

OFF AND SKATING

Ponies open season with victories. Story on page 8

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In the know

SPORTS

Amber Scalia and Alexis Pratt set the scoring pace as Stillwater girls basketball team extends conference winning streak to 15.

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The top-ranked Stillwater wrestling team kicks off the season with three consecutive wins.

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Hockey player Morgan Wohlers and wrestler Matt Hogue are SAHS Athletes of the Week.

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INSIDE



History – Brent Peterson details the life of star performer Patti Adelina who made stops in Stillwater.

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Your Voice – Good news on the COVID-19 front for schools, but work remains.

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FROM THE GAZETTE FILES

Jan. 22, 1921– Miss Hester Pollock of Minneapolis will deliver an address at the Stillwater High School Auditorium tomorrow on "The Family Budget." Miss Pollock is connected with the U.S. Thrift association and knows her subject well. She is also said to be a most pleasant speaker.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Legals – Keep up on the latest notices in your area.

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COVID's year-long grip on Stillwater businesses



Coffee Paw Café

Stillwater Event Center

Mainstream Boutique

Navigating the pandemic

Breakfast café struggles to get through COVID

BY MATT DEBOW
THE GAZETTE

A married couple bought a restaurant planning to restore the place to its former glory days, but the COVID-19 pandemic brought their plans to a screeching halt and they had to pivot.

Mike and Kat Duncan purchased the Chilkoot Café, 826 Fourth St. S., Stillwater, in June 2019. They were regulars of the café since its original opening in 2007.

Shortly after purchasing, they changed the name to Muddy Paw Café, but the moniker drew a legal challenge from another business with the same name. So they changed it and they are now operating the restaurant as the Coffee Paw Café.

About two years before

See Coffee, Page 5



Coffee Paw Café Owner Mike Duncan speaks with customers Sonya and Justin Fox on Jan. 20. After the owners purchasing the café last year they have faced several hurdles including the COVID-19 pandemic. (Gazette staff photo by Matt DeBow)



From left to right, Owner Camille Williams, Store Manager Kate Ellison and inventory manager Kyra Roettger pose for a photo in the Mainstream Boutique on Jan. 5. The store has managed to thrive during the COVID-19 pandemic. (Gazette staff photo by Matt DeBow)

COVID-19 forces women's boutique store to get creative with marketing

BY MATT DEBOW
THE GAZETTE

Camille Williams purchased the Mainstream Boutique franchise store in Oak Park Heights in January just months before the coronavirus pandemic temporarily closed all non-essential businesses.

When the first closure hit — and the Boutique's doors were locked to the general public — Williams and store manager Kate Ellison brainstormed how the business could survive, and they started posting videos showcasing the store's clothes

See Retail, Page 15

Caterer transforms KC Hall into the Stillwater Event Center

BY MATT DEBOW
THE GAZETTE

Stillwater native Todd Scheel, owner of Scheel's Catering, purchased the KC Hall in Stillwater in June 2020, started remodeling and changed the name to the Stillwater Event Center, 1910 Greeley St. S., Stillwater

While Scheel purchased the event center in the middle of the pandemic, it wasn't like he was starting from scratch on a new business because he ran his catering business out of KC Hall's kitchen. He also served on KC Hall's board of directors.

In 2020 The Knights of Columbus decided they didn't want to be in the hall anymore and decided to move into a church-based only operation. When the Knights of Columbus decided to vacate, Scheel jumped at the opportunity.

"I didn't want to leave the location, and I saw its real potential in that building," Scheel said.

While the Knights of Columbus operated out of the hall, the business KC Hall was operated as an independent business separate from the Knights of Columbus.

Since the pandemic began, Gov. Tim Walz has put in restrictions limiting the size of gatherings, effectively shuttering or postponing many weddings, but those limitations have changed several times since March 2020.

The current restrictions allow for weddings to be held at 50% of a venue's total capacity.

The slowdown in event gatherings meant that it was the perfect time for remodeling, Scheel noted, and he now expects that work to finish in about a

See Center, Page 11

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COFFEE

(Continued from page 1)

the couple purchased it, the former owner left the café and let the place basically run itself.

“Well, it ran itself into the ground,” Mike said. “Filthy, and normally half the menu was not available.”

Even the essentials were often gone — including bacon.

“You can’t be a breakfast place and run out of bacon,” Kat said.

