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## Stylist's goal: full, gorgeous lashes

By EMMA JAMES

Brandy Leslie notices eyelashes.

A lash stylist for the Xtreme Lashes brand based out of Texas, Leslie does semi-permanent eyelash extensions for Island Rayz on Hardy Street and Calley Hudson Salon on U.S. 98 West once a week.

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Originally from the Hattiesburg area, Leslie lives in Sumrall with her husband and three children.

The Hattiesburg American recently caught up with her to discuss the job, semi-permanent eyelashes and how she balances her job and her family.

**Q.** *What is your job description?*

**A.** I am a lash stylist. I do semi-permanent eyelash extensions at Calley Hudson Salon and Island Rayz once a week. They last for two months, and you need touch-ups every seven to 14 days.

**Q.** *How did you get started?*

**A.** I was very pregnant and a relative from Baton Rouge told me about Xtreme Lashes. I put it on the back burner and didn't think about it again. Then I had my son. I was working as a surgical technician for Forrest General, and I had planned

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Photos by REBECCA LATIMER | Hattiesburg American

Brandy Leslie, a traveling eyelash stylist, works on eyelash extensions at the Calley Hudson Salon in Oak Grove.

### I Love My Job

"I Love My Job" is a weekly feature. If you or someone you know loves their job, contact business reporter Emma James at (601) 584-3121 or [ecjames@hattiesburgamerican.com](mailto:ecjames@hattiesburgamerican.com).

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to go back to work after he was born. He was diagnosed with PKU, which is a genetic disorder that requires him to be on a medical diet, and we have to monitor his food intake very closely. My husband and I made the decision that I would stay home to take care of him.

Close to the end of May, we needed the extra income and I needed to get out a little and Xtreme Lashes came up again. I signed up for training and went to Houston to learn. When I came back, Felicia Whiteside at Island Rayz was one of my clients and asked if I would be interested in working once a week. Then Charla called and asked if I could come to Calley Hudson's because it's a great service to offer at a salon.

**Q.** *So how does it work?*

**A.** It takes about 2 1/2 hours to do a full set. I set each individual eyelash. Two mild chemicals are used - a primer residue and the same compound Dermabond that surgeons use on sutures.

**Q.** *How many sets can you do a day?*

**A.** Three full sets a day and three refills a day.

**Q.** *What are some of the benefits of eyelash extensions?*

**A.** Most of my clients don't wear mascara. I only double the length of the natural lash so that the lashes look full and pretty. It's convenient because you don't always have time to put on a full set of makeup. It's an alternative to strips that you don't have to worry about applying yourself.

Clients tell me that their husbands or their friends will notice that something's different, but not really be able to figure out what it is. It makes them feel pretty.

**Q.** *What are some challenges in your job?*

**A.** It's hectic to pick everything up and move it. It takes about as long to get set up as to do a full set of lashes.

**Q.** *What are your goals?*

**A.** I want to continue to work two days a week like I'm doing now and not push it, because my son is my first priority. I'd like to get more clients and have more people find out about Xtreme Lashes. I'd like them to see examples of my work.

**Q.** *What's the best part of your job?*

A. I do something that I enjoy that allows me to be here for my family.

**STORYCHAT** 

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