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# Seldovia Gazette

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Thursday, April 6, 2006

Just another day in paradise

Vol. 2, No. 14, April 6, 2006

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## Opinions



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## Spotlight

### Augustine Volcano News

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

<a href="#">WebCam1</a>	<a href="#">Seismograph</a>	<a href="#">Main Page</a>
<a href="#">WebCam2 at the volcano site</a>		<a href="#">Ashfall</a>

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

## Top Stories

### Firemen's Ball a tremendous success!

by Michelle Bateman

A great big huge thank you to everyone in our awesome community . . . what a feat! Seldovians again came together and did the unthinkable . . . our benefit dinner and auction, along with the pool and poker tournaments were a total success and we did so much more than what was expected. James Hecks has been fighting pancreatic cancer since about December and is currently in the Homer hospital. We all wish we could be with him and his family, but instead did the next best thing . . . had a fundraiser.

How amazing, that such a small town (and with maybe 100 people in attendance) produce such a wonderful gift for James and his family. We had activities going on from 10:00 am, until late into the night. A huge thank you goes out to Buck Brown for an awesome job as our lively auctioneer, that just kept the bids rolling in. And another huge thank you to all the people that spent so much time preparing for the event: Ronene Gain, Lisa O'Leary, Jacquelyn and Rita Brown, MaryAnne Agli, Alix Chartier, Nick Moonin, Mary Klinger, Liza Bieri, Alexis Colberg, The Seldovia Volunteer Fire and Rescue, The Linwood Bar (Joe and Heather Miller), and the so many, many people that contributed to the paddle wheel and the auction. Donations were made from numerous people, local businesses, and airlines. Thank you , thank you. Thank you!

As of Sunday we were still receiving monetary donations. How proud I am, to

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Support the **Seldovia Sea Otter Booster Club**

Help keep sports and academic travel programs alive for our school!

Seldovia Boat Slips for Rent

▶ Paul O'Leary - SBE HS Senior



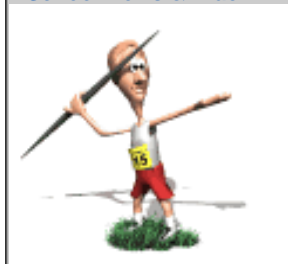
have been raised in such a beautiful community. We have again come together in a time of need and in a time of sorrow. Our heartfelt wishes go out to James and his family. Please know that you will forever be in our hearts. There were so many people that helped and I am sure that there are some people that I forgot to mention and that got left of the list . . . you know who you are . . . a huge thanks to all of you. I cannot say it enough times . . . to all of you who donated items and spent countless hours and to all of you who came with wallets full and left with them empty.

We are an amazing community and we can do incredible things when we put our minds to it. What an awesome day! I am so proud to be a Seldovian, proud to have grown up here and proud to be raising my own children here! Thanks for the reminder that we are still one great big family!

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

School

▶ School News & Track



Notices & Newsletters

▶ NEW! Representative Paul Seaton March 27 Newsletter

▶ NEW! Senator Gary Stevens March 20 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)

Firemen's Ball 2006



Click images to view full size

Grant Aviation Offers Flights from Homer to Anchorage

by Tamara Blodgett

Grant flies in to give Era a run for their money . . .

A new flight schedule is being offered by Grant Aviation that will serve both Homer and Kenai locales. Grant is not new to competing with Era Aviation and looks forward to offering a customer service edge. Grant Aviation Station Manager, Jason Nunn, was quoted as saying, "If you buy a round-trip ticket and your plans change, you can get an automatic refund right there at the counter. Customer service isn't just chocolate chip cookies and a smiling ticket agent," Nunn said.

Grant Aviation was begun as Delta Air Service in 1971 based in Emmonak, Alaska. In 1993, the name was changed to Grant Aviation. Grant now has base stations in the following areas: Kenai, St. Mary's, Emmonak, Bethel,

**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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Dillingham and Anchorage. Grant logs 20,000 flight hours per year with a respectable fleet size of: 2 Cessna 172's, 12 Cessna 207's, 4 Piper PA-350 Navajo's, 4 Cessna Grand Caravans and 1 Beech King Air 200.

As of April 3, 2006, when Grant extended it's service to Homer and Kenai it did so a month early due to local demand. Please visit Grant Aviation at their website [www.flygrant.com](http://www.flygrant.com) for a complete listing of flight times. Currently, daily flights departing Homer are: 6:45am, 1:30, 4:05, and 6:35 pm, Monday through Sunday. The local phone number is: 235.2757.

*Interesting fares to boot . . .*

As an intriguing side note, Grant offers incentive to students that study! Student fares are discounted on a sliding scale according to their GPA. A 25% discount is offered to the student that maintains a 4.0 GPA, 15% for 3.5 GPA and 10% for a 3.0%. This could make a round trip fare from Homer to Anchorage as little as \$158. "Brainyacks" fly cheap!

**Chamber of Commerce meeting - April 6**

*by Mary Glover*

The regular monthly Chamber Meeting was held on April 6, 2006. It convened about 10 minutes after 12:00 noon. Thanks again to Chris Wheeler (Crab Pot Grocery & Aleutian Art Gallery) who again baked the delicious rolls we used for the sandwiches. The meeting was well attended with some of the "summer people" starting to come back. We all had a good time at the meeting!

