

Hawk Highlights

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

Candidates visit Galena schools

City council and school board candidates were invited to speak with Galena students at Sidney C. Huntington School last Tuesday about the upcoming municipal elections. We talked with two of the first-time candidates about the reasons why they are running for office.



Galena City Council candidate Suzette LaPine-Rosecrans and school board candidate Kim Kopp (seated at right) talk with Ryan Harms' eighth-grade class.

Photo courtesy Ryan Harms and Bruce Fennimore

LaPine-Rosecrans runs for mayor

By **JESSICA PEPPER**
Staff writer

After 20 consecutive years by Galena Mayor Russ Sweetsir holding office without facing opposition, Suzette LaPine-Rosecrans has decided to step up.

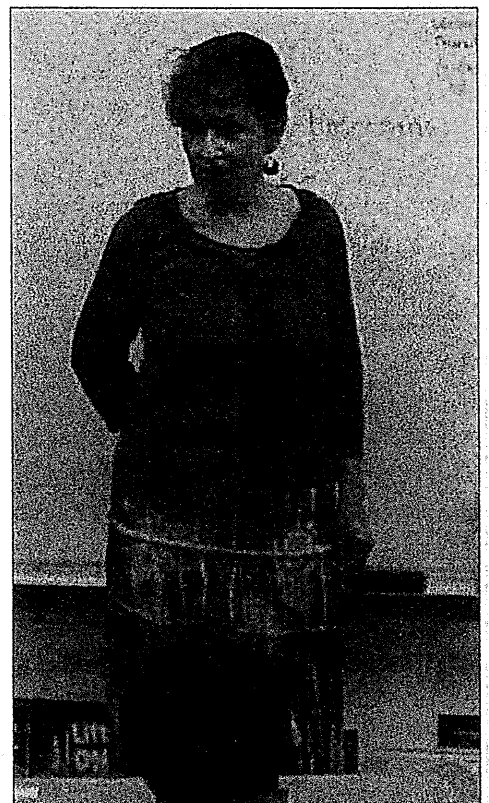
Ms. LaPine-Rosecrans has recently made the decision to run for mayor of Galena although she has no prior political experience. Two days after making her decision, she submitted her declaration to run for office. She said that one thing driving her decision to run is her feeling that she can help pull the community out of debt, balance the budget and stay true to Galena's motto, "It's All About The Kids" as the Galena website states.

On her own, Ms. LaPine-Rosecrans began rescuing animals in Galena and sending them to

animal rescue services in Anchorage and Fairbanks willing to help. She has also founded a Big Brothers Big Sisters program in Phoenix, Ariz., to work with Native kids in a boarding school environment. Ms. LaPine-Rosecrans was the spokesperson for the National Alliance of Businesses, traveling to schools and talking to kids about staying in school and graduating.

Regardless of her lack of political experience, Ms. LaPine-Rosecrans has strong about the community. She feels that at this point a different voice would help solve issues within the community. "A female perspective at this point would be appropriate," she said.

Ms. LaPine-Rosecrans is married to Rand Rosecrans, who teaches culinary arts at the Galena



Suzette LaPine-Rosecrans speaks with the students in Debbie Koontz's second grade class last Tuesday.

Photo courtesy Debbie Koontz

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The Galena municipal election for school board and city council is Tuesday, Oct. 4 - Come out and vote

Kopp seeks school board seat

By DENAEUH DAVIS
Staff writer

Kimberly "Kim" Kopp, a resident of Galena for 12 years, has recently decided to run to be a member of the Galena City School District Board of Education.

This will be her first official run for political office.

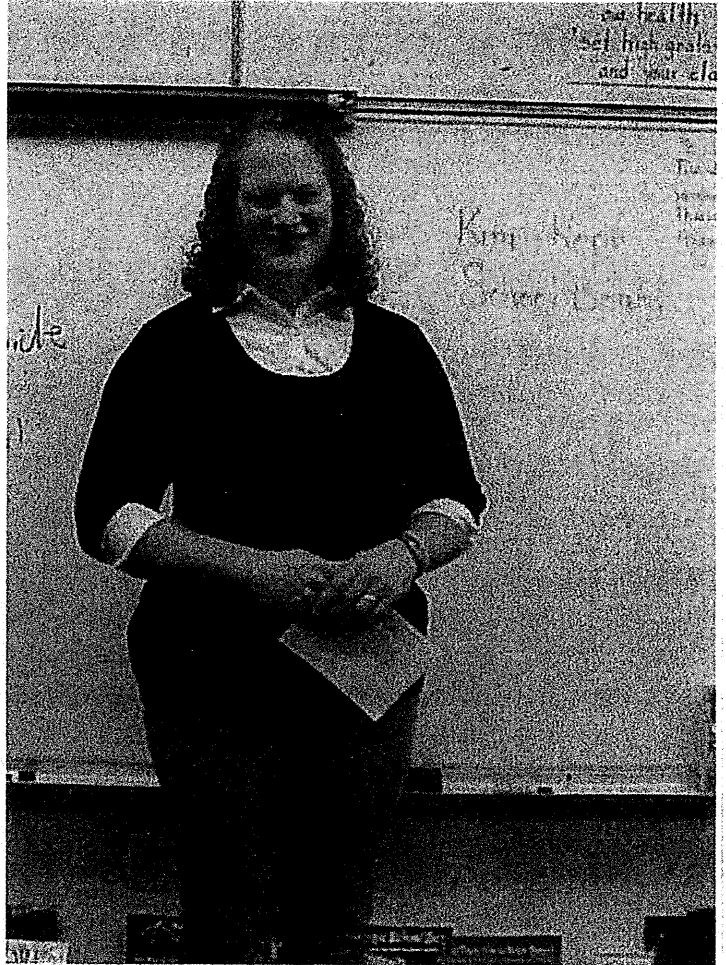
Ms. Kopp has had many volunteer positions in the past. She was a leader for Young Life, a faith-based community organization for youth and young people. Ms. Kopp has also led a Bible study for women and teens for 11 years.

She said she believes she will do well in this position because she has worked with all

three major schools in Galena: Galena Interior Learning Academy, Sidney C. Huntington School, and the Interior Distance Education of Alaska homeschool correspondence program.

Ms. Kopp said she wants to help in many aspects of the student's lives, but one main thought in her mind is to help students be prepared for life with their academics and their skills for the world outside of high school.

She was born May 19, 1970. She is married to Jason Kopp, who is a contact teacher for IDEA and was formerly the junior high teacher at SHS. They have three children, Kaylin, 16, Amanda, 12, and Daniel, 9.



Kim Kopp is pictured during her talk with the students in Debbie Koontz's second grade class last Tuesday.

Photo courtesy Debbie Koontz

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City: LaPine-Rosecrans

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Interior Learning Academy. Mr. Rosecrans has also served on the city council. Both Mr. and Ms. Rosecrans are currently employed at the GILA dining hall. They have two grown children.

School board and city council candidates on the ballot

Mayor

Three-Year Term (Expires 10/2014)

RUSS L. SWEETSIR

SUZETTE LAPINE-

ROSECRANS

City Council member seat C-1

Three-Year Term (Expires 10/2014)

TERRY "SHADOW" FAIR

City Council Member C-2

Three-Year Term (Expires 10/2014)

No candidate has signed up for this seat.

School Board Member Seat C

Three-Year Term (Expires 10/2014)

KIMBERLY KOPP

School Board Member Seat D

Three-Year Term (Expires 10/2014)

SHANDA HUNTINGTON

Polls will be open at 8 a.m. on Tuesday at the Galena City Hall.

The polls close at 8 p.m.