



Seldovia Gazette

Serving Seldovia, Alaska and Kachemak Bay southeast

Seldovia, AK

28 °F / -2 °C

Mostly Cloudy
at 9:20 PM



[Click for Forecast](#)

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2008

Just another day in paradise

Vol. 4, No. 3, January 17, 2008

- Local News
- Calendar
- Opinions
- Spotlight
- School
- Classifieds
- Archives
- Seldovia.com
- Gazette Services

[Corrections](#) | [Recent Page and Photo Archive](#) | [This page in Large Print](#) |

Headlines

- ▶ [AMHS in Crisis](#)
- ▶ [Boys and Girls Club Budget Shortfall](#)
- ▶ [Save the Hydrants!](#)
- ▶ [SBE National Geography Bee Winners!](#)
- ▶ [Alaska Democratic Presidential Caucus](#)
- ▶ [Special notices . . . - Boys & Girls Club](#)
- ▶ [Tidbits . . .](#)
- ▶ [City Manager's Corner](#)
- ▶ [Seldovia Police Report](#)

Opinions



- ▶ [Letters to the Editor - AMHS Critical Issue](#)
- [Building permit refused](#)

Spotlight

- ▶ [New Baby Visiting Some Happy Grandparents!](#)



Notice: Dear Readers - Your webmasters got delayed on a return trip to Seldovia by weather. We could not fly back from Homer because of a snow storm. Stay tuned: Paper will be up late this afternoon.

Crazy Crow Concert Jan 29th



Randall Williams, guitarist at Crazy Crow House Concerts on Tuesday, January 29th 7PM at Seldovia Rowing Club on the Old Boardwalk at 7 PM. Please come. All are most welcome. Suggested donation is \$15 to help the artist with his travels. RSVP by calling 234-7614 (OK to leave a message)



Be sure to pick up a copy of the January 16 Homer Tribune. Naomi Klouda of the Homer Tribune did a very nice front page story on SeldoviaGazette.com and Tom & Mary Glover.

[Click here to read the article online](#)

Top Stories

AMHS in Crisis

by Mary Glover

For the past three weeks, the news has heralded the proposal of the Alaska Marine Highway System's (AMHS) 2008 trip schedule. The time is ripe for concerned citizens to act. **Decisions are being made by the legislature, Governor Palin and DOT that will have a serious negative impact on the Seldovia community. Please read this article and do your part to make your voice heard in Juneau NOW!**

Click on the following "Ketchikan Daily News" link for an article:
Ketchikan Daily News

Marketplace



Jenny Chissus
234-8000
Your Seldovia Connection

www.seldoviaproperty.com
RE/MAX of Homer

Kachemak Bay Online Mall



Specializing in unique gifts made by local artists.

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

School

▶ [Susan B English School by school reporters Katie O'Leary and Rochelle Purpura - 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

▶ [Christmas Play](#)

▶ [Halloween Carnival](#)

▶ [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

The proposal is to cut back service to the cities that are serviced by the AMHS. An uproar of public response has already erupted in Seldovia and the other coastal communities as to the very negative impact that a cutback in the number of M/V Tustumena and M/V Kennicott trips would have. Serious damage will be done to the economic survival, ease of living, safety, shipping transport, community growth, community stability, viability of our school population and the tourism trade. In essence, life in our community will be irreversibly changed!

Next Tuesday at 1:30 PM, January 22 and Thursday at 1:30 PM, January 24, the Alaska DOT will address the AMHS issues via a listen only teleconference. If you would like to listen in on this conference dial 888-295-4546 and state that you want to listen to the Transportation Committee meeting. You may also call "Gavel to Gavel" and advocate for these hearings to be televised, which would offer better audio as well as the added bonus of video. Contact Randy Burton at 1-800-870-5866 with your request.

It is not too late to let your voice be heard and, in fact, the more public outcry, the better the outcome. We still have a chance to have the schedule changed and improved. How would a cutback in the AMHS schedule affect you? How would it affect our community and economic growth? How would it affect the safety issues in our community? How would it affect our very livelihood? Does it fulfill the Mission Statement and Vision Statement of Alaska's DOT? (*See Mission Statement and Vision Statement below.*)

According to the Alaska DOT Commissioner Leo von Scheben as stated in the January 17th teleconference:

Mission Statement of the DOT: "Provide for safe movement of people and goods and delivery of needed services."

Vision statement: "DOT plans, designs, constructs, operates and maintains quality, safe, efficient sustainable transportation of public facilities that meets the needs of Alaska's diverse population and growing economy."

