

APR 5 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

TD water quality earns top marks

By Neita Cecil
cecil@thedalleschronicle.com

With the water quality crisis in Flint, Mich., making headlines, citizens in The Dalles can rest assured, according to officials, since the city's water treatment system has earned top marks for years.

The Dalles is an "outstanding performer" in Oregon, putting it in the top 10 percent in the state for water quality, and is one of just 300 water systems in the U.S. that is a

member of the Partnership for Safe Water, said The Dalles Public Works Director Dave Anderson.

The main problem Flint has doesn't even exist in The Dalles: "We don't have lead service lines to begin with, and they do," Anderson said.

Flint and other older water systems - mostly found in the eastern United States - use lead service lines or even lead main water lines.

"We are not one of the

See WATER Page A5

Water

Continued from Page A1

2,000 utilities in the nation with elevated lead levels in their drinking water supply," Anderson said.

"We don't have near the potential that they have in the first place, but we've been doing treatment since the early 90s to make sure the source we do have - which is lead solder on copper plumbing on homes built prior to 1984 - is properly treated, he said.

"We treat the water, so if that solder's there, the water's protected from that source of lead," Anderson said.

"The city uses phosphates to control the leaching of lead into the customers' water from piping systems," he said. "In fact,

we were one of the first utilities to do so, and it has worked very well."

Anderson added, "It's worth noting that prior to the recent water quality emergency in Flint, that city got its water from Detroit, which also successfully uses phosphates to control lead leaching. The crisis in Flint was caused by the city switching water sources and failing to apply any corrosion control to the new source."

Flint residents have seen a spike in blood lead levels and an increase in Legionnaire's Disease, a waterborne illness.

In The Dalles, over 500 voluntary in-home water samples on pre-1984 homes over the last 22 years have all been well below the federal water quality limit of 15 parts per billion of lead.

The highest sample was 5 ppb. The latest sample, taken in July 2015, was 1.3 ppb.

The Dalles had to do more frequent testing initially - sampling 60 homes every six months for two years - but as results have come back well below the limit, monitoring requirements have significantly eased. Now, it tests

30 homes once every three years.

The city does have lead "pigtailed" in its water system, short, 18-inch long pieces of lead pipe used to connect the service line to the water main, but "we don't have any way of knowing where those pig-tails are located, and for over 20 years now, we have been removing them whenever we find them," Anderson said.

The city has also been a member of the Partnership for Safe Water since 2001. "We apply standards at our water treatment plant that surpass the regulatory requirements," Anderson said.

The Dalles will be getting an award in Chicago this summer - though the city won't be present to accept it - for being a member of the Partnership for 15 years, Anderson said.

Only 300 utilities in the nation - three of them in Oregon - belong to the Partnership.

"That's one example of things we've tried to do to step up and provide the highest quality of water we can to our customers and have an independent evaluation of that," he

said. The city also does not use chloramine in its system, a chemical that environmental activist Erin Brockovich has harshly criticized.

Anderson said the city uses free chlorine as a disinfectant. "Free chlorine dissipates over time and chloramine lasts a lot longer than free chlorine does. So if you have a really large distribution system that the water takes a long time to pass through the distribution system, they use chloramine."

There are byproducts if you use chloramine, he said.

But there are also byproducts formed with chlorine, and those byproducts are regulated.

In other water supply news, Anderson said the city's snowpack is at nearly 100 percent of the long term water content average. Last year at this time, the snow pack was at just 8.9 percent of average.

"Last year was a record low snowpack," he said. Not only was precipitation below normal, but early worm weather melted what little snow was available.

744-1

Gresham wants residents to think about their water

SAVING WATER
To learn more about water programs go to: gresham.oregon.gov/water/

The offer extends to one bottle per utility account holder. To pre-order a bottle, email utilitybilling@gresham.oregon.gov with the subject line "water bottle order." In the email include a name, utility property address and contact information.

To help keep water safe, the city encourages residents to have their utilities inspected for backflow. Backflow is water flowing in the opposite direction of its intended direction, resulting in cross connection between safe and unsafe drinking water. Possible cross connection happens with sprinkler systems, swimming pools and hot water heaters like food tanks, boilers, and other water supplies like hoses.

To protect from backflow, mechanical devices are installed on water services lines to prevent contaminated water from entering the drinking water supply. Backflow devices must be state approved, properly installed and tested annually.

The city also recommends residents conserve water by checking their sprinkler system for leaks. The first step is to inspect for broken or missing sprinkler heads. Then, check the connection between the sprinkler head and the pipe or hose to see if water is pooling, because that means there could be a leak in the system.

A leak as small as the tip of a ballpoint pen can waste about 6,300 gallons of water per month, according to city information. Finally, take a look at where and when the lawn or garden gets watered to cut down on situations where the sprinkler is on when it's raining or when the sprinkler is watering the driveway and not the plants.

By JODI WEINBERGER
The Outlook

A leaky faucet is more troublesome than just the annoying drip-drip-drip keeping you awake at night. The city of Gresham is putting a focus on water waste like this, along with conservation, safety and emergency preparedness by declaring the first week of May as Water Week.

The proclamation recognizes water as the city's most valuable natural resource for public health, fire protection, support for the economy and quality of life. In the proclamation, Gresham Mayor Shane Bemis calls on residents to help protect water resources from pollution, leaks, boilers, and other water conservation issues.

Another part of the proclamation asks every household to have in storage at least one gallon of water per person for a three-day supply in case there is an emergency that disrupts the city's ability to deliver safe tap water. To help with this, the city is holding a water bottle distribution event from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, May 4.

The city is selling 3-gallon BPA-free emergency water bottles for \$9 with \$1 of each sale going to the Red Cross. Supplies are limited and bottles will be handed out May 4 to people who pre-order bottles.

the good neighbor.

American Red Cross.

Help people in need by donating blood today!

property owners to let them know these sidewalks are in need of repair," Paulhus said. "The property owner pays for the fix, and they can pay the contractor direct and reduce their cost by about 15 percent or so. But also, we offer the LID program so they can finance it through the city if they want for 10 years. Then the burden of trying to pay that cost isn't so great."

The city council also accepted the motion to award the contract for the LID project to Quiet Life Construction LLC. The company offered a bid of \$31,914.78 for the work, which was \$43,000 less than the next closest bidder.

"At first we had one bid that was extremely high," Paulhus said. "So we put it back out to bid. We still had one bid that was high, but we got one that was consistent with what we've received in the past." Paulhus believes construction of the LID projects will begin in the next several weeks.

Contact Josh Benham at 541-786-4230 or jbenham@lagrandeobserver.com. Follow Josh on Twitter @jgobbenham.

Gresham, OR
(Multnomah Co.)
Outlook
(Circ. 2xw. 7,434)

APR 1 2 2016
Adm. P.C.B. Est. 1888

grinders. A motor pool division project taking shape is the Adams Avenue Streetscape Furniture project, which Paulhus said is ready to be put out to bid. Last year, the division's project put in new fixtures on the street including sidewalks and light poles.

"The project this year is to put the furniture on top of that, like bike racks, trash cans and benches," he said. "I'm putting the order together to get those furniture items when we get a contractor on board. My goal is to have it done by July."

A major engineering division project is the City Wide Voluntary Sidewalk Local Improvement District program, which was officially adopted at Wednesday's La Grande City Council regular session. It will concentrate on the east side of town, but any La Grande resident can take advantage of the program. It's set up for property owners to finance sidewalk repairs and similar work over a 10-year period. In 2015, the total cost of projects repaired under the LID was \$15,188.10.

"We go out and inspect the sidewalks and notify the projects, new sewer line extensions are in the works on both South 20th Street and East L Avenue where the water line extensions would be installed. A major project to be done this year is the Cast in Place Pipe work, a project being put together to target a \$250,000 contract for our sanitary sewer pipes. Paulhus said it's a complicated process, but essentially a fiberglass pipe is pushed down a sewer line by pressurized water. The pipe is heated, and routers cut out existing taps from the inside.

"We can go replace lines without digging up any dirt," he said. "It also cuts down on infiltration. By doing this, we've cut down our infiltration numbers by 14 percent already. That means we have a savings at the treatment plant, because we don't have to treat the water."

New screens are going to be built at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Paulhus said people are flushing large items like diapers down the toilet, which plug up grinders at the plant. The screens would catch the objects and pull them out prior to reaching the

PROJECTS
Continued from Page 1A

"We already have a water line on the other part of 20th Street, so we have to extend it to be able to cover those south lots," Paulhus said. "We're developing the plans so it can go to the department of review. Once they sign off on it, we can go ahead and construct."

Another potential project is a 295-foot water line extension of East L Avenue. Paulhus said a retired resident wants to fund it, but had to discuss the project with other family members before going ahead with it. City workers are also implementing a new state-of-the-art water meter system.

"We try to keep (water meters) on a regular replacement schedule," Paulhus said. "If you don't keep them up, then they're outdated and you can't get parts for them. With the new system, we'll be able to read all the water meters from two spots in town through an electronic reader."

Paulhus said that would save man-hours to be used in more pressing public work division projects. The department will also be doing regular maintenance at the La Grande watershed 17 miles south of town when the snow's gone.

As far as sewer division

"We have a fire hydrant flushing program going on," Paulhus said. "It actually opens up fire hydrants with flow tests for water supply so we can keep records of that, and track which fire hydrants we need to repair." Paulhus said in a municipality like La Grande, hydrants are designed to supply 1,000 gallons a minute in case of a fire. The flushing program displays if a hydrant is up to date, plus it helps clean out the pipes. The effect of, however, does give water a dirty hue at times. But Paulhus said there's nothing dangerous about the procedure.

"Sometimes it stirs stuff up, which comes through your faucets," he said. "None of it is hazardous. It's just a way to keep the lines clean so we don't get any big build-ups." Citizens who experience any unusual water clarity problems after the hydrants are flushed are encouraged to turn on a cold-water faucet outside the house and let it run for five to 10 minutes. If that does not clear up the problem, call 541-962-1325. Testing is expected to occur from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday until all hydrants are tested.

It's just one of several water division projects planned for the year. Paulhus said a 250-foot water line extension will be constructed on South 20th Street. A private developer is paying 100 percent of the cost.

See Projects / Page 5A

By Josh Benham
The Observer

Ever notice a discolored tint to your tap water? No, it's not a horror movie or plumbing work gone horribly wrong. It's simply the result of a project being conducted by the La Grande Public Works Department, which began today.

LaGrande, OR
(Union Co.)
The Observer
(Circ. 3xw. 5,260)

APR 1 1 2015
Adm. P.C.B. Est. 1688

Colored water no cause for concern

Fire hydrant flushing one of city's infrastructure projects this year

Ever notice a discolored tint to your tap water? No, it's not a horror movie or plumbing work gone horribly wrong. It's simply the result of a project being conducted by the La Grande Public Works Department, which began today.

See Projects / Page 5A

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

APR 13 2016

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

VOTE YES ON THE FLUORIDE MEASURE

I'm writing in response to Mark and Cindy McConnell's letter about fluoride in the water ("Fluoride is not just for kids," March 30 edition).

As a child at Yaquina View Elementary School in Newport, I remember in our classrooms we were given clean toothbrushes and little colored fluoride tablets. We put a tablet into a little cup, and it dissolved. We brushed our teeth and then took this liquid in the cup and rinsed with fluoride — swished, spit and rinsed. We did this every day, and it was very important to good oral care. I recall my teeth and gums were in good condition. I was also fortunate my grandparents had good insurance. I was able to go to the dentist. **744-7**

Now, as a 49-year-old adult I have tooth and gum disease. My teeth and gums used to be in very good condition, now they are not. I have lost teeth and had to get some capped.

I think it's very important to have fluoride in our water. So I agree, please consider this and vote yes on the fluoride measure. It's good for proper oral hygiene. You don't have to ingest it, just swish and spit. Don't end up getting older and not having good teeth and gums. It's very important.

Mike Wilson
Newport

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

APR 13 2016

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

FLUORIDE SHOULD BE A MATTER OF CHOICE

As a Newport resident, I believe that exposure to fluoride should be a matter of choice. I choose to not put this toxic chemical into my body through our water supply. **744-7**

As a teacher of students with disabilities, I'm concerned about the human health risks of adding fluoride to public drinking water. Significant studies have found it could lower IQ and increase the incidence of ADHD. To protect teeth, local children have access to dental varnish and sealants that cover the target areas.

We're already exposed to so many harmful substances — let's not add another hazardous chemical to the mix.

I encourage citizens to educate themselves about fluoride by visiting the Clean Water Newport website at www.cleanwaternewport.org and the Fluoride Action Network website. Once voters are aware of the scientific research and data about fluoridation chemicals, I'm confident they will vote no on fluoridation of our water.

Janet Elizabeth Johnson
Newport

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

APR 20 2016

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

FLUORIDE IN WATER SUPPLY LEAVES NO OPTION 744-7

Regarding the April 13 "Vote Yes on Fluoride Measure" letter by Mike Wilson. Am I the only one who found it confusing? He states, "It's good for proper oral hygiene. You don't have to ingest it, just swish and spit. Am I supposed to swish and spit every glass of water I get from the faucet? Does this apply to all the food I prepare with this water? And coffee, tea, etc.?"

There is a huge difference between fluoride in a tablet placed in a cup of water and fluoride in the entire water supply. If the fluoride is in your tap water, and you drink it or cook with it, you are ingesting it. You do not have the option to swish and spit.

Marie Wakefield
Newport

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

APR 15 2016

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

VOTE YES FOR FLUORIDE

When I first heard about the fluoridation issue, I didn't know what to think. People I respect say fluoride causes all different kinds of problems from cancer to ADHD to what fluorosis was, but it sounded bad. **744-7**

On the other hand, I had foster kids that had literally no teeth. They had black mouths that were full of rot, and they'd never seen a dentist. People could barely understand what these little kids would say because they had no teeth to talk with. They missed school from the pain.

With these two sides of the issue in my head, I started to investigate fluoride. What I discovered is a lot of misrepresentation of the facts. You'd get one study by a Harvard professor no less, whose preliminary findings linked osteoarthritis to fluoride. That study is all over the Internet now. But further research, she disproved the link. There is no credible science that now links cancer to fluoride, the American Cancer Society endorses fluoride, and yet this study is still being passed around the Internet as fact.

Same with fluorosis, a condition that can damage teeth if it gets severe. But it only gets severe at levels of fluoride that are many, many times higher than the levels water is treated with. Claim after claim that gets people to fear fluoride have been investigated and proven false. I haven't seen one study that on further research proves that fluoride is dangerous.

On the other hand, there are many, many studies that prove fluoride is effective at preventing cavities, in little

kids, in the elderly, and everyone in between.

You and I can choose to filter our water or take fluoride pills. My foster kids with no teeth couldn't. No one is going to give them fluoride pills or take them to the dentist or even make them brush their teeth. They need our help.

Please vote yes on 21-164 to protect the teeth of our most vulnerable people.

Ineka Estabrook
Newport

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

APR 20 2016

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

YES TO RESUME FLUORIDATION

In my years as the science librarian at the Hatfield Marine Science Center, I emphasized the importance of knowing the sources of the information used to ask questions, form opinions and learn. Now, I'm taking my own advice and reading beyond the bullet points and the emotional stories. I'm looking to the experts who have studied water fluoridation and its impact on the public's dental health for years.

The trusted experts, those who work in realm of peer reviewed science, agree that water fluoridation improves dental health. In 2015, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Federal Panel on Community Water Fluoridation provided updated recommendations for community water systems. This panel of experts reviewed the science, considered current concerns and continued to recommend community water fluoridation. The panel's report is very readable and based on science, not opinion. **744-7**

Resuming the fluoridation of Newport's water is a positive action we can take as a community for the improved health of our residents.

Janet Webster
Newport

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

APR 20 2016

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

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY DOES NOT ENDORSE FLUORIDE

A recent letter to the editor said that "the American Cancer Society endorses fluoride." I'm the former executive vice president of the Oregon chapter of the American Cancer Society and a volunteer for Clean Water Newport. I can say unequivocally that this isn't true. **744-7**

The American Cancer Society doesn't have a position statement on fluoridation and states on their website that "there is still controversy about the possible health effects of drinking water fluoridation." For further confirmation, their number is 1-800-227-2345.

Unfortunately, this misrepresentation of the ACS has been perpetuated on websites and Facebook pages for years, and many people unknowingly accept it.

I hope anyone involved in the Newport fluoridation campaign will take immediate action to correct this error.

Rick North
Durham

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

APR 20 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1988

Bad taste in Canby's tap water resurfaces

By DANIEL PEARSON
The Canby Herald

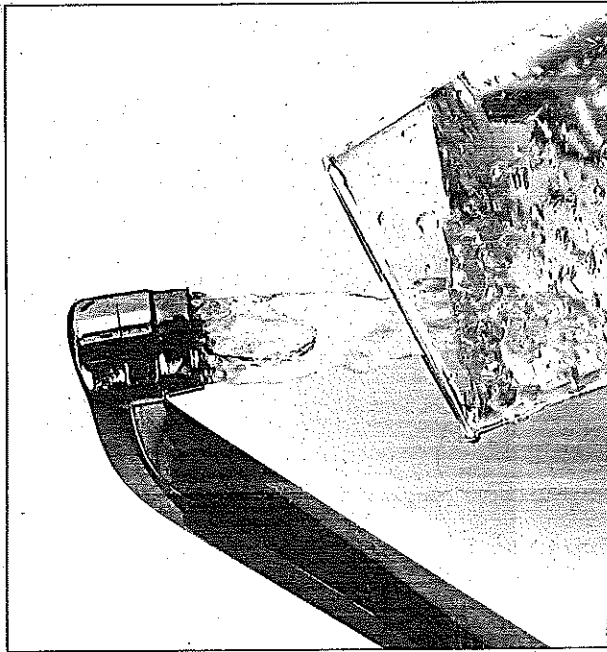
The foul taste is back in Canby's tap water supply, although not yet in all parts of town, and Canby Utility wants to reassure the public that it's safe to drink.

"We know that our water is safe, potable, drinkable water," Canby Utility General Manager Dan Murphy said. "We believe this taste problem is more of the same from last summer. When the test results come in we are expecting to confirm that."

Last summer, Canby Utility used a third-party testing facility to determine the cause of the taste to be Geosmin and Methylsobornol, or MIB, but mostly the latter. Geosmin and MIB are naturally-occurring compounds produced by algae and bacteria that give water a very strong and earthy, musty taste. They are detectable in concentrations of just five to 10 parts per trillion, according to information published by the U.S. National Library of Medicine.

In 2015, Canby Utility officials said algae blooms that grew on the Molalla River caused the buildup of Geosmin and MIB due to low river flow and hot weather, and both of the last two years the taste became detectable by local residents late in the summer. This year, however, customers began complaining about the taste around April 10, Murphy said.

"People easily get the mindset that it's not hot out so there can't be algae growing," Murphy said. "People don't realize those compounds don't just go away once the algae dies off. They stay in place until mobilized by something. That's why we sought out a highly-experienced, third-party specialist in water treatment to come in and ensure the water we supply our citizens with is safe first- and foremost and treated in full compliance with



all regulations from the (environmental protection agency) EPA and the state."

Brian Hutchins, a project manager for Veolia Water North America, a worldwide water treatment company that has facilities here in Canby, said his company grabs a sample of surface water from the Molalla River and then sends it to an independent lab to complete the chemical analysis. For Canby's water supply a water testing company called Test America, which has a location in Beaverton, provides Veolia with the analysis of the samples.

See WATER / Page 6

WATER: City's drinking has been something of a running issue; some locals have opted for bottled water

(Continued from page 1)

"For the regulated contaminants, the labs are required to report directly to the Oregon Health Authority and we also follow up with our own monthly report to the state," Hutchins said. "There's no chance of anybody trying to hide anything that way, and labs can lose accreditation if they do not comply with state requirements."

The first sample from Canby's water supply was sent to be tested on April 13 and it typically takes seven to 10 days to get the results back, Hutchins said.

"Surface water is the most regulated water that you can get," he said. "It's more regulated than bottled water. Bottled water is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, not the EPA. (Water bottling companies) really don't really have to monitor their water at all, so you really don't know what you are getting in there. There are a lot of stories out there about contaminated bottled water."

For example, in June 2015, there were 14 brands of bottled water sold by New York-based Niagara Bottling LLC recalled after one of the company's spring water sources tested positive for E. coli bacteria, according to published reports.

Several Canby residents recently posted anecdotes on Facebook about spending more than \$50 per month on bottled water in 2015 due to the taste of Canby's drinking water. The question also came up online of whether or not Canby Utility should offer some type of refund to its customers that are unhappy with the product they are receiving, just like any consumer could return a defective product purchased on a retail

shelf, Murphy said that's a tough question. "What people are buying is safe, drinkable, potable water," Murphy said. "To that extent, everyone is getting their money's worth. Beyond that taste is going to fluctuate, even with treated water. Levels of chlorine may vary from day to day and someone bad taste starts showing itself in one location, and not others for a while, but eventually everybody will be tasting the same thing."

Canby Utility conducted an \$18,500 study last year to determine what fixes would be required to eliminate Geosmin and MIB from entering the water supply. A retrofit of the treatment plant would cost \$1.5 million, and as much as \$7 million depending on what new technology is deployed, the study says.

"That's a tough decision because people also don't want to see annual rate impacts for anything we do," Murphy said. "It's a balancing act, we're trying to follow here and it's a taste issue, not a safety issue."

Murphy added that the utility's water reservoirs — two on SW 13th Avenue and one at Fourth Avenue and Fir Street — are not scheduled, daily chlorine tests to maintain disinfection and Canby Utility takes daily readings to make sure that chlorine levels are correct. Bacteriological tests also are taken monthly, and the entire volume of the tanks turns over every three to four days. Additionally, divers go down into the reservoirs every other May or June and conduct a full inspection, which follows industry standards and regulatory guidelines, Murphy said.

"It won't do it and it won't ever do it unless

THH-7

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

744-7

Bend looks at hydro projects

By Tyler Leeds
The Bulletin

The Bend City Council heard a presentation at a meeting Wednesday night on the possibility of generating hydroelectricity from within the city's drinking water system.

Electricity would be generated by relying on pressure within the city's drinking water pipes. In a number of locations, including on Awbrey and Overturf buttes, the city relies on valves to artificially decrease water pressure. By replacing those valves with hydroelectric equipment, the city could reduce the pressure while at the same time generating power. Such a setup could generate revenue for the city, either through savings accrued by using the electricity created or by selling it into the grid.

