

SOCCER AWARDS

Huber chosen for MVP for Stillwater girls. Story on page 11



STILLWATER • BAYPORT • OAK PARK HEIGHTS • LAKE ELMO

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In the know

SPORTS

Fall sports seasons will end early for football and volleyball while start of winter sports seasons delayed due to COVID-19.

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Sixteen Stillwater Area High School athletes take part in National Signing Day.

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Stillwater senior Ana Weaver places fourth in XC Town USA Meet of Champions.

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History – Blue laws in Stillwater caused a fight between a reverend and a peanut vendor.

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Your Voice – Local letter writer thanks the American Legion for last week's Veterans Day service

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FROM THE GAZETTE FILES

Nov. 20, 1920 – Circulars were scattered around Stillwater Saturday night signed "By One Who Knows," denouncing the mayor and the police force for gambling the non-arrest of those who are alleged to be selling moonshine and other intoxicating beverages. Who is responsible for the circular is not known positively, but it is pretty generally believed it is known where it was printed and the author. The charges will be fully answered in a day or two by a citizen and be given publicity through the columns of The Gazette.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

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State shuts more businesses as virus spreads

The governor said the 'pause' will last for four weeks starting today

BY STEVE KARNOWSKI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz on Wednesday, Nov. 18, imposed

four weeks' worth of new COVID-19 restrictions as the spread spiked to an all-time high, shutting down bars, restaurants and fitness centers, while pausing

social gatherings and organized amateur sports.

The announcement came on a day when Minnesota recorded a record 67 new COVID-19-related deaths, pushing the state's toll to 3,010. State officials said they expected to top 300,000 cases sometime next week.

The governor said in an address it made a difference when Minnesotans endured a lockdown last spring, and that they need to take a pause again to protect a health care system that is at a breaking

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From dance to decorations

Adjusting to the pandemic, dance teacher transforms studio into store

BY MATT DEBOW
THE GAZETTE

Angeline Gard owned and ran Plie Dance Studio in Oak Park Heights for 13 years, but once the COVID-19 pandemic hit, she turned the 6,500 square foot, two-level dance studio into a multi-vendor boutique called Rust and Rose.

Gard planned to retire from teaching dance in a few years as she is in her 40s, which she said is old for a dancing, but as with many aspects of life upended this year she was forced to adapt quickly.

"I was going to hand it over to my assistant director in about three years -- this was before COVID hit -- and then COVID hit," Gard said. "So my landlord wasn't going to let me out of my lease and I had three years left on it."

Before teaching dance, Gard owned a boutique on Mille Lacs Lake, and she thought it was something she could pursue again.

"I always thought, 'with this space, this would be a cool little event hall, or maybe a cool boutique,'" Gard said. "These were just things in the back of my



Angeline Gard poses in front of her section at Rust and Rose Boutique. Gard transformed her former dance studio into a boutique as a way to adapt from changing conditions caused by the pandemic. (Gazette staff photo by Matt DeBow)

mind, but I never did anything about them."

When the coronavirus pan-

demic began, Gard didn't feel there was a safe — or effective — way to continue teaching dance

to children who made up the majority of her students.

"It was a very established business; it was a very successful business," Gard said. "It was a heart-breaking choice to make."

However, she knew with COVID that it wasn't much of a choice anyway as people were losing their jobs, and many had to prioritize purchasing food over paying for ballet classes. That left Gard seeking out a way to move forward.

"So what I need is, I need to get people in here to sublease from me," she thought.

Her landlord agreed to the subleases, and Rust and Rose boutique was born last summer.

A fresh start

Now, 13 vendors lease space in the boutique marketplace, each selling different trinkets or items. Gard describes compares her new business similar to a flea market, but the items for sale are a bit more upscale than the standard seasonal second-hand marketplace.

Gard often gets told she was crazy to open a retail space in the midst of a pandemic, but the former dance instructor frequently responds necessity drove her decision.

