

Hawk Highlights

The only newspaper in the world that really cares about Galena, Alaska

Kids raise money for Haiti relief

By **SHERRI KESSNER**
Staff writer

With the help of elementary teacher Kate Thurmond, fifth- and sixth-grade students at Sidney C. Huntington School raised \$841.46 for the American Red Cross, in hopes of helping the people of Port-au-Prince who suffered a massive earthquake with a magnitude of 7.0. The students made posters to let the community of Galena know that they were accepting any amount of money for the Coin Drive, which started a few days after the quake struck.

Mrs. Thurmond said she appreciated whatever anyone donated. "If someone has five cents, hey, we're happy."

In the past, Mrs. Thurmond has organized two other funds, one for Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and for the Indonesian

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Hawk Highlights is the student newspaper for Galena students. The editors are Sherri Kessner and Raven Mustafoski. Staff writers are Julia Cox, Dustyn Gray, Kelsey Hensley, Kaylin Kopp, Dylan Korta, Kristen Kruger, Ernie Peters, and Warren Wilson. The teacher is Paul Apfelbeck.



Sidney C. Huntington School students (from left) Kaitlyn Moos, Sarah Brown, and Kameron Reitan count changes donated from Galena residents for Haitian relief.

Photo courtesy Kate Thurmond

Hawks boys win opener

By **ERNIE PETERS**
Sports Writer

The first two home games for the Galena Hawks boys basketball team couldn't have been any better against the Unalakleet Wolf Pack on Jan 15-16.

At the end of the first game the score was 90-20, sending the Wolf Pack home with some pretty embarrassing news.

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Wayne Holmberg, a junior, goes for the lay up during the game against Unalakleet.



School starts advisor groups

By **KRISTEN KRUGER**
Staff Writer

Both the high school campuses are trying a new way to help students succeed.

Starting January 18, between first and second periods, students went to their first mandatory 15-minute advisory class. The groups meet every two weeks.

The groups, which are located in classrooms at both campuses, are places where students would be able to discuss academic matters with teacher advisors. The teachers are the “the go-to person” for students with questions and concerns about school.

Principal Lisa Shelby of Galena Interior Learning Academy came up with this idea when students at the end of first semester came to her about struggling and being left behind in classes. The students felt like they had no idea how they got so far behind, Mrs. Shelby said.

One of the students said “my school was nothing like this one at all.”

Mrs. Shelby said she researched how other

schools dealt with similar problems and got some new ideas about how to find ways to help the students to get caught up.

Other schools use similar things such as afterschool studying time and depending on guidance counselors. Mrs. Shelby, along with Beth Buchanan, the curriculum director, and Chris Reitan, assistant superintendent, decided that the best way to deal with those problems here was to develop these new groups.

There are nine advisory groups. Each group shares the same grade level. Eight to 12 students will meet in the advisory groups. Teachers for each advisory group will take attendance at every meeting and read weekly school announcements.

The plan is for the students to be able to set better relationships with a teacher, talk about class issues, and discuss events such as the prom, graduation, classes, and anything that the student would want to talk about with their advisor. The purpose of the class is to improve grades, be prepared for college or the next year in high school,

and receive guidance so the student can improve his or her academics when they graduate.

Mr. Shawn Gray, the science teacher at the GILA campus, is one of the eleventh grade advisors. He said the advisor group gives students a chance to “get your bearings on homework and such things like the SAT, and to direct students in right direction.”

High school students return late from break

By **DYLAN KORTA**
Staff Writer

Busy hallways were strangely silent as community students returned from their Christmas holiday, following an administrative decision to extend the Galena Interior Learning Academy students’ break travel times to and from their communities on January 6.

According to the school calendar, Christmas break began on Dec. 19, and students were to return to school on Jan. 6. However, the GILA students did not begin arriving in Galena until Jan. 8 and 9. Community students returned to school on the desig-

Mr. Gray said he will try and answer any questions which students have.

If all goes well, according to school administration, they would either extend the advisory period or set it more frequently. The administration hopes that students will utilize it and not waste this useful time they are given to help them in classes.

nated date, but their first three days of the second semester were spent in a nearly empty school, with sometimes no more than two students in a class. Some classes had no students at all.

