

# Salt Cedar plants, concern in county

In recent weeks, Cheyenne County Noxious Weed Supervisor Dan Schlittenhardt has been talking to the commissioners and other county residents about the latest concern: Salt Cedars. He said there are Salt Cedars growing along the Republican River which are taking water out of the aquifer.

Salt Cedar or tamarisk is a plant of concern especially now with these times of drought. A shrub five to 25 feet tall with a reddish brown branches and gray and green needles. The flowers are pink to white with five petals.

Introduced in the 1850s from Eurasia as an ornamental and has escaped and is lethal to water supplies along rivers, creeks and streams from Texas to Washington in the western United States. One mature plant can evaporate into the air 200 to 500 gallons of water a day. It uses very little for itself.

Thirty plants per acre take 5.5 acre feet of water per year. Salt Cedar is a fast spreading plant with tap roots 40 feet or more in depth. A mature plant can spread 500,000 or more seeds a year.

It also develops new plants from root stocks. At times during the year they drop their needles and literally excrete salt from the needles, which raises the salinity of the soil around them.

The ground becomes basically useless for more desirable plants. From a wildlife point of view, the tamarisk has little value and is usually considered detrimental to native animals. The leaves, twigs and seeds are extremely low in nutrients, and, as a result, very few insects or wildlife will use them.

Cutting, mowing and burning only help to spread the plants. Spraying will be effective late summer to early fall. In some areas for spot spraying individual plants with Remedy and diesel is effective.

Larger areas need a chemical called Arsenal. The whole plant needs to be sprayed as a few branches that miss the chemical can survive.

After spraying do not disturb the ground for three years as disturbing the root can cause a regrowth.

# Season planned for art association

A big season is planned for the members of the Western Plains Art Association for the 2004-05 year.

"The annual campaign marks the 35th season to secure support for programming as the membership drives begins in the western Kansas area during July," said Althea Lebow, local contact person. "More than two-thirds of the budget comes from members through various levels of support. A relatively small amount comes from gate fees charged to non-members at the performances."

"One of the objectives of Western Plains Arts Association is to educate the public about the arts and one of the ways that is done is to provide workshop programs in the public schools. Most school boards consider this aspect of support by some level of sponsorship."

An outline of some of the programs already scheduled includes:

- Singer, pianist and songwriter, Kelley Hunt, who opens the season Sept. 12 at Oakley, Garrison Keillor fans have heard her on "A Prairie Home Companion" six times. She began piano lessons at age 10 in Emporia and learned the boogie-woogie style that has become one of her trademarks. Subjects she writes and sings about create the grasslands of the Kansas' Flint Hills.
- Frula, a Balkan folk dance group, returns Sept. 30, with a theatrical drama in Colby with her rich and colorful program of folk music and dance.
- Wichita Children's Theatre presents "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" this year for area schools and an evening show for the public.
- "The President's Own" United States Marine Band will present varied selections at the ever-popu-

lar military annual show in Colby.

- A chamber concert in Sharon Springs and a cappella quintet in Atwood add musical quality and variety to the schedule.
- "Mr. Jack Daniel's Original Silver Cornet Band," a very popular show several years ago will do "A Hometown Christmas."
- The returning "Centennial Singers" from the University of Wyoming will do a wide variety of vocal numbers displaying beautiful costumes and choreography.
- Performer Joyce Theier of the "Ride Into History" team will present "Whose Land/Our Land/My Land" for the public and an adaptation as a school performance the next day.
- Branson, Mo., shows are always popular in the area and Western Plains continues with adding one of the best family shows, "The Hughes Brothers," as they combine vocal, instrumental and dancing, ranging from country western to gospel and Broadway.
- The exciting "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" is a big show worth driving many miles to see.
- "Lazer Vaudeville" features juggling, blacklight, laser faces, images and comedy returning by request.
- A premiere professional touring choir, "The Texas Boys Choir," is worth the price of the season ticket.
- There are also end-of-the-season shows which includes "Rowan," A Celtic program and a nostalgic back-in-time show, "Radio Days."

For season membership in the St. Francis area you may contact, Althea Lebow, 332-3377; Helene Landenberg, 332-2528; or Lee Nichols, 332-3581.

## Helen Ruth Churchwell

June 5, 1922 - July 10, 2004  
Helen Ruth Sawyer Churchwell was born June 5, 1922, in rural Cheyenne County, Kan., to Chester and Winifred Sawyer. She spent her growing-up years on the family farm north of Bird City. As a child, Helen Ruth attended grade school at the Brick School, and graduated from the Bird City Rural High School in 1941. She had one brother, Chester Kent, and one sister, Hollis Jean.

After graduating, Helen Ruth worked several jobs, including one as a telephone operator in Bird City. She later moved to Wichita where she worked for the Coleman Company. On a train trip home, she met a young man from Oklahoma named Roy Churchwell. They began corresponding, and were married June 16, 1945.

