



Seldovia Gazette

Serving Seldovia, Alaska and Kachemak Bay southeast

Seldovia, AK

26 °F / -3 °C

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at 5:53 AM



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Thursday, March 16, 2006

Just another day in paradise

Vol. 2, No. 11, March 16, 2006

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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](#)

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

Marketplace



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234-8000

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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

Top Stories

Sea Otters SHINE at Regions! *by Crystal Collier*

Sea Otter basketball teams traveled to the 2A Regional Basketball Tournament in Naknek, Alaska on March 8th. They flew a chartered flight from Homer into King Salmon, driving to Naknek. The Boys played Lumen Christi later that day, easily defeating them by 30 points and advancing them to play the number one seed - Ninilchik on Thursday. The girls played Cook Inlet Academy advancing them to play the Ninilchik ladies.

On Thursday, the Sea Otter boys defeated their nemesis, the Ninilchik Wolverines, in a heart stopping victory. The girls played a good game against the Wolverine ladies but were defeated - slating them to a rematch against the Cook Inlet Academy Eagles.

The boys went on to play for the Championship against the reigning State Champions, Cook Inlet Academy (CIA). The Otters had beat CIA in Seldovia, but did not play their best game and that slated them to play for second place against the home team Bristol Bay on Saturday.

The Otter girl's rematch against the Cook Inlet Academy Eagles ended in a repeat victory. They would then play Lumen Christi to try to advance to the second place game.

The Otter boy's play against the Bristol Bay Angels was not their best - giving them the 3rd place spot. The Otter girls lost to Lumen Christi giving them 4th place.



We can all be proud of the Seldovia Sea Otters success on the court and off. Being the smallest school in our 2A conference - WE SHINE. Seldovia received the following awards at Regional Tournament end:

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

2A Regional Basketball Tournament Awards 2006	
Academic Award	Colton Collier - Senior Tim O'Leary - Sophomore
Academic Award	Stephanie Lewis - Junior Jennifer Giles - Junior
All Conference Award (best throughout season) and All Tournament Award (best in region play)	Jennifer Giles - Junior Naomi Gallien - Junior
All Tournament boy players (Best in region play; Seldovia took 4 out of 10 awards!)	Levi Harkness - Sophomore Evan Mickelson - Senior Colton Collier - Senior Griffyn Swick - Sophomore
All Conference Award	Colton Collier - Senior
Sportsmanship Award	Sea Otters ladies team (the 3rd time this year!)
Coach of the Year (BOTH Sea Otters coaches received this award)	Coach Damara Lorentz Coach Russ Radliff

School

▶ [School News, Basketball & Track](#)



Notices & Newsletters

▶ [Representative Paul Seaton March 6 Newsletter](#)

▶ [Senator Gary Stevens March 6 Newsletter](#)

▶ [Comprehensive Plan Public Final August 10, 2005 \(pdf\)](#)

▶ [Amended FY05 Seldovia City Budget 7-8-2005 \(pdf\)](#)

▶ [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](#)

A big thank you to Crystal Collier for the great photos and article on the Regions Tournament!



Sea Otters boys' team:
Back left to right: Tyler Tucker; Levi Harkness; Griffyn Swick; Colton Collier; Evan Mickelson; Dustin Baines, Coach Russ Radliff.
Front left to right: Tim O'Leary, Jordan Geagel; Harold Haynes; Stephan Payton; Kyle Burt



Sea Otters girls' team:
Back left to right: Jennifer Giles; Kristi Gallien; Naomi Gallien; Emily Haynes; Katie O'Leary
Front left to right: Stephanie Lewis; Coach Damara Lorenz; Manager Alysaa Burt

- ▶ [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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Colton Collier & Tim O'Leary



Jennifer Giles, Naomi Gallien, Stephanie Lewis



Left to right: Levi Harkness, Evan Mickelson, Colton Collier; Griffyn Swick.



Boys Coach Russ Radliff on left; Girls Coach Damara Lorentz on right.

Sports celebrity Clay Johnson to visit Seldovia

by Alene Hidecker

For the first time ever, a famous Los Angeles Laker basketball star will be coming to visit Seldovia. Clay Johnson has worn number **34** while winning the NBA Title of 1982 and playing ball with Magic Johnson. Joining him in his visit to Seldovia will be his manager/celebrity team owner Pete Adams. Johnson currently plays for the celebrity basketball team called Team Hollywood. TH is made up of former NBA, Harlem Globtrotters and ESPN Streetball Star Athletes.



Photo link to Tornado Alley

Team Hollywood was formed to inspire students to reach their goals by living a healthy lifestyle and staying in school. The subjects will revolve around making solid life choices that have a positive impact on children as individuals and their influence on others. They will be speaking and spending the day with students in the Susan B. English School this Friday, March 17th. Mr. Johnson will also be conducting a two day basketball clinic for the students. The times are 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm Friday evening for the middle and high school students and 9:00 pm to 12:30 pm for 1st – 12th graders on Saturday morning, March 18.