City of Bend Senior Policy Analyst Gillian Ockner told the council there are three to four potential sites where the city could generate electricity within existing pipes, including on Awbrey and Overturf buttes, both on Bend's west side.

See Council/A6

Council

Continued from A1

A study in 2009 also identified the possibility of generating electricity from a pipe that diverts water from Bridge Creek, though the city backed off that plan as the replacement of that pipe resulted in a legal battle with environmental groups.

Jed Jorgensen of the Energy Trust of Oregon, a nonprofit that promotes clean energy solutions, called the water flowing through pipes "a wasted resource." Jorgensen, who discussed some funding options for the city, also noted such a project might be less controversial than other hydroelectric projects that involve natural waterways or are initiated by irrigation districts that could potentially have an incentive to use more water as a result.

The city's interest in hydroelectric power is heightened by an acute need for funding as the city's road system is facing down \$80 million in deferred maintenance, something Councilor Doug Knight noted hydroelectric revenue could be used to address.

Councilor Nathan Boddie said revenue from such a project could also go to keep-

ing rates down for those who drink city water. He also suggested some could go to a fund for sustainability projects.

The city would have to change its code to allow for such a project. It also has a number of options for financing, including hiring an outside group to install and operate such equipment, with the city getting a cut of the revenue.

A subcommittee of the council plans to discuss the idea further.

In other business, the council also heard a presentation on how the Bend Police Department responds to people camping in vehicles parked in the street.

Police Chief Jim Porter noted sworn officers do not respond to such calls, but rather they are delegated to the city's volunteer program so as not to take manpower away from more urgent issues. In 2015, there were 62 calls about camping and abandoned vehicles on the road, according to the police department.

Porter said a notice is placed on the car five to seven days after a call. Seven days later, a volunteer returns to see whether the vehicle is still there, and seven days later it is towed.

The council discussed whether to speed up that timeline, as the city's code allows a vehicle to be towed five days after a notice is attached. Only three councilors — Knight, Victor Chudowsky and Casey Roats — supported speeding up the timeline. Councilor Sally Russell said she would have to think about the issue further.

Boddie said he was concerned that getting tough on those camping in vehicles would equate to "making it illegal to be poor and housing unstable in Bend."

Boddie said the city should work more on addressing housing and not responding to "people complaining about what is unsightly."

Knight said homeowners have the right "to be concerned about the value of their homes and the safety of their neighborhood."

He suggested the city could look at allowing camping in commercial or industrial areas but that residential areas should be protected.

Mayor Jim Clinton responded by saying the owners of commercial properties would complain "within 10 minutes" if such a change were made.

— Reporter: 541-633-2160,
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APR 21 2016

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



LOTS of questions

■ Three years in, the LOT project remains controversial as ever What if it was never approved?

By PATRICK MALEE
The Tidings

What if? What if the drilling never started? What if the streets were never ripped up, the army of dump trucks never arrived and constant noise and vibrations never roared through a residential neighborhood like rolling mini-earthquakes?

"They're saying, 'guaranteed source of water' — no, it's arbitrary. It always has been."

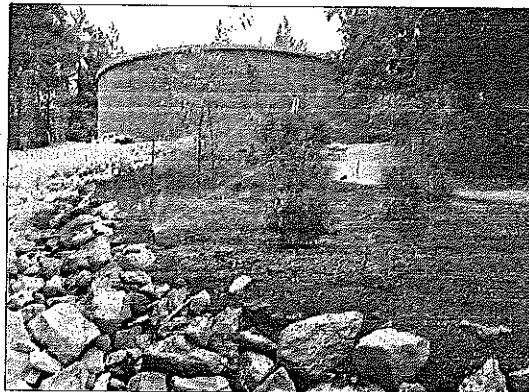
— Lamont King, Robinwood resident

What if? Even now, more than three years after West Linn approved a \$250 million water treatment plant replacement project proposed by the Lake Oswego-Tigard Water Partnership (LOT), the answer to that question depends on who you ask — and at times simply leads to even more questions.

What cannot be denied, however, is that the project sent ripple effects far beyond the confines of the Robinwood area where the plant is located — up the hill to city hall and down below to the Arch Bridge area and surrounding riverside properties.

At its core, the LOT project proposal was simple: to repair and replace an aging water plant that had been running in West Linn since the 1960s, increasing its capacity to provide a seismically secure water source for both Lake Oswego and Tigard while also supplying emergency water to West Linn in times of need.

Lake Oswego and Tigard first formed a partnership in 2008, agreeing to share a water system and the costs associated with it. Previously, Tigard had purchased its water from the City of Portland.



SUBMITTED PHOTO: LAKE OSWEGO-TIGARD WATER PARTNERSHIP

Above: The Lake Oswego-Tigard Water Partnership began in large part because Lake Oswego's water treatment plant was near capacity, putting its entire water system at risk. Pictured here is the completed Watuga Reservoir 2, which was built as part of the project.

Top: A key selling point for West Linn in approving the project was a \$5 million payment to go toward construction of a new Bolton Reservoir. Pictured here in a Tidings file photo, the more than 100-year-old reservoir was cracked and had been slated for replacement since the 1980s.

Yet some West Linn residents argued that the project was unnecessary and did not provide a worthy community benefit to offset such a massive disruption for neighbors. As time passed, and weeks dragged into months and years, the project came to be seen as a flashpoint — a moment that changed West Linn forever.

So was it all worth it? As construction slowly begins to ramp down — full completion is expected in the spring of 2017 — the Tidings spoke with many of the players who were most intimately involved with the project, from residents to city councilors, staff members and project managers.

Part I of this series focuses on an alternate reality: what would have happened if the project hadn't been

approved at that fateful February 2013 meeting?

approved at that fateful February 2013 meeting?

'It wasn't a bad deal'

Lamont King has spent most of his life in a Robinwood home on Ken-thorpe Way, directly across the street from the LOT plant.

In fact, he remembers when there wasn't a plant — or much of anything — on the property. Before the water plant was built by Lake Oswego in 1967, the property was vacant land used more as a playground than anything else.

"That's where the local kids set up horse trails — there were horses on the street back in those days," King said. "So I used to ride horses across the street and on the trails over there. It was a big, open area, five or six acres, very rural."

At that point, the Robinwood area was unincorporated Clackamas County and had yet to be annexed into West Linn. There were far fewer homes in the neighborhood, maybe a dozen according to King, but the seeds of future discord were planted when Lake Oswego first came knocking with its water treatment plant proposal.

"In 1967, 323 neighbors signed a petition to stop it, which represented a bulk of that part of the community," King said. "My folks actually signed it."

The project was eventually approved, however, and in the ensuing decades residents learned to live with their industrial neighbor.

"The existing plant (before reconstruction) wasn't a bad neighbor," King said. "I knew all of the plant managers at various times."

King remembers that during one particularly snowy winter, he offered his shoveled driveway for plant workers to park in. And when he sometimes threw large parties, plant management offered space to King for overflow parking.

He never used them, but still appreciated the gesture.

"It wasn't a bad deal," King said. "But it went to this scale, Joel Komarek and that bunch got involved, and it ruined it."

'We felt we had been transparent'

By LOT Project Director Joel Komarek's memory, talk of expansion at the water plant began as early as 15 years ago.

Lake Oswego was in the process of installing lagoons at the plant, and thus had to go through West Linn's formal land use approval process.

"We had a number of neighborhood meetings for that project, I think maybe a handful, and for the most part people were accepting of it," Komarek said. "The plant had been here for so long and a lot of them bought houses when the plant was here or have lived here their entire life and

have grown up and raised families around the plant.

"So I felt like I was very aware of concerns and issues, at least among West Linn neighbors who cared to show up."

Komarek remembers being asked about future plans at the site, and as part of the land use process Lake Oswego agreed to produce a master plan for the site.

"We had to produce a facilities master plan, and we did, and that was accepted by the City," Komarek said. "But we also had to provide that plan to the Robinwood Neighborhood Association, and it was acknowledged in their neighborhood plan. So we felt like at the time — and again, I'm going back 15 years — we felt we had been transparent, honest and open with folks about what we saw as the potential future use of the site. And it was always still going to be a water plant."

Thus, to a large extent Komarek was said he was shocked at the pushback when planning began for the LOT plant expansion about 12 years later. The aging treatment plant, which produced 16 million gallons a day, was nearing full capacity and needed significant seismic improvements.

In the early going, Lake Oswego evaluated alternative options, Komarek said, but none proved to be a better option than rebuilding at the old site.

"We did look at alternative sites for a new water plant," Komarek said. "The challenge is that our water rights are on the Clackamas (River) and locations for other plants are further away from the Clackamas, so we've got more big pipe to build, longer distances to pump — there just aren't a whole lot of places around." "We looked at potential sites on the Gladstone side of the river, we looked at potential sites on the Lake Oswego side of the river, and none of them were particularly appealing for a variety of reasons."

So what would Lake Oswego have done if West Linn had denied the project, and the decision was upheld upon appeal?

"I suppose our options would have included continuing to run the plant here as long as we can, kind of keep it running as best as we can, and either build a second plant somewhere else or become a wholesale customer of some other supplier like the City of Portland," Komarek said. "Or do kind of what Tigard is (currently) doing, which is purchase water from someone else."

But Komarek was clear: Sticking with the old plant would have effectively ended the partnership between Lake Oswego and Tigard.

"Eventually it would not have enough capacity to serve Lake Oswego, let alone Tigard," he said.

The view from West Linn

The common question from West Linn residents — particularly those in the Robinwood area — was simple: "Why are we bearing the brunt of this?"

What's in it for us?"

"It might have been a different story if this plant had served West Linn — that was one of their arguments," Komarek said. "(They said) It doesn't benefit us all because we're not getting the water." Well, you are, on an emergency basis when you ask for it."

Indeed, West Linn city officials saw two primary benefits in approving the project: a new intertie providing water to West Linn during an emergency and a \$5 million payment that eventually paid for the replacement of West Linn's 100-year old Bolton Reservoir — the city's sole reservoir.

Had the project been denied, that \$5 million would have had to come from elsewhere, and the City likely would have lost its previous emergency water source — the Lake Oswego water plant through a different intertie agreement in place since 1984.

"At one point Lake Oswego representatives did provide me with a draft of a letter they were preparing to send to the West Linn City Council, saying that their intention was to terminate the previous agreement," former West Linn City Manager Chris Jordan said. "They were planning on terminating it on the basis that they couldn't possibly fulfill it. So I certainly assume that they would have taken that step if the project hadn't been approved, and then West Linn would have been without a consistent, reliable source of backup water."

West Linn has used its backup water source from the LOT plant several times in the last decade, when its primary source was compromised or needed maintenance.

West Linn's primary source of water is the South Fork Water Board, which is based in Oregon City. Jordan said South Fork may have been able to provide emergency water, but not at the same capacity as Lake Oswego and "certainly not on peak summer days."

The new intertie, which was formally approved in November 2013, cannot be terminated without "mutual written consent by all parties" — language that is notably stronger than the previous intertie, which did not specify that all parties must agree to termination.

Former Mayor John Kovash and former City Councilor Mike Jones — who were both on council during the LOT hearings — said the intertie was vital for West Linn.

"The key issue in my mind was the intertie," Jones said. "We can get water from that intertie when it would not be otherwise available."

"If we did not have LOT, we would not have a seismically secure source of water," Kovash said. "There's obviously been an increased amount of coverage of 'The Big One' (a sizable earthquake off the Oregon coast). So our need for seismically secure water would have increased, without the financial ability to obtain seismically secure water."

Yet King insists that the new intertie is actually worse than the previous agreement. While the new intertie is set to last "in perpetuity," King points to a clause that states West Linn will receive up to 4 million gallons a day "through at least 2041" — a limit that was not part of the previous agreement. Further, the new agreement requires West Linn to pay for water at Lake Oswego's rates if they are higher than West Linn's — which has historically been the case.

"We lost the preferential rates we had, and the whole thing goes away in 2042," King said. "That is not an improvement over what we already had."

Even beyond the minutiae, King says the very idea of having a "guaranteed" source of emergency water is a fallacy.

"In the event of a 9.0 earthquake and our system goes down, they are not obligated to give us anything unless the (J.O.) city manager determines they have a surplus," King said. "They're saying, 'guaranteed source of water' — no, it's arbitrary. It always has been."

The exact language of the intertie states that emergency water use "may be accomplished by the mutual consent of the Executive Officer of each Party," and that if all parties agree to activate the intertie, "the Party supplying water shall endeavor to supply the amount of water requested by the other Party, and take all reasonable actions necessary to accomplish the same, so long as such actions are not detrimental to the operation of the supplying Party's own water system."

The \$5 million payment for the new Bolton Reservoir was a bit more cut-and-dry — a sizeable chunk of money West Linn needed to fund a failing reservoir that was nearly 100 years old.

Were it not for the LOT project, the path toward obtaining those funds would have been far murkier, according to Jordan.

"Bolton, that was a high priority in the water fund for a long time," Jordan said. "The way to fund it was going to be going into debt, selling revenue bonds, which would mean an increase in water rates. And in order to make that happen, there was going to need to be a vote in the community because you can only increase by 5 percent (without a vote)."

"And the City did go for a water rate measure in 2010 and it failed miserably."

Indeed, Measure 3-364 — which would have changed the city's rate structure by lowering the base rate but charging more for each additional unit of water consumed — was defeated 65 percent to 35 percent in November 2010.

An 18 percent water rate increase was set to be on a March 2013 ballot, but the West Linn City Council voted unanimously to pull the measure at a January 2013 meeting, citing a desire to avoid confusion in the midst of hearings regarding LOT.

"What we were trying to

take a look at then was only focusing on repairs, and maintenance of the existing system," Jordan said. "It did not include the Bolton Reservoir."

The \$5 million payment, then, proved to be a key selling point for the City — an injection of funds where previously there were none.

Yet once again, King imagines a scenario in which the project was denied, and the funds for the reservoir still became available.

"The alternative would have been, 'OK, they're going to move (the plant) because we're not going to play ball with them,'" King said. "That would have opened up room for 35 or 37 residential houses on that property. If you take the average tax rate West Linn would have assessed on those houses — because that land would have been taxable then — we would have come out ahead either way."

"We would have had the resources with that, without needing a \$5 million payment."

The long view

For the sake of her sanity, Robinwood resident Lorie Griffith would have liked if LOT never happened.

She wouldn't have had to live with the constant vibrations — the "rolling earthquakes" that swung her chandelier from the ceiling and left a noticeable crack in her fireplace. She wouldn't have felt the constant stress that left her with something akin to post-traumatic stress disorder whenever the noises began once again.

Like King, Griffith lives directly adjacent to the LOT site. The pain felt by many was ever more acute for her and her husband, Tom. Yet, despite it all, Griffith still believes it was a worthy project — a sacrifice made by her and many others for the betterment of a larger community.

"I don't like a lot of things," Griffith said during a rare quiet moment in her kitchen. "I don't like paying taxes, but I still pay taxes. As a U.S. citizen, I believe everyone has a right to a clean, reliable source of drinking water."

"My parents fought in World War II, they sacrificed for years for a better world. That's how I see it. ... Am I going to deny someone's municipality to provide them with clean drinking water? I think that would be a dreadful thing to do."

It was in a similar vein that council members Kovash, Jones, Jody Carson and Jenni Tan voted in favor of the project back in 2013. The intertie in particular, Jones said, was "so critical to West Linn's future."

But the decision also proved to be the spark of a political sea change — and Jones knew what it meant when he cast his fateful "yes" vote.

"I knew," Jones said, "that when I voted for the LOT project, I probably would not be re-elected."

He was right. Stay tuned for Part 2 of this series, which examines the political fallout after the project was approved.

Patrick Maloney can be reached at 503-636-1281 Ext. 106 or pmaloe@westlinntidings.com.

"Am I going to deny someone's municipality to provide them with clean drinking water? I think that would be a dreadful thing to do."

— Lorie Griffith, LOT neighbor

744-7

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

APR 2 2 2016

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

As a citizen of the area who spends a lot of time in Newport, I will be forced against my will to drink what the U.S. government has classified legally as a drug, if the fluoridation program goes ahead. Having studied the situation, I have discovered the following facts: 744-7

1. All other water treatments are added to "improve safety" or "enhance quality" which fluoride doesn't do.
2. Since it is classified by the government as a drug, and since standard legal drug practices mandate informed consent for anyone ingesting a drug, voters do not have the credentials or the right to require people to ingest it.
3. The dosage, as shown by studies, cannot be controlled because people drink different amounts of water, and equipment used has been shown, in many cases, to be unreliable.

4. Fluorides in drinking water will affect everyone in the area, possibly causing dangerous "side effects" to vital medications used by people, especially senior citizens.
5. No disease is proven to have been prevented by fluoride, not even, conclusively, tooth decay, and no biological processes in the body require fluoride.
6. Bottle babies consume up to 300 times more fluoride than breast-fed babies since the mother's body screens out most of the fluoride in breast milk.
7. There has never been a randomized controlled study of any supposedly beneficial effects of fluoride. However,

possible dangers to children's smaller bodies have been long suspected.
8. Many studies have indicated that fluoride may damage the brains of these children and possibly cause retardation.
9. A government study indicates a strong correlation between fluoride and bone cancer, especially in younger men, and a large accumulation in older adults.
10. There is no known safety margin for fluoride. There are, however, many more indications of negative, and even dangerous, results from its ingestion.
11. Finally, it is my personal opinion, and the opinion of many others, that no person should be "forced to ingest" any drug or chemical against his or her will. When in doubt, leave it out.

Toyoy Ogden
Waldport

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

APR 2 2 2016

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

SUPPORT FLUORIDATION IN NEWPORT

One of the frequent themes of anti-fluoride statements is that people don't want added chemicals in their water, or that they want a chemical-free environment. I, too, do not want to eat pesticide residues on my food, nor do I want to breathe herbicides sprayed on the forests or roadsides. But do not let this community "throw the baby out with the bath water."

Fluoride is a naturally occurring substance and is already present in the water everywhere. In most places, it isn't at a level sufficient to produce the beneficial protection to tooth enamel. That's why Newport voters are being asked to resume boasting fluoride levels in city water to a safe and effective level. It has been proven toxic and beneficial for more than 70 years. Every U.S. citizen began since fluoridation began in our untested fluoride 744-7

I hope Newport voters will do the same and vote yes on 21-194.

Jerry Robbins MD
Newport

State to open up on lead in water

TRACY LOEW
744-7
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Oregon health officials are promising greater transparency around lead in drinking water, including the location of lead service lines and the results of mandatory tests.

Oregon Health Authority Director, Lyne Saxton outlined steps the state will take, in an April 5 letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Saxton was responding to the EPA's Feb. 29 request of all state regulators for information about how they are complying with federal lead regulations.

In 1985, the state required each Oregon water supplier to submit a schedule for identifying and removing lead service pipes, or to certify that none existed in the system.

Through that effort, the state learned that some lead service pipes were previously used in Oregon, primarily "goose-necks," injected to several feet in length, Saxton wrote.

Last month, in response to a request for that data, OHA spokesman Jonathan Modie told the Statesman Journal the state did not keep any of those records.

In her letter, Saxton said she now will encourage large water systems (those serving more than 50,000 customers) to post those evaluations as well as any updates, on their websites.

OHA also will improve its own website by June 1, to ensure residents receive prompt information on high lead levels in their drinking water systems.

In an email, Gov. Kate Brown said she is particularly concerned about lead in schools.

Under EPA rules, schools that get water from a municipal source do not have to test for lead.

Coos Bay, OR
(Coos Co.)
The World
(Circ. W. 9,272)

APR 2 2 2016

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

Grant funds allow Lakeside Water District to protect pristine water source

LAKESIDE - Lakeside Water District has made good use of a grant of up to \$30,000 from the Oregon Water Source Protection Fund which was funded by the Oregon Authority Drinking Water Program and the Department of Environmental Quality and administered through the Oregon Business Development Department's Infrastructure Finance Authority 744-7

The grant funds were used in effort to protect Lakeside's surface drinking water source, East Lake.

Lakeside Water District has made good use of a grant of up to \$30,000 from the Oregon Water Source Protection Fund which was funded by the Oregon Authority Drinking Water Program and the Department of Environmental Quality and administered through the Oregon Business Development Department's Infrastructure Finance Authority 744-7

The grant funds were used in effort to protect Lakeside's surface drinking water source, East Lake.

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The grant funds were used in effort to protect Lakeside's surface drinking water source, East Lake.

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

APR 2 2 2016

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

"I've directed the Oregon Health Authority and the Oregon Department of Education to review existing programs and provide an assessment of lead in Oregon schools, including a review of what tools schools and districts have to test, infrastructure issues, and recommendations the agencies have for improving Oregon children have safe drinking water in school," Brown said.

Reporter Gordon Friedman contributed to this story.

Boost city project rank

By Raelynn Ricarte
rricarte@thedalleschronicle.com

Dave Anderson, director of The Dalles Public Works Department, believes community members can help boost the city's chances of obtaining a state grant to replace an aging water line.

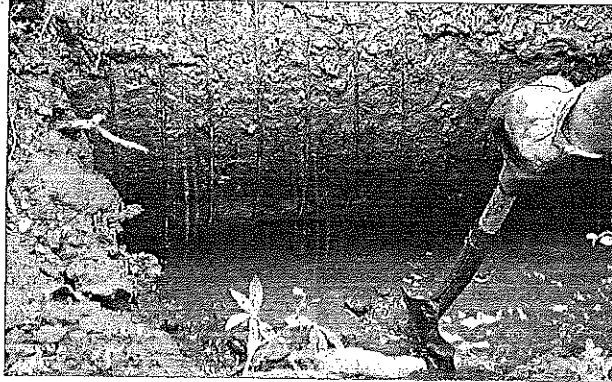
The city is currently ranked 23 out of 37 applicants seeking funds for infrastructure improvements.

Anderson said the Dog River line is more than 100 years old, made of wood and leaking about 1 million gallons of water a day in full flow conditions.

He said the line runs about 3.5 miles and transfers about 54 percent of the city's water supply from Dog River to the South Fork of Mill Creek.

"This pipeline is deteriorating and at risk of catastrophic failure," he said.

