



Seldovia Gazette

Serving Seldovia, Alaska and Kachemak Bay southeast

Seldovia, AK

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Thursday, Aug. 16, 2007

Just another day in paradise

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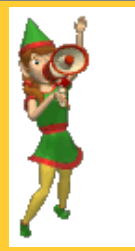
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Spotlight

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PhotoStory
Coming Home Week &
July 4, 2007 Festival
July 1-8, 2007



City of Seldovia Job Openings
(click job description to view descriptions)

1. [Facilities Maintenance \(pdf\)](#)
2. [Fire Administrative Assistant \(pdf\)](#)

Top Stories

Sunni Hilts KPSB Membership in Flux

by Tamara Blodgett

The Sep. 10 th KPSB Meeting may be her last...

Ms. Sunni Hilts of Seldovia is currently serving her second term on the Kenai Peninsula School Board. On October 15th, 2007 she will be up for reelection. To date, she has run unopposed for her last two terms served. The first term was for one year, with the recent term ending on a three-year tenure. Board membership has kept Hilts busy with twice monthly meetings during the school session.

Marketplace



Jenny Chissus
234-8000
Your Seldovia Connection

www.seldoviaproperty.com
RE/MAX of Homer



Come In,
Browse,
Have Fun!

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



Progressive goals for a forward thinker...

Hilts and other board members have actively pursued the evaluation of staff in schools of diverse sizes; with special emphasis on small schools. Budget cuts have a negative impact on small schools (the impact is greater on small populous). In simplest terms, if one teacher were cut in a 2-teacher school, this would effect a 50% cut in teaching staff. Small schools need to have special attention paid to staffing. In Seldovia, this has become a crucial challenge for administration to properly educate our students with budget constraints tightening each year.

Another goal that is continuing to be addressed will be the progress of Alaska Native children. This group has a higher dropout rate and progresses more slowly than their contemporaries. The priority will be to address tribal leaders and others' that are impacted by this.

Term limits are not the definitive answer...

This lock-tight initiative has been crafted in such a way as to deny anyone to serve after two terms. In Hilts case, she ran for one year when we became districted then was subsequently elected for a three-year term. These terms do not need to be equal in timelength to be considered a "term." Board members that were appointed/elected for one year, then a second one-year term would effectively be ousted after two accumulative years. Term limits do not address this inequality. Furthermore, this initiative on the ballot would cut out the most experienced board members. In theory, these "fresh thinkers" that would fill the vacated positions would have positive, new thinking. In reality, this new thinking (albeit a needed component) would not have the complementary balance of the combined experiential thinking and knowledge of the retired board members.

Hilts feels that experience equals effectiveness. She sees part of the success of the KPSB has been the excellent mentoring *she* received from those experienced persons that came before her. Lobbying in Juneau for educational funding is an asset when people are familiar in that venue. The progressive needs of the body of members remain the same and move forward toward its collective goal. In reference to lobbying, where do these goals stand if there is no "institutional memory?" Where do we need to go, building on what we have already done? Resolution is a key factor in progressing forward for the betterment of our children's education.

Process understood...

School

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



Notices & Newsletters

▶ [The Seldovia Visitor 2007, Seldovia Chamber of Commerce. Click here to download PDF \(6mb\)](#)

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

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

▶ [Boys and Girls Club Calendar](#)

Archives

2007 Archives

▶ [Archive of all pages](#)

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

▶ [Seldovia Summer Visitor Newspaper 2007](#)

2007 PhotoStories

▶ [July 4 Festival](#)

▶ [Craft Invitational Chainsaw Carving Contest - May](#)

▶ [SBE Graduation - May](#)

▶ [Seldovia Lodge Fire](#)

▶ [SBE Prom - "Casino Royale 007"](#)

▶ [SBE Last Home Basketball Game of the Season](#)

2006 Archives

▶ [Archive of all pages](#)

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

▶ [Seldovia Summer Visitor Newspaper 2006](#)

2006 PhotoStories

▶ [SBE Play - December](#)

▶ [Halloween Carnival](#)

▶ [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](#)

Hilts wished to emphasize that the KPSB is a diverse collection of different "voices," each one passionate about their unique priority. A vote of five is needed to pass a directive. Agreement is wrought to decision making through careful reflection, thought and discussion. The school board is in charge of hiring the district superintendent, in this case, Donna Peterson. Peterson, for her part, is responsible for overseeing the hiring of personnel/staffing. The board members review her choices, and vote accordingly. Those choices <personnel> are left to the discernment of her elected capacity and entrusted position as voted upon by the KPSB.

