

# PERS Speaks Out

The student newspaper for the Project Education Residential School in Galena, Alaska

Issue 3, volume 3

Nov. 21, 2003

## Huhndorfs retire after 32 years

By **ASHLEY YODER**  
GCS reporter

Max and Bev Huhndorf are retiring after running their store in Galena for more than 30 years.

"It was time for us to change, time for us to retire," said Mr. Huhndorf on Nov. 17.

"We like Galena a lot, we have really enjoyed it and the thirty years we have lived here. There are some wonderful people here and Galena is a great community."

Max Huhndorf grew up in Nulato, Alaska. He moved to Galena in 1971. He and his family built a small store the same year they moved to Galena.

The family started small and have added onto the store twice since its start. By the end of 1987, they had the store you see today.

The family had served this community for 32 years, 1 month and 10 days before the

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## Sweetsir's is the new store name

By **ASHLEY YODER**  
GCS reporter

Huhndorf's store became Sweetsir's on Nov. 19.

The new owners of the store are Russ and Agnes Sweetsir. Ac-

cording to a letter that the Sweetsirs sent to the community recently, they will be reopening the store under the new name and they're inviting the people of the

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Leonard Huntington gets his tuberculosis test on Nov. 18 in the PERS commons area.

Photo by Devyn Walker

## Lost SATs hold up testing date

By **TIFFANI SOUHRADA**  
PERS reporter

The school had to reschedule the SAT test planned for Nov. 1 because they did not arrive to Galena on time.

The test was rescheduled for Nov. 15 at the Galena city school

from noon to 4 p.m. in the math and English rooms. Twenty-seven PERS students and eight Galena City School students were scheduled to take the test.

According to Holly Wells, the city school counselor, the

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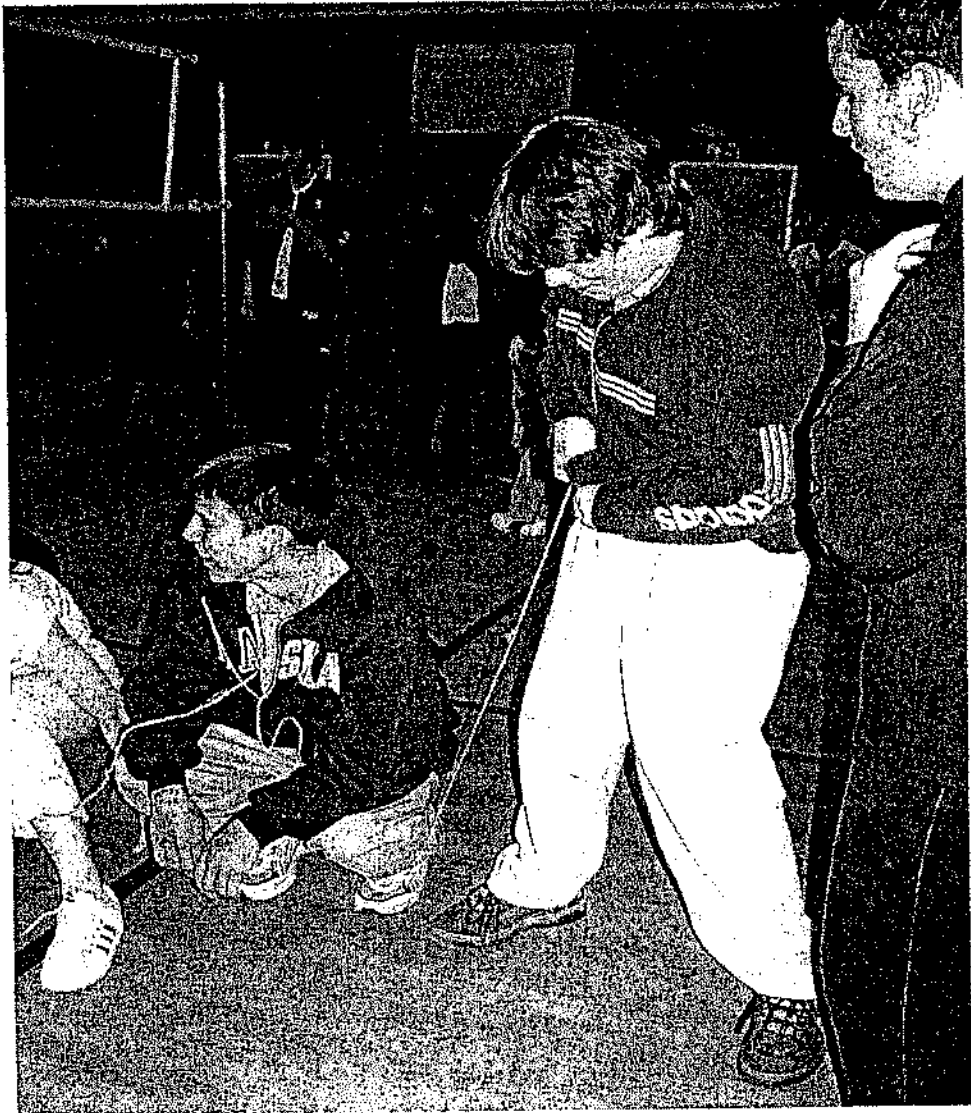
Yeah, these photos of the pep rally were taken a long time ago, but we liked them, so the class decided to put them in this issue.

