

Paint your teepee with subalpine spiraea



BRUCE BARNES

BLOOMIN' BLUES



Bruce Barnes/Contributed Photo

Subalpine spiraea, *Spiraea splendens*.

and Wyoming. It can be found locally in partial shade in damp soil, often near streams, at middle to upper elevations.

Subalpine spiraea can be distinguished from other species by the red flowers and the somewhat flat-topped shape (not pyramid-shaped) of the cluster of flowers, and by the serrated leaves being somewhat rounded on the tips. The bush is usually about two or three feet tall.

Indian tribes have found several uses for the Subalpine spiraea. It has been used medically as a laxative or enema, and to treat venereal disease. The woody flowering stems have been used to make paint brushes, especially for use on tepees.

Bruce Barnes directs Flora ID, producing plant ID software, found at flora-id.org. Reach him at flora.id@wtech-link.us.

COMMUNITY BRIEFING

Heppner park concert features Wasteland Kings

HEPPNER — The Wasteland Kings are returning to play during Heppner's upcoming Music in the Park.

Describing their sound as "premier Americana," the La Grande-based band will perform Sunday, Aug. 8, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Heppner City Park, 444 N. Main St. Those planning to attend are urged to bring a blanket or lawn chair.

Also, food will be available for purchase by donation from Hopeful Saints Ministry. Money raised will support its Mission and Outreach Fund.

For more information, contact the Heppner Chamber of Commerce at 541-676-5536 or heppnerchamber@centurytel.net. For more about the band, visit www.wlkmusic.com.

Farm-City ropes in fun with Family Night

HERMISTON — Get ready to wrangle in some fun during Family Night at Farm-City Pro Rodeo. Tickets for children 12 and under are \$5 each (others are \$17 and up) for the Wednesday, Aug. 11,

same show twice — offering audiences something to remember each time they see him.

Each child will receive their own back number. Other activities include autographs from the rodeo clown and bullfighters, face painting and more.

For more information or a link to purchase tickets, visit www.farmcityprorodeo.com. For questions, call 541-567-8500.

Cale Moon closes out Irrigon's concert series

IRRIGON — The season finale of Irrigon's Music in the Park will feature Cale Moon, an up-and-coming Nashville recording artist who hails from Benton City, Washington.

The free event is Monday, Aug. 9, at 7 p.m. at Irrigon Marina Park, 430 N.E. Eighth St. People are invited to bring a blanket or lawn chair and a picnic and beverages to enjoy while listening to the music with the beautiful backdrop of the Columbia River.

Moon, who has been criss-crossing across the United States playing at concert halls, bars, parks and festivals, is known for his vocal range and unique guitar style. He never performs the

same show twice — offering audiences something to remember each time they see him.

For more about the concert series, call Donna at 541-922-3197. For more about Moon, visit www.calemoon.com.

It's time for student-athletes to get physical

HERMISTON — Student-athletes at Hermiston High School and Sandstone and Armand Larive middle schools who plan to participate in sports can receive low-cost physicals. They are available Thursday, Aug. 12, at the high school, 600 S. First St. The schedule is:

- 9-10:30 a.m., seventh and eighth grade.
- 10:30 to noon, ninth and 10th grade.
- 1-2:30 p.m., 11th and 12th grade.
- 2:30 - 4 p.m., all student-athletes.

The cost is \$20. To find out if your student-athlete needs an updated physical examination this year, call the athletics secretary at 541-667-6115. For more information, visit www.hermiston.k12.or.us/apps/events.

— EO Media Group

PUBLIC SAFETY

TUESDAY, AUG. 3

6:32 a.m. — The Milton-Freewater Police Department responded to a reported burglary on Lamb Street. A man told police he found the doors of a business open. Officers arrived and found property monitoring equipment and other items missing. Police have yet to locate any suspects, the report said.

10:42 a.m. — The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of an assault on the 700 block of Southeast Sixth Street, Hermiston.

12:38 p.m. — The Morrow County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a vehicle theft on Paterson Ferry Road near Irrigon and Boardman.

4:34 p.m. — The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of an assault at the Sinclair, 84875 Highway 11, Milton-Freewater.

