



Seldovia Gazette

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Seldovia, AK

59 °F / 15 °C

Partly Cloudy
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Thursday, Aug. 18, 2005

Just another day in paradise

Vol. 1, No. 11, August 18, 2005

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The Classifieds Section is finally completed
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Top Stories

SBE doesn't meet the mark according to AYP results

by Damara Burnett

Low graduation rate affects 2004-05 status

Susan B. English School is one of 203 schools in Alaska that did not meet all of the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets of the federal No Child Left Behind Act. According to a report released late last week by the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, 41% of Alaskan schools did not meet AYP this year, including Susan B. English School and Nanwalek School.

"It is very difficult for a school to make AYP," said Education Commissioner Roger Sampson. "There's one way to make AYP and 31 ways of not making it. In fact, 69 schools met AYP targets in all categories, and missed AYP in only one category."

Susan B. English is exactly that type of school. Despite a 90% proficiency score in Language Arts and an 81% proficiency score in Math, SBE missed the mark in one category: the graduation rate. According to the report, only 43% of potential seniors at SBE graduated last year. In order to meet AYP requirements, the graduation rate must be at least 56%. In 2003-04, the percentage of seniors graduating from SBE was 100%.

The requirements for AYP are based on scores and participation rates on annual state-mandated assessment tests – the Alaska Standards Based Assessments for grades 3 through 9 and the High School Qualifying Exam for grade 10 – along with school attendance records and graduation rates. According to SBE Principal Curtis Liberty, graduation rates are calculated based on the potential number of students slotted to graduate in a particular year. If a student enrolls at SBE at some point between the 9th and 12th grade,

Marketplace

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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
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 starts August 22nd](#)



Notices

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

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

▶ [Boys and Girls Club August 2005 Calendar](#)

▶ [Boys and Girls Club June - July Newsletter](#)

▶ [Harbor Survey Priority Results \(pdf\)](#)

Corrections

▶ [None this week. . .](#)

Classified Rates

▶ [Instructions and rate sheet](#)



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but then leaves the school and doesn't ask for his/her transcripts to be forwarded to a new school, the student becomes an official high school drop-out statistic.

Like many rural schools, SBE must also deal with the effects small student enrollment numbers have on its overall AYP standings. If fewer than 95% of students show up for school on the day of testing - a plausible situation at SBE, whose current overall student population is 70 (only four students would have to stay home sick to have less than 95% in attendance) - then the school wouldn't meet AYP standards. Despite those obstacles, this is the first year Susan B. English School has not met all AYP targets.

For Nanwalek School, the situation is a little bit different. This is the second year in a row the school hasn't met AYP standards. Only 39% of full-academic year students were proficient in Language Arts and 37% were proficient in Math. To meet AYP requirements, those percentages needed to be 71% and 58%, respectively.

The consequences for not meeting Adequate Yearly Progress are different for both schools as well. Susan B. English is considered a Level One school because 2004-05 is the first year it hasn't met AYP. According to the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, SBE must inform parents of its AYP status, and prepare and implement a school plan as to how it will meet all AYP targets next year.

But for Nanwalek School, which is considered a Level Two school, it's possible that parents will be given a choice whether to send their child to a different school in the district – at the expense of the district – or allow their child to receive “supplemental services” at the school. Either way, once a school has reached Level Two it must meet AYP targets for two consecutive years in order to be removed from the list.

The national school reform legislation set forth by No Child Left Behind requires 100% of students to achieve proficiency on state tests by 2014, including students with disabilities, those with limited English proficiency, and economically disadvantaged students.

Boat sinks in Seldovia Harbor *by Tom Glover*

Boat recovered and no injuries . . .

On Monday evening, August 14, the marine vessel "Angel of the Sea" pulled into Seldovia Harbor with engine problems and tied up on the main float across from the Husky. She was also taking on water and a pump was set up but by 9:30 pm, the boat had sunk.

