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State adjusts 2010 census for colleges

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An adjustment to the census released this week by the Kansas Secretary of State shows even fewer people claim Thomas County as their residence.

The secretary's office conducts the adjustment after each census to factor in college students and active-duty military personnel who don't consider themselves permanent residents. Questionnaires were sent to military bases and colleges, whose responsibility it was to get them filled out and sent back. There was also an on-line version.

The adjustment shifted about 6,000 people from where they are living. It subtracted out-of-state residents entirely and put in-state residents back in their home counties.

With few active-duty military personnel, Thomas County's downward adjustment is mainly due to college students. Of the 368 students who responded to the questionnaire, 164 were adjusted to their permanent residences. Military personnel and local stu-

dents attending other universities and community colleges around the state were adjusted back to Thomas County, making for a net decrease of 63 people out of the 7,900 found by the 2010 census.

Previous adjustments in 1990 and 2000 dropped the population by significantly more. The adjustment lowered Thomas County's population by 173 in 1990 and 283 in 2000.

Most of the other northwest Kansas counties actually saw increased populations from the adjustments. Sherman County, home to Northwest Kansas Technical College, lost seven people.

The adjustment is used to redraw the legislative district lines, a process underway now. The House and Senate districts that Thomas County belongs to were both adjusted upward. House District 121 gained 50 people, while Senate District 40 gained 773.

However, that upward adjustment isn't enough to counteract the population decline found by the census. District 121 still declined by 1,475 people over the last 10 years while District 40 lost

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Self-taught quilter finds great success

By Christina Beringer

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What do you think of when you envision a quilter?

Do you imagine a smiling grandmother with skilled hands, working meticulously on a beautifully-blocked quilt with cross-stitched ducks and floral motif? Update your imagination because there is a new quilter in town and she doesn't fit the mold.

Lisa Sipes of Colby has bleached and pink streaked hair, a piercing above the lip and another on her chin. She is vivacious, a snappy dresser and isn't shy about telling you like it is. She is also a semifinalist in the 2011 American Quilters Society quilt show and contest.

Sipes' quilt, "The BeDazzled-er!" named for its 2,000 Swarovski crystals, was chosen along with 229 others for the annual contest at the Iowa Events Center from Sept. 28 to Oct. 1. First, second and third place prizes will be given out in five categories along with five overall awards.

The contest will give out more than \$44,000 in prize money; \$10,000 for best of show and \$5,000 each for best hand, machine and long-arm workmanship. Regardless of how The BeDazzled-er! places in the final judging, it will be displayed at the show which is expected to draw more than 15,000 people.

"This year's quilts show off the



Lisa Sipes posed with one of her quilts. Sipes is a semifinalist in the American Quilter's Society show.

artistry of quilters in traditional as well as innovative techniques," stated American Quilting society president Meredith Schroeder. "Whether you live viewing quilts like Grandma made or want to see what new ideas and designs are being stitched into today's quilts, there will be quilts for everyone to enjoy. This truly is an art show of

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KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Hundreds brave heat to watch fair parade

The newly-crowned Thomas County Rodeo Royalty (above) lead the fair parade Tuesday afternoon. Winners were Jennifer Schwanke, queen; Kortney Bredemeier, princess; and Tylor Todd, junior princess. The Tumbleweed Tumblers performed aerial tricks for paradegoers (right). Pioneer Memorial Library (below) won first prize in the community and organization category, with the American youth Soccer Organization coming in second. In the youth category, Jay Kriss came in first with his mini-tractor and pygmy goat. The Tumbleweed Tumblers came in second. Western State Bank won first place in the business category with Ashly's Dance Center, second. L.J. O'Neal won the antique vehicle category with a 1908 steam tractor. Wayne Horlacher and his antique bicycle won second place. The Future Hoggers won the dirt bikes and all-terrain vehicle category with Lewis Haines, second. Colby Community College won first in the horse and rider category with the Rodeo Royalty, second. The Abilene Hustlers 4-H Club won for best representation of the parade theme, "Your Ticket to Fun."



Drought forcing some ranchers to sell spring cattle early

PRATT (AP) — Ranchers in parts of Kansas are hauling their spring cattle to auction barns because a drought and the brutal heat have made it difficult to provide the water and hay needed to keep the animals healthy, according to a state agency.

Some auction markets are seeing more than triple the number of cattle at weekly sales than they typically have at this time of year, the Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service said. For example, 14,500 head of cattle were taken to sale rings at Pratt, Salina and Dodge City last week. Last year, those auction markets sold just

4,300 head.

The sales are necessary because the hot, dry weather has dried up ponds and pastures, *The Hutchinson News* reported Wednesday. The statistics service said more than half of the range and pasture conditions are in poor or very poor condition.

Some areas of southwest Kansas haven't received a good rain for more than a year. Large cattle-producing areas like Comanche County had just 1.49 inches at Coldwater from January through June, said Larry Ruthi, with the National Weather Service's Dodge City office.

It also has been the driest July through July on record for Dodge City, with about 8 inches of rain falling during the period, Ruthi said.

And temperatures have reached past 100 degrees more than 30 days in a row for much of southern Kansas, with no significant rain forecast for the near future.

Cattle pens have been packed at Winter Livestock in Dodge City, said Brian Winter, who owns several Midwest sale barns. Last week, about 5,500 head sold at the Wednesday sale. In July 2010, market receipts for the month totaled 6,000. "That's pretty telling," Winter said.

"Some of these guys wouldn't sell until the fall, but it's just been so dry they can't maintain their herd."

The good news is that prices, for the most part, have stayed high. Winter said, because supplies haven't rebuilt from the past decade's droughts, demand for beef remains high and there's a good export market.

But Mike Lewis, with Pratt Livestock, said calves weighing 600 pounds or less are bringing substantially lower prices.

Lewis, who has been at the sale barn since 1959, said he's never seen numbers like this at this time of year. More

than 5,500 cattle were sold at the market Thursday. A normal July sale usually brings just 1,000 head, he said.

"We'll be larger yet next week," he said. "The numbers have increased weekly due to the lack of rain. If it doesn't rain, the exodus of cows and light calves will increase at a rapid pace. There is just no feed being raised in this country."

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