

'10 Census figures recently released

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The U.S. Census Bureau recently released more detailed Kansas 2010 Census population totals and demographic characteristics to the governor and leadership of the state legislature.

The data provides the first look at population counts for Kansas counties, and shows most of western Kansas lost population including Cheyenne County which was down 2,726 from 3,165 10 years ago.

Michael Solomon, Sherman County economic development director said he was getting his first look at the numbers, and will be comparing them to his vision of the Goodland shopping region.

He said it is less important how the population is shifting within the counties, but more important to look at the total shopping area Sherman County depends on to bring money into the county. That area runs from Wray, Colo. to Benkelman, Neb., on the north to Tribune on the south Brewster on the east and Stratton, Colo., to the west.

The official 2010 Census Redistricting numbers will be used to redraw federal, state and local legislative districts, taking into account population shifts since the 2000 Census.

Census data for Kansas show the five most populous incorporated places and their Census counts are Wichita, 382,368; Overland Park, 173,372; Kansas City, 145,786; Topeka, 127,473; and Olathe, 125,872.

Wichita grew by 11.1 percent since the 2000 Census. Overland Park grew by 16.3 percent, Kansas City decreased by 0.7 percent, Topeka grew by 4.2 percent, and Olathe grew by 35.4 percent.

The largest county is Johnson, with a population of 544,179. Its population grew by 20.6 percent since 2000. The other counties in the top five include Sedgwick, with a population of 498,365 (increase of 10.0 percent); Shawnee, 177,934 (increase of 4.7 percent); Wyandotte, 157,505 (decrease of 0.2 percent); and Douglas, 110,826 (increase of 10.9 percent).

Sherman County showed a population of 6,010 in 2010, down 750 from the 2000 census, but ahead of the U.S. Census 2009 estimated population of 5,860. The drop over 10 years is about 11 percent. However, based on the U.S. Census estimate for 2009 Sherman County is up 150 or ahead by about 2.5 percent.

The University of Kansas Institute for Policy and Social Research and Entrepreneurship Works for Kansas puts out an annual Kansas County profile in July with a set of population estimates created by Wichita University and the latest figures were compiled in 2008.

Comparing the estimates with the U.S. Census figures shows some counties are holding true to the Wichita University computer model, but others are off by quite a bit.

The Census figures show Sherman County has dropped about 1 percent per year over the past 10 years, but not as fast as the Wichita State University estimate for 2010 with Sherman County population estimated at 5,519 a drop of 1,241 over the 10 years for 19 percent.

Northwest counties

With the new U.S. Census figures Wichita University will be able to update their computer population estimate model. In many cases the county estimates for 2010 done by Wichita University were off by more than 3 percent, but in the case of Greeley County the Wichita University was about as close as you can get missing the actual U.S. Census count by 2. The 2010

estimate was 1,245 and the U.S. Census count was 1,247.

Greeley County dropped 18.7 percent in the 2010 Census to 1,247 from 1,534 in the 2000 Census.

Thomas County showed a drop of 3.42 percent to 7,900 in 2010 down from 8,180 in 2000. The 10-year average is a loss of 28 people per year. The Wichita University estimate for Thomas County for 2010 of 7,178 was lower by 722 or about 10 percent.

Cheyenne County dropped 13.87 percent in the 10 years down to 2,726 from 3,165. The Wichita University population estimate for 2010 was 2,651, or 75 people (2.7 percent) lower.

Decatur County dropped 14.72 percent down to 2,961 from 3,472. The Wichita University estimate for 2010 was 2,888, (73 lower).

Norton County dropped 4.74 percent down to 5,671 from 5,953. The Wichita University estimate for 2010 was 5,345 or 326 lower (5.7 percent) than the U.S. Census.

Rawlins County dropped 15.07 percent down to 2,519 from 2,986. The Wichita University estimate for 2020 was 2,373, (146 below the census count).

Sheridan County dropped 9.14 percent down to 2,556 from 2,813. The Wichita University estimate for 2010 was 2,347, (209 below the census).

Wallace County dropped 15.09 percent down to 1,485 from 1,749. The Wichita University estimate for 2010 was 1,405, (80 below the census).

Gove County dropped 12.16 percent down to 2,695 from 3,068. The Wichita University estimate for 2010 was 2,428, (267 below the census).

Logan County dropped 9.52 percent down to 2,756 from 3,048. The Wichita University estimate for 2010 was 2,534, (222 below the census).

In the western half of the state only a handful of counties showed growth in the past 10 years with Ellis being the only one in the northwest part. In the southwest part Pratt, Hamilton, Stephens, Seward, Ford and Gray counties show growth over the 2000 census.

Saline County increased 3.75 percent up to 55,606 from 53,597. Ellis County increased 3.44 percent up to 28,452 from 27,507.

Statewide Kansas showed a 6.1 percent growth in population from the 2000 census to 2,853,118 in 2010.

State redistricting

The increase in the state population will not change the number of Congressional representatives for the state, but will cause the size of the existing districts to shift, and means the Big First Congressional district is likely to get bigger. Currently the Big First covers 69 of the 105 Kansas counties.

