



# The Florence CITIZEN 50¢

Fremont County

Florence, CO 81226

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## City hears complaints on homeless shelter

By Michelle Marriott  
Citizen staff writer

Several Florence residents addressed the Florence City Council Monday night concerning their opposition to having a homeless shelter and soup kitchen located in the old library building, located at 100 W. Second St.

On Jan. 12, No Room at the Inn Ministries opened a homeless shelter and soup kitchen at the location. Donna Simmons was one of the first citizens to speak on the issue. Simmons stated concerns over the shelter being in close proximity to Pioneer Park, the Florence Municipal Pool and Fremont Middle School. There have been no impact studies or neighborhood meetings on the issue, she said.

Next to address the council on the issue was Cindy Porter.

"I feel extremely passionate about what is happening at the (former) library on Second Street," said Porter. "I am strongly opposed to it for so very very many reasons."

Porter explained that she was a pastor's wife for 31 years and that she and her husband worked with congregations of 300 to 500 people for 30 years. During that time porter also worked with the homeless.

"I know how dangerous they are," she said.

Substance abusers and the mentally ill make up 80 percent of the homeless population in our society, she added. These would be the individuals living at the homeless shelter if one is allowed to operate at that location, she said. School children walk down the alley behind the former library every day. Do the citizens of Florence want the city to be a destination for the homeless, she asked.

"I'm not saying that there is not a spot in every one of our hearts that don't go out to these people. I'm saying it's the wrong spot," she said.

The homeless need to be someplace where there is public transportation, they are able to seek employment, she said. She presented Florence City Manager Tom Piltingsrud with the signatures of 45 people in Florence op-

posed to the shelter.

Another resident, Scott McMillin, stated his concerns over the city's lack of services to deal with homeless and the shelter's potential to distract from the historical nature of the city.

Harlene Kelley added that she's lived in Chicago and Los Angeles and came to Florence because she believes it is a good community. If the shelter brings in ex-convicts and drug addicts the city will see an increase in crime, she said. Helping these individuals should be left up to the proper authorities, she said. She questioned the shelter's operators' qualifications to deal with these individuals.

"Our safety is in jeopardy if we even think twice about letting that go through," she said.

Christine Shinofield, a neighbor across from the library, stated that she believed it was a good idea but wasn't so keen on having it across the street. She added that she moved to Florence from larger cities, such as Denver and Phoenix to get away from that kind of thing.

Marlene Roglinske added that in the time she has lived in this community she has not seen vagrants or homeless people. While she believes the homeless should have a place to go for care, she is not in favor of having a shelter come to Florence and disrupt the community, she said.

In response to the outcry from neighbors, No Room at the Inn Ministries Founder Bonnie Enriquez informed the council that the shelter and soup kitchen was no longer in operation at 100 W. Second St.

"I realize your concerns, but we have secured another location that is more feasible for what we want to do," she said.

Since Enriquez still lives at the location she requested the council still consider waiving the paving requirements so she could park her vehicle on the property.

An attempt was made to contact Enriquez by phone regarding where a new facility would be located. However, she did not return the call before the paper's press deadline.



ADDRESSING QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS - Southern Delivery System Program Manager Bruce Spillers assists property owners in finding their property on a map that shows where the Southern Delivery System pipeline would be constructed if the Highway 115 alternative is chosen. Spillers and other representatives from Colorado Springs Utilities were available Jan. 29 at an open house forum at the Florence Municipal Center to answer questions citizens had regarding the Southern Delivery System. (Citizen staff photo by Michelle Marriott)

## SDS promoters hold open house for project

By Michelle Marriott  
Citizen staff writer

Several area residents took the opportunity to learn more about the Southern Delivery System and its possible impact on Eastern Fremont County during an open house forum Jan. 29 at the Florence Municipal Center.

Over 50 people attended the open house forum last Thursday, where they had the opportunity to view various exhibits and ask questions about various aspects of project if the decision is made to build a raw water pipeline in Fremont County to serve the Southern Delivery System's participants.

