

Rotary Club to host Illinois River ports speaker for Ag Night

SHAW LOCAL NEWS NETWORK
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The Putnam County Rotary Club will host Ag Night 2025 at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 27, at the Putnam County High School in Granville.

Continuing a tradition dating five decades, Putnam County Rotary hosts the event in conjunction with National Agriculture Week to honor local farmers and those whose support of agriculture strengthens the local and regional economy and provides food to the population.

This year's featured speaker will be Robert Sinkler, sharing his perspective on the importance of the Illinois River ports in the marketing of locally harvested corn and soybeans. The Illinois Waterway Ports Commission, a consortium of five port districts, including 10 counties along the Illinois River, was created in 2023 under the

leadership of Sinkler, dedicated to the protection and preservation of the river for commerce and recreation. That commission is one of four Midwest ports, collectively referred to as the Corn Belt Ports, of which Sinkler now serves as executive coordinating director.

With federal recognition, the Commission has helped attract and fund projects to refurbish and modernize aging locks and dams, and to bring new river-dependent commercial infrastructure projects to the waterways. Among Corn Belt's greatest projects will be a federally funded \$38.6 million new 700-foot loading dock, conveyor system and storage facility at



Robert Sinkler

the Hennepin Barge Terminal, primarily for soybean products.

The speaker's background includes past leadership service in numerous government and Army Corps of Engineers positions, as well as executive positions with biotech leader Allonnia, technology leader Intrexon and water resources company Dawson & Associates.

The Illinois River plays an important role in corn and soybean markets, facilitating downstream and export sales. The Illinois Waterway Ports alone handle more than 14 million tons of freight annually from the Illinois River Watershed, which includes nearly half of the state's agricultural land and some 90% of the state's population.

For reservations, email PutnamCountyRotary@gmail.com by March 20. Cost includes dinner and dessert for \$18 a person or \$162 for a table of 10.

Granville library to show 'The Codebreaker' on March 18

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The Putnam County Public Library will host at the Granville branch a movie matinee of "The Codebreaker," at 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, in honor of Women's History Month.

Based on the book, "The Woman Who Smashed Codes: A True Story of Love, Spies, and the Unlikely Heroine Who Outwitted America's Enemies," the docu-

mentary reveals the story of Elizebeth Smith Friedman, the groundbreaking cryptanalyst whose painstaking work to decode thousands of messages for the U.S. government would send gangsters to prison in the 1930s and bring down a massive, near-invisible Nazi spy ring in World War II.

Friedman's contributions would come to light decades after her death when secret government files were unsealed. But together with her husband, the leg-

endary cryptologist William Friedman, she helped develop the methods that led to the creation of the powerful new science of cryptology and laid the foundation for modern codebreaking today.

The documentary is 52 minutes in length, rated PG and made possible through public performance rights through Kanopy. Refreshments will be served. The Granville branch is located at 214 S. McCoy St. For information, call the library at 815-339-2038.

LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

Granville K of C to host fish fry March 14

The Granville Knights of Columbus will host a fish fry from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Friday, March 14, at the Sacred Heart Church Hall, 311 Hennepin St.

Dine-in and carryout options will be available.

Mallard Ensemble to sing at MPRT meeting

The Mallard Ensemble, directed by Robert Eckert, will sing the Marshall-Putnam Retired Teachers into spring at 10 a.m. Tuesday,

March 18, at the American Legion Building in Henry.

Eckert initiated the Mallard Ensemble 23 years ago. Each year he chooses outstanding voices for this elite group. Over the years they have received top ratings in jazz and madrigal singing at the IHSA contest. Through their reputation for musicianship, they sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" at Peoria Chiefs and Rivermen games, Lincoln Day dinners and the Teachers' Institute at Metamora. This is a sample of their many honors.

The public is invited to join the MPRTA for

this program that will follow the business meeting.

Standard library to host Ruth Bader Ginsburg presentation

Historical presenter Michelle Gibbons will portray Ruth Bader Ginsburg at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, at the Standard branch of the Putnam County Library, 128 First St.

Gibbons will explain firsthand how her fight for women's rights led to greater freedom for all. She will explain how her brave actions created an iconic yet unintended status.

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