



# Seldovia Gazette

Serving Seldovia, Alaska and Kachemak Bay southeast

Seldovia, AK  
25 °F / -4 °C  
Mostly Cloudy  
at 6:53 AM

[Click for Forecast](#)

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Just another day in paradise

Vol. 2, No. 9, March 2, 2006

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## Opinions



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## Spotlight

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## Augustine Volcano News



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

[WebCam1](#)

[Seismograph](#)

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[WebCam2 at the volcano site](#)

[Ashfall](#)

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

## Top Stories

### Sea Otter wrestlers bring home the medals!

by Joy Smith

The junior high wrestling team was amazing at their regions. All four of the wrestlers placed.



Cameren Blodgett and Derek Burt took 2nd place, Darin Baines placed 3rd, and Matthew Gain took 4th place. All of these boys have shown great ability this season and I for one cant wait to see how they do next year.

[Click here for more photos and school news](#)

## Marketplace



Come In, Browse, Have Fun!

**Herring Bay Mercantile**  
Seldovia, AK



**Jenny Chissus**  
234-8000

Your Seldovia Connection

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



234-7652

Serving Seldovia with your real estate needs

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



## Chamber of Commerce meeting - March 2

by Mary Glover

The regular monthly Chamber Meeting was held on March 2, 2006. It convened about 15 minutes after the hour. Thanks again to Chris Wheeler (Crab Pot Grocery and Aleutian Art Gallery) who again baked the delicious rolls we used for the sandwiches. The meeting was well attended despite the snow storm . . . nothing stops Seldovians, much less a little snow!

The Chamber had the following items on its agenda:

### Upcoming July 4, 2006 Festival - USA Independence Day

The Chamber voted to hold the button contest during the month of March. All entries must reflect the theme for this year, "Children, Seldovia's Top Priority." The winner will receive a \$25 cash reward, two free buttons and "local fame!" Darlene Crawford is working on securing a sports figure for Seldovia's honored position of an "Old Crab" this year. ([view copy of pdf-Button Contest](#))

### February 25, 2006 - The Lumberjack Dinner Theater

The Lumberjack Dinner Theater as a fundraiser for the Chainsaw Carving Contest (to be held May 25-29) was very successful. About 50 dinners were served and the theater group was outstanding! Many thanks to the actors: Jenny Chissus, Mark Massion, Michelle Massion, Curtis Liberty, Ronanda Liberty and Paul O'Leary who participated in the performance. (See Lumberjack Dinner Theater article.) Also thanks were given to the workers who were the servers and to the SEE Project office who did the marketing for this event. At the meeting Crystal Collier, CEO of SVT, donated the cost of the conference center to the Chamber. This act made the profits increase to approximately \$900 (minus about \$200 outstanding in charges). The SEE Project office was comprised of: Happy Schneider, Acting Director, and students: Emily Haynes, Jennifer Giles, Molly Chapman, and Deidre Cameron. Many hands that helped and we are very thankful it happened without a glitch. Thank you to the servers (Deidre Cameron, Casey Chissus, and Molly Chapman) and to the men cooks. Thanks to Chris and Tata Wheeler who donated the fresh baked bread. The steaks were very tasty! Thanks to Sara Nichols who made the salads and to Herring Bay Mercantile who donated the flower arrangements for the door prizes. (Joni Reynertson made the arrangements.) It was the Chamber's intention to give the community a very nice evening out, together with entertainment in the month of February, when there is not a whole lot going on. The Chamber met this goal in addition to its fundraiser objective.

### The Seldovia Visitor - The Chamber's annual newspaper

The Seldovia Visitor (formerly known as the Seldovia Summer Gazette) is being created this month. We will be printing 25,000 papers. A drawing for the placement of the full page ads happened at the meeting. The full page ad people will be notified by email or phone for their positions.

rent. Call for details:  
Harbor Master  
(907) 234-7886  
City Office (907) 234-7643

#### School

▶ Basketball, Wrestling & School News



#### Notices & Newsletters

▶ **NEW!** Representative Paul Seaton February 27 Newsletter

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

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

▶ **NEW!** Boys and Girls Club March 2005 Calendar

▶ Boys and Girls Club Newsletter

▶ Harbor Survey Priority Results (pdf)

#### Corrections

▶ None this week

#### 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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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.

## Miscellaneous

The group then discussed a logo design for the Chamber and the group was in favor of the design that was won for the Chamber's contest for a flag about 4 years ago. ([view image](#))

Sunni Hilts then spoke about the Proclamation that the Officers and the Board of Directors put together for her to take to Juneau before the Alaska association of School Boards. The school boards around the state requested copies to take home to their respected districts. It was also greeted with a standing ovation before assembly. The Proclamation declared "Children are Seldovia's Top Priority." ([view pdf of Proclamation](#))

Lisa O'Leary then proposed to the Chamber to help support a community forum and potluck dinner to be held sometime in April. It will be held on a weekday starting at 5:30 pm. It is the intent of this forum to get a feel from the citizens of Seldovia what they wish to see happen in the development of Seldovia. It is going to be a very informal event, and all are encouraged to attend. "We will just throw some ideas out, there will be no criticism of ideas," said Lisa, and after the meal we will prioritize the "want list." The purpose is to give public support for the various grants that the VISTA Coordinator (Lisa O'Leary) will be working on. It will be called a Economic Development Forum and Potluck Dinner.

