Lead found at N. Douglas schools

Getting lead out in back to school

Legislature needs to adopt new rules to test for lead, radon

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

By MATT ADAM

Oregons Board of Education is fast-tracking adoption of a new rule that requires schools to test for lead and radon and report

results each year to the public.

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

"I think an additional layer of checks and balances when we are talking about student safety is needed, so I think this will make
drastic improvements," said board chairwoman Miroslava Buehler.

The board adopted a first reading of the rule Thursday and plans adoption Aug. 11. A public hearing on the proposal is scheduled for Aug. 2.

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

Emergency Board to allocate money to pay for it.

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

While the review is ongoing, health and education officials learned that neither the education department nor the health authority has the

power to require schools to test for lead, said Emily Nasravi, operations policy analyst with the education department's government

affairs section.

"Unlimited resources." The health authority has the power to require testing of public water systems, but schools are excluded from the agency's

jurisdiction. The proposed rule would require school districts, charter schools and education service districts to conduct lead and

radon testing and to submit an environmental monitoring plan to ODE for keeping water and air quality

safe for students and staff.

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

results to the education department and to the community annually.

"I am supportive of this, but I am also thinking how does this fit with the lead in drinking water with our state's health authority and with the

public school systems, and there is a lot of it unreported, and I think this could be a very quick solution," said school board member Benjamin Henry.

Henry said if the legislature doesn't

approve additional funding for implementing the rule it could be another use of those "emergency funds." The agencies asked schools to test for lead during the summer. All of the districts have either completed or are in the process of testing, Nasravi said.

The agencies recommend that schools identify sources of lead, stop access, communicate results to staff, students, parents and

the community and mitigate and repair the problem.

"Districts are doing a lot of this already," Nasravi said. "Portland Public Schools" held a meeting on a new one of the school's

leading points to make sure you don't document this. Repairs are done. People have organizations, and nobody knows that the

repair was done or when it was done, and that information is lost. This is a way to make sure there is a record that the community

has access to and that that information is lost.

The agencies also asked schools to test for lead, radon and other environmental hazards. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

has not yet made clear how much lead and radon testing and found higher amounts of lead than expected in a

baseline survey. The Oregon Department of Human Services has not yet defined what constitutes a

school's lead levels.

The agencies also asked schools to test for lead, radon and other environmental hazards. The...
Elementary water tests well beyond guidelines

BY CALLEY HAIK
 Oregonian/OregonLive

NEWPORT — A preventative lead test of every classroom at Newport Elementary turned up high levels of lead in five additional tests following a borderline test result last month.

The new results found classroom water samples that blew past the federal action limit of 0.015 milligrams per liter, with results as high as 0.032 mg/L, nearly five times the federal limit.

"Because that came back not good for us, we're going to test every single fountain and sink in the whole district," said Nick Bellessi, assistant superintendent of Newport School District. "We don't have any choice. We have to test everything now.

The findings came as a surprise to Bellessi, whose department tested 12 areas at the elementary school in May. Of those, only one read any concern — a single sink in the second grade wing of the school with a concentration of 0.052 mg/L, barely above the federal limit.

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

Bellessi said the school would test every drinking fountain as a precautionary measure. The new results for expected exceedances — water in rooms 31, 34, 36, and 41 contain lead concentrations of 0.005, 0.024, 0.035, and 0.005, respectively.

All of these concentrations are well below the federal limit, requiring drastic action from the school district.

Starting Wednesday, July 6, Bellessi said his team will test every sink and fountain in the district, estimating about 2,000 tests total.

"Do not go to the water fountains," Bellessi said.

Testing sample results for lead costs $15 each, he said. Multiplying by the thousands of tests and $15, he said the project would cost at least $45,000.

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

Bellessi said his team is taking advantage of the summer months to repair the main pipe under the single wing of the school, replacing the old copper pipe held together with lead solder for LAD

LEAD board to adopt new rules to test for lead, radon

Requiring schools to monitor, post results yearly will boost costs

BY MARY KATHRIN BROWN
 Central Oregon Daily

OREGON'S Board of Education is finalizing adoption of a new rule requiring all schools to test for lead and radon in drinking water and to report those results to the public.

The rule calls on the board of a school in Portland Public Schools to order in drinking water that went unreported, according to the new director of the Office of Quality Improvement, Jayne D. Rhea.

"I think an additional layer of checks and balances is important," Rhea said. "It's important to have a system in place that actively monitors the health and safety of students and staff.

The health authority already had the right to require schools to test for lead, but the new rule will provide comprehensive guidance for schools on all aspects of the testing required. Schools will be required to report their test results annually in the education department and to the community.

"I'm supportive of this," said state Rep. Jeff Holvey (R-Salem). "I think this is a good step forward, and I believe it's a step in the right direction."
Pendleton schools begin testing for lead

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian
744-7277

The Pendleton School District is trying to get a lead on lead testing.

Nicholas Jones, the district's director of business services, discussed the district's testing efforts during a school board meeting Tuesday.

Since Kirk Neibert Construction Co., was already running tests on the plumbing systems for Washington and Sherwood Heights elementary schools with Councilor for two new buildings, Jones said the company agreed to test for lead at those sites.

"We're doing a sampling based on the plumbing throughout the district, so we're not sampling every fixture at this point," he said. "We'll determine, based on the results, if we need to test further or if we're good at that point.

Jones said the results will be returned to the public on the district's website.

Lead testing became a hot topic across the state when Portland Public Schools discovered large amounts of lead in its water supply. A recent survey conducted by the Oregon Environmental Protection Agency found that most schools in Multnomah and Morrow counties did not test for lead.

"It's a statewide issue because all the labs are just being bombarded by requests now," said Portland Public Schools' lead engineer, Dave Krumpelman. "It's a huge issue statewide because everyone wants it done now.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, ingesting lead through drinking water can have adverse effects, especially for young children.

"If children, low levels of exposure have been linked to damage to the central and peripheral nervous system, learning disabilities, shorter stature, impaired hearing, and impaired function and function of blood cells," the EPA website states.

The district's lead tests are being done even though there is no state requirement.

"It's the responsible thing to do," said district spokeswoman Debra Robison. "We want to test for lead gas, the result of a bill passed by the Legislature in 2015.

Jones said the district has submitted a bid testing plan to the state by Sept. 1 with the expectation to start regular testing in 2021.

With the district still needing to select a laboratory to run the tests, which take two to three days to complete, Jones said the earliest the district could test for lead is in water breaks.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 26,000 long-term death per year are attributed to lead gas.

Jones said the district will also make the results of the initial testing available to the public.

