

# Commissioners eye moving men's correction program

BY LINDA DETROY ALEXANDER  
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County commissioners want more information before voting on a proposal to move the men's community corrections program to the sheriff's detention-center complex. County staff members evaluated whether to relocate the program and the most effective means for the county to operate it in the future.

Their recommendation is for the county to appropriate up to \$17 million to build a new facility as part of the renovation project at the Jefferson County detention complex, County Administrative Services Director Todd Leopold told the commissioners at their Aug. 23 briefing.

In addition, staff recommended that the county work with the program provider to develop a revenue share-back program for reimbursement of expenses associated with construction and operation of the facility. If the county were to take over operation of the program, personnel costs would be 10-15 percent higher than contracting with a third party, staff reported.

The community corrections

program is currently in the New York Building, 1651 Kendall St. in Lakewood. It provides services for men who have been sentenced to a community corrections program by the courts and to clients who are returning to society from a Colorado prison facility and must participate in an intensive supervisory program. The county contracts with Intervention Services Inc., to provide residential and nonresidential community corrections services.

Intervention Services officials said they are eager to continue their contract and willing to develop the reimbursement agreement. County staff said the sheriff's detention-center complex at 200 Jefferson Parkway has space for the construction of a multi-story facility, has appropriate zoning and would offer opportunities for shared services, such as food service and security management. In addition, bus transportation is close by, and the light-rail station slated to begin operation in 2013 at the county government complex would provide public transportation options for program clients.

A proposed design for a new fa-

cility is estimated to cost just over \$17 million. It would include a two-story parking garage, estimated at about \$3 million, that the commissioners said should be eliminated.

"I would push hard to not add the parking structure," Commissioner Don Rosier said. "It would be expensive to build and to maintain."

The commissioners acknowledged the value of the community corrections program and supported moving it to the sheriff's complex.

"I do not want to put one cent in the New York Building," board chairwoman Faye Griffith said.

That building is deteriorating, and the county is only able to use about two-thirds of the space because of its condition. However, the commissioners want information on how much it would cost to change the design of the proposed facility to plan for future space and central-plant needs, such as housing the work-release program at the facility. They also asked County Administrator Ralph Schell to get input from the communities served by the program.

# Udall backs president's plan to produce jobs

BY LINDA DETROY ALEXANDER  
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In Washington, Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., will be working to get some of his ideas incorporated into the jobs plan that President Barack Obama presented Sept. 8.

Following Obama's presentation, Udall said Congress needs some Colorado common sense and said he will keep pushing for three programs he has introduced or partnered on with other Congress members.

One would ease regulations on the amount that credit unions can lend to small businesses, a proposal Udall said would create 100,000 new jobs. Another would amend legislation concerning the use of ski areas on public land by allowing the U.S. Forest Service to approve summertime uses, including zip lines, mountain-bike terrain parks, golf courses and water slides. A third, the Startup Visa Act, would make it easier for foreign entrepreneurs who want to start a company in the United States to get a visa.

He said one concern about the plan is to make sure it's paid for. "Overall, the plan includes ideas that both parties have supported," Udall said in a press confer-

ence after Obama's presentation. "It's a nice mixture of philosophies to create jobs and strengthen the economy."

"He didn't offer us anything," said Jefferson County Republican Party Chairman Don Ytterberg. "It was the same old story he's been preaching since he got into office, only a couple trillion dollars later."

Ytterberg said he had concerns about some of the incentive credits Obama proposed, including a credit for businesses that hire people who have been out of work for an extended period.

"You can't induce a business to do something it otherwise wouldn't do if it doesn't make business sense," he said. "I know the president is eager for people to go back to work, but businesses have to have something for them to do."

Ytterberg also said that, closer to home, county and state politicians can help businesses by addressing the issue of business personal property tax.

"That's been a football in the last couple of election cycles," he said. "It's basically a tax on already-owned property. That's a disincentive to invest in Colorado."

## Notice of Public Open House

### TWIN TUNNELS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

#### PLEASE JOIN US TO SHARE YOUR INPUT

Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2011

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Buffalo Restaurant and Bar  
1617 Miner St.  
Idaho Springs, CO 80452

#### AGENDA:

5:30-6:00 P.M.: Registration/Open House

6:00-6:30 P.M.: Project Presentation

6:30-7:30 P.M.: Q&A/Open House

Persons with special access or translation needs should contact project staff in advance to make arrangements.

For more information, please contact:  
Jim Bemelen, CDOT, 303-365-7010 or  
James.Bemelen@dot.state.co.us

Para información en español, por favor contactar a Darin Stavish al (303) 365-7047 o escribir al darin.stavish@dot.state.co.us.

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) invites you to attend a public open house concerning the Twin Tunnels Environmental Assessment.

CDOT is currently considering improvements to the Twin Tunnels area east of Idaho Springs to Floyd Hill along the eastbound direction of the Interstate 70 (I-70) Mountain Corridor. The purpose of the proposed project is to improve capacity, mobility, and safety along this stretch of the interstate. The Environmental Assessment will define these improvements and provide information on impacts to environmental and community resources and determine appropriate mitigation to minimize any impacts.

A critical part of this process is obtaining your input so that we understand your concerns. Please join us on September 27<sup>th</sup> to learn more about the project and share your thoughts and questions.

Should you be unable to attend the meeting in person, please visit the project website for more information and an opportunity to provide comment electronically:

<http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/i70twinTunnels>



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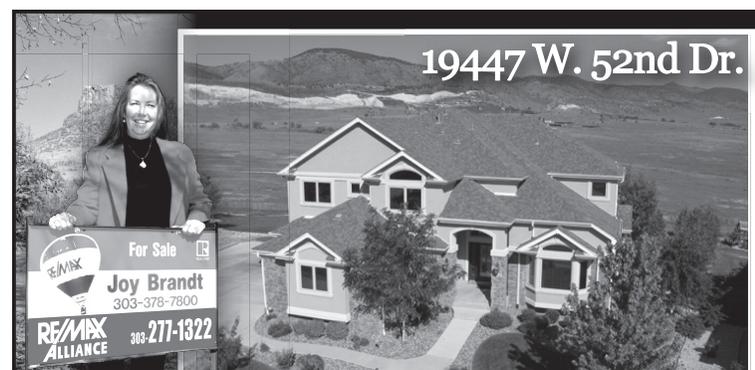
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