

New bar opening, longtime Illinois Valley photographer retiring

Little ones grow up, capturing the special relationships in your life, and even pre-serving a memory of a parent who has since passed," Kinzer wrote in the announcement on her business' social media accounts.

"This decision comes with mixed emotions. I know the time is right and want to go out on my own terms."

She said she is looking forward to several mentor relationships with upstart photographers and perhaps classes on professional-quality photos that people could take at home. Kinzer said she is looking forward to more family time, traveling and possibly another business venture.

She thanked her longtime business partner, Susan Bellino.

• *The Times / NewsTribune / Bureau County Republican is committed to keeping readers up to date with business happenings in the area. Much of our reporting relies on what we see and hear, but we're also reaching out to readers for tips on business items. If you have a tip to share for Eyes on Enterprise, email newsroom@mywebtimes.com.*

EYES ON ENTERPRISE



Stephanie Jaquins

Bar, purchased Valley Flowers in 2024.

In a Facebook post making the announcement, Tonioni said the merger will allow a wider variety of fresh floral designs, more event and wedding options, and enhanced customer service.

"Thank you for your continued support," Tonioni wrote. "We're so excited for this new chapter and can't wait to bloom with you."

Utica photographer announces retirement

Blue Truck Photography will close its doors this fall. After 15 years, Diane Kinzer announced her plans to retire at the end of October.

"To the thousands of families and little ones who've trusted me with your most special moments, thank you! Throughout these years, through the lens of my camera, I had the privilege of watching your

A new bar and restaurant is set to open this fall in downtown La Salle.

The Thirty Mule, a nod to the miles that pulled the boats through the Illinois and Michigan Canal, will open at 541 1st St., the location of the former Social Kitchen that closed in 2019.

Owners Dayne Junker and Shayn Donahue hope to have a soft opening for the bar by mid-October. The kitchen likely won't be operating until the end of the year. To start, the menu will be simple, with appetizers, burgers, pizzas and a soup and salad bar for lunch. Daily specials will be offered as well.

"As time goes on, I'd like to expand a little more, but for the beginning, we just want to keep it simple," Junker said.

Junker and Donahue also own The Backstreet in La Salle.

Valley Flowers to merge with Flower Bar

Valley Flowers is moving to Peru. The Spring Valley floral shop is merging with the Flower Bar, 2428 4th St., effective Tuesday, Sept. 2.

Nikki Tonioni, owner of the Flower

PUTNAM LIBRARY DISTRICT NEWS

Tales with Tails reading dog returns to Putnam libraries

Putnam County Public Library District welcomes back Hobo, a certified reading dog, to the Granville branch this fall as part of the Tales with Tails program.

This literacy initiative offers children a unique and supportive opportunity to practice reading aloud to certified therapy dogs. The calm and nonjudgmental environment helps young readers build confidence, improve fluency, and discover the joy of reading in a fun, rewarding way.

Program dates

- 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 13
- 5 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 23
- 10 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 11
- 5 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 28
- 10 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 8

The Tales with Tails program is free and open to the public. All sessions will be at

Dalzell church resumes pasta sales in September

St. Thomas More site in Dalzell. The cost will return to Dalzell's Catholic church at the St. Thomas More site in Dalzell. The cost is \$9 a bag.

To pace an order, leaving a message at 815-252-2215.

Granville library to hold two prize drawings in September

The Granville branch of the Putnam County Public Library District will celebrate September with two prize drawings tied to special events and programs.

National Library Card Sign-Up Month Prize Drawing

In honor of National Library Card Sign-Up Month, the Granville Branch offers a chance to win a prize bundle featuring three adult books tied to this month's programs, a book light, a book charades card game, and a ceramic mug.

Entering is simple: just complete one of the following: sign up for a library card (if you don't already have one), check out a book, or attend a program. Once completed, fill out an entry form and drop it in the basket.

Public information, call 815-339-2038.

Messages should include a name, phone number and the number of bags.

815-252-2215.

— *Tom Collins*

— *Shaw Local News Network*