

# Local & State

## Invasive weed of the week

By Jeffrey Pettingill

### The Enemy

Salt cedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*).

### The Strategy

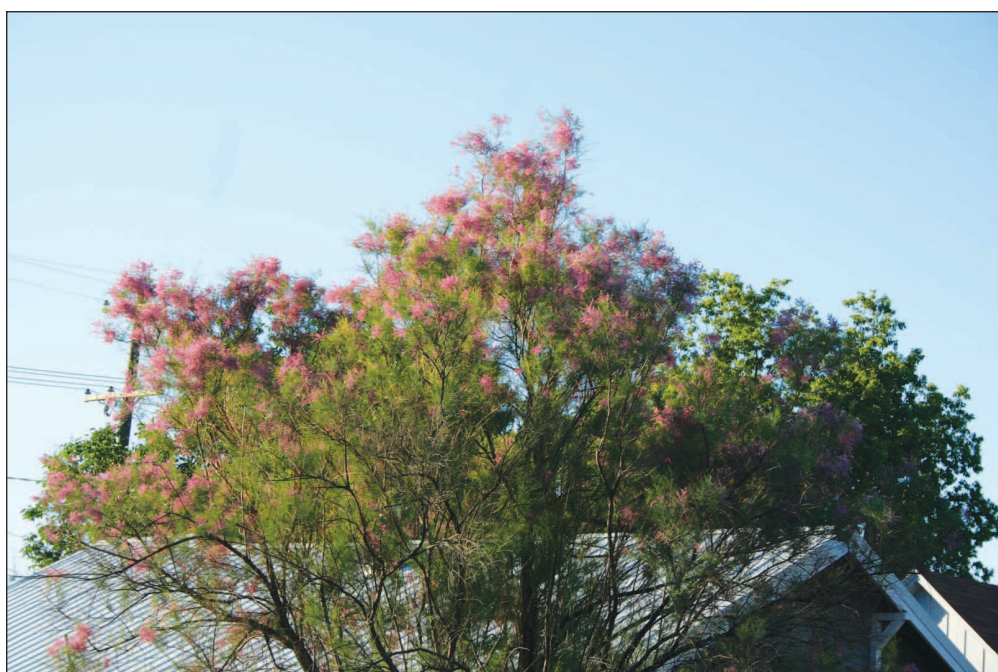
This deciduous tree inhabits waterways and small reservoirs. It has small scale-like leaves and pink to white flowers, giving the tree a very beautiful appearance. This tree continues to be introduced through the nursery industry but is now listed as a noxious weed. This tree can be shrub like or if old enough can look like other cedar trees. Unfortunately it has been seen along the Snake River and in residential yards. It is the worse invader along the Colorado River.

### Attack

Salt cedar develops roots very quickly and once established has the ability to drain the water out of small water systems. One single tree can use up to 200 gallons of precious water each day. I have seen ponds that are dry and once the trees are removed they fill up with water. It drips a "salty" residue which prevents other plants from growing around it, even after the tree has been removed.

### Defense

**DO NOT PLANT ONE.** As this is a noxious weed it is illegal to plant. Cutting down the tree (even if it was planted years ago by grandma) is most effective, but it will be necessary to "paint" herbicide on the fresh cut surface immediately after cutting to kill the stump.



Jeffrey Pettingill/Contributed Photo

Salt cedar trees have a voracious thirst for water.

Using herbicides such as Garlon, Arsenal, and in some cases Roundup are best, but watch for off-target drift of the herbicide. These same herbicides can be used to spray the foliage, but not as effective as cutting the trees down. There are a few insects available to control the tree, but the birds love to eat them. Most importantly, watch for this plant in your nursery magazines as it is the wrong plant to plant in our area.

*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.*

Rich Old/Contributed Photo

Salt cedar has distinctive pink flowers.



Photo by Richard Old  
www.kidservices.com

## FIREWORKS

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Diaz's stand, which opened the evening of June 30, is a fundraiser for Baker City Harvest Church. Neff said the church serves as a Royal Rangers outpost, mentoring young men and women in the community to make good choices.

While his stand has more product than usual this year, he said he never received the big packages he typically gets to sell.

"We've had people come in, and that's what they were looking for," Diaz said. "I think that was part of the shortage, is that the manufacturing of those was not on the priority lists."

### No local fireworks ban

Although many Oregon cities and some counties have banned either the sale or use of fireworks, or both, due to high fire danger, no such prohibition is in place in Baker City.

City Manager Jonathan Cannon said he discussed the issue with Fire

Chief Sean Lee, but they decided a ban wasn't necessary.

"The reality is in the state of Oregon most fireworks are illegal and banned already," Cannon said. "Our feeling was that we did not need to add onto that ban, but to appeal to people to consider celebrating the Fourth of July without fireworks because of the risk of fire."

Oregon bans firecrackers, bottle rockets, roman candles and many other types of fireworks that are popular in other states.

