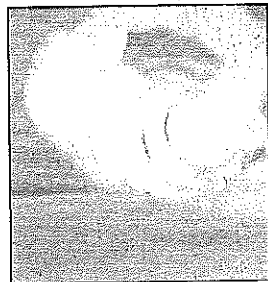


Woodburn, OR
(Marion Co.)
Woodburn Independent
(Circ. W. 3,490)

JUN 22 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Police seek public's help in finding vandals



Woodburn police hope to nab vandals who caused significant damage to city-owned equipment and facilities June 16.

During the night, police report that two suspects vandalized the Parr Road Water Treatment Facility and the nearby Centennial Park con-

cession stand. The vandals attempted to conceal their identities.

The city's water system was not compromised and Woodburn's water remains safe to drink, Woodburn city officials said.

The city of Woodburn is offering a

\$1,000 cash reward to anyone providing information leading to the arrest of these suspects. Call the police department at 503-982-2345 or crime stoppers at 503-981-3691. Tips can also be sent to crimestoppers@ci.woodburn.or.us, or through the WPD's smartphone app.

COURTESY PHOTO: CITY OF WOODBURN

Woodburn police have released this video surveillance image of one of the two individuals suspected of vandalizing the Parr Road water treatment facility and the nearby Centennial Park concession stand.

Canby, OR
(Clackamas Co.)
Herald
(Cir. 2xW. 4,752)

JUN 29 2016

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Canby Utility offering home water filter program beginning July 1

Canby Utility has a home water filter program coming July 1.

Under the new program, water customers can submit a paid receipt or proof of purchase to Canby Utility and receive a one-time rebate of \$25. This rebate will be paid to the applicant by way of a utility bill credit.

"This new home water filter promotion was approved by the (Canby Utility) board to encourage water customers to purchase a home water filter system as a measure to improve the taste of their drinking water in their homes," said General Manager Dan Murphy.

Canby Utility customers who have bought a water filter can bring their receipt or proof of purchase into the office at 154 NW First Ave. and apply for the \$25 rebate beginning July 1. Customers will qualify for the \$25 rebate for a new water filter purchase, for a previous water filter purchase, or for purchase of a replacement filter cartridge for their filtration system. Canby Utility also will provide a rebate of up to \$200 for qualifying commercial water customers who invest in a commercial water filtration system or for the cost of re-pack of an existing commercial water fil-

ter system.

For more information call the Canby Utility office at 503-266-1156.

Ontario, OR
(Malheur Co.)
Argus Observer
(Circ. AXW, 6,840)

JUL 1 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

CITY OF NYSSA

more bids for Idaho side of water project

LARRY MEYER
THE ARGUS OBSERVER 7/1/16 7

Nyssa is seeking to build a water treatment plant to remove arsenic from the city's domestic water. The project, which will span the Oregon-Idaho border, is underway, but the City Council is still seeking lower bids.

Bids on the main part of the project in Idaho were rejected by the Council at a special meeting Thursday afternoon because they came in higher than anticipated. The Council did accept the low bid for the Oregon side of the project, for which the city has adequate funds, with some modifications.

The low bid to build that plant on the Idaho side of the Snake River, came in at about \$5.118 million. The low bid for the Oregon side of the project was about \$1.150 million.

SEE BIDS | PAGE 13

BIDS: Construction expected by March

FROM RIGHT: State Infrastructure Finance Authority.

However, City Manager Robert Vandervell said about \$1 million has already been spent on such things as project design and purchase of property for siting the treatment plant, reducing the current funds to about \$5.1 million.

Doug Argo, of Holloway Engineers, who is the city engineer, said he was told by Infrastructure Authority officials that bids have been coming in high on projects all over the state and it is not uncommon.

Tawn Bean, at the authority, identified another possible \$2 million in funding for the city as a 30-year loan, with \$950,000 in principal forgiveness, making that part a grant, Argo said. An application will be made to Safe Drinking Water project for additional funding, he said.

Also, in his presentation to the Council, Argo proposed eliminating 19 fire hydrants slated for rehabilitation, from the Oregon portion of the project. He suggested

paving the Idaho side of the project as an alternative bid, using PVC instead of ductile iron pipe, and doing well rehabilitation work separately from the project.

To further help the city, it has tentatively been given an 18-month extension toward the construction time on the Idaho side, Argo said. There was no proposed change for the Oregon side.

With the proposed reductions, the total construction bid, for both projects is \$6.3 million, assuming no change when the Idaho side is re-bid, Argo said.

The timeline is now re-bidding late this fall and with a construction start time in February or March, with completion expected by the end of 2017, Argo said.

One item Mayor Ross Ballard objected to was the \$400,000 estimated cost of putting a second pipeline under the bridge, which Argo said included issues that would come up during construction.

The removal of the 19 fire hydrants from the Oregon side of the project where the bid was

awarded, reduced that portion to a projected \$1.4 million. The low bidder was Warrington Irrigation of Ontario.

One part of the financing plan to pay off the loans is an increase in water rates of approximately \$13 per month for the average user, Argo said, which the city has already committed to.

How that increase will be figured into the rate structure has yet to be determined.

Nyssa's arsenic levels have been averaging about 14 parts per billion in its domestic water system, above the federal standard of 10 parts per billion, so the city is required to reduce the arsenic levels. Arsenic, a naturally occurring element, has created similar problems for Vale and Adrian water systems.

Ballard objected to was the \$400,000 estimated cost of putting a second pipeline under the bridge, which Argo said included issues that would come up during construction.

The removal of the 19 fire hydrants from the Oregon side of the project where the bid was



LARRY MEYER is a news reporter at The Argus Observer. He can be reached at (941) 823-4813 or by emailing larrymeyer@argusobserver.com. To comment on this story, go to www.argusobserver.com.

Lebanon, OR
(Linn Co.)
Lebanon Express
(Circ. W. 1,913)

JUL 6 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Groundwater Protection Education

Nitrate: Is It Hiding in Your Well Water?

The best protection against contaminants harming your family's water supply is having an annual checkup of your water well system. Yearly screenings for nitrate and coliform bacteria are part of being a well owner. Additional tests are suggested in special circumstances — floods, heavy rainfalls, known chemical spills — to ensure that you always have safe drinking water.

Nitrate contamination is a known problem in many areas of the Southern Willamette Valley.

What is nitrate (NO3-)?

Nitrate is the simplest form of nitrogen that occurs in the natural environment. They are essential nutrients for plants, which absorb them from soil. The excess nitrate not used by the plants are carried through the soil to groundwater in a process called "leaching." Once the nitrate is moved with the water past the root zone it remains there until it is pumped back through the water system, moves in the aquifer to a new location, or is removed by water treatment techniques.

What are sources of nitrate?

Plant fertilizer is a common source in the Southern Willamette Valley. It is important to follow fertilization directions, and remember that while the right amount is good, over fertilization is a waste of resources that the plants can't use and contributes to water contamination. Human and animal wastes are also a contributor to nitrate issues. Large manure piles should be covered during the rainy season to prevent leaching. Septic systems are important to maintain regularly to ensure that waste is being broken down and treated appropriately. All septic tanks need to be pumped on a regular basis.

Why should I be concerned about nitrate?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has a maximum contaminant level for nitrate at 10 parts per million. If your personal water supplies test over 5 parts per million, learn the potential health effects for

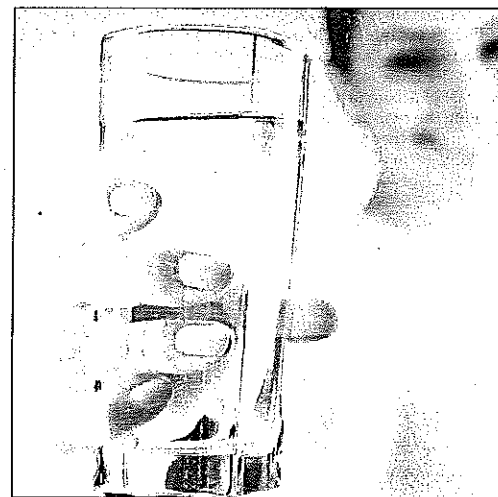
your personal situation. High levels of nitrate can cause health problems, including methemoglobinemia, commonly known as "blue baby syndrome." In short, nitrate interferes with the blood's ability to carry oxygen to body tissues. This can be an acute condition in which the baby's health deteriorates rapidly in a span of a few days. It can cause shortness of breath, increased susceptibility to illness, heart attacks, and even death by asphyxiation. Older children and adults are able to withstand higher levels of nitrate, however, there have been reports that nitrates could potentially be linked to gastrointestinal cancer.

How can nitrates reach my private water supply?

Nitrate is very soluble, and does not bind with soil. Once past the root zone, nitrate will move rapidly with water to the aquifer.

How can I tell if my water has nitrate in it?

The one way to know for sure is to have your water



tested because nitrate is colorless, tasteless, and odorless. The OSU Extension Service offers free nitrate screenings in the Linn and Benton County offices during business hours. You can also use a private laboratory to have the water tested. Visit <http://wellwater.oregonstate.edu> to find a lab near you.

What can be done if nitrate is in my water?

Reverse osmosis as a whole home or point-of-use system is the best method for nitrate removal. Nitrate is not absorbed through the skin, so you only need to treat water used for cooking and drinking.



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JUL 5 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

City taps water plans

744.7
■ By Jesse Burkhardt
jburkhardt@thedalleschronicle.com

The Dalles residents enjoy a high quality water supply, but the delivery system needs about \$10 million in upgrades.

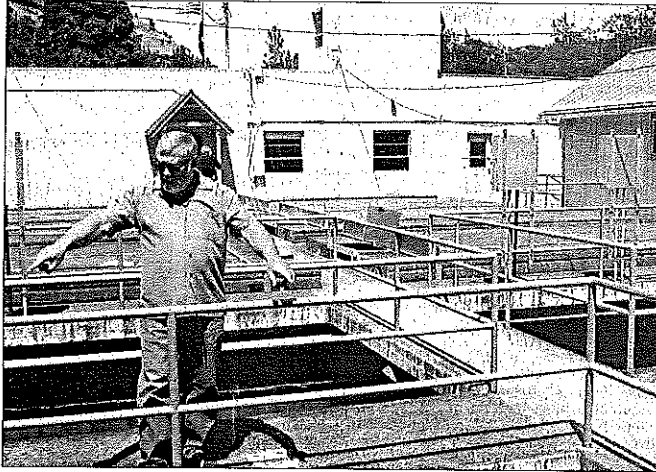
"In general, water use almost doubles in the summertime, and in summer, there is less water in Mill Creek," said Larry McCollum, water quality manager for the city of The Dalles.

"We are committed to delivering the highest quality drinking water, possible," stated The Dalles' annual "Drinking Water Quality Report," issued last week. "To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of new regulations, source water protection, water conservation, and planning for the future, while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users."

"The city's water system is in pretty good shape overall. It provides very high quality to our customers on a consistent and reliable basis," said Dave Anderson, the city's public works director.

Anderson and his crew are shifting into high gear this year with plans to replace, hopefully by the end of 2018, a wooden pipeline that is more than a century old.

The city needs to replace



Larry McCollum, water quality manager for The Dalles, points out how some of the city's water system works at the Wicks Water Treatment Plant on Mill Creek. The plant was built in the early 1950s, and in the summer typically supplies between 3.5 million and 5 million gallons of drinking water per day for residents of The Dalles.

Jesse Burkhardt photo

all of the Dog River line, a 3.5-mile wooden pipeline that supplies more than half of all the water used each year by residents of The Dalles. The line was put in the ground in the early 1900s and it is basically at the end of its useful life, with serious leakage and the potential to fail completely.

Public works officials estimate that the pipeline is

leaking as much as 15 percent of the water it carries a year.

The goal of finishing by 2018 will occur provided funding is secured and environmental concerns are adequately addressed. The project would cost \$8 million, and replace the entire wooden pipeline with ductile iron pipe.

"Dog River is a worry,"

said Mayor Steve Lawrence. "This wooden line leaks one million gallons a day at peak flow. The price tag (to replace it) is around \$8 million, and we have \$4 million. We are seeking grants, including from the Legislature. It is on schedule so long as the federal

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Water

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permitting process doesn't get bogged down."

The Dalles' drinking water comes mainly from the city's municipal watershed, a 22,000-acre area southwest of The Dalles. Rain and melting snow collect in the basin, which includes Dog River, Alder Creek, Crow Creek, and the South Fork of Mill Creek. The water is stored behind the Crow Creek Dam, which can hold as much as 267 million gallons of water.

During the summer months, water from the city's three wells also contributes to the water supply. In 2015, the city provided nearly 1.3 billion gallons of water for its customers. Of that, about 71 percent came from the watershed, and about 29

percent came from the city's wells.

Those ratios are not typical, however. In fact, in recent years — from 2011 through 2014 — the percentage of surface water being used ranged from 87 percent to 89 percent, with well use no more than 13 percent in any of those four years.

McCollum said the city used more well water last year because there was less snowpack and conditions were drier than normal.

"It was a drought year last year," he said. "We're reliant on Mother Nature and what she provides, and we adjust accordingly."

"The surface water system is largely dependent upon accumulated snowpack in the mountains," added Anderson. He noted 2015 "was a year of serious drought and provided a record low snowpack. The experience last year again demonstrated the value of having multiple water supply sources."

Lawrence said he is concerned about finding and fixing other aging parts of the water transmission system in addition to the Dog River Pipeline.

"I think my biggest worry is the age of water lines long ignored and sometimes not identified,"

Lawrence said.

Anderson agreed.

"It's an aging system and there are maintenance needs that are being addressed," he said. "After completion of this project, there will be an ongoing need to replace other aged pipelines in the water distribution system, many of which are also over 100 years old, and maintain other existing water system assets."

On another front, the city is investing in a water infrastructure project designed to increase the capacity of the Lone Pine Well — one of the city's three wells — from 1,600 gallons per minute to 3,000

gallons per minute. This project, estimated to cost nearly \$1.3 million, is scheduled to begin later this year and be finalized by May of 2017.

"The strengthening of the well system increases our ability to provide good water during a drought," Lawrence said.

Anderson pointed out that the city's highest quality water comes from its surface water supplies, which are treated at the Wicks Water Treatment Plant on Reservoir Road.

"The higher mineral content of the well water, while it meets all drinking water standards, provides certain challenges and is

less desirable for some of the city's customers," Anderson explained.

According to the city's water report, The Dalles appears to be in especially good shape with the overall health of its water resources. Almost daily sampling throughout 2015 showed no coliform bacteria, no E.coli, no pesticides, and no organic or inorganic compounds.

And while lead contaminants in tap water has been a big issue across the nation in recent months, city officials explained that if lead is present in drinking water, it usually comes from pipes or other plumbing components as opposed

to the water source itself.

"The city is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components," read an excerpt from the report.

To reduce the risk of ingesting lead, city officials recommend that water customers flush their cold water tap for 30 seconds or up to two minutes before using the water for drinking or cooking. For those worried that they may have lead in their pipes, an Environmental Protection Agency hotline telephone number has been set up for consumers to call: 800-426-4791.

NEWS BY RYAN MOLONNEY

CLEANING THE DRINKING WATER

The McKenzie River is home to a diverse collection of wildlife and is also the source of Eugene's drinking water. The 90-mile tributary of the Willamette is home to fish like rainbow trout, spring Chinook and mountain whitefish. Unfortunately, the wildlife, as well as anyone else drinking the water, shares the river with beer cans, mattresses and televisions among other waste that has been dumped into the McKenzie.

The McKenzie Watershed Council (MWC) is hosting its annual McKenzie River cleanup on July 9. The river cleanup will take place from 9 am to 2 pm and a celebration will follow at Hendricks Bridge Wayside in Springfield from 1 to 4 pm. The McKenzie River Guides Association (MRGA) and the McKenzie Flyfishers will cohost the event.

The McKenzie River cleanup has been an annual event for more than 40 years and was started by the MRGA, but MWC has been the main host in recent years.

The McKenzie River is the primary drinking water source for Eugene and is also an indirect water source for Springfield, which gets 90 percent of its drinking water from wells that tap into water from the McKenzie. Springfield plans to use the McKenzie River as a direct drinking water source when its current sources reach capacity, according to the Springfield Utility Board.

'It's a matter of civic pride to keep a clean, aesthetically pleasing river.'

— LARRY SIX,
MCKENZIE WATERSHED COUNCIL

McKenzie," MWC Executive Director Larry Six says.

Volunteers will sign in at Hendricks Bridge Wayside, the event's headquarters, and be directed to their assigned location. Some people will go out on boats, while others will collect trash from the river's shores. Volunteers will cover 80 miles of the McKenzie. Last year's 120 volunteers collected more trash than the Dumpsters could hold, Six says.

"I'm really heartened by the volunteers that are willing to spend their Saturday to come down and help with this," Six tells EW. "It's a labor of love for everybody."

After the cleanup ends, volunteers are invited to a celebratory barbecue from 1 to 4 pm at the cleanup headquarters at Hendricks Bridge. There will be free food, prizes and T-shirts available at the site.

"It's a matter of civic pride to keep a clean, aesthetically pleasing river," Six says.

Go to mckenziewec.org for a list of sections of the river and waysides and boat launches to be cleaned and contact Amanda Wilson at administration@mckenziewec.org or by phone at 458-201-8150 to sign up. Hendricks Bridge is located at 38870 Hendricks Park Road in Springfield. ■

eugeneweekly.com

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Another test finds high lead levels

Residences on Oakdale Avenue above threshold for lead, tests show

By Damian Mann
Mail Tribune

A water test at residences on Oakdale Avenue in Medford detected high lead levels prior to the removal of a lead pigtail pipe last month.

Larry Rains, manager of the Medford Water Commission, said the results of the tests will be released soon.

"They're high, but we need to tell the homeowner first," he said.

Rains said additional tests after the removal of the lead pigtail, a connector that was once commonly used between main lines and the service line that feeds the meter, will determine whether lead levels remain high.

In the past three years, the Water Commission has removed five 18- to 24-inch pigtails, particularly in areas with old water lines that date back as far as 1909.

Of the 5,000 water meters that will be checked in the city, the Water Commission has inspected 1,762 and found 16 that warrant further investigation. The 16 had galvanized lines connected to the water meters, a sign of a possible pigtail.

The lead pipe in the water line that served six residences in one house on Oakdale was found in Medford June 20 near Central Medford High. Another pigtail was found earlier in the same area on Elm Street, but the owner declined to allow testing. Both pigtails were replaced with copper connectors.

The Water Commission, which has recommended all homeowners run the water for

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LEAD

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up to two minutes prior to drinking if they have not been used recently, also thinks some older homes have lead pipes in them, which would be the homeowners' responsibility to replace.

Rains said concerns about corrosion in pipes came to light around February, though he referenced an earlier study that also found Medford's water to be slightly corrosive. Soft water in Medford, which is good for washing clothes and dishes, is corrosive to pipes and can leach out metals such as copper and lead.

Rains said he alerted the Water Commission board about the corrosion issue in February, but he said he didn't alert the public immediately then or when a lead pigtail was found a few months ago.

"My job is to deliver that to the board," he said.

Leigh Johnson, board chairman, said the board became aware that a lead pigtail had been found about two months ago and immediately directed staff to study the issue. The board also didn't make an announcement to the public although the issue was discussed in an open meeting.

"It doesn't make any sense that we'd alert the public when there wasn't a problem," he said.

At first, he said, the board wasn't sure that a lead pigtail would cause any health issues.

"We didn't know what it meant," he said. "We have to be cautious about alerting anybody."

The board has also been concerned about the corrosion issue and has agreed to spend about \$250,000 if necessary to fully study that problem, Johnson said.

He said he wasn't sure when Water Commission staff first became aware of the corrosion issue, which was brought up by Rosie Pindilli, water quality director at the Water Commission.

"I have no idea when Rosie presented the first information to the manager," he said.

The Water Commission board also agreed Wednesday to spend up to \$20,000 to hire Crown Hill Consulting LLC of Medford to conduct a performance review of Rains.

The review will include interviews with the board as well as anonymous interviews with Water Commission staff and other outside agencies.

Johnson said the review wasn't called for because of the controversy over the lead pipe issue or how it was handled. He said performance reviews are routinely conducted by many businesses and organizations.

Rains, who has worked at the Water Commission since 1988, became manager in 2004 and has had performance reviews previously but said he's never had a so-called "360 review," in which employees are interviewed to see how they feel about the manager.

"In my long career, I've done everything the best I can," he said.

The Water Commission has also found high lead levels in other parts of Medford.

On March 15, the Water Commission conducted a test at a fire hydrant on South Pacific Highway and found lead levels exceeding 300 parts per billion. That's 20 times the EPA limit of 15 parts per billion.

On May 2, lead levels exceeded 15 parts per billion at a sample station a short distance from the fire hydrant, which is normally not a location used for testing.

After thoroughly flushing the line, a June 2 test found lead levels well below the limits. The reason for the high lead levels hasn't been determined yet.

Last year, the Water Commission found high lead levels at a fire hydrant near City Hall. The hydrants and a connector were both replaced and lead levels fell well below federal limits. In addition, commission staff members said they now run the water in their own building for up to 30 minutes before using it after slightly elevated levels of copper were found last year.

Despite some isolated issues, Medford's two water sources — Big Butte Springs and the Rogue River — both continue to show impurity levels that are well below federal health limits.

744-7
— Reach reporter Damian Mann at 541-776-4476 or dmann@mailtribune.com. Follow him on www.twitter.com/reporterdm.

Lead tests shock residents



Grace Wilson of Medford says she is still in denial over a Medford Water Commission test that found high levels of lead in the drinking water of her Oakdale Avenue home. MAIL TRIBUNE / JAMIE LUSCH

One measurement was nearly 30 times the EPA action level

By Damian Mann
Mail Tribune

Residents in six houses on Oakdale Avenue expressed shock Thursday after learning that their water tested high for lead after the Medford Water Commission discovered a lead pipe last month.

"I'm still in the denial phase," said Grace Wilson, 61, who added she tries to lead a healthy lifestyle.

Wilson wondered whether the Medford Water Commission would pay for tests to determine whether she, her neighbors or her neighbors' children have high levels of lead, which can accumulate in the body's organs. She worried she wouldn't be able to handle

any detoxification measures.

The commission released results of a water test conducted June 23, prior to removal of a lead pigtail connection that provided water from the main line to the six separate residences.

The first sample, which was tested after water sat in the pipes for six hours, showed lead levels of 28.4 parts per billion, almost twice as high as the federal Environmental Protection Agency action level of 15 parts per billion.

After the water was run for several liters to determine what kind of effect was produced by the pigtail, lead levels spiked to 439 parts per billion, almost 30 times higher than EPA action levels.

Once a few more liters of

water ran through the tap, lead levels measured 18 parts per billion.

Commission Manager Larry Rains said he would describe the third spike as "abnormal."

"Maybe something could have chipped off and got caught in that one sample," he said.

Rains said he didn't think the third spike meant that there might also be a lead problem in the main line running down the street.

"We don't think there's anything in the main," he said, but he added that he couldn't be 100 percent sure.

Rains said the first high reading is probably an indication that there are lead lines inside the house, which would

be the owner's responsibility to replace.

The Water Commission plans to run more water tests now that the pigtail has been removed to see whether similar spikes appear.

Rains said the issue of lead tests for residents themselves hasn't come up at the Water Commission previously.

"We haven't gone down that road yet," he said.

The commission will replace pigtails as fast as possible, Rains said. He initially said multiple tests would be conducted prior to removal, but he said that practice may end once the Water Commission gets enough readings to predict what they will find.

SEE LEAD, A3

LEAD

From Page A1

"There is no denying that if we leave water in lead pigtails, it is going to slough off," he said.

The commission may eventually have to add soda ash or some other compound to the water so it isn't as soft, because soft water causes corrosion, Rains said. The commission is preparing to conduct a corrosion study.

The commission has found

five lead pigtails and has been looking at 5,000 water meters in the city to see whether they are connected to a galvanized pipe, which can indicate the presence of a lead pigtail.

Sharon Siegfried, a 60-year-old grandmother, said she is particularly concerned about the five children age 4 to 15 who live in the house.

"I think it sucks," she said.

She said the children have been drinking the water, though they do run it through a purifier.

Siegfried said she wants to hear what the second round of results determine before the kids drink the water.

"It's supposed to have been fixed," she said.

In the meantime, the family will have to drink bottled water, Siegfried said.

744-7

—Reach reporter Damian Mann at 541-776-4476 or dmamm@mailtribune.com. Follow him on www.twitter.com/reporterdm.

Park fountains closed over lead

City doing more tests; OSU finds high levels at one residence hall

JAMES DAY
Corvallis Gazette Times

The city of Corvallis has shut down the drinking fountains at four city parks because tests revealed elevated lead levels.

Drinking fountains have been closed at Village Green, Little Fields, Kyeerfront and Lilly parks. The city is conducting follow-up tests on each of the parks to confirm the levels and eliminate false positives.

The fountains were among

73 public water outlets the city tested. The city undertook the campaign, said City Manager Mark Shepard, because of recent disclosures about lead issues in the water in Portland schools.

"I saw what was happening in Portland, and I thought it would be a good idea for us to check," Shepard said.

Sites tested included parks, fire stations, offices, library buildings, Public Works facilities and other city-owned properties.

The city should find out the results of the second set of tests in the next couple of weeks.

In addition to the four drinking fountains, four additional water outlets in city parks showed lead

levels in excess of the 15 parts per billion considered acceptable by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. City officials noted that those outlets are not accessible to the public, are used sparingly and that increased lead concentrations are common in stagnant water that sits in pipes for lengthy periods of time.

Lead typically enters the water supply by leaching from older pipes or fixtures that contain lead. Congress banned lead solder, pipes and fittings in 1986. EPA regulations require municipal water systems to collect tap samples from sites served by the

The drinking fountain at Village Green Park on Northeast Conifer Boulevard has been capped while the city awaits follow-up tests on the lead levels in the water. Three other park fountains have been temporarily shut down as well.



JAMES DAY, CORVALLIS GAZETTE TIMES

Lead

Fresh A1

system that are more likely to have plumbing materials containing lead. The city conducts these tests every three years, as required, and has not detected lead levels in residential properties that exceed the federal health limits.

The city's water supply comes from the Willamette River and the Rock Creek Watershed, and lead has never been detected in these sources.

Shepard said that if the follow-up tests come back positive, the city will begin tracing the problem back from the fountains.

"The fountains will remain closed until we can determine if the fountains are safe or until we can make them safe," Shepard said. "It might be inconvenient, but the safety of our water is paramount."

Oregon State University conducted similar testing of its facilities after the

LEAD AT A GLANCE

Lead enters drinking water primarily through plumbing materials. Exposure to lead may cause health problems ranging from stomach distress to brain damage.

