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“Our vendors were extremely complimentary of the community and the facility,” he said. “We had an excavation company greeting people in the front of the Florence Events Center and good displays throughout the building.”

Long-time vendors reported comparable or increased sales over past years, and many people who attended walked away with live plants, flowerpots, appliances and art, or secured contractors, fiber internet through Hyak, gravel and bark delivery and other home services.

People also had the chance to win big, with grand prize raffles as well as individual prizes offered throughout

the day.

According to Thompson, show attendance was down in comparison to the event's averages over 23 years.

“We had a steady stream of people over the weekend, but a noticeable difference in demographics,” he said. “It appeared many of our older residents who we typically see come through understandably stayed away. We expected virus concerns would impact the show but we were pleased it was minimal.”

The 2020 Florence Home and Garden Show was presented by Coast Radio and Siuslaw News. It was sponsored by Oregon Pacific Bank, Central Lincoln PUD, Three Rivers Casino Resort and Bi-Mart.



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

The 2020 Florence Home and Garden Show took place at the Florence Events Center from March 6 to 8, showcasing more than 40 new and returning vendors.

CENSUS from page 1A

Oregon has had five U.S. Congressional Districts since 1982, and these district boundaries have been redrawn incorporating the new data collected after the 1990, 2000 and 2010 Censuses.

The importance of collecting accurate and current information is essential; in addition to representation, there are billions of dollars in funding allocated according to the numbers of individuals in a county or state.

Florence resident Suzy Lacer is a member of the Lane County Complete Count Committee and in an email response to the Siuslaw News said, “The Census needs to count everyone (all ages, college students living on campus, immigrants, non-residents, family members, roommates, newborns, renters, couch surfers and grandparents) that lives at each address, effective April 1.”

“Lane County and rural areas had low response rates during the last Census. We need to get an accurate count this time.”

Accurate counts ensure that funding is equitably distributed among the 50 states, based on need and participation levels. Medicaid, the National School Lunch Program, Headstart and grants for special education, highway planning and construction also receive funding based on Census data.

One of the major concerns that has been shared by the public regarding participation in the Census is the fear that information gained will be used to target undocumented individuals and force them to leave the United States.

This scenario is unlikely and illegal, as Congress has made a point of protecting the information and individuals that participate. This is because the U.S. Census Bureau is bound by law to protect respondents' answers and keep them strictly confidential. The law ensures that private information is never published and that answers cannot be used against participating individuals by any government agency or court.

These concerns were

heightened last year when there was an attempt made by the federal administration to add a question regarding citizenship status to the 2020 Census. The response from the public, government officials and the courts were overwhelmingly opposed to the idea and, after months of insisting on the inclusion, the administration dropped its demand.

The idea that every household in the country will be contacted and interviewed has been a focus of the federal government and the founding fathers since the beginning of the U.S. republic. The mandate to count every person in America is codified in Article 1, Section 2, of the U.S. Constitution and the nationwide count has taken place every 10 years since 1790. The

first Census was conducted by riders on horseback and was one of the first things Congress instructed the new government to do. The methodology used to obtain Census data has changed during the past 200 years, but the importance of the count has only increased over that time period.

Respondents to the 2020 Census can fill out the questionnaire for their house-

hold online, via mobile device, by telephone or by simply answering the questions asked by a Census taker at their home.

Census takers can be identified by a valid ID badge, with photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark and an expiration date.

For more information on the 2020 U.S. Census, visit 2020census.gov.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**First Community Credit Union
to purchase three stores from Umpqua Bank**

Coquille, Oregon (March 11, 2020) – First Community Credit Union (First Community) announced today that they have entered into a purchase and assumption agreement with Umpqua Bank to acquire three store (branch) locations in Oregon. The branch locations included in the transaction are located in John Day, Burns, and Lakeview. The agreement is subject to regulatory approval and is expected to close in June of this year.

“We are excited to expand our services to these wonderful communities. We understand rural Oregon because it’s where most of our members live and work. We are also delighted to welcome the Umpqua Bank employees at these branches to the First Community team,” said David Elmer, President/CEO of First Community.

“As customer preferences change how we deliver banking services, Umpqua’s commitment to supporting our communities remains strong,” said Brian Read, Umpqua’s executive vice president and head of retail banking. “We’re pleased that First Community has agreed to purchase these three locations and will continue providing financial services to local customers.”

About First Community

Headquartered in Coquille, First Community serves nearly 80,000 members (customers), operates 28 branches in Oregon, employs over 300 employees and has approximately \$1.2 billion in assets. Helping individuals, families, and small businesses achieve their financial goals is central to their mission. Supporting its communities through innovative and ethical banking practices is at the heart of First Community’s philosophy.



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