

Invasive weed of the week

By Jeffrey Pettingill

The enemy

Foxtail barley (*Hordeum jubatum*).

The strategy

Also called squirrel tail barley, this native perennial bunch grass invades highly disturbed pastures and roadsides. The silver-green plant grows to a height of 18 inches and forms a shiny, bushy head at maturity. This species of grass grows in clumps with seed heads that contain many seeds with long awns. Once mature, these awns curl outward and are easily detached from the stem and, uniquely, gives the seed the ability to tumble across a field in a light wind.

The attack

When I see this in a field I generally can tell that the pasture has been overgrazed for years or has a leaky ditch which allows the pasture to be overwatered and thus this disturbance allows this plant to turn into an invasive weed. As a native it grows in rangeland, generally where water stood at one time. Although it is grazed early in the spring, it really becomes a problem in the summer. The seeds with the enormous awn can cause mouth damage to livestock and has been known to “dig” itself into the mouth, nose, and ears of livestock and even some household pets. Once established the weed can quickly take over a field.

The defense

Stop abusing the pasture! Repair your ditch and reseed a disturbed site to keep this from becoming a weed. Taking grass from a grass pasture is difficult. Once you see clumpy grasses forming in your pasture you should know that something is wrong. Digging these small clumps can easily remove the



Photo by Jeffrey Pettingill

Foxtail barley is a native perennial bunchgrass that can quickly take over a field.



Photo by Rich Olds

Foxtail barley has a shiny, bushy seed head at the end of stem up to 18 inches long.

plant. Application of Round-up® very early in spring is moderately effective as well as Plateau like chemistry. A new herbicide called Lambient® is somewhat effective. Application rate of 1.2 ounces early in spring works good. Early identification is key to keeping this native plant from becoming a terrible weed.

Series Continues

Jeffrey Pettingill, weed control supervisor for Baker County, will be writing an occasional article about a common noxious weed in the area. Pettingill encourages people to call him if they have weed questions or see a species they’re not familiar with. His office number is 541-523-0618 and his cell is 541-519-0204.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Author seeks stories about Baker’s 1972 state championship basketball game

Andrew Kaza, the author of a forthcoming book centered on the classic 1972 Oregon boys high school state championship game between Baker and Portland’s Jefferson High is asking the public for their support in his research.

The historical re-telling of Baker’s 1971-72 season and its culmination with the heartbreaking loss to Jefferson will include chapters on life at Baker High School, growing up in Baker County in the 1970s and the impact of basketball on the local community.

Kaza’s book, with the working title of “Higher Ground,” is tentatively set for publication in early 2021.

Baker, coached by Gary Hammond, surprised some of Oregon’s bigger schools by advancing to the championship game of the Class AAA state tournament March 21-25 at Portland’s Memorial Coliseum. In 1972, Baker competed in the AAA level, which included the state’s largest high schools. Baker opened the tournament by beating Corvallis, 51-45. The Bulldogs then beat Newberg, 64-44 in the quarterfinals, and nipped Sunset 50-49 in the semifinals before falling 59-52 to Jefferson, which lost only once that season, in the championship game.

Anyone with firsthand memories, stories related to the subject matter and particularly any archival material from 1971-72 are urged to contact the author via e-mail at: hgproject72@gmail.com. Film, photos, recordings, clippings or diary/journal notes from that time with relevance to the story are especially vital, Kaza said.

New At The Baker County Library

Patrons can reserve materials in advance online or by calling 541-523-6419. Drive-in hours at 2400 Resort St. are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.

