

Closing for good, Sewnow says goodbye



Sewnow will be closing at the end of January. Photo provided

By Pippa Fisher

It is a business that has touched countless young lives, giving them skills and perhaps

more importantly a safe, “happy place” for over 14 years. But like several other Lafayette institutions, Sewnow will be closing for good at the end of January.

Fashion studio Sewnow owner Susan Goldie explained in a letter to loyal students and families that it is not possible to sustain an in-person business in the current pandemic. For 14 years Goldie has taught professional design fashion, traditional sewing skills, and techniques for creating unique clothing. But for many, it was much more than just sewing lessons.

Karin Husch, whose daughter Julia attended Sewnow and went on to teach there during college vacations while studying at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, says that Goldie created a nurturing environment where kids learned to sew at their own pace.

“I enrolled Julia at Sewnow at age 9 (within the first year Susan opened the studio),” says Husch. “It was instantly her ‘happy place’ and I recall wanting her to always be enrolled in a class there; being at Sewnow was essentially Julia’s ‘recharge’ time.”

“There’s almost nothing as

happy as a group sewing bee with everyone using their creative skills to help out and with happy chatter exchanging all kinds of stories in the room,” says Goldie.

Over the years Sewnow has worked with Boy and Girl Scout troops, helped Stanley students make hand embellished chitons for the Greek Festival, sewn tote bags for tsunami victims in Japan, facilitated group quilt projects for school auctions, hosted workshops for Dress a Girl Around the World, made NICU baby blankets and NCL stockings and more. At the beginning of the pandemic Sewnow turned to making and donating face masks for essential workers.

Julia Husch credits Goldie with nourishing her fashion education, personal growth and career endeavors.

“As a longtime Sewnow student and instructor I hope the passion Susan has instilled in this community’s youth will continue to flourish once the Sewnow doors shut,” says Julia. “I know I will continue to expand my love of creating and pass on the skills and

lessons she has taught me to future young people. I am honored to call Susan Goldie a dear friend.”

Goldie says the best part of the business was always the connection to families, kids, and community. “It’s the a-ha moments, and the huge ‘look what I made’ smiles, that have made our journey so meaningful.

“If I had to pick one highlight, it would be spending creative time with kids who literally have grown up sewing with us – some of our first students are now married and have their own families, and I hear that sewing is still an important part of their lives, whether as a hobby or a livelihood.”

Goldie plans to take some time to rest and recharge before moving forward with her textile and artwork endeavors. She plans to write about it in her blog (see below). Goldie says she is working on a resource list for classes, supplies, and machine repairs for people who are asking how they can continue to sew. Details will be available on her website, below.

Goldie’s blog can be found at www.goldielimitededitions.com
A resource list can be found on the Sewnow website at <http://sewnow.com/>

Food trucks pop up at the Roundup



Photo provided

Food trucks visit the Roundup Thursdays through Saturdays.

By Pippa Fisher

Lafayette’s long-established Roundup Saloon is turning to a variety of food trucks to bring customers in to help them weather the storm during the pandemic.

The food trucks will be there Thursdays through Saturdays, says Roundup owner Karen Johnson, “and any

other day I can find a truck.” She says that in this tough year being able to open even a little bit helps a lot.

The Roundup was shut down from mid-March until November, and then open for outdoor seating only until mid-December before having to shut down again. Johnson says the trucks don’t bring in a lot of money but it helps

cover some of the monthly expenses of the bar. And she says that it’s also nice to open the doors and see their customers’ support.

“Having your livelihood taken away has been extremely difficult, both financially and emotionally,” says Johnson. “Our employees have also been struggling trying to make ends meet. It’s hard because we are like a family and we feel responsible for them. We feel helpless not being able to do anything for them.”

Food trucks that will be coming include The Forge Fire Truck, Flavors of Cali, Charlie’s Food Trailer, Cousins Maine Lobster, and Cocina Danzon.

Johnson says the good news is that the Roundup is not in danger of going under. “We are plugging along,” she says.

And she remains optimistic, looking to the future. “We will be back, stronger than ever, as soon as possible.”

Saint Mary’s College names its 30th president



Photo provided

Incoming SMC president Richard G. Plumb, PhD

By Vera Kochan

Richard G. Plumb, PhD, will take the reigns as the 30th president of Saint Mary’s College beginning July 1. Plumb will replace President James Donahue who will retire at the end of the 2020-21 school year following eight years at the helm.

Plumb comes to SMC after a 30-year career holding senior leadership positions at Binghamton University in New York, University of Kansas, Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, and University of St. Thomas in Minnesota where he has been since 2014.

After a nationwide search involving SMC trustees, Christian Brothers, faculty, staff and alumni, Plumb was unanimously appointed by

the college’s board of trustees. “Richard’s passion for Saint Mary’s and Catholic higher education, along with his considerable accomplishments, made him the standout candidate in a competitive national pool of applicants,” said Board of Trustees Chairperson Kevin Nagle. “We are excited to have him join the Saint Mary’s community.”

Plumb joins SMC with experience in capital planning, shared governance, curriculum development, financial management, and strategic planning. “Richard not only understands the issues facing higher education today, he demonstrated to us how a university can succeed in today’s environment,” explained SMC Trustee/Search Committee Co-Chair Kim Vogel. “Richard’s considerable experience in fundraising, program development, and diversity initiatives made it clear that his unifying vision can lead Saint Mary’s to the next level.”

“Saint Mary’s College holds a distinctive and highly admired place in the landscape of higher education, and I am deeply honored to be appointed as the College’s next president,” stated Plumb. “I look forward to working collaboratively with the talented leadership at Saint Mary’s to make the college an international leader in Catholic liberal arts education.”



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