# NeighborImpact Head Start tests sites for lead

744-7

Awareness around lead in drinking water in Oregon is rising and some schools in the state have had issues with high levels of lead in their drinking water.

Given that children are especially susceptible to lead exposure because their bodies absorb metals at higher rates than adults, NeighborImpact thought it necessary to test all Head Start sites in the service area.

In June of this year, NeighborImpact tested all eight Head Start sites in Deschutes and Crook Counties for lead and found 100 percent of sites are lead free.

"This is great news for the Head Start children, families, and staff," says Patty Wilson, director of Early Care and Education Services at NeighborImpact. "We take the health and safety of our students and staff seriously and are very grateful that our results are within normal limits."

NeighborImpact has eight sites and 24 classrooms in Deschutes and Crook Counties, including one co-located in M.E. Lynch Elementary School in Redmond.

The Oregon Department of Education, Early Learning Division outlined key steps that should be taken by child care environments to keep children safe from lead in drinking water.

For more information about lead testing or about the NeighborImpact Head Start program, contact Patty Wilson at 541-323-6519 or via email at pattyw@neighborimpact.org.

**Why test for lead**

1: Identify sources of lead: Early learning environments should test all taps used for drinking or food to identify any lead problems. Follow the Environmental Protection Agency's 3 T's Revised Technical Guidance to ensure that samples for lead are collected properly and from the right places. Use an Oregon Health Authority-accredited drinking water laboratory to analyze samples for lead.

2: Stop Access: Prevent access to water taps that have more than 15 parts per billion (ppb) of lead. This should include shutting off taps, covering water fountains, and providing bottled water to students and staff members.

3: Communicate: Make results from tests for lead in water available to students, families, and the community as quickly as possible.

4: Mitigate and correct: Replace the sources of lead in building plumbing. Again, EPA 3T's Guidance should be followed.

Prineville, OR
(Crook Co.)
Central Oregonian
(Circ. 2xW. 2,768)

AUG 2 2016

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

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

AUG 2 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

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

AUG 3 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

# Activist finds lead at Head Start site

744-7

By Bethany Barnes
*The Oregonian/OregonLive*

Portland schools appear to have continued to give parents and students false assurances about environmental safety at schools, based on a lead awareness activist's tests at a North Portland Head Start center where the district had said paint scraping posed "no safety concerns."

Tamara Rubin, the executive director of the Lead Safe America Foundation, used a sophisticated lead meter to test that paint at the former Applegate Elementary, now used to house Head Start classes. She detected high levels of lead in paint in multiple places outdoors that were scraped while preschoolers learned in a nearby classroom with its door open Friday.

Portland Public Schools has said it didn't inform staff at Applegate Elementary, which houses the Native American Youth and Family Center's Head Start program, that it was scraping and repainting over old paint. But a spokeswoman told The Oregonian/OregonLive no one was in danger and the district would stop the work while children were around only to reduce panic.

"It's not like we are continuing to do the work on the weekend because there was something unsafe about it," Portland Public Schools spokeswoman Rosie Fiallo said. "They did everything that they were supposed to do, and it's much easier if we are going to upset people to do it on the weekend when children aren't around."

Jessica Applegate, a speech pathologist with an office at the school, on Thursday saw paint scraping going on near a portable classroom with young children inside. The door was wide open.

Applegate teamed up with Rubin to do their own tests Saturday. Fiallo had told The Oregonian/OregonLive on Friday that while the district assumes lead is present, one spot test at Applegate had shown there wasn't lead present.

Rubin's tests in the area being repainted, done with an X-ray fluorescence spectrometer, a $40,000 lead-testing tool, showed high levels of lead. She also did a spot test, which showed lead. Based on what she found, Rubin said, she didn't think the district could have done a spot test that came back negative.

Since late May the district has been responding to concerns about lead levels in schools.

Portland Public Schools' superintendent resigned this month after a scandal erupted over officials' failure to promptly tell the public about lead in water at two school buildings. The district knowingly let children and staff drink that water.

And parents at Alameda Elementary, where more than 750 children used a lead-laced playground, were not immediately told when results showed lead at more than five times the threshold set by the Oregon Health Authority. It took the district a month after The Oregonian/OregonLive reported on the danger in June before it closed the playground and committed to all-out lead abatement.

Lead is a known neurotoxin that is particularly harmful to young children. Although concerns have centered on lead in drinking-water, paint is the most dangerous form.

It's unclear how many other Portland school buildings may have lead-paint-tainted grounds.

"When I saw the lead test positive my heart sank. This is scary. This is real. This isn't being alarmist," Applegate said. "This is the most vulnerable population you can imagine."

•

*bbarnes@oregonian.com*

### PPS lead screening postponed

Portland Public Schools parents and staff who planned to take advantage of the district's free lead screenings were turned away last weekend because of overwhelming demand.

The district contracted with Kadalyst Health Partners to offer free screenings after revelations of high lead levels in school drinking water. Testing was supposed to happen Saturday and Sunday at the district's North Portland headquarters, but Kadalyst ran out of supplies.

The firm stopped talking walk-ins on Saturday and directed people with Sunday appointments to reschedule, said Portland Public Schools spokeswoman Courtney Westling. It is unclear how many people sought testing during the weekend; district officials did not say how many appointments were canceled. Kadalyst will offer free testing this Saturday and Sunday.

An email from Kadalyst provided by Westling attributed the turnout to recently released results of earlier lead screenings that showed an early estimate of 39 people who might have high levels of lead.

— *Bethany Barnes*

# Water shut off at 2 Medford schools

744-7

The Associated Press

MEDFORD — Drinking water has been shut off at two Medford schools after officials said tests revealed it contained too much lead.

The results received late last week showed water from 73 percent of fixtures at Jackson Elementary and 80 percent of fixtures at Roosevelt Elementary exceeded the 20 parts per billion level at which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency calls for cleanup measures.

The findings came after the district completely replaced plumbing at both schools in 2009. Officials said tests taken between 2011 and 2015 showed no indication of elevated lead levels.

"These are the last (schools) that we expected there to be any problems; it just doesn't make any sense to see those elevated levels," said Ron Havniear, the district's facilities and support services manager.

School officials sent parents a letter, took additional samples for a retest and distributed water bottles for students and staff to use during the Kids Unlimited summer camp program at Roosevelt and Jackson.

The Medford Water Commission will take samples today or Thursday to see if the lead is coming from the municipal water supply. If that's eliminated as a source, the district will look at its plumbing to find the source of the lead, Havniear said.

"We're in a holding pattern until we get the next round of samples back," He said.

In the meantime, the district is referring parents with concerns to medical professionals who can determine whether blood tests are warranted.

Without federal mandates for testing water systems in school buildings and with the Flint, Michigan, water crisis at center stage of the debate, Gov. Kate Brown has called on Oregon's 197 school districts to craft procedures for testing lead, radon and other chemicals at their campuses by this fall.

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

AUG 3 2016

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

SCHOOL SAFETY

# District water samples exceed lead concentration limits

BY CALLEY HAIR
Of the News-Times
744-7

LINCOLN COUNTY — Water test results from schools in Newport and Waldport revealed lead concentrations far beyond state action limits, leaving the Lincoln County School District scrambling to fix the issue before students return in the fall.

Between Waldport High School, Crestview Heights the Early Childhood Center, Sam Case Elementary, Yaquina View Elementary, Newport Middle School, and Newport High School's east and west campuses, a total of 60 drinking fountains and sinks tested higher than the Oregon Health Authority's allowable lead concentration of 0.020 milligrams per liter.

The highest, from a sink in Room 3128 at Newport Middle School, tested at 122 times above the allowable limit.

"What we're finding, I believe, is that we have a lot of fixtures that we purchased that weren't lead-free," said Rich Belloni, LCSD director of support services. "They were supposed to be, but they aren't."

The Early Childhood Center had one sink with a high concentration at 0.0233 mg/L. Waldport High, Crestview Heights, Newport Middle and Sam Case each had three bad samples, ranging

SCHOOL SAFETY on Page A5

## SCHOOL SAFETY

Continued from page 1

from 0.0206 to 2.44 mg/L. Newport High's west campus had six high water concentrations ranging from 0.0236 to 0.119 mg/L, and 17 sites in its east campus tested high, from 0.0229 to 0.304 mg/L.

At Yaquina View — the school that spurred the district-wide testing after a single borderline test result surfaced in May — 24 out of 52 water samples came back with high lead concentrations, with the worst result in Room 31 at 0.681 mg/L.

Belloni is still waiting on results from schools in Toledo and Lincoln City, which should be released by Eugene-based Analytical Laboratory Group (ALG) by Aug. 10. But already a common denominator is starting to emerge, linking the sink fixtures that repeatedly indicate high lead levels.

"(They're) newer, brand new. Within three years," Belloni said.

That discovery flies in the face of what he'd expected to find. Lead in water is often a result of older plumbing with copper pipes, commonly bonded together using a lead-infused solder.

But replacing the old copper pipe under the south wing of Yaquina View Elementary with a brand-new CPVC model — a pipe district plumber John Nordgren called "the best you can get for commercial use right now" while putting the finishing touches on his work last week — failed to fix the issue.

"Instead of some getting better, (they) got worse," Belloni said.

The next several weeks will include an exhaustive trial-and-error testing process, in which district personnel swap out the offending sink fixtures and resubmit them for testing.

Exacerbating the issue is the statewide push encouraging all districts to test their water before students come back in September.

The goal was to have every water sample gathered and sent to ALG by mid-July, receive the results by Aug. 1, and finish all necessary work on the schools' plumbing before students come back on Sept. 6.

What that timeline forgot to factor in, Belloni said, was just how many districts across Oregon had the exact same idea.

On June 8, the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Health Authority announced a joint effort to encourage school districts to test their water during summer 2016.

"Everybody's trying to do the same thing," Belloni said. "Everybody is scrambling."

According to the ODE-OHA list of accredited laboratories, there are nine reputable water-testing labs in Oregon. Oregon's School Board Association lists 199 districts in the state.

ALG Owner Melody Fair declined to comment about how many total school districts were working with her lab over the summer. She also declined to say how many samples the staff is capable of processing per day, calling the figure confidential.

Right now, the school district is trying to figure out if it will be faster to stick with ALG or try a new lab with a faster turnaround time, said Sarah Hibbs, administrative assistant with the Facilities and Maintenance Department.

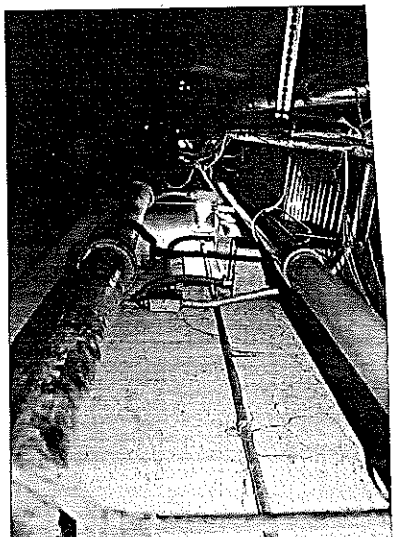
"They're just finding that their lab size and their staff just can't keep up with what we're sending in," Hibbs said.

The timeline matters, Belloni said, because an enormous question mark still lingers over much of the district's water. And if schools can't guarantee the water's safety before students return, they can't let the kids drink it come September.

"My suggestion will be that if we don't know, then we go on bottled water for everybody in the school," Belloni said. "At this point, I don't think we should take chances."

744-7

*Contact reporter Calley Hair at 541-265-8571 ext. 211 or chair@newportnews-times.com*



**A new CPVC pipe (top)** installed underneath the south wing of Yaquina View Elementary last week was supposed to fix the lead leaching into 24 of the school's 52 water sites. But another round of school-wide water tests indicated no improvement in the school's water quality, said District Support Services Director Rich Belloni. (Photo by Calley Hair)

Bend, OR
(Deschutes Co.)
Cascade Business News
(Cir. 2xM. 12,000)

AUG 3 2016

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

744-7

# LEAD FREE

# NeighborImpact Head Start Tests Sites for Lead

Awareness around lead in our drinking water in Oregon is rising and some schools in our state have had issues with high levels of lead in their drinking water. Given that children are especially susceptible to lead exposure because their bodies absorb metals at higher rates than adults, NeighborImpact thought it necessary to test all Head Start sites in our service area.

In June of this year, NeighborImpact tested all eight Head Start sites in Deschutes and Crook Counties for lead and found 100 percent of sites are lead free. "This is great news for the Head Start children, families and staff," says Patty Wilson, director of early care and education services at NeighborImpact. "We take the health and safety of our students and staff seriously and are very grateful that our results are within normal limits."

NeighborImpact has eight sites and 24 classrooms in Deschutes and Crook Counties, including one co-located in M.E. Lynch Elementary School in Redmond. The Oregon Department of Education, Early Learning Division outlined key steps that should be taken by child care environments to keep children safe from lead in drinking water.

They include:

1. Identify sources of lead: Early learning environments should test all taps used for drinking or food to identify any lead problems. Follow the Environmental Protection Agency's 3 T's Revised Technical Guidance to ensure that samples for lead are collected properly and from the right places. Use an Oregon Health Authority-accredited drinking water laboratory to analyze samples for lead.

2. Stop access: Prevent access to water taps that have more than 15 parts per billion (ppb) of lead. This should include shutting off taps, covering water fountains and providing bottled water to students and staff members.

3. Communicate: Make results from tests for lead in water available to students, families and the community as quickly as possible.

4. Mitigate and correct: Replace the sources of lead in building plumbing. Again, EPA 3T's Guidance should be followed.

*For more information about our lead testing or about the NeighborImpact Head Start program, please contact Patty Wilson at 541-323-6519 or via email at pattyw@neighborimpact.org*

# City, OSU continue to fight lead levels

JAMES DAY
Corvallis Gazette-Times

The city of Corvallis and Oregon State University continue to face challenges from high lead levels in the water at their facilities.

Corvallis officials have reopened the four park drinking fountains that were closed early last month at Village Green, Little Fields, Riverfront and Lilly.

However, the follow-up testing that cleared the four park fixtures came up above the 15 parts per billion maximum set by the federal Environmental Protection Agency at three other city-owned facilities.

City Manager Mark Shepard said that two event hookups at Riverfront Commemorative Park and a utility sink in Pioneer Park will remain closed while the city investigates further.

"We'll set up a plan to chase that down," Shepard said, adding that the city will continue regular tests of the water at city facilities.

Shepard ordered the earlier testing after lead levels above 15 ppb were found in Portland schools.

At Monday night's City Council meeting Ward 4 Councilor Barbara Bull praised Shepard for "being proactive on lead testing."

OSU, meanwhile, continues to quarantine some bathroom fixtures in Poling Hall, said Dan Kermoyan, assistant director of OSU Environmental Health and Safety. Kermoyan said crews have isolated the problems, repairs are underway and officials will retest in a couple of weeks.

Poling is not closed, but no students are living there because it is summer.

OSU, which announced the Poling issues July 5 after testing all University Housing and Dining Services facilities, has completed its testing of all campus buildings and found two other fixtures with lead levels above 15 ppb.

The high readings were found at utility sinks in the Clark Meat Center and the Ocean Administration Building. Kermoyan said that neither sink is regularly used for drinking water and that the same procedure used at Poling — closure, repairs and retesting — will be applied to the two sinks.

OSU is continuing to test at off-campus Extension Service facilities and the Bend and Newport campuses. Those results are expected to be available next month, Kermoyan said.

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

## LEAD AT A GLANCE

Lead enters drinking water primarily through plumbing materials. Exposure to lead may cause health problems ranging from stomach distress to brain damage. In 1991, the federal Environmental Protection Agency published a regulation to control lead in drinking water. The treatment technique for the rule requires systems to monitor drinking water at customer taps. If lead concentrations exceed an action level of 15 parts per billion in more than 10 percent of customer taps sampled, the system must undertake a number of additional actions to control corrosion. If the action level for lead is exceeded, the system must also inform the public about steps they should take to protect their health and may have to replace lead service lines under their control.

For more information: https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/lead-and-copper-rule#additional-resources

Corvallis, OR
(Benton Co.)
Gazette-Times
(Cir. D. 11,637)
(Cir. S. 12,021)

AUG 3 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est 188

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

AUG 3 2016

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

# Water at C.S. Lewis shows lead levels well below limits

*All four outlets at the private school's North College campus test below EPA standards*

BY SETH GORDON
*Newberg Graphic reporter*

After public scrutiny of Portland Public Schools brought the issue of lead in drinking water, schools and school districts across the state have been testing their own systems to ensure student safety.

According to director of development Steve Wallo, tests at C.S. Lewis Academy have shown lead levels well below EPA standards.

Salem-based Water Lab Corp. conducted tests on two drinking fountains and two kitchen sinks at CSLA's North College Campus.

One outlet ruled to have "no detection," with the others testing at 0.0032, 0.0018 and 0.0081 milligrams per liter, well below the EPA's "action level" of 0.015 milligrams per liter.

"We didn't expect it, but when you're charged with the care of students you want to be as diligent as you possibly can be," Wallo said. "So when something like this comes up and you become aware of it, you want to jump on it. We did not have lead testing in our protocol and now it will be. We were very happy to find out we're starting from a very good place."

Wallo said the school chose not to test the faucets in its six bathrooms, noting that they were located close to the outlets that were tested and had they revealed even marginally high levels of lead, the school would have then tested the bathroom faucets.

See WATER / Page A6

## water: No tests at Wynooski site as school has moved

From page 5

C.S. Lewis also did not test faucets or drinking fountains at its Wynooski Street campus because it has moved the elementary classes that had been operating there to the North College campus, which it acquired by merging with Open Bible Christian School in 2013.

While the first buildings on the North College campus were constructed in the late 1960s, Wallo said the Wynooski building was built in 1923 and may be at a higher risk to have lead in its drinking water.

He added that testing at the Wynooski Street site would have been their biggest concern had they planned to operate out of that campus this fall.

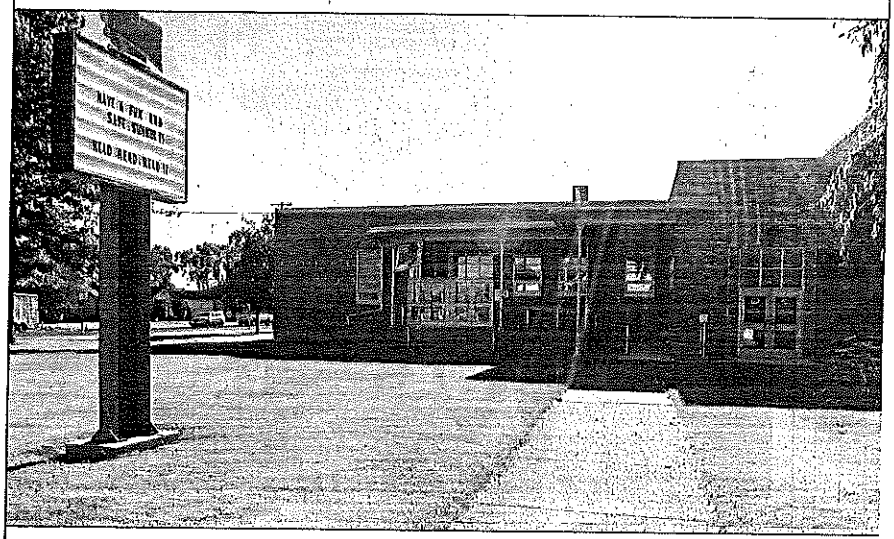
"We're out of there completely now," Wallo said. "Certainly it would be something to check as we go forward if we do go to use it for our needs or even in selling it. With the immediacy of the school year coming up, the priority was to make sure this campus was taken care of."

Wallo added that the school has contracted with North Carolina-based company Air Chek to test its North College campus buildings for radon this week.

Redmond, OR
(Deschutes Co.)
Redmond Spokesman
(Circ. W. 2,385)

AUG 3 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

# Redmond passes the lead test



Colby Brown / Spokesman

John Tuck Elementary is one of seven Redmond School District locations whose water lead and copper levels were tested in June. District facilities from 1986 or older were tested.

## None of the locations shows high lead levels in water

**Colby Brown**
Spokesman

Amid growing statewide concerns, Redmond parents can rest easy knowing that Redmond School District facilities are safe in terms of lead levels in the drinking water, according to Mike McIntosh, superintendent.

"Timing and funding to fix a water issue would be quite the riddle," McIntosh said. "And I'm thankful that we don't get to solve that riddle."

The district received results in early July from testing completed in mid-June, which showed levels of copper and lead to be below the allowable limit designated by the Environmental Protection Agency. The tests came shortly after Portland Public Schools was found to have high levels of lead in drinking water, according to that district's website. The high lead levels found in Portland schools sparked a statewide refocusing of school facilities safety.

"It's a fair assumption to make to assume that you are drinking safe water, and it's our responsibility to meet that expectation," McIntosh said.

Redmond High School, Obsidian Middle School, John Tuck Elementary, M.A. Lynch Elementary, Edwin Brown Education Center, Tumalo Community School and Terrebonne Community School were tested.

Gov. Kate Brown and the Oregon Health Authority have worked to create a requirement for school districts to submit a Healthy and Safe Facilities Plan by October. This, and a required radon gas test of school facilities plan to be submitted by September, is mandated by House Bill 2931, which requires of school districts and public charter schools to report testing results to OHA, the school board, and make results readily available its community.

### MORE INFO

For more information about state testing requirements visit, public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments.

For test results and Redmond School District information visit, www.redmond.k12.or.us/2016/07/22/lead-copper-water-test-results/ and www.redmond.k12.or.us/departments/facilities/.

See LEAD, Page 5

# Lead

Continued from Page 1

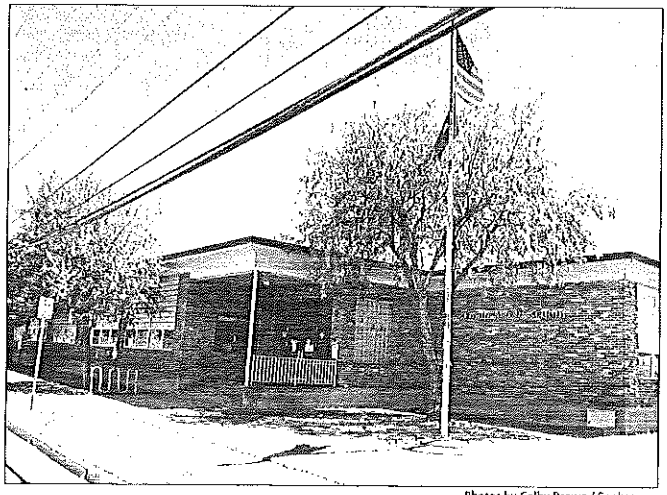
"The dollar amount for lead testing was less than $10,000, so it's not a show-stopper, and the radon testing isn't an expensive procedure either, so the dollar amount won't break the bank," McIntosh said. "What we were fearful of was if we found unsafe levels in our schools, and we are thankful that there was nothing found."

While Redmond abided the bill and is working on its Healthy and Safe Facilities Plan, Central Oregon isn't known for elevated levels of naturally occurring radon and lead, according to McIntosh. He also said there are no known hazardous waste sites near any district facility.

Seven facilities in the district were either built before 1986 or have structures from before 1986 — when lead piping and other uses of lead were banned. These facilities were tested in mid-June. All levels of lead and copper are well below the EPA allowable limit. McIntosh called the testings an in-depth probe since EPA requires tests to be completed on water from all water spigots. Each facility had one drinking fountain or kitchen, or both, tested. He said the main focus was on areas where original piping remained.

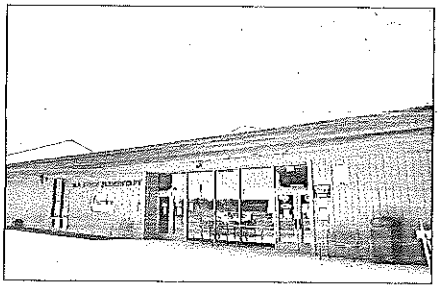
"The consulting service we hired did a full review of our water, they tested a little beyond lead and copper, and there was nothing that was above the EPA standards. So it's a nice thing to know that there weren't any red flags that were drawn," said Kelly Jenkins, district communications coordinator.

Funding for the tests and extra hours put toward testings and the Healthy and Safe Facilities Plan come from the district's general fund. McIntosh said that it won't be a burden to the district. Many school districts on the east side of the Cascades are in the same boat as Redmond, being grouped in a reactionary plan with districts in vastly different climates i.e., Redmond versus Portland. Even though the bill and required Healthy and Safe Facilities Plan don't address differences in climate yet, McIntosh knows the necessity of ensuring safety at Redmond schools.



Photos by Colby Brown / Spokesman

Edwin Brown Education Center, above, M.A. Lynch Elementary, below, are two of seven Redmond School District locations whose lead and copper levels in the water were tested in June. The other facilities were Obsidian Middle School, Terrebonne Community School, Tumalo Community School, Redmond High School, John Tuck Elementary, and Edwin Brown Education Center.



"On one hand, we kind of have to thank Portland Public for taking the first blow because it has rocked some communities into saying 'oh, you're right, we haven't had to think about that and maybe it's time we did,' and I'm OK with that," McIntosh said. "... If you are worried about that kind of stuff, then you don't learn well and you don't teach well, and that's why it's important to communicate that we have tested, and that everything is fine."

A model of a Healthy and Safe Facilities Plan was supplied to Oregon school districts by the OHA. This is the first building block of a plan that should last well into the future and ensure proximal safety of school facilities around Oregon. McIntosh knows it's the district's responsibility to provide a safe environment for students and teachers, and plans to be proactive with testing requirements.

Radon gas testing is required to be completed by 2021, but McIntosh hopes to have completed testing within a couple years.

"I don't expect Central Oregon to experience the type of results or conditions that the Portland area has," McIntosh said. "The impact for us has been, and I think will continue to be, minimal."

The topical nature of school facility safety in Oregon has put lead and radon testing at temporary top importance. But McIntosh sees school safety in a broader view and has made improvements and additional training for teachers and facilities to ensure the district provides a safe place for students. Although, he said he could see water and gas testing become a regular requirement in all public places.

"I've talked to many other schools districts in the state and its hard to get complete buy-in with regard to safety from all team members, and we are thankful that we have a team here that believes that it's their responsibility to keep our kids safe," Jenkins said.

As the school district moves forward, funding for testing and the Healthy and Safe Facilities Plan will be incorporated into the district's budget.

"This institutional feeling is kind of blah," McIntosh said. "And it's important to maintain the feeling of a school, of there are still young people in there, of it's safe, of it's still a place of learning, of we can go outside and have fun, and come back inside and learn something new ... that's the culture we want to keep."

