



# Seldovia Gazette

Serving Seldovia, Alaska and Kachemak Bay southeast

Seldovia, AK

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Thursday, Dec. 7, 2006

Just another day in paradise

Vol. 2, No. 48, November 30, 2006

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## Opinions



▶ [2 Cents Worth](#)

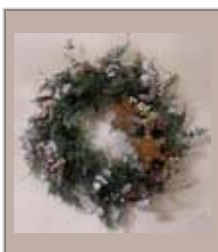
- ▶ [Letters to the Editor - none this week \(see Forum below\)](#)
- ▶ [Forum - Character Development Curriculum](#)

## Spotlight

- ▶ [Molly Chapman - SBE Senior, Carefree and](#)



Christmas Lighting Contest - Judging on December 15th - Sponsored by the Seldovia Chamber of Commerce and the Homer Electric Association - Check signs around town for more details.



Deepest Sympathy to the family and friends of

### Jean Gain

Mother to Keith, Kevin and Kurt Gain

who passed away

November 29, 2006 in Texas

## Top Stories

### Community Christmas Tree Lighting

by Dustin Baines, Levi Harkness, Rosanna McInnes

#### Hometown Traditions

November 24, 2006 was a colder than usual night. That didn't stop the group of locals and their friends and families from gathering around the big tree on the corner of Main Street in the heart of Seldovia. They rubbed their cold fingers together and hopped back and forth on their toes to keep warm. Children joyfully ran off to climb the big snow berm while they waited for the events to begin. The people were anxious for the traditional lighting and talking amongst themselves about how it would look. City Manager Kurt Reynertson and his wife were among the crowd of carolers. Mayor Dick Wyland welcomed the crowd and after a short speech, Councilman Tom Keesecker, at the stroke of seven, flipped the lights on. (Thanks to Tom Keesecker and Jim Schneider for hanging the lights on this rather large tree.) The crowd gasped at the beautiful contrast of the lights and the dark night sky. Afterwards the group of merry locals sang carols underneath the gorgeous lights.

## Marketplace



**Herring Bay Mercantile**  
Seldovia, AK

**Jenny Chissus**  
234-8000  
Your Seldovia Connection  
[www.seldoviaproperty.com](http://www.seldoviaproperty.com)  
RE/MAX of Homer

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

## Ready to Go



## School

▶ [Susan B English School by school reporter Katie O'Leary - Click here](#)



## Notices &amp; Newsletters

▶ [The Seldovia Visitor 2006, Seldovia Chamber of Commerce. Click here to download PDF \(6mb\)](#)

▶ [Senator Gary Stevens November 2006 Newsletter \(pdf\)](#)

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

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

▶ [Boys and Girls Club November 2006 Calendar \(pdf\)](#)

## Page Archives

[2006 Archives](#)



Following the caroling the townspeople took a stroll around the various shops perusing for gifts intended for their loved ones (and sometimes themselves). Local crafters opened up the Community Room for a Craft Emporium. *Leny Buchman* featured her beautiful watercolor works that you can buy as note cards to send to loved ones. *Craig Higman* was selling his usual assortment of creative and unusual woodworks including a two-tone wooden pickle fork and his hand carved tide book holders. *Carol Zein* featured her lovely jewelry (her beautiful stones and settings will make any lady on your list smile) and *Dede Higman* offered a wonderful array of her handmade pottery – with great unique Alaskan designs such as her Halibut spoon rests and her vases and bowls imprinted with local plants like the devils club. These crafters will open for their Christmas Emporium on Saturday, December 2, 2006. So if you didn't make it to the tree lighting, be sure to see them there!

