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Mother-son team purchase **Screenmobile** franchise, work together

Debra Mayeux The Daily Times

Blane Giles, co-owner of **Screenmobile**, uses a tool to attach screen to a frame that he fabricated Aug. 12 at a residence in Farmington. FARMINGTON — A former legal secretary and her mechanic son recently made a career change that is keeping them outdoors and busy.

Kathy Slavin and her son, Blane Giles, purchased a **Screenmobile** franchise that serves Aztec, Bloomfield, Farmington, Cortez, Colo., Durango, Colo., and Pagosa Springs, Colo.

"We were tired of working for someone else," Slavin said recently as she worked alongside her son in repairing a window screen at the home of a Farmington police officer.

Slavin said she likes to be outside "a lot," and with this business, she gets a lot of sun. "I worked for an attorney for 18 years, and I got tired of sitting at a desk. I wanted to be outside."

When the mother-son duo purchased the franchise in June, they traveled to California, the home-base of **Screenmobile**, and underwent 10 days of "one-on-one intense training," Slavin said.

What they learned was how to fabricate properly fitted window screens from the frame to attaching the type of screen wanted by the homeowner.

"We have an insect screen, a pet screen and 80 to 90 percent sunblock screens," Slavin said.

In a press release from **Screenmobile**, the company stated that secure screens make for good energy efficiency and can protect homes from insects, such as mosquitoes that carry the West Nile Virus.

"Properly fitted window and door screens and shades allow for a relatively inexpensive way to increase energy efficiency, reduce air conditioning bills, protect from West Nile Virus, safeguard against burglars and allow families to enjoy outdoor patio living," the press release stated. "But oftentimes, ensuring screens are properly fitted and installed leaves many homeowners uneasy about getting the job done themselves and overwhelmed with choices."

Slavin and Giles have a trailer they drive to the location where they will be working. The trailer stocks many styles of screens that can be used for windows, doors, patios, porches and pools.

They also have retractable screen doors, garage screens and storm doors.

The business was purchased in early June, and Giles said he has been "constantly busy."

"Every day is steady," Slavin said.



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