He is asking people to email Jon Unger, grant program coordinator for the Oregon Water Resources De-



A city worker finds a leak under a 100-year-old wooden stave pipe used to transport 54 percent of The Dalles water supply from Dog River to the South Fork of Mill Creek.

Contributed photo

partment at waterprojects@wrld.state.or.us and urge action on The Dalles project. Unger can also be reached at 503-986-0869.

The deadline for comments on ranking is Friday, April 29, at 5 p.m.

See RANK, Page A5

Rank

Continued from Page A1

The city's application can be viewed on the water resource department's website, oregonwrld.gov, by following the Water Project Grants and Loans tab to the summary of all applications link.

"Maybe, if we can get some assistance, we can pull off a miracle," Anderson said of public involvement.

For the past 20 years, the city has been trying to get all the pieces of the puzzle in place to replace the line, a project that will cost about \$8 million.

Anderson said the city

has banked half of those funds and is seeking the remaining \$4 million from the state, which has \$14 million to grant or loan out.

"That would be a good match for most grants," he told the city council Monday.

He said The Dalles project might have received a lower ranking than other projects because state officials seemed to be looking for a conservation piece in application packets.

Although the city has no formal plans to conserve water as part of its project, Anderson said it is his opinion that stopping unintended leakage fulfills that requirement.

As a backup plan, he said the city is applying for other grants and low-interest loans.

If citizens in The Dalles prevail and get \$4 million from the state, Anderson

said approval for replacement of the Dog River line with 24-inch, class 52 ductile iron pipe could be given by the U.S. Forest Service this fall.

The city's application states that ductile iron has been selected over other potential materials due to constructability issues, including a narrow construction corridor that will require transport of shorter pipe sections and durability in freezing conditions.

The new water line is expected to have a service life of 100 years and increase capacity from 8 million gallons per day to 17 million to meet future municipal water demands.

Annually, the city supplies about 1.2 billion gallons of potable water to the community for residential, commercial and industrial uses.

Along with replacement

of the wooden line, the city has agreed to install an arch culvert on Brooks Meadow Creek crossing, along with a fish screen and passage system.

Installation of the culvert on an unimproved forest road will stop current stream damage and increased turbidity from passing vehicles.

For the past several years, the city, which has a special use permit to run the pipeline through federal property, has been working with the Forest Service on the environmental analysis of the project.

Some logging will be required along the construction corridor and the city will pay harvest costs, with the revenue from timber to go to the Forest Service.

The water line replacement project will involve excavating a trench along the route of the existing

line to bury new pipes.

Anderson said it may require two construction seasons to complete the work since activity may be restricted during spring and early summer periods to protect northern spotted owl nesting periods.

The economic benefits of the project will be retention of at least 130 higher-wage jobs in the city at existing industrial facilities for which an uninterrupted water supply is critical, wrote Anderson in the application to the state. He said replacement of the line would also support development of an additional 200 acres of industrial property, creating 200-500 jobs.

Fifteen prevailing-wage jobs would be related directly to pipeline construction. In addition, the city contends in its application that lower-income residents will benefit from a

grant fund award because that money will not have to be sought from ratepayers. The application states that the city's residential water rates are already 58 percent above state average and have increased by over 100 percent in the last 10 years to cover infrastructure upgrades. Anderson lists the median household income in The Dalles at \$44,465 compared to a statewide average of \$50,251, with 15 percent of households below the poverty level.

Anderson said he was meeting with Forest Service officials this week for a status update on the environmental analysis, which was expected to be completed by spring but may now not be finished by fall.

"The public comment period just ended so there could be some additional analysis," he said.

744-7

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

APR 27 2016

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

LET'S RESUME FLUORIDATING OUR WATER 744-7

I chaired the citizen committee that investigated and ultimately helped choose the design for the new Newport water processing plant, and the political action committee that helped get the water bond passed. Throughout the process, we always intended to resume fluoridating our water as we had been doing before the new plant was built.

My older daughter avoided dentists for much of her adult life for a simple reason: she couldn't afford them. When she was involved in an accident that damaged her face, she had to see a dental expert for help. He told her that she must have grown up with fluoridated water because her teeth were in great shape. This was true. Her dentist emphasized that the early years were extremely important in the development of teeth and their ability to resist decay throughout life. My daughter's exposure to fluoride made her recovery much easier.

Because of her experiences, I strongly support

Measure 21-164.
The experts tell us fluoridation is important for the long-term dental health of our children and of our older citizens. Please vote in favor of Measure 21-164. Let's resume fluoridating our water in Newport.

Paul Amundson
Newport

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

APR 29 2016

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

VOTE NO ON FLUORINATION MEASURE

Fluoridation advocates often cite several medical organizations and cities that favor it. But look at the entire picture, and you'll see that the vast majority of countries, cities, health and medical organizations worldwide don't support it. 744-7

It's true that several cities in the region fluoridate. But none in Lincoln County do, and out of 241 cities in Oregon, 204, including Eugene, Ashland, Bend and Cannon Beach, have chosen not to fluoridate. In 2013, Portland voters reversed a city council decision to fluoridate by a landslide 61 percent to 39 percent.

Although a majority of U.S. cities fluoridate, it's a different story worldwide. Out of 196 countries, only 24 have any fluoridation. Out of those, only 10 fluoridate for more than half their population. Most countries never started fluoridating and many have stopped as more and more recent studies have documented its health risks and ineffectiveness. These include Germany, Finland, Japan, Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland.

It's also true that many U.S. health organizations support fluoridation. But many don't, including the American Diabetes Association, National Kidney Foundation, American Thyroid Association, Endocrine Society and American Cancer Society. They don't oppose it, yet, but they all deal with diseases linked to definite or possible increased risks from fluoride identified in the National

Academy of Sciences' 2006 report, Fluoride in Drinking Water.

Fluoridation is an outdated practice that takes away our choice whether to ingest fluoride. Please join me in voting no on Measure 21-164.

Diarne Lynn
Newport

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

APR 29 2016

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

LOCAL PROVIDERS FLUORIDATION

The decision on whether or not to fluoridate our local water supply is an important one that will affect not only ourselves, but our children and future generations. As medical providers who have devoted countless hours to learning best health care practices, we are devoted to improving our community's wellbeing.

In 1999, fluoridation of drinking water was recognized as one of the top 10 public health achievements of the 20th century. Oral disease has been linked to chronic diseases, including heart disease, diabetes, osteoporosis, low self-esteem, pneumonia and cancer of the kidneys and pancreas. In pregnant women, fluoride deficiency is linked to low birth weight and premature births.

Fluoride in drinking water is about 25 percent more effective than topical fluoride in reducing cavities. Regrettably, even topical fluoride is very limited in our area due to lack of resources, transportation, disabilities, lack of dental insurance and living in nursing homes. Also, the shortage of dental providers makes it hard for children and their caregivers to receive preventative dental care.

Fluoride has been blamed for some medical conditions in Internet mythology, partial

truths and misinformation have great power, but there is no linkage between proper usage of fluoride to intertidally, Down syndrome, ADHD, various cancers, adverse effects on the kidneys and liver, heart disease and a myriad of other ailments.

We join the American Dental Association, American Academy of Family Practice, United States Preventative Services Task Force, and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, American Academy of Pediatrics and American Public Health Association in advocating for our community's health.

Please join us in voting yes for Measure 21-164.

Jerry Fleming, DO
Briana River, PA
Abraham Crockett, CRNA
Erin Carrington, PA
Uri Goldberg, DO
Linell Wood, PA
Stephen Hale, MD
Leon Eshleman, MD
Stephen Burns, MD
David Daniels, MD
Lee Vogelman, DO
Douglas Wilson, MD
Beverly Hall, FNP
Nazmul Hoque, MD
Kathryn Menefee, FNP
Joshua Cook, DO
Scott Grupas, DO
Cory Williams, CRNA
Nellyda Anslow, ANP
Jennifer Wrazen, MD, FAAP
Gavin Shumate, MD
Vee Yoong, PA
Warren Sparks, MD
David Larsen, MD
Victoria Bassingthwaite, PA
Mannela Ziegler, FNP
Bruce Taylor, MD, PhD.
Yen Nguyen, DO
John Wichert, MD, FACOG
Sean Rash, MD
Kelly Hewitt, MD

Drinking water results are in: same culprit causing taste

Naturally-occurring compounds produced by algae and bacteria at the root of musty taste

By DANIEL PEARSON
The Canby Herald

Canby Utility received the results of its drinking water supply test and the culprits are the same compounds that caused the earthy, musty taste last year.

Results of the test conducted by Eurofins, a third-party laboratory that reports its results directly to the Oregon Health Authority before they even are seen by Canby Utility, found that Geosmin and methylisoborneol, or MIB, naturally-occurring compounds produced by algae and bacteria that give water a very strong and earthy, musty taste, appeared in water taken from the Molalla River.

Canby Utility tested the town's water supply in three locations — at a private residence, at its intake on the Molalla River and at Goods Bridge. Results of the test obtained by the Canby Herald show that Geosmin was detected in all three testing locations while MIB, the main culprit in 2015, appeared only at the system intake this year.

The results show that Geosmin's threshold for detection is three micrograms per liter (µg/L). At the three testing locations Geosmin was detected at 3.1 µg/L, 3.4 µg/L and 3.7 µg/L.

MIB's threshold for detection is 5 µg/L. MIB did not even reach that threshold at the private residence end at Goods Bridge; it only showed up at Canby Utility's intake on the Molalla River.

"Logically you'd think it's not at Goods Bridge and it is at the intake if it's coming from somewhere between the two locations, which is about a two-

mile long stretch of the Molalla River," Murphy said. "There are a lot of backwaters that flow into the river and many entities have permits to discharge into the river. We have no way of knowing exactly where it's coming from but it's the same compounds as last summer. The winter kills off the algae, which produces the naturally-occurring compounds, Geosmin and MIB, but the compounds stay there in the river. The good news is, it's what we thought, and the water is safe to drink; it's just a taste problem."

Geosmin and MIB are detectable in concentrations of just five to 10 parts per trillion, according to information published by the U.S. National Library of Medicine, meaning it takes very little for it to affect the taste of Canby's drinking water supply.

In 2015, Canby Utility officials said algae blooms that grew on the Molalla River caused the buildup of Geosmin and MIB due to low river flow and hot weather, and both of the last two years the taste became detectable by local residents late in the summer. This year, however, customers began complaining about the taste around April 10, Murphy said.

Canby Utility conducted an \$18,500 study last year to determine what fixes would be required to eliminate Geosmin and MIB from entering the treatment plant, would cost \$1.5 million, and as much as \$7 million depending on what new technology is deployed, the study says.

"We're continuing to monitor the issue and discuss what, if anything, can be done about this," Murphy said. "We did the study last year and we know these new test results confirm it is the same problem. There is no new information relevant to this issue at this time."

Fixes near for city's

water woes

By Pat Caldwell
Malheur Enterprise

VALE — Lynn Findley doesn't mince words about the city's ambitious new water improvement project.

"It is a very big deal," the Vale city manager said recently.

With a price tag of \$8.1 million, the water improvement project will remedy an array of challenges Findley said. The project is designed to resolve several major deficiencies in the city's water system, Findley said.

The proposed blueprint — which will include a new water treatment plant at the airport — is calculated to address water storage challenges, the treatment of arsenic and improve the water distribution system.

"All four of those things together are a pretty big deal," Findley said.

Work is already underway for the design phase of the project, which will include a pre-design analysis.

At the heart of the water project update is a 2001 mandate from the Environmental Protection Agency. That year the EPA approved new criteria regarding arsenic in drinking water — switching from a baseline of 50 parts per billion to 10 parts per billion. That change meant Vale's water was not in compliance with the new EPA rules, as it hovered around the 13 parts per billion for arsenic.

To address the arsenic issue, the EPA selected the city for a pilot program using a new method to purify the water, which produced the treatment plant the city now uses. Yet the plant turned out to be costly and less efficient at removing the arsenic.

See Water/ Page 5

Water From Page 1

"We tried to make it work for another couple of years. We will mobilize it and build the correct system for our water," Findley said.

Findley said the multi-million dollar water project is fueled by grants and loans, including a 1 percent loan from Business Oregon's Infrastructure Finance Authority. Business Oregon is the state's economic development agency.

Findley said city officials strived to be a financially prudent as possible but the reality is the water

upgrade isn't a simple endeavor.

"We were trying to figure out how to make it (the project) smaller but the problem is, you can't," he said.

Findley said right now, projections put completion of the project at the end of 2017.

Findley said the water upgrade dominated the attention of city staff and the city council.

"It has consumed my time and a lot of the city staff time for the past year and a half. Planning, financing have been on the city council agenda at every meeting," he said.

CONTINUED

One key attribute to the new water system will be the fact the project will help Vale in the future, development — will help generate progress.

"We are in a position to grow. I don't want to grow a lot. But I'd like to grow a little," he said.

Findley said the new

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

MAY 4 2015

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

WATER: Options are being examined

(Continued from page 1)
"We are still examining options to determine what steps if any ratepayers would want us to take to fix this outside of any naturally occurring disappearance of the compounds, which could happen. It would be a sizeable investment to install the technology to remove the compounds from the system and we're not even sure it would please everybody. The fix is proven highly effective but they stop short of guaranteeing it, so we could proceed with the retrofit and there may still be people who say the water tastes bad to them."

Canby, OR
(Clatsop Co.)
Herald
(Cir. 2xw. 4,752)

MAY 4 2016

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

Utilities Commission proposes water rate increase

AMY MOSS STRONG
Bandon Western World

BANDON — The City of Bandon Utilities Commission has asked the city to put a measure on November's ballot that, if approved, would increase the water base rate by \$10 a month for residential customers and \$20 a month for commercial and industrial customers.

The issue came before the City Council at Monday's meeting and the council unanimously approved the request.

The pressing need for major and minor repairs at the water plant, along with the financial condition of the city's utilities, prompted the request, according to interim City Manager Matt

they did so under the political action committee Secure Bandon's Future.

In August 2015, Mayor Mary Schamehorn asked for volunteers to form a utilities commission and to investigate the physical and financial health of Bandon's three utilities, including water, electric and wastewater. Two of the same members from the former Water Resources Committee are members of the Utilities Commission.

"The city owns and operates the utilities, which means they are owned by the citizens of Bandon," said commission chairwoman Patricia Soltys in a letter to the mayor and council asking for the rate increase. "Because the Bandon utilities are publicly owned, we, the owners, are

responsible to keep the utilities in good shape to continue to provide an adequate supply of clean water for drinking and fire protection, dependable electricity and a sewer system for property collecting and treating our waste water."

Soltys said after studying the immediate replacement, at a cost estimated at \$120,000. Other improvements and repairs would include installing seismic valves to help prevent the loss of water from the city's 2-million-gallon treated water tank in the event of an earthquake, at a cost of \$240,000; replacing the deteriorated chlorine generator, at a cost of \$20,000; and purchasing spare

See water, A7

Thursday, May 5, 2016 • Bandon Western World • A7

1-million-gallon treated water tank to fail and might also cause main lines to break.

"We'd have to manually shut off the valves or the main (larger) tank would drain, so we need to put operating in the event of a pump failure, at a cost of \$35,000.

The rate increase also would help the city begin to build reserves for other needed items for the water plant, such as repainting the 2-million-gallon water storage tank to protect it from corrosion, emergency generators and a variety of other general maintenance and system repairs.

Winkel said the major earthquake predicted to hit the South Coast at any time would likely cause the city's smaller,

include tours. "We're hoping by getting out there and putting a face on it, the public will get behind it," said City Councilor Brian Vick, who is the council's liaison to the Utilities Commission.

"The two other utilities, electric and wastewater, are not without their issues, but the water utility is the most in need of immediate action," Soltys wrote. "We are all taxpayers and rate-payers as well, but the utilities commissioners have looked at the condition of our utilities, have gone over the financial figures, and we are convinced that action must be taken."

If approved by voters in the Nov. 8 election, the increase would not go into effect until Jan. 1, 2017.

Continued from A1

pumps to reduce the amount of down time to get the water treatment plant back on line and operating in the event of a pump failure, at a cost of \$35,000.

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

MAY 5 2016

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

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

MAY 5 2016

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

Beaverton water supply deemed safe

The Times *7/4/7*

The city of Beaverton replaced its 2016 water quality report that finds that the drinking water supply "meets or exceeds state and federal standards," according to a press release issued by the city.

The Consumer Confidence Report found that Beaverton's water showed no dangerous levels of lead, copper, fluoride or nitrates, the latter of which comes from runoff into the city's water supply from fertilizer use and natural deposit erosion, the report said.

"The city is committed to providing safe drinking water to its water consumers," it said. "To ensure that the city's drinking water meets state and federal drinking water standards, the city collects an average of 140 water samples per month, (or about) 1,880 samples per year, for testing by a state-certified laboratory."

The primary source of filtered drinking water for Beaverton's service area comes from the Joint Water Commission water treatment plant, of which the city owns a 25 percent share.

The plant pumps and filters surface water from the upper Tualatin River and supplements its supply during peak demand periods with water stored in city-owned wells and aquifers.

The JWC plant is able to produce as much as 75 million gallons of potable, drinkable water per day. About 2.55 billion gallons of drinking water were transported by pipeline from the JWC treatment plant through 288 miles of piping into people's homes, businesses and to help the fire department, the study says.

Three other water districts — West Slope Water District, Raleigh Water District and Tualatin Valley Water District — included in the report passed tests as well. They supply water to about 24,000 residents inside Beaverton's city limits. The city of Beaverton provides water to the remaining 70,000 people inside its service area.

The annual water quality report, based on monitoring data from 2015, is required annually by the Oregon Health Authority and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Read entire report online at beavertonoregon.gov/Archive-Center/ViewFile/Item/5207.

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

MAY 6 2016

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

BEND CITY COUNCIL

Bonds for water plant approved

By Tyler Leeds
The Bulletin

Nearly \$7 million was to be used to pay for the Bend City Council's decision to issue bonds for a new water treatment plant. The council's decision was made on Wednesday night on financing large infrastructure projects and awarding a diverse range of issues such as cleaning up sewer lines, pot holes and affordable housing.

One of the votes, which involved the largest chunk of money, provided a stage for a small skirmish related to a long-standing feud over the building of a recently completed drinking water treatment plant. The council's approved construction in 2015 following a contentious 4-3 vote. But in the 2014 election, two members of the project lost their council seats to candidates who made their opposition to it a central tenet of the campaign.

At Wednesday's meeting, those two councilors, Nathan Boudie and Barb Campbell, provided the only votes against issuing \$63 million worth of bonds to pay for the project and running the bonds will be used to pay back a loan the city took out to fund construction.

See City Council / E5

City Council

Continued from B1
The bonds will be tied to the revenue generated from the operation of the city's water system and the fees city residents pay for service. When the bonds are sold, the city will be obligated to raise rates to ensure bondholders can be paid and the city has enough money to maintain the drinking water system.

The fight over the plant centered on whether a cheaper system that uses UV light to clean water would have sufficed. The more expensive plant that eventually got built relies on tiny membranes to filter out anything you wouldn't want to drink.

Before casting his "no" vote, Boudie said it "would be internally inconsistent to be against something and then to fund it."

He did, however, note that he supports the idea of spreading out the cost of large expenditures, so that a project with long-term benefits is paid for by multiple generations.

Mayor Jim Clinton, who opposed the membrane plant when it was approved, voted for the measure Wednesday, saying it was the most responsible way to fund the project and minimize any financial risk to the city, should it fail to issue the bonds.

In other business, the council approved a range of large expenditures related to a massive sewer project called the southeast intercept. In a number of locations, the city's sewer pipes are near capacity, which puts the city in the position of having to potentially limit new development.

The council also awarded projects funded by a \$455,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's community development block grant program. Since 2004, Bend has qualified as an "entitlement community," meaning it receives money to support low- and moderate-income residents through the HUD program. The money cannot be used to construct new housing, though it can be used to purchase land or rehabilitate existing structures.

Jim Long, the city's affordable housing manager, presented his presentation by calling the topic "the fun part of the job."

"You get to provide funding to very great projects, from basic funding for going out to homeless camps to help the homeless, to down payment assistance for Habitat for Humanity," Long added.

The work is set to be completed by Aug. 31.
A third contract worth

\$355,590 was approved with Bend firm Hickman, Williams & Associates for design work pertaining to sections of a massive sewer project called the southeast intercept. In a number of locations, the city's sewer pipes are near capacity, which puts the city in the position of having to potentially limit new development.

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A third contract worth

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

MAY 6 2016

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

VOTE YES ON MEASURE 21-164

The city for choice with respect to our water supply seems to be a hot topic. Residents, water in Newport

health practice. 744-7
Hopefully this will be the city's third and final affirmative action on water fluoridation. I believe when the citizens of Newport look at choice there. In 2009, the city asked by ballot measure for a "new and modern water treatment plant." The implication was that the new plant would provide fluoridated water; remember the resolution to fluoridate the water was still in effect. When money for the fluoridation equipment was cut with no public notice. Again, no public choice there.

When asked to enforce the active fluoridation resolution in the early months of 2015, a majority of city council chose to ignore resolution 1162A, the city's very own, \$3-year-old resolution. Instead, they rescinded 1162A and passed an ordinance to fluoridate the water but only with voter approval. Now, city residents find themselves voting for a third time, having to vote on a long-established public

Gary Lakman
Newport
Measure 21-164.

fluoride in municipal water was safe and optimal for oral health. The 2007 report further stated that fluoride is essential for human life based on its role in cellular metabolic functions, prevents tooth decay and contributes to bone mineralization and bone matrix integrity.

A 2006 interim report evaluated effects of excessively high levels of fluoride in drinking water. This is the report cited by critics of municipal water fluoridation. Critics fail to mention that this report evaluated the influence of fluoride levels well above those of municipal water supplies, but levels that could be found in some wells and other natural water sources. At high concentrations of fluoride, increased risk of dental fluorosis, skeletal fluorosis, and bone fractures were noted. It is well known that all halides, like fluoride, are toxic at high enough concentrations. Halides include chloride found in table salt, and iodide added to table salt for proper thyroid function. The key issue in toxicity of these elements is concentration; at appropriate concentrations these elements are not only harmless, but beneficial and essential.

Much time, effort, money and scientific expertise are involved in preparing these reports. Misrepresentation of the data is misleading, a disservice to the public, and shows a blatant disregard for agencies that seek scientific truth versus personal opinion. All of the above reports can be obtained online from the National Academy of Sciences.

