



Lady Hawks win first Valentine's Tourney!

Photos from the tournament on pages 6 and 7

PERS Speaks Out

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

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PERS Speaks Out is a student-run and student-produced publication of the mass media class. Staff writers are Sarah Reagin, DJ Richardson, Devyn Walker, Brandon Walker, and May Henry. The editor-in-chief is Janice Arkell; the news editor is Tiffany Woods. Our photographer is Pina Sheldon. The mass media teacher is Paul Apfelbeck.

Nuclear power: coming soon to a village near you?

By DJ Richardson
PERS staff writer

Most students at PERS know little or nothing about the small-sized nuclear power plant that may be built five years from now near their school.

Out of ten or so students, most knew trifling details while the rest didn't know a thing.

One of the typical responses came from sophomore William Dozette, "I didn't hear anything about a nuclear power plant."

The city of Galena is considering establishing a small experimental nuclear reactor to cut costs of electricity. The reactor is sometimes called a "nuclear

battery."

Toshiba America, Inc., has agreed to use the community as a test site for a ten megawatt generator.

Senior Janice Arkell said, "I know they want to put one here, and it will decrease payments on electricity, but that's about it."

The only PERS teacher to weave this current event into his curriculum is Mr. Shayne Hughes, who teaches biological and physical sciences. He plans on introducing a unit on "How to Make Electricity," which will allow him to incorporate the nuclear power plant into his teaching.

"For five-cents a kilo-watt hour, it should

be built. It will save the people of Galena thousands. I could also see this benefiting Galena's economy by providing up to thirty jobs," said Mr. Hughes.

Although Hughes is the only PERS teacher to incorporate the nuclear power plant into his curriculum, another teacher is actively involved in this event: Rand Rosecrans, the culinary arts teacher and also a city council member. Mr. Rosecrans has already voted in favor of further study for the project at the city council meetings last year.

Galena pays three times the national

Cont. on back page

Student gov't = good grades

By **Brandon Walker**
PERS staff writer

Those students in student council need to have a good GPA to maintain status in government, said principal Harry White.

The idea first appeared in an ordinary informal meeting in the principal's office amongst

teachers.

Mr. White says the benefit of the change is "members [of the student council] will have something more to work for, to have dedication for education in leading our school."

Mr. White has worked in numerous schools where student council membership was

First semester perfect attendance	
Craig Aloysius	Pina Sheldon
Wesley Cruikshank	Samantha Soalo
Jenna Fallon	Siana Tall
Adam Greene	Daniella Vasquez
Sarah Reagin	Devyn Walker
Donald Richardson	Dorothy Walker
Jubal Richey	Sean Wolf
Chrissie Sallaffie	Tiffany Woods
	Mark Young

linked to GPA. Out of the five schools, PERS was the only exception.

One in particular required a weekly eligibility to determine voting privileges. If the proposal goes as planned, our prin-

icipal thinks the students should vote on where this will go.

Mr. White thinks the appropriate GPA required for student council status was a 3.0 minimum.

IDEA students arrive

Eight homeschooled students from all over Alaska come to Galena

By **May Henry**
PERS staff writer

The Interior Distance Education of Alaska (IDEA) students arrived here at PERS on February 7 about 9:30 am. There are eight students—six girls and two boys.

The IDEA program is for homeschooled students who use the Galena School District for classes, books and materials. There are about 3,400 students in the IDEA program.

"We are offering vocational classes

for them," said Harry White, principal at PERS. "They don't have the opportunities to attend classes that PERS has, such as cosmetology, aviation and automotive."

There are three IDEA students in cosmetology, three in culinary arts, one in aviation, and one in automotive.

The students will stay at PERS for 20 school days, or about one month.

Amy and Sarah Matheson are 16-year old twins from Palmer.

Amy said the



Heather Blake of Fairbanks (left) and Audrina Olson of Wasilla.
Photo by Pina Sheldon

community is smaller than she expected. "I expected it (the school) to be bigger," said the sophomore.

