

## County to hold 51st state info meetings July 18

Written by Darci Tomky  
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Interested citizens are invited to informational meetings about the 51st state initiative next Thursday, July 18. Phillips County will hold the meetings at 6 p.m. in Haxtun at the Haxtun Community Center and at 8 p.m. in Holyoke at SunSet View.

Phillips County commissioners will be explaining the recent 51st state proposals, including an alternative to current state representation.

Monday, July 8, the county commissioners attended a meeting in Akron for continued discussion about northeast Colorado counties seceding from Colorado to form a new state. Ten Colorado counties were represented at the meeting as well as a number of people from the public and the media.

Phillips County administrator Randy Schafer said he presented an alternative to forming a new state. He proposed changing the way representatives are elected in one of the houses in the state legislature. He said the idea got very good reception from the other counties at the meeting.

Even though Phillips County proposed this alternative, Schafer said other counties will probably still put the secession question on their ballots this year.

Schafer noted they hope to have an all-state meeting with Colorado Counties, Inc., an association representing county commissioners around the state, to discuss the issue.

The county urges citizens to attend the informational meetings July 18 so they can hear explanations of the proposals.

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