

# Council hears ideas for volleyball pit, skate park

By Karen Krien  
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Members from the recreation board, along with the director, talked about proposed projects when the St. Francis City Council met on Monday, Sept. 12.

Board members, Larry Finley and Kurb Elliott; and Penny Keller, director, talked about improvements for the ball diamond near the fairgrounds and a sandpit for sand volleyball.

Mr. Finley said a building was needed for the ball diamond. We need some place where the equipment can be put and mice can't get to it, he said. The mice are ruining the equipment.

The new building plans would include a concession stand and restrooms. There was the question as to where it could be located and not be on the fairgrounds.

"We're not far enough along to know exactly where we stand," he said. "Whatever we do, we will talk to J.R. (Landenberger, city superintendent) before doing anything."

They talked about the blowing sand and what could be done to prevent it including planting trees and/or a metal fence. They said the sand ridges on left field could almost hide the player.

We just need to block the blow down, he said.

Roger Jensen, councilman, said he had plans for the ball field drawn up year's ago. It called for moving dirt. Mr. Finley said they finally had a good stand of grass on much of the field and hated to see it torn up.

Mr. Finley said the numbers of ball players were down some but this summer, there was more activity including church leagues and co-ed softball.

Bruce Swihart, councilman, asked if they did build, would they use local contractors? Mr. Finley said that was their plan. In fact, they had talked to some contractors who had offered to donate some of the labor.

Mr. Elliott said there was interest in having a sand volleyball pit. They had looked at a number of locations including the roadside park south of the museum and the city park. They felt like the city park, west of the rest rooms, was the best location. There might be a problem with some of the playground equipment but the council thought that it was no problem to move that.

By locating it behind the courthouse, there would be protection from the wind, there

would be electricity close at hand, and it would be better to have the pit downtown opposed to crossing the highway to the roadside park.

They talked about containing the sand, how and who would build it, covering it in the winter and cats using it but no decision was made.

On both projects, the council asked the rec board to draw up plans and costs, then come back to the council.

A third recreation proposal came from the Skate Park Commission. This group is separate from the Recreation Commission but they want to put in a skate board park. They had 101 signatures supporting the skate park.

The council wanted to know where the park would be located and how would it be funded?

They (the commission) are just kids who want to have a skate park, said Shane Guggenmoss, police chief, who had brought the proposal to the council.

The council suggested that the kids form a committee and put together a plan, then come to the council. They also suggested that this might be an additional plan for the St. Francis Rec Commission.

The matter was tabled until more information is known.

## Club Clip

### VFW Auxiliary Unit 1528

The VFW Auxiliary Unit 1528 met at the city hall in St. Francis. There were six members present. Connie Rooney, Marlys Poulignot, Ruth Moore, Carol Connett, Hattie Terry and Wanda Dowdy. There was also a visitor, Jo Ann Wahrman from Goodland. She was there to audit the books for the last year.

September is Suicide Awareness Month. Little magnet teardrops were passed out to everyone with the Suicide Awareness Press Release.

"It's a small gesture of solidarity and concern," said national Americanism director, Sandi Onstwedder. "These men and women are our heroes, and anything we can do to bring the issue to light is a chance to help one of them."

A reported 20-30 percent of returning soldiers have Post

Traumatic Stress Disorder, a major contributor to suicidal thoughts. In June 2010 alone, soldiers committed suicide at a rate of one per day. All branches of the military along with the Department of Veterans Affairs are working to lower these heartbreaking numbers, provide better mental health services and bring awareness to the public.

The Ladies Auxiliary VFW reported they wanted to help. They are hoping those in their communities will see the teardrop on their shirts and ask them about it. When they do, members want others to know there are resources out there, such as hotlines, chat rooms and mobile apps.

Here is a list of some of the resources available: National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 800-273-TALK(8255).www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/suicide, www.ptsd

va.gov (Learn about the the PTSD Coach mobile app), www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/ Includes live 1-1 chat services with a counselor). Veteran Combat Call Center (Talk to another combat veteran): 877-927-8387.

"We want to give a voice to those who are hurting," said national president Gwen Rankin. "The 520,000 members of our organization are willing to step up. That's why my theme this year is Step Up-Leave No Veteran Behind. We want to make a difference in their lives and in the lives of their families."