In 1991, the federal Environmental Protection Agency piloted a regulation to control lead in drinking water. The treatment technique for the rule requires systems to monitor drinking water at customer taps. If lead concentrations exceed an action level of 15 parts per billion in more than 10% of customer taps sampled, the system must undertake a number of additional actions to control corrosion limits.

If the action level for lead is exceeded, the system must also inform the public about steps they should take to protect their health and may have to replace lead service lines under their control. For more information <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/lead-and-copper-rule#additional-resources>

OSU tested 40 University Housing and Dining Services buildings and one, Poling Hall on Southwest Weatherford Place, showed levels above the EPA limits in one sink and three showers.

OSU has shut off water to those fixtures until repairs are made and plans to do more extensive testing that should be finished by August, said Dan Kermoyan, assistant

Kermoyan said testing at other OSU facilities, including Extension Service offices, experimental and research stations as well as the Be and Newport campus will be completed by September.

Contact reporter James Day at jim.day@gazettetimes.com or 541-758-9542. Follow at Twitter.com/jameshday or

"The single most important thing folks can do is flush their water pipes."

— JOE HARWOOD, EWBS SPOKESMAN

Getting the lead out

Homeowners are questioning heavy metal levels in their water

744.7



Chris Petersen/The Register-Guard

TBS Engineering's Jose Herrera labels a water sample taken from a faucet near the Sheldon Community Pool in Eugene.

By AISHA ROEMER
The Register-Guard

The discovery this spring of elevated levels of lead in drinking water at several Eugene schools, District schools and other buildings has prompted a flood of questions about the possible prevalence of lead in drinking water elsewhere in Lane County, including in tens of thousands of older homes with water pipes and fixtures that may contain lead.

At several school district buildings across Eugene, tests found lead levels exceeding the safety limits set by the federal government. By extension, it's possible there may be lead in the drinking water of privately owned properties such as homes — although, because testing typically is up to homeowners, it's unclear whether the hazardous material is indeed widely present. Interim test results in recent years at a Eugene Water & Electric Board haven't found high levels of lead in the drinking water, the agency says.

Turn to WATER, Page A8

Water: Cities follow school district in testing for lead

Continued from Page A1

ingested, the metal can cause serious injury or death.

Now, several other areas, organizations and government entities are following suit. The cities of Eugene and Medford field will test select drinking water sites, officials said last month.

Older homes at risk

But what about homeowners in the Eugene-Springfield area? Should they be worried about elevated levels of lead in their water?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says residential homes built before 1980 are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures and solder. That's because Congress didn't prohibit lead in public water systems, or in plumbing in facilities providing water for human consumption, until June of 1986.

In Lane County, 77,828 homes — or about 72 percent of all homes in the county — were built before 1980, said Lane County assessor Mike Conroy.

Newer homes built after 1980 are more likely to have even plumbing materials, such as "lead-free" faucets, according to the agency.

Changes made to the Safe Water Drinking Act that could provide even better protection for children, and officials mandated in 2014 that the lead content of pipes and pipes fittings, plumbing fixtures and other components in construction not exceed 0.25 percent.

There are now a number of restrictions on lead in drinking water pipes and fixtures in new construction, plus, water system providers are required to test for lead in water to determine if it is safe to drink.

But that doesn't prevent lead from getting into the water supply. The most common way lead ends up in drinking water is from pipes and fixtures that are made of lead.

Harwood said that in the past, he has seen water with lead solder in the property of the school, for the tap run for two or three minutes, and the water is still.

Testing recommended

EWBS, which provides water to about 200,000 people and businesses in the Eugene-Springfield area, has a program that allows homeowners to test their water for lead. The program is free of charge, and the city will provide the test kit and a technician to collect the sample.

EWBS also provides information on how to test for lead in water. The city will provide the test kit and a technician to collect the sample.

TESTING FOR LEAD

- Worried about lead in your household plumbing? Call EWBS Water Quality for information on how to get your water tested. EWBS is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but does not control the material entering the water supply.
- More information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps a resident can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) or at epa.gov/your-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water.

Tips for minimizing exposure

- Flush water pipes for several hours of use. The first water out of the tap is the most likely to contain lead. It becomes noticeably colder before using it for drinking or cooking.
- Do not draw hot tap water for cooking, drinking or making baby formula. Always start with fresh, cold water.
- Regularly clean your faucet mesh aerator, as particles containing lead from solder or old household plumbing can become trapped inside. Clean the aerator every few months with vinegar.
- Consider replacing existing fixtures with low-lead fixtures. As of January 2014, pipes, fittings and solder that contain less than 0.25 percent lead are required to contain less than 0.25 percent lead. When buying new fixtures, consumers should seek out those with the lowest lead content.
- Use tap water for the lowest lead content.
- Use bottled water for a list of lead.

It is to avoid drinking the water. Harwood said that in the past, he has seen water with lead solder in the property of the school, for the tap run for two or three minutes, and the water is still.

Those who find high levels of lead in their household drinking water should consider having their pipes replaced with lead-free pipes.

EWBS also provides information on how to test for lead in water. The city will provide the test kit and a technician to collect the sample.

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Lead also found in paint

Although elevated levels of lead in water have been the focus of recent media attention, lead is also found in the paint, which is the most common source of lead in homes, according to the EPA. Additionally, if a home or building was built before 1980, it may have lead-based paint.

There's no known lead service lines in our area, but we do have some lead service lines in the city. The city will provide the test kit and a technician to collect the sample.

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Aisha Roemer
The Register-Guard
aisha.roemer@register-guard.com

Lead and water quality: What you need to know

Clean, safe drinking water has been a growing topic of concern in the news (and around the water cooler) in the past few months. What started as a local crisis in Flint, Mich., about lead in the drinking water has broadened into media investigations and public discourse about water safety in communities all over the country. This scrutiny is appropriate because what happened in Flint goes against the core ethic of the water industry: to provide a safe supply of drinking water to the people we serve.

COMMUNITY SOAPBOX

by Marilyn McWilliams

At Tualatin Valley Water District, drinking water safety is our top priority. The entire TVWD Board and District staff remain committed to delivering safe drinking water each and every day to the 217,000 customers we serve. It's important to note that the Flint situation differs greatly from TVWD, most notably that the district has never used lead service lines. Lead in the distribution system is a significant problem not only in Flint but other cities with aging infrastructure.

In our region, elevated lead in drinking water is typically caused by aging plumbing and fixtures inside homes or buildings, not from the water source or distribution system. Tainted water is not the only source of lead contamination to be concerned about, however. There are many other potentially dangerous sources of lead as well, including paint, food, ceramics, jewelry, toys and cosmetics. Pregnant women and young children are most at risk for lead contamination.

Homes built or plumbed with copper lines before 1985 or containing certain fixtures may contain lead solder or parts that leach lead into the water. TVWD customers with concerns about lead in their drinking water can obtain free lead testing by contacting the Lead Line at 503-988-4000. Flushing the cold tap until the water is cold to the touch (typically 30 seconds to 2 minutes) is advisable if you feel you are at risk and have not had your water tested.

TVWD tests a sampling of customer homes throughout the district every six months for lead and copper. Those results are reported through the regional Joint Monitoring Program to the Oregon Health Authority to make sure that the water we deliver to customers meets safe drinking water standards and is not causing significant corrosion of home plumbing. Since 1999 when this monitoring program was started, the collective results from homes sampled in TVWD's service area have never exceeded the action level for lead set by the Environmental Protection Agency.

TVWD is hosting a Lead and Water Quality Community Forum at 6 p.m. Thursday at district headquarters, 1850 S.W. 170th Ave. in Beaverton. Water quality experts from TVWD will be joined by staff from the Washington County Health Department, the Beaverton School District and the Willamette Water Supply Program to present information about lead to you and your family and answer any questions you may have.

The TVWD Board and staff take our role as stewards of the public trust very seriously, and protecting the health and safety of our customers and their drinking water are of paramount importance. We hope you will join us at this upcoming event to learn more about ongoing efforts to help safeguard our community and limit hazards related to lead. More information about this event and your water service can be found at tvwd.org.

Marilyn McWilliams is the president of the TVWD Board of Commissioners

Beaverton, OR
(Washington Co.)
Valley Times
(Circ. D. 3,860)

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Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Bandon, OR
(Coos Co.)
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World
(Cir. W. 2,423)

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Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

BANDON UTILITIES REPORT: Water quality report was sent in electric bill to residents

BANDON - Last week, the City of Bandon sent out the 2015 Water Quality Report at the beginning of the 2016 budget year as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. Bandon uses surface water from two sources: Ferry Creek and Geiger Creek, and our water treatment plant treated approximately 227 million gallons of water last year. Water treatment is a four-step process. In the first step, alum is added to the untreated water to make particles like dirt and sediment stick together. These particles clump together into larger particles called floc in the second step and then enter the settling tank where they settle to the bottom. In the third step, the clarified water flows through the sand and charcoal filters which remove lignin and coloration as well as dissolved organic compounds. In the final step, the chlorine generator adds chlorine to kill any germs and to keep the water safe as it travels through the distribution system to your tap. This report gives us the results of the water quality tests which are conducted on schedules mandated by the Water Quality Act. In this year's report, the lead and copper testing results are actually from the test which was run in 2015. These tests are run every three years unless the action levels are reached - when they run more often. The test results are available on the utility's website. We also are very careful to keep our water at a neutral pH so that lead cannot be dissolved into the water. There will be a utility commissioner at Brewed Awakenings from 10 to 11 a.m. every Saturday to answer questions about the utilities and their operations. Please feel free to drop by with your questions, or just to listen.

CITY OF ONTARIO

Lead pipes, no problems, in city water

HUNTER MARROW

ONTARIO

Lead in drinking water has taken center stage in the last several months with the lead leaching situation in Flint, Michigan, at the start of 2016 and more locally in Oregon with recommendations by the Oregon Department of Education for school districts to test and report their water lead levels. In Ontario, lead isn't shown to be a problem.

A 2015 water quality report released by CH2M, the city's public works department, shows 1.6 parts per billion of lead in the city's drinking water, significantly lower than the 15 parts per billion required by the

Ontario, OR
(Malheur Co.)
Argus Observer
(Circ. 4,400, 6,840)

JUL 1 4 2016

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PIPES: We follow those protocols

FROM THE FLINT THE U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for corrective action. "The city doesn't have a lead issue to the best of our knowledge," public works director Clint Leeper said.

The department provides water to 3,900 customers in the city and meters that water on commercial, residential and industrial properties, Leeper said. Thirty of those sites are tested every three years, he said, the last in 2014. But "we don't know how many lead service pipes we have in Ontario," Leeper said. One of the most common ways lead makes its way into drinking water is through a leaching process in old plumbing materials, many of which contain lead, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The agency lists old pipes, plumbing fittings, knives, solder and flux as common sources of lead. Casey Mordecai, a public works official who deals with utility maintenance, said a program that systematically

replaces lead pipes has been in place for a few years. Although not every water main is lead free, Leeper said the high pH level in the Snake River has helped lower the levels of inorganic contaminants such as lead and copper in Ontario's water. Eighty percent of the city's drinking water comes from the Snake River, Leeper said. The other 20 percent comes from wells. The Oregon Department of Health administrators lead testing in drinking water, Leeper said. If, for example, CH2M wanted to change its chemical feed system, it would need prior approval from the health department. "We follow those protocols to the letter," he said. Lead isn't the only contaminant officials watch for. Arsenic is naturally occurring substance in this area, has caused headaches for nearby officials. The EPA allows 10 parts per billion in drinking water, and Nyssa, Vale and Adrian must treat their water to meet that federal limit.

Ontario's arsenic level is 4 parts per billion, Leeper said.

Mayor Ron Verini said testing contaminants is necessary for public safety.

"When we talk about safety in our community, we're not just talking about police and fire, we're talking about areas of infrastructure like in our drinking water," Verini said.

City manager Adam Brown praised the controls set in place by the state and federal government in keeping residents safe. "I have confidence in CH2M to monitor those levels, and they have the experience to do so," Brown said.

The next batch of testing for the drinking water will come in summer 2017, Leeper said.

HUNTER MARROW is

a news reporter at The Argus Observer. He can be reached at (541) 825-4822 or by emailing hunterm@argusobserver.com. To comment on this story go to www.argusobserver.com.

SUNDAY FOCUS MEDFORD WATER
COMMISSION RESPONSE

PUBLIC NIGHTMARE'

Pattern emerges of downplaying warnings of metals leaching into water

Damian Mann | Mail Tribune

744-7

Dan and Kathleen Kornstad were alarmed at the metallic taste of their water, and even their miniature dachshund, Gracie, refused to drink it unless it was first run through a filter.

After the Kornstads complained in March about the taste as well as sediment left in their toilet bowl to the Medford Water Commission, tests were conducted at a fire hydrant across the street on South Pacific Highway and high lead levels were discovered — a result that was never reported to the Kornstads.

"Somebody's trying to cover their ass," Dan Kornstad, 60, said after the Mail Tribune told him last week about a series of tests that began on March 15, including one that showed lead 20 times higher than the Environmental Protection Agency action level. "That kind of ticks me off a little bit." SEE "NIGHTMARE," A3

Timeline of Medford Water Commission response to lead pipes

AUG. 3, 2015: High lead levels found at hydrant near Medford Water Commission; underground line and hydrant replaced, but office still runs tap for 20 to 30 minutes each morning

AUG. 17, 2015: Lead pigtail replaced at 707 S. Oakdale Ave.

FEB. 12, 2016: Water Quality Manager Rode Pinedill writes memo to Water Commission Manager Larry Rains detailing her concerns about corrosive water issues.

APRIL 6: Water Commission holds internal meeting on Pinedill's corrosion issues

MAY 4, 2016: Rains tells Medford Water Commission board there are "no known lead piping" in the system, though he couldn't be 100 percent sure.

MAY 4: Lead pigtail found and replaced at 608 Newlawn St.

MAY 27: Lead pigtail found and replaced at 19 N. Peach St.

JUNE 20: Formal investigation into problem of lead pigtails in Medford begins

JUNE 22: Lead pigtail found on Oakdale Avenue, replaced June 24

JUNE 27: Lead pigtail found on Elm Street, replaced June 29

JULY 7: Lead pigtail found at Fourth and Quince streets, replaced July 12

JULY 8: Lead pigtails found on North Orange and West 11th streets, replaced July 13-14



JULY 11: Lead pigtail found on West 10th Street, replaced July 13

— Medford Water Commission documents, Mail Tribune archives

NIGHTMARE

From Page A1

The Kornstads are among many Medford residents now questioning the quality of water coming out of their taps as the Water Commission discovers more lead pipes and launches a corrosion study to determine how much the water, considered pristine when it leaves Big Butte Springs, can pick up harmful metals from pipes along the way.

According to documents obtained by the Mail Tribune, the Kornstads' situation fits into a pattern suggesting the Medford Water Commission may have downplayed repeated warnings that lead and copper could leach into the water, and the commission's board may have been misled about the presence of lead pipes in the system.

Water Commission Manager Larry Rains told the board at its May 4 meeting, "To my knowledge we have no known lead piping that exists in our system today," though he added he couldn't be 100 percent certain.

On the same day, the commission's service crew discovered a lead "pigtail" (connecting pipe) on Newton Street in west Medford. On May 27, another pigtail was found on Oakdale Avenue, and tests taken at a tap inside the house confirmed high lead levels. Water Commission records show a lead connector had been found on Oakdale Avenue before, in August 2015.

Commission Water Quality Manager Rosie Pindilli, in a May 11 memo to Rains, wrote she had "stated many times that we should not claim we have no lead lines until we prove we do not — that could become a public nightmare."

Pindilli told Rains in the memo that despite his contention that no lead lines are in the system, the service crew has "told me over and over that there are LSLs (lead service lines) in the system, which I have relayed to you and others many times."

Rains, in a phone interview, said he hadn't heard of a lead pipe found in the system for about eight years, but he said he should have repeated his statement to the board. "In retrospect, I would have qualified my definition of 'known,'" he said.

He said he was unaware at the time he made that statement that a pipe had been found a year earlier. Rains said he had asked key staff and service crew: "Have you found any lead pigtails?"

"Nobody raised their hand," Rains said. "Nobody said anything."

At the May 18 board meeting, Rains didn't disclose the discovery of the lead pipe earlier that month and didn't retract his earlier statement. He also didn't reference the May 11 memo from Pindilli, in which she wrote that as many as a half dozen other lead lines are suspected in the system.

Rains said he wasn't sure when the board became aware of the finding of a lead pigtail in the system.

In the past year, nine lead pigtails have been uncovered and replaced in the system, according to Water Commission records. Six have been found in the past month. In four separate tests at various spots in Medford over the past year, the commission has discovered high lead levels that



ABOVE: Dan and Kathleen Kornstad are concerned that the Medford Water Commission didn't tell them about high levels of lead found in water from a hydrant near their home. MAIL TRIBUNE / JAMIE LUSCH

BELOW: The Medford Water Commission works to remove a lead pigtail from Hamilton and 11th streets in Medford on Thursday. MAIL TRIBUNE PHOTO / RICARDO LUSCH

"To my knowledge we have no known lead piping that exists in our system today."

—Medford Water Commission Manager Larry Rains to the commission board during its May 4 meeting

"They have told me over and over that there are (lead service lines) in the system, which I have relayed to you and others many times. I also stated many times that we should not claim we have no lead lines until we prove we do not — that could become a public nightmare."

—Memo to Medford Water Commission Manager Larry Rains from Water Quality Director Rosie Pindilli, May 11, 2016

surpass the EPA action level of 15 parts per billion.

Lead is particularly harmful to children and can cause neurological disorders. Lead that exceeded the federal action level has been found at a residence on Oakdale Avenue, at two locations on South Pacific Highway, at a fire hydrant at 10th and Ivy streets and at a vacant lot on West Main Street.

Pindilli, contacted by phone, said commission service crew members have told her lead pipes continued to be found in the system but the crew was instructed to replace them and not talk about them.

She said she was given a different story about the lead pipes from the service crew than the one Rains recounted.

According to emails, memos and other documents from the Water Commission, Pindilli has voiced her concern over her four years on the job that Medford's corrosive water could leach lead, copper and other metals into the water system. In the emails, she made frequent attempts to bring the issue to the Water Commission board and urged taking steps to deal with corrosive water.

"I was frustrated that it took as long as it did for anybody to listen," Pindilli said.

Though Medford's water is considered pristine — both Big Butte Springs and the Rogue River, where water is drawn to supplement supplies during the summer months, test within EPA limits — but

the soft water, which is good for lathering up in the shower, has a tendency to leach metals elsewhere, such as those found in pipes, as it passes through.

The leaching of metals into the water can be minimized by adding chemicals, a common practice with agencies throughout the country, Pindilli said.

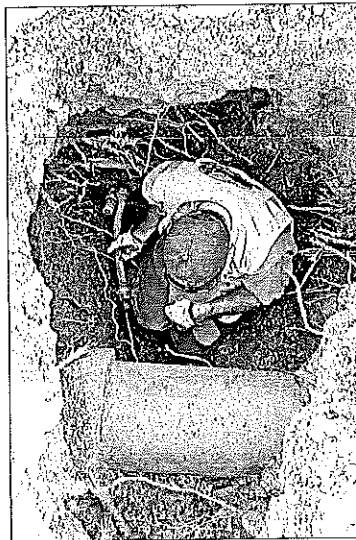
The Water Commission board on July 6 authorized a study that could cost about \$250,000 to determine the corrosiveness of Medford's water and the extent of lead pipes and lead-soldered joints in the system.

Out of 5,000 service meters in an older area of Medford, the Water Commission already has investigated 2,216 for lead pipes so far. The commission conducted 22 exploratory holes and found six pigtails. The commission has an additional eight locations that will require further investigation.

Leigh Johnson, chairman of the Water Commission board, said the board became aware of some of these issues and the email exchanges between Pindilli and Rains about possible corrosion and lead pipes only within the past three months.

"The board was not aware of all of that until April," Johnson said. "Communication certainly could have been better."

The board voted July 6 to conduct a review of Rains' performance as commission manager, a position he's held since 2004, though Johnson



said it was not because of the lead pipe issue. The review will include interviews with the board as well as anonymous interviews with Water Commission staff and other outside agencies.

The Water Commission in June began offering free testing inside houses if a lead connector is found. However,

the commission didn't offer to test the Kornstads' tap water.

Rains said the Kornstads live in a mobile home park on a private system that receives water from the Water Commission.

"They're required to do their own testing," he said. Since it was difficult to take a sample at the master meter going into the mobile home park, the

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Mail Tribune reporter Damian Mann pored through hundreds of pages of emails and other documents from the past four months obtained from the Medford Water Commission after a public records request. The emails were between Larry Rains, commission manager; Rosie Pindilli, water quality manager; Jim Steckton, water treatment director; Eric Johnson, principal engineer; and Ken Johnson, operations superintendent, and included emails to those staffers from water quality consultants.

Water Commission decided to sample at the fire hydrant. Even after a purging of the line, lead levels were high. Another sample was taken at a testing station nearby. Again the lead readings were high, Rains said. More purging of the lines finally brought the lead levels down below EPA levels at both the hydrant and testing station. Fire hydrants are also exempt from regulations about using lead materials in fixtures that come in contact with water, he said.

The Kornstads were given a brief analysis of the water they found, but the metal results weren't forwarded, Rains confirmed.

"I don't have an answer or knowledge why he wasn't given more," Rains said. He referred to Pindilli for more information.

Pindilli said she could confirm the metal tests were not given to the Kornstads, who were only given results of chlorine levels, temperature, pH, conductivity and total dissolved solids.

Asked why she didn't provide the metal tests to the Kornstads as well, Pindilli said, "I was pretty much directed not to," referring to Rains. She said that after additional flushing of the lines, more testing indicated lead was well below action levels.

Pindilli said in the emails that she's received numerous customer complaints related to metals in water over the last four years, and on Feb. 12, 2016, she wrote a five-page memo about her concerns to Rains.

"What triggered my investigation of the possible leaching of metals into the water was on my first day of work at MWC, after drinking the coffee made in the amex breakroom. It tasted terrible, and, due to my previous experience, I knew why. This

SEE NIGHTMARE, A4

NIGHTMARE

From Page A3

was further confirmed by calls from system customers complaining about taste and color issues, blue staining of fixtures, brown colored water and black particles in the water.

On Aug. 3, 2015, tests in the Laramie Annex tank to City Hall showed high copper levels, and tests at the Bryant outside the building showed high lead levels. Since then, Water Commission employees from the tap for up to 30 minutes to flush the lines in the morning before drinking the water.

After Pindilli raised the alarms about the corrosion issues in her memo, she expressed frustration about not being able to bring the matter to the Water Commission board's attention.

On March 11, 2016, Pindilli emailed Kains about an alert sent out by the American Water Works Association urging more transparency in lead and copper issues. "This alert further emphasizes some of our discussion yesterday about my concern," Pindilli wrote.

On March 14, Pindilli asked Kains whether he should press an alert up to the board on lead and copper as well as a complaint about lead quality issues on Forest Hills Drive. Kains responded that March 31 was not on what water quality is doing in this season of the year. Of course he expected to answer any questions that may be asked.

On April 25, Pindilli asked Kains whether he wanted more public outreach including work on copper and lead levels found in St. Bridget and Laura Rodmart to bring them up to speed

about the corrosive water topic that was going to be discussed at an upcoming public meeting. "The more knowledge and understanding Sara has of this issue, the better she will be able to communicate with the public and interview with the media," Pindilli wrote. "Hope you agree."

Kains responded on April 25, "Kobe, I do not want anyone at the meeting except who was invited." In a phone interview, Pindilli said she had been frustrated that her issues over corrosion weren't being heard. She said she continued to be frustrated after providing the February memo to Kains because other senior staff were conducting meetings about the corrosion issue and excluding her.

"After I gave him the memo, I never heard a peep," she said. Kains said it took staff some time to review Pindilli's memo and process the information. He said during the months that followed she worked to prepare something for the board's review. An internal meeting on April 6 that included two board members reviewed the corrosion issues, Kains said.

A 1981 study found Medford water was corrosive to pipes, so it was an issue that was familiar with almost everyone at the Water Commission, Kains said. The study, a copy of which was given to the Medford water utility, determined the corrosive water wasn't a health threat and found it didn't appear to be damaging pipes.

Kains said he was the one who asked Pindilli to prepare the memo outlining her concerns about the lead and copper in the system. He said he asked for her thoughts on corrosion and lead levels found in St. Bridget and Laura Rodmart to bring them up to speed

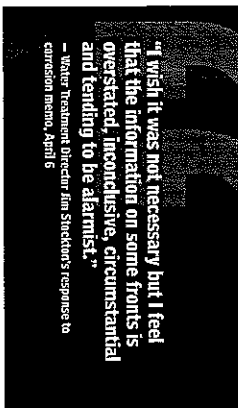
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"I wish it was not necessary but I feel that the information on some fronts is overstated, inconclusive, circumstantial and tending to be alarmist."
— Water Treatment Director Ann Stockton's response to corrosion memo, April 6

day that he would discuss recommendations for corrosion options in a presentation to the board. "What are you waiting for?" he asked.

On May 18 meeting, Pindilli described how 1,400 water systems throughout the country have exceeded federal action levels for lead. She said many large water systems have corrosion control systems in place to minimize the leaching of copper and lead into the water, but Medford does not.

Everybody's stressing you need to get out in front of this, Pindilli told the board. At the meeting, Pindilli didn't discuss

she thought would be a discussion about the corrosion study. Instead, Pindilli said she was given an unexpected performance review. Unlike previous performance reviews, she said she was criticized mainly for not being a team player.

Pindilli said she worried that Kains wouldn't be taking her concerns to the board. On May 17, Pindilli sent an email to Kains about the upcoming board meeting. The last board meeting was held on Feb. 23, about a year and a half ago. "Do you know what I talk about it? You know?" Kains responded the same

committee meeting. "I wish it was not necessary, but I feel that the information on some fronts is overstated, inconclusive, circumstantial and tending to be alarmist."

Stockton wrote the Water Commission hasn't been concerned about the corrosion issue. Every WQ water quality (WQ) staff member has known that the water could be corrosive for many years, she wrote. But Stockton wondered whether any changes were warranted against the lead levels weighed against the health-related economic considerations.

In his memo, Stockton said he couldn't find a record of numerous fees by Pindilli related to metals leaching into the drinking water. His own analysis found that copper and lead levels only about a half penny per gallon. The Water Commission's position was to remove lead service lines as they were discovered.

Despite not being persuaded by Pindilli's assertion, Stockton said he would support a professional evaluation of corrosion issues, particularly because the job study on that issue was outdated.

Pindilli also has urged a more frequent flushing program at five hydrants throughout the system water sites in dead-end pipes for months at a time. When the first water opened, a stream of freshwater flows out, according to photos obtained from the commission. Metals leaching into the system have had other consequences as well.

On April 6, Mark Warren, managing engineer at the Regional Water Reclamation Facility, found that even

though 60 to 70 percent of the copper is removed from wastewater, the copper levels remain above the state allowed level to protect aquatic life in the Kogon River.