The Chamber had the following items on its agenda:

**July 4, 2006 Festival - USA Independence Day** The Chamber voted on the Button for this year's 4th of July. We chose one of the entries that had a representation of children in it. The entry reflected the theme for this year, "Children, Seldovia's Top Priority." The winner, Devon Hiltz, will receive a \$25 cash reward, two free buttons and "local fame!" The Chamber also voted on another drawing submitted by Paul Chissus, Director of the Boys & Girls Club, and decided that drawing would be on the T-Shirt for this year. CONGRATULATIONS Devon and Paul!



Button Design  
Winner  
by Devon Hiltz



T-Shirt Design  
Winner  
Paul (Sonny) Chissus

At the meeting, Lisa O'Leary announced that the local Economic Development Forum was to be held on April 11, 5:30 PM at the MPR room. A dinner will be served, but it will also be an invitational desert potluck. To Seldovia Cooks: get your best desert ready!

President Mary Glover announced that The Seldovia Visitor was in the final stages of completion. Tom and Mary are planning to have it completed by Monday and off to the printer. This year we will be doing a 32 page paper, 25,000 copies. This year's issue features "Children, Seldovia's Top Priority." We have a total of 7 children who have written short essays and are published in this issue.

Mike Webber gave a report on his progress with trying to get the big box stores to sponsor the Wood Chainsaw Carving Contest. Thank you Mike for all your hard work in this area. We have carvers and judges! The contest is a go!

Sunni Hilts gave a short speech on how the Chamber's Proclamation of adopting, "Children, our Top Priority" has been adopted by school boards across the State of Alaska. Sunni also stated that due to lack of adequate funding from all sources, that at least a 75 teacher cut in the Kenai Borough will happen unless the Alaska State Legislatures appropriate additional funds to come to the aid of the Kenai Borough's budget.

Jerry Willard stated that he found an old "Comprehensive Plan" and that if anyone wanted to read it, it was available. Jerry also shared with us an old Russian Book printed in 1905. He read this old Russian poem that was on a piece of paper inside of the book, which was written in Russian and translated into English:

"We want you to be happy now,  
happy in this hard world of ours,  
Like the first bright rays of dawn,  
shining through your window pane.

We want you to be happy now,  
Happy for as long as you can,  
Life will not all be fun,  
So sing enough for everyone. "  
(author unknown)

The Chamber members also discussed this year's "Clean Up Week" and voted to support the Mayor/city government in this project. The Chamber stated that the Saturday of May 20th would work for being the primary day for cleanup for us, if the Mayor decided this was to be the day. This is also the date that the Mayor Dick Wyland preferred.

The Chamber also decided that last year's FAM Trip was very successful to the businesses in Seldovia and that it would be a good idea to do it again. It was moved, seconded and carried that we do this on June 10th and that Peggy Keesecker would head the committee up. Peggy is looking for volunteers from the business community to help with this fun project.

Mary Webber introduced the idea of having a garage sale to raise funds for the Wood Chainsaw Carving Contest. After discussion, it was decided that we would hold a garage sale at the Webbers' house on May 13th. Anyone can bring items for donation to the Webbers' house the week of May 8-12 for the garage sale. Then everyone is invited to come on May 13th to buy!

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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## **P&Z Regular Meeting - April 3**

*by Tamara Blodgett*

The Planning & Zoning Commission convened together with the following members present: Dan Blodgett, Paulie Carluccio, Jenny Chissus, Jim Hopkins and Bobbie Sweatt. City Clerk Ronda Haynes took minutes with City Manager Kurt Reynertson in attendance.

### **Ongoing Business**

1. Building Permit Submitted by Gary Milton, Lot 3B and 31 A., Seldovia Townsite US Survey 1771 Vacation Replat.

*Action: Unanimously approved.*

2. Building Codes Review and Study

Motion was introduced to proceed into workshop for Commission Member discussion.

Commission Members convened again at one minute after 10 o'clock.

Chairwoman Paulie Carluccio introduced a new definition for building height as being a vertical measurement from the specified reference point to the highest point of the structure not including venting. The below-grade walls will be defined as any below-grade area or space. For building heights, Commercial Marine will be 28', measured vertically from the center line of Main Street as being the specified reference point. All others, except Industrial, will also be 28' from where the final grade meets the average of the two highest foundation corners. And to continue below-grade walls shall not exceed 10' and shall not cause the vertical height of the overall structure to exceed 28' from where final grade meets the average of the two highest foundation corners and not to exceed overall building height of 38'.

Commission Member Blodgett made a motion to approve the revised building codes as written; Commission Member Chissus seconded it.

*Action: Unanimously approved.*

Commission Member Blodgett made a motion for the latest revisions for Title 18 to be submitted for review to the Seldovia City Council as approved by the P&Z Commission. Commission Member Chissus seconded this motion.

*Action: Unanimously approved.*

*Meeting Adjourned:* time elapsed, 25 minutes, 49 seconds.

