

# by Carla Occaso

MONTPELIER — May must be an auspicious month for opening a business in Downtown Montpelier. Just ask the owners of Capitol Stationers, Julio's Cantina, Capital Kitchen and Wilaiwan's. These eclectic businesses are all very different, but they all have one thing in common: They opened their doors on May 1.

Capitol Stationers, 65 Main St.

"We opened May 1, 1950," said Eric Bigglestone, owner of Capitol Stationers. His grandparents, William H. and Norah Bigglestone, started out selling typewriters, typewriter ribbon, staplers, pencils, paper and all things office supply — which was the latest and greatest in the 1950s through early 90s. But an inventory that used to be all office supplies grew smaller. "Technology replaces a lot of things that used to be done on paper," Bigglestone said.

Nowadays Capitol Stationers is still the go-to place for calendars, pens, stationary, envelopes, handmade paper and other stationary-type items, but they also have a prominent boutique of gifts and souvenirs such as tee-shirts, maple syrup and novelty items. "Everything has changed alot. I have been doing it 26 years now," Bigglestone said. "The office supply business is what we started out in, but it isn't our bread and butter these days. You find what works for you, adapt and move on."