



# Council says no junk cars in some areas

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In a divided vote, the Colby City Council decided Tuesday to prohibit junkyards in some industrial zones around the city.

The council changed a zoning ordinance to prohibit vehicle nuisances, weed nuisances, "automobile graveyards" and junkyards from Industrial-1 – or light industrial – zones.

Light industrial districts include manufacturing and assembly plants, some of which use outdoor storage for vehicles or equipment. City Building Official Rick Dickman said the light industrial zone is typically the least restrictive.

"I kind of call it the 'catch-all' zone," Dickman said.

Armstrong said the City Planning Commission had been work-

ing on the ordinance changes since July.

The commission had recommended two other changes, which the council did not approve: requiring outdoor storage areas to be enclosed by a city-approved security fence and requiring a hard, all-weather surface for any such area.

Councilman Mark Beringer said he was concerned by that change, saying companies like Murfin Drilling might choose not to expand into adjacent lots if they had to fulfill these requirements.

Some of the council members argued that the ordinance already regulated junkyards

"I think we already have these in place," said Councilman Fred Taylor.

Mayor Ken Bieber disagreed.

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# Neighbors help Rexford family

Support has begun pouring in for the family of a 2-year-old Rexford boy who died in a fiery truck crash Thursday in the northeast Kansas town of Wathena.

Several collection sites have been set up for people wanting to donate to the family of Kyler Petersen, including the Frontier Ag elevator office and Golden Plains High School in Rexford and the office of PSI Transport, 742 West U.S. 24 in Hoxie.

Frontier Ag has a donation can at the office. At Golden Plains, donations can be left with the school secretary. Betha Thummel of PSI Transport said many people have already donated money or Christmas gifts for the family's other

children. Thummel said she can pick up gifts or they can be left at the office.

Kyler Petersen died Thursday in Wathena when a semi-trailer rig driven by his father, Michael Petersen, 38, left the road and hit a tree. The accident took place shortly after 3 a.m. on U.S. 36 just to the south of the Riverside School in Wathena.

Paul Stewart, of the weekly *Kansas Chief* of Wathena, reported that Master Trooper Doug Duncan of the Kansas Highway Patrol said the rig left the highway, drove off the south shoulder, traveled across a concrete drainage ditch

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# Judge strikes down purchase provision of health care reform

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) – A federal judge declared the foundation of President Barack Obama's health care law unconstitutional Monday, ruling that the government cannot require Americans to buy insurance.

The case is expected to end up at the Supreme Court.

In his order, U.S. District Judge Henry E. Hudson said he will allow the law to remain in effect while appeals are heard, meaning there is unlikely to be any immediate impact on other provisions that have already gone into effect. The coverage requirement is not scheduled to begin until 2014.

Even so, Republicans in Congress celebrated the ruling as validation of the arguments they had made for months. Rep. Eric Cantor, R-Va., issued a statement urging the White House to agree to expedite a final ruling by appealing directly to the Supreme Court without first going to a federal appeals court.

Hudson is the first federal judge to strike down a key part of the law, which had been upheld by other federal judges in Virginia and Michigan. Several other lawsuits have been dismissed and still

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## Briefly

### Seniors plan potluck on Tuesday

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck dinner for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or who have partners in nursing homes at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share. Table service and beverage will be provided. For information, call 462-6342.

### Boosters offering potato bar

The Colby Sports Booster Club will have a potato bar from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday during the high school boys basketball game against Hugoton at the Colby Community Building. The club also will have a soup supper at the Scott City game on Tuesday, Jan. 11. Proceeds will go to help build a new locker room for visiting teams at Dennen Field. For information, call

Gary Adrian at 460-2931.

### School plans Christmas show

Sacred Heart Catholic School will put on a program of Christmas music at 7 p.m. next Monday in the school gym, featuring second through fifth graders. For information, call the school at 460-2813.

### Trash crews off for two 'eves'

The Colby Sanitation Department will not pick up residential trash on Christmas Eve, Friday, Dec. 24, and New Year's Eve, Friday, Dec. 31. Routes will be picked up the day before both weeks. Have your tipper cans to the curb by 8 a.m. The department will not pick up commercial trash Friday and Saturday, Dec. 24 and 25, and Friday and Saturday, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. For information, call the Public Works office at 460-4420.

### Hill City artist featured at museum

Works by Hill City artist and teacher David Chalfant are on exhibit at the Prairie Museum of Art and History through the end of December. His sculptures and paintings have been shown in regional and national shows. For information, contact the museum at 460-4590 or museumed@st-tel.net.

### Youth league to meet next month

A parent-player meeting for Youth League Basketball will begin at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 5, at the Colby United Methodist Church. Coach Matt Ludwig said the cost is \$20 per player and games will start the following weekend. For information, call the church at 462-2761.

### College pool open weekdays

The Colby Community College indoor swim-

ming pool is open for lap swimming from 5 to 7 a.m. Monday to Friday and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; from 5 to 9 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday; and from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday and Friday. Open swim is from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday and Thursday; 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; and 1 to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. General admission is \$3, but monthly and yearly passes are available. Call manager Kipp Nelson at 460-5476.



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# Dozens gather to fill food baskets

Aubrey and Jarrod Spencer (above) filled a box with canned food as Genesis-Thomas County volunteers packed Christmas baskets Friday at the 4-H building on the county fairgrounds. The Colby Fire Department donated bikes (right) to go along with the baskets, which were available for pickup Saturday morning. Groups of volunteers, including students, helped put the food onto tables around the outside walls. Other volunteers were assigned boxes to take around and fill with food according to family size. Once they were done, the boxes were loaded back onto the table they came from (below). Thirty to 40 youths from church groups and student organizations helped get the food from the pantry to the 4-H building on Thursday.

