

## Deadline for census form coming up

People are urged to fill out and send their 2010 census forms. It is the law that everyone complete their form and send it in. If it is not sent in by April 1, a census taker will be knocking on your door.

It takes only 10 minutes to fill out the short form. Each of the 10 questions on the census form are mandatory and required by law. People are urged to fill all questions. If there are questions, people can click on <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/how/interactive-form.php>.

Those who do not mail back their completed form in a timely manner will find the a census taker at their door to record their answers to the questions on the form. All census takers carry a badge with a Department of Commerce watermark and expiration date. Some census workers might carry a U.S. Census Bureau bag as well. The census taker will provide you with supervisor contact information and/or the Local Census Office phone number for verification, if asked.

The Census Bureau is spending a lot of money to have the census taken. Census 2000 proved that paid advertising was a wise investment that reduced the overall cost of the census. For every 1-percent increase in mail response in 2010, the census will save \$85 million that would otherwise have to be spent on door-to-door follow-up with households that didn't respond.

Census 2000 was the first census to use paid advertising rather than rely solely on donated public service announcements. It helped reverse a three-decade-long decline in mail response rates.

The question was asked, "Why does the Census Bureau ask for my phone number on the questionnaire?"

The answer is, the Census Bureau needs the phone number in order to call in case there form is returned with incomplete information. Calling instead of coming to your door saves taxpayers' money.



JOSHUA KELTZ (left front row), SHAYLA HUBBARD, Walker Janicke, Noah Jones, and, in the back, row Grant Shrader, play for Cougar fans during a basketball game.  
*Times staff photo by Linda Schneider*



DIXIE (left) AND GEORGE LOUDERBAUGH were among the crowd that showed up for the FFA lamb fry and work auction on Thursday.  
*Times staff photos by Linda Schneider*

## Communities come out to support FFA

By Linda Schneider  
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The Cheylin FFA members presented their annual lamb fry and work auction at the McDonald gymnasium on March 18, and residents from Bird City and McDonald came out to support them as a community and financially.

Before the slave auction began, everyone sat down to a meal of lamb fries, potato chips, baked beans, and for those who wanted an option to the lamb fries, ham sandwiches were provided.

Royce Rambat was the auctioneer for the evening with helpers, Heath Antholz, Max Hengen, Mitchel Jensen, and Hudson Louderbaugh.

Each FFA member took turns standing on the "slave block" as the crowd actively bid on work abilities and physical attributes such as Adam Orten a 6 foot, 175 pound coyote wrestler, or Ethan Young a 6 foot, 6 inches, 245 pound cone inspector.

Other career slaves were Stephanie Busse, 6 foot, 110 pound muffin maker; Austin Cobb, six foot, five inches, 175 pound barn cleaner; Joshua Keltz, a 6 foot or so, 120 pound gadget maker, and Kenan Reeh, 6 foot, 175 pound pheasant chaser.

In addition, Dalton Magnani, at 6 foot, 200 pounds would test for electricity; Wil Orten at 6 foot, 11 inches, 195 pound golf ball chaser;

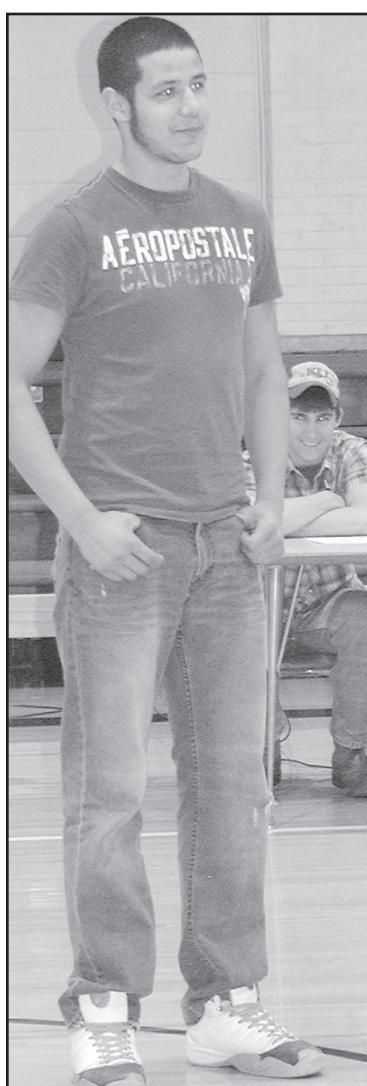
Mitchel Jensen at 6 foot, 5 inches, 222 pounds would be taste testing any food; Teryn Carmichael, 5 foot, 8 inches, 110 pounds would place a cone anywhere; Caleb Keltz, 6 foot, 9 inches, 145 pounds is the one if a pitch fork specialist was needed.

For a muffler adjuster, Adrian Garcia at 6 foot, 6 inches, 235 pounds would be the choice; Heath Antholz, 6 foot, 6 inches, 255 pounds would be the home recliner inspector; Craig Busse, 6 foot, 5 inches, 300 pounds would bake a great loaf of bread, and Chris Walden, 6 foot, 222 pounds would be available to test a Taser.

Coming up next, Danny Frisbie, computer adjuster, at 6 foot, 10 inches and 155 pounds; Hudson Louderbaugh, 6 foot, 8 inches, 350 pounds will rope any prairie dog; Lance Leonard, 6 foot, 6 inches, 220 pounds would probe soil; Max Hengen, 6 foot, 6 inches, 222 pounds will adjust cones. And the Old Man, Max Keltz, FFA leader, 6 foot, 165 pounds was the jack of all trades and master of none.