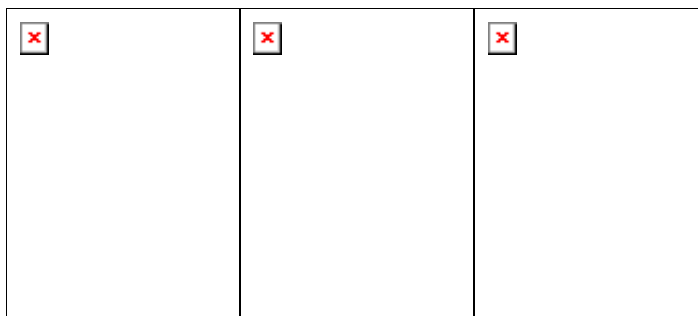
If you would like to know more about Team Hollywood their website address is www.teamhollywoodbasketball.com. This event is sponsored by the Seldovia Village Tribe. There will be no fee charged for any student. If you have any questions please contact Alene Hidecker at 234-7898 ext. 229 during the business hours of 9am to 5pm. Monday thru Friday.

St. Patrick's Day

by Tamara Blodgett

Not just for the Irish...

One does not have to be Irish to have fun on this traditional, preemptive spring holiday. Commonly known by young and old as a day to wear green or suffer a pinch, this holiday has ancient beginnings stemming from one man named Saint Patrick.



From Pagan to Christian...

Saint Patrick was born around 385 AD with the given name of Maewyn. He later adopted the Christian name Patrick. A “pagan” by his own account until age 16, Patrick suffered a kidnapping by maundering Irishman who had raided his village. He was sold into slavery by this same group and managed an escape six years later.

His heroism and compassion remain legendary...

Famous folklore continues to swirl around Saint Patrick's desire to lead and assist. It is said that before his escape he dreamed that a great ship awaited him some 200 miles from where he was imprisoned. He escaped and made his way to the ship, where it sailed to what is now modern-day France. The crew were frightened and disoriented to find themselves in a strange, new land that was heavily treed. Saint Patrick led them through the forest to find shelter. When there was no food available, the crew believed that wild animals appeared through the diligent efforts of constant prayer on the part of Saint Patrick.

His final Christian service...

He traveled to Gaul where he became interested in studying Christianity. For twelve years, Patrick remained under the tutelage of St. Germain a bishop of Auxerre. After the summation of his studies it was told that he felt compelled by God to convert the Celtic Druids to Christianity.

It was not an immediate appointment to serve in Ireland for St. Patrick. His superiors from the monastery instead committed that he serve in Scotland. When Saint Palladius was transferred from his duty in Ireland, Patrick finally had his chance and became the second bishop to Ireland.

Saint Patrick was very successful winning the pagan converts. The Celtic Druids were displeased by his success with Patrick suffering several arrests in his quest for pagan conversion. Nonetheless, Patrick persevered and his mission time cumulated in a lengthy 30 years in Ireland. Afterward, he retired to County Down where he later died on March 17, AD 461. The day of his death has since been used to commemorate his life of service for the Irish people.

An Irish tradition moves to America...

The first Saint Patrick's Day to be celebrated in America was in the year of 1737. Although begun as a strictly Irish holiday, it has now evolved into an American icon. Americans everywhere celebrate through parades, wearing

green and drinking the classic stein of beer. Another reason for popularity in America is it's close proximity to the first day of spring; a touch of 'Irish green' before the true green of springtime begins.

The green "roots" of the Shamrock...

Frustrated by the lack of understanding his converts had regarding the Trinity, Patrick used an illustration from a common item found everywhere in Ireland; the Shamrock! Patrick used each leaf of the three-leaf clover (the four-leaf is rare), and showed how each leaf represented the trinity: The Holy Ghost, The Father, and Jesus, the son. That example made a great impact when the Celtic people could tangibly see a familiar item used to clarify a difficult concept. All *three* leaves were part of the *one* plant, separate, but *one*; the Holy Trinity. As for the rarer, four leaf clover, the bearer of such a clover is said to have twice the luck. With the following traits for each leaf: One leaf for *hope*, the second for *faith*, the third for *love* and the fourth for *luck*.

What can be found at the end of the rainbow...?

Legend has it that if you can catch a Leprechaun, you will be the lucky recipient of a pot of gold. The legend of the Leprechaun mentions that they guard the fairies' treasure and are constantly relocating it for safekeeping. Leprechauns fear rainbows, as they alert mortals of the presence of their sacred treasures. The Leprechaun is described as being the height of an 11 year-old boy with a stout bearing. They have the face of a dried apple but move gracefully despite their stubby frames. The Leprechaun is a devilish little partier with a 'dudeen' (pipe) in the craw and an ever-handy mug of beer in the fist. They are said to be excellent in cobblery (shoe-making) which allows them a measure of tolerance by the other fairies when they behave badly, as they are known to do.