Mark Massion then stated that he has been working on a census of the people in Seldovia. The official count at this time is an actual 285 persons.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.

## Local turkeys in Seldovia

by *Tamara Blodgett*

### *A chance meeting with thanksgiving in February . . .*

One never thinks of turkeys' unless we are contemplating how to cook them for our beloved Thanksgiving holiday. However, I recently had a chance meeting while driving across the slough bridge. There was the two turkeys I had heard about and not yet seen! Thrilled at the thought of getting a photo of the local pair, I stopped the car in preparation to get out when the first tom rushed the vehicle with plumage swiped back, head dipped forward and charging fast (gobble). Staying in the car was better, I decided! The local mailman tried to slip by on foot but was also "greeted" by the unfriendly pair. The lesson here is to leave the local toms' to their own devices and admire their beauty and independence from a distance. Mail delivery as usual on Monday.



## Augustine volcano update

*AVO News Release*

Unrest continues at Augustine Volcano. Over the past 24 hours [Wednesday, March 1], a slight increase in volcano-tectonic earthquakes has occurred, although seismicity remains relatively low. Small rock avalanches from the lava dome and summit area are being recorded intermittently on all seismic stations. GPS instruments are measuring renewed inflation of the volcano. Satellite images show persistent thermal anomalies and low-light camera data indicate strong incandescence at the summit. An overflight of the volcano yesterday allowed AVO staff to observe the lava dome and a short, stubby lava flow that extends to the northeast, terminating at an altitude of about 3000 ft (915 m). Sulfur dioxide emission rates measured on February 24 and March 1 are significantly lower than those measured in January and earlier in February. AVO staff who visited the island yesterday retrieved GPS and seismic data that will assist in interpreting the present state of unrest.



AVO's Augustine Island webcam caught this sunset on March 1, 2006.

The lower gas flux, increase in volcano-tectonic earthquakes, and renewed inflation may indicate that the summit lava dome has become sealed, allowing an increase in conduit pressure. This could mean an increased chance of an explosive event or more vigorous dome building.

Over the next few weeks or months, minor, short-lived explosions may occur with little or no warning and occasional, but localized, ash clouds and light ash fall may be produced. If vigorous explosive eruptive activity at the summit resumes, this could produce ash clouds that rise more than 25,000 feet above sea level.

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## Tsunamis and Seldovia

*by Tom Glover*

Last Thursday, February 23, Bret Higman gave a public presentation on his work with tsunamis, including an overview of the relevance of that to Seldovia. 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. Hi talk included numerous slides of his visits to tsunami devastated areas around the world and slides explaining the mechanisms involved in creating tsunamis.



Bret Higman during his talk on tsunamis and Seldovia.

Bottom line for Seldovia . . . we're probably pretty safe due to our positioning inside Seldovia Bay. Even if there were a tsunami in this area, it would be in the form of a surge and probably not be greater than 20 feet. If the tsunami occurred at low tide, the effect of even a 20 foot surge could be minimal.

Of great interest was a publication in Bret's possession titled TSUNAMI HAZARD MAPS OF THE HOMER AND SELDOVIA AREAS, ALASKA by the Alaska DNR, Department of Geology and Geophysical Surveys. This 33 page document, "Report of Investigations 2005-2", was published in 2005 and contains a variety of models, including aerial photos and data, that assesses the tsunami hazard of the Seldovia area. It makes for interesting reading and is included in pdf format below:

[Click here to download the complete report](#)  
(please not the file is large - 12 meg)

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## The Lumberjack Dinner Theater in Seldovia

by Tamara Blodgett

### *The Chamber “antes up” for the upcoming summer...*

A wonderful dinner theater took place this past Saturday evening that pulled out all the stops for Seldovian's to enjoy. With evening restaurant activity at a minimum, the Chamber orchestrated an event that would be two-fold: a wonderful dinner to be enjoyed, coupled with a drama that unfurls while dining.



Lumberjack theater troop, left to right: Paul O'Leary, Mark Massion, Michelle Massion, Jenney Chissus, Kurt Liberty, and Ronanda Liberty.

The main course consisted of a huge steak accompanied by a large baked potato with all the fixings. Delicious rolls were donated by Chris & Tata Wheeler. This was preceded by a very fresh garden salad (prepared by Sara Nichols) with a choice of four, dressings ( all provided by the Seldovia Village Tribe). To finish the meal off perfectly was a berry cobbler with a generous heaping of vanilla ice cream a la mode style. The dressings provided by SVT were a unique selection. Two of the dressings were new introductions to the market and we were the first to try them. There were a blueberry vinaigrette and a salmon berry vinaigrette to select from. We were all given tickets to “rate” which we prefer and how each stood on their own individually. There was no doubt that each was a hit as I peeked at the tickets and saw a lot of “greats” checked!