Rodney Croteau
Member, National
Academy of Sciences
Newport

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

MAY 6 2016

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

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES FLUORIDATION REPORTS

Several letters, as well as a voters pamphlet opinion, have cited National Academy of Sciences (NAS) reports on fluoridation as evidence of the toxicity of the fluoride ion. I wish to clarify the actual conclusions of these reports. 744-7

In 1951, 1977, 1993 and 2007, NAS fluoridation reports concluded that the Environmental Protection Agency standard level of

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

MAY 6 2016

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

IT'S A LEGAL ISSUE

Let's talk about the real issue of fluoridation. It is not a health or dental issue, it's a legal issue. 744-7

Today, it's fluoride added to the water; tomorrow, it's another chemical to help another demographic of the population. Shall we add lithium because it helps the epileptics? How about adding insulin to help the diabetics? Where does this slippery slope end?

As a water customer of the city, I pay to have clean, unadulterated water delivered to my home. Do we really want to let the government start adulterating our water? The city does not have the right to start adding chemicals to the water for health issues. Let's leave our health in the hands of our health care professionals, and not use a public utility to address health and dental issues.

Carol Perkins
Newport

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

MAY 6 2016

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

FIRST, DO NO HARM

I've heard people say the reason they favor fluoridation is that they grew up with it and have good teeth. That's fine, but I know many others that grew up with non-fluoridated water and also have good teeth, or who grew up with fluoridated water and have many cavities. Our personal experiences aren't much help in making a decision on fluoridation. 744-7

You have to wonder why the CDC still favors fluoridation. They admit that fluoride's main effectiveness is topical, not from swallowing. And their own data shows that kids drinking fluoridated water in the U.S. averaged little more than half a cavity less than kids drinking unfluoridated water. Worldwide, World Health Organization data found that nations with water fluoridation had essentially the same cavity rates as those without it.

But even if water fluoridation was actually effective in cavity prevention, I couldn't support it. According to the leading National Academy of Sciences study, there are multiple health risks associated with ingested fluoride, such as endocrine disruption, hypothyroidism, fluorosis and interference with brain functions. As a retired medical doctor, I saw first hand how fluoridated water had a negative effect on patients with diabetes, thyroid issues and kidney problems.

When you put it in the water, there is no control whatsoever over how much people are ingesting and how much harm it can do.

It's unethical to put so many peoples' health at risk. First do no harm, and please vote no on fluoridation.

Oliver Pijoan
DOM (retired)

South Beach

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

MAY 11 2016

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

PLEASE VOTE NO ON FLUORIDATION

Rodney Croteau's letter on the National Academy of Science's landmark report, Fluoride in Drinking Water, argued it only addressed "excessively high levels of fluoride in drinking water." He accused fluoridation opponents of "misrepresentation."

Let's set the record straight with just a few direct quotes on harmful effects from this report. None were tied to "excessively high levels" of fluoride. In fact, the report called for further research on ALL of these issues, hardly an endorsement for fluoride's safety: 744-7

"It is apparent that fluorides have the ability to interfere with the functions of the brain." "Fluoride is therefore an endocrine disruptor." "The chief endocrine effects of fluoride exposures ... include decreased thyroid function."

Then consider statements from the NAS scientists themselves:

Dr. John Doull: "The thyroid changes do worry me ... what the committee found is that we've gone with the status quo regarding fluoride for many years — for too long, really."

Dr. Hardy Limeback: "... the evidence that fluoridation is more harmful than beneficial is now overwhelming ..."

Dr. Kathleen Thiessen: "... we're dealing with uncontrolled and unmonitored exposures to an agent that is known to have adverse effects on humans ... I think you can look at most chapters of this report and say 'whoa.'" (For primary sources see www.cleanwaternewport.org.)

Mr. Croteau said the key issue in toxicity is concentration. That's less than half the story. He ignores the dose — how much water you drink. He also ignores other major sources of ingested fluoride, such as processed foods and drinks, soups and pesticide residues.

We won't ignore these facts. We agree with the vast majority of countries, cities, health and medical organizations. Putting fluoride, or any drug, in drinking water is unjustified.

Please vote no on fluoridation.

Dr. Susan Andersen, ND,
LAc

Newport

Dr. Nicole McCauley, DC
Depoe Bay

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

MAY 11 2016

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

FLUORIDATION IS PROVEN, SAFE PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURE

Mark Twain once remarked, "A lie can travel halfway around the world while

the truth is still putting on its shoes." It is not surprising that Clean Water Newport's campaign is based on the politics of fear and deception, as their campaign is being run by one of the leaders of Clean Water Portland and the Fluoride Action Network. 744-7

Newport enjoyed 43 years of this proven, safe public health measure with the only outcome of improved oral health for all Newport citizens, young and old. The local, state, and national medical, dental, and public health stakeholders understand that one cannot have good health without good oral health. These reputable organizations all recognize the public health benefit of fluoridation.

For those who wish to read evidence-based answers to all of the false allegations of the opponents, please visit these two websites: www.like-myteeth.org and www.americanfluoridationsociety.org

Vote yes on 21-164.

Kurt Ferre, DDS
Treasurer, American
Fluoridation Society
Portland

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

MAY 11 2016

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

VOTE YES TO RESUME FLUORIDATION

Some Newport voters have been confused about benefits of community water fluoridation. Go to www.like-myteeth.org 744-7

Well-meaning people have been spreading fear about fluoride, a naturally occurring substance. They show scary pictures of dark teeth, but they don't say these teeth are from areas with extremely high fluoride in well water. Oh, and by the way, these teeth pictured are actually from another country as "severe fluorosis is virtually nonexistent in the U.S."

One Newport man has

been going house to house claiming that fluoride causes aluminum to accumulate in the brain and lowers IQ. This is total poppycock. As fluoride has gained usage across America, the average IQ has increased 3 percent per decade. But, it would be silly to conclude that it is fluoride that makes us smarter — or dull.

The frequently cited Harvard Study neglects to mention that the same researchers discredited their own work because of "poor quality and serious methodological flaws." Oh, and by the way, the study was done in Chinese cities polluted with heavy metals and arsenic.

Likewise, the Cochrane Review recognizes the challenges of conducting randomized controlled trials for public health measures (like-myteeth.org/thecochranereview).

Studies done by reputable health researchers have shown fluoridation does not cause disease: no cancer, no brain damage, no heart disease, no thyroid problems (www.bfsweb.org/facts/of-effects/statementof10.htm).

Fluoridation holds up to vigorous, peer reviewed scientific scrutiny. Vote yes to resume fluoridation.

Cynthia Jacobi
Healthy Water Newport

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

MAY 11 2016

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

NEWPORT'S HALT OF WATER FLUORIDATION

In my opinion, Newport's 10-year history of stopping fluoridation of its water is similar in some ways to Flint, Mich.'s failure to protect residents from toxic lead in its water. 744-7

In Flint, proper treatment procedures to eliminate lead from the water, as required by law, were not implement-

ed. In Newport, despite a city council resolution and vote of residents, the addition of fluoride to water was discontinued. In Flint, fluoride didn't cause lead to leach from pipes. In Newport, the water was safely fluoridated for over 40 years. In Flint, government employees failed to implement proper water treatment and reported falsely. In Newport, city employees decided on their own to stop adding fluoride to the water, but gave the public scant notice. In Flint, government officials and employees misled residents. In Newport, fluoridation was deleted from the water plant budget without city council's specific action or public notification. In Flint, government officials claimed everything was fine. In Newport, city council or employees could have restarted fluoridation at any time but did not.

In Flint, the greatest health risk is for African-Americans. In Newport, low-income families are at highest risk. In Flint, residents raised concern about lead in their drinking water. In Newport, residents brought to the attention of the city that fluoridation had been stopped. In Flint, outside private interests claimed the water was safe. In Newport, outside organizations and individuals lead opposition to fluoridation.

In Flint, the state attorney general has charged government employees with crimes. Will Newport residents file suit because of dental cavities, suffering and costs experienced after fluoridation was stopped?

Not to belittle the Flint crisis, but Newport stopping water fluoridation put residents at increased risk for dental cavities, suffering and expense. Like Flint residents, Newport residents need to take back their government by voting yes on 21-164 to resume fluoridation.

Bill Wiist
Newport

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

MAY 11 2016

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

CLEAN, DRUG-FREE WATER IS WHAT'S NEEDED

I am a 2007 Newport High School graduate now working in the nutrition field in Portland. In 2013, Portland voters overwhelmingly defeated fluoridation (61 percent to 39 percent) just as they have done every single time it has been brought to a vote in the past, despite major lobbying from fluoride producers, for the same reasons that most other countries in the world are not starting to fluoridate or are eliminating fluoridation:

- The fluorosilicic acid added to water supplies is the effluent of phosphate fertilizer factories. These companies, instead of paying to dispose of hazardous waste, are making a profit at the public's expense. Fluoridation would raise water rates, and 90 percent or more literally goes down the drain. 744-7

- Even the pharmaceutical, cleaned-up version (sodium fluoride) should not be ingested. Read the warning label on fluoride toothpaste: "Keep out of reach of children under 6 years of age. If more than used for brushing is accidentally swallowed, get medical help or contact a Poison Control Center immediately."

- Fluoride use is meant to be topical. Children have access to fluoride toothpaste, dental varnish that paints the entire tooth surface, dental sealants on chewing surfaces, mouth rinses, gels, and supplements (drops, tablets, lozenges).

- According to the CDC, acute effects of the ingestion of fluorosilicic acid are burning sensation, abdominal cramps, vomiting, shock or collapse. Citizens who do not want the toxic drug in their water should be allowed the choice and should not be forced to pay for unwanted chemicals in their water (www.cdc.gov/niosh/ipcs-neng/nengl233.html).

Therefore, adding fluorosilicic acid to drinking water to prevent tooth decay is an outdated practice based on politics, not science. When I come to my hometown, I want to be able to drink water that is clean, drug-free, and not harmful to my health.

Eric Johnson
Portland

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

MAY 11 2016

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

BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY - NO ON FLUORIDATION

Every since fluoridation started in the 1950s, there has been a lot of controversy and conflicting scientific information on it. 744-7

My view is that there are significant scientific data finding a variety of health risks. Some, like fluorosis, are indisputable. Some have very strong evidence, like hypothyroidism. Others haven't proven conclusively a direct link between fluoride and health issues, such as diabetes, lowering of IQ and bone fractures, but many peer-reviewed studies critical of fluoride are credible and the issues raised require further research.

Americans are exposed to fluoridated water, and the government won't stop the practice until more harmful health effects have been proven. This is wrong. Any chemical put in our municipal water system for all of us to consume should be found beyond a reasonable doubt to be safe.

In scientific terms, this is called the precautionary principle. In lay terms, there's a proverb that says essentially the same thing: Better safe than sorry.

Please vote no on Measure 21-164.

Matt Gallo
Newport

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

MAY 11 2016

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

VOTE NO ON FLUORIDATION

The two main drivers of fluoridation have been the American Dental Association and the oral health division of CDC. But they never talk about fluorosis, caused by an excess of fluoride. Mild fluorosis causes white streaks or mottling on teeth, which some find undesirable. Moderate or severe levels are more serious, causing yellow or brown stains and often structural damage to tooth enamel. 744-7

CDC's own data (see www.cleanwaternewport.org) shows that since fluoridation has spread, fluorosis rates have nearly doubled. It now afflicts 41 percent of 12-15 year olds in the U.S. Moreover, 3.6 percent is moderate to severe.

It also showed that Mexican-American and African-American children are afflicted at over twice the rates as Caucasian kids. Fluorosis is one reason the LULAC, the nation's oldest and largest Latino organization, has come out strongly against fluoridation.

CDC and ADA know this information, yet continue to promote fluoridation. This is blatantly unethical. Please vote no on measure 21-164.

Carole Feese
South Beach

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

MAY 13 2016

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

VOTE NO ON FLUORIDATION

The election that started fluoridation in Newport in 1960 was 1,070 votes for, 1,049 against. In other words, 50.5 percent of the voters who wanted fluoridation took away the choice of the 49.5 percent of the voters who didn't want it. 744-7

With all the documented health risks of fluoride, especially in the last 20 years, I would never recommend that anyone ingest it. But for people that want to, they can easily get it. But they have no right to force their beliefs on those of us who don't want it.

In 1960, cigarettes had no warning labels, DDT was thought to be healthy and lead in gasoline was the norm. We learned our lesson on all of them, but we're still fighting fluoridation. I don't think it's right that 1960s science continues to determine 21st century health policy.

Please join us in voting no on fluoridation.

Joanne and Fred Matthys
Newport

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

MAY 11 2016

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

BETTER WAYS TO PROTECT CHILDREN'S TEETH

One argument used for fluoridation is that it helps poor kids who can't get professional dental care. But just look at the facts. Every low-income child in Newport is eligible for free dental care, which may include cleaning, sealants and varnish. 744-7

For kids ages 3 to 5, Head Start provides it. So do Newport public schools. Finally, children are covered under the Oregon Health Plan at Advantage Dental, as are low-income adults.

All of these provide families a choice in taking advantage

of topical treatments that have been proven far more effective than putting fluoridation chemicals in the water, forcing us to ingest them whether we want to or not.

We have safe, effective and cost-effective alternatives to fluoridation in Newport. Let's use them. Please vote no on Measure 21-164.

Linda Grose
Seal Rock

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

MAY 13 2016

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

VOTE NO ON MEASURE 21-164

I can't believe people who think we all should drink the Kool-Aid for the misinformation about the benefits of fluoride for children. 744-7

When people like Ineka Estabrook ("Vote yes for fluoride," April 15 letter to the editor) note the condition of her foster children's rotten teeth, as if it is the responsibility of all of us to drink, bathe in, and wash clothes in fluoride-treated water, I find it outrageous. Ms. Estabrook notes that she hasn't seen one study

proving fluoride dangerous. There is so much credible information against adding fluoride to public water and forcing every inhabitant in Newport to drink the Kool-Aid, as well as pay a higher water bill, that I question the motives of the proponents, including the professionals with "MD" behind their names.

Vote no on Measure 21-164. Avoid the poison and higher water rates.

Trish Odell
Newport

Water testing required for some Brookings properties

By Jayati Rdmakrishnan
Pilot staff writer

The city of Brookings has started requiring annual testing for properties with backflow preventers — devices that keep non-potable water out of the city's potable water system.

"We initially surveyed properties to determine who had potential backflow on their property," said Public Works Director LauraLee Snook. "That took a couple of years. When we realized we weren't getting testing data back. People didn't realize it's a require-

ment."
The city has been sending letters to people with backflow preventers on their properties. The state now requires these devices be tested every year. The city requests citizens to have the tests conducted independently, and either mail or drop the results off at city hall.

As of now, Snook said, 72 letters have been sent to known property owners with backflow preventers on their property.

Snook also said the city will not provide

the service, and that citizens with backflow preventers are asked to seek the service out themselves.

"The city is not staffed to provide that service," Snook said. "The water department provides a list of people (in the area) licensed to do that work."

Richard Christensen, the Public Works supervisor for the city of Brookings, said customers have reported tests costing anywhere from \$30 to \$80.

"The cost varies between plumbers," he said. "It depends on

how many they (tests) have to do." He added that if a tester can line up multiple customers, the customers might receive a cost reduction.

Snook added that the letter is not meant to be punitive, but to inform citizens with backflow preventers that the city now requires this service.

"There's no time limit attached," she said. "It's like any new program. It takes a while to get going. The assumption right now is that the majority of people don't know (about it)."

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

MAY 18 2016

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

City may switch to another water purifier

SHELBY CASE
The Umpqua Post

REEDSPORT — City councilors have agreed that if at all possible, city employees should switch from chlorine to a pellet system to save the city thousands of dollars per year, while still purifying residents' water.

"After recently completing the budget process for the 2016-2017 fiscal year, it may be possible to

add the MIOX with (an onsite) salt silo as an additive alternative to the project," Public Works Director John Stokes said.

MIOX stands for Mixed Oxidant solution. The MIOX company is from Albuquerque, N.M., and city employees are working with SHN Engineers of Coos Bay.

In the MIOX system, a solution of water and salt (sodium chloride) is electrolyzed to produce

sodium hypochlorite, a disinfecting agent that kills pathogens in the drinking water. The only chemical that would have to be stored would be salt, which would be kept in a silo at the plant.

The alternative is a system that uses sodium hypochlorite pellets.

The city seeks a replacement for its existing system, which uses chlorine gas.

"We are instructing SHN to proceed with the MIOX component, but again, as an additive alternative in the bid documents," he said. "The MIOX system has been estimated by SHN to cost approximately \$182,000. This has been discussed with councilors and they are in agreement that if at all possible, it should be done now in order to save costs rather than (as) a secondary con-

tract."

Stokes emphasized however that councilors have simply discussed the matter and didn't take a formal vote "as there is nothing yet to vote on."

"When the project is formally and publicly bid this fall, the council will be apprised of the costs and whether or not the budget will support the MIOX

Please see Water, Page A2

Reedsport, OR
(Douglas Co.)
Umpqua Post
(Cir. W. 868)

MAY 18 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Established 1888

Water

From A1

will not recommend awarding this portion of the contract."

"The upfront cost comes to \$182,000.

"However, we may have funds in the existing budget to pay for this item if the estimate is not exceeded at the time of bid," Stokes noted. "It would be most prudent to install with the UV contract (another element of the water purification system) so there would not need to be two mobilization costs, two bidding costs, risk of inflation, etc. Further, the overall operating costs of the MIOX

system are less than \$10,000 per year, whereas the existing chlorine system is nearly \$15,000 per year."

Stokes explained more about mobilization expenses.

Essentially to do work at the location, the contractor and subcontractors will need to move equipment, workers and other items to complete the project. He said the UV contract will already have contractor moving logistics taken care of. However, Stokes said if the city can't install the MIOX equipment as part of the UV contract, then there'll be another round of mobilization for a future MIOX contract. This in turn will cost the city and "our citizens additional funds."

Reedsport, OR
(Douglas Co.)
Umpqua Post
(Cir. W. 868)

MAY 18 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Established 1888

Council decides on UV light for disinfectant

SHELBY CASE
The Umpqua Post

REEDSPORT — City councilors and staff have decided to go with an ultraviolet disinfectant system to treat water.

Public Works Director John Stokes said Coos Bay company SHN Engineers cooperated closely with his staff on various options.

"The key recommendations were UV disinfection, traditional filter, membrane filter and upgrading the existing ozone system," Stokes said.

The Coos Bay business is on an annual contract with the city "to provide on-call engineering services, which is based on need and available budget."

"The particular professional services contract for the UV system upgrade that encompasses two 'notice to proceeds' totaling approximately \$185,000," he said.

Although city leaders have chosen to go with the ultraviolet system and flow meters, they are "also looking at the MIOX system of chlorine generation as an additive alternate as it will be less expensive to install at this point as opposed to a separate project at a later date," he said.

Stokes provided more background on costs.

"Due to the matter that the membrane system was much too expensive and that the operation and maintenance costs are very

high for this system (regarding the size of our municipal water system, the UV system was selected," he said. "This decision was also made with input and discussion with the State Drinking Water Program staff."

"In looking at the life cycle costs for the UV system, this needs to be assessed over a 20-year period," the public works director emphasized. "That said, if the city was to simply upgrade the existing ozone system, which is outdated technology, it would cost the city, and rate payers \$1.2 million over the 20-year period. Conversely, replacing the ozone system with the UV system will save the city and taxpayers \$456,166 over the same 20-year

period. So, in short, the UV system will in fact save funds rather than cost the city and taxpayers money."

"It is estimated by SHN considering all of the factors that the UV system will cost approximately \$600,000," he noted. "However, this estimate will be re-evaluated during the design and construction document phase, which is currently underway."

He praised the engineering firm's work throughout the process.

"SHN has been extremely professional and thorough to work with," Stokes said. "We have been extremely pleased with their level of experience and willingness to work with our community and the financial constraints that are

present. They have worked hard to hold costs down, but have also been realistic in their approach to this project, which we have greatly appreciated."

"The city has been extremely fiscally responsible in setting funds aside for quite a few years to fund this project and so far, no debt has or is anticipated to be incurred for this project," the public works director added. "We are also researching funding sources (grants, etc.) that may be viable to help pay for the project."

The Umpqua Post Editor Shelby Case can be reached at 541-269-1222, ext. 296 or shelby.case@theworldlink.com.

Chenowith PUD recognized

By Neita Cecil
ncec1@thedalleschronicle.com

Chenowith Water PUD has won back-to-back excellence awards from the state for how it manages its water system.

The Oregon Health Authority certified that the PUD met the criteria for an "outstanding performance" designation during its latest survey.

The surveys, which measure a utility's ability to safely provide water to customers, are done periodically by the state, with the frequency based on performance on past surveys. Because the PUD had an outstanding rating, it was able to go five years between site surveys.

Water systems with a less than outstanding rating have to have the survey done every three years.

The last Chenowith PUD survey that garnered an outstanding designation was done under the watch of late PUD Manager Roger Prowell. The current manager, Jeb Miller, said he had a goal of win-

ning the designation again in his honor and memory.

The outstanding designation is hard won, according to staff. "They don't just hand these out to anybody," said employee Nathan Pope.

Just 62 water systems statewide earned the designation last year.

Water system surveys are on-site reviews of water sources, treatment facilities and reservoirs and system records.

Records checks include everything from having an emergency response plan in place to detailed records of chemical treatment of water.

As for facilities, "They look at the condition of your buildings, the condition of your pumps, how secure it is," said Bill Van Ek, an employee at the PUD.

"They look at the condition of the reservoirs, make sure everything's sanitary," he said.

Van Ek gave a reporter a tour of the

See AWARD, Page A8



Chenowith Water PUD recently received its second recognition from the state for outstanding performance. Pictured, from left, is water treatment operator Ed Van Ek, Manager Jeb Miller, administrator/human resources officer Patsy Busick, water treatment operator Brenton Adams, clerk Oralia Rodriguez, and water treatment operator Nathan Pope. With them is Chevy the water dog, Miller's dog, who hangs out every day at the office.

Neita Cecil photo

Award

Continued from Page A1

pristine-looking facilities at the Chenowith office, at 2312 W. 8th St., which include massive filters, pumps and wellheads.

The PUD has four wells, five reservoirs, and about 4,500 customers on the west end of The Dalles and surrounding areas.

