



## By Jan Schultz The Imperial Republican

For Sam and Peri Crabtree, owning a liquor store is a new business venture.

The Crabtrees, who are moving to Imperial from Wray, Colo., took over ownership of the former Capitol Liquor at 1146 Broadway on Aug. 6, after license approval came through from the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission. Former owner was Kris Musick.

The new owners have changed the business name to S & P Liquor. New business signs will be coming, they said.

Sam, who worked for a natural gas company, Rosewood Resources, and expressed some boredom with his former job, said he thought it would be neat to run a liquor store. They had tried to purchase a liquor store in Wray, but that didn't work out, they said.

And, change is good, they both agreed.

Peri, who works as a trainer/tech support for a school software company, said she feels fortunate her job can travel with her.

She works for Specialized Data Systems headquartered in Lisle, Ill. She has mainly worked in Colorado and a few other states, she said, but with her move here, she said the company hopes to do more work in Nebraska now.

The couple said they plan no changes immediately.

"We just want to get the day-to-day operation down pat," Sam said.

"We're working on organization, getting familiar with the community and its needs," Peri added.

The business offers a selection of beer, wines, liquor, liqueurs and other specialty items.

People are invited to come in and meet the new owners and discuss some of the other products they'd like to see on the shelves, they said.

Down the road, since they also applied for and received a catering license, they'd like to focus on that aspect, in addition to the off-sale. Wine, beer and "drink of the season" events are things they are considering later on.

The couple has lived in Wray the past six and a half years. She is a Wray native, while Sam calls St. Francis, Kan., home.

Their blended family includes five grown children, one granddaughter and a second grandchild on the way.

They are in the process of buying a home here and hope to be moved soon.

With the help of four part-time employees, S & P Liquor is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. and from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sundays.