Among Galena high school students, 23 of the 160-plus students live in the community. The majority of the students reside in villages across Alaska, attending the boarding school for a better education and for the school’s wide selection of vocational education programs at GILA.

Last spring, during the creation of the school calendar, there was extensive debate as

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Red Ribbon winner speaks out

By SARAH
BUCHANAN
SHS student

Do you think smoking, chewing, or drinking is cool? You might think it makes people like you...it doesn't. Think of your parents, grandparents, coaches and teachers; do you think they'd be proud of you doing drugs, or would they mind? Think again – they'd care. Consider this: What week is it? Red Ribbon Week reminds you to be drug free. Red Ribbon Week

involves knowing that smoking is a bad habit, a nasty addiction, and alcohol being a killer.

Smoking is a bad habit. It ruins your breathing and makes you smell like smoke. People won't want to be around you anymore. Your loved ones could get suspicious. Smoking can give you lung cancer. Smoking can kill you. Smoking is a nasty addiction, but chewing is just as bad.

Chewing rots your teeth. You might like the taste, but others

find the smell disgusting and unappealing. Chewing addiction can lead to mouth cancer. Chewing and cancer mix, but drinking messes you up...bad.

They're all bad, but drinking is probably the worst. It can lead you to do stupid, brainless and idiotic things. Your peers won't be happy when you bust them. After drinking you're probably going to feel alone, ashamed, and regretful. Drinking is something you might do with your friends, and if you say

no, you guys can still be friends. I know people who have been drunk, and I still love them.

Red Ribbon Week reminds you to be healthy, sober, and stay away from drugs. Don't do something you would be ashamed to tell your elders about. Red Ribbon Week also gets you to understand smoking being a terrible habit, being a sick craving, and how awful drinking is. Don't let others convince you into doing something bad. It's your life, not theirs.

Student opinion

How has Pres. Obama done in his first year?



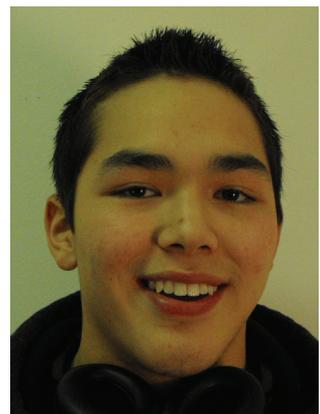
Shadow Fair, senior: "He's been trying-but I haven't seen any results. Its cool that our president is black, but I don't want him to be remembered just for that."



Dayton Christiansen, junior: "Bad. He's sending troops and spending a lot of money when he said he was going to end the war. He said it [the war] was pointless, but he didn't stop it."



Robin Stepetin, junior: "Not good. I don't like how he's taking away all the benefits."



Justin Henry, junior: "I think he should run all eight years."

New coffee shop opens in town

By **KAYLIN KOPP**
Staff writer

Galena sisters Shirley and Erica Cleaver, recently opened a coffee shop out of Shirley's home so community members and students alike can pick up a cup of coffee on their way to work or school in the morning.

Although it's only been open for a few months, *The Coffee Shop* has already gained much popularity in the community. Since the solitary restaurant in town closed, there hasn't been a public family-friendly place to hang out and enjoy good food.

"I'm so excited that there's something like this in Galena [now]!" said Patti Crow, Ptarmigan Hall residential advisor.

She isn't the only one. Other Galena residents have raved about the service and set-up at *The Coffee Shop*. All seem to enjoy getting their cup of fancy coffee every morning, instead of having to wait until they're in Anchorage or Fairbanks.

While serving up a steaming latte, Erica Cleaver said "We've always wanted to start a

coffee shop – just to try it out, and [as] a place for people to hang out." Shirley also said that it's been a dream of hers, and that she loves to cook, so they hope to incorporate more food and meals into their menu in the future.

Several community members have contributed baked goods to *The Coffee Shop's* menu. These bakers include Sandy Scotton, Pam Pitka, and Rocky Thurmond.

Sidney Hunting-

ton School junior Danielle Thurmond has also started working occasionally for the Cleavers, making a large variety of hot and cold drinks in *The Coffee Shop's* cozy little kitchen.