The PUD is preparing for eventual growth into its area with the installation of a large 12-inch water mainline across Chenowith Creek at West Sixth Street and River

Road.

The PUD has ample capacity to meet growth demands.

It has a capacity to pump five million gallons a day and has never exceeded two million gallons a day.

While every day can be different, typical duties for the four men who work in the field include meter reading, hydrant flushing, well checks, daily water sampling at multiple locations, maintaining and replacing meters, and 24/7 response to emergencies.

"Basically we are going to every part of our facility once a day, even on

weekends, just to make sure everything's good and safe and smooth," Miller said.

The PUD recently got devices that allows them to test water meters remotely, which saves on fuel, easing the carbon footprint, and also staff time.

What used to take a day can be done in an hour, Miller said.

All the employees in the field have multiple certifications for their work.

Van Ek has certifications as a water distribution operator Level 3, a water treatment operator level 1, cross connections, and backflow testing.

Pope is certified as a water distribution operator Level 2, cross connection specialist and a backflow tester. Brenton Adams is a backflow tester, and he has water distribution operator training and cross connection training.

Miller is a water distribution operator Level 3, a water treatment operator level 1, a cross connection specialist, and a backflow tester.

Patsy Busick works in administration and human resources for the district and Oralia Rodriguez is a part-time clerk.

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

MAY 22 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

County plan for sewers challenged

By Ted Shorack
The Bulletin

Central Oregon LandWatch is challenging a decision that allows sewer systems in rural parts of southern Deschutes County.

The Bend-based land use watchdog group argues in a recent petition to the Oregon

Land Use Board of Appeals that the decision is too vague to address ground contamination concerns in unincorporated areas around La Pine and Sunriver.

Oregon's land use rules prohibit sewers outside of urban growth boundaries unless allowing them would reduce a

public health hazard.

County commissioners adopted an ordinance in February that stated the need for an exception to the rule and allowed sewers.

State agencies have considered the southern part of the county to be at risk for contamination from nitrates since

a study was conducted in the late 1990s. The potential for unsafe nitrate levels in drinking water has been attributed to wastewater discharges from septic tanks on rural properties.

Many rural residents in southern Deschutes County, however, were not convinced

of the need for sewer systems during the county's public hearing process last year. Some thought they would be forced to connect to a sewer service eventually.

The county decision provided the opportunity for sewers, but didn't require it.

See Sewers/B2

sewers

Continued from B1

LandWatch argues in its appeal that the county's decision lacked detailed information about how sewer systems would fix the problem. The exception argued for by the county specifically applies to Goal 11, a state land use rule for public facilities and services.

"(The) exception to allow sewers in rural areas is so broad and indefinite that it does not even qualify as an exception," the LandWatch petition states. The organization is asking LUOA to remand or reverse the county's decision.

County commissioners unanimously agreed in Feb-

ruary that allowing sewers was the best solution for the area. The soil in southern Deschutes County is porous with relatively shallow groundwater. Many people use wells and draw water from the aquifer.

LandWatch also questions in its appeal whether concerns about nitrates in the groundwater justify an exception to allow sewers.

"The county not only failed to find that the exception is necessary to avoid an imminent and substantial public health hazard, but explicitly found that 'a public health issue is not imminent,'" the petition states.

The county, Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development and Oregon Department of Envi-

ronmental Quality presented information in public meetings to support an exception to land use policies at the state and county level.

DEQ organized an advisory committee in 2010 to review the various options for addressing the presence of nitrates that could arise in groundwater as a result of future development. The group recommended allowing sewers in the area instead of upgraded septic systems with more sophisticated filtration techniques.

Deschutes County and LandWatch are scheduled to present oral arguments to the Land Use Board of Appeals June 9 in Salem.

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

MAY 24 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

MAY 25 2016

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

Canby Utility

plans public meeting

Customers are encouraged to attend and learn more about the taste and odor issues in Canby's water supply

By DANIEL PEARSON
The Canby Herald

Canby Utility plans to host two public informational meetings on Thursday, June 2 at 2 and 6 p.m. to give customers an opportunity to ask questions and voice concerns related to the taste and odor of its drinking water.

Canby Utility General Manager Dan Murphy said even though the water supply has been tested numerous times since customers originally complained about the foul taste and odor during late summer 2014, many customers have expressed concern and interest in learning more about the issues affecting the taste of the city's drinking water.

"Most of our residents here in Canby are aware that off-and-on we have been experiencing an unpleasant taste and odor to our water," Murphy said.

See WATER / Page 6

WATER: Elements in water are becoming more common

moving Geosmin and MIB with this process. Currently, ACS is trying to determine "the mechanism that allows mucilage to be such an effective purifier," according to an article published last March in Science Daily.

What's happening regionally? In August 2015, published reports show the Corvallis Public Works Department received calls from many of its 16,000 customers who had the same complaints about the taste and odor of their water supply as Canby residents, and there it too Geosmin and MIB were determined to be the culprits.

The Oregon Health Authority issued 10 harmful algae bloom advisories in 2014 and another nine in 2015, including one last year at Clackamas Cove, which is next to downtown Oregon City, but neither Canby nor Corvallis were ever put under surveillance for exposure to harmful algae blooms.

The Canby Herald obtained from the DEQ a list of entities that have permits to discharge into the Molalla River between Goods Bridge and Knight's Bridge Road — Canby Utility's water intake falls within that area, but for public safety reasons Murphy declined to reveal its exact location. Currently, there are 78 water permits issued although some entities, such as Willamette Egg Farms, have more than one discharge permit.

Murphy said it's difficult to know specifically the source of these compounds, Geosmin and MIB, collecting in the Molalla River, although he and Karen Williams, basin coordinator for the Oregon DEQ's northwest region, agree that it is likely caused by runoff from entities all up and down the river.

No one from Canby Utility, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) or the Oregon Health Authority's drinking water division would go on record naming any one entity as possibly being responsible, or mostly responsible, for the compounds that are washing into the Molalla River.

In the meantime, possibly to help with the odor and taste, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) recommends adding lemon juice to water effected by Geosmin and/or MIB, or chilling water to just above freezing prior to consumption, to improve the taste and to reduce odors. Drinking water carbon filter systems also are effective at reducing odors and improving taste, according to information published on the USGS website.

(Continued from page 1)
"We have tested the water, and know conclusively that the taste and odor is due to the presence of harmless organic algae compounds that have become present in our Molalla River source water. The water is safe to drink (but the Canby Utility Board of Directors) wants to provide all Canby residents the opportunity to come in, ask any questions they have and hopefully leave better informed about the costs, constraints and other challenges involved in any fix to the water taste problem."

Canby Utility uses a third-party testing facility to evaluate the city's water supply. That company, Veolia Water North America, determined the cause of the taste to be Geosmin and Methylisoborneol, or MIB, but mostly the latter. Geosmin and MIB are naturally-occurring compounds produced by algae and bacteria that give water a very strong and earthy, musty taste. They are detectable in concentrations of just five to 10 parts per trillion, according to information published by the U.S. National Library of Medicine.

Canby Utility conducted an \$18,500 study last year to determine what fixes would be required to eliminate Geosmin and MIB from entering the water supply. A retrofit to the treatment plant would cost \$1.5 million, and as much as \$7 million depending on what new technology is deployed, the study says.

Geosmin and MIB becoming more common
A 2011 report by the National Institutes of Health says "problems due to the taste and odor in drinking water are common in treatment facilities around the world" and "are mainly caused by the presence of" Geosmin and MIB. Another study published back in 2001 by the University of Kansas shows that both compounds were causing taste and odor issues in Midwestern U.S. water supply reservoirs at least 15 years ago.

In other words, Geosmin and MIB appearing in drinking water supplies has become more common throughout much of the U.S. and the world — a quick Google search returns hundreds of news stories from across the U.S. related to Geosmin and MIB in drinking water supplies since 2014.

The American Chemical Society (ACS) currently is conducting studies using mucilage — imagine the inner guts of cacti — to clean drinking water and have had some success re-

dents and others who drink our water protection against fluoridation chemicals. They are truly heroes and deserve our thanks.

This victory is dedicated to Brian Perkins, a Clean Water Newport volunteer who died suddenly of a stroke at age 58 shortly before the election. Brian and his wife, Lori, outributed several fabulous workers tirelessly at all levels. He is greatly missed.

Finally, enormous thanks goes to the voters of Newport for their strong support, defeating Measure 21-164 by 64 percent to 36 percent, and ending the risk of fluoridation to the Newport, public water supply. This was a complicated and contentious subject. And Newport voters took the time to understand the issues: fluoridation is a waste of money and unethical with its lack of informed consent. Based on comparisons of fluoridated and un-fluoridated areas, fluoridation has little or no effect against tooth decay. Multiple recent studies have shown that fluoridation has many potentially dangerous health risks. Fluoridation actually harms low-income people with the high costs to

avoid fluoridated water. Most countries do not fluoridate. It is our water and our choice. Thank you, Newport, for proving it.

Dr. Susan Andersen, ND
Chair, Clean Water Newport

Newport, OR
(Lincoln Co.)
Newport News Times
(Cir. 2xw. 7,011)

MAY 25 2016
Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

THANK YOU NEWPORT VOTERS

We at Clean Water Newport are very pleased with the resounding defeat of fluoridation in the election on May 17. This is a huge win for Newport. 7447

Educating the voters after over 50 years of misinformation was a big job. Our volunteers stepped up in a big way. They proved that the more people know about fluoridation, the more likely they are to oppose it. In doing so, they afforded Newport resi-

Sweet Home, OR
(Linn Co.)
New Era
(Cir. W. 1,593)

MAY 25 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Established 1888



THE OREGON ASSOCIATION OF WATER UTILITIES presents statewide awards to the City of Sweet Home for its drinking water. From left are Mike Collier, deputy director and source water specialist with OAWU; Mayor Jim Gourley; D.J. Fox, plant operations manager; Tim Riley, mechanic with Public Works; Mike Adams, Public Works director; and Jason Green, executive director.

Sweet Home wins second water taste competition of this year

By Sean C. Morgan
Of The New Era

The City of Sweet Home has won its second drinking water competition this year, this time with the Oregon Association of Water Utilities.

Sweet Home placed first for surface water plants and first overall and is now qualified to move to a national drinking water competition.

Association Executive Director Jason Green recently presented a trophy to the City Council.

"Your city is a member of our association, has been a member for many years," Green said. "We provide primarily technical assistance or consulting and formal classroom training throughout the state for both members and non-members."

Sweet Home staff brought water to the group's annual conference, he said. "They competed against a number of other participants. The two categories are ground water and surface water because there's a difference between treatment techniques."

Water samples were evaluated on taste, odor and aesthetics,

which is what customers deal with, Green said. Judging is blind.

"Not only did the City of Sweet Home take first in surface water but you took the top overall, best in Oregon contest. Congratulations on your workers as a whole. It's not just your city employees. It's not just at the plant. It's in the distribution system. It's back in the office. It's the person that reads the water meters. It's a joint effort that makes these things possible."

Green said his association would be in touch around February to get a gallon of water to ship back to DC "so those folks can tell what really good water tastes like. Sweet Home will be entered in the nationals representing the State of Oregon."

D.J. Fox, who manages the city's treatment plants for CH2M Hill, emphasized the team effort throughout the plants and the distribution system required to provide good water.

Earlier this year, Sweet Home placed first in a regional drinking water contest, edging out two cities that use ground water, which tends to prevail in drinking water contests.

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

MAY 25 2016

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

Southern Deschutes County should get sewers

Clean water can begin at home. That means keeping things like nitrates out of groundwater and out of the Deschutes River.

And that's why the Deschutes County plan to allow sewers in rural parts of southern Deschutes County makes so much sense.

Central Oregon LandWatch recently challenged the county's decision at the state level before the Land Use Board of Appeals. But the county's plan should stand.

Nobody disputes that high concentrations of nitrates can be hazardous to health. Nitrates getting into the digestive system make it more difficult for blood to carry oxygen. Infants and pregnant women are particularly vulnerable.

Where do nitrates come from?

Nitrates are present in fertilizer, in manure and can come from sewage disposal systems.

In southern Deschutes County, many homes are on septic systems. And many people use wells for their drinking water. The water

table in the area is high. The soil is porous. In other words, it's a recipe for nitrate contamination.

If septic systems fail or malfunction, they could load the soil with nitrates, leading to problems with drinking water from wells or for the Deschutes River.

As the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has stated about nitrates in the La Pine area: "Currently we have isolated plumes that have exceeded the federal drinking water standard of 10 mg/l for nitrate. The model predicts that these plumes will coalesce over time and the conditions will get worse if nothing is done."

Oregon's land use laws generally prohibit sewer systems outside of urban growth boundaries. That's to restrict and control development and sprawl. And properly functioning septic systems can prevent nitrate contamination.

But it makes sense to allow sewer systems where they can help ensure clean water. The county should be able to go ahead with its plan.

Condon, OR
(Gilliam Co.)
Times-Journal
(Circ. W. 1,500)

MAY 26 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Moro councilors wrestle with reservoir repairs, hire Kya Mabe as city administrator

Moro city councilors were updated on the issues involving the city's water reservoir when they met May 3 at the city hall in Moro.

John English, the city's Public Works director, in explaining the 'boil order' that had been issued earlier, noted that the contractors had advised that the reservoir inspectors would need the reservoir at full capacity then would need it drained for the inspection. In draining the reservoir, the water pressure went to zero, and when zero pressure occurs, a 'boil order' is required. Water samples were taken and tested and returned 'negative' for any contaminants, and the boil order was lifted.

The matter of reservoir repairs continues to be an issue, and several suggestions were made. To seal the reservoir, it was reported, would take two days then another 10-12 days to cure, and there was discussion on how to maintain the supply of water to the community during that time, with suggestions including the use of 10,000 gallon water tanks, or using the city's old cistern.

More information will be pursued regarding the use of tanks and the costs of the repair work, then bid proposals will be requested for the work that needs to be done. In order to expedite the project, it was noted that a special meeting of the council may need to be called to make decisions on the matter.

The matter of locating the water line to the school and installing a shut-off valve remains unresolved at this time. It was suggested that, once found, the valve could be installed while the reservoir is empty for repairs.

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

MAY 27 2016

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

Boil water notice issued for part of South Salem

GORDON FRIEDMAN
STATESMAN JOURNAL

744-7

The City of Salem is asking some residents in South Salem to boil water from their taps until further notice.

About 65 homes are affected on Barnes Avenue SE between Stroh Lane and Commercial Street SE. Homes are also affected on Harlandale Avenue, Peterson Street and Andersen Street SE, officials said.

The boil water notice comes after a vehicle collided with a fire hydrant Wednesday night. Maintenance crews had to shut down the water

main to mitigate water damage caused by the broken hydrant, according to a press release.

The Oregon Health Authority requires a boil water notice be issued as a precaution any time pressure is lost in a water system.

The boil water notice will be in effect until crews deem the water safe via bacteriological testing. Test results are expected by mid-day Friday, officials said.

Send questions, comments or news tips to gfriedman2@statesmanjournal.com or 503-399-6653. Follow on Twitter @GordonRFriedman.

32
08
09
04
06
744-7

Castparts sparks city water concerns

Milwaukie wells susceptible to nearby pollution

By PAUL KOBERSTEIN
Pumpkin Media Group

What's up with the water in the city of Milwaukie? Many residents say it has a foul taste and aroma that make it unpalatable. City officials insist that it is safe — but only after it passes through a special water treatment system.

Milwaukie draws all of its water from seven wells located around the city. At five of these wells, tests show that they are riddled with potentially unsafe levels of carcinogenic industrial wastes, says Tom Pattee, a groundwater expert with the Oregon Health



PHOTO BY JAY HOUSE
Concerned about the state of drinking water at her Milwaukie home, Michelle Murdoch installed a water filter in the basement.

Water: Officials assure public of safety

From Page 1

Authority, a state agency that oversees the safety of drinking water.

However, Pattee says the city treatment system is successful at stripping out the impurities, and that the health agency has found that the water is safe to drink when it arrives at people's homes.

"That doesn't mean it suits everyone's taste.

"It seems to have a pretty strong aroma, and the flavor has a chemical taste," says Michelle Murdoch, a resident of the Lewellyn neighborhood.

Murdock no longer drinks the water straight from the tap. Her family first treats the water with a "reverse osmosis" system that they installed. The system set them back \$300, a price that she recognizes not every family can afford. Murdock thinks the city is failing to perform its duty to provide drinkable water.

"They should decommission those wells," she insists.

"It tastes funny," says Heather Sparks of the Ardenwald neighborhood. "It has this burnt flavor to it. It tastes chemical-y. It's not a common taste. No one has really been

able to define the taste. I've talked to many residents."

Sparks says she has noticed the foul taste since "the day I moved in" in October 2013.

Others interviewed compared the taste of the water to a "kitchen floor cleaner," and noted that it leaves a brown or black ring around the toilet that must be scrubbed every few days.

The oldest of the seven wells is failing, and two are due to be replaced in the next two years. Built from 1936 to 2008, the wells tap an aquifer known as the "Troutdale Formaton" and range in depth from 290 to 481 feet. On a summer day, the city draws up to 5 million gallons.

In 1988, routine monitoring discovered that the aquifer is contaminated with unsafe levels of trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE), which are industrial solvents. Tiny concentrations of two other pollutants, tetrachloroethylene and dichloroethylene, also have been found, according to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

The city took the seven wells out of service soon after the contamination was discovered and purchased water from Portland. Milwaukie built aeration treatment plants

initial cost of \$2 million, plus \$200,000 in annual operating expenses, to remove the contamination from the groundwater. It placed the wells back in service in 1991.

Don Simonsen, the city's water quality coordinator, says neither the DEQ nor the city has been fully certain who is responsible for the contamination, although they have identified about 200 potential sources. In 2002, the city filed suit against tool manufacturer Stanley Works, Providence Health Systems and several other entities. In 2007, the city reached a combined \$260,000 settlement with Stanley and Providence.

The DEQ says it is conducting 12 different investigations of the groundwater contamination in the Milwaukie area. It also has been investigating two closed landfills in the area, both of which have received industrial wastes, possibly including radioactive material.

Sparks, Murdock and others contacted the Portland Tribune to discuss their drinking water after the newspaper reported on April 7 that a nearby

manufacturer, Precision Castparts Corp., has been polluting a much shallower aquifer with the same type of carcinogenic wastes found at much deeper levels less than a mile away.

The DEQ's sampling of groundwater under the Precision Castparts twin plants at 4600 S.E. Harney St. show that PCE concentrations have been at levels that exceed drinking water standards for at least a decade and are rising.

Pattee said groundwater in that area can travel horizontally about a mile in 10 years, but its vertical travel time is unknown. Milwaukie officials say that the pollution from Precision Castparts does not pose an immediate threat to the city's drinking water, but eventually may become a problem, and they are monitoring the situation.

Molly Gordon, who lives with her three children near the Precision Castparts plants, said the pollution "makes me nervous. I want my family to live in an area with clean air, clean dirt and clean water. As I learn more, it makes me more concerned."

Milwaukie, OR
(Clackamas Co.)
Clackamas Review
(Cir. W. 18,000)

JUN 1 2016

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

Eugene, OR
(Lane Co.)
Eugene Register-Guard
(Cir. D. 51,890)

JUN 2 2016

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

EWEB's water passes test

An annual report shows supplies from the McKenzie River again meet or exceed safety standards

By JACK MORAN
The Register-Guard

Drink up. The water's fine. Eugene Water & Electric Board officials say tests once again show that the McKenzie River water it treats and pipes to customers meets or exceeds state and federal quality standards.

EWEB recently released its annual water quality report. Fed-

eral rules require all public water suppliers to issue yearly updates.

This year's EWEB report contains a section that discusses lead contamination. The topic is of concern to many, in light of the ongoing, high-profile water crisis in Flint, Mich.

Corrosive water from the Flint River caused lead from aging pipes to leach into the city's water supply, exposing thousands of people to potentially

serious health problems. That's not a worry here, according to EWEB. The utility has detected no lead in its treated source water. It removed its last known lead service lines in the 1980s, spokesman Joe Harwood said.

The situation in Flint has, however, coincided with an uptick in the number of questions EWEB receives from customers about lead contamination.

"With Flint in the news for the last two years, that has picked up a little bit," Harwood said.

It's still possible for lead to seep into tap water in Eugene. According to EWEB, the main source of any lead contamination is household plumbing.

Lead solder was commonly used in homes plumbed with copper pipes before the mid-1980s. Some brass plumbing fixtures also contain lead.

Harwood suggests residents of older homes — or anyone else concerned about lead in their water — regularly flush pipes by letting the tap run for

Turn to WATER, Page B3

Water: Record of clean water supply spans decades

Continued from Page B1

a minute or so before using water for drinking or cooking.

EWEB has reported a clean drinking water supply for decades. Harwood said it all starts with the source.

"There's relatively little treatment because the (McKenzie River) water source is so good," he said.

"There's not a lot of opportunity for lead to get into water."

In the early 1990s, EWEB based its water quality results on samples taken annually from 100 different sites. After two years in which no lead was detected, federal regulators allowed EWEB to take and test a total of 50 samples each year.

More clean tests prompted the EPA to lower testing requirements even further. EWEB

is now only required to test 50 sites every three years. Harwood said.

Test sites include homes and businesses scattered throughout EWEB's service area.

That's the best way to find out, Harwood said.

The utility also tests water as it leaves its Hayden Bridge filtration plant.

There, chlorine is added to disinfect water, and sediment and other suspended materials are removed. At the end of the treatment process, the pH balance of the water is adjusted to reduce corrosion in plumbing systems.

The annual water report may be viewed online at www.eweb.org.

7447

Follow Jack on Twitter @jackmoran. Email jackmoran@registerguard.com.

Public scarce at Canby Utility public meetings

Company holds informational meetings to address water taste and odor issues, out of 6,000 customers only 15 attend

By DANIEL PEARSON
The Canby Herald

Canby Utility held two public informational meetings on Friday, June 2 to give customers an opportunity to ask questions and voice concerns related to the taste and odor of Canby's drinking water.

A total of about 15 people attended each meeting, which was a little surprising to some considering the amount of discussion in recent weeks about the issue on the community Facebook page Canby Now.

Those who did attend asked just a handful of questions, most having nothing to do with the earthy, musty taste of the water supply.

Canby Utility General Manager Dan Murphy said three people were

active with questions but they were all over the place with their assertions.