Mike said the problems could all be tied to a lack of management.

“We came in and really turned the place around,” Kat said.

Shortly after the ownership change, Mike explained his customers were telling him: “Hey, quality is back again, consistency is back again. Cleanliness is back again. We had people who wouldn’t step foot in the bathroom because they were never cleaned. Never.”

The first goal was to fix those major issues, and the second was to tackle the financial side.

“When we took over, labor cost was somewhere around 65 to 70%,” Mike said. “It should be more like 25 to 30%.”

Food costs were outrageous. At the start of January 2020 food and labor costs were starting to come under control, and the pair were gaining some confidence they were setting up the business for success.

“We were very well poised to make money in the winter,” Mike said.

“And we were so excited for summer,” Kat added.

Then the pandemic hit. Gov. Tim Walz ordered all non-essential businesses to temporarily close and restaurants could only offer takeout from March to mid-May.

While they were allowed to open for to-go orders, they weren’t receiving many calls.

One reason Mike cites for the lull in those orders is that a lot of breakfast food doesn’t travel well, Mike explained.

“Can you imagine what an eggs Benedict looks like 20 minutes after it’s been in a car,” Mike said.

The café also is not set up for takeout as they don’t have a delivery service, and they didn’t want to leave food outside in the cold. DoorDash and GrubHub take a large portion of the proceeds.

“We ran the math every which way from Wednesday, and there was no way to keep the kitchen rolling with a full menu and



Mike and Kat Duncan pose behind the counter of Coffee Paw Café.

do takeout,” Kat said. “So what we did instead was we rejiggered our bake case to be savories and sweets.”

They only stocked the pastry case with sweets before COVID.

When the Duncans purchased the café, it had a full-service kitchen and offered breakfast, brunch and lunch.

They staffed the café with 18 employees. With the lull in orders the owners were forced to lay everyone off — except for a part-time baker.

Since the pandemic forced them to significantly cut back, the couple has operated the café more like a coffee shop with counter service and only offering food from the pastry case.

A coffee house was not the business model the owners were striving for when they purchased it in 2019. They are aiming to make it past the pandemic and are dreaming of seeing the back of house busy again and restarting their full menu.

The Duncans saw a little bit of promise during COVID when they made \$120 in net profit June 2020, but that was the exception for their fledgling business.

“Otherwise we typically lose between \$2,000 and \$3,000 a month,” Mike said.

The couple found themselves facing a challenge again, when in response to surging coronavirus cases Walz re-imposed limits and restaurants in Minnesota could only offer takeout from late November 2020 until January.

The Gazette met with the owners on Jan. 11, the first day that Gov. Walz loosened restrictions from the second lockdown. Restaurants in the state can now operate at 50%

capacity with other COVID-19 safety protocols in place.

Those distancing restrictions means that because Coffee Paw Café must keep tables and walkways six feet apart, it only allows the owners to serve at 33% of the café’s capacity — or 18 patrons total.

“I think that’s the case for a lot of restaurants,” Kat said. “That 50% isn’t always 50% for everybody.”

Kat noted that even though 33% is better than nothing, it isn’t enough for them to turn a profit.

“Are we excited to open back up, sort of,” Kat said. “In that it’s always more fun to have our customers come in and sit down.”

However, the couple also noted the more people who come in, the higher the risk of contracting COVID is for the owners and everyone patronizing the café.

She added that when people are eating they aren’t masked and often forget to put a mask back on when heading to the bathroom, and also they will just mill about the place maskless.

While the pair would like to see help from the state, they believe a coordinated federal response is what’s needed.

“I think it goes past the governor,” Mike said in response to an inquiry from the Gazette about what Walz should do to help out. “I think it’s not a Minnesota thing. It needs to be federal. We need to have a federal regulation.”

One problem caused by not having a nationwide set of standards is that Wisconsin restaurants get to compete in a different ball game.

“Stillwater loses a lot of business to Wisconsin,” Mike said. “That’s going



Mike Duncan makes a latte at Coffee Paw Café on Jan. 20. (Gazette staff photos by Matt DeBow)

to be hard to get back. Three miles that way, they’re not playing by the same rules that we are.”

Kat said their original plan was to get the place up and running to start making a profit after three years in operation, but the pandemic is throwing a wrench into that blueprint.

Small restaurants survive by making only a little bit of money even when there isn’t a global pandemic.