When asked if she'd consider coming here full time Amy replied, "I don't know about that. It seems like it would be cool."

Sarah said the school was bigger than she expected although the community seemed small. She probably won't be returning next year though. "I wouldn't want to stay here all year," she said.

The experiment worked!

Study hall time changes have become permanent

By DJ Richardson
Staff writer

The study hall experiment has worked so well it has now become permanent.

The main study hall used to be from 5:45 PM – 6:45 PM in the dorms, but it was changed to 3:50 PM – 4:50 PM in the school.

The change started with a petition from three students: Jubal Richey, Scott Cruikshank, and Joshua Hodges. They

got a majority of students to agree and sign for the modification.

The reason they wanted the change for study hour was to have more free time in the evenings.

Sophomore Rosie Kruger said, "The new study hall is much better for the students because it gives them more free time for what they need to do."

Only the students that are on the after school list have to attend both after school

and study hall.

Level three students, since they are on a higher level of citizenship, do not have to participate in any study sessions, but they do have to remain off the after school list.

If level three students get on the after school list three times they lose their level three citizenship.

An after school list is printed every Monday though Thursday with all the students that are currently receiv-

ing D's or lower in any class.

Sophomore Marissa McCarty said, "It is better than the last study hall hours because I can focus more on my work."

The previous study hall was not as effective at the dorms as it is at the school.

Studying in the dorms involved students sleeping on their beds and not focusing on school work.

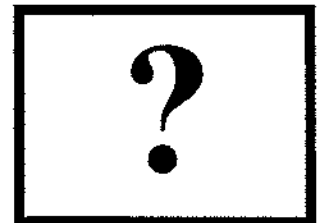
Mystery student of the month by the enigmatic Devyn Walker

What's your hair color? Brown
What's your eye color? Brown
Where is your hometown? Ruby
Sibling status? 3 bros, 2 sisters
Are you social? A bit
Favorite food? Moose head soup or BBQ beef
Favorite drink? Diet Pepsi
Favorite TV show? Mi-

ami CSI/ER
Favorite thing to do? Riding either in a boat or on snowmachine
Favorite clothing brand? Levis
Who is your childhood hero? Mighty Mouse or Tweety bird
What's your favorite movie? Out of Africa
Where is your favorite place to travel? Maui
What color socks do

you normally wear? It depends on what I wear
What kind of shampoo do you use? Pantene w/ a flare!

What is your worst fear? Flying and not seeing the ground
What is your dream vehicle? Ford plus w/ working radio and tape player
What comes to mind when you hear the color red? Wow!
What kind of people are you attracted to? A



mixture of mountain, city, village people.
What kind of friends do you have? Friendly and goofy ones.

Congratulations to last issue's winner Daniella Vasquez for guessing mystery person Johnny Stickman. She won a 6-pack of Sunkist orange soda. The first person to correctly guess this issue's mystery person needs to report the name to Mr. Apfelbeck; the first correct response wins. The winner gets a 6-pack of pop of his or her choice.

PEP RALLY

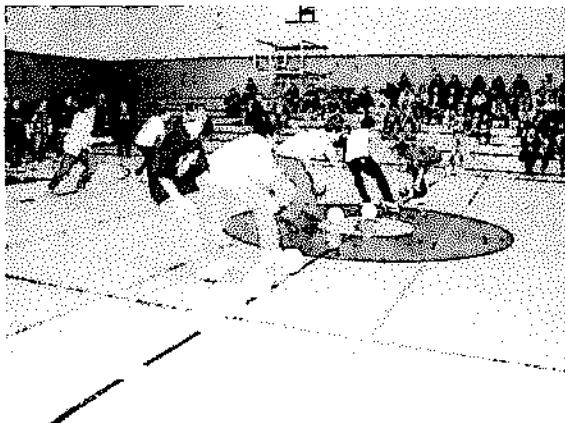
Student government put together a pep rally Wednesday at 7 p.m for the Valentine's Tournament starting at 10 a.m Thursday. Some of the games the audience participated in were chubby bunny and dodgeball.



