

Overnight storms black out Putnam County

'It was a mess,' Putnam County sheriff says

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Putnam County was hit hard with straight-line winds Friday night into Saturday morning, leaving hundreds without power. There were, however, no injuries.

Most of the Illinois Valley was, and remains, under a wind advisory issued. Late Friday, the area was hit with storms that drenched the region into the wee hours Saturday.

The National Weather Service reported no evidence of any tornado, but the straight-line winds pounded Putnam County.

At 7 a.m. Saturday, Corn Belt Energy reported 380 outages there, affecting three-quarters of its Putnam County customers. Ameren Illinois reported 847 customers without power near Hennepin.

Putnam County Sheriff Josh Boedigheimer reported numerous trees and limbs down, resulting in multiple power line and pole issues. Route 71 was closed from Holmes Road to Florid Road due to downed lines and poles.

"It was a mess," Boedigheimer said. "It was a quick, powerful storm we had in the area."

Was that the result of straight line winds or something worse? The National Weather Service couldn't say. The Quad Cities office, which was collecting data from many Iowa and Illi-



Scott Anderson

A snapped power pole is toppled Saturday along Illinois Route 71 near the intersection of Holmes Road near Hennepin. High winds from Friday's storm caused some power outages across the Illinois Valley.

nois counties, reported Saturday they had no preliminary information on why the outages and tree damage occurred.

City and county officials had been braced for the possibility of wind damage, but most of those interviewed Saturday were heaving sighs of relief. Though Streator and the La Salle County panhandle were listed in a zone showing an elevated risk of storm damage, Streator Police Chief John Franklin reported no downed trees, flooding or outages.

"We had some heavy rain," Franklin allowed, "but it wasn't enough to disrupt things."

La Salle and Bureau counties had fewer outages. Ameren Illinois reported at 7 a.m. nearly 400 without power mostly in Ottawa but also in Marseilles and Spring Valley.

Corn Belt reported just 1% without power in those counties.

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LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

Hennepin library to host crochet night March 27

Sidney Galvar from the Utica Public Library will be at the Hennepin Public Library at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 27, to teach the public how to crochet.

Registration is required. Bring 5 mm crochet needles to participate. For information, call the library at 815-339-2038.

IVCC to offer 4-session Computers Basics and Internet Safety class

Illinois Valley Community College's Continuing Education Department will offer a four-session Computer Basics and Internet Safety class from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays

from March 21 through April 11.

Students will receive practical experience and a fundamental understanding of Windows 11, personal computers and safe internet practices, as well as essential skills such as powering on and logging in, typing basics, navigating desktop applications, internet browsing and email basics. They also will gain tips on staying safe online, including how to identify and avoid scams.

Computer Basics and Internet Safety will meet in Room 112 at the Ottawa Center, 321 W. Main St., Ottawa. The class ID is 19641, and costs \$149. To register, call 815-224-0547 or visit ivcc.edu/enroll.

Workshop set at Granville library to create butterfly collage

The Putnam County Public Library District will host an art workshop, at the Granville branch, at 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 25.

Participants are invited to create a butterfly collage using recycled books to welcome spring.

All supplies will be provided. This workshop is free and open to the public. The library is at 214 S. McCoy St., Granville.

For information, call the library at 815-339-2038.

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