

News Release

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Young Entrepreneur Finds Success during COVID-19 Pandemic

LAWTON, Okla. – As the coronavirus pandemic nears its one-year marker, many people have picked up or returned to a variety of hobbies to stay busy. Some learned how to make sourdough bread, and others completed home improvement projects. Oklahoma native, Tyler Mahoney, used his newfound free time to turn his hobby into a business.

After taking a virtual class on candle making, Mahoney fell in love with the process. In less than a month after taking the class, he was laid off from his job in Dallas due to the pandemic and found himself back home in Lawton, Okla.

Mahoney came up with the idea for his candle company while hiking in the mountain range where he grew up. It was in southwest Oklahoma where he combined his creativity, experience and personal passions to create his own company. He named this company after that same mountain range - Wichita Mountain Candle Co.

“I got depressed with everything happening in the world and felt a lack of control,” said Mahoney. “I had a lot of new time on my hands and decided to turn my hobby into a business.”

Wichita Mountain Candle Co. currently produces 12 Oklahoma-inspired candles that are hand-poured in small batches right in Lawton, Okla. Some of the company’s most popular scents include Golden Hour, Thunder Rolls and Prohibition. In order to maintain environmental sustainability, all candles use 100% soy wax with natural fragrance oils and dyes. The tins can also be used as reusable containers after use.

“The brand is a symbol that represents no matter how many punches life throws your way, you can always go home,” said Mahoney. “I hope that my candles will spark memories of nature and take you to a place of serenity wherever you are in the world.”

Since launching his website on November 25, Mahoney has sold over 600 units and generated more than \$7,000 in profit. He is focused on the future with plans to release new seasonal scents, expand to more retailers and foster new relationships with brand ambassadors. During this unprecedented economic period, Mahoney’s entrepreneurial success is a welcome achievement for small businesses across the nation.

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Wichita Mountain Candle Co. is an Oklahoma-based candle company owned and operated by Oklahoma native, Tyler Mahoney. Growing up near the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, Mahoney draws inspiration from the natural landscape. The growing business hand-pours its artisan, Oklahoma-inspired candles in small batches using all-natural soy wax. For more information, visit <https://wichitamountaincandle.com>.

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