The owner, John Girton of Anchor Point, Alaska, called in C&C

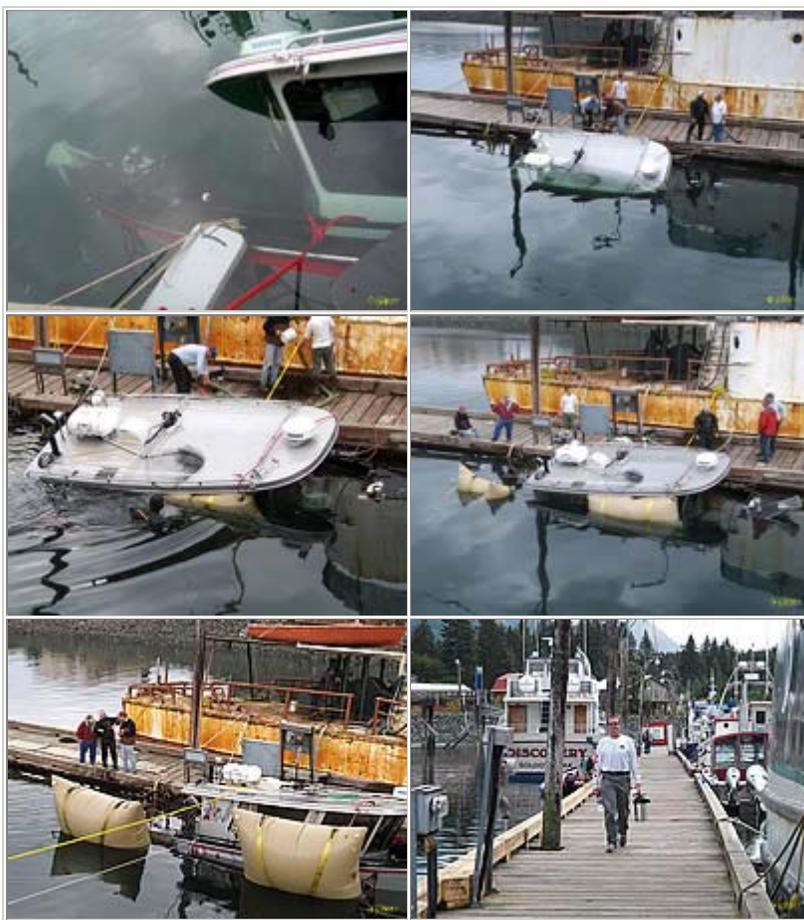
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Aquatics of Homer (the same crew that raised the Dona several years ago) to raise the boat and tow it to Homer. By 3:30 pm Tuesday afternoon, the vessel had been re-floated and was on its way to Homer.

When asked about the situation, Mr. Girton stated "You know, about seven years ago, I got cancer . . . that was serious. Sinking boats aren't nearly as serious." Kind of puts things into perspective doesn't it.



Thanks go to Seldovia's Assistant Harbor Master (Chuck Gillick) and several other locals for helping out. In the last photo above, Tim Cashman of the tour boat Discovery is taking over some coffee for the workers. Thanks to

everyone for their help.

Nurses return to Seldovia after 53 years

by *Rosanna McInnis*

Last week two former Seldovia nurses returned with their family, fifty-three years after their original year-long assignment here in 1952. The husband and wife nurse team, Tom and Vera Miller, were stationed at the Seldovia Hospital under Doctor Robert Dexter. As a young couple living in Denver, Colorado, they applied for the position after reading an announcement in the Anchorage paper. According to Tom, the hospital was very excited about the prospect of a nursing couple; a representative was sent directly to Denver where Tom ran a lab at the time. Upon arrival in Denver, the Hospital representative went directly to Tom's boss and told him about the Hospital's interest in Tom and Vera. Tom recalls that he hadn't even informed his boss at the time about his application for the job.



Vera and Tom drove up the all dirt Al-Can to get to Alaska and in the early fall of 1952 arrived in Seldovia via the mail boat. Tom remembers that upon seeing how isolated Seldovia was he and Vera wondered whether or not they had made a wise decision. Though Seldovia was not a very large town at the time, "the Hospital was fully equipped," Tom said.