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# Pep rally

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Photos by Devyn Walker and Mark Young



# New flight instructor at PERS

By MEGAN  
GRAHAM  
PERS reporter

Smokejumper pilot Pat Amundsen is the new aviation instructor at PERS.

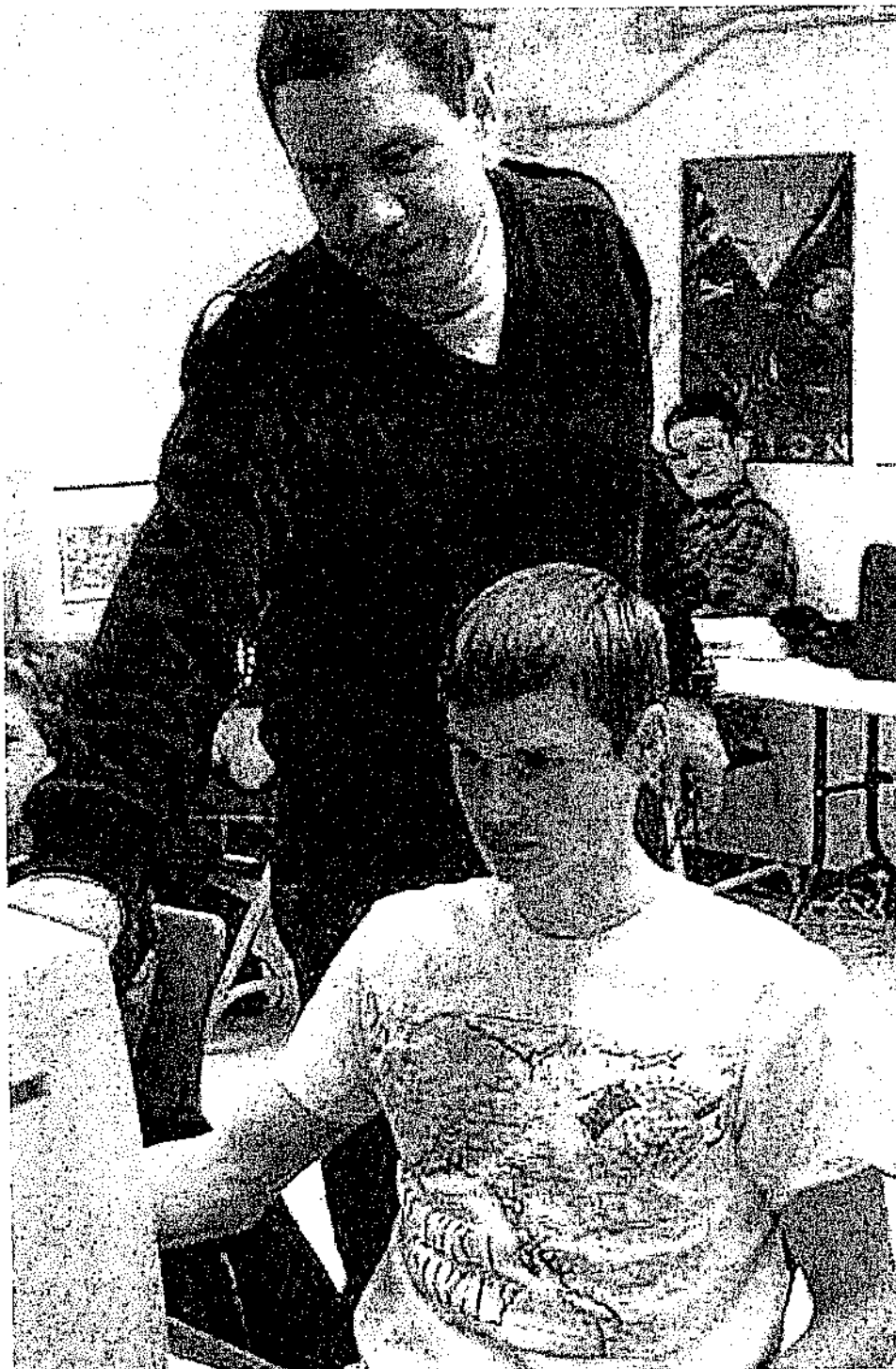
Mr. Amundsen became the aviation instructor earlier this year, taking the place of Russ Miller, who left PERS to be a pilot for Frontier Flying Service. He first heard about Galena teaching job from piloting smokejumpers during fire season. Mr. Miller told him about the job opening in mid September.