In 2014, the city submitted monitoring data to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and they found that copper has a measurable ability to reduce the water quality standards. "Warwick asked me on April 7, 'What Mary of the Association said 'you had been trying to raise the red flag here for a long time that we need to be talking about this.'"

He stated that economic about copper levels at the wastewater plant relates to sensitivity to future regulations that will be set by DEQ in the next few years.

Pindilli, who said the copper levels at the wastewater plant high because of the leaching from pipes in Medford, said new regulations for the amount of copper that can flow out of the treatment plant will be issued in 2017. She said high copper levels are harmful to fish.

She said she has been pushing for corrosion treatment that would minimize the amount of lead, copper and other metals leaching into the system. Pindilli said many other water agencies, including one she worked at previously, had corrosion control treatment in place.

"I stabilize the water so it won't attack the lines that it comes in contact with," she said. "We would combat all this by treating the water."

744-7
— Reach reporter Damon Mann at 541-776-4476 or dman@medffthtribune.com. Follow him on www.twitter.com/7447.

On Wednesday, crews found one pigtail on King Street and needed to a 1909 main water line. Two pigtails were found on Laurel Street, including one that used a sternhorn pipe connector that basically diverts water from a single line to two water meters. The Laurel pigtail was connected to a 1912 water main. The 11th Street pigtail was connected to a 1909 main line.

Service crews recently found one pigtail on Quince Street that was connected to a copper pipe, which is unusual because most appear to have been connected to galvanized lines.

By next week, crews will be going through east Medford neighborhoods where older lines are suspected.

Last month, before one lead pigtail was removed on Oakdale Street, water tests determined high levels of lead were found at the tap, though some of the lead could have come from older pipes inside the house.

The Water Commission is awaiting other results from water testing, but in four separate tests at various spots in Medford over the past year, the commission has discovered high lead levels that surpass the EPA action level of 15 parts per billion.

Rosie Pindilli, water quality manager, said the Water Commission tries to get permission from the property owner before conducting tests at the tap. However, the property owners haven't always given permission, though tenants living in the houses on these properties might want their water tested.

"If the tenant says test the water, then test the water," commission member John Dailey said in a meeting of the commission Wednesday.

The Water Commission has received 110 calls since the pigtail issue surfaced in June. Pindilli said residents also have asked her a lot of questions when she goes out to neighborhoods.

"Will the Water Commission pay for blood tests where lead was found?" is a question Pindilli receives. The commission board instructed Pindilli to get any information she can from Jackson County Health about lead issues to pass out to water customers.

Since the Water Commission board became aware of the presence of the lead pigtails, it has offered to conduct water tests at the customer's tap to determine whether lead levels are higher than action levels set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Water Commission officials say previous tests on pigtails showed they could raise lead content above the levels set by the EPA.

Even though the number of lead pigtails represents a small fraction of the meters investigated, the commission board has been pushing to get a better understanding of the problem.

"We've gone from what we think was there to knowing a lot more," Councilor Bob Strosser said.

According to the Oregon Health Authority, exposure to drinking water that has greater than 15 parts per billion of lead over long periods of time can delay children's physical or mental development, decrease IQ in children, cause kidney problems, increase blood pressure and increase the risk of cancer.

Even though local water agencies such as the Water Commission might be delivering water that started out lead-free, the Health Authority cautions that water out of a tap can still contain high levels of lead from contact with household pipes or other pipes in the system. Medford's water routinely passes water quality inspections with flying colors.

744-7
—Beach reporter Damian Mann at 541-776-4476 or dmamm@mailtribune.com. Follow him on www.tottter.com/reporterdn.

Medford, OR
(Jackson Co.)
Medford Mail
(Circ. D. 51,500)

JUL 21 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

MEDFORD WATER COMMISSION

Workers find four more pigtails

By Damian Mann
Mail Tribune 744-7

The Medford Water Commission unearthed another four lead pigtail pipes Wednesday, bringing to 13 the number found over the past year.

Lead pigtails, which were once used to connect service lines from the water meter to the main line in the street, were found on Laurel, King and 11th streets Wednesday by a Water Commission crew.

So far, Water Commission crews have looked at 2,725 meters in west Medford out of 5,000 total. They are looking for galvanized pipes on the street side of the meters. Galvanized pipes an indicator that lead pigtails, which are about 2 feet in length, might be present, potentially posing a health risk to residents.

Even though crews will wrap up their initial inspections on the west side, they will follow up with a more thorough investigation at specific locations to determine whether pigtails are located underground.

"We will continue to find some more on the west side," Sara Bristol, spokeswoman for the Water Commission said.

SEE PIGTAILS, A5

The city of Portland has a plumbing problem

The EPA wants a plan to rid our tap water of lead, but officials should avoid a one-size-fits-all remedy, such as chemically altering the water

744-7

Portland, OR
(Multnomah Co.)
The Oregonian
(Circ. D. 247,833)
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Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

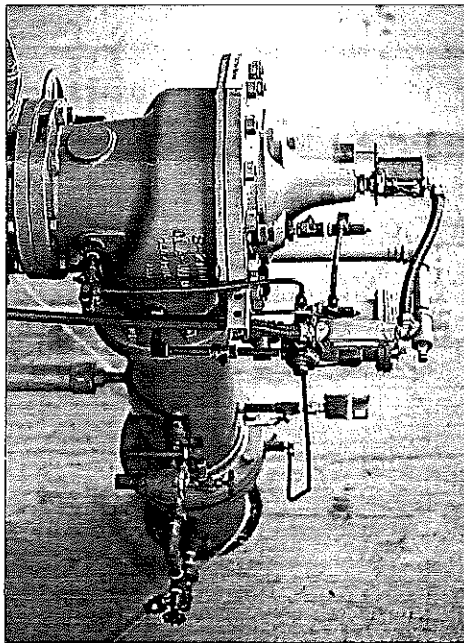
Portland faces critical choices ahead in deciding how to reduce the amount of lead in tap water. The key word here is tap: The outlet from which water flows into glasses and pots and into citizens whose health is at stake.

Water from the Bull Run watershed near Mount Hood, delivered to Portland through large pipes, is widely celebrated as pristine, and it is. It contains very little lead. Instead, the water is described as soft, or mainly from rainfall and low in several naturally occurring minerals. It makes for a great shower, unsulphurous laundry and looks and tastes clean.

But when it reaches homes and snakes its way through the thicket of small-bore plumbing of a certain era, it can, owing to its chemical composition, corrode pipes and leech lead from solder that joins pipes. Result: Bull Run water in some instances is piped with lead at levels approaching the federal threshold for health safety.

An estimated 15,000 of 271,000 homes served by Bull Run are considered by city officials to have suspect plumbing, ratcheting water shortly before it flows from the tap. An analysis by Brad Schmidt of The Oregonian/OregonLive showed that detected levels of lead in high-risk homes was among the highest of comparable-size cities nationwide.

Now the Environmental Protection Agency insists that Portland officials by August state their plan for reducing lead in tap water citywide. Reeling in the wake of the lead-poisoning debacle in Flint, Michigan, where the agency had showed itself to be tragically ineffectual, regulators wisely scan the nation for potential lead problems.



THOMAS S. BOWEN/2015

Oregon in 1997 approved a plan to allow Portland to minimally treat its water with chemicals. Lead is hardly detectable in Portland's water supply, and the city doesn't have lead service lines. But water from the Bull Run watershed, the groundwater facility of which is seen here, is corrosive and prone to leaching lead from lead solder found in some plumbing.

Portland, however, has a plumbing problem. The challenge exists in many homes built between 1970 and 1985, as well as in water at several public schools, beset with old plumbing and outdated water fountains in which water "stands" overnight, and for like reasons some public parks facilities.

The city will and must comply with the EPA. But its efforts going forward must be targeted at the problem: a subset of water

to Portland children.

There has been much talk about chemically treating Portland's Bull Run water to reduce its corrosiveness upon old plumbing systems. Doing so would help reduce lead levels. But doing so would also be to employ a citywide, one-size-fits-all remedy at enormous public expense—likely \$15 million or more for a water treatment facility that would take years to design and build. To alter the chemical profile of an entire water supply would be out of proportion to the event. Like hiring 500 firefighters to boost firefighting capacity citywide when installing fire alarms in a subset of homes without detection might well drive the same reduction in property damage and risk to humans.

Lead has no place in drinking and cooking water, from source to the tap. But as Portland proceeds in mapping the best way forward to address its comparatively high detection levels in the water of high-risk homes, it should consider novel, yet unmapred programs that could create the financial incentives for plumbing repair or replacement of the installation of lead filters designed to capture lead before it leaves the tap. Schools and parks will have their own approaches and should, as their constituents and funding streams differ. The home-based lead challenge will take creativity and ingenuity, not native attributes to a federal agency or even within the comfort zone of City Hall. But dumping a bunch of chemicals into Bull Run water to further push lead levels down, as they have been trending for decades with upgrades to the city's water distribution system, amounts to a sledgehammer strike when the nail needs only a few more taps.

—The Oregonian/OregonLive editorial board

Portland, OR
(Multnomah Co.)
The Oregonian
(Circ. D. 247,833)
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City's 'plumbing problem'

Regarding "The city of Portland has a plumbing problem" (July 20): You guys make me sick. The city does not have a plumbing problem; select home owners have a plumbing problem. And it's not really a problem, because all one has to do is let the water run for about 30 seconds. No more stupid wasteful spending of my tax dollars and water bill, please!

744-7
PETER BUTZER
North Portland

I appreciate your editorial encouraging Portland to seek a precise, nuanced solution to the lead problem instead of systemwide chemical treatment, since most homes and buildings do not have issues with lead in the water. Having just re-piped my house — the 1922 galvanized steel had a good run! — I know how expensive it is and how busy plumbers are these days, but I would much rather see my tax dollars used to facilitate targeted fixes for buildings with lead solder than to pay for the blunt force solution of adding chemicals to our exceptionally pure water.

NANCY IVES
Southwest Portland

Allen's P.C.A.
 Established 1988

After three years, 10-Tigard water project is online

Final work on treatment plant remains, but main pipeline is now supplying water to both cities

By ANTHONY MASLIK
 The Review

The Lake Oswego-Tigard Water Partnership project is now fully online and providing water to both cities.

The \$54 million project still has one major milestone ahead: completion of the upgraded water treatment plant in West Linn. But the project's new pipeline has already taken over as the primary water supply for Tigard and Lake Oswego after three years of construction.

"This complex project has been a huge undertaking, and we appreciate the patience and understanding of all residents whose lives have been disrupted by this vital project," Partnership project director Joel Komarek told The Review last week. "After years of hard work by many dedicated people, we can celebrate meeting our goal to provide a new water supply to our partner."

The centerpiece of the project is a series of new water pipes stretching over 10 miles from Gladstone to Tigard. A raw-water pipeline carries untreated Clackamas River water from a new intake facility in Gladstone under the Willamette River to an

upgraded treatment facility in West Linn. More new pipe brings water from the Lake Oswego treatment station through the Willamette River to the Gladstone Reservoir. And a final new segment moves water from the reservoir to Tigard's new Bonita pumping station.

Construction of the treatment plant upgrades started in 2013, while the pipeline work got underway in 2014. The final piece of pipe was installed next to the McVey Avenue Bridge in Lake Oswego in March of this year, and the entire system was then gradually brought online after various segments were tested.

The system has the capacity to pump up to 38 million gallons of water per day, and is built to rigorous seismic standards

that should enable it to survive a major Cascadia-type earthquake.

"For the first time in the city's history, Tigard now owns and controls its own high-quality water supply, no longer purchasing water from the City of Portland," said Tigard Mayor John Cook. "This investment in ownership will greatly benefit future generations of our citizens."

The project was also indirectly responsible for upgrades to Lake Oswego's primary Willamette Reservoir. The original Walnut I tank has served Lake Oswego since the early 1980s, but last year saw the opening of the adjacent Walnut 2 structure, enabling city workers to drain Walnut I in preparation for a much-needed roof replacement. It is expected that both reservoirs will be needed to keep up with future water demand in Lake Oswego and Tigard.

INSIDE

City councilors approve the final version of amendments to the city's tree code, capping off a year-long series of debates and negotiations by the nearly three dozen members of the Ad Hoc Tree Code Committee. See story, Page A4.

From Page A1

the pipeline, noisy construction had angry neighbors demanding compensation, drivers who had to navigate months of jarring installation work on Highway 43 were pretty unhappy, too.

Much of the controversy surrounding the Partnership project has died down, but one issue remains unresolved: the amount of water scheduled to be drawn from the Clackamas River.

The project calls for an even higher pumping capacity of 36 million gallons of water per day, which is the upper limit of what Lake Oswego is allowed to draw from the Clackamas River under the city's water-rights permit from the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD).



KOMAREK

But just as the 10-Tigard project was getting underway in 2008, an Oregon advocacy group called Water Watch filed a lawsuit against OWRD, alleging that the permits issued by the department to Lake Oswego and other nearby water agencies would collectively draw too much water from the river and threaten endangered species of native fish.

The Oregon Court of Appeals rejected most of Water Watch's arguments in a December 2014 decision, but the court did rule that OWRD had failed to adequately explain its conclusion that the intake limits set by its permits would not threaten the fish. The court directed the agency to work with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to better explain its rationale for issuing the current state of permits.

"We conclude that the department's determination that the permits, as conditioned, will maintain the persistence of listed fish species in the affected waterway lacks both substantial evidence and substantial reason," the court wrote in its ruling.

If the agency can't justify the permit, it would have to issue lower ones. A decision in West Linn voters were furious when the City Council there voted to allow the expansion of the treatment plant. All along

the pipeline, noisy construction had angry neighbors demanding compensation, drivers who had to navigate months of jarring installation work on Highway 43 were pretty unhappy, too.

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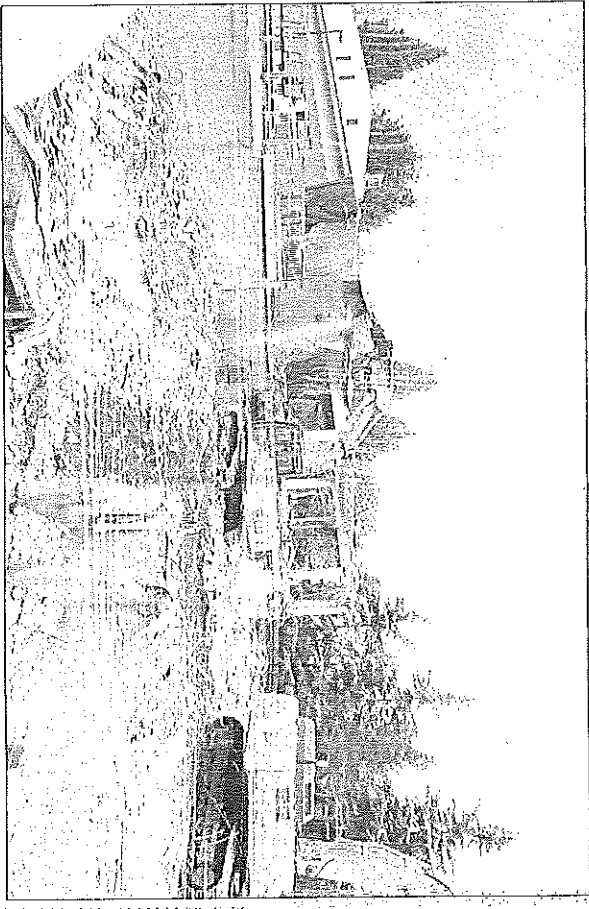
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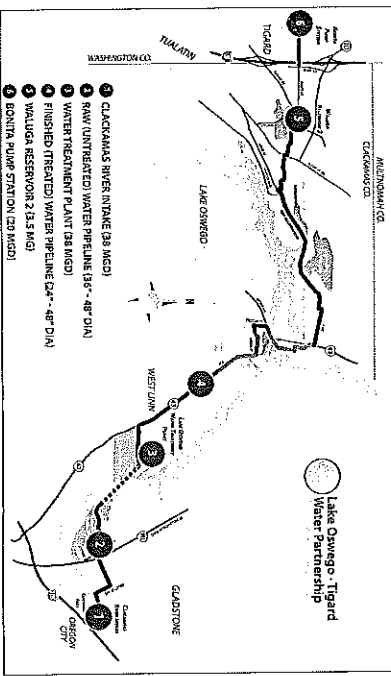
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Water: Water Watch lawsuit still pending



Demolition of the old administration building at the West Linn treatment facility is one of the last steps in the project. The space will be used for additional filters and equipment for an ozone purification system.

All facilities online by July 2016



The completed series of pipes stretches all the way from Gladstone to Tigard.

The Review hearing in Salem last week, but an agency spokesperson said that at least two more days will be needed to finish all the testimony and a continuation date for the hearing has not yet been scheduled.

In any case, Komarek told

use about 20-26 million gallons per day during the peak season.

Lake Oswego residents can also expect one of the project's peskiest side effects to stick around: high water bills. Rates were raised dramatically to cover the cost of the project, according to the city's water rates and fees schedule, water costs rose by 23.5 percent in 2011 and 2012, plus another 12.5 percent in 2013.

The current rates aren't going to go back down now that the project is completed — the final bond payment isn't expected until 2038. However, city officials say that from here on out, rates are expected rise at a slower pace with no more major jumps.

The size of the annual rate hike has remained the same or declined each year since 2012, down to a projected 4.5-percent increase this year. The projected increase for 2017 is 2 percent.

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In any case, Komarek told

Contact Anthony Maslik at 503-636-1381 ext. 108 or amaslik@latimes.com.

TWVD: LEAD NOT COMING FROM WATER SOURCE

Toxin usually gets in from home and building pipes

By ERIC APALATEGUI
The Times

The Tualatin Valley Water District's water contains little to no lead as it makes its way to your home, business or school.

But it might be a different story when it gets there. "In our region, the biggest risk we receive from lead (in drinking water) is in the homes and buildings," said Joel Cary, who oversees water safety issues for TWVD.

While TWVD's distribution lines are lead-free, the plumbing in many older buildings across the region was assembled with components containing lead, a heavy metal that

Lead: Toxin leaches from old pipes

From Page A1

can leach invisibly into drinking water.

At high enough levels, lead is a harmful neurotoxin when swallowed or breathed. Unhealthy exposure can be particularly hazardous to developing fetuses and children, said Dr. Christina Baumann, deputy health officer for Washington County.

Baumann and Cary were among a panel of experts that discussed lead in the drinking water supply during a July 14 public forum at TWVD's headquarters. A few dozen citizens attended and asked questions.

People drinking TWVD water include more than 200,000 residents of a large area that takes in unincorporated communities such as Aloha, Rock Creek, Bethany and Cedar Mill, as well as parts of incorporated Hillsboro, Beaverton, Tigard and Metzger.

Other water agencies in Washington County receive their water from similar sources and also have reported low levels of lead in their supply.

Lead levels in water supply systems have long been tested, but testing water where it's consumed is much less common.

The issue has received extra scrutiny lately, particularly after dangerously high levels were detected in Flint, Mich., and concerning levels were found much closer to home in Portland and even at Beaverton's Highland Park

Middle School.

The Beaverton School District has shut off the drinking water at Highland Park and is providing bottled water there until the 50-year-old school's plumbing is replaced with lead-free pipes next summer. District officials have taken similar precautions with several other schools with older pipes.

The school district also hired a company to collect water samples in every school and support building and is awaiting test results, reported Nathan Potter, a member of the water panel who is overseeing the project for BSD.

TWVD found one home last spring where lead levels were tested at an alarming 113 parts per billion, more than seven times the 15 parts per billion level the Environmental Protection Agency has set as its "action level" to safeguard health.

Upon investigation, it turned out the test used water collected from the hot water tap in a little-used bathroom, according to district engineer Bill Richmond. When the pipes were flushed with cold water, lead dipped to barely detectable levels, he said.

Using cold water from well-flushed pipes for drinking and cooking is a simple way to reduce exposure to lead, even in homes with pipes that include the heavy metal in solder, fixtures or other components, experts said. Having your water tested and taking other simple steps outlined with this article also can help.

Cary said that TWVD will increase outreach efforts about lead in drinking water and in 2017 will change its testing regimen, part of which will include more than doubling the number of tests conducted.

In another decade, TWVD and the city of Hillsboro, along with other potential partners including Beaverton, will begin tapping the mid-Willamette River near Wilsonville to augment its current water sources. That water source, which will be treated, similarly contains little to no detectable lead levels, said Dave Kraska, who is overseeing that project.

Reduce lead in drinking water

Tualatin Valley Water District officials recommend the following steps to help reduce the lead levels in water used for drinking, cooking and baby formula:

■ Use only cold water. Hot water can leach more lead into water.

■ Flush pipes until the water is noticeably colder. This may take 30 seconds to two minutes.

■ Boiling water won't remove lead. In fact, it may concentrate the heavy metal.

■ Remove the faucet aerator periodically and clean it out remove trapped particles.

■ Not all water filtration systems are designed to remove lead, so shop carefully.

■ Have your water tested for lead. Call 503-988-4000 for a free kit.

Other lead sources

Old paint is one of the most common sources of lead poisoning. The metal was a common additive to improve color and coverage until it was banned in 1978. Much of that old paint is still on homes and other structures build in the mid-20th Century.

Old lead paint should be removed by qualified contractors or at least covered with new paint, which doesn't contain lead. Sanding lead paint increases exposure. Even soft near buildings with lead paint can contain unsafe lead levels and should be covered or removed, Baumann said.

Some imported goods have also been found to contain high levels of lead. These can include toys, jewelry, pottery, folk medicine, cosmetics and even candy.

Work and hobbies can be a source of exposure, too. Take precautions to limit contact when working with stained glass, fishing weights, remodeling and automotive projects, and ammunition and firing ranges, Baumann said.

Some industrial activity and old pesticides also are a potential source of lead exposure.

Eating diets rich in calcium and vitamin C can reduce the amount of lead a person absorbs, Baumann said.

Also, frequent hand-washing has a beneficial effect on reducing ingestion of lead from other exposures in addition to helping limit the spread of communicable illnesses, she added.

See LEAD / Page A6

Albany, OR
(Linn Co.)
Democrat Herald
(Circ. D. 14,100)

JUL 9 2015

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Dreading lead? You have options

744-7

JENNIFER MOONEY
Albany Democrat-Herald

Worried about the potential for lead in your own drinking water after reading accounts of elevated levels found in local schools?

If you live in a newer home or have replaced your fixtures recently, you probably don't have to be. But if you're concerned, Oregon has options for testing.

First, mid-valley cities want to stress, municipal water is considered safe. State law requires a battery of tests, including ones for lead contamination, and water reports will test results are made public annually.

Albany's report, for instance, can be found online at www.chloropharynet under the department link for public works.

Its tests show water meets standards throughout the system, including Millersburg and the North Albany areas covered by Dumbuck Lane.

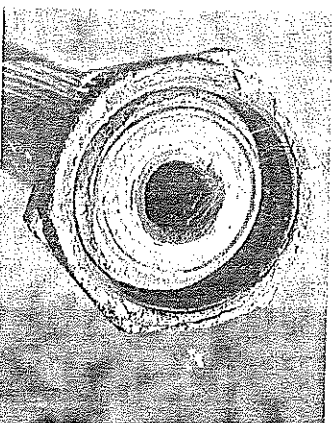
Chris Bailey, interim public works operations director, said copies of the report also can be obtained at City Hall or can be mailed to residents. "Hopefully that will be reassuring," she said.

High lead levels can be found in homes, but it isn't coming from city water, Bailey said. "The most common way to get lead in your drinking water is from your internal plumbing in your house or your business or whatever."

A number of labs in Oregon will test household water samples for lead content, including

Please see Lead, Page A2

This lead pigtail was one of a few connecting pipes recently found in Albany's water supply. The city is replacing all such connectors it can find this summer.



MARK YEM, DEMOCRAT-HERALD

Lead

From A1

twain Corvallis; CH2M Hill and Ridge Analytical Inc.

A full list of accredited laboratories in Oregon that will accept samples from individuals can be found online through the Oregon Health Authority at <http://http://oha.gov>.

Kristy Frakes of Edge Analytical said her business provides sample kits for \$28 each and instructions on how to use them.

"What we usually do is ask for a first draw sample," she said. "So what you want to do is not use your water at all for six to eight hours, and the first time you use it, you fill the sample bottle first thing."

Frakes said the lab recommends taking the sample from a kitchen faucet because that's water most

likely to be ingested. It usually takes about 10 business days for a result once the sample is brought in.

The Lead Safe America Foundation also provides a limited number of free test kits. Applicants can be made online via the group's website at lead-safe.org.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, no "safe" level for lead in residential water has been set.

Albany bought the water system in 1986 from Pacific Power, which didn't access lead pipes until the late 1990s, when copper became the material of choice, but in Albany, some connectors may still be out there, Bailey said.

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chromium-plated faucets and fixtures. Homes built before 1986 are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures and solder.

Lead also was commonly used in the middle of the 20th century to make a type of pipe connector called a "pigtail" or a "gooseneck."

Chlorinated polyethylene (CPE) was used in the mid-1980s and 1985, considered by the EPA to be at higher risk of lead and copper corrosion because of plumbing materials that were used at that time.

People can volunteer their homes to be on the test list, Bailey said. If their home was built during the correct time period and still has its original fixtures, her information call City Hall's water operations supervisor at 541-917-7628.

City spokeswoman Marlyn Smith said Albany also is planning to test the water on city property accessible

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to the public this such as Maple school, the Alb Center, City Hall 12 (the other and both the main sample from various consumers to check for lead content. The samples are drawn from 30 homes around town that were built between 1983 and 1985, considered by the EPA to be at higher risk of lead and copper corrosion because of plumbing materials that were used at that time.

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JUL 2 2 2016

Grants Pass, OR
(Josephine Co.)
Daily courier
(Circ. D. 11,580)

Medford Water Commission has found 13 lead pigtails in the last year

By Damian Mann

of the Medford Mail Tribune

MEDFORD — The Medford Water Commission unearthed four more lead pigtail pipes Wednesday, bringing to 13 the number found over the past year.

So far, Water Commission crews have looked at 2,725 meters in west Medford out of 5,000 total. By next week, crews will be going through east Medford neighborhoods where older lines are suspected. They are looking for galva-

nized pipes on the street side of the meters. Galvanized pipe is an indicator that lead pigtails, which were once used to connect service lines from the water meter to the main line in the street, might be present. Even though crews will wrap up their initial inspections on the west side, they will follow up with a more thorough investigation at specific locations to determine whether pigtails are located underground.

The Water Commission is awaiting other results from water testing, but in four separate tests at various spots in Medford over the past year, the commission has discovered high lead levels that surpass the EPA action level of 15 parts per billion. Since the Water Commission board became aware of the presence of the lead pigtails, it has offered to conduct water tests at the customer's tap to determine whether lead levels are higher than action levels set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Water Commission officials say. Previous tests on pigtails showed they could raise lead content above the level set by the EPA.

