

# Lead found at N. Douglas Schools

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(Douglas Co.)  
News Review  
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Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

TROY BRYNELSON  
744-7  
The News-Review

Unsafe levels of lead have been found within the North Douglas School District, district officials announced Thursday afternoon.

With the help of a Eugene-based chemical testing company, officials called for a district-wide test and found higher amounts of the heavy metal in water in two classrooms stands, three science lab stations, a high school bathroom and the water supply in three classrooms — officially denying them "non-drinkable" water. Forty-five locations were tested.

It has not yet been made clear how much lead was found. The National Center for Disease Control sets 15 parts per billion as the threshold where lead becomes

**LEAD**  
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dangerous. Those 10 sites were found to require "corrective action," district officials said.

Superintendent John Labley said no drinking fountains were tested with high lead levels, nor were kitchen areas or other places where food preparation would take place.

"We're concerned about the situation on behalf of the kids," Labley said in a brief phone interview.

"We were going to test in May and we couldn't get it done until school was out. But we have every intention to make sure we're all completed and that our drinking sources are going to be safe for kids."

The water supply to those

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areas has already been shut off.

Analytical Laboratory Group, of Eugene, conducted the tests, and it was their recommendation to district officials to double-check the findings. It is possible, Labley said in a release, that the water supplies went unused for long periods of time and could require a flush.

"Based upon research and advice from professional agencies, we will do a retest of those failed sites in order to confirm with certainty (they) have problems with the pipes," Labley said.

Tests for the heavy metal have taken off nationwide this year after Flint, Michigan, came under national scrutiny for its toxic water supply affecting residents. Lead contamination is known to cause serious health effects, and it can be

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Bend Bulletin  
(Cir. W. 27,547)

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# Legislature needs to back schools in getting lead out

Schools in the Bend-La Pine district were tested for lead in drinking water recently, and all came up with a clean bill of health. Other districts in the area will test in their schools this summer, and it's likely that Bend-La Pine will have to test again.

That's because the state Board of Education is considering rules governing pollutants such as lead and radon. If the rules are adopted as expected in August, what's been done here so far is unlikely to be enough.

Lead and radon are at the forefront these days in part because the Portland school district found too much of both in some schools earlier this year. Similar problems turned up in Eugene, Beaverton and Gresham.

As a result, the state Department of Education is creating rules for districts requiring healthy and safe facilities plans for every building districts own or use as schools or public charter schools.

Assuming the rules are adopted, the plans are likely to call for testing of every drinking fountain and sink in each building for lead. In addition, schools will have to test for lead in paint, dirt and dust, and they'll have to test for radon gas.

There's good reason for all this. As the federal Environmental Protection Agency notes on its website, lead is particularly dangerous to children, and the younger the child, the greater the danger. Lead poisoning can lower a child's IQ and create behavioral problems, hearing loss and other problems. Nor is lead limited to water. In fact, it's more likely to be found in paint, dust and dirt.

Lead was often used in public water pipes before the mid-1970s, though it wasn't banned for home use for another decade. Almost half of Bend-La Pine elementary schools were built before the mid-1970s. Even in newer buildings, lead still can sometimes be found in minute amounts in faucets and elsewhere.

All this is going to cost money, and unless the state funds it, the burden will fall on individual school districts. The state Legislature needs to ensure districts have the money to do the testing.

# Board to adopt new rules to test for lead, radon

Canby, OR  
(Clackamas Co.)  
Herald  
(Cir. 2xW. 4,762)

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Requiring schools to monitor, post results each year will boost costs

By PARIS ACHEN  
Pamplin Media Group

Oregon's Board of Education is fast-tracking adoption of a new rule that requires schools to test for lead and radon and report those results to the public.

The rule came on the heels of a scandal in Portland Public Schools over lead in drinking water that went unreported, and a directive by Gov. Kate Brown.

"I think an additional layer of checks and balances when we are talking about student safety (is needed), so I think this will make parents feel much better," said board chairwoman Miranda Summer.

The board heard a first reading of the rule Thursday and plans adoption Aug. 17. A public hearing on the proposal is scheduled for Aug. 2.

The requirement will entail additional costs to schools and the Oregon Department of Education. The Legislative Fiscal Office is working on an estimate on what those costs will be. Legislative leadership has asked the

Emergency Board to allocate money to pay for it.

Brown in April directed the Oregon Department of Education and Oregon Health Authority to review existing requirements for environmental testing and address the problem of lead in drinking water.

During the review, health and education officials learned that neither the education department nor the health authority has the power to require schools test for lead, said Emily Nazarov, operations policy analyst with the education department's government and legal affairs section.

"Unfunded mandates?"

The health authority has the power to require testing of public water systems, but schools are excluded from the agency's jurisdiction. The proposed rule would require school districts, charter schools and education services districts to conduct lead and radon testing and to submit an environmental monitoring plan to ODE for keeping water, air and physical spaces safe for students and staff.

The health authority already had the right to require schools to test for radon, but the new rule will provide comprehensive guidance to schools on all of the testing required. Schools will be required to report their test

results to the education department and to the community annually.

"I'm supportive of this, but I am also thinking this is like the iceberg with only the tip visible and there is a lot of it unseen, and it can become very quickly a nightmare," said school board member Samuel Henry.

Henry said if the Legislature doesn't approve additional funding for implementing the rule it could be another one of those "famous unfunded mandates."

The agencies asked schools to test for lead during the summer. All of the districts have either completed or are in the process of testing, Nazarov said.

The agencies recommend that schools identify sources of lead, stop access, communicate results to staff, students, parents and the community and mitigate and repair the problem.

"Districts are doing a lot of this already," Nazarov said. "Portland (Public Schools) mentioned at one of the meetings one of their learning points is to make sure you are documenting this. Repairs are done. People leave organizations, and nobody knows that the repair was done or when it was done, and that information is lost. This is a way to make sure there is a record that the community has access to and that that info is available."

LEAD

## Elementary water tests well beyond guidelines

BY CALLEY HAIR  
Of the News-Times  
744-7

NEWPORT — A precautionary lead test of every classroom at Yaquina View Elementary turned up high levels of lead in four additional sinks following a borderline test result last month.

The new results found classroom sinks that blew past the federal action limit of 0.015 milligrams per liter, with results as high as 0.151 mg/L.

"Because that came back not good for us, we're going to test every drinking fountain and sink in the whole district," said Rich Belloni, support services director at the Lincoln County School District. "We don't have any choice. We have to test everything now."

The findings came as a surprise to Belloni, whose department tested 12 sites at the elementary school in May. Of those, only one raised any concern — a single sink in the south wing of the school with a concentration of .0192 mg/L, barely above the federal limit.

To ease worries about the borderline test, the school shut off its water fountains in all classrooms and brought in bottled water for the remainder of the school year. It also provided free voluntary lead testing to its students on June 14. No students tested positive for lead poisoning.

Belloni said the school would test every drinking fountain as a precautionary measure. The new results far exceeded expectations — water in rooms 31, 34, 36, and 41 contain lead concentrations of 0.0535, 0.151, 0.140, and 0.0523, respectively.

All of these concentrations are more than triple the federal limit, requiring drastic action from the school district.

Starting Wednesday, July 6, Belloni and his team will test every sink and fountain in the district, which he estimates total more than 2,000 sites.

"It's not going to be cheap," Belloni said.

Testing one water sample for lead costs \$18 plus shipping costs, he said. Multiplied by the thousands of sites, he said the project would cost at least \$40,000.

"And that's if we don't find anything," he added.

Belloni and his team are taking advantage of the summer lull to replace the main pipe under the south wing of the school, swapping out the old copper pipes held together with lead solder for

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## Education board to adopt new rules to test for lead, radon

Requiring schools to monitor, past results yearly will boost costs

By PARIS ACHEN  
Capital Bureau

Oregon's Board of Education is fast-tracking adoption of a new rule that requires schools to test for lead and radon, and then report those results to the public.

The rule came on the heels of a scandal in Portland Public Schools over lead in drinking water that went unreported, and a directive by Gov. Kate Brown.

"I think an additional layer of checks and balances when we are talking about student safety (is needed), so I think this will make parents feel much better," said OBE board chairwoman Miranda Sumner.

The board heard a first reading of the rule in mid-June and plans adoption on Aug. 17. A public hearing on the proposal is scheduled for Aug. 2. The requirement will entail additional costs to schools and the Oregon Department of Education; the Legislative Fiscal Office is working on an estimate on what those costs will be. Legislative leadership has asked the Emergency Board to allocate money to pay for it.

Brown directed the Oregon Department of Education and Oregon Health Authority in April to review existing requirements for environmental testing and address the problem of lead in drinking water.

During the review, health and education officials learned that neither the education department nor the health authority has the power to require schools to test for lead, said Emily Nazarov, operations policy analyst with the education department's government and legal affairs section.

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## Alternative school has lead in water

Multnomah ESD offers bottled water at Helensview

By SHASTA KEARNS MOORE  
The Tribune

A third of the fixtures at an alternative high school program serving students from five Portland school districts have tested above federal limits for lead in drinking water.

There were 17 fixtures at Helensview School, operated by Multnomah Education Service District (MESD), that tested higher than 15 parts per billion of lead on June 15. The highest rang in at 94.2 ppb — more than six times the limit.

"All of those have obviously been shut off," said district spokeswoman Laura Conroy.

Officials will continue with an early-June decision to keep the faucets shut off and provide bottled water to staff and students during summer school. In fact, Conroy said bottled water has been provided in every classroom since 2009 as a way to keep kids inside the classroom during learning time.

"Academic efficiency is reduced when a student leaves class and misses out on instruction," she said. "Providing bottled water in the classrooms by allowing students to remain in class and focused on learning."

The test results were posted on the district's website last week, along with the results from two other schools built before the lead ban. Wheatley and Wynne Watts schools' fixtures tested below actionable levels.

Oregon Education Association's Alan Moore, a union spokesman for MESD staff, declined comment other than to say that he was glad the other five MESD schools — three of them built after a 1986 lead ban — came back with clean test results.

Helensview, which is leased to the MESD by Parkrose School District, teaches more than 200 students who have had trouble in the mainstream education system. The students have had barriers such as chronic absenteeism, homelessness, behavioral challenges and other issues. About two-thirds of the students are from Portland Public Schools.

There is a child care center on campus, but it has always had deliveries of drinking water, Conroy said. Two fixtures labeled "Early Child" on the test results are for sinks in a hallway outside the gymnasium, she said. There are two fixtures in the child care room, but those fixtures tested well below federal limits.

Health officials have said any level of lead can be dangerous to young children. The effects of lead poisoning in children under 6 can lead to developmental disabilities and behavioral challenges. Adults and older children are generally able to process the toxin, but it can pose a significant health risk at high levels.

The Environmental Protection Agency sets a standard of 15 parts per billion for lead in a water system or 20 parts per billion at a single fixture.

Conroy says the district will flush the affected faucets for 30 seconds and then run a second test to determine if the contaminants are coming from the pipes or the fixtures and then take appropriate action.

## LEAD

Continued from page 1

a new Schedule 90 CPVC line.

"Rather than try to Band-Aid it, we're going to put in new pipes the whole way," Belloni said.

"We think maybe it's the lead joints where they put copper pipe together. They use a lead solder, and in the old days the lead solder wasn't too great."

He said he's unsure when the pipes were last replaced,

but in his 17 years with the district they hadn't been touched.

744-7

Contact reporter Calley Hair at 541-263-8571 ext. 211 or chair@newportnews-times.com.

# Pendleton schools begin testing for lead

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
East Oregonian  
744-7

The Pendleton School District is trying to get a lead on lead testing. Michelle Jones, the district's director of business services, discussed the district's testing efforts at a school board meeting Tuesday. Since Kirby Nagelhout Construction Co. was already running tests on the plumbing systems for Washington and Sherwood Heights elementary schools while completing construction on two new buildings, Jones said the company agreed to test for lead at those two sites.

"We're doing a sampling based on the plumbing throughout the district so we're not sampling every faucet at this point," she said. "We'll determine, based on the results, if we need to test further or if we're good at that point." Jones said she's waiting for results to return from the tests and will eventually release them to the public on the district's website. Lead testing became a hot topic across the state when Portland Public Schools discovered large amounts of lead in its water supply. A recent survey conducted by the *East Oregonian* found that most schools

in Umatilla and Morrow counties did not test for lead. "It's a statewide issue because all the labs are just being bombarded by requests now after the Portland fiasco," board member Dave Krumbain said. "It's a huge issue statewide because everyone wants it done now." According to the Environmental Protection Agency, ingesting lead through drinking water can have adverse health effects, especially for young children. "In children, low levels of exposure have been linked to damage to the central and peripheral nervous

system, learning disabilities, shorter stature, impaired hearing, and impaired formation and function of blood cells," the EPA website states. The district's lead tests are being done even though there is no state requirement. "It's the responsible thing to do," Chairwoman Debbie McBee said. The district does have a mandate to start testing for radon gas, the result of a bill passed by the Legislature in 2015. Jones said the district has to submit a radon testing plan to the state by Sept. 1 with the expectation to start regular testing in 2021.

With the district still needing to select a laboratory to run the tests, which take two to seven days to complete, Jones said the earliest the district could test for radon is winter break. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 20,000 lung cancer deaths per year are attributed to radon gas. Jones said the district will also make the results of the radon testing available to the public.

Contact Antonio Sierra at [asierra@eastoregonian.com](mailto:asierra@eastoregonian.com) or 541-966-0836.

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(Cir. S. 8,888)

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## NEWS UPDATE | Lead in schools

**AINSWORTH ELEMENTARY:** Tests on water samples from Ainsworth Elementary show that 20 of the school's 83 faucets and fountains, including two drinking fountains and eight classroom sinks, contained lead at levels higher than a federal action threshold.

Two classroom sinks had the worst problem, giving off lead at more than five times the federal threshold. The U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency requires water systems to take action to reduce lead levels if water contains 15 parts per billion. The two sinks produced water with 88 and 84 parts per billion of lead, test results show.

The school enrolls 600 students in kindergarten through grade five. It was built in 1912 and serves some of Portland's wealthiest neighborhoods.

**CHAPMAN ELEMENTARY:** Lead at levels as high as 10 times the federal action level showed up in 28 faucets, including in six classroom sinks and three kitchen sinks, at Chapman Elementary, tests show. That meant one third of the school's 88 water sources was dangerously tainted.

All 25 of the school's drinking fountains gave off water with less than 15 parts per bil-

lion of lead. But a few were near that level, with water samples that contained 14, 13 or 12 parts per billion of lead. The highest level of lead was found in a boy's restroom sink. The lab tests showed that faucet gave off water with 8,010 parts per billion of lead.

Chapman is one of the district's largest elementary schools with 640 students.

- Betsy Hammond

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# Lead problems disclosed years ago to two top Portland parks officials

By Brad Schmidt 744-7  
The Oregonian/OregonLive

Two of the highest-ranking managers for Portland Parks & Recreation received warnings years ago about elevated levels of lead in drinking water at a city facility but never made sure fixes were completed. Officials didn't publicly disclose those elevated lead levels at the Multnomah Arts Center until last month, after The Oregonian/OregonLive inquired about system-wide testing, saying in a statement that Parks Bureau "leadership" didn't learn about past results until June 3.

But city records released Wednesday show that two employees who report directly to Mike Abbate, the bureau director, were told in 2012 and 2013 about lead testing results or the need to replace plumbing because of lead. Abbate, who has led the Parks Bureau since 2011, took responsibility Wednesday for the years-long breakdown while reiterating that he didn't personally learn about past problems until last month.

"This is a question of making clear the expectations for our staff, including my direct reports," Abbate said. "We haven't had clear protocols. That's what we're in the process of developing right now." Parks officials have been aware since at least 2009 of the need to replace plumbing at the Multnomah Arts Center, a city-owned building at 7588 S.W. Capitol Highway that provides services for children and seniors. Testing from 2011, 2012 and 2013 found high lead levels in some water samples. But officials didn't fully address the problem until this spring.

In response to elevated lead found in Portland Public Schools, the first high test result, reported internally in June 2011, prompted the closure of one sink in a senior center meeting room. Lead levels

were reported at 20 parts per billion, Michael Walsh, director of the center, wrote in a July 2011 email that six locations had been sampled but other tests were not planned, records show.

In October 2012, tests found high levels in the kitchen in the senior center. Walsh emailed concerns to several city employees, including Don Ahbey, who at the time was the bureau's lead carpenter.

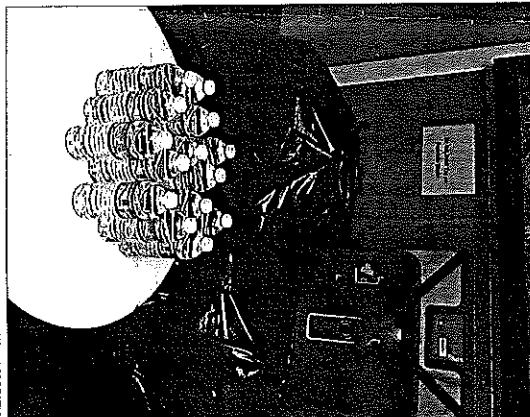
In November, another employee looped in Kia Salley, the Park Bureau's assets and development division manager, to say he was working on a short-term solution for high lead at the center and to "come up with a permanent fix if possible."

Salley, who reports to Abbate, was told by maintenance and planning workers that officials could consider "emergency" pipe upgrades or money could be set aside in the annual budget process. No decision was made, records show.

In 2013, new testing found lead problems at seven other sinks or drinking fountains, with levels from 18 to 62.5 parts per billion. That September, Walsh formally requested funding and said the need for improvements was urgent. Among others, he emailed Ellen Argentina, who manages recreation services and reports directly to Abbate, the bureau director.

Argentina declined to comment Wednesday and referred questions to Mark Ross, a bureau spokesman. Rather than approving the project, officials in October 2013 estimated they could install filters for \$300 apiece. There's no reference to filters being installed.

Over the next year and a half, only one sink with high levels was removed as part of annual maintenance, records show. In March 2015, Walsh made another request to "complete (the) lead abatement project"



COURTESY OF PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION  
Bottles have replaced water dispensers at the Multnomah Arts Center in Southwest Portland. The city acknowledged Sunday that it found high lead levels years ago in 11 water samples.

and listed in a separate document the need to add filters to several locations. In January 2016, the city canceled that work request.

On May 5, Walsh emailed Ahbey, who is now a senior facilities maintenance supervisor, with an ominous message. "Lead," he wrote. "I wanted to remind you we should still deal with this issue."

Walsh and Ahbey declined to comment Wednesday and referred questions to Ross. On May 31, Salley emailed Ahbey to ask what happened to the "lead-tainted water" at the Multnomah Arts Center site said she remembered from 2012.

"My recollection is that we have addressed this issue and that there is no longer a safety risk for our staff or customers," she wrote. Ahbey responded that "not everything has been addressed" but he would be

meeting with Walsh that day to craft a plan for immediate repairs.

Salley on Wednesday did not respond to a request for comment. Parks officials notified the public June 5 about problems at the Multnomah Arts Center and shut down fixtures. Eleven sinks and three fountains still need repairs at the Multnomah Arts Center, officials said Wednesday.

The city's review concluded that results showing high lead levels were not sufficiently prioritized when they were first received. The review — authored by Chris Slike, a Parks Bureau asset management manager who reports to Salley — did not uncover any instance of negligence or intent to deceive. It didn't recommend any disciplinary action against employees.

