

Invasive weed of the week

By Jeffrey Pettingill

The Enemy

Buffalobur (*Solanum rostratum*)

The Strategy

This is a short-growing annual plant that has spines on the stems and seed heads. The yellow flowers develop a round seed pod that houses many seeds. It grows to a height of two feet. This plant is recent to our region as it was brought to us by contaminated “wild bird” seed. The company that produces it has been forbidden to ship any more bird seed into Idaho until it can prove that the seed is free of noxious weeds. The leaves from this plant are extremely lobed (like tomatoes, as they are in the same family) and have prominent yellow veins.

Attack

This plant has been known to be a host for the Colorado potato beetle that eats up our commercially grown potatoes. It is also a very miserable plant to have around as the spines are very unforgiving and can keep wildlife, livestock, and recreationists from enjoying the environment. As this seed showed up in bird



Buffalobur has spines on its stems and seed heads.

food we primarily find it near bird feeders, but have found it in pastures and alleys — anywhere the birds fly or roost.

Defense

As with all annuals, mechanical control is very useful. When digging it up just make sure that you get 2 to 3 inches of the root out of the ground and it will control the weed. Early in the spring you

can use various herbicides such as 2,4-D, Banvel, or similar broadleaf herbicide. I do not recommend using Roundup as it is a nonselective herbicide and will also kill the surrounding grasses that are needed to keep other weeds from encroaching. If you suspect this plant is near your bird feeder (although the seed has not been allowed in Idaho for six years)

call your local weed authority for proper identification and control.

Jeffrey Pettingill is the weed control supervisor for Baker County. He encourages people with noxious weed questions to call him at 541-523-0618 or 541-519-0204. He also encourages people to like the Baker County Weed District's Facebook page.

LIBRARY

Continued from Page 1A

March is on track to be the library's busiest month since it reopened in June 2020, but visits are still just 25% or so of the pre-pandemic average of 9,500 per month, said Perry Stokes, the District's director.

But Adamson said that when the library is again the bustling place it had been, the building at 2400 Resort St. will also be a healthier space to spend time browsing the shelves, reading a book or magazine in a tranquil nook, or attending a meeting in one of the conference rooms.

And although COVID-19 was the impetus for the recent improvements, the benefits to library patrons — and to employees, who spend the most time inside — will persist long after the pandemic has ceased, Adamson said.

The installation of a new, more powerful and reliable air ventilation and filtration system, combined with a network of wall-mounted machines that pull from the air viruses, bacteria, mold and pollen, among other infectious agents and allergens, accomplishes much more than just protecting people from COVID-19, he said.

Adamson said this “triple-redundant” system should reduce the incidence of allergic reactions and curb the spread of a variety of germs.

“The safety of our visitors and staff is our paramount priority,” Stokes said in a press release. “We consider this project to be a great step forward in providing a clean, safe, and healthy environment for our community. I applaud our facilities specialist, Ed Adamson, for his outstanding work of coordinating this project.”

Stokes said the Library District, which received about \$180,000 from the 2020 federal CARES Act, spent \$42,000 to replace its aging, and obsolete, heating, air-conditioning and ventilation systems, and to install air purifiers — the latter happening both at the Baker City library and at the District's branches in Haines, Halfway, Huntington, Richland and Sumpter.

The three-level system in the Baker City library starts with the air pulled into the building from outside, Adamson said.

That air is sterilized and filtered much more effectively than the previous system, he said.

The second part of the system is the new ventilation system, which circulates the air more frequently and efficiently and reduces the accumulation of pollutants, Adamson said.

The library's original system was pneumatic, a series of air tubes that operated a network of solenoids controlling the heating and ventilation ducts.

“It was a great system — 40 years ago,” Adamson said.

But the air tubes are prone to pinhole leaks that are hard to detect but which cause the system to either fail or to operate inefficiently.

The new electromechanical system is computer-controlled, and Adamson can operate it with his laptop.

The third part of the system is the network of wall-mounted “bipolar ionization” units, which can kill 99.4% of virus



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

A wall-mounted air purifier at the library in Baker City.

particles in 30 minutes, according to the manufacturer.

Larger units are mounted in areas where larger numbers of people are likely to congregate, Adamson said.

Smaller purifiers are installed in classrooms, bathrooms and other smaller spaces.

He said he was already working on a project to replace the heating, air-conditioning and ventilation control system when the pandemic began.

With the advent of COVID-19, Adamson said it was natural to expand the job to upgrade the building's air purification and filtration capacities.

“This building is a perfect candidate, and the timing was right,” he said.

Adamson praised the assistance of Brian Zoeller of the Energy Trust of Oregon.

