

LONE TREE VOICE

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School board members face intimidation probe

Ponderosa protest organizer recorded meeting with pair

By Mike DiFerdinando
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The Douglas County School Board agreed April 19 to launch an independent investigation

into board President Meghann Silverthorn and Vice President Judith Reynolds after 16-year-old Ponderosa student Grace Davis said she was intimidated and bullied by the pair in a private meeting about the March protest she organized at the school.

The three newest school board members, who said they had listened to a recording Davis made of that meeting, also called

unsuccessfully for Silverthorn's and Reynolds' resignations.

"There is no excuse for two adults to intimidate a ... student on school grounds," board member Anne-Marie Lemieux said.

Davis was one of about 100 students at Ponderosa who held a peaceful protest March 9 to ask why teachers were leaving their school and district.

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Ponderosa High School student Grace Davis and her father at the Douglas County Board of Education meeting April 19. Davis called for the resignation of the president and vice president of the board. Photo by Mike DiFerdinando



The year-long Douglas County Fire Science Program prepares students to find jobs as firefighters and paramedics after graduation. Photos by Mike DiFerdinando

Son follows in firefighting footsteps



Evan Davros and his father Tom got the chance to fight a simulated fire together April 11.

14 students take part in fire science program

By Mike DiFerdinando
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For ThunderRidge High School senior Evan Davros, walking into a burning building with his father has always been a dream.

He got his chance April 11 as part of the culmination of his time in the Douglas County Fire Science Program. Davros and other students fought a simulated fire at the South Metro Fire Rescue Training Center in Parker.

"It's cool having my dad there," Davros said. "It's kind of surreal really. I grew up in the firehouse. I would see him go on calls and stuff, and now to actually be there is fantastic."

Davros' father, Tom, is a firefighter for South Metro. He has worked as a

firefighter for 18 years and as an EMT for 20.

"The firehouse is all he's ever known since he was an infant," said Evan's mom, Tina. "We would do the kid swap at the firehouse. My husband would be getting off and I would be going to work. That's where he grew up."

Davros was part of the year-long course run through Rock Canyon High School and in conjunction with South Metro Fire, Littleton Fire Rescue and the Douglas County School District.

This year's program consisted of 14 students from six different high schools: Rock Canyon, ThunderRidge, Mountain Vista, Douglas County and Legend. There were also two students from Arapahoe High School in Littleton.

Students learn emergency medical care, hazmat and ice rescue, as well as traditional firefighting skills.

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Lone Tree candidates all running unopposed

May 3 election for city offices canceled

By Rick Gustafson
Special to Colorado Community Media

Lone Tree voters expecting to receive ballots for the city council and mayoral election scheduled for May 3 should not plan a long wait by the mailbox for ballots this month.

The city posted a notice on its website on April 6 announcing that it is canceling the election, citing that each of the three candidates, one for mayor and two for city council were all running unopposed.

"They're declared elected," said Jennifer Pettinger, city clerk.

Despite the canceled election, there will be a significant turnover in the makeup of the council when the new mayor and the two new council members are sworn in on May 17.

Mayor Jim Gunning, who is term-limited this year and is not eligible for re-election, will hand off the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem and District 1 Councilmember Jackie Millet. Millet will vacate her council seat with two years remaining on her second term to take over the center seat.

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LOCAL SPORTS



ThunderRidge and Castle View face off. PAGE 22

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Wealth of uncertainty as election year unfolds

The first quarter of the 2016 election year is complete. But, I can't say much was accomplished. The stock market remains flat, economic growth is on hold and we still don't know who will be on the ballot come November.

I always think it helps to understand the reasons behind why things are the way they are. Maybe if we can find some logic in the situation, it will help us deal with the uncertainty. And that is the key word ... uncertainty.

Investments are down because the markets don't like ambiguity. We expect our jobs, pocketbooks and nest eggs to improve over time. But for that to happen, something bigger has to take place. The world economy also has to increase.

