

SEWER PIPE:

Difficulty, cost of fix, depend on location

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district Facilities Manager Leland Bliss. “That belly has filled up with grease. It has plugged the pipe up.”

The clog caused a backup into the kitchen at the elementary school on January 27. A contractor came out and pushed the grease plug through the pipe, but it didn’t clear sufficiently and a second backup occurred on January 29, Bliss said.

“It backed clear water into the kitchen,” Bliss said. “It’s hard to know what you’ve got coming up. It is a (sewer) pipe.”

Bliss said that both incidents occurred at times when the kitchen was not serving food.

“If you have something like that happen when you’re serving food, that’s an issue — and that’s not what happened.”
— Leland Bliss

“There was no risk of food contamination or anything like that,” he said. “If you have something like that happen when you’re serving food, that’s an issue — and

that’s not what happened.”

All areas affected were thoroughly sanitized, Bliss said.

With help from City of Sisters Public Works, the district ran a camera down the pipe after the January 29 incident, and found the belly in the pipe.

“We’re going to run a tracer line through it and locate the belly underground and then we’ll dig it up and replace that section of line,” Bliss said.

The complexity, timeline — and cost — of the operation all depends on the location of the belly. If it’s under the grass area adjacent to the school buildings, it will be a relatively easy and quick repair.

“If it’s an easy fix, I’d replace as much of that cast-iron pipe as I can,” Bliss said.

If the location is under concrete, the work will be more complicated, take longer, and cost more.

The expense will come out of a tight district facilities maintenance budget.

Bliss hopes to get the problem resolved as soon as possible. If it requires a lot of time and removal of concrete, the project will probably have to wait till the school is closed for spring break. If it’s an easy fix, it might be achievable in an afternoon’s work, after school lets out.

In any case, the district was to “jet” the pipe this week to give it a thorough cleaning and — hopefully — prevent a recurrence of the messy problem before a permanent fix is in place.

Therapists at work in Sisters

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

Green Ridge Physical Therapy & Wellness has added two new practitioners to their growing roster.

Chuck Booth, a licensed massage therapist, has deep roots in Central Oregon, and after a stint living and working in Hawaii, he returned here to be near family. He renewed a professional relationship with Greg Zadow of Green Ridge and signed on with the practitioner in Sisters.

“My specialty is deep tissue manipulation,” Booth said.

He also works a lot with herbs, hot towels — “a lot of hot stuff.” Booth is also a Doula, working with pregnant women.

Booth put his feet on a new career path 20 years ago after a serious kayaking injury at Steelhead Falls. He cracked his T11 vertebrae.

“I opted out of surgery and did acupuncture and massage therapy,” he recalled.

The alternative treatments were successful, but Booth could not resume his professional career as a river guide. So he took his experiences and turned to massage therapy himself.

“I couldn’t do it anymore, so I sold my company to my partner and went back to school,” he said.

His work provides for others the relief and healing he experienced himself, years ago. His deep tissue massage lengthens muscle tissue and



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Matthew Cole and Chuck Booth have joined the Green Ridge team.

releases tension on ligaments to promote healing and recovery from injury.

Like Booth (and many other practitioners) an experience of injury also shaped Matthew Cole’s career path.

Attending the University of Vermont, he thought he wanted to become a surgeon. Then he had to rehab an injured elbow — and his course changed.

“That was my first exposure,” said the new Green Ridge physical therapist. “I really liked the one-on-one interaction, dealing with the whole person instead of just cutting them open and sending them on their way.”

He was recently working in Central California, in a senior home health setting, which gives him experience and expertise in working with the issues that confront all of us as we get older. But he’s enjoying working in all aspects of

his field.

“I’m still early in my career, and kind of trying to tease out what compels me most,” he said.

Cole went to school with fellow Green Ridge therapist Jason Gulley. Like his buddy, Cole likes the outdoors and is a cyclist, skier and hiker. A couple visits with his college friend easily got him hooked on the area.

Both men are happy to be here. Booth lives in Bend with his girlfriend, Melissa, and enjoys the fact that his grandkids are nearby. Cole also lives in Bend, with his fiancé, Kaylin. Both men are happy to be part of the growing roster of practitioners at Green Ridge Physical Therapy & Wellness, where they can treat the whole person and help them fully enjoy the Central Oregon way of life they both love.

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