

In an effort to support local businesses, the hair lounge will display local artwork and retail locally made products, such as handmade soaps and gel nail enhancements.

Bria Downtown Hair Lounge, open Tuesday through Sunday at 1280 Willamette St., will feature a complimentary beverage list, wireless Internet access, and an art venue. Incorporated into Eugene's First Friday Art Walk, the grand opening of Bria Downtown Hair Lounge will take place from 3-7 pm April 2. — *Deborah Bloom*

COUGARS ON THE BUTTE?

The reported sighting of three cougars on Spencer Butte by two UO students March 17 wasn't an early April Fool's joke, but local predator advocate Brooks Fahy says local media from KVAL to *The Register-Guard* exaggerated the incident.

Though the students reported seeing the cats' eyes and tannish-brown coat and hearing growls, there was no physical evidence of cougars at the scene. "I was unable to locate a cougar track," says Brian Wolfer, the district wildlife biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, who came to the butte after the students called the Eugene police.

"The best tracking conditions were along the trail edge," says Wolfer, "but the animals were sighted off the trails where tracking conditions were not ideal."

Fahy says it's a problem that "people now feel that they have to call the police when they see an animal that's supposed to be there." Cougars have been on the butte for thousands of years, Fahy says. The issue is teaching people how to coexist with wildlife, particularly in areas where urban dwellings are in close proximity to natural areas.

"I personally think they saw three deer," says Fahy, but regardless of what they saw, he says he's concerned that the media turn predators into objects of fear. "It's not that I don't believe cougars are there; they've been there," he says.

"When it comes to predators, sharks, grizzly bears, cougars wolves, we all want to feel like there's a sense of danger," Fahy says.

ODFW contributed to the sense of fear by putting signs up on Spencer Butte, Fahy says. "If they want to do that, they ought to put signs up all over."

A recent advertisement in the OSU Extension magazine for an April 1 informational meeting on cougars and coyotes in Lebanon, says, misleadingly, according to Fahy, "Cougar and coyote populations are increasing, and therefore damage to livestock has also been going up." Fahy says those population numbers for cougars are based on a heavily criticized computer model.

Last year, according to ODFW numbers, 45,375 hunting tags for cougars were sold. ODFW estimates there are around 5,700 cougars in the state. Once the quota for cougar hunting has been met in a given area, no more cougars can be legally killed that year, but Fahy says allowing so many tags to be sold leads to an attitude where "people when they see cougars, just shoot at them."

Rather than promote fear of cougars, Fahy says ODFW and the media should promote ways humans and predators can coexist.

The ODFW cougar and coyote informational meeting is April 1 at 7 pm at the Lebanon Library in the Community Meeting Room.

The UO Outdoor Program, Oregon Wild, and Cascadia Wildlands will be showing a film and discussing predators in the west at 7 pm April 8 at 180 PLC on campus. The film, *Lords of Nature: Life in a Land of Great Predators*, will be followed by a discussion panel with Russ Morgan, wolf biologist, ODFW; Bill Ripple, OSU professor in Forest Ecosystems and Society; and Rob Klavins, wildlands and wildlife advocate for Oregon Wild. For more info call 541-344-0675. — *Camilla Mortensen*

CHICO GETS RIPPED OFF

Eugene musician and music teacher William "Chico" Schwall had a break-in at his work space recently and a lot of equipment was stolen. Some of the instruments are unique and would be easy to spot. Call Chico at 541-684-8216, email Brian Cutean at qtn@efn.org or see our blog post for a

complete list of missing items. Below is a partial list.

- 2006 iMac Intel computer serial # W8605C6PU2N, 1971 Martin D-28 guitar serial # 208476, black guitar case with stickers, including one that says, "Squirrel — the other white meat."

- Old Kalamazoo arch-top guitar and rare New York Epiphone mandolin, both from the 1930s.

- Guild acoustic flat-top guitar serial # GAD- 20848, with tweed case, Carvin C980T12 acoustic 12-string guitar, and Roscoe Wright handmade custom Tele-style guitar with black bag.

- Red Danelectro 12-string electric guitar, Avante Baritone Acoustic guitar, and Parker P 38 electric guitar with black bag.

- Rogue resophonic electric-acoustic guitar, Dean solidbody electric guitar, Fender

TeleCoustic guitar, gray DeArmond solid-body electric 7-string guitar, and an Apple Creek Dulcimer in rectangular black case.

Other equipment includes a Seymour Duncan SFX - 03 Twin Tube Classic pre-amp and assorted smaller items.

ACTIVIST ALERT

- A community dialogue with Lane County Commissioners **Rob Handy** and **Bill Fleenor** is from 10 to 11:30 am Thursday, April 1, at the Eugene Eagles Lodge, 1375 Irving Road, off of River Road. They will talk about current affairs and ongoing budget planning for Lane County. For more information, call 682-4203.

IT'S ABOUT TIME

BY DAVID WAGNER



What is it about the call of a chickadee on a sunny morning that makes the heart sing? Love is in the air! How wonderful it is that these birds reside in town with us. I can't imagine having to live in a city neighborhood without chickadees and robins. It is good to pause and give thanks for winged joy.

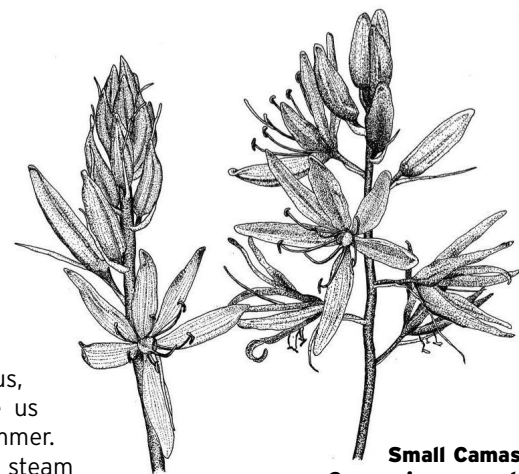
With the equinox behind us, rapidly lengthening days have us roaring headlong towards summer. Spring is just getting up to full steam and it will be over before you know it.

The long dry period that characterizes our late summer has crowded the main flowering season into the next two months. It's time to dust off those field guides and polish the hand lenses.

Camas will be blooming by the end of the month. We have two kinds in this area, the giant camas of upland seepy slopes and the small camas of wetlands with standing water in winter. Camas was an important food source for the original inhabitants of the area. Roasted in pit ovens, it is sweet and nourishing. Boiled, however, it has the consistency of library paste.

Pay attention to your surroundings when hiking on the edges of civilization, you may see more wildlife than you expect. Cougars are being seen close to town more frequently. So far, no confrontations have occurred in our area. If you do encounter a cougar, do not turn and run. Open wide your jacket to make yourself look big and YELL.

David Wagner is a botanist who has lived in Eugene for more than 30 years. He teaches mosses and leads plant walks. He may be reached at fernzenmosses@me.com



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Saturday,
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