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com or 541-988-8056.
FOCUS ON: Lead in schools

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

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

The Multnomah County Health Department has not pinpointed drinking water as the source for elevated lead levels in the two county residents. That includes 519 children from various schools tested at clinics for the month. Health Department investigations have traced lead poisoning in children to lead-contaminated soil, including degraded lead paint, metal scrap, hoses, pottery and a teapot from a yard sale.

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

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

That includes 10 drinking fountains where water samples contained lead at 10 to 37 times that level. In all, 35 water sources produced water with at least 10 times the federal action level.

The school, built in 1959, is the second-oldest in the city. It has additions built in the 1910s, 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. It currently enrolls about 520 students.

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

The school does have one water bottle refilling station, and the water it gave off was lead-free, the lab reports say.

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

High levels of lead have been found in at least some water sources in almost all Portland Public Schools tested so far this summer. You can see all of the district's test results at www.pps.net/Page5378.

-- Betty Hammond

LEAD

Continued from page 1

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

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

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

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

Puyallup View was built in 1954. While Belloni said there's no record of any up- dates to the school's plumbing since then, the pipes in question — copper plumb- ing sealed together with lead-infused solder, sup- plying water to the south wing of the school — didn't come into proper use until the 1950s.

"Somewhere back, they must have put copper pipe," Belloni said, adding he's not sure when or why the up- dates took place.

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

In a set of May 21 tests, water in Room 34 showed a concentration of 0.0275 mg/L. The borderline result fell between two conflicting action limits — the Oregon Health Author- ity allows for schools to hit 0.036 mg/L, while the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency accepts acceptable lead levels at 0.015 mg/L.

In a goodwill effort to ease concerns among teach- ers and parents, the district shut off every faucet and sink in the school and pro- vided bottled water for the remainder of the school year.

When the water was re- tested on June 16, the lead concentration in Room 34 jumped to 0.0595 mg/L.

A representative from Analy- tical Laboratory Group declined to comment on why that discrepancy might exist.

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

"Really, we probably did it wrong," Belloni said. "In my mind, the only way to test it is to return it in.

In the effort to test the entire county, Riley Villa, the district summer staff taking on the lead testing, will centralize for that task for three years before testing samples. Any way when he draw- ing the water early the next morning, Hines will know exactly how long it's been sitting in the pipes.

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

That process began Wednesday, July 6, at Pyu- allup View, Newport High, and Ilwaco Union Elementary, where district support staffer Riley Villa walks between classrooms in the south wing of Yaqueen View Elementary on Wednesday, July 6. Hines will collect samples from every sink and faucet in the district, totaling more than 2,000 test sites.

(Photos by Calley Hare)

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

At 410 per test, checking every sink and faucet in the district should cost between $40,000 and $50,000, and Superintendent Steve Bye- ton. That figure doesn't include any additional costs incurred if the results show a need for action. Obviously our students safety is of the utmost importance, so we're taking every precaution necessary," Belloni said.

Contact reporter Calley Hare at 503-365-3857 or calley.hare@oregonian.com

District support staffer Riley Villa walks between classrooms in the south wing of Yaqueen View Elementary on Wednesday, July 6. Hines will collect samples from every sink and faucet in the district, totaling more than 2,000 test sites. (Photo by Calley Hare)
**Schools test low for lead levels**

By Neil Cecil
ncc@hcweb.com

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

Testing was done in mid-June, with 74 samples taken at Cornelius, Dry Hollow, and Center School elementary and middle schools, and West York Elementary.

The Portland Public School District (PPSD) recommends the school water supplies showing lead levels above 20 parts per billion (ppb) be taken out of service.

Public water systems, which are subject to regulation by the EPA and typically the source of school water supplies, have a more stringent requirement of 15 ppb. All of the water samples in the schools showed lead levels significantly below those standards. For example, while the strictest limit is 10 parts per billion, the average at Dry Hollow was just two ppb, at Center School it was three ppb, and at West York, it was three ppb, and the average was one ppb.

"Lead exposure is of particular concern for children because the toxic metal is harmful to health and especially the central nervous system," said North Miami County School District 21 report.

The sample from West York was less than one ppb. The older buildings were tested first, with the expectation that they would be the most likely to have problems. The District Middle School, the newest building, will be tested before school starts, said Superintendent Candy Armstrong.

Coleridge Wright is the oldest building in the district, does not own a building, said the statement. The District Charter School did its own testing and provided the results to the district.

"Lead exposure is of particular concern for children because the toxic metal is harmful to health and especially the central nervous system," said the statement. The EPA and the Centers for Disease Control agree there is no safe level of lead in a child's blood.

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

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

Lead can come from paint, soil, soil, air, food, and drinking water. The EPA estimates 29 percent of a child's exposure can come from drinking water.

"The EPA strongly recommends that schools test for lead in water, but does not require it. In August, the state Board of Education will consider draft rules requiring that all Oregon schools create Healthy and Safe Plans and submit them by Oct. 1.

Such plans would address setting up lead, rules, and air quality. The district will comply with all such rules adopted, the statement said.

Parents who have questions on these issues should contact Dan Carter, NCWSD 21 Facilities Director, at 541-556-2500 or carters@ncwsd.org.

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

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

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

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

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School Board

From page 1

box in the softball field, a drinking fountain in the metal shop and an eye wash station in the auto shop. Yabaroh said.

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

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

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

"The Sweet Home team wanted to get ahead of this," Yabaroh said. "Because it's the right thing to do" and to get ahead of a mandate, giving the district time to adapt and plan.

Present at the meeting, which was Yabaroh's first as superintendent, were board members Angela Clegg, Chief Keenoy, Jason Reddick, Chairman Mike Reynolds, Nick Angstburger, Carol Rood and Debra Brown. Jason Van Vilk and Jenny Daniels were absent.

In other business, the board:

- Appointed board officers for the 2015-17 school year. Continuing as officers are Reynolds as chairman, Reddick, vice chairman; and Angstburger, secretary.
- Approved the hiring of Darren Perry, advanced math, SHHS; Peter Larena, social studies, SHHS; Duncan Tanous, choir, SHHS; Terri Petersen, special education, SHHS; Rachel Sandquist, fifth grade, temporary, Oak Heights; and Elizabeth Wills, language arts, SHHS.
- Accepted the resignations of Kerstin Maun, language arts, SHHS; Debbie Spanos, science, SHHS; and Elizabeth Stertig, Kindergartens, Hawthorne.

- Adopted policy revisions governing student and staff complaints.

County schools water tests show safe lead levels

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

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

Tests returned from Merrill and Alton elementary schools and Bonanza Schools District in Bonner, Elementary and Bonanza High School. Test results also returned from the Klamath School District at Elliott Elementary, Lost River Jr./Sr. High School, Chiloquin Jr./Sr. High School, Chiloquin Elementary, Chiloquin Jr./Sr. High School, Gilchrist Schools and Chiloquin Elementary.

