

Creating a hometown tradition

Putnam County High hosts first homecoming week as part of Red Devils

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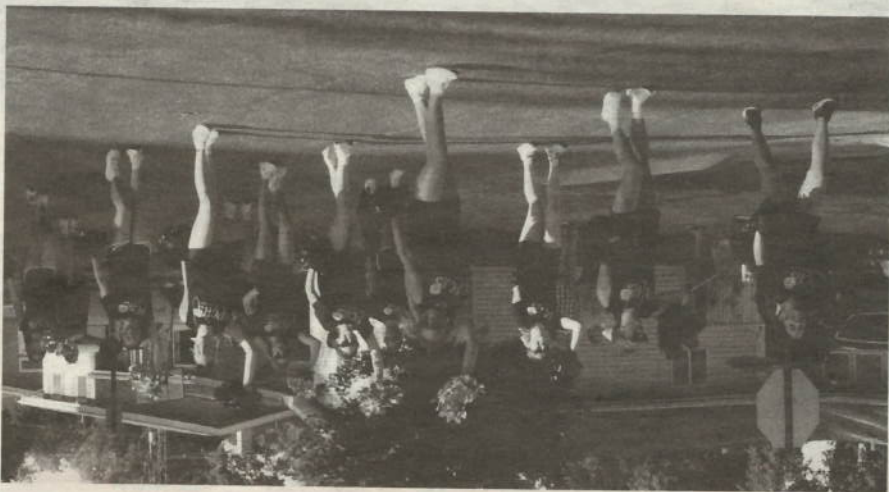
In 1975, the newly established Putnam County Consolidated United School District 535 graduated its first class of seniors from the new high school located in Granville.

In the 50 years since, the district has never established a football program and - depending on who you ask - you might hear a couple of different reasons as to why.

Some would say that with about 50 students in each grade, Putnam County High School never had enough students interested in pursuing its own football program. However, more likely than not, most people have heard an often-told urban legend that the original landowner sold the necessary property to the school district with the express understanding that football would never be played at PCHS.

Back in 2021, superintendent Dr. Clayton Theisinger and other high school administrators saw a growing interest from students surrounding football, so they decided to get to the bottom of why there had been no football in PCCUSD.

After searching school records and documents filed with the village of Granville and Putnam County, Theisinger found nothing to prevent PCCUSD from starting its own program - other than the excessive cost involved. He then recruited the help of the



Scott Anderson

Putnam County High School cheerleaders march during the inaugural Homecoming parade Sept. 17, down Elm Street in Granville.

brother and sister high school teaching duo, Bethany and Chris Newsome, to see if there was another way to get their students into football.

Forgoing the cost of its own program, PCCUSD entered an agreement in 2021 to join the Illinois Valley Youth Football League Cooperative. Theisinger said in the first year, the district sent 12 high school boys to Hall High School in Spring Valley, where they began to practice and play as Hall Red Devils. "It's grown to about 20 students this year," he said.

Bethany, a high school English teacher, and Chris, the assistant high school principal and district athletic

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LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

Putnam County Libraries closed for Columbus Day holiday

All branches of the Putnam County Library will be closed Monday, Oct. 13, in observance of the Columbus Day holiday. Library services will resume normal hours Tuesday, Oct. 14.

Putnam Library to screen 'Great Mammoth Mystery' documentary

The Putnam County Public Library District will host a free screening of the NOVA documentary "Great Mammoth Mystery" at 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9, at the Condit Branch, 105 N. Center St.

53-minute film explores a significant discovery in southern England where amateur fossil hunters uncovered giant mammoth bones alongside evidence of Neanderthals.

Narrated by Sir David Attenborough, the 53-minute film explores a significant discovery in southern England where amateur fossil hunters uncovered giant mammoth bones alongside evidence of Neanderthals. The documentary examines how early humans survived the Ice Age, their hunting techniques and their interactions with prehistoric creatures. Viewers will see hands-on experiments with replicas of Neanderthal spears and stone tools that bring prehistoric Britain to life. The screening is open to the public and made possible through public performance rights provided by Kanopy. For more

Putnam County Methodist Churches host blood drive Oct. 13

Putnam County Methodist Churches will host a community blood drive from 1 to 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 13, at McNabb Fire Department, Goldasich Hall, 391 N. Route 89, McNabb. Donors will receive a \$10 Amazon gift card. Register and take advantage of RapidPass online at redcross.org/rapidpass.

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