Hilts restated that the process of electing people as board members has remained the same. Elect who you wish, and/or run against someone you would prefer not be in office. It is the democratic process in motion.

The ultimate irony for Hilts is even if she were reelected for another term by district vote; this selection would be negated at the borough level with the passing of the term limit initiative, a supreme disappointment to her electoral base.

Finally, make your informed vote count at the polls. Our children's' education and representation matter for our collective future.

NOAA Open House at Kasitsna Bay Lab - Friday, August 17

News Release

I'd like to extend a personal invitation for you to join us for a Community Open House at the Kasitsna Bay Laboratory this Friday, 17 August 2007. For those coming from Homer, we were just able to arrange for transportation to and from the laboratory on the Rainbow Connection. I'd be happy to reserve a seat for you if you'd like to attend.



The Open House will celebrate the completion of our major reconstruction project, as well as the 200th anniversary of the oldest part of NOAA, and give the community a chance to tour the laboratory facilities. Please see below for a more detailed agenda.

We'll be providing information on research and education efforts at the laboratory and in Kachemak Bay, including work with our regional partners, and by other NOAA offices in Alaska. Staff from NOAA offices statewide will be in attendance and available to discuss regional issues with NOAA products and services, including weather and climate

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

▶ [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

▶ [None this week](#)

forecasting, navigation services, and fisheries and coastal management.

Lunch and beverages will be provided and we welcome children to come, with adult supervision. Please leave dogs or other pets at home. If you are interested in transportation to the laboratory on the Rainbow Connection, I'd encourage you to let me know by email or phone by Wednesday, 15 August. After that the spaces will be made available to the entire community on a first-come, first-serve basis. I hope you can join us on Friday!

Best regards,
 Kris Holderied
 NOAA Kasitsna Bay Laboratory, Director
 907-235-2400 (Homer office)
 Kris.Holderied@noaa.gov

Kasitsna Bay Laboratory (KBL) Open House Agenda

Time	Agenda
09:30 am	Meet at Rainbow Connection in Homer Harbor
10:00 am	Rainbow Connection departs Homer for KBL
11:00 am	KBL Open house begins
11:30 am	Welcoming remarks and introductions, followed by rededication ceremony at the wet lab building
12:15 pm	Informal lunch provided.
1:00 – 2:30 pm	Laboratory tours. Fish painting activity for kids (and kids of all ages).
3:00 pm	Open House concludes. Rainbow Connection departs for Homer
4:00 pm	Rainbow Connection arrives in Homer Harbor

Information will be available on research and education activities (KBL, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Reserve, other Alaska NOAA offices)

Fuel Farm Nears Completion *by Tamara Blodgett*

Gassing up gets high tech...

In speaking with Fuel Tank Superintendent Daryl Ramstad, it was obvious that he has enjoyed his time here in Seldovia. Certainly it helps that there is nothing to complain about, with the fuel replacement on schedule, everyone putting forth his or her best efforts in combination with Pipe Welder Superintendent Robert Sandel's expertise; quality control has not been an issue. Both Ramstad and Sandel are seasoned workers. Ramstad spoke of building a more modern type of tank than the CE II Engineers are currently replacing back in the late '70's. He mentioned he has done everything from building tanks, to replacement, and now decommissioning tanks will be added to his 30-year work history in the fuel-related industry. Sandel, equally knowledgeable in fuel-related work, has also worked for 30 years and has special expertise in hi-pressure pipe welding. This is a specific expertise that has a standard "danger factor." Sandel spoke to this, saying that he respects the inherent dangers that come with this line of work and is careful while working in this unique climate.

Local workers part of the success...

