



Sentinel Photo/REANNE PALMER

Lisa Clough, SECOND FROM LEFT, talks to attendees about ziplining and canopy tours at American Obstacle in Kinmundy during the Mt. Vernon Home Show 2013 Sunday. Lisa and her husband Curt, LEFT, own the business, which is in its third season. Clough said that the Home Show had been a wonderful way to get the word out about their business.

Home Show deemed successful

BY REANNE PALMER
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — Over 1,000 people from all over the Midwest made their way to the Mt. Vernon Home Show 2013 at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport Community Hangar this past weekend, helping small, local businesses receive a boost.

The Home Show was the first in many years to be organized in Mt. Vernon by the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce (JCCC), and JCCC Executive Director Brandon Bullard said Mt. Vernon now has a new annual event due to the weekend's success.

"We had a total of 895 people yesterday and between 300 and 400 already today," he said around 3

p.m. with another hour left for attendees to make their way out. "We budgeted for 500 people each day, but we had so many yesterday that [Airport Manager] Chris Collins called me to tell me they had opened the runway for people to park on."

Despite the rainy and cold weather Sunday, several hundred people still came out to shop and participate in the free giveaways throughout the hangar.

"All of the vendors I've talked to have said it's been great for them and their business. The need for this was great and the turnout has been great," he said. "It looks like we've stumbled into an annual event."

Of the 44 booths at the Home Show, many call Mt. Vernon and Southern Illinois Home, while others came from much further away.

Mt. Vernon businesswoman Linda Woodrome of Designs by Linda said that the weekend had been really good for her business.

"I've had a great time and there's been a lot of traffic through here. I've gotten some great leads to take back with me," she said. "I attended the last home show [years ago] and I have to say, I like the hours this year."

Bruce Barkau, director of member services for Tri-County Electric Cooperative Inc., added that he had been able to talk to a lot of people

about several programs that Tri-County offers.

"I've helped answer a lot of questions and explain our programs," he said. "It's been a lot about raising awareness, and if they don't do anything, I don't lose any sleep on it, but I'm trying to help our customers the best I can."

Those businesses in attendance included One Stop Flooring America, Bricks-n-Stones Creative Concrete Professionals, Designs by Linda, Bath Fitter, Home Styles, Affordable Roofing & Exteriors, Allied Radon Services, American Obstacle, Inc., Associated Lumber,



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LINING THE ROWS — Hundreds of people filled the rows of the Mt. Vernon Home Show 2013 Sunday, bringing the total number of attendees near the 1,000 mark.

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BRANDON BULLARD

JEFFERSON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Show:

Continued From Page 1A

Boyd Discount Furniture, Built-Mor Buildings, Byrd-Watson Drug of Mt. Vernon, Coach House Garages, Coldwell Banker Associated Realtors, Community First Bank, Coo Candles, Country Financial, Crystal Clear Pools & Spas, Ford Square, Furniture Mattress Outlet, GreenTree Assisted Living & Memory Care, Gutter Helmet, Guy

Wood Insurance, Heartland Mutual Insurance, Jeff's Chem Dry, Miche, MidCountry Bank, Modern Bath Solutions, Mt. Vernon TV & Appliance, Mt. Vernon Win-nelson, O'Daniel, Inc., Outdoor Creations, Outdoor Energy, LLC, Peoples National Bank, Pokorney's Kettle Korn, Pro Pest Control, Richs Road Warriors, Rogers Family Tire, Rome Meadows Apartments, Rustic Elegance, Shopper's Weekly, South Central Transit, Superior Window Co. and Tri-County Electric Co.

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