“It’s a horrible time to be a restaurant owner where (profit) margins are slim on the best of days,” Kat said. “... (If) you’re doing a restaurant you’re doing it because you love it...you’re not in it to make money you’re in it to do a little better than break even.”

Following the passage

of the CARES Act many Washington County businesses received Paycheck Protection Program loans as a way to keep their business afloat. However, Coffee Paw Café was not eligible for one of those loans because they had not been in business for a full year.

The CARES Act is a roughly \$2 trillion economic relief bill passed by Congress in March, and signed into law by former President Donald Trump on March 27.

Mike eventually was able to secure a personal loan that the couple used to keep the café running. Kat also is the owner of CLICK a digital recruitment firm, and they are using the profits from her business to keep café afloat

While the owners have

struggled to keep the doors open, were forced to change their name and are losing money throughout the pandemic, they are holding onto hope that enough people will get vaccinated soon enough that the world will return to normal. So that they can fulfill their vision of turning the café into the restaurant that they once loved.

Coffee Paw Café, 826 Fourth St., Stillwater, is open from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday – Sunday; phone: 651-342-0429; Email info@coffeepawcafe.com; Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CoffeePawCafeStillwater>; Website: <https://www.coffeepawcafe.com/>

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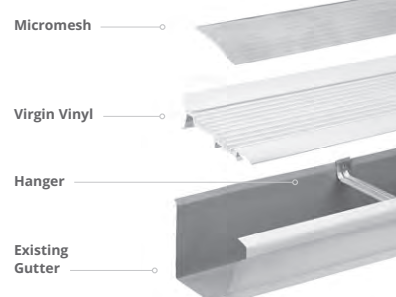
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NORDIC SKIING

Stillwater girls prevail in SEC triangular at Phalen

BY STUART GROSKREUTZ
THE GAZETTE

ST. PAUL — It was worth the wait for the Stillwater girls Nordic ski team, which opened its season with a victory in a Suburban East Conference triangular meet on Friday, Jan. 15 at Phalen Park Golf Course.

Led by sisters Louisa and Lily Ward, the Ponies defeated Roseville 87-75 and White Bear Lake 84-56 in a 5-kilometer classic race.

The Ponies, ranked fourth in the state by skinnyski.com, dealt with warm and wet conditions that created a slow course to kick off a season that started more than a month later than normal due to COVID-19. The race itself is also dramatically different in order to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

The Stillwater boys also competed, falling just short in a 79-75 loss to Roseville and to White Bear Lake 84-66.

“The girls’ and boys’ races are separate events so there’s not a chance to support the full team by cheering and racing around the course,” Ponies co-head coach Kris Hansen said. “Once your gender is done racing, you leave the venue. I really miss the connection that comes from supporting others, but we all understand it’s what’s necessary right now, so it works. The races feel more like a chance meeting at a park rather than a big, competitive race event. It seems OK to have at least one aspect of life that’s actually less stressful.”

Louisa Ward, a junior, set the pace for the Ponies with a winning time of 20:09 and sophomore Lily Ward followed in second place with a time of 20:33, which was 1:22 ahead of the third-place finisher. Stillwater also received a fifth-place finish from senior Emma Bourne (22:29).

Eighth-grader Stella Powell finished seventh in a time of 22:51 and freshman Annika Fuhrmann was next for the Ponies in ninth-place with a time of 23:38.

“When the snow is as wet as it was on Friday, your skis are like long, giant suction cups,” Hansen said. “Even a flat course is a grind to get around. Of course, it was our first race of the year which is always a little messy even in the best circumstances, so put the tough conditions together with a new format and a first race and it’s not sur-

prising that most of our skiers looked a little rough. They had the fitness to get around the course pretty fast, which was good to see. The ‘smooth’ will come as we get back into the groove of racing. Mostly, it was good just to see them out there racing again.”

John Kubiak placed second to lead the Stillwater boys with a time of 21:20, which was 24 seconds behind individual winner Hayden Weddell (20:56) of White Bear Lake.

Charles Johnson (22:02) and Carson Peterson (22:04) followed in eighth and ninth place for the Ponies.

“Our goal this year is to get our athletes outside and active in a safe, social environment,” Hansen said. “We’re not focusing on the championships or the medals but instead on the opportunity to be outside, moving and working together. Our team has always been built around relationships — that’s harder this year, but we’re making it work.”