The couple spent their first several years in Bird City, where their first son, Stewart Thomas was born. But times were hard, and Roy and Helen Ruth moved to North Bend, Ore., where Roy got a job working in the sawmills. There, their second son, Roger Roy, was born in 1952, followed by his little brother, Eric Jon in 1960.

In 1963, Helen Ruth's husband Roy began working in construction and moved his family on the first of what would be many such moves over the next 10 years. This was an exciting time for the family, filled with new friends and experiences. But Bird City was still "home" and Helen Ruth would return there to her parents' farm during the summers bringing her young boys along with her.

After Roy's death in 1973, Helen Ruth returned for good to Bird City, along with her youngest son, Eric. She love cooking, and found a job as cook for the Cheylin schools. Later, she worked in the same capacity at the Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis.

Helen Ruth loved people and spent many happy hours with her friends and neighbors. But perhaps her greatest joy was her five grandchildren. She was delighted when her grandson, Chad, came to live with her in 1991. And after her next three grandchildren were born, she greatly enjoyed helping care for them.

Helen Ruth Churchwell died on July 10, 2004, after a lengthy illness.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Chester and Winifred Sawyer; her sister, Hollis Jean; her brother, Chester Kent, and her husband, Roy Churchwell.

Left behind to mourn her passing are her three sons: Stewart, of Challis, Idaho, Roger, and wife, Sharon, of Valley Springs, Calif.; and Eric, and wife, Janice, of Bird City. Also, her five grandchildren: Roy Churchwell, of Stillwater, Okla.; Chad Churchwell, and wife, Desirae, of Quinter; Vance, Whitney and Heath Churchwell, of Bird City, as well as many dear relatives and friends. She will be greatly missed.

Funeral services were held on July 10 at the Immanuel United Methodist Church, Bird City, with Reverend Morita Truman officiating.

Casket bearers were Keith Dorsch, Norman Dorsch, Stan Dorsch, Dean Smith, Scott Smith, Ned Smith.

Interment was in the Bird City Cemetery, Bird City.

Arrangements by Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis.

## Lewis Andrew Hunter Jr.

April 5, 1942 - June 12, 2004  
Lewis Andrew Hunter Jr., age 62, died at his home on June 12, 2004, after a lengthy illness.

Mr. Hunter grew up in Bird City, Kan., and Woodrow, Colo. He moved to Texas in 1969. He worked in the airline industries for the largest part of his life.

Preceding him in death were his daughter, Wanda Kay and his grandparents, Lester and Mary Hoyt.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Kathleen Hunter; son, Leroy Hunter and wife, Faleen; daughters, Teresa Schmidt and husband, Wesley, Donna Krupa and husband, Kevin; grandchildren, Darian Hunter, Charis Lord and Michael Burright; great-grandchild, Joshua Lord; parents, Lewis Hunter Sr., and Josephine Harriet; sisters, Lenna Weisenhorn and husband, Pete; Lavonda Brown and husband, Bud; brother, Gary Hunter and wife, Kay and son, Nicholas; and uncle, Francis Hoyt of Bird City.

Mr. Hunter will be missed by all; his loyalty, hard work, and good cheer brought many friends into the lives of all who knew and loved him.

Funeral services were held June 16 at Rosewood Funeral Chapel.

Pallbearers were Leroy Hunter, Wesley Schmidt, Kevin Krupa, Van Andrew, Elton Sanders, Jim McCarthy.

Michael Burright was an honorary pallbearer.

Interment was at Rosewood Memorial Park, Humble, Texas.

## Carol Irene Brubaker

July 11, 1925 - July 8, 2004  
Carol Irene (Deeds) Brubaker was born to Ray and Elsie (Eggers) Deeds in their home south of Bird City, Kan. She married Robert Brubaker Feb. 26, 1947. He survives. She died July 8, 2004, in a Denver hospital. She would have celebrated her 29th birthday for the 50th time on Sunday, July 11.

Carol loved the wide-open spaces of northwest Kansas. She took pride in her family, her community and her country. A homemaker and a farmer, she committed her life to her family, the land and to God.

She is survived by her husband Robert of Bird City. She leaves behind her children: Marilyn Miller and husband Bob of Fort Worth; Jane Perkins and husband Roger, Hillsboro; Gwen Houston, Hays; Charlene Holzmeister and husband Ivan, Hays; Fred Brubaker and wife Susan, Hutchinson; and Gary Brubaker and wife Jane, Bird City.

Carol also leaves to mourn her grandchildren: Matt and Marisa Miller, Darci Perkins, Scott and Carrie Perkins, Rob and Susan Perkins, Nathan Houston, John Houston, Anne Houston, Christopher Brubaker, Marisa Brubaker



Hunter

and Jacob Brubaker. She was blessed with one great-grandson, Hunter Perkins.

She was step grandmother to: Chara Kemerling, Adele Holzmeister, Brock Holzmeister and Grayson Albert.

Carol was preceded in death by her parents, and two brothers, Harold Deeds and Donald Deeds.

Two brothers, Wayne Deeds and Ed Deeds, and her sister Lorraine Brethower survive.

For most of her adult life, she actively participated in a variety of community-based organizations. She was currently active in Home Circle and American Legion Auxiliary.

