

Molalla, OR  
(Cackamas Co.)  
Molalla Pioneer  
(Circ. W. 2,750)

AUG 31 2015

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

## Culver lead free

All school districts are testing their water to determine levels of lead and safety of their water, and Culver School District has received the results of its August testing.

"Umpqua Research Co. completed the tests from the samples we sent in to them from each building. We have clean water and had great results," said Culver Superintendent Stefania Garber.

"All buildings were tested, except for the high school, which was in a complete remodel, and which included a new plumbing throughout the building. This building will be included in future tests," Garber said.

She said the district will continue to comply with the regulations for lead testing in its water, as set forth by the Oregon Department of Education.

McMinnville, OR  
(Yamhill Co.)

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

SEP 2 2015

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

## Linfield light on lead issues

The News-Register staff

The sources that tested 212 drinking water resources over the summer for lead contamination or other issues.

Ninety-seven percent of the tests were negative, a college representative said. But tests from two buildings showed slightly elevated levels in a handful of faucets and fountains, and that is being addressed.

Portland, OR  
(Multnomah Co.)  
The Hollwood Star News  
(Circ. M18,000)

SEP 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Established 1888

## PPS releases test results for lead in neighborhood schools, launches painting project

Portland Public Schools has received preliminary results from TRC Solutions, and state-certified laboratories, who tested every cold water fixture for lead and copper in the district's buildings. Work also has started on lead paint in school buildings, according to the district's communications office.

Water dispensers were to be available in every building for the start of the school year, the communications office said. Final information is to be posted when it is available.

The district has hired a construction manager to supervise the initial painting project according to required protocols. The abatement and painting started in about 40 buildings, including those in North and Northeast Portland — Alameda, Beach, Chief Joseph, Boise-Eliot/Humboldt, Riger, Beverly, Cleary-Fernwood, Rose City Park, Caesar Chavez, Woodlawn, Vernon, James John Lee and Irvington.

The water tests for individual schools are posted at <http://www.pps.net/Page/5378>.

The school district contracted with Kadalyis Health Partners to provide free lead screenings for students, staff and families in June, July and August. Families and staff still interested in screening may make arrangements by calling (503) 916-3122 or signing up at <http://pps.kadalyis.com>. Final results will be provided as they are available, the district said.

The district also contracted with ZRT Labs to provide home test kits for those unable to attend the clinics. The total distributed was 915 and 273 were processed. Of these, 12 reported detectable lead levels, but none at or above federal public health action levels.

Both Kadalyis and ZRT will report all test results to the Oregon Health Authority, the district communications office said.

Beaverton, OR  
(Washington Co.)  
Valley Times  
(Circ. D. 3,850)

SEP 1 2016

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

## Lead found at 21 Beaverton schools

Updated lead report released last week, more results forthcoming

By BAWLEEN KAHN  
The Times

As of Friday, excessive amounts of lead have been found at 21 schools — including Sunset High School — and three support facilities in the district.

Last week, the Beaverton School District released a second batch of lead testing results containing updated numbers for elementary, middle and high schools across the district.

At Sunset, five samples taken from drinking fountains contained lead levels above the limit set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, according to the updated report. No excessive lead was found at Alpha or Beaverton high schools. Results for Westview and Southridge high schools have yet to be released.

So far, the district has released results for 40 schools and five support facilities; additional results are expected to be released this month.

Over the summer, more than 6,000 samples were taken at all of the district's schools and facilities. Multiple samples were collected from all drinking fountains.

So far, the district has released results for 4,882 samples collected at 1,931 fountains across the district. Of those, 188 samples — about 5 percent — contained lead above the action level of 15 parts per billion or higher set by the EPA for municipal water supplies.

Lead was found in drinking water facilities everywhere from classrooms to hallways to portable buildings. Water faucets with adjustable levers have been shut off, district officials reported. Those faucets will be repaired and will undergo follow-up testing in coming months.

The district began investigating the issue after a student at Highland Park Middle School raised concerns about "yellowish-brown" drinking water, said Marwan Wshael, the district's public communications officer. Initial lead testing found that aging, rusty pipes were contaminating the fountain with lead.

At Highland Park, 58 samples contained excessive lead. Highland Park's water system is set to undergo replacement during the summer of 2017; until then, the school will continue to provide bottled water through the 2016-17 school year.

Like Highland Park, Hazledale Elementary School students will also be switching to bottled water this school year. Sixteen samples collected at the school contained heightened amounts of lead, with at least one sample containing 193 parts per billion of lead.

Becenas Hazledale is set to be rebuilt during the 2017-18 school year, the district has decided to provide students with bottled water this year rather than replacing the fountains.

Newport, OR  
(Lincoln Co.)  
Newport News Times  
(Circ. 2XW, 7,011)

SEP 2 2016

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

## Schools now have safe, clean drinking water

It's once again that time at the end of every summer that many young people dread, and that most of their parents have been anticipating for weeks — the start of a new school year. Classes in the Lincoln County School District resume next week, with new students and elementary schools beginning on Tuesday, Sept. 5, and returning secondary students heading back to class on Wednesday, Sept. 7.

Most families have likely been spending the past few days making sure all is in order before heading back to the classroom. But no one has been preparing more for start of this new school year than the school district's facilities and maintenance crew. Just before the end of school last spring, a water test uncovered higher-than-acceptable levels of lead in the drinking water at one of the schools. And once school recessed for the summer, the maintenance staff began a large-scale testing program of the water supplies at all schools.

This complete testing of every water site in the district turned up a total of 87 spots with dangerous lead levels, some as high as 122 times the allowable limit. The facilities and maintenance crew spent its summer troubleshooting each site, swapping out fixtures and plumbing, resubmitting water samples to laboratories, and awaiting results.

Now, three months, nearly 1,500 water sample tests, and thousands of dollars later, the school district can proclaim its drinking water lead-free — just a week before the start of school. "We're in really good shape for drinking water," said Rob Belloni, support services director for the school district.

This was no simple task, and we commend all those responsible for successfully completing this project before the start of the new school year. It likely wasn't how they planned to spend their workdays this summer, but it needed to be done in order to protect the health of students and staff at our schools.

Of course that doesn't mean all the students will be glad to be back in school next week, but at least the safety of their drinking water won't be an issue.

And it probably goes without saying, but nonetheless, we will remind motorists to use extra caution while driving through school zones and when encountering school buses stopped on the roadway. Let's make the start of this new school year a safe one on all levels.

— STEVE CARD

Keizer, OR  
(Marion Co.)  
Keizer Times  
(Circ. W. 2,320)  
SEP 2 2016  
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Lead found in water at Keizer schools

By DEREK WILEY  
Of the KeizerTimes

When testing for lead in the water at all its schools, Salem-Keizer decided to take out of service any faucets or drinking fountains that measured at least 15 parts per billion.

One of those faucets is at McNary High School after a sample came back at 800 ppb.  
But the faucet in a sink in classroom 233, which Principal Erik Jepsen said was used for a staff work area, was an outlier. Of the more than 70 water fixtures

tested at the school, it was the only one that combined 15 ppb. Two, a hallway drinking fountain and a sink faucet in room 245 were 10 and 11, respectively.

Nine fixtures tested at less than one ppb. The school district's action level of 15 ppb is a more cautious standard than the Environmental Protection Agency's standard of 20 ppb.

Samples were taken by TRC Solutions on July 30 and analyzed in a lab on Aug. 10.

Two fixtures in the gym still need to be tested because the new floor was being waxed at the time.  
"They've been very, very diligent at making sure that not only at McNary but all schools in the Salem-Keizer district, to make sure that every single source of water is tested," Jepsen said. "We are absolutely committed to making sure that all of our students, staff and community members that have access to water, get clean water."  
Claggett Creek Middle School also had one fixture reach the action plan as a sink faucet in classroom 100 tested on July 27. Please see WATER, Page A9

## WATER: Cummings the only school without results

(Continued from Page A1)  
measured 20 ppb. Whitaker Middle had no results above action levels.

Clear Lake Elementary had two faucets that combined 15 ppb of lead, while a drinking fountain at Salem-Keizer School District Forest Ridge

at 19 ppb. Two sink faucets at Keizer Elementary came in at 17 and 15.  
Kennedy and Weddle had no results above action levels. As of Wednesday, Cum-

mings samples weren't back yet. A second sample will be taken at any fixtures in the action plan to discover rather than the problem is the fixture itself, piping or something else.

The second samples at Keizer Elementary came back much lower, three and two ppb, but the fixtures will remain out of service until they can be fixed.

"What comes back in the test results are being posted within 24 hours they are received on the school district's website at <http://www.salem-keizer.org/parents/water-testing-information>.  
"There's not any question about whether or not these things will get fixed," Paulson said. "It will just be a matter of allocating funding that most likely was going to be used for something else because there was no budget for this. We'll just have to look at priorities and shift things around. But this is a priority project for us."

## Water tests free of lead

BY CALLEY HAIR  
Of the News-Times  
744-7

LINCOLN COUNTY — Nearly 1,500 sample tests, three months and thousands of dollars later, the Lincoln County School District can proclaim its drinking water lead-free just five days before school starts — with a couple of caveats.

Every classroom sink and water fountain has been tested, revealed and determined to be free of the toxin, said Support Services Director Rich Belloni.

The only exceptions are a drinking fountain at Cubby Preschool in the Newport High School West campus, and two sinks at Newport High East in a locker room and faculty bathroom. All three have been switched off, and the district installed a portable water station at the Cubby Preschool facility.

"We're in really good shape for drinking water," Belloni said Thursday, Sept. 1.

There are a few water sites around the schools that aren't lead-free, but they also wouldn't reasonably be used for water consumption. Those include locker room showers, garden

### SCHOOL DISTRICT

(Continued from page 1)

hoses, kitchen dish sprayers, and laboratory sinks.  
At those spots, the district will either turn the water off or post signs indicating the water is undrinkable.  
"I think we'll look at the showers, but I don't want to spend the money to tear out the walls," Belloni said.  
The massive overhaul of the district's water system started in May, when a rain-down spot test at Yagoula Yew Elementary revealed one sink with a porcelaine lead concentration bumping up against the state action limit of 0.020 milligrams per liter. That test spurred the school to test its entire campus, turning up more sinks and fountains with dangerous lead concentrations — a discovery that left the district reluctant to take any chances.

"Everything's been replaced with compliant products," said Sarah Hibbs, the department's administrative assistant. "It's been a lot of one sink with a porcelaine lead concentration bumping up against the state action limit of 0.020 milligrams per liter. That test spurred the school to test its entire campus, turning up more sinks and fountains with dangerous lead concentrations — a discovery that left the district reluctant to take any chances."

Examining the challenge was a tight deadline. Belloni and his team wanted to sort out the lead problem on before children returned to school on Sept. 6, which would have tremendously complicated the process as maintenance staff struggle to work around school schedules while providing temporary safe drinking water.

They finished — although just barely — and Hibbs said they're still not sure how much the project cost.  
"That's part of my job that's been on the back burner," she said.  
The district switched between three water-testing laboratories from a short

### SCHOOL DISTRICT

(Continued from page 1)

A complete test of every water site in the district turned up a total of 87 spots with dangerous lead levels, some as high as 122 times the allowable limit. The 87 cultures and Maintenance Department spent its summer troubleshooting each site, swapping out fixtures and plumbing, resubmitting water samples to laboratories, and awaiting results.  
"When it came to choosing labs, speed was key. Belloni said. Especially with districts across the state attempting the exact same project as Lincoln County under a near-identical timeline.  
"They have been turning around (results) really well for us," Hibbs said.  
Now, with the bulk of the issue behind them, Hibbs and Belloni are turning toward other summer projects that were pushed aside in favor of safe, clean drinking water guaranteed for students and staff.

"We'd really like to reassure everyone that the water's safe. My kids are going to school and will drink it. Rick's grandkids are going to drink it," Hibbs said.  
More information about the effects of lead contamination can be found at [www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/health-information-about-lead-drinking-water](http://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/health-information-about-lead-drinking-water)  
Contact reporter Calley Hair at 541-565-6871 ext. 211 or [chhair@lincolncountynews-times.com](mailto:chhair@lincolncountynews-times.com). 744-7

Pendleton, OR  
(Umatilla Co.)  
East Oregonian  
(Circ. D. 7,024)  
SEP 3 2016  
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Latest lead tests meet EPA limit

PENDLETON — The latest batch of lead test results in Pendleton School District are in. 744-7

25 sites at Pendleton Early Learning Center fell within the acceptable EPA limit for schools — 20 parts per billion. In addition, 32 sites tested at Sherwood Elementary school were at acceptable levels. PSD expects test results from the new Washington Elementary school to be in soon, according to a press release.  
"We are pleased that sites tested at these two schools indicate no problems with lead levels in the water," district superintendent Ardy Kovach said in the release.

All water testing results can be viewed at the district's office at 1100 Southgate, Suite 8 or [www.pendleton.k12.or.us](http://www.pendleton.k12.or.us). For more information about the district water testing, contact Kovach at 541-366-3251 or [ardy.kovach@pendleton.k12.or.us](mailto:ardy.kovach@pendleton.k12.or.us).

Salem, OR  
(Marion Co.)  
Statesman Journal  
(Circ. E. D. 33,147)  
SEP 3 2016  
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

# Unsafe lead levels in water at state Capitol

Agency says even small amounts of lead in drinking water can be hazardous, especially to children and pregnant women.  
An initial round of tests in the Capitol showed unsafe levels of lead.  
There was also lead in bathroom fa-

cets in the oldest section of the Capitol building, which dates to 1938. That's home to the governor's office and both legislative chambers.  
Workers turned off the fountains and added signs above bathroom sinks to indicate the water there is unsafe to drink.

It's still fine for washing hands, however. Further tests should help narrow down the source of the lead to either the supply pipes or the plumbing fixtures.  
Tests in the wings of the Capitol, which date to the 1970s, came back clear.

EARTHFIX  
744-7  
Some drinking fountains have been turned off at the Oregon Capitol building after tests showed an unsafe level of lead in the water.  
The U.S. Environmental Protection

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

# LEAD RESULTS VARY WIDELY

## Newly required testing complete, Salem-Keizer takes action

TRACY LOEW  
STATESMAN JOURNAL

More than a hundred taps throughout the Salem-Keizer School District have been shut off because of high lead levels.

That means students and staffers can return to school this week confident that the water is safe, district spokesman Jay Remy said Friday.

"Nobody should worry about their child drinking out of a fountain or classroom faucet that tested high," Remy said.

The district received the final results Friday from tests of all taps used for drinking or cooking at a total of 81 schools and other buildings. Further tests will show how best to fix problem taps.

"We anticipate replacing a lot of fixtures," Remy said.

Oregon health and education officials asked school districts statewide to test their taps for lead this summer, and now require districts to post results within five days of receiving them.

Districts in Marion and Polk counties have complied to varying degrees, although the directive resulted in some confusion.

Dallas School District, for example, was among the first to complete its tests. But the district threw out all 117 results after discovering a collection error, facilities director Kevin Montague said.

"With all the confusion surrounding the requirements, the lab gave us the 1-liter test kits to test for 15 parts per billion instead of the 250-milliliter kits to test for 20 parts per billion, which is the actual EPA action level for schools," Montague said.

The district will test again this fall, he

"Nobody should worry about their child drinking out of a fountain or classroom faucet that tested high."

JAY REMY  
SALEM-KEIZER SCHOOL DISTRICT SPOKESMAN

said.

Districts also are using different action levels—the level at which it will take a tap out of service until levels can be lowered.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends that schools take outlets out of service when lead levels exceed 20 parts per billion.

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

As a result, at least three local school districts — Salem-Keizer, Willamette ESD, and St. Paul — have chosen a lower action level of 15 ppb.

That means water that's considered unsafe in those districts would pass in others.

The state's directive to test during the summer also has caused confusion.

The EPA recommends against testing during weekends or vacations because the water will have sat in the pipes too long to represent typical values during most days of the week.

Districts are using various tactics to compensate for that.

Salem-Keizer, for example, flushed each building's plumbing system the night before testing—a practice the EPA says could skew results either high or low.

Of the local districts that have completed testing, only two — St. Paul and Willamette ESD — have not had any taps test above the action level.

Willamette ESD is going a step further and providing bottled water at sites where even trace amounts of lead were found, spokesman Brian Florip said. WESD has asked the owners of those buildings to work to reduce lead levels at those taps.

Four local districts haven't complied with the new state rule requiring them to publicly post results within five days of receiving them:

» In Falls City, seven of 64 samples were above the district's action level, the district reported on its website. Results are not posted but can be requested in the high school office, according to the website. Superintendent Jack Thompson did not respond to the newspaper's questions or request for test results.

» In the Gervais School District, several taps were tested and came back within acceptable limits, according to the district's website. But locations and results are not posted, and Superintendent Matt Henry did not respond to questions.

» In North Santiam, Superintendent Andrew Gardner did not respond to specific written questions, but said all schools are fine except a fountain at Stayton High School, which has been replaced. Results are not posted on the district website, and Gardner declined the newspaper's request for them.

See WATER, Page 4A

Portland, OR  
(Multnomah Co.)  
The Oregonian  
(Circ. D. 247,833)  
SEP 6 2016

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

### Hazards in older homes

Not a day goes by that we don't hear about lead in the drinking water in our schools. Sad to say these levels exceed federal standards in almost all cases. Now consider your own home. In many cases these homes are almost as old as — or older than — many schools. Therefore, unless they have been extensively remodeled, they contain galvanized water pipes with lead. What are the lead levels in your residence? And while you are thinking about it, consider for a moment about asbestos and lead paint in your home. Many older homes built before 1950 may contain these and many other hazards.

744-7 RICHARD BARNEKOFF  
Gresham

## Water

Continued from Page 1A

» In Mt. Angel, eight samples have been taken at two schools, and further testing is planned for this month. Superintendent Troy Stoops released a summary graph, but declined to release actual results.

And one district, North Marion, has not posted any information about lead testing. Superintendent Boyd Keyser did not respond to the newspaper's questions.

Across area districts,

the majority of test results were within two or three times the action level. But some were shockingly high:

At Cascade Junior High, a science room sink tested at 218 ppb, more than 10 times the action level.

At Woodburn's Lincoln Elementary School, a hallway tap tested at 234 ppb.

And at Salem's Pringle Elementary School, a faucet tested at 14,000 ppb, nearly three times the level the EPA considers to be toxic waste. 744-7

lloew@statesmanjournal.com, 503-399-6779 or follow at Twitter.com/Tracy\_Loew

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

As school starts this year, school districts trying to ensure returning students have water supplies free of lead.