But serving drinks and cinnamon rolls isn't all that Shirley and Erica had in mind. They plan to remodel the inside of *The Coffee Shop*, and put in a larger lounge area, and several counters with computers. They have

even discussed having a WIFI connection, since so many people in Galena now have cell phones.

The Coffee Shop certainly has a bright future in Galena, and I definitely recommend you stop by the little house next to the Early Learning Center for a cup of raspberry hot chocolate – it's delicious! *The Coffee Shop* is open from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on weekdays and has a well-lit sign in the front yard. Enjoy!

High school students sharing campuses

By **KAYLIN KOPP**
Staff Writer

Community students are invited to mingle with students on the GILA campus after school hours beginning January 17.

In previous years, students who did not reside on the GILA campus weren't allowed to just "hang out" on unless they had special permission or were involved in extra-curricular activities. Although this will still partly be in effect, the school and dormitory administration have granted extra freedoms.

GILA principal Lisa Shelby said, "Our

overall goal [is] being one school." While the school is well on it's way to being fully combined, Mrs. Shelby says that they want their students to be able to share not only academics, but other activities as well.

Ben Blasco, Ptarmigan Hall dean of students, agrees. "We've been thinking of doing this for a number of years...[so]activities can be shared between both sets of students," he reasons. Mr. Blasco says that this will give community kids a chance to come into the GILA kids' "living rooms," instead of it just being the other way around.

GILA freshman, Gabby Strange, of Anchorage, said something similar. "It'll be fun for them to get to hang out where we do, instead of us always having to get checked out [to hang out with them.]" Another freshman attending GILA says, "Having city school kids participate in our activities on base will be really cool! It's one more chance to see friends from school and actually be able to talk. We'll get to know more people besides just those who live at GILA."

Coffee in class? Pour me a cup

By **DAVIDA WALKER**
Staff writer

Most people love to start the day with a steaming hot cup of coffee in the mornings.

This year at GILA, some students are lucky enough to get that cup of coffee during their first period.

At least one class offers students coffee during class – with cream, but without white sugar. Students can sweeten the cup with Splenda, an artificial sweetener. The coffee also has to stay within the classroom at all times.

Some of the reasons offered for not having coffee in school focuses on chemicals. Students are not supposed to have coffee because it contains a lot of caffeine.

What about the plus side of coffee? It can keep students alert, and students will not have their heads on the tables in class; however, having too much coffee will give you a huge crash afterwards, too.

Culinary arts teacher Rand Rose-

crans, who teaches food nutrition among other things, said students should be able to drink coffee in moderation – as long as it doesn't interfere with meals and students aren't just using the liquid as a vehicle for sugar.

“Based on the way that I have seen students drink coffee, I am 100% opposed to students drinking coffee in or during school.”

He doesn't like how students just take a lot of white sugar and pour large amounts of it into their coffee.

Mr. Rosecrans' drink of choice is tea. “Live long, ride hard, drink tea!” he said.

Some students just love that java in the morning.

“A cup of coffee is like a cup of magic,” said Julia Cox, a GILA junior. She said that coffee keeps her alert in class.

“I've also learned to love the crisp, strong taste of coffee. So I can do without a load of sugar. I do think that if you do put in a lot of sugar, the chances of a crash are more likely,” she said. “A nice, big, hot, steamy cup o' Joe is the



Journalism student Warren Wilson pours himself a hot cup of java in Mr. Apfelbeck's journalism class.

Staff photo

best way to liven up your day. It's exhilarating!”

According to CoffeeScience.org, six cups of coffee a day is said to have lowered the risk of type two diabetes by 54% in men, and lowered it by 30% in women - that's if you don't drown it with sugar and creamer during those six cups.

Did you know that the expression, “cup of Joe” first appeared during WWII, when “G.I. Joes” were frequent coffee drinkers?

It's also shown that coffee can stop a headache, boost mood, prevent cavities, and even offset damage of smoking and heavy alcohol intake.

Open mic night entertains

By **JULIA COX**
Staff writer

The first Open Mic Night of 2010 was recently held in the GILA music room on January 28, and students enthusiastically took part.