Even though the number of lead pigtails represents a small fraction of the meters installed, the commission board has been pushing to get a better understanding of the problem. "We've gone from what we think was here to knowing a lot more," Councilor Bob Strosser said. According to the Oregon Health Authority, exposure to levels of lead from contact with household pipes or other pipes in the system, including children's physical or mental development, decrease IQ in children, cause kidney problems, increase blood pressure and increase the risk of cancer. Medford's water routinely passes water quality inspections with flying colors. However, officials caution that water out of a tap can still contain high levels of lead from contact with household pipes or other pipes in the system.

Canby Utility increases rates again

Canby residents told the board the increase is not enough

By DANIEL PEARSON
The Canby Herald

The Canby Utility Board of Directors approved a rate increase effective August 1 of about 10 percent (9.53), the second price hike in less than nine months. Canby Utility raised rates last November 1 by about \$9 a month for residential customers and approximately \$35 a month for commercial and industrial users. Dan Murphy, Canby Utility's general manager, said the latest increase provided a response from the public that he had not ever heard in his 25 years managing utility companies in different regions across the U.S. "It was interesting because the people in attendance at the public hearing were very in favor of the rate increase," Murphy said. "One even said on the record that it probably should be more so we can generate more (revenue) for a water treatment plant that will remove the taste and odor compounds. I've now seen something in my career I didn't

think I ever would — consumers saying the proposed rate increase should be bigger." Steve Gutierrez, a Canby resident who started the Facebook page "Canby Water Stinks," attended the public hearing to continue his efforts to be part of the solution for the taste and odor issues present in Canby Utility's water supply, he said. Gutierrez, who said he initially suggested to the board of directors that Canby Utility should offer customers a \$25 rebate that would go toward the purchase of a water filter or filtering system — that program currently is in place — favors the 10 percent rate hike so the company can afford the research needed to find a solution. "I think the increase is a good thing and that it was (instituted) to continue going in the direction (Canby Utility) has been going with infrastructure improvements and eventually the building of the new treatment facility," Gutierrez said.

See UTILITY / Page

UTILITY: Increase will help offset forecasted spikes in operating expenses

(Continued from page 1)

"There's no quick fix — only band aids to make the current situation acceptable for paid service," Gutierrez continued. "In my opinion, figuring out how to provide water that is free of the bad taste and odor that comes from the organic compounds present in the Molalla River is an ethical matter based on humans needing water and having to purchase a product of consistently poor quality." Murphy said the 10 percent increase is needed to partially offset forecasted spikes in operating expenses and also to generate revenue for the master plan and the projects in it, one of which is the construction of a new water treatment plant. "It will fund growth-related investments in infrastructure in the water system," Murphy said. "There are a whole list of projects we need to do that are listed in the master plan and on our website. We've identified areas in the system that need to be replaced and/or expanded and we need to fix old, depreciated lines we know are leaking."

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) increased by 7.1 percent wholesale power and transmission costs, which became effective last Oct. 1. That was the largest contributing factor for Canby Utility's Nov. 2015 rate adjustment need. Canby Utility has experienced approximately a 5.6 percent increase in diminishing reserves and operating expenses since 2013 due to using its own reserve funds to pay for cost increases rather than passing those rates on to the consumer. Costs have reached the point where they no longer can be internally absorbed by the utility. "We are generating revenue to use for a water treatment plant (upgrade) but we have to have money to get the design done and for everything that's needed to float the bonds for a new water treatment plant," Murphy said. "It costs a lot, and I mean a lot — so much that (at current rate levels) we can't generate enough to even make a dent. But we still need money to find the money to fund construction of a new facility, which will be several million dollars." For more information visit Canby Utility's website at www.canbyutility.org.

Medford, OR
(Jackson Co.)
Medford Mail
(Circ. D. 51,500)

JUL 2 2 2016

OUR VIEW

Water system credibility lacking

The continuing saga of the Medford Water Commission's handling of lead contamination is less about public health than about public disclosure. The potential harm to water customers from ingesting lead is certainly a concern, but so far, there is no evidence that anyone's health has been affected. The commission's credibility, on the other hand, is on life support. 744-7

The commission has a great deal to answer for, especially the inaction of its manager, Larry Rains, and what appear to be deliberate attempts to deny and then conceal the existence of lead supply lines beneath the city's streets.

Mail Tribune reporter Damian Mann, in a story in Sunday's paper, detailed Water Quality Manager Rose Pindilli's repeated warnings to the attention of the Board of Water Commissioners, only to be told not to. Mann relied on hundreds of pages of emails and other documents obtained through a public records

request. Pindilli was concerned not only about old lead "pigtails" still in the system, but also about the corrosive qualities of the commission's water supply leaching copper, lead and other metals from pipes as it passes through. Other water systems with soft water similar to Medford's treat their supply with a chemical that prevents leaching.

Rains told the commission board in a May 4 meeting that he was unaware of any lead piping in the system, even though a lead pigtail had been found and removed in August 2015. That same day, May 4, commission crews found a lead pigtail on Newtown Street in west Medford.

Crews have now found and replaced 13 lead pigtails in the past year; 10 of those in the past month. Meanwhile, the soft-water corrosion issue remains. The commission board this month authorized a study to determine the corrosiveness of Medford's water and the extent of lead pipes and joints in the system,

although Pindilli had been expressing concern about the issue to Rains and others for four years.

Again, there is no evidence yet that anyone's health has been affected by ingesting lead, despite tests finding isolated instances of lead in the water exceeding the Environmental Protection Agency action level. But the board and the public should have been told of the presence of lead service lines and the test results.

Medford has long enjoyed some of the best water in the world. It still does, but the pipes used to deliver it need a full inspection, and the potential of corrosion leaching metals also must be addressed. Pretending everything is fine won't make those problems go away.

Then commission board members, who are appointed to oversee the operation of the water system, have a responsibility to communicate with the public they serve. To do that, they need timely, accurate information from the Water Commission manager and his staff, not denials and delay.

Canby, OR
(Clackamas Co.)
Herald
(Cir. 2xW. 4,752)

JUL 2 7 2016

Portland, OR
(Multnomah Co.)
Southeast Examiner
(Cir. M. 30,000)
AUG 3 2016

Allen's P.C.B.
Established 1888

Fernandez Takes Reservoir

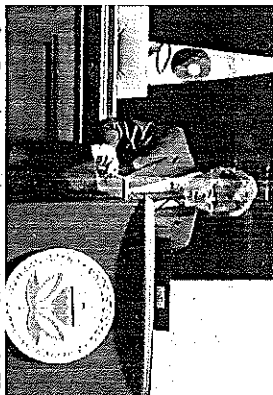
Case to Court

744-7
BY NANCY TANNLER

Scott Fernandez, M.Sc. Biology chemistry/microbiology, is continuing to cross swords with the City of Portland over what he believes is unacceptable neglect of human health by shutting down its open air drinking water reservoirs.

Fernandez has filed a public health lawsuit to retain Portland's drinking water quality. He is asking that, until a formal decision has been made, all demolition and disconnection of the reservoirs be stopped.

"From a city public health aspect the whole system is broken. Toxic and carcinogenic drinking water, noxious air from industry and diesel fumes, lead in school and park water fountains, radon in the air



Scott Fernandez presents open reservoir evidence to the EPA in Washington D.C.

of Portland schools, and the pollution of the Superfund site area are all cascading into one another and something needs to be done," Fernandez said.

The reason he has doggedly stayed on this issue for over ten years is because

turn to page 27

Fernandez taking a stand for health

from cover

sunlight breaks down toxic chemicals, open reservoirs naturally and efficiently off-gas radon and other particulates into the atmosphere in a safe and unconcentrated form.

Toxic and carcinogenic nitrogen-based chemicals thrive without open reservoirs. "Consequently, nitric acid episodes in distribution systems occur in the dark (in covered reservoirs, pipelines, taps etc)" according to a report by the Environmental Protection Agency 2002.

Portland Water Bureau acknowledges that radioactive radon is present in our drinking water, especially when we use water from the Columbia South Shore Well field. The EPA currently says there is "no safe level" of radon.

The economics of the reservoir projects is something Fernandez reminds us of too.

What started out as a projected \$50 million dollar deconstruction project is now closer to \$200 million with a 20-25 percent escalation

cost to consider. The city has taken out large bonds that we the people will eventually pay for with unnecessarily increased water rates.

Dismantling the reservoirs is work that Fernandez argues is not necessary.

As he prepares for his day in court, he is optimistic the evidence he will present will make a difference.

Like other activists, he thinks Portland Water Bureau should have fought harder for an EPA waiver like New York

has to buy time and save the reservoirs. (See SE Examiner article, Portland's Unfiltered Water System, May 2016).

There is no political or economic benefit for Fernandez to take Portland Water Bureau and the City of Portland to court about the open reservoir and drinking water issue.

When *The Southeast Examiner* asked him why he was doing it, he replied, "It's for the public health and it is the right thing to do."

744-7

ARSENIC REMOVAL Nyssa, Vale make progress with projects

LARRY MEYER
THE ARGUS OBSERVER

NYSSA

Nyssa is moving ahead with what it can on its water improvement project, to address arsenic, although a treatment plant will continue to be delayed.

The City Council awarded a contract to Warrington Construction of Ontario to do the Oregon side of the project to include looping some water lines, and rehabilitating 19 fire

SE PROJECTS | PAGE A3

Ontario, OR
(Malheur Co.)
Argus Observer
(Circ. 4xW. 6,840)

AUG 3 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

PROJECTS: 1 benefit for Vale is increased capacity

FROM PAGE A1

hydrants and wells in South Park.

The price of the contract with Warrington is about \$1.4 million.

The city plans to seek new bids for the treatment plant construction on the Idaho side, as bids came in higher than expected and more than the \$6.2 million the city has been funded for.

Of that amount, \$2.65 million is in grants and \$3.5 million is a loan at 1 percent interest through Oregon's Infrastructure Finance Authority.

City officials are applying for additional grant funds to help cover the higher costs of the plant, also through the Finance Authority, City Manager Roberta Vanderwall said.

Nyssa's arsenic levels have been averaging about 14 parts per billion in its domestic water system, above the federal standard of 10 parts per billion, so the city is required to re-

duce the arsenic levels. Arsenic, a naturally occurring element, has created similar problems for Vale and Adrian water systems.

Vale's plans "on track"

Although Adrian is unable to work on planning because of lack of funding, Vale has been able to move forward.

Vale's water improvement project has a bid opening on Aug. 11 to replace an 8-inch line with a 14-inch line, connecting a storage tank to the city's potable distribution system.

One of the benefits of the bigger line is the increase in the city's capacity in the event of a fire, Vale City Manager Lynn Findley said.

Design and engineering work for Vale's new treatment plant, which would also address arsenic, continues. That project is expected to be

put out for bid in January, with construction taking place later in 2017.

Vale has been approved for more than \$8 million to construct a new treatment plant and make other improvements to the water system.

"It's on track," Findley said.

The project was required after an Environment Protection Agency-funded facility failed to keep arsenic levels within the 10 parts per billion set by the federal agency. Levels of arsenic in Vale's water tested as high as 30 parts per billion, according to the report.

The average concentration was 17 parts per billion, Findley said.

LARRY MEYER is a news reporter at The Argus Observer. He can be reached at (541) 823-4813 or by emailing larrym@argusobserver.com. To comment on this story, go to www.argusobserver.com.



Brookings, OR
(Curry Co.)
Curry Coastal Pilot
(Circ. 2xW. 6,168)

AUG 3 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Geologists to study saltwater intrusion

By Jane Stebbins
Pilot staff writer

The U.S. Geological Survey will spend an additional \$40,000 this fall to investigate saltwater intrusion below Brookings' water collection system in the Chetco River to determine how it might affect municipal water in the future.

Harbor has had problems in each of the last two years with saltwater intruding into its municipal water supply. Its water collection system is located about 3.5 miles upriver; Brookings', which has not been affected by the saltwater, is sited 5 miles up the river.

The city has had a joint funding agreement with the federal agency since 1996 to monitor stream flow in the river. The city's annual cost is \$10,700 and will not increase with the additional studies.

High tides — exacerbated by a full moon — and a lack of rain throughout the summer in each of the past two years led to ocean water intruding into Harbor's municipal system. The contamination forced residents to haul water from friends in Brookings or buy it from private providers until the winter rains arrived.

Water in the Chetco River was flowing at 100 cubic feet per second — 25 percent of mean — as of Monday; the lowest it has even been on that date was last year, when it flowed at 73 cfs. So far this summer, there have been no complaints regarding the salinity of the tap water in Harbor.

AUG 1 1 2015

Allen's P.C.R. Est. 1888

TWWD water bills could rise \$60 a year

District customers would help pay for Willamette River water supply project

The Times

A typical residential customer will pay another \$60 per year for water if TriMet Valley Water District's board approves a proposed rate hike.

The district will host a public hearing on the proposed increase at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 17, at district headquarters, 1850 S.W. 170th Ave., Beaverton.

If the board approves, the new rates will start on Jan. 1, 2016. A typical residential rate will rise from \$11.13 per month to \$17.13 per month, or \$60 a year.

The proposal would raise rates for a typical household by the equivalent of \$13.13 per month, or a 14.4 percent increase that would tack more than \$10 onto the drinking water portion of an average family's bi-monthly bill.

Larger residential users and business customers would see correspondingly larger

See NEWS Page A10

Rates: TWWD raised bills by \$10 in 2015

From Page A1

The proposed rate increase would come on top of a similar large increase in 2014, when a \$10 bi-monthly rise was the largest in recent memory.

TWWD's bills are combined on a single bi-monthly bill with the wastewater and sewer fees that Clean Water Services levies.

CWS's board approved more modest rate increases that took effect in July, adding about \$20 for a year's worth of utility bills.

TWWD provides drinking water to more than 200,000 residents of a large area that includes unincorporated communities of Aloha, Rock Creek, Beavany, Cedar Hill and others. In addition to parts of the cities of Beaverton, Hillsboro, Tigard and Westport.

Most of the increase will help TWWD pay its share of the Willamette River Water Supply project, which will add a long-term and more resilient

water source for large parts of Washington County.

"That really is a legacy investment in a new water source for the west side of the region," said Alex Cousins, the district's communications director. "It really is going to be the most predictable supply when it goes online."

Water rates also help fund seismic upgrades and other infrastructure improvements across the district, such as replacing water lines, reservoirs and pump stations.

The bigger bills also help pay for other cost increases, including a 10.2 percent boost in the cost of wholesale water that TWWD buys from the Portland Water Bureau.

Cousins said the district's board is mindful about raising rates, especially for lower-income residents.

They have formed a new advisory committee to study rate affordability and come up with recommendations to help ease the burden. The committee will begin meeting this month.

Bend, OR
(Deschutes Co.)
Bend Bulletin
(Circ. W. 27,547)

AUG 1 3 2015

Allen's P.C.R. Est. 1888

Roats wants Juniper Utility to buy

By Athena Sankar-Riker
The Bulletin

Roats Water System Inc. is in the midst of seeking a rate increase so it can buy a condemned water system, known as the Juniper Utility Co. water system, which has long been an expensive headache for the city of Bend.

The rate increase is approved by the Oregon Public Utility Commission, the sale could mark the end of a costly era for the city, which has been on the hook to maintain and run the Juniper Utility Co. water system for more than a decade. The deal depends on the rate utility commission's approval of the Roats water company's requested rate increase.

Roats Water System would pay \$1.4 million for the system, while Avton Water Co. would pay \$400,000 for a smaller slice of the system.

See Utilities Page A5

Utilities

Continued from A1

The Bend City Council voted unanimously to sell the system, with the exception of Councilor Casey Roats, who excused himself from the vote. His family owns the private water company buying the system. The PUC has approved the company's financing agreement, but has yet to approve the rate increase.

Yet, the requested increase is telling of how the city will have to address utility improvements in the future, city officials say. The cost to pay and maintain utilities will mostly likely fall on the backs of ratepayers as the city faces population growth, aging utility systems and limited federal and state funding.

In the case of the Juniper water system, the city has said it doesn't want to continue operating the system, which it has done since 2002. The system is expensive and difficult to run because it uses two separate pipes for domestic water and irrigation water, Roats said. If the sale doesn't go through, customers using the water system will be forced to pay to convert the system to a single-pipe system because the city doesn't want to run the irrigation system. They would have to pay domestic rates to irrigate their properties.

"Really, everyone comes out a winner in this," said Roats. "It also has the potential to really put a nice ending or a bow on what has been a very costly and expensive chapter for the city of Bend."

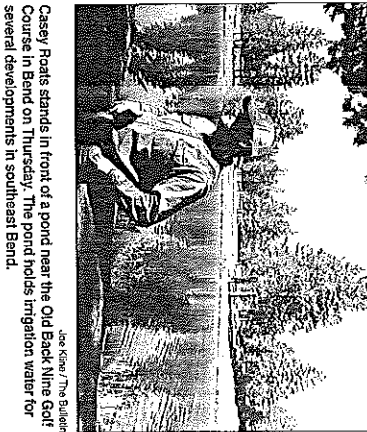
While the Roats company is seeking a 32 percent revenue hike — its first rate increase in more than 10 years — Casey Roats said the overall rate increase will be lower than if the sale wasn't approved, because it will spread the cost across a larger number of ratepayers. Depending on the PUC, the approval process could take a couple months or last until next spring, Roats said.

The sale, if approved, would add about 700 new customers to Roats Water System, about half the number the company currently serves, Roats said.

"They want to be our customers," Roats said. "And they're willing to pay the rates we're asking for because it maintains the irrigation system and in turn helps them maintain what they already

have at reasonable rates." The Juniper Water system was built in the 1970s by developer Jan Ward to serve subdivisions on his family's old dairy ranch. In 1988, the Oregon Public Utility Commission forced Ward to change rates he felt were too low, which led him to decrease water pressure.

Three years later, the council condemned the system after residents complained about their difficulty taking showers and doing laundry. A legal battle followed after the city took over the utility, resulting in the city agreeing in 2011 to pay Ward a settlement totaling nearly \$10 million.



Casey Roats stands in front of a pond near the Old Back Nine Golf Course in Bend on Thursday. The pond holds irrigation water for several developments in southeast Bend.

from paying for necessary capital improvements — an estimated \$9.2 million worth — to the system in the future, said Paul Rheault, the city's director of public works.

As utility systems face wear and tear, systemwide upgrades will be needed, said Rheault. While Bend's water infrastructure is ample for the time being, the city is at a turning point in which ratepayers will be responsible for upgrading utilities in the future, he said.

For instance, the initial construction of utilities such as sewer and water systems was largely funded by state and federal grants, Rheault said. Now, those grants aren't available, and the city must instead take out loans and increase utility rates to pay for upgrades, he said.

"There is no free money out there to be had, whether it's from federal or state," said Rheault. "The only money we have is borrowing, so it's on the backs of our ratepayers right now to fund these improvements."

If the Public Utilities Commission approves Roats Water System's request for a rate increase, the company's low-cost residential and commercial base rate would rise from \$26.80 per month to \$36.66 per month. The rate increase would cover the added costs to operate the system and would be comparable to current city prices, Roats said.

"We just saw an opportunity to provide a service where the city has made a policy decision not to, and for us it fits what we do," Roats said.

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WATER WORRIES

Siltcoos Lake residents look to the next lake for household water



Adam Eskeravsky/The Register-Guard

Steven Dubois, 54, of Dunes City points to Siltcoos Lake, the source of drinking water for him and his neighbors. Algae and plant life choke the shallow lake, which hasn't met federal water standards for years, but nearby Woahink Lake offers a potential solution.

By CHRISTIAN HILL
The Register-Guard

DUNES CITY — In his home overlooking Siltcoos Lake, Steven Dubois has installed an elaborate filtration system that delivers pristine drinking water throughout the house.

"It works really, really well, and I'm psyched about it," he said of the

water coming out of the system.

But increasingly, it's the water that's a concern to him and to scores of his neighbors, who all draw their water directly from Siltcoos Lake via a private water system they collectively own.

The system, run as the South Coast Water District by a contracted water management firm, pumps and

treats water from Siltcoos Lake for its 250 residents living in 80 homes along the lake's northern arm.

The water quality from Siltcoos Lake is increasingly questionable, all agree. The shallow lake — its largest along the Oregon Coast — is choked with algae and plant life and hasn't met federal water standards for years.

Turn to **SILTCOOS**, Page A5

Siltcoos: Line to Woahink expected to cost \$200,000

Continued from Page A1

Thirsty for another source, the homeowners and their water manager are seeking to draw water instead from neighboring Woahink Lake, which is much deeper and clearer. But their request for access has been turned down by one Woahink homeowners association, although another association said it's more open to the idea.

Now Siltcoos Lake residents and their water management contractor are turning to state government for financial help to link up to Woahink.

Dunes City officials also are seeking state help to explore ways to improve the health of Siltcoos. The lake is a source of drinking water for other residents who live around it and is home to a threatened population of wild coho salmon.

Brandt Prunty, business manager of Oregon Water Services, which manages South Coast and other small water systems in Lane County, said Woahink's water quality is "leaps and bounds" above the Siltcoos.

Dubois agrees. "It's radically different," he said of the Woahink's water quality. "The water is very clear."

Bolt-water advisory issued in July

For years, the South Coast Water District has dealt with sediment, algae and other plant life in the lake that has clogged its filtration system, reducing the amount of water it can supply. Prunty said. But the problem has worsened. In the past year as the level of the shallow lake — its average depth is about 11 feet — decreased during last year's drought and still hasn't recovered.

The low lake level has increased the water temperature of the lake, promoting the growth of weeds and algae. Phosphorus from lawn fertilizers, plus road dust and litter from septic systems, have fed the growth of the plant life.

The state department of environmental quality, which monitors water quality, has placed the lake on its list of water bodies that flunk federal standards for presence of non-native invasive weeds. In 2007 and 2008, the state

health department issued an advisory urging residents not to recreate in or drink water from the lake, due to the presence of a toxic algae.

In late July of this year, a clog in the system's filtration combined with a break in a water line caused a loss of pressure in the distribution lines to homes.

The system experienced periodic water shortages to some customers for three days, and its managers issued a boil-water advisory to all customers that lasted about a week because of the risk of contamination, Prunty said. Testing found no contamination.

Woahink Lake is deeper, clearer

Less than a half-mile away, Woahink Lake would appear to be an elixir to the system's water woes.

Although shallower than its neighbor, the lake is deeper — with an average depth of 37 feet — and cleaner with lower levels of algae and phosphorus, according to the DEQ. Water quality, the agency says, has remained good.

Legally, the South Coast Water District could have access to water from Woahink Lake. The city of Dunes City has secured a water right to legally draw water from the lake for sharing with homeowners and other users.

Jamie Mills, the city's acting administrator, said officials crunched the numbers and found that there's sufficient capacity under the water right to bring the South Coast Water District into the fold.

But the water district would need to run a pipe across private property to reach Woahink Lake, and that permission has not been forthcoming.

The system approached the nearby South Coast Homeowners Association for legal permission to run the pipe through the association's property but was refused.

Bruce Arnold, the association's former president, said his group worried about what would happen if the pipe broke or if a swimmer or boater ran into water system equipment in the lake.

"We didn't want the liability of their line going through our property," he said. "The current president, Michael Jacobson, was unaware of that

request but noted that the lake is "taxed heavily" by existing users who draw from it.

"I would be against sharing my water with people living around Siltcoos Lake," he said.

County sees "urgent situation"

Another option for Siltcoos homeowners is to have their water system run a longer line to Woahink through a different neighborhood, the Sunset Cove subdivision, Steve Burton, president of its homeowners association, said it's willing to consider the request.

"If the community can come together and work something out to help another part of the community, we should do so," he said. "Obviously, liability and waivers and all the legal wrangling would need to be addressed."

Meanwhile, the South Coast Water District is seeking a loan from the state's economic development agency. The system estimated the capital cost to put a line to Woahink Lake would be \$200,000. The system, which is funded by its Siltcoos customers, says it doesn't have the cash on hand for the project.

Securing a state loan might give the Siltcoos homeowners and their district some momentum in their quest for permission to run a line to Woahink, Prunty said.

Lane County commissioners signaled their support in a Aug. 2 letter, characterizing it as an "urgent situation."

Prunty said future service interruptions to Siltcoos customers are a growing concern.

"We've been able to keep up, but we're fighting it [in the background]," she said. "They (consumers) don't always experience outages, but we have to make adjustments in the background so it doesn't affect them."

Back at his home, Dubois said the system's recent pressure loss and boil-water advisory led him to worry about what would happen if the pipe broke or if a swimmer or boater ran into water system equipment in the lake.

He said his neighbors have been generally understanding of the situation.

744-7

"I think it's been challenging, but they (the system) have tried to come extra to meet the challenge," he said.

McMinnville, OR
(Yamhill Co.)

McMinnville News Register
(Cir. 2xW, 8,808)

AUG 13 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Amity awaits lead-testing results

The News-Register staff

AMITY — Superintendent Jeff Clark told the Amity School Board Wednesday night that the district is awaiting lead-testing results. **744-7**

Samples were taken from each of the three schools, and all drinking fountains were tested, he said.

Tigard-based Alexin Analytical Laboratories are examining the samples for the district. They were received about two weeks ago and the district expects results by the end of the month.

Clark said the district will attempt to identify the lead source if results exceed the EPA limit of 15 parts per billion.

The elementary school features copper plumbing, the middle and high schools

galvanized plumbing. The copper system raises the most potential for problems, due to the usage of lead-based solder in joints.

A drinking fountain in the high school gym has already been replaced with a new fountain featuring a bottle-filling station. It was purchased by the Amity Booster Club.

In other business, RSS Architecture of Woodburn will soon be going to work on plans related to the high school gym renovation.

The district previously was approved for \$650,000 in interest-free Qualified Zone Academy Bonds to fund the work. The QZAB program offers bondholders a tax credit in lieu of interest, obligating the issuer only for repayment of the principal.

As part of the project, the

district is planning to relocate the weight room and create a stage at the east end of the gym. The stage would be designed to accommodate additional seating for overflow events.

The board previously approved spending \$46,760 on architectural and planning services.

Ray Bottenberg was appointed board chair and Ryan Jones vice-chair for the 2016-17 school year. Barbara Rowe was the previous chair.

Committee assignments will remain the same as last year — building and grounds, Rowe and Matt Foertsch and Rowe; finance and negotiations, Foertsch and Paul Dauenhauer; and transportation, Bottenberg and Jones.

The board will meet next at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21.

Portland, OR
(Multnomah Co.)
Tribune
(Cir. 2xW, 180,000)

AUG 16 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

State to study air, soil samples for toxins

Agency will ensure Precision Castparts' neighbors are safe

By STEVE LAW
The Tribune

The Oregon Health Authority has agreed to do a public health assessment in the area around Precision Castparts Corp.'s manufacturing complex in Southeast Portland and Milwaukie.

