

DISCOVER 419

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TRAVELING TO GREAT LENGTHS

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Staff writer

A great haircut can brighten your day and make you feel like a million bucks.

Ryan Pratt has made it his mission to help people feel their best, but he doesn't just limit himself to Northwest Ohio, he also takes his skills to the West Coast.

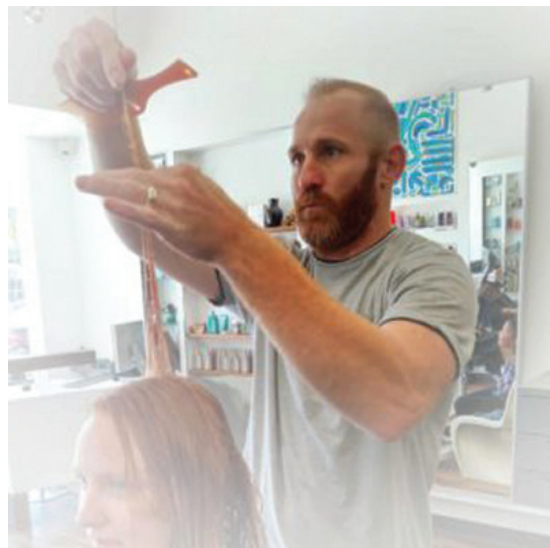
Pratt owns Pratt Image Salon located at 1509 Tiffin Ave. in Findlay. And a salon by the same name in Carey at 2600 Ohio 568. "My wife Amy and I opened (the Findlay salon) in 2002. June 1, so we are going to be there 16 years in a few weeks," Pratt said. "And then the Carey salon was opened in April of 2006, so we've been there 12 years. We worked at a couple salons in Findlay before that until we opened up our own."

Pratt has been perfecting his craft for 24 years and he is still passionate about what he does. Even when he has a 12-hour day full of appointments, he can't wait to get started.

"You know that saying 'If you love what you do, you don't work a day in your life?' I kind of believe that. I just love what I do," Pratt said.

About two years ago he was offered the chance of a lifetime, a chance to do what he loves and travel to Los Angeles. "I always say I have great customer service and one of my clients from Findlay had recently moved, just about two years ago. She moved to Los Angeles to pursue a job and asked if I would fly out to do her hair. And I was like, 'Well, sure. I could do that,'" Pratt said. "She compensated me for my plane ticket to do so. So, I was able to fly out there to do her hair, her husband's hair, and her daughter's hair." While on that trip, Pratt was able to communicate with some stylists, Johnny Ciccone and Niki Foy, who had been following his Instagram page. Ciccone and Foy are the owners of headbetter Salon in Sherman Oaks, California. After messaging back and forth they offered him an interview the next time he was in LA.

"I had an interview, went to the state board out there, paid my license fee, got my license and had a few more clients via Instagram on the second trip out," he said. "And now about every 8-10 weeks I go out there and my clientele is up to about 24 people right now."



Continued on pg. 3 *Ryan Pratt, working with a client at headbetter Salon, Los Angeles*

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BestOfFindlay.com



Ryan Pratt (left) and Johnny Ciccone of headbetter Salon (right)

him. On weekends that he travels, he leaves on a Friday morning and is back in Ohio Monday morning ready to work another full day.

He and his wife have found a good balance, he says, between traveling, working at the two area salons and spending time as a family, which includes attending church in Carey. He also coaches wrestling at Carey High School.

“I’m pretty diverse. I do a lot of things,” he said.

When he can, he likes to include his family on his weekend trips.

“My kids want to go every time. I’ve taken them a couple times. Most of the time it’s my wife. One trip my wife did not go out there, but she’s gone on every other one because she enjoys the relaxation, the ocean, definitely the shopping, but it’s a lot of fun to take her with me,” Pratt said. “She doesn’t do hair while we are out there. She could, but I’m glad that she doesn’t. She does a lot for me back here and for her to just be able to relax for the weekend is nice. LA is pretty sweet.”



headbetter Salon. LA
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According to Pratt, Sherman Oaks is located in an up-and-coming area and is very hip and trendy. Working at headbetter, he is able to learn new tips and tricks to bring back home.

“Amy and I have been truly blessed with this,” he said. It has opened a whole new level of hair styling that I can bring back to here.”

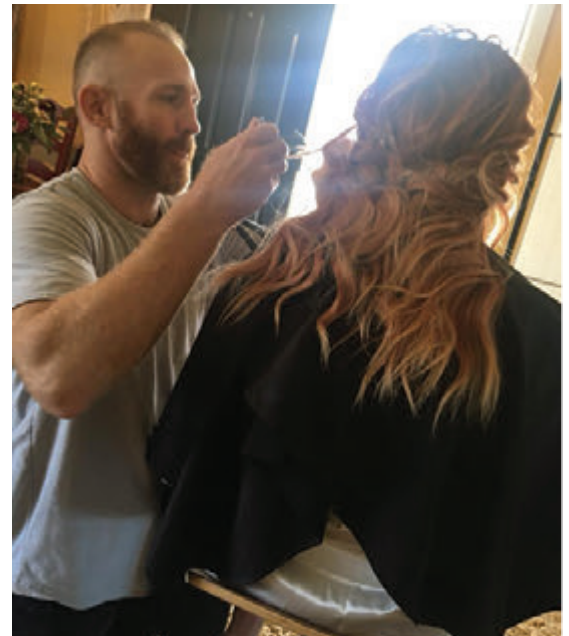
Pratt says part of his opportunity for this came from social media, but a lot of it is just his outgoing nature.

“I went out to a restaurant to eat out there and met a guy who was the manager and told him I was a hair stylist and the next day he was in my chair and so was three of his employees. It works like that. If you just talk and be nice to people it kind of just unfolds.”

That is what makes the job so appealing for Pratt, the relationships with the people who sit in his chair.

“Everything. The relationships. Getting to meet as many new people as I can, have an impact on their life in a positive way. I get to meet so many new people from newborns to people that are in their 90s. It’s a pretty diverse profession, you do first haircuts and last haircuts.”

Pratt stays busy doing hair and jokes that he would do it all day every day, if his wife would let



Pratt with client in Ohio

Pratt said he and his wife are a team and work together well.

“I mention my wife a lot because, when you are married and you have businesses, she is the brains behind the operation and I’m behind the chair more. So we’ve got a good system, my wife and I. It all works out.”

The Pratts are planning on taking their skills on the road again. Pratt is doing hair for a wedding in upstate New York and has an interview at a salon in New Haven, Connecticut.

“Opportunity comes up and you either grab it or just sit back and continue living life the way you do, which is fine. There is nothing wrong with it, but if you want to get out and see the world, I suggest people just do it,” Pratt said. “I guess I’m living proof of that.”

“I’ve had a lot of people ask me why. Why do I do it and, I mean, why not?”