*Next Regular Meeting:* Monday, May 1, 2006.

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## **Homer Electric Association Annual Meeting and Election set for May 4**

*HEA News Release*

Homer Electric Association Annual Meeting and Election set for May 4

Homer Electric Association's 2006 Annual Meeting will be held on May 4 at the Homer High School. The ballots for this year's board of directors' election were mailed out to over 19,000 members on March 31. The ballots are due back to Homer Electric by 5 pm on May 3. Members who do not vote by mail also have an opportunity to cast a ballot at the Annual Meeting. Members who vote by mail are eligible to participate in a drawing for several energy credits, including a year's worth of electricity not to exceed 10,000 kilowatt hours. Energy credits will also be offered as door prizes for those who attend the Annual Meeting.

On the ballot this year for District 1 (Kenai – Nikiski) is Bruce Passe of Kenai. In District 2 (Soldotna – Sterling - Kasilof), the candidate is Dave Carey of Soldotna. The District 3 (Ninilchik – Homer – Seldovia) candidate is Don Seelinger of Seldovia. The results of the election will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

Registration for the Annual Meeting will begin at 4:30 pm in the Homer High School Commons, with the business meeting at 6:00 pm in the Mariner Theater. Food and refreshments will be provided and members will be able to visit several Homer Electric informational booths. In addition, there will be information on renewable energy from representatives of the Renewable Energy Alaska Program (REAP) and the American Red Cross will be distributing free smoke detectors.

For additional information contact Joe Gallagher at 907-283-2324 or 1-800-478-8551.

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## **Rep. Paul Seaton Newsletter - April 3**

Greetings from Juneau on this 85th day of the legislative session. Spring weather is here and flowers have started poking up around the city. I was able to enjoy the annual "legislative shoot" sponsored by the Alaska Correctional Officers Association at the Juneau outdoor shooting range on Saturday. The session has been crammed with important issues and hearings. I cannot imagine how dramatically we would have needed to restrict public input if the 90-day session initiative had been in place. I am having good movement on the fluoride resolution, the recreational land use legislation, and mixing zone restriction in fish spawning areas – none of which would have been possible

under the 90-day concept. Both the revision of the mining tax and the distribution of the raw fish tax bills are stuck in process in the House.

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

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## Sen. Gary Stevens Newsletter - April 3

Greetings from Juneau. About six weeks remain in this year's legislative session and lawmakers are preparing for discussions on several critical matters in anticipation of the May 9th scheduled adjournment. Recently, the House of Representatives passed the Operating and Mental Health Budget, reducing the Governor's proposed budget by more than \$120 million.

The Senate Finance Committee will begin its operating budget deliberations this Wednesday. The committee will take testimony from Seward and Homer this Thursday at 6:30 pm, and from Kodiak at 7 pm. I encourage you to take the opportunity to share your thoughts on the budget at that time. Please contact the Legislative Information Office (LIO) in your community for information on how to testify.

### PPT Update

Both Legislative bodies continue their deliberations on a new Petroleum Profit Sharing Production Tax (PPT). If passed, the tax rate for oil companies will be on a percentage of the gross value of production. The Governor's proposal includes a 20% tax on net profits with a 20% capital investment tax credit. Producers will also get a \$73 million deduction on their taxes, can carry forward up to 20% of prior-year losses as tax credits and can use oil conservation surcharge payments as credit against the production tax. The House version of the bill retains the 20% tax rate. The Senate Resources Committee passed a version of the bill raising the tax rate to 25%.

I expect several more days of vigorous discussion on this critical issue before the PPT bill reaches the Senate floor. When all is said and done, I believe we will pass legislation that protects the state's interests while encouraging further exploration and development of Alaska's oil resources.

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

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## 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](mailto:maryg@seldovia.com)) or just call 234-7525 and we will work something out.

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## Tidbits . . .

**Ahh, Spring is finally here. Blue skies, sunny days and an occasional blizzard . . .**



**City Manager's Corner**

*by Kurt Reynertson*

### >> Repeat Story <<

We have submitted the preliminary designs for the Small Boat Harbor to the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Fish and Game in order to start the permitting process for the renovation. Draft design should be completed by the end of April, at which time we should have a much better feel for the costs of the renovation. Until now, we have been working off engineers estimates which can vary as much as 30%. This is following a completely normal process of engineering design and build.

The engineers are also progressing on the preliminary efforts to design a water filtration system via Village Safe Water. They are compiling lengthy data on our water quality for the last several years. The type of data being gathered includes water temperature, turbidity, pH, fecal coliform readings, total coliform readings, average demand, peak demand, and chlorine residual. This data will help in their design effort for customizing a filter system for Seldovia.

Mike Beal from the Seldovia Native Association has rescheduled his briefing concerning the status of the Kachemak Bay Ferry to April 12 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 April 11th and 12th. They will present, during the Council meeting, information on 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. Please come and listen to the pros and cons of a Port Authority for Seldovia.

The elevator system for the Community Center has been ordered. This is a project we are working on via the Rasmuson Foundation grant funds.

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

>> No Report this Week <<