The sweet kiss of speech...



Photo link to sacredsites.com

A stone set in the Blarney Castle Tower in Blarney, Ireland is said to bring the kisser the gift of beguiling speech. The legend has it that a king saved an old woman from drowning so she cast a spell on the stone making it forever the stone of eloquence. The stone is very difficult to pucker up to. Located between the main castle wall and the parapet, kissers have to lie on their back, bend backward and downward while holding iron bars for support. The magical properties of the stone make it a worthwhile effort for the hearty at heart.

Whether Irish or not, Saint Patrick Day remains a popular and appealing holiday for all to enjoy. ***Happy Saint Patrick's Day!***

Hurricane Katrina relief efforts *by Valisa Higman*

[Editors note: Valisa Higman is the daughter of Seldovia locals Dede and Craig Higman and although this article does not pertain to Seldovia directly, we thought it was an interesting read about work being done in the lower 48 by one of Seldovia's young adults who has left "the nest." Valisa works for a relief organization, Emergency Communities, that is involved with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina]



Valisa Higman

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast of the United States. Months later, the nation still struggles to understand the implications of the largest and most costly natural disaster in the history of our country. The scope of the destruction was so widespread that existing relief organizations were unable to address the unprecedented need.

As reports and imagery began to flood the media, it became apparent to me that there was a need for a strong grass-roots response to supplement traditional aid. With my plans up in the air in late September, I began looking for volunteer opportunities.

I didn't have to look very long. I learned of the New Waveland Café, a relief kitchen in the area that took the brunt of the storm, from a friend of a friend who was planning a second trip down to the Gulf Coast. I used the opportunity to hitch a ride with her and her daughter. I packed with plans to stay for a week or so. Five months later I am still doing volunteer relief work on the Gulf Coast.

I can't even describe the thoughts and feelings that wash over you when you come face to face with the horrific reality of the destruction wrought by Katrina. I have story after story of locals who lost their homes, their possessions, often everything they owned. I have stories of lost pets, lost neighbors, lost parents and lost children. Amongst all this loss and heartbreak people from all over the world have gathered to offer their time and their resources to help the people of the Gulf Coast. I was lucky enough to fall into a group of strongly committed independent thinkers who had gathered in Waveland to create a café in the parking lot of a flooded out strip mall. Inspired by the amazing success of our grass-roots effort, we began looking for ways to continue our work.



As we closed down the New Waveland Café, a group of about twenty of us, unwilling to call it quits, began looking for a place to set up a new relief kitchen. We were looking for an area with high population density, heavy destruction and interest and support of local authorities. St. Bernard Parish met these criteria perfectly. It is a New Orleans suburb that abuts the southeastern border of the city, just blocks from the levee break that doomed the Lower 9th Ward.

Flattened by the storm surge, the area was completely inaccessible for months after Katrina and is still under an enforced dusk-to-dawn curfew. While the Uptown Highlands of the Garden District and the French Quarter are beginning to recover, large portions of St. Bernard remain a lifeless ruin. Though the waters have receded, several inches of muck still cover many thoroughfares. Nearly all 40,000 residences and businesses were inundated for days, and a large majority of the cities buildings have been deemed unrecoverable. Only a fraction of the cities 70,000 residents have returned, living primarily in FEMA trailers. The municipality has been unable to secure commitments from national grocers and retailers and is unable to provide even basic infrastructure to returning residents; there are no banks, no grocery stores and no restaurants in the immediate area.

Newly reformed as a non-political, non-religious organization and adopting the name Emergency Communities, with non-profit status under the IHC (International Humanity Center), we began setting up camp in the back parking lot of what had been an off-track betting parlor in the heart of St. Bernard. Struggling to find shelter and basic utilities as temperatures plummeted, we worked tirelessly to get up and running. On Dec. 12th the first meal was served at Emergency Communities Made with Love Café. For most residents and workers it was the first wholesome meal they had enjoyed since arriving in the area. As locals, volunteers and contractors begin to tackle the enormous task of reconstruction, the Made with Love Café has become a community center providing them with everything from basic supplies to much needed entertainment, with the aim of going beyond simple sustenance to holistically nourish the entire community. As we give our energy and love

to the community, the community responds in kind, sharing not only food but camaraderie and routine, recalling some semblance of their past lives otherwise lost in the flood. Creating beauty and harmony in such a bleak and contaminated environment is no small task. In doing so, we have made the seemingly impossible task of rebuilding a city more plausible. The absolute necessity of such grass-roots organizations is apparent in the every day demand for flexibility and personal contact between the residents and us.

