

“I wish I had more time to design and make things, but I need to balance my time carefully between being a mom, a teacher and a crafter.”



Photos courtesy of Amanda Adler

Amanda Adler is a full-time mother and Valier Schools teacher but she is now carving out a little “me” time for her new crafting business. Amanda is self-taught and has been having fun learning how to incorporate her creative talents with her Cricut machine and Design space software. Her daughter, Hailey, has a new job, too. She is her mom’s number one hair bow model and tester.

Adler uses summer vacation to teach herself a new craft

By LEANNE KAVANAGH
The Valierian

What do teachers do during the summer months? Well, if you’re Amanda Adler, you grow your own home-based business. Amanda teaches Kindergarten and also Art to K-8 students in Valier. This summer she taught herself how to make faux leather earrings and hair bows and has been marketing them on social media to earn some extra spending money.

“I started making the earrings and bows at the end of June,” shared Amanda. Like most crafters, she finds many ideas and inspirations on Pinterest and from there learns tips and tricks from Facebook groups and online websites.

She purchased a Cricut Explore Air 2, complete with Design Space software, which connects to her SmartPhone via Bluetooth. Thanks to the technology, she is able to design and create her earrings and hair bow “from the ease of my phone.”

Over the past few months she has expanded her inventory of supplies and equipment to include not only the

Cricut tools, but also a variety of faux leather, earring and jump hooks, alligator clips and more.

Listening to her explain the process for creating her designs, she makes it sound so easy. First she selects a design from the software program and then lays out the faux leather on a custom Cricut mat. Once the leather is all smoothed out, she lines up the machine and “presses go. The machine quickly cuts it out and I put on the finishing touches for the earrings or bows by hand.”

Amanda has developed a system whereby she can work on several pairs of earrings at once, usually during those hours when her two-year-old daughter, Hailey, is napping.

“Most of my orders are custom orders,” said Amanda. “People message me on Facebook with requests for earring or bow combinations and if I have the material on hand, I can usually get it done that day. If I need to order special prints, it takes a little longer,” she shared.

“I also post pictures of the earrings and bows I have made up and pick up orders that way, too. I can



Amanda Adler creates unique earrings and hair bows of all shapes and sizes and loves it when her customers come to her with special order ideas and pattern requests.

ship whatever people order. Smaller orders ship for around \$1 and larger orders for \$4 or more,” she added.

What’s her most popular item? “My biggest seller right now is my Mommy and Me bundle. It’s a pair of earrings and matching hair bow for \$14.” Another popular item is Amanda’s “mermaid collection” which features a double bow with a mermaid tail on top.

“I’m currently working on some fun new designs for earrings and bows,” she added.

Amanda’s earrings are all affordably priced and are very lightweight. The earrings sell for \$8 each and hair bows are also \$8 unless a customer wants a larger custom size bow.

“Hailey is my official bow tester. That’s the fun thing about having my own earring and bow business. I can whip some up for any outfit or occasion,” she smiled.

Amanda has also dabbled in making custom decals for water bottles, cups and margarita glasses. “I make those out of perma-

ment vinyl,” she said. She is still working on a name for her business and hopes to build up her inventory to attend area craft fairs this fall and winter. In the meantime, her biggest challenge is finding time to do it all! “I wish I had more time to design and make things, but I need to balance my time carefully between being a mom, a teacher and a crafter,” she concluded.



Cruising along to Dupuyer Grizzly Day!



Photo by Jeff Martinsen/Choteau Acantha

Valier’s Kamryn Kuka and Ainsley VandenBos cruised along in styled during the annual Dupuyer Grizzly Day parade on Saturday. See more photos on page 8.



Photos by Cathy Brandvold

Brynn Raines licks up every last bit of sweet frosting and cupcake crumb from her alien treat. The Valier Public Library was the place to be last week when the children and volunteers wrapped up the Summer Reading Program with games, treats and crafts. See more photos inside this week’s issue!



Trae Hitchcock and Allison Noyd build a tasty alien cupcake at the Valier Public Library’s Summer Reading Program’s fun day. This year’s program’s theme was “A Universe of Stories” and featured lots of fun crafts and educational activities. Over 100 children participated in the program.

