



Above and left: CDOT Resident Engineer John Hall and CDOT Regional Communications Manager Tamara Rollison present information in a Feb. 8 "Listening Session" that promoted the inclusion of an express lane in the I-25 Gap improvement project. Photo and caption by Jennifer Kaylor.

sponded that CDOT's goal is to work within its existing property since property acquisition is time-consuming, expensive, and what seems to be nearly impossible because of wildlife conservation easements. State Rep. Shane Sandridge commented that sufficient funding for the project exists. Cautiously optimistic that CDOT will receive the necessary support, Sandridge added that political pressure is growing and citizens are demanding that their government officials listen.

Other comments pertained to width and basic access of exit and entrance ramps, cost comparisons to other projects throughout the state, and frustration over decades of delay. Residents who access SR-83 inquired if CDOT would add signals or left turn

lanes in anticipation of the influx of drivers attempting to escape congestion created by the project.

One resident stated that the current plan appears to lack long-term congestion relief and speculated that the same problem would resurface within a decade. The express lane theory seemed to defy logic for another commentator who stated that the general purpose lanes appeared to be congested in the demonstration slide. Everyone remained cordial throughout the session, but pronounced and repeated frustrations spoke to the crowd's expectations—no express lane.

Jennifer Kaylor can be contacted at jenniferkaylor@ocn.me.

MON (cont. from p1)

Jensen also asked the board to grant an emergency temporary removal of the town manager as direct supervisor of the Police Department pending the allegations review.

He asked the trustees if they were aware that Shirk had been placed on administrative leave by Lowe after Shirk sent the memo in question. Town Attorney Alicia Corley said she wasn't told about the issue until Feb. 5, which was why she had already asked for an executive session on this issue. Apparently, Trustee Greg Coopman was the only one of the six trustees present who had received the copy of the emailed memo that Shirk sent to all of them, so Jensen distributed printed copies of the memo to the trustees during the public session of the meeting.

Lance Farr, a retired San Diego police officer with expertise in narcotics and in training other officers, spoke in support of Chief Shirk. Monument resident Don Billings asked the board to do the right thing regarding this issue. Greg Fell, a resident of Monument and former El Paso County Sheriff's deputy, noted that "every officer has had to hire an attorney" and repeated the request for a motion to hold a third executive session to discuss removing Lowe as director of the Police Department. John Bird, a county resident, directed his comments to the officers and chief of police, expressing his gratitude for their service.

Once Jensen's request for a third executive session was unanimously approved, many in attendance clapped.

After public comments were complete, Trustee Bornstein asked, "Why is the chief on administrative leave?" Corley said it wasn't something that she did, but she wanted to talk about it during an executive session. Bornstein continued to ask why this is happening and followed by saying the memo is a public document, and wondered aloud if he should leave it for all to read.

The meeting went into executive session at 9:31 p.m. to discuss Village Center Metro District and the two personnel items concerning the town manager, and at 10:42 p.m. it returned to open session.

The trustees then took several votes, which were all approved unanimously:

- The agenda was amended to remove the third executive session, since it was now unnecessary.
- They authorized the town attorney to arrange an investigation into the town manager, in cooperation with CIRSA, the town's risk-sharing agency.
- They put both Shirk and Lowe on administrative leave with pay for two weeks.

The town attorney was asked to arrange for an interim town manager. Commander Steve



TRI-LAKES
United Methodist Church

TRADITIONAL
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

CONTEMPORARY
9:30 AM

20256 Hunting Downs Way • Monument, CO 80132 • 719.488.1365 • tlumc.org

\$10 OFF!

Your Wellness Experience

Good through 3/16/18. Cannot be combined with other offers.

Now in Palmer Lake



755 HWY 105, Ste 2C-1, Palmer Lake, CO, 80133
DrJasonGolec.com 219-392-9664

Turbo's Mobile

RV Service

Complete service comes to you!
(719) 487-9119
service@turbosrv.com

Awnings, Appliances, Electrical, Solar, LP, Plumbing, Satellites, AV, Hydronic, Parts & Accessories, Trailer Brakes & Lighting, and more...

The Vanity Box

Hair - Skin
Peels - Waxing
Eyelash Extensions

Manicure / Pedicure
Spray Tanning
Ionic Foot Detox

So Excited to Welcome Stylists
Rita Shepherd-Fear 719-221-1750
Stephanie Hockemeyer 719-232-0559
to The Vanity Box Family
Call them for an appointment

The Vanity Box Salon & Spa - (719) 481-1763
West End Center - 755 Highway 105, Suite C & P - Palmer Lake, CO
www.thevanitybox.com - Facebook/The Vanity Box Salon & Spa

The Wine Seller

The Best, Eclectic Wine, Beer and Spirits From Around the World!

FREE WINE TASTINGS
EVERY SATURDAY 1-4pm

FREE BOTTLE OF WINE!

Buy 5 bottles of wine and get 1 bottle **FREE!**

Discounted bottle to be of equal or lesser value. Not to be combined with any other offers or discounts. Original coupon only. Expires 03/31/2018

2805 Roberts Drive, Monument, CO 719-488-3019 www.thewineseller.net



I-25 & Baptist Road—Adjacent to King Soopers
Open 9 am to 10 pm Monday-Saturday
10 am to 7 pm Sunday
719-481-0708

EAGLE WINE & SPIRITS

- Over 1,100 Varieties of Imported and Domestic Wines
- 500 Varieties and Sizes of Micro, Import, and Domestic Beers
- Fine Cigars • Wide Variety of Spirits • Walk-In Wine Cooler



K2 KRITTER SOLUTIONS

"Solutions for Your Wildlife Worries"

100% green company

Skunks • Squirrels
Raccoons • Bats
Snakes • Gophers
Woodpeckers • Swallows
Pigeons • Foxes
Mice.....& More!

Humane Animal Removal & Prevention Repairs

Let Us "Kritter" Proof Your Home

www.k2kittersolutions.com

719-358-1856

Locally Owned & Family Operated