

# Upton Pool Forced to Close

## End of an Era, Beginning of Another



**By Assistant Publisher/Editor  
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In a statement released on Wednesday, June 18th, Weston County School District No. 7 (WCSD7) Superintendent Dr. Clark Coberly released a statement, notifying the Upton community that the Upton Pool would not be operated this summer.

Increasing structural repairs and the increasing costs associated with them on the outdoor 58-year-old pool on Willow Street have made its continued operation unfeasible, especially as the WCSD7 funding to operate the pool continues to get cut by the State. In fact, due to such a diminished maintenance and operating budget in the next fiscal year, with nearly half of the budget

going to paying for chemicals alone, the School District had scheduled increased admission costs and cut hours of operation.

Dr. Coberly informed the *Gazette* that despite yearly maintenance to the Upton Pool, too many leaks in the eroded concrete of the structure was preventing the required chemical balance of the water and would require constant water flow to keep it filled. In fact, prior to WCSD7's announcement last week, the Upton Pool couldn't even fill the final 8 to 12 inches as so much structural damage existed in the old concrete of the structure. According to Dr. Coberly, the culprit of the degraded pool structure wasn't lack of maintenance, as every year WCSD7 has undertaken extensive repairs to plug leaks

and get the pool opened for the summer. Additionally, Upton voters passed a bond with \$100,000 going to pool renovation in 2000, prior to the construction of the new high school. "It was the simple laws of physics and time," Dr. Coberly informed this office. The Upton Pool has narrowly passed surprise inspections from the State in recent years, and Dr. Coberly opined that the pool would no longer pass inspection in its current state.

Additionally, Dr. Coberly explained that if the exact same outdoor pool was to be reconstructed at current material costs, it is estimated to be at least \$2.1 million. However, if the pool is to be rebuilt, it would need to be ADA-compliant and meet other modern regulations which would increase that cost and scope, along with the rapidly increasing cost of structural materials. In short, the endeavor to get a new pool for Upton will certainly be a costly one, beyond what WCSD7 is allowed to spend.

The history of the construction of the Upton Pool is a tumultuous one, with the first proposed pool, which would've been indoor and attached to the school, going to the ballot in 1962. Even back then, it was a creation of WCSD7 with the assistance of local volunteer organizations.

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