We can see the pattern now. Our credit markets collapsed in 2008, Europe's credit crisis hit in 2011 and China's attempt to avoid a crisis curbed their growth in 2015. Now that our financial world includes the entire globe, these things matter more than they used to. The reasons are many but we can start with earnings in honor of first-quarter



Patricia Kummer

FINANCIAL STRATEGIES

reporting season. A company reports earnings based on product sales and revenue. Ideally, these will not only outpace their overhead, but improve over time and increase the company's value. That's where you come in, as a stockholder, you want appreciation. When two-thirds of the world is in an economic dearth, it is hard to sell more to those who have less. As a result, earnings have gone south the last two quarters and are expected to be low again this quarter.

It feels like we have been in limbo for nine years. The meaning of "long-term" just got even longer. We got spoiled a bit in 2012 and 2013 when Quantitative Eas-

ing fueled the potential for growth that has not yet occurred. Now the markets are adjusting prices for what stocks are really worth in this environment. This makes us unhappy and unhappy people want something to change. That's where the election comes in.

Voters cannot make up their minds what they want or who they want to solve our wealth of problems. Usually when change is needed, the pendulum swings wide to overcompensate. Hence we have significant differences between the extreme left and right, depending on the issues. This creates more uncertainty (and a lot of terrible ads in the media).

Jerry Webman, chief economist for Oppenheimer Funds, states that it is the economy that dictates the election, not the other way around. He also said, "Hating the government is not an investment strategy." Statistics show that you would have lost money trying to vote with your investment dollars in previous election years. The economic engine worldwide is what dictates growth and returns. The amount of debt global economies are

carrying will need to be reduced through future growth and higher demands over time.

Meanwhile, watch for opportunities: Improvement in China and progress in Europe through support from their Central Bank. If their growth is anywhere close to what happened in the United States during our easy money policy years, they (and we as investors) could be in for nice advances in stock prices around the world. In turn this should help fuel our home-based companies for stronger earnings in future quarters.

Patricia Kummer has been an independent Certified Financial Planner for 29 years and is president of Kummer Financial Strategies Inc., a Registered Investment Advisor in Highlands Ranch. Kummer Financial is a six-year 5280 Top Advisor. Please visit www.kummerfinancial.com for more information or call the economic hotline at 303-683-5800. Any material discussed is meant for informational purposes only and not a substitute for individual advice.

Smith

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Lincoln.

My favorite Lincoln story was his response to someone who said he was two-faced.

"If I were, would I have chosen this one?"

I can promise you that there will not be any intentional humor in the next White House.

There will be plenty of unintended humor. David Letterman may want to come out of retirement.

Have you seen him lately?

Full, scraggly beard. He looks like a bum, and he probably loves it. He was expected to be a sharp dresser every night for years.

He probably goes unrecognized in New York now.

I don't own many rarities.

I do have a very early Crickets album. Before they became Buddy Holly and the Crickets.

But I don't have anything to play it on.

So what good is it doing me?

And it's in the basement. That's where my archives are.

The Some Day Archives, I call them. Someday I am going to look at them.

Will someday ever come?

Our homes are full of souvenirs and mementos and scrapbooks.

Computers have made it possible to save a lot of things very conveniently.

But I have files on my screen that I rarely open.

Now and then I will get sentimental, and open a file, like Jennifer's, and reminisce. (We are no longer together.)

I open my father's file at least once a month.

And Badger's. She was the dachshund ahead of Smitty, and the first individual who ever depended upon me.

When I see that a natural disaster or a fire has destroyed a home, I always wonder about the possessions that were lost. The keepsakes.

My basement flooded in 2003 when I was out of town.

Half of my archives were lost.

For a while, I was heartbroken.

Now I cannot remember exactly what I lost.

I started over, but I no longer keep as much. Because I know that someday may never come.

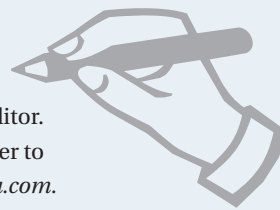
"Can't go on, everything I had is gone. Stormy weather."

It's not true.

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Election

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Wynne Shaw will replace District I Councilmember Harold Anderson, who is also term-limited and is planning a run for the Regional Transportation District board in November.

First-term Councilmember Kim Monson chose not to seek a second term representing District 2, but plans to continue co-hosting her radio show, "Heart of the Matter" with the Americhicks, on KLZ 560 AM. Cathie Brunnick will begin her first term representing the district on May 17.