If parents or community members wish to get involved, McIntosh said a good starting point is to contact your child's school principal. Further information is available on the district website.

## Redmond schools copper and lead test results

Results from Redmond School District facilities 1986 and older. All facilities are well below the EPA allowable limit.

**EPA allowable limit**
Copper: 1.3 mg/L
Lead: 0.015 mg/L

| School | Copper result | Lead result |
|---|---|---|
| Obsidian Middle School drinking fountain | 0.0622 mg/L | 0.000158 mg/L |
| Obsidian Middle School kitchen | 0.146 mg/L | 0.00544 mg/L |
| M.A. Lynch Elementary drinking fountain | 0.0204 mg/L | 0.000113 mg/L |
| M.A. Lynch Elementary kitchen | 0.0642 mg/L | 0.00105 mg/L |
| Redmond High School drinking fountain | N/A | 0.00141 mg/L |
| Redmond High School kitchen | 0.0251 mg/L | 0.00208 mg/L |
| Edwin Brown Education Center drinking fountain | 0.107 mg/L | 0.000211 mg/L |
| Edwin Brown Education Center kitchen/salad prep area | 0.0331 mg/L | 0.00166 mg/L |
| Tumalo Community School drinking fountain | 0.077 mg/L | 0.00302 mg/L |
| Tumalo Community School kitchen | 0.0142 mg/L | 0.00803 mg/L |
| Terrebonne Community School drinking fountain | 0.0602 mg/L | 0.000149 mg/L |
| John Tuck Elementary drinking fountain | 0.0188 mg/L | 0.00267 mg/L |
| John Tuck Elementary kitchen | 0.0596 mg/L | 0.00229 mg/L |

Greg Cross for the Spokesman

*"On one hand, we kind of have to thank Portland Public for taking the first blow because it has rocked some communities into saying 'oh, you're right, we haven't had to think about that and maybe it's time we did,' and I'm OK with that."*

**Mike McIntosh,** Redmond School District superintendent

"We get support from parents that is unprecedented," McIntosh said. "They are partnering with us to make our schools welcoming but at the same time safe. We have a very generous community, and we are thankful of that, whether it's building dugouts at the high school, or installing lights at one of the elementary schools, people get involved and help out."

Redmond Proficiency Academy has yet to release information about testing at its facilities, but its facilities are either newer than or have been renovated since 1986.

*—Reporter, 541-548-2185, cbrown@redmondspokesman.com*

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

AUG 4 2016

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

# Lead, copper prevalent in PPS water

## *Heavy metals found in every school tested so far*

By SHASTA KEARNS MOORE
*The Tribune*

The results are in for summer districtwide testing on 80 of Portland Public Schools' buildings, and no building's water has been safe from heavy metals.

The district says it is still waiting for results from about 20 more buildings, but so far every one of the district's schools has water with levels of lead or copper that exceed federal guidelines.

Bizarrely, even Rosa Parks School, built in 2006, had 11 fixtures with lead above the 15 parts per billion limit set by the Environmental Protection Agency for water systems. Four of those fixtures also had elevated copper levels.

Typically, plumbing installed after a 1986 ban on lead pipe and solder does not contain elevated levels.

A spigot in a second-floor girls bathroom at Beach Elementary registered a shocking 2,680 parts per billion for lead, according to the tests performed by the Portland Water Bureau and reviewed by TRC Environmental Corp. Copper in that spigot also was extremely high, at 9 parts per million. Federal standards for copper are less than 1.3 ppm.

The high lead levels in Portland's schools have reached national audiences, as "NBC Nightly News" reported on them Sunday evening.

Lead is particularly dangerous for children under the age of 6. Clarendon Early Learning Academy, which serves preschool-age kids and younger, had 22 fixtures with elevated levels of lead. However, like many of the other schools, these were primarily in janitorial and restroom sinks or outdoor spigots.

PPS officials have said they have a little-known policy against using sinks for drinking water.

The school district also announced last week that 21 students and staff members have discovered elevated levels of lead in their blood. The district has offered free home test kits and three blood screening clinics, two in June and one last weekend. The results for the last two clinics were not available by press time.

The school board has contracted with CH2M, an engineering company, to provide the blueprint of a plan to improve the water's safety.

PPS already has planned to provide water dispensers and deliveries of bottled water to ensure access to safe drinking water in every school by the time the regular school year starts Aug. 29.

Tigard, OR
(Washington Co.)
Tigard/Tualatin Times
(Clr. W. 6,500)

AUG 4 2016

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

# Lead testing forces drinking fountains out of service

## *Officials: Two samples in Tigard, Tualatin parks show high lead levels*

By MARK MILLER
*The Times*

Lead testing conducted by the cities of Tigard and Tualatin indicated high levels of the toxic heavy metal at one of the drinking fountains in a public park in each city.

Steve Martin, Tigard's parks and facilities manager, said the city sampled water from three drinking fountains — one at Summerlake Park and two at Cook Park — that were older than 17 years old and therefore considered to be lead risks. Water from a fountain in between baseball fields at Cook Park tested at 22 parts per billion, higher than the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's defined maximum contaminant level of 15 parts per billion, he said.

**"We just took one sample there and it was over."**
*— Steve Martin, Tigard parks manager*

"We just took one sample there and it was over," Martin said. "That's probably the oldest fixture that we have at that park, which is why we tested that one."

The situation was more nuanced in Tualatin, where the city collected multiple samples using different procedures, according to Jerry Postema, the city's public works manager. The first sample from a drinking fountain near a baseball

See LEAD / Page A11

# *Lead: Both fountains shut off*

■ *From Page A1*

field at Jurgens Park came back with lead measured at 19 parts per billion, he said. A second sample was lower, well below the EPA limit, he said.

"We resampled the next day after we got the results," Postema said, reporting results of 7.9 parts per billion on the first sample and a non-detect on the second sample.

Although only one of the four samples showed the lead levels above the EPA's maximum contaminant level, Postema said, "We immediately took it out of service. ... We are replacing all the parts inside the drinking fountain."

Tigard also shut down the fountain that tested above the maximum contaminant level immediately, Martin said.

"As soon as the park supervisor found out, he took it out of service," he said.

Most sampling was conducted in June, according to Martin and Postema, but both cities only received their full results last week due to a backlog at the testing lab.

Tualatin conducted lead tests on 37 fountains, faucets and other fixtures in city facilities and parks, according to a list of results Postema shared.

Only one of the dozens of water samples conducted in Tualatin parks and public facilities showed lead levels above the EPA limit, Postema said.

"Overall, I was very pleased with the results," he said.

Martin said Tigard only tested three older water fountains in its parks.

"Everything else is newer than that, so there shouldn't be anything in them," he said, adding the city does plan to run similar tests in its municipal buildings.

Postema said he figures the high lead level in one of the Jurgens Park fountain samples may owe to its construction.

"Brass, especially older brass, does contain lead," he noted.

Tigard and Tualatin have moved to conduct lead testing at their city-owned parks and buildings after sampling results announced by Portland Public Schools and the Portland Parks and Recreation Department showed high lead levels at several locations. Portland Public Schools went so far as to shut down all water fountains in its schools and issue bottled water to students and staff late in the 2015-16 school year.

The Tigard-Tualatin School District has been conducting regular lead tests since 2013 and did not find elevated levels of the toxic metal in its most recent sampling, which was conducted in October, a district spokeswoman said in June.

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

AUG 5 2016

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

LEAD SAFETY

# Water testing results show sampling flaws

BY CALLEY HAIR
Of the News-Times
744-7

LINCOLN COUNTY — Three months ago, a random sampling of six water sources from every school in the Lincoln County School District showed near-perfect water reports — only one faucet, at Yaquina View Elementary, raised any eyebrows with a barely borderline lead concentration.

But this week, results from comprehensive testing of every school sink and faucet in Newport and Waldport found 60 water sources above the Oregon Health Authority's allowable action limit. And the district is still waiting on results from the schools in Toledo and Lincoln City.

Now, LCSD Support Services Director Rich Belloni is trying to figure out how the

LEAD SAFETY on Page A10

## LEAD SAFETY

Continued from page 1

random testing could have failed so spectacularly to indicate the water's safety with any sort of accuracy.

"It makes no sense whatsoever," Belloni said. "It was random, we just sent the plumber out and told him to go do six per school."

The state action limit is 0.020 milligrams of lead per liter. So far, the highest concentration has been found at Newport Middle School, where a sink in Room 3128 contains 122 times the allowable limit at 2.44 mg/L.

The rest of Newport and Waldport's high concentrations range from 0.0206 to 0.681 mg/L. Mathematically speaking, it's a bizarre discovery, considering the highest lead level uncovered during May's random testing didn't even reach the state limit at 0.0192 mg/L.

"Lottery-wise, we probably would have won the lottery for picking the right ones — or the wrong ones," Belloni said.

It could have been sheer luck. But it's more likely that the samples pulled as part of the tests were skewed, he said.

When drawing for the random checks, the district plumber pulled samples almost exclusively from bubblers and water fountains, operating under the assumption that lead in a water fountain would pose a greater potential health risk to students than lead in a sink.

"I didn't give him directions. I just said, 'go out and do six tests for every school so we can tell whether we've got lead in the water or not,'" Belloni said.

The plumber's decision to test only the most direct source of ingested water, said LCSD Superintendent Steve Boynton, is understandable.

"We tried to do things where the water might be being consumed, rather than used for non-consumable purposes," Boynton said. "Bathroom sinks where you're washing hands wouldn't necessarily be as high of a priority."

But so far, as the test results from Eugene-based Analytical Laboratory Group trickle back in to the district, it appears that most of the contaminated sources are coming from sinks — specifically, sinks with fixtures replaced within the last three years.

That pattern all but eliminates the schools' internal plumbing as the source of the lead, especially since replacing the original copper piping under the south wing of Yaquina View Elementary with a brand-new CPVC model failed to fix the issue, Belloni said.

"It must be the fixture itself," Belloni said. "At least for now, that's what we've got to think."

The district still faces more questions than answers. As the support services staff sorts through upward of 1,000 test results from every school sink and fountain in the county, they're looking for more patterns to help trace the source of the lead leaching into the students' water.

Specifically, they're trying to figure out if the sink fixtures in all of the lead-contaminated sites came from the same manufacturer, Belloni said.

"It could be ... that's the common denominator," Belloni said.

Solving that puzzle is a race against the clock. Swapping out fixtures, resampling and retesting can take months. At Yaquina View Elementary, where the first borderline sample was collected on May 31, that trial and error is still ongoing.

"We do that until we get completely clean samples," Boynton said.

The students' return from summer vacation on Sept. 6 would complicate that process considerably.

"If the repairs aren't done, we'll provide bottled water," Boynton said. "As always, the safety of our kids is the highest priority."

744-7

*Contact reporter Calley Hair at 541-265-8571 ext. 211 or chair@newportnews-times.coma*

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

AUG 5 2016

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

# Lead found in four more SOU facilities

744-7

## Fixtures in five buildings will be replaced

By Nick Morgan
Mail Tribune

Lead levels exceeding EPA action limits were found in fixtures inside four more Southern Oregon University buildings, according to reports issued by the university Wednesday.

Water fountains and faucets at one of the Greensprings residence halls, the Student Health and Wellness Center, the Music Building and Cox Hall have high levels of lead, according to tests taken in July. The results followed announcements earlier this summer that drinking fountains and a faucet were removed because of lead levels inside the Education-Psychology Building.

"Some of the fixtures are from an older era. We were anticipating finding something," Deen said. "Overall we've had very minimal results coming back."

Inside Greensprings D, one of four residence halls built in 1969 that house first-year students, a drinking fountain contained more than twice th EPA limit of 15 parts per bil lion, and a kitchen faucet ha close to double the level. Th fountain, tested at the end

SEE LEAD

## LEAD

From Page A1

June, showed 32.3 parts per billion, while the faucet in the second-floor kitchen showed 29.9 parts per billion. Both fixtures have been replaced, and the new units are being tested to ensure they are in compliance, Deen said.

All other fixtures in the Greensprings complex complied with tests, SOU spokesman Jim Beaver said.

"That was the only one that had an issue," Beaver said. "(Greensprings) A, B and C passed."

Two faucets were replaced in the 1964-built Student Health and Wellness Center because of lead levels, Deen said. A break room faucet showed levels at 26.6 parts per billion, and a room Deen described as an "unused office" in the building had levels of 16.6 parts per billion.

The university removed a drinking fountain in the first floor of the 1972-built Music Building after tests showed lead levels at 41.1 parts per billion. Deen said the fixture hasn't been replaced because crews are doing follow-up testing on the plumbing source.

A fountain was removed from the basement laundry area of the 1958-built Cox Hall, a facility once used as a student residence hall that is now used for visitor groups and conferences. The drinking fountain result was 24.5 parts per billion.

"It's in an area that's not used right now," Deen said.

Two water fountains and a faucet were removed in June from the Education-Psychology Building. The faucet has been replaced, but replacement fountains are awaiting further testing. The university is also deciding whether to replace the fountains with basic units or more advanced ones, Deen said.

Beaver said the university intends to have all fixtures in compliance before the school year starts in September.

Although it didn't exceed the federal limit for lead, one drinking fountain was replaced in the DeBoer Sculpture Building because it showed copper levels at 1.41 milligrams per liter, above the EPA limit of 1.3. Ingesting high levels of copper can cause nausea, vomiting and diarrhea, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

The investigation of water sources at SOU followed news of a water crisis in Flint, Mich., where tests found lead levels in the hundreds or even thousands of parts per billion.

*—Reach reporter Nick Morgan at 541-776-4471 or nmorgan@mailtribune.com. Follow him on Twitter at @MTCrimeBeat.*

Salem, OR
(Marion Co.)
Statesman Journal
(Circ. D. 33,147)
AUG 6 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

# Lead in water at Wright Elementary

NATALIE PATE
STATESMAN JOURNAL
744-7

Five faucets and one drinking fountain at Wright Elementary School in Salem have tested above the action level for lead, school district officials said Friday.

There were no results above the action level for copper.

The Salem-Keizer Public School's action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb) for lead is stricter than the level set by the EPA of 20 ppb.

One faucet's level was as high as 59 ppb.

These locations have been taken out of service and labeled, said Jay Remy, a spokesperson for the district.

He said parents would be notified later Friday and told how to access the reports online at www.salkeiz.k12.or.us.

The TRC Environmental Corporation has been directed to have additional samples for these six locations analyzed.

*Contact Natalie Pate at npate@StatesmanJournal.com, 503-399-6745 or follow on Twitter @Nataliempate or www.Facebook.com/nataliepatejournalist.*

DANIELLE PETERSON / STATESMAN JOURNAL

TRC Technician Shawn Contreraz prepares to take a lead testing sample from a faucet on July 20 at Pringle Elementary School in South Salem. Five faucets and one drinking fountain at Wright Elementary School have tested above the action level for lead, school officials said.

Pendleton, OR
(Umatilla Co.)
East Oregonian
(Circ. D. 7,014)
AUG 9 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

# Lead found at four schools

## Faucets replaced, another round of testing scheduled

By ALEXA LOUGEE
*East Oregonian*
744-7

Extensive water testing in Hermiston's schools found 19 faucets with elevated levels of lead, but none that were considered primary drinking sources.

The Hermiston School District tested 853 sources of water throughout the district and found instances of lead in four schools:

- Hermiston High School, the largest school in the district, had 13 sources of elevated lead, all of them sinks in science classrooms that are now used for math instruction.
- Highland Hills Elementary had three sources, including two classroom sinks and a kitchen spray nozzle.
- Sandstone Middle School had two kitchen dish-washing sinks with elevated lead.
- Armand Larive Middle School, one of the newest buildings in the district, had one hand-washing station in the kitchen where elevated lead was found.

All other schools, including the district's oldest building — Rocky Heights Elementary School — came back with no elevated lead samples.

The district has already taken measures to remedy elevated lead sources. According to Mike Kay,

See LEAD/8A

## LEAD: Testing began July 5

Continued from 1A

the district's executive director of operations, the first step is to replace faucets and spray nozzles, which the district has already done. The sources are also tagged with large signs that direct people not to use them.

Each elevated source has been retested and results are pending. The results will determine the next steps. If a new fixture still reflects high levels of lead, the district will begin the process of replacing pipes.

The district began testing July 5, after the Oregon Health Authority recommended all public schools and day care centers test their water for lead using accredited drinking water testing labs. The recommendations came after elevated lead was found in drinking water throughout Portland public schools. Most recently, the Medford School District reported high lead levels at three elementary schools.

The recommendation from OHA asked districts to test all water sites that could reasonably be used for drinking water. Hermiston School District facilities crew took that instruction a step further, including testing janitor closet mop faucets because coaches have been known to fill water coolers from there. They also tested outside hose faucets and bathroom sinks. Kay said they tested these secondary sites because "it was the right thing to do."

The district sent samples to Analytical Laboratory Group and Anatek Laboratory Group, both accredited water testings companies.

Kay estimates the district will have spent at least $13,000 on lead testing, but is optimistic the district will receive reimbursement from the state.

Hermiston School District gets its water from the city of Hermiston's municipal water system, which, according to public records, receives regular testing and continually meets state and federal lead thresholds.

Kay gave a presentation on the water results to the Hermiston Board of Education Monday night. Board chair Karen Sherman responded favorably to the district's efforts.

"Thank you, Mike, to you and your staff, for going the extra mile in making sure that our kids are safe and our staff," she said. "I appreciate all the hard work, I think the thick document shows a lot of time and energy that went into it. That's the right way to do it, and we appreciate all your efforts."

The thick document she referred to was a three ring binder holding all the testing documentation for the district.

On Friday, Kay received notice that the Oregon Health Authority would be requiring all school districts to test all water sources for lead.

"I'm very pleased with our staff and being proactive to get ahead of this," Kay said.

OHA also will require that after the initial testing this year, districts must test a small portion of sites at every building each year. If one of those small samples comes back elevated, all sites at that building will have to undergo testing.

The school district's water was last believed to have been tested in 2002.

Also at Monday night's board meeting, members voted unanimously to appoint Bonnie Luisi to fill the board seat vacated by Maria Duron, who left for a paid position with the district office. Luisi worked as a classified employee for Hermiston School District for 22 years before retiring and has served on various committees throughout the district. Her term will end June 30, 2017, at which point she may run for election to the board. 744-7

Corvallis, OR
(Benton Co.)
Gazette-Times
(Cir. D. 11,637)
(Cir. S. 12,021)

AUG 9 2016

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

744-7

# Lead detected in school water

## Tests on fixtures find 7 elementary sites with elevated levels

ANTHONY RIMEL
Corvallis Gazette-Times

Seven of the Corvallis School District's eight elementary schools have elevated levels of lead in the water in at least one location, the district announced Monday.

Only Hoover Elementary School, which at 48 years old is the newest elementary building in the district, had no fixtures showing actionable levels of lead, under U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards.

The results came from districtwide testing of water fixtures performed in July, after lead was found in the water in Portland schools. An amendment to the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1986 banned installation of lead pipes and reduced the amount of lead allowed in fixtures, but all district elementary schools predate that law. The average age of elementary schools in the district is 59 years.

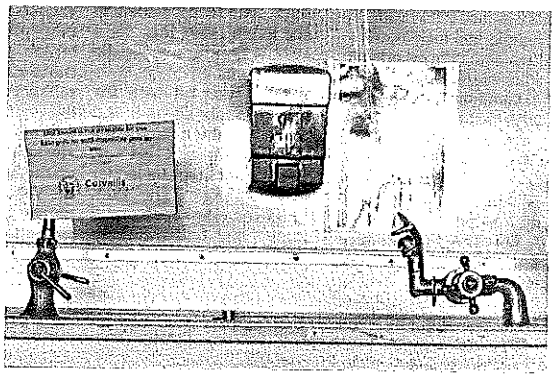
An announcement on the district's website says it is shutting off water to the fixtures with actionable lead levels and posting warning signs on them. The district will replace the fixtures and retest them to make sure they are safe.

Late last month, the district announced preliminary results that showed amounts of lead exceeding EPA actionable levels in a dozen locations at Jefferson Elementary. (See the related story on Page A2 for a school-by-school breakdown.)

District officials said they last did comprehensive lead testing in 2000 and replaced all fixtures that showed elevated lead levels in 2002.

At that time, original fixtures that contain lead that did not show elevated levels of lead were left in place. Pipes in the district's elementary schools, which are on average nearly 60 years old, could have also have lead soldering.

Please see Lead, Page A2



ANIBAL ORTIZ, GAZETTE-TIMES
A faucet in Room 18 at Jefferson Elementary that showed elevated lead levels is seen in July.

## Lead

From A1

According to the district, the lead testing this year cost about $13,000.

Kim Patten, facilities and maintenance manager for the district, said after the district resolved the lead issues in 2002, it did not perform lead testing again because it has limited resources.

"There are a lot of competing issues with inadequate funding," she said.

"On average our elementaries are nearly 60 years old," said Ryan Noss, who started as the district's superintendent in July. "With that number of facilities at that age, there are a lot of competing needs," he said.

Patten said she has already ordered $20,000 worth of new fixtures, and they will be replacing not just the fixtures where actionable levels were reported, but those close to actionable levels, including two at Hoover. Patten, who has worked at the district since before 2000, said that while the district replaced fixtures in 2002, there was still an allowable amount of lead in the new fixtures (the EPA says from 1986 to 2014 plumbing materials could be labeled lead-free and still contain up to 8 percent lead). Patten said at least one of the fixtures testing with actionable levels of lead was installed in 2002, a rarely used faucet in a library work room at Jefferson.

Patten added that it is the rarely used fixtures that present the biggest problem, because water sitting in faucets causes the corrosion that releases lead. She said that in some schools, older original fixtures that contained higher amounts of lead were left in place in 2002 if they did not have actionable levels of lead; however, those fixtures were labeled that they should not be used for drinking water.

Noss said the district is in the process of developing a new long-range facilities plan that will address safety issues. He added that the district may consider policies to mandate more frequent water testing.

Noss, who has two children who went through district elementary schools, said safety is his primary responsibility.

"As a parent, I feel like the district has dealt with these situations as they have arisen," he said. "I feel like immediate action is called for and I feel like we are doing that."

Local health officials encourage parents to contact their medical providers if they believe their child is showing symptoms of lead exposure, which in children include tiredness or loss of energy, hyperactivity, reduced attention span, irritability or crankiness, poor appetite, weight loss, trouble sleeping, constipation and aches or pains in the stomach.

Test results from the district's middle and high schools still are pending.

Anthony Rimel can be reached at anthony.rimel@lee.net, 541-758-9526, or via Twitter @anthonyrimel.

## SCHOOL RESULTS

Here are school-by-school results of the lead testing, showing how many fixtures at each elementary school had levels exceeding EPA action levels:

- Adams School had one fixture exceeding EPA action levels. The location of that fixture was not clear from the district's report.
- Garfield had seven fixtures exceeding EPA actionable levels, including in classrooms 5, 11, 14, 17, 19 and 28.
- Lincoln had two fixtures at actionable levels, in classroom 122 and the Lions Club office.
- Mountain View had three fixtures exceeding EPA actionable levels, in classroom 18, the music room and the cafeteria.
- Wilson had 22 fixtures showing elevated levels of lead, including classrooms 9, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 26, the library, the counseling office and the health room.
- Franklin K-8 had lead at or above actionable levels in 11 fixtures, including classrooms 1, 5, 11, 15, 20, 22, 5A and the library.

## Lead exposure symptoms

According to the Oregon Public Health Division, the following are symptoms of lead exposure in children:

- Tiredness or loss of energy.
- Hyperactivity.
- Reduced attention span.
- Irritability or crankiness.
- Poor appetite.
- Weight loss.
- Trouble sleeping.
- Constipation.
- Aches or pains in the stomach.

Long-term lead exposure in children can cause brain damage, lowered intelligence, behavior and learning problems, and impaired speech and language development.

Portland, OR
(Multnomah Co.)
The Oregonian
(Circ. D. 247,833)
AUG 9 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

744-1

# Schools reveal lead filter foul-ups

By Bethany Barnes and Betsy Hammond
*The Oregonian/OregonLive*

Portland Public Schools experienced multiple serious problems when attempting to install water filters to improve safety on school drinking fountains, district records show.

The district knew its water fountains gave off water that contained lead, and resorted to installing filters that it believed would remove the neurotoxin. The district mistakenly believed that filters advertised as "lead-reducing" were effective, even though those filters were not certified to remove lead.

Lead removal filters cost about $100 and are proven by independent laboratories to reduce lead to below 10 parts per billion. The district used filters that in 2008 cost $12.87 apiece.

Contracts for water filter monitoring and installation, showing repeated errors with filter efforts, were among thousands of pages of reports, work orders, emails and other documents released Monday in response to a June records request from The Oregonian/OregonLive.

The records request followed revelations the district knew about elevated lead levels in water and didn't immediately release information. The docu-

*See Lead, A4*



## Lead

*Continued from A1*

ments offer fresh insight into a drinking water controversy that led to Superintendent Carole Smith's departure and has since drawn attention to other safety hazards, such as the far more dangerous issue of lead paint.

In 2007, the new records show, the district paid a contractor, CH2O, to install nearly 700 water filters on fountains at 78 schools. But it realized in spring 2008 that the company had used the wrong filters. So that summer, the district and CH2O split the $9,000 cost for 700 new filters, the contract shows.

In fall 2011, the district paid a different firm, Payne Construction, to install filters on 30 drinking fountains at 17 schools. They were supposed to last until March, when they would be replaced, the contract says.

Instead, here is what happened: "Schools opened for the year on Tuesday, September 6. This was the first day of use for the new fountains. The first filter to clog was two days later at Cleveland (High). By Sept. 22, within 12 days of use, every filter was clogged."

So the district paid Payne an extra $2,200 to replace them all.

Many school water fountains were never equipped with filters, the records show. Grant High, for example, was provided with just one filter, contracts show. The school has 20 drinking fountains, two of which gave off high levels of lead during testing this summer.

The district contracted with Payne to install new water filters in 2012, 2013 and 2014. It appeared that the district did not hire any company to change the filters after summer 2014.

The Oregonian/OregonLive requested all contracts the district issued for filter replacement, and the district didn't provide any that extended beyond 2014.

When asked why it stopped contracting for filter replacement, however, the district turned over a record it had failed to include in its initial response. "There was an issue with the system pulling the info," district spokeswoman Courtney Westling said.

The final contract was with Payne, as well. It authorized paying the firm $34,000 to replace 866 filters at nearly 100 schools last summer. The district provided a detailed list of all 866 locations where new filters were needed.