“The kids have been absolutely fantastic about following the COVID rules. Wearing a mask while doing intervals in the cold is no fun, but they do it, and they don’t complain. These kids take their responsibility to our community seriously. At the same time, they bring a positivity and show up excited to practice, happy to be with the team. Their positive energy reminds all of us how important this opportunity is — no one wants to screw it up.”

**Stillwater 87, Roseville 75
Stillwater 84, White Bear Lake 56
Top 5**

1. Louisa Ward (St) 20:09; 2. Lily Ward (St) 20:33; 3. Lauren Loppnow (WBL) 21:55; 4. Madelyn Bystrom (WBL) 22:16; 5. Emma Bourne (St) 22:29.

Stillwater results (top 25)

1. Louisa Ward 20:09; 2. Lily Ward 20:33; 5. Emma Bourne 22:29; 7. Stella Powell 22:51; 9. Annika Fuhrmann 23:38; 12. Lizzy Smitten 23:37; 13. Liv Myers 23:40; 14. Amelia Lehmann 23:58; 16. Sofia Ohmann 24:39; 17. Eloise Powell 24:57; 20. Gaby Lehman 25:57; 21. Heidi Stoffregen 26:12; 22. Molly Goheen 26:37.

**Roseville 79, Stillwater 75
White Bear Lake 84, Stillwater 66
Top 5**

1. Hayden Weddell (WBL) 20:56; 2. John Kubiak (St) 21:20; 3. Kolby Bachmeier (WBL) 21:25; 4. Elliot Kramer (Ros) 21:31; 5. Cory Kurkowski (Ros) 21:49.

Stillwater results (top 25)

2. John Kubiak 21:20; 8. Charles Johnson 22:02; 9. Carson Peterson 22:04; 16. Caden 22:50; 19. Maxwell Smitten 23:17; 22. Kyler Buse 24:03; 23. Everett Lauer 24:11.



KC Hall is now the Stillwater Event Center after Scheel’s catering owner Todd Scheel purchased and updated the venue (Courtesy photo)

CENTER

(Continued from page 1)

month.

Scheel added recessed lighting, new flooring, creating an outdoor patio space for weddings and receptions, and building a bridal suite.

“(We’re) going full board to get it to what I’ve always wanted and dreamt that place to be,” Scheel said.

The venue is 4,000 square feet and has a total capacity of 225.

Even though events are limited at 50% capacity, Scheel has booked events and a couple recently reserved the space for an August wedding.

“What’s going to happen in August? Nobody really knows as far as when things are going to open full or not,” Scheel said, “but people are booking; they’re cautiously booking.”

In 2020, KC Hall still hosted a few weddings but they were held at only 50% of the venue’s capacity, while others opted to reschedule to 2021 — and some were even pushed out to 2022.

“So these poor brides, some of them have now planned their third wedding by moving a date around,” Scheel said.

Scheel expects weddings will be the most integral part of running the Stillwater Event Center.

Scheel enjoys getting to be an integral part of people’s special occasions, and he is looking forward to a day when the event center isn’t hindered by COVID, and his event center can help people have their special day without the restrictions.

“There’s nothing more satisfying than at the end of the night seeing the smiles on everyone’s faces, and knowing we’ve done a great thing for someone,” Scheel said. “I’m very excited about this. I’m very grateful this opportunity came about, and have an opportunity to grow here in the community.”

To book an event at the Stillwater Event Center, call 651-430-3274 or visit stillwatereventcenter.com.

Contact Matt DeBow at Matt.DeBow@apgecm.com.

St. Croix Prep Students advance to state debate tournament

Six student finalists from the St. Croix Preparatory Academy = advanced to the Minnesota State High School League debate tournament.

The six students are: Avery DeWitt, 11th grade, Alexandriana Davis, ninth grade, Addison Erickson, seventh grade, Andrea Pugh, seventh grade, Liam Davis, seventh grade and Samik Vanavasam, ninth grade.

The students competed in the Section 4A Debate Tournament for a chance to compete at the MSHSL tournament.

Four debaters, Addison Erickson, Andrea Pugh, Liam Davis and Samik Vanavasam, competed in policy debate, a two-person team event. Two of the debaters, Avery DeWitt and Alexandriana Davis, competed in Lincoln-Douglas debate,

a one-on-one debate format.