Astoria Superintendent Craig Hoppes said testing found lead issues in five feed lines to water fountains at Astoria High School. All other schools came back clean.

"The district is in the process of replacing the feed lines to the water fountains," Hoppes wrote in a letter to parents. "In addition, the district is replacing the five water fountains at the high school. The water fountains will be replaced due to their age and for precautionary reasons."

Hoppes said two of the affected fountains will be replaced by Tuesday, with the other three replaced within a couple weeks. The district received help with testing from the city of Astoria.

Warrenton-Hammond School District received their results from lead and copper testing Thursday. Superintendent Mark Jeffery said that among the two water features tested at Warrenton Grade School and Warrenton High School, there were no issues.

"We're good on lead and copper," Jeffery said, adding the district is focusing on readying its preliminary testing plans for lead and radon by Sept. 15.

744-7  
Schools take steps to ensure water supplies are lead free

Astoria, OR  
(Clatsop Co.)  
Daily Astorian  
(Circ. D. 8,421)  
SEP 6 2016  
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

# Results are in: Local districts test drinking water for lead

Some faucets in Clackamas County will be replaced before school year

By RAYMOND BENOULEMAN  
The Clackamas Review

Lead in schools' drinking water became a hot topic when Portland Public Schools entered the national media spotlight over a damning report showing that systemic failures in PPS administration led to its inaction over a known issue for at least 15 years.

PPS lead-testing scandal has spurred local school districts to test for lead. Most schools — including those in North Clackamas — have not routinely tested drinking water previously. In response to the concerns regarding water quality, the local school districts decided to voluntarily test water sources over the summer.

PPS district-wide testing on 80 of its buildings found heavy metals across the board at every location. In local school districts, results were mixed. When elevated levels of lead were found, the districts turned off the water source until the issue could be fixed and retested.

## North Clackamas

In June, North Clackamas School District's initial sampling of 94 water sources at 11 sites discovered only that the Student Store sink at Alder Creek Middle School had elevated levels of lead above the EPA maximum of 20 parts per billion. When NCSID tested another 281 samples, 11 results came back on Aug. 15 with levels on lead above the EPA maximum. Bligust and Mount Scott elementary schools each had water sources exceeding the EPA maximum, along with Milwaukie, Rex Putnam and New Urban high schools.

"Our shared commitment to student health and safety and our desire to build trust through communication leads us to provide this update about water safety in North Clackamas Schools," wrote Superintendent Mark Iversback in a letter to parents.

## Oregon City

In Oregon City, OCSID's Barclay Campus was found with lead levels exceeding the EPA maximum, along with Beaver Creek Elementary, the Clackamas Academy of Industrial Sciences, Gaffney Lane Elementary, Holcomb Elementary, John McLaughlin Elementary, Redland Elementary, Gar-dner Middle School and the Oregon City Service Learning Academy. It made sense

that Oregon City High School, as the district's newest building, showed no issues with high lead levels, but that wasn't always the pattern. Although lead pipes were changed in 1988, some of OCSID's oldest buildings lacked detectable lead issues, including Alhambra Charter Academy and Eastham Community School.

## Gladstone

"In an abundance of caution," the Gladstone School District used a higher standard to ensure a safe water supply, and is planning to remedy any finding above 12 parts per billion. GSD hired an independent lab to systematically test school faucets and drinking water samples from the district's five buildings were analyzed for lead.

One test was made using dormant water sampled after sitting undisturbed in fixtures and pipes overnight. The second test was done on water sampled after flushing the line for 30 seconds.

Except for the district office, four out of five of Gladstone's buildings showed water sources with elevated levels, where district officials have promised to replace the faulty faucet, disconnect the water source or provide signs indicating not to drink the water, for example, in science-lab sinks. Any faucet with a lead reading of 5 to 11 parts per billion in Gladstone schools will be retested on an annual basis.

"Protecting the health of our students and staff is a top priority," said Superintendent Bob Stewart. "We will move quickly to remedy each problem identified before school starts."

Milwaukie, OR  
(Clackamas Co.)  
Clackamas Newsview  
(Cir. W. 16,000)

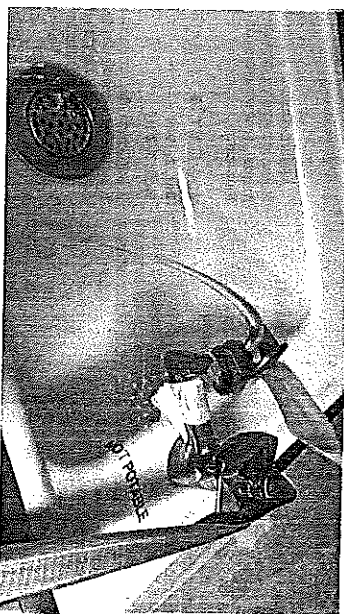
SEP 7 2016

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

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

SEP 7 2016

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



MARK YIEN, DEMOCRAT-HERALD  
Water runs through a fountain in room 5 at Periwinkle Elementary School. The water is labeled non-potable because the test results for lead contamination are not back yet for that particular fixture.

## Lead testing: First round done

JENNIFER MOODY  
Albany Democrat-Herald

The first round of testing is complete for high lead content in drinking water at Albany schools, with 12 of 21 coming back with at least one source testing positive.

The district is now replacing water fixtures and retesting. Officials said any water source that exceeds the allowable lead action level has been taken out of service until tests show that it is safe for drinking. Any source for which there are not yet results has been marked as "Not Potable."

Schools that showed initial test results of elevated lead levels in one or more drinking water sources are Calapooia and North Albany middle schools, South Albany and West Albany high schools, and Clover Ridge, Lafayette, Periwinkle, South Shore, Sunrise, Takana, Tangent

and Waverly elementary schools. Tests at the former Fairmount building, which houses Albany's special programs, also came back with elevated levels in two sources.

No high lead levels have been found in Albany water through a first-draw sample — meaning a sample taken before any flushing or use occurs — and that the water source be removed from service if the lead level exceeds 20 parts per billion.

Random sampling only was done at Timber Ridge because the building is the district's newest. Elevated levels were found. GAPS is providing location and measurement information, as well as a copy of the actual lab report, online at <http://albany.k12.or.us/water-testing-information>. The district said previous

democratic-Herald stories stated the EPA recommends treatment if lead levels are higher than 15 parts per billion. Those protocols are used for public water systems on a system-wide basis — when more than 10 percent of samples from residents exceed 15 parts per billion — rather than on individual schools, which use the 20-part recommendation.

# WL-WV concludes water lead testing

West Linn, Wilsonville high schools were last two schools to be tested

By ANDREW KILSTROM  
The Spokesman

Students and families of the West Linn-Wilsonville School District can breathe a sigh of relief as WL-WV's district-wide testing of drinking water is finally complete. Wilsonville High School and West Linn High School were the last two schools to undergo testing, with results coming back early last week.

WHS showed elevated levels of lead at two of 203 locations while WLHS showed elevated levels of lead at five of 185 locations — "elevated" meaning levels above the 20 parts per

billion (ppb) action level threshold set by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Wilsonville's two positive tests (indicating levels of 84.1 ppb and 21.1 ppb) were taken from a kitchen sink faucet and shower faucet. WHS's results also showed elevated levels of copper at two locations — 2,000 ppb and 2,110 ppb, exceeding the EPA action limit of 1,350 ppb.

West Linn's five elevated levels of lead, meanwhile, were right around the 20 ppb action limit at 33.6 ppb, 21.2 ppb, 21.0 ppb, 20.4 ppb and 23.1 ppb. The samples in question were drawn from two classroom sink faucets, a laundry room sink faucet, a lab sink faucet and a bubbler in a classroom porch area. WLHS also produced one elevated level of copper at 3,670 ppb. Operations Director Tim Woodley said the water at the sites in question will be shut off until fixtures

can be replaced and retested ensuring water is safe for drinking.

"The West Linn-Wilsonville School District hasn't thoroughly tested its drinking water in the past, instead relying on the regular testing of the City of West Linn and the City of Wilsonville. The district decided to test all its schools in June using Pixis Labs in Portland, and started with the oldest buildings in the district.

"I have to commend (Facilities Manager) Pat McGough," Woodley said at the August board meeting. "He took a lead role in working with Clackamas County Health Department, Oregon Health Authority and the EPA ... to create a protocol for our district that was written and modeled after the EPA and vetted through all those agencies several times in various iterations, to the point that they actually accepted ours as a model and requested

that it be used to provide guidance for other schools within the state."

That protocol includes testing all site locations, or taps, in every school where water can be drawn for consumption. Those sites include every type of tap except multi-station hand washing sinks for restrooms, exterior hose bibs and custodial closets. The testing protocol requires "first draw" samples, recommended by the EPA, meaning samples taken should have stood motionless in the plumbing system of each site between 8-18 hours.

The protocol, which WL-WV used this summer, states that results will be reported to the Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Services and that tests that exceed the action level for lead and copper will be sent to the Clackamas County Public Health Department as well as released on the district's website. Sites that

produced positive tests for elevated levels will be shut off, fixtures will be replaced and the location will then be retested until the problem is eradicated. During that time a notification letter will be sent to the school staff and community, and bottled water will be replaced if necessary.

Woodley said he was pleased with the protocol's effectiveness this summer, and that the biggest challenge was coordinating with Pixis Labs for test analysis as other school districts were also testing this summer following the uproar at Portland Public Schools.

"We started with Sunset, Bolton and Willamette — our older schools — thinking they might be more susceptible," Woodley said. "What we learned is that's not necessarily true. Bolton had zero positive tests while Sunset had I think four and Willamette had two. Our newer schools like

Wood and a couple others actually had more.

"What we found were certain fixtures sometimes have a higher lead content, and I think what we learned through the whole process was that the supply is good, the pipes are good, but individual fixtures sometimes aren't, based on how they were constructed. And the one (type of fixture) that was most susceptible was science lab water faucets for whatever reason."

Woodley added that the district started installing faucets with lower lead content in 2013. The majority of WL-WV schools with problem areas have been remedied, and those locations that haven't will remain shut off until fixture replacement and secondary testing can be completed.

Contact Andrew Kilstrom at 503-636-1281 ext. 112 or akilstrom@pamplinmedia.com.

Wilsonville, OR  
(Clackamas Co.)  
Wilsonville Spokesman  
(Circ. W. 3,338)

SEP 7 2016  
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Vale, OR  
(Malheur Co.)  
Malheur Enterprise  
(Circ. W. 1,511)

SEP 7 2016  
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Water tests for lead in Lincoln County schools

Director of Support Services Rich Belloni shared information on the status of lead testing in LCSD. Every sink, drinking fountain and bubbler in every school has been tested, and any necessary remedies have been completed. "We are ready for school to start, and have placed student and staff safety at the forefront as we conducted tests and repairs," said Mr. Belloni.

The district has conducted over 1400 tests. Some locker rooms, science labs and wash sinks have been

posted as non-potable water; all other fixtures are under the EPA action level.

The following website is a resource for this that provides information on the levels and health effects: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>. Information and test results are on file at the Lincoln County School District Facilities and Maintenance Department (541) 336-2058.

Lincoln City, OR  
(Lincoln Co.)  
Lincoln City News Guard  
(Circ. W. 3,236)

SEP 7 2016  
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

# No major red flags in school water testing

Wallowa lead free; Imnaha 'good,' other schools awaiting final results

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Lead testing in Wallowa county schools is on track and all schools plan to have their preliminary safety plans finished soon. The State Board

of Education is requiring draft plans for testing for both lead and radon by Oct. 1, with a final plan due by Jan. 1.

Wallowa County ESD organized the testing through Box R Water Lab of Prineville, which sent a technician

out to assist the districts. The samples were then sent on to Neilson Research Corp. in Medford.

Results are back for Wallowa School District.

"We did our test in July and our results are posted on the website.

We're lead free," said Superintendent Bret Uptmor.

Joseph Charter School is a little behind since they replaced plumbing at the high school over the summer and had no water on site to test. It's been tested now and came back clear

on every site tested, according to Superintendent Lance Homan.

"We're all good," Homan said Tuesday. "We tested Imnaha and it was good."

See TESTING, Page A8

## TESTING

Continued from Page A1

Enterprise School District Superintendent Eric Pinkerton said her district tested its water in July.

One water fountain in the middle school measured over the recommended percentage for lead and administrators were advised by the technician that it was probably a washer in the faucet rather than piping. The metal washer was replaced with a plastic washer and the tap was retested. The district is still waiting for a result on the second test and the tap is turned off until results are in.

The State Board of Education announced new regulations Aug. 17. In addition to submitting a safety plan, schools are required to post test results on school websites within five days of having received results. Districts also will be required to send out annual reports addressing safety concerns.

Most Oregon schools already have begun meeting those new requirements. "Every time we see something that creates a safety risk for our kids, even if it comes from the experience of another district, it's always nice to be proactive and make sure we're doing good here," Uptoner said.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown directed the Oregon Department of Education and Oregon Health Authority to review requirements for environmental testing after the Flint, Mich., water scandal and subsequent findings of lead problems in Portland and Beaverton public schools. The Environmental Protection Agency lists the maximum lead contaminant level as 15 parts per billion.

Testing in one Portland School showed as many as 52 parts per billion in one faucet test. Shortly after Gov. Brown directed the review, ODE and OHA found they had no prior authority to require schools to test for lead, although OHA did have the power to require tests for radon.

The State Board of Education realized that power under statute ORS 526.051, according to Tricia Yates, director of communications for ODE, and now requires schools to have "healthy and safe school plans" that summarize their general obligations and how they are met.

The document reads, in part, "at a minimum the Healthy and Safe School Plan must include ... a plan to test for and reduce exposure to lead in water used for drinking or food preparation. An Oregon Health Authority accredited lab must be used for all testing."

According to Karen Patton, superintendent of Wallowa County ESD, the cost to districts was \$46.50 per faucet for both collection and lab testing for lead and \$60 for lead and copper testing. No total per district was available at press time.

744-7

744-7

# Newberg schools release lead testing results

School district takes action to bring facilities into compliance with state and federal standards

BY SETH GORDON  
Newberg Graphic reporter

The drinking water in Newberg Public Schools has received a clean bill of health after the district tested a total of 173 outlets for lead contamination in June.

The biggest takeaway for the district was that all of the 80 drinking fountains in the 14 buildings that will be used this coming school year tested well below the EPA's maximum contamination level of 20 parts per billion (ppb).

A few problem spots were identified, however, as 10 outlets showed levels above the limit. Most of those were sinks that are not intended for drinking (like dish or hand washing sinks), though two were sinks used in food preparation.

The district replaced the faucets on most outlets that tested over the limit and drew new samples to be tested by

Alexin Analytical Laboratories in Tigard. The district is still waiting for results on most of them even after paying extra to have them expedited.

Those outlets will also remain shut off until test results show they were to be safe.

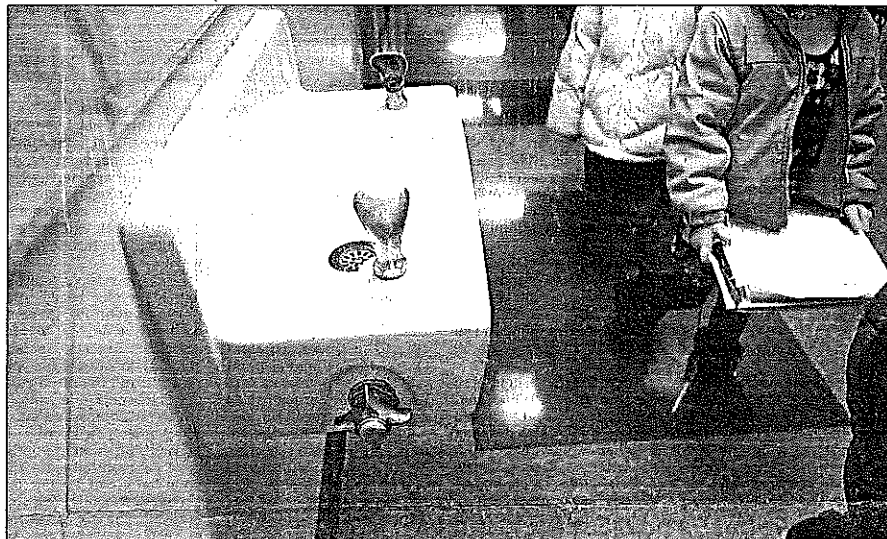
**"The intent is to sample water from prep sinks and from drinking fountains because, obviously, that's where it's going to impact, but they did all the sinks."**

— Claudia Stewart, school district spokeswoman

"They really oversampled," district communications director Claudia Stewart said. "The intent is to sample water from prep sinks and from drinking fountains because, obviously, that's where it's going to impact, but they did all the sinks."

Two of the outlets that tested over the EPA limit — a drinking fountain in a portable classroom (67.1 ppb) and a game room sink (29.4 ppb) — are located at Sitka Academy, but the district is not operating that program this year due to a lack of students.

Due to the time crunch the facilities staff was under as it prepped to get buildings ready



FAIG FILE PHOTO

Although drinking fountains were the primary target, all of the Newberg School District's fixtures were tested for lead in the water.

for the school year, the district has not yet replaced the fixtures on those outlets, according to Stewart, but does plan to address them.

The district has received the results from the second round of testing for two outlets and both came in below the EPA standard.

A sink in building J at Newberg High School that initially tested at 40.9 ppb came in at 18.8 after the fixture was replaced. According to Stewart,

that particular sink is used for dishwashing, not drinking or food preparation, so the dis-

See WATER / Page A2

## State requires schools to submit safety plans

BY SETH GORDON  
Newberg Graphic reporter

In the latest step to address possible lead contamination in drinking water, the Oregon Department of Education approved new rules that will require school districts to submit

health and safety inspection plans annually.

ODE approved the Healthy and Safe Schools Plan Aug. 17 and requires local school districts to submit a draft plan that includes guidelines for regular sample testing of both school water for lead and air for radon gas, as well as to reduce exposure

to lead in paint and its pest management practices.

Everything in the plans except for the water testing was already required of schools, but in part the state wanted all of the safety protocols to be collected in one place that was readily available to the public.

The new regulations do not require

schools to actually test for lead in water, but to have a plan to do so. The Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Health Authority determined that they don't have the legal authority to require testing. That will have to be done by the Legislature, which is expected to take up the topic in its upcoming session.

## water: All schools' fixtures are tested

From page 1

district has not done any further remediation to address the fact that the level of contamination is still close to the standard.

