Scott Anderson file photo

Margo Landman and her sister Remi of Brookfield smile on Jan. 25, 2025, when watching an Eastern screech owl from the Illinois Raptor Center during Eagle Watch Weekend inside the Great Hall at Starved Rock Lodge.

• EAGLE WATCH

Continued from page 3

also welcomes the influx of eagle fans, agreeing that informed and well-educated visitors are more likely to abide by the federal protections afforded to eagles.

However, Wire said, one trend worries him: drones. A few eagle fanatics have flown cameras into the river in hopes of getting a premium photo, only to disrupt and disperse the birds.

"It can be considered harassment of wildlife," Wire said, warning perpetrators of legal consequences. "We don't have a lot of problems, but we do see it occasionally."

Overall, park staff find that the public can't get enough of the eagles and will gobble up programs offered during the weekend. Programs will be held at Starved Rock Lodge, Illinois Waterway Visitor Center (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) and Starved Rock Welcome Center (Heritage Destinations). Educational presentations feature live animals, conducted by wildlife rehabilitation specialists and field experts.

"As a park naturalist and enthusiastic bird watcher, I am consistently pleased to witness the public's interest in wildlife, particularly in our nation's emblem, the bald eagle," Sons said. "Observing the spark of curiosity and wonder on a park visitor's face when they discover intriguing facts about the bald eagle or spot one gliding overhead in its natural habitat is among the most rewarding experiences for a naturalist.

"This singular encounter ensures that the visitor will recount their memory to others, thereby promoting awareness about this magnificent creature and the experience itself."

To see a full timetable of events on offer, go online to utica-il.gov/events-new/2026-eagle-watch-weekend

LOCAL NEWS BRIEF

Putnam libraries offer health checks and Cupid program

Putnam County Public Library District will offer health screenings and a historical presentation in early February.

IHCC will provide free health checks, including blood pressure, blood sugar and oxygen readings at 3 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month through February at the Granville branch.

Historical presenter Michelle Gibbons will perform "Cupid Reimagined: Tales of Love and Mischief" at 12:30 p.m. Feb. 5 at the Standard branch.

Gibbons will portray Cupid as a goddess of love, tracing the figure's history from Roman mythology through the evolution of Valentine's Day and 19th-century commercialization, according to the library.

The performance includes fictional tales of matchmaking magic and time-traveling romance.

For more information, contact your local library branch.

– Shaw Local News Network

Village of Hennepin Residents

As a reminder, Golf carts and UTVs must be registered with the Village be used on Village streets. Each year, a new color-coded sticker must If your vehicle was registered in 2025, you will receive a reminder email. If you change vehicles, a new form will be required. Cost per You can find the registration form on our website at www.villageof or request one by calling 815-925-7138. You may also stop by the Wednesday afternoons to fill out a form and pay your fee. Mail ye registration form (if needed) with the $10 registration fee to Village of Box 194, Hennepin, IL 61327. You will receive your color-coded stick Thank you for your cooperation.

Hennepin Village Board of Trustees

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