

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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## New Business Opens In Hotel Custer

A Few Things will carry  
vintage, new, consigned items.

By Janet Larreau

A new business is set to open in Hotel Custer on August 4. It's called "A Few Things," and there's a humorous story behind the name.

Owner Merri Jo Halstead relates, "I asked my family for input on the name. Jenni actually came up with it. My kids reminded me that when they were young, I'd take them with me shopping, and I'd drag them from store to store for just "a few things." I'm not sure it's a particularly warm and fuzzy memory."

Merri Jo said she's been considering opening the business

for a while. She feels that Arnold can always use another downtown business.

"I so loved working for Kim Beshaler for several years at Nebraska Farmhouse Antiques. This will be a much smaller business, but I hope it can serve the community well. If Kim wasn't helping me, I wouldn't even consider it," she said.

The small store located on the southeast corner of the hotel was open. Merri Jo said she loves the location, directly across the street from the coffee shop. The store was painted by Courtney Beshaler Evans, who Merri Jo said "has been such an encouragement to me." Other than that the space was

in great shape and ready to move in new clothing, décor, vintage furniture and gently used clothing. Merri Jo said she is taking items on consignment.

A Few Things will employ one or two people, and Kim will be her right hand. She is currently planning to be open Thursday and Friday, 10:00 to 4:00, and Saturday, 10:00 to 1:00. This could change, but it's a good place to start.

"I am excited to get started. I know I have a lot to learn, but I want to be a place that is welcoming and friendly. I hope when people go to get a drink at BrewBakers, they will come across the street to browse," said Merri Jo.

## Fashion Fun at CC Fair

**(Pictured below)** Dressed for the 4-H Public Fashion Show held on July 21, sisters Delanie and Makenna Weinman hold ribbons they earned for their clothing projects at the Custer County Fair. Delanie received a purple ribbon, Best of Show, and Reserve Grand Champion for her outfit, and Makenna was awarded a purple ribbon and Best of Show. The Fashion Show kicked off fair activities that conclude today. Results of all local 4-H Club members will be published when available. (Courtesy photo)



Photo/Debbie Connally

Merri Jo Halstead is pictured in her new store named A Few Things located in Hotel Custer. The business opens August 4.



*Pearls*  
Photography & Design

## Addison & Clyde Travel to KC

Addison Dalrymple and her parents, Matthew and Jennifer Dalrymple, traveled to Kansas City in July, staying six days for the National Junior Angus Show. Addison competed in the livestock judging contest, skillathon, and showed her steer Clyde. She was 5th in the junior division out of 106 kids in livestock judging, 11th in the skillathon contest out of 108 participants, and rounded her week out with her getting 3rd in class. She competed against kids from across the nation to earn these rankings.

## Marker Tells History of L.P. Rose, Spargo Building

A detailed history of the L.P. Rose - Spargo's is now told on a historical marker placed on the building by project coordinator Berni Crow. The marker reads as follows:

### L.P. Rose (1915) - Spargo's (1942)

John Owens was the first to build on this spot in 1884. His little frame "Machine Shop" was replaced several years later by Woodman Hall (see inset on main photo above). It had business space on the main floor and a meeting/dance hall on the second floor. It stood until 1915 when L.P. Rose began construction of the present building. On December 22, 1908, (at the north end of that block) a fire destroyed two buildings side by side, Mrs. Henry Imboden's hotel known as the "Grand Central", built by Robert Probert in 1887, and Robert "Probert's Hardware" built in 1884 (Custer Hotel Site). Probert's Hardware was owned by brothers-in-law George Unangst and Ayer Young at that time. Unangst's family lived in the back of the store. George had built a fire in the kitchen and had gone back into the living room when someone ran in from the street saying the store was on fire. Flames had already spread to a

kerosene storage area and both buildings were completely destroyed by the fire. Imboden was forced to set up her hotel down the street in the Woodman Building (L.P. Rose/Spargo) ~ Arnold had always been a dancing town, using every possible space for their dances - the upper floor of "Woodman Hall" (above Sauter-McCants Meat Market - 1907) was a popular spot for dances. Ves McCants sold dry goods and groceries on the upper floor for several years. Imboden moved in and her motel remained on the lower floor until (1915). L.P. (Louis P.) Rose then bought this site that year and tore down the Woodman Building to begin construction of his hardware store (present building). When Louis Rose's hardware store was completed, the east side of main looked more up-to-date, and his store was ready for its June 1916 opening. Prior to building his hardware store, in 1914, Louis P. and Grace Rose had come from Miller Nebraska, purchased Maddox and Duckett's "Arnold Hardware" stock, incorporating their business with Gus Steburg and his son Leonard. Rose used the building for storage until his own

See Historical Marker, Page 8



Courtesy photo

Building owners April and Andrew Tickle, with Rotary Historical Marker project coordinator Berni Crow (center), stand beside the marker placed at what is known to old-timers as L.P. Rose and "the Spargo building."