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

LEVELS

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

ONLINE EXTRA

Results from the Klamath County School District's water tests are available with this story at kcaschoolnews.com.

The Service Center at West Virginia University in the most recent results, the district tested 23 total sites at schools and the administration, the district had lead levels, including drinking fountains, and sinks in the kitchen, staff room, nurses' station and other rooms in some schools.

Of those 23 samples, one had lead levels from 1 part per billion and nine had lead levels between 1 and 3 parts per billion. Six had levels above 3 parts per billion. Levels at one water fountain in Bonanza were not detected.

The highest lead levels in those schools were 1.66 ppb from a nurses' station at Malin Elementary. And 10.5 ppb, in the Bonanza Elementary.

The KCCD Transition House kitchen had lowest lead, at 0.04 ppb.

COPPER TESTING

The district also tested for copper in the drinking water. The EPA limit for copper is far, for higher than lead, at 1,200 ppb. The EPA states that in small amounts, copper is necessary for our diet to ensure good health. In large amounts it can be unhealthy. Many people can naturally maintain their copper levels, but children under the age of 1 and people with Wilson's disease cannot.

Of the 25 sites tested in the most recent results, 23 were below 1,000 ppb. Two sites, both at Ferguson Elementary, were above 100 ppb. Six sites were below 10 ppb (included in the amounts below 100 ppb). The highest level, 157 ppb from a kitchen faucet at Ferguson Elementary, was less than 1/5 of the 1,200 ppb threshold. The lowest copper amount, at a Malin Elementary water fountain, was 0.1 ppb.

FIXES PLANNED

Even with the encouraging results so far, the district is formulated to replace all faucets in water fountains and sinks in kitchens, nurses' stations and staff rooms. Over a three-year time period, the district plans to spend about $150,000 on new faucets.

Klamath, OR (Klamath Co.)
Herald & News
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JUL 1, 2016
Allen's N.C.A. EST. 1859
School district starts testing for lead

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

Summer employees with the Greater Albany Public Schools physical plant began taking samples July 7 at Lewis, Paramount and Oak Grove schools. They sent the samples to the state.

"If any come back positive, we're obviously going to do whatever we have to do to get them to come back negative," said Doug Pignan, director of facilities.

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

The testing will take time because Albany is following a day-long process that involves first flushing all sinks and taps for 15 minutes, then letting them sit for eight to 10 hours before taking a sample, said Stephanie Dillow, assistant director of the department's workman employers working on the project.

"That means also any of their fellow teachers — even if they're not involved in the testing, they're going to be mobile to be able to deal with the situations that they come across in the day-to-day process," Dillow said.

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

**BRIEFING**

**Tests show safe water at schools**

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

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

Jefferson County's lead levels came from one of its schools last month. At least half of all 14 schools in the district have tested positive for lead in their water. The district tested 119 sites at 13 schools, and 68 of them tested positive for lead levels above the 15 parts per billion standard.

"The goal is to make sure that every child has lead-free water while we work to get the problems fixed," said District Superintendent Kim Wehr.

The district is testing all 14 schools for lead in their water supply, and it has hired a consultant to help identify and fix the problems.

The consultant, who has been working with the district since last year, has identified several potential sources of lead in the schools' water systems, including lead pipes, lead service lines and lead solder.

The district has already completed work to replace lead service lines at three schools, and it plans to replace lead pipes at all schools in the next year.

"We're making progress, but there's a lot of work to be done," Wehr said.

The district is also working to educate parents and students about the risks of lead exposure and how to reduce their exposure.

"We want to make sure that everyone is aware of the potential risks and how to protect themselves," Wehr said.
Chemeketa closes fountain

High amounts of lead found in water

TRACY LOEW

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

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

"We have identified the source of the lead, and we are taking steps to address the issue," Harris said. "We are working with the Oregon Health Authority to test other water sources on campus to ensure the safety of our students.

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

The Environmental Protection Agency recommends schools take remedial action if a tap tests at 20 parts per billion or higher of lead. But no level is safe, and health effects can occur at levels as low as 5 parts per billion, experts say.

In June, Chemeketa began testing taps in buildings that house child care programs, Harris said. Results of those tests are being reviewed under a regulatory limit, the report shows:

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

See LEAD, Page 3A

2 more districts test for lead in water

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

BY ALISHA RHEINSTEIN

The Register-Guard

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

The Creswell and North Douglas districts said recent concerns about contaminated water prompted each to ensure that their schools' water is safe for students. Both districts have found instances of elevated lead levels in initial testing.

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

Officials at these three districts said they began preparing for the tests even before state health and education officials announced in June that they were encouraging school districts across the state to do comprehensive testing over the summer.

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

The Eugene, Springfield and Bethel districts have hired Eugene-based PBK Engineers and Environmental Consultants to conduct their testing, at estimated costs of $50,000 and $100,000, respectively.

The Springfield district has hired Analytical Laboratories and Consultants of Springfield to complete its testing. The estimated cost of the service has not been disclosed.

In Creswell, Superintendent Todd Hamilton says samples were collected from 97 fixtures at the district's three schools and then sent to Analytical Laboratories and Consultants for testing in late June. The testing process cost the district $9,200, Hamilton said.

Of the 97 tested, three fixtures were found to have unsafe levels of lead present in the water on the first draw. All three were at Creswell High School, where about 400 students are enrolled during the school year.

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

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

As in Waverly, the drinking fountain is not being replaced, according to Hamilton.

A training session for employees to deal with the lead problem also was provided.

The district has also implemented policies to prevent future contamination:

- Using water coolers at all schools
- Providing bottled water in cafeteria meals
- Installing water fountains in places frequented by students
- Monitoring water quality on a regular basis

The district has also worked with the Oregon Health Authority to ensure the safety of the drinking water.

Lead levels have been found at the school district in West Linn, which has also implemented similar precautions.

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

Continued from Page 3A

levels of 61 ppb. Water in another fountain located in the main gym was found to have lead levels of 42 ppb, and a test completed on a sink in the science supply room showed slightly elevated levels at 24 ppb.

Hamilton said new fixtures have been ordered for the three sites and will be installed as soon as possible. In the meantime, water has been shut off to all three sites, Hamilton confirmed. The fixture replacements cost about $500, he said.

"It's the same issue that everyone else is facing," Hamilton said. "There's a sense of concern around Oregon about lead in drinking water and we wanted to make sure we were being responsive and proactive in addressing the issue." Follow-up tests are scheduled to be completed soon, Hamilton said.

In Dallas, North Douglas district Superintendent John Labley said district staff collected samples from about 46 sites, including about half of the 25 classrooms in the district's two schools, for elevated levels of lead. The samples were sent to Analytical Laboratories and Consultants for testing, which cost the district about $1,500.

