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WELL SAID NEWSLETTER

Available on the web at
OWRD home page, under
Agency Spotlight >
Well Said Newsletter.

Please share with others at
your organization.

Well Said is a production of
the OWRD Well Construction
& Compliance Section and is
designed to inform the drilling
industry and the public about
program activities and other
items of interest.

Questions or suggestions
about this newsletter may be
directed to Kristopher Byrd
at (503) 986-0851 or email at
Kristopher.R.Byrd@oregon.gov



*Serving the public by practicing
and promoting responsible water
management.*



MEET LUKE MARTIN

The Water Resources Department would like to introduce Luke Martin, North Central Region Assistant Watermaster, to the drilling community. Luke received a bachelor of science degree in Geology from Southern Oregon University in 2009, followed by a Master's of Science degree from Indiana University in 2012.

After completing his MS in Geology, Mr. Martin spent the next 4 years as a geology consultant out of Indianapolis, ultimately developing an expertise in drilling oversight throughout the Midwestern and Southeastern United States. Following his time as a consultant, Luke worked as a hydrologist for a mining company managing water resources in the Midwest. Finally making his way back to the west coast, he began his position as NCR Assistant Watermaster in the Milton Freewater office on April 27th.

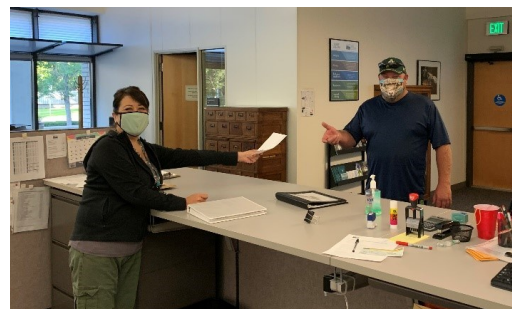
When Luke isn't busy working in the field, he spends his time cooking, baking, and enjoying the outdoors while trying to keep up with his five children.

Questions for Luke regarding the North Central Region should be directed to (541) 371-0818 or Luke.C.Martin@oregon.gov.

WELL CONSTRUCTOR EXAMS

Well Constructor License Examinations are offered on the second Monday during the months of January, April, July, and October. Exam participants should plan to arrive at the Salem office of the Water Resources Department by 8:45 am to check-in and have their photo taken; the exam starts at 9:00 am and lasts 4 hours, ending promptly at 1:00 pm.

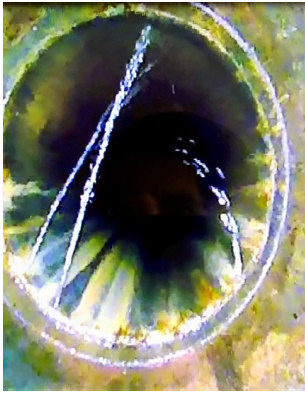
In order to adhere to social distancing guidelines, WRD limited the number of participants during the April exam and offered two sessions of testing over consecutive days for the July exam. Additional measures taken to ensure the safety of the examinees included: mandatory mask wearing for both participants and staff, hand sanitizer was made available, participants sat one to a table, and the room was sanitized both before and following the exam.



Practicing social distancing while handing out a new license.

In preparation for the October Well Constructor Exam, the Department requests that potential examinees submit their applications and fees at their earliest convenience so that we can make the necessary preparations for the possibility of continued social distancing.

Please contact Buffy Gillis at (503)986-0856 or Buffy.M.Gillis@oregon.gov for questions regarding the exam.



POOR WELDS

The Department would like to remind the drilling community to be alert when welding steel casing due to the fact that a poor weld can actually ruin a well that was otherwise constructed properly.

During one recent well inspection, OWRD staff observed a poor weld

hundreds of feet below ground surface that allowed leakage from one aquifer to another - in violation of State regulations - and this was not the only case. Other wells with poor welds have also raised some alarm, causing the regional well inspectors to focus on this activity in the field.

As a reminder, all steel casing joints are required to be water tight, and the welds must be fully penetrating. Other requirements also exist and can be viewed in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) [690-210-0200](http://www.oregon.gov/OSD/OPRD/Pages/690-210-0200.aspx).

Questions about the requirements for steel casing joints should be directed to Travis Kelly at (503) 986-0852 or by e-mail at Travis.N.Kelly@oregon.gov.