Stewart said facilities staff are still discussing how to address outlets that are similarly below but still close to the standard. A decision on how to deal with such outlets, though, may be included in the draft Healthy and Safe Schools Plan the district has to submit to the Oregon Department of Education by Oct. 1 (see accompanying story).

The district is still awaiting the second round of results for the four other outlets at NHS — a prep sink (80.3) and a regular sink (48.6) in J building, and two sinks (23.8 and 80.2) in F building — that initially tested over the limit.

Two faucets at Mabel Rush Elementary School were replaced after testing over the limit. A prep sink (32.0 ppb) that

was retested registered as "no detection," meaning the level of lead contamination was lower than 2 ppb, while the district is awaiting results on a second sink that tested at 20.6.

Lastly, Mountain View Middle School had a kitchen sink test at 21.8 ppb and is awaiting results from the retest.

Of the 80 drinking fountains that will be in regular use (not including the one in Sitka Academy), 69 showed "no detection" when tested, with eight registering between 2.1 and 5.0 ppb. Three fountains showed levels above 5.0 ppb, with the highest concentration coming in at 6.8.

Per standards set by the Oregon Health Authority, district staff followed procedures for testing and remediation found in the EPA's guideline manual "3 T's for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools."

The test protocol followed is known as a "first draw" and is

intended to simulate regular use.

Water in the outlet is run for approximately two minutes and then shut off for between 8 and 18 hours before a 250 milliliter sample is drawn.

Of the 173 outlets tested, 98 registered as no detection and 32 tested between 2.1 and 5.0 ppb. Of the remaining 24 that tested below the 20 ppb limit, 16 were between 5.1 and 10.0, three were between 10.1 and 15.0 and five were between 15.1 and 20.

Full results of the testing are available on the district website at [www.newberg.k12.or.us/district/lead-levels-safe-school-drinking-fountains](http://www.newberg.k12.or.us/district/lead-levels-safe-school-drinking-fountains).

Stewart added that the district has asked principals to follow up with athletic coaches to make sure that drinking water used for practices and games is drawn from outlets intended for drinking and therefore have been tested.

# Elevated lead levels found in two Colton schools

*THY 7*  
Drinking fountains shut down.  
Bottled water to be available to all students in the buildings

BY CINDY FAMA  
Molalla Pioneer

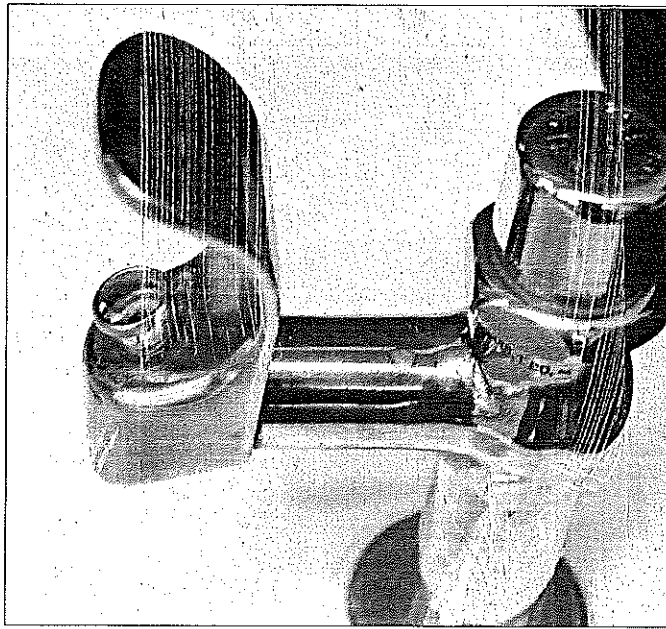
Elevated levels of lead contamination were found in water samples taken at Colton Elementary and Colton Middle schools and at the district office, according to the Colton Water District.

The Environmental Protection Agency standard for acceptable lead levels in water is 0.015 mg/L (milligrams per liter) or 15 PPB (parts per billion).

The lead levels in Colton schools ranged from 0.0311 mg/L at the middle school to 0.0641 mg/L at the elementary school and 0.0388 mg/L at the district office.

Water for the tests was collected in early July, and with school out for a few weeks, the water sat stagnant in the flow pipes for a number of weeks before the draw was taken, according to the water district report.

Colton School District Superintendent Jay Kosik questions the findings



PIONEER PHOTO: CINDY FAMA

Water has been shut off at the drinking fountains in the Colton Elementary and Middle School buildings. All drinking fountains in the buildings will be wrapped in plastic and bottled drinking water made available to all students until further notice.

published in the report.

"That the water was not flushed for a few weeks could influence the analysis and test results," Kosik said. "We are having an independent test done on Sept. 12, and will determine what steps need to be taken based on those results."

The school received the analysis report from Alexin Analytical Laboratories, Inc. on Sept. 1 and immediately made the decision to have bottled water available for all students in the school buildings.

Drinking fountains in the school buildings will be wrapped in plastic to indicate that they are not to be used.

"These steps will stay in effect until lead levels are resolved," CES and CMS principal, Susan Inman said.

Colton High School had no detectible levels of lead in their water. According to the water district, the pipes leading to the high school have been updated within the last 20 years.

Most of the district cafeteria food is prepared at the high school and transported to CES and CMS.

Two homes in Colton tested at the same time, one on South Wall Street and the second on South Schieffer Road, showed no detectible amounts of lead in the water.

Lake Oswego, OR  
(Clackamas Co.)  
Review  
(Circ. W. 5,795)  
SEP 8 2016  
Allen's P.C.B.  
Established 1888

West Linn, OR  
(Clackamas Co.)  
West Linn Tidings  
(Circ. W. 2,730)  
SEP 8 2016  
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## WL-WV concludes water lead testing

By ANDREW KILSTROM  
The Tidings

Students and families of the West Linn-Wilsonville School District can breathe a sigh of relief as WL-WV's district-wide testing of drinking water is finally complete.

Wilsonville High School and West Linn High School were the last two schools to undergo testing, with results coming back early last week.

WLWS showed elevated levels of lead at two of 203 locations while WLHS showed elevated levels of lead at five of 185 locations — "elevated" meaning levels above the 20 parts per billion (ppb) action level threshold set by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Wilsonville's two positive tests (including levels of 94.1 ppb and 21.1 ppb) were taken from a kitchen sink faucet and shower faucet. WLHS's results also showed elevated levels of copper at two locations — 2,000 ppb and 2,110 ppb, exceeding the EPA action limit of 1,300 ppb.

West Linn's five elevated levels of lead, meanwhile, were taken around the 20 ppb action limit at 38.6 ppb, 21.2 ppb, 21.0 ppb, 20.4 ppb and 25.1 ppb. The samples in question were drawn from two classroom sink faucets, a janitor's room sink faucet, a lab sink faucet and a bubbler in a classroom porch area.

### LOJ lead levels within EPA limits

All but one fixture tested had either no lead or levels that are not considered dangerous

Lab tests on faucets at Lake Oswego Junior High indicate that the school's water is safe for students and staff, district officials said Friday.

Amid anxieties over high lead levels discovered in Portland Public Schools' faucets, the Lake Oswego School District conducted its own testing this summer. In June, the district reported that levels of lead in a drinking fountain in the staff development room of the Technology Building on Country Club Road and in a sink used for washing hands in the LOJ kitchen that was removed earlier this summer tested at 34 ppb. The fixture in the boys locker room tested at 29.3 ppb, according to results processed by Alexin Analytical Laboratories of Oregon.

District staff collected samples from every fixture that could be used to fill a water bottle, drinking fountains, hand washing stations and deep sinks at LOJ, according to communications director Nancy Dunn.

The 15 samples with detectable levels all were under 15 ppb: 8.3 ppb, 5.2 ppb, 3.7 ppb, 3.3 ppb, 4.7 ppb, 6.1 ppb, 1.4 ppb, 2.4 ppb, 8.8 ppb, 5.7 ppb, 8.8 ppb, 2.7 ppb, two at 2.1 ppb, 5.1 ppb and 3.2 ppb.

as other school districts were also testing this summer following the uproar at Portland Public Schools.

"We started with Sunset, Bolton and Willamette — our older schools — thinking they might be more susceptible," Woodley said. "What we learned is that's not necessarily true. Bolton had zero positive tests while Sunset had 10. Our newer schools like Wood and a couple others actually had none."

—The Reporter

Woodley added that the district started installing faucets with lower lead content in 2013. The majority of WL-WV's schools with problem areas have been remediated, and those locations that haven't will remain shut off until fixture replacement and secondary testing can be completed.

Contact Andrew Kilstrom at 503-635-1281 ext. 112 or [akilstrom@pamphletmedia.com](mailto:akilstrom@pamphletmedia.com).

Corvallis, OR  
(Benton Co.)  
Gazette Times  
(Cir. D. 11, 525)  
SEP 8 2016

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

# District scrambles to fix lead problem

Some schools may need new pipes, others get watercoolers

ANTHONY RIMEI

Although nearly all of the water fixtures in Corvallis School District elementary schools that tested positive for lead this summer were replaced by district staff before school started Wednesday, retesting has found elevated levels of lead remaining in many locations.

The district initially funded lead exceeding Environmental Protection Agency actionable levels in nearly every district school building in water testing done

## SCHOOL STATUS

### Adams Elementary School

All affected fixtures have been permanently disabled or replaced and retested. All fixtures are approved for drinking water.

### Garfield Elementary School

All affected fixtures have been replaced and retested. All fixtures are open for use except Room 19, which is not currently used as a classroom. Alternate drinking water sources have been identified for that room.

### Hoover Elementary School

No fixtures exceeded EPA action levels on initial sampling. Fixtures in rooms 1 and 3 showed slightly elevated lead levels. As part of the district's response this summer, fixtures were replaced and the district is awaiting final test results. Alternate drinking water will be provided for these classrooms.

### Jefferson Elementary School

All affected fixtures have been replaced and retested. Partial results were received and the following locations continue to be closed for drinking water: rooms 3 and 17, the gym and kitchen. The district is awaiting final test results on the remaining locations.

### Lincoln Elementary School

All affected fixtures have been replaced and retested. All fixtures are approved for drinking water.

### Mountain View Elementary School

All affected classroom fixtures have been replaced and retested and are approved for drinking water. The cafeteria is scheduled for replacement in September. Alternate drinking water will be provided in the cafeteria until it is replaced and test results are received.

### Wilson Elementary School

All affected classroom fixtures have been replaced and retested. Multiple locations continue to test high for lead content. Faucets inside classrooms will be available for hand washing only and alternate drinking water will be provided. Staff and students will review safe drinking water locations on the first day of school and staff will monitor hand washing only locations for compliance. The following locations continue to be closed for drinking water: rooms 8, 9, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21 and the health room sink.

### Franklin K-8 School

All affected fixtures have been replaced and retested. Partial results have been received. The following locations continue to be closed for drinking water: 15, 20, 22, 2A, 3A, 5A, 6A, and the library. Alternate drinking water will be provided until all test results are received and adequate safe drinking water locations within the building have been established.

### Cheldelin Middle School

Replacement and retesting of classroom fixtures is scheduled for September. Kitchen fixtures were replaced and retested and opened for use. In initial testing, 18 fixtures showed elevated lead levels in the following areas: classrooms 23, 26, 27, 31, 32, 33, 38, office, kitchen, and science room.

### Linus Pauling Middle

None of the 48 fixtures sampled showed elevated lead levels during initial testing.

### College Hill/Harding Center

Replacement and retesting of classroom fixtures in three locations is scheduled for September.

### Corvallis High School

Replacement and retesting of classroom fixtures in an auxiliary building is scheduled for September. The main building had no fixtures test positive for elevated lead levels during initial testing. Additional testing locations were identified by the athletic department. The stadium hose bib (under the bleachers) exceeded the 20 parts per billion EPA action level and is closed for drinking water.

### Crescent Valley High School

Replacement and retesting of classroom fixtures is scheduled for September. Additional testing locations were identified by the athletic department; none of these locations had elevated lead levels. The kitchen fixtures were replaced and retested. Although some fixtures remain closed, enough fixtures were opened to support kitchen operations. In initial testing, 17 locations showed elevated lead levels.

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/CSD-Water-Quality> for more information about the status of lead in Corvallis schools.

## Lead

From A

will be able to get water from water fountains that have tested to be free from lead on both first draws, which test water in the fixtures, and flush draws, which test water that has been run enough that water from the pipe is collected.

Patten added that at the middle and high schools, most of the replacement work has been limited to kitchens and workers have done additional testing on fixtures used by athletic teams.

According to a district press release, all fixtures across the district that have not been replaced or passed the subsequent retests either have been shut off or labeled as being for hand washing only. Patten said in some elementary classrooms at Wilson, officials could not leave the water shut off because some rooms have bathrooms and the classroom sink is the only place for students to wash their hands after the bathroom.

The district said in a press release that all students in schools with hand-washing-only sinks will be instructed on where to access safe drinking water. Teachers have also been charged with monitoring the use of those fixtures and directing their students to safe places to get drinking water.

Patten said many Corvallis students are bringing water bottles from home to drink from and refilling those bottles from the safe locations.

Patten estimated that the costs of the remediation, including labor, materials and retesting, could reach \$100,000 before the end of the year, a figure that doesn't include replacing pipes.

The unplanned expense has meant that the district has had to cut some projects, including replacement doors, new skirting for the bases of modular classroom buildings and modifications to the dust hopper in the Corvallis High School wood shop. Preventative maintenance normally performed on schools' HVAC and plumbing systems has been delayed.

"It's going to create more reactive maintenance for us during the school year," she said.

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/CSD-Water-Quality> for more information about the status of lead in Corvallis schools.

Anthony Rime! can be reached at [anthony.rime!@lee.net](mailto:anthony.rime!@lee.net), 541-758-9526, or via Twitter @anthonyrime!.

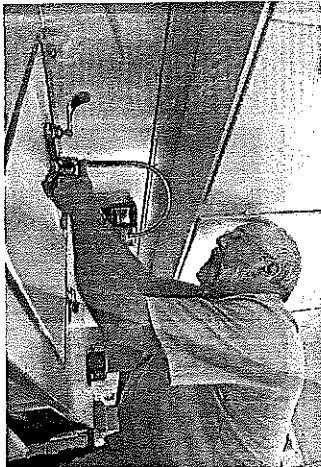
In July and August,

Kim Patten, the district's facilities and maintenance director, said Wilson and Jefferson elementary schools and Franklin K-8 School likely will need re-placement piping, which probably cannot be done until the summer of 2017.

Patten said in some locations at those three schools and Mountain View Elementary, where some of the cafeteria fixtures have not been replaced yet because they have required more labor than other fixtures, the district will be providing watercoolers with bottled water at some locations.

At other locations, students

please see lead, page 45



AMINA ORTIZ, GAZETTE TIMES

Paul Jemison, HVAC controls technician for the Corvallis School District, puts together the faucet inside room 2A at Franklin K-8 School after school Wednesday.

Lake Oswego, OR  
(Clatsop Co.)  
Review  
(Cir. W. 5,795)

SEP 8 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Established 1888

# Lake Oswego calls lead test results 'encouraging'

Eighteen of 70 samples taken over the summer from taps in City-owned buildings in Lake Oswego showed no detectable lead in the water, although the result is well below the action level of 15 ppb, a 19th sample was below the level at which further testing is required.

The one sample that exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency's action level of 15 parts per billion came from the laundry room faucet at the Main Fire Station on B Avenue. It measured 41.1 ppb. An investigation regarding the source of the lead is underway, City officials said, and the faucet has been replaced.

The other sample with a trace of detectable lead was taken from the Adult Community Center drinking fountain, at 5.1 ppb. Although the result is well below the action level of 15 ppb, City officials said that fountain will also be replaced.

"While there is no requirement to test for the presence of lead in the water in City-owned buildings, we wanted to be proactive, to reduce any potential exposure," said Karl Duren, the City's water treatment plant manager. "These are pleasing results that indicate the treatment process and corrosion control system is working effectively and the

plumbing in the City's buildings contains no or little lead." Samples were collected at the Main Fire Station, South Shore Fire Station, Westlake Fire Station, Jean Road Fire Station, Parkside School, Adult Community Center, City Hall, Golf Course, Tennis Center and the Library. The results of City facility lead testing can be found at [lakesw-go.city/city-building-lead-results](http://lakesw-go.city/city-building-lead-results).

Water Treatment Plant staff have also responded to water customer requests for lead test in Lake Oswego, contact the water treatment plant at 503-635-0394.



# State education board adopts lead testing rule

By Paris Achen  
EO Media Group

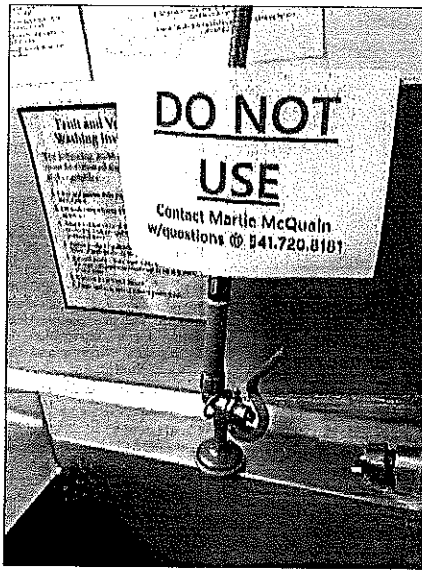
SILVERTON, Ore. — The Oregon Board of Education adopted a new rule that for the first time requires school districts to test for lead in water at district-owned buildings and report those results to the public.

The board in June agreed to fast-track adoption of the new rule at the request of Gov. Kate Brown, after widespread media coverage of a scandal in Portland Public Schools over lead in drinking water that went unreported.

The rule requires school districts to submit a preliminary plan for testing for both lead and radon by Oct. 1, with a final plan due by Jan. 1. While the rule gives no specific deadline for testing for lead, it does require districts to report results to the public within five business days and to send out an annual report.

"What we like about this plan is that part of what we saw in Portland was the community didn't have access to information, and in fact, when you have large institutions information can get lost over the years," said Emily Nazarov, operations policy analyst with the Oregon Department of Education, who headed up the rulemaking.

"By creating a plan you have one place that community members and parents can look to find out how does the school district address radon, how does the school district plan to address water."



A sink that tested positive for elevated lead levels has been shut off and tagged. The Oregon Board of Education adopted a new rule Wednesday that for the first time requires school districts to test for lead in water at district-owned buildings and report those results to the public.

The Board of Education pushed ahead with the rule despite protests from school advocates who said the timeline was too tight and expressed worry about where to find money to address the cost of testing and mitigation.