It had a lab, x-ray, an Operating Room and Patient's rooms. It was the only equipped hospital in the area. People from Homer, Anchor Point, Port Graham and Nanwalek all traveled to Seldovia for services.

At the time the Hospital was supported by a unique three way partnership between the City, the local 7th Day Adventists, and Native Services who built the facility during World War II. Surgeries were performed at the Hospital and it provided many basic and more complicated services for people all around the area. In particular, Tom remembers performing surgery on Mr. Crawford and that TB was very prevalent during his time in Seldovia. In extreme emergencies Tom said patients were carried out by military air rescue planes. He also remembers that Dr. Dexter traveled once a week to the villages to provide basic care.



The original hospital building still stands in Seldovia today but has been converted into the Willards' residence.

Tom and Vera's assignment lasted for about a year. Vera was pregnant at the time and the Hospital was about to be closed due to lack of funding so they traveled to Maryland where their son was born and gave him the nickname "Pushky." They have not been back to Seldovia since departing in 1953.

Tom, Vera and their family walked around Seldovia and took a look at the old hospital, now the home of the Willard family. Tom remembers the old post office and having talks with Jack and Susan English. He admitted being shocked at how much change has happened since his time here but expressed gratitude for the treatment he received here. "Everyone has been very nice," he said.



In the event anyone knows or would like to communicate with the Millers, their contact information is:

Tom and Vera Miller

e-mail: farmermiller2000@juno.com
 1040 Daniel Drive, Lincoln, CA 95648
 916-645-2749

Historical View of the Seldovia Hospital by Mary Glover

Today, the Seldovia Hospital is the private residence of Gerald and Alberta Willard. It sits on a hill on English Drive, in the “downtown historical Seldovia district.” :) The Seldovia Hospital was built in 1940 by H.L. Olmsted and was managed by the Seventh Day Adventist Church. It then came under the jurisdiction of the Seldovia public utilities board. Later in 1945 when Seldovia became incorporated as a city, the management of the hospital was under the jurisdiction of the Seldovia City Council. Likewise, today Seldovia City Council also has jurisdiction over the Seldovia Multipurpose Building which provides the medical clinic to Seldovia’s medical doctor, Dr. Larry Reynolds, (and part-time dentist, Dr. Gerald Stranik) on the south side of this building. When Dr. Reynolds and his wife Cheryl came to Seldovia in 1972, they lived and worked in the Seldovia Hospital until the construction of the Multipurpose Building.

Timeline of Seldovia Doctors*

Dr. J.J. Jenson – 1918 to 1932

Dr. Kirby 1932 - ?

Dr. Wilson 1940 - ? (Seldovia Hospital built)

Dr. Dexter ? - ? (information obtained from Vera and Tom Miller)

Dr. Melvin Beltz – 1945? – 1947? (was known as the flying doctor whose plane was grounded by two cows)

Dr. Russell Jackson 1957-

Dr. Cary Whitehead 1962-1963

Dr. Larry Reynolds 1974-present

*Springer, Susan W., *Seldovia , Alaska* , Littleton, CO, Blue Willow , Inc., 1998, p. 203-205.

Nancy Anderson blues guitar concert scheduled for Saturday night

by Susan Mumma



Nancy Anderson is a gifted musician who loves sharing a bit of herself through the music that inspires her. Yet to really know and understand Nancy requires time spent with her. Some of us have been blessed to do just that.

Meeting Nancy for the first time is like re-aquainting yourself with a long, lost friend. She has that rare ability to make you feel as if you have known her all your life. It is made all the more possible by her frank honesty and wit which lights your day and makes you smile.

Join us at 8 pm for concert and dessert at the Seldovia Rowing Club. Admission \$10;

reservations requested.