Local Seldovians currently employed on the fuel farm tank replacement is Jacquelyn Brown, John Geagel, Matt Gallien and brothers Bill & Jimmy Payton. CE II has also brought equipment operator Lloyd Berkberger (known as a lucky fisherman) to the job. This local work is just what Seldovia needs. Sandel said that the workers have done a great job of staying on task and getting the job done. Both Sandel and Ramstad said that they have enjoyed the rapport with their team and local Seldovians.

How's progress...

Ramstad said that the new tanks currently on the lot adjacent to Seldovia Fuel are scheduled for install on Monday. Barring anything unforeseen, his portion of the job through fuel tank install and gas dispensing station should have an estimated completion time of September 30th. Sandel said he would be here, "until its over with." Sandel felt that it should all go smoothly from here on out. The touchiest parts of the operation were the full replacement of the pipes under the City dock. These pipes were in dire need of replacement from supports to fasteners to the pipes themselves and he is pleased that portion was accomplished safely and is now project history.

Updated operation...

Updated tanks as well as fuel dispensers will be the most obvious manifestation of the fuel farm replacement. Ramstad said "...swiping credit cards 24-hours a day will really make the town happy." No longer will people be relegated to gassing up based on store hours. This convenient new dispensing station (brand name Gilbarco; visit at www.gilbarco.com) will greatly streamline people's lives and activities. With DSL, cell phones and now 24-hour gas, what other improvements can Seldovia hope for? What wonderful progressive changes our town is experiencing.

Special Notices . . .

Boys & Girls Club Update

You can tell that school is starting soon because Seldovia's kids have been trying their best to pack as much fun and free time in to their days before next Wednesday, August 22nd rolls around. The recent sunny days helped a lot, too, as kids were out camping, biking, sun bathing and more, but the focus will begin to switch now towards academics and life at Susan B. English School . With the start of school comes a new schedule for the Seldovia Boys & Girls Club.

The Club will be closed for training the week of August 20th through the 26th, then starting August 27th will open Mondays – Fridays from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m., as well as for Pottery on Mondays from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m., and for Teen Open Gym on Tuesdays from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. The Seldovia Village Tribe will continue to offer Teen Nights on Fridays as well, from 9:00 p.m. – 12 midnight. Our Power Hour program, featuring after-school homework help, will continue at Susan B. English School , starting August 27th and running Mondays – Thursdays from 3:15 – 5:15 p.m. with Boys & Girls Club staff members Ronene Gain and Vivian Rojas.

This summer we started up three new programs which are still available for our members and the greater Seldovia community. Rob Rurka (a summer resident

turned year-round resident) conducts karate class three days a week at the Boys & Girls Club, plus gives guitar and drum lessons weekly. Regardless of age, folks are welcome to come and try out these exciting opportunities. The guitar lessons have been free through a generous donation, while the drum lessons and karate classes do include a fee. Give us a call or come by during one of the classes to check it out.



In other Club news, the Gain family recently donated a fish tank with two fish to the Boys & Girls Club, which will be fun for the kids to enjoy this year, but those fish are lonely; they need some companions. If you have any fish you

would like to find a new home, then we have a spot for them. Or, if you are traveling to Homer and would like to pick some out for the Club, that would be greatly appreciated as well.

Out with the old and in with the new – as kids gear up for school, we all discover that they have grown over the summer and now need new clothes. Or as we pack up our summer gear and prepare for the fall, maybe we come across some things that we do not need any more. If that sounds like you or your family, would you consider putting together a batch of things to donate to the Boys & Girls Club to resale? We will sort through the items and then arrange it all in the Clubhouse for a huge end-of-summer Garage Sale. Donations can be dropped off at the Club from 3-6:00 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Once the items come in, we will set a date for the garage sale and keep you posted. Please donate only usable items, thanks.

Clubhouse will closed the week of August 20th-25th.

Any questions, contact: Laurel A. Hilts, Unit Director Seldovia
234-7577 office; 234-2004 fax & kid phone during Clubhouse hours
lilts@positiveplaceforkids.com

Tidbits . . .

Jasmine did a short tour around Seldovia last week and did a few poses for her photographer Gunnip . . . must be time for school to start up, the kids are getting restless!





