

## Homesteaders playground plans receive \$5,000 Daniels Fund grant

Written by Darci Tomky

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Phillips County Commissioners announced at their Nov. 23 meeting they have received a \$5,000 Daniels Fund grant to support the Homesteaders Park playground improvement project.

The county and the playground committee have been working on a project to replace the existing playground with new, universally accessible playground equipment, to install a turf playfield and to install a frisbee golf course.

Chairman Jerry Beavers said, "This grant is greatly appreciated. It will really be helpful in moving the project forward and giving us the impetus to succeed."

Phillips County is still seeking additional donations to match a potential Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) grant for this same project.

Commissioners Susan Roll Walters and Beavers and county administrator Randy Schafer attended the GOCO board meeting Wednesday, Nov. 17. The playground project's initial GOCO grant application was turned down, but the staff was very encouraging, reported commissioners.

GOCO staff advised the county to apply again and to include more public input as well as more firm pledges.

Anyone wanting to provide a donation toward the project should contact Brooke Dirks or Michelle Vieselmeyer.

As commissioners look to new projects, they were pleased to report the Phillips County Event Center open house and thank you celebration was well attended. They are excited to finish that project and move forward with others.

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### **Paoli land to be purchased for county**

Commissioners reported they are in the process of buying land in Paoli. A small piece north of the railroad and the old depot will be used as stockpile storage for gravel and rock.

They will also be renewing the farm lease for the Phillips County landfill with Duane Harms. The agreement, which has been in place the last several years, is automatically renewed if neither party has objections.

Phillips County is in the process of hiring a new victims assistance director. Also in the month of November, Roy Pfaltzgraff was appointed to the board of Phillips County Economic Development while Bud Biesemeier was appointed to the Northeast Colorado Housing Authority board.

### **Other business**

In other business in the month of November, commissioners:

—approved Farmer LLC to do the county audit.

—held a budget hearing Nov. 23.

—approved the Beulah Neiman Trust subdivision exemption of 8.18 acres at the county line and County Road 23.

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—noted seismic operations are being conducted by Paragon Geophysical Services northeast of Holyoke and in the Amherst area to determine where Black Raven Energy will drill wells.

—purchased a 2007 Chevy Impala for \$9,900 from the Government Services Administration sale.

—began pursuing the purchase of a tractor for District 2.

—attended the Jolly Dozen FCE presentation on bread making and wheat varieties.

—noted their plans to attend the Colorado Counties Inc. (CCI) winter conference in Colorado Springs.