

THE COUNTRY STORE

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

Village Kids Supply Co. has opened in the space previously occupied by Topanien Gallery. Melissa DeMartini, who owns The Craft Factory located directly upstairs, has partnered with her sister, Theresa Shire, to sell children’s pre-washed clothing, toys, and books.

Shire explained that all clothing is washed in a natural honey-lavender detergent before they are put on sale.

“Many people do not realize that clothes given to charities that don’t sell, go into landfills around the country and world,” Shire said. “There is much life left in these items.”

The owners said a grand opening is still in the making but there will be activities in coordination with First Friday.

Village Kids is located at 7832 SW Capitol Highway and is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Melissa DeMartini and Theresa Shire are the new proprietors of Village Kids Supply Co. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

Jones and Jones Jewelers will be closing its doors on May 31. For over 40 years, Thomas Jones and his wife, Janet, along with Kim Allen, have worked together to design and create one of a kind and limited edition custom jewelry. They were at various locations but have been in Multnomah Village since 2011.

“The building we occupy at 7858 SW Capitol Highway was sold in January,” Thomas told The Post. “The new owners, North Rim Development Group, have decided not to renew our lease and will instead proceed with [seismic] building upgrades.

“Beginning May 1,” Jones said, “we will have a going out of business sale

on all jewelry until we close.

“I’ll take some time to evaluate my options, but won’t be opening another storefront. We thank you for your friendship and support!”

Briana Thornton has opened **Aesthete**, a boutique featuring specialty teas inside the French Quarter. She has been a regular fixture at the Hillsdale Farmers Market and has been selling online for some time.

“Our mission is to work with small family farms,” Thornton said. “Each tea type is from a different region of the world. For example, rooibos is only found in South Africa; Darjeeling tea is from India, and milk oolong has its origins in Taiwan.

All of the teas at Aesthete are organic and come directly from the

farm. Thornton prides herself on the personal integral relationships with the farmers.

“We all believe in honesty, fair wages, and pure, organic ingredients,” she said.

Thornton also works with Oregon tea farmers located outside Hood River and Eugene. Her mother comes up with different herbal blends using ingredients such as cardamom, ginger flakes, vanilla rooibos, and pepper.

Juliana Abbott, owner of **Gurton’s Plant Shop**, has packed up her store inside of the French Quarter and has moved to Hillsdale where the old Paint Pots store once was. The store features unique houseplants, succulents, and cacti.

“We outgrew our space and are excited to set up shop in Hillsdale,” Abbott said. “We will be having our grand opening featuring food and beverage on Thursday, May 3 from 5 to 8 p.m.”



Briana Thornton has opened a new tea boutique in the French Quarter called Aesthete. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)



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