

Calhan bus service to begin in October

By Judi Tobias

The September meeting of the Community Outreach Coalition in Calhan featured a presentation by Cari Davis of the Colorado Springs Health Foundation.

The Foundation was established in 2011 through the citizens' vote to lease Memorial Health System to UCHHealth.

Its scope is to cover El Paso and Teller Counties. The Foundation's mission is to target immediate healthcare needs and encourage healthy living. This will be accomplished through grants to groups working on four focus areas: access to care, the healthcare workforce shortage, suicide prevention, and helping create

healthy environments. Davis explained that the last focus area could include such areas as grants for parks and exercise or sports programs. Healthcare workforce could include funding for additional nurses and doctors for clinics etc. Schools could apply for grants for suicide prevention programs.

Access to care can also be defined as providing adequate and healthy food for at risk populations.

The grants are limited by the Foundation's budget, so that the program will be around in perpetuity, explained Davis. The Foundation is looking at the involvement of other groups in the program and does not want to be the majority lender. Details and application forms are available on the Foundation website.

A representative from the Pikes Peak Agency on Aging announced that the agency is developing a four-year plan which can influence the funding for the County. They need input from individuals and groups such as churches or senior centers.

Liz Willhoff, the Manager of the High Prairie Library announced that the plans for the new library in Calhan are nearing completion and the PPLD is hiring a construction manager for the project.

Patty Jolly announced that there will be a ceremony in Calhan on Oct. 17 at 10 am to inaugurate the new shuttle service between Calhan and Colorado Springs. There will

be County and State officials at the event and refreshments will be served. The location is at the Community Outreach Coalition building in the Fairground area. The service will begin on Oct. 18 and the shuttle will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays between Calhan and the transportation center at Briargate in Colorado Springs. There will be stops in Peyton, Falcon and at Penrose/St. Francis Hospital and Memorial Hospital North in the Powers area. The shuttle service will be expanded to other days of the week if warranted, said Jolly. Pastor Randy of Rush commented that plans are in the works for a shuttle in the Highway 94 corridor in 12-18 months if the Calhan shuttle is well-supported. Bob Selle announced that the Community Pantry's mobile Food Pantry will begin at 9 am on the third Friday of the month beginning on October 19.

Jolly announced that Medicare's open season will begin Oct. 25 and run through mid-December. She also reminded everyone of the annual Health Fair Oct. 6-8 at the Fairgrounds.