

For Immediate Release:

For Additional Information Contact:

Lea Stuckemeyer AVP,

Consumer Banking

Phone: (866) 720-8662

Altamont, Illinois: As a community bank, Peoples Bank & Trust recognizes the value of volunteerism in our communities. To recognize, commend and promote the volunteerism, Peoples Bank & Trust has established a program to recognize outstanding community members for their volunteer efforts of improvement to our community.

Julie Seales has been selected as the Altamont volunteer of the quarter for the 2nd quarter of 2025. Julie is instrumental in keeping the Altamont Living Museum, the Little Ryman going with Blue Grass music filling its rafters. Julie is quick to add there are several other members and board members that help make it work. They include Mary Jo Kessler, Cindy Johnson, Missy and Larry Dunaway, Randall and Janet Stierwalt, Elijah Doty and Chuck Levitt.

Julie and the group recently repainted the walls and the stage, updated the bathrooms, installed exit lights and landscaping. The building that was once home to the First Presbyterian Church of Altamont eventually became the Altamont Living Museum and Little Ryman, located at 102 South Main Street. The venue was a weekly host to the country and bluegrass sounds of the Altamont Opry every Tuesday night. Remaining are the old stain glass windows from the church that give the old sanctuary a colorful natural glow, while the original church pews still provide seating for any guests that may want to visit in the future. The Little Ryman stage featured both music and theater productions over the years.

The theater productions continued for a while after the music shows were discontinued. The venue eventually shut down. However, in 2020 the efforts were made to revive the music venue. Bruce Kessler and Elijah Doty were two of the major driving forces to reopen the Altamont Living Museum, as The Little Ryman.

Today shows are held the second and fourth Tuesday evenings and it is a free will donation for all to come. They have had Long Point Country, Joe Mullins and The Radio Ramblers, Joe Arview, Missy Dunaway and Legacy Country and Bryor Rhodes. Occasionally they will throw in a Sunday afternoon or Friday evening performance as well. On a good night, they have about 50 but the venue has the capacity to hold 125 so come on over, down or up and enjoy the sounds of Blue Grass music.

Peoples Bank & Trust will be honoring Julie Seales with a monetary donation to the Altamont Living Museum and her name will also be placed on a plaque to be displayed at the bank.

Peoples Bank & Trust is an independent Community Bank with thirteen offices located in Pana, Taylorville, Altamont, Tower Hill, Charleston, Springfield, Arthur, Arcola, Tuscola, Morrisonville, Palmyra, Waverly and White Hall. Peoples is a full service bank offering outstanding customer service to consumers, small business, and farmers in Central Illinois. People First Bancshares, Inc., with corporate offices in Pana, Illinois, is the holding company for Peoples Bank & Trust.