### **The Lumberjack Mystery Playhouse**



While dining on the salad the play began. The actors strolled around reciting their various parts while engaging various members of the audience (the best part). The premise of the play was like the old game "Clue." Various clues were given throughout the play that would lead to who murdered the victim. At the end, the audience all gave their vote for who was their choice for most likely "murderer." The actors in the play were: Jenny Chissus, Ronanda and Curtis Liberty, Michele and Mark Massion and Paul O'Leary. When all the votes for the "murderer" were compiled, each person that guessed correctly won their unique centerpiece at their dining table. Senior, Paul O'Leary was especially shocking all made-up to be an 81-year old man! All the characters did a great job, with the Libertys' past experience in theater it was obvious it came naturally for them. We were all entertained and appreciated the actors' efforts tremendously.

The monies raised by The Lumberjack Dinner Theater will sponsor this summer's Chainsaw Carving Contest. This contest will be held in late May and will help kick-off the host of summer events upcoming here in Seldovia. The Chamber was thrilled with the support it received which will go a long way toward making the Chainsaw Carving Contest a reality for Seldovia.

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## Rep. Paul Seaton Newsletter - February 27

Greetings from Juneau on this 50th day of the legislative session.

It has felt like an end-of-session crunch this last week. The Governor's proposal to replace the current oil and gas production tax with a Percent of Profits Tax (with generous credits) has consumed many of us. Generally a bill will receive up to an hour of committee and public testimony during the normal two-hour committee hearings. This bill is so complex and important that we started our review with three-hour meetings on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Other committees were canceled so their members could also attend. We had a public hearing on Saturday and have at least 5 more meetings scheduled for the bill in the Resources Committee alone.

I'm sure we will be looking at changes in the "claw back" which allows deduction and credit for investments in the preceding 5 years; change in the tax rate up to about 25%; reduction in the \$73 million profits before the tax applies; establishing an escalating scale at higher than current oil prices; and charging interest on the underpayment of tax during the year. There is a great deal of information available both online and at the LIOs for anyone interested in learning more about this proposal.

We had our first hearings on the rewrite of the mining production tax in Ways and Means. So far the entire focus has been on minerals, but I need constituent and industry feedback on the potential effects on sand, gravel, rock and coal.

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

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## Special Notices

*None this week . . .*

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## Tidbits . . .

**This time of year these beautiful creatures wash up on Outside Beach. They're jellyfish and this one was about 12 inches in diameter.**



**City Manager's Corner***by Kurt Reynertson*

We conducted a public workshop this past Tuesday (February 28) with our City Engineers concerning the Small Boat Harbor Renovation design as well as the Village Safe Water grant design.

We are targeting construction renovation work to begin in the harbor this fall. The City has the preliminary design drawings for the harbor in the City office if any member of the public would like to view them. Of course the public is always welcome to come to any workshop conducted.

The plan is to also have the engineering for the Village Safe Water completed by this fall. The first phase of the project will be to design a water filtration system customized for Seldovia. Additionally, design of a new water transmission line from the reservoir to the altitude building will also try to be completed in this first phase (if not in the first phase, definitely in the second phase). As soon as the engineering is completed, we will request construction funding from Village Safe Water. And as soon as phase 1 is completed we will be requesting to move on to the follow-on phases that include efforts with water tank modifications, thin-wall steel water pipe replacement, and septic system modifications.

We are progressing with the Denali Commission/Alaska Energy Authority in the design and construction of new fuel lines and fuel tanks. This is a partnership effort with Seldovia Fuel and Lube. Clearly, this is a win-win situation for the citizens of Seldovia and surrounding area as well as Seldovia Fuel and Lube. The tanks and lines are well past their engineered life span and this work will enable the community to avoid an economic and environmental "melt-down".

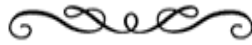
As I stated in my last manager's report, Mike Beal from the Seldovia Native Association will be briefing the status of the Kachemak Bay Ferry on March 22 during the regular City Council Meeting. I would encourage everyone who has an interest to come and listen to what has transpired so far during the feasibility study.

The consultants that the City has hired (using Kachemak Bay Ferry funds) to help us draft an enabling ordinance for a Port Authority will be visiting Seldovia in the near future. When they do come, we will conduct a workshop with topics to include the formation of a Port Authority (what has to be done), answer questions as to what a Port Authority is (and what it is not), the pros and cons of a Port Authority, and what it would mean to Seldovia.

Finally we have been successful in our application to the Rasmuson Foundation for a grant to modify our community center in order to make operational the elevator system and to alter the upstairs restroom to become ADA compliant ( ADA stands for Americans Disability Act). This is a project we have been working on for quite some time. The State has denied us on previous applications for technicalities, but the Rasmuson Foundation has come through for us in a big way. Thanks Rasmuson Foundation!

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

> No Report this week<



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