

Colton Conservatives Pick Hawley

By LARRY ROBINSON

COLTON - Republican Town Councilwoman and supervisor-hopeful Grace Hawley has joined political ranks with the Conservative Party, a move that guarantees her a line at the ballot box on Election Day, despite losing a Republican primary battle against acting Town Supervisor Bill Swafford last week.

Hawley was handed a convincing primary day loss by Colton Republicans Sept. 18 when Swafford was awarded 182 votes to her 75.

Despite the setback, Hawley said she is staying in the race for supervisor, accepting a nomination from the St. Lawrence County Conservative Party, chaired by former Colton Town Supervisor Hank Ford.

Ford confirmed last night that Hawley has received the Conservative Party line to run for Colton town supervisor, but declined to comment directly on her candidacy.

"I want to stay impartial, so I'm not going to say anything about any candidates," said Ford. "But yes, she did receive the Conservative Party endorsement."

Following the primary defeat in Colton, Hawley said she had been contemplating whether to stay in the race or to cede the supervisor's contest to Swafford and his Democratic opponent Joan Kilroy.

However, Hawley said she finally made up her mind yesterday after going to the Colton town office where she



GRACE HAWLEY

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opened what she thought was a sympathy card related to the recent loss of a family member. Instead, Hawley said the card contained a mean-spirited political message.

"That's when I really made my mind up," said Hawley. "This is a sick bunch of people we are dealing with up here."

She acknowledges that she has an uphill battle in her quest to become Colton supervisor, but said she is confident that the core supporters she has rallied in the Conservative Party will help spring-

board her to an Election Day win.

"I know the Conservative Party is smaller, but I also know I have some support there," she explained. "Whether I win or not at least they will know that I was here."

Hawley is running for the top job in Colton because she said she doesn't like the direction that acting Town Supervisor Swafford is taking the community. In particular she criticizes what she said is the way he lets members of the public heckle the board members and offer opinions throughout the meeting.

"I'm blaming him for a lot of it because he allows the public to run amuck at the meetings," blasted Hawley. "If you ask me, it's nothing but anarchy as far as I'm concerned."