

Unalakleet's private school may close

by Louise Donhauser

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It's a rural, religious high school which can boast of an alumni that includes doctors, lawyers, college presidents and teachers. Covenant High School can't exactly boast about its financial state. The Unalakleet school may close because there aren't any available funds to pay a \$60,000 debt.

In a Covenant High School report dated April 25, 1984 it said, "With education readily available to all students in their

home communities and free of charge, our enrollment has dropped 15 students during this school year. When CHS was founded there were no high schools available except a few day schools in large cities. As our charges go up, more students will be unable to come when they can have free education and live at home."

It would cost a parent \$3,100 per year to send a student to the private school even though a public school is available. According to the report, "If we

were to charge the entire cost of educating the student to him the charges would be approximately \$6,300 per year, a charge we feel is prohibitive."

The cost of private schooling in Unalakleet could be prohibitive but Unalakleet parents also have the option of not paying for a student's education.

In 1977 the State constructed a school there and by 1980 the school was operated by the state. The current state high school enrollment is 154 stu-

dents. Covenant High School enrollment continues to decline.

Covenant High alumni Lorena Ellsworth said, "All the Native leadership effort has been to promote self help. The loss of Covenant would be a terrible blow in our effort to get into leadership positions in the state, federal and community level."

In Anchorage a Covenant High School board meeting will be held on Friday, June 29 to deal with the financial shortage.