

Scappoose, OR
(Columbia Co.)
The Spotlight
(Circ. W. 3,410)

DEC 3 4 2015

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

Well owners urged to disinfect water

The Public Health Foundation of Columbia County advises residents with private wells on their property to use bottled or treated water for consumption until after the wells have been disinfected and the water tested. After extensive floods, wells could become contaminated, leaving

water unsafe to drink. To disinfect by boiling, bring water to a rolling boil for one minute, then let it cool. Transfer it to a sanitary container when finished. Tips on disinfecting wells after an emergency can be found at <http://www.phfco.org/home/news-and-tips/>.

Fossil council says 'no' to marijuana growers, processors and sellers

Fossil city councilors continued their discussion of several 'old business' items when the Fossil City Council met in monthly session Dec. 8 at the Jeanne Burch Building in Fossil.

Mayor Carol MacInnes noted that the council had conducted a work session Nov. 23 and discussed reducing the price per acre for the lots in the Fossil Industrial Park and lots in Fossil Heights. Councilors approved a motion to set the price of lots in the Industrial Park at \$14,000 and to set the price of lots in Fossil Heights at \$8,000 per acre.

Jim Stephan met with the council and presented a sketch of a lot at the Industrial Park that showed an area fenced with a solid, six-foot fence of juniper which would conceal his proposed scrap metal operation. The council directed Stephan to contact the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to research any possible restrictions or concerns, and to present any information DEQ may have provided at

Councilors learned that the city has qualified for a \$20,000 'forgivable loan' from Business Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority to help pay for a water supply feasibility study. To that end, the city is required to adopt a resolution and adopted Resolution No. 408, a resolution authorizing a loan from the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund.

Councilors noted that 33 Fossil residents had attended a community meeting Dec. 1 to discuss the contract the city had entered into with the Wheeler County Sheriff's Office for city ordinance enforcement and to receive public input on whether or not to prohibit marijuana dispensaries in the City of Fossil.

In action at the December meeting, councilors voted unanimously to adopt Ordinance No. 442, an ordinance declaring a ban on medical marijuana processing sites and dispensaries, and on recreational marijuana producers, processors, wholesalers and retailers.

In other matters, councilors:

- accepted the annual city audit prepared by Oster Professional Group.
- agreed to have the mayor sign the DEQ wastewater permit renewal application.
- heard Deputy Boyd report that he contacted

three property owners regarding "issues on their properties."

- noted that U.S. Senator Ron Wyden will be in Fossil Tuesday, Jan. 5, 1 p.m. at the high school.
- heard councilor Mountain report that the WHS student council students will help decorate the Pine Creek Schoolhouse Park.
- heard councilor Moore report that he has received an intergovernmental agreement to review for the Safer Grant.

At the Fossil City Council's November meeting, councilors:

- heard that the city still owes over \$46,500 to Business Oregon on a parcel of ground in the Fossil Heights, and that the city had to pay approximately \$39,000 in property taxes during a foreclosure litigation.
- discussed possible prices, regulations and uses of property at the Industrial Park.
- adopted Ordinance No. 436 B amending Ordinance 436 A concerning nuisance conditions within the city.
- approved an agreement with Stan Thomas to trap skunks and raccoons within the city.
- approved the acceptance of the \$1,000 Dept. of Land Conservation and Development planning assistance grant.
- heard that Fire Departments in Fossil and Antelope have qualified for a \$699,600 grant over four years for training, equipment, a coordinator's salary and benefits, NIFPA physicals, fuel for the coordinator and recruiting supplies; with Antelope being the 'host' agency and Fossil being the 'fiscal' agency. An intergovernmental agreement is being developed.
- The Fossil City Council will meet again in public session Tuesday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m. at the Jeanne Burch Building in Fossil.

Thought for Today

Our economic success increasingly turns on harnessing the creative talents of each and every human being.

~ Richard Florida,
Author of
'Rise of the Creative Class'

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

DEC 3 1 2015

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

Mitchell councilors discuss water system

The Mitchell City Council met in regular public session Tuesday, Nov. 17, and heard Watermaster/Councilor Ron Verbovanc report that he, along with Councilor Patty Verbovanc, city maintenance man Terrill Corbin and resident Derreck Wannous had insulated the water line across the bridge of the reservoir opposite from at the west end of town. He suggested that a more permanent means of insulating the water line be

Continued to page 5

Mitchell council - Continued from page 1

Regarding a discussion on business licenses, Mayor Vernita Jordan noted that the City of Fossil had sent a questionnaire on the matter to residents with their utility bills, to ascertain if residents there favored a business license. Residents in Fossil were not in favor of business licenses.

Councilor Patty Verbovanc suggested that the city's Tourism Fund benefits the majority of the businesses in town and the businesses should contribute to the fund in the form of a business license or in another manner.

Mayor Jordan suggested that a work session be held to discuss the matter further. In action items, the council approved an increase in the fees charged at the RV park to \$20 per night for RVs and \$10 per night per tent for tent campers, the new rates to take effect immediately.

Councilors also:

- were introduced to new Mitchell residents Anthony and Jane Reeves.
- approved the minutes of the Oct. 20 council meeting.
- heard Terrill Corbin report that winterizing has been completed for city facilities except for the heater in the park restroom.
- heard that the city's application for ODOT's

Special City Allotment grant was not successful.

- heard that the trencher to be used in the electrical project at the RV park is being repaired.
- noted that the council is still waiting for a response to the city's request to reduce the speed limit in front of Cannon's Tire Center and Route 26 Espresso.

— suggested applying for grants to cover the costs of cement picnic tables for the park that cost \$800 each.

- approved the payment of bills for October in the amount of \$1,643.61.

The Mitchell City Council meets the third Tuesday of the month, 5:30 p.m. at the Community Hall. Council meetings are open to the public.

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

DEC 3 1 2015

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

Bridge Creek mediation crumbles

Case challenging a pipe feeding a water treatment plant heads to the 9th Circuit

By Tyler Leeds
The Bulletin

As the city of Bend tests its new \$30 million drinking water treatment plant in the foothills west of town, a lawsuit challenging the pipe feeding the plant is heading back to court after a mediation process between the lit-

igants and city fell apart. Central Oregon LandWatch and WaterWatch of Oregon have since 2013 opposed the installation of a pipe that will divert water from Bridge Creek to the treatment plant, arguing the U.S. Forest Service failed to properly investigate the proj-

ect's environmental impact before granting the city a permit. At the center of the case is whether the diversion leaves enough water in the creek, a tributary of Tumalo Creek, to maintain a healthy habitat for fish. In December 2014, a U.S. District Court judge decided the environmental analysis was lawful and ruled in favor of the Forest Service and city of Bend, to move the litigants appealed to the San Francisco-based

9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Installation of the pipe was completed last November, according to the city. In an attempt to avoid going before the 9th Circuit, the two sides agreed to meet in mediation last year. Those talks, the content of which is protected by a nondisclosure agreement, fell apart this fall, according to city of Bend attorney Mary Winters. The pipe at the center of the lawsuit is a replacement

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

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

Mediation

Continued from B1

If the 9th Circuit rules against the city, it's possible the city would have to agree to take less water from the creek.

LandWatch and WaterWatch filed a brief with the 9th Circuit in December. The city and Forest Service's responses are due Feb. 2, according to Winters. Oral arguments are expected to occur sometime in the early summer, Winters said, adding that a ruling could be made anytime between a month or year after those arguments.

In an interview Tuesday, Dewey said of the mediation, "Everybody was negotiating in good faith, and it was a good effort, but unfortunately it didn't work out."

Winters agreed, adding the city was "disappointed" by the result.

The brief filed by litigants argues the baseline used by the Forest Service to evaluate what constitutes a healthy amount of water for fish is too low. Additionally, LandWatch and WaterWatch argue the agency's investigation into the impacts of climate change on the creek was superficial.

"(The Forest Service) said what they did was a qualitative climate change analysis, and what we said is there are tools out there developed by the University of Washington and other places that provide a basis for doing a quantitative climate change analysis," Dewey said. "We're past the stage where a qualitative study is enough. We need to take this more seriously than that."

Dewey said the court's ruling could set a precedent for how thoroughly climate change is considered for projects across the country, saying, "We're in a period of time with fairly dramatic signs of the changes."

Winters declined to outline the city's defense, noting its response brief has not yet been written. To help with the case, the city has hired Al Ferlo, a Washington, D.C.-based attorney with a background in environmental law who works for Perkins Coie, one of the nation's largest firms.

The City Council recently approved an additional \$150,000 for the firm's contract, upping the contract total to \$579,500.

The installation of the new pipe combined with the treatment plant — the construction of which divided the City Council — cost \$70 million.

"(The Forest Service) said what they did was a qualitative climate change analysis, and what we said is there are tools out there developed by the University of Washington and other places that provide a basis for doing a quantitative climate change analysis. We're past the stage where a qualitative study is enough. We need to take this more seriously than that."

— Paul Dewey, LandWatch executive director

Water is not yet flowing through the recently completed pipe, but the city is trucking water to the plant, giving its operators a chance to learn how the new facility operates.

"We're doing this to work out any kinks without the risk of putting any contamination into the system," said Tom Hickmann, who oversees the city's department of engineering and infrastructure planning.

While the water going through the plant is coming out of faucets in Bend, it is pretreated, meaning there's no risk if the system malfunctions. However, the city is able to measure how much sediment is in the water once it leaves the plant, allowing operators to assess whether the plant's membrane filters are working.

The new plant was built in response to stricter federal rules governing drinking water, in particular a requirement that cities take steps to remove cryptosporidium, a microorganism that can cause gastrointestinal illness.

Hickmann said the plant can essentially be run through a laptop, but the city won't begin fully using the system until its operators feel comfortable with it. Hickmann expects that to happen within the next few months.

— Reporter: 541-633-2160,
tleeds@bendbulletin.com

1744-7

Chiloquin seeking \$850K for water upgrades

Water meters part of proposal

By STEPHEN FLOYD 744-7
H&N Staff Reporter

Endorsed by the city council during its regular meeting Monday, the grant would come from the state and help the city complete overdue system upgrades.

High on the list of priorities is digging a new well near the Chiloquin State Airport as a backup to its current well, which is the sole source of water for Chiloquin.

City Engineer Jeremy Morris said having a redundant well in a different part of the aquifer

would prevent the need to truck in water or issue a boil water notice if the current well should fail on become contaminated.

Morris said a second well would also allow the first well to be shut down for much-needed maintenance, which is currently not a favorable option because repairs could leave the well offline for a matter of weeks.

WATER METERS

On top of well upgrades, the

city hopes to install new water meters for its 330 residential customers, as well as a handful of commercial users.

Public Works Director Pete Pate said his department has planned to install new water meters since last year. He said, if grant funds become available, they could complete the project through contractors rather than reassigning city labor.

More CHILOQUIN | A8

Chiloquin/From A1

Pate said the new meters would also transmit information electronically, allowing for the collection of customer data while employees are on regular rounds.

He said this would significantly change the city's current practice of not reading a majority of water meters, due to the labor involved. Pate said the council could then re-structure its water rates to reflect customer usage rather than a flat fee.

WATER CONSERVATION

Morris added a rate structure based on customer habits would ultimately help the city conserve water as there would be an incentive to reduce usage.

"All the people that are conserving are actually subsidizing the person who's not," said Morris of current practices. Pate said if funds become available,

he expects to have meters replaced this coming summer. But before a new rate structure is established, he said there would be a need for a pilot program, possibly starting in September, to get both the city and residents used to new fees.

"All this is still just being thought out," he said.

Morris said, if the grant is approved, there would be a need for matching funds, which are expected to come from \$265,000 in monies set aside through the Klamath Tribes and federal government. He also said it would help strengthen the city's position as an applicant if they set aside around \$20,000 in its own budget toward the projects.

Morris noted applying for the grant does not commit Chiloquin to the proposed projects, though there would be a need for commitment if the grant funding was approved and accepted. sfloyd@heraldandnews.com

Salem, OR
(Marion Co.)

Statesman Journal
(Circ. D. 33,147)

JAN 13 2016

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

Sediment found in water at Whiteaker

Students and staff at Whiteaker Middle School in Keizer have been avoiding tap water for the past week and a half, after sediment was found.

School and city officials have determined that the fire suppression system back-fused the sediment, said Principal Julia DeWitt, 744-7

The school, in partnership with risk management officials from the county, have run multiple tests on the water to assure its safety, she said.

DeWitt said there are no bacteria in the water, according to the test results she recent received, and the school is going to get test results by the end of the week concerning metals and pH levels.

—Natalie Pate

Klamath Falls, OR
(Klamath Co.)
Klamath Falls Herald News
(Circ. D. 13,119)

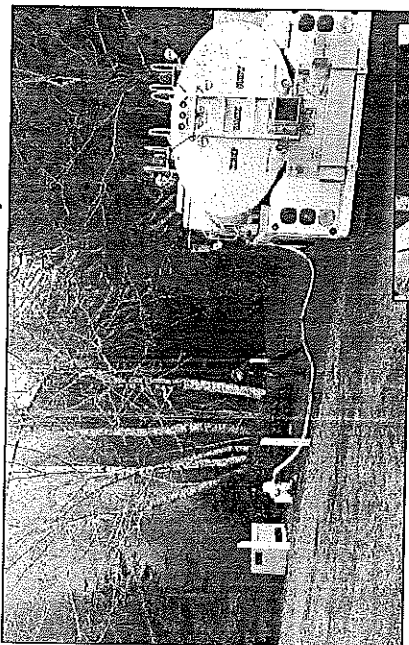
JAN 13 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Florence, OR
(Lane Co.)
Siuslaw News
(Circ. 2xW, 5,209)

JAN 6 2016

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

SVFR teams up with Heceta Water Districts bring water to Collard Lake neighborhood by tank truck



COURTESY PHOTOS

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue is using its water tender to deliver potable water to Heceta Water PUD's supply tank on View Road.

Heceta Water PUD SVFR ask checks every load of water residents living before it is pumped into the in the Collard tank to ensure it meets all Lake area to be mindful of health requirements for the water tender driving on the steep and narrow roads water curtailment continues, potable water.

Heceta Water People's Utility District and Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) are working together to ensure that the residents of the Collard Lake area are supplied with water after landslides threatened pipes in December.

SVFR is using one of its water tenders to deliver water to the PUD's supply tank located on View Road, north of Florence.

Heceta Water notified and worked with the Oregon Health Authority to ensure a firefighting water tender could be used to transport potable water and to obtain sanitation procedures.

On Dec. 28, Heceta Water and SVFR began a 24-hour sanitation process, followed by the delivery of water to the supply tank the next day.

It is anticipated that crews will continue to bring water to the supply tank for approximately 60 days.

Residents concerned with fluoridation

BY DANI PALMER
Of the News-Times
744-7

NEWPORT — Newport voters expressed concern over the public's understanding of water fluoridation and its cost during a city council meeting on Monday, Jan. 4.

The city of Newport is examining the addition of fluoride back into its water supply because of possible health benefits after a 10-year hiatus.

On Jan. 19, the council plans to go over a fluoride ordinance that would be referred to the voters in a ballot measure in the May 17 special election.

Councilors discussed the draft ordinance's language and made suggestions at the meeting. Newport residents also offered their opinions.

"There is no mention of the cost of implementation of fluoridation to the voters," said Carol Feece, a member of Clean Water Newport, a group that is against the addition of fluoride in the city's water supply.

"I think it's very important that they know they are going to be on the hook for the costs. It's not going to be magically taken care of out of the blue."

She also expressed worry with the fluoride ordinance's language, with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Oregon Health Authority that sound like endorsements.

Feece noted she wants voters to understand it's not pharmaceutical-grade or natural fluoride, but chemical fluoridation, which could possibly contain arsenic and lead.

"I kind of take exception to

people making a claim that we're not going to be using a safe product," Newport Public Works Director Tim Gross said. "Because it's as safe as a product as you can possibly get."

The product would be certified by the vendor and approved by the department of health that oversees drinking water, he added.

Gross compared the issue to the city having to maintain a certain level of chlorine under state guidelines to kill bacteria, even though it can be considered poison.

Newport's Dr. Susan Andersen had concerns over the language and lack of mentioned costs, as well.

She said claiming fluoridation is responsible for dental health improvement is problematic, especially when the city would use fluoridation chemicals rather than dental fluoride.

Councilor David Allen suggested the ballot measure include the estimated cost range, and not reference health benefits with the "difference in opinions each group has." Instead, health effects should be explained in the voters' pamphlet, he added.

The proposed fluoridation is estimated to cost about

\$300,000 to implement, and another \$18,000 annually for operational costs.

Councilor Dean Sawyer said it is difficult to make a ballot neutral in language based on perception, but added the terminology needs to be simpler.

"The more complex we make it — it's going to make it harder for the voters and the voters aren't going to make an informed decision," he said. "And that's what we really want at the end of the day."

Councilor Ralph Busby countered "you can't make chemical names that have at least 18 letters in them simple. This isn't chemistry 101."

He said the city isn't going to be able to describe the compound and where it comes from in limited word space on the ballot measure. But it is important to use the correct terms, he added, so people can research the topic if they wish.

At the meeting's conclusion, City Manager Spencer Nebel said he would redraft the language and bring the proposed ordinance to a Jan. 19 work session.

Contact reporter Dani Palmer at 541-265-8571, ext. 217 or dpalmer@newport-newstimes.com

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

JAN 13 2016

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

Sodaville calls off water restrictions

City looks forward to park project for 2016

JENNIFER MOODY
ALBANY DEMOCRAT-HERALD

Sodaville is looking forward to both a loss and a gain in 2016: an end to water restrictions and the beginning of a new park near City Hall.

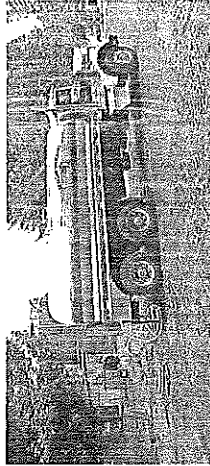
The 325-population city has been purchasing water from Lebanon since August, the same month

rains of December have done the trick, however, said City Administrator Judy Smith.

"They're back up," she said, adding that water restrictions were to have been called off on Jan. 1. As far as she knows, she said, "We're done with the purchasing of water."

Smith said she's still waiting to hear the results of an application for a \$25,000 Emergency Community Water Assistance grant through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. If it's received, the city will use it to reimburse the money it has spent from its emergency water fund for the Lebanon purchases and to help rehabilitate the wells.

Another big project the city plans to undertake in the new year is development of its first multi-use



MARK YLEN, DEMOCRAT-HERALD (FILE)

reservoir tank that holds 150,000 gallons. But the drought strained the system, causing wells to perform at only about two-thirds of their strength and the tank is to lose about 1 foot of water per day, even during wet spells.

The hard, sustained

Linn County officially declared a drought. The city began restricting outdoor watering on Aug. 24 and bumped up water rates from \$5.98 per thousand gallons to \$11.97 per thousand after the first 10,000 gallons used. Sodaville has five wells and a 30-foot-tall

Lebanon, OR
(Linn Co.)
Lebanon Express
(Circ. W. 1,913)

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sports court, in the park below City Hall at the corner of Vine Street and Sodaville-Mountain Home Road.

Smith is a member of the Ford Leadership program, which has chosen the court as a project. She's hoping to raise \$9,000 in cash and in-kind donations by September 2016 to put in the court, while the leadership program covers another \$5,000. More will be needed to purchase equipment.

People who are interested in helping out or who want more information are asked to call Smith weekdays at City Hall, 541-258-8882, or check out the project's Facebook page, Soda Springs Sodaville Community Center and Park. The idea is to set up a

court that will accommodate a variety of sports: basketball, volleyball, four square, tennis, maybe even pickleball, depending on how it's designed, Smith said. "The more activities you have on it, the better it is."

Sodaville has green spaces, but not much in the way of activities. That's something Smith would like to see, especially for the city's growing family population.

"We don't have a Boys & Girls Club, and we don't have really transportation for kids to get to a Boys & Girls Club or any other activity in the area. And we are getting a lot of kids move in," she said. "We really don't have anything for them to do, to be honest."

2016: A watershed year

Vale project goes into high gear

By Scott Callister
The Enterprise

Forget champagne — Vale city officials should be toasting the new year with water.

In the coming month, they will be inking final agreements with the state for some \$8.135 million in loans and grants, recently approved to fix the city's persistent water quality and supply problems.

City manager Lynn Findley said the next steps also include drafting a work order for Anderson-Perry & Associates, the city's engineer of record, for planning and design of the extensive overhaul of the city's water system.

The design process is expected to take about eight months due to the complexity of the project. It calls for:

- Building a new coagulation system upgrades were approved

filtration arsenic treatment facility.

- Upgrading the Washington Street well pump station.
- Demolishing the 200,000-gallon storage reservoir at the airport and replacing it with a 700,000-gallon storage reservoir.
- Replacing pipes in the city and up to the storage reservoir.

"We should be awarding contracts this time next year," Findley said.

One part of the project that is expected to take place before 2017 is construction of a crossing structure so the city can pipe well water over the Malheur River and up the hill to storage. Findley said the crossing must be done next fall so it's in place for the other changes coming the following spring.

The final dollars for the water system upgrades were approved

for water is going to have trouble."

At issue is arsenic that's naturally occurring, not from industry or other sources.

Vale officials were hopeful for a solution when an EPA research division came to town and worked out a deal to install a prototype facility to treat arsenic with an ion exchange process.

The hoped-for solution "just didn't work," said Findley. "After two and a half years of the testing, the EPA said it didn't work for our water, thanks for trying, and they left town."

The city tried adjustments to make the prototype system work for several years, using massive amounts of salt to help isolate and wash out the contaminants. The city was

spending \$5,000 to \$7,000 a month on salt in 2014, when engineers confirmed that system still had little or no effect on the water quality.

