



Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year!!



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Hawk Highlights

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

Student pilots aim for the sky

Three Galena students make first solo flights this semester

By **KAYLIN KOPP**
Editor

Three Galena Interior Learning Academy aviation flight school students embarked on their first solo flights this fall. The students were senior Jeremiah "Miah" Stewart, 17, junior Elijah Jensen, 16, and myself.

"Solo" is defined as "that flight time during which a student pilot is the sole occupant of the aircraft," according to the Federal Aviation Regulations. GILA flight instructor Josh Kaufield

said that before sending his students solo, he ensures that they "know how to operate the airplane safely and in accordance with the correct procedures, as well as consistently demonstrate good judgment and decision making."

Mr. Kaufield signed Miah off to solo on September 27, Elijah on October 1, and myself on October 17. We all flew the school's Cessna 172 Skyhawk.

Mr. Kaufield has his students perform a certain procedure on their



Student pilot Elijah Jensen proudly stands in front of the aviation program's Cessna following his successful solo flight this fall.

Photo courtesy Mr. Kaufield

first solo. After taking minimum of 3 times, and off, the student remains performs one "go-around," in the traffic pattern, flies or aborted landing. Mr. a rectangular pattern around the airport, lands a

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Galena hoop star signs on with UAA

By **KAYLIN KOPP**, editor, and **CARL ROSE**, assistant editor

Galena high school senior Jenna Buchanan signed a letter of intent with University of Alaska Anchorage's women's basketball team on Nov.

13 as the community watched in the Sidney C. Huntington School gym.

Jenna, 17, is the first Galena Lady Hawks basketball player to sign a letter of intent with a nationally-ranked college basketball program. The 5-foot 7-1/2-inch guard had been courted by several other schools, but the UAA coach called Jenna personally to ask her to play for the Seawolves, said Beth Buchanan, who serves as both the Galena



Watching Jenna sign her letter of intent are, from left: Cecilia Evans, grandmother; George Evans, grandfather; Evan Buchanan, 14, brother; Jenna, seated; Patti Sam, friend of the family, standing; Alley Antonsen, 7, Jenna's cousin; Sarah Buchanan, 14, sister; Jon Buchanan, father; and Beth Buchanan, mother.

Photo by Mr. A

This article was published in the *Anchorage Daily News* the day after the event. We're proud of the professional efforts of our students.

Mr. Apfelbeck

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Acclaimed musician teaches, performs in Galena

Stephen Blanchett of Pumyua delights students, community



Mr. Blanchett participates in a traditional Yup'ik dance along with GILA students Cami Inga (left) and Catherine Alexie during the farewell potlatch at the Sidney C. Huntington School library on Dec. 1.



Storytelling and musicmaking filled Mr. A's language arts fundamentals class as Mr. Blanchett shared the story of the blackfish and the blackfish trap to the students. He taught in more than a dozen classrooms at both the GILA and SHS campuses.

Many thanks to GILA counselor Melissa Robbins for working hard to get this artist to visit our schools and teach students here in Galena

By **LYNNETTE STRICKLAND**
Staff writer

Stephen Blanchett, vocalist for the band *Pumyua*, spent a week in Galena schools working with students and teaching native dancing, musical skills and cultural appreciation.

On Dec. 1 there was a potlatch and a dance performance at the SHS library for the elders and the rest of the community.

Mr. Blanchett has visited four other schools this year - three Anchorage schools and Northway.

He was asked to come to visit Galena after an invitation from GILA counselor Melissa Robbins.

While Mr. Blanchett was in Galena,

he spent the week teaching lessons on music, storytelling, and Native culture in many classrooms at the GILA and Sidney C. Huntington School campuses. Mr. Blanchett used to be a history teacher before he became an artist.

He said that he especially enjoyed sitting and talking to Galena elder Sidney Huntington and listening to Mr. Huntington's stories.

Mr. Blanchett helped with the choreography of *Winter Bear*, the stage production which tells the story of Mr. Huntington's life.



Left: LeAnne Henry concludes the Coca-Cola dance to the applause of those watching. Above top: Traditional Athabascan dance to the song "Goodbye My Sonny." Above middle: Mr. Blanchett chats with GILA student Niketa Fleming. Above: Mr. Blanchett sings for the language arts fundamentals class at GILA.