Above: Galena Basketball players help get the crowd riled up.



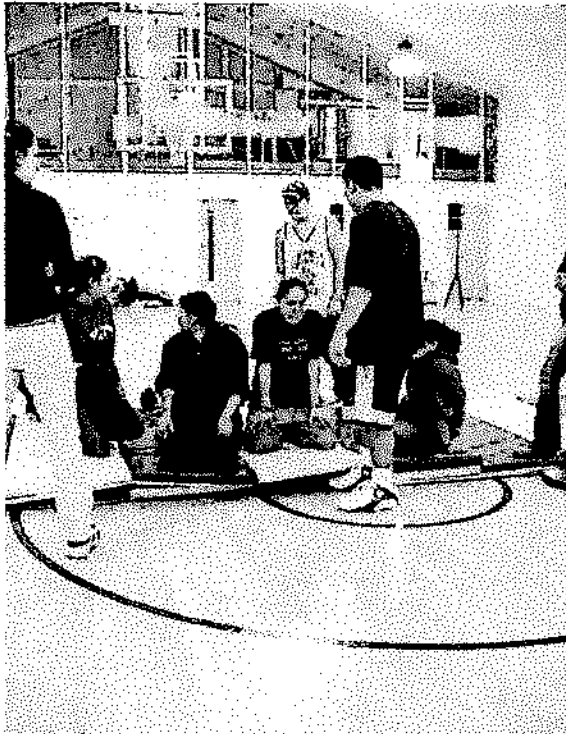
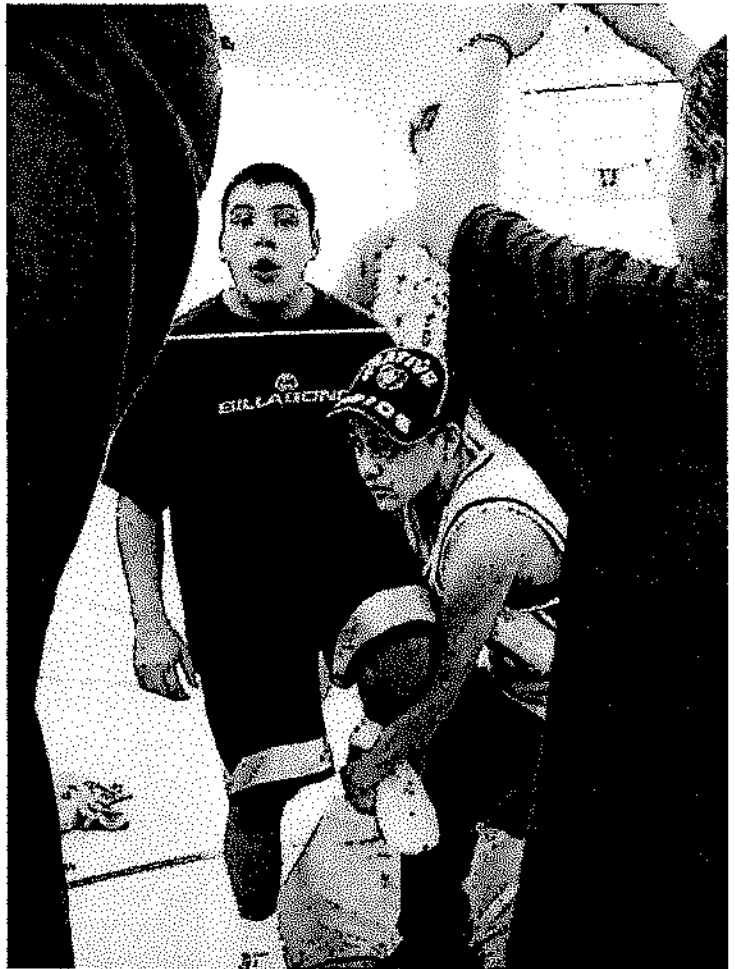
Left: John Huntington from Galena high school watches the game along with social studies teacher Beth Buchanan and her son Evan.