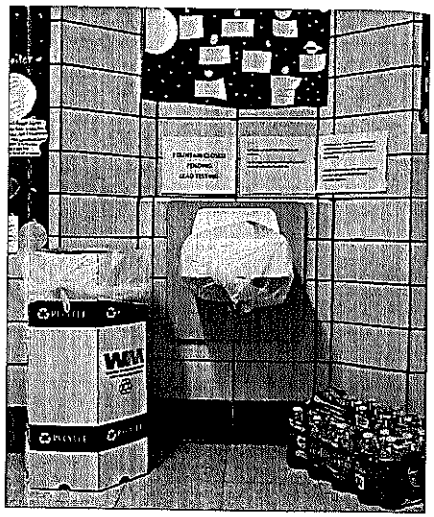
All that painstaking detail ultimately may have been for naught, as some fountains that gave off lead never made the list, and some fountains that got a filter gave off lead anyway, since the filters weren't certified to remove lead.

The lead controversy that has roiled the district for much of the spring and summer was launched in large part by a very insistent parent at Rose City Park School who wanted evidence that drinking water was safe to drink. March Water testing found high levels of lead at two drinking fountains, along with numerous sinks, at that school.

One, in room 200, had been outfitted with a new Pentak filter in fall 2015. The other one, in room 100, never made Portland Public Schools' list of 866 fountains needing a lead filter.

Emails also shed light on how the district maintained a policy against letting students and staff drink from sinks even as it took pains to downplay those concerns in communications with the public.

The move sparked an internal controversy years before this year's revelations plunged the district into turmoil.



BETH NAKAMURA/STAFF

Many school water fountains were not equipped with water filters, records show.

In 2012, the district labeled sinks at Rigler Elementary School after a parent complained about not knowing the sinks were off-limits for drinking. The complaint first turned up in a report by local law firm Stoll Berne, which the district paid to investigate its recent bungled lead testing.

Erin Barnett, a district communications employee at the time, planned to put up the stickers districtwide, before top facilities officials shut her down. The emails released Monday show officials stopped the stickers after failing to find a warning that wouldn't be too alarming.

A copy of the proposed stickers, included in the emails, said simply this: "Do not drink water from this sink. Please use the drinking fountain." The stickers showed an image of a faucet with a cancel sign over it.

Originally, the cancel sign was red. But officials worried the color red would be too alarming and had the stickers redone using black.

When the color change still failed to soften concerns, the district decided it wouldn't post any warnings on sinks that might be lead-laced. Instead the district quietly revised a statement about the policy on its website.

"The sticker idea came from several sources – we pursued it at Rigler but it made the Principal and some staff nervous, even after revising the red-colored image and writing to regular text," wrote Heidi Dempster-Johnson, executive assistant to the district's chief operating officer, Tony Magliano. "Consequently, we decided not to use stickers throughout the district."

Magliano is on paid administrative leave because of the current lead scandal.

Districtwide water testing this summer has revealed nearly every Portland public school has a lead problem.

•

*bbarnes@oregonian.com; betsyhammond @oregonian.com*

Gazette-Times
(Cir. D. 11,637)
(Cir. S. 12,021)
AUG 10 2016
Allen's P.C.B. *Est 1888*

744-7

EDITORIAL

# Lead issue highlights aging schools

The Corvallis School District this week said that some fixtures in seven of the district's eight elementary schools showed elevated levels of lead in the water.

More results are due soon from the district's high schools and middle schools. You never know about how these things will go until the results come in, but we would expect to see the same sorts of results from the two older schools, Cheldelin Middle School and Crescent Valley High School. Both Corvallis High School and Linus Pauling Middle School were built after an amendment to the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1986 banned installation of lead pipes.

On one level, the results from the district's elementary schools aren't particularly surprising, seeing how the average age of these schools is 59 years. (Hoover Elementary, at a relatively youthful 48, was the only elementary school in the district that didn't have any fixtures showing actionable levels of lead under U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards.)

But there is something surprising about the tests themselves, which were suggested by school board member Vincent Adams after hearing reports about lead in the water at Portland Public Schools. They are the first districtwide tests for lead since 2000. After those tests, the district replaced all fixtures that showed elevated lead levels.

But original fixtures that contain lead that did not show elevated levels of lead were left in place. Pipes in the district's elementary schools (again, remember that these schools are, on average, six decades old) also could have lead soldering.

So district officials would have had reasonable cause to perform lead testing every few years; certainly, waiting 16 years seems ill-advised. Officials said this week that the reason for the long gap was that the cost of the tests put pressure on the district's limited resources.

The cost of the tests this year is about $13,000. The tests probably don't need to be performed every year, or they could rotate among schools every few years. That would drop the cost of the tests each year to less than $10,000. It doesn't seem as if this amount would unduly burden the district's budget.

These lead results also help to bring into focus another issue: Our elementary schools in Corvallis are not all aging gracefully. District officials are working on a long-range facilities plan, with an eye toward presenting taxpayers with a bond issue sometime in the next few years. (This is not to be confused with the district's local option levy, which voters will be asked to renew in November; that money goes to operations, and helps pay salaries for about 50 teachers.)

We want all our school buildings to be facilities where teachers and staff members can offer the best possible education for their students. That's important, and the long-range plan should include recommendations to move toward that goal.

But it should not lose sight of something even more essential: These buildings need to be safe.

# Results show elevated levels of lead at 3 more schools

*Lowrie, Stafford, Athey Creek, Boones Ferry receive drinking water results*

By ANDREW KILSTROM
*The Spokesman*

**The West Linn-Wilsonville School District recently received drinking water results for Boones Ferry, Lowrie and Stafford primaries and Athey Creek Middle School.**

Test results indicated elevated levels of lead at three of 73 locations at Stafford, two of 111 locations at Athey Creek, one of 108 locations at Lowrie. Boones Ferry Primary had no elevated results. The elevated levels of lead exceed the action level of 20 parts per billion (ppb) set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

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

Elevated levels at Stafford included two sink faucets in the kitchen and one sink faucet in a classroom, with tests indicating levels of 52.7 ppb, 43.3 ppb and 20.3 ppb. Elevated levels at Athey Creek were at a lab sink in a classroom and a sink faucet in a restroom, with levels of 25.5 ppb and 21 ppb, respectively. The one elevated level at Lowrie, meanwhile, was at a hand-washing sink in the kitchen, with a result of 32.9 ppb.

According to Superintendent Kathy Ludwig, the district's mission is to ensure drinking water was safe for students before school started in September

WL-WV hasn't tested its drinking water onsite in buildings in the past — save for its three wells which are routinely tested — instead relying on the regular testing by the City of West Linn and the City of Wilsonville of their own systems. Water sources at individual schools are not tested by either city, however.

The district has taken immediate action at every school that indicated elevate levels of lead by turning water off at each location, replacing the fixture in question and then retesting the problem area. The EPA mandates that samples come from first draw tests, meaning the initial water from a faucet is tested instead of letting water run for any period of time prior to gathering the sample.

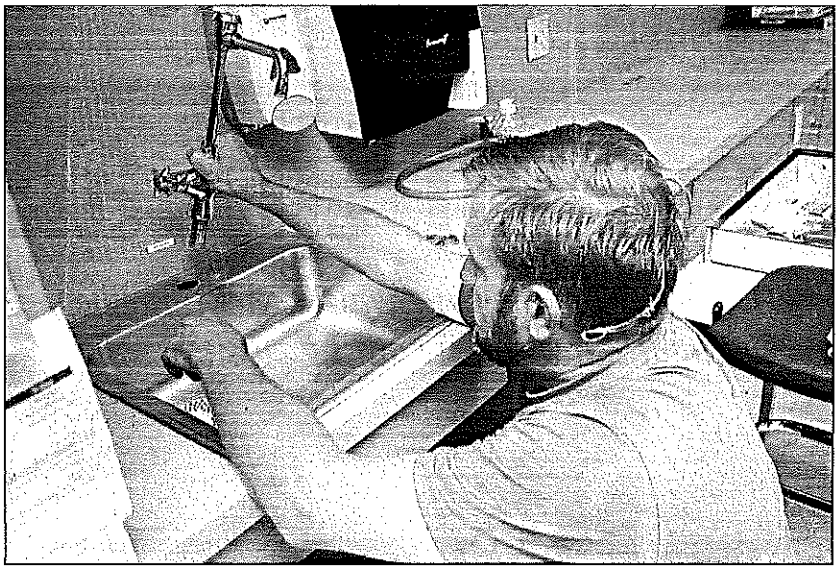
Ludwig said the district will retest at every problem location until it can be sure there are no issues with elevated levels of lead, and Operations Director Tim Woodley said in an email to parents that results from the remaining schools in the district should be received from Pixis Labs sometime mid-August.

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

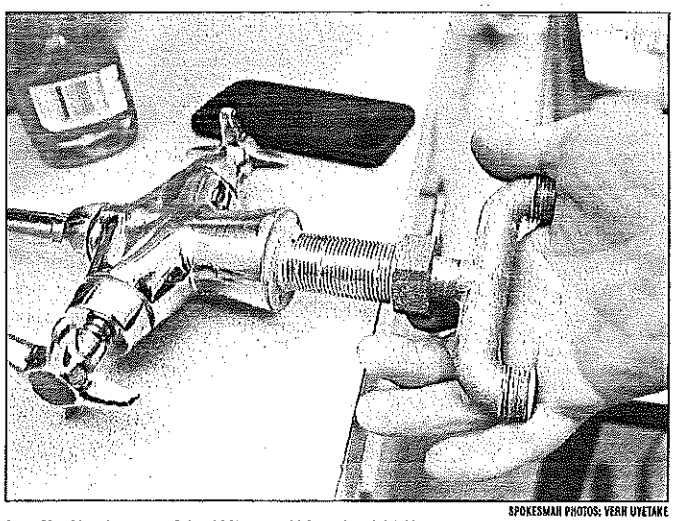
The district announced elevated levels of lead at Sunset Primary (four locations) and Willamette Primary (two locations) in early July, but has already replaced fixtures and retested at those locations. WL-WV is also working on replacing fixtures and retesting at Inza R. Wood Middle School (which showed elevated levels at 13 locations), Arts and Technology High School (two locations), Rosemont Ridge Middle School (three locations) and Cedaroak Park Primary (three locations).

Results at Bolton Primary and Boeckman Creek Primary indicated zero locations with elevated levels of lead. The district is still waiting on results for Trillium Creek Primary, West Linn High School and Wilsonville High School.

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



LEFT: West Linn-Wilsonville's Steve Matthias takes out a classroom sink fixture at Inza R. Wood Middle School Tuesday, Aug. 2.



SPOKESMAN PHOTOS: VERN UYETAKE

Steve Matthias shows one of the old fixtures which produced drinking water tests indicating elevated levels of lead.

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

AUG 10 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

# Lead testing results continue to flow in

By KATHY ANEY
*East Oregonian*
744-7

On Tuesday, two more local school districts reported the results of testing for higher-than-normal levels of lead in water.

The Helix School District got news that its drinking water is safe. At the Athena-Weston School District, however, three of 45 sites showed lead above acceptable limits.

"The Athena-Weston School District has complied with Oregon state guidelines to test our water sites and we are now addressing the sites where elevated levels were detected," said Athena-Weston School Superintendent Laure Quaresma, in a news release. "We will continue to monitor and update our parents and our community."

The three sites will remain unavailable to children until the problem is corrected. The sites will be re-tested after new faucets and other plumbing fixes are finished.

Meanwhile, Helix School Superintendent Darrick Cope said he is relieved at his district's clean report. Cope himself had collected water from all drinking fountains and kitchen faucets and sent them in plastic 250-milliliter vials to Table Rock Analytical for testing in July. The samples came from the main school buildings, both gyms and the band/wood shop. Testing cost $500.

He worried most about Griswold High School, which was built in 1923 and remodeled in 2013.

"The main piping coming into the building had been replaced, but I was a little concerned," he said.

The Northwest's accredited water testing laboratories are getting a serious workout this summer after the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Health Authority recommended that schools test for lead in water. They are moving toward a plan to require testing for lead and radon.

Beth Read, chemist and owner of Table Rock Analytical in Pendleton, said the lab is exceptionally busy collecting water samples, submitting them for testing and reporting the results. Table Rock oversaw testing for Hermiston, the Intermountain Education Service District, North Powder, Ontario and others.

Table Rock subcontracts with other labs such as Anatek Labs, which analyzed Athena-Weston's water. Justin Doty, who works in claims services at Anatek, said the workload has spiked at the company's Washington and Idaho labs.

"Most of the schools we are testing for are located in Oregon," Doty said. "Oregon is the only state I've noticed (that) is being proactive in testing so far."

Kari Salls, of the Oregon Health Authority's Drinking Water Services program, said the amount of lead in water must test lower than 20 parts per billion. Water is collected following federal Environmental Protection Agency guidelines.

"The first draw must sit stagnant in the pipes for eight to 18 hours," Salls said.

If the water tests for lead, another is undertaken. After waiting another eight to 18 hours, a 30-second flush of the pipes is done before filling the vial with water. If the water tests low this time, the problem could be in the faucet. If high, the lead might be originating in the pipes or solder.

Testing and mitigation of lead in school water can be expensive. The Portland School District will spend an estimated $1.2 million on testing alone. State funds may be available this fall to reimburse districts that test this summer.

Pendleton, OR
(Umatilla Co.)
East Oregonian
(Circ. D. 7,014)

AUG 10 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

# Lead found in water at four schools

## Faucets replaced, re-tests scheduled; new board member appointed

By ALEXA LOUGEE
Staff Writer

Extensive water testing in Hermiston's schools found 19 faucets with elevated levels of lead, but none that were considered primary drinking sources.

The Hermiston School District tested 853 sources of water throughout the district and found instances of lead in four schools:

- Hermiston High School, the largest school in the district, had 13 sources of elevated lead, all of them sinks in science classrooms that are now used for math instruction.
- Highland Hills Elementary had three sources, including two classroom sinks and a kitchen spray nozzle.
- Sandstone Middle School had two kitchen dish-washing sinks with elevated lead.
- Armand Larive Middle School, one of the newest buildings in the district, had one hand-washing station in the kitchen where elevated lead was found.

All other schools, including the district's oldest building — Rocky Heights Elementary School — came back with no elevated lead samples.

The district has already taken measures to remedy elevated lead sources. According to Mike Kay, the district's executive director of operations, the first step is to replace faucets and spray nozzles, which the district has already done. The sources are also tagged with large signs that direct people not to use them.

Each elevated source has been retested and results are pending. The results will determine the next steps. If a new fixture still reflects high levels of lead, the district will begin the process of replacing pipes.

The district began testing July 5, after the Oregon Health Authority recommended all public schools and day care centers test their water for lead using accredited drinking water testing labs. The recommendations came after elevated lead was found in drinking water throughout Portland public schools. Most recently, the Medford School District reported high lead levels at three elementary schools.

The recommendation from OHA asked districts to test all water sites that could reasonably be used for drinking water. Hermiston School District facilities crew took that instruction a step further, including testing janitor closet mop faucets because coaches have been known to fill water coolers from there. They also tested outside hose faucets and bathroom sinks. Kay said they tested these secondary sites because "it was the right thing to do."

The district sent samples to Analytical Laboratory Group and Anatek Laboratory Group, both accredited water testings companies.

Kay estimates the district will have spent at least $13,000 on lead testing, but is optimistic the district will receive reimbursement from the state.

Hermiston School District gets its water from the city of Hermiston's municipal water system, which, according to public records, receives regular testing and continually meets state and federal lead thresholds.

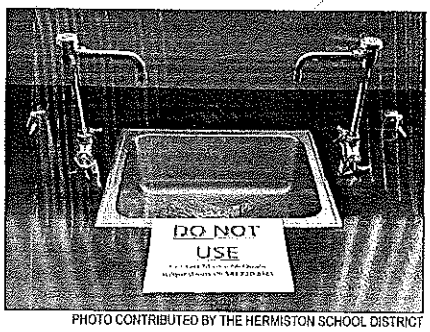


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY THE HERMISTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

**A sink that tested positive for elevated lead levels has been shut off and tagged.**

Kay gave a presentation on the water results to the Hermiston Board of Education Monday night. Board chair Karen Sherman responded favorably to the district's efforts.

"Thank you, Mike, to you and your staff, for going the extra mile in making sure that our kids are safe and our staff," she said. "I appreciate all the hard work, I think the thick document shows a lot of time and energy that went into it. That's the right way to do it, and we appreciate all your efforts."

The thick document she referred to was a three ring binder holding all the testing documentation for the district.

On Friday, Kay received notice that the Oregon Health Authority would be requiring all school districts to test all water sources for lead.

"I'm very pleased with our staff and being proactive to get ahead of this," Kay said.

OHA also will require that after the initial testing this year, districts must test a small portion of sites at every building each year. If one of those small samples comes back elevated, all sites at that building will have to undergo testing.

The school district's water was last believed to have been tested in 2002.

Also at Monday night's board meeting, members voted unanimously to appoint Bonnie Luisi to fill the board seat vacated by Maria Duron, who left for a paid position with the district office. Luisi worked as a classified employee for Hermiston School District for 22 years before retiring and has served on various committees throughout the district. Her term will end June 30, 2017, at which point she may run for election to the board.

744-7

Hermiston, OR
(Umatilla Co.)
Hermiston Herald
(Circ. 2xW. 1,301)

AUG 10 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

744-7

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

2016

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

744-7

# Lead found in Imbler water site

## High school drinking fountain quickly removed

By Dick Mason
The Observer

Imbler School District officials received some startling news Tuesday.

District officials learned through Magic Valley Labs in Twin Falls, Idaho, that the water from one of Imbler High School's two drinking fountains had lead levels higher than acceptable EPA limits. The news prompted a quick response, with Imbler's maintenance director Mark Lanman removing the drinking fountain within hours of the news, said School District Superintendent Angie Lakey-Campbell. A new drinking

*See* Lead / *Page 7A*

## LEAD

*Continued from Page 1A*

fountain will soon be put in.

"We are hoping to get it in before school starts (Aug. 29)," Campbell said.

Water from the new drinking fountain will be re-tested after it is installed.

"Nobody will be allowed to use it until we are sure it is OK," Campbell said.

Water from a total of 21 drinking sites in the Imbler School District was tested by Magic Valley Labs. No others were found to have elevated lead levels above the EPA's acceptable limits.


Lakey-Campbell

Lakey-Campbell said she believes the drinking fountain was not used frequently because the high schools other fountain is more modern and easier for students to fill water bottles with.

The Imbler School District is among many in Oregon involved in testing their water this summer. All school district's are currently undergoing testing after Gov. Kate Brown called on Oregon's 197 school districts to craft procedures for testing lead, radon and other chemicals at their campuses by this fall.

### Online

A copy of all the Imbler School District's water testing results can be viewed at the district office and later will be posted on the district's website at www.imbler.k12.or.us.

Brown made her request not long after lead was detected in the water in schools in the Portland School District.

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

The plan requests all school districts that get 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.

744-7

*Contact Dick Mason at 541-786-5386 or dmason@lagrandeobserver.com. Follow Dick on Twitter @IgoMason.*

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

AUG 11 2016

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

# Lead Testing Results for Hermiston School District

744-7

HERMISTON – Hermiston School District tested 853 sites and identified 19 locations with elevated lead levels across its schools. None of the locations are a primary drinking source. Elevated levels of lead were found in hand washing stations, bathrooms, and other secondary sources at Hermiston High School, Highland Hills elementary school, and in kitchens at Armand Larive and Sandstone middle schools.

The results will be reviewed with the Hermiston School Board on August 8, 2016 as part of a comprehensive review of the school district's water system provided by Executive Director of Operations, Mr. Mike Kay.

In April 2016, state officials and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) made the recommendation that all public schools and day care centers test their water for lead this summer, using accredited drinking water testing labs to process water samples for lead.

Each school district needs to: 1) Identify if there are any sources of lead by testing all taps used for drinking or food preparation in the building to identify any lead problems. 2) Stop access to students, staff, and community members to those water taps that have more than 15 parts per billion of lead. This would include shutting off taps, covering and tagging water fountains. 3) Communicate the test results with students, families and community. 4) Mitigate and correct any problems by replacing the sources of lead in the plumbing systems using the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) guidelines.

With assistance from Delta Environmental, Table Rock Analytical Laboratory, the Analytical Laboratory's Group and Anatek Laboratory Group; the maintenance staff were trained in sampling processes and procedures including the chain of custody of handling samples. The staff practiced sampling processes and documentation which was reviewed by Delta Environmental.

The Hermiston School District was aggressive on identifying testing sites and identified two types of sites: primary drinking locations and secondary locations. Primary locations included drinking fountains and normal places students and staff would use for drinking. The secondary locations included exterior hose bibs, bathroom, kitchen and science sinks. Both primary and secondary locations were tested to include all potential sites following the recommended EPA testing process. We also requested information from the City of Hermiston in accordance with EPA requirements.

To-date 853 sites have been tested. We have received the results for 834 sites and are waiting to hear back the results on the Kennison Field site.

Results received thus far show that primary drinking sites did not exceed lead levels. All elevated sites were secondary sites. All the elevated sites have been shut off at the valve, they have been tagged as "do not use," all surface equipment has been replaced, all sites have been retested and we are waiting on follow up results. All elevated sites will remain tagged until corrective action is complete.

744-7

Medford, OR
(Jackson Co.)
Medford Mail
(Circ. D. 51,500)
AUG 11 2016

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

MEDFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Source of high lead levels still unknown

## New tests show low levels at Jackson and Roosevelt, Medford district says

744-7

By Teresa Thomas
Mail Tribune

Medford School District officials are still trying to determine the source of high lead levels found in the water at Jackson and Roosevelt elementary schools three weeks ago. Last week, the Medford Water Commission pulled out the meters at both schools and drew samples from the service line between the meter and the water main. Of the 32 samples taken at Jackson and the 26 samples taken at Roosevelt, they submitted a total of 23 to Neilson Research Corp. for analysis and then replaced the meters at both schools with newer, more accurate meters.

The results from these tests were released Tuesday and all were under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's threshold for public water systems of 15 parts per billion. The highest reading was 11 ppb, but most tested around 1 ppb, said Sara Bristol, the commission's public information coordinator.

"It definitely shows that our part of the service line is not the source of the problem," Bristol said.

The district tested the water from 47 fixtures at Roosevelt on July 12 and 49 fixtures at Jackson on July 19. Of those, 38 at Roosevelt and 36 at Jackson had lead levels exceeding the EPA's action level for schools of 20 ppb, some as high as nine times the limit.

If it had been the water going into the building, it would have been high everywhere, Bristol said.

Ron Havniear, the district's facilities and support services manager, described the tests as "snapshots in time" and said that, although the tests show that the water taken at the meter on Aug. 2 and Aug. 4 was good, "they don't necessarily give us a picture of what the water was three weeks ago."

The district has since shut off the water to the corrupt fixtures; distributed water bottles to the Kids Unlimited staff and kids using the buildings; and, on July 31, retested the fixtures with the highest readings and the fixtures in the schools closest to the meter.

Results from the July 31 tests showed that the fixtures with highest lead levels were no longer emitting high levels of lead, said Havniear.

Fixtures at Roosevelt that tested at 184 and 105 parts per billion on July 12, tested at less than 2 and 3 parts per billion on July 31. Similarly, fixtures at Jackson that tested at 154 and 139 parts per billion on July 19, tested at 2.55 and 1.98 parts per billion on July 31.

"It's an anomaly," Havniear said. "They are new schools with new plumbing, and the city's tests show the water was good ... so whatever (caused the elevated lead levels) was an anomaly."

Nonetheless, the district went ahead and replaced some suspect plumbing components at both schools with certified, lead-free components that meet today's standards and, this week, retested every fixture in the buildings to see whether the problem was resolved, Havinear said.

Results from this round of tests should be available by the end of the week, he said.

The district also flushed the entire system Wednesday for 90 minutes and pulled an additional 15 samples to use for comparative analysis.

"Unless the results come back good, we will continue to look at the data and do some comparison and continue to work through the process of elimination," Havniear said. "And, in the meantime, we will continue to provide an adequate and safe supply of water."

*–Reach education reporter Teresa Thomas at 541-776-4497 or tthomas@mailtribune.com. Follow her at www.twitter.com/teresathomas_mt.*

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

AUG 11 2016

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

# CB school water tests negative for lead

## Both drinking and cooking water are safe for new school year

JILLIAN WARD
The World

744-7

COOS BAY – The Coos Bay School District brought home an "A" after test results came back negative for lead in its water.

Testing started in May after lead was discovered in schools in Portland and Eugene, and initial test results in June reported lead at Blossom Gulch Elementary. The levels of lead were well below the "actionable" level, which is 15 parts per billion (ppb). The amount found at Blossom Gulch was 2 ppb.

"Our drinking and cooking water in the schools and the district office comply with water regulations," said school board chairman Adrian DeLeon. "Our Maintenance Manager Rick Roberts had samples collected from each of our buildings, sent them to the lab, and all the results came back well below the maximum limit."

The results showed "non-detected" at Eastside School, Bunker Hill, Millicoma, Pirate Hall and the Harding building.

Marshfield High School's east gym showed 0.00269 ppb, which is also below the 15 ppb limit.

The last time the Coos Bay School District tested its water was in 2002. Those results also showed non-detected in Blossom Gulch, Madison, Millicoma, Bunker Hill, and Sunset. However, Milner Crest showed the water at 3 ppb in 2002, Eastside at 8 ppb, and Charleston at 17 ppb. Both Charleston and Eastside are no longer being used as schools, and Milner Crest serves as the district's administration building.

"Charleston was the only school that came in over the actionable level back then," Roberts said in a previous interview. "The other tests showed our schools considerably under 15 ppb."

Roberts believes some the ppb levels are showing up above zero because the building's are old, and though the pipes are not made of lead, lead soldering was used on the joints.

The final results from the other buildings have come back in time before school starts, which is Sept. 6 for kindergarten through eighth grade, and Sept. 7 for ninth through 12th grade.

The test results can be found online at www.cbd9.net/maintenance.

Reporter Jillian Ward can be reached at 541-269-1222, ext. 235, or by email at jillian.ward@theworldlink.com. Follow her on Twitter: @JE_Wardwriter.

