

LONE TREE VOICE

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COMING NEXT WEEK:

Get in the spirit of the season with our Hometown Holidays section



PROTECT AND SERVE:

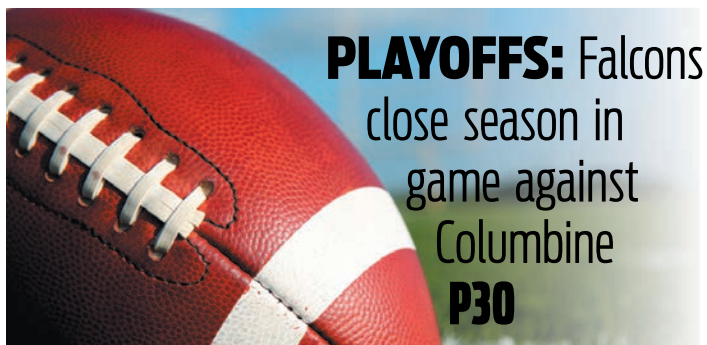
Citizen's academy gives insight into world of policing **P20**



ANXIOUS TIMES: Stressors tied to the modern world are fueling anxiety – depicted here in a student's sculpture – among today's youths **P5**



NEW STYLES: Alternative workouts heat up **P16**



PLAYOFFS: Falcons close season in game against Columbine **P30**

THE BOTTOM LINE

'I'm hoping we'll have a winning result for my campaign, but regardless of what happens, we must ensure every child in Colorado has access to a high-quality public education that ensures a bright future for them and our state.'

Rebecca McClellan, Democratic candidate for state board of education | Page 4



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SUSTAINABLE PRINTING

Citizens experience police training

Program designed to foster understanding of police work

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Sarah Neuscheler said members of her church would not believe that in the past nine weeks she had learned to shoot a gun, drive a patrol car and investigate a crime scene.

Neuscheler, a retired school teacher and Lone Tree resident, was afraid of guns before she started the Lone Tree Citizen's Police Academy. Though her usual hobbies include quilting, volunteering at her church and designing teddy bears, she was ready for a new challenge. Neuscheler, 75, and her husband Roger, 74, signed up for the academy together. During the program, she fired a gun for the first time.

"They were so patient with me," Neuscheler said. "These people built you up. I felt so safe."

On Nov. 10, Neuscheler, along with 12 others, attended a graduation ceremony for completing training in the academy. Mayor Jackie Millet attended the event to support the program.

The academy, which started in 2011, is a nine-week program designed to introduce citizens to the work of police officers. The students participate in 40 hours of hands-on police training, while getting to know the community's law enforcement.

Mock crime scene investigations, trying on SWAT gear, police car driving training and watching a K9 unit demonstration are a few highlights of the program. Sgt. Tim Beals runs the program one or two times a year.

Neuscheler said she enjoyed the program so much that she wants to go through the academy again and is planning to go on a ride along with an officer. Many of the graduates go on to volunteer their time to help officers by doing tasks like home checks and directing traffic.

The academy students spend Thursday evenings and some Saturdays performing an array of police-like work. One of recent graduates Suzanne Gray's favorite activities was the simulation exercise, which portrayed a citizen showing aggression after their car was pulled over. She could not believe how real it seemed.

"Even though you know you are in a simulation, your blood pressure is rising," Gray said. "It is a new appreciation for if you were in the situation as a police officer and had to make the decisions they have to make."

Gray, a Lone Tree librarian, decided to join the program after a suspicious person entered the library several weeks ago and the



Lone Tree City Councilmember Wynne Shaw was all smiles upon receiving her diploma during the Citizen's Police Academy graduation ceremony on Nov. 10.

STEPHANIE MASON



Suzanne Gray proudly holds her diploma.



All graduates from the program were awarded a diploma for their completion of the program during the Citizen's Police Academy graduation ceremony on Nov. 10.

police were called. She wanted to learn more about how police handle situations so she could be better prepared for similar situations in the future.

Another graduate from the acad-

emy was Lone Tree Councilmember Wynne Shaw. She wanted a first-person experience of what police officers deal with in her district. She said she felt the need to understand a new perspective of the city so she

could better serve it.

"I think that everyone should go through a program like this," Shaw said. "It really helps you understand life from the police point of view. It gives you a whole new perspective."