

Have you mailed back the U.S. census form?

By Tom Betz
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Most homes in Sherman County have received the 2010 U.S. Census form and people are asked to fill them out and mail the form back in the self stamped envelope by Count Day on April 1.

Richard Gerdes, assistant regional manager in the Kansas Census office, said no matter how people receive the 2010 Census Form, people are asked to fill out the simple 10-question form and mail it back by April 1.

A "Be Counted" and questionnaire assistance site has been opened at the Goodland Public Library, 812 Broadway Ave.

Karen Gillihan, librarian, said the Census worker will be at the library

from noon to 5 p., on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning March 31.

The goal for Goodland and Sherman County is to raise the return percentage this census to the 85 to 90 percent range. Sherman County was about average across the state in the 2000 census returning 65 percent of the census forms.

Goodland City Manager Doug Gerber said he knows the census numbers are important for the city in looking to the future. He said having as high a census count as possible will help the city when applying for state and federal money.

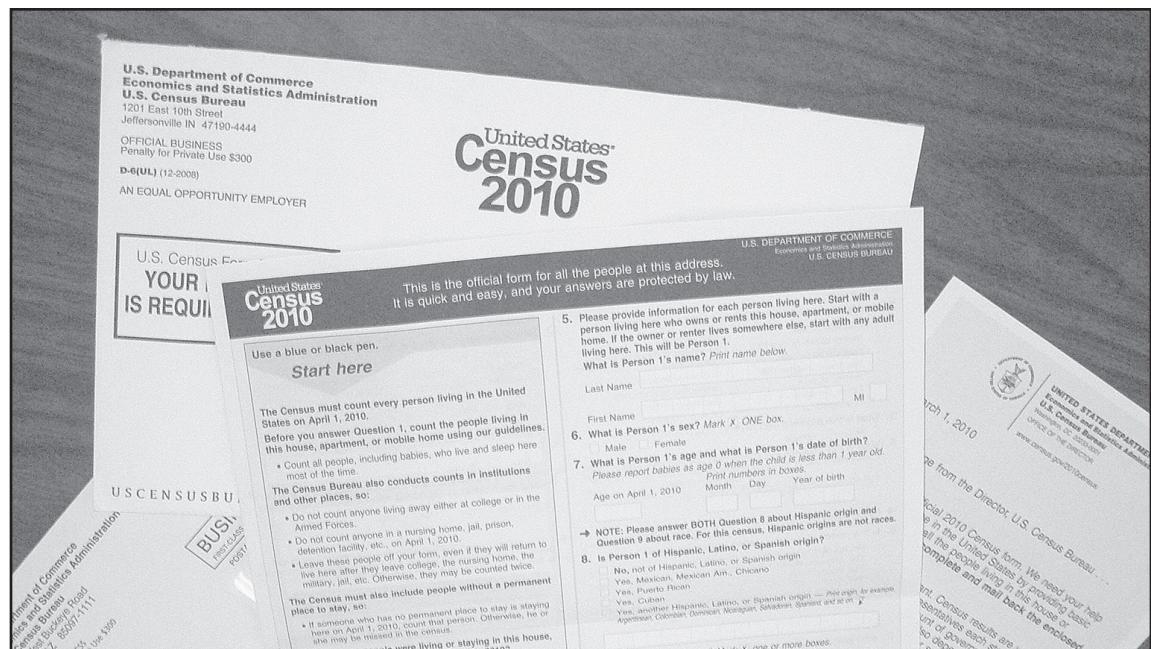
Every 10 years — as required by the U.S. Constitution (Article 1, Section 2) — every American household receives a form to be filled out and returned to help count

everyone in the city, county, state and nation.

The constitutional reason for counting everyone every 10 years is to determine the boundaries and number of Congressional representatives for each state. Kansas has four Congressmen, and it is important to get a good count to be sure the state keeps that number of representatives.

The census representative for western Kansas, Lech A. Wisniewski, said census workers will knock on the doors of houses where forms have not been returned several times in an attempt to collect the information.

He said the effort will continue through the spring until July.



Northwest Tech named in top 20 schools contest

Northwest Technical College has been named one of the top 20 schools by Tomorrow's Technician and hopes to win a share of \$25,000 in tool prizes, with \$10,000 in Chicago Pneumatic tools if crowned as the School of the Year.

Chicago Pneumatic, WIX Filters and Tomorrow's Technician have selected the top 20 schools in the third annual School of the Year competition. Entries were received from 266 students and instructors nominating more than 160 high schools, technical schools and colleges.

Leland Williams, Northwest Tech technical writing instructor,

submitted writings from her students for the competition.

"These students did a tremendous job and we are very proud of them," Williams said.

"Each year the entries in the School of the Year competition get better and better, and this year was no exception," said Danielle Stevens, marketing communications manager for Chicago Pneumatic, which has given more than \$55,000 in tools to contest participants in the past two years.

"The beauty of this competition is the chance we have to interact with hundreds of dedicated students and instructors to learn what motivates this next generation of

technicians to succeed."

The top 20 schools are separated into four regions across the United States: Southwest, Southeast, Northwest, and Northeast. Northwest Tech is in the Southeast Region. The top schools named in the Southeast region were Northwest Tech, Magdalena, NM; Southeast Caddo Career and Technical Center; Shreveport, La. and Tidewater Community College, Chesapeake, Va.