Photos by Mr. A

"My Yup'ik name is Qacungatarali... It means the one with the wrinkled face, and the one who teases, the one who jokes."

"I try to inspire as much as I can if I can... Everyone has a story, keep that story... It's what keeps me going... it inspires me as a artist... I get inspired by the way kids like to keep their heritage alive."

New principal is settling in

By **CHELSEASTEVENSON**
Staff Writer

After two years of working at Sidney C. Huntington School as principal, Beth Buchanan has relocated to the Galena Interior Learning Academy campus as principal of curriculum and instruction. She'll also be working with the staff at SHS for part of the day.

Mrs. Buchanan said that she hopes to

support teachers, improve student learning, help create a better community between students, and better yet, to be a bridge for communication between both campuses while working at GILA.

Changing the environment she's been in wasn't too hard to get used to. She said there isn't much of a difference between both campuses except that GILA has 7 buildings, while SHS

is one building built for students ranging from preschool to twelfth grade.

This is not Mrs. Buchanan's first time changing campuses. Two years ago she had this same job. Although it may be challenging running back and forth to each campus, she enjoys it at the same time. The positives to this job are that she gets to see all the teachers and students.

Mrs. Buchanan will

have two offices. Her new office at SHS is in Marylee Kauffman's old room and at GILA she's located in John Buchanan's old office next to the math room in the composite building. Mrs. Buchanan is a hard worker; therefore it's hard to find her. You will usually find her visiting the classrooms.

Mrs. Buchanan also coaches the girl's team during the basketball season.

GILA shop building almost finished

By **JESSICA PEPPER**
Staff writer

Galena schools Supt. Chris Reitan recently provided details about new shop building on the Galena Interior Learning Academy campus.

With two shop areas, ten welding stations, new carpentry and woodshop equipment in a 6,400-square-foot building, Mr. Reitan estimates completion of the building to be in late January or early February. There will be an opening ceremony held in April. Guests who have been invited include several Alaska state legislators and Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Sen. Mark Begich, and Rep. Don Young.

The building won't begin to be used for students and classes until next fall.

With the size and amenities offered in the new building, it will offer more versatility and service for students, said Mr. Reitan. He said the new building will allow about 18 students per class.

Some of the classes which will meet in the new building include welding, woodworking,

carpentry and drafting. Mr. Reitan says having all the vocational classes on one campus will be more convenient for the school.

The newly built shop building replaces the old buildings at the Sidney C. Huntington School campus that burnt down in January 2011. The cause of the fire still remains a mystery.

Mr. Reitan said the school district put up a notice for a bid, meaning that they notified all the Alaskan construction companies of the project. The companies competed against each other to get the business. The one with

Elementary celebrates Native history month

Fourth grader Asa Bryant, in the role of famous Native American physicist Fred Begay, gives a prepared speech to visitors Nancy Pitka and SHS student William Dixon during the wax museum at the SHS elementary gym on Nov. 17. The elementary students spent the month of November learning about the contributions and culture of Native Americans in celebration of Native American Month.

Photo by Isabella Apfelbeck



The new shop building at the GILA campus.

Photo by Jessica Pepper

the best deal was then selected.

TC Construction of Wasilla put up their bid at \$2.5 million to

complete the building and was selected out of six companies competing for the job.



SHS teacher is 2012 grad speaker

English teacher Jason Harris honored by students

By JESSICA BAILEY
Staff writer

The senior class of 2012 decided that the speaker for the graduation commencement ceremony will be high school English teacher Jason Harris. The senior class motto is "This ain't no dress rehearsal."

"The most important thing for a senior to know is that post-secondary planning takes

time. A little bit of work has to be done, but it minimizes anxiety and stress in regard to life after high school," said Melissa Robbins, the Galena Interior Learning Academy counselor. Ms. Robbins says the response of the seniors has been good; there has been good communication and it's also good information to have for seniors who

attend the class meetings. The seniors are doing things to raise money such as cake walks at basketball games, cake auctions, refreshments at games, selling coffee at school, raffles, and many other events. For questions about scholarships or filling out applications, ask Ms. Robbins and SHS school counselor Maria Riedel.