Goals:

- "1) improve the safety of transportation systems
- 2) develop a transportation system for economic development
- 3) increase sufficienties; and
- 4) become more transparent"

It was also stated at this hearing that there is a 1.2 billion dollar budget. Who gets what piece of the pie?

The AMHS is a very excellent system as far as cost is concerned. It costs \$8 million for 1 mile of new road to be built. Ten miles of appropriation would keep the AMHS running in style! We also have no death fatalities on our road (AMHS) or road repair maintenance! The AMHS is not destroyed by flooding as was in the Anchor Point area this past year! There is also the intrinsic value of how many lives are saved because they are able to take the ferry instead of flying or boating in a smaller vessel in poor weather. AMHS is invaluable to every AMHS serviced community's stability and economic growth. We are all connected...tourists and residents who use the AMHS end up in Homer, Stewart, Bellingham, etc. and go on to the other cities in Alaska, spreading dollars around. A friend told me, "What is good for AMHS is good for all Alaska--not just the isolated coastal communities who directly depend on it for needed goods, services, and transportation. Now that the schedule is SO LATE, the rest of the state is realizing what a vital link the ferries are to their commerce and economy as well! "

To not adequately fund the AMHS would be in direct conflict with the Alaska

▶ 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
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

DOT Mission Statement! The legislature needs to make the funding of the AMHS a priority. The AMHS goes to 30 ports. These are 30 cities that are absolutely dependent upon their service. (There is one ports Bellingham , WA that is not an Alaskan city [corrected 1/21/08].) There are 154 cities in Alaska . This means that the AMHS services 18% of the cities in Alaska . If all cities got an equal share of the 1.2 billion dollar budget, the AMHS would be more than adequately funded! **What's more, did you know that the AMHS is not even an item in the "30 year Long Range Plan" that Alaska DOT is working on!**

The Commissioner also stated in the hearing today "AMHS--We have hauled more passengers in and more cars on board this last year." Now why would one cut the service? Regions listed on the [Alaska DOT website](#) are: Central, Northern, Southeast, AMHS. If the AMHS is a major region, is it to be treated on an unequal basis with the other regions?

To lend support to this critical cause you must act immediately!

The next meeting is next Tuesday, January 22. These people need to get your email or fax immediately. Do not wait for Monday to write! Contacts listed below:

The Alaska DOT

Dennis L. Hardy, P.E.
Deputy Commissioner, Marine Operations
(907) 465-6977
[✉ Dennis.Hardy@alaska.gov](mailto:Dennis.Hardy@alaska.gov)

Governor Sarah Palin
Fax # 907-465-3532
Website
[✉ http://gov.state.ak.us/govmailSP.php](http://gov.state.ak.us/govmailSP.php)

Alaska State Representative Kyle Johansen, Chairman House Transportation Committee
[✉](mailto:David_Scott@legis.state.ak.us) David Scott <David_Scott@legis.state.ak.us>

Boys and Girls Club Budget Shortfall

by Tamara Blodgett

The face of federal funding changes as does it's funding...

Unit Director Laurel Hilts, representatives of Seldovia Village Tribe and other interested citizens came together for an up close and personal meeting for the financial nuts and bolts of what is currently holding the B&G Club together. As it happens, the sixty thousand dollar Cook Inlet Housing Authority Grant ran out as of December 31st of last year. This is but one effect of new federal funding stipulations that sets the B&G Club out of that particular warm blanket of funding. However, a new grant from the Office of Justice Prevention (OJP) of fifty thousand dollars makes up all but the 10K difference. But that difference *could mean the difference*. These grant monies will only be in place until the end of the fiscal year June 30th, 2008 .

What's in the future...?

Executive Director of all the Kenai Peninsula Clubs, Brenda Ahlberg, was



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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

available via teleconference to lend support, clarity and insight into this fiscal year's budgetary plan along with ideas for FY09. She, along with Hilts, has drafted a resolution seeking support from the City of Seldovia that will be submitted to the City Council in the near future. Seldovia Native Association has generously donated monies toward the new music program that Hilts has begun with guitar and drum lessons at the forefront. B&G Staff Member Rob Rurka is teaching both of these with aplomb. Hilts is setting a user fee schedule of sorts to augment SVT funding to help fill in the 10K shortfall difference. With ninety members, there is not enough money from club membership coming in to make up this difference. The hope is with the augmented music fees, help from the City and possibly a spring musical concert and dinner venue, the shortfall will disappear. This last would give the community a chance to see the tangible result of the kids' hard work.

Please contact Unit Director Laurel Hilts at 234.7577 or 234.2004 for more information.

Save the Hydrants!

by Tamara Blodgett

"Rescue" a fire hydrant no longer seen by the naked eye...