Erickson and Pugh took home third place and L. Davis and Vanavasam took home fourth place. DeWitt took home second place in Lincoln-Douglas debate and A. Davis took home second place in Lincoln-Douglas debate.

These six debaters represented St. Croix Prep at the 2021 MSHSL State Debate Tournament.

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RETAIL

(Continued from page 1)

on Facebook videos six days a week.

“That first video (we sold) was like \$38,” Williams said. “Well OK, \$38 is better than nothing. So the next day we did \$160.”

By the second week of the Facebook videos, they were selling \$2,500 a day.

“And people were starting to give really good feedback because everybody was stuck at home, and it was just me and Camille here,” Ellison said. “We were hearing feedback for women that ‘this is the best part of my day.’ So we were their happy place, this gave us motivation.”

In March when Gov. Tim Walz ordered all non-essential businesses to temporarily shutter, Williams ordered a large amount of inventory that as a small business she had to pay for immediately.

“I thought for sure we were going to close because I did not plan

for this,” Williams said.

But Williams was determined to make her outlet work.

“I was a new owner, there was no way I could fail that quickly,” Williams said.

Often, retailers must be dynamic and change with the times — but Williams was forced to adapt almost instantly to changes thrown at her in 2020 — she found a lifeline with the Facebook videos.

Once the videos took off, Williams started ordering products from vendors to their delightful surprise.

“They were like ‘What! You want to order? All we’re getting is cancellation calls,’” Williams said. “I know, but we’ve never done videos before.”

In December 2020 the store was up 24% in sales from December 2019. A fact that made the owner giddy while talking to *The Gazette*.

Williams also credits the social media marketing campaign in helping her store become one of the top five performing Main-

stream Boutiques in the country.

When the governor’s spring lockdown order lifted, business started increasing at the Oak Park Heights Mainstream Boutique, 5815 Neal Ave. N.

“Because we had that added business,” Williams said. “I was thinking now people would stop social media and then they’ll just want to shop.”

But that wasn’t the case, and the store ended the year at only 3% down from sales in 2019. 2019 was Mainstream’s boutique highest earning year in the store’s history.

“In the end, it’s really cool because it’s taught us that we can roll with all the punches,” inventory manager Kyra Roettger added. “We can wear masks; we can sanitize; we can do whatever is thrown at us and we’ve got a really good team here.”

Another obstacle

In early November, Williams was dealt one more hurdle when the store was robbed, and about \$40,000 worth of merchandise

was stolen.

“The nine years this place was in business, there was never a break in,” Williams said. “But my detective manager here Kate was just so offended by the break-in. She was just not going to lay down.”

Ellison tracked down surveillance coverage from a nearby restaurant tenant. The footage helped the Oak Park Heights Police track down approximately \$17,000 of the stolen merchandise, and the case is still in progress.

“That was just so violating,” Ellison said. “(Williams) had been working hard the whole year. I felt bad just for everything you had been through this year.”

However, much of the recovered product isn’t resellable.

“We didn’t put any on the floor,” Williams said. “I (still) haven’t figured out what to do with it.”

Learning from adversity

There are a few key takeaways, Williams and her staff have

learned from surviving the pandemic and a burglary.

“I’ve learned really and truly to go with the flow,” Williams said. “I mean be dynamic with our business. I analyze our business every single Sunday on what worked, what didn’t and what did we used to do.”

Shortly before Thanksgiving Gov. Walz ordered another lockdown because of surging COVID-19 cases in the state.

Those measures closed in-person dining along with gyms, but those measures didn’t affect retailers.

With those recent closure measures, Williams is unsure if patrons will come into the store, and she is working to determine how to best continue her marketing. However, she knows her store has the support of St. Croix Valley citizens.

“I learned that people really do believe in their local communities,” Williams said. “That’s been the greatest thing that I’ve learned. We’ve always said that, but we really felt that this year.”

Shopko Optical to build new center in Oak Park Heights

Shopko Optical will open a new center at 13189 60th St. N., Oak Park Heights and is slated to open in April

The center will offer eye care services such as eye exams, contact lens fitting

and diagnosis and treatment of eye disease, according to a press release from Shopko Optical.

With the opening of Shopko Optical in Oak Park Heights, the business estimates it will create five to seven jobs in Oak Park Heights, the release states. Shopko Optical accepts most major vision coverage.