Mr. Harris at a recent basketball game. He teaches sophomore, junior, and senior English as well as advanced placement English.

Photo by Mr. A

Scholarship deadlines announced for seniors

UPCOMING SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES are:
KFC Scholars - Opens December 1- Get your application done early!!!
BBB Students of Integrity Scholarship- Discuss business practices and ethics, due Dec. 31
NANA- Due January 10
Burger King Scholars- Opens November 15, Closes January 10 -Get it done early!!!
Gates Millennium Scholars- January 11
SAE-Engineering Scholarship- You must submit application and apply to post-secondary school by January 15!
Alaska School Counselor Scholarships- Talk with Ms. Riedel or Ms. Robbins, due February 1
Alaska Native Scholarship, AK Pacific University- due Feb. 1
FRED- Tele-communications Interests, due February 13

Farm girl finds GILA adventure

By CHELSEASTEVENSON
Staff Writer

Elizabeth (Eberspacher) Karlberg was a respectable and charming girl growing up in Lincoln, Neb., who never knew she would have adventure in Galena.

Born on June 30, 1988, she had fun living on a farm. Growing up with cows, she named them; that ended when they got

butchered. Everyone who knows her calls her Ellie.

She spent 12 years at public school in Milfred, Neb. She spent two years at Hester College in Kansas majoring in art education.

She transferred to Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, where she graduated in elementary education.

She met her husband Louie in college. They got married on July

23, 2011. They didn't know what to expect at the dorms. Gunnar and Adrian Johnson are old friends of theirs who brought the idea up of becoming an RA. Ellie and her husband think coming here was a good opportunity; they also love kids and working with them.

At the dorms Ellie hopes to make everyone feel comfortable and welcome.

Culinary classes provide good food, good learning for students

By CAROLINE GRAY
Staff Writer

Cooking, baking, and making fine sauces for students of Galena! Students get a chance to learn how to cook and bake food in the culinary arts program – along with the proper way to learn how to keep the kitchen sanitized at the same time.

The teacher, Chef Rand Rosecrans, is very strict about the sanitization of his cooking tools, as well as caring deeply about everything else in the kitchen. While keeping stuff sanitized, he also wants everyone to have a

good time.

Chef Rand teaches three classes - Culinary 1, Culinary 2, and Culinary 3.

Culinary 1 is the introduction to culinary arts, and teaches students the basics of cutting, how to keep clean after you are done, and *mise en place*. *Mise en place* is organizing and arranging your ingredients.

"Students do stuff from making fine sauces for the salads, to cutting vegetables for dinner," Mr. Rosecrans said when asked what students do to contribute feeding the students and staff here.

After everything is cut and ready, it goes into the soups and other foods. This year they're doing something special with the culinary 3 students. They make cheese and pepperoni pizzas, and sell them on the weekends! Stop by Chef Rand's office if you have any questions about that.

"I think that anyone who takes this program goes on to do great things," he said.

He said he thinks that everyone in his classes has learned something great and went on to accomplish what they wanted to do.

Hall Council elects new members

By DENAEUH DAVIS
Staff Writer

The new president for hall council is Desiree Strickland. The vice president is Carl Rose. The secretary is Denaueh Davis and the treasure is Lonnie Dorton. They were elected by the GILA dorm students earlier this fall. Hall Council is a student organization

in which student work to change rules, assist students when necessary, and be overall exemplars in society.

Our new president, Desiree Strickland, has many goals for hall council as many of us fellow students do.

“I really want to make it an easier place for students to be,” said Desiree. She continued to say how she hopes she can

be the student that makes a difference in the dorm life and makes the other students want to be there. While we discussed future goals she started to address the issues and the way she plans to solve them.

“The students here have a lot of potential and I would like to see them use their potential to the highest extent,” she said.

Hall councils meetings will be two times a week. Hall council meets Monday at 9:30 p.m. and Thursday at 10 p.m. Our meetings usually take close to an hour. Anyone is



Hall Council president Desiree Strickland.

