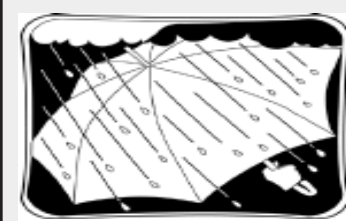


**Weather Corner**



**Tonight...**Mostly cloudy. A chance of light rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the evening...Then light rain likely and scattered thunderstorms after midnight. Lows in the upper 30s. North winds 15 to 20 mph. Gusts up to 30 mph in the evening. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

**Thursday...**Mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly sunny. Cooler. A 50 percent chance of light rain. High in the lower 50s. North winds 10 to 20 mph. Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. West winds around 10 mph.

**Friday...**Sunny...Warmer. Highs in the upper 60s.

Friday night and Saturday...Mostly clear. Lows around 40. Highs in the mid 70s.

**Saturday night...**Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 40s.

Tuesday's low, high: 41, 90. Monday's low, high: 33, 74.

# Woman to attend National Democrat Convention

## Convention to be held Aug. 25-28

By Tom Betz  
ntbetz@nwkansans.com

About 100 Democrats from the 1st Congressional District met at Fort Hays State University on Saturday to elect four national convention delegates, and one of those going to Denver in August is a Sharon Springs woman committed to Sen. Hillary Clinton.

Etta Walker, a Sharon Springs lawyer, was the only one chosen to go to Denver as a Clinton delegate under state Democratic Party rules.

Walker was one of nine women running for the Clinton position. Her daughter, Catherine Jenkinson, 13, was excited when her mom won the trip to Denver.

Walker, the last of the six candidates to speak, said she was a fan of Clinton because of her health-care plan. Walker said coming from one of the smallest counties in the state, she felt she would do a good job of representing the district.

She said she was thrilled to be going and would find a way for

Catherine to go with her and get a chance to enjoy the convention, which will be Aug. 25-28.

The candidates for president got delegates to the district convention based on the proportion of people attending Democratic caucuses on Super Tuesday, Feb. 5, supporting each one.

The 1st District elected four delegates to the national convention, and based on the rules, Clinton got one delegate and that delegate had to be a woman. Sen. Barack Obama was to get one woman delegate, two male delegates and one male alternate.

Tim Peterson, 40th Senate District chairman, was the credentials chair for the convention. He said he was pleased that two of the four national delegates from his district.

Before the convention, State Sen. Janis Lee (D-Kensington) told a luncheon crowd of about 60 about how important it is to be involved in the political process.

Registration of the convention delegates began at 1 p.m., and Peterson and the leaders for Clinton and Obama went and made sure all the delegates were seated. If someone was absent, they could seat an alternate. The registration went quickly, but seating the alternates took a bit longer.



Catherine Jenkinson and her mother, Etta Walker of Sharon Springs at the 1st Congressional District Convention in Hays.

Peterson said he had to resort to rolling dice in a few cases to decide between two Obama alternates. On the Clinton side, it was easier as he had five open slots and four alternates.

Once the delegates were all seated, Peterson reported 49 delegates were present for Obama and 22 for Clinton.

Vic Moser, district chairman from Abbyville, explained the rules. Someone asked what would happen if there was a tie. That seemed like a possibility, as the

Obama delegation had 49 people and 34 were listed as candidates for the national convention. The delegates almost unanimously voted that in case of a tie, there would be a revote. Peterson said when it was over, there had been no ties.

The two groups split into caucuses to listen to their prospective delegates and vote for the ones to go to Denver.

In the Clinton caucus, of the 22 people eligible to vote, eight were men, but because of the way the

caucuses had gone, only a woman could go to the national convention. It was announced that Walker had won, but the caucus chair did not reveal the vote totals. She said they would be sent into the state party in Topeka if people were interested.

Daniel Thornton of Oakley, one of the men voting in the Clinton caucus in Hays, said he had been at the Oakley caucus. Aaron Feist of Sharon Springs was an alternate for Obama, and got seated as a delegate at the convention on Saturday.