Findley said that called for a new approach. Under an agreement with the Oregon Health Authority, the city pledged to work to bring the system into compliance with standards. The first step in that process was a substantial revision of the city's water plan, an effort that went beyond contaminant issues to identify storage, supply and infrastructure problems — and ways to address them.

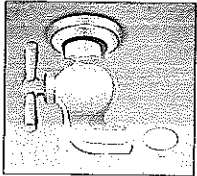
Findley said the funding approved this winter puts the city on track to carry out the solutions.

The residents will foot some of the bill for the improvements, but he said the city is looking at ways to minimize those costs.

About 46 percent of the money comes from grants, Findley noted. As for the loans, he said the project qualifies for a 1 percent interest rate because of the community's relatively low income levels. And he said he's exploring Oregon Water Resources offerings to replace some of the funding at an even lower cost.

Business Oregon estimated the project could bump water rates from the current \$33.23 per month, at the 7,500-gallon usage level, to as much as \$49 per month.

However, Findley thinks it won't go that high. He said that rate may hit \$39 per month, but he's hoping to keep it closer to \$33.



Overnight, the EPA standard went from 50 parts per billion to 10 parts per billion.

'Vale — and most of the West — was unable to meet that.'

— Lynn Findley, Vale city manager

See WATER, Page 5

WATER

From Page 1

Currently the city is out of compliance with drinking water regulations set by the state, which found the system lacks supply, storage and reliability. Adding urgency is the fact that the well field by the airport is "susceptible to drought impacts."

The tipping point for Vale, as for many other Great Basin communities, came in 2001 when the Environmental Protection Agency issued stricter standards to limit arsenic in drinking water.

Overnight, the standard went from 50 parts per billion to 10 parts per billion.

"Vale — and most of the West — was unable to meet that," said Findley. "Any community with a system using shallow wells

JAN 14 2015

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

Portland, OR
(Multnomah Co.)
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Panel reviews region's aging water network

Ancient system can't withstand earthquakes

By PETER WONG

Pampin Media Group

Unlike California and other parts of the West, Portland has few problems with the quantity of water supplies.

But panelists at a recent discussion agreed that the Portland region has other looming water issues in the form of aging pipes and vulnerability to earthquakes — and how to pay for the needed upgrades.

Portland's century-old city system has 2,700 miles of pipes — their average age being 80 — in addition to 17,000 fire hydrants and 45,000 valves.

"I am 64 and I don't work so well anymore," said Michael Stubb, director of the Portland Water Bureau. "We need the support of the public to begin doing replacement of all this old pipe that our grandparents put in. It's a lot of money."

Stubb was among the five panelists at a discussion sponsored by the City Club of Portland and the Washington County Public Affairs Forum. Jim Moore, who teaches politics at Pacific University and is director of the Tom McCall Center for Policy Innovation, moderated the discussion at the Beaverton City Library.

"Most of you have not been out of water for more than three or four hours, and a great many of you have never been able to turn on your tap and have no hot water coming out. It's out of sight, out of mind," Stubb said.

"So when we come before our

various rate-making bodies, it's hard to convince people there is something there."

Mark Knutson is chief executive of Tualatin Valley Water District, which supplies water to 200,000 people in Washington County, including parts of Beaverton, Hillsboro and Tigard.

Even though much of the system is relatively new, Knutson said, "we have old pipes in part have to be replaced."

A role for conservation

Knutson was among the panelists who agree that conservation should be integrated into system improvements — but conservation also costs money.

"I know there is an inherent belief that if you conserve water, then your water bill ought to go down," he said. "But the fact is that so much of our costs are fixed costs, it does not matter how much water we are moving through the system."

Kevin Hanway, Hillsboro's water director, said the region has reduced per-capita water demand in the past decade from 100 to 85 gallons per day.

That helps us reduce our impact on resources," he said. "But with all the growth that is projected for this region, those people still need to flush their toilets and wash their clothes every day. We expect water demand to continue to rise."

According to projections by Metro, the regional planning agency, Portland's regional population will increase from the current 2.2 million to about 3 million in the next two decades. Stubb, Hanway says, companies such as semiconductor manufacturer Intel need access to ample supplies of clean water.

"It's how you communicate and prioritize water use that

will become an increasingly larger part of our public conversation," said Karin Power, lawyer for The Freshwater Trust and a Milwaukie city councillor.

Power also said new technological tools will enable water providers to make conservation measures go further.

"There's not a lot of appetite for increasing our water and sewer dollars," she said.

Preparing for disaster

Rebecca Geisen is project manager for the Regional Water Providers Consortium, which has 26 members plus Metro. Despite the number of agencies, she said, the regions' water providers do talk with each other.

Geisen said one of her goals is to spread the word about how people can prepare for the "big one," the potential of a subduction-zone earthquake off Oregon's coast that would result in extensive damage comparable to what Japan experienced in 2011.

The recommended water storage is 1 gallon per person per day for up to 14 days.

"The more prepared you are with water supply, the less stress there is on responders and water providers to provide water," she said.

Portland's Stubb said the possibility of catastrophic earthquakes is even less apparent to the public than aging pipes — but there is a 4 in 10 chance that the region will experience an earthquake of magnitude 6.0 or greater in the next few decades.

"I will tell you the results will not be pretty," he said. "We ought to be thinking about it and working on it so you can continue to turn on your tap."

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twitter.com/capitolwong

JAN 13 2015

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

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

West Linn, OR
(Clackamas Co.)
West Linn Tidings
(Circ. W. 2,730)

JAN 14 2016

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

Residents pass the halfway mark for construction of water plant in their West Linn neighborhood

By **LESLIE PUGMIRE HOLE**
The Tidings

No one who lives on Mapleton Drive has any illusions of winning the battle. After years of opposition, petitions, legal filings and concessions — and still nearly two years out from completion of a major industrial construction project in their tree-filled neighborhood — they just want to be able to say they survived the war.

KNOW MORE

A tour will be held Jan. 28 for the public. Advance registration is required due to space. Go to lotgardwater.org/?p=westlinn to reserve your spot.

"I'm feeling pretty bruised about the whole thing," says Yvonne Davis, a 25-year resident of Mapleton Drive, as she gazes around her house at the Post-It notes highlighting cracks on her walls and ceilings. "I was shocked when we had our big defeats. I was naive I guess; I thought the people of West Linn would help us. I thought someone in city hall would say 'No, you can't do that.'"

Mapleton and nearby Kenthrope Way are midway through a multi-year \$254 million "expansion" of a freshwater treatment plant built in their Robinwood neighborhood nearly 55 years ago. When it is finished in 2017 very little of the original plant will remain. The plant is owned by the Lake Oswego-Tigard Water Partnership (LOT) and when complete will pump an estimated 38 million gallons a day to those communities as well as provide emergency backup drinking water to West Linn.

Neighborhood Interrupted

This fall was particularly hard on the residents of Mapleton Drive, as the neighborhood passed the second anniversary of active construction. Workers were digging large trenches for the pipe



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Alleged violations of construction agreements from contractors hired by LOT — working past nighttime curfews, insufficient protections of neighboring properties — has taken neighbors to the doors of city hall numerous times over the past two years.

needed to carry water to its destinations, right down the already narrow and sidewalk-free neighborhood. Massive equipment lined the rights-of-way next to houses, gravel piles dotted the areas where kids normally walked to school and steel plates lined the road.

"My house has been shaking for three years and the constant stream of double dump trucks and diesel fumes...well, my quiet neighborhood has been seriously compromised with the net benefit questionable at best," Jack Norby, a 19-year Kenthrope Way resident, told the West Linn City Council this fall. His appearance was a familiar sight: neighbors coming to city hall with complaints of untenable living situations and violation of construction agreements.

For all this disruption, dirt, noise and chaos the city of West Linn received a \$5 million payout from LOT, which is being used for its own water system with a rebuild of the aging Bolton Reservoir.

The neighbors have received nothing from LOT or their own city government, with the exception of 32 homeowners who earlier sued to stop LOT from using residential land for its expansion and received settlements of \$4,000 each.

"When they (dump trucks) come down the street empty they pound and bang the whole way and when they are full it's more of a massive vibration feeling. When they were pile-driving at the plant, lights in the houses were swinging and dishes were shaking in the cupboards," says Shannon Vroman, longtime Mapleton homeowner.

"The construction crane is right above my house so anytime I'm in my yard I'm looking right at the operator and he's looking at me." When LOT announced earlier this year that the construction project would take longer than estimated, Vroman filed a complaint to hold the company to its contract but the city's legal advice was that the document's wording regarding timeline was unenforceable. "In the end we weren't saying 'Go away' so much as 'Recognize the impact this has on our lives, our property,'" she adds. "I just want to get this thing over with."

LOT

From Page A1
Working together?

A project of this size is bound to have challenges, according to LOT, but the organization says it's gone out of its way to mitigate potential problems. Twice-monthly meetings are held so residents can talk with project managers, contractors and LOT representatives. The organization

MORE ART

uses its website, social media and old-fashioned door knocking to communicate frequently with neighborhood residents, says Katy Fulton, LOT spokesperson.

To see more photos of the LOT water plant in West Linn and conceptual images of what it will look like when the work is done, go to westlinfindings.com.

"In terms of communication, the Partnership has consistently gone above and beyond what is required of us to help make sure the neighbors in West Linn are as informed as possible about the project," she stated in an email. The organization has also given homeowners gift certificates for local businesses, car wash coupons and other perks to try and offset the livability impacts, Fulton says.

LOT project manager Joel Komarek points to the plant's history — constructed in 1968 in a semi-rural pocket of then unincorporated Clackamas County — and says there seems to have always been a contingent of neighbors upset about its existence. As for upgrades and expansions over the years, Komarek says that LOT was required to file facility plans with the city of West Linn, showing what the future was expected to hold, so no one should be surprised by the latest project.

The road to installation of the new plant and pipeline has been a roller coaster ride of challenges and victories. LOT owned four residential lots surrounding the old plant but neighborhood covenant, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) prevented industrial uses. The organization eventually used eminent domain rights to override the covenants. Then the West Linn Planning Commission denied the expansion application, but was ultimately overruled by the West Linn City Council when a new ap-



Longtime Mapleton Drive resident Sharon Vroman has a home so close to the plant construction its multi-story construction crane overlooks her backyard.

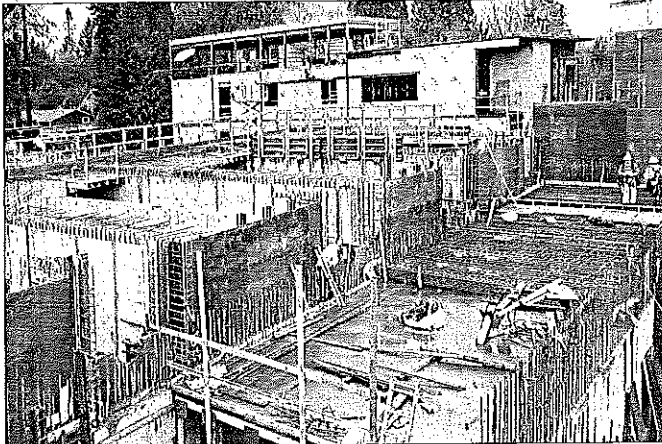
plication was submitted. A lawsuit by some homeowners in the neighborhood protesting the eminent domain action was settled out of court.

The new plant is expected to nearly double the capacity of Clackamas River water that can be drawn and treated every day. It will be seismically sound and add ozone technology to filter the water rather than solely the chemically-based direct filtration method currently used. Two wastewater lagoons will be repurposed as overflow basins but the majority of the plant — including the 47-year-old administration building — will be brand new.

Devil in the details

Before the project began in earnest LOT developed a "Good Neighbor Plan," based on discussions with Robinwood residents and the city, outlining rules for things like hours of operation, where equipment would be placed, safety precautions and other livability/construction conflicts. It's those rules that are consistently broken by LOT's contractors, some neighbors say, with little support from the city of West Linn until recently.

"No one who should have



When the construction is completed, LOT has agreed to landscape and leave open the area bordering Mapleton Drive (in front of the house in top left of photo) as a buffer for neighbors.

been paying attention bothered to make it (conditions of approval) bulletproof for West Linn," says Davis. "Once the city approved the project, city staff just moved on... We've been operating from a position of weakness ever since the project was approved. A lot of

things they said they'd do to make it easier for the neighborhood sort of disappeared."

West Linn City Councilors Jenni Tan and Brenda Perry have been functioning as liaisons between the council and neighbors for much of this year, attending meetings with LOT and hearing concerns from neighbors.

"You can look at diagrams and maps but until you're onsite it's hard to visualize (the project's impact on the neighborhood)," says Perry. "I share

their frustrations, hearing one thing from LOT then finding out they've done another." Had she been on council when the project was presented she would not have approved it, Perry says.

Yet, things are looking a bit better in recent months, Perry and neighbors agree. The City has been watching the project more closely, talking with neighbors and sitting down with project managers. After Interim City Manager Don Otterman arrived in August he

project early on. "Prior to me I don't know exactly how it was handled but we were getting enough complaints that they (LOT) now have to come through me (to request variances to the construction agreement)," says Otterman. "I don't want them thinking they can do whatever they want outside the conditions of approval with no ramifications. I've made it abundantly clear to them that I'm more than willing to have the police department issue citations."

On Jan. 12 LOT representatives were notified that an afterwork inspection of the site found several violations of the construction management plan requirements, including a failure to limit the length of the construction zone, maintain open streets after work hours and maintaining the proper trench surfacing. LOT was told that a follow-up inspection that evening would be conducted to ensure compliance.

While residents are encouraged to see more advocacy from city hall, they are still looking at another 18 months or so of construction before they have their neighborhood back.

"We're pretty beaten down at this point," says Vroman. "If we didn't have each other we'd be a mess. We just want our lives back but we can't. It won't let us."

Davis worries that those outside the neighborhood, people who've never seen the disruption and impacts, have dismissed homeowners on Mapleton and Kenthorpe as NIMBY (Not In My Backyard) "crybabies."

"I don't think we're being unreasonable," says Vroman. "We're educated, thoughtful people just trying to protect our way of life, our property and our neighbors who can't protect themselves."

Perry, for one, feels certain the tide has shifted.

"When the city takes a stand, things change," says Perry. "We get different results."

Contact Leslie Pugmire Hole at hole@pamplinmedia.com or 503-636-1281, ext. 103. r

Mary's Woods Presents
Our 2nd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Event
Saturday, January 16, 2pm

Price tag for failed mediation over Bridge Creek: \$54,000

By Tyler Leeds
The Bulletin

A failed mediation that sought to resolve a lawsuit brought by environmental groups concerning a city of Bend drinking water project cost \$54,000, a price tag largely borne by the city and U.S. Forest Service.

Central Oregon LandWatch and WaterWatch of Oregon sued in 2012 to block the replacement of an aging pipe

the decision to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

To avoid going before the 9th Circuit, the two sides agreed to meet in mediation last year, a process that fell apart this fall. The city of Bend and Forest Service, both of which are defendants, each paid 40 percent of the cost.

While LandWatch and WaterWatch split the remaining 20 percent.

The \$54,000 paid for the

services of Debra Nudelman, a senior mediator in the Portland office of the national firm Kearns & West. City of Bend Attorney Mary Winters says the cost covered Nudelman's time at meetings between the two parties and numerous conversations with each side.

Winters said Nudelman was hired because of her experience on environmental and water issues.

See Bridge Creek / B2

Bridge Creek

Continued from B1

LandWatch Executive Director Paul Dewey said Nudelman was "very, very good."

Dewey said it was his organization's preference to use the 9th Circuit's mediation services, which are free. However, Winters says Dewey didn't want to work with the mediator offered by the court, who had overseen a previous failed mediation between the two groups, and didn't suggest an alternative.

The city did not advocate for spending money," Winters wrote in an email. "We felt that to spend precious city council and staff time and resources, yet again, on settlement discussions, we would have the greatest chance of

success with an experienced mediator with knowledge of complex water rights and irrigation district issues."

Dewey said the cost sharing reflects "a balanced approach" and shows "the good faith on everyone's part to find a solution."

In an interview, Winters said the city's share of the cost "was what we negotiated and what the City Council decided they were willing to pay."

"Although we felt very strongly that the Forest Service did great work and we have a really good case, it was the council's decision that it would be better for the community to settle," Winters said. "We also know environmental groups have limited resources, not that the city and federal government don't have

limitations, but we took it into consideration."

The cost for Nudelman, Winters added, was driven by her qualifications.

"We wanted somebody good, and that unfortunately costs money," she said. "Settlements are tricky. We worked hard to settle this one. Because it's confidential, I can't speak to why we didn't settle."

LandWatch and WaterWatch filed a brief with the 9th Circuit in December. The city and Forest Service's responses are due Feb. 2. Oral arguments are expected to occur sometime in the early summer.

Winters said adding that a ruling could be made anytime between a month or year after those arguments.

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

JAN 17 2015

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

Staff eyeing how best to purify water

SHELBY CASE
The Umpqua Post

REEDSPORT — City employees are awaiting data from a Coos Bay engineering firm to help them determine how best to effectively and inexpensively purify water.

The city is working closely with SHN Engineering.

"They are basically an on-call engineering firm that we have," Reedsport

Public Works director John Stokes said.

Stokes said engineering firm representatives, city staff and the City Council met Jan. 19 to get an update from the company on the water plant.

Oregon Drinking Water Services requires that by October 2016, all cities and counties must have some means of properly treating their water to treat a diarrheal parasite known as

cryptosporidium. "We do not have it now and we've never had it," Stokess said of the parasite, which is being present in city water supplies.

There are essentially three ways the city could treat this type of parasite: through ultraviolet radiation through water tubes; via a membrane system, which Stokes said is double but quite expensive; or by using a combination of membranes in

the water tubes and UV radiation.

"I mean, nothing can survive a UV treatment," he said.

With SHN, any services the city uses "goes against their contract" and he said "it helps to have a yearly contract."

"You don't have to keep going back to council (for approval)," the director said.

However, Clear Lake is 232 feet above sea level and Reedsport, by comparison, is just about at sea level. With a gravity feed system, the water pressure increases with water flowing.

He emphasized the city is doing fine with water pressure.

Stokes explained that for some reason the city needed to go with a membrane and ultraviolet system, there's a theory with a membrane system the city could have to install a booster pump. This is because a membrane system could slow down the water flow.

This hasn't been an overnight process in terms of research.

"We talked to Coos Bay," Stokes said. "We talked to Bend. We talked to quite a few communities in the state."

Essentially, those cities were either using ultraviolet light, membranes or both to treat water. City staff also contacted state water quality employees.

"We actually went

out to Myrtle Creek and looked at their system," he said, saying "so it's (the method) based on their needs."

Stokes feels pretty comfortable with the information received so far from other communities.

"It wasn't anything real scientific. It was just standing on the shoulders of other people," he said of the research Reedsport personnel did.

Additionally, staff will update the council on their work and plans.

"It's good because it means they know we're not making uninformed decisions over here because there's a lot of wisdom on that council," he emphasized.

Stokes anticipates that at the latest, he'll have a report back to the council at the upcoming March meeting.

The Umpqua Post Editor Shelby Case can be reached at 541-269-1222, ext. 290 or shabby.case@theumpuapost.com.

Staff looking at choices

Continued from A1

The council and staff have three options to consider:

- First, will the city choose a membrane treatment or ultraviolet light and how much will it cost to operate over the long-term?
- Second, what are the short-term operational costs from a membrane system or UV one?
- And last, how much would it cost the city to install a system?

"So all of that has to be figured out in the report," Stokes said, adding that the city has more than 50 percent of the data it needs.

He said the cost for treating water either via UV or through a membrane or using both methodologies has yet to be determined.

Stokes said "the city has been saving money for

Reedsport's water supply, but also for Winchester Bay and Gardiner residents."

"So we're doing a very determined cost-basis analysis," the public works director said. "There's a further engineering that needs to be done."

He said state personnel must in turn review the city's final design and then "there's going to be public bidding."

Stokes anticipated the city would go with ultraviolet light to meet with state requirements, but he wasn't sure yet. He said a membrane system through tubing would be more expensive.

Reedsport, Winchester Bay and Gardiner all receive their water from the naturally formed Clear Lake.

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

JAN 20 2015

Allen's P.C.B. Established 1888

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

JAN 20 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Established 1888

City looks at salt byproduct to treat water

SHELBY CASE
The Umpqua Post

REEDSPORT — Partly for safety reasons and partly to save thousands of dollars per year, city public works staff are looking at using a salt byproduct to purify water.

Public Works Director John Stokes said the city is considering creating hypochlorite bunches of pellets on site.

If the city staff decide to go with the hypochlorite alternative, the city would purchase the equipment to generate (the chemical), he said. "We would not be purchasing the solution from a vendor."

He said otherwise the city would have to "store a large amount of salt on site" which would be cumbersome.

The bottom line is that city staff are weighing options and he said the "hypochlorite cost is pretty steep up front." However, over time once the city were to install hypochlorite equipment, the operational costs over time would be less than with chlorine.

"We're looking at a pelletized chlorine system," Stokes said. "It looks like a hockey puck. It's a solid chunk that's mixed with calcium."

Stokes said this pellet then dilutes at so many gallons per hour.

Both the water plant and the wastewater treatment plant use chlorine gas for treating water. However, with an aging system and given chlorine's toxic nature city workers have to be extremely careful. Stokes emphasized that there are systems in place in case of a leak.

"The risk of that happening is very low, but again you never know," he said. The chlorine comes in cylinders each weighing 150 pounds.

The wastewater treatment plant is located by Fred Wahl Marine and the Umpqua River. The water plant is located on the northeast side of Clear Lake and to the southeast of Winchester Bay.

The water plant dates to 1995, and the wastewater treatment plant opened in 2012.