KBL visited by VIPs

by Mary Glover

The Kasitsna Bay Laboratory (KBL) is currently being visited by VIPs and an invitation was extended to several Seldovia representatives to meet the group. In a very relaxed atmosphere we were introduced to the following individuals: Maureen E. Wylie, Chief Financial Officer, NOAA, from Washington, DC; Randolph M. Lyon, Chief Commerce Branch, Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget, from Washington, DC; Jennifer Reynolds, Interim Director, West Coast & Polar Regions Under Fed Research Center (JURP) and Global Undersea Research Unit in School of Fisheries & Ocean Sciences, University of Alaska, Fairbanks; Gordon Thayer, NOAA; and Kris Holderied, NOAA (who is filling the local position that Gordon Thayer is vacating). Representing the City of Seldovia were Kurt Reynertson, City Manager; Mary Glover, President of the Seldovia Chamber of Commerce; and Tom Glover and Mark Massion, City Councilmen. Mayor Dick Wyland was asked to attend but was out-of-town at the Alaska Mayoral Conference in Sitka, Alaska. The Laboratory is currently managed by the University of Alaska Fairbanks through a cooperative agreement with NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) – Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research. We were also joined by Connie Geagel who has been an active part in the management of KBL for many years.



Left to right: Connie Geagel, Mark Massion, Kurt Reynertson, Jennifer Reynolds, Kris Holderied, Randolph M. Lyon, Maureen E. Wylie, Gordon Thayer, Mary Glover

KBL is the most remote scientific research center that NOAA partners with. With recent reconstruction, KBL has tripled the size of the facility and is a showcase operation. Currently there are 11 experiments being conducted under controlled conditions. This facility houses sea water holding tanks and has a state-of-the-art operation. KBL can house over 50 people at a time for research projects and is currently working on a plan with University of Alaska Fairbanks for calendaring events and times. University of Alaska Fairbanks offers an upper graduate level of two formal classes for cold water scientific

diving. Jennifer Reynolds stated that “This program has already proven to be very successful.” There is a dry lab and a wet lab. The dry lab is an analytical avenue while the wet lab is the experimental. We learned today that the partnering of NOAA and KBL and University of Alaska Fairbanks is (in-part) the handiwork of Ray Heizman who put the different partners together. KBL is in its developmental planning stages with the goals of NOAA Research Plan and NOAA Strategic Plan, coupled with the development of education venues from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. KBL also partners in education/scientific research with native associations with regard to fisheries and other concerns. It also is directed towards with the management of the natural ecological resources of Kachemak Bay.

Seldovia is honored to have such a great facility at our back door and thank KBL for being such a “good neighbor.”

Tidbits . . .

Now that's a trophy!



City Manager's Corner

by Kurt Reynertson

Welcome to Mary Anne Agli, who has been hired as the City’s new custodian. As most of know, Mary Anne is also the Assistant Harbor Master, but that position will be coming to a close as the summer season winds down.

There are still two job openings with the City. One is the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer and the other is a Facilities Maintenance/Equipment Operator. Mavis Owens, our current Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, has decided to retire. However, she has indicated she would be available (on a limited basis) for the City until a replacement could be found. Thanks Mavis...for the work you have done and for your willingness to stay with us until a replacement can be found. Additionally, Rance Zeien has decided to leave employment with the City. He submitted his resignation effective the 26th of August. Again, thanks to Rance for all the years of work he has given the City and we all wish him the best in whatever capacity he decides to embark upon. There is more information on both these positions in the City Office and posted on line at the City’s web site.

The City of Seldovia has a new Comprehensive Plan. Copies of the plan will be available on an "on-demand" basis, or can be emailed to you in pdf format. While we do have a new plan, we recognize that the plan is just that.....a plan....and like a budget, it is subject to change and modification. In fact, the first order of business for the Comprehensive Planning Commission is to schedule a round of meetings to update the plan to include some issues the public brought to their attention late in the acceptance process.

The City Council meeting of August 24th will be an important one. Mr. William Walker (our City Attorney) will be here to discuss the pros and cons of establishing a Port Authority. Please come if you want an unbiased point of view concerning Port Authorities. Mr. Walker was instrumental in developing the Alaska Gas Line Port Authority that was established in 1999. He knows what he is talking about when it comes to Port Authorities, both the good and the bad.

