramifications of the *Seabulk Pride* incident. On Friday, February 24, the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council will host a panel discussion with industry and agency representatives starting at 9:00 AM at the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Building in Kenai. On Monday, February 27 at 7:00 PM, the Cook Inlet Alliance will host a presentation on Cook Inlet navigational safety by Professor Rick Steiner of the Alaska Marine Advisory Program and the Shipping Safety Partnership at the Islands & Oceans Visitor Center in Homer.

Thank you again to Sera Baxter, the SOS Team and everyone who attended the meeting for their generous hospitality. And special thanks to Tom & Mary Glover for taking me in for the evening sight-unseen! If anyone has any questions or comments, or would like more information on the events described above, please feel free to contact me at bob@inletkeeper.org or

MY NEIGHBORS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND THE SELDOVIA CITY COUNCIL:

I would like to ask the good people of Seldovia to humor me just a moment. Close your eyes and walk in your mind from the Seldovia Slough Bridge towards town. Picture yourself just coming around the corner just to the point where you are hitting the pavement on Main Street and now look over to your left and take in the scenic beauty of the mountains across the water, Backers Island, our small boat harbor either tucked into the quiet of winter or bustling in the constant activity of summer. This is the first view that meets us as we come into town from the airport, it is the first town view shared by our many visitors here and it is so that we might all enjoy and preserve that first impression for all time that I support the creation of a public park on Lot 1 Block 13.

There is a poll that was submitted to our city council that had garnered 92 legitimate signatures in support of this park area yet I know there is still some pretty strong feelings among several council members that see this lot as a needed revenue source. It has been said by some on council that there are already several other areas on main street that could provide a park area yet those other lots suggested would seem to me to only hold perhaps a park bench and are not at all what I would envision as a park that would give the space for perhaps a gazebo, picnic tables and maybe a horse shoe pit, (the horseshoe pit was done a couple of years ago by Mr. Gerry Willard and was thoroughly enjoyed by our local kids and families as well as visitors to our town.) I envision a place where there was room made to have several people at a time in comfort and enjoyment with some elbow room.

I know our town needs money, property tax revenues, sales taxes and new business ideas. I would also argue that there is a lot next to the old Buzz that could be used for this and is already in the established business district on Main Street .

If anyone shares my same goal in preserving this piece of our community and creating a public park that can be enjoyed by all please take another moment of time to email or call your council members to let them know again that this is our wish. We are often accused of not taking an active voice in the decision making concerning our town so we must let those that are responsible for making the vote know what are wishes are.

Thank you,
Dianne Gruber

235.4068 ext 22.

Yours for Cook Inlet –
Bob Shavelson
Cook Inlet Keeper

The Seldovia Gazette values freedom of speech. We welcome original, insightful letters from our readers on issues that are of concern to them. However, due to space considerations, please limit letters to 300 words. We also reserve the right to edit all letters for clarity, grammar, and taste. Letters must be signed and submitted by Tuesday at 5 pm in order to be printed in that week's press. We accept letters submitted by one of three ways: by email at tomg@seldovia.com or maryg@seldovia.com, by fax at 907-234-7526, or by mail at Seldovia Gazette, P.O. Box 97, Seldovia, Alaska 99663.

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