



(From left) Denise Brown, Patty Floate, Dee McKinney, Kris Ismaili, Crystal Cruz and Rebecca Saavedra. (Photo by Zina Booth, *Illinois Valley News*)

Sponsored Feature:

Back Street Salon adds services

Recent expansion at Cave Junction’s Western Plaza is not a result of any federal program — Kris Ismaili is doing her own economic stimulus at Back Street Salon, around the corner from Book Exchange and Tea Cozy.

In July, Kris, her husband, Kamron, brother-in-law, Darold and her son, Jeremy, renovated the space that used to be Cave Bear Pawn, expanding the Back Street Salon.

Since opening Back Street Salon in March 2008, Kris has been enjoying “the best job in the world.” Kris now has an even bigger, full service nail salon, complete with air-brushing.

“If I had wanted to make lots of money, I would have stayed working at Shop Smart, because they took very good care of me. But I love Illinois Valley, and I wanted to give back to this community,” said Kris.

That is exactly what Kris does, and she is continually recruiting more to help in her mission, all “Paying it forward” in their own way.

Recently a new hair stylist joined Kris to help with the Monday \$5 haircuts, a blessing for those on fixed incomes or with large families.

Dee McKinney closed her barber shop near Art’s Red Garter at the end of May, and came into Back Street Salon to see if Kris wanted to buy a mirror. Dee now is specializing in men’s haircuts at her own station at Back Street Salon.

Denise Brown performs miracles using aluminum foil and Scruples one-process highlighting to transform one client’s hair from brassy blond with dark roots to beautiful, healthy, shiny hair. Denise is having a Back-to-School special, with all student haircuts only \$5 the last week of August. Ask about her \$30 perms through the end of August, and senior discounts are always available.

For those needing a little glamour in their lives, Crystal Cruz, fully licensed in hair, nail

and facials, is now applying temporary eyelash extensions which last up to two or three days. “The individual lashes look more like your own lashes, and remove easily with soap and water. Eyelash extensions are great for special occasions,” says Crystal.

For only \$10, Crystal will apply Mirabella make-up, which has no sulphates and contains anti-oxidants for anti-aging. Crystal will be charging only \$30 for her highlight special in August.

Patty Floate also moved into the new addition, and set up a larger, more private spa for her facials, waxing, and foot detox services. Patty is offering summer bikini waxes for \$20, and in mid-August \$5 brow waxes. Patty is currently taking classes for a new service she will be providing soon.

Also for sale is silver jewelry hand-crafted by Patty’s brother, Robert Shoemaker, of Deer Creek Jewelry in Selma, who melts bars of silver to create lovely rings and custom-designed jewelry.

Rebecca Saavedra heard that there would be an empty room available, and she quickly filled the room with her vintage clothing, jewelry, toys and shoes from Time Capsule, her shop that closed nearly three years ago after being damaged when a drunk driver ran into her building.

Sample a variety of coffee creamers, and check out the new expansion at the Back Street Salon. Shop for jewelry, toys and beautiful clothing at bargain prices. Select a customized spa package featuring a variety of haircuts, styles, perms, colors, manicures, pedicures, tanning, facials and foot detox services.

Stop in at Back Street Salon, 222 N. Redwood Hwy. in the Western Plaza, Operating hours are Weekdays from 9 to 5, and Saturdays 10-4. Walk-ins are always welcome, or phone 592-4277 for an appointment — the crew at Back Street Salon will gladly accommodate your schedule.

~ Zina Booth

Comments sought on critical habitat

A proposal to designate 11,038 acres of land in 25 units in S.W. Oregon -- including Illinois Valley -- as critical habitat was announced last week by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Involved are large-flowered woolly meadowfoam and Cook’s lomatium. Both are federally listed as endangered and native to two small areas in Jackson and Josephine counties.

The designation of critical habitat does not affect land ownership or establish a refuge, wilderness, reserve, preserve, or other conservation area; and it does not allow government or public access to private land.

The proposed critical habitat designation comprises 4,521 acres in Josephine County and 6,517 acres in Jackson County. Approximately 8,058 acres of the total proposal (73 percent) is private land. The rest is federal, state, county or municipal ownership.

