

How to keep a public pool safe and clean

SKYBOX
SKYLER ARCHIBALD



It's a likely scene, immortalized in pools throughout the world and, infamously, in the 1980 film, "Caddyshack." Kids, adults swimming. Enjoying themselves on a beautiful summer day. Then, a scream. A gasp. A look of repulsion.

The pool clears in a rush of fear, disgust and pandemonium after someone spots the dreaded "floater".

Before you go any further, I should warn you that you may want to come back to this after you finished your breakfast. I'm here to talk about something that doesn't get talked about often, but we all know pretty much stinks: #2.

The Center for Disease Control classifies these incidents as F.A.C. (Fecal Accidental Contamination) and we're talking about them here because we can't seem to avoid them this summer at the Sunset

Pool. A normal summer, we might have to deal with two or three contaminations and that's plenty for our staff to deal with.

This summer however, we've been challenged with eight separate incidents over a seven-week period. It's an astonishing number and the situation has been treated with less and less humor each occurrence.

Each time this incident occurs several steps occur internally within our organization. Lifeguards clear the pool area. We are fortunate to have three bodies of

water so occasionally the contamination only occurs in one of those, but often there is a need to clear and sanitize each of the pools.

The matter must be collected and disposed of, if possible. Obviously different consistency can make that part difficult and more to come on that. The closure effects the patrons at that time, but also those that will be coming later that day and into future days, depending on the length of closure required.

If the consistency of the contamination requires it, each drop

of water in the pool must pass through the filtration devices, regardless of how much chlorine is deposited to make it right. Extra chemicals, staff costs and an immense amount of pressure on the filtration systems make these situations more challenging.

Perhaps the worst part of these experiences though, is the closures that follow. Each of the eight incidents mentioned previously were accompanied by a 24-hour closure, impacting our swimming patrons, swim lessons, classes, etc.... We work hard to distribute the message of the closure to our patrons and guests, but we often miss a few individuals, for whatever reason, and inconvenience them in the process. It seems to be that there are not a lot of rays of sunshine in this mess.

The Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District is fortunate to have a number of staff who are certified with a pool operator license and thus, are trained to respond to these incidents. Gone are the days when we could just fish the "Baby Ruth" out and reopen. We know more about the different germs and viruses

that could be in the contamination and understand the dangers of not treating the potential of E. coli, hepatitis A, giardia and cryptosporidium.

So, what's causing all of this? Who knows! We are fortunate to serve approximately 500 residents and guests each day and the summer months cause for an increase in open swim opportunities. It's possible that there's a bacteria or illness that's going around our community and affecting children and adults in a powerful and uncontrollable fashion. Our colleagues in nearby communities have also noticed an uptick in F.A.C. incidents this summer, so perhaps it is a virus or an adolescent with a very troubling and smelly sense of humor.

Whatever the cause, we'll continue to work to provide safe, clean and wonderful recreation facilities for all of you to enjoy. Please come visit us soon and make sure that you use the appropriate restroom facilities before you jump in the water.

Skyler Archibald is the executive director for the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District.

Giving credit where credit due

Seaside Signal

Game-makers Late for the Sky based in Cincinnati debuted "Seaside-Opoly," a licensed collegiate board game with a property-trading theme with locations based in Seaside. The game is available at Walmart.

But Leila Vernor, a longtime Seaside resident, alerted us to a much earlier Seaside monopoly-style game long before "Seaside-Opoly" was released this year.

Vernor's husband Oliver, mayor of Seaside from 1995-1998, developed "Seaside-opoly" through Hometown Games in Chatsworth, California, during his term.

"It really shocked me when I saw it," she said this week of the new game released this summer.



Leila Vernor displays the game her husband created in the 1990s.

New editor named at The Astorian

Seaside Signal

The Astorian has a new editor.

Derrick DePledge, a veteran journalist who has held editing and reporting roles at the newspaper for the past 4½ years, will lead the newsroom.

He replaces Jim Van Nostrand, the editor for the past two years, who has accepted a job as Missouri state editor for Gatehouse Media, leading 22 newspapers.

"There was no question who would be our next editor," said Kari Borgen, The Astorian's publisher. "We are fortunate to have the combination of leadership, experience and knowledge of our community that Der-

rick brings to the role."

DePledge, 53, has served as managing editor, deputy managing editor and reporter at The Astorian. He has written about the gaps in Clatsop County's mental health safety net and policy changes intended to make the criminal justice system more equitable. He has also covered city government in Astoria and Warrenton.

"At our best, we hold up a mirror to our community," he said. "Our staff recognizes we live in a unique, historic place that deserves a newspaper to match."

DePledge has more than 30 years of experience as a journalist, includ-

ing a decade as a Washington, D.C., correspondent and a decade as a state government and politics reporter in Hawaii. He also spent four years as the top elected leader in Hawaii for the Pacific Media Workers Guild, a labor union that represented 200 newspaper workers.

DePledge and Van Nostrand both worked at the Washington Bureau for Knight Ridder Newspapers, though at different times.

"In 35 years in the news business, I've seen few editors better than Derrick at leading and mentoring young reporters," Van Nostrand said. "I'm leaving the newsroom in good hands."



Derrick DePledge

Business coaching for business owners

Seaside Signal

One of the most dynamic and rewarding programs offered for existing businesses is the Clatsop Community College SBDC Small Business Management Program, a program the college has offered since 1979.

The program is a 10-month executive business management course for established business owners.

Classroom sessions are taught by subject matter experts and designed to improve knowledge across topics critical to every small business including leadership and management, financial analysis, sales and marketing, customer service, human resources, legal, insurance, technology and more. amagement, Financial Analysis, Sales & Marketing, Customer Service, HR, Legal, Insurance, Technology and much more.

The 90-minute class meets every other Wednesday afternoon starting Sept. 25.

Cost is \$695 and includes at least 50 hours of training and coaching, all materials,

and resources are provided. Contact Clatsop Community College S. County Center, 1455 North Roosevelt, Seaside; sbdc@clatsopcc.edu.

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