After years of studying various options, the Bureau of Reclamation named an alternative, which would pipe raw water from the Pueblo Reservoir to Southern Delivery System participants, which include Colorado Springs Utilities, the City of Fountain, the Security Water District

and the Pueblo West Metropolitan Water District, as its preferred alternative.

However, participants in the project have specified a date that the project must be completed in order to meet their community's needs. To ensure the system is in place by the specified time, Colorado Springs Utilities, the City of Fountain and the Security Water District are also starting the permitting process on the Highway 115 option, which would impact Fremont County, in addition to the preferred alternative. If an issue arises that would slow progress on one alternative, participants would be able to go forward with the other alternative, Colorado Springs Utilities Senior Communications Specialist Janet Rummel said.

As citizens entered the forum they were handed a comment card to fill out and a sheet explaining some of the commitments Southern Delivery System participant have to Fremont

County and the benefits to the county if the Highway 115 option is selected.

Benefits listed included a boost to the local economy through the addition of more jobs and the purchasing of goods and services, an opportunity for Penrose water districts to tap into the pipeline to serve their customers, the availability of fire hydrants at pump stations in outlying areas of the county for firefighters to use, the restoration of local roads used during construction to the same or better condition than before construction on the project began and improvements to the Florence River Park.

The four commitments addressed on the sheet were that Fremont County will not have to pay for the project, all land disturbed will be restored to the same condition it was before construction or better, landowners will be fairly compensated and the

(Continued on page 3)

## Penrose CoC hosts banquet

The Penrose Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual banquet Feb. 9 at the Gooseberry Patch Restaurant, located at 660 Hwy. 115 in Penrose.

Social time will begin at 6 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7 p.m. Each year during its annual banquet the Penrose Chamber of Commerce honors a citizen of the year and a Re-2

School District Employee of the Year. This year, State Representative Bob Gardner will present the citizen of the year award and Penrose Chamber of Commerce Secretary Misty Dawn Seoles will recognize two businesses that have earned the chamber's title of business of the year.

The cost to attend the banquet is \$25 per person.

Banquet organizers prefer anyone planning to attend the event pay for their meal and RSVP at the Penrose Chamber of Commerce Office located inside the Wells Fargo Bank at 210 Broadway St. in Penrose. However, individuals may make reservations for the event by calling 372-3994 and pay for their meal the night of the banquet.

## River park could receive makeover

By Michelle Marriott  
Citizen staff writer

Recreationists and wildlife fanatics could find improved facilities and habitats at the Florence River Park if Colorado Springs Utilities decides to go forward with the Fremont County Southern Delivery System alternative.

For years, the Bureau of Reclamation has been evaluating seven options for the Southern Delivery System, which would provide water to its participants. Participants in this project include Colorado Springs, Fountain, the Security Water District and the Pueblo West Metropolitan District.

Last year the Bureau of Reclamation named the option that would pipe raw water from Pueblo Reservoir to its participants as its preferred alternative. Although the Pueblo Reservoir option is the preferred alternative, Southern Delivery System participants are still looking at the Fremont County alternative. The participants have established a date when the system would need to be operational, Colorado Springs Utilities Senior Communications Specialist Janet Rummel said. Both options are being reviewed just in case one option takes too long to complete, she said.

If the Fremont County option is selected, the a pump station would be constructed across from the Florence River Park to pull water from the river belonging to Southern Delivery System participants. To accommodate the pump station, the water diversion that currently serves the Lester-Attebery Ditch will be enlarged from its current diversion rate of approximately 9 cubic feet per second to a maximum flow of 120 cubic feet per second.

Originally, two options were being considered. One involved an inflatable dam, which could be inflated or deflated depending on the river's flow. The second option, which favored by many citizens, would be a permanent structure that would include a boat chute and a diversion channel through the park to help prevent flooding during times when river flow is high. The channel could be designed to have a continuous flow throughout the year.

Carolyn Browning, an

(Continued on page 3)

pictures and information about historic downtown Florence.

The Front Range Research Associates armed with a grant from

are aware of our architectural and historical heritage come on in and have a look see!

