

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

**THROUGH OCT. 3**

**Lunaria Gallery:** Exhibit of Mesoamerican inspired artwork by Silverton based painter Lori Rodrigues and Salem based ceramicist Bruce Fontaine, through Oct. 3. Gallery hours: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Reception, 7 to 9 p.m. Sept. 2, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Lunaria Gallery, 113 N Water St, Silverton. Free. 503-873-7734, Lunariagallery.com.

**THROUGH SEPT. 30**

**White Oak Gallery:** "Think BIG!" exhibition with William Leach, Douglas Beall, Robing Humelbaugh, Julia Jiang and Claudia O Driscoll, through Sept. 30. Gallery hours: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesdays-Sundays, 216 E Main St., Silverton. Free. 503-399-9193, Thewhiteoak.in fo.

**THROUGH SUNDAY**

**Borland Gallery:** "SilverFox Studios Dreamscape Alchemy" a collective of nine local artists who specialize in diverse media (painting, pyrography, paper-cutting, photography, leatherwork, etc., through Sept. 25. Gallery hours: 8 a.m. to noon Mondays-Fridays; noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, 303 Coolidge St., Silverton. Free. 503-363-9310, Silvertonarts.org.

**THURSDAY**

**Vision Quest 2016:** Low vision fair, door prizes, resources, new technology and information, 1 to 4 p.m., Silverton Senior Center, The Great Room, 115 Westfield St., Silverton. Free. 503-873-3093, Silvertonseniorcenter.org.

**FRIDAY**

**Silvertongues Toastmasters:** Develop speaking skills in a friendly and supportive environment. Guests invited, 7:30 to 8:30 a.m., Silverton Community Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 1159 Oak St., Silverton. 503-873-4198.

**SATURDAY**

**Silverton Farmers Market:** Vendor booths with fresh local produce, crafts and more, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays through Oct. 15, Town Square Park, Main and Fiske streets, Silverton. Free. Silvertonfarmersmarket.org.

**Community Bingo:** \$5 for two cards, \$1 for each additional card. 5 to 8 p.m., Silverton Senior Center, 115 Westfield St., Silverton \$3 chili dogs. 503-873-3093, Silvertonseniorcenter.org.

**SUNDAY**

**Silverton Concert Series presents Wyatt True and Grace Ho:** Works by J.S. Bach, B. Bartok, and L. van Beethoven, 3 to 4:30 p.m., Silverton Concert House, 405 N Water St., Silverton. Suggested donation \$10 adults; \$5 seniors and students. 503-873-0272, Silvertonconcerts.info.

**SEPT. 29**

**Travel Fair:** For those who plan to travel, go on vacations or want to go on a trip in the future, 1 to 4 p.m., Silverton Senior Center, The Great Room, 115 Westfield St., Silverton. Free. 503-873-3093, Silvertonseniorcenter.org.

# Four large cisterns augment rural-dweller's water supply

**DEE MOORE**  
MARION SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Aumsville/Macleay area resident Ray Temple's yard is full of bird-song and the buzz of bees. He and his wife, Stephanie Hazen, have worked hard to cultivate this native habitat. There are bird houses and feeders, bat boxes, small hives, native meadow grass, plants and wildflowers as well as a small orchard.

You can tell their commitment to the environment by just looking around their property. Sitting to the left of their garage is an array of solar panels. Behind it is Temple's newest addition to the couple's ever growing conservation efforts: He has installed four 2,500 gallon above-ground cisterns to catch and store rainwater from the roof of the detached garage.

"The roof should shed approximately 30,000 gallons a year, the gutters are screened with mesh screen and the piping has first flush diverters," he said. "There is a new steel roof on the building to make sure the water is clean."

They also plan on building a rain garden as a way to keep water and soil runoff to a minimum. Temple has experience building rain gardens. This will be his fourth one.