The state agency says it will study soil and air samples collected near the facility on 4600 S.E. Harney Drive, just north of Johnson Creek Boulevard, and evaluate whether there are

harmful exposures to residents that should be stopped or reduced.

The study will not determine whether existing health issues were caused by environmental exposures.

A series of stories in the Portland Tribune identified numerous air and water pollution issues related to emissions from the Precision Castparts plant.

To help with its work, the Oregon Health Authority is recruiting members of a new community advisory committee, to get input from nearby residents.

The committee will help educate participants about the process, develop relationships

HEALTH ASSESSMENT

For more information: <http://bit.ly/2byNCqj>

with neighbors, work on communications strategies, and ensure that community concerns are addressed.

Residents who live, work, study or play within a half-mile of the Precision Castparts plant are eligible.

Those interested in joining the committee should call 971-673-0970 or email ehap.info@state.or.us by August 24.

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Eugene, OR
(Lane Co.)

Eugene Weekly
(Cir. 2xM, 39,850)

AUG 17 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Protect coastal lakes

Dine City **744-7**

Siltcoos water quality offers cautionary tale

The dunal lakes of the central Oregon Coast are, from a geologic perspective, ephemeral, destined to eventually fill with silt or breach their natural impoundments and drain to the ocean. Coastal residents have a responsibility, as well as a strong self-interest, to ensure that the lakes' remaining lifetimes are measured in millennia rather than decades.

Siltcoos Lake offers a glimpse of what might lie ahead. It's the largest of the coastal lakes, at 3,164 acres, and also among the most vulnerable. According to the Atlas of Oregon Lakes, Siltcoos Lake's shallow depths make it hospitable to the widest variety of plant life of any lake in the state. Some plant species were introduced in the 1930s, either by accident or by fishermen in misguided hopes of improving fish habitat. Its shallow water also promotes the growth of algae, which are further nourished by lakeside residents' use of fertilizers and septic systems.

The result is a worsening water quality problem, described by The Register-Guard's Christian Hill in an Aug. 14 article. Hill reported that the lake, increasingly choked with weeds and algae, has not met federal water-quality standards for years. The 250 residents in 80 homes served by the South Coast Water District on Siltcoos Lake's northern shore have periodically been advised to boil their water, and clogged filtration equipment has led to service interruptions and losses of water pressure.

Fortunately, a potential backup

source lies nearby — Woahink Lake, which drains into Siltcoos Lake. Woahink is much smaller, at 820 acres, but it's the deepest of all Oregon coastal lakes. In contrast to Siltcoos, Woahink has the least abundant plant life of the coastal lakes, the key factor in the clarity and quality of its water.

Not everyone who draws water from Woahink Lake is eager to allow Siltcoos residents to tap into their supply, but it's difficult to envision another solution. The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife concluded decades ago that it would not be practical to eliminate all, or even a significant portion, of the invasive plants in Siltcoos Lake. Even if the invasive species could be controlled, the lake would retain its eutrophic status, meaning that it is destined to become increasingly marshy over time.

Woahink residents need not be concerned that sharing their water supply would hasten a similar fate for their lake. Nutrients or sediments from shoreline development on Siltcoos Lake can't flow uphill. The South Coast Water District would have to come up with money to pay for a water line from Woahink Lake, perhaps with the aid of state loans. Without a reliable source of clean water, the value of homes and properties on Siltcoos Lake will be under a cloud.

The example of Siltcoos Lake should, however, underline the importance of protecting Oregon's coastal lakes. All of the lakes are in a long process of eutrophication, and people should do all they can to avoid hastening the process.

Ontario, OR
(Malheur Co.)

Argus Observer
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AUG 19 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

CITY OF NYSSA

Outages likely during water system updates

THE ARGUS OBSERVER
NYSSA **744-7**

Construction on Nyssa's water system improvements will take place during the next few weeks, and Nyssa residents may experience intermittent water outages during that time.

Warrington Construction will be replacing water system valves, fire

QUICK FACT

Nyssa city water has higher levels of arsenic, a naturally occurring element, than the federal Environmental Project Agency standard of 10 parts per billion. Nyssa's water averages about 14 parts per billion of arsenic.

hydrants and some water lines, and will be performing miscellaneous other work, City Manager Roberta Vandervall said.

This construction is the Oregon portion of a city water system improvement project that will eventually include

construction of a treatment plant to deal with arsenic in the city's potable water. City water has higher levels of arsenic, a naturally occurring element, than the federal Environmental Project Agency standard of 10 parts per billion.

UPGRADES

FROM PAGE A1

Nyssa's water averages about 14 parts per billion of arsenic.

The price of the contract with Warrington is about \$1.4 million, according to information from the city.

Bids for the project on the Idaho side of the Snake River, which includes the treatment

plant itself, came in higher than expected and more than the \$6.2 million the city has been funded for, so city officials are seeking additional money through the Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority.

Officials plan to go out for new bids for the project. **744-7**

Mayor airs concerns about St. Paul well project

Council sends new well out to bid, but mayor says city has not completed our due diligence

By Colin Stang
Pamphlet Media Group

The city of St. Paul is one step closer to drilling a new municipal well, with a request for proposals (RFP) sent out by the city soliciting bids for the \$381,000 project.

St. Paul Mayor Kim Walls has expressed concern with the wording of the RFP, particularly that it could open the city up to litigation if the water quality in the new well location is poor and the well drilling has to be stopped after a test dig.

The St. Paul Rodeo Association drilled a well last year to serve various rodeo needs. At the time the rodeo association floated the idea of offering the well for municipal water use, as the city has had longstanding problems with its municipal wells and the city was preparing to drill its own new one.

When several tests came back with high arsenic readings out of the rodeo well — first 9 and then 9.6 parts per billion, when the threshold for drinking water is 10 — that idea has been scrapped and is off the table for the time being.

The city wells are about 800 feet removed from the rodeo well, but will be drilled into the same layer of clay prompting questions over whether the new city well will be any different in water quality from the rodeo well.

There's a very good likelihood of having an arsenic problem. It's possible ... we could be in the same situation as the rodeo.

Walls said he didn't see a pause-and-review clause included in the RFP. Such a clause would directly state that after the test wells is dug, the water will be monitored and harder work is contingent on the results of those tests. With-

Walls said his goal was to include that language in order to "protect the public funds in from liability."

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Sodaville

From Al

According to city records, Sodaville uses about 470,000 gallons of water per month, but usage for July was 707,000 gallons. "The wells are producing as much as possible at this time; over-working the wells will result in the pumping of air and damaging the pumps," the notice reads. For unauthorized water use, it states, "This penalty is \$500 and will be enforced."

Sodaville back on water restrictions

Water purchases expected to be limited with well work complete

JENNIFER MOODY
Albany Democrat-Herald

SODAVILLE — Mandatory water restrictions are back in place for residents of Sodaville, but the city expects fewer water purchases, thanks to newly repaired wells.

City Administrator Judy Smith said all repairs and replacements have been completed on the city's five wells. Trucks were scheduled today to deliver about 30,000 gallons of water from Lebanon, the city's nearest municipality, to give the aquifers time to recover.

From August to December 2015, Sodaville purchased water from Lebanon to keep its 150,000-gallon reservoir tank full. The effort drained the city's \$10,000 emergency water fund and took another \$602 from the rest of the budget.

During that time, Sodaville successfully applied for a \$125,000 Emergency Community Water Assistance grant through the U.S. Department of Agriculture to replenish the fund and to help rehabilitate the wells. Smith said the city had to put in about another \$2,500 from an equipment replacement line item to complete all repairs.

"What happened was the original contract that they were going to do was replacing piping and wiring to Well 1," Smith said. "When we got in there — we had some contingency funds — we did piping and wiring in all the wells. Then Well 2 needed a new drive and Well 5 a new pump, and we built two new pump houses."

While the work was going on, the city discovered two leaks under the water tower's control center, and a resident found a leak that lost some 83,000 gallons in the course of a week, Smith said.

The rehab work itself also used a great deal of water during the process to clean all five wells, she said. Add that to summer heat, lack of rain and the usual drain on the system to fill pools and water lawns, and supplies are down.

Nugent Drilling worked through July and much of August on the well pumps and motors. Smith said all five are finished now, and tests on the repaired wells are showing water flowing into the wells at a greater rate, which helps the well recover faster.

Smith said notices were being put on customers' doors and placed on the city website to remind residents not to water lawns, even if sprinklers or drip systems are used, and not to fill pools or wash cars. Water is allowed as necessary for food-producing gardens.

AUG 24 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Salt water seeps into Harbor's tap water

Water district will provide free, potable water

By Jane Stebbins
Pilot staff writer

Harbor residents are starting to taste salt in their drinking water — but this year Harbor Water District officials are ready to deal with it.

"It's starting," said District Superintendent Dave VanCleave, of increasing salt water concentrations near the municipal intake valve in the Chetco River. "It's in the 500 range — still fairly decent — but that's where people can start to taste it."

Harbor has been plagued the past two autumns by salt water intrusion into the municipal water system. It's due to a combination of high ocean tides, low water flow in the river and changes in the river channel.

See Water, Page 6A

WATER

Continued from Page 1A

Brookings has yet to be affected because its intake valve is located about 2 miles farther upstream.

VanCleave has historically obtained water flow data from the USGS gauge upriver, which wasn't reliable because the river channel moves. USGS officials then relocate and recalibrate it, which results in misleading spikes in the information.

Reading brine

The water district has six pipes called "fingers" attached to the pumps that pull water from the river, and the conductivity gauges let VanCleave know how salty the water is at each one. He's already been forced him to shut down three of them, he said.

"The bad sides are reading 2,600, 2,700 (microsiemens per centimeter, or μ S), and the good sides are reading 200," he said. "We'll (shut down) the bad ones so we can supply the people."

This week, the district started supplying free, potable water in gallon containers at its offices, and a 1,000-gallon water tank will be available next week. Water will be available during office hours.

The new gauge, while only in operation a few weeks, has already provided VanCleave and U.S.

FREE, POTABLE WATER will be available in gallon containers this week at the Harbor Water District, 98069 West Benham Lane for those whose household water is starting to taste salty. A 1,000-gallon tanker will be available next week. Water is available during office hours, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday. For more information, contact the district at 541-469-3011.

Geological Survey engineers and hydrologists with valuable data.

"The only thing we had to go on before was the USGS gauge upriver," he said. "With the new gauge and the conductivity center right at our well, we can start to see when the salt water gets to the well."

The data has also proven the salt water is not coming from the river bottom, as many thought, but from gravel removal operations in the river, VanCleave said.

He noted that the river replenishes about 50,000 cubic meters of gravel in the channel each year. But gravel-mining permits have allowed companies to extract 500,000 cubic meters per year.

"We've lost 18 feet of gravel pack in front of us, and that allows the salt water to come up farther," he said. "There's a sandbar across and below us, and the tides come in over the top, the river recedes and there's not enough (fresh) water to keep it in check."

The salt water is colder and heavier than the fresh water,

water into the system.

Next month?

The first year this occurred, Oregon was in the midst of a drought. Salt started to be seen — or rather, tasted — at the end of August and beginning of September.

Last year, it was July 31.

At the beginning of this month, VanCleave started seeing μ S numbers in the 55 to 60 range — and over the past weekend, they jumped, forcing him to shut down valves to keep water flowing into taps under 300 μ S.

"It's at a third right now of what it was last year," he said. "If I can keep it at that, it'd be a good thing."

Rain would raise water levels in the Chetco and push the salt water back, but VanCleave's not counting on that.

And once the salmon start arriving to spawn, any work that would take place in the river — like moving gravel — must come to a halt.

"I don't know how this is going to play out for us this year," he said. "We have a little more water in the river this year. I hope I can keep it to manageable levels so we're not getting those shots of real bad stuff."

"We got this gauge just in time for this to start," he continued. "It couldn't have been better timing."

New salt water gauge placed in Chetco

By Jane Stebbins
Pilot staff writer

A conductivity gauge installed three weeks ago at the Harbor municipal water intake valve in the Chetco River is already proving invaluable to water district officials there and in Brookings.

The gauge measures the salinity of the water, which in each of the past two years has plagued Harbor Water District customers as high tides combined with full moons and low flows in the Chetco River drew salt water into the municipal water system.

The U.S. Geological Survey obtained a grant and installed the gauge Aug. 2, at which point it began measuring the salinity of the water.

"Knowledge is power," said Ray Page, supervisor at the Brookings Wastewater Treatment Plant. "If you have the data, it helps you be more efficient. If we start seeing a deteriorating trend because of climate change, we have something to look at other than supposition and guesses. We might be able to come up with a solution before we hit the problem."

The problem has been a combination of high ocean tides — sometimes exacerbated by ultra-high tides and full moons — and low water flow in the Chetco River. That led, in each of the past two years, to an infiltration of salt water from the ocean into Harbor's water intake valve — contaminating residents' water and forcing them to buy bottled water for drinking, pets and plants. (See related story, page 1A.)

The Brookings intake valve is located about 2 miles farther upriver from Harbor's, and has yet to be affected by salt water, Page said.

Dave VanCleave, the water superintendent at the Harbor Water District, has collected his own measurements for years.

When the gauge was installed Aug. 2, ocean tides were just starting to go down, measuring 7.6 feet. The salinity reading was 1,340 microsiemens per centimeter (μ S/cm). People can start tasting brackish water at about 500 μ S.

"For Brookings, it's data collection at this point," he said. "Day-to-day it's meh. But on a weekly basis, we'll see the trends. At this point a lot of guesswork, tracking the data, just watching it. The more you know, the more you can be aware and prepare."

Preparing in the past two years was proactive, rather than reactive, as Harbor had never had salt water intrusion into its municipal supply before.

The district worked with the city of Brookings and private water providers to get potable water to its customers — and in the interim has been working with hydrologists and engineers to find a long-term solution. That won't be as easy as moving the intake valve upriver, VanCleave has said. That would cost millions of dollars, and would involve purchasing water rights from residents upriver. And the water rights currently held aren't collectively enough to provide water to the thousands of users in Harbor, he said.

As far as water quality goes, I have no concerns," Page said. "But I hope to have the data to provide forewarning in the future."

"Knowledge is power... We might be able to come up with a solution before we hit the problem."

Ray Page, supervisor at Brookings treatment plant

VanCleave said. In the ensuing weeks — there was a new moon and tides, low tides — those conductivity levels hovered just below 100 μ S.

By the 15th, with a high tide of 7.0 feet and a full moon, the conductivity numbers jumped to 4,050, then 8,650 on the 16th, and ultimately reaching 9,799 on the 18th.

He said minimum conductivity readings hovered just below 100 μ S.

Page finds even this little bit of information fascinating. "In my uneducated thinking, it says that even though we're getting salinity coming in, it's going right back out again," he said. "I find it relieving to see that each day it shows a minimum (reading) of back to normal. It's not doing what it was doing last year. For Dave, this will be invaluable information."

He also emphasized that two weeks of data collection does not a trend make.

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AUG 2 5 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Does Tigard water really cost about a penny per gallon?

COMMUNITY SOAPBOX

by Steve Kraemer

Tigard water customers have likely heard the old saying that customers pay about a penny per gallon of water, but is this true?

For many users, it's not. Before we can demonstrate, we need to define the terms used to measure water usage. Most utilities including Tigard use OCF (centum cubic feet) to measure the amount of water a household uses each month. One OCF equals 100 cubic feet of water. Converted to gallons, this would equal 748 gallons of water. Each home has a water meter. Water meters generally come in three sizes: five-eighths inch, three-quarters inch and one inch. The larger the meter, the greater the flow. There are some customers who do pay close to one cent per gallon (1.06), but this is true only for those customers who have a five-eighths inch

meter and use exactly 6 OCF of water. Most of the other configurations pay more, and some, significantly more. The Fixed Charge plays a large role in your total costs and is ranging from \$26.67 for a five-eighths inch meter to \$59.84 for a one inch meter. Below is information that shows what the OCF cost is for a home that uses 6 and 4 OCF (0.06 winter usage) with each meter size.

- 6 OCF 5/8" meter, base charge plus usage charge equals 1.35 cents
- 4 OCF 5/8" meter, base charge plus usage charge equals 1.7 cents
- 1" meter, base charge plus usage charge equals 2.46 cents
- 1" meter, base charge plus usage charge equals 1.79 cents

As you can see, if a household only uses 6 OCF and they have a five-eighths inch meter, it will pay 7.06 cents per gallon, but another home that has a one inch meter and uses the same amount of water will have to pay 1.79 cents per gallon, an difference of 69 percent. Using only 4 OCF, the increase jumps to 82 percent. Properties at higher elevations may need a booster pump which further increases the cost.

I believe Tigard should be more honest in its claims of a penny per gallon. When they make this claim, they should include a disclaimer so customers don't assume they pay a penny a gallon. Also, why do customers with larger meters pay a much higher base charge? The base charge for a one inch meter is more than two times that of the smaller five-eighths inch meter. Our bill should be based primarily on usage.

If you agree, you should contact the water department and the city council. In the not to distant future, another rate study will be done. That would be the perfect time for them to adjust the billing system to be more fair.

Steve Kraemer lives in Tigard.

AUG 2 5 2015

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Water district approves rate increase

Typical customer will see bimonthly bill rise \$10

By ERIC APALATEM
The Times

To no one's surprise — but to some of its customers' dismay — the Tualatin Valley Water District's Board of Directors voted on Aug. 17 to raise a typical customer's bimonthly bill by just over \$10.

The 14.4 percent increase, totaling about \$60 annually, hands atop a similar rise in water costs implemented a year ago as the district raises money to build its share of a costly Willamette River water supply project and deals with other rising expenses.

A 13 percent increase is pretty hard to take right now, district resident William Pokorny told the TVWD Board of Directors during a public hearing that preceded the unanimous vote.

A handful of other people also spoke during the hearing, with most concerned about the rapid cost increase.

"We recognize this is a significant rate increase. We recognize this is multiple years of significant rate increases," said Mark Knudson, chief executive officer of the district.

The district recently convened a new advisory committee that will examine water rate affordability and come up with suggestions to the board, which might include tiered rate structures or other strategies to help lower-income residents across its boundaries, which stretches from Eastern Hillsboro to north of the unincorporated areas around Beaverton.

The Willamette Water-Supply Program, a partnership with TVWD, Hillsboro and potentially Beaverton and other jurisdictions across eastern and central Washington County, is designed to supply drinking water in the coming decades to a much more populated county and to be more resilient to major disruptions, including the possibility of a catastrophic earthquake experts say eventually will strike the region and break current lines.

While costly in the coming years, TVWD officials said the project eventually will stabilize customers' water costs and make supplies more secure compared to ever-rising wholesale water prices from sources including the Portland Water Bureau, the source of part of TVWD's water today.

"We all hate doing this (increase) but we also have to do it for the sake of Washington County and our customers," said board member Jim Doane.

Beside the Willamette project, the increased rates also help pay for seismic upgrades and new reservoirs, pipelines and pump stations across the system.

The district's estimated cost of \$5.13 more per month is for a typical residential customer with a smaller meter size who uses about 5,200 gallons of water (or 7 OCF) in that month. Residential and business customers who have larger meters and consume more water would see correspondingly higher bills.

See INCREASE / Page A1

INCREASE: Water bills help fund projects

From Page A1

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AUG 25 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

New reservoir quenching demand

\$30 million West Slope project includes 8 million gallons of water storage, improved park

By ERIC APALATEGUI
The Times

Up to 8 million gallons of water sits perched above the northbound lanes of Highway 217 just south of the Sunset Highway interchange.

By design, however, this perch is anything but precarious.

The Tualatin Valley Water District is wrapping up construction on the state-of-the-art Ridgewood View Park Reservoir and Pump Station, built

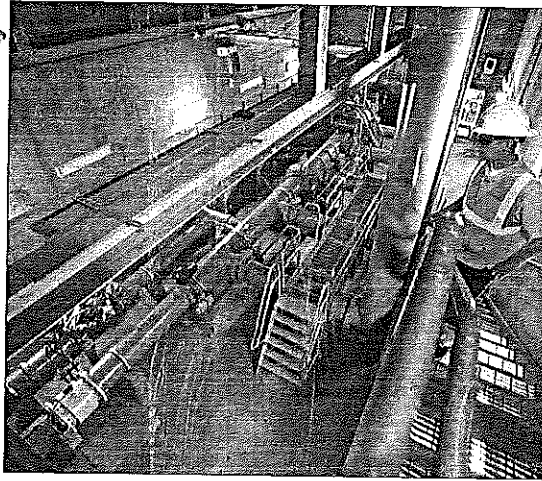
to withstand a catastrophic earthquake and keep on delivering drinking water from its hilly neighborhood throughout the sprawling district.

"It's built to last at least 100 years," said Nick Augustus, TVWD's project manager.

The \$30 million project includes rebuilding and improving Ridgewood View Park, which sits alongside the water reservoir and even uses its surface for tennis and pickleball courts.

The new reservoir and pump station have been in operation since last month and the park should be finished before its West Slope neighbors and the wider community gather Sept. 20 to celebrate the project's

See RESERVOIR / Page A11



Nick Augustus, Tualatin Valley Water District's project manager, shows the valve vault in the pump station at Ridgewood View Park Reservoir. TIMES PHOTO: JAMIE VALDEZ

Reservoir: Project includes revamped park

From Page A1

The project took two years to build and replaced a 5 million gallon tank that had been at the site since the early 1970s, when the Wolf Creek Water District served the area before a later merger created TVWD.

The project also replaces a nearby pump station and added more than a mile of 24-inch welded steel pipe that ties it into the existing water system.

The original tank's ceiling beams were beginning to fail when the district took the reservoir out of service in late 2011 and began planning its replacement, Augustus said.

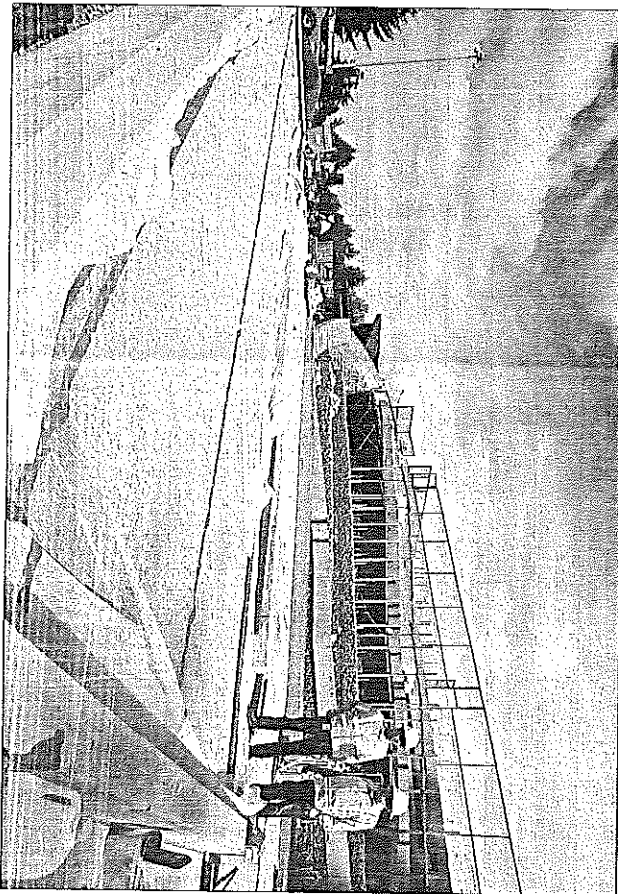
The larger tank has five sides so that the district could increase storage capacity but still stay within existing property lines, he added. From there, the reservoir can take in water from current and future sources and deliver up to 11 million gallons a day — more than its entire capacity.

The sophisticated pump station is fully automated and equipped with valves to receive and distribute water under vastly different amounts of pressure in the hilly region, Augustus said. A backup generator will keep the water flowing during power outages. One of the largest nearby customers is Providence St. Vincent Medical Center, where the need for water during emergencies is critical.

Bringing the larger reservoir and pump station online will help the district keep up with demands in the growing district, especially during periods of increased water usage like those the district saw during the exceptionally hot summer of 2015.

"This will definitely help with that," Augustus said. The Ridgewood View project has been awarded the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure's Gold Award for its sustainable design. The water and park districts were the first in Oregon to receive this award for building environmentally friendly features into the project, including large rain gardens that collect and filter natural runoff from atop the massive reservoir.

The Ridgewood View reservoir is the most costly project in TVWD history, but it's a record that is not expected to



A new bocce court is a centerpiece feature at the renovated Ridgewood View Park, which will reopen in September next to the new water reservoir. TIMES PHOTO: JAMIE VALDEZ

stand long.

The district and partners are in the process of planning a much larger Williams Water Supply Program, which includes a massive amount of infrastructure including two new 15 million gallon reservoirs on Cooper Mountain, where the water delivery system takes advantage of gravity.

Even before construction of the Williams project ramps up fully, TVWD is starting to plan for a new project to replace another aging 3 million gallon reservoir. That tank is on Southwest Grapenhorn Road, also in the Cooper Mountain area south of Aloha.

Such projects are designed to increase the capacity and reliability of the district's water system, but they come with a cost.

Last week, the district's board of directors approved a rate increase that will add about \$10 to a typical residential customer's bimonthly water bill, the district's funding

source for such infrastructure improvements, said district spokesman Alex Cousins.

Ridgewood View Park improvements

During the two-year construction project, Ridgewood View Park has been torn up and closed to the public.

That will change in the coming weeks as workers put the final touches on the park property, those changes coming largely at TVWD's expense for taking the Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District facility out of service.

The new park that opens later in September will show vast improvements from the old one that was most recently open in 2014. The enhancements were based in large part on community requests, Cousins said.

The new park again will have tennis courts with a commanding view from atop the water reservoir, but now those courts also will accommodate a couple of games of pickleball

THE BOCCIA COURT

The Tualatin Valley Water and Recreation Districts are inviting the community to celebrate the completion of a new water reservoir and pump station and the reopening of an improved Ridgewood View Park. When: 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 20. Where: 10001 SW Ardwood St., south of U.S. Highway 217 and near the new water reservoir.

What: Pump station tours at 5:30 p.m., dedication at 6 p.m. Food catered by nearby 508 Grinds (Hawley café), kids activities, sports demonstrations and more.

on courts that overlap one of the tennis courts. (Players must bring their own pickleball nets and other equipment.)

At ground level, the new park will feature a much larger playground, including a SMARTER artificial surface and a more natural play area that uses boulders and logs from

the project site.

One of the most anticipated additions is a new bocce court near the entrance. The Italian ball sport is gaining followers across the Portland area, where courts can be tough to come by. THPRD also is developing more bocce courts elsewhere to help meet this demand.