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# LEAD Water woes create mess for district

744-7  
BY CALLEY HAIR  
Of the Times-Times

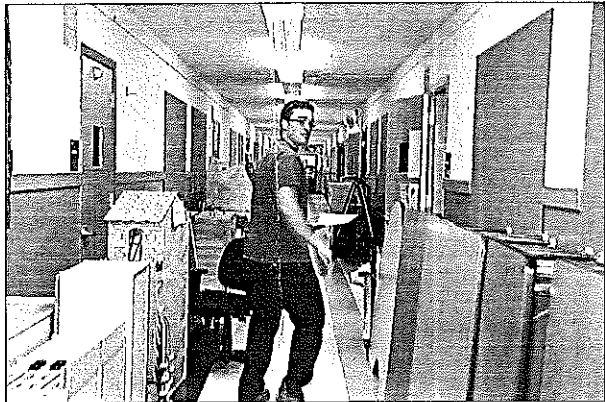
**NEWPORT** — Startling results from the most recent water quality tests at Yaquina View Elementary spurred immediate action from the Lincoln County School District. But according to LCSD Director of Support Services Rich Belloni, there's no way of knowing the age or composition of water pipes in schools across the district.

"We don't have any records that show us that," Belloni said. "We don't have staff to go back 20-30 years."

Four sinks at Yaquina View tested well above federal action levels for lead in the drinking water, ranging from 2.6 to 7.6 times over the allowable limit of 0.020 milligrams per liter.

According to samples collected on June 15, rooms 31, 36, 38 and 41 contain lead concentrations of 0.0335, 0.131, 0.140 and 0.0523 mg/L, respectively.

LEAD on Page A8



District support staffer Riley Hiner walks between classrooms in the south wing of Yaquina View Elementary on Wednesday, July 6. Hiner will collect samples from every sink and faucet in the district, totaling more than 2,000 test sites. (Photo by Calley Hair)

## LEAD

Continued from page 1

As a result, every water fountain and sink in Lincoln County schools — more than 2,000 sample sites, according to Belloni — will be tested for lead this summer.

"There's no way to prove every fixture is OK until we've tested it," Belloni said.

The issue, he said, lies in a nonexistent paper trail. Before blueprints were digitized, the district would have had to keep paper copies of every update.

"We do remodels in four or five schools a year. If they did the same thing starting 50 or 60 years ago, you'd have a house full of paper," Belloni said.

Yaquina View was built in 1958. While Belloni said there's no record of any updates to the school's plumbing since then, the pipes in question — copper plumbing sealed together with lead-infused solder, supplying water to the south wing of the school — didn't come into popular use until the 1970s.

"Somewhere back, they must have put copper pipe,"

Belloni said, adding he's not sure when or why the update took place.

The testing also raised questions about the accuracy of the lead testing, as results from the Eugene-based Analytical Laboratory Group indicate that one sink nearly tripled its lead concentration since a previous test just two weeks earlier.

In a set of May 31 tests, water in Room 31 showed a concentration level of 0.0192 mg/L. The borderline result fell between two conflicting action limits — the Oregon Health Authority allows for schools to hit 0.020 mg/L, while the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency caps acceptable lead levels at 0.015 mg/L.

In a good-faith effort to ease concerns among teachers and parents, the district shut off every faucet and sink in the school and provided bottled water for the remainder of the school year.

When the water was retested on June 15, the lead concentration in Room 31 jumped to 0.0535 mg/L.

A representative from Analytical Laboratory Group

declined to comment on why that discrepancy might exist.

Belloni, however, has a guess — he believes that the same precautionary step of shutting off the water in the school might have skewed the results of the second test, as the water sat stagnant in the pipes for far longer than the required six hours before drawing a sample.

"Really, we probably did it wrong," Belloni said. "In my mind, the only way to know it is (to) retest it."

In the effort to test the entire county, Riley Hiner, the district summer staffer taking on the lead testing, will control for that variable by running every faucet and fountain the afternoon before collecting samples.

"That way, when he draws the water early the next morning, Hiner will know exactly how long it's been sitting in the pipes."

"Because school's been out, we don't know what's been run and what hasn't been run," Belloni said.

That process began Wednesday, July 6, at Yaquina View, Newport High, and Sam Case Elementary, when

Hiner ran the water before collecting samples from each tap at 5 a.m. on July 7. Hiner will hopefully complete the collection process by Wednesday, July 13, Belloni said. Results take about 10 days to arrive.

At \$18 per test, checking

every sink and faucet in the district should cost between \$40,000 and \$50,000, said Superintendent Steve Boynton. That figure doesn't include any additional costs incurred if the results show a need for action.

"Obviously our student

safety is of the utmost importance, so we're taking every precaution necessary," Boynton said.

744-7  
Contact reporter Calley Hair at 541-265-8571 ext. 211 or chair@newportnewstimes.com.

## FOCUS ON | Lead in schools

744-7

**ROSE CITY PARK SCHOOL:** The two children who tested high for lead during a screening at Rose City Park School in June were poisoned by lead in their homes, not by drinking water at school, Multnomah County health officials reported Tuesday.

The two children were the only people found to have elevated blood lead levels among the 519 children and adults tested at Creston and Rose City Park schools in June after lead was found in drinking fountains and faucets.

The Multnomah County Health Department has not pinpointed drinking water as the source for elevated lead in the blood of any county resident. That includes 30 children from various schools tested at clinics so far this month. Health Department investigations have traced lead poisoning in children in Portland to sources including degraded lead paint, metal scrapping, hobbies, pottery and a teapot from a yard sale.

For more information, contact the county's LeadLine at 503-988-4000 or leadline.org.

**JEFFERSON HIGH:** The water flowing from Jefferson High's drinking fountains, faucets and showers is more likely to contain high levels of lead than at any other Portland school tested so far.

A whopping 199 fountains and other fixtures, or 60 percent of the school's 330 water sources, gave off water with lead at or above the federal threshold of 15 parts per billion, lab reports show.

That includes 10 drinking fountains where water samples contained lead at 10 to 37 times that

level. In all, 35 water sources produced water with at least 10 times the federal action level.

The school, built in 1909, is the second-oldest still in use in the district. It has additions built in the 1920s, 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. It currently enrolls about 520 students.

Lead-tainted water was found in almost every part of the school, including the kitchen, cafeteria, classrooms, hallways and locker rooms.

The school does have one water

bottle refilling station, and the water it gave off was lead-free, the lab reports say.

Portland school officials have said they will hire an outside firm to provide bottled water at Jefferson and all other Portland Public Schools buildings next year.

High levels of lead have been found in at least some water sources in almost all Portland Public schools tested so far this summer. You can see all of the district's test results at [www.pps.net/Page/5378](http://www.pps.net/Page/5378).

— Betsy Hammond

Portland, OR  
(Multnomah Co.)  
The Oregonian  
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HERALD AND NEWS  
**Oregon Tech tests**  
water for lead, copper  
Results below EPA levels  
considered dangerous

As part of a state-wide testing of water in all Oregon schools for lead and copper, Oregon Tech recently completed its own tests, which show results below levels considered dangerous by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), according to a news release.

During the month of June, water samples were collected by a certified small water systems operator from 39 different sinks and water stations at Oregon Tech's Klamath Falls campus in all facilities, including classrooms, administration and residence buildings. The samples were then sent to an outside environmental testing laboratory for analysis in compliance with the requirements set by Oregon's state education and public health agencies, which provided recommendations of certified laboratories.

The sites all tested within or below the limits set by the EPA. No further samples or retesting were required.

The campus conducts triennial water testing to meet Oregon OSHA requirements, and combined this statewide testing request with a previously scheduled one. Oregon Tech's Williamsville campus did not require water testing as the city of Williamsville recently conducted periodic testing that has come back with satisfactory results and the building, which was built in 2000, used lead-free solder to join potable water copper pipes.

Klamath OR  
(Klamath Co.)  
Herald & News  
(Circ. D. 16,694)  
(Circ. S. 17,324)

JUL 12 2016  
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Portland, OR  
(Multnomah Co.)  
The Oregonian  
(Circ. D. 247,833)  
JUL 12 2016  
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

744-7  
NEWS UPDATE | Portland schools and lead

Law firm Stoll Berne is going to take longer to complete an investigation into Portland Public Schools' drinking-water crisis than originally planned and is already overbudget on the project.

The district signed a contract with Stoll Berne on June 7 and gave it 30 days to report back. But the Portland firm's findings are now expected back July 18.

School Board Chair Tom Koehler also said the firm had shorted an initial \$50,000 cap on costs, though he didn't say by how much.

The contract allows for the board to pay up to \$65,000. Koehler did not say what caused the delay but noted, "the 30 days was an arbitrary timeline imposed by the board to connote the agency."

The contract states work is to be completed "no later than 30 days."

"The investigators have worked diligently and speedily and going over the timeline a little to ensure completeness is OK," Koehler said.

Portland water that is piped to homes and schools doesn't contain lead when it gets there, but Portland's water, from the Bull Run Watershed, is known to leach lead from old lead-containing solder and from fixtures and fittings made of lead-containing brass.

Tests have found nearly all Portland schools have lead problems. Only two schools, Forest Park Elementary and Ross Park Elementary, were built after the mid-1980s, when lead solder and fittings were banned.

—Bernady Barnes

The Dalles, OR  
(Wasco Co.)  
The Dalles Chronicle  
(Circ. D. 3,530)

JUL 12 2016

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

# Schools test low for lead levels

By Neita Cecil  
nececil@thedalleschronicle.com

While high lead levels were found in drinking water in some Portland schools, tests done on schools here produced results significantly below actionable levels.

Testing was done in mid-June, with 74 samples taken at Chenoweth, Dry Hollow and Colonel Wright elementaries, Wahtonka Community School, The Dalles High School and Mosier Community School.

The EPA recommends that school water supplies showing lead levels above 20 parts per billion (ppb) be taken out of service.

Public water systems, which are separately regulated by the EPA and typically the source of school water supplies, have a more stringent requirement of 15 ppb.

All of the water samples in the schools showed lead levels significantly below both those

standards. For example, while the most stringent limit is 15 parts per billion, the average at Dry Hollow was just two ppb, at Colonel Wright it was three ppb, Wahtonka was one ppb, Chenoweth was three ppb, and the high school was one ppb.

**"Lead exposure is of particular concern for children because the toxic metal is harmful to health and especially the central nervous system."**

North Wasco County School District 21 report

The sample from Mosier was less than one ppb.

The older buildings were tested first, with the expectation that they would be the most likely to have problems. The Dalles Middle School, the newest building, by far, at 15 years old, will be tested before school starts, said Superintendent Candy Armstrong.

Colonel Wright is the oldest

building in The Dalles at 92 years, the high school is 76 years old, Chenoweth is 63 years old and Dry Hollow is 56 years old.

The Mosier School is over 100 years old.

Oregon schools are not required to test drinking water

for lead, but in early June state school and health authorities recommended taking such action, the school district said.

"Accordingly, we contracted with PIXIS Labs of Portland to analyze drinking water at the five schools," the school district's statement said.

"We did not test the charter school in Mosier because the

district does not own that building," the statement said. Mosier Charter School did its own testing and provided the results to the district.

"Lead exposure is of particular concern for children because the toxic metal is harmful to health and especially the central nervous system," the statement said.

The EPA and the Centers for Disease Control agree there is no safe level of lead in a child's blood.

According to the EPA website, lead can be harmful even at low exposure levels, particularly for children. Lead can accumulate in the body over time.

Even low levels of lead in the blood of children can result in behavior and learning problems.

Lead can come from paint, dust, soil, air, and food, as well as drinking water. The EPA

See SCHOOLS, Page A5

## Schools

Continued from Page A1

estimates 20 percent of a child's exposure can come from drinking water.

The EPA strongly recommends that schools test for lead in water, but does not require it.

In August, the state Board of Education will consider draft rules requiring that all Oregon schools create Healthy and Safe Facilities Plans and submit them by Oct. 1.

Such plans would address testing for lead, radon and air quality.

The district will comply with any such rules adopted, the statement said.

Parents who have questions on these issues should contact Don Carter, NWCSD 21 Facilities Director, at 541-506-3430 or [carterd@nwasco.k12.or.us](mailto:carterd@nwasco.k12.or.us)

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## Portland School District agrees to lead testing for all workers

The Portland School Board on June 21 approved a budget for 2016-17 that includes up to \$250,000 to make free lead testing available to any Portland Public School (PPS) school worker who requests it.

The new funding comes from an agreement made between the district and leaders of four unions representing school workers at PPS over the course of two meetings—the school board meeting on June 14, and a district and employee stakeholder meeting on June 16. Showing a united front on issues of safety, accountability, and trust, the union leaders confronted the board about two major issues.

The first issue: Lead testing results had been held secret from employees, as well as the public, degrading trust and potentially endangering students, faculty, and staff

testing for school employees not currently assigned to Creston or Rose City Park schools.

At the stakeholder meeting, PPS Superintendent Carole Smith and management agreed to open lines of communication on vital issues, including health and safety, with unions and school workers; and to provide free lead testing to any school worker who requests it, regardless of their worksite.

Taking part in the discussions were representatives from Portland Federation of School Professionals, Local 111, AFT-Oregon; the Portland Association of Teachers, Oregon Education Association; Service Employees Local 503; School Employees Union Local 140; and the District Council of Unions.

"I'm pleased that we've reached an agreement that will improve the peace of mind and safety of workers who are dedicating

Portland, OR  
(Multnomah Co.)  
The Oregonian  
(Circ. D. 247,833)

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## NEWS UPDATE | Lead in the water

744-7

OHSU: Oregon Health & Science University has shut down three more drinking fountains, including one on Thursday, due to high lead levels.

To date, OHSU has closed nine fountains, mainly in Southwest Portland. All of them had lead levels greater than 15 parts per billion, the Environmental Protection Agency "action level."

The one closed Thursday, with 20 parts per billion of lead in the water, is located at the Russell Street Dental Clinic in North Portland. The others are on the university's main campus on the hill or nearby in Southwest Portland. The most contaminated fountain, at 72 parts per billion, is on the third floor of the Casey Eye Institute.

OHSU says its main lines are not contaminated; rather, the problem stems from bronze and other components that leach lead into the water. University staff will replace the components, retest the water and then when they're clean, open them up.

—Lynne Terry

OSU: Oregon State University said Tuesday it tested dozens of drinking fountains, sinks and showers on its Corvallis campus over the past month in the wake of bad publicity at Portland Public Schools over lead in water there.

The first wave of OSU results showed 10 water fixtures, largely showers or kitchen sinks, in a single residence hall had elevated lead levels. The university shut down those sites and is making repairs, according to a statement released this week.

The city of Corvallis tests drinking water each year, but the water from testing stations on campus rather than water that had already cycled through fountains and other fixtures. Clark said the university decided to go above and beyond this year and test showerheads on campus, too. The university tested hundreds of locations in 15 residence halls, the student union, Reser Stadium, the library and other highly trafficked areas.

—Andrew Theen

# 4 instances of excessive lead found in schools

By Sean C. Morgan  
Of The New Era

Testing has identified four locations at Sweet Home High School with lead levels above the maximum allowable, while all of 156 other locations throughout the Sweet Home School District were below.

Of the 160 test locations, lead was undetectable in 104 cases, new Supt. Tom Yahraes told the School Board Monday night during its regular meeting. Of the remaining, 52 were at levels below those mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for drinking water and four exceeded those levels.

Each location was tested multiple times, Yahraes said.

The locations that exceeded the lead BPA lead limits included a sink in the high school home economics room, an underground valve

See School Board, Page 17

## School Board

From page 1

box in the softball field, a drinking fountain in the metal shop and an eyewash station in the auto shop, Yahraes said.

Once a location tests positive, the district begins more detailed testing to determine where the contamination is coming from, he said. The district is in that phase now. Upon completion of testing, the district will begin replacing parts in the water system as needed.

"We're still, as a team, considering other water sources that we need to test," Yahraes said. Staff members are looking for places where students may go and drink water.

The district began testing over the last month. Earlier this year, the Portland School District detected lead in schools across the area. Following that finding, the state government is working on new rules that would require testing at schools throughout the state, and the Oregon Department of Education and Oregon Health Authority have recommended that districts begin testing.

"The Sweet Home team wanted

to get ahead of this," Yahraes said, "because it's the right thing to do" and to get ahead of a mandate, giving the district time to adapt and make corrections.

Present at the meeting, which was Yahraes' first as superintendent, were board members Angela Clegg, Chanz Keeney, Jason Redick, Chairman Mike Reynolds, Nick Augsburg, Carol Babcock and Debra Brown. Jason Van Eck and Jenny Daniels were absent.

In other business, the board:

■ Re-appointed board officers for the 2016-17 school year. Continuing as officers are Reynolds as chairman; Redick, vice chairman; and Augsburg, secretary.

■ Approved the hiring of Darren Perry, advanced math, SHHS; Peter Larson, social studies, SHHS; Duncan Tuomi, choir, SHHS; Toni Petersen, special education, SHHS; Rachel Sundquist, fifth grade, temporary, Oak Heights; and Elizabeth Wilks, language arts, SHHS.

■ Accepted the resignations of Kortin Mason, language arts, SHHS; Deidra Spencer, science, SHHS; and Elizabeth Sterling, kindergarten, Hawthorne.

■ Adopted policy revisions governing student and staff complaints.

744-7

# County schools water tests show safe lead levels

## Lab tests coming in for district's 20-plus facilities

Water test results for four more Klamath County schools and one other district building continue to show safe levels of lead and copper in school drinking water, according to a district news release.

Results returned from Merrill and Malin elementary schools and Bonanza Schools (listed as Bonanza Elementary and Bonanza High School). Test results also returned from the kitchens in Ferguson Elementary and the Klamath County School District Transition House, the location for special education services post-high-school-aged students. More results are expected from other water sources at Ferguson Elementary.

Previous water test results from other schools were reported on June 27 and June 29. So far all results have shown lead levels well below the Environmental Protection Agency threshold of 15 parts per billion and copper levels below the EPA threshold of 1,300 parts per billion.

Starting on June 13, the district took 130 samples from its 20-plus schools and buildings and sent them to Spring Street Analytical,

which sent the samples for laboratory testing. The district is waiting on results from the rest of the tests and will report them as results become available.

Schools with results still pending include Ferguson Elementary, Lost River Jr./Sr. High School, Chiloquin Elementary, Chiloquin Jr./Sr. High School, Gilchrist Schools and Gearhart School.

The Klamath County School District is taking a proactive approach to keeping students' drinking water safe. Even with the encouraging results so far, the district is formulating a plan to replace all faucets in water fountains and sinks in kitchens, nurses' stations and staff rooms. Over a three-year time period the district plans to spend about \$125,000 on new faucets. District journeymen plumbers will install them.

### LEVELS

The EPA requires schools to repair or replace faucets or plumbing if the lead level is at or above 15 parts per billion, abbreviated "ppb." A part per billion is an extremely small percentage of the whole. One part per billion is equivalent to one drop of ink in the largest gasoline tanker trucks, according to the National Environmen-

### ONLINE EXTRA

Results from the Klamath County School District's water tests are available with this story at [heraldandnews.com](http://heraldandnews.com).

tal Service Center at West Virginia University.

In the most recent results, the district tested 23 total sites at schools, the and transition house, including drinking fountains, and sinks in the kitchen, staff room, nurses' station and other rooms in some schools.

Of those 25 samples, nine had lead levels of less than 1 part per billion and nine had levels between 1 and 3 parts per billion. Six had levels above 3 parts per billion. Levels at one water fountain at Bonanza were not detected.

The highest lead levels in these schools were 10.6 ppb, from a nurses' station at Malin Elementary, and 10.5 ppb, in the Bonanza Schools library.

The KCS D Transition House kitchen had lowest test, at 0.14 ppb.