It was almost impossible to block out the mumbles of the anxious audience as musicians and hosts of Open Mic Night were making last-minute preparations before the performances could begin. Finally, Karrie Pavish-Anderson, Ptarmigan Hall arts and music program director, stepped on stage making announcements about coffee for a dollar, free cookies (compliments of Joyce Frisbee, special education teacher, and Rand Rosecrans, culinary arts teacher), the Haiti char-

ity jar, upcoming events such as the Grammy awards party and our very own GILA Grammys.

Then the show began.

Brian Jennings, who almost never fails to perform at an open mic, kicked off the night with two solo vocal and guitar performances.

Next up was GILA freshmen Jessica Jefferies who read a poem written by fellow student Brionna Strange. She also read an original poem.

Michael Ford came up next with a piano vocal performance of "She's Got a Way" by Billie Joel and played his own arrangement of "Winter Wonderland" on the piano.

Ms. Pavish-Anderson welcomed James Williams, a GILA junior, to the stage unafraid to an-



Performers Brian Jennings (left) and Michael Ford at the most recent open mic night.
Photos by Julia Cox



nounce that he was always one of her favorite acts. He read two original poems with undeniable "flow". He also doubled as a comedy act with his natural sense of humor.

James' performance was so impressive that I had to catch him after the show for an exclusive interview.

"Poetry is how I express myself



James Williams (top); visitors Noel Frisbee, aviation teacher, and his wife Joyce Frisbee, special education teacher.
Photos by Julia Cox

through words and it really helps me get all

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*Riff@n*Hook Festival around the corner*

By **JULIA COX**
Staff writer

Riff@n*Hook is right around the corner.

The annual school music festival is scheduled for the week of March 25 – April 4. Riff@n*Hook concludes with musi-

cal performances in the GILA auditorium on the weekend of April 3-4.

Riff@n*Hook is one heck of a music festival. It features guest musicians, a wide variety of music classes, Extreme Face-Off, and lots of live music.

“I started on the schedule,” said Karrie

Pavish Anderson, music teacher at the GILA residence hall and organizer of the festival. “It’s really intense. I only have like a tenth of it done.”

She said that the planning has been “up and down,” but there will be an excellent guest musician, Dr. Jaunelle Celaire, who special-

izes in musical theatre. She also has approved musicians Patti Crow, Ryan Stadt, Ted Roach, Diane Larson, and herself. Student performances are also part of the annual festival. Ms. Pavish-Anderson said she hopes to find a professional accompanist and percussionist to come up as well.

School has diverse music program

By **JULIA COX**
Staff Writer

Karrie Pavish-Anderson the Ptarmigan Hall music and arts program director has successfully put together a plan for our music program this year.

Mrs. Pavish-Anderson and Ted Roach kicked off this semester’s music program with a musician’s Union meeting and asked the members to bring songs they were interested in singing or playing. The point of the meeting was to put together numerous bands based on songs that the members were interested in playing. Considering the music genre and skill level other members pitched in to help out with the song until the song had a

full band. “I don’t know how many songs we have. It’s a million,” said Mrs. Pavish-Anderson, “We just rallied around with songs and that’s what they’re going to rehearse.” Mrs. Pavish-Anderson will have rehearsals for these songs everyday and hopes that any songs that sound good can be performed at Riff@nHook, community dances, prom, and a megaconcert planned by the Musician’s Union at the end of the semester. One thing she thinks has improved is the variety of genres this year - it’s not all heavy metal.

The music program offers a wide variety of music classes scheduled consistently every week including voice, piano, guitar, and drums. Each class has

experienced teachers such as Ted Roach, Ryan Stadt, Karrie Pavish Anderson, and Patti Crow. They also have open music room Loud and Proud, and open music room Acoustic and thanks to all the musically talented staff this year, the music room is open 7 days a week.

Mrs. Pavish-Anderson also hosts an open mic and “Listen Up” every month. At open mic, student’s sign up to perform anything from music to poetry to stand up comedy. Listen Up is a program where student share their favorite songs with each other. Other events have been the Singing Bee, which is based on a TV game show where a song is played and when the song is turned off the

contestant will have to finish the lyrics. There was also a “Toast to Mozart” to celebrate his birthday.