Right: Students from the audience playing chubby bunny. Above: Boys vs. girls in a dodgeball game



C a s t O u t!



There was recently a three-day activity called *Cast Out* for students who wanted to participate. It was a mix of *Survivor* and *Fear Factor*. The survivor was Sean Wolf, who won a plane ticket to Fairbanks.



Lady Hawks win tourney for first time!

By May Henry
PERS staff writer

The Lady Hawks dominated the Valentine's Tournament, taking first place against the McGrath Lady Knights and winning the tournament for the first time.

The three all-tourneys for Galena's team were junior May Henry, senior Janice Arkell, and junior Jennal Burgett.

The all-tourneys for the Galena boys were Roberto Burgess and Matt Thurmond.

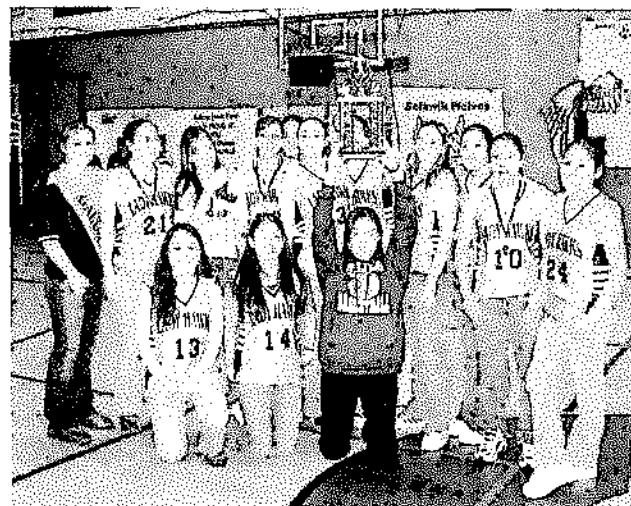
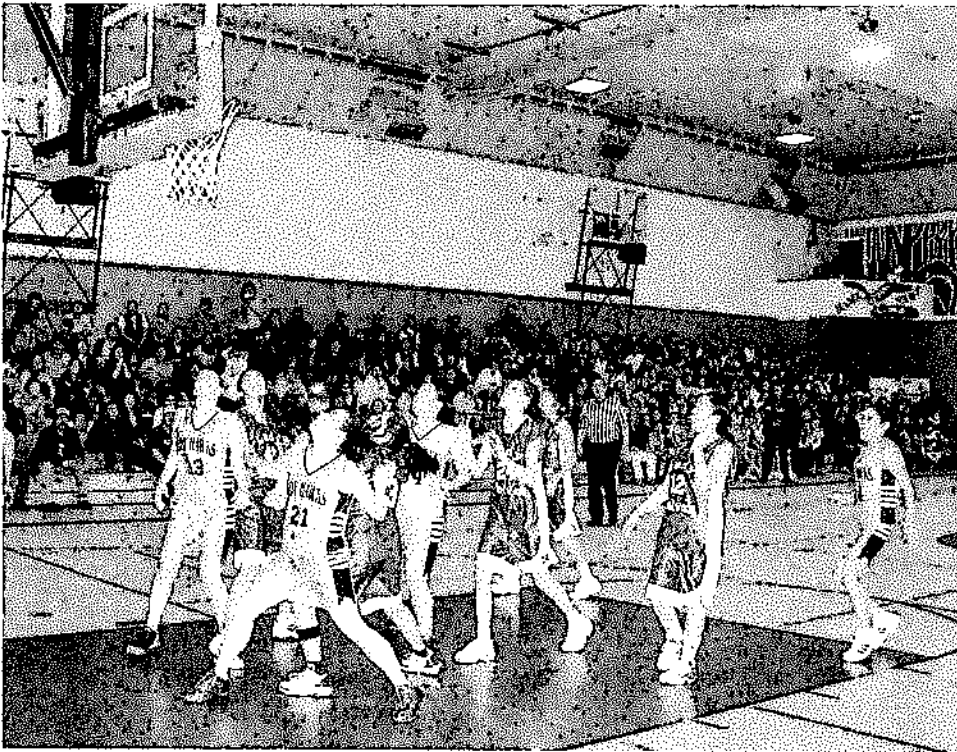
Galena's boys came in second against boys tournament winner Unalakleet with a score of 61-76.