Next stop on the list was *Yesterday's* gift shop where carolers were treated to cookies and hot drinks and given a discount on all items purchased that evening. The assortment of antiques and collectibles make great gifts for loved ones. Then, on to *Wheeler's Store* for more shopping where locals can buy Christmas lights, Christmas decorations, and groceries at great prices. Carolers and shoppers marched on down Main Street and stopped next at *Herring Bay Mercantile* where lucky locals got some of Joanie's homemade cookies and brownies and some great shopping! Check out their new stuffed teddy bears, they will be sure to delight the little ones on your list. Next came *Shoreline Gifts* where a discount for all purchases was also given. It's a great place to find stocking stuffers and features an assortment of toys and items for crafting! *Main Street Market* closed at 8 p.m. but they saw shoppers who were drawn in by the free hot drinks they offered. Look for their Christmas Discount Baskets in the front of their store and check out their newest items on display next to the popsicle freezer. *Alaska Tribal Cache* was the next stop on the line where shoppers enjoyed more free hot drinks and cookies and got to be the first to choose from new Christmas items in the store and try some Fireweed Pepper Jelly and Low-Bush Holiday Cranberry Sauce. *Seldovia Fuel and Lube* was the last stop on the list and got to see quite a few shoppers. They carry a number of items for the men on your list and have a new assortment of bulk items to choose from.

Fun was had by all. According to a longtime resident Leny Buchman, "The lights were nice when I looked out [of the Craft Emporium sited in the Multipurpose room]." Laurel and Sunni Hilts whose help with leading the carols was greatly appreciated said, "Wow, those lights sure came on!" while

▶ [Archive of all pages](#)

▶ [Seldovia Walking Map - 8-1/2 x 11 pdf](#)

▶ [Seldovia Summer Visitor Newspaper](#)

### 2006 PhotoStories

▶ [Aleutian's Tusty Trip - July 25 - Part 3](#)

▶ [Aleutian's Tusty Trip - July 25 - Part 2](#)

▶ [Aleutian's Tusty Trip - July 25 - Part 1](#)

▶ [July 4 Festival](#)

▶ [Summer Solstice Music Festival - June](#)

▶ [CofC Chainsaw Carving Contest - May](#)

▶ [SBE Graduation - May](#)

▶ [SBE Spring Concert - May](#)

▶ [SBE School Play - May](#)

▶ [SBE Science Fair - May](#)

▶ [Prom - May](#)

▶ [SBE Basketball - Feb.](#)

▶ [SBE Basketball - Feb.](#)

▶ [SBE Basketball - Jan.](#)

### 2005 Archives

▶ [Archive of all pages](#)

▶ [Seldovia Summer Gazette Newspaper](#)

▶ [Seldovia Summer Gazette Newspaper 2004](#)

### 2005 PhotoStories

▶ [SBE Christmas Play](#)

▶ [SBE Halloween Carnival](#)

### Photo Archives

▶ [Click here to view all photos from the Gazette over the past years](#)

### Classified Rates

describing what it was like, and "I enjoyed it very much!" If you didn't make it to the Tree Lighting you missed a really wonderful Hometown Tradition. Thanks to the Chamber of Commerce and all the volunteers who once again made this event happen. Most of all, thank you for supporting your local businesses!

## Sunni Hilts Recognized with National Award

by Tamara Blodgett

### *Local 'walks the talk' on making children Alaska's top priority...*

Local treasure Sunni (Ahna) Hilts goes after her passions like a dog to a bone, making children our most important priority. Recently Hilts was given a prestigious honor with the Distinguished Service Award. The Association of Alaska School Boards nominated Hilts for her outstanding service as a Kenai Peninsula School Board Member.



The National School Board Recognition Program was established to recognize school board leadership, which Hilts has in abundance! When discussing her acceptance of this award at a conference where hundreds were in attendance, Hilts modestly noted that she wondered why on earth they kept calling her name! Then she realized she was being honored and went to receive her award with her fellow board members applauding her with ear-to-ear grins.

**Rural Alaska is represented...** This is an affirmation to Hilts for her dogged pursuit of the state recognizing that children *are* our *most precious* commodities (nothing is more valuable). We need to start with their education, which is where our children spend so much of their time (in school~learning). Hilts has been on the KPS Board since the fall of 2003. This coincided with the Kenai Peninsula getting "districted." Which meant that before that happened, no rural person was represented on the KPS Board. Once the Kenai Peninsula voted to be districted, Hilts felt it went in line with her philosophy of children being our top priority and wanted an active part in doing something

► [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.

### Corrections

► [Cameren Blodgett's first name was misspelled in last week's issue of the paper.](#)

about it. She wrote herself in on the ballot and won.

