



NEW SALON AND MORE — On Sunday, May 24, a ribbon-cutting ceremony and grand opening was held at The Beauty Vault Salon & Spa in Bethlehem. Above, salon owner Ashton Carrigan welcomes customers to the shop.

The Beauty Vault is a one stop beauty shop in Bethlehem

By ANGELA FARR KING

Ashton Carrigan, the owner of the Beauty Vault, grew up in Alexander County and has brought a one stop shop for all beauty needs to Bethlehem. Ashton went to Hiddenite Elementary School, East Alexander Middle School, and graduated from Alexander Central High School in 2019.

Ashton originally started her college career at Lenoir Rhyne University but then Covid hit and all classes became online and that was discouraging. She finished her freshman year at LR, but decided to pursue a different career path that she had been interested in since childhood. She attended the Aveda Arts and Science Institute in Charlotte, which has a rigorous and esteemed beauty school. Ashton said they hold classes from 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. and pack their curriculum into one year. She was licensed in February of 2023.

Ashton opened the Hair Lab in Bethlehem after being licensed, which is just down the street from her new location, but decided to open the Beauty Vault so that she could invite other beauty experts to work with her in order to offer more services. She likes the new location because her customers have been able to follow her and the business is positioned close to Hickory and Taylorsville.

The Beauty Vault is located at 1232 Shiloh Church Road in Bethlehem and is open seven days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. by appointment only. Ashton explained that each of the

women working in the salon is an independent business owner so they all make their own appointments. Each room in the Vault has its own personality depending on the owner who decorated it. The contact information and services offered at the Beauty Vault are: Ashton Taylor, LLC by Ashton Carrigan – Color, highlights, cuts, and extensions; and Brazilian blowouts that can last up to four months 828-639-7862, ashtoncarrigan.glossgenius.com, or Instagram @thebeautyvault.salon, The Feeling Pretty Company by Esther Benfield – Lashes and spray tans (Esther is currently in cosmetology school and will soon offer hair services as well.); 828-291-9648, feelingpretty.glossgenius.com, or Instagram @the-feelingpretty.co, Twisted Orchid Massage by Kylie Mazzoli – Swedish, deep tissue, and therapeutic massage therapy; 828-578-2614, twistedorchidmassage.com, or Instagram @twistedorchidmassage, Black Swan Beauty by Annabeth Swan – Facials, full-body waxing, brow lamination and tint, lash lift and tint; and lamination 828-455-6828, annabethswan.glossgenius.com, or Instagram @blackswanxobeauty, Diamond Skin Beauty by Diamond Angel Palafox – Full-body waxing, brow lamination and tint, lash lift and tint, skin analysis, facial treatments, dermaplaning, microneedling, hydrodermabrasion, and back facial treatments; 704-748-3353 or Instagram @diamondskinbeauty, Girls Just Wanna Tattoo by Makayla Bristol and Mya Wingate – fine-line, black-and-gray, color, glitter, and cover-up tattoos; 980-745-5282 (Makayla) or 980-525-6305 (Mya), venue.

ink/@kaystattoos (Makayla) or venue.ink/@myawingate (Mya), or Instagram @girls.justwannatattoo, and Sunny Nail Studio by Lena Lopez – Gel X, dip, builder gel, and nail art; 828-461-7032, sunnynailstudio.glossgenius.com, or Instagram @lenahunnay828.

Ashton has goals to soon offer packages so that customers can come to the Beauty Vault and have numerous beauty treatments all in one day. She also plans to offer bridal packages to accommodate bridal parties.

A ribbon cutting for the Beauty Vault was held on Sunday, May 24, at 2:00 p.m. and a large crowd of family and friends came out to support all of the new businesses inside the Vault. Ashton said on that day. “This has been my passion since elementary school,” Carrigan said. “When I started classes at Aveda, my grandmother asked me what my vision was. I sketched a salon layout similar to what I now have, with all of these services. It’s amazing that it has come true in real life. I love helping people feel like the best version of themselves and feel beautiful. This has been my most rewarding job.”

Next Star prints July 16

The next issue of The Bethlehem Star will be printed on Thursday, July 16. The deadline for advertising and correspondence is Thursday, July 9, before 5 p.m.



FAMILY TIME — Brittany Chapman said she and her children enjoyed the Bethlehem Swim Beach all Summer last year and she plans to enjoy it again this year. They are pictured here on Memorial Day, May 25, having a great time enjoying the water, concession stand, and picnic tables. Pictured from left to right: Steven Chapman, Charlie Chapman, and Brittany Chapman.

Bethlehem Swim Beach is open for the season

The Bethlehem Swim Beach, also known as the Wittenburg Access Area Swim Beach, located at 175 Wildlife Access Road in the Bethlehem area, opened for business Memorial Day weekend. It was a rainy weekend so it wasn’t as crowded as a typical opening weekend. On Memorial Day, May 25, park attendant Macie Greene, said there had been a few guests and more were coming as the rain seemed to be subsiding. Macie is working at the park for the Summer after graduating from Western Carolina University with a degree in Communication and plans to attend East Tennessee University in the Fall to enter their graduate program for Speech and Language Pathology. She said the swim beach was a great Summer job for her during this transition.

The swim beach park has a large beach area with an enclosed swim area on Lake Hickory. There are plenty of shaded picnic tables and outdoor showers. There is a concession stand for snacks and drinks, but guests can bring in their own snacks and drinks as well. Of course, alcohol is prohibited.

One of the best parts of the park is the paved walking trail that runs adjacent to the swim beach. It is mostly shaded and makes a loop back toward the lake. All along the trail, there are areas to step off for fishing or just to place a chair to sit by the lake. There are also picnic tables along the trail as well. There is one large picnic shelter on the trail that would be great for a large gathering. At the end of the loop closest to the lake, there is a small fishing dock where people can stand and cast their lines and enjoy the tranquility of

the lake for hours at a time.

There are some rules that should be known before going to the swim beach. No glass containers are allowed. Children must be accompanied by adults. Pets are not allowed on the swim beach area, but can walk on a leash on the walking trail. There is no throwing of objects on the beach. No loud or vulgar music is allowed on the beach and smoking or the use of tobacco products is prohibited on the swim beach as well.

This is a very family oriented park. It has been especially important to have this beach park during this season of drought

with all area splash pads being closed. It has given families a place to cool off locally. Brittny Chapman, who was at the beach with her two boys, Steven and Charlie, on Memorial Day, said they made use of the swim beach all Summer last year and she plans to do so again. This should definitely be on the Summer bucket list for families of young children. There is no entry fee and there is plenty to do at the Bethlehem Swim Beach.

The beach area will be open six days a week from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (closed on Wednesdays for maintenance) through Labor Day.



PARK ATTENDANT — Macie Greene is working as a park attendant at the Bethlehem Swim Beach, located at 175 Wildlife Access Road in the Bethlehem area, for the Summer, while she transitions after graduating from college and before starting her graduate work in the Fall. She is shown here next to the posted rules at the Swim Beach. Visitors need to be aware of the rules before coming to enjoy the fun at the beach.



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