There also is a new covered picnic structure, a seasonal portable toilet, a nicer parking area off Southwest Ardwood Street, and an improved trail system through the woods, connecting with Ridgewood Elementary School to the south. A new bridge spans a periodic creek that collects rain runoff during storms and is known as Ephemeral Stream.

"The revamped park gives the neighborhood a wider variety of amenities," said Bob Wray, spokesman for THPRD. "We realize the lengthy closure of the park was an inconvenience, but we hope the neighbors will agree the wait was worth it."

AUG 26 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Some lead found in water

744-7

Albany plans to make changes and retest

NEIL ZAWICKI
Albany Democrat-Herald

An August test of 11 drinking water sources at public buildings in Albany revealed four sources with lead levels higher than the maximum 15 parts per billion the Environmental Protection Agency allows.

The Albany Senior Center at 489 N.W. Water Ave., had three faucets with levels of 15, 18, and 21 ppb, and the faucet in the Willamette Meeting Room at Albany City Hall at 333 Broadalbin St. S.W., tested at 28 ppb.

The EPA requires municipalities to report such levels and also to take steps to correct the issue. As a first step, City Public Works officials either plan to or have already replaced the faucets at those locations, and will retest them.

City Public Works Director Chris Bailey said the health risk to the community is not cause

Please see LEAD, Page A2

Medford, OR
(Jackson Co.)
Medford Mail
(Circ. D. 51,500)
AUG 26 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

MEDFORD WATER COMMISSION

More digging may yield lead pipes

13 out of 47 inspected had 'pigtail' connectors

By Damian Mann
Mail Tribune 744-7

The Medford Water Commission will be digging up streets near 264 water meters through the end of the year to see whether there are any lead pipes underground.

So far, 47 have been inspected and 13 were found to have lead connectors known as pigtails, Larry Rains, manager of the Water Commission, told the City Council Thursday.

"We hope to get it all done by year's end," he said.

Water Commission crews have inspected 4,760 water meters surrounding the downtown area of Medford looking for tell-tale signs that a pigtail might be located underground.

Based on the inspections, 264 meters had galvanized pipes attached on the street side -- an indication that a pigtail might be located underground, Rains said.

Crews have dug a test hole at 47 of those locations to determine whether there is, in fact, a pigtail, Rains said.

Each test hole costs the Water Commission about \$1,000. If the street has to be dug up to remove a pigtail, it can cost another \$5,000.

So far, Rains estimated the commission has spent about \$75,000 looking for pigtails.

Another \$250,000 is being spent on a corrosion study to determine how the water is affecting pipes in the Medford system, Rains said.

The Water Commission has found lead levels that surpass the EPA action level of 15 parts per billion in several tests.

Since the Water Commission board became aware of the presence of the lead pigtails, it has offered to conduct water tests at the customer's tap to determine whether lead levels are higher than action levels set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Water Commission officials say previous tests on pigtails showed they could raise lead content above the levels set by the EPA.

According to the Oregon Health Authority, long-term exposure to drinking water that has greater than 15 parts per billion of lead can delay children's

SEE DIGGING, B2

DIGGING

From Page B1

physical or mental development, decrease IQ in children, cause kidney problems, increase blood pressure and increase the risk of cancer.

Even though local water agencies such as the Water Commission might be delivering water that started out lead-free, the Health Authority cautions that water out of a tap can still contain high levels of lead from household pipes or other pipes in the system. Medford's water routinely passes water quality tests required by the EPA.

744-7

—Reach reporter Damian Mann at 541-776-4476 or dmmann@tribune.com. Follow him on www.twitter.com/reporterdm.

Lead
Frontal
for alarm, because the Centers for Disease Control is primarily concerned with water sources that are used exclusively by young children, or are the primary source of drinking water

for them.
The faucets in question are not used frequently by the same people, so the risk for neurological damage is not significant.
Also tested were the Downtown Carnegie Library, 302 Henry St. S.W.; Maple Lawn Preschool, 1950 Salem Ave. S.E.; Fire Station 12, 120 34th Ave. S.E.; the Main Library, 2450 14th Ave. S.E.; and the Public Works Operations Building.
No lead was detected at Maple Lawn and Station 12, while the Carnegie Library and the Operations Building showed 4 ppb. Results from the main library are pending.
The city as well has tested 60 private homes built between 1980 and 1985 and have found no lead levels above the EPA maximum.

Contact reporter Neil Zawicki at 541-812-6099 or neil.zawicki@rener.net

Commissioners not ready to declare emergency regarding Harbor water

By Jayvett Ramnathsham
Pilot staff writer

The Harbor Water District supply has said it is for the third year in a row, and Curry County Commissioner David Brock Smith

asked his colleagues to schedule a special meeting to declare an emergency — a request that was denied by the other two commissioners at a workshop Wednesday.

Smith was not at the meeting but made the request via an email read at the meeting by County Counsel John Hutt.

"As you know, the declaration is required to get the wheels of assistance and associated financial support turning at the state level," he said.

Commissioners Tom Huxley and Susan Brown said they weren't ready to meet and make a declaration yet.

"What's the exact agency (requesting the declaration)? I'd like more information," Brown asked. "This request should come from the Harbor (Water District),"

Smith said later that he is working with the Harbor Water District to get an emergency declaration, but said he was disappointed his colleagues didn't want to discuss the issue.

"Last time this happened, it took three meetings for me to get this passed," he said.

Website redesign

Also at the workshop, Huxley presented research about options for a new county website, and asked to add the item to the commissioner's next meeting in early September.

He said he has looked at redesign options with two different companies — DMJ Studios and Revize Software.

Huxley also discussed some of the merits of the proposed new website. "I believe a new website is definitely needed," he said. He said a redesign would give people the ability to make changes to the website from inside city offices as well as outside. He also said he would like to see a more user-friendly system.

"In case of an emergency, like a tsunami or an Amber Alert," he said, "things put up on the website — that information automatically goes to the top of the page."

The prices of the website redesign proposed by DMJ Studios is about \$13,900, with a

cost of between \$4,000 and \$6,000 annually for hosting, Revize Software proposed a charge of \$7,500 for the design, with a \$1,500 charge annually for tech support.

Huxley said funding for the new website design would come out of the IT department's budget.

Smith said via email that he is not in favor of the county getting a new website. "If it's not broke, don't fix it," he said. "I am opposed to spending our limited county funds on a new website for the county. The website we have works, it's user friendly ... and it doesn't cost our citizens a penny, so to speak."

The issue of a new website will be on the commissioner's September meeting agenda.

Bookings, OR
(Curry Co.)
Curry Coastal Pilot
(Cir. 2NW, 6, 168)

AUG 27 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Lead levels come in under EPA threshold in city facilities

The city of Newberg tested dozens of fixtures to ascertain the levels of lead and copper found in the water available in public buildings in the city.

All fixtures in public buildings that test higher than 5 parts per billion will be replaced

BY GOUN STAUB
Newberg Graphic reporter

In response to the outcry over elevated lead levels in the pipes of numerous Portland Public Schools facilities, the city of Newberg voluntarily tested fixtures in its own buildings.

"In each facility we decided we'd go around where we thought people were drinking from the tap," Public Works Director Jay Harris said last week.

The June 26 test results came back Aug. 6, and on all sinks, drinking fountains and fountains, city facilities came in with lead and copper amounts under the Environmental Protection Agency's threshold of 20 parts per billion.

That's not to say the pipes are contamination-free, however. Most of the fixtures came back with lead and copper readings of between 1 and 5 parts per billion, but there were a few outliers. A sink in the ground floor meeting room at the Newberg Public Library came back with 11.8 parts per billion, and water from a faucet in the Newberg Public Safety Building's jail cell contained 13.7 parts per billion.

The city's water is tested each year near the source, either at the well field, the treatment plant or the distribution system, and a water quality report is mailed to utility customers annually. The latest report shows the maximum levels allowed for all contaminants.

City Water Superintendent Dan Wilson said "You've got a large (water) service that's feeding a building, but you have a limited amount of water use." The water is stagnant in the building for a long time ... when the water sits in the fixture, lead and copper can leach out.

— Jay Harris, public works director

Harris was surprised to see elevated lead levels in larger buildings, such as the library which contained the highest-reading faucet, or in school buildings like what happened in Portland.

"You've got a large (water) service that's feeding a building, but you have a limited amount of water use," he said. "The water is stagnant in the building for a long time ... when the water sits in the fixture, lead and copper can leach out."

Lead tests are evaluating the quality of that stagnant water. Water usage was prohibited in Newberg's city facilities for 24 hours before the test, so the water could sit and absorb any contaminants present in the pipes — which also means the average water fountain user who lets the water run for a few seconds before drinking is getting better quality water than what's tested.

With the tests, "they want the worst possible result, the least common denominator," Wilson said.

While the source water is tested annually, every three years the city also tests water at the tap on a selection of residential households based on EPA requirements. Residences are selected on a tier system, with the goal to test some of the most vulnerable houses using city water. Those most vulnerable include houses

Newberg, OR
(Yamhill Co.)
Newberg Graphic
(Cir. W, 4, 960)

AUG 31 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 188

Lead: Few issues in residential homes

From page 1

Wilson said the city has not found big lead issues in residential homes through its tests, but that larger buildings — not only schools but churches or businesses — that were built before 1985 could be susceptible to lead.

The state and the health division only require the city to test a sample of residential homes for lead, and have not regulated lead levels in schools, city facilities or other buildings in the past.

Since the revelations of high lead content in Portland and elsewhere, however, the Oregon Department of Education

has asked school districts to test the water in their schools. Further requirements are expected to be a topic of discussion during the 2016 legislative session.

As for the city's facilities, Newberg officials figured there would be questions sooner or later, and wanted to get some data to report.

"We did our buildings so we would have something to fall people when they ask," Wilson said.

And although the results came in under the 20 parts per billion threshold, city officials decided to take a step to further reduce the numbers. All fixtures that came in above 5 parts per billion — which includes the library meeting room

sink, the jail cell faucet, a meeting room sink in the Wastewater Treatment Plant, a sink in the TV lounge room at Fire Station 20, a ground floor kitchen sink in the library annex, a second-floor restroom sink in the library, and a bathroom sink in the city hall archive building — will be replaced.

"We're going to go in and replace them, just as good measure," Harris said. Wilson said the maximum allowable levels for regulatory purposes will likely continue to decrease.

"Because, again, the target should be zero," he said.

To view the city's water quality report, visit www.newbergoregon.gov/operations/pages/water-quality-report.

7/14-7

see LEAD / Page 12

Survey: Some Redmond residents unhappy with water

By Aaron West
The Bulletin

Some people in Redmond think the city's water tastes terrible.

According to the results of a community survey the city published in August, more than a few people complained about the taste and smell of the water coming out of their taps. Ten or so people brought it up in the written comments, and 168 people — 12 percent of respondents — rated the quality of their tap water as either "bad" or "very bad."

"The water looks like cloudy lemonade, looks bad," said Mayor George Endicott.

There were enough complaints for the issue to be brought up at a City Council meeting a couple weeks ago, where the findings were met with surprise from city officials.

"I find that interesting because we have some of the cleanest water in the world — I don't think it's the water," said Mayor George Endicott.

Maybe it's the pipes. "I'm surprised by this as well — we have very clean water coming in," said City Engineer Mike Cacovano. "It's all ground water, and our pipes are in good condition and flushed regularly."

Dustan Campbell, the city's water manager, said the water division has received the survey results and is looking at the issue, but nothing has jumped out as an obvious problem.

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Tualatin says 'no thanks' to Willamette water project

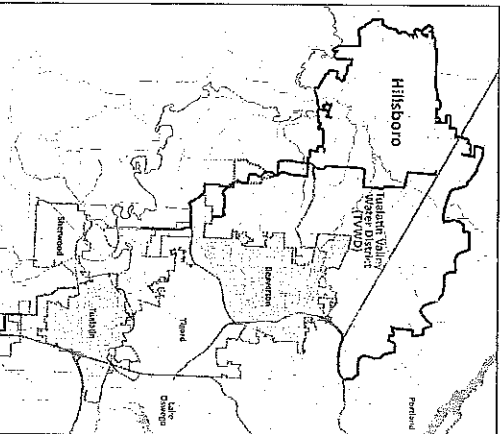
TWWD, Hillsboro working on new source of water in Wilsonville

By MARK MILLER
The Times

Water from the Willamette River may flow through Tualatin to Hillsboro, but the city will not be paying for it any further.

The Tualatin City Council agreed Aug. 22 that it is not interested in buying into the construction of a large water intake, part of a series of infrastructure projects intended to provide the Tualatin Valley Water District and the city of Hillsboro with an additional source of drinking water from the mud-Willamette.

Priced at \$1.2 billion, a new 30-mile-long water pipeline stretching from Wilsonville to Hillsboro is currently in the works and expected to become a new source of drinking water for more than 400,000 people in Washington County, who count on Tualatin Valley Water District and the city of Hillsboro to



keep their taps running. The joint water system, known as the Willamette Water Supply Program, is expected to begin operating by 2026. However, in order to supply water to that many new customers, a much larger intake

on the Willamette at Wilsonville is needed. Jerry Postema, Tualatin's public works director, told connectors that Tualatin could expect to pay \$2.5 million just for its share of increasing the size of the intake. To be a full participant, he added, it would have to pay its share of the costs for every step of the project.

Tualatin participates in the Willamette River Water Coalition, but a provision in the city charter prohibits the city from using water from the Willamette for drinking water without voter approval.

Currently, Tualatin is a wholesale customer of the Portland Water Bureau. Portland sells Tualatin water from its Bull Run supply under a 10-year agreement, which was just renewed this summer.

"We are comfortable with our water source. We like the fact that it comes from Bull Run," said Councilor Ed Truxax, the day after the council meeting. "They seem perfectly willing to sell us all of this water we

want for as long as we want to have it."

While Truxax acknowledged that at some point, it would likely become more economical for a city like Tualatin to own a water supply rather than buying wholesale, Postema said projections suggest it would be cheaper over the next 30 years for Tualatin to continue purchasing water from Portland than to tap into the Willamette supply.

Truxax, who closely follows regional water issues, said it would not make sense for Tualatin to spend \$2.5 million to buy in to a water intake it has no plans to use. "It never even got to the point where we were actively considering doing it," Lombos said. He added, with emphasis, "So we are not looking for a way to get our water from the Willamette River. We're not looking for an opportunity to change water sources, so this project didn't make sense on any of those levels."

Water

Continued from B1

Even though the amount the city uses is more than what's required, Campbell said a larger amount is necessary to make sure enough chlorine arrives at the end of the system.

"If we injected chlorine at the minimum, it would most likely drop below that and be out of compliance," he said, adding that the city can either increase or lower the amount of chlorine it uses to see if that helps the taste. Increasing the chlorine might sound counterintuitive, but Campbell said sometimes an increase will "burn off the taste and odor."

According to Redmond's 2015 Water Quality Report, test samples found a range of chlorine in the water, from 0.23 to 0.74 milligrams per

liter. That's less overall than what the 2014 report found — 0.57 to 0.62 milligrams of chlorine per liter. Berd's 2015 water report found 0.16 to 1.76 milligrams of chlorine per liter.

The maximum amount of chlorine allowed under EPA regulations is 4 milligrams per liter.

Kathy Walter, a co-owner of Blue Water Plumbing and Water Treatment in Redmond, said when she gets callers questioning the taste of their water or looking to buy a water filtration system, it's usually about well water and not city water.

"We don't get calls about city water that much, but when we do most people complain about the chlorine," she said.

Sixty-seven percent of community survey respondents rated the city's water quality as "good" or "very good."

Water: Tualatin currently buys water from Portland's Bull Run

From Page A5

Other pipeline and road improvement projects in King City, Beaverton and Hillsboro are expected to follow over the next 10 years, along with construction of a new water treatment plant and storage facilities near Cooper Mountain in Beaverton.

City Manager Sherburn Lombos said Tualatin did pay \$100,000 to be part of the design process for the Willamette supply line because it runs through the city.

"We've just become more and more convinced that it's not our best interest to continue doing it," Lombos said. Truxax said being involved in the design work for the pipeline to be laid in the area of 124th Avenue is advantageous for Tualatin.

"The two projects are working in conjunction with each other, which I think is smart government," he said. Additionally, Tualatin has allowed a one-way connection to be used for finishing water to be sent TWWD some water to the pipeline. Truxax said that finishing is needed to keep the pipeline in working condition until the line is turned on from Wilsonville to Hillsboro. It was kind of a regional partnership kind of thing," Truxax explained.

Like Tualatin, TWWD currently buys its water wholesale from the Portland Water Bureau. It follows neighboring Tualatin in seeking to establish a new water source independent of Portland. Tward recently began receiving Clackamas River water through a partnership with Lake Oswego.

Even though Tualatin is not buying into the Willamette Water Supply Program's intake, that decision does not change Tualatin's standing in the Willamette River Water Coalition.

The coalition, which consists of Tualatin, Tigard, Sherwood and TWWD, controls a water right on the Willamette, meaning Tualatin could choose to buy into the project at a later date if the need arises, Lombos

and Truxax said. However, Tualatin's share of that right could be voided if the coalition dissolves or conveys, according to Postema, and Truxax said TWWD is considering a few options that would effectively combine the coalition with the new Willamette Water Supply Program. In that case, Truxax said, Tualatin would likely withdraw its membership, but that means forfeiting its share of the Willamette water right.

"We would like it to stay together," Lombos said of the coalition.

Tward, OR (Washington Co.) Tigard/Tualatin Times (Cir. W. 5,500)

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From Page A5

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Eight wells contaminated in the Green Hills East area

TRACY LOEW 744-7
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Chlorinated solvents have been found in eight private wells serving nine homes in the Green Hills East area south of Salem.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality is providing bottled water and helping residents with permanent solutions, such as filtration systems.

In August, DEQ tested about 45 wells in the area — roughly bordered by Lipscomb St. SE to the north, Hideaway Lane to the south, Witzer-Turner Road to the east and 55th Court SE to the west — after receiving results of a test commissioned by a homeowner.

The tests identified where groundwater is contaminated, but did not point to a cause, said Eric Kelley, DEQ environmental cleanup program project manager. "There's no known source," Kelley said.

DEQ will continue to sample wells in the area quarterly to determine whether the plume is migrating or whether there are seasonal variations, he said.

It also will do a historical review to try to identify a cause. There are no obvious sources in the rural resi-

dential area, Kelley said.

Chlorinated solvents encompass a large family of chemical compounds that contain chlorine.

They most-often are used for dry cleaning and industrial metal applications.

Short-term exposure can cause dizziness, fatigue, headaches or rashes. Long-term exposure can cause chronic skin problems, or damage to the nervous system, kidneys or liver. Exposure to some of the chemicals also can cause cancer.

Testing and help for residents is being paid for through DEQ's Industrial Orphan Sites Program. DEQ issues bonds to fund the program, and repays the bonds with state general funds and hazardous-substance possession fees.

DEQ also has legal authority to compel a responsible source — if one is identified — to contribute to remediation of the contamination.

The homes with contaminated wells are on 60th Court, Gath Road and Pear Tree Lane.

tloew@statesmanjournal.com, 503-399-6779 or follow at Twitter.com/Tracy_Loew

Salem, OR
(Marion Co.)
Statesman Journal
(Circ. D. 33,147)

SEP 2 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

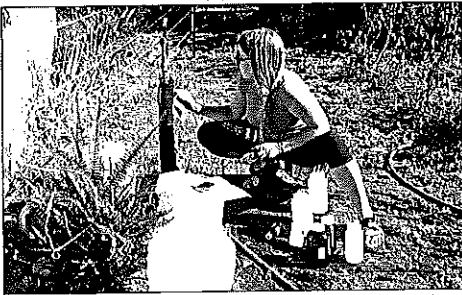


Photo contributed by Thomas Lossen

Paige Evans with Oregon DEQ tests a homeowner's well as part of the agency's statewide groundwater monitoring program.

DEQ offering free well water testing in Walla Walla Basin

East Oregonian
744-7

Homeowners in the Milton-Freewater area can have their groundwater wells tested for free as part of a study by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

DEQ is conducting a statewide monitoring program to identify areas where local groundwater might be vulnerable to contamination. The Walla Walla Basin was chosen as a study area based on information about the aquifer, historic real estate transaction, geology, soils and gaps in the current data set.

Testing will be done on a volunteer basis. DEQ is looking for volunteers around Milton-Freewater, including areas west of Umapine, Highway 11 along Dry Creek, the lower part of Pine Creek, both the north and south forks of the Walla Walla River, Mill Creek and down south toward Tollgate.

It is ultimately up to the landowner what to do with the results

of the tests. Public water suppliers are required to test water on a regular basis, but private wells are not required to test unless the property is transferred.

All results are public record — however, addresses and names will not be made available to the public. DEQ will test for things like nitrates, arsenic, pesticides, selected metals and bacteria. Groundwater can be contaminated by both surface and sub-surface pollution sources, such as applying chemicals or on-site septic systems.

The testing process should only take about 30-45 minutes and the homeowner does not need to be present. DEQ will send test results to the well owners and residents on the property.

Testing is scheduled during the weeks of Sept. 19 and Sept. 26. To volunteer, call 503-693-5736 or email Groundwater.Monitoring@deq.state.or.us. Participants must have spigot access to their water before any treatment or filtration occurs.

Pendleton, OR
(Umatilla Co.)
East Oregonian
(Circ. D. 7,014)
SEP 7 2016

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Tigard, OR
(Washington Co.)
Tigard/Tualatin Times
(Circ. W. 6,500)

SEP 8 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Writer praises the bargain of water cost in the city of Tigard

I was just paying my Tigard water bill today, and it reminded me of the Community Soapbox column written by Steve Kraemer last week: "Does Tigard water really cost about a penny per gallon?" I computed my per gallon rate for my August usage. I had 11 CCF of water consumption and 4 CCF of sewage/surface water disposal. That made the consumption cost 0.88 cents per gallon and the sewage cost 1.48 cents per gallon. My invoice from the city tells me I have a 5/8" meter.

Kraemer seemed quite concerned about the differing rates paid by customers with different size meters. According to his article, the rate could go as high as 2.46 cents per gallon. Now, I have no idea why my meter is the size that it is, nor do I know why rates vary with the size of the meter.

However, I am struck with just how much of a bargain our water rates are. We get virtually unlimited water — safe, pure, tasty, cool water — delivered to any room in our house in which we want to put a tap, 24/7, including holidays, for a penny (or a couple pennies) per gallon. And, the city takes away all our used, unsanitary water without us hav-

ing to lift a finger for just a couple pennies also.

How much is that product/service worth? What is the market rate for pure safe water delivered to our homes, and sewage to be unseen, or smelled or felt? One penny or two pennies — what a bargain!

Dennis Moonier
Tigard

TWWD: Lead not coming from water source

Toxin usually gets in from home and building pipes

By ERIC APALATEAU
Penultima Media Group



THIS PHOTO: ERIC APALATEAU

Five water and health experts discussed issues around lead in drinking water during a community forum on July 14. TinaHlin Valley Water District's supply has very safe levels of lead, but the heavy metal can leach into water from plumbing inside homes and buildings, officials said.

The Plushain Valley Water District's water contains little to no lead as it makes its way to your home business or school.

But it might be a different story when it gets here. "In our region, the biggest risk we receive from lead in drinking water is in the homes and buildings," said Joel Cary, who oversees water safety issues for TWWD.

While TWWD's distribution lines are lead-free, the plumbing in many older buildings across the region was assembled with components containing lead, a heavy metal that can leach invisibly into drinking water.

Using cold water from well-flushed pipes for drinking and cooking is a simple way to reduce exposure to lead, even in homes with pipes that include the heavy metal in solder, fixtures or other components, experts said. Having your water tested and taking other simple steps outlined with this article also can help.

Carly said that TWWD will increase outreach efforts about lead in drinking water and in 2017 will change its testing regimen, part of which will include more than doubling the number of tests conducted.

In another decade, TWWD, Hillsboro and other potential partners will begin tapping the mid-Willamette River near Wisnourville to augment its current water sources. That water source, which will be treated, similarly contains little to no detectable lead levels, said Dave Kraska, who is overseeing that project.

Reduce lead in drinking water
TinaHlin Valley Water District officials recommend the following steps to help reduce the lead levels in water used for drinking, cooking and bathing pipes for drinking and cooking is a simple way to reduce exposure to lead, even in homes with pipes that include the heavy metal in solder, fixtures or other components, experts said.

Bend, OR
(Deschutes Co.)
Bend Bulletin
(Cir. W. 27,547)
SEP 9 2016
Allen's P. O. Box 234, 1888

Evvio is first Bend lab certified for pot testing

By Joseph Ditzler
The Bulletin

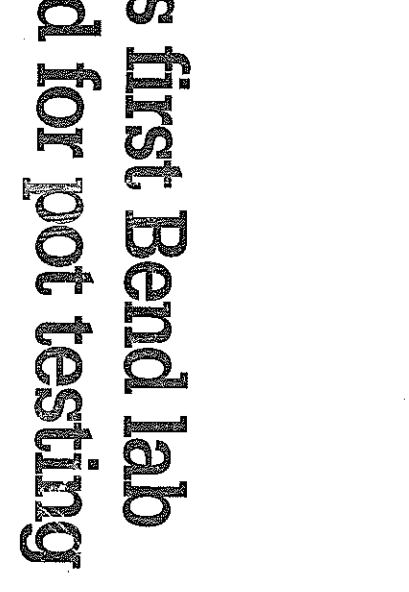
Evvio is first franchising the licensing process for a marijuana testing lab in Bend following a report that no new labs are ready for an Oct. 1 deadline.

Starting that day, all marijuana products sold for adult recreational use must be tested for potency, pesticides and other contaminants by a certified lab, which must also be licensed by the OLCC. That means two separate regulatory hurdles for labs that want to provide pot-testing services, certification and licensing.

Evvio Labs Inc. in Bend, received its accreditation Wednesday from the Oregon Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program, an arm of the Oregon Health Authority. Evvio was the only lab accredited in Central Oregon out of three labs operating in Bend, as of Thursday.

The head of the environmental lab accreditation program, Gary Ward, in an email Aug. 25 to agency officials and testing labs around the state, stated the agency, which also certifies labs that test for environmental and drinking water "quality" was "on the precipice of collapse" due to lack of resources and a "seemingly rash" by marijuana testing labs seeking certification.

Five marijuana labs, including Evvio, were certified by the Oregon Health Authority out of 57 that have applied for certification, all of them since June, according to the authority's website and an email from Jonathan Morda, agency spokesman.



