

Schools find lead in water

Astoria, Seaside find trouble spots as early test results return

By Edward Stratton
EO Media Group

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

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

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

The school district, which tested at several spots in each school, shut off all other fountains at the high school as a precaution while it runs additional tests to deter-

mine whether on-campus plumbing or water coming into the school is the issue.

"Astoria School District and the city are dedicated to eliminating lead from drinking water, but it's not uncommon for small amounts to be found due to leaching from service lines, parts, and fittings," Hoppes wrote in a letter sent to parents and guardians July 25. "These trace amounts of lead rarely if ever cause acute illnesses. Only with prolonged exposure can lead bioaccumulate in the body and cause health issues."

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

"While the city provides water that is lead-free, it cannot control the pipes and fix-



Craig Hoppes



Sheila Roley

'We tested almost 40 different locations in the schools, and found only two that had levels that exceeded' benchmarks.

Sheila Roley
Seaside school district superintendent

tures past the service connection," Hoppes wrote, encouraging water customers to use newer fixtures and lead-free plumbing.

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

"We tested almost 40 different locations in the schools, and only found two that had levels that exceeded" benchmarks, Roley said. She added that both were in the teens of parts per billion. One was the hose in a boiler room that does not provide drinking water, Roley said, while the other was a sink in the concession stand at Seaside High School primarily used for cleaning. She said the school district has also shut down other sinks approaching the threshold of 20 parts per billion and is performing additional tests to determine

the cause of high lead concentrations.

Crowded labs

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

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

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

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



SUBMITTED PHOTO

To alert beachgoers of potential dangers, preventative signs are posted by lifeguards throughout their daily patrol along Seaside beaches.

Young male, 13, drowns in ocean waters off Seaside

A young man died and another was rescued the afternoon of July 21 after Seaside Lifeguards witnessed the two struggling in the water and in need of assistance.

Seaside Fire & Rescue along with the U.S. Coast Guard responded to the scene shortly after it was reported at about 3:30 p.m. to assist with the rescue. Carter Moore, 14, of Kingston, Oklahoma was pulled from the water, while the other male, Conner Moore, age 13, of Tulsa, Oklahoma was located from the air by the U.S. Coast Guard and brought to shore by emergency personnel. Both were transported to Providence Seaside Hospital, where Conner Moore was pro-

nounced dead. Carter Moore was life-flighted to a Portland area hospital Thursday evening and released the following morning.

The two cousins were traveling with other family members from out-of-state and in Seaside for a family reunion.

Seaside officials remind the public, especially during the busy summer months, that the ocean waters can present many dangers. Use extreme caution, use the buddy system and avoid swimming in areas that have been recognized to be prone to rip currents.

Fire & Rescue was assisted by the United States Coast Guard, Medix and the Seaside Police Department.

Learn calligraphy, improve drawing skills

August brings opportunities for artists of all ages to stir their creative juices at Trail's End Art Association. Youth ages 8 to 18 will find delights and challenges as they work with experienced calligrapher Rebecca Read in "Lettering Fun."

The workshop meets 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 8 to 11, and is designed for all levels of handwriting and calligraphy ability.

Participants will learn how to use an edged calligraphy pen and improve handwriting. They will learn to make eye-catching signs for upcoming projects. They will also make Weathergrams, a calligraphy project that combines lettering, poetry and nature. Cost is \$110 for mem-

bers and \$135 for nonmembers with materials provided.

Read is a popular artist on the North Coast who enjoys working with youth of all ages. She is a calligrapher and printmaker who also teaches at Clatsop Community College.

Meanwhile, adults who want to begin or to improve their drawing ability have the chance to do that with Rhonda Grudenic in "Learning to See."

From Aug. 15 to 19, beginners will meet from 10 a.m. to noon all five mornings, and intermediate/advanced participants will meet each afternoon from 1 to 4 p.m. Cost for beginners is \$120 and for intermediate/advanced \$150.

Materials are provided, and participants are encouraged to bring their own favorite drawing materials as well.

The focus for the morning group will be to explore how to evaluate and simplify what one sees in order to translate the image to paper. The afternoon group's focus is on recognizing the quality in a subject that captures one's attention and translating that quality onto paper.

Details and registration is available online at trailsendart.org or by sending an email to trailart2010@hotmail.com. Direct questions to 503-717-9458. Both workshops meet at Trail's End Art Association, located at 656 A St.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Adults can improve their drawing ability in a workshop that runs Aug. 15 to 19.

OBITUARIES

Mary Ramona Larson

March 9, 1924 — July 23, 2016

Mary (Lewis) Larson died July 23, 2016, at Providence Seaside Hospital, at 92 years old.

She was born March 9, 1924, in Burbank, California, to Edward and Mary Lewis. When she was a child, the family moved to Longview, Washington, where they owned a grocery store. She attended Longview Grade School, but later quit school early to work in her parents' store.

She had three brothers, Robert Francis and David, all World War II veterans. Mary built warships in Longview and Bremerton, Washington, where she met Julius Larson, her husband. After the war, they moved to Clatskanie, Oregon, and had two children, Starla and Halvin.

Then they moved to Astoria, where Julius was a Youngs River bridge tender. In 1974, Mary, Julius and Halvin moved to Seaside, where Julius passed away in 1976. Mary helped with Halvin's business after 1976, and worked at various service jobs, including at the Seaside Senior Center, where she received a commendation for excellence.



Mary Larson

Halvin passed away in 2010, and Mary moved back to Astoria in 2012, where she was a member of Bethany Lutheran Church. Her hobbies included gardening, sewing and bird-watching. She enjoyed taking small trips.

She is survived by her daughter, Starla Galant of Astoria, Oregon; a niece, Janet Lewis of Anacortes, Washington; and a cousin, Jesse Ridenour of Longview, Washington.

A memorial service was held at Bethany Lutheran Church on Sunday, July 31. Memorial contributions may be made to the church.

Bonnie (Roberts) Oathes

Nov. 29, 1941 — July 23, 2016

Bonnie Susan Oathes, 74, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family in Astoria, Oregon.

She was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas, where she met and married her husband of 52 years, Donald.

Bonnie moved to Astoria in 1980, upon her husband's retirement from the Coast Guard. She was a librarian at Astor Library and Astoria High School, a licensed historical researcher alongside her business partner John Goodenberger, and a long time columnist/creator of "Water Under the Bridge" for The Daily Astorian.

She was an avid reader and loved to travel. She organized many memorable family road trips, including ones



Bonnie Oathes

with herself and beloved grandson, Kyle.

She is survived by her adoring husband Donald; son, Eric; daughter, Kirsten; grandson, Kyle; sister, Nancy; brother, Noble; and many friends and associates.

DEATHS

Duane A. Plyter

June 28, 2016

PLYTER, Duane A., 76, of Milton-Freewater, formerly of Astoria and Warrenton, died at home. At his request, there is no service. Munselle-Rhodes Funeral Home of Milton-Freewater is in charge of the arrangements.

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