The final four schools will be announced in April and the School of the Year will be featured in the May issue of Tomorrow's Technician magazine.

Musical production to be at Oakley High Auditorium

A new musical comedy, "Church Basement Ladies," is a large production celebration of the church basement kitchen and the women who work there. They will perform at 6:30 p.m. (Mountain Time) at the Oakley High School Auditorium today. The program is put on by the Western Plains Arts Association.

The comedy features four distinct characters and their relationships as they organize the food and solve the problems of a rural Minnesota church about to undergo changes

in 1965. From the elderly matriarch of the kitchen to the young bride-to-be learning the proper order of things, we see them handle a record breaking Christmas dinner, the funeral of a dear friend, a Hawaiian Easter Fund Raiser and, of course, a steaming hot July wedding. They stave off potential disasters, share and debate recipes, instruct the young and keep the Pastor on due course while thoroughly enjoying and tolerating each other. Funny and down to earth, audiences will

recognize these ladies as they witness the church year unfold from below the house of God.

The script is by Jessica Zuehlke and Jim Stowell and is based on the humorous novel "Growing Up Lutheran" by Janet Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson. Music and lyrics are by composer Drew Jansen.

Admission is by association season ticket or \$20 for adults and \$10 for students from kindergarten through 12th at the door.

Irrigation equipment dealer earns recognition at meeting

Hitchcock, Inc. recently earned the designation as a Valley Performance Plus Dealer in the areas of sales, service and after market parts from the company's 2010 Global Meeting.

Each dealership is scored based on departmental evaluations and annual customer satisfaction surveys as well as the success of their

own growth plans. Dealers work to deliver the best service and product support to their irrigation customers.

"Being honored as a Performance Plus Dealer represents a significant dedication not only to Valley products and sales but also to Valley customers and the service they expect from our company,"

stated Rich Panowicz, Director of North American Sales, Valmont Irrigation.

"With this program, we honor those dealerships that set out to meet the challenges before them and are successfully exceeding those goals," he said.

DECA students compete in annual conference

The marketing education and DECA programs have been a part of Goodland High School and the community for over 30 years. The DECA students along with advisor Chase Topliff have worked numerous concession stands throughout the fall and winter. The money they made is used for the club to compete at the annual Kansas State Career Development Conference at Overland Park. The conference was from Saturday, March 6, to Tuesday, March 9.

The high school sent 10 students to the conference this year. Going were senior J.P. McCool, senior Heidi Lawson, senior Savannah Schlink, senior Nicolette Wallis, junior Jacob Terry, junior Ryan Fisher, sophomore Mikail Freeman, sophomore Tyler Fisher, freshman Carly McCracken and freshman Elizabeth Wellman. They competed against more than 600 other students from Kansas High Schools.

"We are the smallest school that competes in Kansas DECA, but we still find ways to get recognized on

the main stage," said Advisor Topliff. Goodland is a 3A school and is the smallest school that competes at state. The majority of the other thirty are 5A and 6A schools from the Wichita and Kansas City areas.

The Goodland Chapter found success early and often. They were honored as one of ten schools for reaching 100 percent membership, which means they met or increased membership from the previous school year. They also were one of two school awarded the H.D. Shotwell Chapter Service award that honors clubs who are involved in community service.

McCool and Freeman placed third overall in the learn and earn project. The pair had to write a 30 page project over their concession stand experiences and also had to make a formal presentation to a panel of judges.

"J.P. and Mikail are veterans when it comes to that project and although they were pleased to finish third and they really wanted to finish in the top two for the chance to go to

nationals," said Topliff.

Carly McCracken competed in the apparel and accessories individual event placing second. The event consists of a 100 question comprehensive exam and two situational role-plays that are presented to a judge. Her high finish qualifies her to go to the International Career Development Conference in Louisville, Ky., held in late April.

"Carly's finish was a pleasant surprise," said Topliff. "I knew she was an exceptional student, but it is almost unheard of for freshman to place at all, let alone place second and qualify for nationals. She is extremely excited and is looking forward to her trip to Louisville."

"We have a great group of kids and I think we can expect a lot of success from these students in the future," he said. "We will sadly say goodbye to four graduating seniors but other than that I hope all the rest of the kids decide to come back and compete next year."

Annual Easter egg hunt planned at Northwest Tech

The annual Goodland Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 5 p.m., on Friday, March 26, at the Northwest Tech Memorial Union on the college campus sponsored by Kiwanis and the Northwest Tech Circle K students.

Plans are to use the grass area by the Memorial Union to hide the eggs, and the kids will be broken

into four age groups.

The age groups are babies to age 3, pre-school to kindergarten, first to second grade and third to fourth grade. Plans are to hide the eggs and let each group go separately to retrieve the eggs.

Kiwanis started a student chapter of Circle K on the Northwest Tech campus, and the student members

will be helping with the community Easter Egg Hunt.

The Northwest Tech students will be stuffing eggs Thursday, beginning at 3 p.m. Anyone interested in helping with the community event call Tiffini Overstreet at (785) 890-1517.



Clean out your garage and closets and place an ad in the classifieds today.

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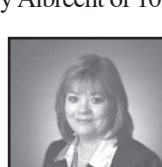
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This course will be designed to be interactive with plenty of opportunities for questions and answers about Exchanges and related real estate tax issues.

Contact Kathy at 719-346-5420 by March 17 to attend!