Tigard, OR
(Washington Co.)
Tigard/Tualatin Times
(Cir. W. 6,500)

AUG 11 2016

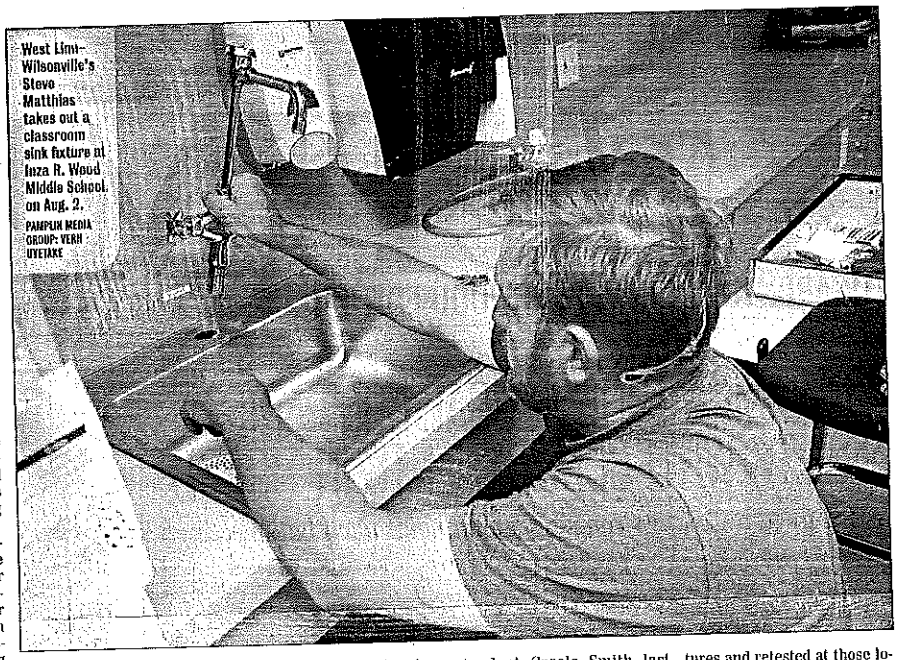
Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

# Results show elevated levels of lead at two area schools

744-7

## *Stafford Primary School, Athey Creek Middle School both show elevated levels*

By ANDREW KILSTROM
*Pamplin Media Group*



West Linn-Wilsonville's Steve Matthias takes out a classroom sink fixture at Inza R. Wood Middle School on Aug. 2.
PAMPLIN MEDIA GROUP: VERN UYETAKE

**The two West Linn-Wilsonville public schools closest to Tualatin showed elevated levels of lead in their water in recent testing, the West Linn-Wilsonville School District announced.**

Test results indicated elevated levels of lead in the water at three of 73 locations at Stafford Primary School and two of 111 locations at Athey Creek Middle School, the district said. Both schools are located east of Tualatin and east of Southwest 50th Avenue, a section of Tualatin's Fox Hill neighborhood that falls within the schools' attendance areas.

The elevated levels of lead exceed the action level of 20 parts per billion (ppb) set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Elevated levels at Stafford included two sink faucets in the kitchen and one sink faucet in a classroom, with tests indicating levels of 52.7 ppb, 43.3 ppb and 20.3 ppb. Elevated levels at Athey Creek were at a lab sink in a classroom and a sink faucet in a restroom, with levels of 25.5 ppb and 21 ppb, respectively.

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

Superintendent Kathy Ludwig told the Wilsonville Spokesman, The Times' sister paper, that the district will ensure drinking water is safe for students before school starts in September, and that the district is in the process of fixing problem areas.

### Lead in water a regional concern, controversy

The Tigard-Tualatin School District, which covers most of Tigard and Tualatin and all of Durham and King City, has been conducting annual lead testing since 2013. District spokeswoman Susan Stark Haydon said in June that the most recent round of testing, conducted last October, had turned up no elevated levels of lead in district schools and facilities.

Unlike its Tigard-Tualatin counterpart, the West Linn-Wilsonville School District hasn't tested its drinking water on-site in buildings in the past — save for its three wells which are routinely tested. Instead, the district has relied on regular testing by the cities of West Linn and Wilsonville of their own systems. Water sources at individual schools have not previously been tested by either city, however.

The district has taken immediate action at each school that indicated elevated levels of lead by turning water off at each location, replacing the fixtures in question and then retesting the problem areas. The EPA mandates that samples come from first draw tests, meaning the initial water from a faucet is tested instead of letting water run for any period of time prior to gathering the sample.

Ludwig said the district will retest at every problem location until it can be sure there are no issues with elevated levels of lead. Operations Director Tim Woodley said in an email to parents that results from the remaining schools in the district should be received from Pixis Labs sometime in mid-August.

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

Controversy over high lead levels in the drinking water at several Portland Public Schools campuses and that school district's response this spring led to the resignation of Superintendent Carole Smith last month and calls for regular lead testing in other Portland-area school districts.

### Other test results in West Linn-Wilsonville

Elsewhere in the West Linn-Wilsonville School District, one of 108 locations at Lowrie Primary School in Wilsonville also tested at a high lead level in its water, a kitchen sink with a result of 32.9 ppb. Boones Ferry Primary School, which was also tested, had no elevated results, according to the district.

The district announced elevated levels of lead in the water at Sunset (four locations) and Willamette (two locations) elementary schools in early July, but has already replaced fixtures and retested at those locations.

The district is also working on replacing fixtures and retesting at Inza R. Wood Middle School (which showed elevated levels at 13 locations), Arts & Technology High School (two locations), Rosemont Ridge Middle School (three locations) and Cedaroak Park Primary School (three locations).

Results at Bolton and Boeckman Creek primary schools indicated zero locations with elevated levels of lead in their water. The district is still waiting on results for Trillium Creek Primary, West Linn High and Wilsonville High school.

*Mark Miller contributed to this report.*

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

AUG 12 2016

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

# Mac district addresses lead problems

744-7

By STARLA POINTER
Of the News-Register

McMinnville school officials are in the process of fixing five drinking fountains around the district that tested positive for lead this summer.

All told, the district tested 869 fountains, faucets and sinks. It found five fountains and 98 other water sources, not generally used for drinking, with higher-than-allowed levels of lead. All the sources, in addition to the fountains, are being repaired by plumbers, Superintendent Maryalice Russell said.

They will be tested again before school starts to ensure the water is safe. If not, additional repairs will be made.

McMinnville and other school districts across Oregon were required to test for lead after the dangerous element was found in older schools in Portland and other cities.

In other business, the board:

■ Heard from Russell that the district plans to take a look at its grounds to see if any improvements can be made while work is being done on bond measure projects.

These facilities aren't covered by the bond, but there may be ways of making better use of playgrounds, athletic fields, bus lanes and other facilities while other repairs are made, she said. Russell noted that a 2012 committee developed recommendations for improvements to playgrounds and athletic fields.

■ Swore in Carson Benner, who was appointed to fill the seat vacated by Stan Primozich.

■ Appointed Kevin Chambers, Paul Haddeland and Steve Macy to a citizen oversight committee that will meet quarterly to review progress on bond measure projects.

Six people applied. Board members said they chose the three members because all had extensive background in district facilities, having helped with efforts to pass the bond.

■ Elected Barbara Carter as board chair and outgoing chair Scott Schieber as vice-chair.

■ Agreed to sell 78 square feet of the district's new property on Lafayette Avenue to the city for future placement of a traffic signal. The district plans to remodel the old Willamette Graystone building to serve as a maintenance and grounds shop.

■ Heard about McMinnville's new Hispanic Parent-Teacher Association, the first of its kind in Oregon.

The PTA grew out of the Hispanic Parent Advisory Committee, which has existed for years.

By affiliating with the national PTA organization, the local HPTA can raise funds and award scholarships. Thus far, it has given out about $3,000 in scholarship to graduating McMinnville High School seniors.

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

AUG 12 2016

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

744-7

# Schools find lead in water

By Edward Stratton
EO Media Group

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

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

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

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

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

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

"While the city provides water that is lead-free, it cannot control the pipes and fixtures past the service connection," Hoppes wrote, encouraging water customers to use newer fixtures and lead-free plumbing.

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

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

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

## Crowded labs

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

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

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

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

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

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

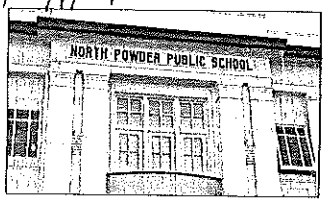
744-7

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

AUG 15 2016

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

744-7




Observer file photo

The North Powder School District recently received results from state-mandated lead tests. Results indicate that all of the school district's 51 drinking water sites easily meet EPA standards.

# North Powder gets good marks in water test

By Dick Mason
The Observer

NORTH POWDER — The North Powder School District received a wave of good news regarding its drinking water.

Lead tests conducted by a certified lab indicate that all of the school district's 51 drinking water sites easily meet EPA standards. Many had no lead at all, and those that did were far below the maximum EPA limit allowed, according to North Powder School District Superintendent Lance Dixon.

"It is nice to know that our children are safe. That is our

See Test / Page 5A

## Initial concerns

The oldest of the North Powder School District's buildings are its high school, which was built about 100 years ago, and its gym, built in the late 1930s.

## TEST

Continued from Page 1A

No. 1 priority," Dixon said.

The tests were conducted by Table Rock Analytical Lab of Pendleton and Anatek Labs, Incorporated, which has offices in Spokane, Washington, and Moscow, Idaho. Table Rock made sure that the water samples were properly collected and processed, and Anatek then conducted the analysis.

The test results are noteworthy since the North Powder School District has many old buildings. Buildings built before 1986 are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures and solder, according to the EPA's website.

The oldest of the North Powder School District's buildings are its high school, which was built about 100 years ago, and its gym, built in the late 1930s. The age of these and other buildings, Dixon said, gave him reason for concern.

"It is an obvious relief," Dixon said, referring to the lead test results.

One reason for the good results may be the type of pipes in its buildings, some of which are plastic, Dixon said.

The North Powder School District receives its water from the City of North Powder. The city gets its water from wells, all of which are regularly tested, Dixon said.

The school district is among many in Oregon testing their water this summer. All school districts are currently undergoing testing after Gov. Kate Brown called on Oregon's 197 school districts to craft procedures for testing lead, radon and other chemicals at their campuses by this fall.

Brown made her request not long after lead was detected in the water in schools in the Portland School District.

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

The plan requests all school districts that get 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.

744-7

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

AUG 1 [illegible] 2016

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

# Mixed results for lead in Beaverton

By Betsy Hammond 744-7
*The Oregonian/OregonLive*

Twelve Beaverton schools — including International School of Beaverton, Whitford Middle School and Beaver Acres Elementary — have elevated levels of lead in water at a few sinks and fountains, new test results show.

Ten schools, including Beaverton High and Arts & Communication Magnet Academy, don't have any tainted water sources at all.

Water test results for an additional 27 Beaverton schools are still pending, district officials said Monday.

The findings in Beaverton schools stand in marked contrast to those in Portland Public Schools, where all 88 schools at which water was sampled this summer had at least one and frequently dozens of faucets or drinking fountains that gave off water with at least 15 parts per billion of lead.

One primary difference between the two districts is that Portland schools get all their water from the Portland Water Bureau, which does not heavily treat the water to make it less corrosive to lead in fixtures and pipes.

Beaverton schools, like most water-users in Washington County, get their water from the Joint Water Commission's Water Treatment Plant, which adds caustic soda to its treated water from the Tualatin River to adjust the pH to make it less corrosive, or a mixture of water from that plant and from Portland's Water Bureau.

Portland schools also are much older than Beaverton's, with only two schools built brand new and one school substantially rebuilt, since 1990. But even Portland's newest schools, Rosa Parks Elementary and Forest Park Elementary, were found to have sinks or fountains that gave off water with high lead levels this summer.

The worst problem was at Highland Park Middle School, a situation that was disclosed before the end of the school year and responded to with a plan to shut off all water fountains and use bottled water until the entire plumbing system can be rebuilt in 2017.

Results for all Beaverton schools can be found at bit.ly/2aXhKc6.

•

*betsyhammond@oregonian.com*

744-4

# Corvallis School Board reacts to lead tests

## Members praise staff for handling of water issue

ANTHONY RIMEL
Corvallis Gazette-Times

Members of the Corvallis School Board on Monday praised district staff members for their response to recent tests that found lead in the water in seven of the district's eight elementary schools.

Monday marked the board's first meeting since the results of the testing were made public, and several trustees praised the staff for their open and quick handling of the issue.

Board member Bill Kemper, noting the controversy that had erupted in Portland over lead in the water at schools there, said that the transparency in Corvallis was refreshing.

Superintendent Ryan Noss said the board is working on a plan to do more regular testing on water fixtures, such as testing 20 percent of fixtures each year, so that all fixtures are tested every five years. Before this summer, the last time the district tested for lead in its schools was 2000. After that, the district replaced fixtures that showed elevated levels of lead in 2002.

Chris Rochester, the board's chair, said the board is considering a bond in the next few years to address issues with the aging buildings in the district. On average, the district's elementary schools are 59 years old.

"It's a huge issue we have to address, which of course leads to the bond," said Rochester.

### CHS softball field renamed

In other action, the board voted Monday night to name the Corvallis High School softball field Will Keim Field, after an assistant coach for the program who died in June after a two-year battle with cancer.

Blake Rodman, a former school board member, and Matt Boring, Corvallis High School principal, had initially presented the name-change proposal at the board's June meeting.

Both said spoke about how Keim had been a major advocate for improving the softball field and had raised much of the money used to improve it and even did some of the labor, such as removing construction rubble, himself.

"Will (Keim) was a staunch advocate for women's sports," said Rodman.

Rodman and Boring said they would continue to advocate for better women's facilities, which Keim had advocated for so persistently.

"I know I'll keep beating the drum, as will others in the community," said Boring.

Anthony Rimel can be reached at anthony.rimel@lee.net, 541-758-9526 or via Twitter @anthonyrimel

Corvallis, OR
(Benton Co.)
Gazette-Times
(Cir. D. 11,637)
(Cir. S. 12,021)

AUG 16 2016

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

Pendleton, OR
(Umatilla Co.)
East Oregonian
(Cir. D. 8,726)
(Cir. S. 8,868)

AUG 16 2016

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

PENDLETON

# Lead found at three schools

*East Oregonian*
**744-7**

The Pendleton School District reported elevated lead levels in three drinking water sources at school buildings.

The district commissioned an initial batch of 27 samples, which indicated that the McKay Creek Elementary School staff room (27.4 parts per billion), Lincoln Primary School staff room (41.4 parts per billion) and the Pendleton High School concessions stand faucet (24.3 parts per billion) all tested for high levels of lead.

The Environmental Protection Agency states that action should be taken if lead levels exceed 15 parts per billion, and emphasizes there is no safe level of lead in drinking water.

The district has submitted an additional 154 samples for testing and is closing those drinking water sources until the plumbing and faucets are replaced and retested.

According to the EPA, exposure to lead can cause a variety of health problems, ranging from stomach distress to brain damage.

There are no state or federal requirements for lead testing, but the state recently established guidelines for water testing, which the district states it followed.

Pendleton Superintendent Andy Kovach said in a statement that the samples cost $25 each, meaning the initial round of samples cost $675 and the next round will cost $3,850.

Kovach said reimbursements from the state could be available this fall for districts that conducted water tests over the summer.

# High lead levels reported in Bethel

BY ALISHA ROEMELING
*The Register-Guard*
**744-7**

Twelve sinks at Cascade Middle School in the Bethel School District have been determined to have elevated levels of lead present in the water, district officials said Monday.

Several of the sites at Cascade reached extremely high levels, well over the federal Environmental Protection Agency's standard for "safe" amounts of lead in water, which is 20 parts per billion, or PPB.

Test results for seven other Bethel district buildings also were released Monday — with isolated incidents of elevated lead levels reported at Irving and Clear Lake elementary

*Turn to* **BETHEL**, *Page A5*

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

AUG 16 2016

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

# Bethel: Two tests highest recorded so far in local schools

*Continued from Page A1*

schools and at the district's maintenance shop at Willamette High School.

At Cascade Middle, a sink in the south exam room of the district's community health center was determined to have the highest level, reaching 2,450 PPB after a first draw. Another sink in a west storage room of the school's main hall also showed extremely high lead levels at 1,250 PPB.

Those lead levels are the highest reported so far within the Bethel, Eugene and Springfield school districts.

Before Monday's results, Roosevelt Middle School in the Eugene district had the highest level of lead found in a school water source — a drinking fountain in a computer lab reached 866 PPB.

Roosevelt Middle School has since been demolished, with a new middle school rising just to the west.

In Springfield, meanwhile, officials recently decided to replace the underground water system at Page Elementary School with all new pipes, fittings and fixtures, after elevated levels of lead — ranging from 27 to 180 PPB — were determined to be present in six classrooms in the building's west wing.

The entire replumbing project is expected to cost the Springfield district $95,000.

At Cascade Middle in the Bethel district, a lab storage room sink reached 438 PPB on the first draw. Two sinks in Classroom 2 had elevated lead levels — 627 PPB and 30 PPB. Two more sinks in Classroom 3 had levels of 314 and 166 PPB.

Two sinks in the health center's southwest lab had lead levels of 210 PPB and 185 PPB. In the media center office, one sink showed 81 PPB. Lead levels in the east wash sink in the school's kitchen reached 60 PPB, and a sink in the peer mediation and counseling office showed slightly elevated levels at 30 PPB.

In all, 54 sites were tested at Cascade. No water fountains showed high levels of lead — only the 12 sinks.

Bethel district spokesman Pat McGillivray said all 12 water sources have been removed and will be replaced with new fixtures. The water at each location will then be retested to ensure that the contamination is a result of the actual fixtures and not a more widespread issue within the school's pipes. The work is to be completed in time for the start of the new school year next month.

Lead typically gets into a drinking water supply by leaching from lead solder that was used to seal pipe joints or from lead in older metal water lines. Constructed in 1955, Cascade Middle is one of the oldest schools in the west Eugene district, McGillivray said.

Tests completed on 10 water sources at Kalapuya High School and 54 sites tested at Danebo Elementary School showed no elevated levels of lead present.

A sink in Classroom 14 at Irving Elementary was found to have elevated lead levels that reached 245 PPB. It was one of 58 locations tested in the school.

Clear Lake Elementary was determined to have four sites where elevated levels were present: a sink in a storage room that reached 438 PPB; a sink in the music room with a lead level of 162 PPB; a drinking fountain in the same room with a slightly elevated lead level of 23 PPB; and a sink in the front office production room that reached 34 PPB.

In a custodial closet at the district's maintenance shop within Willamette High School, one fountain that the district said had not been used for many years was found to have elevated levels that reached 190 PPB.

The high school's transportation shop and stadium also were tested, with no elevated levels of lead found at those two locations, McGillivray said.

Slightly elevated levels of lead were found at three of 58 sites tested at the Bethel district's Shasta Middle School earlier this summer. The district expects to release more results from other schools as they become available.

This spring, the Bethel district hired PBS Engineering + Environmental of Eugene to complete comprehensive lead testing at all district buildings. The project will cost the district about $10,000 to complete, McGillivray said.

The Eugene district also hired PBS Engineering + Environmental to conduct its testing, at an estimated cost of $25,000. The Springfield district hired Analytical Laboratory Group of Eugene to perform its district-wide testing, which cost the district about $3,000, officials said.

Earlier this summer, the Oregon Department of Education and Oregon Health Authority announced a plan to encourage school districts across the state to conduct comprehensive testing prior to school resuming this fall.

The state's plan is a recommendation, not an order, and does not include any allocation of state funds to help with the cost of testing. The plan responds to a directive from Gov. Kate Brown in April and comes on the heels of belated disclosures about lead in the drinking water of some Portland public schools. **744-7**

# 3 more schools test high for lead

## Affected fixtures being replaced

ANTHONY RIMEL
Corvallis Gazette-Times

The Corvallis School District released water-testing results on Tuesday showing that three more schools have elevated levels of lead in water.

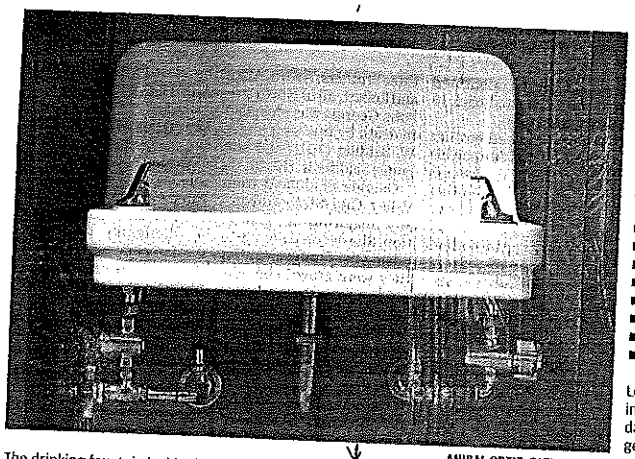
Chedelin Middle School, Crescent Valley High School and an auxiliary building at Corvallis High School joined the list of district buildings that showed actionable levels of lead, under Environmental Protection Agency standards.

Only Hoover Elementary School and Linus Pauling Middle School tested as having no fixtures with actionable levels of lead, although the district said that the main building at Corvallis High School, which was completed in 2005, also did not test as having elevated lead levels anywhere.

The district said workers have shut off water to the affected fixtures and are in the process of replacing them. At Jefferson Elementary, the first school for which the district received results, the process of retesting replaced fixtures has begun and the district expects results of retesting by the end of August. Other school buildings will follow after that, the district said in a statement.

"While these elevated lead levels are a cause for concern, we are pleased with the manner in which our Facilities Department has managed this process," Superintendent Ryan Noss said in the district's news release. "The safety of our students is at the forefront of everything that we do."

Please see Lead, Page A3



ANIBAL ORTIZ, GAZETTE-TIMES

The drinking fountain inside the Jefferson Elementary School gym was shut off in July after testing positive for elevated levels of lead.

### Lead exposure symptoms

According to the Oregon Public Health Division, the following are symptoms of lead exposure in children:

- Tiredness or loss of energy.
- Hyperactivity.
- Reduced attention span.
- Irritability or crankiness.
- Poor appetite.
- Weight loss.
- Trouble sleeping.
- Constipation.
- Aches or pains in the stomach.

Long-term lead exposure in children can cause brain damage, lowered intelligence, behavior and learning problems, and impaired speech and language development.

## Lead

From A1

Noss added in the news release that the district continues to review its long-range facilities plan, and the lead results serve as a reminder "of the need for school buildings that provide students with a modern and safe school environment."

Before this summer, the district last tested for lead in water in 2000. The district replaced fixtures that showed elevated levels of lead in 2002. District officials ordered the lead tests in the wake of revelations of high amounts of lead in water in Portland public schools.

Anthony Rimel can be reached at anthony.rimel@lee.net, 541-758-9526, or via Twitter @anthonyrimel.

744-7

Corvallis, OR
(Benton Co.)
Gazette-Times
(Cir. D. 11,637)
(Cir. S. 12,021)

AUG 17 2016

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

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

AUG 17 2016

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

# WSD finishes lead testing in water fixtures

744-7

The Woodburn School District recently completed testing on drinking water fixtures in its facilities. This was in response to state directives to protect public health by minimizing lead levels in drinking water.

Of 211 fixtures tested, seven came back as meeting or exceeding federal guidelines, and have been replaced or disabled. Complete test results for drinking water fixtures in each building can be found through a link on the home page of the school district's website at www.woodburn-sd.org.

According to federal guidelines, any fixture that tests positive for lead at 0.020 milligrams per liter (mg/L) or higher should be mitigated. (This also can be reported as 20 parts per billion.)

The most common source of lead in drinking water is corrosion of plumbing materials, such as pipes, solder, fixtures, and faucets. The school district will test drinking water fixtures on an annual basis, or more often as it renovates facilities as part of bond funded projects.

There will be a second round of testing for copper in drinking water fixtures, as well as lead and copper in maintenance and industrial fixtures. The school district will report those results through its website as soon as they are available.

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

AUG 17 2016

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

744-7

# Lincoln city schools ace lead testing

GRETCHEN AMMERMAN
gammerman@countymedia.net

Water that flows, bubbles or drips from a tap in an Oregon school has been tested for lead this summer. Within the Lincoln County School District, Taft Elementary is the only school to have come out with no taps testing above the limit of 0.200 mg/L.

Taft High had one tap return above the limit with a level of 0.0253. Oceanlake had three, with levels from 0.0213 to 0.0306.

The highest results in the county were at Yaquina View Elementary, where 24 taps tested above the limit. Newport High East had 17.

The taps at both Lincoln City schools that had negative results have already been disabled and are being replaced, even though the tap at Taft High was in the industrial arts shop and didn't get used. "Any time we get results above the limit, the tap is replaced," said LCSD Director of Support Services Rich Belloni. "You can't assume that a child isn't going to drink water from a tap just because it isn't a drinking fountain."

Two of the taps at Oceanlake Elementary that tested negatively were in classroom sinks and the third was in a restroom.

A fourth classroom sink at Oceanlake, which tested at 0.0199, is also being replaced. Although legal, it was judged by Belloni to be too close for comfort.

The district is on target to finish the project before the end of summer. "We already have the parts on order but since this is happening state-

See SCHOOLS, Page A2

## Schools

From page A1

wide there is a bit of backlog of supplies," said Belloni. "But we expect to have all the taps replaced by August 22nd."

The schedule will allow the district to retest all replaced taps prior to the start of school.

"We encourage people to learn about lead in drinking water," Belloni said. "The EPA sets the limits, so they are the best source for information." The following website provides information on the levels and health effects: https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water. Information and test results are on file at the Lincoln County School District Facilities and Maintenance Department (541) 336-2058.

744-7

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

AUG 17 2016

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

# High lead levels at schools isolated

## Seaside School District taking swift action

By LYRA FONTAINE
744-7 *The Daily Astorian*

SEASIDE — High lead levels were found at a sink faucet at Seaside High School and a hose at Gearhart Elementary School after testing in June.

The two problem spots were among 39 locations tested for lead.

The sink faucet was at the Seaside High School concessions stand and has since been replaced, district maintenance supervisor Glendon Ely said. The water is undergoing retesting and results are expected in several months.

The faucet was not used for drinking but was tested because of potential food preparation or dishwashing use.

Above-limit lead levels were also found in a hose in the Gearhart Elementary boiler room. No action was needed because it was a control sample, Ely said. The water is used to clean the boiler room.

Sheila Roley

"I think we were really relieved and surprised at the results," Superintendent Sheila Roley said at a district board meeting Tuesday.

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

*See LEAD, Page 10A*

## Lead: Results will help determine cause of high lead concentrations

**Continued from Page 1A**

Samples were taken from EPA guidelines for fountains and food prep faucets, Ely said. Some control samples, not from drinking or cooking faucets, were also taken.

Some water taps at Seaside Heights Elementary with lead levels approaching the limit of 20 parts per billion have been shut down and retested. The district will receive results in the coming months that will help determine the cause of high lead concentrations.

"We decided anything above 10 was high enough that we should look to see if something should be done," Ely said. The district may replace the fixtures or seek a cleaner water supply.