Photo by Mr. A

Visual arts festival was exhilarating

By DENAEUH DAVIS
Staff Writer

“Life in a fish bowl” was the theme of this year’s Visual Arts Festival. Karrie Pavish Anderson was the one in charge of this entire event. She puts her time and effort into all of this because she says, “I want to try to connect [students] to community members.”

The event was for all students who want to display their artistic abilities to the public. There were weeklong classes that occur before the finale such as printmaking, beading, and also events that tie into the theme like a “fish bowl collage.” The culinary classes were courteous enough to provide elegant finger foods for the main event, which was held earlier this fall. It was an elegant event so the dress attire was fancy for students and guests.

The themes change each year but this theme

was picked to try to reflect lives in general - especially student’s lives. “You can see everything the fish does in their tank except when they go in their little hiding area just like the Ptarmigan Hall dorm students,” Karrie said. She appreciated the many people who were able to join her for the event and appreciate the fine artwork done by the students here in Galena.

I attended and spectacular was the word that immediately entered my mind. A variety of artwork was presented by many different students. There was live music provided by Kaylin Kopp and many who attended stated it was lovely.

“I’m proud of the artwork students created and especially proud that they were willing to show it off to people they don’t even know,” said Karrie Pavish Anderson. It was a wonderful event and an even more exhilarating experience.

College reps visit GILA, SHS campuses

By CARL ROSE, assistant editor, and JESSICA PEPPER, staff writer

College representatives came to Galena last week to spread word of their colleges for graduating high school seniors.

Gabrielle Russell a student advisor at UAF who works with in the Rural Student Services (RSS) came here to connect with students and let them know that RSS can help them decide about college. Ms. Russell has been working with RSS for seven years but has been working at UAF for 16 years.

Liz Chase, an enrollment recruiter for the Alaska Christian College, was also here to get information out about her school. Ms. Chase has only been working for ACC for six months. She says she is here to promote her college and to inspire students to get

welcome to start attending the meetings. Hall Council would love to have new input and fresh ideas.

further education after high school.

The two college promoters both said that their goal here is to get the message out that doing well now in high school will prepare them for college.

GILA student counselor Melissa Robbins was responsible for getting the college representatives to come to Galena and have them share about their colleges with the students. She says that the reason she called the colleges is because she wants to show the students what options they have after high school.

Ms. Robbins sent requests for post secondary schools including to several other colleges, but blizzard forced them to turn around because of weather conditions. “I want to thank teachers for their flexibility with the visitors,” said Ms. Robbins.

Thanks for reading the Hawk Highlights, written and produced by Galena students

New RA has lots of stories to tell

By JESSICA BAILEY
Staff Writer

When Louis Karlberg, the new residential advisor at Ptarmigan Hall, was asked about one interesting story about himself, he wasn't shy about supplying it. Here's what he wrote.

"Last Christmas, I was at home with my family. My younger brother and I were playing ping-pong in our living room. My brother is a year and a half younger than me. We have been very competitive with each other and our ping pong games can get very intense.

"In this particular game, we were playing to twenty-one and my brother only needed one point to win.

"I was about to even the game when I spiked the ball very hard to his side, he was barely able to return it but he hit it back high into the air and I was going to smash it hard but it barely nicked the side of the table which made it impossible for me to return it. My brother had won the point and also the game.

"In a fury of anger I smashed the ping pong paddle on the ground. Immediately the handle broke off the paddle and other pieces went flying. After this

happened, my brother informed me that was his brand new paddle and I'd have to buy him a new one. I bought him a new paddle and wrapped it and put it under the Christmas tree and now it's just a funny story."

Mr. Karlberg was born on Jan. 11, 1989, in Anchorage; his parents had been living in St. Mary's, a village near the mouth of the Yukon River. Randy and Lana are his parents. Leif, Hannah, Hans, and Tobin are his siblings.

Mr. Karlberg attended the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. He lived in a 19-story dorm. While attending the Moody Bible Institute, he got his bachelor's degree.

GILA is the first dormitory he has worked at; previously to GILA, he had worked at camps. He now works as a residential advisor for the Ptarmigan Hall dorms at GILA.

He loves Alaska and he wanted to work with students. "This seemed like the type of place I would like to work with kids," he said.