Carol attended Fort Hays State University for two years following high school graduation. She was member of Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority.

When asked how she would like to be remembered, she replied: "As an American citizen who believed in God; was graced with children and grandchildren, and a great-grandson."

Carol will be missed for her community work, her unique and creative approach to life, and for her sense of humor.

The funeral service was held July 12, at the Immanuel United Methodist Church, Bird City, with Rev. William Miller officiating. Scripture readings were done by Carol's children Marilyn, Fred and Jane. Granddaughter Darci Perkins gave the family reflections.

Casket bearers were her grandchildren.

A private family interment was held in the Bird City Cemetery. Knodel Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

## Elizabeth Estella Geyer

Aug. 28, 1925 - July 19, 2004  
Elizabeth Estella "Dolly" Geyer, 78, died on Monday, July 19, 2004, at Wichita County Hospital in Leoti, Kan. She was born Aug. 28, 1925, at Marienthal, the daughter of Anthony and Cecilia Margaret Baier Baker.

She was a homemaker and a lifetime Wichita County resident.

Elizabeth was a member of the St. Mary Catholic Church Altar Society and a former Wichita County 4-H leader.

On Feb. 11, 1947, she married Elmer R. Geyer at Marienthal. He died Oct. 20, 1996, at Leoti.

Survivors include three sons, Leoti, Danny and Myron, all of Leoti; five daughters, Donna Wright of Bird City, Esther Johnston of Garden City; Polly Witt and Bonnie Holopirek, both of Hesston, and Brenda Billings of Lawrence; three brothers, Joseph Baker of Haddam, Louis Baker of Marienthal and Bernard Baker of Colby; seven sisters, Bernadine Pahls of Cawker City and Marquerite Zellner, Florence Zellner, Mary Ann Winter, Celine Wimmer, Imelda Smith and Inella Scheffe, all of Marienthal; 25 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 22, at St. Mary Catholic Church, Marienthal. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday, July 23, at St. Mary Catholic Church. Father Benjamin Martin will be officiating.

Burial will be in St. Mary Cemetery, Marienthal.

Friends may call from noon to 8 p.m. on Wednesday and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday at Price & Sons Funeral Home, Leoti.

Memorials may be given to the church or Wichita County Health Center in care of the funeral home.

# Former Bird City man featured in newspaper

Former Bird City resident was featured in the Wichita Eagle business journal on July 4.

Dr. John Dorsch is part of a mandatory course at Kansas University School of Medicine-Wichita, which as it develops, will soon take on more significance. In an article written by David Dinell, it stated that, starting with the class of 2005, medical students nationwide, will be required by the National Board of Medical Examiners to take a Standardized Patient Program exam as part of their licensing.

The students at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita now "play out scenes" which appear to be typical medical office visits. However, it is not an office visit. The patient is a person paid to act like a patient and the visit is watched on monitors by professors who are listening to every word and jotting down notes.

The Standardized Patient Program is part of the reason why third-year medical students such as Melissa Hague are working so hard at the program.

Ms. Hague says the Standardized Patient Program exam keeps her on her toes.

"Each time you go up to that door, you have no idea what you're walking into," she says.

Which, say the program's organizers, is exactly the point.

For Ms. Hague and the four other students tested last week, the program was a safe environment to try out their skills.

Ms. Hague says the experience, which she has undertaken several times in the past year, provides her with a chance to learn how to handle patients in her practice when she graduates and finishes her residency. It also gives her a chance to find out what her office style is, she says.

There is plenty of time in hospital settings for medical students to be observed and offered advice from other nurses and doctors, says Dr. Dorsch, who helps run the program and who designed and wrote many of the medical scenarios.

Dr. Dorsch says feedback is important to medical students' learning process.

"I think it has a lot of value because the students are directly observed," Dr. Dorsch says. "It also helps improve their communication skills."

The article stated that the program retains a lot of value as a learning tool. Everyone agrees that it's a good thing to practice — medical education is not just a matter of book learning.

Dr. Dorsch is the son of Norman and Mary Dorsch, Bird City.

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**Come and Go Bridal Shower**  
for  
**Stephanie Schafer**  
Saturday, July 24  
2-4 p.m.  
St. Francis Public Library

**AUCTION REMINDER**  
Wednesday, July 28, 2004 - 10:30 CT  
Sale Site: Bird City Legion Hall-Bird City, KS  
**SELLER: Darrell Nelsen Estate**  
Guns will be sold at approx. 1 p.m. • Vehicles at 2 p.m.  
Two rings will be running so plan ahead.  
HOUSE & REAL ESTATE to be sold at later date

→ Shop Equip. & Tools	→ Vehicles, Trailer & Related
→ Bicycles & Fishing Related	→ Appliances
→ Household & Furniture	→ Antiques & Collectibles
→ Guns & Other Sport Related	→ Mowers & Garden Related
→ Specialty Tables & Related	→ Music & Book Section

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Darrell was quite a collector and there will be lots of unique items of all kinds. Plan to attend. LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

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