"You are setting up a framework by which we have assurances at the state level

that our schools are taking action in a comprehensive way toward health and safety," said Oregon Chief Education Officer Lindsey Capps. "It's an imperative that every student should be entitled to."

The requirement will entail hundreds of millions of dollars in additional costs to schools in the form of testing,

supplying bottle water, mitigation and testing individuals who might have been exposed to high levels of lead, according to the Oregon School Boards Association.

Portland Public Schools estimates that taking those steps will cost that district an estimated \$7 million, said Joe Creher, the district's director of risk management.

The cost of just testing lead in water for drinking and food preparation is estimated to cost \$10,000 for a small district and about \$1 million for a large district, according to district representatives who attended a July 25 meeting on the proposed rules.

Legislative leadership has asked the Emergency Board to allocate money in September to pay for costs of testing but not mitigation, Nazarov of ODE said. The Legislative Fiscal Office is working on a proposal to present to the Emergency Board Sept. 23, according to school advocates. Legislative Fiscal Officer Ken Rocco was not immediately available Wednesday to provide that number.

Gov. 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 had rules to require schools test for lead.

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 authority 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.

The agencies asked schools to test for lead during the summer. Most of the districts have either completed or are in the process of testing, Nazarov said. The agencies recommended that schools identify sources of lead, stop access, communicate results to staff, students, parents and the community and mitigate and repair the problem.

A survey of 104 schools earlier this month by the OSBA found that 88 percent of respondents were in the process of testing drinking water for lead. Most of the other 12 percent had either already tested water or had a plan in place to do so after classes resume in the fall.

Cannon Beach, OR  
(Clatsop Co.)  
Cannon Beach Gazette  
(Cir. 2xM. 3,000)

SEP 9 2016

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

Salem, OR  
(Marion Co.)  
Statesman Journal  
(Cir. D. 33,147)

SEP 14 2016

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

# Cafe tests high for lead

## Six taps at Willamette University exceeded 'action level'

TRACY LOEW  
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Six taps at Willamette University have tested high for lead, including one attached to the coffee maker at Cat Cavern Café.

Willamette completed testing last month on all potential sources of drinking water in university-owned buildings, with the exception of a residence hall that was undergoing renovations, spokesman Adam Torgerson said.

Taps that exceeded the "action level" of 15 parts per billion (ppb) were in two main buildings and an off-campus house:

In the University Center, a first-floor men's restroom sink tested at 31 ppb; a first-floor drinking fountain in Cat Cavern tested at 20 ppb; and the Cat Cavern coffee bar tap tested at 24.7 ppb.

In the Atkinson Graduate School of Management, a first-floor kitchen food-prep sink tested at 18.8 ppb, and a first-floor men's restroom tested at 17.6 ppb.

A tap in an off-campus rental house,

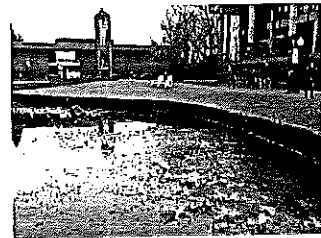
tested at 27 ppb.

All of the taps were closed immediately, and repairs were completed Sept. 2.

There is no safe level of lead, and experts say health effects can occur at levels as low as 5 ppb. Lead isn't present in Salem's drinking water source, but can leach from lead in pipes, fittings and fixtures.

Oregon health and education officials recently urged school districts to test for

See LEAD, Page 2A



Six taps at Willamette University have tested high for lead.

# Lead

Continued from Page 1A

lead in drinking water. Those that comply are required to publicly post results within five days of receiving them. Universities weren't included in the directive, but many, including Willamette, are voluntarily testing.

Willamette University will retest annually, Torgerson said.

loew@statesmanjournal.com, 503-339-6779 or follow at Twitter.com/TraCylLoew

# High lead levels found in North Marion water

Officials say water in test sample from the primary school taken Aug. 24 had been sitting unused in pipe for six weeks

By Lindsay Keefer  
The Independent

Water fountains at North

drinking water.

The water samples from the drinking fountains and school sinks at the primary and North Marion Intermediate schools were taken Aug. 24 and results were returned to the district by Test America Sept. 8.

The Oregon Department of Education recommends testing under normal use conditions

but, according to a press release from the district, these samples were not taken under normal conditions, as water had been sitting in unused pipes for approximately six weeks.

"I was surprised to see the results come back at levels higher than the state guideline of 20 parts per billion. Our June and July samples showed extremely low levels and we were pretty confident we would be good to go." Superintendent Boyd Keyser said. "Our team feels strongly that the culprit was the six weeks of unused activity that led to a buildup. Since we followed the recommended collection procedures and did no flushing or rinsing before collecting the samples, it is not hard to imagine the first rush of water out of the faucets having high levels."

As a precaution, all drinking fountains in the district were closed down within two hours of receiving the information.

See WRITER/ Page M

## Water: Will retest in coming weeks

From Page A1

District sinks are still safe to use for washing hands. Staff shared the news with students Thursday, when a letter was also sent home with K-5 students. An auto-diagnoser was sent out to parents. The primary school water will be retested in the coming weeks under normal conditions. While the Aug. 24 test results are not back for the intermediate school, retesting may occur if the results indicate the need to do so. The middle and high schools will be tested in the coming weeks.

The district operates its own licensed water system, which is tested on a monthly basis. For more information, visit [www.nmarion.k12.or.us](http://www.nmarion.k12.or.us) or contact Keyser at [boyd.keyser@nmarion.k12.or.us](mailto:boyd.keyser@nmarion.k12.or.us).

"We are being extra cautious given our level of concern on this topic, thus the reason for closing all drinking fountains in all buildings even though not all results are in," Keyser explained. "We will not use them until they have a result below the state guideline. If results from the other buildings come back clean, we will turn the fountains back on in them."

Baker City, OR  
(Baker Co.)  
Herald  
(Cir. 5xW. 3,246)

SEP 14 2016

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

EDITORIAL

# Dealing with lead

The revelation last week that there was lead in water collected from drinking fountains and sink faucets at some Baker City schools, and at levels that exceed federal standards, naturally worries parents.

Lead is a neurotoxin that can reduce a child's ability to learn. According to the federal government, there is no amount of lead, in the body, that's considered safe.

What's less certain, however, is the correlation between lead in drinking water, whether in schools or homes, and the risk that students who drink that water could have elevated levels of lead in their blood as a result.

Even the experts acknowledge this deficiency in the data. A 2012 study from the National Center for Environmental Health notes that "the effects of water lead levels on (blood lead levels) of children... is difficult to measure." The same study found that household dust tainted with lead from paint, or lead paint itself in older homes, posed the greatest risk of elevating children's lead levels. (Lead paint for residential use has been banned in the U.S. since 1978.)

Generally speaking, though, the nation, largely by banning lead in gasoline and food cans as well as house paint, has made significant progress in reducing lead concentrations. Studies show conclusively that since the 1970s the lead levels in air, water, food, dust and soil have dropped substantially, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). And the average lead level in American children's blood has declined as well during that period.

A 2009 study published in Pediatrics found that the percentage of American children with elevated levels of lead in their blood dropped by 84 percent from the period 1988-91 to 1999-2004 — from 8.6 percent of children in the former period to 1.4 percent in the latter.

But with lead, which accumulates in the body throughout our lives, reducing any source, however significant, is worthwhile.

Which is why the Baker School District's actions — shutting off drinking fountains and sinks where tests showed elevated lead levels — are necessary. Those sources should remain off limits until officials have determined the source of the lead — most likely the solder used to connect pipes, or lead in the pipes themselves — and replaced the fixtures that contain lead.

We're troubled, however, that it took a major scandal in Portland Public Schools earlier this year — officials there had not alerted the public to elevated lead levels in water from tests done years ago — to prompt both Oregon Gov. Kate Brown to recommend all schools test for lead, and, just a few weeks ago, for the Oregon Department of Education to adopt a rule requiring schools to submit plans that include a testing regimen for lead. This belated response is particularly problematic considering that four years have passed since the CDC lowered the threshold for what's considered an abnormally high lead level in a child's blood.

Before 2012, the federal government considered blood lead levels of 10 micrograms per deciliter, in children 6 or younger, as a "level of concern." Since then, however, the CDC has designated 5 micrograms per deciliter as the threshold. That concentration is higher than the lead level for about 97.5 percent of children 6 and younger.

Despite this recognition of the problems lead poses, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, although its 1991 Lead and Copper Rule requires cities to test their drinking water, the rule only recommends that public schools do the same. This doesn't make sense, considering that the most common source of lead in water is not the water source itself, but plumbing fixtures.

The ultimate goal, as the CDC points out, should be to protect children from all potential sources of lead exposure. And although the available evidence suggests that drinking water in public schools might not be one of the larger sources, it's also one that we can, and should, eliminate.

Woodburn, OR  
(Marion Co.)

Woodburn Independent  
(Cir. W. 3,490)

SEP 14 2016

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

SEP 14 2016

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

744-7  
*Safety first*

# District tests its water

## School officials await final results of recent tests

By John L. Braese  
Malheur Enterprise

VALE - The Vale School District is awaiting results of tests for lead that were conducted Aug. 31, as districts across the state examine their water systems for lead problems.

Superintendent Scott Linenberger said 80 tests were ordered for the Vale schools, but about 40 were put on back order be-

cause of the high demand.

He said it takes about four to six weeks to get the results back.

Although it's not a mandate, the state asked local school districts this summer to test for lead in their kitchen taps and other sources of water. While some schools have reported increased levels, others are finding no problems in their water systems.

The Vale district's lead concerns arose much earlier, when slightly elevated lead levels were reported in the Willowcreek Elementary School water system last year. The tests were done after the plumbing fixtures in the kindergarten, first and second grade rooms were replaced.

The U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency sets a limit of 15 parts per billion for lead, and Willowcreek tested at 15.9 parts per billion in September 2015.

"We notified parents right away of the results of the tests," said Linenberger. "We immediately shut down the two lines affected."

Willowcreek was one of 10 schools across the state to test above the EPA limit.

Officials say lead enters the drinking system when soft water corrodes the plumbing system, releasing lead from older pipes and fixtures.

The danger is that exposure to lead can lead to a multitude of problems in children,

See Water Page 5

## Water

From Page 1

including stomach problems and brain damage. Health officials also warn that children absorb metals like lead at higher rates than adults.

Schools are required to test their water, even those obtaining water from a well.

For Vale, Linenberger said, "The Oregon Health Authority stated testing was not necessary due to being on the city water system.

"When the problems came up in Willowcreek, we decided to conduct testing on both drinking fountains and food prep areas. We are just waiting for the results."

Future plans are to either replace the affected lines or place an additive into the lines.

"We are taking bids currently to remedy the problem," he said. "In addition, we have notified parents this year of the problem and posted a notice on the front door to the school."

"Students are bringing water from home or drinking from other lines in the building," Linenberger said.

The demand for test kits remains an obstacle.

Linenberger said the test kits ordered in June did not arrive until mid-August and then it was just half the order.

Other local districts also are checking their water quality. Both Nyssa and

Ontario school districts have conducted lead tests on their water systems.

The Ontario district released tests results in mid-August showing no alarming problems. Testing 31 separate locations throughout the schools, only one, a hand washing station, was found to be above the accepted levels. The testing took samples from drinking fountains, food preparation areas and hand-washing stations. The one problem station tested at 21.3 parts per billion for lead.

The Nyssa district also tested its water, a practice that is completed on a yearly basis. In testing of drinking fountains both inside and outside buildings, none came out above 10 parts per billion.

Baker City, OR  
(Baker Co.)  
Herald  
(Cir. 5xW. 3,246)

SEP 14 2016

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

# School board to discuss lead tests

By Chris Collins  
ccollins@bakercityherald.com

744-7  
Superintendent Mark Witty is scheduled to give an update on the district's actions to test for lead in the water supply and the corrective action that has been taken.

The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. in the north conference room of the District Office, 2090 Fourth St.

Witty also will discuss the new locking system at Brooklyn Primary School and the district's plans to distribute its own newspaper. He also will present information about the Oregon School Boards Association's 2016

fall regional meeting and the Oregon Department of Education's Technical Assistance Program.

The meeting will begin with presentations to Sharon Defrees and Annetta Evans, for their work on the Oregon EdTech Professional Development Cadre.

New extra-duty hires to be announced during the meeting are Lisa Whited, seventh-grade volleyball coach; Michele McCauley, eighth-grade volleyball coach; Michael Sanders, Baker Middle School football coach.

The board is expected to take action on hiring Tanner Denne as Brooklyn Primary

School music teacher. And directors will award contracts through the Food Services program on bids for food and nonfood items, milk and produce.

The board also is expected to act on an OSBA Board of Director's nomination form for Kevin Cassidy, board chair.

In a prelude to the regular meeting, the Baker School Board will convene a work session with a representative from the Oregon School Boards Association at 2 p.m. Thursday. Kristin Miles will provide instruction on the

Promise Scholarship Project: Monitoring Student Achievement.

After the regular meeting, the board will move to executive (closed to the public) session to negotiate property transactions and to conduct labor negotiations.

The board will return to open session and then adjourn.

744-7

SEP 14 2016

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

744-7  
**Baker Schools Shut Down Water Sources With Excessive Levels Of Lead**

# Fixing The Faucets



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Baker Middle School principal Chris Carmiencke chats with Noelle Reed, a seventh-grade student, as he refills his water bottle from a new, lead-free fountain installed previously on the first floor.

By Chris Collins  
ccollins@bakercityherald.com

Thanks to three new water-filtering drinking fountains installed at Baker Middle School this year, students have experienced little inconvenience after tests showed unacceptable levels of lead in the water flowing from some older fixtures at the school.

Two of the old-style drinking fountains — one on the north end of the lower hall and one in the boys locker room — have been shut off after lead levels exceeding 20 parts per billion (ppb) were found in water from those fixtures.

Federal standards call for schools to stop using water sources where tests show lead levels above 20 ppb.

A water sample from the drinking fountain in the boys locker room at BMS was found to have a lead level of 55.7 ppb. Water at the fountain in the lower hallway had a lead level of 73.6 ppb.

In all, 20 of 111 water samples — four drinking fountains and 16 sinks — from four schools in the Baker School District had lead levels above 20 ppb.

Water from those 20 sources is not being used.

In addition to the two drinking fountains at the Middle School, seven sinks — six in the upstairs science room and one in the cooking room — had lead levels above 20 ppb. Water has been shut off to those sinks, said Chris Carmiencke, BMS principal.

See Lead / Page 3A

## LEAD LEVELS IN BAKER SCHOOLS

### BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Drinking fountain north end, first floor — 73.6 ppb
- Drinking fountain in boys locker room — 55.7 ppb
- Sink, science room — 48.2 ppb
- Sink, science room — 32.7 ppb
- Sink, science room — 30.2 ppb
- Sink, science room — 29.9 ppb
- Sink, science room — 28.5 ppb
- Sink, science room — 25.4 ppb
- Sink, home ec classroom No. 3 — 23.5 ppb

### SOUTH BAKER INTERMEDIATE

- Sink, music room No. 29 — 67 ppb
- Sink, library, room No. 23 — 65.7 ppb
- Sink, space by stage, No. 9 — 65.3 ppb
- Drinking fountain, 6th grade hall — 49.1 ppb
- Sink, staff room No. 20 — 39.3 ppb
- Sink, 6th grade classroom No. 24 — 36.6 ppb
- Drinking fountain, music room No. 29 — 33.9 ppb
- Sink, 5th grade classroom No. 19 — 25.5 ppb

### NORTH BAKER EDUCATION CENTER

- Sink, Web Academy room, 3rd floor — 49.6 ppb
- Sink, vacant office, 1st floor — 29.4 ppb
- Sink, Web Academy office, 1st floor — 21.9 ppb

Continued from Page 1A

A third drinking station already was out of service and had been replaced by a bottled water station, Carmiencke said.

The Middle School leadership class raised money for the new water-filtering drinking fountains and they have come in handy while the district works to ensure that students have safe water to drink, Carmiencke said.

The new water system even keeps track of the number of water bottles that are saved from going to the landfill while students fill their reusable bottles at the fountain specially designed for that purpose.

The students raised \$1,000 to buy each fountain, Carmiencke said.

"I don't even like to fill up in the sinks anymore," Carmiencke said. "I like the filtered water."

Science classes haven't been disrupted by the shutoff of the faucets in the second week of school, said teacher Alan McCauley.

When lab work calls for water, the lines will be well-flushed in the available sinks, Carmiencke said.

Water in three of the four sinks in the foods classroom did not exceed the 20 ppb lead standard.

More test results are expected soon for water sources from Keating Elementary, Brooklyn Primary School and Baker High School.

In the meantime, drinking fountains in those schools have been shut down and students are offered bottled water.

At Keating Elementary, where bottled water was already the primary source, the practice will continue. And all sinks will be flushed daily before school starts, Witty said.

Allowing water to flow from a faucet for a few minutes can reduce the amount of lead in the water, according to the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection.

Lead levels in water usually peak when the tap has not been used overnight or longer. That allows the stagnant water to be in contact for a longer period with pipes or solder that contain lead.

When schools collect water samples for testing, they're supposed to take the first flow of water from a tap that hasn't been used at least overnight.

"We want to assure we



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Baker Middle School principal Chris Carmiencke says water from most of the faucets in the science room contain lead.

## Other Baker County schools

At Burnt River School in Unity, two of 63 sites tested were found to have lead levels in the water above the 20 parts per billion allowable threshold.

Superintendent Lorrie Andrews said one site was a drinking fountain and the other a sink. Both are in south end of the building, which has been out of use for the past several years.

Water in the fountain showed lead levels of 30.5 parts per billion and the water in the sink showed lead levels of 52.8 parts per billion, Andrews said.

No elevated levels were found in tests conducted at Powder Valley Charter School. The report, which is posted on the school's website [atnpowder.k12.or.us](http://atnpowder.k12.or.us) under announcements, lists results from 59 tests conducted July 13.

"We will continue to monitor this and keep communicating to parents and our community," Superintendent Lance Dixon, stated on the website.

Likewise at Huntington, no harmful levels of lead were found in the three sites tested at the Huntington School District. Those results along with radon testing results are posted on the district website: [huntington.k12.or.us](http://huntington.k12.or.us) under environmental testing.

At the Pine-Eagle Charter School in Halfway, Superintendent Cammie deCastro wrote in an email to the Herald that the school will be working to develop a plan for testing, reporting and mitigating "any possible lead" in the school's water system. No testing has been done at this time.

