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# THE OBERLIN HERALD

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## 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.

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## 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

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.

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