The next meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. on Oct. 17 at the city hall in St. Francis. We will be planning the District Meeting which will be held on Oct. 22 and 23 at Riverside. We will also be collecting white T-shirts, briefs and white tube or crew socks for the hospital in Ft. Leavenworth. These need to be in large or extra large, as large as we can get them.

Anyone who is eligible to join us at the VFW Auxiliary are welcome to join us as we continue to serve our military men and women who are fighting for our freedoms.

## Book Review

Book review from the St. Francis Public Library  
**America by Heart**  
By Sarah Palin

Since the publication of her bestselling memoir, Going Rouge, in 2009, former Alaska governor Sarah Palin has traveled the country extensively. She has visited cities and towns in almost every state, dropped in on military bases, given talks and speeches to small groups and at massive rallies. Throughout her travels, she has been privileged to meet thousands of Americans-ordinary men and women who have shared with her their hopes and dreams, their love of country, and their fears about what lies ahead. Governor Palin, inspired by these encounters, celebrates in her new book the enduring strengths and virtues that have made this country a beacon of liberty and hope for the rest of the world.

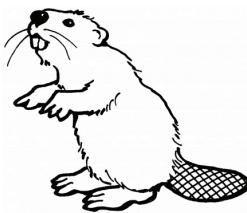
America by Heart is a highly personal testament to her deep love of country, her strong roots in faith, and her profound appreciation of family. Ranging widely over American history, culture, and current affairs, Governor Palin reflects on the key values that have been such an essential part of her own life and that continue to inform her vision of America's future. The book also includes brief readings from classic and contemporary texts that have moved and inspired her, as well as portraits of Americans, both famous and obscure, whom she admires.

Informed by Palin's own principles and deepest feelings, graced with intimate memories, this remarkable book gives us a close-up view of an extraordinary

woman who is not afraid to speak out and defend the American values in which she so deeply believes.

### 8th Annual Smoking on the Beaver

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### ABC PRESCHOOL THANKS METHODIST CHURCH BOARD

On behalf of the ABC Preschool Board of Advisors, Teachers and parents of students, past and present, we would like to thank the Board of the Methodist Church for its generosity in allowing the ABC Preschool to use the resource building to hold classes for the past 33 years. Additionally the teachers appreciate the board's decision to place new curtains in the classroom. They are a great improvement.

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MARY EYSTONE roasted peppers in the parking lot at the Hilltop General Store during the U.S. Highway 36 Treasure Hunt held over the weekend.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

### Check your renewal dates

— Current Rates —

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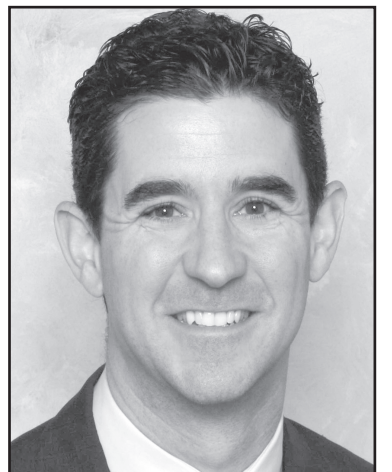
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## Introducing

The office of Dr. Daniel Boedeker DDS, Colorado Plains Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery P.C. is now open. Dr. Boedeker recently celebrated an open house to show the dental community of Northeast Colorado his new office which will be the only Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery office on the Eastern Plains. Dr. Boedeker is a 2004 graduate of the University Of Missouri Kansas City School Of Dentistry. After working for 2 years as a general dentist in Lawrence, Kansas, he elected to continue his training in Oral Surgery at Montefiore Medical Center in Bronx, NY. Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery is



**Dr. Daniel Boedeker**

the specialty of dentistry that cares for patients with problem wisdom teeth, facial pain and misaligned jaws. An oral and maxillofacial surgeon is able to treat accident victims suffering facial injuries, place dental implants, and care for patients with tumors and cysts of the jaws. With advanced training in anesthesia, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons are able to provide quality care with maximum patient comfort and safety in the office setting. Dr. Boedeker also has privileges at both Colorado Plains Medical Center and East Morgan County Hospital. The office is conveniently located at 527 West Platte Ave., Fort Morgan, Colo., and participates as an in network provider with many major dental insurance companies. If you would like to schedule an appointment with Dr. Boedeker, please call his office at 970-867-4477.