"No one demanded 'fix this taste now at any cost,'" he said. "It is just difficult to take much stock in so few people in attendance."

Murphy, who during the meeting sat under a black and white photo of what at the time was a picture of Canby Utility's new Westcott substation, energized on Sept. 25, 2001, said the reality is that the company has a vintage 1972 water plant — state of the art when it came online.

"I think it's safe to say that pretty much everybody in Canby knows we've been having some issues with the taste and odor of our water,"

Murphy said. "It's possible we had some issues prior to that but nothing with the consistency we've seen since 2014. Most people don't know that the state and federal (government) do not regulate taste. It's considered an aesthetic issue but they heavily regulate for safety."

Canby Utility Board Chairman Gary Potter, who conspicuously sipped bottled water during the 2 p.m. meeting — a fact pointed out by

an audience member — said that utility board members and employees are residents of Canby and they too consume the water and are not pleased with the taste.

"Let me just paint the picture with a broad brush," Potter said. "The water taste has come up as an issue several times over the last couple of years. We've determined the taste and odor issues that occur are a result of the breakdown of algae, which releases two organic compounds into the water called Geosmin and Methylisoborneol, or MIB. Those two organic compounds are not toxic or harmful to human health, but humans can detect them in little concentrations in the water."

Geosmin and MIB are detectable to humans in concentrations of just five to 10 parts per trillion, according to information published by the U.S. National Library of Medicine. Canby Utility's water treatment plant does not have the technology that is available today in newer plants to remove those two compounds, Potter said.

Canby Utility conducted an \$18,500 study last year to determine what fixes would be required to eliminate

Geosmin and MIB from entering the water supply. A retrofit to the treatment plant would cost \$1.5 million, and as much as \$7 million depending on what new technology is deployed, the study says.

"They identified four alternatives to remove those two compounds and reduce the taste and odor problem," Potter said. "The bad news is the cheapest alternative is \$1.5 million. Basically, that would require us to hook up six huge tanks that would act like huge Brita water filters. We could take that technology and hook it to an old plant like ours and hope that it works. Is that a good business decision? It's not an easy decision. The Molalla River is an open source; we don't have the benefit of a protected watershed. The Molalla has outflows and communities upstream from us, (such as) the city of Molalla, gravel operations — we have a lot of things coming down the river that we don't have the privilege of maintaining control over and keeping our water (a pure source)."

Canby Utility is required to build a new treatment plant in the next 25-or-so years. The company ob-

tained water rights on the Willamette River to add to the source of Canby's water supply, but running a pipe to that river now could result in similar taste and odor issues since the treatment plant still would not have new technology in place to remove Geosmin and MIB.

"Do we take the \$1.5 million and new technology and add on to the plant knowing we are going to be building a new plant with the latest technology that will remove these two compounds in the future?" Potter said. "That's the situation as the board sees it."

In the meantime, possibly to help with the odor and taste, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) recommends adding lemon juice to water affected by Geosmin and/or MIB, or chilling water to just above freezing prior to consumption, in order to improve the taste and reduce odors. Drinking water carbon filter systems also are effective at reducing odors and improving taste, according to information published on the USGS website.

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

JUN 8 2016

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

Water shut-off next step for 6 people, entities

HUNTER MARROW
THE ANGUS OBSERVER

ONTARIO

About six Ontario businesses or residents have not responded to notices from the city's public works department, CH2M, about getting their backflow preventers checked — and if they don't, it could force the department to shut off water on those properties.

Public works director Cliff Leeper did not name the businesses or residents, but he did say that the six who haven't responded to inquiries from the department were down from about 100 cases a week ago. The others have since submitted testing evi-

Ontario, OR
(Malheur Co.)
Angus Observer
(Cir. 4xW, 6,840)

JUN 9 2016

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

CITY OF ONTARIO

SHUT-OFF: 'Going on for a while'

FROM PAGE A1

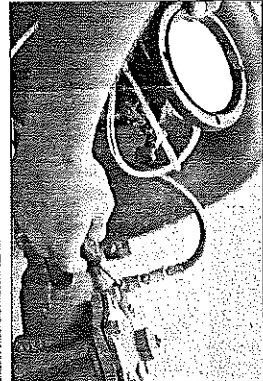
denne, he said. "This has been going on for a while, but we've not really seen this many delinquent cases in a long time," Leeper said. The city is mandated by the Oregon Department of Human Services to keep track of and enforce annual backflow preventer testing as a matter of public safety and health.

Without a backflow preventer, contamination can occur within home and business drinking water systems that hook up to potentially hazardous cross-connections.

Those connections might include using a garden hose sprayer to apply insecticides or herbicides, or a car wash connecting its plumbing and pumping dirty, soapy water through several city blocks. There was one case where antifreeze from a fire suppression system in Oregon backflowed because of undersized pipes.

"We don't want any contamination to occur," CH2M backflow specialist Al Haun said. "This is a public safety issue."

The city's backflow program maintains a list of homes and businesses with approved backflow assemblies and notifies them of annual testing requirements. The department checks the list on a monthly basis, Leeper said.



HUNTER MARROW/THE ANGUS OBSERVER

Al Haun, a CH2M backflow specialist, shows how a backflow prevention device is hooked up for testing. Six Ontario businesses and residents still need to submit testing evidence of their backflow prevention device or risk facing their water being shut off.

Leeper said two warning letters are delivered to notify residents or businesses of the required testing evidence. If the department still receives no word, employees make a personal visit to explain the situation or, if no one is home, leave an informational door knocker.

The final course of action is to turn off the water. "That's the last thing we want to do is shut people's water off," Leeper said.

He said the remaining six business and residents are at the point where water shut-off is the next course of action, but gave no specific timeline on when they must submit their testing evidence.

"As soon as they can," he said. The public works department doesn't perform

the testing. The letters sent to the delinquent cases have a list of Oregon-certified backflow technicians who can perform the test, Leeper said.

NEWS BRIEFS 744-7

Coffee Creek employee appointed

Melissa Peng, a physician's assistant who works at Coffee Creek Correctional Institute in Wilsonville, has been named to the Oregon Medical Board. The board protects the health and safety of citizens through regulation of practitioners.

City releases water quality report

The City of Wilsonville has released the "2016 Annual Water Quality Report," which documents results of the City's 2015 water-quality monitoring and testing. The report lists the regulated contaminants that may be detected in treated water and the sample results from Wilsonville's water system.

ment, including lead, that the City's water quality surpasses all federal and state standards for drinking water. Distribution of the Annual Water Quality Report, also known as the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), is required of all community water systems under 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act amendments by July 1 of each year.

"The City of Wilsonville is proud of the safe, high-quality drinking water we provide to our citizens as is validated in the annual water quality report," said Delora Kerber, the City's Public Works director.

Copies of the "2016 Annual Water Quality Report" are available at City Hall and the library, and online at the City's website cl.wilsonville.or.us/WaterQualityReport. Paper copies of the report are available at City Hall and the Wilsonville Public Library

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

JUN 8 2016

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

Harbor

No quick fix for saltwater intrusion

Water district officials exploring different options to keep drinking water palatable

By Jane Stebbins
Pilot staff writer

Dave VanCleave, superintendent for the Harbor Water District, is looking to the skies and smiling these days.

Rain. "Rain would not hurt my feelings," he said. "It can rain all it wants."

VanCleave and other district officials have been working all winter to find a way to prevent saltwater from seeping into the community's municipal water system during drought years.

However, a solution isn't likely to be found, let alone implemented, this summer officials said.

In each of the past two summers, Harbor residents have been forced to purchase potable water to avoid drinking salty water coming from their taps. They complained of houseplants dying, pets turning up their noses at water offered and sticky skin after taking showers.

The saltwater intrusion happens when high ocean tides combined with extremely low water flow in the Chetco River results in saltwater entering into Harbor's intake pump, located about 2.5 miles upriver. The pump draws water from an aquifer below the river bed.

The board is taking the first steps toward finding a long-term solution, VanCleave said, as it awaits the delivery of custom-made testing equipment it plans to install at each finger of the district's well to monitor incoming water.

"We've got engineers, hydrologists, geologists all over," he said. "We need to have some hard facts so we can go to the (U.S. Army) Corps. One way or another, we've got to change the channel, fix the river, move the pump house, put in a treatment plant — right now there's no hard and fast answer. Everything's still yet to be seen."

The equipment is estimated to cost \$13,000, and the study, another \$40,000.

See Saltwater, Page 10A

SALTWATER

Continued from Page 1A

field farmers have wells that produce only 75 gallons per hour apiece.

Brookings' water supply, with its well another 2.8 miles upstream, was not affected.

The district has thought about trying to secure water rights farther upstream, but most are already taken. VanCleave pored over historical data in wells to find abandoned wells in search of one that could provide at least 850 gallons per hour. Most of the big

first tasted salt in their tap water at the end of August in 2014, after a series of King Tides, a full moon and a record-low flow of 54 cfs in the Chetco River brought ocean water to the district's pump. Last summer, salt water intrusion returned at the end of July. During both years, the salty flavor didn't disappear until after the first major rains in October and November.

Harbor residents

He had little luck. "We're just watching and coming up with a plan," VanCleave said. "Anything can happen, and we don't know what'll happen until it happens. So far, so good. Until we get a permanent fix for this, we're going to have to do the best we can."

Pelican Bay Heights residents receive funding for water tanks

By Jayati Ramakrishnan
Pilot staff writer

Within a few months, the Harbor Water District will annex about 22 homes and 8 vacant lots into its jurisdiction, as the Pelican Bay Heights neighborhood in Harbor will soon have two new water tanks that allow them to join the district — a project that will be financially covered by the state of Oregon.

The Infrastructure Finance Authority, a state-run entity that lends money to cities, counties and special districts for infrastructure projects, has granted the Pelican Bay heights neighborhood a forgivable loan for the project, which will total around \$232,000.

"They applied for a loan through our Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan fund," said Becky Bryant of the IFA. "They ended up receiving, after a lot of review, a forgivable loan — basically a grant."

The two 10,000-gallon stainless steel water tanks will be located on Napa Lane, and will be installed in the next few months.

Jan Amlin, owner of the Pelican Bay Heights Community Water System, gathered the residents Tuesday night at the Harbor Water District building, telling them only that the meeting was "very important." Then, she broke the news to them.

"You won't have to pay anything," she said to cheers and looks of shock from the residents. "The IFA is covering everything."

Harbor Water Superintendent Dave VanCleave said there are various benefits to being annexed into the water district.

"A crew will be on call," he said. "Water

should be cheaper. And the fire hydrants up there have never been usable. With reservoirs they will be, it will make a better system for them."

The property owners of the Harbor neighborhood have been trying to get into the Harbor Water District for about two years, Amlin said, and recently, they were told that the IFA had covered a portion of the fee — but residents would still have to split the remainder of the cost — about \$78,000 between 23 property owners.

Two residents, who declined to be named, said they were completely surprised and delighted by the news. Until that point, they expected they were going to have to pay for the tanks.

Amlin said that because the Pelican Bay Heights water system is private, they have been buying water from the Harbor Water District. In order to get into the system, district officials said they would need to have two reservoirs of their own.

Becky Bryant of the IFA said the forgivable loan is contingent on the construction being completed, and on the system being incorporated into the Harbor Water District.

VanCleave said the Pelican Bay Heights water system was built in 1989, and that they would have annexed it into the district at that time, but it didn't meet the district's specifications.

"There were no water tanks installed," he said. "They kept getting bigger. We've been selling them water — delivering it to their pump house and pumping it into their system."

VanCleave said Harbor Water District will

take over the Pelican Bay Heights system soon, provided that they finish the project.

He said that the reservoirs have been ordered, and that the project should take about 90 days to complete, but it has to be operational before Harbor Water assumes control.

"We'll take over once they're finished to our specifications, and have been online for 90 days," he said.

Once the tanks are implemented, he said, the IFA will disperse the funds — but if the project is not completed residents will have to pay for the project.

He said the last time the water district annexed an area was in 1972, when the residents in the Winchuck River area were forced to join the district due to bad water.

Bryant said that the loan program is the only funding source available to private water systems.

"They have to be under the public utility commission for rates," she said. She said the original loan package only funded part of the cost, but the IFA felt it was important to get the project completed.

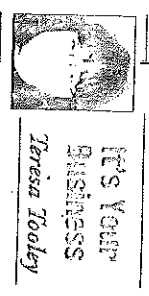
"Essentially, the project stalled over \$62,000," she said. "And we decided it was important to get the system installed."

We made the decision in the best interest of consolidation, and getting the system to comply with water system standards. So we made the \$62,000 a forgivable loan."

"It's been a long process," Bryant said. "We've been working with them maybe a year. But they've stayed with it."

Consolidation into the Harbor system is contingent on completion of the project.

The Crook County Health Department is sponsoring a free informational seminar about well water testing and reporting for the State of Oregon. They will cover proper procedure and protocol for all private wells and standardized procedure for residential estate agents. The seminar will be held on Tuesday, June 21 at the Carey Foster Hall. There will be two seminars, the first will be for licensed real estate agents and second will be for the general public and held from 6:30-7:30 p.m. For more information, call 541-447-4511. Registration is requested.



It's Your Business
Teresa Tooley

Pineville, OR
(Crook Co.)
Central Oregon
(Circ. 2XW-2, 68)
JUN 14 2016
Allen's P.C.R. Est. 1888

QUESTIONS RAISED

Medford uncovers lead pipes in system

Commission recommends people flush water pipes before drinking before drinking
By Damian Mann
Mail Tribune 744-7

The discovery of a handful of lead pipes in the city water system has alarmed the Medford Water Commission enough for it to pursue a thorough analysis of any health risks and to encourage homeowners to run their faucets before drinking the water.

A commission member says there is no evidence of a health risk — testing of Medford water routinely shows lead levels well within safe standards — but concerns have been raised about why the information was not made public earlier.

The commission is recommending that all Medford homeowners run their water for 30 seconds to two minutes before drinking it to flush the pipes, or until it runs cold, particularly after the water has been in the pipes for an extended period.

Lyle Johnson, chairman of the commission board, said he and other board members

JUN 14 2016
Allen's P.C.R. Est. 1888
SEE PAGES AT

JUN 15 2016
Allen's P.C.R. Est. 1888

PIPES

water has shown contaminant levels far below federal limits. However, older homes could have pipes or fixtures that have significant lead or other metals in them, and which would be the homeowners' responsibility to have replaced. For children, low levels of lead exposure have been linked to learning disabilities, shorter stature, impaired hearing and impaired formation and function of blood cells.

The issue of lead in drinking water has made headlines recently after toxic levels were found in Flint, Mich.

The Water Commission board has requested proposals from companies to provide a thorough analysis of the entire system to gauge how extensive the problem is and what can be done to fix it.

"When we found out about it about a month ago, we immediately got an RFP (request for proposal) put together for a qualified firm," Johnson said.

A related study has also been requested to determine the impact of corrosive water on pipes and fittings in the system. Medford's water has a soft pH rating that could leach out metals. The cost for the corrosion study is estimated at \$100,000 to \$250,000 and could take two years. A study to determine how many lead pipes are in the system could cost a similar amount.

Johnson said every test done on Medford's source water at Big Butte Springs and from the Rogue River has turned up clean.

"But a lot of things happen

when the water is in a pipe and then goes into a house," he said.

Sara Bristol, spokeswoman for the Medford Water Commission, said there is no indication that Medford residents are drinking unhealthy water.

"Are we concerned about it? Yes," she said. "Are we Flint? No."

Larry Rahn, manager of the Water Commission, stated in a May 26 written report, "No known lead-piping exists in our system."

The report, however, also noted, "There are not a lot of detailed maps or records of piping materials or joint types and no known listing of locations where there used to be lead service line connections (pigtail)."

"Larry has said we have no known lines in our system," Bristol said, "but it's because we don't know where they are."

She said that the operations manager at the Water Commission estimates that four pigtailed lines have been replaced in the past three years, but she said the commission hasn't kept a record of where and how many have been replaced.

The pigtailed, which measure from 1 to 2 feet in length, are anywhere from 3 feet to 4-foot underground. One way that technicians can determine whether a lead pigtail exists is to see whether a galvanized pipe runs on the street side of the meter.

Bristol said that when water sits in a line for an extended period, it can leach out metals,

MEDFORD WATER COMMISSION

Water officials flush their own lines

Medford, OR
(Jackson Co.)
Medford Mail
(Circ. D. 51,500)
JUN 15 2016
Allen's P.C.R. Est. 1888

Annex next to City Hall and runs up to 60 gallons down the drain to get rid of stagnant water in the pipes.

Every evening, before quitting time, a Water Commission employee fills up two coffee pots so they'll have water in the morning while the lines are being flushed.

The practice has been going on for nearly a year, since last

August, when several issues were investigated involving water lines both inside and outside the building.

"There were concerns raised about the metallic taste in the water," said Sara Bristol, spokeswoman for the Water Commission.

The Water Commission's line-flushing practice surfaced just as commission board members became aware that some pipes containing lead had been found in the Medford water system in recent years.

The commission is planning to pay for a thorough analysis of the water to determine if there is a wider problem.

When the Water Commission heard the complaint about the taste in its offices, a test was conducted at the tap

JUN 15 2016
Allen's P.C.R. Est. 1888

WATER

which is why the commission suggests flushing out the line, a habit not taken a year ago.

In the Water Commission's report, the action level determined by the EPA, the EPA requires at least 90 percent of the homes tested to use lead-free water.

The EPA requires the commission to collect samples from 30 homes that were among the last to use lead solder to connect copper pipes.

Lead solder is a metal alloy that is used to join pipes and fittings. Lead is a toxic substance.

Nearly all homes built prior to the mid-1980s still have lead solder connecting copper pipes.

Bristol said the Water Commission estimates that 4,000 homes in Medford were built before 1950, when lead pipes and other lead fixtures were used in water lines.

If homeowners are concerned about the water coming out of their taps, the Water Commission suggests they conduct their own tests, including testing for lead.

744-7

members became aware that some pipes containing lead had been found in the Medford water system in recent years.

The commission is planning to pay for a thorough analysis of the water to determine if there is a wider problem.

When the Water Commission heard the complaint about the taste in its offices, a test was conducted at the tap

JUN 15 2016
Allen's P.C.R. Est. 1888

WATER

we've been as vocal about until recently."

Flint, Mich., has been in the headlines recently because of high lead levels in the water. Residents in Flint are also encouraged to flush their lines. Unlike Flint, Medford's water routinely falls well below the levels established by the EPA as potentially harmful.

Including Medford, typically has good water, and everyone has gotten used to the idea of not flushing out the lines.

She said while sending water down the drain seems to run counter to conservation efforts, drinking water makes up only a small fraction of overall water usage, with far more used for flushing toilets, taking showers and watering yards.

The Water Commission also routinely flushes out stub lines in the system so the water doesn't become stagnant, Bristol said.

Following the discovery of several lead pipes and fittings recently, the Water Commission is preparing to conduct an analysis of the entire water system in Medford, particularly about 4,000 homes built before 1950.

The commission also plans to conduct a separate study on corrosion of the pipes in Medford's water system.

Reach reporter Damian Mann at 541-776-4476 or dmann@mail-tribune.com. Follow him on Twitter at @uwatwitter.com. Reporter dr.

Home water samples set lead records

By Brad Schmidt 744-7
The Oregonian/OregonLive

Water collected in two Portland-area homes recently logged the highest lead levels reported locally in nearly two decades, new testing data obtained by The Oregonian/OregonLive show.

Water from a home in Tigard recorded lead of 648 parts per billion. A home in unincorporated Washington County tested at 113 parts per billion.

No amount of lead is considered safe. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention discourages children or pregnant women from drinking water that exceeds 15 parts per billion.

Both test results came from homes that receive drinking water from the Portland Water Bureau, which serves nearly 1 million people in the metro area, including suburbs such as Gresham, Tigard and Tualatin.

Results from the two homes are "alarming," Gabriel Solmer, a Water Bureau spokeswoman, said in an email. But she stressed the results appear to be abnormalities and aren't indicative of broader problems.

The eye-popping test results were collected in March and April during

semi-annual testing mandated by the federal government. Solmer said officials took immediate steps to contact the wholesale providers that supplied the water, Tualatin Valley and the city of Tigard. Those agencies discussed the high results with each homeowner.

Officials don't think the results indicate a greater problem in high-risk homes built between 1970 and 1985, Solmer said. Officials are required to test homes built between 1983 and 1985, with copper piping and lead solder, as part of federal clean-water rules. Portland's naturally corrosive water can leach lead from that kind of plumbing.

Portland officials haven't seen a test higher than 98 parts per billion since 1999, results show. "The two results are unusual and extraordinary," Solmer said. "There is no reason to believe there are a significant number of homes with similar levels," she added, "otherwise we would see this type of result more frequently."

Federal regulators require water providers to keep lead levels at or below 15 parts per billion, as measured through samples collected at specific homes throughout the system. If samples from at least 10 percent of tested high-risk homes exceed that level, water systems must notify the public or take steps to reduce corrosion.

Portland once again hovered just below the federal standard, reporting 13.1 parts per billion for spring testing. Of 114 samples only 8 percent exceeded 15 parts per billion. The results are "certainly good news as it shows that Portland's water treatment processes are working as intended," Solmer said.

Portland most recently exceeded the federal standard in fall 2013. In recent years the Rose City recorded the highest lead levels of any large water provider nationally.

Federal officials, in the wake of the water crisis in Flint, Michigan, are now keeping closer watch on Portland. "We remain interested in what more (Portland) can do to minimize the levels of lead at users' taps," wrote Marie Jennings, manager of the Environmental Protection Agency's regional drinking water unit, in an April 14 letter to state regulators.

Portland officials say there are odd circumstances behind the two high tests. In the first, water was collected from a bathroom faucet instead of the kitchen sink. Five of 22 tests at the Tigard home since 2003 previously tested high but never more than 38 parts per billion. This test found 648 parts per billion, on par with some results from Flint.

"These results indicate that the source of lead is from the bathroom faucet," the Water Bureau wrote to The Oregonian/OregonLive. "It was strongly recommended to the customer to not use the bathroom faucet for consumption, and the customer was encouraged to replace the faucet."

At the other home, near Cedar Mill, none of the past five tests since 2013 exceeded 15 parts per billion. The owner told officials he thought he used hot tap water — which is more likely to release lead from plumbing or fixtures.