He was surprised at what nice facilities Galena has and also the nice people here. He hopes to help the kids the best he can and do the best he can. He is married to Ellie Karlberg, who also works at the dorms. They have no children.

Hawk Highlights opinion

Students celebrate Thanksgiving in Galena

By CARL ROSE
Assistant Editor

Thanksgiving in Galena was a very different experience for me as a dorm student at GILA.

I am used to the usual Thanksgiving at home with my family arguing and bickering around the table while asking each other to pass the potatoes. For Thanksgiving this year, I went to Mr. and Mrs. Apfelbeck's house, along with their son Joe, and

had a delicious dinner that consisted of the traditional turkey, stuffing, potatoes, salad, and a very delicious cranberry sauce.

After dinner, I had fun playing Xbox 360 with Joe; we played *Modern Warfare 3* and then watched the movie *Paul*. After a while, I went across the street with Joe and Mr. and Mrs. Apfelbeck to the Kopp's house and ate dessert. The dessert was fantastic; we had pumpkin pie, Mr. Apfelbeck's traditional

famous cheese cake, and other assortments of goodies.

Before the holiday back at the dorms, students and staff members were getting ecstatic about the upcoming Thanksgiving dinner, thinking about the families they were going to spend it with.

The night before Thanksgiving, Ben Blasco called down the boys and girls to discuss the upcoming Thanksgiving with the families and told us to be on our best

behavior.

After Thanksgiving, there were a bunch of activities the following days for the rest of the weekend.

There was swimming going on, there were movies in the GILA auditorium, there was an air soft tournament, and there was even an open house where the boys and girls got to go on each other's floors and check out each other's rooms and hang out with each other.

Visiting musician prompts serious reflections about life

By VIVIAN
LESTENKOF
Staff writer

"He was always thinking of tomorrow."

These words made a huge impact on me. Then I pondered; am I thinking

of my future? Stephen Blanchett came to GILA earlier this semester to share his ideas and perform his interpretations Alaska Native songs to make them more modern, while using the same theme.

Mr. Blanchett

also spoke of how Galena elder Sidney Huntington told him stories, and out of those stories, he saw that Sidney was always thinking of his future and putting in work to help him out the next day. This inspired me to take

initiative and advantage of how I want my high school year to pan out in order to help me after I graduate.

I'm applying to a program called RAHI which is held at UAF from May 29 – July 12, 2012. There, one can earn seven to 10 high school and college credits and a

The *Hawk Highlights* welcomes articles from students attending Galena schools and letters to the editor from our readers. Please send letters or submissions to Mr. Apfelbeck at the GILA campus, or write to Mr. A at paul.apfelbeck@galenanet.com.

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Galena grad comes home, helps students

By **MICHAEL EPCHOOK** and **ERIC NICOLAI**
Staff writers

Galena high school graduate and Doyon Limited board member Josephine Malemute visited the GILA campus earlier this semester to talk with *Hawk Highlights* staff writers about her life and advice for high school students.

Her advice for the students is that they should always focus on school work and never fall behind in their classes.

She said she almost didn't make it through college because she didn't have proper English language skills. Four years of being in college helped her a lot.

Ms. Malemute

has served on the Doyon, Limited board of directors since 2004, including four years as the Native corporation's corporate secretary.

Ms. Malemute was born on December 2, 1958.

She moved to Galena when she was in the second grade and graduated high school there.

Her GPA was around 3.0 and she was ranked fourth out of 14 students in her graduating class.

She then went to the University of Alaska Anchorage and graduated in 1990. She has a bachelor of science degree.

In 1990, she started working in Fairbanks at Tanana Chiefs Conference clinic. She started working



Above: Ms. Malemute talks with *Hawk Highlights* staff writers. Right: Ms. Malemute.

Photos by Kaylin Kopp



there as a nurse. She's now running the clinic. us. She has to get wood like us. She knows how to

She lives in a cabin drive a boat and has gained with her husband. She a lot of experience in her lives a normal life like work.

Musician: Grab opportunity

From page 7

\$6,500 scholarship. There are two different programs.

