

weather report



40°
 noon
 Monday

Today

- Sunset, 4:40 p.m.
- Wednesday**
- Sunrise, 7:07 a.m.
- Sunset, 4:40 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 31 degrees
- Humidity 37 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds north 16 mph
- Barometer 29.78 inches and falling
- Record High today 74° (2002)
- Record Low today -14° (1937)

Last 24 Hours*

- High Sunday 43°
- Low Sunday 26°
- Precipitation none
- This month none
- Year to date none
- Below normal .06 inches

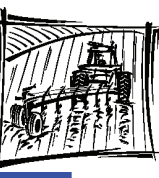
The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 40, winds out the west 5 to 10 mph becoming south and winds around 22. Wednesday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain or snow showers, high near 42, winds southeast 10 mph and low around 20.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Mostly sunny with a high near 41 and a low around 18. Friday: Partly sunny with a high near 35 and a low around 16. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon

- Wheat — \$8.54 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$8.68
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Corn — \$4.24 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$4.29
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Milo — \$4.03 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$11.02 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$11.47
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Millet — \$7 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Confection — \$30/\$20 cwt.
 - Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)
- (Markets by Scoular Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today



More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



Cowboys lose to Lakin

Cowboys junior Travis Angelos tried to drive the baseline against Lakin Broncos senior Reed McAtee during a game on Friday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. The Broncos won 64-49. See story, photo on Page 12.

'Surprise baby' first of the year

By Sharon Corcoran

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Life is full of surprises for Dennis and Rose Snethen. At age 53 and 41, they did not expect to start a family, but a 4-pound, 13-ounce, little girl came along anyway.

At that, they didn't expect her until Jan. 18, but had her Jan 3, the first baby of 2008 at Goodland Regional Medical Center. Then they were pleasantly surprised by the outpouring of gifts for their new little girl.

Katerina Valentine Snethen was born at 7:24 a.m. Thursday at 4 pounds, 13 ounces, and 17 inches long. The hospital, along with area businesses and organizations, showered her and mom and pop with receiving blankets, formula, bottles, lotion, pampering for "Mommy," free meals, even a free oil change.

Nurse Crystal Hernandez presented gifts from the hospital along with a quilt from Project Linus and a quilt from the Prairie Piecemakers Quilt Guild. The hospital's gifts included receiving blankets, water, formula, hand sanitizer, diapers, lotion and baby powder.

Other gifts from businesses and organizations included a \$2,000 scholarship from the Northwest Kansas Technical College, which would pay for most of the cost of one of the nine-month programs today, a new baby ornament from Prairie Rose Floral Co., a free sitting with unlimited poses from Laura Norris Photography, a personalized receiving blanket from Madd Hatters and the Stitch 'n Place, 10 pounds of hamburger from Bubba's Meat Block, a \$25 gift card from Walmart, a free oil change from Finley Motors, a manicure and pedicure for Mom at Beauty for Life from JMC Engineering, free balance of four tires with a tire rotation from



Dennis and Rose Snethen of Goodland were happy to have the first baby of 2008 at Goodland Regional Medical Center, Katerina Valentine Snethen, and were surprised and thankful to receive so many gifts from area businesses and organizations.

Photo by Jordie Mann/The Goodland Star-News

Goodland Machine and Automotive, a free pizza and free family order of any appetizer from Pizza Hut, a free one-year subscription to *The Goodland Star-News*, and the first month free with a year's contract at Shape Up Sisters. KLOE/KKCI/KWGB radio sent best wishes for

the new baby. "We didn't expect all this stuff," Mr. Snethen said.

The Snethens said they had both been married before. They married each other a year and a half ago, she said, adding, "I guess we are starting over."

Katerina was a big surprise, they said. "We're very satisfied," her father added.

At 53, he said, Katerina is his first child. Mrs. Snethen has six older children: Scott Kreger, 22; Jennifer Kreger, 19; Joseph Kreger,

17; Shannon Kreger, 16, Nickolaus Kreger, 13; and Brian Kreger, 11, all of Weskan.

