

AEI Studio & Gifts honors three generations of Windsor women

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AEI Studio & Gifts owner Pamela Tallon and daughter Isabeau Tallon stand in front of a memorial display with photos of their younger selves and their mother and grandmother, Anne Nichols. The store had its official grand opening Friday at 503 Main St. in Windsor.

HOURS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

AEI Studio & Gifts held their official opening at 10 a.m. May 1 at 503 Main St. in Windsor.

The store is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

To reach the studio call 970-833-5112.

Pamela was able to purchase the storefront using her savings money and anticipates additional funds from an inheritance to help in the future.

"It just worked out," she said. "I guess it was meant to be."

While they originally worried about not having enough space in the store, once the paint dried and merchandise was moved in, they realized it was just the opposite, Pamela said.

"We thought it was a really small space at first," Isabeau said. "Now just filling it up with unique stuff is the goal."

Isabeau and her mother hope to stock local Colorado and American products whenever possible and would love to have Windsor artists showcase pieces in the store eventually.

"I think it will be a good fit," Isabeau said. "It'll keep a good variety in the store."

For now, glassware and jewelry populate most of the space in honor of Anne.

"She always wanted to have a store of her own," Pamela said. "She loved beautiful glassware and garden décor."

Moving forward, Pamela plans to teach classes on stained glass creation, a craft she learned in 1986 with her husband, Victor Tallon, vice chair of the Windsor Planning Commission.

They hope to make the store a destination stop for people visiting Windsor, Pamela said.

"We just want it to be a successful business," Isabeau said.

In the eyes of Anne, however, the pair thinks she already basks in the business' creation.

"I think she is looking down and is very happy," Pamela said. "I just wish I could have done something with her, too."

A blend of traditional and new, AEI Studio & Gifts opened as an homage to the generations of women who own the store at 501 Main St. in Windsor.

The store's three-letter name represents the first letter of each woman's nickname: Anne, Ella and Izzy.

"It's really a store of love for the three generations of women in our family," owner Pamela "Ella" Tallon said. "I want the store to be beautiful and represent all three of us."

She and daughter, Isabeau "Izzy" Tallon, opened the store in honor their late mother and grandmother, Anne Nichols — who passed away in December — as a way to bring beautiful art and wares to the town, Pamela said.

"Grandma loved to shop," Isabeau said. "Her passing in December pushed Mom to follow her passion."

The pair lucked out and found their current downtown storefront by happenstance and began painting and renovating the space in March, Pamela said.