Nearly half the total, some 5,200 acres, has been

designated critical habitat for the vernal pool fairy shrimp since 2003. Selection of the proposed critical habitat units were informed by the priority recovery areas identified in the draft recovery plan for the two plants published in 2006, with ground survey information, aerial imagery analysis, and mapped locations where the two plants occur.

“The Fish & Wildlife Service is proposing only those areas considered to contribute to the conservation and recovery of these endangered native plants,” said Paul Henson, state supervisor of the service’s Oregon Fish & Wildlife Office. “To ensure that the final critical habitat designation is as accurate as possible, we’re encouraging people to review our proposal and give us comments and additional information.

“We will consider all available information before making a final decision.”

Information and comments must be received on or before Sept. 28, and submitted by one of the following methods:

*Federal eRulemaking Portal: hregulations.gov. Follow the instructions for submitting comments to Docket No. FWS–R1–ES–2009–0046.

*U.S. mail or hand-delivery: Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS–R1–ES–2009–0046; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 222; Arlington, VA 22203.

A public hearing will be held on this proposal if it is

requested by Sept. 11. If a hearing is scheduled it will be announced in the *Federal Register* and “local newspapers” near the proposed designation at least 15 days before it takes place. All comments received on this proposal will be posted on <http://www.regulations.gov>.

This generally means that any personal information provided with comments will be posted on the Website.

Large-flowered woolly meadowfoam (*Limnanthes floccosa* ssp. *grandiflora*) occurs in the Agate Desert region of Jackson County in southwestern Oregon. Cook’s lomatium (also known as Cook’s desert parsley, *Lomatium cookii*) occurs on the Agate Desert near Medford in Jackson County; and French Flat in Illinois Valley.

To meet the requirements of critical habitat protection, each of the areas proposed must be determined to include essential habitat elements. In the case of large-flowered woolly meadowfoam and Cook’s lomatium, the essential elements are vernal (seasonal) pools and seasonally wet meadows; soil moisture for growth, reproduction, and seed dispersal, and soils that provide nutritional and physiological requirements.

An analysis that considers the economic effects of the proposed critical habitat designation is being prepared and will be made available for public review and comment. In instances where economic consequences are deemed to outweigh the benefits of critical habitat, areas may be excluded from critical habitat.

Conditions ripe for severe fire season

For much of the U.S. West, it’s hot and dry – and it’s going to be a bad fire year.

Researchers have just completed an updated national drought and fire forecast for the next six months, suggesting severe drought in much of California and parts of the Pacific Northwest, along with forest and rangeland fires that correspond somewhat – but not exactly – to the drought conditions.

By far the worst drought conditions, referred to as “extremely dry,” are found in California, western Oregon and Washington, and pockets of North Carolina and northern Wisconsin. Meanwhile, much of the Midwest and Northeast are being soaked with rain.

Major fires, however, are not anticipated in every place that is dry, while some areas with normal moisture are at high risk of having tens of thousands of acres go up in flames – especially N.W. Texas and eastern New Mexico. And along with its continuing drought, huge fires are indeed projected for much of Northern California and the Sierra Nevada range.

It’s anticipated that most all of Texas, the Southwest, California and the Pacific Northwest will have higher-than-normal levels of fire, compared to a base period of 1971-2000. Nationally, the acreage anticipated to burn is about average, but there’s an unusual concentration of the activity in the West.

A major variable is an ignition source, according to Ron Neilson, a professor of botany at Oregon State Uni-

versity at Corvallis and bioclimatologist with the Pacific Northwest Research Station of the U.S. Forest Service.

“It’s usually lightning storms that trigger multiple fires,” Neilson said. “Our computer models are pretty accurate at determining the vegetation, moisture and climatic conditions that set the stage for fire, but can’t always predict whether or not something will actually light them.”

Part of what’s interesting about this year, Neilson said, is that it appears an El Niño is beginning and there may even be tentative shifts in the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, both of which are large climatic forces that can affect weather on broad regional or global scales.

“Lately we’ve had unusually turbulent weather in the United States for the summer months,” Neilson said. “The Midwest is getting heavier-than-normal rain, and we’ve had some very unusual and powerful storms in the West as well. Everywhere I go people keep saying the weather is just really, really weird.”