*What she does for Seldovia's children...* Her duties while serving on the board are many and vital. The KPS Board sets district policy and the budget for KPSD, they are in charge of the hiring and overseeing of the district superintendent and they serve as a liaison between the public and the administration. Lastly, they are the last "rung" on the ladder of mitigation before it reaches the state level in cases of employee grievances and student expulsion.

*A resolution that starts a meaningful trend...* During the second annual conference there were 60 resolutions passed, most of them federal and state legislation. Hilts wished to travel back to Seldovia after her week away from the grandsons she and husband Rod raise, with something tangible to show for her time. This is when she determined to introduce making children Alaska's Top Priority. This resolution has gained momentum and been the running theme for 3 years in addition to the number one belief statement and resolution.

Hilts will never stop working for our children. Turning the tide of public perception to focus on the educational needs of our next generation is crucial, our children, *our most important endeavor*.

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## Special City Council Meeting - November 20th

by Tamara Blodgett

The Seldovia City Council convened together to include the following: Keith Gain, Tom Glover (via teleconference), Tom Keesecker, Walter McInnes, Allison Miller and Gerry Patrick. Mayor Dick Wyland presided with City Clerk Ronda Haynes taking minutes. City Manager Kurt Reynertson was also in attendance.

### Old Business

#### Union Negotiations/Contract (Possible Executive Session)

The City Council voted to accept the most recent offer presented by the bargaining unit.

*Action:* Passed unanimously.

### New Business

#### Resolution 07-08, Supporting Denali Commission Grant Application for Paving Roads.

This is a grant that has been written and submitted by CM Reynertson. This grant would pave the existing dirt roads in Seldovia. There are approximately 3 miles of dirt roads that are in need of paving or comparable updating that would effect lower maintenance costs.

*Action:* Passed unanimously.

### **Resolution 07-09, Supporting Denali Commission Grant Application for Small Boat Harbor.**

Another grant written by Reynertson seeks to compensate for the shortfall of funds needed for the finalization of the harbor restoration/update. Some of the areas that are still in need of refurbishment are decking replacement and completion of the necessary stall conversions.

**Action:** Passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting:** December 13th, 2006

**Adjournment:** 1 hour (approx.)

## **Otter Wrestlers Travel to Barrow**

*The "icebox" not as cold as it seems...* by Tamara Blodgett

Last week, 4 wrestling teams traveled up north to the 'top of the world' to wrestle Barrow's home team. CIA, Ninilchik, Voznesenka and Seldovia made the long trek and experienced what really cold weather, in combination with a warm welcome is all about.



A great invitation turned into an even greater wrestling tournament for 3 days. Out of the 4 attending schools, the coaches from each school had a hand in selecting the best wrestler from each weight division that made up the team that was named the "Peninsula All-Stars." This newly established team held a dual meet against the Barrow team. The All-Stars prevailed to victory! Coach Blodgett was pleased with the experience the boys gained with the added bonus of visiting the unique area of Barrow.

Seldovia was represented with six wrestlers that wrestled on the All-Stars. Those were Freshmen Derek Burt and Matthew Gain, Sophomores Jordan Geagel and Oren Kroll, Junior Harold Haynes and Junior Tim O'Leary. Out of these five, Geagel, Haynes and Kroll won their division.



As the season winds down, the wrestlers will travel this week for a one-day meet held in Seward called the Kachemak Conference Regional Wrestling Tournament (Regions). This tournament is held one time per year and precedes the much-anticipated state tournament held the following weekend in Wasilla. Coach Blodgett said, "He would expect to advance 4 <wrestlers> to the state tournament."

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## School Breakfast

Breakfast prepared by the Susan B. English students was held on Nov. 11, 2006. Did the students' new skills help prepare the dinner for their Nov. 23 Thanksgiving feasts? Looks like the kids pulled off a great breakfast!