TOP PHOTO: THE BULLETIN

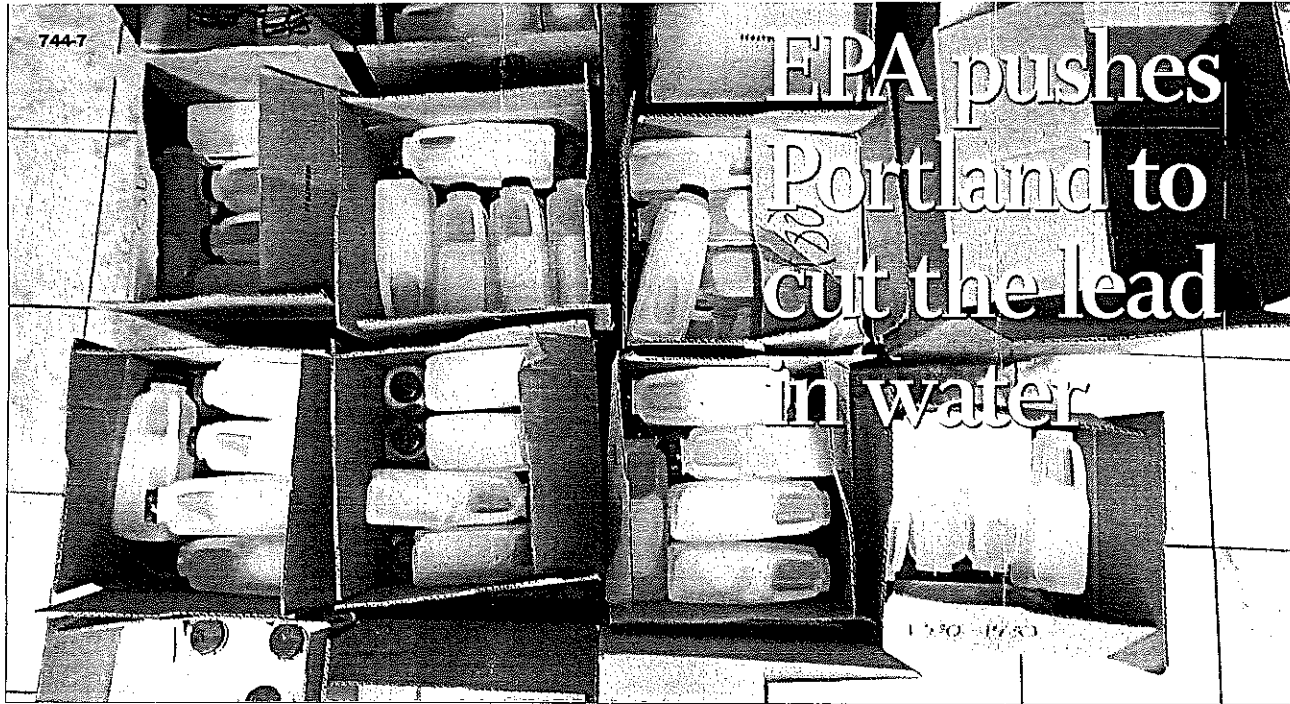
Ellen Parlin, technical director of chemistry for Evvio Labs in Bend, prepares samples of cannabis flowers and concentrate Thursday for pesticide testing.

are being floated around," Parlinger said. "We're asking lots of questions about what we can consider, what aligns with the rule-making process, what aligns with what we're doing permanently."

Morda did not indicate whether the health authority is considering a change in either the deadline or regulations. In a prepared statement released Wednesday, the authority stated it "will find a solution to the challenges that the short-term increase in cannabis-testing-lab requests has caused."

Dispersary owners may sell their current stock of marijuana products after Oct. 1, provided they label them as not meeting new standards.

"If we can't get product tested after Oct. 1, it's not going to be sold," said Cash Smith, manager at Top Shelf Medicine, a NE Greenwood Avenue dispensary. The health authority, he said, has "run into a pickle."



EPA pushes Portland to cut the lead in water

By Brad Schmidt
The Oregonian/OregonLive

Federal regulators are turning up the heat on Portland's lingering lead problem and now say the Rose City may need to take interim steps to reduce exposure at the tap.

The Environmental Protection Agency said it will review Portland's efforts to limit pipe corrosion to "ascertain whether more immediate action is warranted to protect

public health."

The declaration comes as city officials study corrosion problems that cause lead release and consider water treatment options that may not be instituted until 2022 — if at all.

Portland Commissioner Nick Fish, who oversees city water operations, downplayed the letter Monday and said it was "entirely consistent with the conversations

we've been having with regulators."

"We're all committed to considering ways to improve corrosion control," he said.

Portland caught the attention of federal regulators this spring because its high-risk homes have the highest reported lead levels of any large water provider nationwide. Concerns have only escalated as testing across Portland Public Schools found high levels in virtu-

ally every building.

The Portland Water Bureau could add more chemicals to reduce the corrosivity of its water, which in turn would reduce exposure from lead solder in pipes or lead from brass faucets. But the state of Oregon, which has regulatory authority over Portland, approved a plan in 1997 that didn't minimize lead levels.

With elevated levels of lead turning up in Portland schools — and more businesses, homeowners and other schools submitting samples to be tested — BSK Labs in Vancouver has had a very busy summer.
Story | Page A4

See Lead, A4

ARIANE KUNZE/THE COLUMBIAN

Lead

Continued from A1

State officials instead endorsed Portland's plan to partially reduce lead levels in conjunction with public education and outreach, free water testing and home lead-paint abatement.

Now nearly two decades later, Portland is an outlier, and pressure is growing after the lead crisis in Flint, Michigan.

Local testing of high-risk homes, built between 1983 and 1985, regularly produce results just below the federal action level. Homes built between 1970 and 1985 are considered to be most at risk from in-home plumbing with lead solder. And an

estimated 43,000 homes of that era received water from Portland, according to a tally this spring by The Oregonian/OregonLive.

City officials have yet to say if they'll add more chemicals to reduce corrosion and lead release, chryseolite from an in-progress study, but Commissioner Nick Fish has said Portland could do more. The City Council is expected to review results and vote next summer on potentially building a new treatment facility that would be expected to lower lead levels.

But city officials have said it could take five years for the facility to become operational. The EPA now says it wants the Oregon Health Authority to "establish a schedule that is as aggressive as technically achievable."

And even then, more action might be needed, more quickly, according to the EPA.

"EPA will be requesting specific information from OHA and others to assess the current level of protection of public health, including any interim measures and/or modifications to current corrosion control treatment or operations that could result in some reduction of lead levels, while treatment modification efforts are underway," the agency wrote.

The EPA also wrote that lead results, particularly in schools, underscore the need for a quick re-evaluation of Portland's approved treatment program, a decision by the state about "more proactive" treatment and swift implementation by Portland.

And the EPA, which for years has voiced concern about Portland's treatment program, reminded local officials it could step in "to take independent action" if necessary.

Fish said the letter amounted to a "non-event." The EPA highlighted authority it already has while expressing a sense of urgency to the Water Bureau shares, Fish said. Once final results of Portland's corrosion study are available next year, officials will decide what's next.

"We'll evaluate it and decide if there's any immediate action that's required," he said. "To me that's restating the obvious."

744-7
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Bend, OR
(Deschutes Co.)
Bend Bulletin
(Circ. W. 27,547)

SEP 9 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

State needs to ensure labs can be accredited

If there's been a hot topic in Oregon this summer, it's lead in the drinking water at schools around the state. Lead can cause permanent damage, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Yet Gary Ward, administrator of the Oregon Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program, emailed the Oregon Health Authority recently that lack of funds has pushed the program to "the verge of collapse." It has waiting lists of both water-testing laboratories and those that hope to test recreational marijuana for impurities.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency sets the maximum amount of lead allowable in drinking water at 15 parts per billion, though, it says, no amount is safe. In Portland this spring some schools were found to have as much as twice that "action level" in their water. Since then, other school districts around the state have reported similar lead problems.

That's got parents nervous and school districts buying up all the bottled water they can find. They're right to be nervous. In young children, lead ingestion can result in short stature, nerve damage, learn-

ing disabilities and hearing problems. That's just for starters.

Now, as school districts rush to test for lead, they need accredited labs to examine their samples. Recreational marijuana suppliers also need accredited labs to certify their products are free of a variety of harmful products by Oct. 1. With only five accredited labs in the state at the moment, certified weed may be hard to come by for a time.

Ward and three others currently are the only people working to certify laboratories. There is no money to do more, though, Ward says, he was told resources would be available. They've yet to show up. The governor's office says the Oregon Health Authority is "taking steps" to fix the problem. No one, to date, has said how long it will take to put a fix in place.

That's not acceptable. The Oct. 1 marijuana deadline is not new, and while the purity standards themselves are, surely someone in Oregon government should have seen the problem on the horizon. Now it's here, and there's no more time for excuses. There's only time for action, and quick action at that.

SEP 13 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Portland, OR
(Multnomah Co.)
The Oregonian
(Circ. D. 247,833)

F - Portland



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

A plan to cut more than 200 trees at Washington Park to make way for reservoir construction has a former city spokeswoman crying foul.

Former city staffer smells 'spin' in tree-cutting plans

Removal of reservoir at Washington Park raises red flags

By NICK BUDNICK
The Tribune

Tricia Knoll thinks the Portland Water Bureau is improperly downplaying plans to cut down 200 or more trees at picturesque Washington Park.

Knoll is no stranger to public relations; she's a former long-time water bureau spokeswoman. She became accustomed to her employer being in the spotlight in ways it didn't like.

Now, she says, it's time for the bureau to be in reporters' "cross-hairs" once again.

The city plans to cut down 200 trees by early October in connection with the project to replace two open-air reservoirs at Washington Park with a new covered one. The decision, approved by the City Council last year, came in response to escalating pressure from the federal government.

The fear: a fatal outbreak of

water-borne parasites. Including a similar project underway with the Mount Tabor reservoirs, the cost of reservoir capping is expected to exceed \$200 million.

Knoll doesn't oppose the capping of reservoirs. In fact, she wholeheartedly supports it.

But she's also a tree-lover and a self-described "eco-poet" who volunteers at the Rose Garden. She's worked with plenty of engineers during her time at the city, and questions whether the city is being as careful as it could be with the treasured resource of Washington Park's trees.

"My experience is that engineers have the attitude 'When in doubt, take it out. If it's in our way, make it go away,'" Knoll says.

She says her antennae were first raised by the city's flier publicizing the plans, which stressed that no "old-growth" would be cut.

That may be true, Knoll says, but that's because old growth is rarely found in the area.

"There's so darn little old growth anywhere in Washington Park. We were called 'Stumpflown' for a reason, and the reason is the whole place was logged."

The city's flier also stressed

that the Douglas firs cut down would be used to help restore Bull Run habitat.

Knoll says that the Bull Run habitat work can get its trees from anywhere. "I'm worried that this is mostly spin. Like saying we'll turn dead birds into cat food."

Fielding questions sparked by the former water bureau spokeswoman is the current one, Jaymee Cuti — herself a former reporter.

The bureau is sending out information, such as about old-growth trees, that the public has expressed interest in, she says, noting that the bureau plans to replant 20 percent more trees than required.

In response to the questions raised by Knoll, Cuti sent over a map of the trees slated to be cut. For most of the trees, cutting is necessary, while nearly 20 percent of the trees are being cut because they are non-native, "invasive" species, according to the city.

"Old growth" definitions vary, but some of the trees to be cut will be pretty old. According to the city, the area was clearcut 120 years ago.

"The new reservoir will sup-

ply water to Portland's west side and serve more than 360,000 people, including all downtown businesses and residents, 20 schools, three hospital complexes, more than 60 parks, and the Oregon Zoo," Cuti wrote in an email, adding that the bureau engaged in a "lengthy and extensive" public outreach process.

But looking at the map and other information, Knoll's fears are not assuaged.

"I do hope (Southwest Portland) neighbors understand that even though no 'old growth' is coming out, some big trees are going to fall, and I for one, feel a sadness for the loss of those giants," Knoll says. "Some appear to be big Douglas firs across the road from the reservoir — and that is going to come as a shock to people who know and love this park."

Knoll's concerns are echoed by a prominent local advocate, Bob Sallinger of the Audubon Society of Portland, who just heard about the city's plans. "We would have real concerns about that level of tree loss. Even though they are mitigating for it, obviously it will take decades to replace mature trees."

Bend water awareness campaign a silly endeavor

Imagine a day without water. That's what the city of Bend asked residents to do on Wednesday. Think of Wednesday as having been Bend 20Thirsty. It was a campaign to build awareness of the need for water investment and infrastructure.

"Imagining a day without water means thinking about what happens when no water comes out of the tap to brush your teeth. When you flush the toilet, nothing. It means firefighters have no water to

put out fires and doctors can't wash their hands before treating patients. A day without water would be a crisis."

Do you feel more aware? Have you stopped taking water for granted? Are you now going to water your lawn only on the correct days?

Imagine a day when Bend residents lose their faith in the ability of their government to distinguish between silly campaigns and seriousness.

Bend, OR
(Deschutes Co.)
Bend Bulletin
(Circ. W. 27,547)

SEP 16 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Portland, OR
(Multnomah Co.)
Portland Tribune
(Circ. 2xW. 120,000)

SEP 15 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

SEP 18 2016

A GROWING BEND LOOKS AT MEETING WATER DEMANDS

744-7
• Planners say the city is set for water supplies despite an arid climate

By Marina Starleaf Riker
The Bulletin

For more than a decade, Eric Nunez, owner of Bend Water Hauling, has been delivering thousands of gallons of drinking water to residents in rural areas surrounding Bend. Outside of the city, people have few ways to get drinking water — they can drill private wells, haul in their own water or pay someone like Nunez to fill up big holding tanks on their properties, Nunez said.

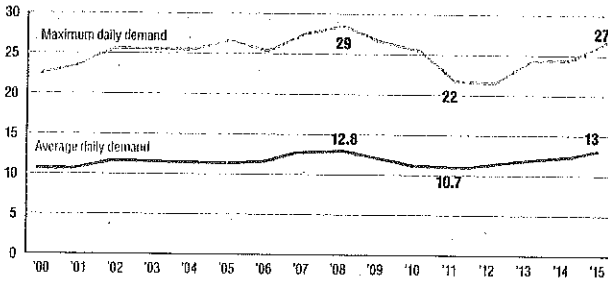
"I'm people's water company," said Nunez. "Without me, they don't shower, they don't flush their toilets."

Several people look to Nunez each year for his services as old wells dry up and they don't have the money to dig them deeper. With some residents in rural areas struggling to get water, a big question remains about how Bend will meet growing water demands as it plans for population growth of thousands of more people.

The city is in the process

Water demand in Bend

Despite a growing population, which has gone from 52,800 people in 2000 to more than 81,000 in 2015, demand for water, measured by millions of gallons per day, has stayed largely the same.



Source: City of Bend

Carl Krueger / The Bulletin

of trying to take over about 2,300 acres of rural county land by expanding its urban growth boundary, which is the line that divides the city from the county. Bend is planning for 13,000 new housing units to accommodate population growth — about 30,000 people — between 2014 and 2028, according to the city's housing

needs analysis.

Yet despite expected population growth and an arid climate, city officials say Bend is well set when it comes to future water supply. City conservation programs have been largely successful, and Bend's average daily water demand is only slightly greater than it was in 2000, despite pop-

ulation growth of nearly 30,000 people, according to city data.

"We're very fortunate that we're in really good shape in terms of what our system future investment needs are," said Tom Hickmann, who leads the city's Engineering and Infrastructure Planning department.

See Water / A5

Water

Continued from A1

In planning for over 30,000 more people, city officials looked years into the future to assess Bend's water needs, Hickmann said. City planners analyzed where it would be the easiest to install sewers, roads and waterlines in order to decide which pieces of county land to allow into the city, he said. City planners also worked alongside water companies such as Roats Water System and Avion Water Co. to make sure future city territory would have adequate water access, he said.

"When we're looking at water supply, because it takes a long time to get supply, we are looking out 30, 40, 50 years, and even beyond," Hickmann said. "It's not something we're looking at just five years down the road."

Meanwhile, the UGB plan calls for Bend to grow not only out, but up — more than 70 percent of new development will be located within Bend's current city limits. That means the city will be able to use its water systems and supplies more efficiently because homes will be built closer together, said Darek Staab, project manager at Trout Unlimited, a conserva-

"When we're looking at water supply, because it takes a long time to get supply, we are looking out 30, 40, 50 years, and even beyond. It's not something we're looking at just five years down the road."

— Tom Hickmann, Bend Engineering and Infrastructure Planning department director

tion organization. "It will reduce some of the larger manicured landscapes, which will help us save some water, and allow for people to live more efficiently in the center of town," said Staab.

Patrick Griffiths, water resources manager for the city, said although Bend will most likely have enough water to support growth in years to come, it will continue to come up with new ways to conserve water. So far, conservation efforts have included working with parks, schools and large landowners to use landscaping that conserves water by switching from lawns to native plants.

In the future, new devel-

opment would be able to use automated water meters to gauge hourly water use to catch leaks, he said. The city has also discussed proposals to require homes to be more efficient, for instance, by requiring certain plumbing fixtures that use about 20 percent less water than other types. For example, some new toilets use only 1.28 gallons per flush and work better than older toilets, which can use more than 3 gallons per flush, Griffiths said.

Although Bend is lucky to have abundant water sources from a large regional aquifer and surface water from the Cascades, conserving water when possible is necessary to accommodate population growth, according to conservationists.

"It's important given how fast Bend is growing that the public start paying attention to water," said Paul Dewey, executive director of Central Oregon LandWatch, a conservation organization. "It's critical that whatever water supplies the city relies upon — whether it's surface water for Tumalo Creek or groundwater — that it be used as efficiently as possible, because those resources are very limited."

— Reporter: 541-633-2160, mriker@bendbulletin.com

Lead detected by park district tests

744-7
• Lead was frequently used in plumbing fixtures prior to the 1980s, but test sites are not frequently used for drinking water

By Scott Hammers
The Bulletin

Seven of the 155 water outlets tested by the Bend Park & Recreation District this summer showed elevated levels of lead, but none is believed to be a danger to public health. None of the sites where lead was detected is frequently used or a source of drinking

water, and in all cases, the lead was determined to be coming from the plumbing fixture itself rather than the pipes or the water supply, according to a press statement that will be shared with district board members Tuesday. Federal guidelines set the maximum concentration level for lead in drinking water at

20 parts per billion, while the Oregon Health Authority puts it at 15 parts per billion.

Sites where lead was detected above the maximum concentration level include the umpires' shower at Vince Genna Stadium, a janitorial building in Pacific Park, hose bibs at Juniper Swim & Fit-

ness Center, Tillicum Ranch, and the Sheldon Park caretaker's house, and a bypass valve on the pool, water supply at Juniper Swim & Fitness Center. The district paid \$3,645 for the sample collection and testing, which was performed between late July and mid-August.

Occupants of the buildings where elevated lead levels were detected have been advised not to consume water from the affected fixtures. The district expects it will be

able to correct the problem by replacing the fixtures with newer models.

Lead was frequently used in plumbing fixtures and in plumbing solder prior to the 1980s.

When consumed in sufficient quantities, lead can cause a variety of health problems, including neurological problems, elevated blood pressure, kidney disease and heart diseases.

— Reporter: 541-383-0387, shammers@bendbulletin.com

Bend, OR
(Deschutes Co.)
Bend Bulletin
(Circ. W. 27,547)

SEP 17 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

SEP 22 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Condon council hears engineer's reports, plans to restrict use of transfer station to Gilliam residents only

Condon city councilors heard a report from engineer Dave Wildman when they met Wednesday, Sept. 7, in public session at the city hall. Wildman presented overviews of the city's water and wastewater master plans.

Two phases of the city's wastewater improvements have been completed, but repairs and improvements remain. Wildman outlined additional phases of work, including high priority work that should be accomplished within the next five years, which may cost \$535,000; medium priority work that should be completed within 10 years at an estimated cost of \$595,000, and long-range projects that should be completed within the next 20 years at an estimated cost of \$390,000.

Maps provided by Wildman had several areas marked as priority, one area included several Main Street buildings with drainage and sump pump connections to the city's wastewater system rather than to the storm drains, which over-loads the operation of the wastewater treatment plant at times.

Councilors agreed that a discussion on these suggested projects, and the funding of them, be conducted in a council work session.

Wildman then presented information on the city's water master plan, noting population growth estimates, historic water usage and production and storage capacities.

"The city is still in good shape," Wildman said, in regards to production and storage, but suggested that the city should alternate the use of its wells to allow water levels to rebuild.

"That's the beauty of having eight wells," Wildman added.

Regarding the transmission line from the wells to the cisterns, Wildman indicated that the 100-year old system "is in pretty good shape." Ultrasonic tests were performed at 11 locations along the water line, and all showed good integrity of the pipe; no leaks were detected anywhere. Testing also indicated that there are no high lead concentrations in the system.

Resident Guy Whatley met with the council to request that stop signs be placed at the intersection of Oregon and Frazer streets in north and south bound directions, for the safety of children and pedestrians. The council approved the placement of two stop signs on Oregon Street, both north and south, at its intersection with Frazer Street.

The discussion moved to the usage at the city's solid waste transfer station on Brown Lane. It was noted that the city's contract with Waste Management states that the use of the transfer station is specifically for residents of Condon, Lonerock and Gilliam County. Councilors agreed to begin the process of limiting the use of the transfer station facilities to Gilliam County residents only, and set Jan. 1, 2017 as the date that the

new system will go into effect.

In staff reports, councilors heard from Public Works Supt. Larry Durfey that the water improvement project is continuing and is scheduled to cross the state highway near the motel; that he is waiting for the bid for the fencing that will be used if the transfer station is moved back to town; that the generator at the city farm has been wired; that the work on Summit Street between Main and Oregon has been scheduled; and that a water issue with the South Gilliam Cemetery District must be resolved by the District or water will be turned off.

Police Chief Dale Scobert reported that he had arrested a person living in The Dalles for telephone harassment of a local resident; arrested a local party-goer who woke up in the wrong home; and that he is training on a new computer program for reports.

City Administrator Kathryn Greiner recommended that the city join 'Next Century Cities' at no cost to further the city's knowledge and connections regarding

fiber optics advancement; that the auditors would be in Condon later in the month; that the necessary paperwork has been completed to place a marijuana tax measure on the November ballot; and suggested that an event based around the solar eclipse in August 2017 could be staged at the golf course.

Councilors also:

— approved the renewal of the franchise agreement with J&N Cable Systems.

— granted by consensus the use of the golf course for a school cross country meet Oct. 21.

— directed City Administrator Kathryn Greiner to develop a request for proposals to remodel the portion of the city hall which formerly housed the fire department into a useable space.

— deferred to the Finance Committee a discussion of golf shed rentals.

— discussed briefly but took no action on the condition of the 'clubhouse' at the golf course.

The Condon City Council will meet again Wednesday, Oct. 5, 7 p.m. at the city hall. Council meetings are open to the public.

Lebanon, OR
(Linn Co.)
Lebanon Express
(Circ. W. 1,913)

SEP 21 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

City to perform annual drinking water maintenance

The city of Lebanon will begin flushing the public drinking water system starting on Sept. 26. The annual maintenance may take up to two weeks.

There may be potential for settlement to be stirred up, which could cause discoloration of the water in residents water.

If your water is discolored,

run a cold water faucet until water is clear prior to running any appliance, flush each toilet twice.

If after those steps are taken and the water is still discolored, call 541-258-4914 or 541-258-4916.

For more information, contact Jason Williams at 541-258-4280 or via email at jwilliams@ci.lebanon.or.us

Drained reservoir yields secrets

Extensive repair work in progress 744-7

BY RICK BEASLEY
Of the News-Times



The North Depoe Bay Creek runs through the city's drained water reservoir during renovations to the site on Monday, Sept. 19. Water plant operators drained the reservoir in July to remove 6,000 cubic yards of silt and rebuild access platforms. (Photos by Nathan Howard)

The biggest municipal public works project in decades has been quietly taking place beyond sight at an aging, 19.5-million-gallon earthen reservoir.

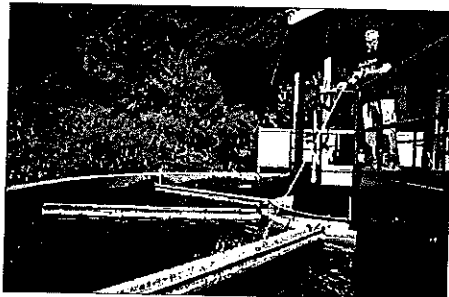
Drained of water for extensive repairs, public works officials were recently surprised at what they found. Expecting the normal buildup of 2,000 cubic yards of silt, workers instead encountered 6,000 cubic yards — nearly 600 dump-truck loads of mud and debris scooped up and hauled out by the contractor, Cedar Creek Quarries.

"When we drew off the 20-foot deep reservoir, we were startled by what we saw," recalled City Superintendent Brady Weidner, who was a rising Depoe Bay utility worker when the three-acre lake was last dredged in 2003.

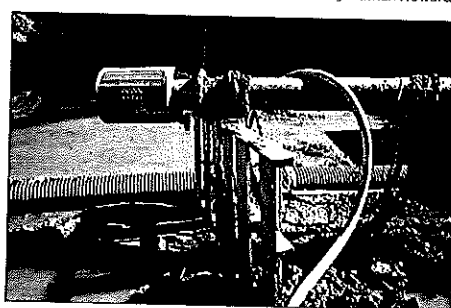
"It was two-thirds full of silt and logs from a landslide that happened above the reservoir about five years ago."

The 43-year-old reservoir had other problems, including a sluice gate that was jammed shut and water leaks around the face of the dirt dam. Safeguarding the town's "potable" water supply became his main objective after taking charge of the public works department three years ago, Weidner reflected.

"This was a big municipal project, and everything about it was covered with red tape," he said, citing an alphabet soup of county, state and federal acronyms with their toes in the city's drinking water.



Paul Carver, Depoe Bay water plant operator, hoses down a 7,000-gallon water clarifier at the Depoe Bay Water Treatment Plant on Wednesday, Sept. 21.



The main water intake at the North Depoe Bay Creek Reservoir is propped up during renovations to the 3-acre site on Wednesday, Sept. 21.

CREEK on Page A11

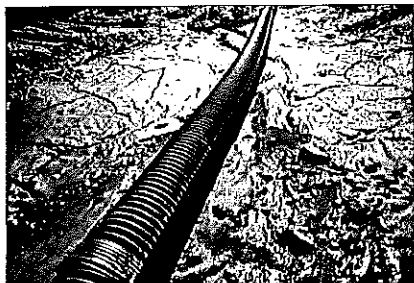
CREEK
Continued from page 1

"It took about two years to bring it all together."

Cedar Creek, also known as Road and Driveway Co., won the reservoir-cleaning job with a bid of \$29,000. The unexpected silt buildup pushed the final price to \$55,000, still a "pretty good deal" according to Weidner.

The empty reservoir revealed the other problems, too. Debris was behind the inoperative sluice gate, an expensive metal assembly that controls lake levels.

"It was just buried in so much junk it wouldn't work," Weidner said, explaining that a city crew was brought in to fix it, rather than an expensive outside contractor. "We had budgeted \$80,000 for repairs,



A pipe used to divert North Depoe Bay Creek runs through the bottom of the drained Depoe Bay water reservoir during renovations to the site on Wednesday, Sept. 21. (Photo by Nathan Howard)

but it only cost \$20,000 to clean and oil the gate, and refurbish the culvert."