So far he likes teaching the aviation classes, and also likes Galena, because it is a small, quiet community.

He learned to fly in St. George, Utah, and has now been involved in aviation for 21 years. He has been an instructor for 12 years. His ratings are private, instrument, commercial, multi-engine, instructor, and instrument instructor.

When asked what he liked to do in his off time, he said, "I like to travel, and see my kids."

Mr. Amundsen,



Mr. Amundsen teaching one of the visiting IDEA students in the aviation building earlier this month.

Photo by Devyn Walker

39, grew up in southern Nevada and southern Utah. He is the father of

five kids who live in Payson, Utah: Joseph, 14; Marsell, 13; Mariner,

10; Felicia, 8; and Teyha, 4.

# Students of the month

By TIFFANY WOODS  
PERS reporter

Meghann McTaggart , a sophomore, and Ben Pedersen, a senior, are students of the month for October at PERS.

One boy and one girl are chosen every month. To be student of the month, you have to do something special. You need to make good grades in school and if all you do is get good grades, then don't plan on being student of the month.

If you see trash on the floor and nobody picks it up and you are seen picking it up by a staff member, you will be recognized.

"Meghann was chosen because she goes above and beyond what she is supposed to. Meghann gets other students involved in activities and is always respectful to other students and staff," said PERS principal Harry



Ben Pedersen

White.

"Ben was chosen because he has a great attitude in all his classes, flew a plane by himself for the first time this year and the student of the school voted him for the student government president."

The prize given away for students of the month was a calling card and yearbook. There will



Meghann McTaggart

also be a student of the year. To qualify as student of the year you have to be student of the month at least once in the school year. The name of each student of the month will go into a hat, and at the end of the year, a name will be pulled out and that will be the student of the year.

Photos by Tiffany Woods

## ***Veteran's Day presentation to students***

Cosmetology instructor Gar Wong spoke to the students during the morning assembly on Nov. 11 about the history and importance of Veteran's Day. Mr. Wong is a veteran of the Vietnam War.



Photo by Devyn Walker

# Suicide prevention group begins meetings

By RUSSELL ALLEN  
PERS reporter

A new program has burst into existence. Teens from Galena, Alaska, have gotten together to talk about suicide and what they can do to prevent it.

Several students from the city school and five from PERS meet weekly to plan and talk about preventing suicide.

The kids have joined with Mental Health to create a suicide prevention program for adults and kids.

The group is trying to figure out why sui-

cide is such a big problem, what they can do to prevent suicide, what are signs that a person is going to commit suicide, and why they might attempt to do it.

"The kids lead the program and figure stuff out. I'm just here to help them out," says program advisor Lora Hughes, the health and science teacher at PERS.

