

# Adak worries about school funding

by **Melanie Ludvick**

for the Tundra Times

Congress has authorized funding for a new middle school on Adak but has not yet appropriated the money.

And that has Adak residents worried.

That's because Adak Region schools are facing a huge enrollment increase because of a buildup of forces at the island's naval air station.

During a recent meeting organized by Rep. Adelheid Herrmann, members of the Adak Region School Board and administration presented the current situation.

Sen. Fred Zharoff, representatives of the U.S. Congressional delegation, Jim Kelly of the governor's office and Tom Ryan of the Alaska Department of Education were all in attendance.

Although the students are primarily military dependants, the state is responsible for school operating costs. The Federal Government furnishes buildings, buses and other necessary equipment.

In addition to authorizing funding for design and construction of a new middle school, Congress has also given approval for refurnishing six modular units to serve as classrooms until the new school is completed.

"With budget cuts being made to both federal and state funding sources, I felt that a meeting was needed to let both sides know what the current situation is on Adak," Rep. Herrmann said.

"The school district needs to have some kind of assurance that they are not going to be left out in the cold when the majority of the increase in students arrive on Adak."

Herrmann said the state education department has told her it will cover operational costs, "But I feel that we have a ways to go before this becomes a reality," Herrmann said.

She assured participants the Congressional delegation has promised to help obtain release of federal funds so work can begin on the modular units and middle school design.