

The Putnam County Public Library District will launch a community book club series in January 2026 as part of its America250 programming, celebrating the nation's 250th anniversary.

Putnam County Library launches Revolutionary War book club series

January series explores American Revolution through books, film

SHAW LOCAL NEWS NETWORK
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The Putnam County Public Library District will launch a community book club series in January 2026 as part of its America250 programming, celebrating the nation's 250th anniversary.

"Chapter 250: Reading America's Story Together" invites readers of all ages to explore American Revolution history through shared reading, discussion and film. The program is free and open to the public.

Sessions will meet both in person at rotating library branches and online via Zoom. Participants will view segments from the PBS documentary "American Revolution" by Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein and David Schmidt.

January schedule:

Adult Program (Ages 19+): 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the Granville Branch, 214 S. McCoy St. The book is "Reporting the Revolutionary War: Before It Was History, It Was News" by Todd Andrlik.

Virtual participation available at shorturl.at/kVVT4.

The book examines the American Revolution through eighteenth-century newspapers, broadsheets, letters and firsthand accounts from both Patriots and Loyalists.

Teen Program (Ages 13-19): 5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28, at the McNabb Branch, 322 W. Main St., McNabb. The book is "Rebellion 1776" by Laurie Halse Anderson. Virtual participation available at shorturl.at/Yojq6.

Set during the 1776 Siege of Boston, the novel follows 13-year-old Elspeth Culpepper as she navigates a city torn by war and a smallpox epidemic.

Youth Program (Ages 8-14): 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29, at the Condit Branch, 105 N. Center St., Putnam. The books are "Revolutionary Mary" by Karen Blumenthal and "Her Name Was Mary Katherine" by Ella Schwartz. Virtual participation available at shorturl.at/gUvJV.

Both books tell the story of Mary Katharine Goddard, the colonial printer whose name appears on the Declaration of Independence.

Copies of all books are available at the respective library branches. Funding was provided by a WETA PBS grant through America250Illinois.

For more information, call 815-339-2038.

IVCC opens a 2-month waitlist for \$350,000 in scholarships

By **MARIBETH M. WILSON**
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Current and incoming Illinois Valley Community College students can apply for more than \$350,000 in foundation scholarships through Feb. 5 using a single online application, IVCC said in a news release.

A new online program implemented last year streamlines the annual application process.

The software makes the process easy, and since it only happens once a year, foundation Executive Director Tracy Beattie recommended that students take time now to apply. Scholarships will be awarded in May and applied to the 2026-2027 school year.

Awards range and are available in a variety of areas of study, but are tied to specific disciplines.

More than 80 grants are available to students who are undecided or in a state of indecision, but does not offer a discount according to the release.

Students are required to complete a Free Application for Student Aid to be eligible for a Foundation scholarship.

The link to apply is open through February 5 at ivcc.edu.

For information, contact scholarship specialist Donna Smith at 815-224-0551.

LOCAL NEWS BRIEF

IVCC spring 2026 tuition due Dec. 10

Illinois Valley Community College students must pay spring tuition by Dec. 10 or risk being dropped from all classes.

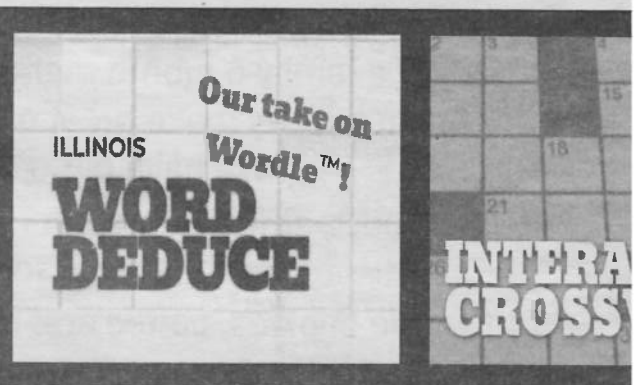
Students can secure their classes by paying tuition in full or setting up a payment plan. Those who are dropped must re-enroll but are not guaranteed the same schedule or classes.

Financial aid recipients should contact the college cashier to defer tuition payments.

Students can arrange to make payments and enroll online through the college's student portal at ivcc-ss.collegeboard.com/student/course.

Call the IVCC cashier at 815-224-0213 or visit ivcc.edu.

- Shaw



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