Referring to the wastewater treatment plant, "in case of a tank leak or a massive failure," Stokes said, properties in a one-mile radius would need to be evacuated in case of a chlorine leak.

The other factor, besides

See Ssh. A3

Heavy Costs

Continued from A1

making sure residents and visitors are safe from any chlorine leak whatsoever, is cost.

"Yeah, every time we order chlorine it's \$3,000 12-15 days on a tank," he said. "Yeah, and that's on average." Delivery costs range between \$300 to \$500.

He and others are trying to look more long-term. "Can we upgrade them to make them safer?"

The Umpqua Post Editor Shelby Case can be reached at 541-269-1222, ext. 296 or shelly.case@umpquapost.com. (541) 269-1222

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

JAN 23 2016

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

Inside Bend's new \$33M water plant

By Tyler Leeds • The Bulletin

Part of Rod Mings' job entails looking at an interactive diagram of the city of Bend's new \$33 million water treatment plant displayed on a computer monitor.

Explaining that a long operation mostly runs on autopilot, Mings, the city's water operations supervisor, and other city employees are mostly there in case something breaks and to calibrate gauges.

The plant, located off Skyliners Road, is just one piece of a \$70 million drinking water project that also includes a new pipe to divert water from Bridge Creek, a tribu-

ary of Tumalo Creek. That water has not yet entered the system, as Mings and his team are now learning how to manage the plant using pre-treat well water.

Don Eickmann, who leads the city's Engineering and Infrastructure Planning department, says the plant should be processing Bridge Creek water by April. The plant was a response to tougher federal

rules that require cities to treat for cryptosporidium, a microorganism that can cause gastrointestinal illness.

When everything is up and running, at times the control room will sit empty, though the plant is able to send Mings or a colleague a text message if one of the plant's sensors notices something has gone awry.

See Water /A6

Water

Continued from A1

Mings noted the plant is able to send out around 760 different kinds of alarms, ranging from minor to major such as drinking water coming in at an elevated pH or a pump failing.

In a worst-case scenario, there's a button — it's red — that can be hit to shut the whole thing down.

"We'd use that if a large pipe broke, there was flooding or

a mechanic got his arm stuck in some machinery," Mings said inside the control room. "But I'd prefer to never have to use it."

Given the plant's complexity and his duties elsewhere in the city, Mings said he's not worried about the automation leading to a monotonous work day. However, he acknowledged he's pleased he won't have to run up to the plant in the middle of the night if it starts raining.

The city's old system relied largely just on chlorination, with sodium hypochlorite as

its main disinfectant.

Chlorine gas is highly toxic, and a leak could lead to an evacuation zone stretching all the way east to Miller Elementary School, according to Shannon Oseandorf, the city's utility operations and maintenance manager.

Mings, who's worked for the city 25 years, noted he's breathed in chlorine gas at a plant before, euphemistically describing the experience as "not pleasant."

Reporter: 541-633-2160, tleeds@bendbulletin.com

Cottage Grove, OR
(Lane Co.)
Cottage Grove Sentinel
(Circ. W. 5,400)

JAN 27 2016

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

Drinking Water Protection Plan meeting

On Thursday, Water Production Superintendent Roy Beckwith, City Planner Amanda Ferguson and Public Works Director Jan Wellman attended the first annual stakeholder meeting as a part of the City of Cottage Grove's Drinking Water Protection Plan (DWPP). When the original DWPP was written and submitted to DEQ for review, it was suggested that the City add an implementation strategy to place the plan's goals and objectives into action.

Toward this end, Public Works applied for two grants, totaling \$38,250, to fund a Phase 1 and Phase 2 implementation strategy. Phase one fostered agency cooperation to protect the watershed and called for a memorandum of understanding between stakeholders for this purpose, which culminated in Thursday's annual meeting.

Phase two dealt with individual landowner issues, education and outreach. Thursday's meeting was facilitated by the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council and was attended by representatives from the US Forest Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Land Management, Lane County, Oregon, DEQ, Weyerhaeuser, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and E-System Services (City's Phase 1 consultant). There was a general discussion by the partner agencies concerning their 2015 activities that aimed to benefit or protect drinking water, and presentations concerning planned activities for 2016. Each of the partners also committed to meet annually to continue the dialogue in regard to drinking water protection activities in their area.

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

JAN 27 2016

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

MAY ELECTION

Newport City Council passes a fluoridation ordinance for voter consideration — sort of

BY DANI PALMER
Of the News-Times
744-7

NEWPORT — Due to a technicality, city councilors will have to readdress a recently approved fluoridation ordinance in order to send it to voters in May's primary election.

On Jan. 19, the Newport City Council talked in length about language revisions, deciding upon a handful and casting a vote in favor of the ordinance, 4-1.

But because the ordinance wasn't read by title only before a roll call vote, it will have to be ratified at the council's next meeting on Feb. 1, City Manager Spencer Nebel said. Nebel, who noted the ratification would not interfere with the city's fluoridation election timeline, was absent from the meeting.

The city council met with members of Clean Water Newport and Lincoln County Health Advisory Public Health Advisory Committee Chairman Gary LaHman to discuss the ordinance's language during a work session earlier on Jan. 19.

The council ultimately decided to use the terms 'residual fluoridation' and 'fluoridation product' and to add a recommendation by the American Water Works Association (AWWA). Councilors also voted to include estimated costs, and to mark that fluoridation will be paid through water rates as provided in the city budget" in the ballot title and explanatory statement only.

Why? Newport fluoridated its water supply until 2005,

when a new water treatment plant went online, and it's unclear what the actual fluoride compound will be until the city proceeds with a design for the project. LaHman pointed out the AWWA offers a different, but still recommendatory, viewpoint from the National Sanitation Foundation, while Clean Water Newport members felt voters need to have an idea of the costs and how they'll be covered.

Excluding the method of payment from the ordinance could keep the city open to more funding options. "It isn't clear there (in the ballot title language) to folks, it should be," Councilor David Allen said. "Because that's going to be most prominent in front of everyone who's voting."

Clean Water Newport and the public health sector of Lincoln County have been at odds over the issue of fluoridation.

In her October letter of support to the city council, Lincoln County Health and Human Services Director Cheryl Concell said fluoride is a proven, safe way to prevent tooth decay and support healthy teeth. She cited numerous agencies, such as the Centers for Disease Control and American Dental Association.

Clean Water Newport cites the National Academy of Sciences on its website, stating one of its reports found that fluoride can increase the risk of ailments, such as bone cancer, kidney disease, and

diabetes.

A 2006 National Academy of Sciences study found that high levels of fluoride can negatively impact health, but a 2007 study also stated it can have beneficial dental and bone effects at low levels. Public Works Director Tim Gross has said Newport would follow recommended guidelines.

Before the meeting, LaHman said Newport fluoridated its water supply from the 1960s to 2005 without any notable problems. Nearly 75 percent of the U.S. served by community water systems has access to fluoridated water, according to the CDC.

"There's a lot of people in the community with bad health," said LaHman, noting the number of ER visits because of dental pain is high. "Fluoridation is a good way for the community to get a product to help."

Clean Water Newport members, however, asked the council to remove language that promotes fluoride as being beneficial to dental health. Dr. Susan Andersen said the claim is controversial and "not absolutely proven." Councilor Ralph Busby suggested they use "alleged" benefits. That was shot down, and he was the lone dissenting vote at the end of the night. Councilors Mark Saalans and Laura Swanson were excused.

Contact reporter Dani Palmer at 541-265-5571, ext. 217 or dpalmer@newportnews.com

Lebanon, OR
(Linn Co.)
Lebanon Express
(Circ. W. 1,913)

JAN 27 2016

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

Sodaville receives grant

The money will be used to fix the well system

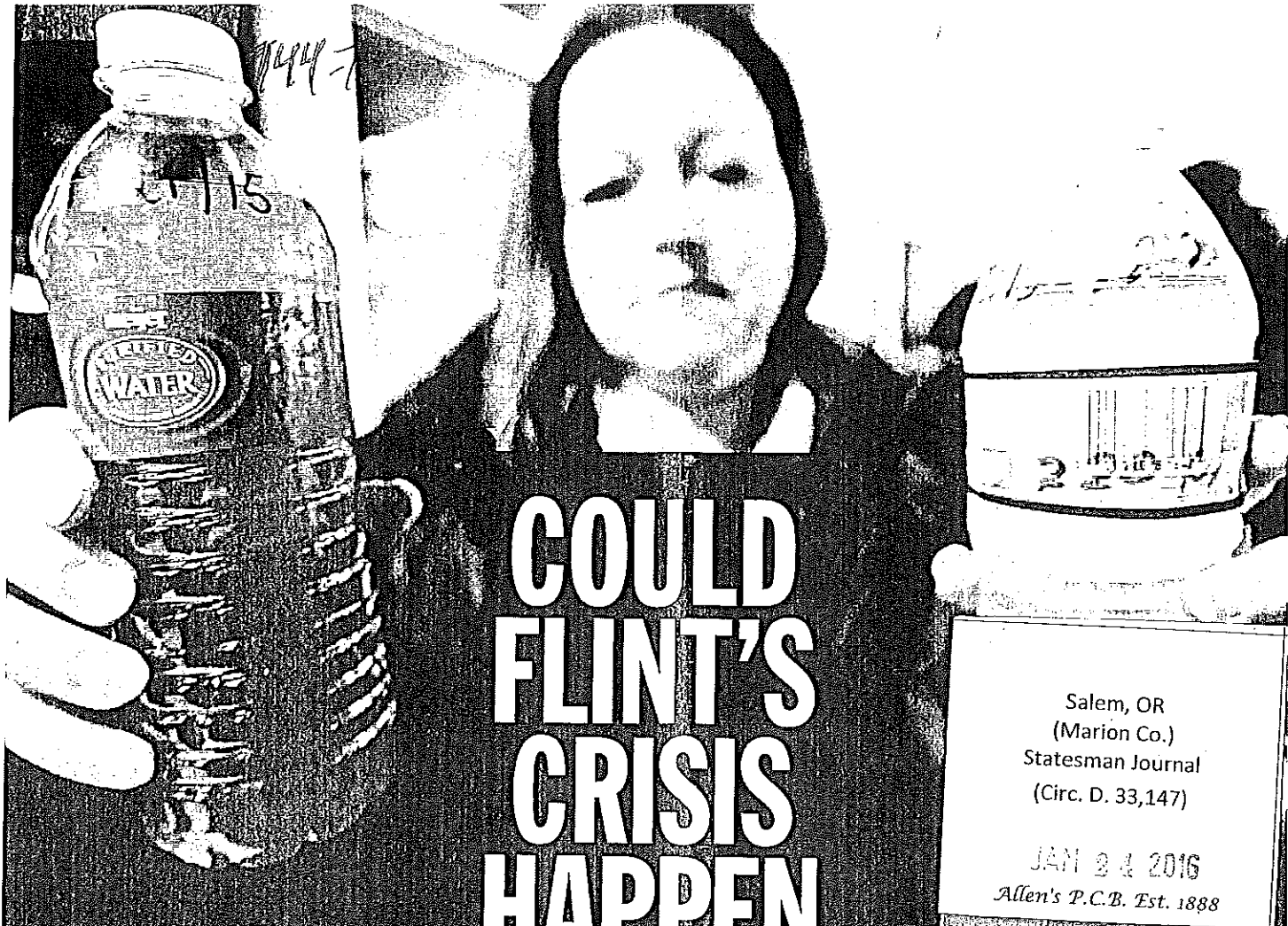
MATT DEBOW
LEBANON EXPRESS

The city of Sodaville has received a Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant.

The \$129,475 grant will go toward improving the wells in the city and reimbursing the city's fund for purchasing and trucking in water from the city of Lebanon.

City Administrator. The city of Sodaville was buying water from the city of Lebanon during the drought months this past summer while Sodaville enacted restrictions on citizen's water usage. Heavy sustained rains have recharged the well's aquifers, and the city is no longer trucking water in from Lebanon and the water restrictions have been lifted.

Still Sodaville city wells are in need of repairs and one well one has no liner, Smith said. "We haven't figured out why," Smith said. "Some pumps will be dropped, a lot of piping and electrical work will go on."



COULD FLINT'S CRISIS HAPPEN HERE?

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

JAN 31 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Tracy Loew | Statesman Journal 744-7

President Obama has declared a state of emergency in Flint, Michigan, where high levels of lead leached into the city's water pipes, poisoning residents.

A series of cost-cutting measures and mistakes by multiple agencies lead to the public health disaster.

But the potential for similar, if less extreme, incidents exists throughout the nation's aging water infrastructure.

High levels of lead can and do flow from household taps across the country, including some in Salem, Portland and other Oregon cities.

In fact, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 10 to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead comes from drinking water.

TOXIC LEAD LEACHING FROM PLUMBING LINES ACROSS THE COUNTRY

RYAN GARZA / DETROIT FREE PRESS
LeeAnne Walters, 36, of Flint shows water samples from her home from Jan. 21 and Jan. 15, 2015, after officials spoke during a forum in Flint.

The problem arises in communities that draw water from lakes, rivers and streams, rather than underground aquifers.

"Surface water is the culprit because it's soft," said Beth Myers, lab director at Waterlab, a Salem professional water testing company.

Soft, or acidic, water corrodes plumbing, releasing lead from older lead pipes and from lead solder used in copper pipes.

"Lead leaching from plumbing is a common problem in Oregon public water systems that use surface water sources," said Jonathan Modie, spokesman for the Oregon Health Division.

Conversely, the minerals in hard groundwater, such as that used in Keizer, coat pipes, offering a layer of protection from

See LEAD CRISIS

Lead crisis

Continued from Page 1A

lead.

"Keizer has no problem at all," Myers said.

In Oregon, 225 communities use surface water sources.

The state outlawed lead solder in plumbing in 1985. However, homes built before that still are at risk.

In 1991, EPA published a regulation to control lead and copper in drinking water. It requires water systems to monitor drinking water at a fraction of at-risk customers' taps.

If lead concentrations exceed 15 parts per billion in more than 10 percent of the taps sampled, the water provider must take action to control corrosion in pipes, educate customers about steps they can take to protect their health, and may have to replace lead service lines under their control.

That's exactly what happened in Salem in 2003.

The city had been sampling water from the taps of 147 homes built between 1983 and 1985, said Lacey Goeres-Priest, Salem water quality and treatment supervisor.

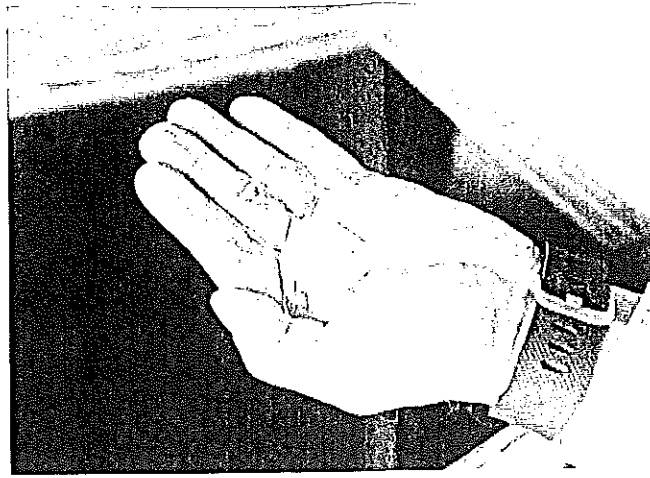
"In 2003, we exceeded the action level for lead," she said.

In response, the city built a \$700,000 addition to its treatment plant on the Santiam River to add soda ash to the water, raising its pH level. It went into operation in 2006.

Since then, the city has not exceeded the EPA action level of 10 percent of taps tested exceeding 15 ppb of lead.

In 2011 and 2012, three homes exceeded that level, with the highest coming in at 40.1 ppb.

The most recent tap samples, taken in 2013, showed that only one Sa-



PHOTOS BY MOLLY J. SMITH / STATESMAN JOURNAL

Water Services Manager Dwayne Barnes shows some of the soda ash that is added into the Salem water supply at the the Geren Island Water Treatment Facility. The addition of soda ash creates a calcium coating inside water lines to keep lead from leaching into the water supply.



Soda ash is stored in a large silo at the Geren Island Water Treatment Facility, and is added into the city's water supply to help prevent corrosion in pipes.

lem home out of 91 tested exceeded 15 parts per billion of lead, at 29 ppb.

The city is scheduled to take samples again this summer.

Salem also began advising customers, especially those in older homes, to flush each of their taps for up to two minutes when water has been sitting in the pipes for six hours or more.

The homes tested are just a fraction of all of the homes in Salem that are at-risk.

The city does not have an estimate of the total number of homes it

serves that have lead in their plumbing. Goeres-Priest also was unable to say whether any city-owned service lines contain lead solder.

Portland has struggled with the same problem.

In 2014, the Portland Water Bureau reported that 13 out of 108 homes it tested had water that exceeded 15 parts per billion of lead.

Portland has previously exceeded the EPA's lead and copper rule five times, most recently in 2006.

In 1997, the city began adding sodium hydroxide,

or lye, to the water to raise its pH. The Portland Water Bureau also funds education, outreach and testing for all sources of lead, including lead paint, said Jaymee Cuti, public information officer for the Bureau.

Across Oregon, 89 water systems reported 118 violations of the EPA's lead and copper rule in 2014, the most recent year for which data is available.

OHA's Modie said Drinking Water Program staffers could not immediately determine which systems those were, but said all of the violations were for failing to report or late reporting of lead testing results.

Across the state, 130 communities now treat their water to make it less corrosive.

Public health officials say there is no safe level for lead in water.

Exposure to lead can cause health problems ranging from stomach distress to brain damage. Children are especially susceptible because their bodies absorb metals at higher rates than adults.

In Flint, officials ignored complaints about the water for months after the city began drawing its water from the Flint River, in April 2014, as a cost-saving measure. The water was not treated for corrosion control.

Concerns were swept under the rug until a pediatrician documented high lead levels in children's blood.

Flint reconnected to Detroit's water system in October 2015, but by then it was too late. Corrosion has flooded the water infrastructure with lead. Replacing the water pipes could cost as much as \$1.5 billion, Flint Mayor Karen Weaver said last week.

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cy_Loew 744-7

Jan 28 2016

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

Exception for rural sewers advances

By Ted Shorack
The Bulletin

Deschutes County commissioners began considering a proposal Wednesday that would allow sewers in rural areas near La Pine and Sunriver to address potential groundwater contamination from nitrates.

A final decision is expected next month, but county commissioners expressed support for the idea, which is believed to be a solution to keep groundwater clean in the foreseeable future.

"We have to protect the groundwater," said Commissioner Tony DeBone.

"We do have good ground-

water in the rural southern Deschutes County area, but we do have high groundwater and highly

draining volcanic soils." About a dozen people attended, but public comment at this session was not allowed.

State and federal officials studied the area in the late 1990s and determined nitrate levels in the groundwater could eventually exceed drinking water standards if left unaddressed. Nitrates arrive in the ground in wastewater that has been treated and discharged from septic systems.

"I am convinced we have a responsibility to protect the groundwater because of the unique circumstances that are in this particular area," said Commissioner Tammy Baney.

The upcoming decision has been part of a several-year process. The Deschutes County Commission adopted a policy in 2008 requiring residents in the affected area to eventually use alternative treatment systems, which provide a more sophisticated filtration of wastewater before it is dispersed into the ground. The rule was overturned by voters in 2009.

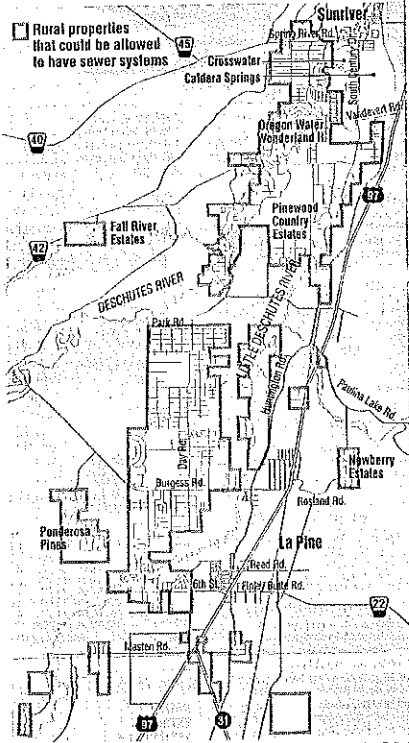
A citizen advisory committee organized by the Department of Environmental Quality began to review other options in 2010. The committee eventually recommended sewers instead of the alternative systems.

County commissioners will vote next month on an ordinance that will make an exception to the Goal 11 statewide land use policy.

See Sewers / B5

Sewer exception decision nears

Deschutes County commissioners will soon decide whether unincorporated areas near La Pine should be allowed to have sewer systems. State land use policies prohibit sewers outside city limits. The option is being proposed to address future groundwater concerns.



Source: Deschutes County

Greg Cross / The Bulletin

Sewers

Continued from B1

The goal prohibits local governments from allowing sewer systems in unincorporated areas. The point is to prevent urban sprawl and keep rural and urban areas distinct.

The county, DEQ and the state Department of Land Conservation and Development had to make a case for the exception. The crux of the argument centers on whether it is needed to prevent a "public health hazard."

Baney said she understood why some residents balked at the notion that the groundwater is a hazard now but said the exception is being proactive to protect future drinking water.

Many residents who live within the proposed exception area have criticized the idea and fear the county will eventually require them to use a sewer system instead of septic tanks.

The proposed exception would not require property owners with septic systems to hook up to or create sewer

systems but provide it as an option.

"It is not my wish as county government to come in and say, 'Now you have to (use a) sewer, now you have to use this particular tool,'" Baney said Wednesday.

