

Weather Corner



Thanksgiving high near 55

The forecast
Tonight — Mostly clear with a low around 32. Northwest wind around 10 mph. **Thanksgiving Day** — Partly cloudy with a high around 54. North wind around 5 mph. becoming calm. **Thursday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 29. South wind around 10 mph. **Friday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 57. Southwest wind around 10 mph. **Friday night** — Mostly clear with a low around 28. **Saturday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 56. **Saturday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 27. **Sunday** — Mostly cloudy with a high near 46.
Temperatures
 Tuesday's high, 64
 Low this morning, 34
 Records for this date, 79 in 1925, -2 in 1941
 Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
 November's precipitation, 0.17
 A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Briefly

Commissioners to meet Wednesday

The Thomas County commissioners will hold their end of month meeting at 9 a.m. Wednesday at the courthouse. Items on the agenda include Krista and Ron Alexander on a custodial contract at the Thomas County Office Complex; Martin Rinehart on billing from the hospital; swearing in of Kristy Rubio as deputy county clerk; an update from County Clerk Shelly Harms on voting equipment and consolidating; approval of the Monday, Nov. 14 minutes, November payroll and second half of November accounts payable; Thomas County Fair Board and E & G Promotions, Inc. agreement and approval of additions and abatements. The meeting is open to the public.

City, county close for holidays

Colby City Hall will be closed Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday. Additionally, the city's sanitation department will not be operating on Thursday or Friday either. Those with trash pickup normally on Thursday and Friday, will be rescheduled to Saturday. For questions, call 460-4410. In addition, the Offices at the Thomas County

Courthouse, including the county health department and landfill, will be closed Thursday, Nov. 24 and Friday, Nov. 25 for Thanksgiving. The landfill will reopen Saturday, Nov. 26, with its normal weekend hours. The courthouse and health department will reopen Monday, Nov. 28.

City revisits sewer charge

The City of Colby is reminding residents and businesses that water meters read between Nov. 18 until Feb. 18 will impact sewer charges, which are calculated and in effect for one year beginning with the bill received around April 1. Any outdoor water use also impacts the sewer charge. Call 460-4410 with questions.

Genesis needs holiday donations

Genesis-Thomas County is making preparations for its annual Christmas Food Basket project. Non-perishable food items or monetary donations are needed. Donations may be dropped off at the food bank, 350 S. Range, Suite 6 on Wednesdays between 10 a.m. and noon

and 1 and 4 p.m.; at Leroy's Printing, 560 N. Franklin; Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 1065 W. Fifth St.; First Presbyterian, Colby United Methodist or Trinity Lutheran Church. Donations may be mailed to Genesis-Thomas County, Inc., P.O. Box 214, Colby, Kan. 67701. For questions, call 460-7930.

Free winter band concert planned

Colby Community College will hold its Winter Band Concert starting at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 1, in the Frahm Theatre at the Cultural Arts Center on campus. The concert and jazz bands will be featured and there is no admission charge.

For questions, call Dr. David Mruzek, director of band 462-3984, ext. 308.

College pool reopens Monday

The Colby Community College swimming pool is closed for maintenance, said Debbie Schwanke, public information officer. The pool will reopen on Monday. For questions, call 462-3984.

Association to restrict sale of pop in schools

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas students in coming months will find fewer sodas and more juice and bottled water in school vending machines.

The Kansas Beverage Association said Tuesday it will provide more nutritious and low-calorie drinks at schools.

Spokesman Ron Hein said the association adopted the voluntary policy to help cut down on childhood obesity.

Hein said the policy will be implemented over several months, as the association works with districts to change vending machine selections.

"Our members met face to face with parents, school officials and community leaders, and we have heard firsthand their concerns about childhood obesity," Hein said. "This new policy is a good example of our commitment and the need for

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Ron Hein,
Kansas Beverage Association

all segments of society to work on the problem of childhood and societal obesity.”

Under the policy, only bottled water and juices will be offered in elementary schools.

In middle schools, the choices also will include sports drinks, no-calorie soft drinks and low-calorie fruit drinks.

No full-calorie soft drinks or juice drinks with less than 5 percent juice will be provided until after

school hours.

In high schools, no more than half the selections will be soft drinks.

Hein said the association's members provide service to about 90 percent of Kansas schools.

Many schools allow vending machines as a way to make extra money, although the schools can decide when the machines are used.

The association's move gets ahead of legislation making such

limits mandatory.

Rep. Jason Watkins has a bill limiting the types of drinks and snack foods sold in school vending machines. He said the association's standards are more stringent than his bill.

"This is how it should work: Industry should police itself," said Watkins, R-Wichita.

Responding to critics of self-regulation, Watkins said, "It's not a problem with the fox guarding the hen house if the fox doesn't eat the hens."

Watkins said if the association fails to follow through, he can renew the push for his legislation.

He also said he will meet with snack-food vendors to get them to provide healthier food in machines at schools.

"I would like to see vending machine operators act quickly," Watkins said, adding he will introduce

legislation next year setting limits if nothing happens.

