



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Sarah Bushore, an employee of the United States Census Bureau, explains on Oct. 15 the list of questions to be asked and how to properly count people living at more than one address, such as children with split custody or exchange students.

Umatilla County reaching for 'hard to count' during census

By PHIL WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

The Umatilla County 2020 Census Complete Count Committee aims to count every person it can for the 2020 census. And most of that effort will go toward counting members of "hard-to-count" groups.

The Complete Count Committee kicked off with a brainstorming session last week at the Pendleton Convention Center involving around 40 civic leaders, public officials, employees and others. Bob Waldher, Umatilla County planning director, said about 70% of people comply and report census data. But reaching 100% is the goal, and that takes finding strategies to reach the "hard-to-count" groups, including seniors, children younger than 5, migrant workers and even renters.

Sarah Bushore with the Census Bureau told the crowd

the Constitution requires a count of all people residing in the country, not just of all citizens. Establishing residency is a crucial component of the count, she said, and the rules of residency cover five pages. But she said the bureau relies on two rules for most situations.

The first: Where do you stay most of the time? And when that does not work, where did you sleep April 1?

Working in small groups, the participants came up with ideas ranging from getting churches to encourage parishioners to take part in the census to staffing tables with English and Spanish speakers at local Walmarts to get the word out.

"We probably had like a hundred different ideas," Waldher said last Wednesday.

Next month, the committee will meet to determine which of those are the most viable, which could mean which are the most afford-

able. He said the committee has a budget of about \$10,000.

County Commissioner George Murdock also attended the recent session. He said during a recent trip to Washington, D.C., with the National Association of Counties he learned the census helps the federal government distribute more than \$1.5 trillion.

"That's \$4,000 per person," he said, and thus a major reason to get as accurate a count as possible. In addition to the the federal funds, Oregon also stands to gain a sixth representative in Congress.

Murdock also told participants Umatilla County is not just leading Oregon in preparing for the census, it's leading the nation. Out of 500 county commissioners at the meeting in D.C., he said, Umatilla County was among the 10 which could say its county has a complete count committee.

IN BRIEF

Veterans town hall provides healthcare information

A veteran's town hall meeting and open house will provide an opportunity to visit with officials from the Walla Walla Veterans Administration.

Veterans and community members can learn more about future healthcare options and the new Mission Act. The free event is Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at the Port of Morrow, 2 Marine Drive, Boardman. Lunch and cake will be provided by Morrow County Veteran Services.

For more information, contact Linda Wondra, Walla Walla VA public affairs officer, at 509-386-1117, linda.wondra@va.gov or visit www.wallawalla.va.gov.

Actor and writer Vincent Vargas to speak at Friday BMCC

The Blue Mountain Community College Veterans Resource Center welcomes Vincent Vargas.



Vargas

The Hollywood actor-writer will speak Friday at 1 p.m. in ST-200 in the Science & Technology Building on the BMCC Pendleton campus. The event is free and open to the public. In addition, a free lunch will precede the presentation at noon.

Known for his role in FX's "The Mayans," writing and acting in the short film, "The Long Way Back" and the TV series, "Dads in Parks," Vargas will share about his transition back from military active duty to civilian life.

Vargas is a 15-year veteran of three combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan with the 75th Ranger Regiment's 2nd Battalion based at Joint Base Lewis-McCord, Washington. He has vaulted to fame as an actor, writer, producer, blogger, podcaster, poet, business entrepreneur and social media personality by publicly sharing his Army work and personal experiences with brutal honesty. His presentation will focus on his transition back from active duty to civilian life, and the challenges that came with that.

For more information, contact Casey White-Zollman, vice president of college relations & advancement, at 541-278-5839 or cwhitezollman@bluecc.edu. For more about Vargas, visit www.vinnyroc.com.

Blue Mountain Wildlife changes open house

Due to a forecast of inclement weather this past weekend, Blue Mountain Wildlife postponed its open house.

The free event is this Saturday from 1-4 p.m. at 71046 Appaloosa Lane, Pendleton. The open house will feature tours, live music, a falconry demonstration, raffle prizes, refreshments and more.

For more information, contact raport@wtechlink.us, 541-278-0215 or visit www.bluemountainwildlife.org.

Heppner Outreach rolls out Fall Festival

Carnival games, craft projects, tractor rides, a vendor market, food and a beer garden are all featured during a Fall Festival in Heppner.

The Heppner Outreach Committee invites people to come out for the family-friendly celebration. The event is Saturday from 3-9 p.m. at the Morrow County Fairgrounds, 74473 Highway 74, Heppner. Admission is \$2 per person. Also, don't forget to get a bite of apples donated by First Fruits and Dean Rill.

The evening includes live music from 6-9 p.m., which will be provided by Dallin Puzey and Cory Peterson. Bucknum's will be offering up cider and beer, including Ordnance Oktoberfest, Ordnance Fresh Hop IPA, Ordnance White Crow, as well as Coors Light, Two Towns Pacific Pineapple Cider and more.

Also, a haunted house will be available from 5-8 p.m., with the first hour featuring a kid-friendly version with lights on and a no-scare walk-through.

For more information, call the Heppner Chamber of Commerce at 541-676-5536 or search www.facebook.com/heppneroutreach.

IMAC serves Saturday breakfast

A hearty home-cooked meal is available during the Irrigon Multicultural Arts Center fundraising breakfast.

The event is Saturday from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Stokes Landing Senior Center, 150 Columbia Lane, Irrigon. The cost is \$4.50 per person.

The group is dedicated to preserving Irrigon's 1921 school building and developing a regional art venue. For more information, call Peggy Price at 541-561-1737.



Introducing James Whittum, MD Orthopedic Surgeon

Good Shepherd Medical Group's Advanced Orthopedic & Sports Medicine Institute is excited to announce the addition of new Orthopedic Surgeon, James Whittum, MD. Dr. Whittum is devoted to the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the bones, joints, ligaments, tendons and muscles, and brings over 25 years of experience to our community.

"I'm excited to join Dr. Jeremy Anderson in an established clinic and be an integral part of the growth of this community."

Welcoming New Patients

Advanced Orthopedic and
Sports Medicine Institute

541.289.7075

620 NW 11th Street, Suite 201
Hermiston, OR 97838