According to the county, about 15,000 of the lots in the southern part of the county were platted before land use laws were enacted in the 1970s. About half of them have been developed with septic systems and have drinking water wells.

An analysis of the area found that the water table can be between 2 and 30 feet below the ground surface.

County commissioners also expressed support Wednesday for continued monitoring of the groundwater.

"We really want to know what's going on and what trends might be happening," said DeBone.

—Reporter: 541-617-7820,
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Amity council briefed on infrastructure woes

By PAUL DAQUILANTE
Of the News-Register 744-7

AMITY - Public Works Superintendent Matt Johnson delivered an alarming infrastructure report to the Amity City Council Wednesday night.

In response, Mayor Michael Cape issued a call for action, acknowledging that the city's sewer and water systems are in "bad shape," and require some form of immediate attention.

"It's not because the systems have not been taken care of," said Cape, who wasn't laying any blame on the Public Works Department. "The systems are old."

A majority of the water pipes in the city are more than 50 years old, and some are thought to be about 85 years old, according to Johnson's report. The decades-old pipes are made of various materials.

"There is old, brittle, cast iron pipe, asbestos pipe and even some pipe that I was told by a previous public works superintendent was used for World War II battle ship piping," Johnson noted

in his report. "Some of the piping is a threat of catastrophic failure."

On the sewer side, almost all of the collection system is the original system dating back to the 1960s or early 1970s, according to Johnson.

"Piping is degrading fast, which allows large amounts of rainwater to infiltrate the system," Johnson said. "This causes the liftstations (there are three) to overflow, subdivisions to back up with sewage and overloads the wastewater treatment plant."

Johnson stressed that major upgrades need to happen in the immediate future.

He said most streets in the city are in severe condition and in need of repair. A majority of the storm drainage system is in disrepair. Age and/or size of the piping, or no piping at all, are the primary concerns.

"We need to come up with solutions for these problems," Cape told the council. "Matt is so frustrated. He doesn't even have a solution to these problems. It's time for us to

do something."

Staffing is a concern, according to Cape. Johnson is assisted by only two full-time employees.

"Sheridan has two full-time people who work at the water treatment plant," Cape said. "Matt is there two hours a day."

Cape said Johnson has reached out to federal and state agencies for assistance. The Oregon Health Authority's Drinking Water Services Division was in town this week to evaluate the water system.

A representative of Gov. Kate Brown's office is scheduled to visit with Johnson to discuss whether any other state agencies might be available to aid the city in its effort to improve the infrastructure.

"We truly can't put this off any longer," said Cape, who scheduled a workshop for Saturday, Feb. 20 to address the mounting issues.

In other business:

Police Chief Dan Brown will take three months of medical leave, so the council approved hiring a temporary part-time

officer while he is off duty. The individual will work no more than 80 hours a month and be paid \$15 an hour.

It's anticipated a reserve officer will fill the position. James Clark is the department's other full-time officer.

The council approved spending \$12,000 to purchase four highway entrance signs, and also approved the sign design. The city and Eola-Amity AVA, which encompasses a large number of vineyards and wineries, are partnering on the project.

The total cost is \$24,000, and Amity's portion was part of a Green 4 Growth grant courtesy of Waste Management.

The sign reads "Welcome To Amity - Gateway To The Eola-Amity Hills," which is designated as an American viticultural area.

"The signs are great," Councilor Brandon Zipser said. "They're going to be nice."

The council will meet next in regular session at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 2.

Cottage Grove, OR
(Lane Co.)
Cottage Grove Sentinel
(Circ. W. 5,400)

FEB 3 2016

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

Why Cottage Grove is not like Flint

Cottage Grove has no lead service water lines, though some homes have lead solder to join copper pipes

BY RICHARD MEYERS
Cottage Grove City Manager

You have no doubt seen and heard a great deal of coverage in the news lately concerning the water crisis in Flint, Michigan caused by lead in the water system. Housing in Flint is of an age where there are numerous service lines that may be made of lead. This was done originally because lead pipe is very flexible and lasts virtually forever. However, there needs to be an active corrosion control program constantly in-place to keep the lead from corroding and mixing with the water.

In Cottage Grove, we have no lead service lines. The

only threat to our customers from lead in the City's drinking water is from older brass plumbing fixtures and/or faucets and also, from the use of leaded solder that was used to join together copper pipes within a home's internal plumbing system. This leaded solder threat is limited to homes that were constructed after 1982 and up to the time when the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) outlawed the use of leaded solder beginning in 1986. Homes that were constructed during this time period could have leaded solder in the internal copper plumbing system. Cottage Grove staff has identified 25 homes within the City that were built during this time period and, several others that were built around this time period.

To control the possibility of lead mixing with the water, the water production staff maintains an active corrosion control program, which keeps the pH of the drinking water above seven but below nine.

This keeps the water from corroding lead from the leaded solder and allowing it to mix with the water. In addition, water production staff is required by EPA to collect a water sample from at least 20 houses built during this time period and test for the presence of lead and copper in the water, currently every three years. Homeowners are instructed and encouraged to run their water until it is very cold before drinking or cooking with the water. The problem with lead occurs when water sits in contact with the leaded solder for long periods of time. In any circumstance, it is generally a good practice before drinking or cooking with the water for everyone to run their water for 30 seconds to one minute when the water has been sitting in the pipes for several hours and up to two minutes if the water has not been used for a few days or more.

The City of Cottage Grove also has a few older water mains (dating from the

1940s-1950s) that have leaded joints. However, the water moving in the mains does not come in direct contact with the leaded joints. These leaded joints are replaced as they are uncovered as part of on-going maintenance and replacement efforts. The City of Cottage Grove Water Department takes the safety of consumers' water very seriously. Each year, the City publishes a Consumer Confidence Report that details the operation of the water department and lists test results for known contaminants.

You can view the Consumer Confidence Report on the City's web page at www.cottagegrove.org or, call (541) 942-3349 and one will be mailed to you. Another good source of information for water consumers can also be found at www.drinktap.org.

This article first appeared in the City of Cottage Grove's Friday Update publication on Jan. 29.

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

FEB 5 2016

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

CITY COUNCIL MISLEADS NEWPORT RESIDENTS

At the urging of city of Newport employees, the Newport City Council voted Monday evening to mislead Newport residents by voting to include wording in the May ballot measure on fluoridation that implementation would cost an estimated \$300,000 to be paid from water rates. 744-7

Although the statement appears to be full disclosure, it is in reality the opposite. Public comment pointed out that the wording was unnecessary and prejudicial because the costs had already been paid for and are available in the city budget. The commentator also noted that voters will interpret the wording to mean they will see higher rates.

Neither the city employ-

ees nor council members responded by disclosing how the project would be funded. However, during a meeting break, when asked directly, the city manager said the money would come out of the existing water services capital fund improvement budget. Based on that information, taxpayers will not see a water rate increase because of fluoridation. Why didn't the city council tell Newport voters that? Why can't city council be trusted to simply be straight with their constituents?

Bill Wiist
Newport

CITY COUNCIL

Fluoridation decision headed to the voters

By DAN PALMER
Of the News-Times 7444-7

NEWPORT — The Newport City Council again adopted a fluoridation ordinance, along with a resolution on Monday, Feb. 1, that will send the measure to voters in May.

Because the ordinance wasn't read by the only before a roll call vote on Jan. 19, the council's decision had to be ratified.

In doing so, councilors made a few more changes, including removal of the recently added fluoridation recommendation from the American Water Works Association, and an amendment that reads: "Funds necessary for fluoridation of the city water supply shall be paid as provided in the city budget and consistent with local budget laws."

"There has been significant work done on these documents," said City Manager Spencer Nebel, noting the city has worked with fluoridation opposition. Clean Water Newport, and fluoridation supporters, now calling themselves Healthy Water Newport.

City Attorney Steve Rich said failure to rectify the error could've created a problem. "We can cure that issue now rather than deal with some potential problem later," he added.

Alterations were also made to the resolution, including the removal of a cost savings and the line: "A significant community savings would result in a reduction

of dental care expenses" in the fluoridation explanatory statement.

The estimated cost of the fluoridation process once again became a heavily discussed topic among other recurring themes. Lincoln County Public Health Advisory Committee Chairman Gary Lohman said he felt it was "appropriate to use a range of variables that have not been addressed."

Lohman provided a range of \$225,000 to \$300,000 for fluoridation implementation using a cautious city with a population of 15,000 people, and a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention engineer's estimates. Public Works Director Tim Gross said he felt more comfortable with an estimate rather than a range, and noted the city's \$300,000 estimate is based on plants similar in nature. Newport, he added, uses significantly more water "than cities of similar size because of beer production, fish plants, and thousands of tourists."

The decision to leave the \$300,000 and estimated \$18,000 for annual operating costs in the explanatory statement and summary appeared Clean Water Newport. But members were upset by the decision to use the term "fluoridation project" rather than "fluoridation chemical."

negative connotation. Rich suggested the council go with "product" to avoid "passionate language."

The statute on ballot titles for local measures requires a "concise and impartial statement" of not more than 175 words summarizing the measure and its major effect.

Clean Water Newport supporters called the usage of "product" dishonest, and claimed the council had "let people down." The words and signs of disagreement drew the gavel.

"Obviously chemical is not neutral given the response from the audience," said Councilor Wendy Engler. "I wish I could make everybody happy. As someone who's studied chemistry, we're all just made out of chemicals."

Rick North said Clean Water Newport supporters were upset because they want accuracy.

"In the terms of chemical, that's what it (fluoride) is," he said, adding people should be able to determine for themselves if chemical is a positive or negative term.

Councilor David Allen pointed out that there is a reference to a chemical room, where chemicals including fluoride are stored in the explanatory statement.

Councilor Ralph Busby was again the lone dissenter, voting at the end of the night.

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Can lead contamination strike here? Unlikely

JAMES DAY
Corvallis Gazette Times

Residents of Flint, Michigan, have been living with a horrific water situation since April of 2014, when the city hooked up its water system to the Flint River. The corrosive Flint River water caused lead from aging pipes to leach into the water supply, causing extremely elevated levels of lead.

In Flint, more than 5,000 children have been exposed to drinking water with high levels of lead and they may experience a range of serious health problems.

Can this happen here? What safeguards are in place in Corvallis to prevent lead contamination?

City Public Works Director Mary Stechel told the Gazette—Times that there are no lead water pipes in the city's distribution system and that the main way lead contamination could exist would be in industrial plumbing systems older than 1987.

Here is a Q&A on the subject with Stechel, with the answers edited for clarity and length.

Question: Is there potential for lead in the city's water system?

Answer: Both of our water treatment plants treat surface water. Lead is rarely found in rivers, wells, or reservoirs. It has never been detected in the Corvallis water sources or distribution system. There is a potential for lead contamination once water enters a customer's plumbing system. From 1987, lead solder was used on copper pipes (and lead from such pipes can leach into the water).

Contact reporter James Day at jim.day@gazettetimes.com or 541-758-9542. Follow at [Twitter.com/jameshday](https://twitter.com/jameshday) or gazettetimes.com/blogs/jim-day.

homes tested must have less than 15 parts-per-billion of lead detected. In the latest round of testing in 2014 the city's results were in compliance with the regulations. More information about the city's water quality can be found in the Consumer Confidence Report, mandated by the EPA (see information box on A1).

Q. How often and how is the water tested? What has been found?
A. Regulations require the city to test for lead every three years in homes most likely to test positive for lead; if levels reach the action level in 10% of homes sampled, water providers must begin extra treatment.
Lead has never been detected in the city's raw water sources. The regulations for the distribution system are that 90% of the

This significantly reduces the chances that lead will get into the water. The city also does testing on the water distribution system as proscribed by state regulations, working with a sample of residents to test water at the tap.
Q. What can residents do to protect themselves?
A. If standing water is in contact with lead for several hours, some lead may leach into the water. If people are concerned about lead in their plumbing or fixtures, an easy solution is to flush out the pipes. Simply run the tap until the water feels noticeably colder (30 seconds to two minutes). This method may not be effective in larger buildings with extensive plumbing systems. Also, this is one reason residents should only drink water from the cold water tap — hot water is more effective at leaching metals such as lead.
If people want to find out if lead is entering their water from their plumbing fixtures or from lead solder in their home, they can have their water tested for lead. People can purchase a test kit that costs between \$20 and \$100, or they can have their water tested by a laboratory. Laboratory testing is more reliable,

and people should be sure to use a certified laboratory.

Q. What has the city done to protect water users?
A. Operators at Corvallis' two water treatment plants adjust the treatment process to achieve optimized corrosion control.

Lead

From A1

There are no lead water pipes in the city's distribution system. Depending on age, our mains are cast iron, ductile iron, or PVC. The water treatment plant adds soda ash to maintain optimal pH levels in water leaving the treatment plants. This provides corrosion control in the distribution system and helps minimize the chances that lead will leach from customers' plumbing.
Q. Where might lead contamination occur and what would cause it?

744-7

Water Commission delivers safe, reliable water

By Leigh Johnson 744-7

The Medford Water Commission is paying close attention to the situation that unfolded in Flint, Mich., and our thoughts are with all those who are struggling without access to safe and reliable water in their homes.

Maintaining a reliable and excellent quality drinking water supply is any water utility's ultimate responsibility, and the commission's primary responsibility to the citizens of Medford. The problem in Flint underscores that our first job is to protect the families we serve. Those of us involved in managing, treating and delivering water share a solemn obligation to protect public health.

Aging infrastructure

Throughout the United States is a serious problem, both healthwise and financially. Unlike other communities, Medford has been able to stay on top of system infrastructure from the start, dating back to the 1930s. Medford Water Commission is unique in that, by city charter, we operate separately from the city, which has allowed us to focus on drinking water only.

We do not have first-hand information about what occurred in Flint, but this much seems clear: When Flint switched its water supply source, it did not take needed steps to manage water chemistry. The new water caused lead to leach from service lines and home plumbing — lead that ended up in water coming out of the taps.

Lead does not come from

the treatment plants and water mains; it can come from sources like lead service lines running between the water main in the street and the home, and from plumbing inside the home.

Unlike many older cities back East, lead service lines were not used extensively within Medford's water system. However, all known lead service lines within our system were replaced more than 30 years ago, and the very rare cases found in the decades since have also been removed.

While some communities now face gargantuan costs associated with replacing antiquated infrastructure, Medford Water Commission has a long history of forward-thinking management practices and financial planning that allows our

community to enjoy excellent quality drinking water at among the lowest rates in the state and nation.

Medford's water system is funded entirely through water sales, with no support from taxes. It's through careful planning that the commission has managed to keep water rates very reasonable for both Medford customers and for other cities and districts that purchase wholesale water from the commission.

The forward-thinking of past water commissioners laid the groundwork that enabled Medford Water Commission to be able to produce ample supply to serve not only Medford residents but also our wholesale customers — the cities of Central Point, Eagle Point, Jacksonville, Phoenix, Talent and Ashland. These

cities have their own costs and set their own water rates, with our water charges making up only a small portion — ranging from 9 to 26 percent — of the water bills paid by residents of these neighboring communities.

In addition to being able to supply today's residents with reliable, clean drinking water, the commission continues to look forward and plan for our future needs. The 10 Year Capital Improvement Plan is a dynamic, evolving plan used to assist the commission in estimating capital requirements, planning, scheduling and implementation of projects throughout the next 10 years.

The commission also maintains a series of dedicated funds that act as "savings accounts" to accumulate funds for large capital expenses and

future projects. As an example, knowing that infrastructure will eventually need to be replaced, a Future Main Replacement Fund was set up to accumulate funds for major expenditures related to the replacement of mainline distribution systems.

As is true for all water utilities, we too face fiscal challenges keeping up with necessary improvements and maintenance projects. But with thoughtful management of our resources and finances, it is the Medford Water Commission's continuing mission to serve our customers with excellent quality drinking water at affordable rates well into the future.

— Leigh Johnson is chairman of the Board of Water Commissioners. He has served on the board since 1996.

Medford, OR
(Jackson Co.)
Mail Tribune
(Cir. D. 28,500)
(Cir. S. 33,895)

FEB 7 2016

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

Coquille, OR
(Coos Co.)
Coquille Valley Sentinel
(Cir. W. 3,010)
FEB 10 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Health Warning for Arago

Coos Health & Wellness is issuing a public health advisory for Arago drinking water. Testing has shown the presence of E. coli bacteria in the shallow ground water used by some residents in the community. Lab results were confirmed on Tuesday, February 2. This is a public health concern as the presence of the E. coli bacteria indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headache or other symptoms.

Public Health officials advise continuous disinfection is a safe long-term approach for any resident using the shallow aquifer. Proper use of ozone, chlorine and some ultraviolet lights are examples of disinfection that can make the water safe from E. coli. A resident without a properly maintained disinfection system is advised to obtain bottled water. Boiling water will also destroy E. coli, but because boiling increases the concentration of nitrate, it should not be used by pregnant women or in infant formula as past test results have shown high nitrate levels in the area ground water.

Arago is an unincorporated area in Coos County between Coquille and Myrtle Point. The geology and flat terrain near the Coquille River provides a shallow aquifer shared by many residents using private wells. Contamination to such an aquifer can occur with increased run-off following heavy rain or when home septic systems become immersed.

Water analyzed this week included raw water samples collected from the Arago Community Church well. Testing the water before it has received any treatment is a public water system requirement to determine the need of disinfection. Although the church uses bottled water to assure safety and also provides disinfection church leaders have been anxious to assure community members were aware of the E. coli found in the shared aquifer.

Portland, OR
(Multnomah Co.)
The Oregonian
(Cir. 2XW, 180,000)

FEB 11 2016

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

HEALTH

Lead not on tap for Medford's water

Water sources and line upgrades make lead concentrations unlikely for the Mail Tribune

A Flint, Michigan-based drinking water disaster in the home valley is not likely, according to the Medford Water Commission.

Local water officials, however, are paying close attention to what unfolded in Flint, where an estimated 6,000 to 12,000 children were exposed to lead-laced water after the

city switched its water supply source to the corrosive Flint River.

Lead is a naturally occurring element that is rarely found in water sources.

Lead management within Flint's water treatment program as well as an aging infrastructure are blamed for lead leaching from service lines running between the city's water mains and the homes, and from sub-standard

plumbing inside the homes — ultimately causing the tap water to be contaminated with high levels of lead.

Medford Water Commission supplies water from the Big Butte Springs and Rogue River watersheds to Medford residents as well as the cities of Central Point, Eagle Point, Jacksonville, Phoenix, Talent and Ashland.

In the weeks since the Flint catastrophe, MWC has

published a statement on its website and in the form of a Guest Opinion in the Feb. 7 edition of the Mail Tribune, reassuring its approximately 191,000 customers that the Flint incident is unlikely to happen here because Medford's drinking water comes from two high quality sources that meet or surpass federal and state drinking water standards.

The Oregon Department of Human Services also notes

WATER

from Pure Al

"Lead in drinking water is not a common source of lead poisoning in Oregon."

MWC was formed in 1974, and in contrast to Flint's water utility, the local utility is "unique in that, by city charter, we operate separately from the city, which has allowed us to focus on drinking water only," said Sara Binstrol, MWC's public information officer.

MWC officials also confirmed that unlike many older cities back East, lead service lines were not used extensively within Medford's water system.

MWC began upgrading its infrastructure in the 1950s, and all known lead service lines within the system were replaced more than 50 years ago. In the very rare cases that lead lines are found, they're removed immediately.

"Every once in awhile, a lead line is found," said Binstrol. "Two were found in the last nine years, and they've since been removed."

Historical preservationist George Kramer said that iron pipes were commonly used prior to World War II. However, lead solder commonly was used to connect copper pipes or brass faucets in homes built between 1970 and 1995, he said.

Lead levels in drinking water are likely to be highest if a home has faucets or fittings made of brass, which contains some lead; the home has lead pipes;

or the home has copper pipes with lead solder. Nearly all homes built prior to the mid-1950s still have lead solder connecting copper pipes.

In compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Oregon Health Authority, MWC collects samples and tests for lead every three years at 30 targeted residential taps in homes built between 1962 and 1980, among the last to use copper pipes with lead solder.

The amount of lead detected in Medford's samples has always fallen well below the "action level" determined by the EPA, Binstrol said.

The EPA requires at least 90 percent of the homes tested to have lead levels of less than 15 parts per billion.

In 2013, the date of our most recent sampling, the 90th percentile value for Medford was 1.4 parts per billion," Binstrol said.

Other Rogue Valley municipal water utilities conduct similar tests. Smaller cities, such as Gold Hill, Rogue River, Jacksonville and Shady Cove, target 10 to 20 homes.

The results of the tests are reported to the public in the MWC's and other cities' annual Water Quality Report, as required by the EPA.

Ensuring that the water flowing from the household taps is lead-free, however, also requires due diligence by the property owner.

While it is our policy to replace leaded pipes when they are located within our system, property owners are

responsible for maintaining plumbing fixtures from the water meter to the tap," Binstrol said.

Older homes may use lead pipes, which are generally a dull gray color and are very soft. They can be identified easily by carefully scratching them with a key or coin. If the pipe is made of lead, the area scratched will turn a bright silver color.

—Reach Grants, Post-Feature Writer Tammy Ashtor at tammyashtor@gmail.com.

SEE WATER 4E

Ontario, OR
(Malheur Co.)
Arcus Observer
(Circ. 4xW. 6.837)

FEB 16 2015
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Adrian seeks answer to its arsenic woes

LARRY MEYER
THE ARCUS OBSERVER

Adrian is joining other local communities in going after funding to complete a water project for its municipal system. Like Nyssa and Vale, Adrian will have to address arsenic in the water, which came with a new municipal well drilled west of town, Adrian City Recorder Shawn Snyder said. Even so, Snyder said, the new well will be a big benefit.

"We will have more volume," she said, which will help keep water pressure up during the summer months, when the aquifer normally goes down, and provide more water for fighting fires.