### COPPER TESTING

The district also tested for copper in the drinking water. The EPA's limit for copper is far higher than lead, at 1,300 ppb. The EPA states that in small amounts, copper

is necessary for our diet to ensure good health. In large amounts it can be unhealthy. Most people can naturally maintain their copper level, but children under the age of 1 and people with Wilson's disease cannot.

Of the 25 sites tested in the most recent results, 23 were below 100 ppb. Two sites, both at Ferguson El-

ementary, were above 100 ppb. Six sites were below 10 ppb (included in the amount below 100 ppb).

The highest level, 157 ppb from a kitchen faucet at Ferguson Elementary, was less than 1/8 of the 1,300 ppb threshold.

The lowest copper amount, at a Malin Elementary water fountain, was 3.1 ppb.

### FIXES PLANNED

Even with the encouraging results so far, the district is formulating a plan to replace all faucets in water fountains and sinks in kitchens, nurses' stations and staff rooms. Over a three-year time period the district plans to spend about \$125,000 on new faucets.

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# Former day care tests high for lead

**Kids at Helensview drank only bottled or filtered water**

By SHASTA KEARNS MOORE  
The Tribune

A Portland school district says rooms with water fixtures that have leached high for lead formerly were used as day care facilities for young children, but those classes have always used filtered or bottled water.

Multnomah Education Service District recently performed schoolwide water-quality tests on its three school buildings built before a 1991 ban on lead in water pipes and fixtures. Lead is particularly dangerous to infants in young children, since the heavy metal can block neurological development in their growing brains.

While most of the district's water fixtures tested below acceptable levels, the Helensview elementary high school in Northeast Portland had 17 fixtures that posted above the federal action limit of 15 parts per billion of lead.

The highest reading of those fixtures — at 442 parts per billion — was in Room 9, which is used to be a day care center from 1968 to 2011.

"During that time, it is reported that every sink faucet had a filter, specifically for lead. The filters were changed monthly," Kathryn Skimas, director of instruction services at Multnomah ESD,

stated in an email.

The rooms are now used for storage. Rooms 11 and 12 are now used for the child care center but those rooms have used bottled water for the past five years, district officials say.

The district is conducting a second round of tests to confirm the first round of lead results. Those are expected back in a few weeks, says newly elected School Board Chair Stephen Marc Bendin, who notes that the water testing labs are inundated with requests from a rash of public agencies wanting to test their water. In late May, revelations that Portland Public Schools had known about actionable lead test results but did not inform parents, and in some cases did not perform immediate fixes, sparked a firestorm of controversy.

The water at a Multnomah ESD building that was closed in 2014 — the Parkway Community School for students with significant disabilities on East Powell Boulevard in Gresham — has not been tested for quality before or since the move, according to Chief Operating Officer Jim Ross.

The program was moved to the Wheatley School building after months of problems with environmental health quality and lack of maintenance by the landlord, including black mold.

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(Multnomah Co.)  
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(Cir. 2xW, 180,000)

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# PPS board member sues district

**Paul Anthony files complaint; lead results trickle in**

By SHASTA KEARNS MOORE  
The Tribune

Portland Public Schools Superintendent Carole Smith is under attack from several fronts.

Revelations that PPS board member Paul Anthony filed a federal civil rights complaint against his own district in late May hit last week.

Anthony made a spreadsheet of program offerings at schools across the district and found wide disparities between schools that he says appear to be based on the race of the student bodies.

"The discrimination complaint" filed May 25 with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights is three sentences long. Anthony says this is be-

cause the form to fill out gives a very small box in which to make the initial complaint, and he has since given much more information to the attorney assigned to investigate.

"Superintendent Smith permits her staff to discriminate on the basis of race, color and national origin in access to education course offerings and programs. PPS data proves that students of color cannot access courses tied to long-term academic achievement. For example, they disproportionately are not offered access to foreign language, academic supports, and electives that white students access. Easy-to-read spreadsheets have been compiled showing discrimination," Anthony wrote. He also added that he doesn't want white students to be punished for the complaint by removing their course offerings.

Observers, including fellow board member Steve Buel, say it's strange for a sitting board

member to sue his own school district.

A district spokeswoman declined to comment on the complaint.

## Water testing

The district currently is conducting water-quality testing on all of its public school fixtures, with samples being analyzed at seven different labs across the state.

Results of the 23 schools released by press time on the district's Healthy Schools webpage showed that all of them have multiple fixtures with unsafe levels of lead — some by orders of magnitude above what the Environmental Protection Agency considers safe for drinking.

In separate testing, the district found that Alameda School in Northeast Portland had lead-paint dust in areas that children have access to, one sample ringing in at more than five times the acceptable level, The Oregonian

reported. The newspaper adds that the district's senior director of facilities and asset management has vowed to remove or paint over all peeling or cracked paint at the district's 40 schools that serve children under second grade.

Lead poisoning is most dangerous in young children, as developing brains can be stunted by the heavy metal.

District Chief Operating Officer Tony Magliano and Senior Manager for Environmental Health and Safety Andy Fridley have been on leave since June 2, with an investigative report on the communication and procedural breakdown that led to the lead crisis promised within 30 days.

"The investigation was due to the board last week, but has yet to be delivered."

# School district starts testing for lead

JENNIFER MOODY  
Albany Democrat-Herald

Albany schools have begun testing for lead in water fixtures around the district and should have the first results in by the end of the week.

Summer employees with the Greater Albany Public Schools physical plant began taking samples July 7. Waverly, Periwinkle and Oak Grove elementary schools were first on the list and their results should be the first back, said Doug Pigman, director of facilities.

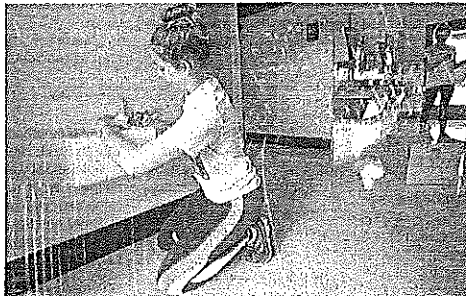
"If any come back positive, we're obviously going to do whatever we have to get them to come back negative," he said.

Pigman said he is expecting

testing to wrap up sometime in August. The cost is \$18 per test and it's expected to take about 500 tests to cover the district.

The testing will take time because Albany is following a day-long process that involves first flushing all sinks and taps for 15 minutes, then letting them sit for eight to 18 hours before taking a sample, said Stephanie Dilbone, one of the department's summer employees working on the project.

That means she and her fellow testers — sister Jessica Dilbone and coworker Kristina Groome — can't do a test when custodians or other maintenance workers



DAVID PATTON, DEMOCRAT-HERALD

Greater Albany Public School District employee Stephanie Dilbone collects water samples at Oak Grove Elementary School in North Albany. Results of lead testing are expected later this week.

Please see Lead, Page A2

## Lead

need to be in the building using the plumbing. They're scheduling their visits around that work.

The three testers start by first mapping each building, documenting the locations of all sinks and water fountains. They then post signs reminding anyone in the building not to use the taps.

After the designated wait period, they come back and take a 200-milliliter sample from each location. Those must be sent for testing within 10 days.

School districts throughout Oregon are spending the summer testing for

lead following reports of elevated levels at several Portland schools.

Gov. Kate Brown, the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Health Authority all have recommended schools perform lead tests.

The state's Board of Education is expected to vote in August on a recommendation that would require schools to develop safety plans that, among other things, would test for lead and radon, monitor air quality and reduce exposure to toxic materials.

No "safe" level for lead ingestion exists, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. EPA requires treatment tech-

niques if the lead in more than 10 percent of a tap wa-

ter sample exceeds 15 parts per billion.

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

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

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## BRIEFING

**Tests show safe water at schools**

Water testing at Jefferson County School District buildings showed no elevated lead levels, the district announced this week.

The district and others in Oregon were prompted to test the water after elevated lead levels were found in Portland Public Schools water but were not immediately reported to the public. Tests in Eugene, Beaverton, Gresham and elsewhere have also turned up elevated levels.

Jefferson County took samples from all of its schools last month. All came back well below Oregon Health Authority's lead threshold of 20 parts per billion.

Schools may be required to test for lead in drinking water under a proposal from Gov. Kate Brown. The Oregon Board of Education is expected to vote on the requirement next month.

# Chemeketa closes fountain

## High amounts of lead found in water

TRACY LOEW 744-7  
STATESMAN JOURNAL

High levels of lead have been found in water from a drinking fountain at Chemeketa Community College.

The fountain, in Building 49, tested at 35 parts per billion, nearly twice the federal action level, college spokesman

Gregg Harris said Thursday.

The building houses the college's GED program, as well as some administrative and faculty offices.

Harris said he did not know exactly where in the building the fountain is located.

"It was closed as soon as we found out," Harris said. "It will remain shut

down until we can get in there and replace the pipes with brass."

All other drinking water outlets in the building were tested and were below regulatory limits, Harris said. A copy of those test results won't be available until Monday, he said.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends schools take remedial action if a tap tests at 20 parts per billion or higher of lead. But no level is safe, and health effects can occur at lev-

els as low as 5 parts per billion, experts say.

In June, Chemeketa began testing taps in buildings that house child care programs, Harris said. Results of those tests all have been under the regulatory limit, the reports show:

» Five samples were collected in Building 39. The highest level measured was 2.4 parts per billion in one outlet.

See LEAD, Page 3A

## Lead

Continued from Page 1A

Twenty samples were collected in Building 50. The highest level measured was 3.1 parts per billion.

Four samples were collected in Building 51. None measured above the minimum detection level of 2 parts per billion.

Samples have been taken from other college buildings, but results are not yet back, Harris said.

Lead can leach from aging water pipes and fittings, even when it's not in the water supply.

It's not a new problem, but has come under increased scrutiny in light of the public health disaster in Flint, Michigan, where a series of cost-cutting measures and mistakes caused the lead poi-

soning of an entire community.

Exposure to lead can cause health problems ranging from stomach distress to brain damage.

Children are especially susceptible because their bodies absorb metals at higher rates than adults.

Oregon officials have asked all schools and child care facilities to test for lead, and many other public and private institutions are doing so voluntarily.

So far lead has been found in drinking water taps at schools in Portland, Beaverton, Eugene and Lake Oswego; at campus water fixtures at Portland State University and Oregon State University; and at Oregon Health & Science University.

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(Circ. D. 51,890)

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## 2 more districts test for lead in water

Officials say schools in the Creswell and North Douglas districts have some elevated levels of the metal

744-7  
By ALISHA ROEMELING  
The Register-Guard

Two more area school districts are testing their drinking water for elevated levels of lead.

The Creswell and North Douglas districts said recent concerns about contaminated water prompted each to ensure that their schools' water is safe for students. Both districts have found some instances

of elevated lead levels in initial testing.

The Eugene, Springfield and Bethel school districts are paying for comprehensive testing this summer for lead levels in their buildings' drinking water as well.

Officials at those three districts said they began preparing for the tests even before state health and education officials announced in June that

they were encouraging school districts across the state to do comprehensive testing over the summer.

The state's plan is a recommendation, not an order, and does not include any allocation of state funds to help with the cost of testing, Oregon Health Authority spokesman Robb Cowie has confirmed.

The Eugene and Bethel districts have hired Eugene-based PBS Engineering + Environmental to conduct their testing, at estimated costs of \$25,000 and \$10,000, respectively. The

Springfield district has hired Analytical Laboratories and Consultants of Springfield to complete its testing. No estimated cost of the service has been made available.

In Creswell, Superintendent Todd Hamilton said samples were collected from 97 fixtures at the district's three schools and then sent to Analytical Laboratories and Consultants for testing in late June. The testing process cost the district "less than \$2,000," Hamilton said.

Of the 97 tested, three fixtures were found to have unsafe

levels of lead present in the water on the first draw. All three were at Creswell High School, where about 400 students are enrolled during the school year.

The standard for a safe amount of lead in the water is 15 parts per billion, or ppb. Anything above that is considered elevated, according to the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

A drinking fountain near the entryway of the high school metal shop showed elevated lead

Turn to WATER, Page B3

## Water: North Douglas won't be replacing fixtures or pipes

Continued from Page B1

levels of 61 ppb. Water in another fountain located in the main gym was found to have lead levels of 42 ppb, and a test completed on a sink in the science supply room showed slightly elevated levels at 22 ppb.

Hamilton said new fixtures have been ordered for the three sites and will be installed as soon as possible. In the meantime, water has been shut off to all three sites, Hamilton confirmed. The fixture replacements cost about \$600, he said.

"It's the same issue that everyone else is facing," Hamilton said. "There's a sense of concern around Oregon about lead in

drinking water and we wanted to make sure we were being responsive and proactive in addressing the issue."

Follow-up tests are scheduled to be completed soon, Hamilton said.

In Drain, North Douglas district Superintendent John Lahley said district staff collected samples from about 45 sites, including about half of the 28 classrooms in the district's two schools, for elevated levels of lead. The samples were then sent to Analytical Laboratories and Consultants for testing, which cost the district about \$1,500.

A total of 10 sites were determined to have elevated levels of lead after

the first draw of water, but Lahley was unable to provide specific ppb figures.

"I know those 10 sites tested positive for high levels (of lead) but I know it wasn't anything super-high," Lahley said.

Lahley said the 10 fixtures included five classroom sinks (two at the high school and three at the elementary/middle school); three high school science lab stations; and two outdoor concession booth sinks.

No drinking fountains were found to have elevated levels of lead, Lahley said.

"The thing that's most important for us is that every drinking area passed the test and no detectable

levels of lead were found in them," Lahley said.

Second tests, completed after district staff flushed the water, showed no detectable levels of lead at any of the sites, Lahley said.

The North Douglas district will not be replacing fixtures or pipes but instead plans to ask all staff members to flush water through the sinks and drinking fountains each morning, Lahley said. Staff also will place signs near sinks that indicate the water is not for drinking.

744-7  
Follow Alisha on Twitter @alisharoemeling. Email alisha.roemeling@registerguard.com.



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# Agencies testing taps in Salem

## WOU fountain has high levels of lead

TRACY LOEW  
STATESMAN JOURNAL

What once seemed unthinkable now is becoming routine: Dangerous levels of lead are being detected in drinking water in Oregon schools, colleges, hospitals, parks and other public facilities.

The lead leaches from pipes, fittings and fixtures. Federal law requires water providers to test at a sampling of taps, but a loophole in the law exempts tests in most public buildings.

Oregon health and education officials have encouraged all school districts and child care facilities to test for lead, and now other organizations are doing so voluntarily.

In the Mid-Valley:

**Western Oregon University** has taken 31 samples across campus, and has received results for nine of those.

The university issued a news release Tuesday stating that all results had been below regulatory levels.

But a copy of the results, requested by the newspaper, show that lead levels in a gym drinking fountain in the New Physical Education building came back at 20 parts per billion, just over the regulatory limit.

The fountain was replaced on June 15, facilities director Tom Neal said.

Other results ranged from below the detection level, to a high of 15 parts per billion in a lobby drinking fountain in Rice Auditorium.

Testing will continue over the next few weeks, spokeswoman Lisa Catto said.

**Marion County** has completed testing at all 20 county-owned buildings except the Health Department building on Center Street NE, which is under construction.

The county has not yet received results, spokeswoman Jolene Kelley said.

The county also is working with property owners at its leased facilities to complete water testing at those locations.

**Willamette University** began testing this week, spokesman Adam Torson said.

"We're relatively low-risk," he said. "We don't believe we have any lead pipes. The only risk could be soldering in older buildings."

Testing will begin in those older buildings, he said.

**Chemeketa Community College** began testing taps in buildings with child care programs in June.

On Thursday, the college announced that a drinking fountain in Building 49, which houses the high school GED program, tested at 35 parts per billion,

See LEAD, Page 2A

## Lead

Continued from Page 1A

about twice the federal action level.

Testing is continuing in other buildings, spokesman Gregg Harris said.

**Salem-Keizer Public Schools** announced plans to test every school and administrative building in the district.

The district will post test results on its web site at <http://www.salemkeizer.org/parents/water-testing-information>.

The state of Oregon also is considering how to test water in state buildings.

"We're developing a plan for when and how

that would be done," Oregon Health Authority spokesman Jonathan Modie said.

Neither Corban University nor the city of Salem responded to requests for information.

OHA has asked schools to immediately post testing results on their web sites, Modie said. The state also is developing a central, public web site to compile reports directly from testing labs.

The rush to test has been a boon for Salem's Waterlab Corp., which is among the state-approved lead testing labs.

The company has a small backlog and is running about a week behind, owner Beth Myers said. It's purchasing a larger auto sampler, which will

allow it to increase tests from 80 to 148 per day, she said.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends schools take remedial action if a tap tests at 20 parts per billion or higher, and that's the level being used by public agencies as well.

But no level is safe, and health effects can occur at levels as low as 5 parts per billion, experts say.

"People don't understand that's not a health standard, that's an action level," Myers said. "There is no safe standard for lead. None."

[tlow@statesmanjournal.com](mailto:tlow@statesmanjournal.com), 503-399-6779 or follow at [Twitter.com/TracyLoew](https://twitter.com/TracyLoew)

Portland, OR  
(Multnomah Co.)  
The Oregonian  
(Circ. D. 247,833)

JUL 1 6 2016

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

### NEWS UPDATE | Lead in schools

**Vestal School** in Northeast Portland is an oddity within **Portland Public Schools**, new lab results show: Not a single one of its drinking fountains and just one of its classroom sinks gave off high levels of lead when sampled in June.

Portland Public Schools is testing every water source in every school this summer to see which ones give off 15 parts per billion or more of lead. So far, 28 of 29 schools have had a drinking fountain or classroom sink — and usually many of both — test positive for that level of lead.

But at Vestal, a 1929 brick building on Northeast 82nd Avenue in the Montavilla neighborhood, all 24 drinking fountains and 11 of 12 classroom sinks gave off water with no detectable lead or lead at fewer than 15 parts per billion.

Thirteen other water sources, nearly all of them restroom sink faucets and outdoor spigots, gave off excess lead, tests show. But students are much less likely to drink from or refill water bottles at such faucets than from drinking fountains and classroom sinks.

Portland Public Schools leaders have announced they will be hiring an outside firm to provide bottled water for drinking and cooking at every school next school year. And they are spending more than \$1 million to test for lead in the blood of employees and students.

The district also announced it is examining the condition of lead paint at all 40 schools that enroll students in second grade or younger, and by the end of August it will have determined where the need is most urgent.

— Betsy Hammond

# Smith to retire early from PPS after lead report release

By SHASTA KEARNS MOORE  
The Tribune

Superintendent Carole Smith is leaving **Portland Public Schools** in the wake of a law firm's report into the procedural failures that allowed school drinking water sources to contain elevated levels of lead, the district announced Monday.

Smith's contract requires her to give 90 days notice, but she says she will use 90 days of accrued paid time off to effectively leave immediately. The Oregonian reported.

The report conducted over the last month by the law firm Stoil

Berne found systemic failure in the district's approach to drinking water quality and remediation.

The report says Smith and Chief Operating Officer Tony Magliano both expected to be notified of any issues arising from infrequent lead testing, but "there was no system in place for internal communications or reporting of testing information."

It is unclear if Magliano and Andy Fridley, who was in charge of the lead testing program as En-



SMITH

vironmental Health and Safety manager, are both still on leave.

The report also found that the district's database of affected fixtures and fixes was inaccurate and incomplete. "Within the PPS administration hierarchy, there has been no reporting mechanism or oversight up the chain of command, and no top-down direction provided, regarding lead in water issues," the report reads. "When lead in water issues have arisen, PPS has not had any established systems in place to communicate with parents, the public or the media regarding those issues." More online: [portlandtribune.com](http://portlandtribune.com)

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

JUL 1 9 2016

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# Smith steps down after lead report

744-71825

School district's failures occurred before the superintendent's tenure, according to the findings

By Betsy Hammond  
The Oregonian/OregonLive

744-7

Portland Superintendent Carole Smith announced Monday she is stepping down "now" in the wake of the lead controversy in Oregon's largest school district.