With all of the activities and complex events that happen within the music program it’s amazing that Mrs. Pavish-Anderson can pull it off so well. “I’m really encouraged, we have a lot of teams that really want to learn music. It seems like there’s not enough time in the day to do everything, but this year I’m getting really hardcore on funding,” she said. The music room is desperate for broken gear repairs, more instruments, money to bring artists in, a new piano that actually qualifies and sounds good in a concert, and activity money.

Kavairlook places first at Bush Brawl, third at state tournament

By **WILLIAM TRITT**
Sports writer

Galena wrestler John Kavairlook placed first in the 189-pound class at the Bush Brawl in Kotzebue, then went on to place third at the state tournament.

John was joined at the state tournament, held at Bartlett High School in Anchorage, by Galena Interior Learning Academy senior Francis Katongan. Francis attended the tournament but did not place.

John beat his little brother Josh for the title.

“Our team’s attitude was pretty good,” said Ben Blasco, the head wrestling coach. “We’ve got a really good team, older, more experienced.” There were 17 wrestlers that traveled to the tournament for the Hawks.

John, who is a senior, got the quickest pin in the tournament in 12 seconds.

Greg Cholok, a sophomore, got his first ever win.

“Overall, wrestlers gained a lot of good

experience.” said Mr. Blasco.

The Galena Hawks Wrestling team traveled to Kotzebue for the Bush Brawl on October 23-24. There were 15 teams that attended the event. The team that placed first was North Pole. Other finishers were Bethel, second place; Kotzebue, third place; Nome, fourth place; and Galena, which placed fifth.

John got first in his weight class (189 pounds); Joshua Dewey got second in the same weight class. Francis Katongan, a senior at 171 pounds, placed third.

The participants for our team were:

- Greg Cholok, 10th grade (112 pounds).
- Kimberly Greenway, 12th grade (112 pounds).
- Sophianne Serge, 11th grade (119 pounds).
- Jamie Loon, 9th grade (125 pounds).
- Chasity Kameroff, 10th grade (130 pounds).
- Zoe Niksik, 12th grade (135 pounds).
- Nelson Howarth, 12th grade (145 pounds).
- Gabe Simple, 10th grade (145 pounds).
- Charles Richards, 10th grade (145 pounds).
- Velma Stein, 11th

grade (152 pounds).

- Bruce Otten, 10th grade (152 pounds).
- Thomas Wilson, 12th grade (160 pounds).
- Francis Katongan, 12th grade (171 pounds).
- Joshua Dewey, 9th grade (189 pounds).
- Wendy Kameroff, 9th grade (215 pounds).



John Kavairlook

Cheerleading try shows no rah-rah

By **DUSTYN GRAY**
Staff writer

Galena’s attempt to have cheerleading, lead by cosmetology teacher Jenna Lee, was a horrible disappointment.

It was a great plan that was brought to its knee’s by lack of commitment. But this program could raise from the ashes, if the drive is there from the students.

“I would love to give cheer another try, as long as my effort is matched by the participants,” said Jenna Lee.

Until then, Jenna has found another calling as the director of pep club. This club meets Wednesday after school. They provide motivational posters that are placed in the SHS gym.

Pep club also is present at all home Hawks games, accompanied by an over the top display of school spirit.

As for Jenna Lee and the Hawks Ladies, only time will tell if determination and drive can outweigh the whimsical wants of teenage girls.

JV girls struggle in Huslia tourney

By KRISTEN KRUGER

Staff writer

The Galena Junior Varsity Lady Hawks basketball team struggled in their first games of the year at Jimmy Huntington Tournament in Huslia last month.

Junior Varsity Lady Hawks played their first game of the year against the Huslia Hustlers on January 21. The games continued as the JV girls had a fun four-day weekend playing against the Huslia Hustlers, the Tanana Wolves, and the Nunamiut players from Anaktuvuk Pass two times.

The Hawks played all four games struggling and fighting for the ball, but they lost all four games. The Galena girls had fun, they never gave up and they played until the end of the games and demonstrated good sportsmanship.

The girls did their best and played with a good attitude, but the Hustlers flew right over the Hawks, winning the first game 53-18 on Thursday night in the Jimmy Huntington Gymnasium.

JV coach Carlee Malemute said she was very nervous and it was an exciting and impressive first game. She said that the team improved during

the games and they got better with each game.

