

Hunters learn at Kuhrt Ranch



By Tom Betz

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About 30 people eager to get Kansas hunter education certificates gathered at the Kuhrt Ranch northeast of town for the Third Annual Northwest Kansas beginners pheasant hunt and hunter education class on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 25, 26.

Wildlife Conservation Officer Mike Hopper, who has responsibility for Cheyenne, Sherman and Wallace Counties, said he had 31 students take the hunter safety test and 13 of them passed with perfect scores. He said the perfect scores were the most he has had in his 25 years of doing the tests. He said all 31 of those taking the test passed.

The students had to do an on-line class before coming to the test session on Friday evening. Hopper said not all those taking the test stayed for the field experience on Saturday.

Saturday morning started out cloudy and cold with a layer of frost on the trees and a brisk breeze from the south, but by 11 a.m. the sun had broken through and the rest of the day was almost shirt sleeve weather.

The 27 participants had an early breakfast and broke up into groups to rotate through the five stations set up to give the people a taste of the different aspects of hunting.

One station was a hike with Josh Williams of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to take the people through several "shoot or not to shoot" scenarios and to give them a practical look at issues about where to hunt and what to do to make sure the person has the proper permission to hunt on an open field.

Another station was the clay bird live shooting platform manned by Troy Mannis, Benny Young, Richard Kelly and Rick McElwee. The live fire gave each participant a chance to try a different type of shot gun and fire from different elevations.

The third station was having the people learn how to clean a bird under the direction of Bob Juleson and Justin Stasser who watched, gave direction and explained the cleaning steps as well as the importance of being able to identify the bird up until it is cooked.

The fourth station was a combination of gun cleaning and alcohol avoidance put on by Kansas Troopers Josh McQuitty, Perry Frey and Joe Greene. The troopers explained how to clean a shot gun and demonstrated the best cleaning methods. As part of the class the troopers

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Two hunting dogs (top) were sniffing out a pheasant on Saturday morning at the Kuhrt Ranch while a guide tried to get the bird to fly to give the new hunters a moving target to shoot at. All 27 who participated got a chance to do the hunt. Cleaning the birds (above) was one of the stations the participants got to learn about at the education sessions on Saturday. It appears the ball was thrown well by a student wearing the "drunk goggles" (right), but the trooper actually reached out to his right to catch the ball showing how far off the perception is of a person who has been drinking.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News



weather report

23°
at 11 a.m.
Monday

Today
• Sunset, 5:47 p.m.

Wednesday
• Sunrise, 6:07 a.m.
• Sunset, 5:48 p.m.

Midday Conditions
• Soil temperature 34 degrees
• Humidity 71 percent
• Sky cloudy
• Winds north 15 mph
• Barometer 29.90 inches and falling

• Record High today 75° (1974)
• Record Low today -2° (1912)

Last 24 Hours*
High Sunday 57°
Low Sunday 16°
Precipitation trace
This month .05
Year to date .86
Below Normal .21 inches

The Topside Forecast
Today: Cloudy with an 80 percent chance of snow at night with an accumulation of 2 to 4 inches, a high near 28, winds out of the north at 15 to 35 mph and a low around 16. Wednesday: Sunny with a high near 40, winds breezy out of the northwest at 10 to 30 mph and a low around 18.

Extended Forecast
Thursday: Mostly sunny with a high near 52 and a low around 24. Friday: Mostly sunny with a high near 55 and a low around 23. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 50 and a low around 24.

(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon
Wheat — \$7.65 bushel
Posted county price — \$7.98
Corn — \$6.37 bushel
Posted county price — \$6.84
Milo — \$6.24 bushel
Soybeans — \$12.13 bushel
Posted county price — \$13.21
Millet — \$5 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$31 cwt.
Confection — no bid.
Pinto beans — \$18
(Markets by Scouler Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

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Cowboys fall to Scott City

Cowboy senior Hazen Deeds played in the game against Scott City. The Cowboys led at half, but lost in the fourth quarter. See story, photos on Page 10.

Sherman, western counties see continued drop

By Tom Betz

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The U.S. Census Bureau Thursday 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 Sherman County, 6,010, with a drop of about 11 percent—a loss of 750 people over the 10 years.

Michael Solomon, Sherman County economic development director said Friday 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 or 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 2010 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

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