She made that announcement just minutes after the school board released a damning report showing how Portland Public Schools dropped the ball on testing water for lead, fixing problems that were found and notifying the public of test results.

For the latest updates and reaction, go to [oregonlive.com/education](http://oregonlive.com/education)

Smith, who served nine years as Portland's superintendent and reshaped the city's high school system, said she provided the school board with a 90-day notice of her departure, as required by her contract, but that she has accumulated

90 days of unused vacation and leave time, so she will cease working for the district immediately.

She acknowledged the lead crisis was the cause, saying that with the release of the report, "I have reached the decision that I need to move up the date of my departure." She had previously announced plans to retire at the end of the school year.

In a statement, school board Chair Tom Koehler said, "I want to thank Superintendent Smith for her decades of service to public education in Oregon and for her leadership over the last ten years as the Superintendent of Portland Public Schools. ... She prioritized and championed putting equity at the core of the school district's work. This will be an enduring and lasting legacy."

Koehler said the board will hire an interim superintendent to lead the district while they do a national search for a permanent successor.

The report on what went wrong with lead testing and remediation indicates that Smith expected she would be told of any significant findings or problems, but she was not. The district's failures on lead predated her hiring in fall 2007, the report shows.

Still, the report cites "an absence of diligent inquiry by PPS individuals in the upper levels of administration hierarchy regarding PPS's procedures and protocols for lead in water testing remediation." And it suggests per-

See Smith, A4



MICHAEL LLOYD/2014

After nine years, Carole Smith is stepping down immediately as the superintendent of Portland Public Schools. She had previously planned to retire at the end of the school year.

Portland, OR  
(Multnomah Co.)  
Sunday Oregonian  
(Cir. S. 325,866)

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## Smith

Continued from A1

formance evaluations were routinely skipped or conducted with little rigor, allowing sub-par performance to go unaddressed.

Smith refashioned the district's system of high schools, ending the practice of letting students transfer to high schools in other neighborhoods. And she took some controversial steps, including closing Marshall High and limiting enrollment at

Benson High, in order to create schools more similar in size and course offerings in all parts of the district.

Smith said her proudest accomplishment was helping raise the district's once-moribund graduation rate. Still, the district's rate merely matches the state average and is below state averages among low-income students, Latinos, Native Americans and students with disabilities.

Sandra McDonough, president of the Portland Business Alliance, expressed strong support for Smith in the wake of her announcement.

"Carole Smith has been a strong educational leader in Portland," she said, noting the big improvements in the graduation rate and "steps taken to modernize the district's high schools."

"We urge the school board to move swiftly to fill this important role and to focus immediately on the serious issues facing the district, including the findings of lead in some schools' water supplies," McDonough said in a statement.

betsyhammond  
@oregonian.com

## No lead detected in Morrow Co. schools

HEPPNER — The Morrow County School District has announced the results of lead testing in the district's drinking water. The testing occurred in June and indicated all sources of drinking water either had "no lead detected" or levels were below the EPA limit of 0.02 milligrams per liter.

In May, the Oregon Department of Education created a plan with the Oregon Health Authority in regards to lead in school water. The plan requests all school districts that get drinking water from public water systems test for lead. However, there is currently no state or federal requirements for testing.

Public water systems regularly test water for lead, however, lead may be present in pipes and fixtures within a building's plumbing system that can enter tap water.

"The Morrow County School District is pleased to report that water at our schools is safe for drinking. We will continue to monitor this and will keep communicating to parents and our community," said Dirk Dirksen, superintendent.

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Pendleton, OR  
(Umatilla Co.)  
East Oregonian  
(Cir. D. 8,726)  
(Cir. S. 8,889)

Portland, OR  
(Multnomah Co.)  
Friday Oregonian  
(Cir. 25W-180,000)

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## School Notes

School notes is a collection of education news around Portland. Email news tips to [shasta@portlandtribune.com](mailto:shasta@portlandtribune.com).

### County Drinking Water not the problem

Multnomah County's Health Department last week came out strongly against the fear that high lead levels found in the city's schools have had a public health impact.

"Over the last several years, the Health Department has not reported anyone with elevated lead in their blood in Multnomah County to drinking water from any source, reads a July 12 statement from the county. This includes the 519 people tested in June, and 30 children from various schools tested at county clinics so far this month."

Health officials say household lead exposure and deteriorating lead paint has a far more dangerous potential for exposure.

The two PPS students found to have high levels of lead in their blood in June were referred by a household source to a county investigation revealed.

ACCESS Academy's Arphia attends naval workshop

A teacher at Northeast Portland's ACCESS Academy is one of 24 teachers who are attending a U.S. Naval Academy workshop on oceanic and weather science. Alfonso Garcia Arphia is attending the 23rd annual Mary Project Workshop, with fellows from 14 other states, Guam and Canada, from July 11 to 22.

**Bilingual preschool to feature Mandarin**

A new private bilingual preschool is opening in Southeast that will aim to teach 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds Mandarin Chinese. Niki Johnson is opening the Sprouts Bilingual Preschool this September and says she has taught for 15 years and lived in China for eight.

"We have academic and social learning goals for both English and Mandarin but virtually all of the learning takes place through child-initiated play," Johnson says. When we reach them through their own interests, children flourish.

The new preschool, online at [sproutsbilingualpreschool.org](http://sproutsbilingualpreschool.org), will be in the Sellwood-Moreland neighborhood.

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NEWS

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744-7

# Flushed

FIVE FINDINGS IN THE LEAD INVESTIGATION FORCED THE RESIGNATION OF SUPERINTENDENT CAROLE SMITH.

BY RACHEL MONAHAN  
AND BETH SLOVIC 503-245-2122

Carole Smith's reign at the top of Portland Public Schools went down the drain in 38 pages.

That's the length of an outside investigation's damning report on PPS's systemic failures to adequately test for lead in schools' drinking water, fix plumbing fixtures when positive test results popped up, and warn students and teachers about possible sources of poisoning.

On July 18, the school district released the results of that investigation, conducted by the law firm Stoll Berne.

The report pointed to wholesale failures by the school district to protect children's health.

"Although a 'Lead in Water Program' existed," the report says, "no one was aware of what the program was and no one supervised the program. Within the PPS administration hierarchy, there has been no reporting mechanism or oversight up the chain of command, and no top down direction provided."

Within minutes, Smith announced she would resign as Portland Public Schools' superintendent immediately, rather than retire in 2017.

Just four weeks ago, Smith went public with her plan to retire next year after *WW* exposed how the district failed to disclose elevated lead levels at dozens of schools, dating back to 2010 ("Failing the Test," *WW*, June 1, 2016).

But the investigation's report made it impossible for Smith to stay another year.

The Portland School Board, which just a month ago supported Smith's decision to stay for another year, at best looks weak and at worst is now in complete chaos.

"I fault years and years and years of school boards that failed to provide any kind of oversight," says Rita Moore, a North Portland schools activist. "The fact is that PPS is a system with no systems in place. This is not new. It's not even new news. This is just outside confirmation."

Board members are left explaining away their decision to support Smith's plan to stay another year—only to have her walk away as soon as the dismal report came out.

"She clearly sensed she was out of synch with the board," says School Board Chairman Tom Koehler.

He adds that the report offered a critical look at the "lack of management" at the highest levels of the school district. "That's what we want to change going forward."

Koehler does not yet have plans for who will take over from Smith, but says the board will have someone in place before the school year begins Aug. 29.

There's also a political context to Smith's departure. The School Board plans to go to voters in November for approval of a record-setting \$750 million construction bond.

The political consulting firm Strategies 360, hired to run the campaign by the private committee supporting the bond, has already conducted polling. (The firm has declined to release its survey results and says it has offered the district no advice on leadership decisions.)

PPS also hired a crisis public relations consultant, Anna



END OF AN ERA: Carole Smith served nearly nine years as superintendent of Portland Public Schools before her resignation July 18.

Richter Taylor of ART Public Affairs. Emails obtained by *WW* via a public records request show Richter Taylor was pressuring a reluctant Smith to announce her retirement in June.

The school district will have to prove to voters in the next three months that it can clean up a huge mess, and the report made it obvious Smith was damaging to that case. "I think the report did her in," says Southeast Portland parent Lisa Zuniga. "It just pointed out too many flaws."

What's not in the report is in many ways as important as what is.

Unlike in Flint, Mich., where public officials knowingly covered up a water crisis shown to have harmed residents' health, no child in Portland has tested positive for elevated lead as a result of PPS's water.

The report's authors, in fact, go out of their way to shield district employees from Flint-like accusations. "We found no indication," the Stoll Berne lawyers write, "that anyone intended harm or to neglect his or her job duties."

And the report finds no smoking gun showing that Smith was aware of any test results indicating elevated lead levels before the scandal broke in late May, or that she lied about what she knew.

So why is Smith out after nearly nine years at the helm of the state's largest school district?

The short answer from the scathing 38 pages: PPS cultivated a culture of ignorance, incompetence and deception.

And Smith? She presided over a district that was unprepared to deal with health problems, that looked the other way when hazards appeared, and that covered up the truth when asked. It's how little Smith knew, or wanted to know, that ended her tenure.

Here's what the report shows—and how it leads back to Smith and board members who didn't hold her accountable.

## 1. The PPS employee in charge of safeguarding students from lead hazards had no qualifications to hold that position.

In April 2014, the district made Andy Fridley its senior manager of environmental health and safety. PPS placed Fridley in charge of keeping the drinking water safe, but the district gave him "no guidance or training," the report reads.

That was a major oversight, because Fridley "has no formal training in the field of lead in water," the report states. "Mr. Fridley learned 'on the job' by conducting internet research and looking at what PPS had done in the past."

His superiors—Tony Magliano and David Hobbs—also had "no training or specific background regarding lead in drinking water."

That helps explain why the district didn't follow U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidelines in multiple ways, such as conducting ongoing tests of sink faucets and drinking fountains in school buildings. "Without periodic testing, it is not possible to detect when fixtures...may again exceed acceptable levels of lead in the water," the report notes.

And when the district found elevated lead levels in the water this spring at Creston and Rose City Park school buildings, no one shut off the water to the affected sinks and fountains before they were fixed—another violation of EPA guidelines.

## 2. When the person in charge of health learned about problems, he did nothing.

*WW* made a public records request for information on lead testing in schools in early 2015.

Fridley, the senior manager of environmental health and safety, pulled together the information from a PPS database.

In the process, he made a startling discovery: "The database showed no remediation action for some of the fixtures that had tested for excessive levels of lead in water," the report says.

But Fridley did nothing.

"Simply put, in February 2015, Mr. Fridley observed that the database appeared to show that some fixtures tested above acceptable levels for lead in water that did not appear to have been remediated, but Mr. Fridley did not address this with any of his superiors," the report says.

## 3. When the district was asked to explain the problems, it tried to hide them.

Fridley shared the database with Jon Isaacs, PPS's chief spokesman and public information officer, in February 2015.

CONT. on page 10



**HAPPIER TIMES:** Smith and former Portland Police Chief Larry O'Dea both left top jobs this summer after being felled by scandals.

Smith hand-picked Isaacs for her cabinet in 2013 after he successfully ran the district's 2012 campaign to pass a construction bond. He was given a raise and promoted to chief of communications and public affairs in 2014; his background was as a political consultant—not a public information officer.

Fridley, the report says, "informed Mr. Isaacs that the database report was missing some data."

But Isaacs provided *WW* with only an excerpt of the database—a portion that failed to show PPS had apparently made no fixes on some of the sinks and fountains after the testing in 2011 and 2012.

As the report notes: "In one significant instance, the former Chief of Communications & Public Affairs knowingly provided incomplete excerpts of the water testing database to *Wilamette Week*."

Isaacs disputed the finding Monday, saying he followed district protocol for records requests, and other top officials knew what he was doing.

#### **4. Smith gave a raise and a glowing review to the person responsible for overseeing the health and safety of school buildings.**

Fridley's boss was Magliano, who ascended the ranks of the facilities department to chief operating officer in charge of district facilities in 2014. From 2010 to 2012, he was facilities director.

That timeline is important because in 2011, the district hired a part-time employee to test drinking fountains for lead.

Her findings clearly showed that PPS had a lead problem. Yet no one, including Magliano, "was more than vaguely aware of the work."

Despite this, Smith gave Magliano top marks in January for his job performance. She gave him the highest possible rating, in fact—"A Role Model"—in managing the business operations of the district, the report says.

But in June, Smith blamed the problems on Magliano, abruptly putting him and Fridley on leave amid the investigation.

Her positive review of Magliano shows, at best, she had little idea whether he was on top of his job.

#### **5. Top leaders displayed an "absence of diligent inquiry" regarding lead in PPS's water both before and after the scandal broke.**

The old saying goes: It's not the crime, it's the cover-up.

But investigators pinpoint willful ignorance as the bigger problem at PPS. And that's where the buck stops with Smith.

Even after the superintendent was alerted to lead testing in one of two schools this spring, she failed to inquire about the results. She and her chief of staff, Amanda Whalen, who brought attorneys with them to their interviews, told investigators that "they believed that if there was a problem with the tests, they would be notified."

Investigators characterize this, mildly, as "an absence of diligent inquiry by PPS individuals in upper levels of administration hierarchy." That's a nice way of saying that top officials, including Smith, were taking a see-no-evil, hear-no-evil approach while navigating the district's biggest health scandal in decades.

"There has been no 'top down' management and no supervision in this area," the report says. "The district is largely unable to account for its activities and, in some cases, has reported inaccurate information."

That's the main reason Smith is gone: The school district must quickly demonstrate it can make reforms, and the superintendent, who oversaw a culture of looking the other way, was in no position to do it.

Smith declined an interview request. But in her letter announcing her resignation, she suggested the School Board was to blame for the district's dysfunction.

"In order to accomplish the significant work that lies ahead," Smith wrote, "I believe it is critical for the board to figure out how to work together with each other as a governing board and in partnership with the superintendent."

Observers say the School Board must now demand better.

"What the report highlights," says Portland Association of Teachers president Suzanne Cohen, "is a management culture that kind of leaves everybody and nobody accountable." **WW**

Madras, OR  
(Jefferson Co.)  
Madras Pioneer  
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## 509-J reports water tests for lead are clear

School District 509-J Superintendent Rick Molitor recently released results for water tests at school buildings.

As reported in early June, the district was committed to testing all water taps used for drinking or food preparation on school property. We have the results back from Umpqua Research Company and every site passed with "excellent results," he said in a letter to parents, adding, "In fact, when I spoke with an analyst from Umpqua Re-

search Company, he stated we had great water with excellent results."

Due to the positive results, Molitor said the district will not be replacing any plumbing infrastructure or fixtures. "The district will continue to work with the guidance from the Oregon Department of Education for future recommendations on the testing for lead in our water supply. The test results can be accessed on the district website at [jost.k12.or.us](http://jost.k12.or.us)," Molitor said.

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

JUL 2 0 2016

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## Lead found at two schools

Periwinkle, Waverly test positive for elevated levels

JENNIFER MOODY  
Albany Democrat-Herald

Two Albany elementary schools have tested positive so far for elevated levels of lead in their water fixtures.

Doug Pigman, director of facilities, reported Tuesday afternoon that initial results from Periwinkle and Waverly elementary schools show lead values that "exceed the action level."

"Periwinkle results show that three area values exceed the action level. Waverly results came back with five areas exceeding the action level. These areas have been taken out of service," he wrote in an email to the Democrat-Herald.

"The district will start the remediation and confirmation testing process at these sites, and will do the same at the other sites as we receive the test results

Please see lead, Page A2

## Lead

from A1

back from the lab?" Pigman said the elevated lead counts came from samples taken from both sinks and drinking fountains.

Samples from all Albany school buildings are being processed in batches and the whole district is expected to be complete sometime in August.

The Sweet Home School District has finished testing and found elevated lead levels in four locations, all at Sweet Home High School.

The district has shut off access to those sources and is now working to trace the source of the lead contamination, Superintendent Tom Yalraes said.

Gov. Kate Brown, the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Health Authority all recommended schools perform lead tests following reports of elevated levels found in numerous Portland schools earlier this year.

Exposure to lead especially affects children, and can cause neurological problems and delays in mental development.

No "safe" level for lead

ingestion exists, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. EPA requires treatment techniques if the lead in more than 10 percent of a tap water sample exceeds 15 parts per billion.

Elsewhere in the mid-valley, school districts are continuing to test, but most say they don't yet have results to share.

In Scio, Superintendent Gary Tempel said the city tests the district's three schools every three years. Tests done this past week found either undetectable or trace levels of lead in each building. The district

is following up by testing the water from all faucets that can be used for drinking, but those samples have not yet been taken.

Central Linn began testing this week. Corvallis has begun collecting samples but have said it likely won't report results until testing wraps up in mid-August.

In Lebanon, Jan Day, administrative assistant in the facilities department, said most Lebanon schools already are on a three-year testing cycle because almost all are fed by wells.

However, in keeping with state recommendations and

to reassure any concerned residents, the district is doing extra tests at all buildings, she said. Those tests were to start Tuesday.

Lebanon last had an elevated lead report a year ago from faucets at the high school's land lab off Rock Hill Drive, Day said. It wasn't found at taps likely to be used for human consumption, but as a precaution, the district shut them off and provided bottled water until the faucets could be replaced. A final round of testing is expected to take place in August to make sure those remained clear.

## No lead detected in Morrow County schools

The Morrow County School District has announced that no lead was detected in drinking water tested in the district.

The testing, occurred in June and indicated all sources of drinking water either had "no lead detected" or levels below the EPA limit of .020 milligrams per liter.

In May, the Oregon Department of Education created a plan with the Oregon Health Authority in regards to lead in school water. The plan requests all school districts that get drinking water from public water systems test for lead. However,

there is currently no state or federal requirements for testing.

Public water systems regularly test water for lead; however, lead may be present in pipes and fixtures within a building's plumbing system that can enter tap water.

"The Morrow County School District is pleased to report that water at our schools is safe for drinking," Superintendent Dirk Dirksen said in a press release. "We will continue to monitor this and will keep communicating to parents and our community."

Hermiston, OR  
(Umatilla Co.)  
Hermiston Herald  
(Circ. 2M.W. 1,301)  
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Milwaukie, OR  
(Clatsop County)  
Clatsop Newsweek  
(Circ. W. 16,000)  
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## Leading the way to solve problems

It's no real wonder that parents are upset after lead was revealed to have been found in the drinking water of both Rose City Park and Creston schools recently. We're talking double the unsafe amount. Lead poisoning is a stealthy way to inflict permanent damage, especially in younger children, like those being exposed to the lead in the water. But it just goes to show that we've come a long way from sharpening pitchforks and torches when parents are instead becoming involved in their communities and are working to solve the problem.

Offering constructive ideas, demanding accountability and results, and supplying water to the schools all are things coming from the communities impacted by this find. All of this, too, is coming from concerned parents who demanded the water be tested in the first place. I think we should see this happening more often. That way we could all know for certain whether it's safe. I'm sure the students are glad to have a little less lead in their lunches, too, now that new regulations are falling into place at these schools.

Jacob Hill  
Estrada

# Report: Schools gave flawed lead data

By **Bethany Barnes**  
*The Oregonian/OregonLive*

The former top spokesman for Portland Public Schools knowingly gave a reporter misinformation about the district's water testing, according to a local law firm's investigation.

Stoll Berne on Monday released a 38-page report on how policies, personnel lapses and communication systems caused lead-testing failures. The district didn't have protocols in place to test for lead or track test results and fixes made to fountains and faucets, investigators concluded. It relied on unsuitable water filters, used faulty logic to rule out retesting and intentionally decided not to alert parents, employees and students to known lead hazards.