Ms. Malemute's plan is to work on though screening and to work on better shots. She says the girls "are good shooters. They have to practice on working together as a team... They've got to remember that there is a team and there all here for each other."

This is Ms. Malemute's first year as a basketball coach and she has been doing a great job at it.

"I liked second quarter of the Huslia game because we did better by stopping a lot more of their balls, we had better defense," said junior varisty Emma Simple.

The lesson from the first JV basketball games of the year was that the girls will just have to practice harder and pick the hustle. There are more chances to win throughout the upcoming season!

Coach Malemute said she is excited for the rest of the season and whatever happens next.

The players traveling to the Huslia tournament were Alyssa Ahngasuk, Alice Madros, Kathrin Huntington, Robin Thurmond, Emma Simple, Magdelyn Lee, Felicia Kayoktuk and Kristen Kruger.

Open microphone offers poems and music

From page 7

my emotions on paper. 'Subliminal Messages' is my favorite poem," said James.

He was also kind enough to share his vorite line form "Subliminal Messages":

You could call us star-crossed, destined to end before the start, but it was straight up burglary the way she stole my heart.

Afterwards, Damen East, a senior, closed up the night with an original rap song.

Open Mic Night has been included in the music program since last year's 2008-2009 school year.

"It's a casual environment, so it's really good for people who are just starting to perform music, or are nervous to perform under a lot of pressure, said Ms. Pavish Anderson, adding that there aren't many live

performance opportunities for students in the dorms and the event is a good chance for everyone to enjoy a really good free live performance where everyone can socialize and drink coffee.

"It's not just the same open gym everyday, it's something different and enjoyable," she said.

The most memorable, outrageous thing Karrie Pavish Anderson said she has seen at Open

Mic Night was Leo and Tim's stand up comedy act. "We've never had any stand up comedy acts that someone actually planned out their topics, and they were saying things that almost crossed the line. They had everybody laughing and raising there eyebrow like, 'I can't believe they just said that'. There was a couple time I had to give them the eyebrows to say, 'Don't go any further'."

Galena girls beat the Eielson Hawks on Jan. 29-30 in the Sidney C. Huntington School gym. The boys beat Eielson Friday but lost on Saturday. Sports writer Ernie Peters will have the details in the next issue of *Hawk Highlights*.



Freshmen Patti Sam put in the winning basket during Saturday's hard-fought contest. **Staff photo**

Girls vs. Eielson - 41-39, 46-42
Boys vs. Eielson - 81-68, 55-70

Korta wins seat

By KRISTEN KRUGER
 Staff writer

The newest Galena City Council member is Jon Korta.

Mr. Korta was elected last October. He ran unopposed and got 102 votes.

The 43-year-old council member was born and raised in Milwaukie, Wisc., and went to high school on Minnesota. He has a family of five including his wife Tonya and three children – Dylan, a ninth grader, Kaleb, a sixth grader, and Kiana, a kindergartner.

“City council is fun to be involved with,” said Mr. Korta. He enjoys the job, and said he visits and talks a lot more with the community of Galena far more than he would have if not joined the council. Mr. Korta is well known as a dog musher who ran in the 2007 and 2008 Iditarod races. Before becoming a city council member, he was involved with the Galena Dog Musher’s Association.

Hawk boys win opener against Unalakleet

Cont. from front page

The Galena Hawks also won the second game on Saturday, 81-43.

The Wolf Pack only had five players because they were either ineligible, injured, or still on vacation, according to the Wolf Pack coach.

Those weren’t the only problems for the team. Extremely cold weather, with temperatures dipping into the negative 40s, prevented the Wolf Pack from arriving in Galena on time. The team landed

in Galena barely an hour before starting time of the game, which was scheduled to start at 6 p.m. The game had to be postponed for almost 30 minutes so the Unalakleet players could get dressed and warm-up.

The community of Galena also honored Lillian Olin at the game. Ms. Olin passed away at the age of 84 on Jan. 13 at her home. Ms. Olin was a regular fan at the Hawk home games. A chair posted with the words “reserved for Lillian Olin” remained empty at the place where

she usually sat at the games. The teams and the fans gave Ms. Olin a moment of silent prayer in her honor before the game started.

