Travis and Melissa Bumgardner, Pharm.D, owners of Abts Pharmacy in Julesburg and Haxtun, announced they have started the process of converting Abts Express in Holyoke into a pharmacy.

Anticipating the process could take around eight months, they tentatively hope to open as a full pharmacy next spring.

Travis said they sent their application for pharmacy licensure with the State of Colorado last week.

After obtaining state licensure, they'll need to get provider and Drug Enforcement Agency numbers, then insurance contracts and then find a pharmacist to join the three who are already serving Abts Pharmacy in the Julesburg and Haxtun stores.

Additionally, they'll be looking to extend the remodeling they've already completed at Abts Express in Holyoke.

Since the Bumgardners purchased Abts Pharmacy in Julesburg three years ago, they've been working to build relationships in Holyoke.

When Shopko Stores closed the Pamida Pharmacy in Holyoke July 20, the Bumgardners jumped on board to open Abts Express in the former Pamida store at 118 S. Interocean Ave. in early August.

Abts Express is a retail store featuring a wide selection of over-the-counter health products. Prescription deliveries are made to the local store twice daily from Abts Pharmacy.

While it was a long-term goal of the Bumgardners to provide a full pharmacy in Holyoke, Travis

said the timeframe for those plans was escalated due to the response of the community.

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