Water from the new well does not have some of the same issues as the city's existing main well, such as manganese, iron and sulfur, which give the water an odor and a bad taste, Snyder said.

Water from the main well does not have arsenic, she said. Arsenic is a naturally occurring element that can be harmful to human health.

Adrian officials are hopeful mixing water from the new well with city's current main well will help lower the arsenic lev-

SEE ARSENIC PAGE A2

TOILET TO TAP

Using reclaimed wastewater still a tough sell here

By PETER WONG
Pamplin Media Group

Despite public concern for environmental — and well-publicized competitions to brew beer from treated sewage — don't expect Portland or its suburbs to resort anytime soon to widespread reuse of water, for drinking or other domestic uses. That was the consensus of ar-

2/16/16

ea water authorities at a recent regional water forum sponsored jointly by the City Club of Portland and the Washington County Public Affairs Forum.

Brian Wegener, advocacy manager for Tualatin Riverkeepers, raised the issue at the forum, noting that the region is spending millions to treat wastewater, most of it discharged into rivers, while officials consider developing future water source-

households and businesses. Plus, there is the matter of public acceptance.

"We just haven't gotten over the 'ick' factor," said Karin Fowler, a lawyer for The Freshwater Trust and a Milwaukie city councilor.

Milwaukie has asked about the possibility, Fowler said, but isn't convinced it's viable now.

See WATER /NEXT PAGE

Water: Improves river quality

From previous page

"It seems to make sense that if you require only a couple of additional steps, we could be re-using this water directly," she said. "Other countries, such as Singapore, have resolved the point where they absolutely have to. They have engaged in massively expensive public campaigns to get people to drink it."

"But we do not have the kind of scarcity problem that California is running into," Fowler said. "Until we are boxed into doing just don't know if spending public dollars on that next step makes sense."

Kevin Hanway, Hillsboro's water director, noted that the Tualatin River needs the augmented flow it gets from wastewater treated by Clean Water Services, the agency that serves most of Washington County.

"What we have determined in joint planning with Clean Water Services is that the best place for that treated effluent to go is back into the river to help maintain its water quality," Hanway said.

"In addition," he said, "just

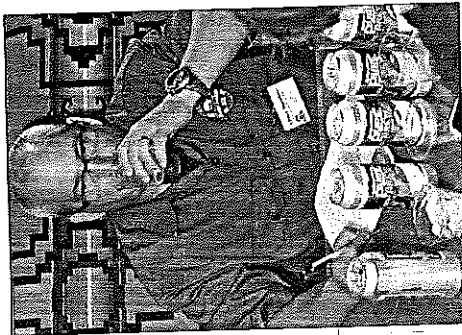
because of the economics associated with power and a secondary pipe system that is needed for delivering that water to customers, it's much more economical to tap these other sources that are still providing an abundant supply without having an impact on in-stream needs."

Clean Water Services does treat about 100 million gallons annually to the higher standards. That's primarily used to irrigate sports fields and golf courses and recharge wetlands, since it's cheaper than providing fresh water. About 400 gallons of that water was used in highly publicized beer-brewing contests in 2014 and 2015.

But that 100 million gallons is less than two days' worth of the wastewater treated by Clean Water Services plants in Durham, Forest Grove, Hillsboro and Rock Creek.

Singapore, an island city-state in Asia, purifies about twice as much wastewater daily to the highest standards — but it's consumed mostly in high-technology manufacturing.

Michael Stur, director of the Portland Water Bureau, said such reuse is technically feasi-



A judge tastes a beer brewed for the 2015 Pure Water Brew competition sponsored by Clean Water Services, the Washington County sewer and storm drainage utility. Clean Water Services made treated, purified water available to home brewers for the competition. COURTESY: CLEAN WATER SERVICES

Harder tapped to lead Business Oregon



HARDER

SALEM— Gov. Kate Brown announced last Wednesday the selection of a new director for the state's economic development agency Business Oregon.

Chris Harder will begin work as the agency's acting director on March 22, according to a press release from the governor's office.

Harder will need the Oregon Senate to confirm him as Business Oregon's permanent director. Harder is the business and industry division manager for the Portland Development Commission, which is the city's economic development agency.

"I'm excited to bring Chris on board to help continue Oregon's economic momentum," Brown said in a statement. "Chris' leadership experience will ensure the state's economic development strategy represents and serves a diverse array of business inter-

ests, urban and rural."

Business Oregon has operated without a permanent director since September, when director Sean Robbins resigned to move back to Wisconsin to be closer to his family. Brown's jobs and economic policy adviser, Vince Porter, filled in as interim director since then.

It took months for the governor's office to find an applicant who could gain the support of the Business Oregon Commission and, ultimately, the Oregon Senate. The governor's office considered a total of 13 applicants for the job, according to Chris Pair, the governor's press secretary.

In the fall, Elisa Dozono was a finalist for the job, as first reported by Willamette Week. Dozono apparently dropped out of the applicant pool at some point after she went through interviews with Business Oregon commissioners.

Dozono had stepped down in June as chairwoman of the Oregon Lottery Commission amid concerns about conflict of interest. Dozono works at Miller Nash Graham and Dunn, the firm that

sued the Oregon Lottery on behalf of a lottery retailer.

By Friday, the governor's office and Business Oregon Commission had narrowed the pool to the latest two finalists who interviewed with Brown, Harder and Judy Pepler, a former president of Qwest Communications in Oregon and chair of the Portland Business Alliance. Pair said Pepler withdrew her name from consideration over the weekend. "Chris (Harder) was the leading candidate after the interviews," Pair said.

The change in leadership comes at a time Business Oregon is poised to take on new responsibilities. The agency is one of the candidates to take over the Oregon Department of Energy's troubled small scale energy loan program and potentially other energy incentives.

In a letter to the state's interim chief operating officer George Naughton in early December, Brown asked Naughton to create a team to "immediately address the issues of how to best transfer the Small-Scale Energy Loan Pro-

gram and energy incentives program (tax credits) away from the Department of Energy to one or more appropriate state agencies that have expertise in financial transactions and instruments." Business Oregon and the Department of Revenue officials are working with Naughton on how to proceed.

Business Oregon and the governor's office were unwilling to provide much information about the candidates until this week, and the Pamplin Media Group/EO Media Group Capital Bureau filed a public records request Jan. 11 for communications between the Business Oregon Commission and staff regarding the recruitment of a new director.

Business Oregon, which has previously released public records free of charge, responded that it would charge \$160 to provide a list of emails between staff and the commission, with most of the cost — \$143 — due to the agency's insistence on having its lawyer review the list.

hborrud@eomediagroup.com

BY HILLARY BORRUD

Newport, OR
(Lincoln Co.)
Newport News Times
(Circ. 2xW. 7,011)
FEB 17 2016

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

IT'S ABOUT ⁷⁴⁴⁻⁷ PERSONAL RIGHTS

I see the fluoride issue differently than most, and I don't agree with Bill Wiist (Feb. 5 letter to the editor) in saying that the city council misleads anyone regarding the cost. In fact, if they didn't state the cost, it would be misleading. It matters not what is in the budget, as that money can either be saved

for another year or be used for infrastructure. It does matter that everyone knows the cost whether in the budget or not. I commend the city council for being honest about it and being straight with their constituents.

My main issue is not is it safe or not, but one of personal rights. If I live in Newport, I should not be forced to drink some chemical I don't

want to drink regardless of the number of people who say it is safe. People who want fluoride can go buy it and ingest it in their home through whatever manner they want. In addition to not being forced to drink it, one should not be forced to pay for something they don't want to drink. It's about personal rights.

Bob Folkers
Siletz

FEB 23 2016

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

450 gallons of diesel spill above Detroit Lake

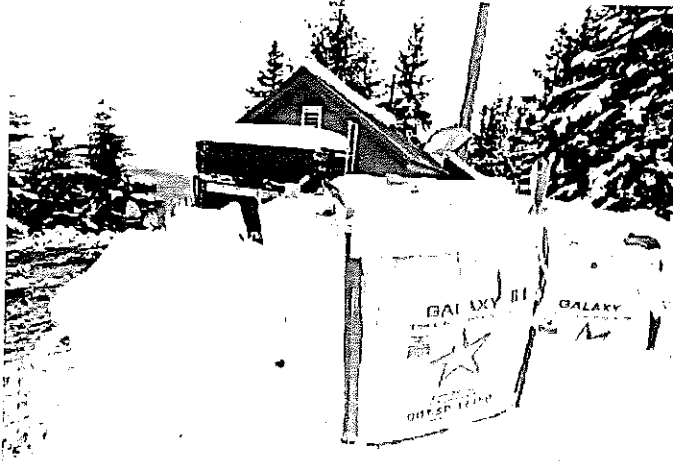
Tracy Loew 744-7
Statesman Journal

Oregon environmental regulators are working to clean up a 450-gallon diesel spill above Detroit Lake, Salem's drinking water source.

The spill came from a generator for an AT&T communications tower located on Hall Ridge in the Willamette National Forest, said Michael Kucinski, cleanup and emergency response manager for the state Department of Environmental Quality.

DEQ is sampling water quality to see whether the diesel is moving into streams lower on the slopes. It will place monitoring stations in the headwaters of Tumble creek, several unnamed tributaries to Detroit Lake, and possibly in Detroit Lake itself.

See DIESEL, Page 6A



Crews clean up a 450-gallon diesel spill in the Willamette National Forest above Detroit Lake on Monday. The DEQ spill response team is in the process of removing the contaminated soil and rock. PHOTOS BY DANIELLE PETERSON/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Diesel

Continued from Page 1A

Initial lab reports show there are no problems with any of the surface waters so far, Kucinski said.

Kucinski said.

"We don't believe it's impacted any of the waterways," he said.

AT&T reported the spill, caused by a malfunctioning fuel system, on Feb. 11. The company hired a contractor to re-

move contaminated rocks and soil. Cleanup was halted last week because of heavy snow, but resumed Monday.

City of Salem spokesman Mike Gotterba said DEQ had not told the city about the spill.

"We were not notified and we're not planning to do anything but our routine sampling," Gotterba said.

744-7
tloew@statesmanjournal.com, (503) 399-6779 or follow at Twitter.com/Tracy_Loew

Water: Tests show no significant lead

244-7
Canby water quality holds up as the issues heat up

By DANIEL PEARSON
The Canby Herald

As much of the national and regional media focuses on crumbling municipal infrastructures, Flint, Michigan's drinking water contamination disaster, and recent revelations of toxic air pollution in Portland, it begs the question: Is Canby exposed to similar risks?

While the air quality question remains unanswered for now (more on that later in this

article) tests of Canby's drinking water supply find there is not "any lead in our distribution system of any significance and our water is treated to be non-corrosive," Canby Utility General Manager Dan Murphy said.

Additionally, Canby City Administrator Rick Robinson said the city does not have any sewer lines it is aware of that are crumbling.

"We use closed-circuit television to go inside the lines and look," Robinson said. "If we do find a problem in our lines we are out the very same hour working on a fix, seeing what the obstruction is, or what the source of the problem is, and making the neces-

sary steps to repair or replace (that or those) wastewater collection lines."

The city of Canby is required by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to conduct regular testing and to file regular reports of wastewater treatment discharge, Robinson said.

The same is true with Canby's drinking water supply — Canby Utility is required to test for lead and submit those results on a regular basis to the Oregon Health Authority, Murphy said.

"Flint was avoidable," Murphy said. "They were not properly treating the river water to industry standards so that it is non-corrosive. They

could have avoided that. That's why we are confident and don't feel like there is anything we need to do under the facts we have at this time."

Canby's drinking water test results

Canby Utility periodically samples its water supply, which comes from the Molalla River, from actual consumer homes as part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's so-called Lead and Copper Rule (LCR), established in 1991.

The last test of 31 Canby homes was conducted in July 2015. Each of the homes tested was built prior to 1985 — the year the U.S. banned lead sol-

der, which previously was used to join copper plumbing to service connections (the two-foot-long pipes that connect a home to the drinking water supply) before it was discovered the soldering could contaminate drinking water at the faucet.

The test showed the water coming out of the faucets of all 31 of those Canby homes did not have any lead or copper levels above what is within acceptable limits, according to the results provided to Canby Utility by France-based Veolia Water Technologies, a designer of water, waste and energy management solutions that has 130-or-so water testing facilities throughout the world,

including one in Wilsonville and one in Canby.

"In the industry, my understanding is there are some lead and copper components in water systems all across the nation and that's not a problem unless the water is not treated right and it erodes that lead or copper and mobilizes it into the water system, and then people start ingesting it," Murphy said. "That's why it's so important to test for this and be sure it's not happening."

See WATER Page 3

WATER: Water quality tests show Canby water is good

(Continued from page 1)

Mike Greene, northwest general manager of Veolia Water Technologies, said pH balancing technology was installed in Canby's water system in the early 1990s, and that test results have been below the action level for copper and lead ever since to the point where Canby Utility is on a reduced monitoring frequency.

"By the way, I live in a house just a few blocks from (Canby City Hall) that was built in 1948," Greene said. "Some of our plumbing has been redone but I'm pretty sure there are probably still some copper pipes in there with the older-style soldered joints. I'm not concerned with (the water at) my house, as long as the water is not aggressive and it is pH balanced, you're not going to have a problem. That was the whole purpose of the lead and copper rule."

Murphy and Greene agreed that there is no cause for alarm in Canby, even for people who live in homes built prior to 1985.

"If people start going in and tearing out their plumbing and replacing these fixtures that have lead, it makes their problem worse," Murphy said. "It mobilizes some of those particles into the water stream. It's about the water mobilizing and eroding that lead or copper in the water stream. The point is that people are better off to leave it alone and allow us to continue checking their water to make sure there are not contaminants in it."

The taste of Canby's water is good, which allows visitors to supply with many of Canby

Utility's 4,850 water customers and eventually the focus turns to the unpleasant taste and accompanying odor that has been a nuisance the last two years during late summer. The taste and odor comes from several sources — algae blooms growing on the Molalla River toward the end of August, organic materials called methylisobornyl and geosmin, reduced river flow from drought and low snow levels, and excessive heat, Greene said.

"The point is worth mentioning for sure," Murphy said. "This problem happened because of low flow in the Molalla River and drought conditions. If we don't see that this year we're not going to experience that again, and we had not seen it for virtually 20 years. It could go away on its own also," Greene agrees.

"We've been running that plant under contract to the Canby Utility board since 2006 and there's only been two years where the taste and odor problems occurred, and that was when there was reduced runoff, when the snow levels were low," he said. "There were serious shortages last summer and those things have an effect on taste and odor."

Air quality remains unknown.

In the wake of state regulators revealing a toxic air pollution problem in some Portland neighborhoods, the Canby Herald contacted the DEQ inquiring about Canby's air quality.

A DEQ spokesman emailed the Herald a link to the agency's online air quality index, which allows visitors to see current air quality in your

city. However, there are no air quality stations in all of Clackamas County, according to a map of all stations in Oregon on the DEQ's website.

When asked for more information as to why there are no air quality stations in Clackamas County, the spokeswoman emailed to say it would be some time before the DEQ could respond because the agency is "working 24/7 on something else equally important of your question and deadline driven, referring to the breaking news about Portland's toxic air."

So, at least for the time being, the exact quality of Canby's air is not known.

As for the drinking water supply, Murphy said Canby Utility is doing all the right things and is open and ready for scrutiny at any time.

"I think it's important for the Canby community to understand that Canby Utility's operation is not reactive, it's proactive, and the effort they undertake on a day-to-day basis to make sure safe, domestic water is delivered to all of the homes served in their system results in a really good product to each resident," Canby City Administrator Rick Robinson said.

For more information: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's O&A, "Actions You Can Take to Reduce Lead in Drinking Water," <http://www.epa.gov/60v/60v0197f.pdf>; Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, "Lead in Drinking Water and Plumbing," <http://www.youleadcanlead.org/web/ef/article/24475>

744-7

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

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

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

Dallas, OR
(Polk Co.)
Herald Observer
(Cir. W. 6,500)

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

WELL TROUBLE

Monmouth needs to install \$700,000 filtration system

By Emily Mentzer
The Herald-Observer

MONMOUTH — In 2012, an untreated water sample from a Monmouth well came back positive for E.coli.

The Marion County well has been used as a primary source of water for Monmouth since it was built in 1980 and has a long history of clean water samples, said Russ Cooper, public works director.

But in November of 2012, the Willamette River was near flood stage, allowing river water to mix with the aquifer around the city's well.

In May 2014, as a result of additional testing, it was determined by the state that the well is under the influence of surface water and further steps are needed to bring the well in compliance with surface water treatment requirements, Cooper said.

An agreement between the Oregon Health Authority and the city of Monmouth outlines steps the city must take to be in compliance with the rules. That agreement was approved at the Feb. 16 Monmouth council meeting.

Citizens should not worry, Cooper said.

"The Monmouth's drinking water is safe," he said. "Do I drink Monmouth's water? Yes. Does my family drink Monmouth's water? Yes. We test 132 times a year. That 2012 E.coli sample was a raw water sample, not a treated water sample."

Still, regulators from the health authority require more safeguards to prevent raw water from getting into the system.

A couple of different options presented themselves, but did not work as planned. Digging up a new well was impractical, Cooper said. Using an ultra violet disinfection was not feasible.

The city was left with installing a filtration system on the well. It would cost about \$700,000, which would near-



ly drain the water funds reserve of \$900,000.

The city would consider taking out a loan to cover the costs of the filtration system, City Manager Scott McClure said, but it would be something the council could discuss at a later meeting. The system would take a couple years to get installed.

Just using the water funds reserve would leave it too low — \$200,000 — to fix any emergencies in the water system that may come up, McClure said.

The city has been looking at other sources of water, such as the Willamette well field, a joint project with the city of Independence, Cooper said, but that is still undeveloped.

Whenever road the council takes, Monmouth residents likely will see increases in their water fees to help pay for the filtration system, as well as possible increases in franchise fees to help cover a forecasted deficit in the budget relating to increased retirement costs for public employees.

"Another cost on the horizon is public works," McClure said. "We think it is very understaffed right now. There are potentially new positions in the works, which also will mean a cost impact — and a rate impact."

The question remains how the council will proceed with any rate adjustments, McClure said.

"Do you start building toward that moving rates up slowly?" he said. "Or the other option is wait until we know what that cost is and possibly do a more significant jump."

HEALTH CARE

Fluoride advocates, opponents make their arguments

BY DANI PALMER
Of the News-Times
744-7

NEWPORT — Whether or not to resume fluoridation of Newport's water supply is an issue headed to voters in May, and one proponent and opponents are still fighting passionately over months before the election.

Representatives from the American Fluoridation Society made their rounds in Lincoln County this month with Healthy Water Newport's Gary Lahman. Both groups are in favor of adding fluoride to the city's water supply.

Retired dentist Kurt Ferré,

who is with the American Fluoridation Society, has been involved with fluoridation politics since 1999.

During that time, Ferré said he's encountered multiple opponents who utilize scare tactics — sometimes misrepresentations — to make their arguments.

"One of the observations that I've made with fluoridation politics is number one: it's much easier to scare the public than to un-scare them," he said.

"And number two: the support for fluoridation is a mile wide, but the passion runs an inch deep. Whereas in the op-

position to fluoridation, the support is an inch wide, but their passion runs to the center of the universe."

Newport fluoridated its water supply for 60 years and stopped in 2005 because of financial reasons.

Healthy Water Newport and the American Fluoridation Society are in favor of fluoridation primarily for its dental health benefits. Multiple studies show it can reduce dental decay.

Rick North, who led Portland's campaign against fluoride and is assisting Clean Water Newport with their effort, argued the 25 percent

reduction of cavities with fluoridated water really only amounts to about half a cavity less.

He said he knows advocates mean well, but that Clean Water Newport aims for accuracy. North, who worked for the American Cancer Society for over 20 years, said he's conversed with doctors he's met over the years when selecting studies to review.

Clean Water Newport argues that water fluoridation can cause health problems, such as kidney and bone diseases, citing a National Academy of Science study that found fluoride in high levels

can negatively impact health.

Newport officials have stated they'd follow safe fluoridation guidelines, but North said the dosage is the concern.

Children and those who are active, for example, drink more water, meaning they're getting more fluoride, he added.

"You can't control the dose, you can't control the harm," he said.

The Institute of Medicine established the daily upper limit for fluoride intake at 10 milligrams.

The American Fluoridation

FLOURIDE on Page A6

FLOURIDE

Continued from page 1

Society argues that the 0.7 parts per million, equaling 0.7 milligrams per liter, fits well within the average adult consumption of up to three liters per day.

Dr. Susan Andersen, a naturopathic doctor and chair of Clean Water Newport, said fluoridated water in Newport could negatively impact bottle-feeding babies, for example, as studies in China have linked a lower IQ to high fluoride intake.

The American Fluoridation Society states the daily limit is lower for children under 8 years of age "due to risk of mild dental fluorosis during teeth developing years." Fluorosis can cause staining of the teeth.

North said studies show fluorosis affects minorities more prevalently. "So this is a social justice issue in addition to everything else," he said.

Dr. Chuck Haynie, with the American Fluoridation Society, also called it a social justice issue, stating the children of low-income families often suffer from a lack of dental care when fluoridation could potentially solve the problem.

Clean Water Newport has argued that fluoridation is also an ethical issue. North and Andersen said fluoride can contain traces of arsenic and lead.

Lahman, with Healthy Water Newport, said minute

amounts of arsenic and lead can be found even in the air.

Fluoride is naturally found in water, sometimes at high levels in groundwater and natural springs, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Ferré said anything in excess can be bad — even water. Drinking too much of it during endurance sports can lead to hyponatremia, which makes cells swell and can cause mild to life-threatening health problems, according to the Mayo Clinic.

