

MONUMENT (Cont. from page 1)

- There were 44 commercial customers at the old bulk water station.
- Residents “on the mesa,” whose wells no longer produce water, are also allowed to use the tank.
- Commercial trucks use the tank at all hours of the night, not just during the official hours.
- I never thought something like this would be installed in our neighborhood.
- Now cars are parking under it and staying there all night.
- Are there homeless people parking?
- The heavy commercial traffic is negatively affecting our family lifestyle, quality of life, and property values.
- We want it removed, relocated, on other land you lease.

Barber asked whether commercial water users are being charged the higher commercial water rate at this site. “If you charge a little bit higher rate for commercial use...you could make your money back to remove this,” and put it at a new location. She said Tharnish estimated it would cost \$45,000 to \$55,000 to move the station. “We would like to see it put in the fiscal budget so we can move this.” “Kiewit used one million dollars in water (if they had been charged commercial price), and that would have paid the town” for moving this site, Barber said.

NOTE: Kiewit & Parson-Brinkerhoff (PB) is the design/build contractor for the widening of 11-mile segment of northbound and southbound I-25 from two to three lanes between the Woodmen Road and Highway 105 exits by the Colorado

Department of Transportation. Kiewit is leasing two storage areas adjacent to the Baptist Road exit as a staging area for its operations. Highway construction requires a large amount of potable water for dust control in the surrounding area of the improvements. Kiewit had contracted with Forest Lakes Metropolitan District for potable water from the metro district’s only well, but that well failed. Kiewit turned to the Town of Monument as an alternate source of bulk potable water near Baptist Road.

Town Treasurer Pam Smith, Mayor Rafael Dominguez, Development Services Director Tom Kassawara, and Trustee Stan Gingrich responded on behalf of Tharnish, who could not attend this meeting and had requested it be postponed. Some of their comments were:

- The site was designated in 2002 as a bulk fill water station and zoned (PRD) Planned Residential District with a list of permitted uses such as water uses and essential utilities.
- The town’s previous bulk water station on North Jefferson Street was not replaced until this year.
- Many apologies were offered for the minimal notification and the sense of disenfranchisement.
- “But (the bulk water tank) is there now. What resolution do you want?”
- This water station was built to provide easier water access for people in Mount Herman Estates, who need water, and to address commercial needs as well as augment funding for the water enterprise fund.
- Currently there are 24 bulk customers: 17 commercial (nine using the station), and seven residential.
- Bulk use in June was much higher than predicted since Kiewit had contracted with Forest Lakes for water, and its well failed.
- In June there were 521 trips into this neighborhood; 418 were by Kiewit.
- In July there were 63 trips through July 20.

Dominguez said the board will have the staff look into options regarding the bulk fill station, keeping the safety and aesthetics of the community in mind, and make repairs to the road and driveway. The Trails End residents and homeowners association will be notified of any board consideration at future board meetings.

New superintendent introduced

Karen Brofft, the new D38 superintendent, received two hearty rounds of applause from the audience. She emphasized the she is “approachable and always appreciates public engagement.” She will make presentations and conduct interac-



Above: Tammy Barber, right, and Bobby Padilla, as well as several other Trails End residents, spoke to the trustees with concerns about safety, home values, aesthetics, and noise due to the bulk water station now built at the corner of Wagon Gap Trail and Old Denver Highway. Photo by Lisa Hatfield.

tive team meetings “to bring in the public and find ways to make the public even schools better.”

Tri-Lakes Cares helps community help itself

Tri-Lakes Cares (TLC) Executive Director Haley Chapin explained to the trustees about the mission and operations of this local community resource center and how it helps people in the area with emergency needs, achieving self-sufficiency, and relief services. Case managers are trained to help with situational and generational poverty and help clients use resources that include:

- Food pantry
- Medical clinic, plus coordinating mental health and dental services
- Snack pack program to supplement food needs for children who qualify for free and reduced lunch, plus a senior supplement program
- School supplies for children in the fall
- Holiday food baskets and hand-picked gifts for families at Thanksgiving and Christmas, thanks to donations

Case managers also help clients obtain clothing that is appropriate for work and provide financial assistance that will help families “bridge out of poverty” to self-sufficiency.

Chapin explained how the Hangers Thrift Store is both a resource for clients and a revenue stream. This year the store is on track to generate \$100,000 that all goes back to TLC to support its program services. She encouraged Tri-Lakes residents to donate clothing of all kinds, household goods, books, kitchen items, and jewelry to Hangers.

TLC is searching for someone who is bilingual in English and Spanish to

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