"It was something I created out of a need, and sort of a

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Main Street, Lift Bridge to brighten Stillwater with lights

BY MATT DEBOW
THE GAZETTE

Main Street downtown — and the south side of the Stillwater Lift Bridge — will be decorated with festive lights throughout the holiday season.

The concept to get the city in a festive spirit came as the city of Stillwater, Greater Stillwater Area Chamber of Commerce, Discover Stillwater Convention & Visitor Bureau and local businesses met collaborating on ways to assist and promote local businesses as the COVID-19 pandemic wreaked havoc with the economy, according to a press release from the chamber. One idea was promoting Stillwater by decorating downtown with holiday lights during winter months.

That idea is now a reality as the Stillwater City Council approved a contract on Nov. 10 with lighting vendor Holiday Lighting and

Design for the downtown display. The contract states the city will pay the lighting company, based in Hopkins, about \$48,000 for the purchase and installation of the downtown display and the lighting of the lift bridge.

Holiday Lighting and Design will install the lights each year for the next three years. The contract also includes storage fees for when the lights are not in use.

During the City Council's Nov. 10 meeting, Mayor Ted Kozlowski said the idea was "To come up collectively to turn Stillwater into the quintessential winter village we all know it could be."

Kozlowski noted there were several bureaucratic hurdles to earn permission from different agencies to decorate the bridge, and the Lift Bridge is on the National Register of Historic Places.

"Lighting that bridge wasn't the world's easiest thing to get accomplished," Kozlowski said.



For the first time in its history the Historic Lift Bridge will be lit up with holiday lights this winter. (Gazette staff photo by Matt DeBow)

After approving the required limited use permit with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for lighting the bridge, the mayor and council visibly showed excitement.

"And for the first time in its history we're going to light up the lift bridge with Christmas lights,"

Kozlowski said with a smile moments and a few chuckles from him and fellow board members. "That's awesome."

The mayor also expressed excitement after passing the

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ADAPTING

(Continued from page 1)

survival instinct," she said, "but it was always something I wanted to do anyways. It just came a bit earlier than I wanted it to. It just was what can I do to make it work? What can I do to survive?"

Rust and Rose Boutique opened on July 11, and Gard found it was a bit of a shot in the dark on how well her new endeavor would work out — so far, however, she has found early success.

"Everyone has been sort of overwhelmingly supportive," Gard said. "Since we've only been open for four months we've had tons of repeat customers already."

Gard thinks she has found a niche that serves the Stillwater/Oak Park heights community well.

"I think there's a hunger out there for ladies who love to shop," Gard said.

Social safety standards

Gard also takes private appointments on days the business is closed to the public as a way for those who want to minimize the amount of contact they have with other people. The store also offers a large space to keep distance from others.

"The thing about this building is that it is big enough that you can safely social distance and shop," Gard said.

Gard and her assistant are the ones managing the stores most days, but the

other vendors are required to work two days a month — or they can pay and have Gard's assistant work instead.

The system makes it so staffing is limited helping to maintain social distancing and there are only ever two vendors selling their wares at the same time.

Gard's own section is the main space in the larger downstairs portion of the building. She describes her own section as a gifts and home décor.

She also makes candles for and her painting and other artworks are for sale. "My space is pretty eclectic," Gard said.

She chose the name Rust and Rose because her middle name is Rose, and she was named after her grandmother.

"We have a little bit of new and a little bit of rehab," Gard said. "We have a lot of new shiny products, then we have these rusty old rehab products."

When Gard was crafting the idea of her store she wanted her place to be inclusive.

"So no matter who you are, you can find something," Gard said. "So like vintage things; antique things and new things."

The boutique's hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays, and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays.

For more information visit Rust and Rose boutique's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/rustandrosemarket/>.

To make a private appointment, contact Gard at 651-249-4656 or via email at rustandroseboutiquemkt@gmail.com.

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