The owner, Michael Tranlong, 50, said he's not worried by the 113 parts per billion result. He lives alone in the home, which he bought in 1992.

"I haven't really given it that much thought," he said, before adding, "I'm not too concerned."

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648 parts per billion

Lead level recorded in water at a Tigard home. 15 parts per billion is the level at which the CDC discourages children or pregnant women from drinking water

NEW REPORTS

More lead found in city water system

One sample showed lead levels at 20 times the legal EPA limit

By Damian Mann 744-7
Mail Tribune

The Medford Water Commission reported Wednesday that high concentrations of lead were found in water coming out of a pipe in south Medford in March after a resident

complained about dirty water. As a result of water tests and recent findings of lead fixtures in its system, the Water Commission board approved a three-step process to determine the extent of the problem in the system.

After receiving a report of dirty water on March 15, the Water Commission conducted a test at a fire hydrant on South Pacific Highway and found lead levels exceeding 300 parts per

billion. That's 20 times the EPA limit of 15 parts per billion.

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

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

The Neilsen Research Corporation, which conducts testing for many agencies and individuals in the Medford area, is still in the process of completing the testing documents, which should be made available to the public in the near future.

The Water Commission also conducted an experiment to determine how much lead an 18-inch to 24-inch connector known as a pigtail introduces into the water and found levels

that are higher than the limits set by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. After letting water sit in the pigtail for six hours, the water was found to have leached out significant amounts of lead. Several lead pigtails have been found in Medford's system in recent years and the commission says it does not know how many more may exist in

SEE LEAD, A5

LEAD

From Page A1

The commission had previously found elevated levels of lead at a hydrant near a city office building. In addition, commission staff members say they now run the water in the building for up to 30 minutes before using it after slightly elevated levels of copper were found last year.

Rosee Pindall, water quality director at the Water Commission, told the board Wednesday that she's been seeking a solution to treat Medford's water and make it less corrosive to pipes. Medford's water is considered soft, meaning it has low concentrations of minerals such as calcium and magnesium. It also means it is more corrosive to pipes, making them more susceptible to lead and other metal leaching into the system.

"The corrosive water I've been concerned about is an issue I've wanted to bring forward for years," Pindall said. Despite the potential of finding more lead and copper throughout Medford and other communities, Pindall said tests of the water from Medford's two sources — Big Butte Springs and the Rogue River — both continue to show that impurities are well below federal health limits.

After the Mail Tribune filed a public records request with the Water Commission last week for information on water tests, various concerns have come to light about lead components and other issues in the water system. The Water Commission has recommended that homeowners run drinking water for 30 seconds to two minutes after it has sat in the pipes for an extended period.

The board on Wednesday agreed to have staff examine meters in front of houses for attached galvanized pipes, an indicator that there could be a lead pigtail in the system leading to the main pipe in the street. Water Commission staff noted, however, that the presence of a galvanized pipe at a meter does not necessarily mean there is a lead pigtail. Prior to discoveries of its health hazards, lead was used in pigtail connectors and other

"The corrosive water I've been concerned about issue I've wanted to bring forward for years," Rosee Pindall, water quality director at the Medford Water Commission

pipes because it is flexible and could be shaped to fit the needed connection. High lead levels can cause health problems, including neurological development issues for young children.

Commission staff will start to pinpoint on map locations where the galvanized pipes are found. If the street has to be dug up it would cost about \$1,000 to determine if a lead pigtail is found. It would cost about \$6,000 to dig up the street and replace it.

The Water Commission also wants to reach out to homeowners and distribute flyers to houses where pigtails are suspected.

"I don't want to see the educational component," said a Water Commission member.

Corrosion can become a big topic for water suppliers in the valley.

The Oregon Department of Health Services issued a number of lead pigtail notices in many areas prior to 19 recommendations on additional sampling which may have owners and distribute flyers to houses where pigtails are suspected.

In Medford,

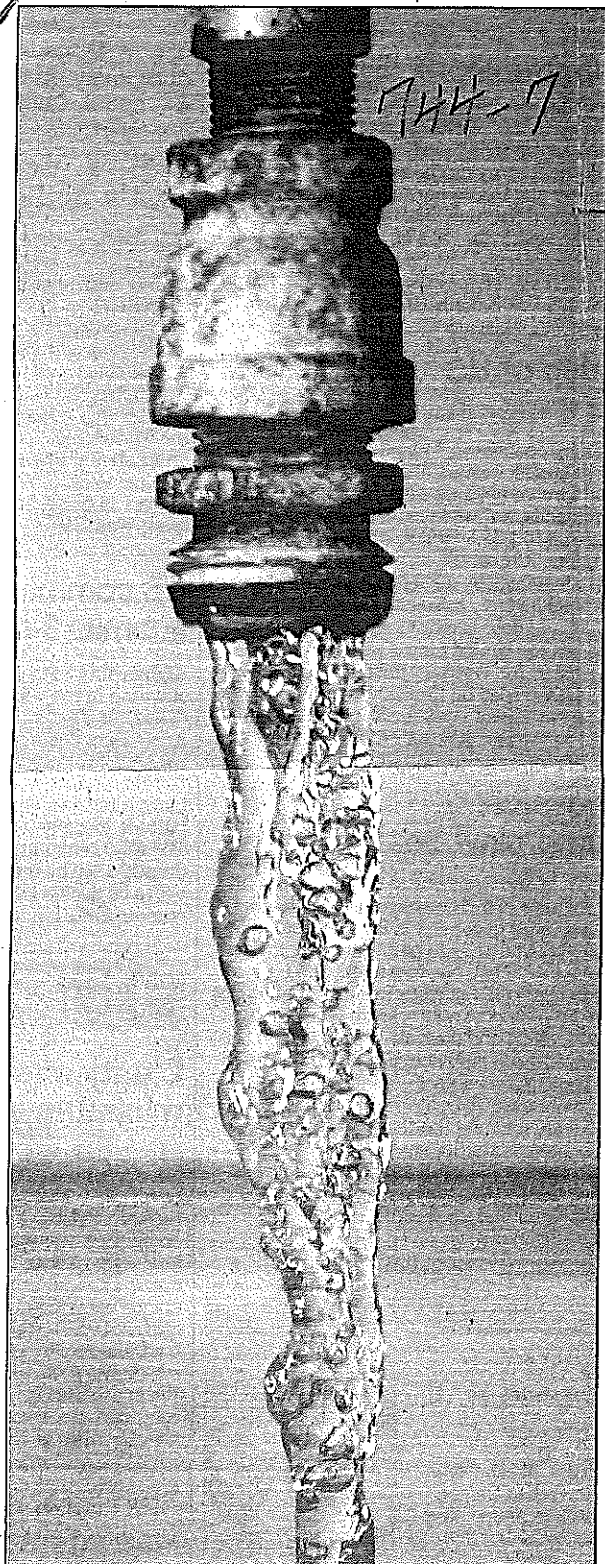
Medford OR
(Jackson Co.)
Medford Mail
(Circ. D. 51,500)

JUN 16 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Portland, OR
(Multnomah Co.)
The Oregonian
(Circ. D. 247,833)
JUN 15 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

JUN 10 2016

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



TIMOTHY BULLARD/Daily Courier

Lead service lines have never been used in the Grants Pass water system, but older homes may have pipes that contain lead in brass fittings and solder.

No lead in city water

But the pipes in your home could have it

The Grants Pass water system is free of lead service lines and always has been, but the same is not necessarily true of the pipes in your home.

Public Works Director Jason Canady spoke with the Daily Courier this week following news reports that work crews in Medford occasionally dig up lead connector pipes known as "pigtales" in that city's water system.

"To the best of my knowledge, we never installed lead service lines," Canady said, adding that had such pipes ever been used "we would have found one by now" during routine maintenance.

The news that pipes containing lead have been found in the Medford water system has prompted officials there to encourage residents to run their faucets before drinking the water. The Medford Water Commission, which provides water for the city as well as Ashland, Central Point, Eagle Point, Jacksonville, Phoenix and Talent, said it is pursuing an analysis of any health risks.

Lead in drinking water has made headlines recently after toxic levels were found in Flint, Mich. Lead is a neurotoxin that causes developmental problems in children and health problems in people of all ages.

There is no detectable amount of lead in Grants Pass water, which comes from the Rogue River — at least, there isn't when the city delivers it to your home.

However, Canady said the advice that people should run their kitchen faucets for a few seconds every morning to flush out stagnant water is sound, regardless of where you live.

That's because many older homes have brass fittings and valves that have lead in them. Lead can accumulate in water that sits in such pipes or fixtures for long periods of time.

"If you just flush that for a couple of seconds, you're golden," Canady said.

The city treats water with products such as lime and soda ash to maintain a slight layer of calcium, which coats the inside of service lines and protects the water from being in contact with the fittings, Canady said.

Like all cities of its size, Grants Pass routinely tests 30 homes that have been defined as high-risk for lead. Such testing is required by the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

The sample homes were among the last to use lead solder, which means the pipes and fixtures there have had the least amount of time to build up the protective calcium coating, Canady said.

The city keeps testing the same homes every year, as required by EPA rules, to detect any changes in the chemistry of the water that could cause corrosion, which could then begin to pull or leach lead from fixtures.

"You can't test every house, but if there's

“

If you just flush that for a couple of seconds, you're golden.



Jason Canady,
Public Works director

”

Testing sites

Two labs with offices in Grants Pass perform home tests for lead in drinking water. They are:

- GRANTS PASS WATER LAB, 964 S.E. M St.

Cost is \$35 per fixture. Results in three to five days. Special bottles and instructions must be picked up first at the office. For more information, call 541-476-0733.

- NEILSON RESEARCH CORPORATION, 400 S.E. G St.

Cost is \$38 per fixture. Results in five days. Special bottles and instructions must be picked up first at the office. For more information, call 541-770-5678.

a change in the water, it would show up in the sample homes," Canady said.

He said the city has gotten "occasional hits" of lead at sample sites over the years that exceed federal health limits, including one in 2014 that was at 17 parts per billion — just over the limit of 15 parts per billion.

"Results are provided to the homeowners who participate in our sampling so they are aware of the results if they are high," Canady said, stressing again that lead has never been detected in the Rogue River or in the finished water at the treatment plant.

Homeowners who are curious or nervous about the pipes and fixtures in their homes can have their water tested by a qualified laboratory.

There are two such labs with offices in the city — Grants Pass Water Lab and Neilson Research Corporation. They charge \$35 and \$38 per fixture, respectively. Results are available in five days.

This article includes information reported by the staffs of the Grants Pass Daily Courier and the Medford Mail Tribune

JUN 16 2016

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

Tigard home found with extremely high lead level in water

Lead came from faucet and not from Tigard's water supply, city says

THH-7

By GEOFF PURSINGER
The Times

A home in Tigard made headlines this week after it a faucet in its home posted lead levels more than 40 times higher than the legal limit.

The Oregonian newspaper broke the story on Sunday as part of a series of stories related to lead found in several Portland Public Schools buildings, which sparked public outcry over the past few weeks.

The Oregonian reported that during testing in April, a home in Tigard was found to have lead levels measured at 658 parts per billion.

"That is extremely high," said John Goodrich, a Tigard utility manager in charge of the city's water supply.

The Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention has warned that children and pregnant women should not drink water with lead levels that exceed 15 parts per billion.

Tigard and the city of Portland, which supplied Tigard's water until this month, conduct federally required tests twice a year at older homes which use lead and copper piping, Goodrich said.

Many homes built between 1970 and 1985 included copper piping and lead solder. Lead solder was banned in the 1980s, but water utilities are still required to test older homes for lead and copper contamination.

Goodrich declined to say who owned the home mentioned in the story, but said that the home was located within Tigard's city limits.

Tigard also supplies water to the cities of Durham and King City, as well as Bull Mountain.

The house in question has been tested many times before, Goodrich said, and has never had a problem. April's test was conducted on a bathroom faucet instead of the kitchen faucet

"Our responsibility as a water provider is reducing the lead in the distribution system."

— John Goodrich,
Tigard utility manager

that is usually tested.

The city and Portland Water Bureau immediately spoke with the homeowner and re-tested the faucet several times.

"When we see something like this, we get very concerned," Goodrich said. "This was such a high level, we wanted to re-test to confirm the results."

Goodrich said that the lead contamination came from the faucet itself and didn't stem from either Tigard or Portland's water system.

"I believe this was an isolated incident," Goodrich said. "We told the customer not to use the bathroom sink for drinking purposes and encouraged them to replace their faucet."

According to Goodrich, Tigard doesn't use lead in its water system, but said that some

older homes built before the 1990s did use lead solder in water pipes, as well as in drinking water fixtures.

"Unfortunately, we're talking about a private household's plumbing," he said. "Our responsibility as a water provider is reducing the lead in the distribution system. The source water has no lead, the distribution system has low risk of lead based on type of materials we use. ... Once water goes from the meter into the household plumbing, our authority ends. ... From Tigard's standpoint, what we do is try to monitor, make sure that construction practices illuminate the risk of lead, and continue all the things we do day-to-day to reduce that risk."

This month, the city switched over to a new water system operated by Tigard and Lake Oswego. The two cities have been working on the project since 2008.

Goodrich said that the new system doesn't use lead or copper piping, which will greatly lower the risk of lead or copper contamination in the water.

OUR VIEW

Commission needs to get the lead out

Scattered reports of lead levels exceeding federal limits in the Medford Water Commission system are cause for concern, but not panic. It appears that, with very few exceptions, the city's water supply meets federal standards, and even those exceptions may not mean anyone's health was threatened.

What's more concerning is an apparent lackadaisical attitude toward tracking down potential problems or even keeping records of where possible contamination might be.

One potential problem involves "pigtailed" — short, flexible pipes connecting water mains to residential meters — that contained lead when installed. Those were commonly used before 1946, and many probably have been replaced.

Not all, however. The water commission board was told last month that some pig-tails containing lead had been removed from

system, despite being told earlier that there were no lead pipes in the ground.

Water Commission Manager Larry Rains said in a written report on May 26 that "no known lead pipes exist in our system." But the commission has no detailed records of where the previous pigtailed were discovered. The commission's spokeswoman now says Rains' statement didn't mean there were no lead pipes, it meant the staff didn't know where they were.

Now, it turns out the Water Commission itself is flushing water lines supplying its offices in the Lausmann Annex at City Hall as a precaution because some elevated levels of metal were found in water there. In particular, water at a fire hydrant outside the building showed high levels of lead. Water from another hydrant on South Pacific Highway had a lead level of 300 parts per billion, 20 times the federal limit of 15 parts per billion

for drinking water. That test was conducted in March, but only just revealed.

Water that sits in pipes or fixtures containing lead for long periods of time can cause lead to accumulate. Water users don't drink from fire hydrants. And every routine test of Medford's water supply has revealed contamination levels far below federal thresholds.

But water customers on the Medford system deserve to know why the Water Commission or its staff members didn't reveal reports of problems as soon as they learned of them, why there is no record of where the lead pig-tails were found, and what plans there are to ensure the system is safe going forward.

Medford's spring and river sources provide the city with an enviable supply of water. Once it is piped from those sources, however, there now appears to be somewhat less to envy. It is up to the Water Commission to correct that.

Tigard turns the taps on Lake Oswego-Tigard water supply

By GEORGE PURSINGER
The Times

Last week, the city of Tigard quietly passed a major milestone in its years-long project to draw water from the Clackamas River. Residents started drinking it.

On June 9, the city began using water city-wide from the Lake Oswego-Tigard Water Partnership. Since 2008, the two cities have been working on a plan to draw water to share a joint water supply between the two cities.

Most residents likely haven't noticed a difference between the water the has provided for years and the new water, but where that water has come from has been a major point of contention with city leaders for years.

Since the city's founding, Tigard has purchased water wholesale from the city of Portland, but said for years that it wanted access to water of its own.

That changed in 2008 when Tigard and Lake Oswego agreed to join forces on a new water system for both cities. Under their agreement, Lake Oswego would provide the infrastructure and Tigard would pay the lion's share of upgrading the system to serve both cities.

It's the largest public infrastructure project in Tigard's history and has proven to be controversial, as water bills rose in both cities to pay for the project. West Linn residents meanwhile, have objected loudly to years of construction on the Lake Oswego water treatment plant located within their city.

They'd supplies water to more than 60,000 customers across King City, Dunham, Bull Mountain and much of Tigard, west of Highway 217. The rest of Tigard's residents get their water from the Traskan Valley Water District.

See WATER / Page A11

Water: Will be 'very different'

From Page A1

Better quality, city says

Last November, the city began testing water from the partnership with a small neighborhood on Bull Mountain.

John Goodrich, a Tigard utility manager in charge of the city's water supply, said that the city stopped taking water from the city of Portland on June 9.

"As we go through the next week or so, we'll be having blended supply as Portland water is consumed and the new water comes into system," he said.

The partnership, referred to as LOT, is expected to be a big improvement for the city, Goodrich said. In the past, few full of boil water notices and alerts, which the city has said stems from problems with the Portland Water Bureau.

"Portland water is very different than LOT water," Goodrich said. "The change will be a good thing. We anticipate enhanced water quality, including reducing exposure to lead. That comes from using a 21st-century water treatment plant and a new water supply system that has no lead used at all in the new supply system."

Federally mandated tests require the partnership to test older homes for lead and copper contamination in older homes which have copper and lead piping whenever cities begin using new water supplies. Those tests are expected in about 65 homes between September and October.

"It's very intensive sampling," Goodrich said. "That will be a baseline test, and in six months time, we'll resample and retest to make sure. We want to make sure we are below the action levels for lead and copper."

Lake Oswego did similar tests in 2013 on their portion of the system, Goodrich said.

"They found Lake Oswego is an optimized system, based on their water quality reports each year. They have a very low risk of lead and copper based on their sampling," he said.

Despite last week's milestone, there's still some work to do.

Construction continues on some parts of the project and an Oregon court has yet to make its ruling on the project. For years, the project has been in a legal battle with Oregon WaterWatch, which claimed that the project endangered fish in the river.

In 2014, the Oregon Court of Appeals ruled that the Oregon Water Resources Department needed to provide further evidence and reasoning to show that allowing Lake Oswego to take that much water from the river would not harm protected fish.

Project leaders have said repeatedly that the court's decision won't impact the project greatly and has backup plans in place should reduced water withdrawals from the river be required.

A hearing on that topic is expected next month with the Office of Administrative Hearings. It's unclear when the court will make a ruling on those findings.

"As we go through the next week or so, we'll be having blended supply as Portland water is consumed and the new water comes into system."

—John Goodrich, Tigard utility manager

Tigard, OR
(Washington Co.)
Tigard/Tualatin Times
(Circ. W. 6,500)

JUN 16 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Prineville, OR
(Crook Co.)
Central Oregonian
(Circ. 2xW. 2,768)

JUN 17 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Well water analysis class planned

Two sessions to take place at Carey Foster Hall Tuesday for realtors, public

By Susan Matheny
For the Central Oregonian

A free informational event on testing well water is being held June 21, sponsored by Box R Water Analysis Laboratory and the health depart-

ment.

Representatives from the state well water agency will be on hand to tell people how to take a proper water sample for testing. Tests are done for things such as bacteria, nitrates, arsenic, lead and copper. They will talk about the age of a house and types of pipes used during that era.

For more information, call Box R Water at 541-447-4911.

A session for real estate agents will be from noon to 1 p.m.; and the public session will be from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., both at Carey Foster Hall at the Crook County Fairgrounds in Prineville.

JUN 21 2016

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

MEDFORD WATER COMMISSION

744-7

WARNING SIGNS



Creighton Nevin, front, and Joe Watson of the Medford Water Commission check meters Monday for galvanized pipe on West Eighth Street. MAIL TRIBUNE / DENISE BARATTA

Workers find possible indications of lead pipes in west Medford

By Damian Mann
Mail Tribune

An inspection of 317 water meters in west Medford on Monday uncovered clues at 15 houses of the possibility of lead pipes, which will require some street excavation and water quality testing.

Armed with that information, the Medford Water Commission plans to dig up the street outside the homes near

Columbus Avenue and Main Street to see if lead pipes, known as pigtailed, connect the water service to the main line in the street.

"We're going to try to get them out as quickly as we can," said Sara Bristol, spokeswoman for the Water Commission.

On Monday, four Medford Water Commission workers began roaming the streets of west Medford, where they popped open meters, shooed away

spiders and looked for galvanized pipes, which are a telltale sign that short, lead connector pipes, known as pigtailed, might be located near the main water service from the street.

The issue came up last week after two separate tests found high lead levels, including one in downtown Medford and another on South Pacific Avenue near Charlotte Ann Road.

PIPES

From Page A1

After looking at more water meters between Fourth and 10th streets to the east of Columbus Avenue, Water Commission crews found six galvanized "steer horns," which split to serve two meters each, feeding a total of 12 houses.

Workers also found another three single galvanized lines that go to three houses.

"We're going to go back with equipment and dig around a bit more," Bristol said. "We are offering free testing at the homes where we find the lead pigtailed."

When a galvanized pipe is found, the Water Commission provides a blue flyer to the affected homeowner that states: "It has been determined that the water service to your home is made of galvanized pipe. This indicates there is a high likelihood that a lead pigtail exists in the service line leading to your meter."

Four lead pigtailed have been replaced in the past three years, according to the Water Commission.

Bristol said the goal is to locate each meter on a map and describe the type of fitting found underground.

Most of the fittings found on Monday were copper or some other newer style of fixture.

"They want to make quick progress on mapping, particularly to find if there is galvanized pipe," she said.

The Water Commission estimates about 4,000 houses in older neighborhoods in west Medford and east Medford will have to be inspected.

The houses in question have

been built prior to 1946 when lead pigtailed were installed, though many have been replaced over the years. Other lead fittings, including pipes with lead used to seal two sections of pipe together, may also be located under streets.

Flyers are also being handed out to alert curious homeowners that the Water Commission is surveying older neighborhoods.

In addition, many older homes may have lead fixtures inside the walls or in a faucet, which would be the homeowner's responsibility to replace.

The commission previously found elevated levels of lead at a hydrant near a city office building.

Commission staff members say they now run the water in the building for up to 30 minutes before using it after slightly elevated levels of copper were found last year.

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

Prior to discoveries of its health hazards, lead was used in pigtail connectors and other pipes because it is flexible and could be shaped to fit the needed connection.