Photos by Darlene Crawford

## Surfing the Web

by Mary Glover

Today, the internet is the information source. Knowledge is increasing at an amazing rate partly due to the information available to all of us. During this Christmas season, we will try to bring you some interesting web sites to visit to enhance your enjoyment of the season. (If you, as a reader, would like to share a favorite website with us, just email us your information.) This week's choice is: [The Antique Christmas Lights Museum](#)



Historical presentation of Christmas lights and music and graphics.

## Boys & Girls Club

News Release

It is time for the annual Boys & Girls Club membership drive, so be sure to stop by the Clubhouse to pick up new registration forms for your children. The deadline this year is December 12th.

You can also mark your calendars for some special craft/artwork opportunities to participate in. On Friday and Saturday, December 1st and 2nd, Club members and community members are invited to participate in a [leatherworking workshop](#) taught by Monty Hingley. The Boys & Girls Club has materials for bracelets, bookmarks, belts and much more, so come with someone in mind to make a present for and to learn a new art form. The workshop will start on Friday from 3-6 p.m. and continue on Saturday from 1-3 p.m. Adults, there will be a \$5 charge for materials. Club members participate for free.

Come back up to the Clubhouse on the following Tuesday and Wednesday, December 5th and 6th, to make Kusudama ornaments with Marcella Suydam. Kusudama is an origami art form from Japan and Marcella has picked a project that both the young and the "older" can do. These ornaments will look beautiful on anyone's Christmas tree.

To continue in the holiday spirit, the Boys & Girls Club will be hosting a [community get-together](#) on Tuesday, December 12th from 6-7 p.m. Come out to hear Seldovia's kids sing and play Christmas carols, and enjoy the light snacks and refreshments that will be served. Help us ring in the holiday season and enjoy some fun time with friends and family.

Finally, if you are looking for something special to give a loved one at Christmastime, consider a diamond this year. Enter to win a diamond valued at \$18,700.00 in the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Kenai Peninsula's special drawing to be held December 1st. Tickets are only \$50 and the drawing will be held in Kenai; participants do not need to be present to win. Generously donated by George Walton's Gold & Diamond Company, the diamond is 1.19ct. All proceeds benefit the Clubs of the Kenai Peninsula. Contact Laurel Hiltz at 234-7577 or stop by the Club to see a picture of the diamond and to purchase your winning ticket.



Purchase your ticket at the B&G Club -- Chance to win this diamond!  
"I never win anything"...famous last words, especially if you don't buy a ticket!

## Special Notices

### *Boys & Girls Club Schedule*

- Power Hour: Mondays - Thursdays from 3:15 - 5:15 p.m.
- Pottery: Mondays from 3:15 - 5:00 p.m.
- Clubhouse: Tuesday - Fridays from 3:15 - 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- Teen Open Gym: Tuesdays from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- Teen Night by SVT Prevention Program: Fridays 9:00 p.m. - midnight

PARENTS: The Clubhouse staff has implemented "Club Cash" rewards for members exhibiting great behavior, helpfulness, and also for each member completing a craft. The kids need to save those CC's and bring them to the Club at the start of each month to purchase small prizes and/or bid on bigger ones!

Any question, contact:  
Laurel A. Hilts, Unit Director Seldovia  
234-7577 office  
234-2004 fax  
lhilts@positiveplaceforkids.com

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### Tidbits . . .



Seldovia's Downtown Christmas Tree, sponsored by the Seldovia Chamber of Commerce, decorated by Tom Keesecker and Jim Schneider.  
Photo by Mike Driscoll

### City Manager's Corner

*by Kurt Reynertson*

The Small Boat Harbor renovation project team consisting of Jay-Brant General Contractors, Hopkins Brothers Construction, and the City of Seldovia (Councilman Tom Keesecker, Mayor Wyland, and myself) met for a pre-construction conference on Monday, November 20th. Project administration and details were discussed. Currently mobilization is taking place, and in the next week to two weeks construction activities should start in the harbor. There will be times that the harbor will be inaccessible, but these times will be short in duration and will be well advertised prior to them occurring. Additionally, when the old piles are being removed and the new piles are being installed vessel owners will have to move their boats for a short period of time. Again, these times will be well publicized.

