



ON THURSDAY Trish Henningson (above) with Henningsen Therapeutic Massage worked on Audra Duncan's arm at the Decatur County Health Fair. Dan Stevens of McCook talked to Alyce Avery (below) about hearing.

Adults learn about health care at fair

Everyone walking through had a chance to learn about diabetes, eye care, hearing, early mammograms and more during the Decatur County Health Fair on Thursday.

Health Administrator Marilyn Gamblin said 85 people signed the book as they came through the door of the Golden Age Center, but a few that came in didn't sign.

The fair boasted 21 booths with a little bit of something for everyone. While planning the fair, which the county does every other year, they decided to gear it towards a little older population than in the past.

That meant there weren't a lot of booths with things for kids to do or learn about.

The crowds seemed to come and go in spurts, said Ms. Gamblin. At

times, the back room of the Golden Age was full. At other times, it seemed like there wasn't anyone around.

While the fair was scheduled to go until 7 p.m., traffic really slowed down at 6, and some who had booths from other towns packed up and started the drive home.

Friday morning, Ms. Gamblin said she got a call from the woman with the Lions Eye Bank. She told her how well she thought the fair had gone and said that she was glad she came. She talked to a lot of people about eye donations.

The Lions screening bus, which was parked outside, had about 30 visitors. She said she thought that was more than they had when the fair was held at The Gateway.

Ms. Gamblin said they decided to hold the fair at the new building downtown this year because it seemed a little easier for the elderly.

In all, they ended up with 21 booths, which filled the back room.

The next health fair will be in 2012. The department will do its next blood draw in six months for those who missed the one before the fair or want to do it again.

The department does the blood draws every six months and they tests for everything from blood sugar to lipids, including cholesterol, a blood count and a thyroid test. A second test for men is the prostate specific antigen count, designed to detect prostate cancer.



JENNIFER TAYLOR, physician's assistant with the Oberlin Clinic, talked to Susan May about the results from her blood test.