As an Alaskan, I have found myself uniquely equipped to do disaster relief. We from the cold north are a hearty breed, not easily fazed by freezing temperatures, port-a-potties and tent living. Where my resolve begins to falter is when I think of how much I miss the ocean and mountains around Seldovia. How I long for clean ocean air, unburdened by refinery smoke and mold spores! I hope you will all be thinking of the residents of the gulf coast, and of the volunteers down here as the days lengthen into spring. The residents here are still in need and more return to the area everyday. Emergency Communities needs volunteers and donations to continue its service to the people of New Orleans. My time here opened my eyes and heart to all the possibilities in this world to help our neighbors. It isn't an impossibility. It isn't something to be put off for some later date and time, for more money or resources. No matter how I look at it I feel I receive more than I give. Please come volunteer and support our service-based community, or donate what you can in solidarity with the people of the gulf coast.

We are eternally grateful for the outpouring of support we have received from all over the country. To find out what you can do, see our web site (www.emergencycommunities.org), or email me at valisamay@yahoo.com.

Special Notices

"The Seldovia Visitor"

The Seldovia Chamber of Commerce's annual newspaper is in its final countdown for the new publication this year. Last November, the Chamber voted to change the name of the paper to "The Seldovia Visitor" as the old name, "The Seldovia Summer Gazette" was "confusingly similar" to the on-line newspaper, the "Seldovia Gazette." The two are entirely different publications for two different entities. Currently, "The Seldovia Visitor" is looking for a few more articles for the paper. An article can be on just about any subject, as long as it is connected in some way with Seldovia. It could be a story about Seldovia or someone in Seldovia (historical), or maybe about how someone perceives living in Seldovia. The article's intent should be an article interesting to both the residents of Seldovia and to visitors alike. Don't worry, if your article is not published this year, it may be held over for a future edition. Even if you do not think that you are a "writer," you may have a story that would be a good fit for the paper. I encourage everyone to try to write one. If you would like to have an article published in this paper this year, please email your submission to Mary Glover (maryg@seldovia.com) or just call 234-7525 and we will work something out.

Parks & Rec survey

Citizens of Seldovia, where would you like to see a public park located in Seldovia? This is the time to get your opinion heard and counted. It is important that all people vote. If you don't have a form, just download the one attached here. **Sign your name to this form** because this avoids the ballots being "padded." We will count the votes that are not signed with a name in a special category by themselves, but they will not carry as much weight as a survey with a name on it. If you have sent in a survey without your name on it, please come to the meeting on March 23 and find your survey and put your name on it. Names on surveys will be held in confidence. The Survey deadline is March 20th, so you need to act now and mail your survey back if you have not already done so. The Parks & Rec Committee will be discussing the totals at their next meeting on Thursday, March 23, 2006, 6:30 MPR. All are more than welcome to come. [Copy of SURVEY to print out if you should need one.](#)

Tidbits . . .

Health Alert!!! One way for bird flu to enter the country is on international flights. Don't get on an airplane that looks like this! (Click image to visit the pip.rubberfeet.org website)



City Manager's Corner

by Kurt Reynertson

> Repeat story <

- HEA has indicated that the easement form Hopkins would not allow enough room. Hopkins has "given" all the room there is, so now HEA is saying that they will have to come across Seldovia Street to the Community Building . This will affect the cost of wiring the inside of the building as it will no longer be a "straight shot" to the X-Ray room. Liberty Electric has been the only electrical contractor that has responded to an RFQ and the person that does the quotes for Liberty is out of town at the current time. I will have to get a new quote from him on his return to insure that we still have enough funds in the grant to cover costs. I have also talked to GE to discuss the possibility of a phase converter as opposed to running a separate power line. It is possible; however the preference (by a large margin) is to operate on separate power. I will discuss with Liberty Electrical to get their input

as far as cost for a phase converter.

- As a reminder, Mike Beal of the SNA is coming to fully brief the Council on the current status of the Kachemak Bay Ferry feasibility study and preliminary engineering design. The briefing will be a full-blown power point presentation and is scheduled for the next (March 22) Council meeting.
- We have received a grant from the Rasmuson Foundation for the Community Center elevator and restroom modification. I have contacted Kevin Bennett from the Alaska Stairlift & Elevator Company and he has sent (as of today) a technician to coordinate the information needed to order the chair lift. I have sent a thank you letter to the Rasmuson for the City of Seldovia .
- I have begun working on the FY07 budget.
- I will be in Juneau for 3 days next week (with the Mayor) visiting a number of legislators to discuss the needs of Seldovia.

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

> No Report this week<
[Ann's (Chief Andersons wife) surgery went well]