After high lead volumes discovered in some Portland Public Schools drinking water was disclosed this spring, Oregon officials recommended statewide testing of school drinking water.

"We made a decision to test early," Ely said. "We would still be waiting for results if we hadn't."744-7

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

AUG 17 2016

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

# Lead data rounds out district action plan

BY CALLEY HAIR
Of the News-Times
744-7

LINCOLN COUNTY — The water in Lincoln City's schools is the safest in the Lincoln County School District, according to the most recent lead testing results.

Of the 312 tested sinks and water fountains at Oceanlake Elementary, Taft Elementary and Taft High, four sites tested above the Oregon Health Authority's action limit of 0.020 milligrams of lead per liter of water. Compared to the rest of the district — which found a total of 83 sites above the limit out of the 1,116 it tested — Lincoln City's low concentration is a welcome discovery, said Rich Belloni, LCSD director of support services.

"The results from Lincoln City and Toledo complete the district's information gathering process after months of sampling, allowing Belloni and his staff to put together a district-wide action plan.

"We got all the results in, we've retested in a lot of spots and some of them are still back in the lab," Belloni said Monday, Aug. 15. "In a perfect world, they would all come back approved."

The newly released results for Toledo Elementary show an easy fix, with just one out of 81 tested sites raising any flags. But at Toledo High, where 16 out of 99 samples came back above the limit, the complete overhaul of offending sink fixtures will be on par with similar efforts across the district.

The worst site by far remains Yaquina View Elementary, where district maintenance staffers are working to replace equipment at half of the school's water sites in an effort to eradicate the toxin.

"We're hoping to replace all the fixtures that are bad in the next three days. That's probably not going to happen," Belloni said. "There will be some faucets that we don't have — there will be something that'll screw us up."

The offending fixtures range from classrooms to bathrooms to kitchen sinks. Each category must adhere to certain needs and specifications, but all of the replacements are lead-compliant fixtures from Chicago Faucets, said Sarah Hibbs, administrative assistant with the district's Facilities and Maintenance Department.

WATER SAFETY on Page A5

### WATER SAFETY

Continued from page 1

"We're having success with putting them in and getting clean retest results," Hibbs said.

The district plans to replace all hazardous faucets and fountains, with the exception of the science laboratory sinks at Newport High East and Toledo High. Those will be marked with signs indicating non-potable water, Hibbs said, because no lead-compliant lab sinks exist within the district's budget.

Legally, the district isn't required to take action on water sites not intended for drinking, including labs and bathroom sinks, Hibbs said.

"Those are the locations that essentially we didn't have to test," Hibbs said.

But Belloni said he wanted to err on the side of caution, and hopes to put the matter to rest before students return to school on Sept. 6.

"For me, the test comes down to, would you drink the water? Would you let your grandkids or your kids drink the water? If the answer's no, then you've got to replace it," Belloni said.

"We don't know that somebody's not going to go fill up a bottle of water in the bathroom."

With the final results back from the Eugene-based Analytical Laboratory Group, the district now has a completed list of water sites above the state action limit, as well as the current status of fixture replacement at each. They are, per school, as follows:

•Yaquina View Elementary: 24 out of 52 sites, in both sinks and water fountains. The fixture replacement and retesting process is ongoing.

•Early Childhood Center: one (a bathroom sink) out of 17 sites. The retest result is pending.

•Sam Case Elementary: three (all classroom sinks) out of 59 sites. Two have been fixed, and the retest result is still pending on one.

•Newport Middle: four (one fountain, three sinks) out of 118 sites. All have been fixed.

•Newport High West: six (one fountain, five sinks) out of 61 sites. Four have been fixed, and retesting results from two are still pending.

•Newport High East: 17 (10 science lab sinks, seven other sinks) out of 140 sites. The lab sinks will not be replaced, and retest results are pending on the others.

•Crestview Heights: Four (one fountain, three sinks) out of 91 sites. The retest results on all are pending.

•Waldport High: Three (all sinks) out of 86 sites. Retest results are pending on two, and the fixture still needs to be replaced on the third.

•Toledo Elementary: One (a classroom sink) out of 81 sites. The retest results are pending.

•Toledo High: 16 (seven science lab sinks, nine other sinks) out of 99 sites. The lab sinks will not be replaced, and retest results are pending on the nine others.

•Oceanlake Elementary: Three (all sinks) out of 78 sites. All of the retest results are still pending.

•Taft Elementary: Zero out of 90 sites. The school is the only one in the district with a completely clean report of water safety.

•Taft High: One (a sink) out of 144 sites. The retest result is pending.

In a press release Monday, the district encouraged students, staff and families to visit epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water to learn more about the effects and warning signs of lead exposure.

744-7

*Contact reporter Calley Hair at 541-265-8571 ext. 211 or chair@newportnews-times.com*

# Getting the Lead Out

## A Water Quality Crisis Continues to Unfold In Portland Schools. Here's What You Need to Know.

BY DIRK VANDERHART

ILLUSTRATION BY ALLISON KEREK

**WHEN KIDS** head back to Portland Public Schools (PPS) on August 29, Superintendent Carole Smith will still be on vacation.

Smith announced abruptly on July 18 that she was taking three months of accrued leave, and retiring directly afterward—not at the end of next school year as previously planned. The surprise move followed a damning report, and has the PPS School Board scrambling to find a suitable replacement after nearly a decade of Smith's leadership.

But the changes at the top may be the least noticeable thing students face when they return to their studies at the end of the summer. Months into PPS' crisis over lead levels, revelations about water quality, radon readings, and a complete lack of oversight that might have ferreted out at least some of the problems years ago continue to unfold. That's caused a lot of shuffling.

Probably the most striking difference in the new school year will be the way your kids view the many water fixtures—showers, sinks, old-timey eyewashes, faucets, and, yes, drinking fountains—sprouting from the walls in PPS' 78 schools. They'll be shut off, or flagged to be left alone, and students will instead be directed to get drinking water from five-gallon jugs to be delivered to each PPS building for the entire year.

*Continued on page 7*



*Continued from page 5*



The necessity of that sweeping move has only become clearer in recent days. The comprehensive testing the school district ordered in March—notably before the lead crisis got going in earnest a couple of months later—has revealed the vast majority of schools have one or more fixtures spewing lead-tainted water.

"The school district is making every effort to put the health and safety of every child at the forefront of their actions," PPS Board Member Steve Buel told *True Parent*, when asked how parents should feel about their kids' safety in light of the revelations. "It may take some time to get to the point we need to be, but we are addressing the immediate safety needs of children first. Hopefully, every parent will help us in this endeavor."

(*TP* asked all seven members of the school board, along with a district spokesperson, what parents should make of the crisis. Buel was the only one to respond by deadline.)

No amount of lead in water is safe—the metal is a potent neurotoxin, particularly for children—but the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends action be taken when 20 parts per billion or higher of lead are detected. For its testing, PPS elected to flag faucets that turn up samples of 15 parts per billion or higher.

And some are far, far higher. A second-floor faucet at Grant High School spouted water that contained a stunning 57,600 parts per billion of lead, according to results PPS has been posting on its website. KGW noted that's nearly four times the highest lead reading taken from water in Flint, Michigan—the city whose travails with lead-tainted water have sparked concerns around the country.

A second-floor faucet at Grant High School spouted water that contained a stunning 57,600 parts per billion of lead, according to results PPS has been posting on its website. KGW noted that's nearly four times the highest lead reading taken from water in Flint, Michigan.

That Grant High faucet is an outlier only in degree. Dozens of other faucets in the school turned up excessive lead levels, many showing hundreds of parts per billion.

And Grant's not remotely alone. Every one of the 75 schools whose tests had been released as of July 28 turned up at least one red flag. The only school without a high lead reading, Pioneer at Holladay Center, still turned up elevated copper levels in two kitchen sinks.

Lead and copper aren't an issue in Portland's water supply as a whole, but the Bull Run water the city's proud of touting is corrosive. That means it can leach lead and copper from old pipes, like those found in aging, poorly maintained school buildings, as it evidently has been for some time.

How could this happen? Inattention, mainly. A 38-page study the PPS board ordered up, conducted by lawyers at Portland law firm Stoll Berne, painted a picture of a school district profoundly unequipped to monitor lead in its water, and caught off-guard when public scrutiny turned in that direction.

"For the past 15 years, PPS has had no established procedures or protocols for testing for elevated levels of lead in drinking water," the report found.

That meant that lead testing was spotty, and not always necessarily followed up on as it should have been. The report also found that people in charge of monitoring lead in the water didn't have training to do so, and that there was no mechanism for communicating problems to the upper echelons of the district.

All those findings and more make it easy to see how the lead controversy began. PPS found high lead levels in several water fixtures back in May, but didn't stop students from using them for days, or alert parents in a timely fashion.

It's a huge mess, in other words—which gets back to Smith's vacation. Mere moments after the district released the Stoll Berne report on July 18, Smith gave word she was out immediately—first tapping 90 days of leave, then outright retiring.

"I have reached the decision that I need to move up the date of my departure," Smith wrote in her announcement.

That cheered at least one school board member, Paul Anthony, as well as parents who'd been calling for Smith's ouster since the lead crisis broke in May.

But what it ultimately means for the future of PPS is less clear. The district in June voted to allocate $5 million to "projects to remediate health and safety concerns." But PPS also recently decided not to pursue a $750 million bond proposal in November, which would have helped pay for making schools safer, health-wise.

PPS has contracted with environmental consulting firm CH2M Hill, which is expected to issue a report on how the district should remediate its tainted water problem.

Meanwhile, water isn't the only concern. In July, tests showed elevated lead levels in paint in a play area outside of Alameda School. PPS assumes that's not limited to Alameda—there could be lead-based paint at any school built before the late '70s. And that's potentially far more hazardous than anything in the taps. As the school district has noted, there's no record of someone in Portland getting lead poisoning from water.

"Health department investigations have traced lead poisoning in children in our community to numerous sources including paint, metal scrapping, hobbies, pottery, and a teapot from a yard sale," the district said in a communication July 12. t

# SCHOOL WATER FIXTURES SHUT DOWN AFTER ELEVATED LEVELS OF LEAD FOUND

*High levels detected in water at Beaverton, Sherwood schools*

By RAY PITZ AND RAVLEEN KAUR
*Pamplin Media Group*

In the Tigard-Tualatin School District, lead testing has been conducted annually since 2013, and the school district has said the most recent batch of results in October turned up no high lead levels at district schools and facilities.

But neighboring school districts have been scrambling to test their drinking water for lead ever since the spring, when Portland Public Schools announced high lead levels at so many water fountains and fixtures in Oregon's largest school district that it switched all of them off and began supplying bottled water to students and staff for the remainder of the year.

Some test results have now been announced by the Beaverton and Sherwood school districts.

### Conestoga, Whitford among schools with high lead

Drinking fountains at 13 schools in the Beaverton School District contain excessive lead, according to a report released by the district Monday with test results for 23 schools and three support facilities.

One of those high levels was measured at Conestoga Middle School, just north of Southwest Scholls Ferry Road; the school draws sixth- through eighth-graders from parts of north Tigard, as well as from Beaverton's Greenway neighborhood. Two more were taken at Whitford Middle School, the attendance area for which takes in Washington Square.

Over the summer, more than 6,000 samples were taken at 84 schools and facilities across the Beaverton School District. Multiple samples were collected from all drinking fountains and further results will be released on a weekly basis.

So far, the district has released results for 2,244 samples collected at 1,122 fountains across the district. Of those, 100 samples contained lead above the action level of 15 parts per billion or higher set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for municipal water suppliers.

The first batch of results in Beaverton prioritized reporting levels for older schools with a greater potential to have high lead levels in their aging pipes.

Water faucets with actionable levels have been shut off. Faucets will be replaced by the beginning of the school year in September and will undergo follow-up testing in coming months. Students and staff in at least two schools elsewhere in the Beaverton School District, the state's third largest, will be supplied with bottled water for the 2016-17 school district.

> **"These fixtures will remain out of service until further testing confirms they are below the EPA recommended action level."**
> — *Sherwood School District statement*

This is the most comprehensive lead testing the district has done, said Maureen Wheeler, the district's public communications officer. Before this year, the last record of district-wide testing for lead levels dates back to 1989.

Because the state of Oregon has not required school districts to test for lead, it's a fairly new concern, said Wheeler.

With water contamination locally in Portland as well as in Flint, Mich., dominating headlines, the district decided to undertake a thorough sampling of all its drinking fountains.

"We have a good baseline now," said Wheeler.

### Three Sherwood school water fixtures test above 20 ppb

Meanwhile, tests of Sherwood School District facilities show that three schools had fixtures had elevated levels of lead that exceeded 20 parts per billion, the district said Friday in a special newsletter.

Those fixtures are located in a portable at Archer Glen Elementary School, a classroom at Middleton Elementary School and the kitchen at J. Clyde Hopkins Elementary, according to the press release. The exact level of lead measured at the three fixtures was not immediately announced.

As a result of the tests, the district said, it has completely shut down and removed all three.

"In response to the test results, we have chosen to remove the fixture from Portable 26 at Archer Glen, as it is not required per the plumbing code and is no longer necessary for the educational function of the space," the release stated in part. "The kitchen fixture at Hopkins will be removed, replaced and retested. The classroom fixture at Middleton Elementary will also be removed, replaced and retested. These fixtures will remain out of service until further testing confirms they are below the EPA recommended action level."

Samples of all Sherwood School District facilities were collected in June by PBS Environmental.

The greatest concerns for finding lead in pipes are with schools built prior to 1986, the year the federal government banned lead solder (used to bond those pipes) because it can leach into the water systems.

Sherwood last conducted district-wide testing of water quality in 2001. At that time, lead was not found to be elevated above the EPA's recommended action levels except for two fixtures at Hopkins, district officials reported following a records request by the Sherwood Gazette, The Times' sister paper. Those two fixtures were re-tested twice in 2002 and both times came back below the actionable EPA levels, according to the district.

Tigard, OR
(Washington Co.)
Tigard/Tualatin Times
(Cir. W. 6,500)

AUG 1 8 2016

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

# State school board leaders adopt lead testing rule

## Local districts need a plan by October

By PARIS ACHEN
*Capital Bureau*

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

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

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

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

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

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

"You are setting up a framework by which we have assurances at the state level that our schools are taking action in a comprehensive way toward health and safety," said Oregon Chief Education Officer Lindsey Capps. "It's an imperative that every student should be entitled to."

### Additional costs

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

*See LEAD, Page 7A*

# Lead: Most of the districts have either completed or are in the process of testing

**Continued from Page 1A**

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

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

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

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

### Governor's directive

Gov. Brown in April directed the Department of Education and Oregon Health Authority to review existing requirements for environmental testing and address the problem of lead in drinking water. During the review, health and education officials learned that neither the education department nor the health authority had rules to require schools test for lead.

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

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

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

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

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

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

AUG 1 6 2016

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

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

AUG 1 8 2016

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

## IMESD Releases Results of Testing for Lead in Water

This summer, the InterMountain Education Service District (IMESD) tested drinking water sites at all of its buildings that are used by students for the potential presence of lead. These buildings included the main IMESD building in Pendleton, Lifeways Day Treatment Center in Pendleton, Punkin Center in Hermiston, the Joseph Building in La Grande, the Baker City Learning Center in Baker City and Outdoor School sites. Results from two companies, Table Rock Analytical Lab in Pendleton and Magic Valley Labs in Twin Falls, Idaho indicate that all sites were below the acceptable EPA limit.

The IMESD joined school districts across eastern Oregon who are testing their drinking water this summer.

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

AUG 1 3 2016

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

# EXCESSIVE LEAD FOUND AT 13 BEAVERTON SCHOOLS

744-7

*Fountains with high levels identified, removed from service*

By RAVLEEN KAUR
*The Times*

**Drinking fountains at 13 schools and one support facility in the Beaverton School District contain excessive lead, according to a report released by the district Monday with test results for 23 schools and three support facilities.**

Over the summer, more than 6,000 samples were taken at all of the district's schools and facilities. Multiple samples were collected from all drinking fountains and nearly two-thirds of the results are forthcoming. Further results will be released on a weekly basis.

So far, the district has released results for 2,244 samples collected at 1,122 fountains across the district. Of those, 100 samples contained lead above the action level of 15 parts per billion or higher set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for municipal water suppliers.

See LEAD / Page A12

## Lead:

From Page A1

of lead.

Like Highland Park, Hazeldale Elementary School students will also be switching to bottled water this school year. Sixteen collected samples at the school contained a concerning amount of lead. At least one sample contained 139 parts per billion of lead.

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

The initial delivery and first month of bottled water at Highland Park cost $3,337. At Hazeldale, the initial costs were $1,094.

Lead was found at six other elementary schools, including Vose Elementary School, in the results released so far, the highest amount of lead in an individual sample was found at Errol Hassell Elementary School, where a sample was collected containing 190 parts per billion of lead.

Beaverton High School, the only high school with results released this week, was clear of lead — nothing was found close to the actionable level.

Water faucets with actionable levels have been shut off. Faucets will be replaced by the beginning of the school year in September and will undergo follow-up testing in coming months.

This is the most comprehensive lead testing the district has done, said Maureen Wheeler, the district's public communications officer. Be-

tricts to test for lead, it's a fairly new concern, said Wheeler.

With water contamination in Flint, Mich., and locally at Portland Public Schools dominating headlines, the district decided to undertake a thorough sampling of all its drinking fountains.

"We have a good baseline now," said Wheeler.

The district began investigating the issue after a student at Highland Park raised concerns about "yellowish-brown" drinking water, said Wheeler. Initial lead testing found that aging, rusty pipes were contaminating the fountain with lead.

Wheeler said that bond measures have funded ongoing maintenance upkeep, re-

of $3,408.00; together with the expense, costs, insurer's fees and attorney's fees incurred herein by reason of said default; any further sums advanced by the beneficiary for the protection

PAYMENT OF THAT DEBT, IN THE EVENT YOU HAVE RECEIVED A BANKRUPTCY DISCHARGE ANY ACTION TO ENFORCE THE DEBT WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST THE

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

AUG 1 8 2016

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

744-7

# Pendleton School District Releases Initial Results of Testing for Lead in Water

This summer, Pendleton School District tested drinking water at all of its schools for the potential presence of lead. The results for the first 27 water samples indicate that three locations showed lead levels above the EPA acceptable limit of 20 parts per billion (ppb). The rest of the tested locations were below acceptable limits. Pendleton School District has submitted an additional 154 samples for testing and expects those results shortly.

The three water sources that testing indicated were above the acceptable level were located in the McKay Creek Elementary staff room (27.4 ppb), the Lincoln Primary staff room (41.4 ppb) and the Pendleton High School concession area (24.3 ppb). The district is following its plan for addressing water sources with elevated lead levels. This includes replacement of plumbing and faucets followed by re-testing. Until tests indicate levels are under acceptable limits, the three water sources will not be available to students or staff.

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

Like many schools, Pendleton receives its water from a city water system. Public water systems regularly test and treat water to help reduce corrosion of plumbing. However, lead that is present in pipes and fixtures in building plumbing can enter the water at the tap and expose those who drink it.

"Pendleton School District has complied with Oregon state guidelines to test our water, and we are now working on reducing the level of lead at the initial sites where elevated counts were detected. We will be transparent with our parents, staff and our community as we continue our testing and learn further information. Some state funds may be available in the fall to reimburse school districts who test their drinking water this summer. The cost is currently $25 per sample." said Andy Kovach, Superintendent.

A copy of all the district's initial water testing results can be viewed at the district office, 541-276-6711, 1100 Southgate, Suite 8 and on our district website at www.pendleton.k12.or.us. For questions or more

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

AUG 1 8 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

I've been a teacher for 17 years in the Portland Public schools. I love teaching because of the students. And they deserve to go to a school where they're safe. However, recently my classroom sink and drinking fountain were among the fixtures identified as having high levels of lead. When that news came out, I thought of the faces: my third-grade students; their parents. I emailed families, telling them that I had forbidden drinking from inside our room. Although I didn't know about the lead, I knew the water was the color of strong tea and smelled of metal. I told parents to try not to worry. I am tired of worrying about the safety of students in Oregon. And I know I'm not alone.

Elevated lead levels continue to be discovered all over the state. The students in our schools deserve safe classrooms and voters should not be forced to choose between class size and drinkable water.

This November, we have the opportunity to fund the safe schools our students and our families deserve. Measure 97 asks the largest corporations in the state to pay their fair share. This would generate an estimated $3 billion per year in revenue that, by law, would go to public schools, health care and senior services.

Ultimately, our children's health should not come at the expense of corporate profits. Please join me in voting for Measure 97 this November. 744-7

**LISA KANE**
Southeast Portland

Pendleton, OR
(Umatilla Co.)
East Oregonian
(Circ. D. 7,014)

AUG 1 8 2016

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

# State board adopts lead testing rule

By PARIS ACHEN
*Capital Bureau*

744-7

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

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

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

"What we like about this plan is that part of

See TESTING/8A

# TESTING: Asked Emergency Board to allocate money to pay for costs of testing

Continued from 1A

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

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

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

"You are setting up a framework by which we have assurances at the state level that our schools are taking action in a comprehensive way toward health and safety," said Oregon Chief Education Officer Lindsey Capps. "It's an imperative that every student should be entitled to."

The requirement will entail hundreds of millions of dollars in additional costs to schools in the form of testing, supplying bottle water, mitigation and testing individuals who might have been exposed to high levels of lead, according to the Oregon School Boards Association.

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

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

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

Gov. Brown in April directed the Oregon Department of Education and Oregon Health Authority to review existing requirements for environmental testing and address the problem of lead in drinking water. During the review, health and education officials learned that neither the education department nor the health authority had rules to require schools test for lead.

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

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

The agencies asked schools to test for lead during the summer. Most of the districts have either completed or are in the process of testing, Nazarov said. The agencies recommended that schools identify sources of lead, stop access, communicate results to staff, students, parents and the community and mitigate and repair the problem. **744-7**

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

# IMESD to assist in lead testing

By ANTONIO SIERRA
*East Oregonian*

744-7

The InterMountain Education Service District is taking the lead on lead.

Since elevated levels of lead were announced in Portland Public Schools' water supply earlier this year, IMESD Superintendent Mark Mulvihill said one of the district's top priorities has been to help schools sort out the "alphabet soup" of bureaucracies offering their input on how to protect children from the harmful chemical element.

But the IMESD is going further, offering assistance with testing and a September conference for local superintendents where city and county public works officials will answer technical questions.

The IMESD itself recently released the results from a round of testing, which revealed that all of the district's facilities were well below levels the Environmental Protection Agency says should spur some sort of action.

See LEAD/8A

Pendleton, OR
(Umatilla Co.)
East Oregonian
(Circ. D. 7,014)

AUG 1 8 2016

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

# LEAD: City of Pendleton tests for lead every 3 years

Continued from 1A

Out of the five IMESD facilities, plus several sites tested at the district's Outdoor School, almost all of them had no lead detected in their water.

Not every district had perfect results in their initial rounds of tests.

Both the Pendleton and Athena-Weston school districts recently reported several sites in their schools that showed high levels of lead.

Suzanne Skadowski of the EPA public affairs office said lead is a potent neurotoxin that is especially dangerous to young children.

According to the EPA, even low levels of lead in a child's blood can cause reduced IQ, learning disabilities and behavioral problems. High blood levels can cause coma, convulsions and even death.

"There's no safe level of lead," Skadowski said.

Instead of looking at lead in terms of acceptable levels or limits, the EPA uses a metric called an action level, a threshold that indicates lead levels are high enough to warrant pipe, faucet or some other infrastructural replacement.

The action level for public drinking sources is 15 parts per billion while schools are 20 parts per billion.

The challenge for Oregon schools is that the EPA's action level is a recommendation rather than a regulation. In fact, there are no federal regulations that mandate lead testing in schools. There were no state mandates until Wednesday.

Instead of testing themselves, school districts had relied on the EPA-mandated water quality reports from their home cities to assess lead levels. Skadowski said the EPA has been increasing its outreach to schools to encourage them to test themselves.

Pendleton Public Works Director Bob Patterson said the city's water supply is fairly neutral and non-corrosive, but that can change when it goes through private water systems.

Pendleton regulatory specialist Klaus Hoehna said the city tests for lead every three years and the last test was in 2014.

The city collects 32-35 pint-sized bottles from across the city, targeting homes that have older water systems and are more likely to have elevated lead levels.

According to the 2015 water quality report, 90 percent of Pendleton homes' water sources were 4.5 parts per billion or below, with only one home showing levels above 15.

Hoehna said he sends a notice to all residents that participate in the test, including the residents who have higher lead levels, although he has never received a response.

While cities have been doing water testing for years, schools are just starting to dip their toes into it and might need to retest.

Rich Long, a maintenance employee with the IMESD, said many districts collected their samples during the middle of summer vacation when school facilities are used infrequently.

The EPA recommends testing water sources after they've been unused no longer than 18 hours, meaning some of the test results may show a higher concentration of lead than it should.

Until then, all the faucets and water fountains that showed high lead levels are closed until they can be remedied. **744-7**

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

AUG 1 0 2016

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

# Faucet at Pringle found to have extremely high lead level, copper found in four others

TRACY LOEW 744-7
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Water from a faucet at Salem's Pringle Elementary School has tested for lead at 14,000 parts per billion — more than has been found in any tap in crisis-stricken Flint, Michigan, and nearly three times the level the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency considers to be toxic waste.

A dozen other taps at the school also had high lead levels, ranging from 15 ppb to 1,200 ppb. Four of those taps also had high copper levels.

Across the Salem-Keizer School District, high lead or copper levels have been found in at least one tap at more than a third of the schools tested so far.

"We are surprised by the results," district spokesman Jay Remy said.

There is no safe level of lead, and experts say health effects can occur at levels as low as 5 ppb. The EPA recommends taking action, such shutting off taps or replacing fixtures, at 20 ppb. Most Oregon school districts, including Salem-Keizer, are using a stricter standard of 15 ppb. The EPA classifies levels higher than 5,000 ppb as toxic waste.

The action level for copper is 1.3 parts per million.

All of the affected taps at Pringle have been

See LEAD, Page 2A

## Lead

Continued from Page 1A

taken out of service, Remy said. Further testing will be done to determine whether the problem is with the fixture itself, or with plumbing behind the wall.

Other taps at the school will remain in use, but bottled water will be provided to those with concerns, Remy said.

Lead is especially dangerous to children.

The district has spoken with the Marion County Health Department, which is advising parents with concerns to speak with their own physicians, Remy said.

"I'm assuming parents would consider that, obviously," said Trudie Freed, president of Pringle's parent club. "Especially if they've noticed any effects in their children."

For the most part, Freed said, Pringle parents aren't too concerned.