5:21 p.m. — A domestic disturbance occurred on Southwest Third Street, Pilot Rock.

6:01 p.m. — The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office responded to report of a burglary on the 32500 block Issel Lane, Hermiston.

6:33 p.m. — The Morrow County Sheriff's Office responded to an animal complaint on Cain Lane, Irrigon.

7:25 p.m. — The Oregon State Police responded to a crash on Interstate 84 near milepost 177 in Morrow County. State police found a car swerved to avoid tire debris, overcorrected, turned into the median and took out some of the guardrail. Med-

ics transported two passengers to a local hospital. 9:33 p.m. — A domestic disturbance occurred on East Theater Lane, Hermiston.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 4

6:15 a.m. — The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office responded to report of a burglary on the 200 block of North Broad Street, Weston.

6:25 a.m. — The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office responded to report of a burglary on the 78700 block of Westland Road, Hermiston.

7:57 a.m. — The Pendleton Police Department responded to a reported burglary on Southwest Emigrant Avenue, Pendleton.

ARRESTS, CITATIONS

Aug. 2
Pendleton police arrested Edwina Aggie Morning Owl, 32, for driving under the influence of intoxicants and property hit-and-run.

Aug. 3
Oregon State Police arrested Timm Jay Timmerman, 76, for felony unlawful delivery of methamphetamine and misdemeanor unlawful possession of methamphetamine.

Pilot Rock police arrested Matthew James Male, 26, on two counts of fourth-degree assault and two counts of reckless endangering.

Boardman police arrested Noe Honorio Melendez, 47, for third-degree assault, harassment and menacing.

UPCOMING SERVICES

THURSDAY, AUG. 5

No services scheduled.

FRIDAY, AUG. 6

ALEXANDER, ROBERTA — Graveside service at 10 a.m. at Olney Cemetery, Pendleton.

OLNEY, LENA — Memorial service at 2 p.m. at the Hermiston Seventh-day Adventist Church, 855 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston. Burial will be at the Pleasant View Cemetery, Stanfield.

SATURDAY, AUG. 7

COOLEY, CRAIG — Graveside service at 10 a.m. at Olney Cemetery, Pendleton.

CULLERS, BEV — Celebration of

life at 10 a.m. at 33890 River View Drive, Hermiston.

HUDSON, MAURY — Celebration of life gathering at 1 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Roseburg, 823 S.E. Lane Ave.

NELSON, SUE — Memorial service at 11 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 201 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton.

PAYNE, JERAD SCOTT — Remembrance of life at 11 a.m. at the Community Bible Church, 5807 Umatilla Ave., Kennewick, WA 99336.

POLLICK, LEON — Graveside service at 10 a.m. at Pleasant View Cemetery, Stanfield.

POTTER, CURTIS — Memorial service from 1-3 p.m. at the Pendleton Eagles Lodge, 428 S. Main St.

WELLS, LAURA — Graveside service at 11 a.m. at the Hermiston Cemetery, followed by a celebration of life gathering and luncheon at Maxwell Siding Event Center, 145 N. First Place, Hermiston.

WILLIAMS, WILLIAM — Graveside service at 9:30 a.m. at the Prosser Cemetery, 1601 Paterson Road, Prosser, WA; followed by a celebration of life at 11 a.m. at the Grandview Church of Christ, 116 Fir St., Grandview, Washington.

Alright! Enough already!



MATT HENRY

THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

To vax or not to vax, that is the question. The question, that is, I no longer care about.

Back in the good old days of 2020 pre-vax, the big question among those of us who felt fine was, were we, unknowingly, asymptomatic carriers who could kill folks with underlying health conditions? Remember when it was so frustrating just to get enough tests to go around? Then local health authorities couldn't give them away.

I got tested as soon as I could. Why? Simple — I didn't want to be an asymptomatic killer. I didn't want to be indicted with involuntary manslaughter, as seems to be the case with my Trump-publican friends.

A good friend of mine told me recently the sad story of two older women he knew. One was the caregiver of the other; both had chosen not to be vaccinated. Why? The reason all anti-vaxers are refusing: Biden won the election. The pity here is that the caregiver got COVID-19 and was asymptomatic. She then unwittingly passed it to her dear, elderly unvaxed friend, who promptly got the virus and died. The person she had been charged to protect.