FICTION

- “Thick as Thieves,” Sandra Brown
- “Whirlwind,” Janet Dailey
- “Winter Counts,” David Heska Wanbli Weiden
- “Shadows of the Dead,” Spencer Kope
- “Squeeze Me,” Carl Hiaasen

NONFICTION

- “The Bird Way,” Jennifer Ackerman
- “America’s Heroes,” Adam Motin
- “Botany for Gardeners,” Brian Capon
- “Women and Mormonism,” Kate Holbrook
- “Apocalypse Never,” Michael Shellenberger

DVDS

- “Anatomy of a Male Ballet Dancer” (Documentary)
- “Lost in Paris” (Comedy)
- “The Windermere Children” (Drama)
- “One Cut of the Dead” (Horror)
- “Konga” (Sci-Fi, 1961)



Photo courtesy of Carolyn Kulog

Muegge Drug Store formerly occupied the building that houses Betty’s Books.



Lisa Britton / For the Baker City Herald

The entrance to Betty’s Books, 1813 Main St., is newly remodeled.

BETTY’S

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Books were always part of Kuhl’s life.

“I remember that whenever she came back from a trip out of town to vet meetings with Dad, she would bring a book or two home,” Carolyn said.

Kuhl opened Betty’s Books in 1979. She moved to its current location, 1813 Main St., two years later.

“From the time the store opened in 1979, it was always a favorite spot for us to visit when we came home with our kids,” Carolyn said of herself, and the families of her three sisters. “I remember sitting in the children’s section once and thinking how nice it would be to visit without young kids sometime. Well, I got my chance!”

Carolyn and Tom lived in Dayton, Ohio, for six years before returning to Oregon.

“As hard as it may be for diehard Western folks to believe, we loved our life and friends in Dayton,” Carolyn

“I am so honored beyond words at the opportunity to continue such an incredible legacy for our community, and I won’t be doing this alone. The community support has already been incredible, and I will have some amazing employees helping me navigate some changes and day-to-day operations as things unfold for all of us.”

— Jeana Phillips, owner, Betty’s Books in Baker City

said. “We will never regret the time we spent there and have lifelong friends from the period.”

But all their family lived in Oregon. They returned to Baker City in 1988 and began their lives at Betty’s Books.

“Mother was happy to take us on as apprentices/employees,” Carolyn said. “After 9 years of running the store, she was looking ahead to retirement for both her and my dad.”

The Kulogs bought the store in 1994. Their daughters, Claire and Naomi, worked at the shop when needed — making it a three-generation business.

A love of books, the Kulogs have noticed, tends to span generations.

“In our 32 years in the store, we’ve seen generations of other families as well,” Carolyn said. “It was always a joy to see people we knew as children bring in their own kids, sharing their love of books and reading with them.”

The bookstore reached beyond Baker City with visitors from other places, and many would stop whenever they came through town.

Books wouldn’t exist without the people who write them, and the Kulogs met many authors at trade shows for the Pacific North-

west Booksellers Association.

“The exposure to some of these authors expanded our worlds in various and wonderful ways,” Carolyn said.

And they wanted to share that with the local community.

Over the years they organized book signings, and worked with the Baker County Library and Eastern Oregon Writers Guild to hold a Literary Night on the second Friday of each month.

As they close this chapter of their lives, the Kulogs reflected on others who helped keep the bookstore running.

“We were fortunate to have many good employees over the years,” Carolyn said. “The two longest standing were Lynne Zwanziger and Kevin McNamara. We couldn’t have done it without them.”

Betty’s Books continues to bring in new books and old favorites even in the midst of a worldwide pandemic.

“Jeana is taking the reins during a very challenging time and we hope that the

reading community recognizes that and continues to support Betty’s Books,” Carolyn said.

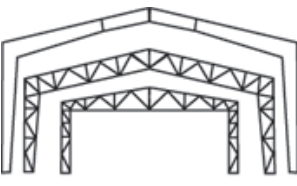
The store now has a website, bettysbooks.indielite.org, where people can order books and browse the inventory.

Hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. It will be closed Sundays and Mondays.

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words at the opportunity to continue such an incredible legacy for our community, and I won’t be doing this alone,” Phillips said. “The community support has already been incredible, and I will have some amazing employees helping me navigate some changes and day-to-day operations as things unfold for all of us.”

Updates about books and literary news are posted on the shop’s Facebook and Instagram pages.



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