

## Come back, group asks graduates

A "community conversation" on ways to bring people back to Decatur County put on by Decatur Tomorrow last Monday came up with plans to contact former residents during alumni events and fair week.

Conducting the session at the Golden Age Center was Terry Woodbury, founder of Public Square Communities.

Mr. Woodbury guided a group of about 50 people through the topic. The general consensus was that the alumni events on Memorial Day weekend and the county fair in August are good opportunities

to promote what Decatur County has to offer.

Top items listed as assets were:

- Good schools.
- A sense of community strengthened by high moral values.
- A low crime rate.
- Low cost of living.
- Space with clean air and outdoor activities.
- Recreational opportunities and readily accessed technology.

The flip side of that conversation zoned in on the areas where Decatur County could do some work. Top of the list was lack of jobs, a some-

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## Doctors top health needs

By CYNTHIA HAYNES  
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What does Decatur County need for health care now and in the future?

Between 20 and 30 people met at the Golden Age Center at 7 a.m. last Monday to talk about those needs, and help the hospital and county Health Department meet federal requirements for grants and accreditation.

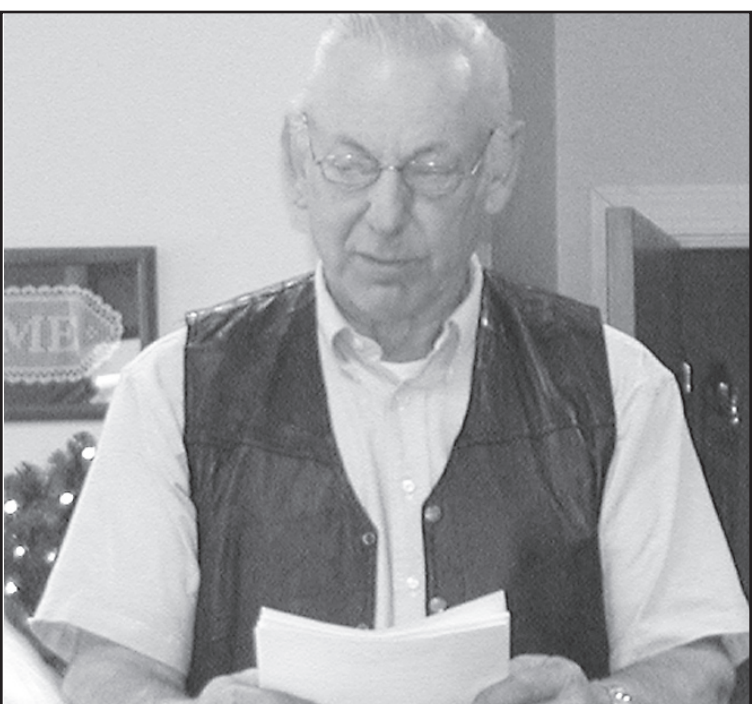
The top need: more doctors and a plan for replacing them when

they are ready to leave or retire, the group agreed.

The meeting, run by moderator Vince Vandehaar, a consultant from Olathe, was part of a 10-county initiative to help hospitals meet federal requirements for maintaining a 501C nonprofit status, said Hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden.

The Decatur County Health Department is part of that process, said Director Marilyn Gamblin, because the hospital is required to work with

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**RALPH UNGER, CHAIRMAN** of the Decatur County Republican Central Committee, read the rules regarding speaking and voting for candidates to those attending the Republican caucus.

— Herald staff photo by Carolyn Plotts

## Republicans vote for top candidate

By CAROLYN PLOTTIS  
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Ninety votes (plus two provisional votes) were cast in Decatur County on Saturday in the statewide Republican presidential caucus, with the statewide winner getting a big plurality over his opponents.

Rick Santorum, former U.S. senator from Pennsylvania, led 2-1 over his closest opponent, former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, and 3-1 over Rep. Ron Paul of Texas. The national leader in delegates, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, came in last.

The doors opened at 9:30 a.m., with the caucus beginning at 10 a.m.

Ralph Unger, Decatur County Republican Central Committee chairman, opened the meeting by explaining the rules to about 75 people assembled at the Golden Age Center. Each presidential candidate, or a designated supporter, was allowed 10 minutes to outline their platform.

Mr. Santorum was the only candidate to have a local spokesperson make a presentation on his behalf.

