

**FEBRUARY IS  
BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**



Sports Pages Inside  
Van Buren

**REMINDER**

**Covert  
Public  
Schools**  
pages 6-7

Classified Ads Page 8

209 W. Monroe ▪ P.O. Box 218 ▪ 49013 ▪ 269-427-7474 ▪ FAX: 269-427-5286 ▪ Email: reminder49013@aol.com ▪ Website: www.vanburenreminder.com  
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2025: AD EFFECTIVE DATES

MON. FEB	TUES. FEB	WED. FEB	THUR. FEB	FRI. FEB	SAT. FEB	SUN. FEB
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

**GAME DAY**

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8 ct.  
**3/\$4**  
Save at least 17¢ on 3

Select Varieties  
Our Family Soda  
2 liter (plus deposit)  
**99¢**  
Save at least 34¢ on 1

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**BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE!**  
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(1.25 liter) (plus deposit), Life Water, Propel or Gatorade Water  
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**VILLAGE Xpress MARKET**  
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Save \$3 on ALL Oil Changes!  
Good from 2/3/2025 - 2/16/2025  
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407 S. State St., Gobles  
269-628-2814  
Mon-Thurs 11am-10pm, Fri-Sat 11am-11pm  
Sunday 11am-9pm



**Congratulations to William Bettis, Jr.**



2022 Graduate of South Haven High School! William was chosen to be the 2022 recipient of the Black History Leadership Society's Youth on the Rise Scholarship. He is now a student in his third year at Western Michigan University and has been accepted into the University's Nursing School Program. The members of the Society are very proud of his hard work and determination as he continues to maintain a 3.92 GPA.

**Black History Leadership Society**  
Dorothy Sherrod, President • Gail Patterson Gladney, Vice-President

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**Scientist.....**

**"If the only time you think of me as a scientist is during Black History Month, then I must not be doing my job as a scientist."**

—Neil deGrasse Tyson Wikipedia

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In an effort to continue to make our community a good place in which to live, the **BLIGHT ORDINANCE** as well as other ordinances will be strictly enforced. If you have blight problems or questions, please contact the Township Office at 521-3800.

Matt Ashbrook, Supervisor

we answer the phone. because it's ringing. simple human sense

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**Arlington Township Residents Inspection Notice**

All new construction, as well as mobile and modular homes require inspections.

Contact Zoning Administrator at (269) 427-7300 between 9 a.m.-Noon and 1-3 p.m. to apply for a zoning permit or to obtain information.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES meet the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Building Inspector: Bill Snider - 269-876-7244  
Mechanical Inspector: Walter Devisser Jr. - 269-214-6696  
Zoning: Ryan Laylin - 269-414-8370  
Assessor: Danielle Golembiewski - 269-225-9006  
Electrical Inspector: State of Michigan - 517-241-9313  
Plumbing Inspector: State of Michigan - 517-241-9313

WWW.ARLINGTONTOWNSHIP.COM  
LuAnn Sell, Clerk

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STETHOSCOPE	THOMAS A. CARRINGTON	1876
LIGHT BULB	LEWIS LATIMER	1882
IRONING BOARD	SARAH BOONE	1887
MAIL BOX	PAUL L. DOWNING	1891
PENCIL SHARPENER	JOHN L. LOVE	1897
TRAFFIC LIGHTS	GARRETT MORGAN	1923
BLOOD PLASMA BAG	CHARLES DREW	1945
AIR CONDITIONER UNIT	FREDERICK M. JONES	1949

YOU'LL BE SURPRISED HOW MANY AMAZING THINGS YOU'LL FIND IN THE REMINDER!

Top 50



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Learn more at [bronsonhealth.com/heart](http://bronsonhealth.com/heart).



"The new dawn blooms as we free it. For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it."

—Amanda Gorman

"Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom."

