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With the click of a mouse

Instructor Connie Hutchison, left, shows student Vickie Leija a computer program. Kendrick Memorial Library hosted Microsoft educational programs Wednesday and Thursday.

**KAIROS MINISTRY** from One

over the country also create a prayer chain that they show to the inmates.

"It's a family ministry," said volunteer Rhonda Duncan, who is based with First Baptist Church.

Rather than attempt to draw inmates into a particular church, Kairos uses a non-denominational approach to win over new Christians. And in case anyone might wonder why the group chooses to help convicts rather than condemn them, Kairos volunteers might be inclined to question those nay-sayers of their own sins.

"Jesus didn't throw anybody away, so why should we?" Holt said. "We want to take a (positive) attitude and give everybody a chance and help them to see that their failures don't define who they are - Christ does."

Kairos operates in 350 prisons in 31 U.S. states, as around the world, according to the organization's web site at KairosPrison-Ministry.org.

Inmates who have been through Kairos also have a lower-than-average recidivism rate after they have been released, according to the web site.

**AREA SEES GROWTH** from One

south of the Canadian border all the way down to West Texas -- are experiencing rapid population growth," said Thomas Mesenbourg, the Census Bureau's senior adviser performing the duties of director. "There are probably many factors fueling this growth on the prairie, but no doubt the energy boom is playing a role. For instance, the Permian Basin, located primarily in West Texas, and North Dakota accounted for almost half of the total U.S. growth in firms that mine or extract oil and gas, during a recent one-year period."

Micropolitan areas, which contain an urban cluster of between 10,000 and 49,999 people, followed a similar pattern, with those located in or near the Great Plains among the fastest-growing. Williston, N.D., ranked first in growth (9.3 percent), followed by Junction City, Kan.; Dickinson, N.D.; and Andrews, Texas. Three areas in western Oklahoma (Elk City, Weatherford and Woodward), as well as Gillette, Wyo., also made the top 20.

The situation for counties was also much the same, with Williams, N.D.; Geary, Kan.; Richland, Mont.; and Stark, N.D., each among the five fastest-growing counties with populations of 10,000 or more. These are just a few examples of the plethora of counties in or near the Great Plains that appear on the list of fastest-growing counties.

When looking at the areas with the largest numeric gains, those high on the list are mainly in the South and West. The metropolitan areas of Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, Los Angeles and New York each added more than 100,000 people over the July 1, 2011, to July 1, 2012 period. Meanwhile, Austin, Texas, and Orlando, Fla., were not only among the top 20 numeric gainers, but also among the top 20 in terms of rate of growth.

Among counties, Harris, Texas (Houston); Los Angeles, Calif.; Maricopa, Ariz. (Phoenix); Dallas, Texas; and San Diego, Calif., comprised the top-five numeric gainers.

**Other highlights**

Overall, 40 of the 50 fastest-growing metro areas between 2011 and 2012 were completely in the South or West, eight were completely in the Midwest, and one was in the Northeast. One area (Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, Ark.-Mo.) straddles the South and Midwest.

The second fastest-growing metro area was Clarksville, Tenn.-Ky.

Between 2011 and 2012, the population of the Los Angeles metro area surpassed the 13 million mark, Philadelphia passed the 6 million mark, Las Vegas surpassed the 2 million mark, and Grand Rapids, Mich., passed the 1 million mark.

New York continued to be the most populous metro area, with 19.8 million residents on July 1, 2012, followed by Los Angeles and Chicago. All in all, nine metro areas had populations of 5 million people or more, while 52 had at least 1 million.

**Micro Areas**

Half of the 50 fastest-growing micro areas between 2011 and 2012 were in the South, 14 in the West, 10 in the Midwest and one in the Northeast.

**Counties**

Los Angeles was the nation's most populous county on July 1, 2012, with nearly 10 million residents, followed by Cook, Ill. (Chicago); Harris, Texas (Houston); Maricopa, Ariz. (Phoenix); and San Diego, Calif.

Texas had 11 counties among the 50 fastest-growing, as well as 11 among the 50 highest numeric gainers.

In the coming months, the Census Bureau will release 2012 estimates of the total population of cities and towns, as well as national, state and county population estimates by age, sex, race and Hispanic origin.

**Oil up ahead of production data**

The price of oil rose to near \$94 on Friday ahead of the release of U.S. industrial production and manufacturing figures that analysts expect to show an improving economy.

By early afternoon in Europe, benchmark oil for April delivery was up 60 cents to \$93.63 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 51 cents to close at \$93.03 per barrel on the Nymex on Thursday.

Traders expect to see improvement in U.S. industrial production for February when the Federal Reserve releases the details later Friday. Analysts at Capital Economics said in a market commentary that they expect a month-on-month increase of 0.6 percent.

"February's employment and hours worked data suggest that manufacturing output also increased," the analysts said, "so we wouldn't be surprised to see something of a rebound

in February."

Oil's rise on Thursday was attributed to favorable U.S. employment data, offsetting news about ample crude supplies and worries about the eurozone economy.

Weekly U.S. jobless claims fell by a greater-than-anticipated 10,000 to 332,000, helping to sustain hopes over the U.S. labor market.

Brent crude, used to price many kinds of oil imported by U.S. refineries, was up \$1.14 to \$110.10 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange in London.

Experts said Brent's rise was due partly to reports of decreasing oil exports from Iran — which is enduring sanctions from Western powers because of its nuclear program — and expectations about aggravated geopolitical tensions in the Middle East related to the upcoming visit to Israel by U.S. President Barack Obama.

A weaker dollar was also supporting oil prices, making

crude cheaper for traders using other currencies.

On Friday, the euro was up at \$1.3090 from \$1.3010 late Thursday in New York.

*In other energy futures trading on the Nymex:*

— Wholesale gasoline added 2.64 cents to \$3.1561 a gallon.

— Heating oil rose 3.13 cents to \$3.0444 a gallon.

— Natural gas climbed 7.7 cents to \$3.889 per 1,000 cubic feet.

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3 miles North on US Hwy 385, then 1 mile East on CR 680. Watch for Sign.  
Call: Joel Currie (806) 441-7305; or Bobby Fletcher (806) 787-3030

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- 1- John Deere 4455 Diesel Tractor, BARN KEPT- LOW HOURS- NICE
- 1- John Deere 4240 Diesel Tractor, BARN KEPT- NICE
- 1- Massey Ferguson 85 LPG Tractor, BARN KEPT

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- 1- 1982 Ford F-350 Gas V8 Truck, 20,910 miles
- 1- 1997 GMC 2 Ton Grain Truck, (Been in Barn All its Life) 22,949 miles

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