

# College wins first accreditation

COLLEGE, from Page 1

the community," Devier said. He said the panel thought the college could help to broaden economic development activities in the area. The panel will recommend that a focus group of two visit the campus in 2009-2010 for two days. The group will look at the changes in methods of assessments, the refinement of general education courses, advances in faculty accreditation

and hiring accredited faculty. Being accredited is important for students to be able to transfer credits from one school to another and receive federal financial aid, said Brenda Chatfield, college cosmetology instructor and chair of the self-study. Accreditation comes up every five to 10 years depending on how the school did when it was accredited, she said. The college has been working on the accreditation for 2 1/2 years

starting with meetings in Chicago in 2004. "I am very pleased," said college president Ken Clouse. "I appreciate everyone's effort for the team's visit." Other members of the evaluating team were Dr. Kathy M. Brock, Northwest Iowa Community College of Sheldon, Iowa; Linda G. Johnson, Southeast Technical Institute of Sioux Falls, S.D.; and Dr. Roger Stacy, Northern Oklahoma College of Tonkawa.

The steering committee for the visit included diesel technology instructor Gary Barricklow, Director of Student Services Paul Chaffin, self-study editor/writer JoAnn Clouse, executive secretary Sherri Knitig and electronics and computer technology instructor Candee Cottam. "The school has done good work for 40-plus years," said Devier. "We appreciated the time, candor and openness of everyone involved."

# Accident closes eastbound I-70 for over 15 hours

CLOSURE, from Page 1

At least three of the trucks and their lead and tail pickups left Goodland about 6:30 a.m. heading east, but troopers caught up with them east of town. The troopers escorted the wide loads to the Brewster exit, where they were to be parked. Monday, Goodland got 4.4 inches of snow, which began about

9:30 a.m. and lasted until about 2:30 p.m. The heaviest snow fell from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., nearly 4 inches falling in the two hours. There was .24 of an inch of moisture in the snow, bringing the year's total to .79 of an inch. Goodland received only a trace of snow on Tuesday, but the winds gusting to 32 mph caused blowing and drifting snow that forced postponement of the Goodland-Colby basketball

games and cancellation of several events. Wednesday, Goodland received .03 of moisture and less than half an inch of snow to bring the total moisture for the year to .82. Total snowfall for the month is 4.8 inches and the average snow depth for the year is 9 inches. Temperatures were cold, with a high on Wednesday of 8 degrees and an overnight low of -11. Christine Krause, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service office in Goodland, said the outlook is for a warming trend through the weekend and the early part of next week. She said the highs should be in the lower 40s today and in the middle 40s by early next week. Krause said there was a slight chance for a snow flurry today, but did not believe there would be an accumulation like Goodland saw on Monday.

# House committee passes election bill

BILL, from Page 1

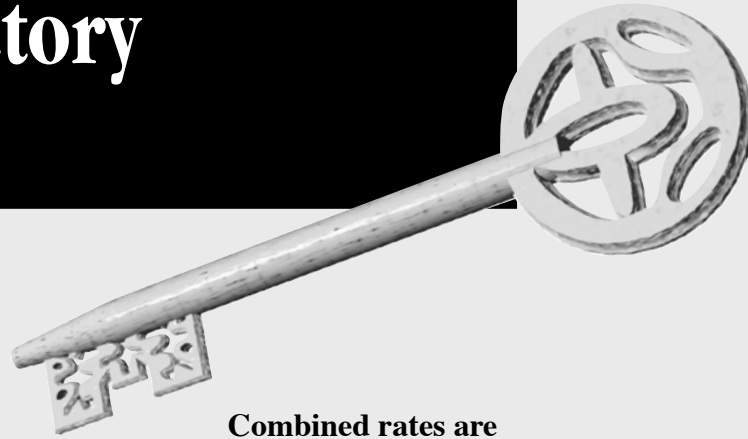
citizens ought to have this option. The bill was the result of questions raised during the election last year, when a lot of voters were disappointed they did not get to vote in a hot commissioner race. State law gives cities and school districts the option of electing their members from districts or at large but, said Commissioner Kevin Rasure, the state does not offer citizens of a county the same right. "The only option counties have is to change the number of commissioners from three to five or seven," Rasure said. "We had a lot of people ask about this during the election last year, and all three commissioners agreed we should ask the Legislature to give us the option to decide on a county vote." Under the bill (HB2307), Rasure said, the county could have the commissioners elected at-large without districts, or have the commissioners to come from a district and be voted on countywide. Thomas said the Rep. Jim Morrison and Sen. Ostmeyer said they would keep an eye on the bill and let the county know what is happening. Once it is passed by the Legislature and signed by the governor, the county would be able to submit a ballot question at a general election.

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