

# Systems statewide to test for toxins plaguing Salem's water

Warrenton, Seaside on the list of systems

By DIRK VANDERHART  
Oregon Public Broadcasting

Nearly 100 public water systems around Oregon — including the state's largest — will be required to begin testing for harmful contaminants from algae blooms under new rules unveiled by the Oregon Health Authority.

As Salem officials continue to experiment with a new treatment system to address worrisome cyanotoxins in the city's water, the health authority says it's time to ensure all similar water systems have safeguards.

"Failure to immediately take rule-making action would leave public water suppliers and the authority without sufficient data to provide adequate actions to ensure safe drinking water and protect public health," the health authority said in an administrative order filed earlier this week, and released Friday.

Under the new rules, nearly 100 water systems around the



AP Photo

Concerns about algae blooms at Detroit Lake, the source of Salem's drinking water, have led to testing requirements across Oregon.

state will begin collecting samples of the raw water flowing into their treatment facilities every other week, and continue testing through October. The list of affected systems includes Portland's, the largest in the state serving nearly 1 million Oregonians, as well as Warrenton and Seaside.

If the biweekly tests turn up cyanotoxins above a certain threshold, systems will be required to conduct weekly tests. And if any amount of cyanotoxin is detected in a system's treated water, tests would increase to be required

daily. Water providers will be required to issue do-not-drink advisories if toxins are detected above health guidelines in treated water.

The health authority decided to require water providers to conduct tests if they met one of a handful of criteria, such as taking their water from a source where harmful algae blooms have occurred or are at risk of occurring, or from a source downstream from where algae blooms have occurred.

In addition to the 98 systems that meet those criteria, roughly 75 providers that pur-

chase water from those systems could also be required to conduct testing if cyanotoxins are detected.

The rules, in effect until late December, are partly cribbed from similar regulations in place in Ohio. It's an attempt to get a handle on the emerging issue of algae blooms as Oregon temperatures rise.

While Salem became the first water system in the state known to have cyanotoxins in its treated water this year, officials say blooms are becoming more persistent.

"As harmful algal blooms

become the norm in Oregon, as they are around the country, we must address this emerging threat to our drinking water supplies," Oregon Health Authority Director Patrick Allen said in a news release. "These temporary rules close a gap in regulations and will help us protect our drinking water systems so everyone in Oregon is kept safe from exposure to cyanotoxins."

Cyanotoxins from blue-green algae can have a number of health effects, from gastrointestinal problems, to organ damage, to death. Young children, pregnant and nursing mothers, and pets are especially susceptible.

Yet the contaminants aren't regulated under federal law, and systems in Oregon have not been required to test for them. That will change next month.

"We had a voluntary system of monitoring for cyanotoxins but it was just that," said Dave Emme, manager of the health authority's drinking water program. "When contaminants were detected in Salem's water, it made that gap in regulation apparent."

While preparing its temporary rules, the health author-

ity addressed a big concern for many of the state's water systems: the cost of testing.

As of today, water systems that test for cyanotoxins send samples to out-of-state labs, sometimes paying thousands of dollars for the diagnosis. So the state's decision earlier this month to begin requiring testing caused concern.

"We didn't have an opportunity to budget for this," Brian Kelly, of Tri-City Water and Sanitation told Oregon Public Broadcasting in June. Kelly's Douglas County water system serves more than 1,500 households.

But the health authority says cost won't be an issue. The agency is partnering with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, which will conduct water testing for providers free of charge. It's not immediately clear how much that testing will cost the state.

Kelly said the health authority's rules had quelled his concerns.

As it moves forward with the new temporary rules, the state will work to create more permanent ones, which it hopes to have in place by the end of the year, Emme said.

## LaMear monthly event rescheduled due to holiday

The Daily Astorian

Astoria Mayor Arline LaMear's "Meet the Mayor"

event is rescheduled for next week because of the Fourth of July holiday.

The monthly event will now

be held from noon to 1 p.m. on July 11 at City Hall. It is a time for anyone to ask LaMear questions or bring up concerns.

## Planning Commission application deadline extended

The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County residents have until July 31 to apply for three open seats on the Planning Commission.