City Manager's Corner

by Howard Davis

Good morning Seldovia, how are you?

Since this is my first City Managers Corner I thought I would begin with a short background for those of you who I have not yet met.

I am married; my fantastic wife's name is Carol, who will be joining me soon (I hope).

I graduated High School in Massachusetts. My background is principally in Business Management/Manufacturing. My higher education is from Cardinal Stritch University, Business Management and Milwaukee School of Engineering, Quality Management plus numerous certifications in Safety and Environmental Regulations. I can operate a Dump Truck, Skid-Steer, Telescopic Material Handler and Lift Truck. I enjoy Fishing, Hunting and all types of music.

In my last position I was the Quality Assurance, Safety and Environmental Regulations Coordinator.

My wife Carol is currently the Development Director and Grant Writer for a private school in Milwaukee. She is looking forward to being here soon and possibly doing some volunteer work and grant writing should the opportunity arise.

We both had decided some time ago that Seldovia was the place that we wanted to make our permanent home and we are very pleased that this opportunity has allowed us to come to your beautiful city sooner than we had thought possible. Thank you for this opportunity. Carol and I look forward to many years as full time residents.

We are looking for a home to purchase, hopefully before snows fly. If we do not find the right house we would consider house sitting over the winter.

Since I have only been on the job for four days I do not have very much to say but I am sure that will change in another two weeks.

Seldovia Police Report by *A. W. Anderson, Seldovia PD*

The following is activity that occurred, or was reported, since the last report on 8/2/07.

Further investigation into a roll over accident in the Jakolof Bay area resulted in a man being charged with "Negligent Driving", "Failure to Report an Accident" and "Driving Without a License". Arraignment will be in the Homer Court on 8/21/07 at 0900 hours.

A speeding 4-wheeler was stopped and a verbal warning was given.

A man shot a bear that was in his van. The "Defense of Life or Property" (DLP) paperwork was given to the man and will be forwarded to the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game. (ADFG)

A bear was reported to enter an entryway to a residence and consume the fresh fruit that was stored in that location.

Police were called to the Landfill on two separate occasions when bears were reluctant to leave the area.

A bear was reportedly on the porch of a local residence in the East Addition.

A citizen's fingerprints were rolled at her request, for employment purposes.

Police were notified of a Civil Dispute regarding property matters and will only respond to keep the peace, if needed.

A person was reportedly putting feed out for bears. Investigation revealed halibut had been discarded on the roadway in front of the Suspect's home. It was gathered as evidence and the matter was referred to the Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement. (ABWE)

The door to a vacant shop was reported open and investigation revealed no forced entry. The wind is thought to have blown the door open.

Following a concerned citizen's report Police did a security check on a local vacant residence. No signs of forced entry were found.

A property owner requested vehicles parked on the roadway across from his property be removed so the roadway could be brought back to its original position. A letter was sent to the owner's of the vehicles and requests made for their removal. Reluctance to remove the vehicles will result in further actions by the Police.

A concerned citizen reported an open door to a residence in the Barabara Heights Subdivision. An investigation revealed the door had been left open by mistake by the owner.

Police responded and unlocked a vehicle that was running with the keys locked inside.

Police located the doctor following a request by relatives after an 11 year old boy received a laceration to his leg.

In excess of \$200 was reportedly lost on Wednesday, 8/8/07, and it was housed in a manila envelope. If found please call the Police Department.

Money was found in the SBE School area. If you can identify the amount you lost, call the Police.

A cell phone was found in the SBE School area and, upon its being turned in to the Police, the owner was located and the phone was returned.

A black bear that entered a residence on three separate occasions was shot and killed by the occupant. DLP paperwork was filled out and the bear skull and hide was sent to ADFG.

The keys were locked in a vehicle that was blocking the gas pumps. Police responded and were successful in opening the door to the vehicle.

Sometime since the last of June a boat in the boat harbor was forcibly entered and a number of items were taken including a weapon and ammunition.

A resident of the Barabara Heights Subdivision reported wood stolen from her property within the last two weeks. A chainsaw was reportedly used to cut up the wood prior to its being removed from the property.

Since last report Police have Notarized 8 documents and responded to 3 requests for assistance.