The concern, Neilson said, is that an evolving El Niño reinforced by a changing Pacific Decadal Oscillation could be exactly the type of conditions that may set the stage for the broad, turbulent storms that can produce a lot of lightning to start fires.

Among the findings of the latest forecast:

Severe or extremely dry conditions are now found in almost all of central California and the Sierra Nevada mountain range, much of western Oregon and Washington, and

parts of coastal and central North Carolina, central Florida and northern Wisconsin.

Extreme drought conditions exist north of Los Angeles; in all three directions from San Francisco; in pockets of Southwest, west central and N.W. Oregon; and western Washington including the Olympic Peninsula.

Much of the Midwest is far wetter than usual, along with the Northeast and parts of northern Minnesota and North Dakota.

Extremely large volumes of fire are projected for Northern California and small parts of S.W. Oregon; coastal areas north of Los Angeles; large portions of the Sierra Nevada in California; and a huge area of N.W. Texas and eastern New Mexico.

Significant amounts of fire considered “above normal” are predicted for most of Texas and the Southwest; many parts of Oregon and eastern Washington; and northern Montana.

Drought doesn’t always mean fire. In the Pacific Northwest, some of the very driest areas, such as the N.W. corner of Oregon and most of western Washington, are not projected to have unusually high levels of fire.

Almost no areas east of Texas and the Rocky Mountains are in line to have higher-than-normal amounts of fire, except for some small pockets in central Florida, northern Georgia and northwestern Nebraska.

Some 3.66 million acres of vegetation in the country are projected to burn.

Backyard bird watching with Harry



HOUSE HUMMERS

Do you have a problem with Hummingbirds in the house? Do you need to get them out of the house?

A hummingbird in the house panics and follows its most basic instinct, which is to fly up. That’s a good strategy when trying to escape predators or other threats below. This usually results in their banging their heads on the ceiling. They’ll generally head for a high window and buzz futilely against it.

What you need is a ladder and to climb up the ladder and catch the hummer. Cup your hand around the bird very gently as it struggles against the glass. Expect to hear an eeeeeeee! when you capture it. It won’t harm you. Be very decisive but gentle. Don’t throw a cloth over it. Doing so runs the risk of injuring the bird, especially with terry cloth, which can entangle the bird’s claws and tongue. Hummingbirds won’t try to escape once their wings are confined, and it’s a simple matter to carry it outside and open your hand, it will fly away with little thanks for your help.

We have had hummingbirds get stuck in a variety of ways – one poor guy (yes, it was a male!) got his tongue stuck in the feeder. Apparently, he stuck his tongue in-between the port and the edge of the feeder. The feeder was flipping wildly as he tried to free himself. To free him, we grabbed the feeder and then gently grabbed him around his body. A little tug freed him from the feeder. He flew off, and probably had to nurse a very sore tongue for a few days.

Another hummer flew right into our screen

door and impaled his beak firmly in the screen. He was not going anywhere, try as he might. Again, we just gently grabbed his body and pulled his body away from the screen. Naturally, his beak followed, and we released him to fly away. At least he was smart enough to not try that trick again!

A hummingbird trapped in your garage is another matter, and rescuing it takes several steps. Generally, such birds buzz in endless loops near the ceiling, looking for an escape route. They’ll perch on the highest rafter or box and won’t descend to exit through the open doors. Get a ladder and hang a brightly colored hummingbird feeder from a rafter. Generally the exhausted birds are happy to drink. During the next hour or two move the feeder progressively lower and nearer to an open door. The hummingbird will now exit naturally. I would close the door shortly after it leaves. The main reason it’s in your garage is the red cord on your garage door opener. The emergency cord and handle are red and that attracts the hummers. Take the red handle off and use a spool or anything that’s not red. Or, make it a habit to close your garage door, rather than leaving it open for hours at a time, or all day.

I meet bird lovers every Saturday morning at Michelle’s Restaurant around 8:30. It would be a real treat to meet you and hear your bird stories.

Qs & As are from *Bird Watchers Digest* by Julie Zickefoose, with additions by Harry Johnson. email: birdwatching@frontiernet.net



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