Jim Plotts of Norcatour spoke for Sen. Santorum emphasizing his pro-life stand. Susan Rynearson also took the floor for Mr. Santorum.

Mr. Unger read letters from three other presidential candidates and asked for comments from the floor. Several added opinions on behalf of Rep. Paul and former Speaker Gingrich.

"I was pleased with how well the caucus was attended," Mr. Unger said.

"This caucus gave rural Kansans a voice," said Norma Unger, one of the county committee members. "Considering our population, I think Decatur County had a higher percentage of voters coming out than did bigger counties like Johnson, Wyandotte or Sedgwick."

The final tally was Santorum 45, Gingrich 21, Paul 14 and Romney 10.

Volunteers who helped with the caucus included Mrs. Unger, Carolyn Plotts, Jim Wesch, Colleen Geihlsler, Nora Urban, Marilyn and Steve Horn, Delores Koerperich, Pete Zander and John Bremer.



**AT THE MASONIC TEMPLE** last Thursday, members of the Masons and the Order of the Eastern Star served chicken and noodles over mashed potatoes. Carol Morford (above) helped serve the meal while Harold Nichols (below)

sat at the door. The two organizations have made and served the dinner for the past 13 years for Dennis Brown's organization, the Forget-Me-Nots.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

## Big feed helps seniors

By KIMBERLY DAVIS  
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The upstairs room of the Masonic Temple in Oberlin stayed just about full last Thursday night as women with the Order of the Eastern Star served chicken and noodles over mashed potatoes.

Dennis Brown, who operates the Forget-Me-Nots charity, said the Oberlin Chapter and Oberlin Masons have been holding the chicken-and-noodle dinner for the last 13 years to raise money for the group. Members do everything, cooking the food, advertising the event, serving and cleaning up, he said.

Each year, he said, those groups give a sizable check to the Forget-Me-Nots. Mr. Brown said he started his organization 22 years ago to help the elderly.

At the time, he said he was living with Don and Gisela Humes. She had flowers growing in the field. When he asked what they were she said they were Forget-Me-Nots. He said he would never forget that name, and when he started this program, thought it was fitting.

At the time, said Mr. Brown, he was getting ready to go on disability, but wanted to do something



for a community that had helped him several times.

There are always needs in the nursing homes, but no money.

When he started the program, said Mr. Brown, he would take cooked dinners to shut-ins. He said he always made enough so he could stay and visit with them and eat, then freeze some of the food so they would have something for later.

Mr. Brown said he doesn't cook anymore, nor does he do the fund raisers he used to do.

He said he stills gets a call once in a while from an elderly person who can't afford their heat bill or something like that, and he does what he can.

He also still helps at the nursing homes. For example, there is a fund at the Good Samaritan Center for

women who don't have the money to get their hair done. He said he puts money in there. Mr. Brown said he meets with someone at both of the homes to see what they need help with.

He also still does devotions at the Good Samaritan Center, where he now lives.

## Home show to offer ideas, contest on Saturday

As the weather starts to get warmer, it might be time to start planning home improvement projects, and the annual KFNH Home Show Saturday at The Gateway is just the place to get some ideas.

The show will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., said Bryan Loker, general manager of the radio station. Those attending will have a chance to register to win a trip for two to Daytona and Orlando, Fla. Entrants don't have to be present to win.

The giveaway crew will be selling food, including cinnamon rolls and grilled burgers, said Mr. Loker.

This is the fifth year that the station has sponsored the show, which it took on after the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce bowed out.

There will be several vendors from around the area, including siding, windows, roofs, appliances, grills and patio furniture. Spring is a great time for home improvement, he said.

Mr. Loker said there is no admission fee, so people can come walk around, talk to the vendors and not spend a penny.

The forecast shows that it's going

to be a nice day on Saturday, said Mr. Loker.

"It will be a good day to get out

and get some things for your home," he said.

## Water wells on city agenda

The Oberlin City Council will take up the issue of drilling water wells in the Ogallala aquifer instead of building an expensive treatment plant at its meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway.

The agenda for the meeting had not been made up by Monday afternoon, and the officials at the

city office did not know what else might be discussed. The council still needs to decide whether an Oberlin woman can have five dogs at her home without a kennel license.