The preliminary health and safety plan will be developed in line with new rules adopted by the state Board of Education on Aug. 17, she said.

She noted that schools that do not have their own water supply are not, at this time, required to conduct lead testing.

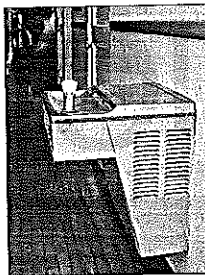
"As Pine Eagle works through the development of our district plan, a determination will be made as to the need for testing of our facilities, and that determination will be included in the overall health and safety plan," she stated.

More information is available by calling the Pine Eagle Charter School office at 541-742-2550.

— Chris Collins

have good water for every kid to drink," Baker Superintendent Mark Witty said. "The

critical factor is, we're going to follow protocol to ensure safety for every site. We will



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

This drinking fountain on the first floor at Baker Middle School is turned off until further notice due to lead contamination.

keep working until we get it fixed."

No samples from Haines School were above the 20 ppb threshold and no action was needed in that school, Witty wrote in a letter to local residents released Friday.

A complete copy of the test results, conducted by Anatek Labs Inc., with offices in Moscow, Idaho, and Spokane, Washington, are available at the front counter in the District Office, 2090 Fourth St.

Witty said the district chose to test for lead in the school water supply after high levels of lead were found in a majority of Portland schools.

"The ODE (Oregon Department of Education), I would imagine will come out with a policy for testing for lead," Witty said Monday.

"There have not been any guidelines and it has not been on anybody's radar until the issues regarding Portland schools," he said.

The Oregon Board of Education recently adopted a rule requiring all school districts, by Oct. 1, to submit to the state a preliminary draft of a "Healthy and Safe Schools Plan" that includes a plan to test for and reduce exposure to lead in water in schools.

Although the EPA requires cities to test their drinking water for lead, the agency only recommends that public schools do the same.

In Baker City's case, the city has to randomly test water from 20 homes every three years.

The city's most recent tests, in 2014, did not detect any lead.

Tests in 2011 showed lead levels of 2.2 ppb, below the federal threshold of 15 ppb (the threshold for public water systems is lower than the 20 ppb for schools in part due to differences in the testing protocols).

744-7

# Three UO residence halls have lead issue

Some faucets in Walton, Hamilton, Barnhart and Bean have or may have elevated levels

By DIANE DIETZ  
The Register-Guard  
744-7

About one-fifth of the faucets in three University of Oregon residence halls run with lead-tainted water — and a fourth hall is very likely to have some of the same.

Crews either found or are concerned about elevated levels in Walton, Hamilton, Barnhart and Bean halls.

The UO didn't release specific numbers but said they are above the 15 parts per billion set by the federal Environmental Protection Agency as allowable in water for human consumption.

As a precaution, the university is asking students moving into the affected halls in coming weeks not to drink or cook with any of the tap water and, instead, use university-provided bottled water for those purposes.

"Using those fixtures for washing is fine," the UO said.

Human skin does not absorb lead in water, according to the EPA.

The affected halls are all more than 50 years old. Barnhart was built in 1966, Bean in 1964, Hamilton in 1962, and Walton in 1957 and 1959.

The university plans to replace the fixtures and retest the water.

Drinking water with elevated lead levels over time can lower IQ or lead to hyperactivity in children, according to the EPA. Pregnant women may give birth early or to smaller-than-normal babies.

The university launched a water quality monitoring program in late spring.

Turn to **WATER**, Page A4

## RG DAILY DIGEST

◆ Sign up to have the day's top headlines delivered to your inbox at [registerguard.com/newsletters](http://registerguard.com/newsletters)

## ECHO

# Water fountain tests slightly above lead limit

Retesting underway, results expected soon

By GEORGE PLAVEN  
East Oregonian  
744-7

An upstairs water fountain has tested positive for slightly elevated levels of lead at Echo School, prompting a re-test and possible replacement of the pipes.

Lab results were released by the school district Wednesday, and while most of the 41 sites that were tested turned up no signs of lead, one fountain did measure above the threshold for taking corrective action as set by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The EPA's action limit is 20 parts per billion of lead. The fountain narrowly exceeded that mark at 34 parts per billion. Nonetheless, it has been closed off to students and faculty until the problem is addressed, said Echo Superintendent

Raymon Smith.

"We will continue to monitor this and keep communicating to parents and our community," Smith said.

Last month, elevated levels of lead were also found in 10 drinking fountains at McKay Creek Elementary School in Pendleton. Students are set to return to school after this week's Pendleton Round-Up, and Superintendent Andy Kovach said all of the fixtures will be replaced and re-tested. Hermiston also had 19 faucets with high levels of lead that were replaced and slated for re-testing. None were considered

primary drinking sources

Districts across Eastern Oregon banded together over the summer to test their drinking water, and in mid-May the Oregon Department of Education and Oregon Health Authority collaborated on a plan to help schools protect their students from high levels of lead.

The plan requests that all school districts receiving their drinking water from a public water system test for lead in their buildings. Local testing is done by Table Rock Analytical Lab, and the results are reported back to OHA.

Smith said they decided to re-test their drinking fountain since testing was

initially done while school was not in session. The inactivity may have contributed to elevated lead, and those levels may have fallen back to normal now that the system is flushed and back in use.

"If it comes back that it's still slightly elevated, that's likely going to be a piping issue," he said.

Having one fountain out of commission is not causing any disruption at the building, Smith said.

The Echo District includes one K-12 building, with approximately 280 students.

Contact George Plaven at [gplaven@eastoregonian.com](mailto:gplaven@eastoregonian.com) or 541-966-0825.

# Water: Testing for lead continues through 2017

Continued from Page A1

Crews started testing at campus day cares and residence halls. Testing in additional campus buildings will continue through 2017.

About 210 students were expected to move into the four residence halls on Sept. 14. After the university's main move-in day on Sept. 22, some 2,510 students will reside in those four halls. Nearly 4,000 students live in university-owned facilities from late September through early June.

Following the detection of elevated lead in drinking water in Flint, Mich., last year, agencies and homeowners around the nation have had their

potable water tested for lead. Lead can leach into water from old, lead-containing solder used to solder water lines, or from lead-containing solder used to solder fixtures.

In the case of Flint, the drinking water became tainted when the city switched from the Detroit water system and began drawing from the acidic Flint River in April 2014 to save money. Regulators failed to treat the corrosive water properly, and as a result the water leached lead from aging pipes.

744-7

Follow Alisha on Twitter @alisharoemeling. Email [alisha.roemeling@registerguard.com](mailto:alisha.roemeling@registerguard.com).

1/34-7  
More Results Returned for District's Testing for Lead in Water

SEP 15 2016

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

Pendleton, OR  
(Umatilla Co.)  
Pendleton Record  
(Circ. W. 852)

"We are pleased that sites tested at these two schools indicate no problems with lead levels in the water. We continue to work diligently to address elevated levels at other schools and are re-testing those sites. We will keep communicating to families and the community," said district Superintendent Andrew Kovach.

A copy of all the district's water testing results can be viewed at the district office, 541-276-6711, 1100 Southgate, Suite 8 and on our district website at [www.pendleton.k12.or.us](http://www.pendleton.k12.or.us). For questions or more information about the district water testing, contact Andy Kovach at 541-966-3251 or [andy.kovach@pendleton.k12.or.us](mailto:andy.kovach@pendleton.k12.or.us).

# PPS staffer who handled lead issues resigns, defends record

District kept him from talking with news media

By SHARLA KEANAN MOORE  
The Tribune

The man directly in charge of the lead contamination response at Portland Public Schools has announced his resignation and released a 12-page memo defending his record.

Environmental Health & Safety Manager Andy Fridley says that he was prevented by the district from talking to the news media until now. Fridley has been on paid administrative leave since June 2 and will remain so until leaving Sept. 22 for a job outside of the district that he declined to name. He says he was given the option of resigning or being terminated, but an offer of employment came up at about the same time.



FRIDLEY

District spokeswoman Courtney Westling declined to respond to questions about the employment status of Chief Operating Officer Tony Magliano, who was put on leave at the same time as Fridley, saying it was an ongoing personnel matter.

"We have had an interim environmental health and safety team in place since July and continue to be focused on reviewing policies and practices to ensure the safety of our students," Westling said in a statement.

Fridley says in his resignation letter that he largely agreed with the Stoll Berne report that concluded major organizational mistakes had led to the drinking water crisis. But he says that in the two years he was in a leadership "vacuum," he still tried to serve the community, most notably through requesting district-wide lead testing last March to be conducted this summer.

The request to do so came after City Park schools agitated for testing in light of the lead crisis in Flint, Michigan, but before the public firestorm began in late May.

"I understand parent concerns and dismay — lead poisoning is a serious health issue — as well as their request for clearer communication," Fridley writes in a report to PPS. "But the fact is, I responded promptly to parent requests for testing and promptly took steps to resolve the problem in a manner I understood to be acceptable, based on past practice and additional research. I also communicated with school principals, and the parents requesting the tests, leaving any communications to the district manager up to the PPS Communications Department as I had been directed to do."

Fridley has been sharply criticized for not ordering that families with high lead level results be shut off immediately and for dismissing parent concerns about the need for lead testing at other schools.

He says he was not aware of the reliability of the district's lead tests found since the last district-wide testing in 2011.

In the letter announcing his resignation, Fridley urged the Oregon Health Authority to require corrosion-control treatments. The Portland Water Bureau and the Environmental Protection Agency have long been at loggerheads over the issue of putting chemicals in Portland's water to make it less corrosive, such as by modifying the pH factor. Lead leaching out of old pipes or solder is considered to be the most likely cause of lead contamination, which could impact the development of young children.

The Multnomah County Health Department so far has not attributed the few cases of high blood lead levels found in PPS children to lead in school water.



READING THE PRESS

Portland Public Schools Chief Operating Officer Tony Magliano is still on paid administrative leave. Environmental Health and Safety Officer Andy Fridley, who was put on leave on June 2 with Magliano, will leave the district Sept. 22.

## PPS staffer defends record

I have submitted a letter to Portland Public Schools on September 8, resigning my position as manager of Health and Safety, effective September 22, 2016. I have accepted another position outside the school district.

I was asked not to speak to news media during my administrative leave. It was difficult to stand by and not be allowed the opportunity to respond to or address some of the inaccuracies, omissions, and accusations for over three months. However, I was pleased that the independent Stoll Berne report and numerous questions and misstatements by the Stoll Berne team, who highlighted long-term systemic issues that contributed to a lack of early detection and remediation of lead in water at PPS.

In the time that I served as Health & Safety Senior Manager, I was frustrated that PPS did not allocate resources to emphasize this important issue. I urge the State Legislature, the PPS school board, and the PPS school to consider the neglected condition of our aging public school buildings, and prioritize the resources to address them.

Finally, a large issue needs to be addressed beyond the elevated lead in water found at nearly every PPS school. The Oregon Health Authority must act now to the urgent request by EPA, made in their April 14, 2016 letter, to require water providers to Corrosion Control Treatment as specified in the Safe Drinking Water Act. "Minimize lead levels at user's taps, as required by the Lead and Copper Rule."

I am proud of my 28-year career as a dedicated facility professional at PPS and hope the very best for its future.

Andy Fridley

McMinnville, OR  
(Yamhill Co.)  
McMinnville News Register  
(Circ. 2M, 8,808)  
SEP 16 2016  
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

# McMinnville schools get the lead out

By STARLA POUNDER 744-7  
Of the News-Register

The McMinnville School District has fixed all five drinking fountains in which traces of lead were detected this summer. Following replacement of faulty hardware, testing shows the water is now safe to drink.

"The kids are safe, the staff is safe," Facilities Director Pat Keenan told the school board Monday night.

In addition, the district has replaced 106 faucets used for hand washing or other purposes. Several still show lead concentrations above acceptable levels, though, so the district is replacing delivery lines in an effort to eliminate the problem, Keenan said.

The Federal Environmental Protection Agency calls for less than 15 parts per billion. Keenan said the district tested 869 faucets and found 106 with lead levels using the stricter standard

replaced 106 faucets used for hand washing or other purposes. Several still show lead concentrations above acceptable levels, though, so the district is replacing delivery lines in an effort to eliminate the problem, Keenan said.

The Federal Environmental Protection Agency calls for less than 15 parts per billion. Keenan said the district tested 869 faucets and found 106 with lead levels using the stricter standard

The district found 106 faucets failed to meet standards. Most were fixed by replacing the hardware, Keenan said. Those still showing elevated lead levels remain turned off pending replacement of old pipes and soldered joints, he said.

He said 45 problem faucets are in the high school's biology and chemistry labs, which are scheduled for

See LEAD, A6

## Lead

Continued from A1

district's maintenance shop now is located on 19th Street east of Baker.

Learned that McMinnville had surpassed state averages in all categories in a recent graduation rate study. However, Superintendent Maryalice Russell said the district can and must improve.

A health hazard linked to lung cancer, radon is a naturally occurring gas emitted as radioactive radium breaks down in the soil. Found in pockets of soil all over the world, it dissipates in open spaces, but can collect in houses, classrooms and other types of enclosed spaces.

The state is requiring school districts to submit a plan for radon testing by Sept. 1 and complete tests by 2026, Keenan said. McMinnville met the Sept. 1 planning deadline and expects to complete tests next year, well ahead of state requirements.

In other business Monday, the board:

- Noted the finalization of the purchase of a property at 1190 N.E. Lafayette Avenue for \$1.2 million. The money comes out of a \$7.1 million state grant the district received after voters approved a new bond measure in May.
- The old Willamette Graystone Building, previously Copeland Lumber, will be remodelled to serve as the district's maintenance and grounds shops. The district's maintenance shop

replaced 106 faucets used for hand washing or other purposes. Several still show lead concentrations above acceptable levels, though, so the district is replacing delivery lines in an effort to eliminate the problem, Keenan said.

The Federal Environmental Protection Agency calls for less than 15 parts per billion. Keenan said the district tested 869 faucets and found 106 with lead levels using the stricter standard

## INSIDE

Board approves alternative bid process / A5

Five drinking fountains were problematic, including one at Memorial Elementary and the high school stadium, and two at Wascott elementary. They've all been replaced, solving the problem.

district's maintenance shop now is located on 19th Street east of Baker.

Learned that McMinnville had surpassed state averages in all categories in a recent graduation rate study. However, Superintendent Maryalice Russell said the district can and must improve.

A health hazard linked to lung cancer, radon is a naturally occurring gas emitted as radioactive radium breaks down in the soil. Found in pockets of soil all over the world, it dissipates in open spaces, but can collect in houses, classrooms and other types of enclosed spaces.

The state is requiring school districts to submit a plan for radon testing by Sept. 1 and complete tests by 2026, Keenan said. McMinnville met the Sept. 1 planning deadline and expects to complete tests next year, well ahead of state requirements.

In other business Monday, the board:

- Noted the finalization of the purchase of a property at 1190 N.E. Lafayette Avenue for \$1.2 million. The money comes out of a \$7.1 million state grant the district received after voters approved a new bond measure in May.
- The old Willamette Graystone Building, previously Copeland Lumber, will be remodelled to serve as the district's maintenance and grounds shops. The district's maintenance shop

Baker City, OR  
(Baker Co.)  
Herald  
(Cir. 3XW, 3,246)

SEP 16 2016

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

# 744-7 5f gets more lead test results

By Chris Collins  
collins@bakerherald.com

Water samples taken from three sinks at Brooklyn Primary School were found to contain lead at levels exceeding 20 parts per billion (ppb), the threshold that requires schools to take corrective action.

Forty-five other water samples from the school, which houses kindergartners and first-, second- and third-graders, did not exceed the lead threshold.

Samples that exceeded 20 ppb were taken from sinks: • In Room A3, the special education classroom of Meghan Nilsen, lead level of 63.4 ppb

See Lead/ Page 6A

## BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Drinking fountain north end, first floor — 73.6 ppb
- Drinking fountain in boys' locker room — 55.7 ppb
- Sink, science room — 48.2 ppb
- Sink, science room — 32.7 ppb
- Sink, science room — 30.2 ppb
- Sink, science room — 29.9 ppb
- Sink, science room — 25.4 ppb
- Sink, home ec classroom No. 3 — 23.5 ppb

## SOUTH BAKER INTERMEDIATE

- Sink, music room No. 29 — 67 ppb
- Sink, library, room No. 23 — 65.7 ppb
- Sink, space by stage, No. 9 — 65.3 ppb
- Drinking fountain, 6th grade hall — 49.1 ppb
- Sink, staff room No. 20 — 39.3 ppb
- Sink, 8th grade classroom No. 24 — 36.6 ppb
- Drinking fountain, music room No. 29 — 33.9 ppb
- Sink, 5th grade classroom No. 19 — 25.5 ppb

## NORTH BAKER EDUCATION CENTER

- Sink, Web Academy room, 3rd floor — 49.6 ppb
- Sink, vacant office, 1st floor — 29.4 ppb
- Sink, Web Academy office, 1st floor — 21.9 ppb

## BROOKLYN PRIMARY

- Sink, special ed classroom A3 — 63.4 ppb
- Sink, health room, near office — 41.7 ppb
- Sink, special ed classroom, A4 — 27 ppb

## LEAD

Continued from Page 14

- The health room near the school office, lead level of 41.7 ppb
- In Room 44, the special education classroom of Nancy Ames, lead level of 27 ppb

Other water samples showed lead levels ranging from a low of 1.33 ppb in Magdalen Building 10 to a high of 15.3 ppb in Room 4B.

Last week, the Baker School District announced results of water tests for lead levels from Haines, North Baker, South Baker and Baker Middle School. Haines School had no water sources with lead levels above 20 ppb.

At the other schools, 20 of 91 samples exceeded that level — including four drinking fountains, two at the middle school, and two at South Baker.

Nine sites above the acceptable threshold were found at Baker Middle School, eight at South

Florence, OR  
(Lane Co.)  
Siuslaw News  
(Cir. 2XW-5,209)

SEP 17 2016

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

# School district water gets an A Siuslaw passes second round of lead testing

By Jack Davis  
Siuslaw News

During the Sept. 14 Siuslaw School District board meeting, District Superintendent Andy Grzeszkowiak told the board that 20 additional district drinking water sources have been tested for lead and all came back well below the federally mandated minimum level of 20 parts per billion (ppb).

Locations tested during the second round of sampling included the district office, the Head Start building, the school maintenance and transportation building, both the main and auxiliary gyms in the high school and middle school and additional tests at the

See WATER 71A

## Water

from 1A

Baker Intermediate and three at the North Baker Education Center.

