

Volunteers search for new doctor

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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Volunteers with the doctor procurement committee are looking for a new doctor for the clinic and hospital, after the resignation of Dr. Richard May in December.

Hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden said the doctor procurement committee has been meeting since October when the volunteer members started hearing some talk about Dr. May resigning. Mrs. Doeden said she didn't actually get the resignation from the doctor until the middle of November.

The committee made up of Mrs. Doeden, Connie Grafel, Montine Alstrom, Carolyn Burtis, Jim Hollowell, Gaylord Shields, Gary Bartels, Duane Dorshorst, Kurt Voltertsen and Shelley McKenna have been searching all avenues to hire a new physician for the clinic and hospital.

Mrs. Doeden said the committee is working with the Kansas Recruitment Center, which helps recruit physicians in Kansas who want to stay in Kansas. The center works a lot with the University of Kansas Medical Center both in Kansas City and

Wichita.

The committee has also done calling and recruiting on their own. Committee members, said Mrs. Doeden, have called people who lived here before and went to medical school to see if they would want to return. She said the members also asked those people for leads.

None of them wanted to return, she said. So far, there aren't any interviews set up. She said they did a tour for a nurse practitioner, although at this point the committee really is looking for another doctor.

The committee is giving themselves until June to find a physician, said Mrs. Doeden, at that time if one isn't hired they will need to re-evaluate.

At the meeting last Thursday, the committee decided to hire a recruiting firm, other than the Kansas Recruitment Center.

Mrs. Doeden said the firm is looking at two firms now. They had three, but the third one couldn't guarantee anything.

Hiring a recruiting firm starts at \$15,000, said Mrs. Doeden. Then if the firm finds someone that they hire it is an additional

fee.

The money for the process, she said, is all donated coming from the hospital board, county commissioners, Oberlin-Decatur County Area Economic Development Corp. and private entities. So far the committee has raised \$15,000, so if a recruiting firm is hired more money will be needed.

One of the recruiting firms states that if the committee finds someone even after hiring them the committee will get the money back.

(See GROUP on Page 8A)



Water flows from lagoons to the creek

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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There's water in Sappa Creek once again.

After a little over eight months of using the new wastewater treatment plant south of town it's discharging water into the creek, which had pretty much dried up since the plant when into operation last summer.

Last Monday, the first discharge came out of the three lagoons, flowing into Sappa Creek.

City Administrator Gary Shike said that means all three of the lagoons are full and the clean water is coming out the last cell and into the creek. As of last Tuesday, that discharge had made it's way about 100 feet east to the bridge near the Williby house, he said.

Now that the lagoons are discharging into the creek, said Mr. Shike, the flow should keep up the rest of the winter.

Chris Miller, with Miller and Associates, the engineering firm hired to design the system, said there could be three months during the summer when the plant doesn't discharge because of evaporation during hot weather.

The highest discharge will probably be about this time of year, said

Mr. Shike, because there isn't a lot of evaporation in the winter.