The Hawks started off the first game strong right from the get-go, scoring two points only four seconds into game. Brian Settle, a senior, started off scoring the first six points. The Wolf Pack then scored four unanswered points after a 10-0 run in the start of the first quarter, but that was the end of it for them after the Hawks started to use full court

press, causing the Wolf Pack turnover after turnover.

The Galena Hawks did have a killer defense going, a 25-0 run starting the second half, and Unalakleet finally scored when there was 2:16 left in the third quarter - their only points in the entire quarter!

The Hawks kept their hands up high and played excellent defense not allowing the Wolf Pack to score more than 4 points in the whole entire second half!

Student travel time meant a longer break

Cont. from front page
to how long the winter break would be for the 2009-2010 school year.

The Galena residents seemed to favor a 2 week break, which would cause the GILA students to have a significantly shorter vacation.

This is because some students spend up to 2 days traveling to their home villages, and then end

up having to leave 2 days early to get back to school in time. GILA's residential staff recommended a 3-week vacation, allowing the GILA students to enjoy a longer break.

Normally, the school calendar is approved in February, but because of the disagreements, the plans were not finalized until May.

In the end, the school board approved a 2 week break, with an

additional 2 days of in-service to allow teachers to prepare for their classes. That would give students approximately 2 1/2 weeks of vacation.

However, it was Superintendent Jim Smith's responsibility to communicate with Frontier Flying Service to arrange when and how the GILA students would arrive.

Smith and the GILA resi-

dential staff collaborated to set up the travel schedule for the GILA students.

It was decided that although community students would begin classes on Wednesday, the GILA students would arrive on Friday and Saturday, and begin classes the following Monday.

Teachers were advised to continue with their normal lesson plans, and GILA students would be expected to make up any work that they missed.

However, teachers found it difficult and frustrating to teach new concepts to only 3 or 4 students. Also, many students decided not to come to school at all, reasoning that if they were not going to learn anything, there was no point in going to school.

Some parents did not approve of this schedule, and several complained to the administration. Jim Smith took full responsibility for the decision to extend the GILA students break.

Hallways lonely without all the kids

By KAYLIN KOPP
Staff Writer

My footsteps echoed off the long row of gray lockers that lined the empty hallway as I walked to my journalism class. The silence that hung thick in the air should have stifled such small, unnoticeable sounds, but instead seemed to magnify them far beyond the usual. The fountain that played in the Commons became like a roaring waterfall – the vents and fans in the ceiling hummed unbearably loud. Silence itself was an ear-piercing howl of emptiness. A murmuring television set entertained the tiny handful of

students who occupied the school building.

Teachers at Sidney Huntington School and Galena Interior Learning Academy once again threw open classroom doors to begin a new semester, but with less than a quarter of their usual students.

Student residents of GILA's Ptarmigan Hall didn't arrive in Galena until 3 days after school began. This left an average of 1.5 students per class, as there are about 20 classes available to students on B days alone, and only about 30 students who live in Galena.

For some students, it may be nice to

have the teacher all to themselves, but most readily agreed that they hoped it wouldn't be this way next year. There "just isn't anyone to hang out with!" said SHS senior Dillon Pitka. I personally thought that the loneliness simply added to the eerie feeling that something was wrong. Textbooks still sat on the desks, teachers still smiled and joked, computers still flashed their Windows logo – but when the only other living thing to talk to is the plant in the window sill...

Life just wasn't life without you, GILA!!!

Community donates to Haiti relief

Cont. from front page miles away from Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti, causing severe damage to the city and the people who inhabit it. There were twelve aftershocks with magnitudes from 5.0 to 5.9.

Tsunami of 2004. Both of those funds raised from \$300 to \$400 for the victims of the disasters.

“I just feel so bad for those people, they are such a very, very poor country and most of them have nothing,” said Mrs. Thurmond.

Rescuers rushed in to help the people of Port-au-Prince, finding bodies in the rubble and bringing the injured to the Argentina Air Force field mobile hospital, the only medical care that was available. Rescue teams from around the world, including the United States, have arrived in Haiti with food,



Jars like this one were scattered around Galena to collect donations for Haitian relief.

Staff photo

supplies, and medicine raise money to be sent to try and help. Many organizations have been setting up fund drives to

to the International Red Cross to help the people of Haiti.

Hawk Highlights

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