

Friday

October 19, 2012

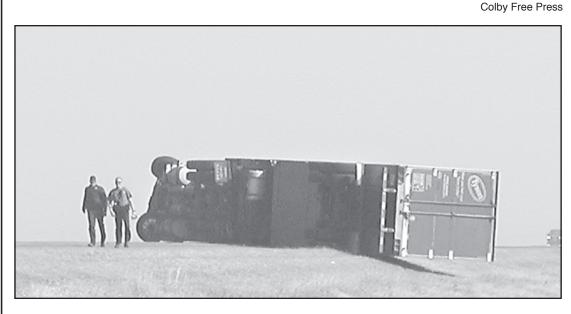
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Semi rolls over on Interstate 70

High winds and dust helped cause several accidents Thursday on Interstate 70. At 12:12 p.m., wind blew an empty semi-trailer rig (above, below) over near mile marker 37.5, about a mile east of the Brewster exit. The driver, Jesse Blaine of Iowa, was uninjured. At 12:25 p.m., a 2002 Toyota Camry struck the back of a 2001 Ford Expedition at mile marker 62, near Mingo (right) in an accident blamed on poor visibility. The driver of the Camry, Brenda Kenney, Lansing, was taken to Citizens Medical Center. Officials there said they could not talk about her injuries. The other driver, James Chincholl, Parker, Colo., was not hurt. State troopers reported that Chincholl apparently slowed because of thick dust and Kenney's car struck it from behind.

> KATHRYN BALLARD SAM DIETER





Rexford to receive \$400,000 grant

By Sam Dieter

Colby Free Press

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\$400,000 grant to improve its housing supply, which has been tight in recent years because employees from a new and growing dairy operation have pretty much filled the town.

The Kansas Housing Resources Corp. says it chose Rexford for a \$400,000

grant to help build five new duplexes. The money could be awarded at the end

us to be able to do something in a really The City of Rexford could get a small town," said J.R. Behan, director of operations for the state agency.

> The corporation, which handles government assistance money for housing, announced last Friday that it had chosen end of the year," Rocca said. Rexford as one of eight communities with grant for moderate-income housing in rural areas.

Christy Rocca, Thomas County ecoof the year, in conjunction with a com- nomic development director, wrote the plexes east of the town's football field, panion grant from the U.S. Department application for the grant and for an even she said.

of Agriculture's Rural Development pro- larger one from the federal agency, with help from the Northwest Kansas Planning "It was just a unique opportunity for and Development Commission. The two grants were meant to be given in conjunction with each other, she said, adding that she's not sure when she'll find out if Rexford gets the money.

The McCarty Dairy could double in 60,000 or fewer people to receive a new size again over the next several years, able to help support it," Behans said. "We everybody has a story," he added. making the housing situation in Rexford and the surround area even tighter, Rocca said. The dairy donated land for the du-

The federal program could provide anthe size of Rexford, and most grants are other \$1,142,282 through a grant and a loan of \$126,921 for the project. The total cost would be \$1,669,203.

The state grant is contingent on getting the federal money, Behan said. He and others met with federal officials on Oct. "I would be hopeful that it would be the 11, he said, and the department should make up its mind in December.

"The local community was going to be have a hard time, our office does, sup-

porting really small communities." He said it would it not be realistic for his agency to help build a larger project, such as an apartment complex, in a town

aimed toward lower-income housing. The moderate-income level, Behan said, includes people ranked from 60 to 100 percent of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's non-metro area median income index. A family of four in this income bracket makes between \$32,640 and \$81,600 a year.

"It was hard to evaluate these, because

A total of 32 applications for the grant were sent to the corporation. The other winners were Norton, Dodge City, Garden City, Larned, Pittsburg, Montgomery County and Osage County.

U.S. district attorney offers help to officers

By Christina Beringer

Colby Free Press

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U.S. Attorney Barry Grissom and two aides met with top law enforcement officials and community leaders Tuesday at the Law Enforcement Training Center, offering help on cases that can be transferred to federal courts.

Barry Grissom, who's office covers the entire judicial district of Kansas, was in town for a speech to the Colby Rotary Club. Police Chief Randy Jones, Thomas County Sheriff Rod Taylor, Kansas Bureau of Investigation Special Agent Mark Kendrick and

Thomas County Attorney Kevin said, adding that a convicted felon Berens gave their views on crime caught with a gun, ammunition or and other issues, and learned how Grissom's office can help in cases

feel like no one has their back," the federal prosecutor said. "I'm three cases recently. One of those here to let you know that if you want us and you think your case here for you.

"We can save the community

some heartache and trouble." He added that his office can allow the county attorney to join a case as a special assistant in federal court.

a bullet-proof vest can be tried in federal court.

'That's good to know," Berens "Sometimes, law enforcement said. "We do a lot of interdiction on the Interstate, and we've had had a felony.'

Jones added that Thomas Counhas federal nexus, then we are ty is known throughout the state for drug interdictions.

> "This building is a result of a five-minute stop," he said, referring to an incident where city officers stopped a man driving a load of cash through the state.

"A felony is a felony," Grissom See "ATTORNEY," Page 2

Colby school board OKs energy audit for buildings

By Sam Dieter

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The Colby School Board approved an energy audit of district buildings among other business at its monthly meeting Monday night, hiring an engineering firm to find ways to save money.

At the suggestion of Superintendent Terrel Harrison, the board approved an "investment-grade" energy audit with 360 Energy Engineers, while also advertising for bids from other companies. That will allow any needed work to be done dur-

The audit will cost \$15,000 and focus on heating and cooling systems for the district's buildings.

ing the summer break next year, she said.

If the board chooses to use 360 Energy Engineers, Harrison said, the company could replace the heating and cooling system in the middle

school for \$340,000 to \$380,000 next summer. Harrison said that this project could be paid for out of the capital outlay fund for this year, but additional projects would require another source of money.

At the Sept. 17 board meeting, the company presented findings from an initial free audit and made recommendations for a phased upgrade of the heating and cooling systems in all the district's buildings.

High School Principal Jeff Wallingford was absent Monday because he was at a junior varsity football game. Athletic Director Larry Gabel and board member Brice Barton were at the state golf

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