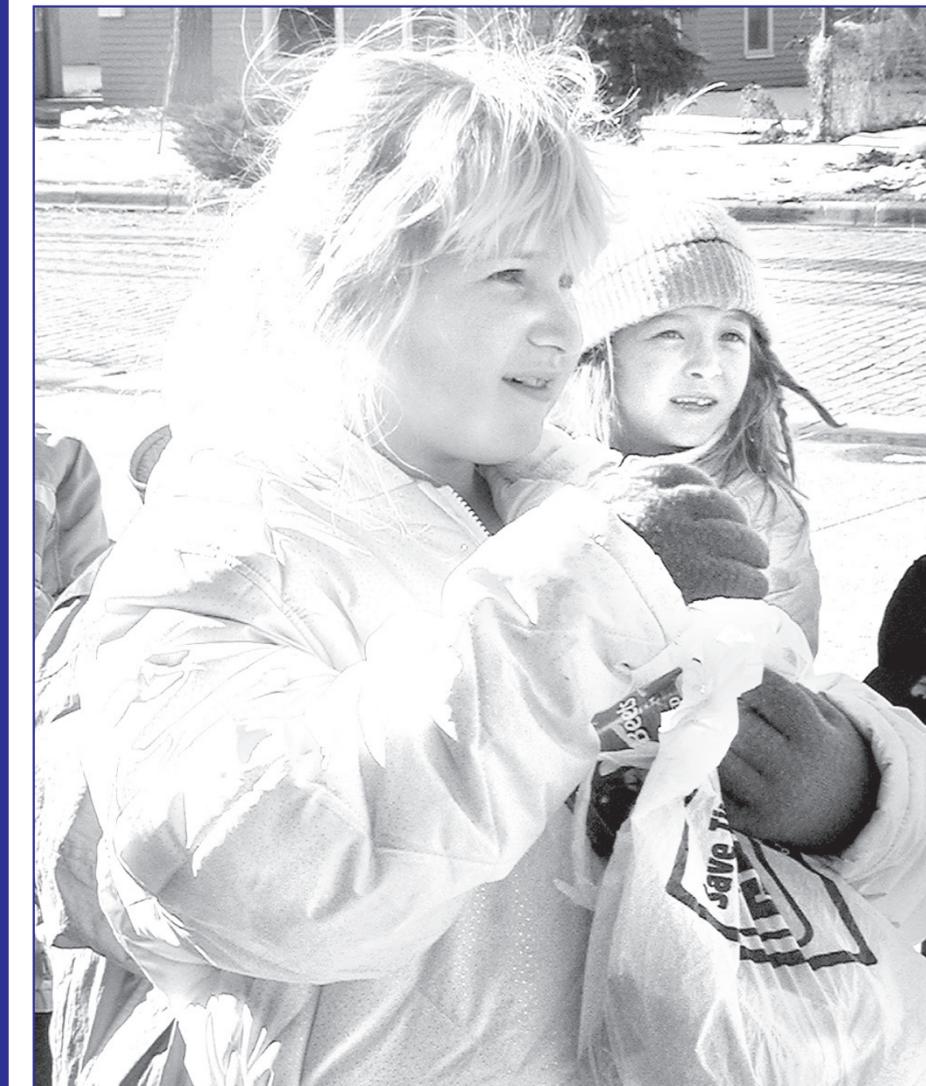
The whole plant works on time, said Mr. Miller. Basically, he said, anything that flows in has to stay in the lagoons for 160 days, so whatever flows into the plant today, less evaporation, will be discharged from the third cell about five months later.

Mr. Miller said the plant is designed with three lagoons. The first and second cells hold 15.5 million gallons each. The waste goes into the first cell, then the second and lastly into the third cell, which can hold 9.2 million gallons. For the plant to be discharging that means there is 40 million gallons of waste and water in the cells, he said.

When the city started to use the plant back in May, he said, the crew pumped two feet of water into each cell to hold the plastic liner in place. Everything else in the lagoons has been waste from the city's sewer system.

The third cell is the cleanest, said Mr. Miller. After 160 days of treatment in the cells, the water is discharged from the third cell and flows down the creek.

It should be a continual discharge (See WATER on Page 8A)



Kids deliver food

SECOND GRADERS from Oberlin Elementary School walked to the Decatur County Food Pantry Friday to take 84 items they donated. A.J. Zillinger (above right) and Jacob Gee waited outside the pantry located inside the United Church with two of their classmates Kelly Bryan (left) and Ara Marine. Kathy Tacha asked the students to bring in donations for the food pantry instead of bringing her Christmas presents. She said she appreciated her students and their parents being so generous.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Chamber plans annual banquet

Reservations for the Oberlin-Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce annual banquet need to be made at the Chamber office by Friday.

Tickets cost \$20 per person, with the menu featuring prime rib, baked potatoes, green beans, a roll and dessert.