To certify coverage, book an appointment with an optometrist or find a Shopko Optical center, visit Shopko.com.

County library celebrates writers with author series

To kick off the New Year, Washington County Library will be hosting

a virtual series featuring Minnesota writers.

The series, “Write in our Midst” will take place from 7-8:30 p.m. on the following dates: Kao Kalia Yang Jan. 26; Marcie Rendon Feb. 2; Gretchen Anthony Feb. 9; Bill Green Feb. 23; Shannon Gibney

During each talk, the authors will discuss their

work and answer audience questions. Registration is required for this program held via Zoom. Register online at WashCoLib.org/Events.

Washington County Library also is organizing a community book scavenger hunt to coincide with the author series.

During each week leading up to an author talk, a

book from that writer will be hidden somewhere in the county.

Clues will be shared on social media and at WashCoLib.org.

If you find the book, you get to keep it.

This program is funded by Minnesota’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

LIBRARY

(Continued from page 14)

this kit, students will learn a simple step-by-step process to sculpt a unicorn. Add some sequins and a little dazzle, and this project is a dream come true for any unicorn enthusiast. Please register, and you will receive an email with instructions to pick up your kit. Kit pickups will start on Saturday, Feb. 13, but the instructional video can be viewed anytime.

This free class is designed for children in grades K-5. Visit the online events calendar on the Library’s website to register.

Winter Reads 2021

Need a boost this winter? Read or listen to books and enter to win a book bundle prize!

Ask for a Winter Reads packet when you pick up your materials, and then drop off your entry form on your next visit or in the book drop. Share what you’re reading on our Facebook page using #WinterReads. Please call us at the Library or email books@bayportlibrary.org if you have any questions!

Winter Reads is sponsored by MELSA, metro public libraries and Bayport Public Library.

Reading challenge

To participate, please sign up on Beanstack: <https://stillwaterbayportlibrary.beanstack.org/reader365>

Earn virtual badges and log your reading time! Participants will be eligible for surprise prizes throughout January and February!

Homework help

Click on Homework Help from our website: <http://www.bayportlibrary.org/homework-help/>.

Live tutors are available to assist online from 1 to 11 p.m.. Find a subject expert to make your homework a snap! You can also upload writing samples for feedback. Brought to you by MELSA.

Scavenger Hunt

Come hunt for Gingerbread people hiding in the Library windows!

Quote of the week

“I always felt if I can get to a library, I’ll be ok.” ~ Maya Angelou

Obituaries

Clara M. Slayhi

Age 91 of Stillwater

Clara passed away peacefully on January 12, 2021 with her husband and daughters by her side.

Clara was born in McVille, ND on October 20, 1929. She moved to Forest Lake and graduated from Forest Lake High School. After Clara’s high school graduation, she went to business school to become an administrative assistant. She then went on to become administrative support staff for the US Government in the Department of US Aide for 10 years. During that time, she resided in US embassy compounds in South Korea, Cambodia, Vietnam, India, Turkey, Yemen. Clara met Khaled in Yemen in 1965. The two married in 1966. They had an extensive one-month honeymoon throughout Europe. Travel was especially important to her. In 1966, the couple returned to the US and settled in Minneapolis to start a life together. They raised two daughters in NE Minneapolis and eventually moved to Stillwater. While raising two daughters, Clara managed to get her 4 year teaching degree while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. Clara loved to bake and was an avid Bible reader with a strong faith. She was an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Stillwater.

Clara is preceded in death by her parents, Reuben and Margaret Settevig; sister, Barbara Boddy.

She is survived by her loving husband of 54 years, Khaled M. Slayhi; daughters, Mariam (Rich Fenton) Slayhi, Ida (Eric) Tessmer; granddaughters, Juna Slayhi Fenton and Emma Tessmer; many nieces, nephews, and siblings.

Private Family Service. Interment at Rutherford Cemetery, Stillwater. Livestream was available at www.facebook.com/trinitylstillwater on Saturday, January 16th at 10 a.m. Please direct memorials to Bradshaw, 2800 Curve Crest Blvd, Stillwater – ATTN: Slayhi Family.



Evelyn A. Nitso

Evelyn A. Nitso, prayerful sister, aunt and friend, passed away January 13, 2021, at the age of 86.

She is survived by her dear brother, Walter Holmes; cousins; and three generations of nieces and nephews.

