

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Photo/Debbie Connely

Representatives from AEDC and Chamber, family, and Senator Matt Williams helped Jodi Carlson celebrate her grand opening last Friday morning with an official ribbon cutting ceremony. Pictured are: (back, l-r) Patricia Thompson, Margie McDowell, Becky Dailey, Karen Horst, Cheryl Carson, Senator Matt Williams, Jodi Carlson, Keith Carlson, Diana Coleman, Kay Lohmiller, Gail Reed, Jude Carlson, Jordan Carlson, Liz Carlson, Claire Carlson, Justin Strasburg; (front, l-r) Piper Strasburg, Gideon Carlson, Lainy Carlson, Parker Strasburg. Senator Williams commented that he has been friends with Keith and Jodi for many years, and has watched the restoration process of the building from the studs on. “It’s fantastic,” he said. During the ceremony, AEDC Director Cheryl Carson thanked Jodi for all of the time and effort she has put in to opening the business.

BrewBakers Holds Grand Opening

Restored building has official unveiling

By Diana Coleman
Sentinel staff

BrewBakers owner Jodi Carlson held her grand opening and was honored at a ribbon cutting last Friday morning. The road to opening her own storefront business began many years ago.

The summer of 2010 Jailyn Strasburg approached her mother Jodi about taking baked goods to farmer’s markets. They both agreed that it would make a nice little project that they could do together. Flour Girls was born. They began their venture taking folding tables and baked goods to the farmer’s market in Gothenburg. This little project evolved

into taking special orders and providing scrumptious desserts for special events such as galas and extravaganzas. Jodi shared, “I’ve always liked to make Bundt cakes. Baked goods seem to bring people pleasure.” As the business grew, Jodi’s kitchen didn’t, so she decided to look for another location in which to put her baking kitchen. About that time, a building was coming up for sale in Arnold. Kim Beshaler had decided to close the doors of a favorite gathering place, Nebraska Farm House Antiques and Coffee Shop.

One of the original owners of this building was an early entrepreneur, T.L. Jones, who purchased a mercantile business in the downtown section of

Arnold and renamed it T.L. Jones Mercantile Co. He operated this mercantile for many years. As time passed, this building was the home to a Gamble’s Store, Bombeck Hardware, Mills Hardware, Oasis Roasting and Coffee Shop, Walnut Hill Gun Shop and Nebraska Farmhouse Antiques and Coffee Shop.

After much thought and consideration, Jodi purchased the handsome building in 2016, with the intent of creating a commercial baking kitchen for Flour Girls. She thought a little paint; a few repairs, some cleaning and adding a small coffee shop might be nice. As her family and “free handsome labor” started to dig into the project, it began to grow. Jodi

said, “My original plan was pretty minimal; my family and workforce made it bigger and better.”

As the complete renovation began on this 3,400 square foot building, there were many delightful surprises discovered. When the drop ceiling was removed, the original tin ceiling was exposed to reveal that it was in relatively good shape.

The removal of several layers of flooring uncovered salvageable wood floors. As the oversized and outdated furnace was removed from the loft area, an original skylight was discovered, letting in wonderful natural light to the newly-forming common area on the main floor. The original skylight mechanism was unsalvageable,

so it was replaced with a dome. This building quickly became a family project, and it wasn’t long before the priority shifted from Flour Girls to a full coffee barista and gift shop. The project did a complete flip-flop. The new baking kitchen was now put on the back-burner.

The roof was completely repaired inside and out, the basement was gutted, the mold was removed, the basement was stabilized with steel posts and a new sump pump was installed. The rotten edges of the main store floor were removed, the floor joists were replaced, and the foundation was stabilized. The plaster was removed from the south wall, exposing the

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Farmhouse Antiques & Flea Market Opens in Hotel Custer



Photo/Debbie Connely

Kim Beshaler (left) and Gail Reed have opened a business in the lower level of Hotel Custer, featuring antiques and eclectic flea market merchandise.

By Janet Larreau
The Arnold staff

Good friends Kim Beshaler and Gail Reed opened their new business, Farmhouse Antiques & Flea Market, in the lower level of Hotel Custer last Thursday. It was a good day, as merchandise was selling fast -

almost too fast, since the business partners were preparing for a ribbon cutting the next day.

“A clock was over there, but that sold, so we had to move that swag over there. Those items have already sold, and the people are going to pick them up later,” said Kim, pointing

ing to different areas of the tastefully staged once-office space that is now filled with primitives, quality used furniture pieces and home decor. The merchandise flows out into the hotel’s lobby, and is also displayed in the building’s street-side glass display case, adding charm to the once-empty space.

Kim said they pulled staging the area in about a day, with help from friends.

The two women have very different tastes. Gail’s is eclectic, and Kim’s is more on the primitive side.

“We had a house in Colorado Springs, and I had to have somewhere to go with the furnishings. I didn’t want to go on Craig’s List,” said Gail.

Kim also had merchandise stashed away from her 15 years in business across the street running Nebraska Farmhouse Antiques.

“When I go to Omaha or Lincoln to see the kids, I am seeing what are called “pop-up markets,” said Kim. “Both of us have too nice of stuff to go to Goodwill, so I mentioned the idea to Gail.”

Gail said she jumped at the chance.

Kim and Gail plan to be open three days a week, around the third week of each month.

“We will start sourcing as things sell. We’ll be going to auctions in Lincoln and Omaha,” said Kim.



Photo/Patti Schwarz

Homecoming Coronation

The 2018 Homecoming Coronation was held following the South Loup vs. Arcadia/Loup City football game, Friday night at Callaway. Arnold’s queen and king were Tatum Cool and Cole Gracey (left) and crowned for Callaway were Kalen Dockweiler and Mikayla McFate. A dance on Saturday night at the Callaway Community Center culminated Homecoming Week activities that included dress-up days, a bonfire and pep rally, and the big game.

Waste Collection at Arnold

The Lexington Area Solid Waste Agency will bring a free Household Hazardous Waste Collection to the Arnold street shop on Saturday, September 29 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For more information on hours and items accepted, please turn to page 8.