County commissioners extended the application deadline at a meeting last week. The original cutoff date was May 31.

The county is looking for residents from the Seaside,

Lewis and Clark and southwest county areas to fill the four-year terms. Forms are available at the county manager's office at 800 Exchange St. or at www.co.clatsop.or.us.

**FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA** AccuWeather DOWNLOAD THE APP

TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
52	72 / 54	68 / 54	68 / 56	68 / 53
Turning cloudy	Partly sunny	Times of clouds and sun	Intervals of clouds and sunshine	Intervals of clouds and sunshine

**ALMANAC**  
Astoria through Monday.

**Temperatures**  
High/low ..... 64°/52°  
Normal high/low ..... 66°/52°  
Record high ..... 93° in 1906  
Record low ..... 40° in 1949

**Precipitation**  
Monday ..... Trace  
Month to date ..... 0.01"  
Normal month to date ..... 0.10"  
Year to date ..... 35.66"  
Normal year to date ..... 36.01"

**SUN AND MOON**

Sunset tonight ..... 9:10 p.m.  
Sunrise Wednesday ..... 5:30 a.m.  
Moonrise today ..... none  
Moonset today ..... 10:45 a.m.

Last New First Full  
July 6 July 12 July 19 July 27

**UNDER THE SKY**

Tonight's Sky: Arcturus, the leading star of Bootes, the herdsman, is in the west tonight.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

**TOMORROW'S TIDES**  
Astoria / Port Docks

Time	High	Time	Low
5:26 a.m.	7.1 ft.	12:02 p.m.	0.3 ft.
6:48 p.m.	7.3 ft.	none	

**NATIONAL CITIES**

City	Today	Wed.
Atlanta	91 73 pc 88 73 t	
Boston	90 76 t 89 75 t	
Chicago	89 73 pc 90 75 t	
Denver	94 63 pc 88 57 s	
Des Moines	91 76 s 92 75 s	
Detroit	89 72 t 92 75 t	
El Paso	100 75 pc 101 77 s	
Fairbanks	75 52 pc 77 54 pc	
Honolulu	86 75 pc 88 76 sh	
Indianapolis	87 74 t 92 77 s	
Kansas City	93 75 s 93 73 s	
Las Vegas	106 80 s 104 81 s	
Los Angeles	78 62 pc 81 62 pc	
Memphis	89 74 t 95 75 t	
Miami	89 75 pc 88 75 pc	
Nashville	90 75 c 97 76 t	
New Orleans	83 74 t 89 74 t	
New York	92 76 pc 88 74 t	
Oklahoma City	96 71 s 90 69 s	
Philadelphia	96 76 pc 91 74 pc	
St. Louis	92 75 t 95 77 pc	
Salt Lake City	88 62 s 96 69 s	
San Francisco	75 58 pc 70 58 pc	
Seattle	75 56 pc 83 59 pc	
Washington, DC	95 77 pc 90 76 pc	

**REGIONAL WEATHER**  
Shown is tomorrow's weather. Temperatures are tonight's lows and tomorrow's highs.

**REGIONAL CITIES**

City	Today	Wed.
Baker City	73 42 pc 87 51 pc	
Bend	75 46 pc 87 51 pc	
Brookings	72 49 s 63 50 s	
Eugene	78 51 pc 83 52 pc	
Ilwaco	64 55 pc 69 57 pc	
Klamath Falls	78 44 s 84 45 s	
Medford	86 53 s 92 58 pc	
Newberg	77 57 pc 84 55 pc	
Newport	62 51 pc 63 53 pc	
North Bend	65 52 s 66 54 pc	
Olympia	76 49 pc 83 52 pc	
Pendleton	78 52 pc 92 58 pc	
Portland	78 61 pc 87 60 pc	
Roseburg	82 55 s 88 57 pc	
Salem	80 57 pc 85 56 pc	
Seaside	66 54 pc 71 56 pc	
Spokane	69 49 pc 79 59 pc	
Springfield	78 52 pc 84 55 pc	
Vancouver	76 58 pc 86 57 pc	
Yakima	80 50 c 85 55 pc	

**TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER**  
Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

## John Marshall Erhardt

Astoria  
Aug. 23, 1936 — June 17, 2018

John Marshall Erhardt, 81, passed away in his home in Astoria, Oregon, on June 17, 2018. John came into this world in August 1936, the only child of George and Maude (Brew) Erhardt.