A total of 10 sites were determined to have elevated levels of lead after the first draw of water, but Labley said the high lead levels were not alarming. "It wasn't anything super-high," Labley said.

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

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

The thing that's most important for us is that every drinking area passed the test and no detectable levels of lead were found in them," Labley said.

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

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

7447

Follow Alisha on Twitter @alisherinsteen Email: alisha.rine@registerguard.com.
Agencies testing taps in Salem

WOU fountain has high levels of lead

TRACY LOEW
STATEMAN JOURNAL

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

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

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

In the Mid-Valley:

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

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

But a copy of the results, requested by the newspaper, show that lead levels in a gym drinking fountain in the New Physical Education building came back at 32 parts per billion, just above the regulation.

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

Other results came in below the detection level, to just 15 parts per billion in a lobby drinking fountain in Rice Auditorium.

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

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

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

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

Willamette University began testing this week, spokeswoman Adam Tergeson said.

“We are relatively low risk,” he said.

“We do not believe we have any lead pipes. The only risk could be in older buildings.”

Testing will begin in those older buildings, he said.

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

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

See LEAD, Page 2A

Lead

Continued from Page 1A

about twice the federal action level. Testing is continuing in other buildings, spokesman Greg Harris said.

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

The district will post test results on its website at http://www.salemkeizer.

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

“We’re developing a plan for when and how that would be done,” Oregon Health Authority spokesman Jonathan Modie said.

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

GHY has asked schools to immediately test drinking water on their web sites, Modie said. The state also is developing a central public website to compile reports directly from testing labs.

The results to test has been a boon for Salem’s Watershed Corp., which is among the state-approved lead testing labs.

The company has a small backlog and is running about a week behind, owner Beth Myers said. It’s purchasing a larger auto sampler, which will allow it to increase tests from 80 to 180 per day, she said.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends schools take remedial action if a tap tests at 15 parts per billion or higher, and that’s the level being used by public agencies as well.

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

“People don’t understand that’s not a healthy standard, that’s an action level,” Myers said.

There is no safe standard for lead, None,” thorns@trasknewsj

NEWSCAST | Lead in schools

Vestal School in Northeast Portland is an oddity within Portland Public Schools, new lab results show. Not a single one of its drinking fountains has a reading above 15 parts per billion as of June.

Portland Public Schools is testing every water source in every school this summer to see which ones give off 15 parts per billion or more of lead. So far, 18 of 79 schools have not had a drinking fountain or classroom sink — and usually many of both — test positive for that level of lead.

But at Vestal, a 1939 brick building on Northeast 82nd Avenue in the Montavilla neighborhood, all 24 drinking fountains and one of its classroom sinks gave off water with a detectable level of lead or lead at fewer than 15 parts per billion.

Thirteen other water sources, nearly all of them restroom sinks, faucets and outdoor spigots, gave off high levels of lead when sampled in June.

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Thirteen other water sources, nearly all of them restroom sinks, faucets and outdoor spigots, gave off high levels of lead when sampled in June.
School district's failures occurred before the superintendent's tenure, according to the findings

By Betsy Hammond
The Oregonian/OregonLive

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

She said that announcement comes after the school board released a damning report showing how Portland Public Schools dragged its feet on testing water for lead, fixing problems that were found and notifying the public of test results.

Smith, who served nine years as Portland's superintendent and reshaped the city's high school system, said she provided the school board with a 90-day notice of her departure, as required by her contract, but that she has accumulated 50 days of unused vacation and leave time, so she will cease working for the district immediately.

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

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

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

The report said what went wrong with lead testing and remediation indicates that Smith expected the district to do well on any significant findings or problems, but she was not.

The district's failures on lead predates her hire in fall 2017, the report shows.

Still, the report cites "an absence of diligent inquiry by the individual in the upper levels of administration hierarchy regarding PPS's procedures and protocols for lead in water testing remediation." And it suggests permanent staff to retire at the end of the school year.

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

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Smith

Continued from A1

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

Smith refocused the district's system of high schools, ending the practice of testing students to high schools in other neighborhoods. And she took some controversial steps, including closing Marshall High and limiting enrollment at Benson High, in order to create schools more similar in size and course offerings in all parts of the district.

Smith said her proudest accomplishment was helping the district meet its reform-minded graduation rate. Still, the district's rate never matched the state average and is below state averages among minority students, Latinos, Native Americans and students with disabilities.

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

"Carole Smith has been a strong educational leader in Portland," she said, noting the big improvements in the graduation rate and "steps taken to moderate the district's high schools." "We urge the school board to move swiftly to fill this important role and to focus immediately on the serious issues facing the district, including the findings of lead in some schools' water supplies," McDonough said in a statement.

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No lead detected in Morrow schools

No lead was detected in Morrow County schools.

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School Notes

Portland Ore.

June 9, 2016

For the latest updates and reaction, go to oregonlive.com/education.
Flushed

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

BY ASHLEH WOOLHIS
AND BETH SLOVIC 503-245-2021

Carole Smith's reign at the top of Portland Public Schools went down the drain in 38 pages. That's the length of an outside investigation's damning report on PPS's systemic failures to adequately test for lead in schools' drinking water, fix plumbing fixtures when positive test results popped up, and warn students and teachers about possible sources of poisoning.

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

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

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

Within minutes, Smith announced she would resign as Portland Public Schools' superintendent immediately, rather than retire in 2018.

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

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

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

"For years and years and years of school boards that failed to provide any kind of oversight," says Rita Moore, a North Portland schools activist, "the fact is that PPS is a system with no system at large. It is not new. It is not even new news. This is just outside confirmation."

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

"She clearly stated she was out of sync with the board," says School Board Chairwoman Toni Kaseholt.

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

Kaseholt does not yet have plans for who will take over from Smith, but says the board will have someone in place before the school year begins Aug. 20.

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

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

PPS also hired a crisis public relations consultant, Anna Richter Taylor of ART Public Affairs. Emails obtained by WVP via a public records request show Richter Taylor was pressuring a reluctant Smith to announce her retirement in June.

The school district will have to prove to voters in the next three months that it can clean up a huge mess, and the report made it obvious Smith was damaging to that case. "I think the report did her in," says Southeast Portland parent Lisia Ade. "It just pointed out too many flaws.""What's not in the report is in many ways as important as what is. Unlike in Flint, Mich., where public officials knew things were wrong with water crisis shown to have harmed residents' health, no child in Portland has tested positive for elevated lead as a result of PPS's water.

"The report's authors, in fact, go out of their way to shield district employees from Flint-like accusations. "We found no indication," the Stoll Berne lawyers write, "that anyone intended harm or even to neglect his or her job duties." And the report finds no smoking gun showing that Smith was aware of any test results indicating elevated lead levels before the scandal broke in late May, or that she lied about what she knew.

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

The short answer is from the scathing 38 pages. PPS culminated a series of "ignorance, incompetence and deception."