The group plans to hold a convention late January or early February. "We plan to have a dance and invite kids from other villages to come and talk face-to-face with our kids about suicide," said Mrs. Hughes.

## Students attend AFN convention

By MARK YOUNG  
PERS reporter

PERS students who went to the Alaska Federation of Natives conference in October said they enjoyed seeing friends and meeting new people.

The Alaska Federation of Natives conference was in Anchorage. This year's theme was education and cultural self-education.

Junior Devyn Walker from Holy Cross said, "It's a trip I go to to meet with friends, see different cultures, and benefit some information."

Most people

that went attended a couple of activities and visited friends. However, a couple of them just had fun.

Derek Wilson, a junior from Takotna, said he did "practically nothing, walked around, looked for friends. I went to one of the dances. And I partied."

Most people who were interviewed thought the best part of AFN was the people.

Caitlin Lekanof thought the best part was "seeing everybody I know." She also said, "I find it interesting."

Derek added that the best part was, "Meeting a girl there."

Rochelle McCord, a senior from Anchorage, said, "I went to a couple of meetings and visited people I haven't seen in a long time."



**Megan and brother**

Megan Graham's brother Casey, 12, from McGrath, came to Galena during the junior high basketball tournament last month.

# New counselor enjoys PERS

By TRICIA KRISKA  
PERS reporter

The new counselor at PERS is Sheryle Shepard.

Sheryle grew up mainly in Arizona. She went to school at Rincon High School. She lived in the desert, and it was hot. She has no siblings. She went to college at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

Sheryle has two sons named Ted and Matthew. Ted lives in North Carolina and Matthew lives in Tucson. She also has three grandchildren who are 2 to 5 years old, and a puppy named Whisper.

Sheryle's last job was as a counselor in the



PERS counselor Sheryle Shepard in her office.

Photo by Devyn Walker

Lower Yukon School District, and she worked there for five years. She has also been a seventh-

grade teacher, a telephone operator, and a waitress.

She said that she

is very happy that she moved to Galena and she works at PERS.

## Seniors choose speakers

The graduating class of 2004 voted "Blazing into the Future" as their theme.

Seniors from both PERS and Galena City School voted late last month at the City School.

Students also voted on the colors and the speakers.

The group voted for state Sen. Georgianna Lincoln also

to speak at the graduation.

In case Sen. Lincoln cannot to speak at graduation, then author Kirkpatrick Hill and Alaska Gov. Frank Murkowski will be asked to be speakers.

Hill was a teacher in Galena and Ruby for many years and is an award-winning author.

They also asked

for former counselor Jody Brown to talk with the seniors at the graduation.

The colors that were voted for are blue and gold.

Paul Apfelbeck and Patricia Erickson are the senior advisors for PERS.

Trisha Esmailka is the senior advisor for City School.

### *More pickup lines*

Do you have a map? I just keep on getting lost in your eyes.

Be unique and different, say yes.

You make me so nervous and flustered, I've completely forgotten my standard pick-up line.

# Honor roll for the first term

<b>High honors</b>	3.56 Samantha Sooalo	3.33 Leonard Huntington	3.21 Derek Wilson
4.00 Caitlin Lekanof	3.57 Ron Kruger	3.32 Wes Demientieff	3.17 Angelina Askoak
4.00 Meghann McTaggart	<b>Honor roll --</b>	3.32 Steven Grundberg	3.16 Lavern Arkell-Noble
4.00 D.J. Richardson	<b>3.49 to 3.0</b>	3.31 Terry Bower	3.16 Steven Kashevarof
<b>Honor roll --</b>	3.50 Wendy Jones	3.31 Francis Captain Jr.	3.16 Chase Pritchard
<b>3.99 to 3.5</b>	3.45 Rochelle McCord	3.31 Scot Demientieff	3.13 Ana Alexie
3.97 Siana Tall	3.44 Andrea Grundberg	3.31 Chrissie Sallaffie	3.13 Shaylynn Tomaganuk
3.97 Tiffany Woods	3.41 Stephanie Coyle	3.28 Alan Lonewolf	3.09 Mathias Jones
3.96 Keira Abrams	3.38 Jolene Jones	3.28 Jeremiah Stepetin	3.09 Cheryl Neglaska
3.96 Shauna Coyle	3.35 Corrine Lekanof	3.25 Pina Sheldon	3.05 Heather Tomaganuk
3.96 Tiffani Souhrada			3.03 Jarraine Tickett
3.94 Lena Hensley			3.00 Brittany Silas
3.93 Janice Arkell			
3.92 Eliza Coyle			
3.91 Sarah Reagin			
3.89 Olivia Agnes			
3.88 James Gilila			
3.88 Vaughn Kozevnikoff			
3.88 Tia Snowball			
3.81 Mark Young			
3.84 Renee Avugiak			
3.83 Anthony Hensley			
3.81 Brandon Walker			
3.78 Jofina Avugiak			
3.78 Devyn Walker			
3.78 Dorothy Walker			
3.75 Daniella Vasquez			
3.72 Candace Kruger			
3.71 Jessie Riddle			
3.63 Megan Graham			
3.63 Hertha Kashevarof			