Now we have advanced to the point where we have multiple vaccinations that will keep one from dying. Remember the good old days when then it became frustrating to get the vaccine due to the Trump administration's failure to have an actual, workable distribution plan? Now local health authorities must throw them away.

I got vaccinated as soon as I could. Why? Simple — I didn't want to die of the virus. I don't mind taking my chances with Jewish space lasers based in Georgia or getting kidnapped as part of a Clinton sex ring run out of the back of Pizza Hut, but the thought of my organs shutting down in my presence just doesn't

strike me as all that enjoyable.

Meanwhile, I hear people like one of our county commissioners, George Murdock (a voting Republican by his own admission), frequently bemoaning the fact that Umatilla County Trump-publicans refuse to play by the rules, thereby skewering our county vaccination target. I know Commissioner Murdock to be a good, decent, thoughtful man, who places the safety of his constituency — all of them — before his ideology. He is a dying breed, I'm afraid, one whose upcoming retirement has me concerned. So, I hate to see it when our one-out-of-three Republican county commissioners has to rant and pull out the hair he's already lost in the useless attempt to get Umatilla County Trump-publicans to step up to the shared plate called "life" by the rest of us.

A few days ago, some truly kind Christian friends of mine and I were at our local beering hole, the Prodigal Son Brewery and Pub in Pendleton (great beer, great food, great service, folks!). We got into the ubiquitous issue du jour, i.e., the "vax or not to vax" discussion. Being truly decent Christians as opposed to me, they expressed true concern for the unvaccinated. Me? A retired pastor, a practicing Roman Catholic? Did I have any concern for my unvaxed siblings? Should I?

Not in the slightest. Pandemic, masks, "social distancing," visiting loved ones through glass, my favorite haunts closed down for a year (if they even made it), "pods" ... Alright! Enough already! Uncle, uncle, I give!

For now, we finally have the lifesaving, thoroughly researched and tested vaccines that will keep us from dying an awful death, and here in The People's Republic of Eastern Oregon we can't give it away. And no amount of persuasion by anyone (and at this point, probably not even Trump himself) can or will convince those of us who don't mind taking a seat at the table where the game is Russian Roulette, and the dealer is currently

loading the chamber with the deadly delta-9 variant.

So, in my best mafiosi imitation, I must and can callously say, "Fuhged-daboutit," for this is how Darwin's Law works, the natural rule of nature, that every organism has the innate ability to survive a changing environment if the rate of environmental change does not outpace an organism's ability or willing refusal to adapt. Quite simply, people historically have been willing to die for their beliefs, opinions, faith, and "feelings" for a long time, so this is nothing new. But being opened to taking the chance that one's personal political ideology can be weaponized through a virus threatening "others," those both known and valued and those strangers to us?

Did roughly one-third to one-half of the nation in 1919-20 say, "Ah, screw it, the democrat got reelected"; "They made the cure too quickly for it to be safe"; "it's more fun to die of the virus"; or "I heard from reliable authorities (on Facebook, naturally) that Pendleton Mayor John Turner, Public Works Director Bob Patterson and 'City Councilor Without Portfolio' Rick Rohde have weaponized the local shot supply to convince everyone the city roads are indeed in good condition." For God's sake, people! When and why did we ever decide to check our brains at the door? It's not yet too late to remember you probably received a childhood education in science, reading, verifiable facts and everything that makes up a shared reality.

Can I write anything online knowing that someone will fall for it? For Pete's sake, why?

As my sweet hippy friend, Maureen, would say, "Man, where and when did we lose our way?" My question is more that of the ancient Hebrews: When will we finally arrive back home? Or are we doomed to eternal wandering and squabbling?

The Rev. Matt Henry is a retired American Baptist/United Methodist pastor, who pastored the Pendleton First United Church and now joyfully makes "hippie food" for the houseless at the Warming Station.



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COVID-19 VACCINES AVAILABLE!

DAILY AT THE
UMATILLA
COUNTY FAIR
AUGUST 11-14

11am - 7 pm daily
EOTEC Building

Thank you to our providers:

