

Lahontan Valley News

and Fallon Eagle Standard

Salon expands with spa services

MARY JEAN KELSO

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Longtime Pyramid Lake resident Charlott Merrill has operated a beauty salon at 48 Railroad Ave. in Wadsworth for nearly five years. However, her business has underwent a significant change recently in an effort to provide her customers with more services.

"About two weeks ago I decided it was time for a change. I decided to update and offer full-service salon and spa treatments," Merrill said. "We have updated and renamed the business Charlott's Secret Salon & Spa."

Offering hair cuts and manicures in the past, Merrill now staffs four other people to provide "not just a quick service, but a fabulous salon you must experience. It's a head-to-toe service for women, men and children," said Merrill, who has trained extensively as a hair stylist and cosmetologist.

"I love what I have done for the past 24 years - making people smile and listening to their stories. It is a gratifying experience. We also support a lot of causes with donations," Merrill said.

Among her employees is Florence Ramos, an esthetician who provides rejuvenating facials, acne facials, age-defying facials and professional microdermabrasion. She also does full face and body waxing. She has training and experience in providing three-dimensional, semi-permanent eyelash extensions that last three months and uses native touch aesthetics.

Ramos has trained with many international schools and attends annual classes to keep up with the changes in her specialty.

"We use the best products available," said Ramos.

Cindy Cozzalio is a cosmetologist who specializes in permanent makeup, eyelash extensions, manicures and pedicures.

"We spoil our customers," Cozzalio said. "It's not just your average salon. It has a home-like atmosphere and is geared to the customer's needs."

Two other new professionals joining Merrill are Connie Henderson, a cosmetologist, and Hydi Bvere, a recent graduate of Balm Healing Arts (Carson City). Bvere specializes in Swedish massage, deep tissue massage and sports massage. She will be on staff at the beginning of 2008.

For more information or appointments, call Charlott's Secret Salon & Spa at 575-2542.

Mary Jean Kelso •
Fernley Today photo
From left, Charlott
Merrill, owner of
Charlott's Secret
Salon & Spa,
Florence Ramos,
native touch
aesthetics specialist,
and Cindy Cozzalio,
cosmetologist, staff
the updated full-
service salon in
Wadsworth along with cosmetologist Connie Henderson
and massage therapist Hydi Bvere.



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ght/Wadsworth woman opens successful hair, nail salon

Nevada. They are the first and the only with a green waste collection program. Why? Because a couple people got together and said, hey we can do it," Witt said.

Witt is a third-generation dairy farmer. In 1997, he sold his cows, but still raises replacement heifers. His honest eyes survey the 330-foot-long composting piles which line the property in parallel rows, each in different stages of decomposing. There's even a pile snaking through the old milking station. Steam rises from the tops of dark brown rows which are almost ready.

Now, Witt calls himself a "microbe farmer." Microbes are the workforce responsible for decomposing his organic waste. Witt believes providing the right environment for microbes takes the same attention as caring for cows.

"We were dairy farmers all these years and that formed the basis of how I think about composting: No matter how good your milk cow is, if you mess up . . . she won't give you the same return," Witt said.

Witt pointed to the yellow house he was born and raised in. For decades, he woke up and walked 50 yards to the milking barn, every day, seven days a week.

That commitment hasn't left. His passion and drive will always be farming, he said.

"When you work with Mother Nature, there are immense rewards. . . . In farming, and in recycling, there are other values that you can't put a monetary price tag on," Witt said. "Farmers recognize the value of the land, of life and the soil."



Betty Aleck/Special to the Reno Gazette-Journal
CHARLOTT'S HAIR SALON: A new hair and nail salon opened in Wadsworth at 48 Railroad Ave. The salon has been so busy that it has attracted customers from Fernley, Fallon, Yerington and Reno. Salon owner Charlott Merril, right, and employee Yvonne Rand stand in front of the new salon.

Sutcliff at Pyramid Lake, and as far away as Yerington and Hawthorne.

The hair salon is also a welcome delight for residents in Wadsworth who just walk to the establishment.

Merril said of customers from the Conestoga Mobile Home Park, "The ladies are happy because it's close to them. They just walk across the bridge."

Merril learned the business of hair styling in Cranston, R.I., and has been in the profession for the past 20 years.

She said she has been interested in hair styling since she was 13 years old.

Nail salon: Inside Charlott's is a room devoted to nail art. There, Yvonne Rand and Theresa Bruner work their magic using nail polish and various techniques to make images on nails unique.

Rand said they offer everything from acrylic, pink and whites, jells, ear-piercing, pedicures, paraffin wax, hot rocks for manicures and pedicures, airbrushing and more.

The nail salon offers more than 100 different nail polishes to customers.

"I cater to everyone. I love the people and couldn't ask for a better job," said Rand.

She has been a manicurist for the past three years and learned her craft from the International Academy of Style in Reno.

Rand will work with her customers to set up preferred times and said she has stayed late to accommodate clients.

Betty Aleck is the assistant editor of the Leader-Courier, a sister Gannett Co. newspaper.

Hair salon: This part of the business offers permanents, highlights, color, cutting, straighteners, relaxers and braiding, as well as well-coiffed styles for weddings, graduations, proms and other formal affairs.

Merril noted she and her staff offer services to everyone. She added she is familiar with ethnic hair and styles and welcomes Hispanics, Native Americans, Asians and African Americans to her salon.

Since opening, Merril has seen customers from Reno and

Rand and Theresa Bruner serving as nail technicians. Merril said she has always wanted to open a hair salon and was encouraged to open her own business by her former colleagues and her former boss, Lola Cook of Lola's Chair.

Merril recalled Cook noticed she was always busy and then encouraged her to open her own business.

"Lola has been behind me 100 percent. I want to say a 'big thanks' to her and also to everyone at Highlights," said Merril.

Charlott's Hair Salon

By Betty Aleck

SPECIAL TO THE RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Charlott Merril wants to prove to young American Indian youths that if she can open a business, they can, too.

The Pyramid Lake Tribe member opened Charlott's Hair Salon in mid-October in Wadsworth east of Sparks.

The business also includes a nail salon as well, with Yvonne