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

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

1. The PPS employee in charge of safeguarding students from lead hazards had no qualifications to hold that position. In April 2016, the district hired Andy Fridley as senior manager of environmental health and safety. PPS placed Fridley in charge of keeping the drinking water safe, but the district gave him "no guidance or training." For report reads.

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

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

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

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

2. When the person in charge of health learned about problems, he did nothing. PPS made a public records request for information on lead testing in schools in early 2015. Fridley, the senior manager of environmental health and safety, pulled together the information from a PPS database. In the process, he made a startling discovery. "The database showed no remediation action for some of the fixtures that had tested for excessive levels of lead in water," the report says.

But Fridley did nothing.

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

3. When the district was asked to explain the problems, it tried to hide them. Fridley shared the database with Jon Issacs, PPS's chief spokesman and public information officer. In February 2015.

CONT. ON PAGE 10

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

Fridley, the report says, informed Iseas that the database report was missing some data. But Iseas provided Fridley with only one excerpt of the database—a portion that failed to show PPS had apparently made no fixes on some of the sinks and fountains after the testing in 2011 and 2012.

As the report notes: "In one significant instance, the former Chief of Communications & Public Affairs knowingly provided incomplete excerpts of the water testing database to Fridley." Iseas disputed the finding Monday, saying he followed district protocol for records requests, and other top officials knew what he was doing.

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

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

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

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

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

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

"That's the main reason Smith is gone. The school district must quickly demonstrate it can make reforms, and the superintendent, who oversaw a culture of looking the other way, was in no position to do it," Smith declared an interview request. But in her letter announcing her resignation, she suggested the school board was to blame for the district's dysfunction.

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

Observers say the school board must now demand better.

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

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

Fridley's boss was Magliano, who ascended the ranks of the facilities department to chief operating officer in charge of district facilities in 2014. From 2000 to 2013, he was facilities director.

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

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

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

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

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

The district said all the drinking water facilities in the entire district have been tested for lead content and no lead has been detected in district schools.

The school board said the district is taking all necessary steps to ensure the safety of its students and employees. The district also said it is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all students and employees.

The district has hired an outside testing firm to conduct additional testing of the drinking water in the district. The district will continue to test the water at regular intervals to ensure the safety of its students and employees.

The district has also developed a plan to ensure that all water sources in the district are properly maintained and that all water sources are tested regularly for lead content.

The district has also provided training for all staff members on how to handle and maintain water sources in a safe and healthy manner.

The district has also reached out to families to inform them of the testing and to inform them that the district is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all students and employees.
Report: Schools gave flawed lead data

By Bethany Barnes
The Oregonian/OregonLive

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

Stoll Berne on Monday released a 38-page report on how policies, personnel lapses and communication systems caused lead-testing failures. The district didn't have protocols in place to treat for lead or track test results and fixes made to fountains and faucets, investigators concluded. It relied on unreliable water filters, used faulty logic to rule out testers, and never formally notified parents.

District Superintendent Carole Smith resigned this week, appearing to show some fixtures that had tested above acceptable levels for lead in water had not been addressed.

Friday told Izacs the database was missing data, the report says. Tony Magliano, the district's chief operating officer, suggested to Izacs that they give the reporter a consistent story and then respond to the request. Magliano, who was also with Izacs, asked to speak with Izacs and look through the response before it was sent.

Izacs ignored those suggestions, the report says. He sent the information to Williams after it was as it was, with a minimal description. He didn't run it by anyone.

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

"Everyone we interviewed confirmed the database was unreliable. Izacs left the district in April to work for Uber and did not cooperate with Stoll Berne's investigation, according to the law firm.

"The result is the law firm missed a week to change for Izacs, but he failed to call investigators back. Izacs says he never heard from investigators a second time, even after he offered to be interviewed at a time other than the one the firm initially proposed.

"I received no follow-up requests that I am aware of," Izacs said via email. "I did not receive any written requests or any explanation of the timeline on the report."

Williams did not write about the lead testing database until after the lead scandal broke out in late May. The law firm fired last week, the report states.

Without more information, the investigation was unable to write an article, Mehl said.

"If I wish we had known this story in 2015? Yes," said Mehl, who became editor in summer 2015, after the records had been preserved. "But we did not have enough information to publish the story."

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

"The report was not a product of the investigation and was not intended to be," the district said. "We will be making a determination about next steps regarding personnel matters," said spokesman Courtney Westling.

For now, Tony Magliano and Andy Friel remain on administrative leave.

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

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

lbarneys@oregonlive.com
Bethany Barnes contributed to this report.

Portland Public Schools lead test results

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

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

The high at Jefferson High, 199 fountains and other fixtures, or 60 percent of the school's 330 water sources, had lead levels above the federal threshold of 15 parts per billion. No tests there detected lead.

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

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

Online: See all of the results at www.oregonlive.com/education to read more.

-- Bethany Barnes

Byline:
BETH HAMMOND/OREGONIAN
Superintendent Carole Smith resigned this week.

Stoll Berne report

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

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

Online: See all of the results at www.oregonlive.com/education to read more.

-- Bethany Barnes

Online: See all of the results at www.oregonlive.com/education to read more.
No harmful lead found in MCSD water, school district reports

In June, the Morrow County School District tested drinking water sites at all of its schools for the potential presence of lead. Results from Box X Water Analysis Laboratory in Prineville indicate that all sites tested showed "no lead detected" or were below the EPA limit of 0.020.

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

Many schools receive their water from community or city water systems. These public water systems regularly test the water and already treat the water to help reduce corrosion of plumbing. However, lead that is present in pipes and fixtures can enter the water at the tap and expose those who drink it—which is why sampling and testing for lead at each tap is important.

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

Some state funds may be available in fall 2016 to reimburse school districts who test their drinking water this summer. For more information, visit the Oregon Health Authority website at http://www.oregon.gov/oha/news/.

Report: Portland Public Schools' lead monitoring filled with flaws

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

The release of a lawsuit by the Monday gives new context. Here's a summary of the events leading up to this week.

Summer 2016: The district tested water for lead districtwide and shared results publicly, but didn't share results for testing water in 67 schools since 2009. Fifty-one of those schools had at least one drinking fountain or faucet emitting water with high lead levels.

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

May 25: The district announces that it plans to test the water at every school building over the summer, while turning off all fountains and bringing in bottled water.

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

June 21: The district's first water testing results, from the long-shuttered Humboldt School, show nearly half the basins and fountains were above 5 parts per million, the district's target level, throughout the school year. Smith announces that the school will be closed for the remainder of the school year.

July 11: School Board releases a report detailing Portland school officials' mishandling of lead monitoring in schools. Smith announces he was the first to report the issue.

