

LONE TREE VOICE

A publication of  Colorado Community Media DOUGLAS COUNTY, COLORADO



DAY OF HONOR:
A number of events in the area will remember our nation's heroes **P14**



THE NEXT CHAPTER:

Graduates from local schools are poised for big things
Pages 5, 6



CELEBRATING SUCCESS:
State of the City explores what makes Lone Tree thrive **P4**



EAGLES CLAIM CROWN:
Valor Christian wins the girls state track and field title **P24**

Your newspaper is made possible by advertisers like this one, who support our efforts to keep you connected to your community!

AQUA SPAS
"Simply The Best"
Since 1993

THE BOTTOM LINE

'Transportation was a — if not the — priority for Republicans this session.'

Patrick Neville, state representative, Page 9



INSIDE VOICES: PAGE 12 | LIFE: PAGE 14 | CALENDAR: PAGE 21 | SPORTS: PAGE 24

  LoneTreeVoice.net

VOLUME 17 | ISSUE 18

SUSTAINABLE PRINTING

State of the City Address offers update on Lone Tree

Traffic, volunteers, growth addressed at annual event

BY TABATHA STEWART

TSTEWART@COLORADOCOMMUNITYMEDIA.COM

More than 300 people attended the annual State of the City Address at the Lone Tree Arts Center on May 17, where Mayor Jackie Millet addressed issues of growth, transportation and upcoming projects in the city.

Attendees were treated to a video of Millet and city councilmembers taking a ride on the city's award-winning Link shuttle, narrating various highlights of the city. Lone Tree recently received the Metro Vision Award from the Denver Regional Council of Governments for the innovative free shuttle service that links riders from the Lincoln light rail station to major campuses within Lone Tree.

Michelle McKinney, chair of the South Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce, praised Millet, city councilmembers and city employees for their approach to managing the city. "We value our relationship with Lone Tree," said McKinney. "Mayor Millet is smart, she's very smart. Did you



Mayor Jackie Millet recognized Mayor Pro Tem Susan Squyer, who terms out of council service this year.

PHOTOS BY TABATHA STEWART

know she's a civil engineer? She is strategic and thoughtful in how she plans her community. Lone Tree knows that as you grow, you have to be able to move people around."

Millet and council members bid farewell to Mayor Pro Tem Susan Squyer, who terms out this year. Michael Anderson was welcomed as the newest city councilmember. He recently won the bid to replace Squyer.

Millet informed the crowd that Lone Tree was voted the seventh best place to live in the United States last year by Money magazine, and the number one best place to live in Colorado. Millet peppered the crowd with Broncos trivia throughout her speech.

In 2017, the city received almost \$59 million in revenue, and more than \$1 million in ticket sales for the Lone Tree Arts Center. Fiscal responsibility, according to Millet, is part of the "secret sauce" that makes Lone Tree successful.

"We are fiscally sound. The difference comes from our pay-as-you-go philosophy," said Millet.

Millet spoke of the city's "social capital," saying the people of Lone Tree are just as important as a balanced budget, and meeting their needs enables the city to continue to thrive. The police department was recognized for their community outreach efforts, as were volunteers, outstanding Lone Tree residents, South Sub-



Lone Tree Mayor Jackie Millet shares a laugh with city council members during the annual State of the City address.

urban Parks and Recreation, South Metro Fire and Douglas County Libraries.

Millet addressed transportation issues, both of past and future, and outlined four projects that will keep cars moving smoothly as the city grows.

"We were born between C-470 and I-25. Transportation is in our DNA," said Millet.

The widening of C-470, the I-25 "Gap" project, the widening of Ridgeway Parkway and County Line Road improvements, as well as using smart traffic signal technology, are projects designed to ease increasing traffic congestion.

"We cannot build our way out of congestion anymore," Millet told the crowd.

Millet recognized new businesses in Lone Tree, and spoke about the future development of RidgeGate East, which will

bring a new downtown center, as well as new residential villages. She also praised city staffers for their work, and wrapped up the presentation with a little humor.

"We have everything in Lone Tree," she said. "If you swing a racquet or a club, you can do that here. Hike, bike, shop, play. There's no reason to leave the city and there's only one thing we don't have here. That's a cemetery. That would be the only reason to leave Lone Tree."

Bob Golden, with the South Metro Denver Chamber, said the growth in Lone Tree is a big draw for businesses.

"We're forming a good partnership with Millet and the city," said Golden. "The growth is exciting and it's a great opportunity for business owners."

Probe into fatal plane crash could take more than a year

Pilot had taken off from Centennial Airport before his aircraft went down in Lone Tree

BY TABATHA STEWART

TSTEWART@COLORADOCOMMUNITYMEDIA.COM

It could take more than a year to get answers to the May 11 fatal plane crash near the Stepping Stone community that claimed the life of Grand Junction veterinarian Bob Marquis, 67, authorities say. The pilot had taken off from Centennial Airport, and shortly after, his plane crashed in Lone Tree, several hundred yards west of Stepping Stone.

Residents of the neighborhood reported hearing the whining of an engine around 8:30 p.m. the night of the crash, then a loud thump and whooshing sound as the small plane crashed into the field.

"It sounded like the air was being let out of a big vacuum," said resident Baylor Bland.

Debris from the plane, a Cirrus SR22, was scattered over more than an acre in



Investigators comb the debris field of the plane May 11 plane crash near the Stepping Stone neighborhood.

TABATHA STEWART

the field, and part of the plane's engine was lodged in the side of a home. Nobody in the neighborhood was injured.

Keith Holloway, public affairs officer with the National Transportation Safety Board, said an investigation could take more than a year to complete.

"An investigation is very time intensive," said Holloway.

Dozens of orange flags represented where debris fell in the field, each one

marking a piece of evidence that must be collected and analyzed. Each investigator is a specialist responsible for a clearly defined portion of the accident investigation, according to the NTSB's accident investigation procedure protocol.

A preliminary report from the NTSB could be available in the next couple of weeks.

Marquis owned Tiara Rado Animal Hospital in Grand Junction and served

on the Mesa County Search and Rescue ground team. He is being remembered on social media as a kind, caring man who helped countless people.

From the Tiara Rado Animal Hospital Facebook page:

"Tiara Rado Animal Hospital has lost an incredibly smart and energetic veterinarian yesterday. Dr. Marquis was the most caring person we all have known and to work with. He touched so many of us with his kind heart as well as our furry family members. We all are truly blessed to have known such a wonderful man. He will forever hold a special place in so many of our hearts. Dr. Marquis you will be missed. We all loved you so dearly."

The Mesa County Search and Rescue team also expressed their condolences via Facebook.

"We are deeply saddened today. We lost one of our own. Bob Marquis was killed in a plane crash... Bob was a great team member and dear friend that served on our team for many years and was truly a great person. Always a smile on his face... He was the kindest of souls. Bob was the best of the best. He will be missed greatly by all of us that served with him and knew him as a friend."