Redistricting will be done for the state legislature representative and senate districts and Rep. Rick Billinger and Ward Cassidy plus Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer will be in the thick of the redistricting process.

On a national basis the number of people in a district represented by a Congressman has risen from 210,328 in 1910 to 710,767 in 2010. For Kansas the number in the representative district has risen from 211,369 in 1910 to 715,953 in 2010. In the 100 years Kansas has lost three representatives going from a high of seven down to four, and the 6.1 percent increase in the state population is not enough for the state to gain a seat, but is enough to maintain the four seats the state has.



CELEBRATING their March birthdays at the senior center are Dee Dorsch, Barb Waters and Norm Dorsch.
 Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

Club Clip

Kanred Family, Community and Education Unit

Family, Community and Education - Kanred group met on Monday, Feb. 28. There were five members present: Dorthe Mast, Treva Henry, Colleen Catic, Leeanna Windell and Wanda Dowdy.

Members discussed the new lessons for this year. The members chose the ones that they would like to present: Treva Henry will give the lesson on "Seasoning with herbs and spices" for the March 14 meeting. Dorthe Mast will give the lesson on, "Vitamin D - From Sunshine and Supplements" for the April meeting. Leeanna Wendell will give the lesson on "An Invitation to Dine" in May, and Colleen Catic will give the lesson on "From Scraps to Treasure" in June. In the fall, the members will have the other lessons, "Someone's in the Living Room with an Eye to Redecoration," by Wanda Dowdy, and "Someone's in the Super Market Buying Safe Food" by Treva Henry.

For the lesson today, Wanda Dowdy shared with the others, "Sugar: More Than Just a Sweetener." This was a very interesting lesson and one which showed members things they didn't know. Sugar is a carbohydrate that occurs naturally in every fruit and vegetable. It is a major product of photosynthesis, the process by which plants transform the sun's energy into food. Sucrose occurs in greatest quantities in sugar cane and sugar beets from which it is separated for our use. The sugar in your sugar bowl is exactly the same sugar that is in a peach or watermelon. Wanda showed a diagram comparing the processing of beet sugar and cane sugar refining. Why do people need sugar? For most of them, sugar and foods sweetened with sugar conjure up life's happiest moments-birthday parties and special holidays. But pleasure is only part of the story. Fruits get their natural sweetness from sucrose and other sugars. Vegetables such as carrots taste best when their sugar content is at its highest. Sugar provides a balanced sweet taste that other sweeteners attempt to imitate. Sugar is not hidden in food. In fact, sugar has always provided many necessary functional properties in cooking and baking.

Natural sugar: Absorbs water and

inhibits flour gluten development providing proper texture in baked goods (a little sugar-dense texture like a roll; a lot of sugar-fluffy texture like a cake. It also helps prevent spoilage of fruit jellies and preserves by stealing the water from bacterial cells, killing them and preventing spoilage. Sugar is hygroscopic and absorbs water from the atmosphere keeping baked goods moist and fresh. It balances sour, bitter and spicy components in foods like spaghetti and barbecue sauce. It provides nourishment for yeast to help bread rise. It helps foods brown, which is why bread or rolls are brown. Sugar also add flavor and balances acidic elements in rubs, brines, dressing and cures.

Non-food uses of sugar: These were really surprising to some of the members. Some of its applications and potential uses include: Pharmaceuticals -When Mary Poppins announced that a "spoonful of sugar makes the medicine go down," she

was undoubtedly referring to sugar's sweet taste. Actually, it is sugar's physical properties that make it extremely useful in the pharmaceutical industry. Sugar is valued in liquid preparations for its solubility and bodying effects. In tablets, sugar functions as a diluent to control concentration of active ingredients and as a binder to hold ingredients together. Sugar coatings are used to protect tablets from chipping. Sugar is also used for wound-healing. Scientists here and abroad have reported surprising success in the use of sugar to treat serious wounds and burns that don't respond to conventional therapy. Although the mechanism is not clear, it appears that when sugar fills an open wound it dissolves in the tissue and produces an environment in which bacteria cannot grow. Physicians also believe sugar supplies nourishment that damaged tissue needs for regrowth. In Brazil, by the use of sugar cane ethanol, the country has become

almost energy independent from foreign oil sources. Sugar esters are well suited to be used in surface coatings, detergents and paints. Sugar ester detergents are reported to be excellent in cleaning dirt, agricultural chemicals and bacteria from fruits and vegetables.

The glue industry uses sugar as an extender and as a vehicle to slow the setting process. Sugar plays a role in leather tanning. It is used to slow down the setting of cement. Most of us already knew that you can prolong the life of fresh cut flowers by adding a teaspoon of sugar to the water.

As there was no more business, the meeting adjourned and members enjoyed refreshments each had brought. They enjoyed a time of fellowship at the end of this meeting.

The next meeting will be March 14. Anyone who would like to join can meet with the member at 2 p.m. at the LeBow Manor.

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