Inside: Read more about the new report's findings on Page A9.
FOR LEAD
DRINKING WATER
REQUERED TO TEST
CENTERFORDRUG
CHILD CARE
LAKE COUNTY
NEWS

2016 LMH 04 23

(315) 229-7000
Lake County News

Sunset Willamette
indicate elevated
levels of lead

West Linn-Willamette School District will test other schools

Testing revealed lead levels in drinking water. The maximum lead level found was 0.006 mg/l, the limit for lead content in drinking water as regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). According to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), levels of 0.010 mg/l are considered safe to consume. Lead levels were found in the drinking water at Sunset Willamette Elementary School. The levels found were in the classroom, drinking fountains and specialized offices. The school district decided to test other schools in the district to determine if there was a lead problem in the community. The results from those tests have not been released yet.

The school district will be implementing a plan to reduce the lead levels in the drinking water. This plan includes installing filters on the drinking fountains, using filtered water for drinking, and providing bottled water for students and staff. The school district will also be conducting regular testing of the drinking water to ensure that the lead levels remain below the safe limit.

The school district has been working closely with the Oregon Health Authority and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that the lead levels in the drinking water are safe. They have also been working with the Oregon Department of Education to ensure that the testing and implementation of the plan is done in a timely manner.

The school district is committed to the health and safety of its students and staff. They will continue to monitor the lead levels in the drinking water and implement any necessary measures to reduce the lead levels.

For more information, please contact the school district at (503) 699-8000.
Lead

Continued from Page 1A

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

Portland Public Schools had 13,500 water samples that needed tested, Leland said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

But no level of lead is considered safe, and health effects can occur at levels as low as 2 parts per billion, experts say.

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

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

District workers will flush the plumbing in each building eight to 16 hours before samples are drawn, then wait a week to ensure the taps are not used.

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

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

Because there will be a large number of samples, TRC will use multiple labs in Oregon to analyze the samples.

"This is a long-term project," Leland said. "It's going to take the next two years to complete the work here."
Lead in school water draws scathing report

Departing leader leaves list of actions to address problems

By SHARMA LINDSAY MORRIS
The Tribune

The largest school district in Oregon didn't have a plan for testing lead in its water, remediation in its buildings, or communicating its results externally or internally, despite knowing about the problem for at least the last 15 years.

That's the conclusion from investigators at the Soil, Water, and Air laboratory of the Oregon Health Authority who reviewed more than 1,000 pages of documents and data submitted by the school district during the investigation of the Portland Public Schools, as well as the district's own records.

Lead concentrations in the school district's water exceeded legal limits in at least 14 schools, with the highest concentration found in the school district's main office building. In some cases, lead levels were more than 80 times higher than the legal limit.

The district has not reported these findings publicly, nor has it taken any action to address the problem. The departing superintendent, who had been in the position for less than a year, has not been replaced.

The district's failure to address the problem, as well as its lack of communication with the public, has led to calls for the district to be held accountable for its actions.

The Portland Police Bureau has opened an investigation into the district's actions, and the Oregon Health Authority has filed a complaint against the district.

In the meantime, parents are urging the district to take immediate action to address the lead contamination in their children's schools.

The district has promised to take action, but has not provided any details or a timeline for when actions will be taken.

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Lead found in school's water
School lead tests may be skewed

EPA: Procedure not recommended

TRACY LOWE
PORTLAND TRIBUNE

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

That could skew results, EPA officials said Friday.

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

The Oregon Health Authority told districts to follow the procedures detailed in the EPA’s 104-page guidance document titled “415s for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water Schools.”

It calls for water to sit in the plumbing overnight, or for eight to 12 hours, before sampling is drawn.

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

“It’s the recommendation from the Environmental Protection Agency,” Victor Sorensen, senior industrial hygienist with TRC Environmental, said Wednesday.

But that isn’t the correct interpretation, the EPA said in a written response to the Oregonian’s questions.

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

Flushing a building’s pipes is one of the recommended pre-sampling activities to reduce lead in drinking water, so samples after flushing would be less than they would be during routine use.

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

See LEAD, Page 2A

The 3Ts

According to the EPA’s documents, the 3Ts stand for testing, testing and testing. Testing includes strategies for the most accurate results and water sampling protocols.

The process refers to telling parents what is known about lead and the best way to provide test results back. The discovery of lead levels in two Portland schools, along with public health disaster that followed, spurred many districts throughout the state to start testing this spring.

Gov. Kate Brown and other state leaders have called for yearly reports on lead and other toxins from every school district.

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

Schools find lead in water

Astoria, Seaside find trouble spots as early test results return

By EDWARD STRATTON

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

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

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends schools collect 250 milliliters of water samples from outlets used for consumption, taking omissions out of service if the lead level exceeds 20 parts per billion. The bigger the target in a public water system is 15 parts per billion.

See LEAD, Page 1A

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

Craig Haynes
Shelley Foley
Continued from Page 1A

The schools district, which tested at several spots in each school, shut off all other faucets at the high school as a precaution while it waits for additional tests to determine whether or not all-campus plumbing or water coming into the school is the issue.

"Astoria School District and the city are dedicated to eliminating lead from drinking water, but it's not uncommon for small amounts to be found due to problems from service lines, parts, and fittings," Haynes wrote in a letter sent to parents and guardians Monday. "These traces amounts of lead rarely if ever cause acute illness, but only problem if exposure can lead to accumulation in the body and cause health issues."

In the meantime, the district tests at 30 spots around the city last year showed clear drinking water below the EPA threshold for treatment.

"While the city provides water that is lead-free, it cannot control the pipes and fixtures past the service connection," Haynes wrote, "encouraging parents to reduce the risk of lead entering the body by curing contact with the water in the fixtures."
Initial results show nearly 70 samples of drinking water exceeded EPA limits

Tests show lead at Roseburg schools

Lead levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Lead Level (ppb)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School A</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School B</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School C</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Well</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By Jason Gowne

LEAD
FROM PAGE ONE
Wood, Art Tech drinking water tests indicate elevated levels of lead

West Linn-Wilsonville School District still testing other schools

BY ANNE LEFF
The Spokesman

Tests for lead in drinking water at Reser R. Wood Middle School and Art and Technology High School were relayed in parents via email on July 31, indicating elevated levels of lead in multiple locations at both sites, most notably at the drinking fountain and bottle fill-up station in Art Tech's Eira Mall. The elevated levels of lead exceed the action level of 20 parts per billion (ppb) set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Test results at Beaverton Creek Elementary, released Monday, July 26, showed no elevated levels of lead or copper.

The West Linn-Wilsonville School District made the decision to address the issue.

**MORE INFORMATION**
For answers to specific questions contact Mr. Jeff Oates,
Principal Operations Director, Mountwood Elementary, ext. 6549.
For questions about the test results, contact the district's Public Information Officer at 503-673-7994.