Born in Los Angeles, John grew up in California and attended college at what is now California State University; he later earned his master's degree at the University of Oregon.

A military veteran, John served his country for 41 years in the National Guard. He first served in the California Air National Guard as a captain, then in the Oregon Army National Guard from 1977 to 1996. Fourteen of his 18 years of service in the Oregon Army National Guard was as a training noncommissioned officer first sergeant and was split between the 1249th Engineer Battalion and the 442nd Engineer Detachment.

He spent 19 years working in law enforcement in both California and Oregon, starting with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. John moved to Coos Bay, Oregon, in 1971, where he worked for the Coos County Sheriff's Department.

He then moved on to the North Bend Police Department, which is where he would meet his wife, Jackie (Conway-Martin), in 1978. They married in July 1982 and spent over 35 years together, raising a blended family.

John was a strong, caring man who loved horseback riding, golfing, and bowling — but most of all, his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents and an infant son. He is survived by his wife, Jackie Erhardt; his children, Eric (Sherry) Erhardt of Croton, Ohio, Johnny Erhardt of Mendota, Illinois, Mike (Linda) Martin of Seaside, Oregon, Shawn Martin of Vancouver, Washington, and Jessie Erhardt of Seaview, Washington; and his five grandchildren, Hayden, Ethan and Aaron Erhardt and Callan and Marin Martin.

A private family service is planned. Tributes may be shared online by visiting hughes-ransom.com and signing the memorial guest book.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations to the American Cancer Society.

## ON THE RECORD

- DUII**
- At 12:32 a.m. Tuesday, Jenny Kathleen Maxwell, 37, of Beaverton, was arrested by Astoria police on 15th Street and Marine Drive and charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants.
  - At 11:30 p.m. Monday, Liam Todd Baker, 21, of Warrenton, was arrested by Warrenton police on the 50 block of First Street and charged with DUII.
- Assault**
- At 6:18 p.m. Monday, Luke Taylor Miehle, 45, of Astoria, was arrested by Astoria police on the 170 block of Kensington Avenue and charged with fourth-degree assault and menacing. The victim allegedly had a bump on her head after a domestic dispute. Miehle allegedly was swinging knives during the dispute as well.
  - At 1:24 p.m. Monday, Daniel Bradley Yates, 31, of Seaside, was arrested by Seaside police on 12th Avenue and the Prom and charged with fourth-degree assault, third-degree robbery and second-degree theft. Yates allegedly stole a pair of shoes from a Ter Har's employee's hands Saturday, causing a hand injury.

## DEATH

**June 30, 2018**

JOHNSON, David Edward, 56, of Portland, formerly of Astoria, died in Portland from end-stage congenital heart disease. Ocean View Cremation And Burial Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

**TUESDAY**  
Cannon Beach City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

## LOTTERIES

OREGON	Estimated jackpot: \$30,000	Estimated jackpot: \$190,000
<b>Monday's Pick 4:</b>	<b>Monday's Megabucks:</b> 2-18-21-23-32-44	<b>Monday's Keno:</b> 10-14-16-19-23-24-29-31-39-44-52-55-56-59-62-63-66-72-79-80
<b>1 p.m.:</b> 4-9-8-3	Estimated jackpot: \$2.4 million	<b>Monday's Lotto:</b> 02-06-42-45-48-49
<b>4 p.m.:</b> 9-4-8-6		Estimated jackpot: \$4.4 million
<b>7 p.m.:</b> 3-2-6-5		<b>Monday's Match 4:</b> 02-13-14-23
<b>10 p.m.:</b> 5-9-6-6		
<b>Monday's Lucky Lines:</b> 02-05-10-13-20-22-26-30		
WASHINGTON	<b>Monday's Daily Game:</b> 0-3-0	
	<b>Monday's Hit 5:</b> 15-17-29-34-36	

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