## Death toll from heat wave could be in the hundreds, officials say

■ At least 79 people have died in Oregon, with most deaths in Multnomah County

By Andrew Selsky  
Associated Press

**SALEM** — Many of the dead were found alone, in homes without air conditioning or fans. Some were elderly — one as old as 97. The body of an immigrant farm laborer was found in an Oregon nursery.

As forecasters warned of a record-breaking heat wave in the Pacific Northwest and western Canada last weekend, officials set up cooling centers, distributed water to the homeless and took other steps. Still, hundreds of people are believed to have died between June 25 and June 29.

An excessive heat warning remained in effect for parts of the interior Northwest and western Canada.

The death toll in Oregon alone reached 79, the Oregon state medical examiner said Thursday, July 1, with most occurring in Multnomah County, which encompasses Portland.

In Canada, British Columbia's chief coroner, Lisa Lapointe, said her office received reports of at least 486 "sudden and unexpected

deaths" between June 25 and June 30. Normally, she said about 165 people would die in the province over a five-day period.

She said it was too soon to say with certainty how many deaths were heat related, but that it was likely the heat was behind most of them.

Washington state authorities have linked more than 20 deaths to the heat, but authorities said that number was likely to rise.

In Oregon's Multnomah County, the average victim's age was 67 and the oldest was 97, according to county Health Officer Jennifer Vines.

In a telephone interview Thursday, Vines said she had been worried about fatalities amid the weather forecasts. Authorities tried to prepare as best they could, turning nine air-conditioned county libraries into cooling centers.

Between Friday and Monday, 7,600 people cooled off amid the stacks of books. Others went to three more cooling centers. Nearly 60 teams sought out homeless people, offering water and electrolytes.

"We scoured the county with outreach efforts, with calls to building managers of low-income housing to be checking on their residents," Vines said.

But the efforts weren't enough, she said: "It's been really sobering to see these initial (fatality) numbers come out."

Oregon Office of Emergency

Management Director Andrew Phelps agreed. "Learning of the tragic loss of life as a result of the recent heat wave is heartbreaking. As an emergency manager — and Oregonian — it is devastating that people were unable to access the help they needed during an emergency," he said.

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BAKER HIGH SCHOOL  
**GIRLS SWIM TEAM**  
& 3 time State Champion  
**Brianna Stadler**  
2021 Champion in  
100 Butterfly & 200 IM

## Methodist churches resume in-person worship services

The Baker and Haines United Methodist churches have resumed in-person worship services after a 16-month closure during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Virtual worship services will continue, according to a press release from the churches.

Both churches will continue to ask worshippers to wear masks to protect those who haven't been, or can't be, vaccinated.

Rev. Michele Holloway, who serves both churches, has offered weekly services on Zoom since August 2020.

"While Zoom isn't the ideal way of doing worship, it has provided me the opportunity to see and interact with people from these churches during a very difficult time," Holloway said. "We did our best to maintain a sense of community online but I am excited to have the churches open again. I want to thank the congregations for their patience and faith as we worked through the processes we have been given by the Greater Northwest COVID team and our bishop. I hope to see you in church on Sunday."

The Baker United Methodist Church, 1919 Second St., has Sunday worship service at 10 a.m., both in-person and via Zoom. To receive a Zoom link, call 541-523-4201. In-person worshippers are asked to reserve their seats in advance to ensure that proper physical distancing is maintained. To reserve seats, call 541-523-4201. You can reserve seats for multiple weeks.

The Haines United Methodist Church, 721 Roberts St., will reopen with an outdoor service Sunday, July 4 at 8:30 a.m. The congregation will continue to meet outdoors during the summer. Reservations are not necessary, but worshippers are asked to bring their own chairs.

## 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.

Baker County Library's new additions this week include 3 new bestsellers, 22 new movies, 51 new audiobooks, five new music CDs, 25 new children's books, and 84 other new books, including 70 that are available online. See everything new this week to Baker County Library District at wowbrary.org.

### YOUNG ADULT FICTION

- "Ace of Spades," Faridah Ábíké-Íyímíde
- "The Box in the Woods," Maureen Johnson
- "Cinderella is Dead," Kalynn Bayron
- "Daughter of Sparta," Claire M. Andrews
- "Dragon Hoops," Gene Luen Yang

### NONFICTION

- "Bungalow Style," Treena Crochet
- "Girl in the Woods," Aspen Matis
- "The Total Bowhunting Manual," Scott Bestul & Dave Hurteau
- "Weaving on a Little Loom," Fiona Daly
- "Wisdom of the Native Americans," Kent Nerburn

### MOVIES

- "The Courier" (Drama)
- "Godzilla vs. Kong" (Sci-Fi)
- "Nobody" (Action)
- "MacGruber" (Comedy)
- "The United States Constitution & Bill of Rights" (Documentary)

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WIC is a public health nutrition program serving Oregon families. Even if you do not qualify for SNAP or the Oregon Health Plan (OHP), you may be eligible for WIC. Check online at [healthoregon.org/wic](http://healthoregon.org/wic).

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