

THE DISH

The Artful Bean offers more than a cup of joe

Bethany coffee shop serves up healthy wraps and treats

By Nick Roth
Staff Writer

BETHANY BEACH — Located on the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Central Boulevard, The Artful Bean has become well known for its variety of coffee and local artwork.

But what many people don't know is that the coffee house also offers a number of snacks to satisfy the appetites of its many patrons. With a selection of three wraps, owner Kim Doughty said The Artful Bean provides just

If you go

WHAT. Chicken salad wrap, \$5.50
WHERE. The Artful Bean, 120 Pennsylvania Ave., Bethany Beach
WHEN. 7:30 to 8 p.m., daily
CALL. 302-541-8160
WEB. www.theartfulbean.com

enough to have started a following. The Chicken Salad wrap, in particular, she said has become extremely popular.

"People just love the red grapes in it," she said. "It's not your typical chicken salad wrap with celery — it's



John King photo

The chicken salad wrap with fresh parsley and red grapes is a favorite at The Artful Bean in Bethany Beach.

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got some yummy flair to it."

Along with the red grapes, the wrap also features fresh parsley that's grown behind the coffee shop.

The wraps are assembled daily in house as needed, employee Sheryl Campbell said.

Each has a unique twist, she said, which makes them unique. The tuna salad wrap includes red delicious apples while the shrimp salad wrap includes a bit of Old Bay seasoning.

"We're taking the traditional style of wraps and adding a little bit of flair to them," Doughty said.

Ranging from \$5 to \$7, they are a light, healthy

meal. But Doughty said the store also carries its fair share of treats. From scones and sticky buns to lemon pound cake and yogurt parfaits, she said The Artful Bean also caters to customers who have a sweet tooth.

One of the most popular items, Doughty said, is the cream cheese crumb cake.

"It's got a layer of cream cheese under the crumbs and it's just heavenly," she said.

And even though they dabble in wraps and deserts, Doughty said the store is still known as a coffee house, offering a wide variety of java, an espresso bar and plenty of frozen drinks.

"We sell a ton of iced lattes," she said. "We have really good coffee. We have Caffé Pronto as our roaster out of Annapolis and they are an award-winning coffee roastery."

All coffee served by The Artful Bean is of premium quality, she said, as it is roasted just three days before it is shipped.

But the Artful Bean is about more than coffee. Owners aim for it to be a relaxed atmosphere where guests can just hang out. For \$5 per day, customers can purchase wireless Internet on their laptops. Desktop computers are also available for \$5 per half

hour.

"People are just enjoying the relaxed atmosphere and comfort we offer compared to other coffee shops in the area," Campbell said. "It's a great place in the winter. People can come inside to get warm, sit down and read a book. It's just a comfortable haven."

While they're not sitting down and enjoying their favorite book, guests can also walk around and admire the work of many local artisans. Including her own pottery and her boyfriend's blown glass, Doughty said the art work isn't traditional, rather "wacky and interesting."

"We have a really great selection of artwork," she

said. "Everything is handmade and nothing is mass produced. I would say about 50 to 60 percent of it is local, which is pretty cool."

All artwork on display is for sale, with prices ranging from \$12 to \$400.

Ultimately, Doughty said she wants her establishment to be a place where people can come and feel comfortable.

"It's always a chill atmosphere, except in the mornings when it's crazy," she said. "We try to always have it be a relaxing place with cool music."

nroth@dmg.gannett.com
302-537-1881, Ext. 206

FOOD BRIEFS

Sandwich Generation Month declared

DOVER — Gov. Ruth Ann Minner and Lt. Gov. John Carney have proclaimed July "Sandwich Generation Month."

During this month, cities around the country commemorate and celebrate the dedication, patience and caring of adults who are part of the Sandwich Generation — those caring for their children as well as

their own aging parents.

Sandwich Generation Month is officially registered within the National Special Events Registry and Chase's Calendar of Events as an annual national observation, occurring each July. It is the goal of Sandwich Generation Month to heighten awareness of the special needs and community support available to those working so hard to maintain multi-generational families.

By proclaiming July Sandwich

Generation Month in Delaware, leadership in Delaware has become an important part of the community's celebration and commemoration of Sandwich Generation Month, as well as raised awareness of the resources available to those who otherwise work so hard day after day to maintain a healthy, strong, happy, comfortable and independent family unit.

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