Stokes said the District is applying for financial aid for the project from both Energy Trust of Oregon and from Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative, as the upgrades will reduce the library's appetite for natural gas and electricity.

Library hours:
 • Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 • Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 • Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 • Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.

More information is available at bakerlib.org or by calling 541-523-6419.

Library browsing time increases from 30 minutes to 60 minutes on Monday

Thanks in part to the library's new air ventilation and purification system, patrons will soon be able to browse the shelves for up to an hour, instead of the 30-minute limit in place for most of the past year. The change takes effect on Monday, March 29.

In addition to the new air purification system, the Library District's safety committee, in expanding the browsing period, also considered recent declines in COVID-19 cases in Baker County, and the county's move from moderate to low risk on the state's four-level system starting Friday, March 26.

The library continues to require visitors to wear masks, sanitize their hands, maintain social distancing, and keep a respectful quiet reading environment inside the building.

Library Director Perry Stokes encourages patrons to reserve materials in advance when possible, and use the library's drive-thru or curbside services.

Three file for openings on school board

■ Two candidates vying for one position in the May 18 election, and one candidate filed for another slot on the five-member Baker 5J board

By Chris Collins

ccollins@bakercityherald.com

Two new members will join the Baker School Board when it convenes in July as the next fiscal year begins.

Kevin Cassidy, who will end an eight-year stint on the Board, and Katie Lamb, who will have completed her first four-year term, did not file for reelection.

Instead, three people will seek to fill the two positions when voters mark their ballots for the May 18 election.

Travis Cook, owner-operator and wine maker at Copper Belt Wines, is the only candidate to file for position 4, currently held by Lamb.

Jessica Dougherty, a substitute teacher and executive director of Baker County Community Literacy Coalition, is one candidate for position 3, currently held by Cassidy. The second candidate for the seat is Koby Myer, chief financial officer of New Directions Northwest Inc.

All three paid the \$10 filing fee rather than gathering signatures prior to the March 18 filing deadline.

This information was provided on their candidate filing forms:

- Cook, a 2003 Baker High School graduate, served on the committee that helped develop a pared-down bond measure proposal, after the failure of a \$48 million bond measure that failed in November 2018. The Board had planned to ask voters to approve a \$6 million bond in May 2020. That bond measure was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impact on the community.

The Baker School District now is seeking voter approval of a further reduced bond measure, for \$4 million, in the same May 18 election in which new directors also will be chosen.

Cook earned a bachelor's degree in horticulture at Oregon State University and worked as an advanced systems manager in McMinnville from 2008 to 2015. He established Copper Belt Wines in 2010.

- Myer has 15 years of banking financial experience. He earned a Master of Business Administration from Fitchburg State University in Massachusetts, a bachelor's degree in business at Mayville State University in North Dakota and he earned an associate degree in business management from Bemidji State University in Minnesota.

He has no prior governmental experience.

- Jessica Dougherty also lists among her relevant experience that she has served as a Parent Teacher Organization president and is a “creative mom.”

She earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Sonoma State University Rohnert Park, California. She earned an associate degree in anthropology and photography from Marin County Community College in California.

And although she noted on her candidate filing form that she has no prior elected or appointed governmental experience, Dougherty has “nearly a decade of experience working for federal and state government.”

New At The 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

- “The Bounty,” Janet Evanovich
- “The Consequences of Fear,” Jacqueline Winspear
- “Double Jeopardy,” Stuart Woods
- “Eternal,” Lisa Scottoline
- “The Other Emily,” Dean Koontz

NONFICTION

- “Just As I Am,” Cicely Tyson
- “Unmasked,” Andy Ngo
- “Forgiving What You Can't Forget,” Lysa Terkeurst
- “Land,” Simon Winchester
- “The Doctors Blackwell,” Janice Nimura

DVDS

- “The Craft: Legacy” (Horror)
- “Lowriders” (Drama)
- “McQueen” (Documentary)
- “Pink Floyd: Delicate Sound of Thunder” (Documentary / Concert Film)
- “Time Freak” (Sci-Fi)

Providing quality and compassion to all his patients.

Dr Sanders specializes in all aspects of the foot and ankle. Anything from foot & ankle pain to diabetic foot care & limb salvage, injuries, surgery, skin or toe nail conditions, sports medicine, he covers it all!



SANDERS PODIATRY 2830 10th St Baker City, Oregon

Baker City office hours:

Mon-Thurs 8am-5pm

Clinic hours: Tuesday 8am-5pm

Thursday 8am-12pm

Clinic offices in Ontario (every other Monday)

John Day (every other Monday)

La Grande (every Wednesday)

541-524-0122