The Old Man was auctioned off to Denise Keltz and when asked what her plans are for her work slave, she said she has a list of "Honey Do's."

The auction brought over \$3,000 for organization events and trips, and with the finan-



ADRIAN GARCIA will adjust a muffler, for the right bid.

cially difficult times schools are facing with large state funding cuts, Bird City and McDonald residents demonstrated they support school programs.

## Discussing mutual problems with leaders topic of meeting

By Karen Krien  
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The city of St. Francis leaders and Cheyenne County Commissioners agreed to meet together every two or three months to discuss mutual problems. The agreement came at the Monday, March 15 meeting.

Scott Schultz, St. Francis mayor, and Roger Jensen, city council member, had attended the meeting to discuss the possibility of meetings. They felt that it would be better to sit down and discuss issues or ideas rather than using letters to communicate. They pointed out that the county and city share parks, the recycling center and the emergency building. They noted that it would need to be a meeting which is open to the public and there should be a quorum.

In months past, there has been communication, not face to face, about the St. Francis Emergency Building. The commissioners were concerned that they were paying above the costs for utilities and other expenses since the county uses about two-thirds of the building.

The commissioners agreed to meet with the St. Francis council once every two months with the place of the meeting changing each time. The first meeting was held at the city hall on Monday. In two months, the meeting will be held in the commissioners' room in the courthouse. The time of the meeting is 30 minutes before the regular meeting begins.

**Mapping**  
Jen Padgett, county communication director, discussed the mapping software. Our maps, she said, are not working correctly and it is the county's responsibility to update the maps. There was a training for the updating process but it was expen-

sive. One agreement for training was \$1,200 or \$150 per hour for a phone call. The other training was \$3,000 to \$5,000.

She had contacted Cale Rieger who works in this area and has recently moved back to St. Francis. He said he would be willing to help out with mapping problems for an hourly wage.

The commissioners and Mrs. Padgett talked about working with the appraiser's office. The matter was tabled until another meeting.

**Road and bridge department report**

Road and Bridge Supervisor Dave Flemming introduced new employee Justin Lohr. Mr. Lohr will take over the position held by retiring Danny Schlittenhardt, noxious weed supervisor. Employee wage agreements were presented and signed for Mr. Lohr and Marlin Burr. Both men will start at Level II.

Mr. Flemming had one bid for the replacement of the shop garage door, but the commissioners felt a second bid was needed.

Bids for the two Allis Chalmers tractors, a 7040 and a 7060, were reviewed. Eleven bids for the 7040 ranged from \$1,050 to \$3,000. The \$3,000 bid by David Warffel was the winning bid. There were also 11 bids for the 7060 ranging from \$1,050 to \$2,750 and the high bid from David Warffel was again taken.

Mr. Flemming asked for five minutes of executive session to discuss personnel. No decisions were made.

**Sheriff's report**  
Sheriff Craig Van Allen said the Kansas Bureau of Investigation was trying to start a Northwest Kansas Drug Task force. The force would

require each of the 18 counties to hire a person dedicated to the task force. Sheriff Van Allen said none of the counties were in favor of the task force as currently presented but they are negotiating for different terms.

He said his office would be purchasing a new tazer, as well as new uniforms for the deputies.

**In other business**

In other business:  
• The commissioners decided to purchase five pagers for the St. Francis Fire Department for a total cost of \$2,275. These pagers will be paid for from the 911 Fund. They still need 13 pagers.

• Rodney Neitzel, owner of Uptown Meat Market, had asked about having a sign paid for using the Cheyenne County Incentive Plan. The commissioners agreed if the sign had the meat market advertised, they would consider reimbursement.

• Jannelle Bowers, emergency medical service director, presented write-offs in the amount of \$3,499. She said the reduced Medicaid payments were hurting small community emergency medical services including Cheyenne County. It's not fair, she said, but we accept the Medicare payments, no matter how little but, if we don't, we are done!

• The 2010 census which is now being taken was discussed. The commissioners agreed that it was so very important that people fill out the form and send it in by April 1.

• Carol Rogers, representative to the High Plains Mental Health, asked the commissioners if there was any questions they might have before the director made a visit to the county in the near future. There were no questions.

**Next meeting**  
The next commissioners' meeting will be held at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, March 31, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

## Cheylin student receives honor

Naomi Reeh of Cheylin High School, and Brooklyn Hnizdil and Trent Raile of St. Francis Community High School and are among 43 seniors from nine northwest Kansas high schools who will be honored on Wednesday, April 7, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and Kansas University Endowment.

The seniors will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a dinner program at the Colby Community College Stu-

dent Union, 1255 S. Range Ave. The honors program began in 1971 and has honored more than 107,000 students. Scholars rank in the top 10 percent of their high school senior class and are selected regardless of occupational plans or higher-education goals.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in both hard back and electronic versions.

William J. Crowe, special assistant to the dean of libraries, will speak to the students and

their parents and guests.

Mike and Brenda Day of St. Francis are county coordinators for Cheyenne County.

The Kansas Honors Program is made possible through Kansas University Endowments and proceeds from the Jayhawk license plate program.



Reeh