Saturday, all four congressional districts met to elect 21 delegates to the national convention. The next step for Democrats in Kansas is the state party convention in Topeka on Saturday, May 17, where the remaining seven delegates will be selected.

# County weighs proposals of being more energy efficient

From "ENERGY," Page 1

"That's based on energy savings only," Leaper said. No figures were presented about the size of a project proposed or the cost of repaying such project.

As for upgrades at the courthouse at 300 N. Court, the law enforcement center at 225 N. Court, the county office complex, 350 S. Range Ave. and the road and bridge department shop east of the courthouse, the Johnson Controls representatives suggested the commissioners look at putting a new roof on the courthouse as their first priority. Listed on the historical registry, the county has hoops to jump through for with respect to upgrades.

"The state historical society said if the county can provide a photo of the original roof a new roof can be put on to take it back to the original look," Leaper said.

All three sets of representatives suggested similar projects throughout their proposals, including a new roof at the courthouse. Other suggestions were replacing and making consistent throughout the county buildings of high efficiency 32 watt fluorescent light bulbs, occupancy sensors, window replacements, automatic thermostats, variable speed fans on heating and air conditioning units, insulation where needed, a new and sloped roof on the law enforcement center, and water conservation by reducing the number of toilets at the office complex.

"I think we could take the number down to five (toilets)," Leaper said. "Each toilet uses about three gallons of water and the faucets are using one-half gallon per minute of flow."

Leaper said if the number of toilets is not reduced, the commissioners need to look at installing battery operated automatic flush controls to the toilets.

John O'Herron, business development manager with Chevron Energy Solutions, said the county could look at utilizing wind power for part of its electric needs.

"Because there is such a tremendous wind source out here we'd look at that as an option," O'Herron said.

O'Herron said the county could put in a "stand alone" wind turbine

that could supply electricity to the office complex and courthouse. He did not recommend the law enforcement center be connected to the source since the facility operates around the clock.

"Our proposal proactively addresses heating, ventilation and air conditioning," O'Herron said. "We look at things before they become failures and before there are emergency issues."

O'Herron, like the other representatives, said his company would "partner with the county" to save energy. Basing estimated on a \$1 million dollar upgrade project, O'Herron said it would cost taxpayers about \$62,000 per year to pay for it. Estimating a savings of \$20,000 per year, O'Herron said Chevron's proposal estimated a savings over a 20 year period of \$454,686.

All three proposals, again, working under the auspices of the Facility Conservation Improvement Program, utilize money that once was spent for power and utilities to pay for upgrades.

Jeff Thomas of Custom Energy said his company's proposal was estimated to save taxpayers \$19,000 per year over a 15 year period.

Currently spending about \$65,000 per year for utilities, Thomas said Thomas County taxpayers would need to make a \$64,000 debt payment on a \$903,000 project for upgrades. Thomas, like the other representatives, said local or out-of-county funding could be sought for the projects.

"There's also grant money," Thomas said. "There are 80 percent matches up to \$90,000 or

**“Because there is a tremendous wind source out here we'd look at that as an option.”**  
John O'Herron, Chevron Energy Solutions

there are tax credit incentives grants. We've also found local banks will buy (tax credits) at about 95 cents on the dollar."

Thomas said he was aware the county would be receiving insurance money for the damaged roof on the courthouse and said that money could be applied to the project. He said his research es-

timated the county would receive about \$50,000 from the insurance company.

"We'll know that when we are a little further down the road," Steele said.

Kevin Green, vice president of business development with Custom Energy, asked when the commissioners plan to select an energy

company for the upgrade project. "I'd like to get moving on it this month," Christiansen said.

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and  
**Chad Jones**  
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**Ladies Annual Spring STYLE SHOW**

Colby Quality Inn \* April 19th  
\* 2 p.m. Doors Open at 1 p.m.

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