Junk food in school vending machines is a national problem. A 2004 survey by the Center for Science in the Public Interest in Washington found 75 percent of drinks and 85 percent of snacks sold in schools have poor nutritional value.

A Government Accounting Office report this year concluded junk food, already plentiful in high schools, has become more available in middle schools over the past five years.

In New Mexico, Gov. Bill Richardson proposed regulations to eliminate junk food from school vending machines next year. The regulations would be among the toughest in the country.

Arizona school officials plan to push legislation next year to extend the ban on soft drinks to high schools.

Apprehensive woman took her place as welder prior to WWII

DELPHOS (AP) — Her knees were "shaking like a jackhammer." And she was wondering whether she could do what was being asked of her.

But she didn't think she had another option.

"If I'd have told them I couldn't do it, they probably would have fired me," Thelma Baldock said. "I wanted, I needed the job."

It was about 1941 when the then-young Baldock heard a deep voice calling for a welder. She was the first to respond.

"I went over and said, 'I'm a welder,'" Baldock said.

The job the man needed done was an overhead weld — something Baldock had never done.

After having completed a couple of weeks of training, Baldock had been working at the shipyard in Portland, Ore., for only a couple of days.

"I was thinking, 'Holy Cow. If this weld doesn't hold, this will fall and I'll kill a bunch of people,'" Baldock said. "My knees started shaking like a jackhammer, and I welded it. It held."

Baldock, who is now 85 and lives in Delphos, said she was never nervous about going to work at the shipyard during World War II.

She, her husband at the time and her two small children moved from Montana to Portland to find work.

Baldock, who was about 20 at the time, had never had a job outside the home.

"It wasn't hard to find work at that time," Baldock said. "So many men were over fighting the war, they needed whoever they could get."

Even women.

"We very quickly had 11 to 12 million men in uniform overseas, and they had vacated jobs that had previously only been held by men," said Mack Teasley, director of the Eisenhower Foundation in Abilene and former assistant director of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library.

"Someone had to pick up the slack doing welding jobs and tank assembly and truck driving. Women answered the call."

Not only did they answer it, he said, they exceeded many people's expectations.

"I think it was quite liberating for all those women," Teasley said. "When the men came home, the women were expected to go back to being mothers and housewives."

"There's this mythology that women went back to being June Cleaver. The reality is, from that point on, we had more and more women in the work force."

It has been argued that World War II was won because of weaponry and supplies, Teasley said.

"If the U.S. won the war because of its weaponry and it was women at home building those weapons, you could say, that by extrapolation, they won the war for us," Teasley said.

Baldock was told she could get a job doing welding on tanker ships if she would attend welding school for a couple of weeks and buy the necessary clothing — leather chaps, a leather jacket, steel-toed boots and a welding helmet.

"No. I guess I wasn't ever nervous," Baldock said. "I guess I always liked to do the things that boys or men did, so this was a chance to do that." The men who still worked at the shipyard probably wondered if she and the other women were ca-

pable of doing the work, she said.

But she doesn't recall anyone vocalizing those concerns.

"They didn't have a choice. The men were all gone, so they were stuck with people like me," Baldock said.

Her children, who were 4 or younger at the time, stayed with one of her nephews while she worked.

Leaving the children every day was perhaps the hardest part, Baldock said.

Another difficult part was working the graveyard shift.

"That was the right name for it," Baldock laughed. "It was hard to stay awake and alert when you should be sleeping."

Baldock developed a heart con-

dition while she was working.

"You had to have a real good excuse for not being able to work anymore," Baldock said. "They didn't like losing people. I had to bring them a doctor's note."

Though she worked at the shipyard for only a year or so, Baldock said she will always remember the experience.

"I wasn't Rosie the Riveter, but I was Thelma the welder," she said. "I felt like my job was important, that I was helping with the war."

Her marriage ended shortly after the war, and Baldock moved back to Kansas.

There, she married Lamoine

Baldock, a farmer she had gone to school with years before. They lived in a house outside Delphos that Lamoine had been born in.

The two of them had another child. And Baldock was able to keep doing some welding.

Lamoine Baldock used to do custom combining, and Thelma would help get the equipment ready.

Eventually, Lamoine learned to weld, and she lost her "job," she said.

"I didn't care, the pay wasn't too good compared to the shipyards, anyway," she said.

She still can weld, though. And she does once in a while just to prac-

tice. Baldock said a stroke has left her shaky, and her welds are not nearly as good as they used to be.

It's still good enough to attract attention, though.

At a farm show in Salina earlier this year, she stopped by a welding booth and told the salesman all about her shipyard experiences during the war.

"He handed me a helmet, and I welded. It attracted some attention from people who couldn't believe an 84-year-old woman was welding," she laughed. "The bead was as crooked as a dog's hind leg. I wasn't proud of that weld."

"Boy, I used to be good, though."

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Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
 Sat. 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.



Happy Thanksgiving!

We hope you enjoy your time spent with family and friends this Thanksgiving. We have so much in this world to be thankful for.

Our office will be closed on Thursday, November 24, to observe the holiday.

We will be back and ready to deliver your Free Press on Friday, November 25!

 **COLBY FREE PRESS**

155 W. 5th, Colby, 462-3963