One is RAHI research for students interested in majoring in the sciences; and there is RAHI, which has most of your basic core classes to subjects like Alaska Native dancing, swimming, yoga, or karate.

Recently I posted on my Facebook status: "I've been feeling like a lazy bum lately.

I want to do something for my future. I'm aiming to apply to RAHI. Get free stuff while you're still young, my peers."

My oldest sister went to RAHI and she's

been successful with her studies.

I see her as a role model.

Opportunities are set on a silver platter in front of all us high school students, so easily in reach, but most just go for the dirty old paper plate.

Most will ask, "Why should I even bother?"

Well I ask, why not take 6 weeks of your time to ensure gaining high school and college credit.

No one knows exactly where they'll be next year. Maybe one might regret letting an opportunity like this pass them up.

Basketball season starts

By **CAROLINE GRAY**
Staff writer

Staff writer Caroline Gray asked Galena Hawks basketball coach Arne Erickson his opinion of the upcoming season. The Hawks traveled to Barrow last weekend.

Q: Who's your biggest rival?

A: "Well, it's my first year. I think the biggest rival this year for the Galena Hawks is Eielson."

Q: Who are your returning players?

A: "There will be four players with varsity experience, who are Kody Vanderpool, Curtis Richardson, Colin Reitan, and Kyle Nickoli."

Q: How does this year's team compare last year with this year's team?

A: "Last year we had a lot of seniors. This year we're going to be younger and shorter."

Q: Are there any new players on the team who shows promise?

A: "Jacob Miller, Edwin Erickson, Nicolai Ogawa, William Vent."

Q: Which teams are you playing against this year?

A: "Barrow, Kenai, Bethel. Some of the home games we're playing against are Kotzebue, Nome, and Eielson."

Thanks for supporting the Hawk Highlights

Written - produced - created by the students of Galena schools

Hawk wrestler pumped for regionals

By **GABE SIMPLE**
Staff Writer

I'm really pumped to go to regionals. Regionals are in Seward on Dec. 5 and 6.

I'm currently ranked fourth in the state, but I have a lot of faith in myself.

When I took fourth, I was having an off day when I was wrestling the kid who is third in my weight class.

I went in to that match cold. I didn't really warm up that well before that match and my head wasn't in the match at all. I

pinned him a week before in the championships at the Kotzebue Bush Brawl. I wasn't as aggressive as I normally am during a match. I was wrestling like junk that whole day.

When the season started on Sept. 26, I was on top of my game on the mat. I started cutting weight and working on my cardio and stamina about three weeks before the season even started.

We went to Nome and I placed first there, and then placed first again at the Bush Brawl.

After that, I don't know what happened to

A note from Mr. A - Gabe went to the tournament last weekend, where he came in fifth in the state in his weight class. Congratulations to Gabe Simple for his fine effort representing the school.

me. I started moving slow and not attacking as much and as hard as I used to. Ever since then, I started working harder than ever.

My team is really important to me; they are like a second family. If it wasn't for the people on the team, I wouldn't have gotten to where I am today.

Even to the people who I don't drill with, your encouragement and being there makes me better. Our coaches are great;

they pushed me to new heights and set goals that I never thought I could have achieved.

I'm glad to see some of the junior high coming out for wrestling and doing well for their first time on the mat. Even though there were only two of you (Joseph Apfelbeck and Kaleb Korta), I believe that if you guys stick it out, you will go further and do better than I can ever be.

Volleyball team ends season with smile

By **CHELSEASTEVENSON**
Staff Writer

"I think this year a lot of girls learned what it means to be a team, and what it means to be bigger than themselves," said Carrie Givens, volleyball coach. Even though this year isn't ending so well, she couldn't be more proud of how everyone on the team since the beginning of the year worked so well together, and how they got

along on trips and on the court.

The Galena Hawks volleyball team ended the season with a record of 3-9 tournament style and 0-4 conference style. "Even though we'd lose by 15 points, we always walked away with bigger smiles on our faces than the other team," said one of the team members.

Carrie said the most outstanding players this year were the

underclassmen, explaining how they worked hard and kept up with the upper classmen. They always seemed to have smiles on their faces to brighten everyone's day up, she said. The most improved players were freshman Tiffany George and junior team captain Denaeuh Davis.