Within minutes of the report's release, Superintendent Carole Smith announced she would step down immediately, rather than complete the school year before retiring, as she had planned. The report indicated that Smith was not told of any significant findings or problems. The district's failures on lead testing and remediation predated her hiring in fall 2007, the report shows.

The investigation noted that "in one significant instance," former Chief of Communications Jon Isaacs "knowingly" gave Willamette Week incomplete excerpts of a water-testing database in 2015. The release of misleading information caused confusion, according to the report.

Andy Fridley, the district's senior manager for health and safety, put together the information for Willamette Week and struggled with inconsistencies and interpreting the data, the investigation found.

The report says Fridley noticed in 2015 that the district's database on test-



BETH NAKAMURA/THE OREGONIAN  
Superintendent Carole Smith resigned this week.

ing appeared to show some fixtures that had tested above acceptable levels for lead in water had not been addressed.

Fridley told Isaacs the database was missing data, the report says. Tony Magliano, the district's chief operating officer, suggested to Isaacs that they give the reporter context when responding to her request. Magliano asked to speak with Isaacs and look through the response before it was sent.

Isaacs ignored those suggestions, the report says. He sent the information to Willamette Week mostly as it was, with a minimal description. He didn't run it by anyone.

"Not only was the database not accurate or maintained, but many of the employees responsible for entering data into the database may not have known how to properly do so," the report states. "Everyone we interviewed confirmed the database was unreliable."

Isaacs left the district in April to work for Uber and did not cooperate with Stoll Berne's investigation, according to the law firm.

The report says the law firm tried to find a time that would work for Isaacs, but he failed to call investigators back. Isaacs says he never heard from investigators a second time, even after he offered to be interviewed at a time other than the one the firm initially proposed.

"I received no follow-up requests that I am aware of," Isaacs said via email. "I did not receive any written

## Stoll Berne report

Portland Public Schools officials gave parents false assurances about the safety of their children's drinking water for years while neglecting to properly test and track exposure, according to an investigation by Portland law firm Stoll Berne. Here are the report's key findings:

- PPS kept such poor track of lead it was impossible for officials to understand water quality within their buildings.
- The district didn't view lead in water as "a significant issue to which resources or attention could, or should, be devoted."
- The district didn't have protocols in place to test for lead or track test results and fixes.
- The district relied on bad science to sidestep retesting drinking fountains at high risk of elevated lead.
- PPS relied on unsuitable water filters.
- PPS did not alert parents, employees and students to known lead hazards.
- Aside from incomplete testing in 2011 and 2012, testing happened only if parents and staff requested it repeatedly.
- No employees were trained on how to deal with lead in drinking water or how to enter facts into a testing database.
- The district decided in 2001 that drinking from sinks was unsafe but did not effectively communicate the warning to students and staff.

Online: Go to [oregonlive.com/education](http://oregonlive.com/education) to read more.

— Bethany Barnes

requests or any explanation of the timeline on the report."

Willamette Week did not write about the lead testing database until after the lead scandal broke out in late May. The paper's editor, Aaron Mesh, said schools reporter Beth Slovic, who requested and received the records, posed follow-up questions to Isaacs but never got responses.

Without more information, she was unable to write an article, Mesh said.

"Do I wish we had broken this story in 2015? Yes," said Mesh, who became editor in summer 2015, after the records had been provided. "But we did not have enough information to publish the story."

Smith put Fridley and Magliano on paid leave in June in response to the lead scandal.

"The report was not a personnel investigation and was not intended to be. The district will be making a determination about next steps

regarding personnel matters," said spokeswoman Courtney Westling. "For now, Tony Magliano and Andy Fridley remain on administrative leave."

But Smith announced she has hired an interim replacement for Fridley, John Burnham, who most recently served as director of environmental health and safety at Oregon Health & Science University, will fill that role.

The school board hired the law firm following public outrage over the district failing to alert parents and teachers for weeks that testing showed high levels of lead at Rose City Park and Creston. The district eventually told parents lead testing was routine — which was not true — and failed to mention that students and staff had been allowed to drink tainted water after the testing was done.

*bbarnes@oregonian.com*  
Betsy Hammond contributed to this report.

## Portland Public Schools lead test results

High levels of lead have been found in at least some water sources in almost all Portland Public Schools tested so far this summer. Only two schools, Forest Park Elementary and Rosa Parks Elementary, were built after the mid-1980s, when lead solder and fittings were banned.

Of the test results released so far, two stand out.

**The high:** At Jefferson High, 199 fountains and other fixtures, or 60 percent of the school's 330 water sources, gave off water with lead at or above the federal threshold of 15 parts per billion, lab reports show.

**The low:** None of Vestal School's drinking fountains and just one of its classroom sinks gave off high levels of lead when sampled in June.

Online: See all of the results at [www.pps.net/Page/5378](http://www.pps.net/Page/5378).

— From staff reports

JUL 20 2016

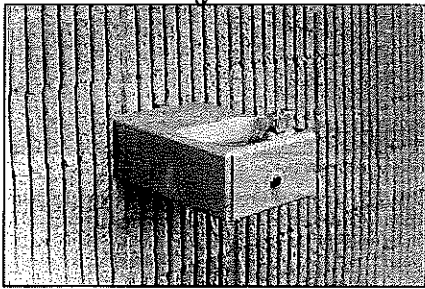
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## No harmful lead found in MCSD water, school district reports

In June, the Morrow County School District tested drinking water sites at all of its schools for the potential presence of lead. Results from Box R Water Analysis Laboratory in Prineville indicate that all sites tested showed "no lead

OHA to provide drinking water expertise to schools for support as they test.

Many schools receive their water from community or city water systems. These public water systems regularly test the water and many already treat the wa-



Morrow County School District recently conducted lead testing in all schools and determined that all sites had either no or acceptable lead levels. -Photo by Freelimages.com/Emily Austin

detected" or were below the EPA limit of 0.020.

The Morrow County district joined school districts across eastern Oregon that are testing their drinking water this summer. Currently, there are no state or federal requirements for schools to test drinking water for lead, and it has not been a practice in the past. In mid-May, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) created a plan regarding lead in school water. The plan requests all school districts that get drinking water from public water systems test for lead in school buildings; requires districts to use certified drinking water testing labs to process the water samples; asks ODE and OHA to develop a method for schools to report results to OHA; and for

ter to help reduce corrosion of plumbing. However, lead that is present in pipes and fixtures in building plumbing can enter the water at the tap and expose those who drink it—which is why sampling and testing for lead at each tap is important.

"The Morrow County School District is pleased to report that water at our schools is safe for drinking. We will continue to monitor this and will keep communicating to parents and our community," said Dirk Dirksen, superintendent.

Some state funds may be available in fall 2016 to reimburse school districts who test their drinking water this summer.

For more information, visit the Oregon Health Authority website at <http://www.oregon.gov/oha/news/>.

744-7

Portland, OR  
(Multnomah Co.)  
The Oregonian  
(Circ. D. 247,833)

JUL 20 2016  
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Report: Portland Public Schools' lead monitoring filled with flaws

Since late May, Portland Public Schools has been responding to a controversy involving high levels of lead found in school fixtures and fountains, and the district's delay in communicating with parents and the public.

The release of a law firm inquiry on Monday gives new context. Here's a summary of the events leading up to this week.

**Summer 2009:** The district tests water for lead districtwide and shares results publicly. But it didn't share results after testing water in 87 schools since 2009. Fifty-one of those schools had at least one drinking fountain or faucet emitting water with high lead levels.

**March 2016:** The district learns of high lead levels at Rose City Park and Creston schools but doesn't immediately notify parents or school staff. They also kept lead-tainted water flowing at Creston for eight days until repairs were made.

**May 27:** The district announces that it plans to test the water at every school building over the summer, while turning off all fountains and bringing in bottled water.

**June 1:** Superintendent Carole Smith discloses that as many as five additional schools that showed elevated levels of lead in drinking water may also have drinking fountains or food preparation sinks that were not fixed.

**June 2:** Smith puts Tony Magliano, the district's chief operating officer, and Andy Fridley, the district's senior manager for health and safety, on paid leave.

**June 21:** The district's first water testing results, from the long-shuttered Humboldt School, show nearly half the faucets and fountains — 38 of 84 throughout the school — gave off water with too much lead.

**July 18:** Stoll Berne releases a report detailing Portland school officials' mishandling of lead monitoring in schools; Smith announces she will step down immediately. The district's failures on lead predated her hiring in fall 2007, the report shows.

- From staff reports

Inside: Read more about the new report's findings on Page A9.



Smith Steps down as superintendent

# Sunset, Willamette schools water tests indicate elevated levels of lead

West Linn-Wilsonville School District still testing other schools

By ANDREW KILSTROM  
The Tidings

Testing results of drinking water at both Sunset Primary and Willamette Primary have indicated elevated levels of lead — four of 70 water sources at Sunset and two of 78 sources at Willamette. The results for Sunset's testing were announced by the West Linn-Wilsonville School District Friday, July 15 and for Willamette Monday, July 18 in a press release.

Superintendent Kathy Ludwig said the district started with its older schools, with Sunset, Willamette and Bolton being three of those buildings, knowing they were more likely to show elevated levels. She added that the district will test all schools, however, regardless of age.

"We're going to make sure that everything is safe for children and staff, wherever we are in the process of mitigation," she said. "Right now

See LEAD / Page A6

## Lead

From Page A1

our steps are to take care of whatever the water situation is. If it's the faucet that's the problem we'll replace that. If it's the bubbler we'll replace that, and then we'll continue to test to make sure the problem is solved. If there's a pipe that's at fault then we'll replace that. We'll do extensive testing and if at some point we need to fully close to do major work we'll do that."

The district doesn't routinely test for lead, instead relying on the city's regular water quality monitoring, but decided to test for lead and copper independently in early June.

The District complies with all requirements and protocols for testing water, however, test-

ing individual schools for lead has not been a requirement for Oregon Public Schools and the District has not conducted comprehensive lead testing of all schools in the past, stated Operations Director Tim Woodley.

At Sunset the four test locations included a workroom sink, two classroom sinks and one drinking fountain located at the base of the entrance next to the cafeteria.

Tests for Bolton Primary came back Tuesday, July 19 and were negative for lead at all 71 water sources.

The Sunset test, conducted by Phos Labs on June 23, tested for lead and copper. The four locations produced lead results of 21.3 ppb (parts per billion), 24.4 ppb, 41.9 ppb and 166 ppb — exceeding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) maximum contaminant level of 20 ppb, which the EPA determines to be "the

level of contaminants in drinking water at which no adverse health effects are likely to occur with an adequate margin of safety."

It is unclear which test was from the Sunset drinking fountain. According to Mark Lead of Phos Labs the samples were first drawn samples. "If the water is run through the day it would get somewhat lower than that," he said.

The two problematic water sources at Willamette, meanwhile, were at "a bubbler in a classroom sink and a sink in a restroom, with levels of 181 ppb and 36.6 ppb.

According to the EPA, even low levels of lead in the blood of children can result in behavior and learning problems, lower IQ and hyperactivity, slowed growth, hearing problems and anemia. Young children are particularly vulner-

able to lead because physical and behavioral effects of lead occur at lower exposure levels than adults.

The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that public health actions be initiated when the level of lead in a child's blood is 5 micrograms per deciliter or more, and according to the EPA's website "EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20 percent or more of a person's total exposure to lead."

If the level of lead in a child's blood is at or above the CDC action level of 5 micrograms per deciliter, it may be due to lead exposures from a combination of sources."

WL-WV is in the process of building a new Sunset Primary, but students will remain in the current building for one more school year until its completion.

The district will continue testing WL-WV schools throughout the summer, and expects results by mid-August.

Contact Andrew Kilstrom at 503-686-1281 ext. 112 or akilstrom@pamphletmedia.com

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

JUL 2 1 2016  
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Redmond schools show safe water

Recent tests of drinking water at Redmond School District facilities showed no elevated lead levels; the district announced this week.

The district finished seven of its springs that were all within or before 1986. W.A. Lynch Elementary, John Luck Elementary, Osband Middle, Tumalo Community, Terrence Community, Redmond High and the Edwini Brown Education Center.

See Briefs / B2

## Briefs

Continued from B1

All the (test) met the EPA allowable standards. We didn't have any red flags, in fact, we said district spokespersons Kelly Jenkins, referring to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Jenkins said the district is waiting for guidance from the Oregon Department of Education on future testing requirements.

The Oregon Board of Education is expected to vote next month on a plan to require schools to test for lead in drinking water, air and dust.

Redmond is the latest Central Oregon district to test its water after three districts elsewhere in the state reported unsafe levels of lead in school water. The Bend-A. Pie, Sisters and Jefferson County school districts previously reported their results came back safe.

Eugene, OR  
(Lane Co.)  
Eugene Weekly  
(Circ. 2MM, 39,850)

JUL 2 1 2016  
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

# NEWS

## LANE COUNTY CHILDCARE CENTERS NOT REQUIRED TO TEST DRINKING WATER FOR LEAD

BY AMY SCHNEIDER

"The recommendations say that all childcare programs should test their drinking water for lead this summer and fix all detected problems.

Young children and babies are more vulnerable to the health effects of lead than older children or adults, and even small amounts of exposure can cause learning disabilities, impaired hearing and other symptoms, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

"Most childcare centers are private, and we have a lot of registered home facilities as well, so we can't mandate them to test their water for lead," says Karol Collymore, a spokesperson for the Oregon Early Learning Division. "We are arming our childcare licensees with information on how they can do that. We know that our caregivers want their kids to be safe, and we know just because we're not allowed to mandate it doesn't mean they don't want to do it."

Judy Newman, co-director of Early Childhood CARES, says as preschool Promise — a new publicly funded preschool program — is implemented in Lane County, new classrooms will be tested for lead before opening in the fall.

Charles Strach, operations director for Head Start of Lane County, says that because Head Start is a federal program, they follow strict mandates that require testing each facility to ensure children are safe. Head Start drinking water was tested five months ago, Strach says.

In some Head Start locations, fountains and sinks are disabled, and children drink from water coolers. Strach says he hopes to install new, hand-free water bottle stations at Head Start locations by September.

For privately owned daycare centers, lead testing is up to the discretion of the owners. Last month, the Early Learning Division sent a flier to local childcare centers with tips on how to deal with lead in drinking water, recommending that all early learning environments should test for lead and use an OHA-accredited drinking water laboratory. Any taps with water showing lead levels of more than 15 parts per billion should be shut off, the flier says.

Collymore with the Early Learning Division says parents should talk to their childcare providers to find out if they are testing for lead. "They can express their concern and support them as they try to navigate this lead testing situation," she says, adding that the Early Learning Division is a resource for guidance.

Visit the Oregon Health Authority website for more information.

Oxins are everywhere. In Portland, the discovery and subsequent cover-up of high levels of lead in the drinking water of public schools led to Portland Superintendent Charole Smith's resignation July 16.

Here in Lane County, school districts are in the midst of testing drinking fountains and faucets for elevated levels of lead.

But for daycare centers and buildings where young children gather to learn, testing water for lead isn't a sure thing.

School districts in Oregon aren't mandated to test for lead in drinking water, but many have chosen to pay for testing out of their general funds. Including Eugene 4J, Springfield, Bechel, Creswell and North Douglas school districts. The districts have committed to find and repair any locations where lead is leaching into the water.

In April, the state of Massachusetts set aside \$2 million to test public school drinking water across the state, according to The Boston Globe. No such money has been set aside in Oregon as of yet.

Daycare centers aren't mandated to test, and any testing would come out of their own pockets. On June 8, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Oregon Department of Education released recommendations "to help school districts and childcare centers reduce lead in drinking wa-



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

# SCHOOLS LOOK OUT FOR LEAD

## District testing to go on through mid-August 744-7

TRACY LOEW | STATESMAN JOURNAL

Testing of taps in all 88 Salem-Keizer School District buildings started last week and will continue through mid-August.

All drinking fountains, ice makers and soda fountains, as well as classroom, kitchen, student store and concession stand sinks, will be tested for lead and copper contamination.

The district does not have a count of the total taps or those that will be tested because mapping outlets is being done in each building just prior to testing, said Joel Smallwood, the district's construction and maintenance services manager.

School district officials expect the total cost to be \$300,000 to \$350,000.

School districts across Oregon are scrambling to test water taps this summer after significant lead contamination was found in Portland Public Schools.

State health and education officials have encouraged districts to test every outlet that could be used for drinking or cooking by fall, and legislative leaders have promised to help cover the cost.

See LEAD, Page 2A

Top: TRC Environmental Corp. Technician Shawn Contreras prepares to take a second lead testing sample, also known as a flush sample, from a faucet on Wednesday at Pringle Elementary School in South Salem.

Below: TRC Environmental Corp. Technician Shawn Contreras collects lead testing samples from a drinking fountain on Wednesday at Pringle Elementary School in South Salem. Two samples are collected from each source. A "first draw" sample and a "flush sample."

PHOTOS BY DANIELLE PETERSON / STATESMAN JOURNAL

## Lead

Continued from Page 1A

That put enormous pressure on Oregon's accredited drinking water testing laboratories, said Dave Leland, Oregon Drinking Water Program Manager.

Portland Public Schools had 13,000 water samples that needed tested, Leland said.

"There wasn't anywhere near enough lab capacity," he said.

In response, Leland said, the state has quickly certified a number of "megalabs" across the country.

"If any lab in the country is certified to the same national standard, we're just going to accept them," he said.

What hasn't been talked about yet, Leland said, is covering the cost of mitigation, such as replacing lead in fixtures, fittings and pipes.

"These are old school buildings. Corrosion control by the water system is only going to do so much," he said. "You've got to remove the lead materials. That's going to be a big job."

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends mitigation if a tap tests at 20 parts per billion of lead or more.

But no level of lead is considered safe, and health effects can occur at levels as low as 5 parts per billion, experts say.

Many school districts, including Salem-Keizer, say they'll use a standard of 15 parts per billion.

Salem-Keizer has contracted with TRC Environmental Corp., a national engineering, consulting and construction management firm, to collect the samples, submit them for testing and report the results.

District workers will flush the plumbing in each building eight to 18 hours before samples are drawn, then will ensure the taps are not used.

One sample will be taken from the water that has been sitting in the tap or fountain. Another sample will be taken after running water through the fixture for 30 seconds.

The second sample will be analyzed only if the first comes out high. It is used to determine whether lead is coming from the fixture or from the pipes behind it.

Because there will be a large number of samples, TRC will use multiple labs in Oregon to analyze samples. 744-7 loew@statesmanjournal.com, 503-399-6779 or follow at Twitter.com/Tracy\_Loew

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

JUL 21 2016

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

# College receives bargaining update

## LBCC elects new board chair, plans lead test

JENNIFER MOODY  
Albany Democrat-Herald

Monday's bargaining session did not change essential disagreements between Linn-Benton Community College and its part-time faculty association, but negotiations will continue next month.

LBCC President Greg Hamann gave a report on contract negotiations to the college's Board of Education at its meeting Wednesday. Other business included electing new board leaders and hearing a plan to test the college's water sources for elevated levels of lead.

PTFA is negotiating its first contract with the college. Hamann said in the 25 meetings the two groups have had since last November, each side has proposed a package that the other has

rejected.

Association members have said the main problems are wages and job security, but Hamann spoke only to wages on Wednesday.

He said LBCC is aware its part-timers are paid less than part-time faculty at five comparator community colleges: Lane, Central, Mt. Hood, Chemeketa and Clackamas. "We knew that we needed to make progress on that," he said.