Inspection of the dam revealed the leaks were caused

by "short circuits" in piping — not cracks in the dirt wall. To solve the problem, city workers put new sleeves over the pipes.

Meanwhile, Lincoln City

marine engineer Bill Sexton was hired to design and install a new galvanized steel platform from which workers service gates, valves and floating fish pens.

On Thursday, Sept. 22, Weidner predicted it would take about two weeks to finish the job, adding it will take seven to 10 days to refill the reservoir.

The reservoir sits above town on skippy North Depoe Creek, but is mainly fed by water pumped from Rocky Creek, about three miles to the south.

744-7
Contact reporter Rick Beasley at 541-265-8571, ext. 221 or rbeasley@newportnewstimes.com

DAN BAIN 744-7
The News Review
GLENDALE — Residents in the city of Glendale have been asked to boil water for drinking after a break in the water main Tuesday.
People should not consume or shower with public water until testing shows it is safe to use.
The water service has since been restored and samples are being analyzed for bacteria.

Meanwhile, a 72-hour boil notice is in effect for those who are on city water in Glendale. Glendale city recorder Dawn Russ said a seal on the city's water main broke and shut down the entire city water system, affecting about 360 hookups including businesses and the schools.
Russ said the break was noticed when city workers got to work Tuesday morning.

"I took all day to repair," Russ said. "Many volunteers from the city helped with the repairs, it was amazing," she said.
Russ said residents could finally flush their toilets again between 6 and 8 p.m. Tuesday. Glendale city officials ask that residents flush the plumbing systems with cold water through the bathrooms avoiding any use of faucets with aerators.

Color changes and sediment disturbances are expected as a result of shutting off the water system, so residents should flush the water system until that passes.
The city is offering bottled water for any of the residents who want to stop by city hall.
Reporter Dan Bain can be reached at 541-957-4221 or e-mail at dbain@tridaily.com.

Break in Glendale water main leads to boil notice

Newport, OR
(Lincoln Co.)
Newport News Times
(Circ. 2xW, 7,011)

SEP 23 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

SEP 23 2016

Roseburg, OR
(Douglas Co.)
Newspaper Review
(Cir. D, 18,287)
(Cir. S, 19,270)

PUBLIC HEALTH

Gold Hill residents told to boil water

By Ryan Pfeil
Mail Tribune 744-7

Gold Hill residents are being asked to boil their water for the next few days because of possible bacterial contamination.

In a news advisory sent Monday, Mayor Jen Fish said a loss of water pressure in the distribution system prompted the warning.

Fish said a contracted work crew tasked with relining the sewer lines hit a waterline and broke it.

"It was a mechanical thing," Fish said. "It just gave way."

Crews spent several hours repairing the break, but some sediment may have made its way into the system. Fish said there was no exchange or leak of contents between sewer and waterlines.

"It was relatively isolated," Fish said.

Results of water tests conducted by an outside laboratory are due this week. The tests will be forwarded to the Oregon Health Authority for additional review. The system has been flushed, and chlorine levels are being maintained throughout. Schools have been alerted to the issue.

Residents are being asked to boil water as a precaution, Fish said.

Water should be brought to a rolling boil for a full minute, then allowed to cool before use. Store the boiled water in a clean container with a cover. The sterilized water should be used for drinking, brushing teeth, washing produce, preparation of food and baby formula, making ice and cleaning food-contact areas. In addition, bottled water is available at City Hall.

"We will inform you when tests show no bacteria and you no longer need to boil your

water," Fish said. "We anticipate resolving the problem within 72 hours."

The cost of the repair job and testing was not immediately available, though Fish estimated it will be thousands of dollars. She didn't know who would end up footing the final bill.

Anyone with questions can call Gold Hill City Hall at 541-855-1525.

— Reach reporter Ryan Pfeil at 541-776-4468 or rpfeil@mailtribune.com. Follow him at www.twitter.com/ryanpfeil.

MEDFORD WATER

More lead pipes found, most removed

By Damian Mann
Mail Tribune 744-7

Medford Water Commission crews have removed 19 lead pipes out of 21 found so far after a citywide search conducted over the summer.

The commission plans to remove the remaining two lead pipes after it makes arrangements to dig up a portion of busy Central Avenue near 10th Street, said Ken Johnson, operations manager.

"We have to dig up three traffic lanes," Johnson said.

To date, 294 meters have been inspected and will require more testing to determine whether a lead pipe known as a pigtail might be connected to the main water line in the street.

A test hole has been dug near 85 of the suspect meters, and 21 lead pigtails were found. At the end of August, 13 lead pipes had been found and 47 test holes had been excavated.

Two of the pigtails were found while the Water Commission was repairing leaky lines, Johnson said.

By the end of the year, Water Commission crews expect to conclude their search for remaining pigtails after 200 more test holes are dug. Johnson said he hopes to have all the test holes dug by the end of the year.

"We're in the process of getting some temps and speeding this process up," he said.

The Water Commission has found lead levels that surpass the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency action level of 15 parts per billion in several tests of tap water where lead pigtails have been found. The commission encourages residents to run the water for a few minutes before drinking it.

Water crews spent part of the summer going street by street looking at 4,770 meters in older neighborhoods in east and west Medford looking for galvanized pipes on 1946-age pipes or older.

"We're still just finding pig-tails on 1900 to 1912 houses," Johnson said.

Since the Water Commission board became aware of the presence of the lead pigtails, it has offered to conduct water tests at the customer's tap to determine whether lead levels are higher than action levels set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Water Commission officials say previous tests on pigtails showed they could raise lead content above the levels set by the EPA.

According to the Oregon Health Authority, long-term exposure to drinking water that has greater than 15 parts per billion of lead can delay children's physical or mental development, cause kidney problems, increase blood pressure and increase the risk of cancer. Even though local water agencies such as the Water

SEE PIPES, A7

McMinnville, OR
(Yamhill Co.)

McMinnville News Register
(Circ. 2xW. 8,808)

OCT 6 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

HEALTH

Gold Hill water safe to drink

Staff reports 744-7

Gold Hill residents no longer need to boil their water before drinking it.

Gold Hill officials said 20 water samples taken from the city's distribution system tested negative for bacteria. The tests, conducted by an outside laboratory, came after a work crew tasked with relining sewer lines broke a waterline Monday.

"The entire water system was well represented in the sampling," Gold Hill Mayor Jan Fish said in a news release. "All 20 samples came back negative for the presence of bacteria."

Fish said officials were initially worried that some sediment might have gotten into the waterline. There was no exchange between the sewer line and waterline, but the system was flushed and odors were averted. As a precaution, the city told residents to boil water for a full minute before drinking it. The city also made bottled water available.

Albany, OR
(Linn Co.)

Democrat Herald
(Circ. D. 14,100)

OCT 7 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Boil water advisory lifted after water main repairs

NEIL ZAWICKI

City officials lifted the boil water advisory for North Albany at 9:15 a.m. Thursday. Door hangers advising that the water is safe to drink are being delivered this morning.

The advisory went into effect after 70 homes in North Albany were without drinking water for about two hours on Wednesday morning after a contractor damaged an eight-inch main line related to the Meadow Wood Drive water line project near Crocker Lane.

Repairs were completed about 11:15 a.m. Wednesday, and water lines in the area were flushed.

General information about boil-water advisories in Albany is available on page 7 of the City's 2015 Water Quality Report, <https://www.cityofalbany.net/images/stories/publicworks/water/wqr/2015-albany-wqr.pdf>

Contact reporter Neil Zawicki at 541-812-6099 or neil.zawicki@lee.net

OCT 7 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Boil order continues for trailer park

MILTON-FREEWATER

The Oregon Health Authority issued a boil order reminder for a Milton-Freewater trailer park Thursday.

According to the authority, E. coli was found in the water supply for Locust Mobile Village on May 10 and are advising residents to boil their tap water for one minute or use bottled water for drinking, making tea, brushing teeth, washing dishes and food preparation until further notice. 744-7

The boil order was originally issued May 12 and the latest one is acting as a reminder to residents that the boil order remains in effect.

E. coli can cause diarrhea, cramps nausea and headaches and is a special health risk for young children and people with compromised immune systems.

The boil order states that the well Locust uses for water has a failing chlorination system and repairs have not been completed.

Residents can contact Nancy Shaw at 509-540-7245 for more information.

the Health Authority cautions that water out of a tap can still contain high levels of lead from household pipes or other pipes in the system. Medford's water routinely passes water quality tests required by the EPA.

744-7

— Reach reporter Damian Mann at 541-776-4476 or dmmann@mailtribune.com. Follow him on www.twitter.com/reporterdm.

PIPES

From Page A1

Commission might be delivering water that started out lead-free,

Newberg, OR
(Yamhill Co.)
Newberg Graphic
(Cir. W. 4,980)
OCT 13 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

St. Paul selects contractor to drill well

Washington-based company will drill municipal well for \$259,000

BY GOLI STAUD
Newberg Graphic reporter

A drilling company has been selected to begin work on a new municipal well in St. Paul.

After the City Council approved a request for proposals (RFP) in early August, the city received a single bid for the project from Washington-based drilling and pump contractor Holt Services Inc.

The company's bid for the project came to about \$259,000, which is roughly \$90,000 more than a cost estimate prepared two years ago for the drilling work.

In its explanation of the difference in cost the city's water consultant, GSI Solutions, noted that the prior estimate didn't cover some of the work now included in the bid package, such as erosion control. The consultant chalked the rest of the higher cost up to inflation, an increase in fees

and a better economy now than there was in September 2014.

The consultant concluded that "Holt's bid estimate appears reasonable considering the current economic climate and limited contractor availability," and the council mostly agreed.

Drilling a new well has been discussed at the council level for years as the existing well has experienced problems with sand infiltration and has struggled to provide the amount of volume the city needs.

The St. Paul Rodéo Association drilled a well last year to serve various rodeo needs. At the time the rodeo association floated the idea of offering the well for municipal water use, possibly saving the city money on drilling its own municipal well and perhaps giving the rodeo association leverage in negotiating favorable lease terms with the

city.

When several tests came back with high arsenic readings from the rodeo well — first 9 and then 9.6 parts per billion when the threshold for drinking water is 10 — that idea was scrapped and is off the table for the time being.

Still, the city's well could face the same issue as it is sited just 800 feet from the rodeo well and could be drawing from the same aquifer. So the project will begin with drilling a sand chase — a test well down to about 275 feet. If evaluation of that test well proves it's usable, the work will continue to expand that into a larger-diameter bore hole varying in size from 20 inches to 16 inches as it gets deeper.

That was described in the request for proposals document that Holt responded to, although there was some disagreement over whether the

description of work was clear enough when it was sent out to bid.

Mayor Kim Wallis told the council he felt the language wasn't an adequate explanation that there would come during a future phase.

The City Council accepted Holt's bid in early September by a 4-1 vote, with Wallis casting the sole nay vote as he had when the proposal request was sent out. Queried as to his opposition, he clarified he voted against approving the bid primarily due to the concern he previously aired about the language in the RFP, although he said he would have liked to extend the month-long bid period in order to attract more than one contractor.

The next step is for the city to enter into a contract with Holt. According to the city attorney and public works department, the details that concern Wallis will be hammered out in the contract phase and did not need to be specified in the RFP.

coordination between the drilling contractor and quality testing consultants.

The work in the current bid only covers the well itself, meaning the piping, pump and other infrastructure connections projects to bring it online would come during a future phase.

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MEDFORD WATER Hospital finds lead in water outlets

Water at nine locations at Providence exceeded EPA lead levels

By Damian Mann
Mall Tribune

High levels of lead in drinking water have been discovered at nine locations in Providence Medford Medical Center, including four sinks in the BirthPlace area.

The hospital has taken the tainted sinks, fixtures and a water fountain out of service while repairs are made, according to Jean Powell Marks, spokeswoman for Providence Health and Services.

Testing that began in August found lead that exceeded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency action level of 15 parts per billion in four sinks at the labor and delivery area, two utility sinks in the emergency department, and three sinks and a drinking fountain in rehabilitation services.

While testing for lead in the rehabilitation area, Providence workers found a four-inch waterline that had ruptured inside the building. Once the line is repaired in about two weeks, the water will be retested.

"We believe the rupture is what caused the high level of lead found in the rehab sinks and drinking fountain," Marks said in an email. "The repairs on that line begin on Monday and are expected to take two weeks."

An alternative source of drinking water has been provided while repairs are underway.

The readings that exceeded the EPA level ranged from 16.6 ppb to more than 300 ppb, but Marks said Providence believes the highest readings were a result of the ruptured waterline.

Marks said the lead contamination doesn't appear to be the result of ongoing issues with Medford Water

SEE WATER, A2

WATER

From Page A1

Commission lines.

"We are finding the fixtures appear to be the problem, and they are being replaced in any sink that tests above the EPA standard," Marks said. "Once repaired, the sink will be tested again to ensure the problem is resolved."

The hospital is continuing to test all water fixtures and will take any out of service for repairs if they test above the EPA standard, Marks said. To date, the only drinking fountain that has been taken out of service is in the rehabilitation center, she said.

Marks said the hospital began testing because of safety concerns raised about lead issues nationally, as well as the Water Commission's efforts to remove lead pipes from the system. The Water Commission has located 21 lead connectors, known as pigtails, and is continuing to search for more. As they are found, the

"It's important to keep in mind that the EPA says consuming water with elevated lead levels is rarely a primary cause of a significant health risk to adults."

Jean Powell Marks, spokeswoman for Providence Health and Services

requiring testing of anyone as a result of the high lead readings, because patients and employees rarely use sinks to get drinking water. Sinks are mainly used for hand washing and cleaning supplies, she said.

"It's important to note that the EPA says washing your hands is safe even in water with elevated lead levels. Human skin does not absorb lead in water," Marks said.

Patients receive bottled water as part of their food service, she said.

Providence will continue to test all water fixtures in the hospital in the weeks ahead, Marks said. The dietary and cafeteria water supply has been tested as well, and the results were below EPA limits.

"It's important to keep in mind that the EPA says con-

health risk to adults," she said. "Our drinking water and ice machines at the nurses stations all are filtered — that is the primary source of drinking water for patients and employees."

Employees can contact Providence's employee health department to discuss lead testing. Also, discharged patients with concerns about lead exposure can contact primary care physicians, Marks said.

Asante spokeswoman Lauren Van Sickle said Rogue Regional Medical Center is tested annually for lead and biologics, but the latest test results were not immediately available Friday.

— Reach reporter Damian Mann at 541-776-4476

OCT 19 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Parks & Rec drinking water sources OK

Forty-nine of the 60 drinking water outlets tested throughout parks and facilities in the North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District had lead levels below Environmental Protection Agency standards, Clackamas County officials announced last month.

Tested sites included water fountains, kitchen sink faucets and ice machines and comprise all potential potable sources found at NCPRD managed and maintained sites.

"Clackamas County was not required to perform this testing, and we had no indication that anything was wrong," said County Administrator Don Krupp. "But we felt that, given the recent news stories about this issue, this was a prudent step to ensure the health and safety of our residents and park users. We're pleased with this outcome."

The single source that exceeded the EPA limit came from a sink at the Hood View Park house, which is not in use as a water source. That house is primarily a staff office with limited public use. The source tested at 26 parts per billion (the EPA set level is 20 parts per billion). While that source is being retested, the sink already has been decommissioned and removed.

Water samples were collected by parks district staff after being trained to do so. The samples were then sent to Water Environment Services, the county department

See DRINKING WATER / Page A11

Park water: Officials say it's OK to drink

- North Clackamas Park and Facilities
- Pfeiffer Park
- Risley Park
- Stringfield Park and Facility
- Summerfield Park
- Village Green Park
- Water Tower Park

- Harmony Road Neighborhood Park
- Heddie Notz Park
- Hood View Park and Facilities
- Maintenance Facility
- Milwaukie Center
- Mt. Talbert Park
- North Clackamas Aquatic Park

- Alma Myra Park
- Allamont Park
- Ann-Toni Shreiber Park
- Ashley Meadows Park
- Century Park
- Happy Valley Park

From Page A1

ty to Portland, which has experienced lead contamination issues, and because of the age of some of the sources.

The 20 sites included:

that is certified to perform lead testing. The testing cost less than \$2,000.

This is only the first phase of the county's current plans for lead testing. It is expected that other county facilities will be similarly tested by the end of the year. The NCPRD sites were selected for preliminary tests because of their proximity to Portland, which has experienced lead contamination issues, and because of the age of some of the sources.

OCT 20 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

COUNCIL MULLS WATER ISSUES WITH TVWD

By MANDY FEDER-SAWYER
The Times 744-7

There was a steady stream of water conversation at the Oct. 11 Beaverton City Council meeting during a public hearing to receive input regarding the withdrawal of territory from the Tualatin Valley Water District.

The TVWD currently provides water to some areas within the city of Beaverton. An intergovernmental agreement between the city and TVWD defining their respective water service boundaries expired in 2012. Since then, the city and TVWD have been in discussions regarding a new intergovernmental agreement.

The city of Beaverton is prepared to provide water service to areas served by the city, as well as the ones served by TVWD.

Councilor Betty Bode said she is "not interested in Beaverton being isolated — we need multiple water sources that can help. Citizens have the right to get water out of their faucets."

Beaverton City Council President Marc San Soucie said "One priority was for the city of Beaverton to be a water provider. This is a piece of the urban renewal puzzle."

The ordinance to withdraw an area of land from the boundaries of the TVWD specifies that, whenever a part less than the entire area of a district becomes incorporated or annexed to a city, the city may cause that part to be withdrawn from the district at any time after such incorporation or annexation after notice and hearing on the question of whether withdrawal is in the city's best interest.

The city of Beaverton has long assumed the responsibility to plan and zone the land uses in the area discussed. With statewide planning goals, the city has planned to provide all city urban services to that area. The territory described was withdrawn from the TVWD as of July 1, 2017.

The city and TVWD will be meeting in the coming months to establish equitable terms of any required compensation and division of assets.

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LOCAL

Boil notice issued for Gold Hill water

The mayor of Gold Hill is advising residents to boil water before drinking it in the wake of several waterline breaks that are being repaired. Breaks were reported in three places about 1 p.m. Wednesday, according to Mayor Jan Fish. As of 5 p.m. Wednesday, crews had repaired one broken pipe. Some areas experienced reduced water pressure while crews worked on the repairs, Fish said. Drinking water will be available at City Hall today, according to Fish. She said she hopes the water will be drinkable by Friday. The water is not chlorinated, and tests to determine whether the water is safe to drink take 24 hours. "They will be chlorinating the system in the morning," Fish said Wednesday.

MEDFORD WATER COMMISSION

Manager forced out

After 28 years, Larry Rains put on leave, says he's retiring

By Damian Mann
Mail Tribune 744-7

Embattled Medford Water Commission Manager Larry Rains has been placed on paid administrative leave after months of controversy stemming from the discovery of lead in local drinking water.

"I plan to resign at the end of October," said Rains, who appeared stunned by the developments that led to his ouster following five executive sessions held by the Water Commission board over the last two months.

The board unanimously approved paid administrative leave effective Wednesday afternoon for Rains through the end of the month until a severance package deal can be worked out. Rains receives \$147,576 annually plus benefits.

"Thank you very much for your service to the Medford Water Commission," said board member Lee Fortier.

The board appointed Eric Johnson, principal engineer, to be interim manager.

Board members declined to discuss the issues that transpired or release details about a severance package, though Rains' contract indicates he could be entitled to up to one year of pay.

"He's decided to retire effective the 31st," board member Bob Strosser said. "Anything that is hinged on discussions in the executive session, I'm not going to talk about."

Rains, who was getting ready to leave his office for the last time Wednesday after 28 years with the commission, declined to be interviewed after the meeting.

Rains' decision to step down came after the board learned that lead pipes known as pig-tails were found in the water system despite claims by Rains

FORCED

From Page A1

to the contrary.

To date, 21 lead pipes have been found. In three instances where it was possible to test the water and where residents agreed to the tests, lead levels exceeded the federal EPA action level of 15 parts per billion.

Water Commission crews have found 298 locations where there is some indication that a lead pipe might be located underground. Of these, 111 have been checked. The Water Commission has hired two temporary employees to speed up the search for lead pipes.

In September, the Water Commission relieved Rains of his ability to unilaterally hire and fire employees after his abrupt termination the agency's spokeswoman, Sara

and tests taken at a tap inside the home confirmed high lead levels. Water Commission records show a lead connector had been removed on Oakdale almost a year prior to Rains' statement.

Commission Water Quality Manager Rustie Bindi, in a May 11 memo to Rains, wrote she had "rated many times that we should not try to prove we do not — that could become a public nightmare."

Despite a public records request from the Mail Tribune, the Water Commission has refused to release a performance review of Rains that delved into his leadership style and performance. The review included meetings with current employees.

Johnson, the interim manager, said he will await further instructions from the board to determine the extent of his

responsibilities.

"I will do what is requested by the board," he said. "We will continue on with the lead pigtail search and the corrosion study."

The corrosion study will determine how Medford's water interacts with pipes, and whether it is leaching out toxic metals such as lead or copper. The study will suggest ways to

counteract leaching.

Johnson said Wednesday afternoon he hasn't had time to consider other questions about his new role. He said he didn't know whether the board wanted him to rehire Bristol.

"There has not been enough time to consider that," he said. "There has been no conversation about anything. I'll leave that up to the board's

discretion." Johnson said he expects the board will draft some kind of memo that will spell out his responsibilities as interim manager.

Reach reporter Damian Mann at 541-776-4476 or damm@mailtribune.com. Follow him on www.twitter.com/veporlerdm.

MEDFORD WATER COMMISSION

Lead found in two more homes

Home had 190 times more lead than allowed

By Damian Mann 744-7
Mail Tribune

Lead levels 190 times higher than federal standards have been discovered at abuse on Hillcrest Road in east Medford.

The results, released by the Medford Water Commission, are part of the latest round of testing at residences where lead connectors known as pigtails have been found.

The house on Hillcrest Road tested at 2,800 parts per billion of lead Sept. 14, exceeding the federal action level of 15 parts per billion.

Meanwhile, at a house on Newtown Street in southwest Medford, lead levels of 1,100 ppb were detected Sept. 13.

So far, the Water Commission has found 21 lead pigtails and has removed 10.

"The number of pigtails, while not high, is a concern," Water Commission board member Bob Strosser said. "The purpose of this exercise is to find them and fix them."

The samples from the Newtown and Hillcrest homes were taken after water had sat inside the pipe for at least six hours. The high readings were from the section of pipe that contained the lead, which is typically near the street.

At two residences on Newtown that are fed by the same service lines, a sample of water collected at the meter showed 27.6 ppb of lead. After the pigtail was removed, subsequent tests at the kitchen tap showed even higher levels of 55.5 and 317 ppb. Water Commission crews replaced aerators at taps, suspecting they might be the source of lead.

Water Commission crews offered to check all residences where pigtails have been found, but they couldn't take reliable tests because of numerous leaks found. As part of the testing process, water must sit in the pipes for a minimum of six hours.

Also, many customers have declined to have their water tested or don't want follow-up tests to confirm lead levels have dropped below the federal threshold.

"It's their right to say they don't want the testing," Strosser said. "We're standing there saying we want to help."

During the testing, leaks have been discovered on the customer side of the meter as well as on the Water Commission side.

Interim Water Commission Manager Eric Johnson said the waterlines are under pressure, so it would be difficult for organic contamination of the water supply from leaks.

"As long as the pressure is going one way, it's pushing everything out," he said.

Leaks under lawns typically

SEE LEAD, A6

OCT 21 2016

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CITY PAVES WAY FOR FIRMS TO WORK ON PROJECTS

The Portland City Council on Wednesday voted on multiple construction-related agenda items. Two were passed by 3-0 votes:

• The city accepted a contract with McMillen Jacobs Associates of Portland to serve as owner's representative for the coming Willamette River Crossing project. Six proposals were received in April. McMillen Jacobs was deemed by staff to be have the highest score.

The project is intended to provide drinking water to Portland west of the Willamette, including the downtown core, in the event of a major earthquake. The city's three existing crossings reportedly have a 48 percent chance of failing in a seismic event. Plans for the new crossing call for it to terminate just north of Marquam Bridge and employ horizontal directional drilling.

McMillen Jacobs is not a disadvantaged, minority-owned, woman-owned or emerging small business, but it intends to direct 24.2 percent of its contract amount (\$957,000) to DMWESB subconsultants.

• Also, the city accepted a bid by Landis & Landis Construction to handle the upcoming Terwilliger Boulevard sanitary sewer extension services project. The firm's bid of \$3.4 million came in 9.5 percent lower than the engineer's estimate, and beat six other bids.

The city's aspirational goal for DMWESB

participation by subcontractors and suppliers is 20 percent of hard construction costs. Landis & Landis has identified several certified firms to handle flagging, trucking and concrete cutting - for a value of \$725,000. It will self-perform excavating, clearing, grubbing, traffic control, concrete, asphalt and concrete cutting. — Garrett Andrews

LEAD

From Page A1

result in squishy soil that can be readily identified, Johnson said. Leaks in Water Commission lines are repaired as quickly as possible after they're discovered, he said.

The lead pigtails have been found in waterlines that date back to the early 1900s.

Water testing has been conducted on only three houses with pigtails. On Oakdale Street, a waterline that fed multiple residences showed lead levels of 439 ppb June 23, but the levels dropped below federal thresholds after the pigtail was removed.

Another test was conducted June 29 at a vacant lot on West Main Street where no pigtail was located. Lead levels at the meter box registered 26.4 ppb.

Blood testing has been offered at residences where pigtails have been found, but to date none of the residents have accepted the offer. The Water Commission has agreed to pay up to \$250 for each blood test.

Jackson and Roosevelt elementary schools, as well as Providence Medford Medical Center, have also found high lead levels and fixtures were removed in those buildings that were suspected of contributing to the contamination. Some newer faucets

and fixtures have lead in them that can leach out into the water.

After the schools found elevated lead levels, the Water Commission collected 23 samples from service lines, and the results came back well below federal action levels.

The Water Commission has geared up for a corrosion study that will determine how much the pure water from Big Butte Springs, which is the valley's main water source, leaches metals from pipes. One of the goals of the study will be to determine what to add to the water to prevent it from leaching metals.

The Commission recommends all Medford homeowners run their water for 30 seconds to two minutes before drinking to flush pipes, or until it runs cold, particularly after the water has been in the pipes for an extended period.

For children, low levels of lead exposure have been linked to damage to the nervous system, learning disabilities, shorter stature, impaired hearing and impaired formation and function of blood cells.

744-7

— Reach reporter Damian Mann at 541-776-4476 or dmann@mailtribune.com. Follow him on www.twitter.com/reporterdm.