Additionally, the August 24th City Council meeting will provide an opportunity for you to hear first hand about the Kachemak Bay Ferry project. Michael Beal (Seldovia Native Association CEO) along with myself and Mr. Kent Miller (Marine Consultant) will be presenting an update as to where the project will be heading in the next couple of months.

Finally, some of you saw or heard about the boat that sank the other day right here in Seldovia Harbor. Thankfully, there was no oil or gas spill or leak at all into our harbor. Quite amazing considering the entire boat was submerged. C&C Salvage from Homer was called by the owner of the boat to come and re-float it. Chuck Gillick (Assistant Harbor Master) was also involved by checking on the boat throughout the night before the salvage crew could come and re-float the boat. He also participated in the re-floating effort. The City provided the necessary pumps. There were also two Seldovians that pitched in and helped with the re-floating effort. One of them represented the Seldovia Volunteer Fire Department, and one of them represented Seldovia in general. Thanks to Mike Driscoll and Jim Schneider for lending a hand.

Seldovia Police Report

July 15 – August 15 by A.W. Anderson, Chief of Police

A Cessna 182, flying from Kodiak to Homer experienced difficulty and had to make an emergency landing but the pilot was unsure of his location. He observed a grass landing strip with an airplane tied down in the grassy area alongside. Homer Flight Service requested assistance from the Police Department and Jakolof Airport was checked. The plane was later located at Dogfish Bay and landed without incident.

The Seldovia Village Tribe reported four bee hives to be dead. Criminal Mischief is suspected and anyone with information is asked to contact the Seldovia Police Department.

A wallet was found and returned to the owner. All items in the wallet were accounted for.

Police investigated the death of Andrew Jones, a 14 year old boy. The cause of death is not readily available and the Police are awaiting autopsy results.

The theft of a black, polar fleece jacket, with a cell phone in the pocket, was reported. The jacket and phone were taken from the area of the fish cleaning table in the harbor.

A strong odor of decaying flesh was reported and investigation resulted in the location of salmon being dumped on the Outside Beach Road. This is an illegal activity and anyone having information is asked to contact the Police Department.

A youngster was bitten by a dog when riding his bicycle. The owner was cited and the dog was quarantined. The dog was deemed vicious and the owner was warned he will be cited each time the dog is found running at large.

Two visiting youths were caught by parents after they took candy and cigarette lighters from a local grocery store. At the request of the parent, Grandparent and the store management the matter was handled informally by the Police. Community service was done by the youths after an agreement was reached by the store management and the parents of the youths.

Numerous shots being fired on two separate occasions were reported by persons on Jakolof Bay Road. Investigation into the allegations resulted in a notice to the suspect regarding "Reckless Endangerment" and other acts that could constitute a criminal offense in this area. The suspect denied any involvement.

A "Hit and Run" accident occurred between the hours of 3:45 and 4:50 a.m., on 8/13/05 while EMT's were at the Lakeside Terrace on a medi-vac. A parked vehicle sustained \$1800 - \$2000 damage when a second vehicle backed into the parked vehicles left side. Tracks indicated the vehicle then pulled ahead and backed around the damaged vehicle and left the area. Anyone having information regarding this accident is encouraged to contact the Police Department.

A report was received of doors left open at a local residence and no one around. The Police responded to find the owner had returned and nothing wrong.

The Police responded to 9 calls for assistance, assisted the EMT's on 2 occasions and notarized 9 documents for the public.

If you have any information regarding illegal activity in, or around, Seldovia you are encouraged to contact the Seldovia Police Department. The citizens of our area, by their involvement, set the tone for what is acceptable and what is not acceptable in our area. We only have one Police Officer who works a 35-hour work week so the Police depend on the public to make them aware of what is taking place. We all share the responsibility of keeping our area a safe environment for our citizens and our youth. Call 911 regarding any emergencies or 234-7640 to report your observations and concerns. If no one is present to take your call, leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Repeats & Notices

► *Comprehensive Plan Public Final Version*

*Dated August 10, 2005 - **NEW!***

▶ *Amended FY05 Seldovia City Budget 7-8-2005 (pdf)*

▶ *Harbor Survey Priority Results (pdf)*



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