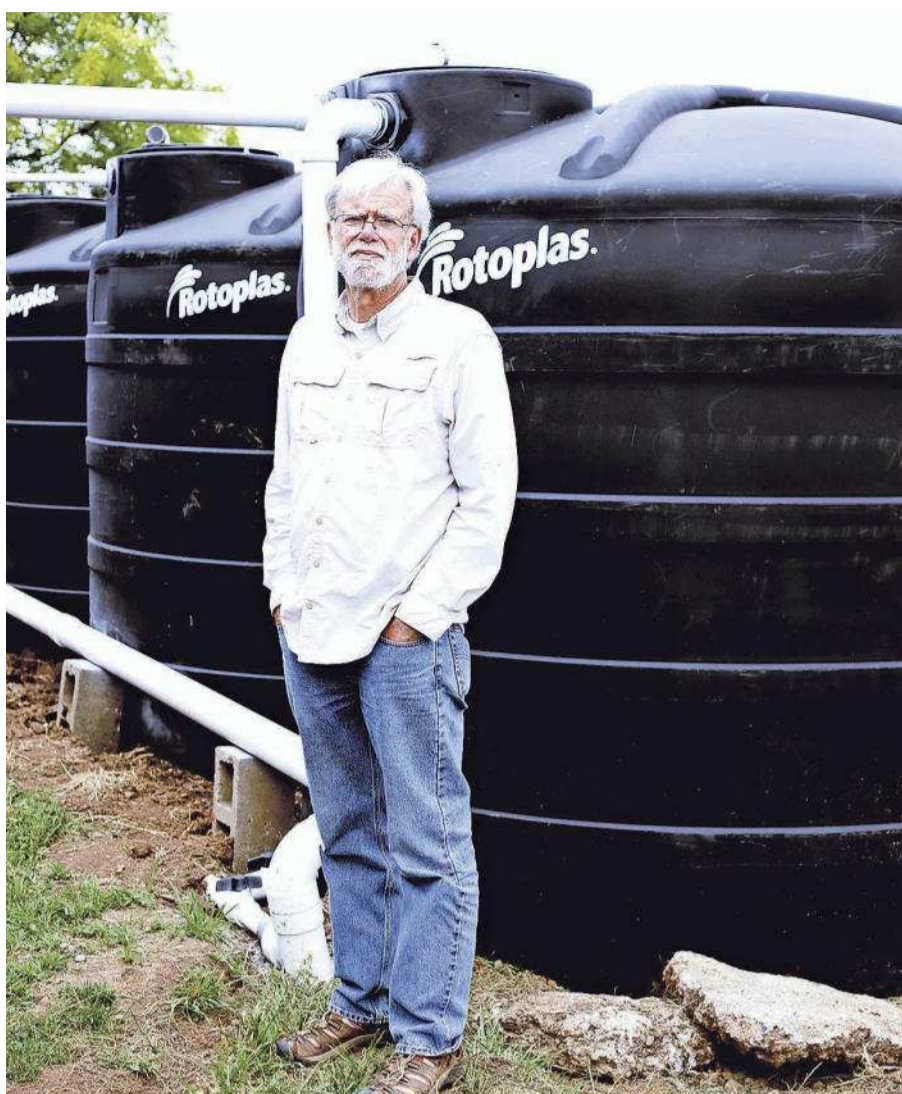
"The excess water (from the cisterns) will be shunted to a rain garden planted to native Willamette Valley wetland grasses and forbs (herbaceous flowering plants). The rain garden will be constructed consistent with The Oregon Rain Garden Guide," he said.

This effort, according to Temple, is not about saving money. Instead, it was wholly for the purpose of lessening the burden of the residential and local watershed's resources.

"We have a well that produces 20 gpm (gallons per minute) of good water, but neighbors nearby have water quantity/quality issues with their wells," Temple said.

He consulted with Clair Klock, senior resource conservationist, at Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, as well as with district native plant specialist and planner, Jenny Meisel.

"Klock has worked with several landowners in Clackamas County to install rainwater catch-



Aumsville/Macleay area resident Ray Temple has built above-ground rainwater collection cisterns, which will catch up to 10,000 gallons of water.