Falls City schools to test for lead

FALLS CITY — The Falls City School District Board approved on July 18 transferring $5,000 of contingency to pay for state-required lead testing.

The money will be transferred to the operational and maintenance budgets and to a contractor to collect samples and send them for testing.

The expenditure wasn't included in the 2016-17 budget because the state request had not been made when the spending plan was developed.

Falls City will test 59 fountains and drinking fountains, following the state's request that every outlet be tested.

"It's everything we think we can do out of the budget," said Falls City Superintendent John P. Thompson.

North Douglas District tests, retests for lead

North Douglas School District officials responded to public concerns regarding possible lead contaminants in the water system by testing at a school in the system recently.

The District indicated via press release that Superintendent John Lathby had required testing of all drinking water fountains and sources for consumable water in addition to 50 percent of classrooms.

North Douglas contacted with Analytical Laboratory Group of Eugene for the testing, which involved testing samples from water outlets that exceeded the state's guidelines at 10 sites of concern where lead levels exceeded the 15 parts per billion threshold of lead levels deemed in need of correction by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Lathby stated that no drinking fountains were found to contain unsafe water, but some tests did reveal lead contamination.

Concession booths at the high school athletic field and districtwide athletic fields were determined as "non-drinkable sources," as were some high school science lab stations, one high school restroom sink, a classroom storage space sink in the high school and three elementary/middle school classrooms.

Lathby indicated that water would first be shut off to those areas deemed "non-drinkable," those sites were then rescheduled for retesting.

On July 12, the District sent an update indicating that of the 10 sites found to contain unacceptable lead levels on a first test, all 10 came back clean after a second test. Lathby indicated that he believed the first positive tests were due to "lack of regular use at those locations."
Cedarroak Park tests indicate elevated levels of lead

By ANDREW KLEIHERM
The Tidings

Tests for lead in drinking water at Cedarroak Park Primary were delayed to parents July 24, revealing elevated levels of lead in several locations.

Results at Rosemoor Ridge Middle School, meanwhile, indicated elevated levels in three of 110 locations. The indicated elevated levels of lead that exceed the action level of 10 parts per billion (ppb) included an accessory water sink, classroom sink and restroom sink at Cedar Park and two science classrooms sink and one restroom sink at Rosemoor Ridge.

The three locations at Cedar Park produced elevated results of 3.7 ppb, 3.8 ppb and 6.5 ppb — exceeding the level set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The three elevated levels of lead at Rosemoor were 0.8 ppb, 0.1 ppb and 3.8 ppb.

The West Linn-Wilsonville School District made the decision in June to test the quality of drinking water for all its schools, working with PDX Labs in Portland and starting with its oldest buildings.

"We're going to make sure that everything is safe for children and staff, wherever we are in the process of making it," Superintendent Kathy Ludwig said after initial testing at Rosemoor and Wilsonville Elementary indicated elevated levels of lead in a combined six locations.

KLWY has tested its drinking water at locations in the past — for its three wells which are routinely tested — to restate relying on the regular testing of water by the city of West Linn and the City of Wilsonville. Water sources at individual schools are not tested by either city, however.

Operations Director Tim Wooding also said the district will continue testing and sharing results with parents throughout the summer, with the goal of having results available for all activity by mid-August.

Contact Andrew Kleherm at 503-635-4181 ext. 112 or akleherm@wilsonville.k12.or.us.

Many questions yet unanswered regarding lead in PPS water supply

COMMUNITY SOAPBOX
By Harold Warner

My questions:
When Portland Public Schools Superintendent Carol Smith put on hold some key personnel to PPS, was this the correct answer or a way to appease the citizens and parents?
If it is true, the water from Bull Mountain is without significant lead before released to Portland, then it seems to me, the system from source to exit might be the real problem and needs evaluation.
A recent article in The Oregonian (how precise the pipes for water supply to Portland is installed) does the question needs asked — are the fixtures the real culprit?
Could it be possible that the pollution is in the pollution and all the city pipes need replacement?
If this is true, then the school system is not to blame at fault (except for not having a monitoring program), and those who are purchasing water from Portland Bull Mountain might be in jeopardy.
If the purchasers are having problems with their water and higher lead levels, who would be liable?
It seems to me, the water needs to be tested at the entrance to the school and compare those values with what exits the taps.
If the entrance lead level is high then the problem is solved. It is the supply from the city.
Replacing fixtures and pipes to me seems not to be the total answer.
If it is proved that the above is true, then those that were put on leave or budgeted to return to their jobs with notifications that they were not at fault added to their permanent files.

Harold Warner lives in Tigard

Safe levels of lead, copper reported at county schools

The Clackamas County School District released test results for more schools, additional results for a previously reported test, results for schools and results for the district office. They continue to show that although levels of lead and copper in school drinking water exceed the Environmental Protection Agency's acceptable level of 15 parts per billion, they are not elevated when compared to the EPA's threshold of 1,000 parts per billion.

Results for schools were received from Lest River Jr/Sr High School, Clackamas Jr/Sr High School, Chולוגin Elementary, Gilchrist Schools and the district office. Additional results came for a few sites at PLEGE Community Elementary, which also had results reported on July 11.

District schools and buildings continue to contain lead levels well below the Environmental Protection Agency threshold of 15 parts per billion and copper levels below the EPA threshold of 1,000 parts per billion.

At Lest River Jr/Sr High School, the school tested 150 samples from its 20-plus school buildings and posted them to Spring Street.

ONLINE EXTRA
Results of water tests for lead done by the Clackamas County School District, as well as those for copper in district drinking water, are available with this story at herald.uoworlds.com.

Analytical, which sent the samples for laboratory testing. Nearly all the test results have come back; testing only the new district office building on Greensprings Drive awaits.

Online results are below the EPA limits. No faucet results are below the EPA limits.

FAUCET REPLACEMENTS
The Clackamas County School District is planning to replace all fixtures in water fountains and sinks for lead, copper, fluoride and sediment. Staff are notified and offices are updated.

The district believes this proactive approach will continue to keep students safe.

Costumes among the district tested 32 total sites, including drinking fountains and sinks in the kitchen, staff area, cafeteria and other areas in some schools.

Of those 32 samples, the lead levels of less than 1 part per billion, 11 had lead levels between 1 and 3 parts per billion and 15 had lead levels above 3 parts per billion. Levels at two sites at Callam and one at Forest Grove were still below 15 ppb, they are still considered safe.

The highest was a centrifugal drinking fountain at 1.44 ppb, followed by a 1.36 ppb amount in a staff sink. Again, the district is planning on replacing all faucets and fountains fixtures in its schools over the next three years.