February 10 was the beginning of the Valentine's Tournament. The girls played Nulato, the number one ranked team for 1A girl's basketball.

Galena won with a score of 60-30. The player of the game was Jennal Burgett.

Galena boys played Nulato and got their victory with a score of 83-48. The player of the game was freshman Roberto Burgess.

On the second day of the tournament



Boys take second place honors

the Galena girls played Selawik. Galena won 66-45. The player of the game was Janice Arkell.

The boys played Selawik on Feb. 11 and won with a score of 56-53. The player of the game was Matt Thurmond.

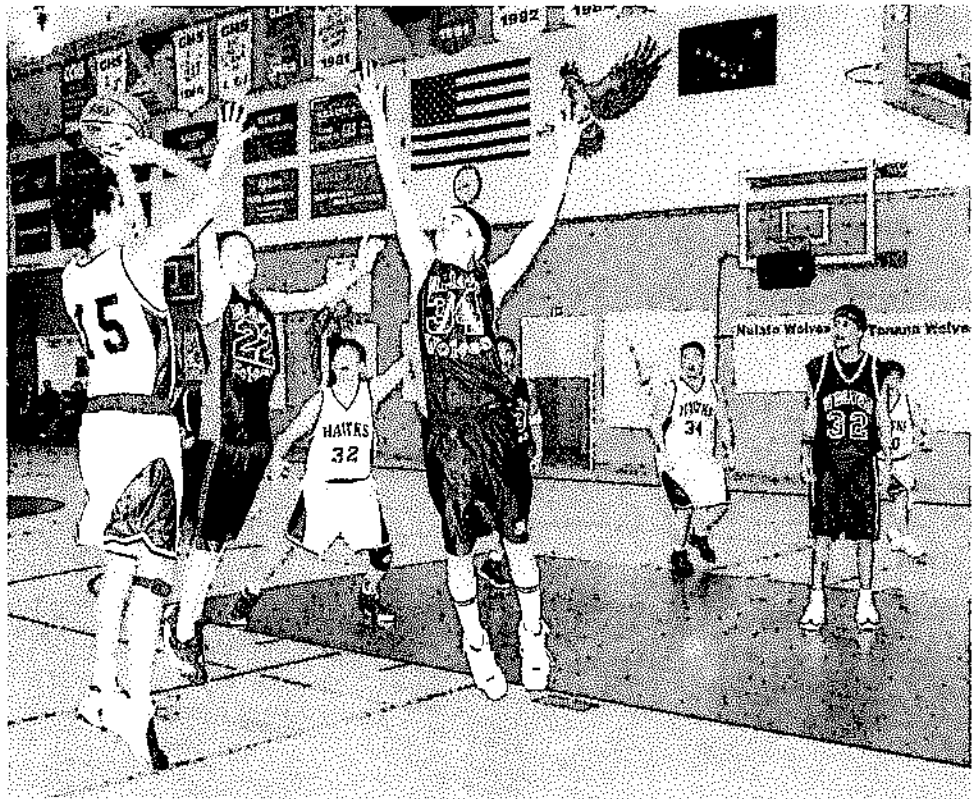
On February 12, the girls played the McGrath Knights, the team currently ranked number one in 1A girls basketball.

