

Water

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They also admitted that the presence of algal toxins in the drinking water came as a surprise.

"This caught a lot of us off-guard," said Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, who arranged the forum.

About a month after Salem's water crisis began, the Oregon Health Authority instituted new temporary rules for the testing of cyanotoxins, requiring regular monitoring of the federally unregulated contaminant.

Surface water systems with a history of harmful algae blooms or those identified as potentially at-risk for blooms must now test biweekly for toxins microcystin and cylindrospermopsin. If either are detected in raw water above the health advisory level of 0.3 parts per billion, testing must then occur weekly and also include finished water.

The Department of Environmental Quality is conducting the tests for most water systems, though some, like Salem and Albany, are using different labs. The first samples were gathered and analyzed over the last two weeks. Testing will continue through Oct. 31.

"Going into this we had no idea what we were going to see," Boling said.

The City of Salem has voluntarily monitored algae blooms since 2011, a decision city officials say allowed them to detect the toxins this year.

The first drinking water advisory was placed May 29, three days after the city learned cyanotoxins were detected in Salem's drinking water above health advisory levels for the first time ever.

"It's not unusual for us to see detection in the river water, in the raw water source," said Lacey Goeres-Priest, City of Salem water quality director.

The last recorded detection of cyanotoxins at any level in a drinking water sample was June 29, before the city implemented its powder activated carbon treatment system.

Cyanotoxins haven't been identified above health advisory levels in drinking water since June 18.

Contact the reporter at cradnovich@statesmanjournal.com or 503-399-6864, or follow him on Twitter at @CDRadnovich

Squash pollination crucial for good vegetable growth



Gardening
Carol Savonen
Guest columnist

Question: My zucchini blossoms and after the blossom falls off there is no vegetable. This happened last year with purchased plants and this year from plants I grew from seed. Do you have any idea what is going on in my raised beds?

Answer: Most squashes and cucumbers have separate male and female flowers, both on the same plant. But, it is quite normal for early zucchini blossoms to fall off before setting any fruit for a week or two. Why? Squash often produces and opens male flowers for a week or two before any female flowers open. These male flowers function to attract pollinators to the area. Then the female blooms, which produce the fruit, begin to open.

Squash pollination is quite a sexy story. To produce fruit, pollen from male flowers must be transferred from male flowers to female flowers. It is the base of female flower that grows into the fruit, once fertilized.

Bees play cupid—they travel from flower to flower gathering nectar and pollen from male flowers and nectar from female flowers. Pollen gathered on male flowers, carried by roving bees, sticks to the sticky part of the female flowers called the style. Each style leads down into the ovaries, where the ovules, or eggs wait for fertilization.

Squash (and cucumber) female flowers tend to bloom somewhat later in the season than male flowers. To tell a female from a male zuke flower, go out into your zucchini patch and examine closely the tiny unopened flower buds. Female zuke blossoms have what resembles a tiny squash right below the flower. The tiny fruit is the ovary, full of eggs not yet fertilized via pollen from male flowers.

The male blossoms have a regular sized stalk right below the flower; there is no swollen base like the

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female bloom has. Male flowers contain long stalked stamens, each with pollen-filled anthers. Every pollen grain contains sperm nuclei, which if carried by a bee to a female flower, fertilize the ovules. When the ovules are fertilized, a squash grows.

When a pollen laden bee carries pollen grains from male anthers to female pistil, each pollen grain grows a long tube down through the pistil, to the egg cells. The sperm nuclei migrate down the tube to an egg, where fertilization takes place. Each fertilized egg will grow into a seed.

There are multiple seeds in the fruit, each containing a tiny plant embryo, each a product of the union of an egg and sperm. The surrounding tissue which protects the embryos is the zucchini fruit.

Be patient with your squash plants. Eventually, most plants will produce both male and female flowers. Try fertilizing your plant with a dose of bloom promoting fertilizer, rich in phosphorus. Once blossoms of both sexes are opening, and there is still no fruit formation, there may be poor pollination.