Serving District 2 Councilmember Susan Squyer will be the only incumbent councilmember to retain her current seat.

Once seated, the new council will

vote on a replacement to serve out the remaining two years of Millet's District 1 seat in May or June.

Lone Tree is currently accepting applications from interested candidates for the position. The prospective councilmember must be 25 years old by May 17, a registered voter in the City of Lone Tree, and must have lived in District 1 for at least a year.

Lone Tree is divided into two districts with two councilmembers representing each district. Members serve staggered four-year terms. Councilmembers are selected from individual districts and the mayor is elected at large. All are limited to two terms each.

Though the city had not finalized a contract with vendors for the election, Pettinger estimated that the canceled election saved city taxpayers around \$20,000.

Piccone said the students who graduate from the program have an advantage when it comes to getting jobs in the field.

"In one of the most competitive fields there is right now, fire, they really get a major leg up on everyone when they graduate," Piccone said. "These days if you don't have an advanced education, you're not going to get hired."

Piccone said nearly 100 percent of the programs graduates are able to find a full-time job in the field.

Evan Davros said he will be attending the University of Colorado in Boulder next year. He plans to major in biology. He would like to go into the military and then become a firefighter when he is done serving.

"(Working with my dad) would be awesome. That's my dream," he said.

Tom Davros said he was proud of his son.

"It's an incredibly gratifying experience to watch him grow," he said. "Working together would be great. I'd have to be pretty old, though."

Fire

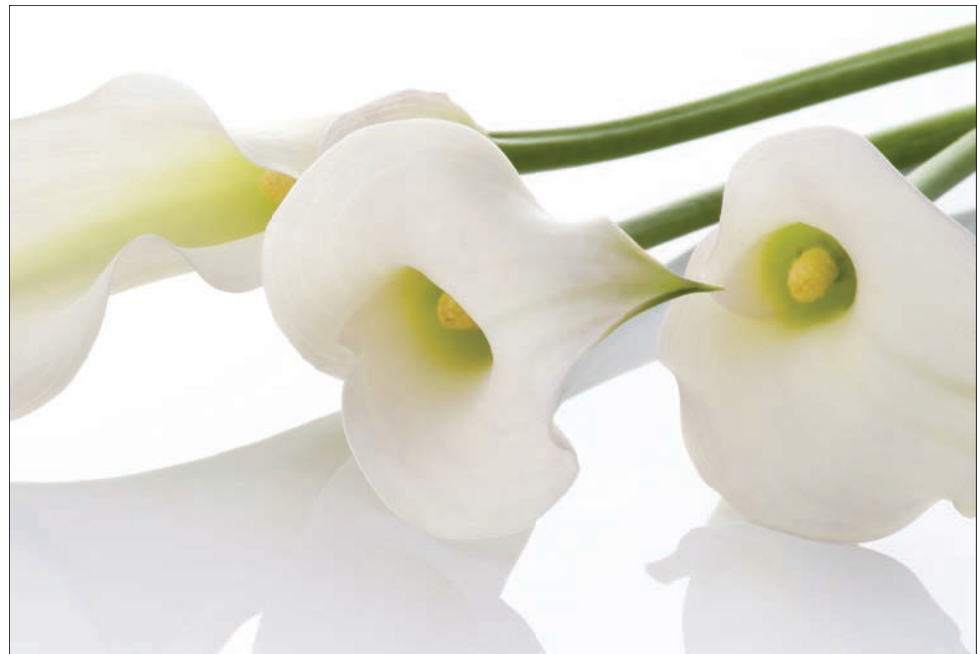
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"It's an amazing experience, especially to see the youth have such passion for this line of work. Right here we are breeding the next generation of firefighters," Tom Davros said. "Every other professional firefighter I talk to says the same thing: 'Why wasn't this around when I was coming up?'"

Former firefighter George Piccone is the instructor of the fire science program and an employee of the school district.

"They spend a year with me before they get to this point," Piccone said. "Before they get into this building, they're ready for it. They're ready to fight a fire."

Fire students earn dual credit and are enrolled as students at Red Rocks Community College during the program.



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