He pointed to a study that can be found through the National Center for Biotechnology Information showing low levels of fluoride can actually reduce the risk of bone fractures and have a positive effect on bone density.

Haynie pointed to the National Kidney Foundation's statement on fluoride. The foundation hasn't issued specific recommendations because it says there is limited information on the topic.

About 75 percent of U.S. systems are fluoridated, according to the CDC.

"The credible science is overwhelming," said Haynie, pointing to fluoride support from over 100 organizations like the CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics. Lincoln County Health and Human Services staffers have lent their support to fluoridation. "The reality is that fluoride helps prevent cavities."

During his time as a general surgeon in Hood River, Haynie witnessed a large

number of children come into the emergency room "with mouthfuls of rotten teeth."

He said the difference in dollars spent on emergency dental care in non-fluoridated Hood River has been about \$100,000 more at times than fluoridated The Dalles.

The annual operating cost to fluoridate Newport's water supply has been estimated at \$18,000 — money fluoridation opponents say residents shouldn't have to help pay.

"This is an enormous waste of money," said North, adding much of the fluoridated water will go to toilets, showers, and fish processing rather than drinking.

Andersen added that it's also difficult and expensive to remove fluoride from the water if it's not desired.

But proponents argue that water fluoridation could save residents money in the long-term.

In 2014, Samaritan Health Services reported 203 people went to the emergency room at Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital in Newport for non-traumatic dental pain, while 115 went to the emergency room at Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital in Lincoln City. The total cost in Lincoln County was \$109,710.

As a dentist, Ferré has seen oral health sacrificed with age, and a lack of money after retirement. Some of the most commonly prescribed medications in the older community cause dry mouth. Fluoride could serve as a substitute for saliva that's good for washing the mouth out, he added.

Ferré also noted he gave his daughters fluoride supplements daily while they were growing up and they have better teeth than he does.

But Andersen said she began to have problems and was diagnosed with hypothyroidism after she moved to Newport — while it was still being fluoridated.

"When you look at it closely, there's no reason to do it (water fluoridation)," she said.

Andersen pointed to a Cochrane article that states there's little fresh evidence to show fluoride prevents cavities in adults. Cochrane is a global network of researchers and professionals who work together to produce health information.

But the American Fluoridation Society also cites the article. The same article states water fluoridation is effective at reducing tooth decay in children.

At the end of the day, it's up to Newport voters to seek information and make their decision. The fluoridation issue will be on the May 17 ballot.

744-7

Contact reporter Dani Palmer at 541-265-8571, ext. 217 or dpalmer@newport-newstimes.com

Albany council moves to settle canal dispute

NEIL ZAWICKI

Albany Democrat-Herald

ALBANY — On Feb. 24, the Albany City Council on had no objections to a draft inter-governmental agreement between Lebanon and Albany concerning shared responsibility for the Albany-Santiam Canal, an 18-mile waterway that brings water to both cities from the South Santiam River.

"Been a long time waiting for this one," Albany Mayor Sharon Konopa said of the new inter-governmental agreement.

Albany bought the canal from Pacific Power & Light in 1984 and struck a deal with Lebanon to share in future costs, but that deal has long been the source of conflict between the two municipalities.

With the proposed new agreement, Albany will no longer ask Lebanon to finance improvements to the spillways that help handle storm runoff. Lebanon instead will pay Albany \$900,000 over four years, and the funds will be used to establish storm runoff in Lebanon. The idea is that when big storms hit, the overflow will spill into these runoff areas, rather than simply adding volume to the canal.

Lebanon will also address drainage at Cheadle Lake. Such works carries an estimated \$100,000 cost. Both cities also agreed to work together to improve the embankment between Cheadle Lake and

I think we're really well-positioned to make this IGA work into the future. I think we can sustain the positive nature of this IGA.

Assistant Public Works Director Jeff Blaine

the canal.

As another part of the accord, Lebanon will pay Albany \$77,000 for water this budget year and \$133,000 annually in subsequent fiscal years until the canal is no longer needed. Lebanon is developing its own source of Santiam water through a project that is expected to be complete in two years. Albany Assistant Public Works Director Jeff Blaine was involved in drafting the agreement. He said he and his team are "happy to finally be here."

"I think we're really well-positioned to make this IGA work into the future," he said. "I think we can sustain the positive nature of this IGA."

Lebanon, Albany close to striking deal regarding canal

MATT DEBOW
Lebanon Express

Every Lebanon city council member at its meeting on Feb. 24 voiced support for the terms of a proposed agreement with Albany surrounding Lebanon's use of the Albany Santiam Canal.

"Over the course of the last year, Albany and Lebanon staff have been working together and negotiating several issues pertaining to the Albany Santiam Canal, particularly the portion which flows through the Lebanon Urban Growth Boundary," said Ron Whittatch in a memo to city councilors.

Negotiations between the cities started in July 2014 when the city of Lebanon hit a snag in its original plan to build a new water treatment plant. Those plans included moving the city's raw water intake from one location on the Santiam Canal, which the city of Albany owns, to another spot along the canal.

However, the city of Albany requested that the city of Lebanon pay \$3.2 million for improvements made to a dam on the Santiam River in 2007 (which in turn improve the canal) before the city of Lebanon move forward with building a new raw water intake on the canal.

The latest agreement states Lebanon will pay \$900,000 during the next four years, to Albany to fund a rehabilitation of a headgate and Marks Slough Weir. Lebanon owns the headgate and will transfer ownership to the city of Albany.

"We all feel pretty comfortable with this agreement," Whittatch said.

The negotiations led to the creation of another agreement that allows Lebanon to purchase water from the Santiam Canal while building its own water treatment plant along the Santiam River.

Highlights of that agreement are Lebanon will pay Albany \$77,000 for fiscal year 2015-16. As long as Lebanon withdraws

Canal

from Albany

water from the canal for its existing water treatment plant Lebanon will pay Albany \$133,000 per year starting in the 2016-17 fiscal year, which will be adjusted yearly for inflation, according to the agreement. The pay is Lebanon's portion of canal operation maintenance and capital expenses.

That agreement will expire 120 days after Lebanon gives written notice from Lebanon to Albany.

Marks added that this agreement gives Lebanon the ability to pursue its own raw water intake along the Santiam River, which will allow Lebanon to be independent of any other organization for its water.

The general agreement replaces the agreement last signed in 1986 about

the management of the canal. The Albany City Councilors voiced no objection to the agreement on its Feb. 24 meeting.

744-2

Lebanon, OR
(Linn Co.)
Lebanon Express
(Circ. W. 1,913)

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

Lebanon, OR
(Linn Co.)
Lebanon Express
(Circ. W. 1,913)
MAR 3 2016

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

Water fluoridation issue should go to a vote

Water has been the a hot-button issue in Lebanon for the past couple of years. Lebanon is currently in the process of building a new water treatment plant, and its most recent meeting the council, by consensus, decided to stay the course and keep fluoridating its water.

If the city council is often approached by people asking them to take the fluoride out of the water.

If the issue went to a vote, when councilors are approached on the issue they could give a simple response of that's what the citizens voted. There are people with strong concerns on both sides (some legitimate, others not as much) of the issue. We won't weigh in about the pros and cons, but this issue needs to be decided by the people.

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

MAR - 3 2016

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

Sodaville water advisory lifted

SODAVILLE - A broom water main Feb. 28 prompted city officials to ask residents to boil water until the line was repaired and tests completed.

Those tests wrapped up Tuesday morning and have come back as normal, City Administrator Judy Smith said. Normal water usage has resumed.

Last year, Sodaville successfully applied for an Emergency Community Water Assistance grant of a little more than \$129,000 through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The money will be used to reimburse its emergency fund, depleted over four months' worth of drought last year, and help rehabilitate its five wells.

The grant isn't meant for line repair, however, and in a 40-year-old water system there's always the risk of more breaks, Smith said.

But work on the wells should start soon, she said. "We've signed the contract. Everything should be going out for bid in the next couple of weeks."

Albany, OR
(Circ. D. 51,500)

MAR - 3 2016

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

POLLUTION

Lithia fountains back on after testing found to be 'faulty'

Local report 744-7

Barium levels in Ashland's iconic Lithia water fountain are the same as they've ever been. Fountains on the Plaza and at Ender's shelter in Lithia Park were turned off around the first of February after test results showed barium levels had nearly doubled, but the test results turned out to be a "false reading," according to a news release issued by the city of Ashland.

"Barium levels are actually about the same as they have historically been," the city said, and the throat-tickling trickle of mineral water once again flows from the fountains.

The level of barium in the water - around 5 parts per million - exceeds safe drinking water standards but, because Lithia water is not considered a community water source in the same manner as the drinking water delivered to homes and businesses through the city's water distribution system, it is not required to meet the same drinking water standards. The EPA sets the level for safe drinking water at no more than 2 parts per million, but that assumes the water is being consumed regularly.

The false test results that led to the shut-off showed levels as high as 10.8 ppm.

Lithia water is tested regularly, and any change from the



The Lithia water fountain on the Ashland Plaza has been turned back on after test results that showed a spike in barium levels were found to be faulty, according to the city. Signs taped on the top of the fountain read "Lithia water contains elevated levels of barium. Daily consumption is not recommended." **LEFT: LINDA DAILY THOMAS**

the fountains to advise residents the water is not recommended for daily consumption, and visitors that it contains elevated levels of barium.

Bridge Creek lawsuit moving through the 9th Circuit Court

By Tyler Lesats
The Bulletin

A legal challenge to the city of Bend's Bridge Creek drinking water project is slowly winding its way through the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals — a body one level below the Supreme Court — with the city and U.S. Forest Service filing briefs late last month. Central Oregon LandWatch and WaterWatch of Oregon sued the Forest Service in 2013, arguing the agency hadn't done enough to investigate what impacts the city's

project would have on fish before granting the city a permit. The city's project entailed replacing an aging pipe that divers drinking water from Bridge Creek, a spring-fed tributary of Tumalo Creek located in the foothills of the Cascades. In December 2014, a U.S. District Court judge ruled in favor of the Forest Service and city, describing the environmental analysis as lawful. After that ruling, the litigants appealed to the San Francisco-based 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Installation of the pipe was completed last November, according to the city. The city spent \$70 million on the pipe and a new treatment plant located near Tumalo Falls to revamp the city's water system. LandWatch and WaterWatch filed their brief with the court in December. The city and the Forest Service, represented by U.S. Assistant Attorney General John Cridden, filed their respective briefs late last month. The litigants have until March 21 to reply. See [Lawsuit](#) / B5

Lawsuit

Continued from B1

On Tuesday the state of Oregon filed an amicus brief in support of the city and Forest Service. Another amicus brief supporting the city and Forest Service was filed on the same day by the Oregon Water Utilities Council, League of Oregon Cities, Special Districts Association of Oregon and Oregon Water Resources Congress. An amicus brief is filed by a party not directly involved in a case at the discretion of the court.

"Even though the infrastructure has been built, we remain concerned about the amount of water that will be diverted from Tumalo Creek," said Paul Dewey, executive director of LandWatch. "The decision was made based on what the city needed, and that's what the case is about."

The city has agreed to cap a reservoir of water. It will di-

vert at 18.2 cubic feet per second, the same level diverted by the old pipe. The city's new system also has the ability to take less water when demand is low, something the old system could not do.

City Attorney Mary Winters wrote in an email the city's new pipe allows the city to "reduce environmental impacts and water waste."

"We remain perplexed that the plaintiffs continue litigating when a better path would be to work together as a community and with other community organizations to solve basin-wide issues related to ground water and surface water use, conservation and helping secure funding for irrigation district piping projects," she continued.

Winters said oral arguments are expected to be conducted in the early summer, with a ruling coming "three to 12 months later, or even longer."

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Bend, OR
(Deschutes Co.)
Bend Bulletin
(Cir. W. 27,547)
MAR - 4 2015

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

Astoria, OR
(Clatsop Co.)
Daily Astorian
(Cir. D. 8,421)
MAR - 8 2015

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

Astoria sidesteps fluoride debate

City Council 7:44-7
splits 3-2 against
fall ballot measure

By DERRICK DEPLUDGE
The Daily Astorian

Sidestepping a factions election-year debate, the Astoria City Council narrowly voted Monday night not to undertake a ballot question on fluoride in the city's drinking water.

Voters in 1952 authorized the city to add fluoride to the water supply and reaffirmed the decision in 1956.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has praised community water fluoridation, which can help reduce tooth decay, as among the 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century.

Yet water fluoridation remains an emotional, polarizing subject. The Oregon Health Authority reports that less than a quarter of state residents have fluoride in their drinking water. Voters in Portland, the state's largest city, overruled city leaders and voted to reject fluoride in 2013, the fourth time since 1956.

See [FLUORIDE](#), Page 7A

Fluoride: Astoria has a colorful history with the additive

Continued from Page 1A

Last August, Astoria City Councilor Zetty Nennlowill suggested the City Council discuss putting the issue on the ballot. But the idea did not surface again publicly until City Councilor Drew Herzig brought it up Monday night as one of several possible ballot questions for November.

The City Council has already agreed to place a local tax on recreational marijuana before voters.

Time consuming, divisive

Mayor Arline LaMear and Councilors Cindy Price and Russ Warr said the city is working through several significant issues and predicted that a

debate over fluoride would be time consuming and divisive.

"I just don't think it's the time to bring it up," LaMear said. "There may come a time. But I don't think it's this time."

Herzig said November would be the best time to put the ballot questions up for a vote because higher voter turnout is expected due to the presidential election. In addition to fluoride, he floated issues such as term limits and outdated city charter provisions.

"I'm concerned that I'm hearing that we don't have time to be a democracy," Herzig said. "That we're just too busy to ask the public — the citizens — to vote on issues."

"Something as fundamental as what you put into your body on a daily basis, that you have

no choice over, unless we say we can put a referendum on the ballot saying whether you want fluoride.

"That bothers me that we say we're too busy to ask the public if they want to have what some people consider a poison in the drinking water or not."

Warr said he is "failing to see a public outcry for something like that. And, we're busy, if the public isn't asking for it, why should we stir the pot?"

Nennlowill acknowledged there is no public outcry over

fluoride and said "if people do want to vote on it, they're going to need to come forward and be a little bit more vocal about it."

Herzig proposed that city staff draft a ballot question on fluoride in the water system, but his motion failed on a 3-2 vote, with Herzig and Nennlowill voting for the motion and LaMear, Price and Warr against.

Colorful history

Ken Cook, the city's public works director, prepared a

memo on Astoria's colorful history with fluoride after the Portland vote.

Once fluoride was added to the water supply in 1953, Cook wrote, "citizens started to revolt spreading false rumors of broken water mains, broken plumbing, premature unexplained deaths,

ships refusing to take on water, chin-chilla herds dying, dwarfs ...the Red Machine infiltrates the State Board of Health to allow Stalin Soup and Lenin Likker."

Despite the vitriol, voters approved fluoride in 1956 by a wider margin than the original 1952 vote. **744-7**

Lebanon, OR
 (Linn Co.)
 Lebanon Express
 (Cir. W. 1913)
 643 9 2615

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

Lebanon opts to keep water fluoridated

MATT DEBOW, LEBANON EXPRESS

When Lebanon's new water treatment plant is built, the city of Lebanon will continue to add fluoride its drinking water supply.

The topic of fluoride in the city's drinking water system has been brought to the city council by concerned citizens during the public comment portion of council meetings several times since the council enacted an ordinance to fluoridate the water about 16 years ago.

At the council's latest meeting, on Feb. 24, three councilors spoke in favor of keeping fluoride in the water, and two spoke in favor of letting the issue go to a vote. By that consensus the city will continue fluoridating the water.

Mayor Paul Aziz also spoke in favor of putting the issue to a ballot measure; however, the mayor of Lebanon is only entitled to a vote in case of a tie.

The topic was brought to the council because as the city begins construction on a new water treatment plant there will be a capital cost involved in adding a fluoridation system to the water treatment plant said Ron Whitlatch, Engineering Services Manager in a memo to city councilors. The plans for the new water treatment plant include installing a fluoridation system, which will cost \$15,000 for the installation of the system.

In addition to the initial cost, maintenance for the system will cost about \$20,000 each year with \$3,000 to \$4,000 added in the equipment acquisition fund

Whitlatch said city staff was seeking direction from the council before they install the equipment.

Whitlatch offered three options the council could do: Direct staff to continue to fluoridate the city's drinking water system and install the equipment at the new water treatment plant. This is the option that was selected by a consensus of city councilors.

Or, direct staff to bring a resolution back to city council repealing the city council's resolution, which was passed in 2000, that mandated the use of fluoride in the city's drinking water system. No one spoke in favor of this option.

Or, Approve a resolution reaffirming the fluoridation issue to the vote of the people for the May ballot. This was the option two councilors and the mayor spoke in favor of.

City Councilor Jason Bolen said he was in favor of keeping fluoride in the drinking supply, and he didn't want to see the discussion become a cost/benefit analysis at the cost of Lebanon citizen's rotted teeth.

Please see city, Page A3

City

From A3

City councilor Robert Furlow agreed with Bolen. City Councilor Floyd Fisher would like to see the issue hit the ballot box, even though he voted for fluoridating the water in 2000.

Fisher said he has seen a steady trickle of people bringing a multitude of degrading data to the issue on both sides. He noted that even going through all that information, he will never be an expert on the subject. "I would like to see during the first construction,"

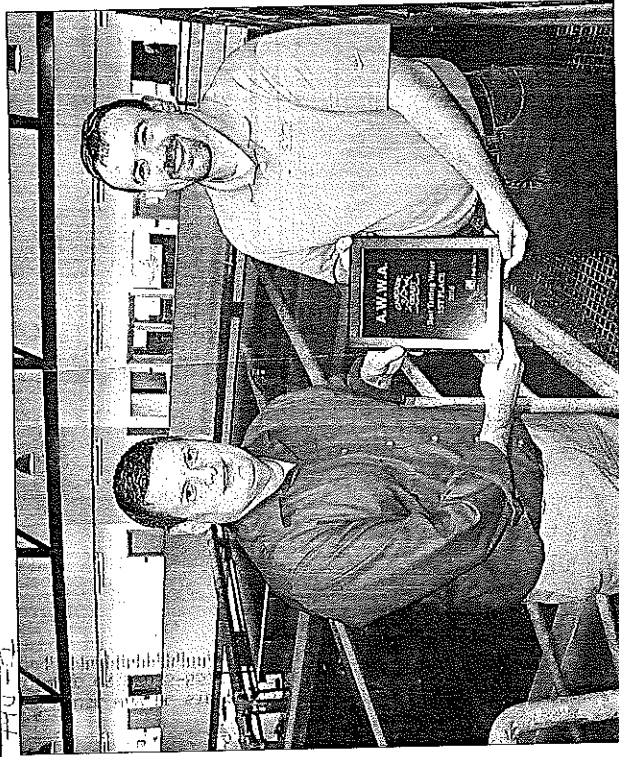
Whitlatch responded that he didn't have a number, however, "putting it in initially would certainly be cheaper than retrofitting it."

Whitlatch responded that he didn't have a number, however, "putting it in initially would certainly be cheaper than retrofitting it."

Sweet Home, OR
 (Linn Co.)
 New Era
 (Cir. W. 2,000)

1122 9 2316

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



Quality water award

Sweet Home Public Works Director Mike Adams and CH2M Hill plant manager Scott LaRoque display Sweet Home's first-place plaque for winning the American Water Works, Cascade to Coast Subsection, Best Tasting Water in 2016. They received the award on Feb. 25. Sweet Home finished ahead of 14 other teams with 116 points. Tumble finished second with 117 points, and Bend finished third with 115 points. Both use well water. Water was rated based on odor, taste and appearance. Sweet Home last won in 2010, with a couple of second-place finishes since then.

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

MAR 11 2016

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

Sweet Home water ranked best

ALEX PAUL
Albany Democrat-Herald

SWEET HOME — For the second time since 2010, water produced at the Municipal Water Treatment Plant for Sweet Home has won a first place award for taste in a contest sponsored by the American Water Works Association.

Scott LaRoque of CH2M Hill, who manages the plant for the city, told the City Council earlier this week that the city is now eligible to enter a regional contest that includes communities in Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

He said the award is especially meaningful since the community gets its water out of the Santiam River, while other top finishers' water comes from wells.

Sweet Home also took first place in 2010 and earned second place awards in 2011 and 2014.

Public Works director Mike Adams said the contest encompasses communities from the Cascades to the Coast.

Subsection in Oregon.

Other cities placing behind Sweet Home were Tualuma and Bend. There were 14 entries in Sweet Home's division.

Adams said water samples are blind-tested at the same temperature for color, odor and taste.

"This award represents the work of a lot of people," Adams said. "It includes everyone from operators to our guys in the field to engineering. It's a positive testament as to how we do things, a collective effort."

Sweet Home's new water processing plant went online in 2009, replacing a plant that was constructed in the late 1930s and expanded in the 1960s.

The new \$12-million plant is capable of processing up to six million gallons of drinking water per day, although the city only uses about one million gallons at this point.

"We can easily expand capacity to 10 million gallons per day," Adams said.

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

MAR 14 2016

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



EPA calls for review of lead-prevention efforts

By Brad Schmidt 744-7
The Oregonian/OregonLive

With a renewed sense of vigilance in the wake of the water crisis in Flint, Michigan, federal regulators are reaching out to water providers nationwide — including in Portland — to review safeguards to prevent lead poisoning.

Last week, Portland Commissioner Nick Fish received a phone call from Dennis McLerran, the EPA's regional administrator. On Tuesday, Michael Stuhr, director of the Portland Water Bureau, participated in a conference call with federal regulators.

The purpose of the call: Portland told regulators about its efforts to monitor

lead as the bureau embarks on major changes within its water-delivery system, Stuhr said.