As was done at those buildings, water was shut off at the three Brooklyn

sinks that exceeded 20 ppb. Superintendent Mark Whyty said in a press release.

In the meantime, the water will be retested and the district will be working to develop a permanent solution.

Complete copies of the test results are available at the District Office, 2160 Fourth St., Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Whyty's letter to the community can be found at the District website: bakerh12.org

More results are expected soon from tests conducted at Baker High School and Keaning Elementary. Bottled water is being provided for students in these buildings until the results are released.

More information is available by calling Whyty at 541-524-2960. 744-7

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

SEP 19 2016

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

# State Legislature could pay schools back for lead testing

## Fund could start at \$5 million

By PARS ACHEN  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon public schools could be reimbursed for the cost of testing for lead in campus drinking water, under a proposal, lawmakers will consider Friday.

The proposal sets up a fund administered by the state Department of Education. School districts could submit invoices to request reimbursement for costs associated with lead testing between March and December of this year.

The Legislative Fiscal Office has recommended that the Emergency Board approve the \$5 million as a placeholder until state education officials gain a better sense of how much school districts will request for reimbursement.

The education department could submit a revised financial request to the emergency board in December, if requests exceed \$5 million, said Doug Wilson, a legislative fiscal analyst.

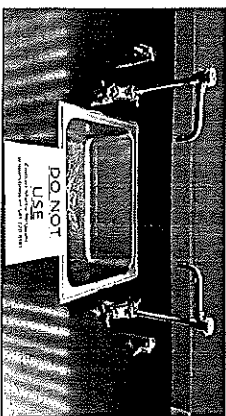
"It's really a signal to districts that we are putting money aside for lead testing," Wilson said of the recommendation.

The Oregon Association of School Business Officials conducted a survey of school districts this summer to try to estimate the cost of testing. About 100 districts, representing about half of the state's student population, responded. The \$5 million figure is roughly based on those districts' responses, Wilson said.

That amount equates to about \$35 for each lab test, including testing and a small amount to defray the cost of collection, he said. The amount doesn't account for any expenses associated with mitigation of lead contamination.

Some larger school districts such as Portland and Beaverton used contractors to take water samples, which drove up the cost of testing, Wilson said.

Lawmakers pledged to provide some kind of financial assistance to districts after



Hermiston School District tested positive for elevated lead levels has been shut off and tagged. The Legislature is working on a plan to reimburse schools for the cost of lead testing.

the Oregon Health Authority and the education department asked districts to test for lead in school water supplies. The agencies recommended that schools identify sources of lead, stop access, communicate results to staff, students, parents and the community and mitigate and repair the problem.

The request for testing followed widespread media coverage of a scandal in Portland Public Schools over lead in drinking water that went unreported.

In August, the state Board of Education — at the behest of Gov. Kate Brown — approved a rule that requires school districts to submit a plan for testing for lead in water and other toxins in school environments and to report any results to the public, but the rule doesn't require actual testing.

State agencies, including the education department and the Oregon Health Authority, have no authority to force school districts to test for lead in water, but that could change next year.

## Mandate possible

Lawmakers are considering legislation that would require districts to test for lead in water and possibly other toxins, said state Sen. Michael Dembrow, D-Portland. Dembrow and Rep. Alissa Kamy-Guyer, D-Portland, spearheaded legislation in 2015 that required districts to test for radon.

"At that time, we focused on radon because to be honest, we assumed there was testing already happening for lead and other things, but radon seemed like something people weren't just beginning to become familiar with."

"As we come to a better understanding of the multiple toxins in schools, we need to expand that," he added.

New York recently enacted a law requiring schools to test for lead by the end of October, report results to the public and develop a plan for reducing exposure to the toxin, the Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office reported.

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.



HEALTH

# Lead report for RCC due out this week

Students, staff advised not to drink water in Riverside Campus building

By Ryan Pfeil  
Mail Tribune 744-7

Concerns about lead and copper in the drinking water at a Rogue Community College Medford campus building have had students and faculty under advisement to not use the fountains since August.

A report on the severity of the problem is due this week, and officials say the report's findings will dictate what steps need to be taken next. No matter what the report shows, however, RCC officials said, they plan to keep checking until all fountains at all campuses in Jackson and Josephine counties are deemed safe to use again.

"Community and student safety is number one, so no matter what the report is, we will be inspecting all three campuses now," said college spokesman Grant Walker. "We're going to check water levels at every building."

Tests on the drinking water at Building A, located on the Riverside Campus in Medford, were prompted after an employee reported seeing cloudy water at the fountain last month. Walker said that fountain was closed immediately. Preliminary testing showed lead levels were at 27 parts per billion, almost double Environmental Protection Agency's limit for acceptable lead levels in potable water, or 15 ppb, Walker said.

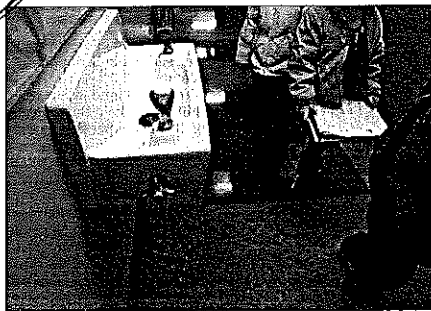
The preliminary results also showed copper levels at the fountain exceeded EPA guidelines, which has set a limit of 1.3 parts per million for the metal. Tests showed the Building A fountain had 1.65 ppm. A full report should be available Tuesday.

RCC officials closed the fountain and ordered tests immediately after being notified of the cloudy water. Students have since been advised to not use the fountains in the building.

Walker said RCC has hired an outside agency to conduct testing on the other fountains. The number of fountains on all campuses and costs associated with testing and repairs were not available.

"We don't know yet," Walker said. "Once we find the source of the problem, we will do whatever repairs are required to make it safe."

— Reach reporter Ryan Pfeil at 541-776-4468 or rpfeil@mailtribune.com. Follow him at www.twitter.com/ryanpfeil.



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

State lawmakers will consider a proposal this week that could make up to \$5 million available for school districts to conduct tests for lead in water.

# Schools could get \$5 million to pay for lead testing

State proposes emergency fund to help with costs

By PARIS AGHEN  
The Tribune

Public schools could receive up to \$5 million to help pay for the cost of testing for lead in campus drinking water, under a proposal lawmakers will consider Sept. 23.

The proposal sets up a fund administered by the Oregon Department of Education. School districts could submit invoices to request reimbursement for costs associated with lead testing between March and December of this year.

The Legislative Fiscal Office has recommended that the Emergency Board approve the \$5 million as a placeholder until state education officials gain a better sense of how much school districts will request for reimbursement.

The education department could submit a revised financial request to the emergency board in December, if requests exceed \$5 million, said Doug Wilson, a legislative fiscal analyst.

"It's really a signal to districts that we are putting money aside for lead testing," Wilson said of the recommendation.

The Oregon Association of School Business Officials conducted a survey of school districts this summer to try to estimate the cost of testing. About 100 districts, representing about half of the state student population, responded. The \$5 million figure is roughly based on those districts' responses, Wilson said.

That amount equates to about \$35 for each lab test, including testing and a small amount to defray the cost of collection, he said. The amount doesn't account for any expenses associated with mitigation of lead contamination.

Some larger school districts such as Portland and Beaverton used contractors to take water samples, which drove up the cost of testing, Wilson said.

Lawmakers pledged to provide some kind of financial assistance to districts after the Oregon Health Authority and the education department last summer asked districts to test for lead in school water supplies. The agencies recommended that schools identify sources of lead, stop access, communicate results to staff, students, parents and the community, and mitigate and repair the problem.

The request for testing followed widespread media coverage of a scandal in Portland Public Schools over lead in drinking water that went unreported.

In August, the state Board of Education — at the behest of Gov. Kate Brown — approved a rule that requires school districts to submit a plan for testing for lead in water and other toxins in school environments and to report any results to the public, but the rule doesn't require actual testing.

State agencies, including the education department and the Oregon Health Authority, have no authority to force school districts to test for lead in water, but that could change next year. Lawmakers are considering legislation during the 2017 session that would require districts to test for lead in water and possibly other toxins, said Sen. Michael Dembrow, D-Portland. Dembrow and Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer, D-Portland, spearheaded legislation in 2015 that required districts to test for radon.

"At that time, we focused on radon because to be honest, we assumed there was testing already happening for lead and other things, but radon seemed like something people were just beginning to become familiar with," Dembrow said.

"As we come to a better understanding of the multiple toxins in schools, we need to expand that," he added.

New York recently enacted a law requiring schools to test for lead by the end of October, report results to the public and develop a plan for reducing exposure to the toxin, the Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office reported.

Pendleton, OR  
(Umatilla Co.)  
East Oregonian  
(Circ. 0.7,014)  
SEP 20 2016  
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

# Schools try to put lead to bed

Testing, replacement has cost district around \$8K

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
East Oregonian

744-7

As elementary schools open in Pendleton, district officials will track "parts per billion" as closely as they'll follow student growth, attendance rates and other statistics. Parts per billion is the unit of measurement schools use to gauge lead in drinking water supplies, which has been a persistent problem for schools across the state.

This problem is particularly acute at McKay Creek Elementary School in the Pendleton School District, which started its school year Monday along with Washington Elementary School, Sherwood Heights

See LEAD/10A

# LEAD: School district has provided a pack of water bottles for each class

Continued from 1A

Superintendent Andy Kovach said replacing front-end hardware has helped lower the levels below the 20 parts per billion threshold the EPA says districts should take action on, but that tactic wasn't effective with some of the McKay Creek water sources and one of the Pendleton High School sources that tested positive the first time.

While further plumbing work is time-consuming and costly, Kovach said they've tested water filters that have been able to reduce lead levels.

Michelle Jones, the district's director of business services, said the district has ordered filters with the intention of installing them by the end of the month.

All told, Jones said all the testing and replacement has cost the district approximately \$8,000, including \$900 to purchase the filters.

"It's a cost, but not an astronomical one," she said. While the school waits for the filters to

be installed, McKay Creek Principal Ronda Smith said the district has provided a pack of water bottles for each class and water dispensers in the cafeteria and in the staff lounge.

Faucets and fountains that contain elevated levels of lead in them are labeled with hot pink signs warning people not to drink from them, and teachers have told all their students what those signs mean, Smith said.

Smith reveals only two parents sharing concern about the school's lead testing results, but they were mostly about how the students would be supplied with water.

Smith said many students already bring their water from home, so the temporary set-up isn't that different from the norm. Although the district seems to have found a solution, Kovach said he was unsure whether the filters would provide short- or long-term relief to some of the district's lead issues.

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierre@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0836.

744-7

# St. Paul schools' water safe

By Seth Gordon  
Pamplin Media Group

After drinking water at some Portland schools was shown to have high levels of lead, St. Paul superintendent Joe Wehrli wasted little time in determining that the school district should test its wa-

ter. The district sampled 23 water sources on June 15 and received testing results, which showed all were below the EPA guideline of 20 parts per billion (ppb), on June 28. "We tested all potable water sources and the results are listed on our district website," Wehrli said. "They all came back very clear."

St. Paul sent its samples to Edge Analytical, which is based out of Burlington, Wash., but also has labs in Wilsonville and Corvallis. Of the 23 sources tested, just three came back with a concentration higher than 5 parts per billion. Those three included the "N. Center" drinking fountain (11 ppb), the science room sink (10.9 ppb) and the northeast hall

drinking fountain in the elementary school (6.1 ppb). Five fountains tested as "no detection," with the minimum threshold for detection being 1 part per billion. Full results are available online at [www.stpaul.k12.or.us/domain/187](http://www.stpaul.k12.or.us/domain/187). "We met as soon as the first reports

See ST PAUL / Page A13

Woodburn, OR  
(Marion Co.)  
Woodburn Independent  
(Circ. W. 3,490)  
SEP 2 1 2016  
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## St. Paul:

From Page A12

came out and I was pretty certain that, No. 1, we just

needed to do it because we have older buildings and older pipes," Wehrli said. "I was assuming that it was going to

be something that was going to be asked for, so we just went ahead. As busy as it got, I'm glad we started early."

744-7

Lebanon, OR  
(Linn Co.)  
Lebanon Express  
(Circ. W. 1,913)  
SEP 2 1 2016  
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

# Lead: LBCC shuts off 8 sinks

High levels found in few water sources on mid-valley campuses

KYLE ODEGARD  
Albany Democrat-Herald

Linn-Benton Community College has shut off water to eight sinks at its facilities in Linn and Benton counties due to high lead levels that exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency's standards.

"They were pretty much needed to know so we could handwashing sinks, not take care of it," he added. Henderson said the issues will be relatively easy to fix. "Temporarily turning water off at the sinks until we can address this issue or disruptions," he said.

For example, two of the sinks were in bathrooms at LBCC's downtown center in Lebanon, Stowell said. LBCC tested 171 water sources where people might draw drinking water, Stowell said. "If you could turn the handle on and fill something up, we tested it,"

Test results were returned on Sept. 14 and the sinks were shut off the same day. The sinks with high lead levels will remain shut off until they are repiped and retested in the coming weeks, said Dave Henderson, LBCC vice president for finance and operations. That should cost an estimated \$5,000 to \$10,000,

and funding will come from the maintenance budget for emergency repairs, Stowell said. The college decided to test its water after reports of lead issues at other educational facilities, Henderson said. Stowell said LBCC wasn't required to test for lead, unlike K-12 schools in Oregon. "But given what was going on, with results in older buildings, we thought this was a good idea for us. ... This was something we needed to know so we could take care of it," he added. Henderson said the issues will be relatively easy to fix. "Temporarily turning water off at the sinks until we can address this issue or disruptions," he said.

The testing, which cost about \$5,400, was done using EPA guidelines, which call for the water to remain stagnant in the lines for at least eight hours. K-12 school districts began testing lead levels in their drinking water statewide after a scare earlier this year in the Portland School District. In August, the State Board of Education adopted rules requiring school districts and public charter schools to develop plans that include lead tests, and to report test findings and information on ongoing monitoring to the public within five days

of receiving the results. The Albany and Corvallis school districts found that a number of water sources at their schools contained elevated lead levels. Lead can get into drinking water from service pipes that contain lead corrode, according to the EPA. Structures built before 1986 are more likely to have lead pipes and fixtures, the agency's website states. Young children, infants and fetuses are particularly vulnerable to lead, and even

low levels of lead in the blood of children can result in behavior and learning problems and other issues. Adults exposed to lead can suffer from increased blood pressure, hypertension and other cardiovascular effects, decreased kidney function and reproductive problems, according to the EPA. Kyle Odegard can be reached at [kyle.odegard@leenet.com](mailto:kyle.odegard@leenet.com), 541-812-6077 or via Twitter @kyleodegard.

David Patton, Democrat-Linn-Benton Community College tested 171 water sources and found elevated levels of lead in eight sinks. "If you could turn the handle and fill something up, we tested it," said Dale Stowell, spokesman.



DAVID PATTON, DEMOCRAT-LINN-BENTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Water at St. Paul schools judged safe**

All 23 water sources test well below EPA guidelines for lead

BY SETH GORDON  
Newberg Graphic Reporter

ST. PAUL — After drinking water at some Portland schools was shown to have high levels of lead, St. Paul superintendent Joe Wehrli wasted little time in determining that the school district should test its water. The district sampled 23 water sources on June 15 and received testing results, which showed all were below the EPA guideline of 20 parts per billion (ppb), on June 28. "We tested all potable water sources and the results are listed on our district website," Wehrli said. "They all came back very clear."

St. Paul sent its samples to Edge Analytical, which is based out of Burlington, Wash., but also has labs in Wilsonville and Corvallis. Of the 23 sources tested, just three came back with a concentration higher than 5 parts per billion. Those three included the "N. Center" drinking fountain (11 ppb), the science room sink (10.9 ppb) and the northeast hall drinking fountain in the elementary school (6.1 ppb). Five fountains tested as "no detection," with the minimum threshold for detection being 1 part per billion. Full results are available online at [www.stpaul.k12.or.us/domain/187](http://www.stpaul.k12.or.us/domain/187). "We met as soon as the first reports came out and I was pretty certain that, No. 1, we just needed to do it because we have older buildings and older pipes," Wehrli said. "I was assuming that it was going to be something that was going to be asked for, so we just went ahead. As busy as it got, I'm glad we started early."

SEP 2 1 2016

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

# Lead tests show mixed results in Lakeview schools

By Kurt Liedtke  
Lake County Examiner

In the wake of the Flint, Mich. water crisis, the State of Oregon demanded all school districts test water lines for lead content. Results of two tests conducted during the summer break were presented to the Lake County School District #7 board of directors, with early results raising concerns about lead content in sinks and drinking fountains.

Urged by Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, the state legislature passed mandates for testing under the criteria that levels above 0.20 parts per million are deemed unsafe for consumption. According to LCSD#7 Supt. Will Cahill, initial lead testing conducted over the summer showed several drinking fountains and sinks testing near or above the 0.20 level. An additional test was later conducted following the lines being flushed, and test results came in much lower overall, though a few specific older lines still came near 0.20. Cahill contributed the higher initial tests partly due to sediment accumulation while lines sat largely stagnant during the summer, but indicated that lines testing high in lead levels have been flagged and removed from service while considering replacement of older drinking fountains or plumbing as needed. Older sinks in classrooms generally tested higher as the biggest red flags.

"We are addressing everything we have tested, bringing in additional drinking water, and shutting down areas that are lead-heavy," said Cahill. "We are evaluating what fixtures may need to be replaced. After the first test we were a little scared, but following the second test our level of concern went down. We are concerned about our students

MIXED RESULTS  
See page 3

## MIXED RESULTS From page 1

and public and will address the issue."

The testing was done as part of a lead and radon testing program mandated by the Oregon Department of Education and Oregon Health Authority, requiring every Oregon school district to submit a plan for addressing testing of both harmful substances by Saturday, Oct. 1. The mandate also incorporates action management plans for pest control and asbestos.