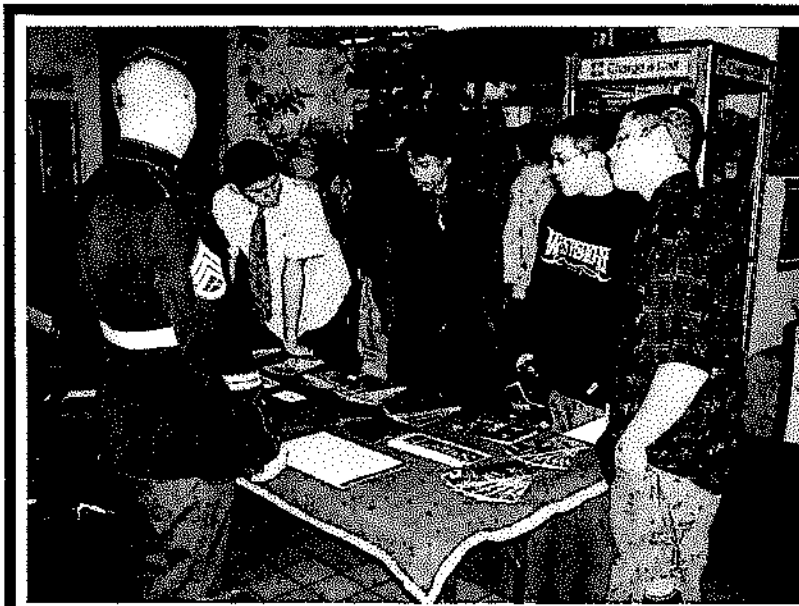
During the first half, the Lady Hawks weren't playing their best game. The half ended 28-23, with McGrath in the lead.

Keeping in mind the Galena girls have never won the Valentine's Tournament, the girls stepped it up and captured the first place trophy with the final score 52-35.

The boys played Unalakleet, the third-ranked team for the boy's 2A basketball.

The Unalakleet boys played one of their best games and beat Galena with the score 76-61, a Unalakleet win.





Career day sparks curiosity

Students had the chance to check out dozens of different career choices during Career Day at PERS. Students from other schools that came to Galena during the Valentine's Tournament also participated in the workshops and presentations.

Left to right: Cory Madros, Francis Captain, Chaz Sims and Craig Aloysius gather around the Marine booth.

Nuclear reaction: many students unaware

Cont. from front page

average for electricity, according to a *New York Times* article published February 3.

Toshiba is looking to reduce the cost by building an experimental nuclear reactor at no cost to the city of Galena.

The entire cost of building the reactor is \$3.5 million, but Toshiba will provide it for free.

The technology itself is not experimental, but building it in the Alaskan permafrost is.

There are nuclear power plants in 31 states in the United States, but none in Alaska, according to the Nuclear Energy Institute's website.

Mr. Rosecrans said some people of Galena may be skeptical about the nuclear power

plant, fearing the plant will blow up or leak, both of these scenarios highly unlikely, he said. Even if it did leak, the power plant will be sealed with metal and concrete.

The United States has just over one hundred nuclear power plants.

There are over 400 nuclear power plants in the world, according to the Nuclear Energy Institute's website.

Mr. Hughes said there is a popular misconception with nuclear energy.

When people hear the word nuclear, they think bomb or cancer, he said.

They just need to understand that nuclear energy is a viable source of energy if used safely, he said.

Nuclear energy is perceived dangerous by many, when it is actually safe and cheap, he said. If it is too expensive to replace, he wonders if Galena can get the nuclear power free for thirty years and not replace the reactor.

Mr. Hughes also said Galena uses diesel as its source of power, which is not good for the environment.

Power plants burn diesel, so the fumes go into the air and end up back into the land and water, he said. The nuclear power plant would lower pollution, as it emits no harmful substances.

Although Toshiba is building the reactor for free, Galena will have to pay maintenance costs.

According to the

Louden Tribal Council *Environmental Newsletter*, it will cost \$20 to \$30 million or more in thirty years to replace the nuclear reactor.

In thirty years, the total cost of diesel in the community of Galena will be approximately double that amount, according to Mr. Rosecrans.

Mr. Rosecrans said Toshiba chose Galena because of its location.

If Toshiba can build a reactor in Galena, they can build one anywhere since Galena has such a harsh climate during the winter, he said.

If this nuclear power plant works successfully, they can build many more in harsh climatic conditions.