Stuhr stressed that Portland is in compliance with federal regulations for lead and copper. Stuhr said the city hasn't received any official written notice from regulators and there's no reason for concern.

"We are absolutely compliant," he said. "Flint prompted the call. There's heightened concern everywhere about lead and copper."

Fish, who oversees the Water Bureau, said Friday that McLerran wanted to talk about "optimizing our compliance" as the city shuts down its open-air reservoirs.

"We are deeply committed to having safe water and meeting our regulatory requirements," he said.

"It was in that spirit that we talked about next steps," Stuhr said city officials told regulators about their efforts to monitor lead as the Water Bureau makes major changes to its system. Last year, officials shut down open-air reservoirs at Mount Tabor and this year they'll disconnect open-air reservoirs at Washington Park. The Water Bureau also has a new intake system at the Bull Run watershed that may impact water temperature.

As a result of those changes, officials may need to control the acidity of water by tweaking the amount of sodium hydroxide that's injected.

Portland contracted with an outside consultant in 2014 to study the system and make recommendations. Work was supposed to wrap up at the end of 2015, but, Stuhr said, it's not complete and a report won't be available until this summer.

Stuhr said Portland will invite regulators to review findings. A letter should go out within two weeks. Together, he said, they'll decide if next steps are needed.

"What do we need to do, if we need to do anything more?" he said. "Or can we do less?"

F - PORTLAND

WATER PROVIDERS FLAGGED

46 systems in 15 Oregon counties exceed regulatory limits for lead

744-7

Tracy Loew
Statesman Journal

Students and staff at Salem's Valley Inquiry Charter School have been drinking bottled water for the past year, after high levels of first lead, then copper, were found in the tap water.

The school is among 46 public water systems in 15 Oregon counties that have exceeded regulatory limits for lead in drinking water during the past four years, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency data shows.

In Oregon, water systems flagged for lead range from the tiny Rogue River Campground in Jackson County, with 25 customers, to the Portland Water Bureau,

which serves more than a half-million.

Nearly a quarter of the flagged systems are schools and day care centers. Three are campgrounds, two are mobile home parks, and one is a U.S. Forest Service ranger station.

Lead leaches from aging water infrastructure across Oregon and the United States. It's not a new problem, but it's come under new scrutiny in light of the public health disaster in Flint, Michigan, where a series of cost-cutting measures and mistakes caused the lead poisoning of an entire community.

Lead can cause serious health problems, and can lower IQ and cause behavior-

See WATER, Page 5A

USA TODAY NETWORK INVESTIGATION

INSIDE

USA Today investigation finds high lead levels in 2,000 water systems across the United States. **Page 1B**

COMING SUNDAY

A closer look at the problem of lead in school drinking water. Nationally, almost 20 percent of water systems that reported high levels of lead came from samples at schools and day care centers.

Fourth grader Ava Halverson drinks the last of a water bottle in her classroom at Valley Inquiry Charter School in Salem on Wednesday. Many empty bottles sit next to the classroom sink, waiting to be recycled. The school has struggled with lead and copper contamination since 2011, and students and staff have been drinking bottled water since March 2015.

MOLLY J. SMITH / STATESMAN JOURNAL

Water

Continued from Page 1A

al problems in children. In Oregon, if tests find lead over the EPA action level of 15 parts per billion, the state makes sure the water supplier notifies its customers, and requires the supplier to come up with a solution to lower lead levels to below regulatory limits, said Jonathan Modie, spokesman for the Oregon Public Health Division.

But some systems have struggled for years.

Portland, for example, has exceeded the regulatory level for lead 10 times, as far back as 1992. In 1997, the city began adding lime to the water to raise its pH. Soft water can leach lead from pipes.

The city of Portland also has invested heavily in education, outreach and testing for all sources of lead, including lead paint, Portland Water Bureau spokeswoman Jaymee Cutti said.

Salem's Valley Inquiry Charter School has rented the former Hazel Green Elementary from Salem-Keizer Public Schools since fall of 2012.

After the water was flagged for lead in 2011, the district replaced plumbing lines with copper ones, district spokesman Jay Remy said.

In 2014, after the school again exceeded regulated regulatory levels for lead, the district replaced all the fixtures, such as faucets and drinking fountains, with lead-free ones.

Two tests for lead in 2015 were within regulatory limits, but now high copper is a problem.

Too much copper can also cause health problems, including kidney disease. So this summer, the new copper pipes will be replaced with PEX polyethylene tubing.

Principal Manuel Palacio said parents are concerned, but the school district's response has been excellent.

"For us, it's just been a minor inconvenience," he said.

About two-thirds of Oregon's flagged systems meet the EPA's definition of being "very small," meaning they have 500 customers or fewer. Another 15 percent are "small," serving between 501 and 3,500 people. Only two systems - the Portland Water Bureau and Tualatin Valley Water District - serve more than 10,000 customers.

For those large providers, only a small percentage of taps will have lead problems. They are likely to be older homes, built before 1986, with lead service lines, pipes, fittings or fixtures.

Loew@statesmanjournal.com, (503) 399-6779 or follow at Twitter.com/TracyLoew

LEAD EXCEEDANCES

Here are the Oregon water systems that were required to take action to address excessive amounts of lead in customers' tap water between 2012 and 2015, along with the number of customers served.

BENTON COUNTY
City of Monroe: 630
Corvallis Waldorf School: 80

CLACKAMAS COUNTY
Clackamas River Water, Clairmont service area: 15,371
Lake Grove Water District, Lake Oswego: 3,100
Rural Dell Elementary School, Molalla River School District: 230

Skyview Acres Water Co-op, Sandy: 200
West Linn/Wilsonville School District: 50

CLATSOP COUNTY
Fernhill Community Water System, Astoria: 300

COLUMBIA COUNTY
Scappoose Adventist School: 65

DOUGLAS COUNTY
City of Drain: 1,151
Diamond Lake Lodge/Resort: 160
U.S. Forest Service Tiller Ranger Station: 34

JACKSON COUNTY
Rogue River Campground: 25

LANE COUNTY
Pigгах Public Market, Pleasant Hill: 200
Row River Valley Water District, Dorona: 150
Emerald Christian Academy, Pleasant Hill: 130

LINCOLN COUNTY
Eddyville Charter School: 200
Lower Siletz Water System: 155
Westwood Village: 120
Salmon River RV Park, Otil: 45

LINN COUNTY
City of Harrisburg: 3,630
Lebanon High School's Land Lab: 75
Periwinkle Mobile Home Park, Albany: 55
Kidco Head Start Sunnyside Center, Foster: 50
Wayne Buck Water System: 38

MALHEUR COUNTY
Willowcreek Elementary School, Vale School District: 81

MARION COUNTY
Valley Inquiry Charter School, Salem-Keizer Public Schools: 188

MULTNOMAH COUNTY
Portland Water Bureau: 583,000
City of Gresham: 66,000
Rockwood PUD: 61,082
Pleasant Home Water District, Gresham: 1,510
Palatine Hill Water District: 1,500

Valley View Water District: 1,034
Burlington Water District: 340
Lorna Portland Water LLC: 200
Hall of Fame Test System: 75

TILLAMOOK COUNTY
Pacific City Joint Water-Sanitary Authority: 1,000
Watsec-Barview Water District: 204
Tierra Del Mar Water Company, Cloverdale: 150

UMATILLA COUNTY
Locust Mobile Village: 60

WASHINGTON COUNTY
Tualatin Valley Water District: 205,600
City of Tigard: 26,879
City of Tualatin: 26,879
West Slope Water District: 11,050

Raleigh Water District: 4,500
Cold Springs Water Company: 100

744-7

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

MAR 20 2016

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

10 LEARNING FACILITIES' WATER SYSTEMS EXCEED REGULATORY LIMITS

Tracy Loew | Statesman Journal

744-7

This past fall, the drinking water at Emerald Christian Academy, in Lane County's Pleasant Hill, tested and found to have 12 times the regulatory limit for lead.

At Kidco Head Start Sunnyside, near Sweet Home, results showed six times the limit. The limit is 15 parts per billion, set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

And water at Vale's Willowcreek Elementary School, in Malheur County, came in slightly over the limit.

In all, 10 Oregon schools have exceeded regulatory limits for lead in drinking water over the past four years, according to data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. That's nearly a quarter of the public water systems statewide — all

INSIDE

Almost 20 percent of samples with high levels of lead came from water systems at schools and day cares across the country.

PAGE 1B

flagged for high lead levels.

Lead can get into drinking water when soft, or acidic, water corrodes plumbing, releasing lead from older pipes, fittings and fixtures.

Exposure to lead can cause health problems ranging from stomach distress to brain damage. Children are especially susceptible because their bodies absorb metals at higher rates than adults.

Many schools, however, have never been tested.

The EPA requires each public water system to test for lead. Schools on their own well count as a water system.

But schools relying on municipal water don't need to be test-

See LEAD, Page 5A

Lead

Continued from Page 1A

ed. Instead, cities and other providers conduct their own testing, most often at residences.

High lead levels were identified in 2011 and 2014 at Valley Inquiry Charter School, in the Salem-Keizer School District. The school, in the former Hazel Green Elementary building, is on a well.

But most of the district's schools are on city water.

None of those schools have been tested for lead, spokesman Jay Remy said.

Nor has the district conducted a survey or inventory of lead or galvanized pipes, fittings and fixtures at schools.

That's because the pH of the water in Salem and Keizer is at a level that tends not to leach lead from plumbing, Remy said.

Salem began treating its water to raise its pH in 2006, after high lead levels were found in some customers' taps. Keizer's water is naturally hard.

"We are allowed to have lead in our fixtures and pipes at all of the schools on city water," Remy said, "because there is not a safety issue there."

That's not the case, though, in other cities that supply water to schools.

High lead levels have been identified at the taps of some customers of the Portland Water Bureau, Tualatin Valley Water District, City of Gresham, City of Tigard and City of Tualatin.

At Salem's Valley Inquiry Charter School, children and staff are drinking bottled water until a pipe replacement project scheduled for this summer is complete.

Other schools also have been quick to shut off taps and make repairs.

At Kidco Head Start Sunnyside, high lead levels first were detected in September 2013.

"We notified parents immediately," Kidco executive director Stephany Koehne said. "We supplied bottled water there and started looking into what was causing it."

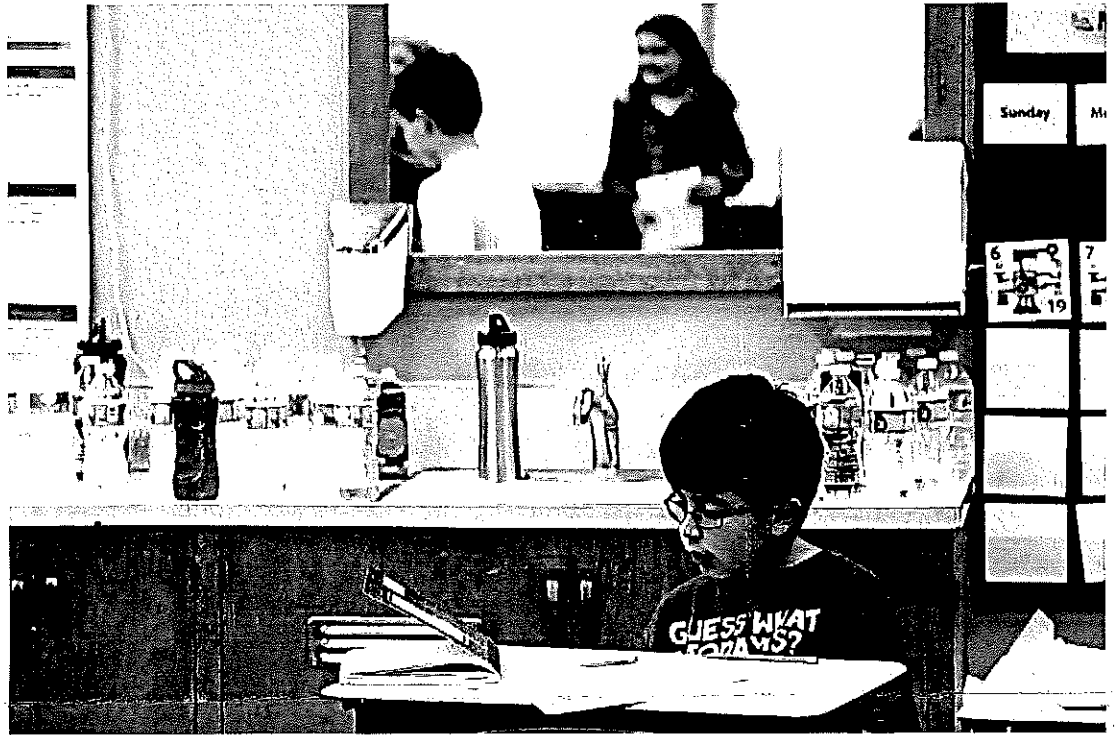
The problem was traced to one sink, which was shut off, she said. The district bought a self-contained sink unit for handwashing and brushing teeth until pipes could be replaced.

Water from another sink later was found to have elevated lead levels. Pipes to that sink will be replaced next week, Koehne said.

At Molalla's Rural Dell Elementary, high lead levels were found in 2011, and continued through 2013.

"Not only did we stop using the well water, we dispensed bottled water and provided sanitizing gel stations for handwashing," said Tony Mann, Molalla River School District superintendent.

The district since has installed a system to treat the well water for pH before it enters the building, he said.



PHOTOS BY MOLLY J. SMITH / STATESMAN JOURNAL
Empty water bottles waiting to be recycled line the counter behind fourth grader Patrick Garcia at Valley Inquiry Charter School in Salem on Wednesday. The school district started providing the charter school with bottled water in March 2015.

CE *We are fully aware of the health risks of lead and we're not allowing the children to drink that water."*

PETER ZAREMBA
Corvallis Waldorf School director

Eddyville Charter School, in Lincoln County, had high lead levels in 2013 and 2014. It hired Culligan Water Systems to install and monitor a treatment system that removes lead from water, business manager Ann Cook said.

But fixing the problem isn't always easy.

At Corvallis' Fairplay Elementary School, high lead levels were reported as early as 1993.

In 2010, lead levels at the school reached a high of 327 parts per billion, more than 20 times the regulatory limit. Fairplay Elementary exceeded the limit again in at least one test in each of the next five years.

The Corvallis Waldorf School began leasing the building in 2003, after Fairplay closed, and has always provided bottled water to students and staff, school director Peter Zaremba said. Students also bring their own lunches.



A water fountain near the front office of Valley Inquiry Charter School has had the water supply turned off, and a sign is displayed to remind students to ask for bottled water.

"We are fully aware of the health risks of lead," Zaremba said, "and we're not allowing the children to drink that water."

The heads of Emerald Christian Academy and Willowcreek Elementary School did not respond to requests for interviews, neither did the heads of the

other schools flagged for high lead levels: Scappoose Adventist School; Lebanon High School's Land Lab and West Linn/Wilsonville School District. tloew@statesmanjournal.com, (503) 399-6779 or follow at [Twitter.com/Tracy_Loew](https://twitter.com/Tracy_Loew) 744-7

Grants Pass, OR
(Josephine Co.)
Daily courier
(Circ. D. 11,580)

MAR 22 2016

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

No dangerous contaminants found in Evans Creek

Commissioners spent \$77k on report

By Shaun Hall
of the Daily Courier

Water in Evans Creek is free of dangerous levels of heavy metals after all, according to a controversial report that cost Josephine County taxpayers \$77,000.

Water from the creek flows into the Rogue River, upstream of Grants Pass, near the city of Rogue River.



"There's not a problem with the water and there's no problem with the sediment," Cheryl Walker, chairwoman of the Josephine County

Board of Commissioners, told the Daily Courier on Friday.

Commissioners ordered the report in November after concerns were raised about heavy metals reportedly found in August in the creek near the former site of Fielder Dam, located about three miles up the creek from its confluence with the Rogue River in Jackson County.

As it turns out, none of the contaminants that were allegedly detected in August were detected in November, the report states.

The report was authored by Shannon & Wilson, an environmental con-

Despite the contract cancellation, the county still paid \$77,000 for work done under the contract.

It was reviewed by our public health department to ensure the work was done, county Finance Director Arthur O'Hare explained Friday. "They legitimately did \$77,000 worth of work. We do have whatever benefit from that report," Walker defended the county's action.

"The benefit will be we have the baseline," she said. "If anything ever comes from any toxins or biological harm, no one will be able to point to that as an issue. Fortunately we have that baseline now (in case) somebody tries to blame little concern about contamination from backed-up sediment."

Walker said the contract was cancelled after a state toxicologist said

there was no need for further testing. "I don't have any regrets," she said. "I make decisions on the best information I had at the time. We did the best we could."

The irrigation dams had not been in use in decades and were removed to improve fish habitat and access to upper reaches of the creek. Sediment had settled behind the dams, nearly to their tops.

According to a 2014 report prepared for the Army Corps of Engineers by River Design Group of Corvallis, prior to the removal of the dams there was little concern about contamination from backed-up sediment.

Turn to REPORT, Page 7A

Some of the players

Last summer's removal of Fielder Dam on Evans Creek near Rogue River was opposed by adjacent property owners Steve and Sharon Keaton, who filed an unsuccessful court action to block the demolition work.

In early August, a Keaton family member reportedly set on an access road to the site, delaying heavy equipment for three hours until Jackson County sheriff's deputies and Oregon State Police arrived. Subsequently, the Oath Keepers of Josephine County arrived on the scene, along with former state Rep. Gordon Anderson, questioning permits and asking for sediment sampling.

One argument against removal, by local resident and self-described environmental specialist Alan Ehr, was that potentially harmful sediments such as heavy metals and arsenic could be unleashed downstream. But after the county Board of Commissioners agreed to a \$135,000 contract in November for water testing and monitoring, Laurie Johansen of the Jerome Prairie area decided to have a few tests done herself.

She collected water samples and took them to Kimberly Ramsay at Nelson Research Corporation, another water testing lab. Johansen told the commissioners she paid \$114 to test all three samples and that Ramsay and her team did not find dangerous traces of arsenic in the water, counter to claims by Grants Pass Water Laboratory owner Eric Schaafsma prior to himself being awarded the \$28,000 contract. Johansen also told commissioners that Ramsay offered to test water at the Grants Pass Filtration Plant once a week for the next year at no charge. Ramsay later confirmed Johansen's account.

Shannon & Wilson stated the source of the contaminants detected in August was unknown. It suggested further monitoring.

Roch reporter Shaun Hall at 541-474-3722 or shaun@thedailycourier.com

"That has now proven to be true based on November's test results."

"Water chemistry testing completed by (Grants Pass Water Laboratory) in August 2015 detected the presence of arsenic, barium, copper and nickel ... in exceedance of ODEQ human health criteria," Shannon & Wilson reported.

"However, none of the contaminants detected in exceedance of ODEQ water quality during the August 2015 sampling event were detected in exceedance of ODEQ water quality requirements during the November 2015 event."

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

MAR 3 0 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

FLUORIDE IS NOT JUST FOR KIDS

Most people associate fluoride with benefits to the dental health of children. It may be surprising to know that fluoride is also beneficial to adults. **744-7**

Fluoride plays a protective role against dental decay. According to the American Dental Association, there are two main ways fluoride benefits older people. Frequent exposure to small amounts of fluoride can help with the re-mineralization of enamel. In addition, it can aid in the prevention of root decay. According to the ADA, "Adults with gum recession are at risk for root decay because the

root surface becomes exposed to decay-causing bacteria in the mouth." Fluoride helps combat this problem.

Please check out Healthy Water Newport on Facebook for more information on how fluoride can make a difference in our health. We encourage you to vote YES on Measure 21-164.

Mark and Cindy McConnell
Newport

Wilsonville, OR
(Clackamas Co.)
Wilsonville Spokesman
(Circ. W. 3,338)
MAR 3 0 2016

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

Wilsonville water tests demonstrate compliance

City of Wilsonville

Recent water tests conducted for the City of Wilsonville by a third-party laboratory indicate the City is in full compliance with federal and state drinking-water standards for lead, which are set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

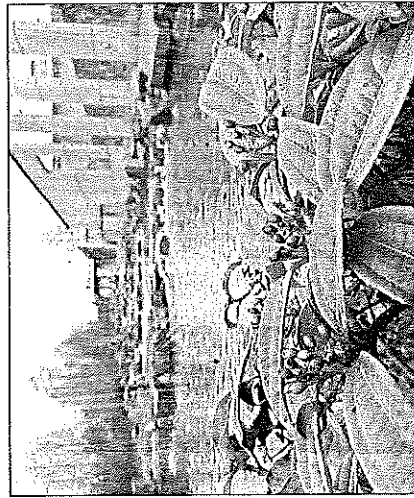
Water samples tested from older, potentially higher-risk homes in Wilsonville found that no corrective action is necessary and that none of the water tested exceeded federal action limits.

Over the past several weeks, national attention has been focused on issues of concern over domestic water supplies containing high levels of lead. A primary objective of the City of Wilsonville is to provide residents and businesses with high-quality, clean and safe

drinking water. Tests of treated water produced by the Wilsonville water-treatment plant show consistent results substantially below federal levels of concern.

The City of Wilsonville tests for lead and copper every three years, as required by federal and state drinking-water regulations. City staff enlists the cooperation of private home owners to obtain a tap water sample from a plumbing fixture inside their home. The City sends the samples to a lab to be tested for the presence of lead and copper. In all, 33 homes were tested and only four of the homes had detectable lead levels. None of the homes with detectable levels of lead or copper exceeded the federal action limits.

According to the EPA, lead can enter drinking water when service pipes that contain lead corrode, especially where the water has high acidity or low



Wilsonville's water plant draws from the Willamette River and treats the water for drinking.

mineral content that corrodes pipes and fixtures with lead solder, a common problem is with brass from which significant

amounts of lead can enter into the water, especially hot water.