One of her and the team's favorite memories was the two-hour long drives to Delta Junction.

She described traveling in the van as "a bunch of monkeys, jumping around and being loud as always!"

Next year, Carrie hopes to see some of her old players and will miss the senior players who aren't coming back next year. The lessons she hopes everyone learned this year for future references would be that "choices cause issues; when you make choices that can cause problems."

Junior high basketball teams host Barrow Whalers



Far left: Romay Harris makes a basket against a Barrow defender. Left: Kaleb Korta drives toward the hoop.

Photos by Mr. A

The Barrow Whalers visited Galena while the high school players went north to Barrow for a series of varsity games. The girls won their games on Friday and Saturday; the boys lost Friday's game 20-23 and Saturday's game 32-48.

Solo: Young pilots launching careers

From the front page

Kaufield also requires the student to taxi the plane off the runway after each landing and circle around on the ramp to the beginning of the runway before taking off again.

The hours preceding each person's solo were filled with different emotions.

Elijah said his feelings were "pure excitement," while Miah said, "I wanted to, I was excited to...but I was nervous. I was really worried about forgetting something."

Miah said that after

takeoff "it was like when you're young, and you get lost in the supermarket. You're so much more aware of everything because your mom's not right there with you." Despite the absence of their supervisor, both boys agreed that their jitters improved after takeoff. "I had my best landing ever, and after that, it wasn't scary anymore...it was just *fun!*" said Miah.

So why is a student's first solo such a big deal?

Elijah said that it's "the first major benchmark in your aviation career."

Mr. Kaufield had the same idea when he said,

"It's the first time a person really sees and accepts the responsibility of a pilot. When I'm there, they can look to me for what to do next, but when they're up there by themselves, they can see *themselves* as the pilot."

The goal as student pilots is to earn a Private Pilot's License by the end of this school year. However, there are a few more hurdles to jump before reaching the prize. The minimum required flight time to obtain a license is 40 hours, and of these 40 hours, the student pilots still need solo cross-country, time navigating from one airport to another,

and night time flying.

Each student has a unique plan for their license. Elijah says he wants to continue on in his training and gain a commercial rating, then be a missionary pilot in bush Alaska, and potentially work for an air taxi service out of Iliamna, AK. Miah, on the other hand, has a more casual idea for the future of his license.

"I plan on buying an ultralight with Sid, and using it mainly for recreational flight. I'd also use my license to get 10 percent off a steak dinner at the Aviator Steakhouse in Fairbanks, and of course, to pick up chicks."

Editor is finding herself in the pilot's seat

By KAYLIN KOPP
Editor

I've always been a perfectionist, so the idea of soloing an airplane was pie in the sky. I was smart enough to know that I couldn't be a perfect pilot the first time I sat in the left seat, but since joining the GILA aviation program as a sophomore, I've been slowly trained to see my imperfections as opportunities to shape myself into a better pilot.

The day Mr. Kaufield got out of the airplane and gave me permission to solo, I was scared.

This solo was what I'd been working towards for over two years, but the minute I was alone in the airplane, my old familiar fears returned.

As I pushed the throttle in, made my radio calls, and taxied onto the runway, those fears were replaced by a peace and confidence that I'd never had before. I guess

you could call it "divine intervention."

With that problem resolved, I was free to enjoy my flight. My assignment was to remain in the traffic pattern and perform three landings and a go-around. On the downwind leg of my first pattern, I had time to look

down and admire the view. There's nothing like being alone, one thousand feet in the air, and seeing tiny figures on the ground waving at you.

My landings were smooth and without incident, making me wonder why it's always the best landings my instructor

is never there to see.

In between each of my standard traffic pattern radio calls, I got to talk to other inbound and outbound airline flights, reminding me that I'm sharing the sky with the pros. Ready or not, here I come, because I'm on their level now!



Kaylin Kopp and the aviation program's plane.

Photo courtesy aviation program

Weight room provides 'peaceful calm'

By GABE SIMPLE
Staff writer

There is a peaceful calm feeling when you walk in the weight room on GILA's campus. When I walk in I feel like I'm home, and pumped up, ready to start my workout. Every time I walk through the door to the weight room it's like seeing an old friend. You can almost feel the energy and power coming off every piece of equipment.