SPECIAL TO THE STAYTON MAIL

ment systems and has hosted workshops for the American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association in our area," he said.

"Every gallon collected is a direct saving of an equivalent volume of groundwater from our well. Conservation of groundwater is the overriding benefit of this project," he said. "In practice, I expect to increase our water use to better sustain native plantings, but still with no well water being used for irrigation."

Temple has spent more time removing Himalaya blackberries and other invasive plants and replacing them with native trees and shrubs.

"I converted 6,000 square feet of grass and weeds to native forbs and grasses; and prepared another 10,000 square feet for planting to native grasses and forbs beginning this fall. No lawn grass is watered or will be watered. Native plantings require much less water than fruit trees, berries, ornamentals or lawn," he said.

It's an enormous undertaking for Temple, who is an ardent environmentalist, though he will scoff if he is called that.

"Am I an environmentalist? Mostly I think of Stephanie and me as trying to do what's right for the environment around us," Temple said.

"I have been interested in aspects of the natural world since growing up near Charleston (Oregon) with many square miles of woods behind the house, a creek at the back of the property, a lake a few hundred yards away and the bay an easy walk to fishing and tidepooling. My family fished about 20 weekends a year and we spent a lot of time outside."

Growing up surrounded by nature led to a degree and a career in conservation.

"Going into fisheries with a degree from OSU seemed a natural transition. I had previously wanted to be a plumber," he said.

Temple retired in 2002 from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife after 28 years. He was the

natural production program director in the fish division.

He then went to work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a grants manager in the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program.

"After retirement and marrying Stephanie, I had time and support to volunteer with Audubon and get involved with local environmental issues, but mainly to try to do the right thing for the pieces of the environment that we touch," Temple said.

"The rainwater harvest system that we constructed this spring will save 10,000 gallons of groundwater annually and will never generate any economic return," he said. "It was, however, the right thing to do with our money."

*Dee Moore is a communications specialist with the Marion Soil & Water Conservation District. She can be reached at (503) 391-9927 ext. 306 or dee.moore@marionswcd.net, or visit www.marionswcd.net.*

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

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**Debate**

Continued from Page 1A

land is located northeast of the intersection of Jefferson and James streets. Eventually, the council voted 5-1 (Carter dissenting) to annex, noting that any other action else would be outside its scope of authority.

"I'm struggling to see how we can deny this annexation," Councilor Jim Sears said.

Now that's exactly what the city will do, however, for the next six months as a related debate plays out in the court system. One last application — the 24-acre parcel — will be processed, said Community Development Director Jason Gottgetreu. After that, anything over 2 acres must go to popular vote or wait, per a unanimous council decision.

The city of Corvallis is now suing the state, saying Senate Bill 1573 violates the Oregon Constitution's right to "home rule" by outlawing its 40-year-old voter-approval requirement regarding annexations. When the case has worked its way through the courts, Silverton will know whether it can return to its voter-approval system or must move on to a council-vote mechanism.

Silverton enacted its own voter-approval requirement in 2005. As it did, the council retained its power to annex proper-

ties smaller than 2 acres — and larger ones in extenuating circumstances, such as when there are hazards to health.

So, if the council's stop action this month temporarily closed the window of opportunity on larger annexations, its proposed amendment to the city's development code will make it smaller when it reopens.

By a 5-1 vote (Hector dissenting), the council gave initial approval to three new criteria that future applications must meet. A second reading of the changes will occur at the next council meeting Oct. 3.

Among the proposed changes: residential properties will only be considered for annexation if Silverton's supply of vacant and redevelopable property has fallen below a five-year supply, or an eight-year-supply in special circumstances. Based on Silverton's 2 percent annual growth rate, Gottgetreu said the city's existing 608 potential lots represent a nearly seven-year supply. The city of Ashland's development code served as a model for this new concept and language, he said.

As a developer, Oster said he's unsure about the growth-calculation. He told the council it likely to restrict growth, which will drive up housing costs.

"I think the market does a better job of deciding these kinds of things than a governmental agency," he said.