Mrs. Snethen didn't expect any more children, even when she was "late."

"I thought that was normal because I'm older," she said. But then she did a home pregnancy test, and it was positive. She went to see Jackie Jorgensen, a nurse practitioner, to confirm it.

Mrs. Snethen said Jorgensen's response was, "You hit me with this at four in the afternoon?"

The Snethens praised the medical care she received, though. "Dr. (Travis) Daise was there from six weeks," Mrs. Snethen said. "We've had him worried."

But Mrs. Snethen said he handled her concern well.

"Every time I was worried and felt I couldn't go on," she said, "he pushed me. He has been a godsend. When I wanted to scream and cry, he laughed and called it 'hormones.' He'd say, 'Take a nap, go for a walk, take a Tylenol.'"

"I've been very impressed with the staff," Mr. Snethen said. "I really like Dr. Daise."

Mr. Snethen said he was born at the Boothroy Memorial Hospital in Goodland and grew up three miles from where the couple lives now, at 6702 Rd. 15. He graduated from Goodland High School in 1972 and had lived in California before moving back to Goodland 15 years ago. He has done maintenance at ADM Northern Sun for 13 years.

Mrs. Snethen worked at the 24/7 convenience store until she was put on bed rest.

"When you're ready to go back to work, come see us," said Dale Schields, human resources director at the hospital. "We'll see what we can find for you."

Dems to be part of Super Tuesday

The stakes will be high for all the presidential candidates on Super Tuesday in just four weeks, with Kansas Democrats among 24 states selecting delegates in a presidential primary or statewide caucuses.

Democrats will hold a presidential caucus in each state Senate district. In Senate District 40 — which includes Sherman County — the meeting will be at 7 p.m. at the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center, 703 W. Second in Oakley.

Tim Peterson, Democratic district chairman, said the doors will open at 6 p.m. for registration, and anyone who wants to participate must be at the meeting before it opens at 7 p.m. The caucus is open to any registered Democrat, including those who declare party affiliation at the door.

Peterson said Kansas Democrats will have an important role in selecting the party's nominee, as only six states will have had primary elections or caucuses before the big day.

The caucuses are part of the national process of nominating a Democratic candidate for president, which culminates at the Democratic National Convention Aug. 25-28 in Denver.

To participate in the caucus, a person must be a Kansas resident, a registered Democrat — an independent or Republican can register or change their registration status at the door — and be eligible to vote (18 years old) by Nov. 4.

Once the caucus begins, voters will break into groups supporting each candidate or "uncommitted" if they do not have a preference. To gain delegates, a candidate must show at least 15 percent support of those at the caucus. Members of any candidate group with less than 15 percent get a chance to switch to other candidates.

After the final groups are set, the number of delegates for each candidate is determined. The candidate groups then elect delegates to represent their candidate at the 1st Congressional District Convention on Saturday, April 12 (location to be announced).

Under the state Democratic party plan, the six delegates and alternates elected at the caucuses will be certified to attend the congressional convention. The state delegation to the national convention has to be balanced between men and women, and the congressional district convention will elect two men and two women as delegates and

select one man as an alternate. Kansas will have 40 delegates and five alternates at the national convention. Of the total, 21 are to be elected from the four district conventions.

Anyone qualified voter can become a candidate for congressional district delegate or alternate to the national convention by filing a statement designating his or her presidential preference (or uncommitted) and a signed pledge of support for that candidate by 5 p.m. on March 28, with the Democratic Party headquarters, 700 SW Jackson St, Suite. 706, Topeka, Kan., 66603.

The state delegation will include seven elected Democrats plus four other party officials. The delegation will include seven at-large delegates and one add-on delegate to be named at a state committee meeting May 17 in Topeka.

Anyone who wants to be an at-large delegate or alternate may file a statement of their candidate preference by 5 p.m. on May 2, with the state party headquarters.

Selection of the at-large and alternate delegates will be made at the May 17 meeting in Topeka.

Republicans select register on Thursday

The Republican county committee will meet Thursday to choose a candidate to replace Register of Deeds Carol Armstrong, who retired Dec. 31.