High lead levels can cause health problems, including neurological development issues for young children and health problems for pregnant women.

744-7

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

SEE PIPES, A2

Milwaukie water leaves bad taste in residents' mouths

Tests show city water supply is safe to drink despite foul smell, flavor

By PAUL KOBERSTEIN
For Pamplin Media Group

What's up with the water in the city of Milwaukie? Many residents say it has a foul taste and aroma that make it undrinkable. City officials insist that it is safe — but only after it passes through a special water treatment system. Milwaukie draws all of its water from seven wells located around the city. At five of these wells, tests show that it is riddled with potentially unsafe levels of carcinogenic industrial wastes, says Tom Pattee, a groundwater expert with the Oregon Health Authority, a state agency that oversees the safety of drinking water.

However, Pattee says the city treatment system is successful at stripping out the impurities, and that the health agency has found that the water is safe to drink when it arrives at people's homes.

"That doesn't mean it suits everyone's taste. "When I started tasting that water, I started getting my water elsewhere," says Anthony Gallardo, who until recently lived near the Wavertley Country Club on the west end of the city. "It's just nasty."

But the taste is not the water's only calling card. "I did notice an odor when I put it in my daughter's humidifier when she was sick," says Rachel Leising, who recently moved from Milwaukie after living there for six months. "It was nauseous. It was chemical."

Leising says she used to give it to her cat, but stopped doing so after it "eroded some of the glaze" on a plate she had put under the water bowl.

Some residents say its most disagreeable feature is the residue it leaves behind in the toilet.

"It left a black funky ring in the toilet that was hard to get off," Gallardo says. "We'd be scrubbing away at it every other day."

The oldest of Milwaukie's seven wells is failing, and two are due to be replaced in the next two years. Built from 1936 to 2008, the wells tap an aquifer known as the "Troutdale Formation" and range in depth from 290 to 481 feet. On a summer day, the city draws up to 5 million gallons.

In 1988, routine monitoring discovered that the aquifer is contaminated with unsafe levels of trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE), which are industrial solvents. Tiny concentrations of two other pollutants, tetrachloroethylene and dichloroethylene, also have been found, according to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

The city took the seven wells out of service soon after the contamination was discovered and purchased water from Portland. Milwaukie built two aeration treatment plants

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

JUN 2 1 2016

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

Water: Precision pollution higher up

ported on April 7 that a nearby, but its vertical travel time is unknown. Milwaukie officials say the pollution from Precision Casparis does not pose an immediate threat to the city's drinking water, but eventually may become a problem and are monitoring the situation.

Moely Gordon, who lives with her three children near the Precision Casparis plant, says the pollution "makes me nervous. I want my family to live in an area with clean air, clean dirt and clean water. As I learn more, it makes me more concerned."

Pattee says groundwater in that area can travel horizontally about one mile over 10 years, but its vertical travel time is unknown. Milwaukie officials say the pollution from Precision Casparis does not pose an immediate threat to the city's drinking water, but eventually may become a problem and are monitoring the situation.

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

JUN 2 2 2016

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

Canby Utility trotting out water filter program

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

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

"This new home water filter promotion was approved by the (Canby Utility) board to encourage water customers to purchase a home water filter system as a measure to improve the taste of their drinking water in their homes," said General Manager Dan Murphy. "Since we have occasionally experienced an unpleasant taste and odor from harm-

less algae compounds, Geosmin and MIB, in our Molalla River source water, we have received a lot of feedback from our community.

Many have told us that when the taste and odor problem is present, they find that drinking water that they have filtered with their Brita carbon filter or their filtered refrigerator dispenser truly makes a noticeable difference and almost completely removes the taste of the algae by-products. So, we want to spread the word on this measure as a way that customers can improve the taste when that problem with our water occurs."

Canby Utility customers who have bought a water fil-

ter can bring their receipt or proof of purchase into the office at 154 NW First Ave. and apply for the \$25 rebate beginning July 1.

Customers will qualify for the \$25 rebate for a new water filter purchase, for a previous water filter purchase, or for purchase of a replacement filter cartridge for their filtration system.

Canby Utility also will provide a rebate of up to \$200 for qualifying commercial water customers who invest in a commercial water filtration system or for the cost of re-pack of an existing commercial water filter system.

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

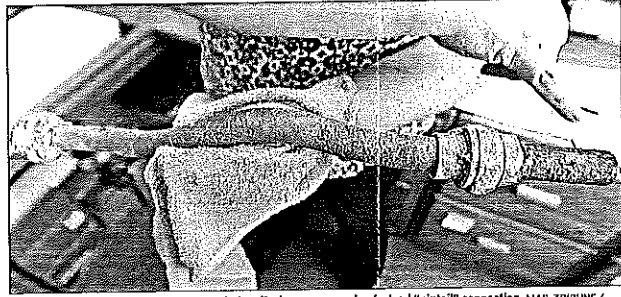
Medford, OR
(Jackson Co.)
Medford Mail
(Cir. D. 51,500)

JUN 2 3 2016
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CONTINUING COVERAGE: LEAD PIPES

Water crew search leads to lead

744-7



Sara Bristol of the Medford Water Commission displays an example of a lead "pigtail" connection. MAIL TRIBUNE/JAMIE LUSCH

'Pigtail' pipe containing lead was carrying water to six homes

By Damien Mann
Mail Tribune

A lead pipe providing water to six residences was found in Medford Wednesday on Oakdale Avenue near Central Medford High, a discovery that could point to more widespread problems in the city system.

Wednesday's discovery was the fourth lead pipe known as a "pigtail" that has been found over the past few months in the city. Over the past three years,

the Medford Water Commission has found five pigtailed, relatively short pipes that connect the main water line to the service line going to the meter.

Sara Bristol, spokeswoman for the Medford Water Commission, said her agency would like to test the water prior to removing the 18- to 24-inch pigtail on Oakdale.

The lead pipe connects to the meters for two properties, which contain six units. Before the Water Commission can take a sample to test the water at the tap, the water must sit in the pipes for at least six hours.

SEE LEAD, A6

LEAD

It's serving two different properties, so it makes it more difficult to test," Bristol said. After the testing, the pigtail will be removed, requiring digging up the street. Another test will be conducted after the pigtail is replaced.

The latest pigtail was found after Water Commission crews found one several months ago in the same neighborhood. That pigtail was removed, but crews discovered a second pigtail nearby. "I found a 'four horn,'" a galvanized pipe that splits into two. Because of the area in which it was used, the galvanized pipe is an indicator for the possible presence of lead.

Water Commission crews found two other neighborhoods near Columbus Avenue and Main Street this week looking for galvanized pipes attached to the street side of water meters. Of the 317 water meters inspected Monday in west Medford, crews found 15 streets where the streets will be dug up to see whether a pigtail is attached to the main water line.

The Water Commission has found high lead levels in two tests over the past year, one at a fire hydrant adjacent to the commission's offices next to City Hall last year. The other was discovered March 15 on South Pacific Highway near Charlotte Ann Road in south Medford.

Despite the two tests, Medford's previous tests mandated by the EPA have shown no indication of metals or other contaminants exceeding action levels set by the federal government.

The Water Commission estimates about 4,000 houses in older neighborhoods in west Medford and east Medford will have to be inspected. The houses in question were built prior to 1946 when lead pigtailed pipes were installed, though many of the pipes have been replaced over the years. Other lead fittings, including pipes with lead used to seal two sections of pipe together, may also be located under streets.

See WATER 7 next page

The commission is preparing to hire outside consultants to review the entire water system and look for additional lead pipes.

Reach Mail Tribune reporter Damien Mann at damann@mail-tribune.com or 541-776-4476.

WATERWORRIES

Medford officials ramp up water testing in wake of lead pipe discoveries

By Pamina Mann 744-7
Mail Tribune

Following the discovery of lead pipes in Medford's water system last week, officials say they have ramped up all-out effort to identify any separations of pipes.

That's not necessarily good enough for some city residents, who have their own suspicions about the lead pipes.

"I think there's more to this than people are ready to hear up to," said Chuck Gates, a 73-year-old who for 44 years has lived on South Oakdale in the area where a lead pipe was discovered last week.

His address was found last week. The Medford Water Commission has received a letter from the city asking that the city street and neighborhood from the street and neighborhood where the lead pipe was found be investigated.

Larry Parks, Medford City Commissioner, said the work on Oakdale took place in the months ago, prior to, now he knows at this point that there may be a lead pipe in the area. Parks said, the agency is offering free testing at the tap prior to removal.

Previously, the Water Commission's policy was to remove the so-called lead pigtail as they found them without notifying residents, Parks said.

Officials like the one found on Oakdale Avenue, near Central Medford.

TESTING RESULTS

Following the water test results for samples taken at the Mail Tribune office, 111 N. Fr. St., and a sample of a sample collected from a bear Creek Park drinking fountain. The chart shows EPA limits for various impurities or conditions and the results from the local testing. None of the test results exceeded the EPA limits. Tests prepared by Nelson Research Corporation.

111 N. Fr. St., Medford	EPA limit	Medford
Cadmium	0.05	ND
Chromium	0.1	ND
Copper	1.3	0.789
Hardness	250	38.8
Iron	0.3	0.0185
Lead	0.015	0.0072
Nickel	0.1	0.102
Zinc	5.0	0.110

—RESULTS IN MILLIGRAMS PER LITER.

BEAR CREEK PARK
Lead 0.015 0.0105
Copper 1.3 0.140

SETLEAD, A3

High last week, are 18- to 24-inch flexible lead pipes installed prior to 1945 that constituted the main water line to the service line that leads to the water meter.

The Oakdale pipe was the fourth pigtail found in the past few months, and the fifth in the past three years. As a result of the discoveries, the Water Commission has stepped up efforts to find more pigtails by focusing on water meter services that are in areas of the city where water lines were installed prior to 1945.

About 5,000 service meters will be checked over the coming weeks in west and east Medford, with most of the focus east between downtown and Columbus Avenue to the west and downtown and Black Oak Drive to the east.

Of the 439 meters checked so far last week, 39 will require further investigation to determine if there's a possibility of a lead pigtail.

As they find lead pigtails, the commission will conduct water tests at the customer's tap to determine if lead levels are higher than action levels set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Water Commission officials say previous tests on pigtails showed they could raise lead content above the EPA standard.

"Our goal is to investigate every

LEAD

From Page A1

possible location and if we find lead, we will get rid of it," Parks said.

Gates said he was going to take the Water Commission to court to offer to offer a free test of the water at his tap. He's also concerned there may be lead pipes in his house but said none of his family members have shown any signs of health problems.

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

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"We're concerned, but we haven't had any lead flags," Central Point Mayor Hank Williams said. "We have had lots of citizens call to say they worry about it."

So far, he said, Central Point hasn't uncovered the kinds of problems that have been discovered in Medford. "I don't think there is a problem," Williams said.

Williams said Central Point was a small town when the lead pigtails were being installed in the water system. As a result of the discoveries, the Water Commission has stepped up efforts to find more pigtails by focusing on water meter services that are in areas of the city where water lines were installed prior to 1945.

That doesn't mean water agencies aren't testing for lead. Central Point and most other cities in Jackson County — all of which depend on water from Big Butte Springs and the Rogue River, which is delivered to them through the Medford agency.

Local water sources used by the central water agency are relatively free of impurities, but the water is considered soft. That's great for washing clothes or dishes but bad for pipes. Soft water is actually a corrosive that eats away at the interior of certain deposits of lead in the water at that point. In that, Med., a similar problem arose when officials switched water supplies to a

Over the years, lead and other toxic substances routinely have been found in water samples in southern Oregon and the rest of the state.

Kim Ramsey, vice president of Nelson Research Corp., in Medford, estimates that about 1 to 2 percent of the samples received over the years have lead above the action level of 15 parts per billion set by the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

The high level of lead in the lead pipes and in their supplies, however, said Ramsey, whose company provides water testing for customers ranging from corporations and public agencies to individual homeowners.

"I don't think the commission should be testing the lead pipes and in their homes," she said.

Nelson has seen a flood of samples pouring in from schools, well owners and now local residents alarmed at recent reports of lead pipes in Medford's water system. High levels of lead in the water at two locations in Medford.

Older homes have connections, even faucets, that may have lead in them, Ramsey said. Even the aerator at the faucet can collect lead and should be cleaned regularly.

Since the discovery of the lead pipes in Medford, the Ramsey said, districts should be done on individual homes or neighborhoods. The same confidentiality policy applies to government agencies and school districts.

Local school districts are being notified of the problem, Ramsey said, following a recommendation from the Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Department of

CONTINUING COVERAGE: LEAD PIPES Testing lab says lead more often found in homes

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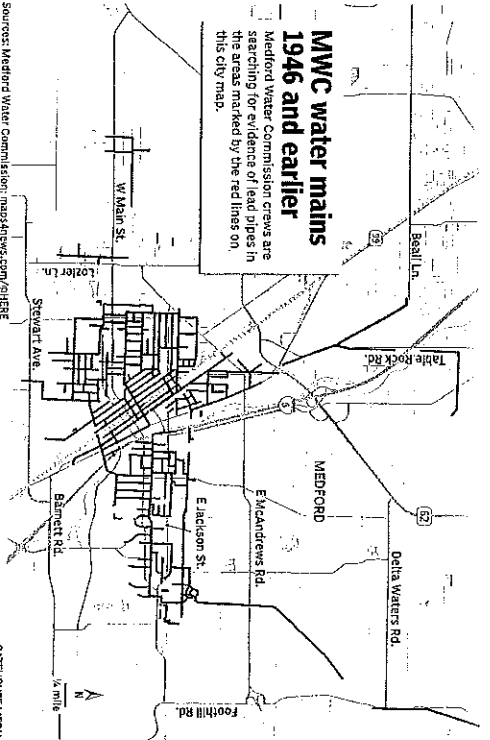
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Source: Medford Water Commission, maps.how.com/CHERE
GARTH/HOUSE MEDIA



Reservoir 4, shown in its current state, will be infilled to become a lowland bioswale.
TRIBUNE PHOTO: JULES ROGERS

WASHINGTON PARK RESERVOIRS UP FOR RENOVATION

The new reservoir will be functional and seismically sound

A section of Washington Park that has long been cordoned off to visitors has million-dollar plans for useful reinvigoration. The 120-year-old Washington Park Reservoirs 3 and 4 are slated for seismic and long-term improvements, which began July 1.

The project, slated to span eight years with a maximum approved cost of \$152 million, will be completed by Hoffman Construction Company. The project is

BY JULES ROGERS

part of the Portland Water Bureau's Capital Improvement Program, funded by revenue bond proceeds paid back with the utility ratepayers' fund.

Ultimately, Reservoir 4 will be disconnected from the public drinking water system and transformed into a lowland habitat bioswale. Reservoir 3 will be underground, maintain the historic drinking water function and be seismically engineered to withstand landslides and major earthquakes.

The site will feature two beautiful above-ground reflecting pools

above both reservoirs with ornate mini-waterfalls surrounded by walking paths.

Feedback from the Community Sounding Board, neighborhood groups, the public and the Historic Landmarks Commission was taken into account, and much of the historic characteristics will be retained.

Ancient Landslide

The four major drivers of this projects are aging facilities, seismic vulnerability, long-term enhanced surface water treatment and the Washington Park ancient

landslide, which has continuously damaged the reservoirs since they were originally constructed.

The landslide, beginning at the Japanese Gardens almost a half-mile uphill, has been known to slip 15 inches in a year.

"The 1893-1894 original was built into the existing landslide. It was not the right shape, it cut into the hill," said Dan Hogan, the project manager in de-



HOGAN

sign and geotech engineer with the City. "It activated the landslide. To build at this site, we had to figure out how to deal with that."

With the seismic improvement plans came the idea to physically shift the reservoir over, out of the toe of the landslide.

"The landslide comes into about half the reservoir. When we started digging (in 1894), it started moving on us," said Teresa Elliott, chief engineer at the Portland Water Bureau. "We're moving it 10 feet out of the slide, and that is enough."

The west side of the reservoir

eaning up into the landslide has been replaced more than once since the '70s, as has the liner, which is visibly thicker in places. "You can see signs of the landslide: tensions in the original wall and at the tennis courts," Hogan said. "We're putting soil back in place as a buttress to slow it down to try to stop it, but don't have space to move it back ... The landslide goes up at a seven- to 11-degree angle, and the Japanese Garden sits on top of the slide." The gatehouse that sits on the rocks has seen very little movement, acting as a buttress against the slide. The project can't stop the landslide, but will slow the movement and isolate the reservoir from it.

Seismic improvements

"They're lengthy," said Geoff Christie, the starting field superintendent with Hoffman, of the seismic improvements.

His job is day-to-day coordination with subcontractors, who are yet to be pinned down. Hoffman plans to have a team of five including a project engineer, quality control engineer and a safety engineer.

"We worked pretty extensively to come up with a package knowing the landslide is here," Christie said. "Once the reservoir area is complete we'll set up monitors during settlement, we'll come out and document the whole two-year period."



CHRISTIE

That's the settlement period: from January 2020 to December 2021, there is a plan for a pause in construction to allow soil to consolidate.

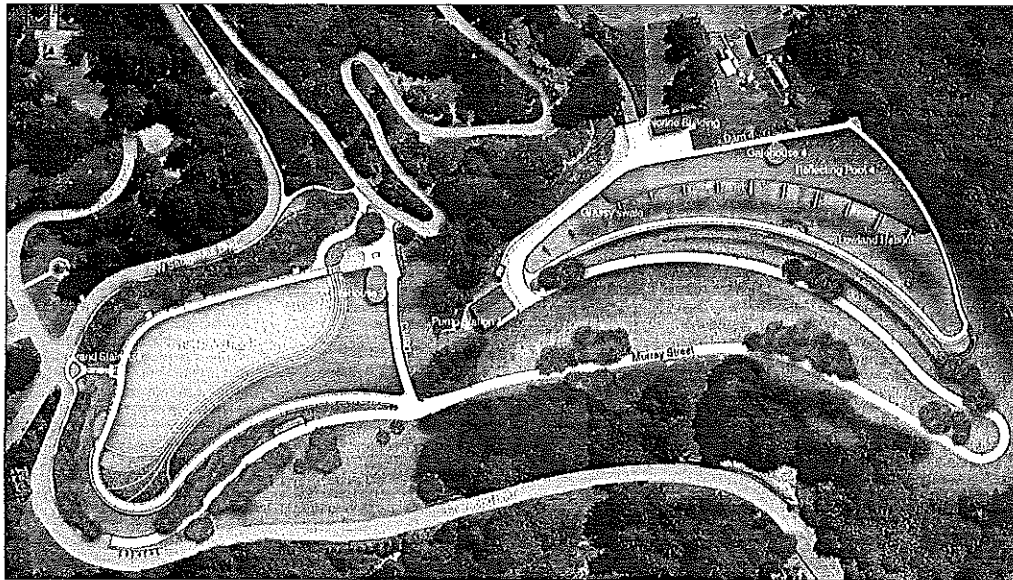
Areas of the roads directly above, Southwest Sherwood Boulevard and Southwest Sacajawea Boulevard, will be closed for 18 months as they fill from above down.

Instead of filling the leftover space in the tow of the landslide with soil, Hogan plans to use Geotam, a lightweight material also used in the light rail along the roadway bridge.

"Engineered styrofoam will push and put a uniform load much lower (than the current pressure)," Hogan said. "Other things we did seismically for the new reservoir are using more concrete and steel."

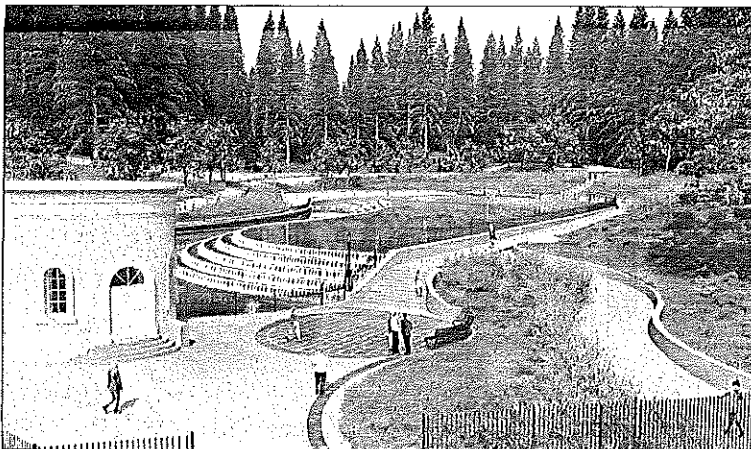
Plan details

"As far as what we're going to do, we'll set the fencing up, clear the area, build shoring wall runs



An aerial rendering shows the plans for Washington Park Reservoirs 3 and 4.

COURTESY: CITY OF PORTLAND



Renderings show plans for an above-ground reflecting pool above the underground reservoir.

COURTESY: CITY OF PORTLAND

up to the road grade and create bench height sidewalk around the reservoir," Christie said.

The team will remove the old fence and fix it up, replacing it in the end.

The 80,000 cubic feet of materials that will be dug up to move Reservoir 3 will be used to fill in

Reservoir 4 — a plan by Hoffman that will save 60 percent of the project's total truckloads from street traffic.

Reservoir 4 will be filled in to become a lowland habitat. Both gatehouses will be kept as well as Pump Station 1, and both reservoir sites will have surface reflecting

pools. The grand staircase will also be removed and replaced.

"It'll be a habitat functional for nature, critters and birds," Hogan said of the reservoir 4 site.

From July to September this year, work includes erosion control, construction fence installation, tree and vegetation inspection and

RESERVOIR TIMELINE

May-September 2016: Early site preparation work, including construction fencing installation, placement of mobile field offices, tree/vegetation clearing, and erosion control measures.

September 2016-December 2019: Major earthwork and Reservoir 3 construction.

January 2020-December 2021: A two-year pause in construction, allowing soils to consolidate to reduce any vertical movement that would affect the reflecting pool and other surface features.

January 2022-December 2023: Construction of interpretive features, including the two reflecting pools.

Source: Portland Water Bureau

clearing, disconnection of reservoir inlet and outlet piping, removal of the Weir building and the stilling tank inside Gatehouse 4, and the cut and cap of old piping.

When completed, the new reservoir is supposed to supply water to all downtown businesses and residents, the Oregon Zoo, more than 60 parks, six hospitals and 20 public schools. Completion is slated for 2023, with the reservoirs operational by 2020.