The college has proposed a salary schedule that would bring them into alignment in four years, along with adding steps to the salary schedule in the second and fourth years of the contract.

LBCC also has offered to pick up the 6 percent employee contribution to the Public Employees Retirement System, saying that, too, is something comparator colleges offer.

Association members dispute the usefulness of such an offer, saying most

LBCC part-timers aren't eligible for PERS.

PERS requirements don't kick in for anyone who teaches 24 credit hours per academic year, which is the limit for part-timers. However, summer term hours are separate from the academic year, which might make some faculty eligible. Hours also accumulate if part-timers work at other community colleges, which PTFA has said many of its members have to do to make ends meet.

Hamann told board members that according to the college's records, 55 percent of part-time faculty members are eligible for a PERS pickup. It was not immediately known how many of those teach outside LBCC.

The next bargaining session is 5 p.m. Aug. 16 in the college's board room and is open to the public.

In other business Wednesday, Dave Henderson, vice president of finance and operations, said

the college is waiting for a proposal from a firm to test water for lead content following reports of elevated levels found in schools and colleges elsewhere in the state.

No problems are expected, he said, "But we would rather err on the side of caution."

Board members also voted unanimously to name Jim Merryman as the next chairman.

Nominations for vice chairman ended in a tie between Shelly Garrett and newly-appointed board member Randy Camp. Camp, Keith Frome and Dick Running voted for Camp, while Garrett broke the tie to join Merryman, Ron Mason and Barry Broadbent to place herself in the position.

Garrett told Camp she'd be glad to support a leadership role for him when he'd been on the board for more time, saying she doesn't plan to act as chair again.

744-7

# Lead in school water draws scathing report

Departing leader leaves list of actions to address problems

By SHASTA KEARNS MOORE  
The Tribune

The largest school district in Oregon didn't have a plan for testing for lead in its water, remediating its effects, nor communicating results externally or internally, despite knowing about the problem for at least the last 15 years.

That's the conclusion from investigators at the Stoll Berne law firm who pored over 15,000 pages of documents and interviewed more than a dozen people, delivering its report Thursday, July 14, to the district.

Superintendent Carole Smith informed Portland Public Schools board chair Tom Koehler over the weekend that she had decided to leave the district and announced it on Monday morning, nearly simultaneously with the public release of the law firm's report.

The \$81,250 report says the district largely didn't address the problem of lead because of systemic failures, lack of institutional knowledge and a lack of priority from either the board or administrators for maintenance.

Environmental Health and Safety Manager Andy Fridley — who remains on paid administrative leave as the district considers the report's personnel implications — was explicitly in charge of the Lead in Water Program. But it was a program in name only. Fridley had no training, consistent protocols or oversight — learning what he was supposed to do from the Internet and from brief interactions with his predecessor, who had established an ad hoc approach, the report says.

Moreover, information found on the district's website implying drinking water sources are safe and no longer in need of testing was false. Former Communications Director Jon Isaacs also knowingly gave Willamette Week an incomplete copy of a database that was not



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Rose City Park School teacher Molly Sims expressed the anger felt by many at a June 1 community meeting about lead in school water. A newly released report offers much more details about the crisis.

consistently used to track affected fixtures and repairs, providing misleading information.

### Sticker campaign fell flat

Parents and staff might have known as early as 2012 that water from sink faucets was dangerous to drink if Erin Barnett had gotten her way. Barnett — who is leaving the district Friday as part of a rash of departures from the communications team — developed a sticker to be deployed across the district after a concerned parent at Rigler School discovered students were not supposed to be drinking sink water, as they had been. To Barnett's great frustration, the stickers were never approved through Facilities and Asset Management, and she did not feel it was her place to address the issue with her own superiors, the report says.

Instead, the fact that classroom faucets were not supposed to be used for drinking water was addressed infrequently in principal newsletters that ended in 2012. The report states there is "widespread agreement" that statements on PPS' website and elsewhere were ineffective at communicating to people that the water was nonpotable.

Though the investigators — given their charge by the board — were not authorized to dig into the following issues, they noted that several employees wanted consideration to be

given to the fact that PPS has been chronically underfunded with high turn-over and vacancies in the district. They also point the finger at a newly elected board whose requests "may well have delayed a coordinated and effective response to the public," the report summarizes.

### Smith's response

Superintendent Smith left a parting gift to the district she led for nearly a decade: a five-page report on what she thinks needs to change to address concerns of water quality and other environmental dangers in the district's decaying schools.

Smith will no longer lead the district, having announced her retirement, but installed two new employees. Interim Executive Director of Facilities Operations Courtney Wilton — with experience at the Energy Trust of Oregon, Clackamas Community College and David Douglas School District — will be in charge of planning for the needs that will be identified through an assessment by CH2M Hill. Interim Senior Director of Environmental Health and Safety John Burnham, formerly director of Environmental Health and Safety at Oregon Health & Science University, will be tasked with coming up with and updating procedures, training plans and data systems.

Smith advised the board to make these positions permanent. The departing superintendent also identified millions of dollars in expenditures the district should make toward testing, maintenance and public records. Smith said digitizing the district's documents, implementing an electronic public records system and creating a director-level public records officer with an expanded staff were "critical."

### Report highlights

■ "For the past 15 years, PPS has had no consistent procedures or protocols for internal management of information relating to elevated levels of lead in drinking water." (page 3)

■ "During our investigation, the individuals employed by PPS that we encountered were well-intentioned, sincere and forthcoming. ... We found no indication that anyone intended harm or to neglect his or her job duties. Moreover, as of the date of this report, Multnomah County's Public Health Department reports that drinking water has not been identified as the source for elevated lead in the blood of any county resident." (page 4)

■ "Between 2001-2011: 'Our investigation found little information or historical knowledge on the behalf of PPS regarding whether any formal procedures or protocols were in place.'" (page 12)

■ "Testing has been disfavored. ... In most instances, only the minimum testing necessary to address the request is performed." (page 17)

■ "From our investigation, it appears that no one in PPS's operations department, from Mr. (Tony) Magliano down, has any formal training addressing lead in water or water safety issues." (page 18)

■ "Within the PPS administration hierarchy, there has been no reporting mechanism or oversight up the chain of command, and no top down direction provided, regarding lead in water issues." (page 32)

McMinnville, OR  
(Yamhill Co.)

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

JUL 22 2016

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

## Tests detect lead in fountain, faucets

By STARLA POINTER 744-7  
Of the News-Register

Tests have detected lead in one drinking fountain and 13 faucets in older McMinnville school buildings.

The district has received results from the testing of more than 400 water samples from its buildings, about half the total number being collected this summer.

Superintendent Maryalice Russell told the board Monday that most samples were free of lead. Tests gave a clean bill of health to water taken from Memorial and Grandhaven elementary schools, the old Cook School and the Evans Street Learning Center, she said.

But levels exceeded the EPA limit of 15 parts per billion in 14 samples.

One sample was taken from a drinking fountain at Adams, which is used for the RISE alternative program. Six faucets at Adams also tested positive, along with three at Columbus, two at Wascher and one each at Newby and Sue Buel.

The problems occurred in old, original fixtures, Russell said. The lead is probably coming from the fixtures themselves, rather than from the pipes serving them, she said.

Facilities director Pete Keenan said lead solder

See LEAD, A7

## Lead

Continued from A1

once was routinely used in the manufacture and installation of plumbing fixtures, which is no longer the case.

All the problem fixtures will be replaced before classes resume, Keenan said.

Then water samples will be tested again. If the samples still contain lead levels exceeding the limit, the district will investigate nearby pipes.

He and Russell said McMinnville Water & Light has assured the district the problem is not caused by water flowing into the buildings.

In other business Monday, the board:

■ Heard about preparations for the sale of bonds to support upcoming

construction projects. District voters approved \$89.4 million in projects in May, including construction of a new vocational/technical center at McMinnville High School, a new high school gym, specialized career pathway classrooms and new music rooms; safety and security improvements across the district; and other remodeling and energy efficiency projects.

■ Approved paperwork that will allow the district to accept a \$7.1 million grant from the state for additional construction.

The state grant was linked to passage of the May bond measure. The district plans to use the money for a new maintenance building and other projects.

■ Approved pay raises for substitute teachers and classified employees.

# Lead found in school's water

## The contaminant was detected in 12 fixtures at Jefferson Elementary School

ANTHONY RIEHL,  
Cornallis Gazette Times

Water testing in the Corvallis School District has found elevated levels of lead in 12 fixtures at Jefferson Elementary School, including the drinking fountain in the gym and multiple classroom fountains, the district announced on Thursday.

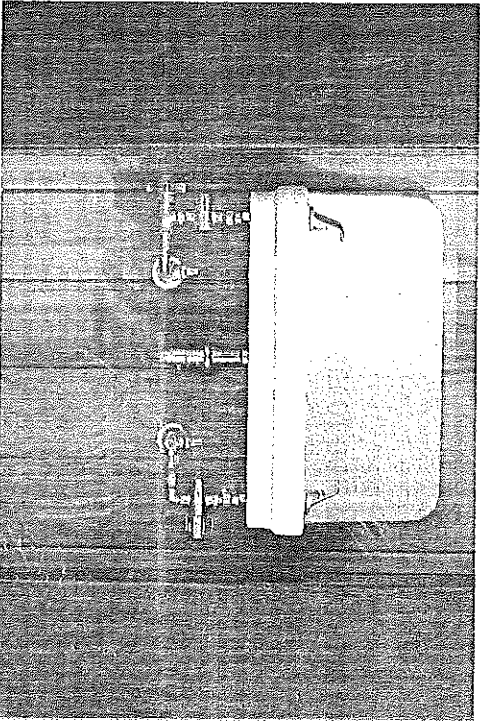
Other fixtures tested positive for lead but were below levels considered actionable by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Samples were collected from all district schools earlier this month and sent to a lab for testing. Only the results from Jefferson, which was built in 1960, have been returned so far, but district officials said other schools also have plumbing fixtures that contain lead.

Kim Patten, the district's facilities and transportation manager, said Wilson and Adams elementary — which were built about the same time as Jefferson — both have some of their original lead fixtures.

Patten said the district last did lead testing across all schools in 2000. In 2002 it replaced all the fixtures and some pipe that showed acceptable levels of lead, using money from a facilities bond.

Patten, who was the secretary in the facilities department at that time, said district officials have not ordered more testing because they have to juggle resources between many needs, including other safety issues they are required to take action on.

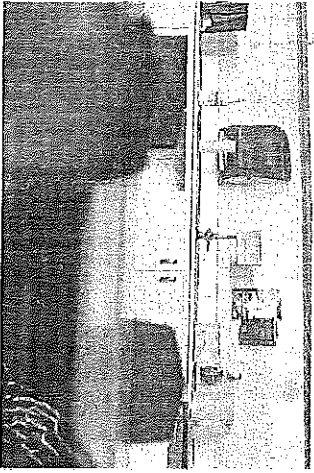


ARIAL ORTIZ, GAZETTE-TIMES  
The drinking fountain in the Jefferson Elementary School gym has been shut off after testing revealed elevated levels of lead in the water. A dozen fixtures at the Corvallis school showed potentially unsafe levels of lead in district-wide tests.

"There was no requirement to test. We knew all of our sources were safe as of 2002," she said. Patten said district officials have already shut off and marked the fixtures that exceeded EPA action levels. Next, they plan to replace all the fountains that have exceeded actionable levels (they've already ordered \$2,500 in fixtures) and will remove all fixtures in the classroom drinking fountains in the district's elementary schools and not replace them.

Patten added that the gymnasium water fountain at Jefferson would be replaced. After the fixtures are replaced, she said, the new ones will be tested to make sure the water is lead-free.

Please see LeadI, Page A4



ARIAL ORTIZ, GAZETTE-TIMES  
A sign is stapled over a faucet and drinking fountain in Room 11 at Jefferson Elementary District officials said fixtures that tested positive for lead would be replaced.

## Lead

From A1

If not, it may be necessary to replace the pipes, which are not made of lead but sometimes have lead soldering.

"We don't see it as a pipe problem," she said. "We believe it is the individual fixtures."

The night before the water samples were collected, Patten said, the facilities staff ran water through all the fixtures so any built up lead was flushed out and they could simulate what conditions would be like during the school year.

The EPA considers lead levels actionable if they exceed 15 parts per billion, so we can get an idea what in some classrooms at Jefferson, the lead level easily exceeded that mark. For example, Patten said, the faucet in Room 11 had 167 parts of lead per billion, and the water fountain had 104 parts per billion. The gym water fountain had 54 parts per billion, she said.

According to the lab results the district released to the Gazette Times, of the 47 fixtures tested at Jefferson, only six showed no lead but most were below actionable levels.

Patten said the district prioritized elementary schools for testing because it will have students in some buildings for a kindergarten preparatory program in August. She said officials hope to have all the remediation efforts complete before school starts, but it may take longer than that. Fix-

tures that are not replaced by then will remain shut off.

Patten said all the district's schools do have some safe water available even if remediation is not complete. Last summer grant funds were used to install a filtered, refrigerated fountain at each school. The one at Jefferson tested free of lead, she added.

"This is a difficult situation for school districts in Oregon because there's no money for testing or remediation," Patten said. She said the district's new long-range facilities plans will need to address safety and water issues.

"It was nice to see the results for this school early so we can get an idea what we're up against," she said. The head testing lab costs were just under \$15,000.

Bill Dunninger, manager of Benton County's environmental health division, said the county has had six cases of people with elevated lead levels since January of 2015, but they have all been traced to sources such as occupational exposure or dust from flaking lead paint in pre-1970s homes. He said Benton County is similar to the rest of the Oregon in this, based on information he's heard from state officials.

"In Oregon, virtually no lead exposure is due to drinking water," he said. He added that the "first draw" tests done by the district represent a kind of worst-case scenario of someone using a faucet or drinking fountain first thing

in the morning after lead has leached into the water overnight.

Potentially, lead levels drop during the day as the pipes are used and the lead is flushed out. Dunninger said the biggest concern is water used for food preparation or drinking, rather than washing.

"Most public health agencies are realizing there are no safe levels of lead," he said. According to the Oregon Public Health Division, the following are symptoms of lead exposure in children:

- Tiredness or loss of energy.
- Hyperactivity.
- Reduced attention span.
- Irritability or crankiness.
- Poor appetite.
- Weight loss.
- Trouble sleeping.
- Constipation.
- Aches or pains in the stomach.
- Long-term lead exposure in children can cause brain damage, lowered intelligence, behavior and learning problems, and impaired speech and language development.

"If (parents) have got a concern like that, they should go to their health care provider," said Dunninger.

Even if someone did show elevated levels of lead, he added, it would be premature to assume they got it from water. "Twenty parts per billion is still pretty low," Dunninger said.

Yvonne Adams, a Corvallis School Board member, said he brought the issue up to the board after hearing about tests that found lead in the water in Portland schools. After that meeting, he said, the district began the process of contracting to have its water tested.

Before Gov. Kate Brown ordered state agencies to develop a plan to expand water testing at schools in April, which prompted many more schools systems to do the same.

The district's early start meant Corvallis was ahead of many other schools in the queue to get results, Adams added.

"We are lucky we are learning this now. We have some time to fix it before the school year starts," he said. Adams said he brought the matter up because the dangers of lead to all people, but especially young children, are well-known.

"It's not something we take lightly," he said. A Corvallis representative said if the city ever had lead pipes in its water system, they were all replaced decades ago, long before it was mandated by Congress in 1986. The representative said the city performs annual tests on its water sources, the Willamette River and Rock Creek, and has never detected lead in either one.

Anthony Riehl can be reached at anthony.riehl@lee.net, 541-759-9526 or via Twitter @anthonyriehl.

# School lead tests may be skewed

## EPA: Procedure not recommended

744-7

TRACY LOEW  
STATESMAN JOURNAL

The contractor hired to test water for lead in the Salem-Keizer and Portland school districts is not following the procedure recommended by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

That could skew results, EPA officials said Friday.

Last month, in response to growing concern about lead in drinking water, state health and education officials told school districts statewide to test all of their taps this summer.

The Oregon Health Authority told districts to follow the procedures detailed in the EPA's 104-page guidance document titled "3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools."

It calls for water to sit in the plumbing overnight, or for eight to 18 hours, before samples are drawn.

Contractor TRC Environmental said that means that the building's plumbing should be flushed eight to 12 hours before testing, to ensure no water has been in the pipes longer than that.

"It's the recommendation from the Environmental Protection Agency," Victoria Shepersky, senior industrial hygienist with TRC Environmental said Wednesday.

But that's not the correct interpretation, the EPA said in a written response to the Statesman Journal's questions.

"The 3Ts guidance does not recommend any pre-sampling activities that are not part of the schools existing maintenance program, as those activities would prevent the samples from being representative of the drinking water provided to the students," the EPA said.

Flushing a building's pipes is one of the measures EPA recommends to reduce lead in drinking water, so samples after flushing could be lower than they would be during routine use.

"If a school does not flush as a part of their regular maintenance program, they should not be flushing before conducting 3Ts sampling," the EPA said.

See LEAD, Page 2A

### The 3 T's

According to the EPA's documents, the 3 T's stand for training, testing and telling.

**Training** covers the health-effects of lead and developing partnerships with other agencies.

**Testing** includes strategies for the most accurate results and water sampling protocols

**Telling** refers to letting people know about lead and the best way to provide information to parents and the public

**Lead**  
Continued from Page 1A

Dave Leland, Oregon Drinking Water Program manager, said the reverse also could be true. "Flushing could give you big numbers, if you

flush it really hard. It can blast off particles," he said.  
But testing during the summer, without flushing, also could give misleading results, Leland said. That's because some outlets may not have been used for a month or more.  
So the state's directive to schools to test this summer is somewhat problematic, he said.  
For that reason OHA is not concerned about the deviation from EPA recommendations.  
"People can come up with lots of questions that aren't totally answered," Leland said. "I think people are doing the best they can."

The Salem-Keizer School District began testing July 14 and expects to finish by Aug. 13. Its sampling protocol calls for flushing all out-

lets to be sampled, except drinking fountains, for at least 20 minutes. Drinking fountains will be flushed for one minute. The district said it is flushing the plumbing because water has potentially been stagnant in the system for several weeks during the summer break.  
"We were very diligent and careful in working with our contractor to develop the flushing protocol," Mike Wolfe, the district's chief operations officer, said. "We're confident in what we're doing and why we're doing it."

In Portland Public Schools, the question of flushing plumbing systems before testing is a "hot topic," spokeswoman Courtney Westing said.  
TRC Environmental finished sampling all 80-plus buildings in the dis-

trict in early July, but the company has not provided the district with a final copy of the testing protocol, Westing said.  
"I'm sure TRC had one, I don't have the document. It wasn't in final form because we have a second set of consultants that have come in since," she said.  
The protocol did include flushing plumbing, Westing said.  
Consultant CH2M Hill has been hired to assess the testing results and recommend whether any tests should be repeated, she said.  
Meanwhile, Oregon suspended TRC Environmental's contractor's license July 12 because the company failed to provide proof of insurance. The company reinstated its license Friday after questions from the Statesman Journal. But it

could not legally perform construction work during that time, said Laurie Hall, licensing manager for the State Construction Contractors Board.  
That wasn't a problem for Salem-Keizer's testing program, Wolfe said, because the district's contract with the company is not construction-related.  
The company will map all of the fixtures in the building, provide training to district employees on flushing plumbing, develop the sampling plan, collect the samples, subcontract with testing laboratories and report the results. But it won't perform construction work, Wolfe said.

744-7  
lhw@statesmanjournal.com, 503-399-6779 or follow at Twitter.com/TracyLoew

Astoria, OR  
(Clatsop Co.)  
Daily Astorian  
(Cir. D. 8,421)

# Schools find lead in water

## Astoria, Seaside find trouble spots as early test results return

By EDWARD STRATTON  
744-7 The Daily Astorian

Several water taps have been switched off in Astoria and Seaside as lead-testing results for local school districts start to trickle in.