With forty-nine fire hydrants safeguarding their respective residences and public structures, one would think that is enough, right? However, with the recent snow dump of several feet, many of our hydrants still stand sentinel, invisibly. Fire Chief Mike Driscoll estimates that nearly fifty percent are now covered and not accessible to firefighters (through berm or snow cover). If fires were to erupt and the frantic call came over the radio for assistance, valuable time would be lost locating an available hydrant.





It only took 10 minutes to dig out this hydrant

What can the citizenry do...?

The City of Seldovia is responsible for keeping the hydrants free of snow cover. The very reason they are buried is the abrupt accumulation of snow, which, in turn, is the reason the workload for city employees is so huge. As Driscoll said, "... there isn't enough manpower and hours to hand dig each hydrant."

Currently, the snow is the enemy and the volunteer fire department wants to respond quickly to a call for help. Most residents are aware of the location their nearest fire hydrant is located. If volunteers wish to be proactive and unbury a fire hydrant close to their residence, please do so. The City is drafting a no-liability document that allows volunteers to help in this capacity that should be complete within the next two weeks. If any are energized to move forward with the unveiling of their chosen hydrant, please move forward at your own risk.

Community hours satisfied...

Police Chief Andy Anderson commented that anyone that has a need to fill community service hours could satisfy these by the digging out of one or more of the public fire hydrants. Please contact Chief Anderson or Fire Chief Mike Driscoll at 7640 or 7418 respectively. Your message will be returned.

SBE National Geography Bee Winners!

Winners of this years Susan B. English National Geography Bee are as follows:

First Place: Lily Kroll (7th Grade)

Second Place: Isabelle Baillargeon Radliff (5th Grade)

Third Place Tie: Amanda Gain (8th Grade) and Patience Raby (4th Grade)

FIRST PLACE winner, Lily Kroll will complete a written qualifying test that determines the top 100 students in each state. These students are then invited to their state competition on Friday, April 4, 2008. The school Booster Club fund raisers help support our academic programs. WE'RE PROUD of you Lily and all the students who participated in this event.

Special thanks to Seldovia Native Association for the gift certificates!

Alaska Democratic Presidential Caucus

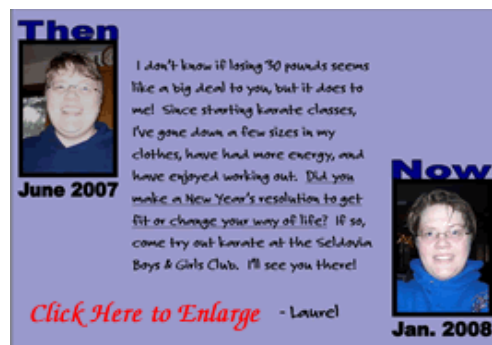
Super Tuesday in Seldovia will feature a teleconference with the District 35 Caucus in Homer. To vote in the Caucus you must be registered as a Democrat. You may register at the Caucus.

The event is scheduled for Tuesday February 5, 2008 in the SBE School Commons. Registration starts at 5:00 pm and Caucus voting starts at 6:00 pm. For more information or help, contact Mark Janes at 299-3224 or www.AlaskaDemocrats.org at 1-866-258-3050.

Special Notices . . .

Boys & Girls Club Update . . .

It's time for another round of youth basketball. If your child is in the 1st-5th grade, come to the Susan B. English School gym on Saturday from 1-3:00 p.m. Head Coach Russ Radliff will be running the program with his Seldovia Sea Otters. Sponsored by the Seldovia Village Tribe in partnership with the Seldovia Boys & Girls Club, this program will last until the end of February. If you have any questions about particular details, contact Coach Radliff or Al Sughroue at SVT: 234-7898.



Clubhouse Hours: Mondays – Fridays from 3-6 p.m.
 Power Hour: Mondays – Thursdays from 3:15 – 5:15 p.m.
 Pottery: Mondays from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.
 Teen Open Gym: Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m.

Karate Classes:

Beginners – Tuesdays & Thursdays from 5-6:30 p.m.
 or Wednesdays & Fridays from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
 Intermediate – Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 5-6:30 p.m. *Music*

Lessons:

Bass Guitar - Saturdays at 11:30 a.m.
 Electric Guitar – Saturdays at 12:00 p.m.
 Acoustic Guitar – Saturdays at 12:30 p.m.
 Drums – Saturdays from 1:00 – 6:00 p.m.

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

Tidbits . . .

Snow, snow, and more snow . . .



City Manager's Corner

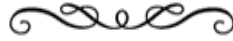
by Howard Davis

> No Report this Week <

Seldovia Police Report

by A.W. Anderson, Seldovia PD

> No Report this Week <



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