

## Knotty Pine Design

I had the privilege of meeting with the owners of Knotty Pine Design, Amanda LaGue and Taylor Otis. The girls started this business in March of this year. This is a job that both girls do in their spare time. The business sells start-to-finish boards and stencils. There isn't a board they can't make. This is solely a family business; Taylor primarily customizes the boards when people order them and then Brady, Taylor's husband, will help her cut the stencils. David, Amanda and their girls go buy wood and cut it. Jim and Lori lets them use the shop when they are out there and will come help or bring food for the parties.

Amanda and her mother Lori sold boards that they made on Etsy and someone asked "Why don't you do board painting parties?" The first party was out at the shop and it went very well, the girls got very busy. That is what started Knotty Pine Design! Lori decided to back out and sell her share to Taylor. Taylor worked at Innovations for three years and also a receptionist at the Britt hospital, she is also currently a Wesley EMS volunteer and a full time wife and mother. Amanda was a nurse at the hospital in Mason City for 7 years and is also now a full time wife and mother.

Looking into the future the girls would like to expand with a bigger crew to help book more parties. They have new ideas that would make them different from other competitors such as; designing your own wall decals, mailbox stickers and wood framing. The girls will soon be offering seasonal boards with chalkboard paint.

What is your favorite part about doing this?

Taylor-"For me it would be staying home I love being home with him (her son Bentley), but it's nice to get out of the house and to be with family and not having to send him to daycare. When he is home he is home with my husband or with family and I am still able to make some sort of income doing something so fun, it doesn't feel like a job to me when I'm doing it!"

Amanda-"That's my biggest thing that I would say too, is just being a stay at home mom, when we do it, it does not feel like work, it's an added bonus that we get paid well from it but it nice to meet different woman and socialize a little bit."

What are the biggest issues for running your business?

Taylor-"On her side I would say the wood. And on my side printing the stencil could take up to an hour to print one stencil, it's just very time consuming."

Amanda-"I would say too, time management because yes we do parties at night but I don't think people realize actually how much prep goes into it." "We have to get good quality wood no one wants a junk board, lately we have been running into a lot or troubles getting wood."

"The best part of this business has just been the local support, it's been awesome." –Amanda & Taylor