The dinner will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 24. Entertainment for the evening will be Paul Siebert of McCook playing a hammer dulcimer.

At the banquet, people will elect new Chamber board members to take the place of Bryan Loker of KFNF Radio, County Clerk Marilyn Horn and Pam Wilson. They will also elect six board members for the Decatur County Amusement Authority to replace Ward Votapka, president, Kristi Gallentine, secretary/treasurer, Lynn Groneweg, Jason Fortin, Ray Ward, Peggy Ream and Kelsey Gallentine, who resigned last August after the county fair.

The group, founded by the Cham-

ber, runs the home-owned carnival at the fair. The mass resignations left only three members on the board.

Currently, Mrs. Horn serves as Chamber president; Jo Henderson is the paid manager; and Kari Ketterl, Kem Bryan, Tami Shaw, Kelly Wasson, Mrs. Wilson, Mr. Loker, Beth Harmon and Sid Metcalf serve on the board.

Candidates for the Chamber board and Amusement Authority haven't yet been named.

Chamber officers are elected later by the board members

THE OBERLIN HERALD'S
Winter Sports '08

Decatur Community High School — Golden Plains High School



Sports section is inside

The annual Winter Sports section is inside today's Oberlin Herald.

The section includes team pictures from Decatur Community Junior High School and Golden Plains High, and individual pictures of the Red Devils basketball players and wrestlers.

Pre-registration closes today for Cover Your Acres conference

Today is the last day to pre-register for the Cover Your Acres conference in Oberlin on Tuesday and next Wednesday.

Pre-registration costs \$20 for one day or \$40 for both days. After today registration will cost \$40 and \$80.

The conference at The Gateway will feature idea on getting the most crop with no or little tillage, water issues, grain, chemicals and will also feature farm machinery.

Registration each day will be from 7:45 to 8:14 a.m. with a welcome starting at 8:15 a.m. The first session will start at 8:35 a.m., with lunch from 12:40 to 1:40 p.m. and the last session ending at 5:23 p.m.

Refreshments will be served at the end of both days from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. giving the attendees a chance to talk.

Brian Olson, multi-county agronomist for Kansas State University, said the conference will cover a variety of topics including no-till, Ph no-till, nitrogen rates, general production topics, compare corn and grain sorghum over the years, spray application technology and others. Mr. Olson added that there will be discussions for no-till and things for guys not totally using all no-till practices.

There will also be a wide range of industry sessions, he said, including

the state of fertilizer in 2008, which should be very interesting.

This is the fifth year for the winter conference, he said. This is a good time of year for farmers to start thinking about the upcoming growing season and possibly implement the ideas they learn.

Really the conference, said Mr. Olson, gives farmers the unique opportunity to come and talk to fellow farmers. They can discuss with other local farmers what they are seeking and doing plus take advantage of educational programming.

There are more than enough topics to keep them busy all day, he said, and enough variety to find

something every hour to attend.

The two days are the same, he said, to allow more farmers a chance to get in. Mr. Olson said they are planning on around 500 farmers in the two days. In the past they have drawn people from South Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Colorado, with about 80 percent coming from Northwest Kansas.

The university and industry sessions will include general-interest topics, he said, like improving your success in no till; soil quality changes with no till; 10 crop sequences to transition to no till; the outlook for sorghum crops, for bioenergy, food and export; plant-stand manage-

ment; growing crops for cellulose ethanol, made from plant residue; avoiding strip-till mistakes; corn amylase, an output trait that pays a premium; and what wheat precision ag can do for you.

Water issues will include water rights and depleting water, the effect of residue on crop water budgets and improving capture and use of water.

Chemical issues will include phosphorus and rate in no till and strip till, nitrogen recommendations for wheat, benefits of chloride on wheat and row crops, the state of fertilizer in 2008, spray application (See CONFERENCE on Page 8A)