Boardwalk Shuffle, Dec. 11

- Jennifer Dorsey
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The Five & Dime General Store opened last Friday at 75 N. Cache in the former home of Legacy Gallery.

• RYAN DORGAN / NEWS&GUIDE

Five & Dime opens on Town Square

Which of these items will you find at the new Five & Dime General Store on Town Square?

(a) Five shelves of hot sauce and barbecue sauce.

- (b) The board games Operation and Candy Land.
- (c) Souvenir T-shirts and mugs.
- (d) Wrenches.
- (e) All of the above.

The answer is (e).

The store that opened Friday in Legacy Gallery's former haunt at 75 N. Cache is filled with a staggering variety of goods, from necessities like aspirin and diapers to novelties like a "redneck bottle opener" (featuring bad teeth) and signs with jokey sayings like "Yeah, abs are great, but have you tried donuts?"

Many of the items are things out-of-towners might want while they're touring the Yellowstone region, including cold beverages and energy bars, and items like sunglasses and sunscreen that they forgot to pack or lost while touring the valley.

The store hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily this winter, with an even earlier opening time planned in the summer, manager Steve Sykes said.

"We figure that with the new hotel coming in, people going to the park early who need a few things won't have to go far," he said.

Along with T-shirts and souvenirs the store sells things like warm hats and gloves, packages of socks and underpants, flashlights, tools, stretchy cords and superglue.

Some of the shelves in the back are devoted to fun stuff to keep kids and families entertained, including a selection of board games, jigsaw puzzles, fingerpaints and bags of little plastic soldiers.

There's a full complement of other items tourists and even locals might need while they're downtown: cold and headache remedies, for example; Pepto Bismol; feminine protection products; shampoo and toothpaste; and emergency nail and sewing kits.

Sykes said he's heard of people getting off planes at Jackson Hole Airport and asking their taxi driver to take them to a drugstore for Tylenol or aspirin.

"We make it easy for them to come in and get the essentials," he said.

The Five & Dime is operated by a company called UTBW (used to be Woolworths) LLC. The first store opened in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in the location of that city's original Woolworths. That was in 1998, about a year after Woolworths announced it was closing all its U.S. stores, UTBW said. Now there are also two Five & Dimes in San Antonio, Texas, and one each in Branson, Missouri; San Diego and Monterey, California; Charleston, South Carolina; Savannah, Georgia; and St. Augustine, Florida, according to the company website.