Superintendent Craig Hoppes of the Astoria School District said two fountains at Astoria High School tested at 17 and 74 parts of lead per billion, respectively, and were shut off.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends schools collect 250 milliliter first-draw samples of stagnant water from outlets used for consumption, taking them out of service if the lead level exceeds 20 parts per billion. The trigger for treatment in a public water system is 15 parts per billion.

See LEAD, Page 10A

# Lead: Warrenton-Hammond, Knappa school districts still waiting for results

Continued from Page 1A

The school district, which tested at several spots in each school, shut off all other fountains at the high school as a precaution while it runs additional tests to determine whether on-campus plumbing or water coming into the school is the issue.

"Astoria School District and the city are dedicated to eliminating lead from drinking water, but it's not uncommon for small amounts to be found due to leaching from service lines, parts, and fittings," Hoppes wrote in a letter sent to parents and guardians Monday. "These trace amounts of lead rarely if ever cause acute illnesses. Only with prolonged exposure can lead bioaccumulate in the body and cause health issues."

In the letter, Hoppes said tests at 30 spots around the city last year showed clean drinking water below the EPA threshold for treatment.

"While the city provides water that is lead-free, it cannot control the pipes and fixtures



Craig Hoppes



Sheila Roley

past the service connection," Hoppes wrote, encouraging water customers to use newer fixtures and lead-free plumbing.

Seaside Superintendent Sheila Roley said the school district has identified two locations with elevated lead levels.

"We tested almost 40 different locations in the schools, and only found two that had levels that exceeded" benchmarks, Roley said. She added that both were in the teens of parts per billion.

One was the hose in a

boiler room that does not provide drinking water, Roley said, while the other was a sink in the concession stand at Seaside High School primarily used for cleaning. She said the school district has also shut down other sinks approaching the threshold of 20 parts per billion and is performing additional tests to determine the cause of high lead concentrations.

### Crowded labs

In addition to finding the source of the pollution, the problem is getting timely

results back. The discovery of high lead volumes in two Portland schools, along with the public relations disaster that followed, spurred many districts throughout the state to start testing this spring. Gov. Kate Brown and other state leaders have called for yearly reports on lead and other toxins from every school district.

Astoria and other Clatsop County districts started testing in June. Only in the past week did Astoria and Seaside School District receive their results back from a lab.

Officials from both Warrenton-Hammond and Knappa said their school districts are still waiting for results.

Jewell School, which provides its own water, is one of the few districts in the state that was already required to test for lead with the Oregon Health Authority. Results from previous years show the district's water quality at or below the benchmark of 0.015 milligrams of lead per liter. 744-7

Roseburg, OR  
(Douglas Co.)  
News Review  
(Cir. D. 18,287)  
(Cir. S. 19,270)

JUL 2 6 2015

Allen's P. O. B. 551, 1988

# Tests show lead at Roseburg schools

## Initial results show nearly 70 samples of drinking water exceeded EPA limits

744-7

VERA WESTBROOK  
The News-Review

Roseburg Public Schools, the largest school district in Douglas County, released Monday preliminary lead testing results that reported almost 70 samples exceeded lead limits.

"We are very much in the initial phases of this, but we want people to know where we stand and what's going on," said Roseburg Superintendent

Gerry Washburn.

Last week, the school district received test results for 395 of the 836 drinking water fixtures tested so far. Water samples were tested at all Roseburg schools except Roseburg High School. Tests of the samples taken at the high school should be completed this week.

As of Thursday, 68 out of 395 tested samples exceeded the 20 milligrams per liter lead

level limit for schools set by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Another 26 samples exceeded the lead limits for nonschools-tic entities at .015 milligrams per liter. No positive results were reported for the 17 refrigerated drinking fountains tested.

The school district plans to retest all the positive samples by taking new samples from

those sites. Fixtures that test positive twice will be replaced. Those new fixtures will then be tested again to ensure the lead source is not from the water supply line.

Based on submitted test results, 15 out of 64 samples tested positive at Green Elementary School. At Maltese Elementary, 29 out of 71 samples tested positive.

Washburn said it's highly unlikely that the lead source is pipes because of the manner in which the water filtration system is handled.

"Typically what we're finding is that it's the solder where the fixtures are attached," Washburn said. "The fixtures had lead in them because they were put in before the lead requirements went into place."

LEAD, A8

## FROM PAGE ONE

of a lower maintenance bid unrelated to the lead testing.

The district expects to gain additional funds to pay for lead testing and fixture replacement costs by not filling a recently vacated maintenance position for one year.

Washburn estimated the already budgeted amount for this full-time position, including benefits, to exceed \$25,000.

"What we're trying to do is to keep it from being any more impactful on the budget than it already is," Washburn said. "We'll do what we have to do to address the issue."

The Roseburg school district expects to receive most of the results from the first round of testing in all the schools by Aug. 8.

The test numbers submitted in the accompanying table reflect the samples tested so far, which include a few RIS positive samples that were not listed on the table. The table instead lists RIS as "not complete" since all the test samples have not been received at this time.

"I can assure people that we are going to do everything we can to make sure their kids are

SCHOOL	TOTAL SAMPLES TAKEN	RESULT OF .030 LIMIT	RESULT OF .015 LIMIT	TOTAL POSITIVE SAMPLES
Empson Elementary	66	9	4	13
Er-Grove Elementary	52	Awaiting Results		
Erington IV Elementary	55	Awaiting Results		
Green Elementary	64	13	2	15
Harriet Elementary	60	Awaiting Results		
Maltese Elementary	71	17	12	29
Maple Elementary	49	15		4
Springdale Elementary	52	Awaiting Results		
Washburn Elementary	76	Awaiting Results		
Wendover Elementary	143	Awaiting Results		
Joseph Lane Middle School	161	Awaiting Results		
Roseburg High School	Not Complete			
District Office	Not Complete			
Green Annex Building	Included in Green sample results			1 out of 8 total fixtures

Preliminary lead test results listed by school in Roseburg school district. Not all test results have been returned yet, but should be received by Aug. 8.

COURTESY OF ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

drinking water that meets the EPA standard ... and we'll do that before school starts," Washburn said.

If the district can't get

the work done on some fixtures before school starts, the water supply will be shut off to those fixtures until they are replaced.

"The water that the kids will be encountering when they come back to school will be well within the EPA limits," Washburn said. "744-7

## Lead testing to wait until school begins

By Jolene Guzman  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Lead test requirements are about "as clear as mud" at this point.

That's the assessment of Dallas School District facilities manager Kevin Montague after a meeting with Oregon Department of Education, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and representatives of school districts from across the state.

He said schools performing tests this summer may have to test again because consistent guidelines for when, how and where to test have not been established.

"Lots and lots of confusion," Montague said in a report to the Dallas School Board Monday evening.

He said OHA has recommended districts follow the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) guidelines, which has two "action" thresholds for tests, one for "public water sources" and another for schools.

Montague said the public water threshold requires action if lead is found in levels 15 parts per billion or higher. For schools, the threshold is 20 parts per billion. But when testing began, that wasn't known by schools or labs performing the tests, he said.

Montague said testing during the summer is an issue because EPA standards require testing "under normal use conditions," after water is allowed to sit in the pipes for between eight and 18 hours.

"My question was always, how do you replicate normal conditions during the summer?" Montague said. "You cannot do it."

Montague said the practice of flushing the pipes for 20 minutes, as some districts have done, and then letting water sit for eight to 18 hours before testing may be problematic, too. EPA guidelines say not to flush the pipes before testing.

"There is no perfect answer on when to test, but what I do know is that you need to be testing under normal-use circumstances," Montague said.

For that reason, Dallas schools won't perform its testing until school is back in session, Montague said. All water sources will be tested in the fall using the EPA-recommended methods.

"I want to make sure we do it right, so we are going to wait until school starts again," Montague said.

The 117 initial tests taken in the spring revealed that in one school building, Oakdale Heights, nearly every test contained lead.

"None of them was close to the action level," Montague said, noting with the age of buildings in the district, low levels of lead may always be present.

Montague said even more questions remain for state officials to answer, such as how often taps should be tested and how much lead is acceptable.

"There's no consensus at this point," Montague said.

JUL 2 7 2015

Allen's P. O. B. 551, 1988

Dallas, OR  
(Polk Co.)  
Polk County Itemizer  
Observer  
(Cir. W. 5,098)

LEAD, A8

Wilsonville, OR  
(Clackamas Co.)  
Wilsonville Spokesman  
(Circ. W. 3,338)  
JUL 27 2016  
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Dallas, OR  
(Polk Co.)  
Polk County Itemizer  
Observer  
(Cir. W. 5,098)

JUL 27 2016  
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Wood, Art Tech drinking water tests indicate elevated levels of lead

West Linn-  
Wilsonville School District still testing other schools

### MORE INFORMATION

For answers to specific questions contact WL-WV Operations Director Tim Woodley at woodleyt@wlwk12.or.us or 503-673-7995.

By ANDREW KILSTROM  
The Spokesman

Tests for lead in drinking water at Inza R. Wood Middle School and Arts and Technology High School were relayed to parents via email July 21, indicating elevated levels of lead in multiple locations at both sites, most notably at the drinking fountain and bottle fill up station in Art Tech's Kiva (cafeteria). The elevated

levels of lead exceed the action level of 20 parts per billion (ppb) set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Test results at Boeckman Creek Primary, released Monday, July 26, showed no elevated levels of lead or copper.

The West Linn-Wilsonville School District made the deci-

See LEAD / Page 6

## Falls City schools to test for lead

FALLS CITY — The Falls City School District Board approved on July 18 transferring \$3,800 out of contingency to pay for state-required lead testing.

The money will be transferred to the operation and maintenance of buildings fund to pay a contractor to collect samples and send them for testing.

The expenditure wasn't included in the 2016-17 budget because the state request had not been made when the spending plan was developed.

Falls City will test 59 faucets and drinking fountains, following the state's request that every outlet be tested.

"It's everything that we think we can drink out of," said Falls City Superintendent Jack Thompson.

Dallas, OR  
(Polk Co.)  
Polk County Itemizer  
Observer  
(Cir. W. 5,098)

JUL 27 2016  
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Lead

From Page 1

sion in June to test the quality of drinking water for all its schools, working with Pixis Labs in Portland and starting with its oldest buildings.

Thirteen of 109 test locations at Wood showed elevated levels of lead, with locations including eight lab sinks in science classrooms, one teacher demonstration lab sink, three classroom sink faucets and one bubbler in a classroom sink. Results also indicated that one classroom sink faucet has an elevated level of copper that exceeds the action level of 1,350 ppb.

The two locations at Art Tech produced levels of 25.3 ppb and 34 ppb (drinking fountain). The highest test locations at Wood, meanwhile, were 71.5 ppb, 50.2 ppb, 49.5 ppb and 33.3 ppb, with the majority of elevated tests hovering just above the 20 ppb threshold.

"We're going to make sure that everything is safe for children and staff, wherever we are in the process of mitigation," Superintendent Kathy Ludwig told the Spokesman after initial testing at Sunset and Willamette Primary indicated elevated levels of lead in a combined six locations.

WL-WV hasn't tested its drinking water on-

site in buildings in the past — save for its three wells which are routinely tested — instead relying on the regular testing of water by the City of West Linn and the City of Wilsonville. Water sources at individual schools are not tested by either city, however.

Operations Director Tim Woodley also said the district will continue testing and sharing results with parents throughout the summer, with the goal of having results from all schools by mid-August. The district has said it will take immediate action fixing problem areas, and will then retest to make sure drinking water is safe prior to the start of school in September.

According to the EPA, even low levels of lead in the blood of children can result in behavior and learning problems, lower IQ and hyperactivity, slowed growth, hearing problems and anemia.

The district announced elevated levels of lead at Sunset Primary (four locations) and Willamette Primary (two locations) last week, but has already replaced fixtures and retested at those locations. Those most recent tests yielded normal levels of lead. Bolton Primary and CREST Headquarters, meanwhile, showed no elevated levels at any of its drinking water locations. Updates will be provided when results become available.

Contact Andrew Kilstrom at 503-636-1281 ext. 112 or akilstrom@pamplinmedia.com.

## 744-7 EDITORIALS

### Time is needed to get lead response right

Kudos to the Dallas School District for not panicking when it comes to testing for lead in the water at its schools.

We think the strategy of waiting until school is in session and following the recommendations of Environmental Protection Agency for testing will provide better results for the district and its students in the long run.

The rush to test is understandable, as the health and safety of children and employees could be at stake. However, doing so using incorrect processes — which may be the case for other districts that have completed or are currently testing — means at best they will have to retest. At worst, they could provide false readings.

It's clear from Dallas' facilities manager's recount of Monday's meeting with the Oregon Department of Education, the Oregon Health Authority and other school district representatives that many questions remain about how the state should respond to the issue.

Requiring districts to have comprehensive plans in place to mitigate risks by October, as was suggested at that meeting, would make it difficult for schools to meet deadlines. More critical, the short timeline makes it less likely those plans will be effective.

Questions of how often tests should be conducted, what taps should be tested, how much lead is acceptable in water and whether the state should help pay for obligations it places on districts need to be thoughtfully answered. State and school leaders should take the time to do that, for the benefit of all involved.

We are glad this important issue is being addressed — and that the Dallas School District's response was to take the time to get the best outcome possible.

## North Douglas District tests, retests for lead

North Douglas School District said it has responded to public concerns regarding possible lead contaminants in its water system by testing that system recently.

The District indicated via press release that Superintendent John Lahley had required testing of "all drinking supply faucets and sources for consumable water, in addition to 50 percent of classrooms."

North Douglas contracted with Analytical Laboratory Group of Eugene for the testing, which involved testing samples from 45 locations that revealed 10 sites of concern where lead levels exceeded the 15 parts per billion threshold of lead levels deemed in need of correction by the National Center for Disease Control.

Lahley stated that no drinking fountains were found to con-

tain unsafe water, nor were any kitchens found to be contaminated. Concession booths at the high school athletic field and Howards field were determined as "non-drinkable sources," as were three high-school science lab stations, one high school restroom sink, a classroom storage space sink in the high school and three elementary/middle school classrooms.

Lahley indicated that water

would first be shut off to those sites deemed "non-drinkable;" those sites were then scheduled for retesting.

On July 12, the District sent an update indicating that of the 10 sites found to contain unacceptable lead levels on a first test, all 10 came back clean after a second test. Lahley indicated that he believed the first positive tests were due to "lack of regular use at those locations."

Cottage Grove, OR  
(Lane Co.)  
Cottage Grove Sentinel  
(Circ. W. 5,400)

JUL 27 2016  
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

JUL 27 2016

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

## Tests show lead found in South Lane District Office drinking fountain

A stack of papers in South Lane School District Superintendent Krista Parent's office showcase two important letters again and again — "N.D."

The letters stand for "none detected" and show the results of tests for lead conducted at the sources of the District's drinking water. South Lane tested its water supply in June, as public concern over lead levels throughout Oregon mounted. Just last week, in fact, Portland Public Schools Superintendent Carole Smith stepped down over allegations that the District knew about lead in its drinking water system for some

time but did nothing to correct the issue.

There is no state standard for lead testing in public schools, Parent pointed out, adding that public concern prompted the tests here.

"As soon as it happened in Portland, we knew we wanted to get everything tested," she said. The District's water supply in its rural schools is now under its own purview and is part of the Row River Water District, which Parent said is routinely tested, though Lincoln Middle School had not been tested since 1989 and one other South Lane School had not been tested since 2011.

A level of 15 parts per billion of lead is the upper threshold of acceptability for the element. One water source that did test positive for lead, the drinking fountain in the District's administrative office at Third and Adams streets, showcased an amount of 6.8 parts per billion. While this number tests below the acceptable threshold, Parent said the District chose to replace the fountain anyway.

Parent said she wouldn't be surprised if the District has to test its water for lead again.

"The state has gotten pretty serious about testing," she said.

West Linn, OR  
(Clackamas Co.)  
West Linn Tidings  
(Circ. W. 2,730)  
JUL 28 2016

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

## Cedaroak Park tests indicate elevated levels of lead

By ANDREW KILSTROM  
The Tidings

Tests for lead in drinking water at Cedaroak Park Primary were relayed to parents July 21, indicating elevated levels of lead in three of 57 locations.

Results at Rosemont Ridge Middle School, meanwhile, indicated elevated levels in three of 110 locations. The indicated elevated levels of lead that exceed the action level of 20 parts per billion (ppb) included an activity area sink, classroom sink and restroom sink at Cedaroak Park, and two science classroom lab sink faucets and one restroom sink faucet in the boy's locker room at Rosemont Ridge.

The three locations at Cedaroak Park produced elevated levels of 32.7 ppb, 38.8 ppb and 50.5 ppb — exceeding the level set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The three elevated levels of lead at Rosemont were 45.1 ppb, 47.1 ppb and 32.6 ppb.

The West Linn-Wilsonville School District made the decision in June to test the quality of drinking water for all its schools, working with Pixis Labs in Portland and starting with its oldest buildings.

"We're going to make sure that everything is safe for children and staff, wherever we are in the process of mitigation," Superintendent Kathy Ludwig said after initial testing at Sunset and Willamette Primary indicated elevated levels of lead in a combined six locations.

WL-WV hasn't tested its drinking water onsite in buildings in the past — save for its three wells which are routinely tested — instead relying on the regular testing of water by the City of West Linn and the City of Wilsonville. Water sources at individual schools are not tested by either city, however.

Operations Director Tim Woodley also said the district will continue testing and sharing results with parents throughout the summer, with the goal of having results from all schools by mid-August.

Contact Andrew Kilstrom at 503-636-1281 ext. 112 or [akilstrom@pamplinmedia.com](mailto:akilstrom@pamplinmedia.com).

### MORE INFORMATION

For answers to specific questions contact WL-WV Operations Director Tim Woodley at [woodley@wlwv.k12.or.us](mailto:woodley@wlwv.k12.or.us) or 503-673-7995.

JUL 28 2016

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

## Many questions yet unanswered regarding lead in PPS water supply

COMMUNITY SOAPBOX

by Harold Warner

Many questions: When Portland Public Schools Superintendent Carol Smith put on leave some key personnel in PPS, was that the correct answer or a way to appease the citizens and parents?

If it is true, the water from Bull Mountain is without significant lead before released to Portland, then it seems to me, the system from source to exit might be the real problem and needs evaluation.

A recent article in The Oregonian told how the pipes for water supply to Portland were installed, but does the question needs asked — are the fountains the real culprit?

Could it be possible that the total system is failing and all the city pipes need replaced?

If that is true, then the school system is not totally

at fault (except for not having a monitoring program), and all those communities purchasing water from Portland's Bull Run might be in jeopardy.

If the purchasers are having problems with their water and higher lead levels, who would be liable?

It seems to me, the water needs to be tested at the entrance to the school and compare those values in what exits the fountains.

If the entrance lead level is high, then the puzzle is solved. It is the supply from the city.

Replacing fountains and pipes to me seems not to be the total answer.

If it is proved that the above is true, then those that were put on leave ought to returned to their jobs with notations that they were not at fault added to their personnel files.

Harold Warner lives in Tigard

JUL 28 2016

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## Safe levels of lead, copper reported at county schools

The Klamath County School District received tests results for four more schools, additional results for a previously reported school and results for the district office. They continue to show safe levels of lead and copper in school drinking water, according to a news release.

Results were returned from Lost River Jr./Sr. High School, Chiloquin Jr./Sr. High School, Chiloquin Elementary, Gilchrist Schools and the district office. Additional results

came for a few sites at Ferguson Elementary, which also had results reported on July 11.