The committee, made up of precinct committeemen and women, will gather at 7 p.m. in the commissioner's room at the courthouse to choose a candidate to fulfill her term, then send the name to Gov. Kathleen Sebelius to appoint the replacement.

Armstrong's deputy, Billie Hoyt, sent a letter saying she wants the job, said committee chair Roxie Yonkey. Yonkey said she has heard of one other person said to be interested but hasn't heard from the candidate herself.

Anyone wanting to be considered should be at the meeting, she said. It is open to the public, but only committee members will get to speak or vote.

Commissioners to reorganize on Wednesday

Sherman County commissioners will open their meeting at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, rather than Tuesday, this week with the reorganization of the commission and naming of a chairman for the year.

The meeting was moved to Wednesday to allow members of the Leadership Sherman County to see the commissioners in action.

In addition to the reorganization, the commissioners will hear:

- A report from County Treasurer Iris Scheopner on interest on bank deposits.
- Progress and details of the bid package for paving County Road 16 from Jerol DeBoer, owner of Penco Engineering of Plainville.
- A report from Dorinda Krueger, administrator of the Good Samaritan center, about plans for the year.
- A forecast for the upcoming year from

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Goodland girl runner up in Miss Teen

By Sharon Corcoran

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A Goodland High School junior was chosen first runner-up in her first time at the Miss Teen Kansas U.S.A. Pageant, surprising even herself.

Brooke Lennington, daughter of Carol Lennington of Goodland and Rich Lennington of Syracuse, went up against 32 girls from across the state at the pageant Dec. 13 to 15 at the Lied Center on the University of Kansas campus in Lawrence.

Surviving three days of rehearsals, evening gown and swim suit competition and the interview, she said, she listened anxiously as the top 15 girls were announced. Just as she thought she wasn't going to make the cut, they called her name.

When they announced the top five, she was the first one called and was so shocked she just froze. But she recovered and was able to answer three questions asked, ended up being the girl who would replace the winner if she is not able to serve her term. She's hoping, however, that won't happen.

"I think it's really sad," Lennington said, "when ones who win get into trouble. I don't want to get the crown that way."

She says the idea that pageants are all

about shallow, pretty girls is an inaccurate stereotype. Anyone who wants to do pageants should give it a try, she said; you learn a lot.



Lennington

Lennington said she has learned to do interviews a lot better than she did before and has seen shy girls gain a lot of personality from the experience. And she said the contestants were glad to see Jessica Colonna of Leawood win.

"We wanted someone to win who is real," Lennington said. "With some girls, we were like, 'They met with too many coaches.' They were so rehearsed."

Lennington grew up in Goodland and says she was born in the house she still lives in. She has two sisters and a brother here: Nichole O'Brien, 22, who has two children, one nearly a year old and the other 2 months; Hunter Lennington, a fifth grader; and Sarah Lennington, 3.

Her mother, who works at Shear Dimensions, a Goodland salon, is able to help with her look. Her father, owner of two Syracuse businesses, Rich's Refrigeration and Cynthia's Pizzeria, sponsored her pageant run. Her grandfather, Harold Sullins of Syracuse, also provides support and attended the pageant.

"Normally you get sponsors to pay for your expenses," Miss Lennington said, "but I had my dad do it since he has two businesses."

She said she hopes to have more sponsors for her next competition.

"I saw all these girls with a long list of sponsors at the pageant," she said, "and I only had two."

Though this was her first trip to this pageant, it was not Lennington's first competition. She started three years ago, competing in the junior teen division of the National American Miss, a small pageant in Wichita. "Top 15 is all I got," she said.

Lennington said she got into pageants because she wanted the crown.

"It's pretty," she said. "As a little girl, that's what I wanted. Now that I'm more grown up, I realize that pageant contestants have a chance to be role models."

Lennington said she would have loved to win the pageant at Lawrence, so she could represent Kansas at Pasadena, Calif., and compete against 49 other girls from across the country. She plans to try again next year and hopes to compete in other pageants as well.

One she would love to compete in is the Miss Kansas Pageant, where the winner

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