"I think they have confidence in the school to fix it, and no one's been getting ill or anything that I'm aware of," she said. "It didn't seem like a big deal."

In June, state health and education officials asked all Oregon school districts to test all school taps used for cooking or drinking for lead, in response to the Flint crisis, where the entire community was poisoned by lead in drinking water, and to concerning results found at some Portland schools.

Salem-Keizer began its testing July 14, and finished collecting samples last week.

But it's taking as long as a month to get results, so the status of some schools' taps may not be known before students and staffers return for the new school year.

School begins Sept. 6 for grades 6-9, and Sept. 7 for remaining grades. Classified staff began returning Aug. 1, and teachers return between Aug. 30 and Sept. 1.

So far, the district has received results back from 19 of the 88 schools and administrative buildings it has tested.

Of those, four elementary schools, two middle school and one high school had at least one tap with high lead or copper:

» Pringle Elementary School had 13 tests high for lead, ranging from 15 ppb to 14,000 ppb. The sample with the highest level came from a sink in Room 11. Pringle had three tests that were high in copper, ranging from 1.5 ppm to 7.9 ppm.

» Keizer Elementary School had two tests high for lead. A computer lab sink tested at 15 ppb and a sink in classroom 4 tested at 17 ppb.

» Sumpter Elementary School had four tests high for lead, ranging from 17 ppb to a high of 42 ppb from a drinking fountain in classroom B6.

» Wright Elementary School had six locations high for lead, ranging from 19 ppb to a high of 59 ppb from a sink in room 9.

» Claggett Creek Middle School had one test high for lead. A sink in classroom 100 tested at 20 ppb.

» Crossler Middle School had one test high for lead. A sink in classroom 105 tested at 64 ppb.

» Sprague High School had two tests high for lead. A drinking fountain in the drama room tested at 24 ppb and a drinking fountain in the boys locker room tested at 38 ppb. The fountain in the boys locker room also tested high for copper, at 1.7 ppm.

Lead and copper can leach from pipes and fittings even when the water meets EPA standards at the treatment plant.

Schools that were built after 1985, when Oregon outlawed lead solder in plumbing, are most at risk. Pringle Elementary School opened in 1987. 744-7

*tloew@statesmanjournal.com, 503-399-6779 or follow at Twitter.com/Tracy_Loew*

DANIELLE PETERSON/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Some taps at Pringle Elementary School in South Salem are wrapped in plastic and covered in signs warning users they are off limits after testing revealed high lead levels.

### Online

See the complete testing results on the Salem-Keizer School District web site at http://www.salemkeizer.org/parents/water-testing-information.

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

AUG 1 9 2016

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

744-7

# Results: More lead at schools

## Above-action levels found at six locations

JENNIFER MOODY
Albany Democrat-Herald

Six of Albany's 14 elementary schools now show lead above the action level, according to test results received this week.

The district already had hits at Periwinkle and Waverly elementary schools indicating levels of lead higher than the action level required by the Environmental Protection Agency of 15 parts per billion.

**ONLINE**

Maps of each school with the location of the positive test and the level found will be posted at http://bit.ly/2bxgjzt.

Now, Lafayette, South Shore, Sunrise and Tangent have also come back with positive results in one or more areas. District officials said each fixture with a positive test has been taken out of service until it can be replaced and retested.

Test results aren't complete and none have been received yet from Fir Grove, Clover Ridge, North Albany Elementary or any of the secondary schools, said Russ Allen, the district's business director.

Of the others, only Oak Elementary and Timber Ridge have had testing completed with no positive results. Central, Liberty and Oak Grove aren't finished, although no high lead levels have been found so far.

The district sampled all drinking fountains, classroom sinks and sources for cooking water in all district buildings this July, taking approximately 500 samples.

Maps of each school with the location of the positive test

Please see Lead Page A2

From A1

tion adopted rules requiring school districts and public charter schools to develop Healthy and Safe Facilities Plans that include lead tests, and to report test findings and information on ongoing monitoring to the public within five days of receiving the results.

High School found elevated lead levels in four locations. The district has shut off access to those sources and no others have been found.

Seven of the eight elementary schools in the Corvallis School District tests came out with no lead or just trace amounts. Scio, Harrisburg, Jefferson and Lebanon have not yet reported results.

Central Linn School District adopted rules requiring school districts and public charter schools to develop Healthy and Safe Facilities Plans that include lead tests, and to report test findings and information on ongoing monitoring to the public within five days of receiving the results.

Seven of the eight elementary schools in the Corvallis School District tests came out with no lead or just trace amounts. Scio, Harrisburg, Jefferson and Lebanon have not yet reported results.

shutting off water to those fixtures and posting warning signs until they can be replaced and retested.

Central Linn School District tests came out with no lead or just trace amounts. Scio, Harrisburg, Jefferson and Lebanon have not yet reported results.

be posted on the district's website, http://bit.ly/2bx-gjzt.

School districts began testing lead levels in their drinking water statewide after a scare earlier this year in the Portland school

Scappoose, OR
(Columbia Co.)
The Spotlight
(Circ. W: 3,410)

AUG 19 2016

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

744-7

# RARELY USED FAUCETS IN ST. HELENS SCHOOLS TEST HIGH FOR LEAD

## *Retesting clears one building, plans to replace or cap fixtures in others in place*

By NICOLE THILL
*The Spotlight*

Out of 200 tested in the St. Helens School District, eight rarely used water fixtures in three buildings showed high concentrations of lead in the water, a recently released report from the district shows.

Samples collected from two fixtures in McBride Elementary School, two fixtures in the St. Helens Middle School and four fixtures in the Columbia City Elementary School all showed levels of lead concentrations in the water greater than 15 parts per billion, the acceptable limit set by the Environment Protection Agency.

Several fixtures that tested positive were not regularly in use by students or staff, with the majority of the results coming from faucets that had been previously turned off or left unused for several years. Samples at McBride were later retested and did not show high lead levels. Those fixtures will not be replaced or capped.

Since the test results were made available to the school district within the past two weeks, staff have retested the water at McBride. The second round of testing revealed lower levels of lead below the EPA threshold.

Two different sink fixtures in two rooms in St. Helens Middle School building, classrooms four and seven, which were found to have high levels of lead, will be capped or replaced before the school year begins, said Superintendent Scot Stockwell.

Stockwell explained that the sinks tested at the middle school had not been in use for several years and were turned back on in an effort for the district to be thorough in its tests.

The Columbia City Elementary School, which had four water sources test above 15 ppb in three classrooms and one kitchen sink, is currently not in use by the district as an educational facility.

The district plans to reopen the school in fall 2017 and retesting water sources will be one of many steps the district will take to prepare the building to again house students. The school has been shuttered since 2012 as a

See WATER / Page A6




Two fixtures in the St. Helens Middle School building were shown to have lead levels above 15 parts per billion in the district's most recent round of water quality testing. Plans to replace or cap the fixtures in those two classrooms before school starts in September are in place.

SPOTLIGHT FILE PHOTO

> **"We were not really surprised Columbia City School came in with a few elevated tests because the school has not been in use for a few years."**
> — Scot Stockwell, superintendent

# *Water:* Fixtures will be replaced or capped

From Page A1

result of budget cuts.

"We were not really surprised Columbia City School came in with a few elevated tests because the school has not been in use for a few years. When water sits in the fixtures for extended periods of time is when it becomes contaminated," Stockwell said in an email to the Spotlight. "With opening Columbia City School back up in 2017-18 school year we will make sure all fixtures are within EPA standards."

The St. Helens School District was prompted to test its facilities earlier this year when rising public concern about high concentrations of lead reported in Portland Public Schools intensified in Columbia County. The Scappoose School District performed testing June in its buildings, none of which showed high lead concentrations.

School districts have not been legally required to regularly test drinking water, but may choose to do so on of their own volition.

The Oregon Department of Education passed a regulation this week that would require schools to create a health and safety plan that includes regular water sample testing, something not previously mandated by any state agency.

"I think it is safe to say the St. Helens School District along with the rest of the state will be regularly testing water for levels of lead and other contaminants," Stockwell added.

Prior to testing over the summer, the St. Helens School District last tested water samples in 2008. Previous testing occurred in 2001, 2005, 2006, and 2007.

Based on the results of those tests, which all showed lead levels below the EPA limit, Stockwell said in an email in June the district had "not taken any additional precautions based on our history of testing in the schools."

744-7

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

AUG 19 2016

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

# Oregon to schools: Make lead tests public

TRACY LOEW
STATESMAN JOURNAL

744-7

Oregon schools must publicly report the results of tests for lead and other environmental hazards under rules adopted Wednesday by the State Board of Education.

"Children and families – as well as educators – must be assured of safe and healthy school facilities," Gov. Kate Brown said in a statement.

The new rules require school districts and public charter schools to make test results public within five days of receiving them, and to make public their plan for ongoing monitoring.

They also must submit a preliminary "Healthy and Safe Facilities Plan" to the Oregon Department of Education, by Oct. 1, for each building owned or leased by the district.

A final draft of the plan will be due Jan. 1, 2017, and must be updated each year.

The plans must detail how the district will test for and reduce exposure to elevated levels of radon, lead in water used for drinking or food preparation, and lead paint.

They also must include a plan to implement integrated pest management practices, which reduce the amount of pesticides used.

Oregon health and education officials have urged all schools and childcare programs to test their drinking water for lead this summer. But the state does not have authority to require the tests, and there are no penalties for those who don't comply.

School districts are required to test buildings for radon before Jan. 1, 2021.

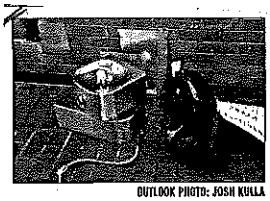
This week, the Salem-Keizer School District reported lead levels in water from a tap at Pringle Elementary School tested at 14,000 parts per billion – higher than any finding in crisis-stricken Flint, Michigan and nearly three times the level the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency considers toxic waste.

So far, more than one-third of the Salem-Keizer schools tested have found at least one tap with high lead

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

AUG 19 2016

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



OUTLOOK PHOTO: JOSH KULLA

Fountains and faucets yielding troublesome results will be repaired and other water sources provided for students and staff in the Reynolds School District.

744-7

# Reynolds schools report high lead levels in 256 samples

## *Education department releases testing guidelines*

By TERESA CARSON
*The Outlook*

Reynolds School District's voluntary initial testing for lead in the water supply found potential problems at 18 of the 20 buildings tested, with one sample at Sweetbriar Elementary School coming in at 140 times the level considered safe.

Of the 606 faucets, drinking fountains and spigots tested in the Reynolds District, 350 passed and 256 had levels of lead higher than federal standards for safety, which is 20 parts per billion. The highest was the 2,790 parts per billion at one source at Sweetbriar. One hundred and four of the samples showed lead levels at 100 parts per billion or more, or five times the safe level, and three samples had over 1,000 parts per billion.

**"Reynolds School District is taking proactive steps to address the water quality in all of our facilities."**

*— Linda Florence, Reynolds School District superintendent*

"Reynolds School District is taking proactive steps to address the water quality in all of our facilities," said district Superintendent Linda Florence in a statement. "Signage and tagging will provide transparency for the water monitoring and maintenance programs."

High levels of lead in the body can cause neurological and learning problems, and children are especially vulnerable. Up until this week, testing was voluntary, but on Wednesday, Aug. 17, the Oregon Department of Education issued rules that appear to require testing for lead in water and paint, along with radon gas testing. The new rules also require timely disclosure.

Salish Ponds Elementary had one sample that was 1,110 parts per billion, and H.B Lee Middle School had a sample that was 1,520 parts per billion.

See LEAD / Page A8

# Lead

From Page A1

Of the schools in the district, Troutdale and Wilkes Elementary schools, Four Corners, Natural Resources Academy East and Walt Morey Middle School had no readings more than 100 parts per billion. All the rest of the schools had at least one faucet or fountain that had readings at least five times more than the permissible 20 parts per billion. At Salish Ponds, 24 of the 35 tests showed more than 100 parts per billion.

Reynolds district is formulating plans to remediate the problems. Any fixture that failed its test will be shut off until the problem is fixed and it passes another lead test. Warning signs will be put up at water sources not intended for drinking — bathroom sinks, showers, spigots in lab classrooms and janitorial closets — and that water will not be retested.

"The fixtures that were never intended for drinking will be labeled as such, and the focus will be on water that is ingested," said district spokeswoman Andrea Watson.

All water used for cooking or drinking will be from fixtures that passed muster or from bottled water. Any school that does not have enough drinking water sources will get 5-gallon water dispensers and cups or refillable water bottles.

This is only the first round of testing done at Reynolds and was done without running the faucets or fountains. The water from the troublesome sources will be retested.

### Filling station time

Reynolds had initially expected the results of the lead testing in June, but did not receive the results until Aug. 10. Complete results can be found on the district's web page at: reynolds.k12.or.us/district/lead-testing-drinking-water. The district is working to inform families by various methods of communication and will translate the messages into the four main languages spoken in the district.

"The district will continue to provide regular updates to parents and staff," Florence said.

The district said it will decommission all porcelain drinking fountains, which are more likely to fail the lead test and harder to repair. "Bubble" fountains in classrooms will either have filtration systems installed or be decommissioned. Break room sinks will have water filtration systems installed.

The district will post signs at all drinking water sources with the lead test results, the dates the testing was done and a repair plan.

The district already had been replacing water fountains with new water-filling stations, which have a traditional fountain and a spigot to fill water bottles. All of these more recently installed water filling stations passed testing. The district has ordered 37 more of the filling stations, but does not know when they will arrive because statewide school-district demand is so high.

Other local districts have had mixed results with testing water for lead. In June 2016, Gresham-Barlow found 26 faucets and water fountains in 10 schools with potentially elevated levels of lead using a 15 parts per billion measure. Another 10 schools had no problematic results. The district is in the process of retesting water in all its school buildings.

Centennial School District tested in March and found no elevated levels of lead in any building.

Schools across the area are testing water supplies for lead after a tsunami of public outcry in Portland when it was reported that Portland Public Schools had found high levels of lead in water in several schools and did not inform parents or staff or shut down the water sources. The controversy eventually led to the resignation of Superintendent Carole Smith in July.

### Symptoms rare

Districts are following guidance from the Environmental Protection Agency for testing the water. That protocol calls for testing drinking water quality in a two-step process that starts with sampling testing lead accumulation in spigots that have not been flushed.

The districts posted information about the water testing for schools on their websites.

Lead poisoning can cause brain damage, lower intelligence, behavior and learning problems and hyperactivity, according to the Oregon Health Authority. Except in severe cases, people rarely have noticeable symptoms and testing the blood is the only way to know if there are problems.

Despite the recent concerns over lead in water, exposure to dust from lead paint is the most common way people come in contact with lead, according to the OHA. Lead has also been found in some children's toys or jewelry.

For information about the health effects of lead and how to check for lead in your home, visit the Multnomah County Health Department's website: www.leadline.org. If you have questions, call the Multnomah County Lead Hotline at 503-988-4000, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or email leadline@multco.us.

**REYNOLDS SCHOOL DISTRICT LEAD TEST RESULTS**

| SCHOOL | PASS | FAILED | HIGHEST |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alder Elementary | 15 | 19 | 901 |
| Davis Elementary | 11 | 23 | 623 |
| Fairview Elementary | 23 | 11 | 228 |
| Glenfair Elementary | 13 | 16 | 311 |
| Hartley Elementary | 14 | 22 | 546 |
| Salish Elementary | 5 | 30 | 1110 |
| Margaret Scott Elementary | 2 | 8 | 195 |
| Sweetbriar Elementary | 12 | 16 | 2790 |
| Troutdale Elementary | 21 | 10 | 80 |
| Wilkes Elementary | 22 | 7 | 96 |
| Woodland Elementary | 10 | 20 | 533 |
| HB Lee Middle | 36 | 13 | 1520 |
| Reynolds Middle | 40 | 23 | 663 |
| Walter Morey Middle | 24 | 6 | 76 |
| Reynolds High | 59 | 9 | 756 |
| Reynolds Learning Academy West | 19 | 8 | 704 |
| Reynolds Learning Academy East | 11 | 3 | 40 |
| Four Corners | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Natural Resources Academy East | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Administration Building | 8 | 3 | 141 |

GRAPHIC BY JOSH BRADLEY

**Reynolds tested water sources in all district buildings and the first column in the chart shows how many spigots passed with less than the federal standard of 20 parts per billion of lead in the water. The second column shows how many water sources had more than 20 parts per billion of lead. The third column shows the highest reading in each building.**

744-7

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

AUG 20 2016

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

# Officials warn against eating produce from Portland school gardens

By Betsy Hammond
*The Oregonian/OregonLive*

Portland Public Schools warned employees and families Friday not to eat produce from any school garden, citing guidance from the Oregon Health Authority.

Fruits and vegetables grown on school grounds and watered with water from a school district spigot could contain dangerous levels of lead, according to Courtney Westling, the district's interim chief of community involvement and public affairs.

According to the Oregon Health Authority, lead can be absorbed by plants and accumulate in soil, so water containing lead above 15 parts per billion should not be used for watering garden plants. Lead from flaking lead paint as well as from lead-contaminated water can find a pathway into garden produce.

Portland Public Schools completed water quality tests at every school fountain and fixture this summer and found excessive lead in at least one water source, and more often at dozens o water fountains and sinks at all 88 schools sampled At numerous schools, som of the highest lead reading were found at outdoor spig ots.

It is fine to wash dishe or launder clothes in wate containing more than 1 parts per billion of lead. Bu contaminated water shoul not be consumed, give to pets, used to wash foo or used to grow food, th health authority says.

Oregon Health Authorit hasn't tested any soil or veg etables at any school garde and didn't specifically te Portland or any school dis trict to tell people not to e produce grown in garden at school where lead te results exceeded 15 par per billion, said spokesma Tony Anderson. He said h agency supports commu nity gardens.

The most dangerous way for humans to interact wit lead is to breathe in tiny pa ticles of it and for childre younger than seven to swa low or breathe it.

•

*betsyhammond@oregonian.co*

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

AUG 21 2016

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

**Our Viewpoint**

# Get lead out of school water

Lead contamination from one school faucet in the Salem-Keizer School District was worse than in Flint, Michigan — the city whose lead-tainted water launched a national outcry.

Salem-Keizer's startling finding at Pringle Elementary School illustrates the pervasiveness, and the danger, of lead in water. **744-7**

"Even low levels of lead in the blood of children can result in behavior and learning problems, lower IQ and hyperactivity, slowed growth, hearing problems (and) anemia," according to the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

This matters because there is no known "safe" level of lead. The metal, which in recent decades has been banned from many common uses, can accumulate in the body over time, causing cardiovascular, reproductive and other health problems for adults.

**Online**

To check results from the Salem-Keizer School District's testing program, go to salemkeizer.org/parents/water-testing-information.

Salem-Keizer is taking the right action this summer by testing its water taps for lead and other contaminants, and by posting the results for the public to see.

That is in contrast to the Portland Public Schools, where the lead-in-water controversy spurred the resignation last month of Superintendent Carole Smith. Questions about lead run so deep that people have been advised not to eat produce grown in Portland's school gardens because high levels of lead were found in some faucets that might have been used for watering.

Oregon has been deficient in requiring regular testing of school water for contaminants. That must change.

In recent years, a significant number of public water systems in Oregon have exceeded the recommended limits for lead. But the even greater concern is the water becoming contaminated from old, lead pipes in schools and other buildings.

Until the public health crisis developed in Flint, officials in Oregon and elsewhere were slow to recognize the localized potential for lead contamination.

The Salem-Keizer School District, which so far has found isolated problems with lead or copper contamination in more than a third of its schools, is doing its part.

Meanwhile, the state Board of Education last week required districts to publicly disclose the results of contamination tests.

But the Oregon Legislature needs to act. Lawmakers should be researching the best practices of other states, adapting them for Oregon and preparing a thorough, effective lead contamination testing, remediation and regulation program for adoption in the 2017 Legislature.

## **Water:** Bethel District paying about $10,000 for tests

*Continued from Page B1*

leaching from lead solder that was used to seal pipe joints or from lead in older metal water lines. Constructed in 1955, Cascade Middle is one of the oldest schools in the west Eugene district, McGillivray said.

This spring, the Bethel district hired PBS Engineering + Environmental of Eugene to complete comprehensive lead testing at all district buildings. The project will cost the district about $10,000, McGillivray said.

The Eugene district also hired PBS Engineering + Environmental to conduct its testing, which is now estimated to cost the district about $125,000. The Springfield district hired Analytical Laboratory Group of Eugene to perform its districtwide testing, which cost the district about $3,000, officials said.

Earlier this summer, the Oregon Department of Education and Oregon Health Authority announced a plan to encourage school districts to conduct comprehensive testing prior to school resuming this fall.

The state's plan is a recommendation, not an order, and does not include any state money to help cover costs. The plan, ordered by Gov. Kate Brown in April, comes on the heels of belated disclosures about lead in the drinking water of some Portland public schools.

— **744-7**

*Follow Alisha on Twitter @alisharoemeling. Email alisha.roemeling@registerguard.com.*

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

AUG 20 2016

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

# Tests find more lead at Bethel school

*Elevated levels of the metal are found in 18 of 146 sites at Willamette High School*
**744-7**

By Alisha Roemeling
*The Register-Guard*

Several more fountains and sinks at Willamette High School have been found to have elevated levels of lead in their water after initial testing was completed earlier this summer.

Bethel School District spokesman Pat McGillivray said 18 of 146 sites tested at the high school reached or exceeded the federal Environmental Protection Agency's standard for "safe" amounts of lead in drinking water, which is 20 parts per billion, or ppb.

A sink in a media center storage room was found to have the highest lead levels present at the high school: 85 ppb.

Classroom 42, which is also a home economics room, showed 75 ppb. Three sinks in Classroom 43, also a home economics room, reached 42 ppb, 47 ppb and 25 ppb.

In the girls coaches' office, in the west gym, a fountain reached 63 ppb.

In the athletic director's office in the west gym, a sink reached 50 ppb. A fountain in the upper level east gym reached 42 ppb.

A sink in the food service center showed 41 ppb. In Classroom 12, a sink showed 28 ppb.

Two sinks in Classroom 40 had slightly elevated levels at 21 ppb and 26 ppb.

In classroom 41, lead levels in a sink on the south wall had lead levels of 32 ppb. A drinking fountain inside the south stage entrance had 27 ppb, a storage room in the band room showed 22 ppb, and a hallway fountain outside Classroom 44 reached 24 ppb.

A work room sink in the media center barely reached elevated levels at 20 ppb, and a drinking fountain in the girls locker room of the west gym reached 24 ppb.

McGillivray said all 18 water sources were retested after a five-minute flush; those results have not yet been given to the district. Often, flushing reduces the lead level.

Water has been shut off to all sources that showed elevated lead. The second test results will determine whether the district will replace the fixtures, McGillivray said.

Lead testing was also completed at Malabon Elementary School, which opened in September. Tests completed on 68 water sources showed no elevated lead.

Lead typically gets into a drinking water supply by

*Turn to* **WATER**, *Page B2*

Portland, OR
(Multnomah Co.)
Portland Tribune
(Circ. 2xW. 120,000)

AUG 3 3 2016

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

# School official apologizes for mistakes over lead

*Safe water steps, repainting to be in place before school starts*

By SHASTA KEARNS MOORE
*The Tribune*

A top Portland Public Schools official uttered the "s" word in a public meeting on Tuesday.

No, not that one.

"We just fundamentally made some mistakes and we're sorry about it," said Courtney Wilton, PPS' interim executive director of operations, at the Aug. 17 board meeting. "We blew it to a certain degree and we need to do a better job."

Wilton's public apology may signal a change in tone from former Superintendent Carole Smith's June 2 statement that "mistakes were made." Smith made the remarks in an announcement to put Chief Operating Officer Tony Magliano and Environmental Health & Safety Manager Andy Fridley on paid administrative leave.

More than two months later, Magliano and Fridley are still on administrative leave.

"Our focus has been on addressing the health and safety concerns Stoll Berne laid out in their report," said PPS spokeswoman Courtney Westling. "We will be making a decision on the personnel matter in the next two weeks."


WILTON

Wilton, Magliano's interim replacement, presented a report to the board of the lead and copper testing of the district's 11,000 fixtures. The total cost of testing was nearly double early estimates, ringing up $985,310 for sampling and analysis.

"I'm glad we did it," Wilton said. "It's a good reality check on the condition of our plumbing."

While results are pending for the second round of tests, the first-round figures on water that sat overnight in the pipes are not good.

Nearly every school in the district had a fixture with lead or copper over the federally acceptable limits. Twelve percent of drinking fountains and nearly 40 percent of the rest of the fixtures had more than 15 parts per billion of lead.


TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

**A child at Marysville School in Southeast Portland uses a drinking fountain. Access to drinking water sources has been replaced with bottled water in Portland Public Schools as early results show 12 percent of district fountains have high levels of lead.**

"That is absolutely of concern," Wilton said, noting that 243 drinking fountains across the district tested high.

"The acceptable limit on that is zero."

For the start of school, Aug. 29, all drinking fountains in the district's 80 schools will be blocked from use, with 5-gallon water dispensers nearby instead. Signs are to be placed on cold water fixtures advising against drinking the water, and food will come to the district kitchens pre-washed.

Wilton said even though approximately 85 percent of the drinking fountains did test within acceptable limits, the district still wants to proceed with caution, first developing a communications strategy and completing an independent third-party review.

"We don't want to rush out and put anything back in service and have any kind of mistake or regret later," he said.

### 'It's not really their fault'

The district is also on-track to repaint 40 schools this summer, an effort to reduce the possibility of old lead-based paint dust or chips contaminating schools.

"We've done more this summer ... than we have over the last 20 years, basically," Wilton said, noting that there are certainly unmet maintenance needs. "I don't believe there's anything out there that's dangerous, but it's not something to be taken lightly."

Interim CEO Yousef Awwad — who is leading the district until an agreement can be reached with Bob McKean, the district's finalist for interim superintendent — echoed earlier comments from Smith that the lack of maintenance was a known sacrifice. During the Great Recession, the superintendent and the board prioritized funding teacher-student interaction.

Awwad said in a recent review of budgets, he found that the funding on maintenance was probably cut by about 50 percent during the recession.

For that reason, Awwad said, he didn't blame staff.

"It's not really their fault," he said. "We have failed as a system."

Under Awwad and Wilton, the office of Environmental Health & Safety has moved into the department of Risk Assessment, rather than Facilities & Asset Management.

John Burnham, interim senior director of Environmental Health & Safety, said the best way to run such a program would be to prioritize tasks on the basis of probability or severity of risk.