There are two racket ball rooms on one side of the room, mirrors that cover almost the whole wall and posters that are on all the walls. The posters go over different muscle groups, how to stretch, how work out a certain muscle, and proper form.

The equipment in the weight room include four treadmills, a bench press, an inclined bench press, a decline bench press which can be used to



In this photo taken last year, GILA student Nick Madison works out in the weight room at the GILA while Edward Abraham acts as his spotter. Willie Thomas looks on.
Staff photo

do sit ups, a squat rack with a pull-up bar on the top, a hack squat, a led sled, an abs machine, two stair climbers, three stationary bikes, a row machine, a punching bag, and a set of dumbbells from five pounds to 100 pounds. It's a well equipped room.

If someone wants to start to work out, it's

important to set a goal that is possible to achieve. It is also very important to find the time to go to the gym. If you can't find the time, make the time.

Another thing to do is find a workout partner who wants to achieve the same goal as you, or a person who already achieved that goal. Make a

workout schedule focused on the part of your body you're working out on it. Eating right will help a lot.

The feeling after a good work out is one of the best feelings that I ever had. It's like feeling tired but alive at the same time. It's an accomplishment combined with a confident feeling.

Basketball: Lady Hawk player signs letter

From the front page

Lady Hawks coach and Jenna's mom.

"A dozen schools had called and written her, but [UAA women's coach Tim Moser] wasn't one of them. He had been watching her over a couple of years on summer trips but hadn't called or written," said Buchanan.

When he finally did call, it was with an invitation for Jenna to play for the Seawolves.

"People don't expect kids from the village to get out and do big things, but they do," said Buchanan.

During the signing ceremony, Galena elder

and longtime basketball supporter

Sidney Huntington was given an honorary Seawolves cap to wear. Mr. Huntington gave Jenna a hug and wished her the best of luck.

Jenna was named most valuable player in the Aurora Conference her freshman and junior years and was the state runner-up for the 3A Player of the Year. She has played with the Alaska Lady Hoops, a squad of the best high school girls in the state, since the spring of her freshman year. She was also a first team all-State selection her sophomore and junior years.

When Mrs. Buchanan thanked the

community for supporting Jenna in her dreams, she reminisced about her daughter. "When Jenna was 11 years old, she said, 'Someday I want to play in college.'"

Starting in third grade, Jenna played Little Hawks basketball.

"I remember doing cartwheels in the middle of the game because no one would pass to me," Jenna said.

During Little Hawks, Jenna was a manager for the Junior High basketball team in fourth and fifth grade, and continued to play Little Hawks through junior high.

She has become a

versatile basketball player.

"Here I play whatever they need me to play," said Jenna.

She said she anticipates becoming a shooting guard for the Seawolves.

Jenna said she goes to the gym four times a week in the morning and evening.

She was the Alaska Scholar for her junior class. In preparing to enter the college world, Jenna said that she's focusing on her senior year.

"I'm sad that it's my last year here, but I'm excited and hope to do big this year," she said.

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UAA: Galena player signs up to play

From page 11

She plans on entering UAA's forensic science program.

Jenna comes from a sports family. Not only is her mom the Lady Hawks coach, but her dad, Jon Buchanan, is the Galena Schools athletic director and basketball coach for several youth teams.

"She is really driven and motivated and a lot of preparing she does on her own," said Mr. Buchanan.

During her comments at the ceremony, Jenna thanked the community.

"I've always been told it takes a village to raise a child, and you have raised me to make my dreams come true."



Jenna stands alongside Galena elder Sidney Huntington, a longtime supporter of Hawks basketball.

Photo by Mr. A

Thanks for reading the Hawk Highlights

The students of the journalism class are Jessica Bailey, Denaeh Davis, Michael Epchook, Caroline Gray, Vivian Lestenkof, Milissa Lord, Eric Nicolai, Jessica Pepper, Gabriel Simple, Chelsea Stevens, and Lynnette Strickland. The editor-in-chief is Kaylin Kopp. The assistant editor is Carl Rose. The teacher is Paul Apfelbeck.

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