

LONE TREE VOICE

A publication of  Colorado Community Media DOUGLAS COUNTY, COLORADO



PEN PALS: Writers learn to stretch their literary legs **P18**

TIME TO TALK

One in five residents of Douglas County lives with a mental illness. On pages 7-13, we kick off an ongoing series looking at the impact of mental illness and the collaborative efforts aimed at bringing it into the light. Learn more about why we wrote these stories in our editorial on page 14.



A SAFE PLACE: Hospital program helps sex-assault survivors get on the road to healing **P4**



SMASHING SUCCESS: Rock Canyon senior is the South Metro Volleyball Player of the Year **P33**

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THE BOTTOM LINE

'I have overheard people who make a coffee order sound like a recipe for pudding. If someone wants to meet for coffee, I am willing – if it's coffee.'

Craig Marshall Smith | columnist, Page 14



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VOLUME 16 | ISSUE 47

SUSTAINABLE PRINTING

Second-grader's design chosen for city's holiday card

Sherly Agnes, 8, takes top spot among nearly 75 entries

BY TABATHA DEANS STEWART
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Eight-year-old Sherly Agnes is the winner of this year's annual holiday card contest. The second-grader's holiday card design was chosen from nearly 75 entries, and will be used on the city's official holiday greeting cards, which will be arriving in mailboxes soon.

"She couldn't believe she won. We were so excited," said Sherly's father, Edwin Agnes. "She came here from India just five months ago, and we never imagined she would win." Edwin has lived in Colorado for two years, but Sherly only joined him five months ago, and this is her first attempt at drawing competitively.

"She always has the hobby of drawing whatever she can," said Agnes.



Lone Tree city officials Susan Squyer, Jay Carpenter, Mayor Jackie Millet, Wynne Shaw and Cathie Brunnick recognized 8-year-old Sherly Agnes for being the top choice in the city's annual Christmas Card Contest.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LONE TREE.

"We very much appreciate the Lone Tree council for choosing her, and for

the whole country we live in here."

The holiday card contest is a longstanding tradition in Lone Tree, according to Lone Tree Arts Center Executive Director Lisa Rigsby Peterson. This year's theme was "Simply Celebrating the Holidays." The contest is open to elementary-aged children, and students often enter through their school art programs. This year Lone Tree library also hosted a card-making activity, which gave kids the opportunity to make cards to enter.

"It's always really heart-warming to see the budding artists in our schools, and see what the holidays mean to them," said Peterson. "It's hard to pick because there are so many great entries. We just choose one because it's the artwork used for the city's official holiday cards."

Sherly was recognized at the Dec. 5 Lone Tree City Council meeting, where she was congratulated by the mayor and council members. She also received a cash prize of \$50 plus art supplies, and 25 cards for her own use. Peterson said the cards are printed and will be in the mail soon.

"It's just a great tradition," said Peterson.

"It helps what could be a fairly official communication from the city be much more exciting and much more personal."

As for Agnes and his family, it's a great way for them to kick off new holiday traditions.

"We are so proud, and so happy that everyone in Lone Tree supported her, and happy for many new things to come," said Agnes.



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