Cahill indicated that Gov. Brown is actively seeking funding to pay for lead testing, which cost the district approximately \$900 per test. However, Cahill was not aware of any funds available for replacement of pipes, sinks or fountains that test high for lead levels. According

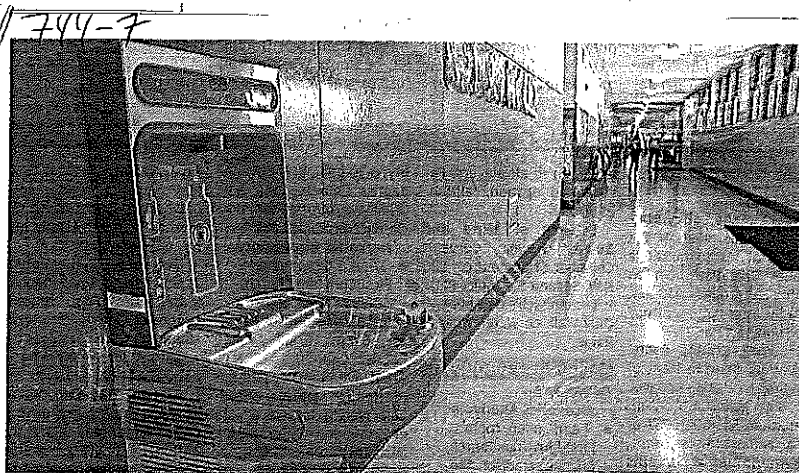
to LCSD#7 Business Mgr. Janet Melsness, replacing every sink and fountain in the district would cost around \$10,000.

Statewide testing for lead in schools have also had mixed results, with the highest levels being reported at nearly every Portland-area school. Only two Portland schools, Forest Park Elementary and Rosa Parks Elementary, were built after 1986, when lead solder and fittings were banned by the Safe Drinking Water Act. Additionally, recently four dormitories at the University of Oregon tested for excessively high lead

content.

Lead pipes carrying drinking water were recognized as a cause of lead poisoning by the late 1800s in the United States, and the practice of lead pipe use was largely outlawed by the 1920s until the lead industry launched a campaign promoting lead pipes, helping to maintain lead's use for many years in public water systems. It was another six decades before lead pipe installation was banned outright.

For more information contact the Lake County School District #7 office at 541-947-3347.



MARK YLEN, DEMOCRAT-HERALD

Midway Plumbing donated a filtered drinking fountain to Waverly Elementary School that comes with a spot to fill a water bottle.

## Company donates water station

Albany schools welcome gift; it's no cure for lead

JENNIFER MOODY  
Albany Democrat-Herald

Reports of high lead levels in the drinking water at some Albany schools had Lance and Stephanie King concerned. They figured their business, Midway Plumbing, might be able to help.

A three-generation business, Midway has been doing community service projects since the days of Stephanie's grandfather. With daughter McKena Roberts, a 2012 West Albany High graduate, just starting a job as a first-grade teacher at Waverly Elementary, the Kings saw an opportunity.

The week before classes started, with permission from Greater Albany Public Schools, the Kings arranged for a new filtered water bottle filling station to be installed in the hallway at

Waverly, not far inside the front door.

The donation ended up being a three-way partnership. Lance King contacted longtime friend Aaron Nofziger of Rite Way Electric, intending to hire him for the wiring job, but Nofziger insisted on donating his effort, Stephanie King said. And when Midway's wholesaler, Standard Supply, heard about the project, it sold the unit to the Kings for cost.

"It was a fun project," Stephanie King said. "We got a thank you and a really cute card from all the kids."

Albany tested all its drinking water sources for lead over the summer following a scare in the Portland district. After the initial round, 12 of 21 buildings, including Waverly, came back reporting at least one water source with levels considered too high.

Those fixtures were taken out of service and will stay that way until they are replaced and retests show

they are safe, the district said. Not all of those have been completed. Full reports for each school to date are available online at <http://albany.k12.or.us/parents/water-testing-information/>. Superintendent Jim Golden said the district is delighted with the bottle station gift, but noted that such units aren't a cure for high lead levels, even though they come with filters.

It's his understanding that lead cannot be filtered without a specific "reverse osmosis" system, which the district plans to install either at outlets that are already certified as safe or any new systems that are tested and found to be safe. (That was the case with the Kings' gift, which was tested before use.)

However, he said, encouraging kids to drink water is part of the district's wellness initiative, and providing filtered, cooled water is in line with that initiative.

Some Albany schools, such as the new student commons at South Albany High School, already have bottle stations, and he said he'd like to make them available at all the district schools.

Stephanie King said she feels the same way.

Filling a reusable bottle cuts down on waste and "just totally makes sense," she said. "It's one of those things, keeping up with the times."

Corvallis, OR  
(Benton Co.)  
Gazette Times  
(Circ. D. 11,525)

SEP 2 1 2016

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

Pendleton, OR  
(Umatilla Co.)  
Pendleton Record  
(Cir. W. 852)

SEP 2 2 2016

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

Canby, OR  
(Clatskanie Co.)  
The Herald  
(Cir. 2XW. 4752)

SEP 2 1 2016

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

### PSD Continues Testing for Lead in Water

The Pendleton School District continues to work on testing its drinking water for the presence of lead. Some sites with levels above the EPA acceptable limit of 20 ppb (parts per billion) on first-draw samples were previously taken out of service. The district recently received results for testing at the new Washington Elementary School, and all tested sources are below the acceptable level of lead. Also, after the replacement of hardware, one of two sinks located in the girls' locker room of the Pendleton High School (old gym is now within acceptable limits).

However, seven of the 10 locations at McKay Creek Elementary School re-tested as still above the acceptable limit, after replacing the hardware. Superintendent Andy Kovach said, "These sites were taken out of service after testing in August. They will remain shut down while we go to the next level of intervention. There are several options we are examining including replacement of additional plumbing filtration systems and a lead test report, tightening primary water lines - if that is necessary, these locations would remain closed throughout the school year. In the meantime, we are providing drinking water for staff and students."

Acopy of all the district water testing results can be viewed at the district office, located at 1100 Southgate, Suite 8, 541-276-6711 and on the district website at [www.pendleton.k12.or.us](http://www.pendleton.k12.or.us). For questions or more information about the district water testing, contact Andy Kovach at 541-996-3251 or [andy.kovach@pendleton.k12.or.us](mailto:andy.kovach@pendleton.k12.or.us).

## N. Marion School District shuts off water fountains

Test results show elevated levels of lead in North Marion Primary School's drinking water

By LINDSAY KEHRER  
for The Oregon Herald

The water samples from the drinking fountains and school sinks at the primary and North Marion Intermediate schools were taken Aug. 24 and results were returned to the district by Test America Sept. 8.

The Oregon Department of Education recommends testing under normal use conditions but, according to a press release from the district, these samples were not taken under normal conditions as water had been sitting in unused pipes for approximately six weeks.

"I was surprised to see the results come back at levels higher than the state guidelines of 20 parts per billion. Our June and July samples showed extremely low levels and we were pretty confident we would be good to go," Superintendent Boyd Keyser explained. "We will not use them until they have a re-test below the state guidelines. If results from the other buildings come back clean, we will follow the recommended collection procedures and did no flushing or rinsing before collecting the samples. It is not hard to imagine the first rush of water out of the faucets having high levels."

As a precaution, all drinking fountains in the district were closed down within two hours of receiving the information from the testing lab, with 240 cases of bottled water and 55 five-gallon water jugs brought in to serve as drinking stations throughout the district to serve its 2,000 students and 120 staff members. District kitchen staff members were also instructed to use bottled water for preparing food and sanitation.

We are being extra cautious given our level of concern on this topic, thus the reason for closing all drinking fountains in all buildings even though not all results are in."

The primary school water will be retested in the coming weeks under normal conditions. While the Aug. 24 test results are not back for the immediate school, retesting may occur if the results indicate the need to do so. The middle and high schools will be retested in the coming weeks.

The district operates its own licensed water system, which is tested on a monthly basis. For more information, visit [www.marion.k12.or.us](http://www.marion.k12.or.us) or contact Keyser at [boydkeyser@marion.k12.or.us](mailto:boydkeyser@marion.k12.or.us).

### State proposes emergency fund to help with costs

By PARIS ACHEN  
Capital Bureau

Public schools could receive up to \$5 million to help pay for the cost of testing for lead in campus drinking water, under a proposal lawmakers will consider Sept. 23.

The proposal sets up a fund administered by the Oregon Department of Education. School districts could submit invoices to request reimbursement for costs associated with lead testing between March and December of this year.

The Legislative Fiscal Office has recommended that the Emergency Board approve the \$5 million as a placeholder until state education officials gain a better sense of how much school districts will request for reimbursement.

The education department could submit a revised financial request to the emergency board in December, if requests exceed \$5 million, said Doug Wilson, a legislative fiscal analyst.

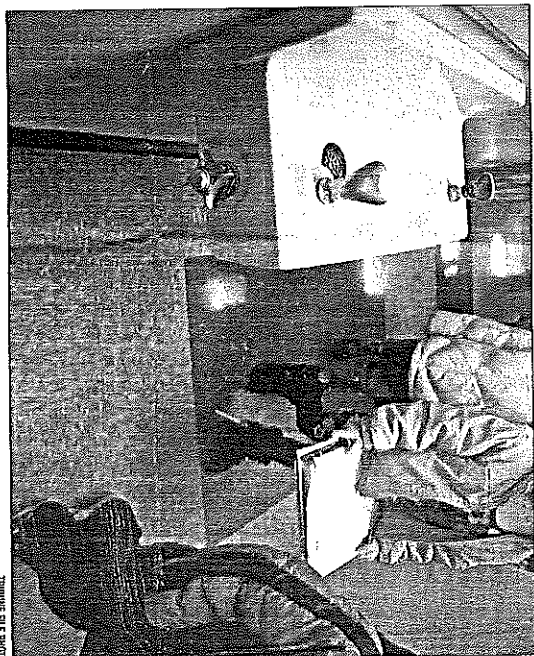
"It's really a signal to districts that we are putting money aside for lead testing," Wilson said of the recommendation.

The Oregon Association of School Business Officials conducted a survey of school districts this summer to try to estimate the cost of testing. About 100 districts representing about half of the state student population, responded. The \$5 million figure is roughly based on those districts' responses, Wilson said.

That amount equates to about \$35 for each lab test, including testing and a small amount to defray the cost of collection, he said. The amount doesn't account for any expenses associated with

# Schools could get \$5 million from Oregon for lead testing

Valley Times  
(Cir. D. 3,860)  
SEP 2 2 2016  
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888



State lawmakers will consider a proposal this week that could make up to \$5 million available for school districts to conduct tests for lead in water.

drinking water that went unreported.

In August, the state Board of Education — at the behest of Gov. Kate Brown — approved a rule that requires school districts to submit a plan for testing for lead in water and other toxins in school environments and to report any results to the public, but the rule doesn't require actual testing.

State agencies, including the education department and the Oregon Health Authority, have no authority to force school districts to test for lead in water, but that could change next year. Lawmakers are considering legislation that would require districts to test for lead in water and possibly other toxins, said Sen. Michael Dembrow, D-Portland.

"As we come to a better understanding of the multiple toxins in schools, we need to expand that," he added.

New York recently enacted a law requiring schools to test and report results to the public for lead by the end of October and develop a plan for reducing exposure to the toxin, the Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office reported.

# School district checks for lead in water

## One sink at Crooked River Elementary had trace amounts of lead — all others in the district are well below safe levels

By Holly Scholz  
Reporter

Of the 131 drinking fountains and food handling sinks within local schools, only one tested positive for an elevated lead content reading, which Crook County School District Superintendent Duane Yecha called good news.

"We took it offline the same day we had the result back," Yecha said, noting that the affected fixture was located within the remodelled Crooked River Elementary



DUANE YECHA

See WATER / Page A7

# water: Crook County School District will likely seek reimbursement if available

From page A1

Friday, Sept. 16 — the same day lead test results came back.

According to Yecha, the one fixture that did not pass the test is new, was in a school that was closed last year, and was taken out of service immediately until the situation can be remedied.

"We started testing the oldest facilities first, thinking they would be the most suspect," he said. "Interestingly enough, the fixture we got this reading on was actually new. That classroom has a new fixture in it, and that's the one that was above the 20 parts per billion."

Water is considered safe if lead levels are less than 20 parts per billion.

The testing was the result of updated guidelines from the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Health Authority.

Some school districts in Oregon — mostly the Portland area — are experiencing heightened levels of lead in their drinking water, which is generating media attention, Yecha pointed out.

According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, lead can enter drinking water when service pipes that contain lead corrode. Lead is a toxic metal that can be harmful to human health even at low exposure levels.

"A dose of lead that would have little effect on an adult can have a significant effect on

a child. 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 reports.

Yecha said they tested the local school drinking water in order to protect kids.

"We're trying to be very transparent about this and follow the guidelines of the Oregon Department of Ed and the Oregon Health Authority," Yecha said. "We have also established a regular testing schedule to ensure that we continue to provide a safe environment for our students and staff."

Most fixtures — meaning drinking fountains and food preparation sinks — within the district schools were tested this summer, said CCSD Maintenance Director Leland Bliss.

This included nine fixtures at Barnes Butte Elementary, 34 at Crook County High School, 25 at Crook County Middle School, 38 at Crooked River Elementary, 12 at Pioneer Complex, and three at Ward Rhoden Stadium.

Five fixtures at Paulina School were tested in August of 2015, and five were tested at Powell Butte Community Charter School in August 2014. All those results were also below safe levels.

Brothers School has not been tested for lead but will be soon.

Yecha pointed out that Brothers, Paulina and Powell



JASON CHANEY/CENTRAL OREGONIAN

Funding may soon be available for Oregon school districts to get reimbursed for testing lead in water.

Butte schools are tested quarterly because their water supply is from wells that continue to test negative for coliform bacteria.

The school district hired a consultant, Farallon, and an OHA certified lab to conduct the lead testing. The original bid was \$7,000, Bliss said, but more work was added and the cost went up an unspecified amount. Funds came

from the facilities budget.

Oregon public schools could receive up to \$5 million to help pay for the cost of testing for lead in campus drinking water, under a proposal lawmakers will consider today, Sept. 23.

"The proposal sets up a fund administered by ODE. School districts could submit invoices to request reimbursement for costs associated with lead

testing between March and December of this year.

The request for testing followed widespread media coverage of a scandal in Portland Public Schools over lead in drinking water that went unreported.

Lawmakers pledged to provide some kind of financial assistance to districts after the Oregon Health Authority and the education depart-

ment last summer asked districts to test for lead in school water supplies. The agencies recommended that schools identify sources of lead, stop access, communicate results to staff, students, parents and the community and mitigate and repair the problem.

"It's likely that we would request reimbursement for it," Yecha said, should the proposal pass.

11/11/16

EDUCATION

Allen's P.C.B. Established 1888

Medford, OR  
(Jackson Co.)  
Mail Tribune  
(Cir. D, 51,500)  
SEP 23 2016

# Most RCC drinking fountains safe

## Water still off at four fountains in school's Building A in Medford local report 744-7

Three buildings at Rogue Community College's downtown Medford campus have safe drinking water, with tests pending at a fourth building. Tests on drinking fountains on campus were prompted last month after an employee reported seeing cloudy water at a fountain in Building A.

The fountain in Building A, preliminary tests showed lead levels were at 27 parts per billion, almost double the Environmental Protection Agency limit of 15 ppb. Copper levels also were above EPA guidelines, at 1.65 parts per million. The safe threshold is 1.3 ppm. RCC reported Thursday that

preliminary results showed water in buildings B, C and G on the Riverside campus is safe to consume, though exact test numbers were not available.

Warning signs remain in place at the campus's Higher Education Center building, because tests on the water there are not yet complete. All Building A water fountains will remain closed until additional tests and any necessary repairs are finished.

Drinking fountains at the Table Rock campus in White City and the Redwood campus in Grants Pass remain open, but community college officials said tests on those fountains are being conducted. "We are testing them just out of caution," said RCC spokesman Grant Walker. Results will be reported as tests are completed, Walker added.

Bend, OR  
(Deschutes Co.)  
Bend Bulletin  
(Circ. W. 27,547)  
SEP 2 3 2016  
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

### BRIEFING 744-7 Elevated lead found at school

One water fixture at Crooked River Elementary School has been taken out of service after water tests showed elevated levels of lead, according to a news release from the Crook County School District.

Of the 131 drinking fountains and kitchen faucets the district tested, only one was above the state guidelines for lead.

Portland, OR  
(Multnomah Co.)  
The Oregonian  
(Circ. D. 247,833)  
SEP 2 4 2016  
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

### Drinking fountains shut off at Capitol

744-7

**By Dana Tims**  
*The Oregonian/OregonLive*  
Preliminary tests show drinking water in the state Capitol, just like water in scores of schools and other public facilities around the state, contains potentially unsafe levels of lead.

The findings prompted building administrators to shut off several drinking fountains, post signs warning against drinking from bathroom sinks and order up more tests to see how widespread the problem might be. Based on early testing, the problem appears concentrated in sinks and fixtures in the oldest parts of the Capitol, which date to 1938.

"At this point, it's a little premature to know what the cause of the lead is," Paron Hill, the Legislature's administrator, told members of the Legislative Administration Committee on Friday. "We're now going to go back and retest everything."

Hill said results have come back for 63 out of 113 locations tested around the building. Of those 63, eight showed elevated levels of lead. Those spots included a break-room sink, two historic drinking fountains and five sinks in the Capitol's original bathrooms.

Hill said most were "fairly high above" the federal safety threshold of 15 parts per billion.

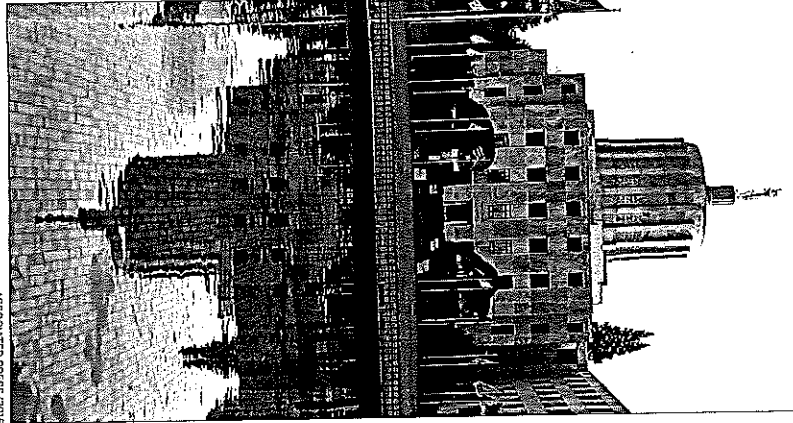
in the offices and hearing rooms of the Capitol's east and west wings, which were added to the structure in 1977, Hill said.

Legislators decided to test various Capitol water facilities this summer, after high lead levels showed up in schools and public buildings around the state, said House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland. Kotek added that some of the highest lead levels, according to preliminary tests, are in fountains and sinks in and around her office. The speaker's office resides in the older part of the building, behind the House chambers.

"We've shut them all off," she said of fountains across the Capitol, "and we're now stocking plenty of bottled water."