Homes built before 1986 are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures and solder. Fortunately most homes in Wilsonville were constructed after the use of lead pipes and fixtures in residential plumbing was prohibited by the 1986 Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments.

Since most homes in Wilsonville are relatively new, the community's exposure to lead water supply is significantly reduced compared to older communities.

In fact, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, over 60 percent of the homes in Wilsonville were constructed in 1990 or later, after the ban on using lead in home plumbing took effect.

For homes where lead may be present in the private plumbing systems, the EPA recommends:

The federal lead action level is 0.015 milligrams per liter (mg/l) or 15 parts per billion. If more than 10 percent of the homes tested exceed the action limits, the water provider must perform corrosion control treatment and take other measures.

In addition to testing for lead and copper in the distribution system, the City also regularly tests for other contaminants and produces an "Annual Water Quality Report," which documents the results of the City's water-quality monitoring and testing results. Copies of the "2015 Annual Water Quality Report" are currently available online at ci.wilsonville.or.us/water-quality-report and at City Hall. Paper copies of the report are available upon request.

For more information, contact Debra Kerber, Public Works Director, at 503-570-1542 or kerber@ci.wilsonville.or.us.



Portland's Drinking Water and Air are Becoming Chemically Degraded

US Executive Order 13563- "The American people deserve a regulatory system that works for them, not against them; a regulatory system that protects and improves their health, safety, environment, and well-being and improves the performance of the economy without imposing unacceptable or unreasonable costs on society."

We need our open reservoirs at Washington Park and Mount Tabor activated immediately to preserve our public health. The open reservoirs are the barriers keeping toxic and carcinogenic chemicals from getting into our drinking water distribution system.

Portland is not the green and healthy city we once thought it was. While our current outdoor air crisis has brought attention to a community-wide public health wake-up call, we also need to address our indoor air as it relates to our drinking water.

The increased use of the toxic and carcinogenic Columbia South Shore Well field (CSSW) drinking water last summer and in the future (70% CSSW 30% Bull Run - PWB) has profoundly endangered community public health and wellbeing.

As a result, our indoor air exposure to Radon saturated CSSW drinking water (PWB 2015 Water Quality Report p.4 at 310 picocuries) and other gases such as chloroform remain serious.

Portland Water Bureau (PWB) incorrectly asserts 4,000 picocuries is the level of Radon for water. EPA standard for us is Multi Media Mitigation 300 picocuries, and we exceeded that level last summer at 340 picocuries.

Radon can pass through the placenta and into the developing child; chloroform crosses the placenta also, resulting in concentrations in fetal blood that are greater than maternal blood concentrations. Radon can decay into radioactive components such as Lead.

Lead is a toxic substance that can affect people of any age. It is especially harmful to children, pregnant women and unborn babies. Lead accumulates in the body, so even small amounts can pose a health hazard over time.

There is "no safe level of Radon" (USEPA) (MCLG zero pCi/L) and chloroform; in addition to toxic and carcinogenic nitrification chemicals found only in dark covered reservoirs and drinking water pipes (USEPA).

Radon exposure from drinking water throughout your home at 4 picocuries generates 2 million radioactive decays per minute/ 1000 square feet. (USGS)

CSSW wells are recharged from Columbia River water contaminated by municipal, industrial and Hanford wastes, adding to drinking water toxins. (or.water.usgs.gov/pubs_dir/journals/mccarthy_and_others_1992.pdf)

New York City provided open reservoir science and public health benefits to the EPA. Portland City Council refused to acknowledge them. Over the years, many scientific studies and data support open reservoirs' health benefits. By not acknowledging the meaningful public health science available to pursue an EPA LT2 waiver keeping our reservoirs open, Portland City Council has not lived up to their commitment to provide safe drinking water.

In 2004/2006, the City of Portland and Multnomah County adopted safe health practices, using the Precautionary Principle as an effective policy framework for decision-making to prevent harm to human health and the environment.

In other words: keeping citizens healthy, stating "where threats of serious or irreversible harm to people or nature exist, anticipatory action will be taken to prevent damages to human and environmental health, even when full scientific certainty about cause and effect is not available, with the intent of safeguarding the quality of life for current and

future generations." (multco.us/file/13368/download).

Additionally, CSSW has other toxic and carcinogenic residual contaminants that can remain in our drinking water because Portland City Council won't support open reservoirs.

Sunlight is not there to break down these chemicals and would provide the natural removal of sulfamethoxazole, fluoxetine, triclosan, ethylene estradiol, trichloroethylene, etc. (Oregon DEQ, PWB)

New York City has recognized the open reservoir health benefits, working and negotiating with EPA. So should Portland City Council.

New York City: "Given (1) the extremely low public health risk in at least some water systems from pathogens entering uncovered finished water storage reservoirs, (2) the enormous cost of covering an uncovered reservoir or treating the discharge from such a reservoir, and (3) the existence of effective and far less costly methods of achieving the same public health protection, the draft LT2 rule included a waiver provision that would have allowed for site-specific risk assessments and appropriate treatments.

This waiver provision was inexplicably eliminated from the final LT2 rule. In its enforcement of the rule, EPA has refused to exercise the discretion afforded by the variance provision of the Safe Drinking Water Act to consider waivers based on alternative proposals that would achieve the same public health benefit.

In light of EPA's narrow reading of the variance provision, they should revise LT2 to allow alternative means of mitigating the risk to uncovered finished water storage facilities, and prioritize review of any submissions of alternative mitigation plans.

In light of the minimal public health risk posed by leaving Hillview uncovered, the cost of complying with LT2 is not justified. Covering the reservoir will harm the environment and water quality because of the absence of sunlight, and will make maintenance more difficult.

Finally, covering the reservoir would present significant costs, as the City has water and wastewater infrastructure needs that are a far higher priority from a public health perspective." (NYC EPA 2012)

Stop the demolition of Washington Park reservoirs (costing +\$200 million and 30,000 truckload trips over many years - PWB) and reconnect Mount Tabor drinking water facilities for increased public health.

Why? Because drinking water environmental chemical exposures negatively impact

Compromised air and water quality

community reviews demonstrated the open reservoirs can endure landslide and seismic challenges for the next 50 years.

Without the open reservoirs to efficiently remove gases and toxins, our drinking water remains at risk. There is no public health reason for PWB to "reconfigure" our drinking water system.

The EPA LT2 open reservoir regulation is being reviewed during 2016. We still have an opportunity to save our open reservoirs and ask for an EPA LT2 Waiver, so we can keep our children and community safe and healthy.

respiration rates than adults; negatively impacting their health from toxic and carcinogenic liquid and gas exposures in the homes, schools, daycare centers etc.. The greatness of a community can be judged by the quality of its drinking water. Retain the open reservoirs and their proven public health benefits without illness for over 100 years.

The city's 2004 Open Reservoir Independent Review Panel confirmed over a 5 month process the open reservoirs provided safe drinking water, adding security and risk mitigation applications.

Public testimony and engineering reports during

For more information, see bullrunwater.org.

from page 8

Portland, OR (Multnomah Co.) Southeast Examiner (Cir. M. 30,000)

APR 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Established 1888

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

APR 1 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

care issues, including dental.

First, they are trying to take away our choice by implementing fluoridation in our water (forceful and big government). This is about our health and the adulteration of our water. 744-7

Secondly and equally as important is the cost factor — \$300,000 to implement, plus \$18,000 annually to maintain. I can think of better ways to spend that money. The city council members are trying to hide this cost in the city's budget so it looks like we are not paying for it, but don't let that fool you. We all pay for the city's budget through our taxes, and eventually it will come out of our water rates in the years to follow. The city council members think they have an open checkbook to spend our money so they can fund their pet projects.

Thirdly, let's keep in mind the event that is happening right now in Flint, Mich., and how they misled the people into believing their water was safe to drink. In the 1950s, '60s and '70s, we were all told that mercury was safe to use as a cavity filler. Asbestos and lead-based products were also safe to use in our homes and everyday life. They were all wrong at the cost of our health and human lives. I am not going to be another Guinea pig, and neither should you. We have enough toxic chemicals in our water, our land and our air.

This is the 21st century, and it is hard to believe we are fighting for our lives to maintain a healthy life. No more government taking away our choices. No more toxic chemicals in our water. And lastly, no more wasting our hard-earned money.

Tanya Sauter
Newport

DON'T FLUORIDATE OUR WATER

I have waded through the muck, listening to fluoride proponents at Newport City Council meetings telling us how important it is to contaminate our water with toxic chemicals for the prevention of tooth decay. There are plenty of programs that fund the less fortunate in health

VOTE NO ON ADDING FLUORIDE

I was an environmental specialist and program manager with the Oregon

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

APR 1 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for 22 1/2 years. I worked in the areas of hazardous waste, asbestos abatement, environmental risk analysis, water quality and worker safety. 744-7

The chemical compound put into drinking water is usually hydrofluorosilicic acid, a waste by-product of the phosphate fertilizer industry. In recent years, more of these fluoridation chemicals have been imported from China.

If not used for fluoridation, they would be regulated in the U.S. under the federal hazardous waste program, subject to cradle-to-grave management and disposal to protect the environment and public health.

These chemical compounds in water aren't the pharmaceutical grade fluoride used in toothpaste. They can contain lead, arsenic and other contaminants. Although the levels of these contaminants are low enough to be legal, the EPA has determined there are no completely safe levels of lead and arsenic. Lead can lower IQ, and arsenic can increase cancer risk.

When ingested, fluoride itself is also a known toxin. Just look at the labeling on your toothpaste tube. For children under 6, the FDA requires a warning that if they accidentally swallow more than a pea-sized amount, you should get medical help.

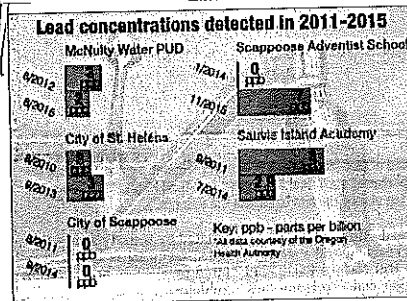
Adding chemicals to water for cavity prevention is an old, outdated practice that originated after World War II. During the same time period, the government allowed lead in paint and gasoline, mercury as an ingredient in cosmetics and medicine, asbestos as a fire retardant, and spraying residential neighborhoods with DDT.

It's typical that adequate government regulation lags decades behind substantial

Scappoose, OR
(Columbia Co.)
The Spotlight
(Circ. W. 3,410)

APR 1 2016

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



Lead in school's water report result of improper testing

Water systems serving local schools show clean records

By NICOLE THILL
The Spotlight

In south Columbia County, only one school has tested positive for high lead concentrations in the drinking water in the last four years, and the results were generated by improper testing methods, according to a public health official.

On March 23, the Statesman Journal newspaper in Salem reported 10 schools in Oregon had high levels of lead in the drinking water over the past four years, including the Scappoose Adventist School in 2013.

The Environmental Protection Agency considers lead in concentrations greater than 15 parts per billion, or ppb, to be high.

In November 2013, one bathroom sink at Scappoose Adventist was found to have concentrations of 30 ppb, twice the acceptable level.

Sherrie Ford, director of the Public Health Foundation of Columbia County, said the high result was caused by a sampling error. When the test was conducted in December, the school had likely been out of session, she explained. Water should be used on a regular basis, then allowed to sit for six hours, before it is tested, she said, a step that was like-

ly overlooked.

Ford said drinking water systems should be flushed prior to use if they have been sitting dormant in older pipes.

A water test in January 2014 at Scappoose Adventist, after the sink had been properly flushed, returned no detectable levels of lead.

In a December 2015 test, the private school reported concentrations of 7 parts per billion coming from one water source, still below EPA action level.

For comparison, the most recent testing of other school districts' water systems, like the St. Helens School District and Sautvie Island Academy, showed results of 2 to 3 ppb of lead from 2010 to 2014. Only the Scappoose city water system, which provides drinking water to the Scappoose School District, reported no levels of lead in the water in 2011 or 2014.

Kim Cornette, the sixth-through eighth-grade teacher and principal at Scappoose Adventist, was hired at the start of the 2015 school year. To the best of her knowledge, Cornette said no pipes had been replaced in the school since she has been hired, and said the water source that tested high for lead in 2013 has returned satisfactory in all following tests.

"What I can tell you is that if we discovered now that we had lead issues, we would have no problem providing bottled water for our students, if that was necessary.

See WATER / Page A3

Water: Most schools' water supplied by city

From Page A1

Right now we're in full compliance with lead," Cornette said.

The Scappoose Adventist school relies on a private well, whereas most public schools rely on municipal water systems. Cornette said she is looking into whether or not the school can tap into the city water system.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality does not require water quality reports to be filed regularly for private or domestic well water systems. Individuals are responsible for testing their water, a requirement when property is sold.

However, when Scappoose Adventist established an after-school care program and preschool in 2013, it fell under the regulatory watch of Oregon Drinking Water Services, a program overseen by the Oregon Health Authority. As such, it is required to test drinking water for safety.

744-7

NO FLUORIDE IN NEWPORT'S WATER

Say no to fluoride. Do not allow the government to medicate our water with a known neurotoxin. As a cancer survivor in chemotherapy, I didn't expect the public to be given my medicine. We don't mass medicate for heart disease and stroke, the leading killers. Don't compromise

everyone's health by treating all for tooth decay. 744-7

These chemicals do not belong in our water. There are well documented hazards with fluoride, and no appreciable benefits. It should be an individual choice to take fluoride. Many cities, including Portland, Redding, Crescent City, and Modesto, have stood up to the fluoride lobby and said no.

Do not mass medicate Newport water. Keep it clean.

Janice Wickham
Newport

City agrees to sell Juniper Water Co.

By Tyler Leeds
The Bulletin

The Bend City Council voted Wednesday night to sell a condemned water system it took over in southeast Bend to two private companies, with a majority of the system going to a company owned by the family of Councilor Casey Roats, who excused himself from the unanimous vote.

Roats Water System will pay \$1.4 million for the system, known as the Juniper Utility Co., which serves the Tillicum, Nottingham Square, Timber Ridge and Mountain High subdivisions. Avion Water Co. will pay \$400,000 for a smaller slice of the system. The deal will also transfer over city water service to the two private companies in the

Troy Field update

A Bend City Council vote that would have halted development of Troy Field was postponed at the last minute Wednesday night following an appeal from Bend-La Pine Schools, the property's owner.

The council was set to hold a vote formally rejecting a request from the school district to change the general plan designation on the downtown field, but following an 11th-hour email from the district the council agreed to postpone the vote.

The council had earlier voted to reject the general plan change, which if granted, would have

cleared the way for the school district to sell the field to a developer. Portland-based Brownstone Development. The district intended to use the \$1.9 million sale price to help finance the construction of new schools.

In the email, the district's attorney said postponing the action may allow the district to avoid filing an appeal challenging the council's ruling. City Attorney Mary Winters said the delay would allow staff from the two agencies to communicate about the issue.

The request was well-received by the council, which was happy for a way to possibly avoid litigation.

See Troy Field / B2

Stonegate and Blue Ridge communities, which would otherwise be surrounded by territory served by Roats and Avion.

The Juniper Utility Co.

water system has long been a headache for the city, and a costly one to boot. The system was built in the 1970s by developer Jan Ward to serve subdivisions on his family's old

dairy ranch. In 1998, the Oregon Public Utility Commission enforced rates Ward felt were too low, which led him to decrease water pressure.

See Water / B2

I'VE LOOKED AT BOTH SIDES NOW

I've been reading both sides of the fluoride issue with great interest and pondering why I feel the way I do.

First, there's the basic issue of individual choice. Fluoride would literally be forced down our throats, whether we want it or not. 744-7

Second, there's the issue of practicality. There's an old Indian saying that goes something like this: "Rather than leather the entire earth, simply put leather shoes on your feet."

Rather than fluoridating the entire water system of Newport, of which the majority runs down our drains from showers and toilets, or into the ground from watering our gardens and lawns, it simply makes more sense to provide families in need with fluoride toothpaste and mouthwash. Thus, we all have a choice.

Bonnie Good
Newport

Water

Continued from B1

In 2001, the council voted to condemn the system after residents complained about their difficulty taking showers and doing laundry. The condemnation started a yearlong legal battle that ended with the city paying Ward nearly \$10 million in a settlement.

While the city's revenue from water service will decrease in the short term as it loses customers, city staff say the sale makes sense as long-term operation and repair costs will decrease. The city has estimated the water system needs \$9.5 million in capital improvements, costs the city will now be able to avoid. Additionally, the two buyers have the option to finance the purchase with interest over 20 years, which would double the amount of money the city will receive.

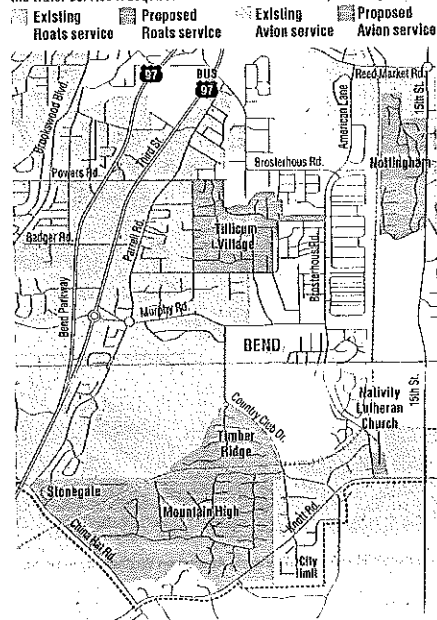
During a hearing before the vote, Mountain High homeowner association President Jayson Mugar said the sale was endorsed unanimously by a gathering of nearly 130 residents of the four subdivisions served by the Juniper Utility Co.

The sale allows the affected subdivisions to maintain a separate irrigation and drinking water system. If the city continued providing water service, an agreement between the city and HOAs stipulated separate irrigation service would end, a change that would be costly for residents.

The sale isn't quite a done deal. City Attorney Mary Winters noted "a huge contingency" is approval from the Ore-

Sale of city-owned water service

The city of Bend agreed to sell to Roats and Avion water companies the water service it acquired when it condemned Juniper Utility in 2002.



Source: City of Bend

Greg Cross / The Bulletin

gon Public Utility Commission for the rate Roats intends to charge users.

Avion President Jason Wick, who noted his company doesn't need commission approval, called the timing of a commission ruling "a wild card." He added he didn't expect a ruling to come later than the end of summer.

After the council approved the sale, audience members from the affected community applauded.

Mayor Jim Clinton noted the process "has gone on for one human generation," saying he appreciates the community's patience.

Reporter: 541-623-2160,
tleeds@bendbulletin.com

Landslides caused by precipitation create muddy water at Detroit Lake

ZACH URNESS 744-7
STATESMAN JOURNAL

A stream of muddy water has been flowing into Detroit Lake during the past month at least, turning the reservoir murky in places while impacting the way officials treat Salem's drinking water. Heavy precipitation after a historically dry summer kick-started multiple landslides along Short Creek, a tributary of the Breitenbush River that feeds into Detroit Lake, officials said.

"The landslides occur every year, but have been more noticeable this season," U.S. Forest Service district ranger Brady McMahan said. "There has been more sediment coming from it than usual."

The extra sediment has led to worries about the reservoir's quality of water and its impact on wildlife, recreation and Salem's drinking water.

Overall, the impact appears fairly small. Lacey Goeres-Priest, water quality supervisor for the City of Salem, said the

muddy water has led officials to alter the way they treat water at the Geren Island Treatment Facility near Stayton. Salem gets its drinking water from the North Santiam River, which is fed by Detroit and Big Cliff reservoirs.

"Any time we see high enough turbidity (muddy water), we change the way we operate to make sure there is no negative impact," Goeres-Priest said. "This is a fairly

See LANDSLIDES, Page 6A



PHOTO BY MICHAEL DONNELLY
Short Creek appears muddy due to multiple landslides bringing sediment into Detroit Lake.

Landslides

Continued from Page 1A

common issue for us. We have a staff that pays very close attention to any

change in the river," Goeres-Priest said they pumped clean groundwater into the surface water from the North Santiam to reduce the amount of turbidity before the water goes

through the treatment facility's filtering system. How much the landslides could impact wildlife and recreation is a more open question. McMahan said the landslides have occurred annually going back decades, so even though it was heavier than normal this year, there isn't any reason to suspect major changes. "If we were going to see an impact, I think we would have seen it already," McMahan said. "Since this is a natural process, I suspect the fish and other aquatic organisms have learned to coexist with sloughing into the creek."

Rebecca Hillwig, a natural resource specialist for the Oregon Health Authority, said the landslides could increase the risk of algae blooms in the reservoir, but might not.

"There is naturally occurring nitrogen and phosphorus in sediment and rock, so a big landslide could cause bigger or longer blooms, but that wouldn't always be the



PHOTO BY MICHAEL DONNELLY
The confluence of French Creek, clear on left, and the muddy Breitenbush River is seen at Detroit Reservoir on March 29. Landslides on Short Creek are causing the muddy water.

ff "Any time we see high enough turbidity (muddy water), we change the way we operate to make sure there is no negative impact."

LACEY GOERES-PRIEST
Water quality supervisor for the City of Salem

the 1900s, the report said, but were reactivated by the floods of 1996.

Zach Urness has been an outdoors writer, photographer and videographer in Oregon for eight years. He is the author of the book "Hiking Southern Oregon" and can be reached at zurness@statesmanjournal.com or (503) 399-6801. Find him on Zach Urness or @ZachSORoutdoors on Twitter.

case," Hillwig said. "It really depends on the situation, and it's pretty difficult to know what the effect will be."

According to a report by the Forest Service, there are two main debris chute complexes near the headwaters of Short Creek. Both of these complexes are natural and exist in older stands of forest, the report said, meaning recent logging were traced as far back as