In a special session of the Seldovia City Council, the Council voted to ratify the Union collective bargaining unit's acceptance of the latest offered contract. The contract will become effective December 1st and run for three years. The City and the Union have been operating on the old contract which expired almost 24 months ago. There are several changes in the contract as compared to the old contract. One of the more significant changes is how the City administers paid time off. We have moved away from the traditional

vacation/sick leave time to a more efficient PTO or paid time off system. This system is a win-win for both the employees and the City as all the accrued time off belongs to the employee, and it eliminates the need to administratively manage the sick leave policies. Additionally, the Chief of Police is now on a straight salary basis as opposed to an hourly wage. This will allow for more flexible scheduling of police activities and time off for our Police Chief.

The work on the fuel line replacement has wrapped up for the season. The crew will be back working on the fuel lines in late February or early March. The cold weather, as well as the coming holidays led the General Contractor to decide to curtail operations until early next year.

Interviews were held for the VISTA position of grant writer this week. Two well qualified people were interviewed by the regional director of the national organization of Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA). I expect to receive word on their decision as to if Seldovia will receive a VISTA position and who will fill that position in the very near future.

Finally, I hope all are having good Thanksgiving day(s) and are able to spend it with family and/or friends.

### **Seldovia Police Report**

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

The eagle which was found injured and sent to the US Wildlife Refuge in Homer was shipped to Anchorage where they will attempt to repair the damaged wing. They do not hold much hope in the bird being able to fly again but they did decide not to destroy it.

Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement Officers visited Seldovia to investigate reports of King Crab being sold illegally. Investigation into the allegations resulted in the reports being unfounded. The crab that was being sold in and around Seldovia by a couple local residents was legal in that it had been processed by a licensed processor and they had purchased it from that processor. They can choose to sell it or disperse it to the public after those requirements are met. However, one cannot process it for resale without being a licensed processor.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough, Office of Emergency Management, is in the process of putting together a permanent early warning system, a siren, and they requested the GPS coordinates of the ACS CO on the hill above Helen Josefsen's home. Chief Anderson, with the assistance of Michael Opheim, collected the needed data for them. Hopefully, in the near future, a permanent installation will be in place. At present we have a portable siren that is on a trailer.

Following a call Police responded to a noise complaint regarding loud music. The music was turned down after the Police contacted those responsible and told them of the complaint. No further reports were received and no further action was taken by Police.

Police investigated a report that juveniles were showing signs of having consumed alcohol. Contact was made with two of the three parties alleged to have been drinking and no evidence of alcohol was found. No further action was taken by the Police.

A report of window damage was reported at the SBE School. The damage is

consistent with damage done by shooting a window with a BB gun. Anyone having information regarding this matter is asked to contact the Police Department.

A report of a traffic hazard created by persons parking their vehicles so they encroach into the roadway was received. A resident of the residence was contacted and told of the violation and told to have the vehicle moved and to refrain from parking in such a manner in the future.

A local resident was contacted and cited for "Failure to Carry and Show Proof of Insurance" and for "Operating a Vehicle with Expired Registration" after the vehicle he was driving was observed to have no brake lights and contact was made by the Police. Further investigation revealed the license on the vehicle had been expired since December of 2002. Along with the citations being issued the subject was told to park the vehicle until he had it road legal and insured.

A vehicle was observed to have no tail lights or brake lights. The owner was contacted and told the Officer he was aware of the problem and was about to board the ferry to go to Homer where the problem would be fixed. No further action taken by Police in this matter.

In our last report we informed the public that a step ladder had been lost in the Jakolof Bay Harbor area and, as a result of that report, the ladder was returned to the owner.

In mid December, *if there is no change of plea by the Defendant*, a jury trial will be held in Seldovia on a charge of "Driving While Intoxicated", which occurred in July of 2005. If you are one of those *fortunate souls* who received a summons for "Jury Duty" you will be required to attend these proceedings. Continue to call the number given you by the Court for further instructions. If the trial does proceed the Court will most likely be contacting you but it is your responsibility to keep informed by calling the number that is printed on your summons. The time and place will be announced at a later date.

Since last report the Police have assisted one motorist, provided transportation for four persons and responded to two requests for assistance along with Notarizing two documents.