District schools and buildings continue to contain lead levels well below the Environmental Protection Agency threshold of 15 parts per billion and copper levels below the EPA threshold of 1,300 parts per billion.

Starting on June 13, the district took 130 samples from its 20-plus schools and buildings and sent them to Spring Street

**ONLINE EXTRA**  
Results of water tests for lead done by the Klamath County School District, as well as those for copper in drinking water, are available with this story at [heraldandnews.com](http://heraldandnews.com).

Analytical, which sent the samples for laboratory testing. Nearly all the test results have come back, leaving only the new district office building on Greensprings Drive await-

ing results. All lead tests are below the EPA limits.

**FAUCET REPLACEMENTS**  
The Klamath County School District is planning to replace all faucets in water fountains and sinks in kitchens, nurses' stations, staff rooms and other rooms over the next three years. The district believes this proactive approach will continue to keep students safe.

In the most recent results, the district tested 32

total sites, including drinking fountains, and sinks in the kitchen, staff room, nurses' station and other rooms in some schools. Of those 32 samples, six had lead levels of less than 1 part per billion, 11 had levels between 1 and 3 parts per billion and 15 had levels above 3 parts per billion.

Levels at two sites at Gilchrist were approaching the EPA threshold, but because they were still below 15 ppb, they are still considered safe. The highest was a custodial drinking fountain

at 14.4 ppb, followed by a 13.4 ppb amount in a staff sink. Again, the district is planning on replacing all faucets and fountain fixtures in its schools over the next three years.

The district also tested for copper in the drinking water. The EPA's limit for copper is far, far higher than lead, at 1,300 ppb. Of the 32 sites most recently tested, 27 were below 100 ppb. Five sites were above 100 ppb. And 10 sites were below 10 ppb.

# Board reviews latest drinking water test results

BY JEREMY C. RUARK  
jruark@countrymedia.net

school psychologist in the new school year ahead.

Hartley said he and other selected administrators and staff will receive Education Service District (ESD) training to help them identify basic

The Clatskanie School District's drinking water continues to be safe for students and others, according to the latest test results reviewed by the Clatskanie School Board during its regular monthly meeting on Monday night, July 25.

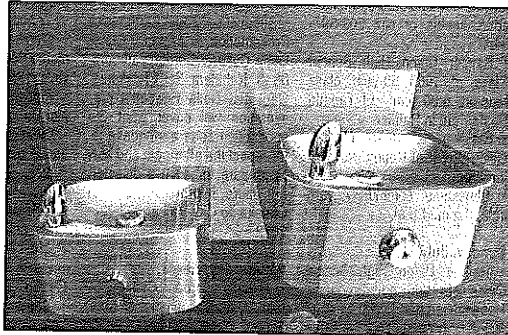
Concerns about high levels of lead in the drinking water in Portland public schools earlier this year triggered review and new testing at the Clatskanie and Rainier schools this summer. Rainier Superintendent Michael Carter told The Chief earlier this month that his district's latest test results also show no health concerns with the school drinking water.

Superintendent Dr. Lloyd Hartley also discussed goals and communication processes with the school board at the July 25 meeting.

Hartley said he and a team of administrators and staff would be taking the place of the district's contracted

"Our school psychologist has left and the reality is we aren't going to get another one," Hartley said. "There is a huge shortage of school psychologists across the nation."

See WATER Page A6



JEREMY C. RUARK / THE CHIEF  
The Clatskanie and Rainier School Districts' drinking water fountains and water stations continue to be safe for students and others, according to the latest test results.

Eugene, OR  
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## School getting new pipes after tests

The Springfield School District will pay \$95,000 to reduce lead levels at Page Elementary

BY ALISHA ROEMELING  
The Register-Guard

SPRINGFIELD — Page Elementary School's underground water system will soon be completely replaced with all new pipes, fittings and fixtures, after elevated levels of lead were determined to be present in the building's west wing.

Six classrooms at the north Springfield school were found to have higher-than-safe levels of lead in their classroom sinks and drinking fountains, said Brett Yancey, the Springfield School District's chief operations officer.

The entire replumbing project will cost the district \$95,000, according to Yancey, who said the replacement work will be completed before the new school year commences on Sept. 7.

Testing revealed that water from sinks and drinking fountains in the west wing's six classrooms ranged from 27 to 180 parts per billion, or PPB.

The standard for acceptable amounts of lead in drinking water is 20 PPB. Anything above that is considered elevated, according to the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

After receiving initial test results for Page Elementary on June 13, new replacement fixtures were ordered for all sites that showed elevated levels of lead, and water was

Turn to LEAD, Page A5

### LEAD LEVELS

Testing in the west wing of Page Elementary School showed elevated lead levels, classified by federal regulators as anything above 20 parts per billion.

**Classroom 3:** 180 PPB on first draw from sink and drinking fountain

**Classroom 2:** 72 PPB

**Classroom 4:** 48 PPB

**Classroom 5:** 31 PPB

**Classroom 6:** 31 PPB

**Classroom 1:** 27 PPB

Source: Springfield School District

at Highway 30 MP 27, St. Helens. Crews responded to a vehicle and bicycle accident where the rider of the bicycle had minor injuries and walked themselves to a first aid station. No medical transport was necessary.

**July 18** — A brushfire was reported at Smith Road & Robinette Road, Columbia City. Fire crews responded along with Oregon Department of Forestry crews to a

the road. Oregon Department of Forestry was requested to assist and also responded with a brush engine to help CRF&R crews extinguish a small fire burning in railroad ties. The railroad company was advised and shut down rail traffic until the damage could be repaired.

**July 21** — A vehicle was reported to have crashed into a tree in the 400 block of S. 8th St., St. Helens. A vehicle

**July 24** — A boat was reported to have capsized with people in the water near Pixie Park, Columbia River. A Catamaran capsized in the river channel with two people in the water. The Scappoose and Clark County Fire boats responded along with Columbia County Sheriff Marine patrol. The boat was up-righted and all passengers accounted for. The US Coast Guard was advised.

Clatskanie, OR  
(Columbia Co.)  
Chief  
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## Lead: Awaiting school board approval

Continued from Page A1

shut off to the west side of the building, Yancey said.

The new fixtures were installed and all sites that had elevated lead levels were flushed with water for five minutes and retested, Yancey said. Flushing the water through the systems and retesting the same site allows crews to determine whether lead is leaching into the water through pipes or the fixtures.

But the second tests revealed that the pipes in the school's west wing were the problem, not the fixtures.

"A repair was done at some point in the past and when that was done they must have installed a lead-soldered pipe or head," Yancey said. "I'm sure when it was installed it was a perfectly acceptable practice."

Yancey said instead of trying to determine which pipe or piece is to blame, the district is opting to replace the school's entire system.

"We're going to just abandon that plumbing system and put in a new one, partially because it's also an older school," Yancey said. "We're going to start with that (west) wing and redo the whole thing."

Although the west wing appears to be the only part of the building affected by the lead-soldered piping, it makes more sense to redo the entire system as the pipes are old and testing each individual piece would be laborious, Yancey said.

Page Elementary School was built in 1953.

The district has hired Hydro-Temp Mechanical contractors of

Wilsonville to complete the project, Yancey said. Brothers Plumbing of Lowell also submitted a bid for the project, which was slightly higher than the Wilsonville company's.

"Since we're requiring that this be done before kids are back in school, it's a really short timeline," Yancey said. "I think the reason local people (organizations) couldn't do it is because it's such a crazy busy time for construction."

The \$95,000 will be taken from the district's emergency fund, pending school board approval on Aug. 8, Yancey said. But the district isn't waiting until then to get the process started.

"We want to get going as soon as we can," Yancey said. "It'll probably take until (Aug. 8) to get everything in order to start the project, but we want it done as quickly as possible."

In the meantime, water has been shut off to all affected areas of the school, and bottled water is being made available to any staff members who are at Page during the summer weeks, Yancey said.

In testing hundreds of other sinks, fountains and other water sources at all district buildings, only one elevated level of lead was found anywhere other than Page Elementary. That was a sink at the Bratton Early Learning Center, which was found to have an elevated lead level of 48 PPB. The sink, located in the building's kitchen, is rarely used, Yancey said.

"Almost all other sites came back non-detectable," Yancey said. "There's no trace of lead at the ma-

jority of our schools."

The districtwide testing, performed by Analytical Laboratory Group of Eugene, cost the district about \$3,000.

A letter was sent home to all district families Tuesday informing them of the test results. An additional letter was sent to Page families to update them on the changes that will be made to the school this summer.

District spokeswoman Jen McCulley said the relatively few cases of elevated lead levels is the result of staff routinely replacing old fixtures.

"It's just part of our regular maintenance," McCulley said. "We've replaced all fixtures in all classrooms districtwide."

McCulley said about 300 new parts, including bubblers and sink fixtures, had been ordered prior to lead in drinking water becoming both a national and local issue.

The district is urging any concerned families to talk with their doctors about exposure to lead, and said it has no way of knowing the degree to which students may have been affected by contaminated water.

"For the most part, the reality is that even though some of these (PPB numbers) sound high, the likelihood that students were ever over-exposed is very small," McCulley said.

744-7

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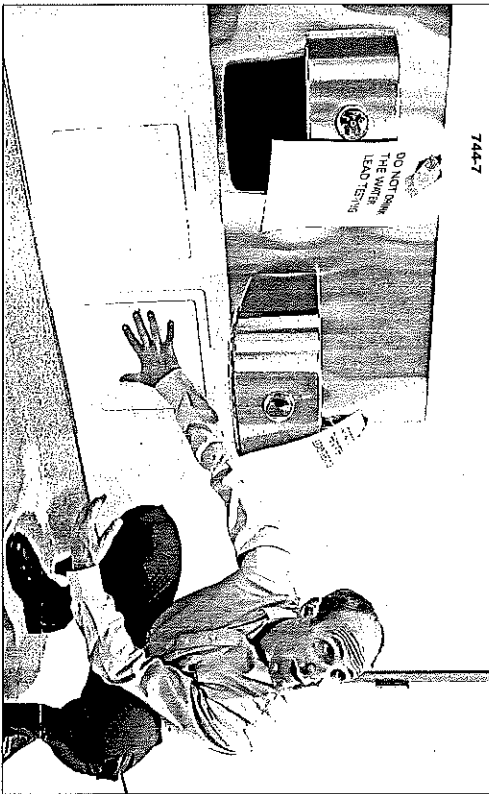
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SCHOOLS

# Lead found in water

744-7



Medford School District Facilities Manager Ron Hamner talks about possible sources of the lead that was found in drinking water at Roosevelt and Jackson elementary schools. MAIL TRIBUNE PHOTOS / DENISE BARATTA

## Water shut off at Jackson, Roosevelt grade schools; McLoughlin also has lead issues

By Teresa Thomas  
Mail Tribune

Drinking water has been shut off to both Jackson and Roosevelt elementary schools in Medford after tests showed that the water in a majority of the schools' fixtures contain lead that exceeded standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Medford School District received the test results Friday evening for Jackson and Roosevelt elementary schools and McLoughlin Middle School. The results showed that 73 percent of fixtures (6 out of 49) at Jackson, 80 percent of fixtures (33 out of 47) at Roosevelt and 20 percent of fixtures (6 out of 30) at McLoughlin had elevated lead levels.

Water was shut off to the 16

Lab technicians as Sara Lopez hands out bottles of water to children participating in a Title I-enriched program Monday at Roosevelt Elementary School.

## LEAD

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affected fixtures at McLoughlin Middle School, which is being used for summer school.

The district turned off the water at both elementary schools and posted signs throughout the schools.

School officials also drew additional samples at all three schools for Nelson Research Corp. to test, sent out letter to parents and distributed water bottles for kids' summer camps and start to use during their summer camp program at Roosevelt and Jackson.

The district completely replaced the plumbing in both elementary schools in 2009, and since then 2011 and 2015 — showed a reduction of elevated lead levels, said Ron Hamner, lead fixture manager, the services manager.

"I'm surprised the last (schools) that we expected them to be any problem," Hamner said. "It just doesn't make any sense to see those elevated levels."

The district contacted the Medford Water Commission, which will take samples at the homes at Jackson and Roosevelt Wednesday or Thursday.

"The Water Commission is testing at the meter to make sure the water coming into the school is good at the source,

eliminating that as a possibility," Hamner said.

David Steery, the Water Commission's conservation coordinator, said the tests will reveal whether the lead is coming from the municipal water supply or the building's plumbing.

The meter sample, he added, will have to be pulled after hours and after the water has been in the pipes for 24 hours. Nelson will repeat the tests and should have the results by the end of the week, depending on when the sample is taken.

If the incoming water supply is eliminated as a source, the district will look at its plumbing to determine the source of the lead, including pressure-reducing valves and pressure-reducing valves.

"We have to do our homework and make sure we get to the root cause," he said. "We're in a holding pattern until we get the next round of samples."

In the meantime, the district is referring parents with concerns to medical professionals who can determine whether blood tests are warranted.

"You know that there is no safe level of lead," said Dr. Tim Shewas, Jackson County's health officer. "And the younger you are, the more impacted you are by lead exposure."

Hamner said, however, that according to the EPA, the 20

parts per billion or 0.02 action level isn't a health-based number or indicator of lead poisoning, but rather a trigger for districts to respond.

Exposure to the toxic metal can cause low IQ, learning and behavioral problems among children and teenagers, he said.

Children can absorb lead either by inhaling it or drinking it in lead dust, a child care facilities built by and 1950 and 1960 that are undergoing renovation.

Lead is also present in some art paints and in some ceramic glazes, Modis said.

A healthy diet, he added, can help fight lead poisoning, because foods high in calcium help to reduce the amount of lead the body absorbs.

Kid Unlimited will continue to offer its summer camps at Roosevelt and Jackson elementary schools, said Executive Director Tom Cole.

The district, he said, has handled the issue by enrolling parents and providing a form in English and Spanish with information about the problem and how it is being addressed.

There were cases of bottled water at both schools within staff members noticed this morning could call if they needed more water. Cole said.

"The minute they found there was a problem, they got behind it," he said.

"The problem solved and had the problem group of lead still's breathing over the water, they showed a great deal of integrity."

This summer, the district inherited about 410,000 into testing about 1,000 drinking fountains and sinks used at four non-charter schools. Before last Friday, the results had only revealed problems with between two and four fixtures per school.

The district has since related and addressed those problems either by replacing a fixture or valve or adding a filter, Hamner said.

The district is still waiting for the results from South and North Medford high schools, Hedrick Middle School, and Oak Grove Elementary School, as well as the kitchen and La Clinica health clinic modular at Jackson Elementary.

744-7

Reach education reporter  
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776-4497 or [tthomas@medtrib.com](mailto:tthomas@medtrib.com). Follow her at [www.twitter.com/tererahomes\\_mt](http://www.twitter.com/tererahomes_mt).

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## Tests find high lead levels at Shasta

Water fixtures will be replaced at three sites at the Bethel middle school

744-7  
By ALISHA ROEMELING  
The Register-Guard

Three sites at Shasta Middle School showed elevated levels of lead in the first round of results from comprehensive testing of drinking water across the Bethel School District, officials said.

A total of 58 sites were tested at the middle school. A sink in Studio West, a small auditorium at the school, showed a level of lead in the water at 36 parts per billion, or PPB, on the first draw.

Another sink, in Room 37, reached 34 PPB after the first draw.

And a drinking fountain in the cafeteria showed a slightly elevated level at 21 PPB on the first draw.

The standard for acceptable amounts of lead in drinking water is 20 PPB. Anything above that is considered elevated, according to the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

Water at the three sites was flushed to ensure that the contamination was a result of the fixtures rather than the interior plumbing. Lead typically gets into a drinking water supply by leaching from lead solder that was used to seal pipe joints or from lead in older metal water lines.

Once the fixtures were determined to be the problem, water was shut off to the sites and replacement parts were ordered, according to district spokesman Pat McGillivray. Fixtures will be replaced as soon as the district receives the new parts, he said.

Test results from Meadow View School also were released, which showed no traceable levels of lead found in any of the 119 sites tested at the K-8 school, McGillivray

Turn to LEAD, Page B3

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## Screenings show possible high lead levels in 39 people

By Bethany Barnes  
The Oregonian/OregonLive

Lead screenings for students and staff at Portland Public Schools indicate 39 people might have high levels of the toxin in their blood.

The district has been offering free screenings following revelations of high levels of lead in water and paint. Yousef Awwad, the district's acting chief executive, sent a message to the school board Thursday summarizing the latest results, some of which are unofficial estimates.

On July 16 and 17, 117 students and 216 employees were screened, with nine employees and five students showing possible high lead levels.

An observational tally from screenings on July 23 and 24 indicated 219 people had been screened, with 18

### Other updates from PPS memo

- Signs are being printed to warn students and teachers not to drink from sinks and showers "due to potential contamination."
- Work on school kitchens is underway, with recommendations pending and tests being done for lead in dishwashers.
- A construction manager is helping to abate as much lead as possible before the start of school.
- Abatement has started at Alameda, Beach, Chief Joseph and Applegate and will start soon at Sacajawea and Scott.
- Water dispensers will be available at every school.

showing possible high lead levels. The memo did not say how many were students and how many were employees.

And of 159 home screenings processed, seven showed high lead levels.

The screenings are considered a first step in determining whether someone's been poisoned. The procedure is what people think of as the

"classic finger poke," said county spokeswoman Julie Sullivan-Springhetti.

Anyone whose results indicate high lead levels is encouraged to see a doctor for a blood draw. And even if further testing confirms high levels, as the district's memo notes, that may not mean schools are to blame.

A recent investigation

by the Multnomah County Health Department found two Portland schoolchildren with high levels of lead in their blood were poisoned at home, not school.

Portland Public Schools spokeswoman Rosie Fiallo said the district had no additional comment Friday.

In the past three years, 188 children out of 15,000 people screened have been found to have high levels of lead in their blood, according to the Multnomah County Health Department. None of those children was poisoned by water.

Another screening is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Blanchard Education Service Center at 501 N. Dixon St., Portland, OR 97227. Screening appointments can be booked online at bit.ly/2ab3qti.

### Lead in Oregon schools' drinking water

A Springfield elementary school will have its underground water system replaced after six classrooms were found to have high levels of lead in their sinks and drinking fountains.

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Tests at Page Elementary showed sinks and fountains in the west wing with lead ranging from 27 to 180 parts per billion. The federal standard for acceptable amounts of lead in drinking

water is 15 parts per billion.

The school district's chief operations officer, Brett Yancey, said the plumbing project will cost \$95,000.

—Associated Press

## Lead: Shasta parents notified by email

Continued from Page B1

said. More test results are expected to be released by the district soon.

"Apparently, due to the high number of schools testing their water this summer, results have been delayed longer than anticipated," McGillivray said.

The district will spend about \$10,000 to complete the testing. Both the Bethel and Eugene school districts have hired PBS Engineering + Environmental of Eugene to conduct their testing. Officials in the Eugene School District said they expect to

spend about \$25,000 on their testing project.

In the Bethel district in west Eugene, Shasta families were notified through an email from Principal Brady Cottle on Tuesday when the district received the results. Meadow View Principal Erika Case is also notifying that school's families about its water testing results, McGillivray said.

Earlier this summer, the Oregon Department of Education and Oregon Health Authority announced a plan to encourage school districts across the state to conduct

comprehensive testing prior to school resuming this fall.

The state's plan is a recommendation, not an order, and does not include any allocation of state funds to help with the cost of testing. The plan responds to a directive from Gov. Kate Brown in April, and comes on the heels of belated disclosures about lead in the drinking water of some Portland public schools.

744-7

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