I am tempted to make a joke here about coming

## Park makeover ...

(Continued from page 1) associate scientist with CH2M Hill working with the project, stated that having fresh water flowing through the park will benefit the ecosystem and will allow the wetlands there to be replenished with new water. Over 90 percent of species will use wetlands in some point in their lives, she added.

Colorado Springs Utilities Construction and Delivery Program Manager Dan Higgins added, "It is in our best interests to make sure it (the park) is taken care of."

Other improvements proposed for the park include a boat launch area in the park's northwest corner, improving trails by using better materials on the paths and adding interpretive signs and kiosks, adding park benches and picnic tables and building

a bridge over the park's wetlands, which would allow emergency response personnel better access to all areas of the park.

Other goals for the park would be to irradiate invasive species from the park, such as tamarisks, which are known for excessive water consumption and depleting biodiversity. Removing invasive species would allow native species to return, Browning said.

Bruce Spiller, Southern Delivery System Program Manager with CH2M Hill added, to maximize the area's aesthetic appeal the pump station's exterior will be designed to blend into the hillside or can be made to look however citizens want it to look. In another part of the state where Colorado Springs Utilities has a pump station it was built to look like a barn, typical of the area, he added.

are its people, and that's you all (okay ... the staff is pretty cool too). Right now we have 3065 card holding members of the library. That is just around

## Open house ...

(Continued from page 1) project will not harm the county's water.

During the forum, one of the busiest areas was a table where property owners could see how the pipeline would impact their property. Available to answer property owners' questions and address concerns was Colorado Springs Utilities Land Acquisition Manager Darlene Garcia.

If the pipeline is built in Fremont County, approximately 97 properties in the county will be impacted, she said. During the planning and engineering process, officials with Colorado Springs Utilities are working to limit the impact to the properties involved, she added.

In most cases, Colorado Springs Utilities would request a 100-foot easement for the pipeline, which would be buried, she explained. Although property

find some of those 40% and get them in here for a card, and come by the back room and say hi. We appreciate you!

owners would not be able to build on the easement, they would still be able to utilize that property for grazing livestock, she said.

To fairly compensate landowners for their property, Colorado Springs Utilities will have its own appraisal of the property performed and then pay for property owners to have their own appraisal done.

Once the pipeline is installed, the land's natural contours will be restored and vegetation will be restored to the area.

At other exhibits, citizens could view designs of the pump stations designed to blend into the environment, the power lines servicing pump stations in the county and plans to upgrade the Florence River Park. Individuals were also available to explain how water rights work and how the pipeline would impact the Arkansas River's flow.

first sent under the new selective service ruling barring first examinations and giving just the one to draftees.

### 50 years ago - 1959

After punching some 14 holes in the Florence oil field over a period of about 18 months, Peak Petroleum Company has succeeded in bringing in two shallow-depth wells. When the first well came in, observers estimated that it was blowing between 20-22 barrels per hour.

A series of break-ins has given the Florence Police Department a problem in juvenile crime, prompting the city council to pass a new law covering petty larceny and vagrancy. In the past week there were several break-in attempts at Florence Tire and Supply, Gene's Texaco Service, Bueno's Service, Acme Cleaners, Florence Radio & Electronic Service, and the Florence Trades & Industries building. Many of these businesses received considerable damage to property and

(GoCo) grant to place a permanent shelter facility in Pioneer Park, with help from the Pioneer Day Association and the Chamber of Commerce. One of the major factors in a grant award is community support for the project in the form of letters of support, cash contributions, or in pledges of time or supplies. Those involved believe the shelter will complete Pioneer Park and greatly enhance the area for a number of community activities.

Residents of Florence caught Bronco fever as the Denver defeated Atlanta at the Super Bowl. According to Wyquita's, Wanderings, there are still some signs of Bronco pieces around the community. Bill Hurley is excited about his official Bronco hardhat. Someone has the Bronco logo painted on the side of his pickup. Larry Lasha, our new city manager, has a vehicle painted in support of the Broncos as well.

## ATTENTION MASSAGE THERAPISTS!

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