Board member Steve Buel seemed to agree.

"We're short-handed, there's no question, but we should be prioritizing things," Buel said. "I don't really think we were doing a good job of that before."

Portland, OR
(Multnomah Co.)
Portland Tribune
(Circ. 2xW. 120,000)

AUG 3 3 2016

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

# Board adopts lead testing rule for schools

*State districts must make results public within five days*

By PARIS ACHEN
*Capital Bureau*

SUBLIMITY — The Oregon Board of Education adopted a new rule Wednesday, Aug. 17, that for the first time requires school districts to test for lead in water at district-owned buildings and report those results to the public.

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

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


BROWN

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

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

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

"You are setting up a framework by which we have assurances at the state level that our schools are taking action in a comprehensive way toward health and safety," said Oregon Chief Education Officer Lindsey Capps. "It's an imperative that every student should be entitled to."

The requirement will entail hundreds of millions of dollars in additional costs to schools in the form of testing, supplying bottled water, mitigation and testing individuals who might have been exposed to high levels of lead, according to the Oregon School Boards Association.

Portland Public Schools

See SAFE / Page 10

From page 8

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

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

Legislative leadership has asked the Emergency Board to allocate money in September to pay for costs of testing but not mitigation, Nazarov of ODE said. The Legislative Fiscal Office is working on a proposal to present to the Emergency Board on Sept. 23, according to school advocates. Legislative Fiscal Officer Ken Rocco was not immediately available Wednesday, Aug. 17, to provide that number.

In April, Brown directed the Oregon Department of Education and Oregon Health Authority to review existing requirements for environmental testing and address the problem of lead in drinking water. During the review, health and education officials learned that neither the education department nor the health authority had rules to require schools to test for lead.

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

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

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

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

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

AUG 2 3 2016

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

# Getting the lead out

*How to reduce exposure: Let the tap run for a while*

Fresh findings of high levels of lead in some sinks and drinking fountains in local schools offer cause for concern that lead contamination is more widespread than suspected. Other public buildings, places of employment and private homes are just as likely as schools to have lead contamination problems. The nation has made great progress in reducing lead poisoning, but there is no safe level of exposure, so the effort must continue — and public education should be its first element. **744-7**

In Eugene, lead contamination occurs not in water mains, but in buildings. Plumbing installed before 1986 is likely to contain pipes that have been joined or sealed with solder containing lead, which can leach into water.

Water that sits in contact with lead solder, or with the lead in some brass fixtures, for long periods will have higher levels of contamination. The day's first glass of water in a house with old plumbing, or the first sample tested in a school toward the end of summer vacation, will contain more lead than the second. In any building that is more than 30 years old, water for drinking or cooking should come from a tap that has been allowed to run until the water is cold.

Over time, plumbing that contains lead will need to be replaced — with buildings serving children and pregnant women being the top priority. That can't be done overnight. In the meantime, exposure can be greatly reduced by drinking water that comes into contact with lead for seconds, rather than for hours or days.

Klamath Falls, OR
(Klamath Co.)
Klamath Falls Herald News
(Circ. D. 13,119)
AUG 2 3 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

744-7

# School lead and copper testing complete

## Results in 'safe zone'

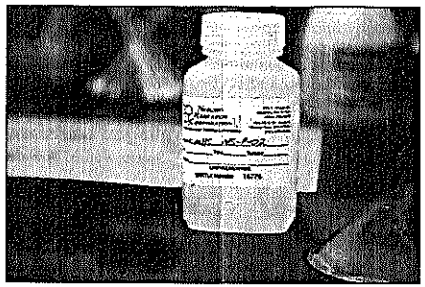
By COURTNEY ANDERSON
H&N Staff Reporter

Throughout the summer, the Klamath county and city schools districts tested schools' and facilities' water for lead and copper — and found that both districts have safe levels of the elements.

After the discovery of high lead levels in several Portland Public Schools' drinking water, school districts across the state began testing their water, something not required by law.

Klamath Falls City Schools District received the rest of their test results two weeks ago.

"We came out really low with lead in our water," KFCS Superintendent Paul Hillyer said. "We were very encouraged by that because we really didn't know, we've never had to test before."



H&N FILE PHOTO BY KEVIN N. HUME

A water sample from Mazama High School was taken June 15. It was destined for Neilson Research Corporation water testing laboratory to test for lead and copper levels.

### THE NUMBERS

There are a couple of ways to measure lead and copper levels.

KFCS measured through Spring Street Analytical and Neilson Research Corporation with parts per million (ppm). Generally, if lead levels are .015 or above the EPA requires schools to repair or replace faucets or plumbing. Copper's EPA limit is 1.3 ppm.

The highest lead content found in the city schools was in Conger Elementary at .0079 ppm, with the lowest lead content at Mills Elementary with .000805 ppm.

The highest copper content was at Conger Elementary with 0.106 ppm, and the lowest at Mills Elementary with .00182 ppm.

"Whether it's air quality or asbestos abatement or whatever it is that we need to do, we are really conscientious about doing that and trying to be as proactive as possible and not waiting until there is a problem to start remediating it," Hillyer said.

KCSD measured the elements with parts per billion (ppb). The EPA requires schools to repair or replace faucets or plumbing if lead levels are 15 ppb or above. The EPA's limit for copper is 1,300 ppb.

The county school district's highest was a Gilchrist custodial drinking fountain at 14.4 ppb. Chiloquin Elementary had the lowest lead level, with a staff room sink coming in at .145 ppb.

The KCSD will release the lead and copper results this week of Gearhart School in Bly, and their future district building on Greensprings Drive.

In the next three years, the KCSD plans on replacing all faucets and fountain fixtures in its schools.

"Regardless of our test results we're still going to move ahead because as the faucets and sinks and drinking fountains get older, then you're more apt at having a problem," KCSD Superintendent Greg Thede said. "So we want to be ahead of the game on that."

### ONGOING CASE

Recently Oregon approved new rules for schools to state their plans on lead testing.

Those plans are called the "Healthy and Safe School Plans," which can require radon testing and pest management plans because it's backed by law, according to Oregon Public Broadcasting.

However, they can not require lead testing for the drinking water because Oregon law does not cover it. The State Board of Education can not require school districts to test for lead, but can encourage districts to test by having them provide their policy.

Both Klamath County and city schools district plan to follow the Healthy and Safe School Plans template to be provided by the state.

"Once we get that," Thede said, "we'll put our plan together and get it submitted."

Districts drafts are due to local school boards by Oct. 1, 2016, with the final version due by Jan.1, 2017.

*canderson@heraldandnews.com*
*on Twitter @CAndersonHN*

Dallas, OR
(Polk Co.)
Polk County Itemizer Observer
(Cir. W. 5,098)
AUG 2 4 2016
Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

744-7

# Perrydale to replace one faucet after lead testing

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

PERRYDALE — Lead testing at Perrydale School found one classroom faucet that needs further testing or repair due to high levels detected.

The school conducted eight tests at the school on July 20 and received the results on Aug. 9.

In a letter sent to parents on Thursday, Perrydale Superintendent Eric Milburn noted that at this time, lead testing is not required of schools. (See related story page, 14A)

"However, some school districts in other locations have found that water samples from their drinking water fixtures have contained relatively high levels of lead," Milburn wrote. "Because of this information, Perrydale School District decided that testing would be in the best interests of the children, parents, faculty, and other citizens served by our district."

The tests included: the FFA sink, the high school drinking fountain, the old gym kitchen sink, the old gym fountain, elementary hallway fountain, kindergarten modular, elementary school room six, and the middle school drinking fountain.

The Environmental Protection Agency recommends schools take action at .020 parts per million — also listed as 20 parts per billion. The only test to exceed that level was in room six at the elementary school. It tested at .0227 parts per million.

The sink has been disconnected and will not be used until further testing concludes the tap is within acceptable levels for or repair has been completed to fix the problem.

"It is the intention of the district to have a second sample drawn and have the results analyzed before school starts," Milburn said.

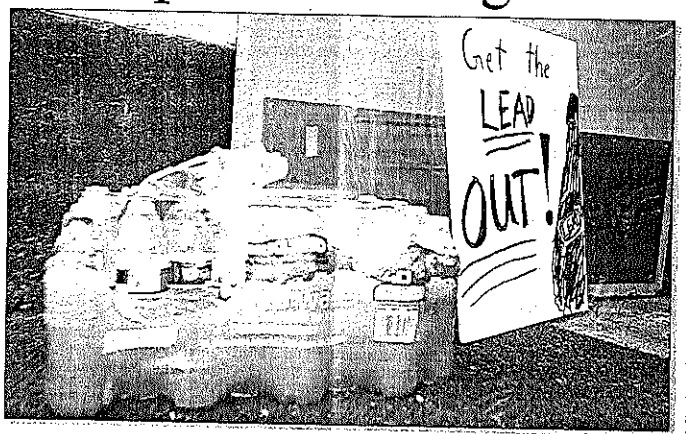
To see full test results, go to www.perrydale.k12.or.us or go to the school's office during business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Newberg, OR
(Yamhill Co.)
Newberg Graphic
(Circ. W. 4,960)
AUG 24 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

# State board adopts lead testing rule for schools

*Rule requires school districts to submit a preliminary plan for lead and radon testing by Oct. 1*

BY PARIS ACHEN
*Pamplin Media Group reporter*



PAMPLIN MEDIA GROUP FILE PHOTO
Portland schools replaced drinking fountains with bottled water this year after the discovery of high levels of lead in water at several buildings

SUBLIMITY — The Oregon Board of Education adopted a new rule Aug. 17 that for the first time requires schools districts to test for lead in water at district owned buildings and report those results to the public.

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

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

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

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

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

"You are setting up a framework by which we have assurances at the state level that our schools are taking action in a comprehensive way toward health and safety," said Oregon Chief Education Officer Lindsey Capps. "It's an imperative that every student should be entitled to."

**"You are setting up a framework by which we have assurances at the state level that our schools are taking action in a comprehensive way toward health and safety."**
**— Oregon Chief Education Officer Lindsey Capps**

The requirement will entail hundreds of millions of dollars in additional costs to schools in the form of testing, supplying bottled water, mitigation and testing individuals who might have been exposed to high levels of lead, according to the Oregon School Boards Association.

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

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

Legislative leadership has asked the Emergency Board to allocate money in September to pay for costs of testing but not mitigation, Nazarov said. The Legislative Fiscal Office is working on a proposal to present to the Emergency Board Sept. 23, according to school advocates.

Brown in April directed the Oregon Department of Education and Oregon Health Authority to review existing requirements for environmental testing and address the problem of lead in drinking water. During the review, health and education officials learned that neither the education department nor the health authority had rules to require schools test for lead.

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

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

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

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

Klamath Falls, OR
(Klamath Co.)
Klamath Falls Herald News
(Circ. D. 13,119)
AUG 24 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

# Final tests continue to show drinking water is safe in schools

## Klamath County School District finishes tests for lead, copper

The Klamath County School District finished its tests on lead and copper levels in its schools' drinking water this summer. All results were well within the safety levels from the Environmental Protection Agency, according to a news release from the district.

The last two buildings' reports to come back – Gearhart Elementary and the new district office on Greensprings Drive – were also within safe levels. The district's full report is available with this story at heraldandnews.com.

Though the EPA prescribes a 15 parts per billion limit on lead levels in drinking water, Neilson Research Corporation, which completed the tests for the KCSD, said the limit in this size sample is 20 ppb. Water levels did not exceed either the 15 ppb or the 20 ppb limits. 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.

The limit for copper is much higher, at 1,300 ppb.

Previously, the district tested water at Shasta, Stearns, Peterson, Ferguson, Chiloquin, Merrill, Malin and Keno elementaries, Brixner Junior High, Henley Elementary, middle and high schools, Falcon Heights Academy and Great Basin Home School, Bonanza Schools, Mazama High School, Lost River Jr./Sr. High School, Chiloquin Jr./Sr. High School, Gilchrist Schools and the district office on Washburn Way.

Even though all the tests came back within the safe zone, the district plans to replace all drinking water faucets and fixtures over the next three years, ensuring water stays safe for students.

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

AUG 25 2016

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

# Lead test costs high

## State mandate may not come with money

744-7

By EDWARD STRATTON
*The Daily Astorian*

As the deadline nears for school districts to turn in plans to test for lead and radon, local administrators understand the need but worry about the costs.

The state Board of Education this month voted to require school districts to test for lead and radon. The vote came after scandals in Portland Public Schools over contaminated drinking water balloned into a statewide issue. School districts have to turn in preliminary plans to test for lead and radon into the state by October, with final plans due by January.

"We want to ensure that our water and air are going to be safe for students," Superintendent Mark Jeffery of the Warrenton-Hammond School District said of the new requirements. "It would have been lovely if they would have come forward with some funding."

Mark Jeffery

Paulette Johnson

Jeffery said he is hopeful funding for testing will be forthcoming. The city of Warrenton tested the district's water at no charge, but Jeffery said he doesn't know how far that arrangement will go.

School advocates have said the Legislative Fiscal Office is working on a funding proposal to present to the state's Emergency Board in September.

The costs of testing and mitigating problems are largely unknown. The state School Boards Association has said testing and fixing problems could costs districts hundreds of millions of dollars statewide.

New Knappa Superintendent Paulette Johnson said her district spent about $400 on testing throughout its schools. The results came back Tuesday, with only one lightly used fountain shut down.

"We have to keep our kids safe," Johnson said. "If that takes testing, I'm OK with that. I'll put it in the budget."

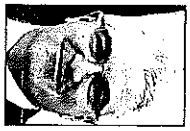
Astoria and Seaside schools have also received results back from lead testing. Astoria shut off two fountains at

See LEAD TEST, Page 10A

# Lead test: Astoria is still trying to determine the source of its issues

Continued from Page 1A

Astoria High School after finding above-benchmark amounts of lead. Seaside found above-benchmark lead levels coming from a hose in a boiler room and a sink in a concession stand. Jeffery said Warrenton is still waiting on the results from the city.



Craig Hoppes

Astoria Superintendent Craig Hoppes said recent lead testing cost his district maybe $200 to $300, with the city doing some of the work. It ends up costing thousands, Hoppes said, then he will knock on some legislators' doors.

"We have a responsibility to make sure kids are safe when they're in school," Hoppes said.

One striking result Hoppes said he learned is how bad lead is in homes compared to schools.

"It's warranted, obviously, because it's popping up all over the state," Jeffery said of the new requirements, adding there might be a difference between what is warranted and what is funded by the state.

Johnson said she's not holding her breath for the state to fund testing.

Water fixtures have often been the culprit of high lead readings. Hoppes said Astoria is still trying to determine the source of its issues. Johnson said Knappa's issues probably come from the taps. Jeffery said hopefully the issue will make manufacturers more cognizant of what they put in parts. 744-7

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

AUG 25 2016

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

# Lead testing comes with a cost bite

*The price tags for school drinking water tests increase with Eugene paying five times more than estimated*

744-7

By ALISHA ROEMELING
*The Register-Guard*

Testing for lead in the water throughout the Bethel, Eugene and Springfield school districts is either wrapping up or has been completed, but the comprehensive projects are coming with much higher price tags than originally anticipated.

The Eugene district will pay at least five times more than its original estimate of $25,000 after testing all fountains, sinks, bubblers and other potential drinking water sources at 42 schools and the Education Center, district spokeswoman Kerry Delf said.

The district will pay at least $125,000 to Eugene-based PBS Engineering and Environmental Inc. for conducting the initial testing on about 3,000 individual faucets. The bill will be paid out of the district's general fund, Delf said.

"The initial estimate was based on a much narrower number of sites," Delf said. "Then we expanded the testing to every tap, not just fountains, because we realized students were getting water from a variety of places, and that increased the cost significantly."

However, the new estimate will likely increase yet again as testing results continue to roll in, and as the district then retests any sources that are determined to have elevated lead levels to ensure it's not a widespread issue within any school's piping, Delf said.

Each test costs between $25 and $30, and the district anticipates there will be several follow-up tests after receiving results from the first round.

The $125,000 estimate does not include replacement of any fixtures. The district doesn't yet have an accurate idea of how much it will need to spend on replacing fixtures and associated labor, Delf said.

The district has received about one-third of its test results, so fixture replacement work and testing may take place during the school year, Delf said.

"If there are any locations where results have not been received by the start of school, (bottled) drinking water will be offered" to students and staff, Delf said.

### Bethel district

The Bethel district in west Eugene expects to pay about $25,000 to PBS Engineering and Environmental for testing

Turn to LEAD, Page B2

# Lead: Bethel tested 850 fixtures across school district

Continued from Page B1

all potential drinking water sources at every district building, spokesman Pat McGillivray said.

That's more than double the original estimate of $10,000.

"Before we started the tests, we didn't know exactly how many water sources were in our schools," McGillivray said in explaining the jump in cost.

The increased estimate does not include replacement of any fixtures, McGillivray said. The district does not have a cost estimate, but most or all of the work will be done in-house by the district's plumber, he said.

About 850 fixtures were tested across the district, including each sink tap and drinking fountain bubbler fixture, and that significantly added to the number of sources that were sampled, McGillivray said.

"We think it's important not to leave any doubt about any of the fixtures," he said.

Of the 841 fixtures tested across the Bethel district, only 40 were found to have elevated levels of lead, according to McGillivray.

### Springfield district

In the Springfield district, six classrooms in the west wing at Page Elementary were found to have higher-than-safe levels of lead in their classroom sinks and drinking fountains. As a result, Page Elementary's underground water system is being replaced above ground with all new pipes, fittings and fixtures.

The entire replumbing project will cost the district $95,000, with funds to pay for the project coming from the district's emergency fund, said Brett Yancey, chief operations officer.

Before discovering the widespread lead issues at Page, the district anticipated paying only about $3,000 to complete water testing.

### Strategic sampling

In the Springfield district, spokeswoman Jen McCulley said the cost of testing was significantly lower than in Bethel and Eugene because the method of testing was slightly different.

"We update our fixtures often, so individual faucets and fountains aren't really our worry," McCulley said. "We were more concerned with systemwide problems, which were identified with the method we used."

Analytical Laboratory Group tested each school's water system by taking a sample of the water coming into the building and taking a few other samples from various pipes within each building and comparing the results, according to McCulley.

"They took strategic sampling at the furthest point and where the pipes branch off so they were able to say the system is free of lead," McCulley said. "For any results that came back concerning, we went in and tested individual faucets to determine what area of the school was affected, like at Page. We were able to narrow it down to just the west wing."

The pipe replacement work at Page is to be completed before the school year commences on Sept. 7, school officials have said.

### Federal standards

The standard for acceptable amounts of lead in drinking water is 20 PPB. Anything above that is considered elevated, according to the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

Of all the test results reported so far in the three school districts, the highest lead level was found at Bethel's Cascade Middle School, where a sink in the south exam room of the school's community health center showed a lead level of 2,450 PPB after a first draw. Another sink in a west storage room of the school's main hall also showed extremely high lead levels at 1,250 PPB.

Before Cascade's results were released, the old Roosevelt Middle School in the Eugene School District had the highest level of lead found in a water source — a drinking fountain in a computer lab reached 866 PPB. The school has since been demolished, with a new Roosevelt Middle rising just west of the old one.

Nearly final test results from the Bethel district were released Tuesday, and showed that one InstaHot water dispenser in a staff work room at Prairie Mountain had elevated levels of lead present, reaching 33 PPB. The dispenser was replaced, McGillivray said. The district is still testing water sources in the Willamette High kitchen and at ice machines throughout the district.

744-7

*Follow Alisha on Twitter @alisharoemeling. Email alisha.roemeling@registerguard.com.*

### GETTING THE LEAD OUT

**Results of testing for lead in water at schools in the three districts in Eugene and Springfield**

**NO ELEVATED LEVELS**

**Bethel:** Fairfield Elementary, Malabon Elementary, District Office, Transportation Shop at Willamette High, Danebo Elementary, Kalapuya High, Meadow View

**Eugene:** Cal Young Middle, Edison Elementary, Holt Elementary, Madison Middle, district Facilities Department, district Transportation Department

**Springfield:** Centennial Elementary, Douglas Gardens Elementary, Guy Lee Elementary, Maple Elementary, Mount Vernon Elementary, Ridgeview Elementary, Riverbend Elementary, Thurston Elementary, Two Rivers-Dos Rios Elementary, Walterville Elementary, Yolanda Elementary, Agnes Stewart Middle, Briggs Middle, Hamlin Middle, Thurston Middle, Academy of Arts and Academics, Gateways High, Springfield High, Thurston High

**ELEVATED LEVELS**

**Bethel:** Willamette High, Irving Elementary, Clear Lake Elementary, district Maintenance Shop; Cascade Middle, Shasta Middle, Prairie Mountain

**Eugene:** Roosevelt Middle (old), Charlemagne Elementary, Gilham Elementary, Howard Elementary (old), Kelly Middle, River Road/El Camino Del Rio Elementary, Spencer Butte Middle, Spring Creek Elementary, Yujin Gakuen/Corridor Elementary

**Springfield:** Page Elementary, Brattain Early Learning Center

**RESULTS NOT YET AVAILABLE**

**Bethel:** Willamette High kitchen, districtwide ice machines

**Eugene:** Adams Elementary, Bailey Hill Elementary, Arts & Technology Academy, Buena Vista Elementary, Camas Ridge Elementary, Churchill High, Cesar Chavez Elementary, Coburg Community Charter, Edgewood Elementary, Family School, Fox Hollow site, Howard Elementary (new), Kennedy Middle, McCornack Elementary, Monroe Middle, North Eugene High, Pathfinder Academy, Roosevelt Middle (new), Sheldon High, South Eugene High, Twin Oaks Elementary, Willagillespie Elementary

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

AUG 25 2016

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

SALEM-KEIZER DISTRICT

# McNary High tap tests high for lead

## Level in water was 50 times above stricter standard

TRACY LOEW 744-7
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Water from a classroom sink at McNary High School contains lead at 800 parts per billion – more than 50 times higher than the Salem-Keizer School District's "action level."

The district found lead in at least one tap in five additional schools over the past week, bringing the total to 13 of 25 schools where testing has been completed.

In June, state health and education officials asked Oregon school districts to test all taps used for cooking or drinking, in response to the Flint crisis, where the entire community was poisoned by lead in drinking water, and to concerning results found at some Portland schools.

There is no safe level of lead, and experts say health effects can occur at levels as low as 5 ppb. The EPA recommends taking action, such shutting off taps or replacing fixtures, at 20 parts per billion. Most Oregon school districts, including Salem-Keizer, are using a stricter standard of 15 ppb.

The Salem-Keizer School District finished collecting samples from taps at all 88 schools and administrative buildings on Aug. 13. The district also is testing for copper levels.

So far, it has results back for just over a quarter of those.

The highest level found so far was at Pringle Elementary, which had 13 taps high in lead, one of them at 14,000 parts per billion, a level the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency considers toxic waste. Pringle had three other extremely high results, at 1,200 ppb, 900 ppb and 800 ppb.

Salem-Keizer schools that have received their results with all taps under the action levels of 15 ppb for lead or 1.3 ppm for copper are:

» Brush College Elementary School
» Bush Elementary School
» Candalaria Elementary School
» Harritt Elementary School
» Kalapuya Elementary School
» Miller Elementary School
» Morningside Elementary School
» Weddle Elementary School
» Houck Middle School

See LEAD, Page 2A

# Lead

Continued from Page 1A

» Parrish Middle School (four taps were not sampled because they were out of service)
» Stephens Middle School (three taps were not sampled because they were out of service)
» Whiteaker Middle School (four taps were not sampled because they were out of service)

Schools that have received results with at least one tap high for lead or copper are:

» Auburn Elementary School
» Chavez Elementary School
» Forest Ridge Elementary School
» Keizer Elementary School
» Pringle Elementary School
» Sumpter Elementary School
» Wright Elementary School
» Claggett Creek Middle School
» Crossler Middle School
» Judson Middle School
» McKay High School
» McNary High School
» Sprague High School

The district has shut off water to all of the taps with high lead levels. Analyses of additional samples taken after water was allowed to flow through fixtures for 30-60 seconds will help determine whether the problem lies with the fixture itself or the plumbing behind it.

None of those second-sample results are back yet, district spokesman Jay Remy said.

Test results are being posted as they are received on the district's web site at www.salem-keizer.org/parents/ water-testing- information.

*tloew@statesmanjournal.com, 503-399-6779 or follow at Twitter.com/Tracy_Loew*

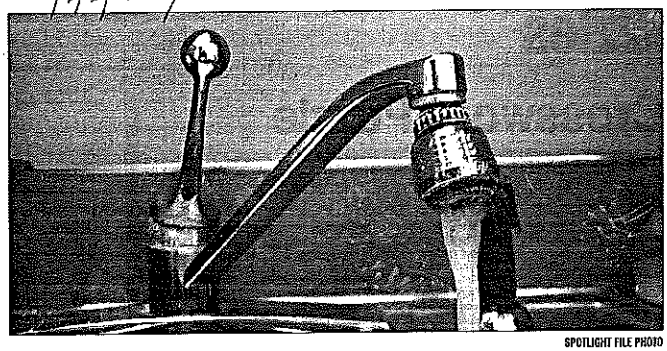
744-7

Scappoose, OR
(Columbia Co.)
The Spotlight
(Circ. W. 3,410)

AUG 26 2016

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

744-7



SPOTLIGHT FILE PHOTO

**Oregon school districts have until Oct. 1 to submit a draft plan to the Oregon Department of Education outlining when districts will test for lead in water, radon gas and pest management practices.**

# Oregon education officials mandate healthy schools plans

By NICOLE THILL
*The Spotlight*

**Local school districts have until Oct. 1 to submit draft versions of a health and safety inspection plan to the Orgeon Department of Education. The plans are to include guidelines for regular sample testing of school water, exposure to lead in paint and radon gas, and pest management practices.**

ODE approved the Healthy and Safe Schools Plan on Wednesday, Aug. 17.

Until now, school districts in Oregon were not required to test water samples for lead in school buildings. In Scappoose, school staff said the district relied primarily on water testing results provided by the city to ensure a clean water supply. The St. Helens School District followed similar procedures, and had until recently last tested for lead in the drinking water in 2008.

A survey conducted by the Oregon School Boards Association earlier this month showed 88 percent of state schools tested for lead in drinking water after scrutiny of Portland Public Schools' handling of the discovery of high lead levels in its water systems.

The Scappoose School District tested water in 20 sources in June, with none showing high lead levels. The St. Helens School Distirtc tested 200 water sources over the summer, with eight samples coming back with high levels. Plans have been made to cap or repair those fixtures.

Additionally each district must outline which employee is responsible for implementing the plan, and must construct a communications plan to make all test results available to the public within five days of receiving them.

