

# Umatilla business owner is getting ready for Christmas early

Shannon Gallagher is adding new products to entice buyers

By ERICK PETERSON  
Hermiston Herald

It is almost three months until Christmas Day, but Shannon Gallagher already is in full gear. The owner of the home-based business Shannon's AmazBalls, Gallagher is making her regular products and adding a few more.

The Umatilla resident has been in business for five years. She started making bath balms, which proved popular at local events. Then, she started branching out to make wax melts and car freshies. Now, she is designing tie-dye and bleached shirts.

Recent business has been slow, she said. When COVID-19 hit, most pub-

lic events, which were her bread and butter, were cancelled. She was able to do last year's Hermiston Christmas Bazaar, but she was not able to make up for business lost from not doing other events. Neither could online orders recoup her losses.

She does try, however, to do business online. She promotes her products through Facebook, and she has even found ways to create fun for her customers. She does "product drops" in which she fills bags with her items and leaves them somewhere for her social media followers to find. On Facebook, she leaves clues as to where the bags are, and people then search for them.

Fun is key to her business, she said. She always is trying to make interesting promotions and products. And she finds it easy to know what her custom-

ers will consider to be fun — if it makes her smile, she believes it will make her customers happy.

One example of this was a recent T-shirt design of the Bride of Frankenstein. It was an unusual design, but it caught people's attention, drawing multiple comments.

And though her business makes her happy, it can be difficult. Gallagher does not have much use of her left arm, lacking strength and the ability to grasp. She said her left arm is mostly for support.

Her weakness has slowed her work and made some of it impossible. If not for the help of her family, she may not even be able to do it.

Tyler Picard, her fiance, is part of Gallagher's support. Together for eight years, he said she is "awesome," and he helps her with products, such as soaps

and balms, which are especially difficult for her. He and other family members take her direction, which allows her to not only continue her business but also express herself artistically.

She has orders for around a dozen shirts and is trying to fill her orders. Also, she is trying to make up to 40 shirts that she can sell at this year's Hermiston Bazaar at the Hermiston Community Center after Thanksgiving.

She will sell many of the shirts along with other products at the bazaar, but the shirts also will serve as an example of what she can do. People will see them, then custom order something similar. Christmas is a big season for her.

It is hard work, she said, and it is busy work. But she feels she is good at it, she gets good feedback about it and she does not see a reason to ever stop doing it.



Erick Peterson/Hermiston Herald

Umatilla resident Shannon Gallagher, owner of the home-based business Shannon's AmazBalls, sprays bleach on one of her designed T-shirts.

# Bi-Mart to sell pharmacy business to Walgreens

Walgreens welcomes Bi-Mart patients and employees

EO Media Group

Bi-Mart announced Thursday, Sept. 30, that Walgreens will acquire Bi-Mart's pharmacy business, including "pharmacy patient prescription files and related pharmacy inventory of 56 Bi-Mart pharmacies located across Oregon, Idaho and Washington."

"This decision, while difficult, is strategically important as we move to strengthen our solid financial position and expand our plans for future growth in the Northwest," Rich Truett, Bi-Mart president and CEO, said.

Current Bi-Mart pharmacy staff members will be offered an opportunity to join Walgreens.

"We look forward to welcoming Bi-Mart patients to Walgreens pharmacy services, as well as providing employment

opportunities to Bi-Mart pharmacy associates in available positions throughout our stores where they can continue to meet the needs of their patients," Walgreens regional Vice President Rob Ewing said.

Don Leber, vice president of marketing and advertising for Bi-Mart, said the transition has been discussed for quite some time.

"It's been worked on for several months," he said. "We started this process two to four years ago with other locations when we transferred (the pharmacies of) 20 stores to see if we could make them more profitable."

Most prescription information will be transferred to nearby stores, according to a press release from the two companies. In areas that do not have a Walgreens nearby, however, Walgreens will operate already-existing pharmacies in Bi-Mart locations under the Walgreens brand.



Phil Wright/Hermiston Herald

A customer waits outside the pharmacy window Thursday, Sept. 30, 2021, at the Pendleton Bi-Mart. The cooperative that same day announced Walgreens will acquire Bi-Mart's pharmacy business of 56 Bi-Mart pharmacies across Oregon, Idaho and Washington.

It's not yet known if that will be the case in four northeast Oregon Bi-Mart locations in Herm-

iston, Pendleton, La Grande or Baker City. The Walgreens locations nearest to Northeastern

Oregon are in Tri-Cities, Washington, or Ontario.

A list of which Bi-Mart locations would house a Walgreens pharmacy was not available, Phil Caruso with Walgreens media relations, noting that the deal is subject to customary closing conditions.

Caruso did say that once the transfer is complete, new patients will have access to "all the benefits of Walgreens," including health screenings, immunizations, omni-channel support that includes access to pharmacists, and "adherence-boosting programs" through a mobile device such as daily pill reminders and refill by scan.

Patients who are having their prescriptions transferred will be notified by mail, and "both companies will work together to help ensure a smooth transition for pharmacy patients," the release stated.

The file transfer should be complete by January 2022.

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