

Public invited to meeting

A community consultant will talk about what his firm could do for Decatur County at a public meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday at The Gateway. Connie Grafel, marketing director for the Decatur-Oberlin Area Economic Development Corp., said Terry Woodbury, president of Kansas Communities LLC, contacted several people in town about a month ago.

The group decided to meet with the consultant, Ms. Grafel said, and they decided to bring him back and see if people here are interested in this program.

Kansas Communities says it was founded in 2004 with the idea of "building and rebuilding communities across Kansas," bringing together four groups: business, educa-

tion, health/human services and government.

"That's how to start building stronger partnerships among community leaders," Mr. Woodbury said.

Ms. Grafel said it would cost a minimum of \$5,000 for Mr. Woodbury to run a program here. The idea is to bring the community together and get everyone focused on the same things. It's kind of like what the old PRIDE committee used to do.

The program helps to build on assets the community already has and to get more people involved in the decision making, she said.

Ms. Grafel said the economic development group hasn't decided whether to go ahead with the pro-

gram. They want to see if people are interested.

Mr. Woodbury is a native of Leoti, south of Colby. He graduated from Sterling College and then moved to a suburb of Kansas City. He said for a dozen years, he drove across Kansas monthly to oversee the ranch where he was raised. During those travels, he saw the similar struggles with health care, economic development, property taxes, and keeping people and community leaders in town after town. He said that gave him the idea for his company.

Kansas Communities has worked with Chanute, Fort Scott and Girard, he said, and with Hodgeman, Wallace and Wichita counties.

Office store opens downtown

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

With office supplies, art items, holiday decorations, computer repair and the ability to build computers from scratch, the owners of 2BCreative are ready to help businesses and individuals.

Don and Julia Ray have run the business out of their home for the last 2 1/2 years, but they said it outgrew their house. Then Marketing Director Connie Grafel told them about the office space available in the new Business Enhancement Center at 102 S. Penn Ave.

They rent the back part of the building, which includes an enclosed spot for items to sell and a front counter area. The couple got a micro loan through Decatur County to help expand the business.

The Rays have office supplies from highlighters to notebooks, ink cartridges, some art supplies and much more. Mrs. Ray said they basically try to get in things that people can use and will need. Mr. Ray said printer cartridges are big items. They are trying to get a variety in so people will have what they need.

So far, she said, they have had a good response from customers. The business has been open downtown since the middle of September, and people have come in and said that they filled a need.

Although 2BCreative is new to downtown, the Rays are already planning on offering more services and possibly expanding to food and coffee.

Mr. Ray said in front of the counter, they will have four computer stations with Internet capability. One station will have photo needs so that people can print off pictures. The three other stations will be there to get on-line, play video games and other things. They



AT THEIR BUSINESS, 2BCreative, Don and Julia Ray worked behind the counter. The store offers office supplies and computers. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

will also offer wireless connections.

He said he wants to offer training for people on how to use computer programs like Microsoft Word or how to find things on the Internet. The stations will be used for that, too. Mr. Ray said he wants to help those who aren't familiar with computers.

With the stations for them to use, Mrs. Ray said she would like to put in a coffee and bagel bar, but they are still working on that. That way a person can come use a computer and get a bite to eat and something to drink.

Mr. Ray said his background is in computers and installation. He is attending classes at Colby Community College to finish a computer science degree with an emphasis in

programming and networking. Eventually, he said, they will be able to offer graphic design.

Mr. Ray is in the Navy Reserves after serving 15 years on active duty. He said he is planning on switching to the Army Reserves. Mrs. Ray also works for Raye's Grocery. They have four children, Farra, 14; Shay, 11; Jessup, 4; and Adric, 3.

The store offers computer repair at \$15 hour. Mr. Ray said he can build any level computer a person wants and can also program it.

The Rays plan to keep 2BCreative open from 4 to 9 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, noon to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays and 2 to 7 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. They can be reached at 475-2199 or 475-7351.

Three fans tie in football game

Three fans tied for first place in this week's Pigskin Pick'em contest, which meant the one closest to the tie breaker score won.

This week all of the games involved college teams, since high school teams in the area played on Thursday night instead of Friday. Rodney L. Solko, Rick Doeden and Amanda Grafel all picked nine of the winners.

Mr. Solko took first place. He was 14 points off from the score of the tie breaker, which was Michigan State over Indiana, 46 to 15. Mr. Doeden won second and Mrs. Grafel, third.

Two people picked eight correct and four had seven. The lowest correct answers was five.

This week's games were:

- Custom Trophy — Brigham Young over Air Force, 62 to 41.
- Home Planning Center — University of Kansas over Missouri, 13 to 3.
- Ward Drug Store — Oklahoma over Nebraska, 31 to 24.
- Raye's Grocery — University of Colorado over Kansas State University, 23 to 20.
- Fredrickson Insurance Agency — Nebraska-Kearney over Fort Hays, 54 to 20.
- Farm Credit of Western Kansas — Wake Forest over Duke, 44 to 6.
- LandMark Inn — Idaho over New Mexico State, 38 to 37.
- R&M Service Center — Iowa State over Texas A&M, 42 to 14.
- Prairie Petals — Texas Tech over Baylor, 28 to 0.
- Wagner Chevrolet — Colorado State over New Mexico, 35 to 25.

• The Oberlin Herald — Wisconsin over Illinois, 42 to 24.

• Tie breaker — Michigan State over Indiana, 46 to 15.



DONNING A SWEATER AND MULTICOLORED HAT, Jordan McHugh (above) showed the younger side of style during the Dresser's Fall Fashion Show on Sunday afternoon at The Gateway. Connie Stout (below) also modeled a sweater, but set hers off with a cat's whiskers and ears. Her dog Joey was smartly attired in a pumpkin hat. — Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes

Women show clothes

Around 70 people gathered at The Gateway on Sunday to see the latest fashions for sale at The Dresser.

The store in downtown Oberlin holds two shows a year to show off its lines. Manager Karen Metcalf said the show is a good way to show the clothes on models and raise a little money for a cause.

This year, The Dresser raised money for the Decatur County Food Pantry. Mrs. Metcalf said they brought in around \$200.

During the show, there was entertainment from the St. John's and Faith Lutheran Church bell choirs. Both churches have a bell choir and



the two often combine for shows. Mrs. Metcalf said piano students of Cheryl Metcalf performed during the show and at intermissions.

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