While the Scappoose and St. Helens school districts have several months to develop a draft plan, staff are already mulling what to include in their individualized plans.

Scappoose Superintendent Stephen Jupe explained that the school district has many elements of the proposed plan in place, including the use of a safety officer, a districtwide wellness plan, and ideas about how and when to test for radon gas and lead in water sources.

St. Helens Superintendent Scot Stockwell said staff have not had time yet to sit down and discuss the specific details of a health and safety plan. Preparing staff, school sites and incoming students for the start of the school year has been the district's main priority.

"As a district our belief is to be open and forthright with all information so in my mind it mandates what we should be doing anyway in regards to communicating to our community," Stockwell said in an email to the Spotlight. "Our hope is the plan developed will consolidate a number of previous requirements to make it easier and more clear for parents to access."

The deadline for submitting a final draft to ODE is Jan. 1. It's unclear when both districts will have draft plans completed; however, Jupe explained that while student safety is important, a barrage of statewide mandates can be difficult for districts, especially those with small staffs, to handle.

"Mandate all the plans you like. I'm frustrated with all the demands from the Legislature that don't take into account the workload it's going to take the 195 districts [in the state] to implement them," Jupe said.

*Reporting from Pamplin Media Group's Paris Achen contributed to this article.*

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

AUG 26 2016

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

744-7

# High lead levels isolated at schools, school district taking action

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

High lead levels were found at a sink faucet at Seaside High School and a hose at Gearhart Elementary School after testing in June.

The two problem spots were among 39 locations tested for lead.

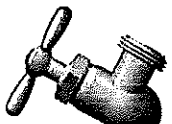
The sink faucet was at the Seaside High School concessions stand and has since been replaced, district maintenance supervisor Glendon Ely said. The water is undergoing retesting and results are expected in several months.

The faucet was not used for drinking but was tested because of potential food preparation or dishwashing use.

Above-limit lead levels were also found in a hose in the Gearhart Elementary boiler room. No action was needed because it was a control sample, Ely said. The water is used to clean the boiler room.

# Schools complete lead testing

## Roseburg district says it feels "good about the results"



VERA WESTBROOK
The News-Review

744-7

In time for the 2016-17 school year that begins in early September, Roseburg Public Schools announced Thursday that it has completed all lead testing for district-wide water fixtures and test results have been recorded.

"We feel good about the results and we've had good conversations with public health," said Roseburg Public Schools Superintendent Gerry Washburn.

To find out about the risks of lead exposure through water, the Roseburg School District leadership team contacted Douglas County Public Health Officer Dr. Robert Dannenhoffer.

Dannenhoffer explained that although lead exposure is a serious concern, the incidence of deriving detrimental affects from lead through drinking water is low unless

**LEAD,** A8

## LEAD

From page A1

the lead level is high or a large amount of water is consumed.

"Based on those conversations we feel comfortable knowing that it's highly unlikely that the kids could have accumulated any significant amounts of lead from water," Washburn said.

Out of a total of 1,214 water samples tested, 207 of the water sources retested contained more than the Environmental Protection Agency's limit for lead in school water, which is 0.02 parts per million.

Among the tests above the EPA lead limit, 35 of the faucets were drinking bubblers, 168 were sink faucets, and of those, 98 were science lab fixtures. Two more were kitchen sinks and another two belonged to other kitchen equipment. Few of the fixtures used for drinking and meal preparation tested above the EPA limit.

"If you take the science fixtures out of the overall totals, 9 percent of our fixtures were testing positive for lead and most of those were barely over the limit set by the EPA, so we really didn't have significant exposures anywhere," Washburn said.

Dannenhoffer also said that blood lead levels of Douglas County children over time show that the county is far below the national levels. This means that county lead poisoning is a low public health risk, compared with the top three county health concerns of smoking, obesity and the use of safety belts.

Those parents concerned about lead exposure in their children are welcome to seek a recommendation from their primary health care provider and to request a blood test for lead.

The district plans to replace all 207 fixtures that were above the EPA lead limit. Those fixtures not replaced before school starts on Sept. 6 will be disabled until fixed. Once replaced, all the fixtures will be tested a third time to ensure they fall below the EPA limit of 0.02 ppm.

Washburn said the overall cost of the project is about $100,000, which includes $39,000 for initial lead testing, $65,000 to change all the fixtures and another $5,000 on retesting faucets to ensure they are clear after replacement.

Washburn added that the school district is doing all that needs to be done to keep district children safe and that some help from the Legislature would be appreciated to ensure that the costs don't impact instructional programs.

"It's going to impact our budget, but I am hopeful that the Legislature will follow through with its commitment to supply districts with funds to pay for the testing," Washburn said.

He also hopes that the state Legislature considers the fact that part of that testing entails replacing those fixtures, since that is a student safety issue and the district has responded to the need expressed by the public.

"We feel pretty good about where we are, and we are looking forward to school starting," Washburn said.

The number of water fixtures that retested above the EPA limits for lead are listed as follows by school: Eastwood, 1; Fir Grove, 3; Fullerton, 2; Green, 6; Hucrest, 7; Melrose, 14; Rose, 15; Sunnyslope, 2; Winchester, 10; Fremont, 74 (50 are science lab fixtures); JoLane, 71 (48 are science lab fixtures); Roseburg High School, 2 district office, 0.

A complete list of district lead test results will be available today on the RPS website homepage at www.roseburg.k12.or.us. Further questions can be referred to Superintendent Gerry Washburn at 541-440-4014 or by email at gwashburn@roseburg.k12.or.us.

744-7

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

AUG 2 6 2016

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

# Lead found in 3 La Grande school fixtures

By Dick Mason
The Observer

Water from three fixtures in the La Grande School District has been found to have lead levels above acceptable EPA limits.

The three fixtures with lead above EPA limits are:

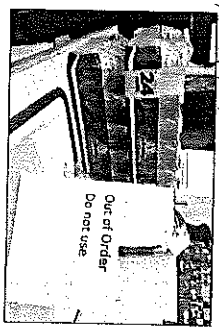
- one of the two drinking fountains in the LHS girls locker room
- one of the two drinking fountains in the La Grande High School boys locker room
- a sink in a Willow

See Lead / Page 5A

**Online**

Log on to The Observer website to watch a video message from Larry Glaze regarding the positive lead tests.

www.lagrandeobserver.com




Tim Maestre/The Observer

An out of order sign is taped to a fixture found to have lead in its water in Beth Huntington's classroom at Willow Elementary School. Bottled water is available for the students.

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

AUG 2 9 2016

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

744-7

## LEAD

*Continued from Page 1A*

Elementary School kindergarten classroom.

Water from all three fixtures was determined to have lead levels above the EPA's acceptable limit after being tested by Table Rock Analytical Laboratory in Pendleton. The water from the three fixtures has been shut off and signs telling people not to use them are being attached.

After the fixtures are replaced, the water will be tested again. People will be allowed to drink from the new fixtures only after the water meets EPA standards.

If water from any of the three sites still has unacceptable lead levels after new fixtures are installed, some pipes may have to be replaced, La Grande School Superintendent Larry Glaze said.

The water fixture with the high lead reading at Willow is in Beth Huntington's kindergarten classroom. The faucet is used by children to wash their hands. Bottled water will be brought in for the students until the situation is successfully addressed, said Joseph Waite, the La Grande School District's bond and facilities manager, and handwashing will be done by students in another part of the school, according to Glaze.

The sink in Huntington's classroom also has a water fixture for drinking that has not been operable. This fixture will be replaced, Glaze said.

The water testing cost the La Grande School District between $25 and $30 per fixture, which means that the total cost of the testing will be at least $7,500.

Close to 300 fixtures were tested in the school district, and water from all of the others contained either no lead or levels well below the EPA's standards, said Glaze. The superintendent found this encouraging considering that the district has many old buildings, including two that are at least 90.

"Given their age, I was fully anticipating that more fixtures would exceed the limit," Glaze said.

The La Grande School District is among many in Oregon testing their water this summer. Gov. Kate Brown called on Oregon's 197 school districts to craft procedures for testing lead, radon and other chemicals at their campuses after lead was detected in the water in schools in the Portland School District.

In mid-May, the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Health Authority created a plan regarding lead in school water. The plan requests all school districts that get water from public water systems test for lead in school buildings; requires districts to use certified 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 requires OHA to provide drinking water expertise to schools for support as they test.

744-7

PENDLETON

# McKay water fountains over lead limit

## Sunridge Middle School faucets pass all tests

By GEORGE PLAVEN
744-7
*East Oregonian*

Two schools in Pendleton have water sources that tested above the Environmental Protection Agency's acceptable limit for lead, including 10 drinking fountains at McKay Creek Elementary School.

Lab results also found elevated levels of lead in two sinks in the gold gym girls' locker room at Pendleton High School. District Superintendent Andy Kovach said all of the fixtures will be replaced and re-tested.

One drinking fountain at McKay School registered 95 parts per billion of lead, which is nearly five times higher than the EPA limit before action must be taken. Kovach said each of the fountains will be replaced before kids return to school after the Pendleton Round-Up. He did not know exactly how old the fountains are.

"The Pendleton School District is working hard to comply with Oregon state guidelines and to address each site with elevated lead levels," Kovach said in a statement Monday. "The district will continue to work diligently on this until all issues are resolved and all water levels are within acceptable limits."

Results were also released Monday for Sunridge Middle School, which detected no elevated lead levels in that building. Testing was done at Table Rock Analytical Lab in Pendleton.

Kovach said the two sinks at PHS

See LEAD/10A

Pendleton, OR
(Umatilla Co.)
East Oregonian
(Circ. D. 7,014)
AUG 30 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## LEAD: Poisoning can harm kidneys, central nervous system

Continued from 1A

have already been removed. Another site at the PHS concession area previously tested for higher levels of lead earlier this summer. Kovach said the equipment was replaced, and levels are now back within the acceptable range.

While the EPA warns there is no safe level of lead in drinking water, the agency says schools need to take some kind of corrective action once lead reaches 20 parts per billion. Young children are especially susceptible to lead poisoning, which can harm their kidneys and central nervous system, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Extremely high levels of lead have been reported at other schools across Oregon. Water from a classroom sink at McNary High School in the Salem-Keizer School District registered 800 parts per million for lead, according to the *Statesman Journal*, and a sink at Grant High School in Portland tested a whopping 57,600 parts per billion for lead.

Kovach said they are currently bringing in drinking water for employees working in McKay School.

"If necessary, we'll bring in drinking water for our students, too," he said.

Kovach said they are expecting additional test results early next week for the Pendleton Early Learning Center, Sherwood Heights and Washington elementary schools.

"We will continue to communicate to families and the community when we have additional information," he said.

Full test results are posted on the Pendleton School District website at www.pendleton.k12.or.us.

*Contact George Plaven at gplaven@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0825.*

744-7

Salem, OR
(Marion Co.)
Statesman Journal
(Circ. D. 33,147)
AUG 30 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

# More lead found in water

## High levels found in 22 of 42 school buildings tested so far

TRACY LOEW 744-7
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Eight more buildings in the Salem-Keizer School District have high levels of lead in water from at least one tap — including the central kitchen, where food is prepared for all of the district's schools.

As of Monday, high lead levels had been detected in 22 of the 42 schools and district buildings where testing is complete.

"We've got roughly half of the results back," district spokesman Jay Remy said. "We're hopeful we'll get the rest of them this week."

If that doesn't happen, the district likely will provide bottled water at schools waiting for their results, he said.

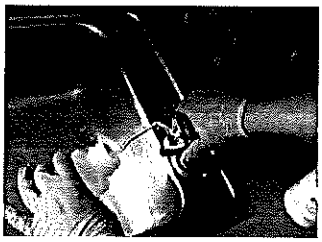
The district has shut off water to sinks and fountains where high lead levels have been found, and is working to determine whether the problem lies with the fixtures themselves or the pipes behind them.

Meanwhile, the Marion County Health Department has issued an alert for doctors and clinics, providing links to the Salem-Keizer test results and to more information about lead exposure in children.

The health department is advising parents with concerns to check with their children's doctors.

That's in contrast to Portland,

See LEAD, Page 2A



DANIELLE PETERSON/STATESMAN JOURNAL
TRC technician Shawn Contreraz collects lead testing samples at Pringle Elementary School.

## Lead

Continued from Page 1A

where both Portland Public Schools and the Multnomah County Health Department offered free home test kits and screening clinics after high lead levels were found in school taps there.

Salem-Keizer contracts with food-service giant Sodexo to provide meals for the district.

Director Dave Harvey said the tap that tested high serves a three-sink setup used for hand washing dishes.

Water to the sink has been turned off, and the fixture will be replaced, Harvey said.

"We have another three-sink system we're able to use," he said.

The district received surprising results at Salem Heights Elementary School, which had previously been tested in June.

The earlier tests showed that all taps but one were under 2 parts per billion.

That one, at 3.3 ppb, was well below the district's "action level" of 15 ppb.

Retesting in August showed 20 taps over 2 ppb. One tap, at 16 ppb, was over the action level.

Remy said that likely reflects the fact that school had been out for more than a month during the second set of samples.

The district flushed plumbing in the schools, then let the water sit for eight hours, to try to simulate use during the school year.

But that method isn't perfect, Remy said.

"When you test in two timeframes, your building usage is different," Remy said. "But I don't think one school proves that's a districtwide trend."

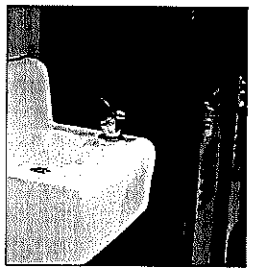
744-7

*tloew@statesmanjournal.com, 503-399-6779 or follow at Twitter.com/Tracy_Loew.*

John Day, OR
(Grant Co.)
Blue Mountain Eagle
(Cir. W. 3,000)

AUG 31 2016

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



The Eagle/Rylan Boggs

**A Prairie City School water fountain that tested over the acceptable limit for lead contamination.**

# PC School shuts off water to lead-ridden fountains

## State board adopts lead testing rules

744-7

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle

Prairie City School District is encouraging students to bring refillable water bottles after high lead levels were found in several drinking fountains.

All local school districts tested for lead this summer after high levels were found in Flint, Michigan, city water and water at some Portland schools.

Prairie City had several water sources exceeding the Environmental Protection Agency limit. Although Neilson Research Corporation in Medford, which tested all the local samples, lists an EPA limit of .02 micrograms per liter, the EPA currently recommends action at .015 mg/L or more.

After a June 22 test showed high lead — .0945 mg/L in the old gym boys locker room and .0526 mg/L in the new gym boys locker room — Prairie City Superintendent Julie Gurczynski shut off the water to those fountains, flushed the system and ordered another test of the fountains that showed high levels.

In the second test, the fountain in the girls locker room of the old gym tested at .0285 mg/L. The drinking fountain in elementary room 2 tested at .0266 mg/L. The fountain in the elementary hallway tested at .0244. The fountain in the elementary library tested at .0178. All other areas tested below the limit.

"When I received the results from the June 22 test, I immediately shut the water off to the locations where we tested over the legal limit to minimize the exposure to students," Gurczynski said.

*See LEAD, Page A16*

## LEAD

*Continued from Page A1*

She said she has removed some of the fountains and replaced them with one that is filtered and can fill bottles in the hallway by the elementary restrooms.

Of the other Grant County schools tested, only Monument School District had high levels, .0188 mg/L, but a handwritten note on the results states it is a custodial sink with no drinking fountain. The next highest result was .0117 in the weight room.

In Long Creek's two tests, the kitchen sink tested highest at .00198 mg/L. The highest level in Dayville was .00374 mg/L. For Grant Union, the highest level detected at the junior-senior high school was .00242 mg/L; Seneca, .00126 mg/L; and Humbolt Elementary, .011 mg/L.

Gurczynski said she has not received any complaints about high lead levels in students. The EPA reports high levels of lead can cause brain, red blood cell and kidney damage in children. She said the district also tested for copper on the second test, but all were below the EPA action level of 1.3 mg/L.

Gurczynski said student safety is a top priority but also noted the testing was expensive. $60 per fountain, which quickly adds up even for a small school.

All school districts will soon have to develop a plan to regularly test for lead and radon as well, after the Oregon Board of Education recently adopted a new rule.

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

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

"What we like about this plan is that part of what we saw in Portland was the community didn't have access to information, and in fact, when you have large institutions information can get lost over the years," said Emily Nazarov, operations policy analyst with the Oregon Department of Education, who headed up the rulemaking. "By creating a plan you have one place that community members and parents can look to find out how does the school district address radon, how does the school district plan to address water."

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

"You are setting up a framework by which we have assurances at the state level that our schools are taking action in a comprehensive way toward health and safety," said Oregon Chief Education Officer Lindsey Capps. "It's an imperative that every student should be entitled to."

The requirement will entail hundreds of millions of dollars in additional costs to schools in the form of testing, supplying bottle water, mitigation and testing individuals who might have been exposed to high levels of lead, according to the Oregon School Boards Association.

*Capital Bureau reporter Paris Achen contributed to this report.*

744-7

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

AUG 31 2016

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

744-7

# High lead at 12 schools

## GAPS reports more results: Six additional buildings test positive

JENNIFER MOODY
Albany Democrat-Herald

Six more Albany school buildings have tested positive for high lead counts in their water supplies, bringing the total number to 12 of more than 20 facilities.

Previously, Greater Albany Public Schools reported tests at six schools had come back with high levels in one or more fixtures. Periwinkle, Lafayette, South Shore, Tangent, Sunrise and Waverly elementary schools all had test results showing levels of lead higher than the action level required by each fixture with a positive test has been taken out of service, either by marking it or shutting off the water, until it can be replaced and retested.

**ONLINE**

Maps of each school with the location of the positive test and the level found are at http://bit.ly/2bxgjzt.

Please see LEAD LEVELS, Page A2

## Lead levels

From A1

the Environmental Protection Agency of 15 parts per billion.

On Tuesday, the district reported it has received more tests. The list now includes Clover Ridge and Takena elementary schools, Calapooia and North Albany middle schools, South Albany High School and the former Fairmount school, which currently houses the district's special programs office.

District officials said so far, only Oak Elementary, Albany Options and Timber Ridge schools had testing fully completed with no positive results.

Fixtures at Periwinkle have been replaced and retesting has shown no repeat of the high lead levels, according to the district's website.

Results are not yet complete at Central, Liberty, Fir Grove, Oak Grove and North Albany elementary schools, but no elevated levels have been found so far. No test results have come in yet for either Memorial Middle or West Albany High schools.

Following a high lead scare in the Portland schools earlier this year, Albany sampled all drinking fountains, classroom sinks and sources for cooking water in all district buildings this July, taking approximately 500 samples.

Maps of each school with the location of the positive test and the level found are posted on the district's website, http://albany.k12.or.us/parents/water-testing-information/.

744-7

Dallas, OR
(Polk Co.)
Polk County Itemizer
Observer
(Cir. W. 5,098)

AUG 31 2016

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

# New plan won't require lead testing

744-7

## *State Department of Education will require districts to reduce exposure*

**By Jolene Guzman**
The Itemizer-Observer

SALEM — The State Board of Education's new rules regarding plans for schools to reduce student exposure to lead in water won't require testing.

But it does make districts responsible for coming up with plans to reduce exposure to lead through water and paint, and to make those strategies public through a "Healthy and Safe Schools Plan."

Neither the Oregon Department of Education nor the Oregon Health Authority has the legal authority to require lead testing. The healthy schools plan does compel districts to make a "plan to test for and reduce exposure to lead in water used for drinking or food preparation."

The rule also requires schools make plans for reducing exposure to lead paint in compliance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's "Renovation, Repair and Painting Program Rule."

Plans for radon testing and pest management, both required by law, are to be included in the Healthy and Safe Schools document in an effort to be more transparent about what schools have in place to deal with environmental issues in buildings.

"The rule was crafted to do two things: one, to promote maximum flexibility for districts and, two, also maximum transparency to communities," said Michael Elliott, of ODE, during an informational presentation on the new rule.

Those plans are public, and results from any testing done in accordance with those plans are to be released within five days of receiving them.

While lead testing is not required in the rule, ODE spokeswoman Tricia Yates said the rules provide guidance to districts which also allow for the public to have a say in how schools plan to test and reduce exposure.

Brett Sherry, with OHA, said there is no safe level of lead exposure, but noted that most elevated lead levels don't stem from exposure at schools or through drinking water. Lead exposure is especially dangerous to children younger than 6 years of age because their brains are still developing.

"Lead based paint is the major cause of childhood lead poisoning in Oregon," Sherry said. "The vast majority of that is happening in the home."

He said there has been no direct link established between elevated blood lead levels and drinking water.

Kari Salis, also with OHA, said if schools are testing, the department recommends following Environmental Protection Agency protocol. She said the guidance isn't clear about when testing should be conducted, but is clear about what conditions should be in place before samples are drawn.

She said the EPA recommends testing after water has been sitting in the pipes for eight to 18 hours, and that if testing in the summer, schools should try to simulate regular conditions.

She said it's up to school districts if they want to test more faucets than those used for drinking and food preparation or if they want use a lower "action level" than the 20 parts per billion.

Elliott said it is possible that lawmakers would designate funding to schools for testing, but money to fix problems found through testing is likely to remain the districts' responsibility — at least for now.

"There is no designated source of funds," he said.

Draft Healthy and Safe Schools Plans must be submitted to ODE by Oct. 1 and final plans are due Jan. 1, 2017.

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

AUG 31 2016

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

# District says lead found in 1 water fixture

## Level exceeds EPA limit in Enterprise School District

**By Dick Mason**
The Observer

Water from one fixture in the Enterprise School District has been found to have a lead level above the acceptable EPA limit.

The fixture is a drinking fountain in Enterprise's middle school. Water from all of the other Enterprise School District fixtures tested met EPA standards in terms of lead levels, said School District Superintendent Erika Pinkerton.

The EPA threshold for lead in drinking water is 20 parts per billion.

The middle school drinking fountain in question has

See Enterprise / Page 5A

**Inside**

The Union School District is entering the new academic year boosted by good news.

Page 2A

## ENTERPRISE

*Continued from Page 1A*

been turned off, and steps are now being taken to correct the issue with the help of the firms that conducted the testing, Box R Water Analysis Lab in Prineville and Neilson Research Corp. of Medford.

The school district, acting on advice from Box R Water, removed a metal washer from the drinking fountain and replaced it with a plastic one. Water from the drinking fountain was then retested. The school district is now awaiting the results of the new test.

"Box R has done a lot of testing (of water for lead), and a common issue involves metal washers. The majority of the time the issue is resolved if the metal washer is replaced by a plastic one," Pinkerton said.

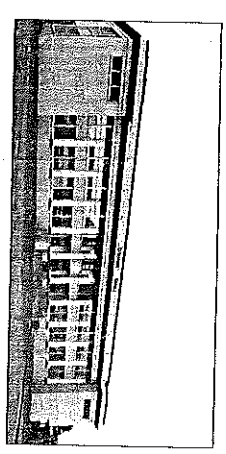
Overall, the superintendent said she is pleased with how the lead testing went.

"We feel good about the results," Pinkerton said.

She is particularly encouraged because of the age of the school district's buildings. The oldest is its elementary school-middle school building, which was built close to 100 years ago, and water from older buildings is generally more likely to have elevated lead levels.

Pinkerton said she was impressed with how promptly the two firms the district is working with in the testing process responded when elevated lead was detected in the middle school drinking fountain. She said this allowed the school district to move quickly in addressing the issue.

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



Katy Nesbitt/For The Observer

Water from one fixture in the Enterprise School District has been found to have a lead level above the acceptable EPA limit. The fixture is a drinking fountain in Enterprise's middle school. Water from all of the other Enterprise School District fixtures tested met EPA standards in terms of lead levels.

Brown made her request not long after lead was detected in the water in schools in the Portland School District.

In mid-May, the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Health Authority created a plan regarding lead in school water. The plan requests all school districts that get water from public water systems test for lead in school buildings; requires districts to use certified 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 calls for OHA to provide drinking water expertise to schools for support as they test. 744-7

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

AUG 31 2016

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

# State board adopts lead testing rule for schools

*State districts must make results public within five days*

Paris Achen
*Pamplin Media Group*

SUBLIMITY — The Oregon Board of Education adopted a new rule Wednesday, Aug. 17, that for the first time requires school districts to test for lead in water at district-owned buildings and report those results to the public.

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

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

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

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

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

"You are setting up a framework by which we have assurances at the state level that our schools are taking action in a comprehensive way toward health and safety," said Oregon Chief Education Officer Lindsey Capps. "It's an imperative that every student should be entitled to."

The requirement will entail hundreds of millions of dollars in additional costs to schools in the form of testing, supplying bottled water, mitigation and testing individuals who might have been exposed to high levels of lead, according to the Oregon School Boards Association.

**"You are setting up a framework by which we have assurances at the state level that our schools are taking action in a comprehensive way toward health and safety. It's an imperative that every student should be entitled to."**

*— Oregon Chief Education Officer Lindsey Capps*

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

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

Legislative leadership has asked the Emergency Board to allocate money in September to pay for costs of testing but not mitigation, Nazarov of ODE said. The Legislative Fiscal Office is working on a proposal to present to the Emergency Board on Sept. 23, according to school advocates. Legislative Fiscal Officer Ken Rocco was not immediately available Wednesday, Aug. 17, to provide that number.

In April, Brown directed the Oregon Department of Education and Oregon Health Authority to review existing requirements for environmental testing and address the problem of lead in drinking water. During the review, health and education officials learned that neither the education department nor the health authority had rules to require schools to test for lead.

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

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

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

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

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

AUG 31 2016

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

# Union receives good marks

By Dick Mason
The Observer

The Union School District is entering the new academic year boosted by good news.

Lead tests conducted by a certified lab indicate that all of the school district's drinking water sites met EPA standards. Water from between 15 and 20 fixtures were tested, and the lead level in all the fixtures was far below the EPA limit, said Union School District superintendent Carter Wells.

"The Union School District is pleased to report that water at our schools does not contain harmful lead levels," Wells said. "We will continue to monitor this; and keep communicating to parents and our community."

The water testing was done by Box R Water Analysis Laboratory of Prineville.

The average lead level in the school district's fixtures was three parts per billion, far under the EPA limit of 20 parts per billion. The fixture with the highest reading is a grade school drinking fountain. That fixture had a reading of 10 parts per billion, but it was still well below the EPA limit. Wells said the school district is looking into ways in which this level could be lowered.

The district's lead test results are noteworthy considering the age of the school district's buildings. The high school is the oldest building, and it was built more than 100 years ago. Wells said Union's good water tests may reflect the excellent work done by custodial and physical plant staffs in maintaining the aging buildings.