She served her country in the Air Force, worked for Ebenezer Society, Memorial Blood Center, and volunteered many hours of her time at Park Elder Center. She loved to travel, read, write, talk, laugh and sing. She will be missed for her kind, generous and gentle spirit. Many thanks to those that helped care for her over the last three years, including her friends and roommates at The Estates at Greeley. Special thanks to her beloved family at Gospel Light Baptist Church in Minneapolis.

Interment was at Fort Snelling. A memorial service is planned at Gospel Light Baptist Church on February 27, 2021 at 11 a.m. Memorials preferred to Gospel Light Baptist Church.



Judith Ann Hansen

Judith Ann Hansen of Stillwater, MN passed away peacefully on January 15, 2021 after fighting to recover from Covid-19.

Judy was a longtime Stillwater resident and was very active in the community. Judy was born on October 12, 1933 in Alexandria, MN and was preceded in death by her parents Frank and Elizabeth Griffith and her husband Martin E. Hansen.

She is survived by her four children David Hansen, Karen (Kyle) Berget, Daniel Hansen, Sheila (Mark) Friedrich; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

She had a long career as an RN and volunteered for many area organizations including Lakeview Hospice. Judy and Marty were instrumental in developing the labyrinth at Peoples’ Garden in Bayport, MN.

Due to Covid-19, there will not be a public service at this time. Memorials in memory of Judith Hansen can be sent to People’s Congregational Church Garden Fund, 309 N 3rd St., Bayport MN 55003 or to Lakeview Hospice, 1715 Tower Dr. W, Suite 330, Stillwater, MN 55082.



Elaine (Benoe) Johnson

Age 90, of Stillwater, MN, died January 5, 2021 of natural causes.

Elaine was born January 9, 1930 to Bill and Mabel Benoe in Bayport, MN.

Besides her parents, she is predeceased by her sister, Betty Peterson; brother, Bill; twin sister, Ellen Olson; loving husband of 70 years, Bob; and great grandson, Jordan Johnson.

Elaine is survived by her eight children, Tim, Stephen (Missy), Keith (Vicky), Kent (Gayle), Bonnie Holland (Bob), Mary Minor (Howard), Penny Webb, Jackie Johnson (Kurt Shaw); 15 grandchildren, Jeremy, Brian, Jill, Leslie, Jeff, Robert, Taylor, Peter, Sarah, Shelley, Kyle, Shelby, Ashley, Daniel, and Joshua; 16 great grandchildren; nieces, nephews, and friends.

Elaine loved the Lord, her family, her church, playing cards - especially social bridge, cooking/baking, and flowers. Elaine was an enduring fan of NFL football and enjoyed watching Minnesota Twins baseball.

Grateful thanks to the staff at Arbor Glen Senior Living and Brighton Hospice for their loving care of our mother, and to special friend Coral Buchmann.

Mass of Christian Burial at the Church of Saint Michael in Stillwater is planned for June 16, 2021.

Memorials preferred to CommunityThreadMN.org



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Dorothy “Dottie” J. Murray

Dorothy “Dottie” J. Murray, a bright spirit beloved by many, passed away peacefully in Stillwater on January 8, 2021.

She is survived by husband Bill Murray, children Kim Klisch-Baudoin (Roger), Brian Baudoin (Crystal), step-children Michael Murray (Katy), Michelle Murray-Gilbertsen, Rudy Murray (Erin), brothers Mike Mestad (Carol) and Dan Holtorf (Colleen), ten grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Dottie had a vibrant joy in living, a steadfast positive attitude, and strength and spiritual wisdom in the face of life’s challenges.

While raising a family in Hastings, her creativity shined in home decorating, fashion, and fun ideas for her children. She had a weekly radio show, “Potpourri,” on KDWA. She was public relations director for Dakota County Vo-Tech and later worked in real estate.

After marriage to Bill, she moved to Nebraska for a time and completed a bachelor’s degree in art. Her black and white photography won several awards at a local art center.

Her final years back in Minnesota were spent with family and marked by a love for quiet simplicity and beauty in all its forms.

A memorial service will be held in the spring, arrangements by Bradshaw. Memorial gifts may be sent to Lakeview Hospital Foundation, Stillwater, MN.



*Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us
everyday unseen, unheard but
always near, still loved, still missed, and very dear*

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