Mother Nature sometimes needs assistance, if you have a shortage of pollinators. You can try to pollinate the flowers yourself. Use a small watercolor paintbrush or Q-tip and lightly transfer pollen from male flowers to the female flowers. Since each flower, whether male or female, usually only stays open for a day, you'll have to monitor your plants habits closely to catch them at the perfect time - just when both a male and female flower opens in the morning, if you want to help spread the pollen.

Once fruit starts to enlarge after pollination, keep the plants well watered. And don't let your summer squash get too big - they certainly aren't as tasty.

NOTICE OF APPEAL PUBLIC HEARING

Review Body:
City Council
Hearing Date & Time:
August 20, 2018,
7:00 p.m.

Hearing Location:
Council Chambers,
Silverton
Community Center;
421 South Water Street.

Agenda Item #1:
File Number SU-18-01.
Appeal of a Subdivision denial to divide 608 North James Street into 40 lots. The site contains a total area of 9.51 acres and was proposed to be divided into 40 lots ranging in size from 7,000 square feet to 10,482 square feet with 7 lots being designated as duplex lots for an overall density of 5.0 units per acre. Located on the northeast side of the Jefferson Street and North James Street intersection, Marion County Assessor's Map 061W27AD, Tax Lot 00700. The application will be reviewed following the criteria found in Silverton Development Code section 4.3.140.

Failure of an issue to be raised in a hearing, in person or by letter, or failure to provide enough detail to afford the decision maker an opportunity to respond precludes appeal to LUBA based on that issue. Additional information and/or review of this application, including all documents and evidence submitted, may be obtained at Silverton City Hall, 306 South Water Street, or by telephoning Jason Gottgetreu at (503) 874-2212. Copies of the staff report will be available seven (7) days prior to the public hearing and are available for review at no cost at City Hall, a copy can be provided on request at a reasonable cost.
Silverton Appeal
Aug. 8, 2018



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Teen

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"Well it got my attention right away - and kept it."

In the film, over the scenes of the city and Silver Falls State Park, John narrates his ideas, calling on local businesses to train high schoolers in

their various fields of interest. He also suggests that the mayor offer regular contests to youth, to spark creativity.

"So many people have potential, and they just don't have the resources to show that potential," he said.

Silverton's mayor said he enjoyed seeing these practical ideas interwo-

ven with images of the community. Mostly, he was delighted to hear from someone young about issues that matter.

"Specifically (though not within the power of a mayor) John's concept of trade-or-career-specific, on-the-job training is very do-able, and actually did exist in Silverton in the form of the School

District's former Structured Work Experience Program," he said.

The statewide contest is meant to spark conversations and problem solving among Oregon cities' youngest residents. Every year, elementary students compete in a poster contest, middle schoolers in an essay contest and high schoolers in the digital media contest.

Local fifth-graders Preslie Carey, Makayla Chase and Oliver Zurbrugg won first, second and third place, respectively, in Silverton's poster contest.

"Oftentimes we learn as much as those who sign up for contest," Russell said. "It's amazing what these young minds come up with for ideas. How they perceive their communities is often very different from older residents. It's very important to get that perspective."

John Baldwin's desire to see youth match their interest with real-life skills comes from his own experience in filmmaking. He started out as a still photographer at age 9, moving on to making action movies with a Go-Pro by age 12.

As a high school freshman, he leaped into Silverton High's Visual Communication track in the Information and Communication Technology program. By the time he was a sophomore, he'd learned enough to join the staff at SCAN-TV, a cable access channel operated at the school.

At 16, he started getting paid for his TV work outside of school hours. Now a 17-year-old incoming senior, he said he's grateful for all the essential skills he picked up at school.

Last summer, he put those skills to work for money, making movies for the Oregon Department of Forestry. He's doing that again this year, along with filming weddings on weekends.

"He has helped us cover a number of community events in the last few years and is a great asset to our team," said Abby Shetler, SCAN-TV's multimedia assistant.

John Baldwin's "If I Were Mayor" film can be found on his YouTube channel; more information can be found at johnbaldman.myportfolio.com.

Appeal Tribune

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- Wednesday publication deadlines the Wednesday prior

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