Two types of tests will now be conducted to pinpoint the cause of the problem, Hill said.

The first will involve testing water that's allowed to sit overnight. The second will allow water to run from a fixture before testing. The first test is intended to see if the fixture itself is contaminating the water, while the second will let technicians determine if the pipes beyond the fixture are the source of the problem.



ASSOCIATED PRESS/ZUMA

The Capitol building is reflected in a pond on the Capitol grounds in Salem. Lead has been found at unsafe levels in several drinking fountains at the Capitol.

more testing could lead to further positive findings and, but none of the other state buildings," said Rep. Greg Smith, R-Heppner. "We could have a can of worms here."

[dtnm@oregonian.com](mailto:dtnm@oregonian.com)

Pendleton, OR  
(Umatilla Co.)  
East Oregonian  
(Circ. D. 7,014)  
SEP 2 4 2016  
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

### State will pay \$5 million for lead testing

744-7  
By PARIS ACHEN  
Capitol Bureau

**SALEM** — The Oregon Emergency Board on Friday approved \$5 million to help pay for the cost of testing for lead in school drinking water.

The action sets up a fund at the Oregon Department of Education. School districts may request reimbursement for costs associated with lead testing by submitting invoices with the education department.

Lawmakers pledged to provide some kind of financial assistance to districts after the Oregon Health Authority and the education department last summer asked districts to test for lead in school water supplies.

See LEAD/12A

### LEAD: Amount covers \$35 per lab test

**Continued from 1A**  
of lead in campus drinking water.

"To have the full support of every campus leader and every residing officer on this issue to make sure money is available for our districts I think is a testament to our responsiveness to this issue," said House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, who co-chairs the emergency board.

The \$5 million will serve as a placeholder until state education officials gain a better sense of how much school districts will request for reimbursement, said Doug Wilson, a legislative fiscal analyst.

Kotek emphasized Friday that the \$5 million is only a starting point for assisting schools with the lead crisis. She said she anticipates that school districts also will request help in paying for lead mitigation.

The Oregon Association of School Business Officials conducted a survey of school districts this summer to try to estimate the cost of testing. About 100 districts, representing about half of the state student population, responded. The \$5 million figure is roughly based on those districts' responses.

That amount comes out to about \$35 for each lab test, including testing and a small amount to defray the cost of collection, he said. School districts still aren't technically required to test for lead. In August, the state Board of Education — at the behest of Gov. Kate Brown — approved a rule that requires school districts to submit a plan for testing for lead in water and other toxins in school environments and to report any results to the public, but the rule doesn't require actual testing.

State agencies, including the education department and the Oregon Health Authority, have no authority to force school districts to test for lead in water, but that could change next year. Lawmakers are considering legislation during the 2017 session that would require districts to test for lead in water and possibly other toxins. 744-7

# State to pay for schools' lead testing

TRACY LOEW 744-7  
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Oregon school districts may be reimbursed for money spent testing school taps for lead.

On Friday, the Legislature's joint emergency board reserved \$5 million in general fund money to pay for the tests.

The Salem-Keizer School District completed testing taps in all 81 schools and other buildings just before school started, at an estimated cost of \$300,000 to \$350,000.

While the reimbursement will be welcome, it won't cover all the costs, district spokesman Jay Remy said. The state will pay lab testing fees, but not for labor.

The district's lab fees are estimated at about \$67,113 to-date, Remy said. It expects to spend another \$5,000 to \$8,000 by the end of the year.

More than a hundred taps in 37 district buildings were shut off because of high lead levels. One tap at Pringle Elementary School tested at 14,000 parts per billion - nearly three times the level the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency considers toxic waste.

A second sample from each of those taps is being analyzed to determine whether the problem is with the fixture or the plumbing.

Analysis of those second samples is complete at 17 schools. With a few exceptions, they show that the problems lie with the fixtures, such as faucets or water coolers.

State health and education officials had urged districts to test all taps used for drinking or cooking over the summer.

Districts that submit samples between March 1, 2016 and Dec. 1, 2016 are eligible, subject to some conditions.

Education Service Districts and char-



TRC technician Shawn Contreras prepares to take a lead testing sample at Pringle Elementary School.

DANIELLE PETERSON / STATESMAN JOURNAL

ter schools also are eligible.

In August, the State Board of Education adopted a rule requiring districts that test for lead to post results within

five days of receiving them.

Check the Salem-Keizer School District's results at [http://www.salkeiz.k12.or.us/parents/water-testing-in-](http://www.salkeiz.k12.or.us/parents/water-testing-in-formation)

formation.

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

Salem, OR  
(Marion Co.)  
Statesman Journal  
(Circ. D. 33,147)  
SEP 25-2016  
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

The Elgin School District has replaced a brass fitting at Stella Mayfield School to address a lead issue in one of its drinking water fixtures. The fixture, a drinking fountain in a classroom at the school, which serves students in kindergarten through eighth grade, was the lone one in the school district found to have a lead level above the acceptable EPA limit, according to test results from Pixis Labs of

See Elgin / page 5A

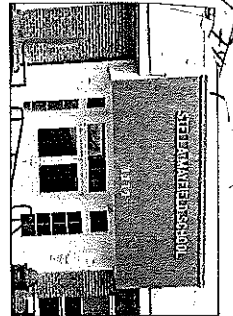
By Dick Mason  
The Observer  
The Elgin School District has replaced a brass fitting at Stella Mayfield School to address a lead issue in one of its drinking water fixtures. The fixture, a drinking fountain in a classroom at the school, which serves students in kindergarten through eighth grade, was the lone one in the school district found to have a lead level above the acceptable EPA limit, according to test results from Pixis Labs of

## School district says lead found

Level exceeds EPA limit in 1 water fixture

Inside School officials in the Joseph, Malwa and Troy school districts have reason to smile.  
Page 2A

The Elgin School District has replaced a brass fitting at Stella Mayfield School to address a lead issue in a water fixture.



LAGRANDE, OR  
(Union Co.)  
The Observer  
(Circ. 3444, 5,260)  
SEP 28 2016  
Allen's P.C.B. Est.

## ELGIN

Continued from Page 1A

Portland, said School District Superintendent Dianne Greif.

The drinking fountain has been turned off and will not be used again until test results indicate that the lead levels in its water are below EPA standards. Tests will be conducted as soon as the school district receives materials from Pixis Labs, Greif said.

"We are waiting for the testing supplies," the superintendent said.

Once collected, water from the fountain will be sent to

Pixis Labs for analysis.

Bottled water is being provided to students in the affected classroom until its water is determined to meet EPA standards, which is 20 parts per billion.

Overall, Greif said, she is pleased with how the lead testing went.

"We are happy that across the district there was a problem with just one fixture," she said.

Greif said she is relieved because of the age of the school district's buildings. Its high school and Stella Mayfield School are several decades old. Water from older buildings is generally

more likely to have higher lead levels.

"We thought there would be more (fixtures with lead levels over the EPA limit)," Greif said.

The Elgin School District is among many in Oregon testing their water over the past summer. All school districts have completed or are undergoing testing after Gov. Kate Brown called on Oregon's 197 school districts to craft procedures for testing lead, radon and other chemicals on their campuses.

In mid-May, the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Health Authority created a plan regarding lead

in school water.

The plan requests all school districts that get water from public water systems test for lead in school buildings; requires districts to use certified water testing labs to process the water samples; asks ODE and OHA to develop a method for schools to report results to OHA; and calls for OHA to provide drinking water expertise to schools for support as they test.

Contact Dick Mason at 541-786-5386 or [dmason@lagrandeobserver.com](mailto:dmason@lagrandeobserver.com).

Follow Dick on Twitter @IgoMason.

744-7

## Wallowa districts meet EPA standards

By Dick Mason  
The Observer

School officials in the Joseph, Wallowa and Troy school districts have reason to smile.

Certified lab test results from all of their drinking water fixtures are in, and the news is good. Water from all of the fixtures has been determined to have lead levels below the EPA limit, according to school officials.

"I am very happy," said Wallowa School District Superintendent Bret Uptmor.

Uptmor said he had reason for concern because the Wallowa School District has a number of buildings that are decades old. Water from such buildings tends to have higher lead levels. Uptmor said the good test results reflect how well the Wallowa School District's buildings have been maintained over the years.

"When I look at our facilities, I realize that many people have taken excellent care of them," Uptmor said.

Joseph School District Superintendent Lance Homan is also delighted with the results.

"It is exciting and reassuring for the kids and families," Homan said.

The companies that conducted the lead testing process for the Joseph, Troy and Wallowa school districts included Box R Water Analysis Lab of Prineville and Neilson Research Corp. of Medford.

Fred Byers, Troy School District's teacher, said he was not surprised by the results for his district, which is 49 miles northwest of Enterprise. He explained that Troy's water is tested every few months and at least once a year for lead, since the water comes from a well. Byers said periodic testing is important.

He added it is unlikely Troy, which has four students this year, would ever have lead levels above EPA standards because its water never sits long in pipes. Byers said water that does sit more likely to have elevated lead levels. The water the Troy School District uses is drawn from a well that is just 30 feet from the school, Byers said.

## Tests Say No Lead In RR School Water

Brian Mortensen  
Rogue River Press

Water at each of the three campuses in the Rogue River School District was determined to have no measurable amounts of lead during testing this summer.

With concern over lead in drinking water at various places in Oregon, including Medford, this year, the Rogue River School District took the initiative to have its water tested during the summer. Superintendent Paul Young said at the Rogue River School Board on Wed., Sept. 21.

Young showed the board the report prepared by Grants Pass Water Laboratory that showed that the water at each campus registered "NT" or "not enough to even report," Young said.

"Rogue River Elementary West passed with flying colors. Rogue River Elementary East passed with flying colors," he said.

He said there was one spot where testers thought lead appeared, in a hand sink in the Rogue River Junior-Senior High School kitchen. That's not a source of drinking water, so it wasn't an immediate concern, but district facilities director Larry Plew contacted the water lab.

The lab said the water from the sink wasn't tested correctly, so it was retested and found to have no detectable lead.

Young said one advantage the district has is that, for the past couple of years, it has switched out a lot of its drinking fountains and taken out a lot of the old plumbing connected to them.

Plew said five tests at each building site were conducted, including testing at perimeters of each campus to get an overall view. He said the City of Rogue River, which receives its water both from wells and the Rogue River, tests its water quality

in locations around the city for arsenic and lead poisoning and found no issues.

Jamie Wright, RRJSHS Principal and Jan el Reed, RRES principal both reported increases in their student numbers at the beginning of the school year.

Wright said there were 67 new students at the junior-senior high school, and Reed said the elementary school had 26 new students more than the school had at its highest point during the 2015-16 year.

The district reports a total student body count of 813 students, 453 at the elementary school, 360 at the junior-senior high school. Adding the 191 students at River's Edge Academy Charter School (REACH), the district's student body reaches four figures, at 1,004.

Dr. April Harrison, the district director of special programs, district attendance so far this school year has been at 95.84 percent.

"I'm very happy because our goal last year was to be at about 90 percent," she said. "The goal for the end of this school year is to be around 92 percent. If we continue on this trajectory, we're going to crush it."

Cecile Enright, director at River's Edge, said her school's outreach program in Wimer at the Evans Valley Educational Co-op had been a success. It has one teacher who works four days a week and a parent who has been working as an educational assistant. She said the Evans Valley location had given the school's more at-risk students an additional place to meet, and she said high school students there are beginning to take classes at RRJSHS.

Under Young's suggestion, the board allowed for REACH's enrollment ceiling to max out at 195, room for three more students under its current enrollment, to

allow for the Evans Valley students. REACH's contract already allows 10 percent enrollment growth each year, but that would give the school just 182. The higher ceiling allows for the influx of students from Evans Valley.

Enright said REACH has 12 students, both in Rogue River and Wimer, who are planning to enter college next year. Those students meet at both locations, and on Fridays, the students go on field trips and meet with community members, including business owners, to talk about careers.

Plew said the elementary school is still waiting for 194 student desks, 23 teacher desks and 22 kidney-shaped tables that have yet been misplaced. He said a set of new faucets for the restrooms at RRJSHS that have been on order have also been misplaced, astray in the shipping lanes.

The board approved the extra-duty coaching positions for the fall. The district and its teachers, as part of the bargaining agreement they reached last April approved, funds coaching positions based on the viability of each program. That means coaches in boys' soccer and cross country will be paid extra-duty stipends, along with two coaches in football and volleyball, which were already paid positions. The only fall sports coaches who are not paid are boys' soccer co-coach Bruce Sund and girls' soccer head coach Rob Hileman, who are both members of the school board.

The board adopted the proposed three-year extension of Young's contract as superintendent. The contract extends through the 2018-19 school year. Young has been superintendent since the 2011-12 school year.



Molalla, OR  
(Clackamas Co.)  
Mollala Pioneer  
(Circ. W. 2,750)  
SEP 23 2016

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

# Lead levels still test high in Colton Elementary School

By Cindy Fama  
Mollala Pioneer

The outcome from the second round of water testing shows elevated levels of lead are still present in some of the drinking fountains at Colton Elementary School. The Colton School District received the results from a Sept. 6 retest of lead content in Colton schools' water supply last week. District superintendent Jay Kosik said all drinking fountains in the main halls and gymnasium of the elementary school were tested. Three of the six did not meet the allowable limits for lead, while three were within the .05 safe limits set by Oregon Public Health Department. The three fountains that exceeded the limits had lead levels of .0272, .0262 and .0179.

"We will be replacing all the drinking fountains in the elementary school," Kosik said. "Until they are replaced and retested and the lead levels are found to be within safe levels the district will be continue to provide water dispensers for our elementary school students and staff."

At the Colton Middle School all the main hall drinking fountain and food prep area in the kitchen were tested. The fountains all passed with a non-detected score. The kitchen area had a lead level of .0146. It is a traceable amount but within safe limits.

The Colton District office was again tested and lead levels were detected at .0272. Bottled water will be available for the staff and employees of the building.

See OTHW/ Page 7

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

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

# Glendale schools remain closed until test results arrive

GLENDALE — The Glendale School District is closed again today after a break in a water main on Tuesday. A precautionary boil water notice is also in effect for residents of Glendale until later today, when water lab results are received by the city. "Things happen, I think there was a seal that broke," City Recorder Dawn Huss told the Daily Courier today. The break was fixed Tuesday night, but the city is waiting to guarantee the water's safety until after lab results are received tonight.

The break was discovered Tuesday around 9 a.m., and water supplies began to be shut down at 10 a.m. until the entire city's supply was eventually shut off a few hours later. There were approximately 380 water supply hook-ups that were shut down until late Tuesday night. This is the third day that school has been canceled due to the water main break. Students were sent home around 1 p.m. on Tuesday and school was canceled all day Wednesday.

# Colton School District employees resign

By Cindy Fama  
Mollala Pioneer

Maintenance supervisor Rob Shannak, who has served the Colton School District for 22 years, presented a letter of resignation to the Colton School Board during an emergency-chaired meeting on Sept. 12. Shannak said that he had received flawed evaluation in each year of employment until the end of the 2015-2016 school year, at which point the district's new administration asked the he improve his communication with school officials. He told the board that he had done what was asked, but was placed on a plan of assistance and given more job duties. "With how I have been treated and what I know, it is in my interest to resign," Shannak said. "I don't care to be part of this administration."

Shannak's resignation leaves the district with four maintenance employees to service all three schools. Colton superintendent Jay Kosik said the district does not plan to replace Shannak at this time and he is counting on the remaining four-person staff to cover the same responsibilities as the former five-person staff.

If the district finds that additional maintenance staff is needed, Kosik said the board will deal with that when the time comes. In a related matter, the school board accepted the resignation of former district business manager Heather Penn, who steps down the end of September after three months on the job. Penn was one of 12 district employees to resign during the past year.

The board also rejected a proposal to hire Craig Cervantes as the new high school wrestling coach, defeating the notion by a 3-2 vote. The coaching position opened in June after school administrators decided not to renew the contract of Kerry Benham, who was dismissed after 20 years as the Vikings' head coach.

The decision to let Benham go led to a special school board meeting on April 20 at the middle school where dozens of community members and wrestlers showed support for the coach. On another topic, parents of students with special needs voiced their concerns over what they feel is a lack of support for special education students in the schools.

This school year, the district made it a point to bring back some of the students who had been attending other schools and address their special needs within the district. Five special education (SPED) students returned to the high school and two to the elementary school, bringing the total number of IEP students within the district to 92.

A question was asked concerning the training of the educational assistants that had been hired to help with in the SPED program. Kosik said they are continuing to train staff with one day of intensive training and another day of instruction scheduled within the next month.

The parents of some special education students felt their concerns, when taken to the elementary school administrator, were not dealt with to their satisfaction. After the meeting, several parents discussed a possible recall petition of school board members. Parents at the meeting voiced appreciation to district board members for their quick response to the recent lead testing results that showed elevated levels of lead that were deemed unacceptable and to have bottled water for the students until more tests are done.

Portland, OR  
(Multnomah Co.)  
Portland Tribune  
(Circ. 2xW. 120,000)

SEP 29 2016  
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888



## READERS' LETTERS

The Portland Tribune Thursday, September 29, 2016

# School lead testing started back in the 1980s

Our Sept. 15 article about the resignation of Andy Pringle has put us in a position as for hand Public Schools senior manager of health and safety. I prompted me to go online and read the 36-page analysis of the PPS lead problem. Referring to the Stoll-Berna report, it seemed to be an honest attempt to analyze the origins of the problems associated with the discovery of lead in the water systems of Portland schools.

There was, however, one section in the report that I thought was incorrect. It was stated that lead levels in the water system were first tested in the mid-1980s. During that period I was supervisor of the PPS Architecture, Planning and Engineering Department. Because of the growing awareness of the presence of hazardous materials in buildings, we conducted studies and tested to determine the presence of asbestos, radon soil contamination from building materials and, of course, the potable water systems. Based on positive findings of these areas of concern, lead personnel were hired and subprogram was established to deal with all hazardous materials.

In approximately 1986, I introduced a program to retest the lead levels in the potable water systems to what were the approved standards. This was accomplished by the introduction of the daily system flushing of the water system to remove any residual lead. The program became responsible of the various facilities of the various facilities. Their efforts achieved the stated results and subsequent testing confirmed that the program was successful.

In 2002, the district fired custodial staff and union their responsibilities to contractors who had largely untrained, non-union, minimum wage employees. At that time, I was no longer with the district so I'm speculating that the abatement program became a victim of a misguided "cost saving" measure.

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

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