

Being counted counts

Written by Deb Egenberger
Saturday, 16 January 2010 16:49 -



Census begins in Dawson County March 1.

When a U.S. Census Bureau employee taps on your door and hands you a short questionnaire, take the five or so minutes necessary to fill it out and then stick it in the mail.

For every person who does not allow themselves to be counted, the state stands to lose \$1,114 in federal money.

“It’s our power and our money,” said Vic Gentry, manager for the Census office in North Platte. “There’s a lot at stake if people don’t respond.”

The North Platte Census office is one of three in the state responsible for delivering the questionnaires and collecting the data. The other two offices are in Lincoln and Omaha.

Gentry said his office covers the 52 most western counties of the state, from Grand Island to the Wyoming border.

“It’s between 55,00 and 60,000 square miles,” he said. “That’s a lot of ground to cover.”

And in the majority of those counties, Census questionnaires will be hand delivered to each household by the 1,000 or so employees beginning March 1.

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JOB FAIR

The U.S. Census Bureau office in North Platte is recruiting workers across Dawson County to deliver questionnaires to each household beginning March 1.

A job fair is planned from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday in Lexington at the National Guard Armory, 202 S. Washington. Several employment tests are given weekly across the region and up to 1,000 people will be hired.

For additional information or to apply for a part-time temporary Census Bureau job, call the North Platte office at 308-221-2000 or visit the office at 214 E. Fifth St.

More information is available at www.census.gov. For more information on the 2010 Census, visit www.census.gov.