The district also tested for copper in the drinking water. The EPA limit for copper is far higher than lead, at 1,300 ppb. Of the 32 sites most recently tested, 27 were below 100 ppb. Five sites were above 100 ppb. And 10 sites were below 10 ppb.
School getting new pipes after tests

The Springfield School District will pay $95,000 to reduce lead levels at Page Elementary 744-7
By ALANNA RYAN-BRUHLING The Register-Guard
SPRINGFIELD — Page Elementary School's underground water system will soon be completely replaced with new pipes, fittings and fixtures, after elevated levels of lead were determined to be present in the building's west wing.

Six classrooms at the north Springfield school were found to have higher-than-safe levels of lead in their classroom sinks and drinking fountains, said Brett Yonne, the Springfield School District's chief operations officer.

The entire replacement project will cost the district $95,000, according to Yonne, who said the replacement work will be completed before the new school year commences on Sept. 7.

Testing revealed that water from sinks and drinking fountains in the west wing of six classrooms ranged from 27 to 180 parts per billion, or PPM. The standard for acceptable concentrations in drinking water is 50 PPM. Anything above that is considered elevated, according to the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

After receiving initial test results for Page Elementary on June 4, new replacement fixtures were ordered for all sites that showed elevated levels of lead, and water was continued to be drawn from the pumps before installation.

Turn to LEAD, Page A5

LEAD LEVELS

Testing in the west wing of Page Elementary School showed elevated lead levels, and testing was at the request of federal regulators as anything above 20 parts per billion.

Classroom 3: 180 PPM on first floor, sink and drinking fountain
Classroom 2: 77 PPM on first floor, sink and drinking fountain
Classroom 4: 48 PPM
Classroom 5: 31 PPM
Classroom 3: 27 PPM

Source: Springfield School District

Benton

LEAD: Awaiting school board approval

Continued from Page A1

that off to the west side of the building, Yonne said.

The new fixtures were installed and the cold water had elevated lead levels were flushed with water for five days and then tested, Yonne said. Shaking the water through the plumbing and restarting the same tap used to determine whether lead is leaching into the water through pipes or the fixtures.

The second test revealed that the pipes in the west wing were the problem, not the fixtures.

"A repair was done at some point in the past and when that was done, they must have installed a lead-lined pipe or head," Yonne said. "I'm sure when it was installed it was perfectly acceptable practice." Yonne said instead of trying to determine which pipe or piece is to blame, the district is going to replace the school's entire system.

"We're going to just abandon that plumbing system and put in a new one, partially because it's also an asbestos school," Yonne said. "We're going to start with that (new) wing and redo the whole thing.

"A lead repair, like a west wing appears to be the only part of the building affected by the lead soldered piping, it makes more sense to redo the entire system as the pipes are old and testing each individual piece would be laborious, Yonne said.

Page Elementary School was built in 1963.

The district has hired Hydro- Temp Mechanical contractors of Wiltonnville to complete the project, Yonne said. Brothers Plumbing of Lowell also submitted a bid for the project, which was slightly higher than the Wiltonnville company.

"We're not requiring that this be done before kids are back in school," Yonne said. "This is another short timeline," Yonne said. "I think the reason local people (organizations) couldn't do it is because it's such a crazy busy time for construction." Yonne said.

The $30,000 will be taken from the district's emergency fund, pending school board approval on Aug. 5, Yonne said. But the district isn't waiting until then to get the process started.

"We want to get this as soon as we can," Yonne said. "It's probably going to be 34 days, we'll get everything in order to start the project, but we want it done as quickly as possible.

In the meantime, water has been shut off to all affected areas of the school, and bottled water is being made available to any staff members who are at Page during the summer weeks, Yonne said.

In testing hundreds of other sinks, fountains and other water sources at all district buildings, only one elevated level of lead was found anywhere other than Page Elementary. That was a sink at the Eastran Early Learning Center, which was found to have an elevated level of 44 PPM. The sink, located in the building's kitchen, is over-used.

"Almost all other sites came back non-detectable," Yonne said. "There's no trace of lead at the majority of our schools.

The districtwide testing, performed by Analytical Laboratory Group of Eugene, cost the district about $2,000.

A letter was sent home to all district families Tuesday informing them of the testing results. An additional letter was sent to Page families to update them on the changes that will be made at the school this summer.

District spokesman Jim McCulley said the relatively few cases of elevated lead levels is the result of staff routinely replacing old fixtures.

"It's just part of our regular maintenance," McCulley said. "We've replaced all fixtures in all classrooms district-wide.

McCulley said about 300 new parts, including bubbles and sink fixtures, had been ordered over to lead in drinking water, 'nothing to lead' was the will be made at the school this summer.

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Tests find high lead levels at Shasta

By Bethany Barnes
The Oregonian/OregonLive

Lead screenings for students and staff at Portland Public Schools indicate 39 people might have high levels of lead in their blood.

The district has been offering free screenings following revelations of high levels of lead in water and paint. Yvonne Aviand, the district's acting chief executive, sent a message to the school board Thursday summarizing the latest results, some of which are unofficial estimates.

On July 19 and 27, 177 students and 216 employees were screened, with nine employees and five students showing possible high lead levels.

An observational tally from screenings on July 22 and 24 indicated 219 people had been screened, with 19 showing possible high lead levels. The memo did not say how many were students and how many were employees.

And of 201 home screenings processed, seven showed high lead levels.

The screenings are considered the first step in determining whether someone's blood is poisoned. The procedure is what people think of as the "classic finger poke," said county spokeswoman Julie Sullivan-Spagnolito.

Anyone whose results indicate high lead levels is encouraged to see a doctor for a blood draw. And even if further testing confirms high levels, as the district's memo notes, that may not mean schools are to blame.

A recent investigation by the Multnomah County Health Department found two Portland schoolchildren with high levels of lead in their blood were poisoned at home, not school.

Portland Public Schools spokesman Russ Fillos said the district had no additional comments Friday.

In the past three years, 3,800 children out of 30,000 people screened have been found to have high levels of lead in their blood.

Another screening is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Blanchard Education Service Center at 591 N. Dixon St., Portland.

The school district's chief operations officer, Brett Yancey, said the plumbing project will cost $55,000.

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Lead: Shasta parents notified by email

Continued from Page B1

said. More test results are expected to be released by the district soon.

"Unfortunately, due to the high number of schools testing their water this summer, results have been delayed longer than anticipated," McCullough said.

The district will spend about $50,000 to complete the testing, both the initial and Eugene school districts have hired PBS Engineering & Environmental of Eugene to conduct their testing. Officials in the Eugene School District said they expect to spend about $35,000 on their testing project.

In the Bethel district in west Eugene, Shasta families were notified through an email from Principal Brady Coat. Results are due in mid-July, and officials in the Eugene School District said they expect to receive results in mid-July.

In the Eugene School District, officials said they expect to receive results in mid-July.