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## Up Your Stars

*By Buddy the Lifeguard*

**Aries** - You will unexpectedly have to travel somewhere you don't want to but the outcome will be worth it.

**Taurus** - You will get a letter in the mail from someone far away.

**Gemini** - If you work hard then the hard work will pay off.

**Cancer** - You will get a important phone call soon.

**Leo** - You have been having a lot of fun lately, buckle down and get to work.

**Virgo** - You have work to do, stop procrastinating.

**Libra** - If you like someone let them know before it is to late.

**Scorpio** - You will get a visit from someone you haven't seen in a while.

**Sagittarius** - If you

can't find anything to do this month, take some time to help out an elder.

**Capricorn** - Someone likes you, don't let your ego get in the way of seeing it.

**Aquarius** - You are not doing so well in school, don't be afraid to ask for help.

**Pisces** - Get rid of that bad attitude you have and have some fun.

# SAT booklets get lost, hold up test

Continued from the front page

problem was that the tests were stuck in Fairbanks because of a very bad ice storm and the test booklets didn't arrive in Galena until Nov. 3.

The test booklets have been returned to the SAT office in New Jersey. A new batch of test booklets were shipped on November 5.

Most of the students taking the SATs are

seniors. Juniors are advised to take it before their senior year, it gives them a chance to see how they do on the test and also they learn that there are colleges and universities that are ready to give them scholarships after graduation.

Three city school juniors took the test last year and were surprised to learn that they had scholarships waiting for them after graduation-if they choose to attend those universities, Wells said.

## Huhndorfs retire

Continued from the front page

Huhndorf's final day on Saturday, Nov. 15. The new owners are Russ and Agnes Sweetsir, who are changing the name of the store to Sweetsir's.

Mr. Huhndorf said that he and his family have put their life into this store.

The couple plan to retire in Anchorage.

Has the town changed?

"Yes, considerably, like the rest of the country, there were no computers when we came here," said Mr. Huhndorf. Have the youth and people changed in Galena?

"Yes, some. Generations change, the people change, as the world changes. The education is much better than when we first came to Galena."

## Sweetsir's are new owners of store

Continued from the front page

community to come and check out the store.

There will be sales and drawings after the reopening and a section of the store will be changed into a hardware store.

According to the letter, there will also be a community gathering to celebrate the retirement of the couple.

The 2003-04 yearbook will be dedicated to Huhndorfs, said yearbook advisor Paul Apfelbeck, the language arts teacher at PERS.



Rosie Kruger studies during the afterschool program at PERS.

Photo by Devyn Walker

## Afterschool rules change

By RUSSELL ALLEN  
PERS reporter

As of now, students are not allowed the use of headphones or hats in the After School Program.

After School is a program for the students of Galena to have an extended period of time with a certified teacher for improvement and help with homework. Students are required to attend After School if they have not yet mastered the content given to them by their instructor.

"All people learn at different rates," said PERS principal Harry White. "We just provide more time for those who need it."

"A few weeks ago students attending were not getting their work done," said Mr. White. "I had to ask myself why."

Students attending after school were hanging out listening to their music and wearing hats. This brought on the need for change, said Mr. White.

"All school rules are designed for educational purposes."