SINGLE FAMILY HOUSING LOANS & GRANTS

The US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Single Family Housing Loans & Grants Program, also known as the Section 504 Home Repair Program, is a resource that provides loans to very low-income homeowners to repair, improve, or modernize their homes and wells or provides grants to very low-income elderly homeowners to remove health and safety hazards.

To qualify, the homeowner must live in an eligible area, which generally means rural areas with a population of less than 35,000 residents. Interested applicants may follow this link to check the address of their home to determine eligibility:

<https://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/eligibility/>.

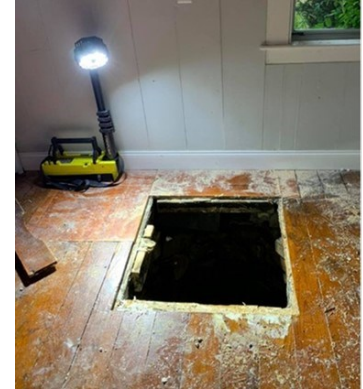
The loan also has income restrictions and the property must be eligible for a mortgage loan (i.e., manufactured homes in parks are ineligible). Because Oregon is part of a pilot team, there are increased loan and grant amounts available for the program. The lifetime maximum loan amount is \$40,000 and the lifetime maximum grant amount is \$10,000, equaling a combined total of \$50,000.

For more information, please see the USDA website: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/single-family-housing-repair-loans-grants/or>.

MAN FALLS THROUGH HOUSE FLOOR INTO WELL

In Connecticut, firefighters recently rescued a man that fell almost 30 feet down into a well when a home's flooring gave way underneath him.

According to the Guilford, CT, Fire Department, the well was over 20 feet deep and five feet wide. The home, which was originally built in 1843, had an addition built during renovation activity in the early 1980s.



Most likely, said a fire department spokesperson, the well was originally located outside the home and was simply built over during construction of the addition. This theory seemed to be confirmed when the local police department noted that the well was covered with simple wood flooring, with no subfloor or well cap.

In what could have been a fatal accident, the wounded man instead suffered only minor injuries from his fall.



As a reminder: older historic homes, while charming, may harbor hazards that have not been addressed with upgraded code and caution should be taken when working on or near these old wells.

Source: Jackson, A. (2020) 'Firefighters rescue a man who fell nearly 30 feet into a well from inside a home', CNN News, 29 June. Available at: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/29/us/man-falls-into-well-from-inside-home-trnd/index.html>

Safety FIRST!

OSU DEVELOPS NEW METHOD TO CLEAN GROUNDWATER

Researchers at Oregon State University have developed an innovative means of cleaning toxic materials from groundwater using small beads made of hydrogel, which has a similar feel and appearance to gummy candy. The hydrogel beads are saturated with bacteria that feed on industrial contaminants and excrete nontoxic compounds. The beads, packed with a food supply for the bacteria, are self-sustaining and practically maintenance free. As water flows over the beads the toxins are absorbed in the structures and react with the substrate that activates the bacteria. Then an enzyme in the bacteria converts the pollutants to harmless substances like water, carbon dioxide and chloride ions.

The study, a collaboration between OSU engineering professor Lew Semprini and researchers at North Carolina State University, was published in the journal *Environmental Science: Processes & Impacts*.

Source: Williams, K. (2020) 'OSU develops potentially ground-breaking approach to cleaning contaminated groundwater', Oregonlive, 26 March. Available at: <https://www.oregonlive.com/environment/2020/03/osu-develops-potentially-ground-breaking-approach-to-cleaning-contaminated-groundwater.html>



OSHA HEAT SAFETY TOOL APP

When you're working in the heat, safety comes first. With the OSHA-NIOSH Heat Safety Tool, you have vital safety information available whenever and wherever you need it - right on your mobile phone. The app

allows the user to calculate the heat index for their worksite and then it displays a risk level to outdoor workers based on that data. Then, with a simple "click," you can get reminders about the protective measures that should be taken at that risk level to protect workers from heat-related illness. Reminders such as: drinking enough fluids, scheduling rest breaks, planning for and knowing what to do in an emergency, adjusting work operations, gradually building up the workload for new workers, training on heat illness signs and symptoms, and monitoring each other for signs and symptoms of heat-related illness.

For more information about safety while working in the heat, see OSHA's heat illness webpage: https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/heatillness/heat_index/heat_app.html



PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Drilling a well in NW Oregon



A neglected well in Eastern Oregon



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