—George Washington Carver

**Physician.....**

**Rebecca Lee Crumpler**, born Rebecca Davis, was an American physician, nurse and author. After studying at the New England Female Medical College, in 1864 she became the first African-American woman to become a doctor of medicine in the United States. Wikipedia

**WHERE THERE IS LOVE & INSPIRATION I DON'T THINK YOU CAN GO WRONG**

—Ella Fitzgerald

**American Red Cross**

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Our County Blood Supply is Low.  
[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

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**Permits Breedsville Residents**

Permit forms/information can be found on [breedsville.org](http://breedsville.org)

**Building Permits**  
Rental Inspections  
Rich McGrew 269-228-3234

**Plumbing Permits**  
Contact State of Michigan for a permit

**Electrical Permits**  
Contact State of Michigan for a permit

**Mechanical Permits**  
Walt Devisser Jr. 269-214-6696

**ESTATE SALE ONE DAY ONLY!**

**Thursday, February 6 - 9am-4pm**  
35676 Mill Lake Rd. • Gobles, Mi.

2006 Chevy Silverado 4-wheel Drive Pickup, Antique Bobsled, Hunting & Fishing Gear, Ducks Unlimited Collectibles, Washer & Dryer, Stove & Refrigerator Freezers, Household & Furniture

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**ARLINGTON TOWNSHIP BUDGET WORKSHOP**

52022 34th AVENUE, BANGOR, MI. 49013  
269-427-7300

The Arlington Township Board of Directors will hold a Budget Workshop on Sunday, February 16 @ 10:00 AM.

Persons needing special accommodations should contact the Township prior to the 16th.  
Georgette Peterson, Arlington Township Supervisor

**SHERIFF'S CORNER**

**VAN BUREN COUNTY SHERIFF DANIEL E. ABBOTT**



Uniform Response handled a Domestic Violence Call in Pine Grove Township. After the investigation was complete, the husband was lodged on several felony charges. The charges the suspect was lodged on were Assault by Strangulation, Operating Under the Influence 3rd Offense, Weapons Felony Firearm, Weapons-Firearm Possession Under the Influence, and Weapons-Carrying Concealed.

Uniform Response handled a Larceny Call in Antwerp Township. The female suspect driving a grey KIA SUV went onto the porch and took a box which was recently dropped off by Fed-Ex. It was all caught on video and the Deputies are currently working on trying to ID the suspect.

Uniform Response handled a Larceny of a Trailer in Porter Township. The trailer is a 2008 Nash flatbed/car hauler, approximately 16 foot long, all aluminum, the number 91 in blue on the fender, Michigan plate E948728, with a VIN: 1N9BU162481245353. Anyone with any information is asked to call our office.

The Reserve Unit completed their yearly Defense Tactics Training. During the training, the instructor's go over criminal law, handcuffing, takes downs, etc.

A Deputy on Patrol Arrested a 55-year-old Paw Paw Driver for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol and 2 Counts of Child Endangerment. The Deputy observed several violations and made a traffic stop on the vehicle. Upon making the stop, alcohol was suspected, so dexterities were performed. After dexterities, the female driver was arrested. The 2 grandchildren were turned over to relatives and she was lodged for the incident.

Deputies Recovered an Abandoned Snowmobile in Paw Paw Township. It was impounded and waiting for the owners claim it. It is unclear at this point if it was stolen or just broke down.

Our Office Hosted Non-Stranger Sexual Assault Class at the Paw Paw Fire Department. Numerous Deputies and other agencies attended it. Thank you to the Paw Paw Fire Department for allowing us to use your facility for this purpose.

Uniform Response handled a Larceny of a Walnut Tree in Paw Paw Township. The property owner noticed tracks driving back into the woodlot and investigated it. He found that unknown suspects drove onto his property and cut down a walnut tree for the log to sell. This has been an ongoing issue in southwest Michigan over the past several months. Numerous people have been arrested for stealing walnut trees. Anyone with any information on this is asked to call our office.

**COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING DATES FOR THE 2025/2026 YEAR**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT Columbia Township, will hold its regular meetings on the following dates during the 2025/2026 year (the third Tuesday of each month). All meetings are open to the public, and residents are encouraged to attend.

**Meeting Schedule:**


- Date(s): 2/18/25, 3/18/25, 4/15/25, 5/20/25, 6/17/25, 7/15/25, 8/19/25, 9/16/25, 10/21/25, 11/18/25, 12/16/25, 1/20/26, 2/17/26, 3/17/26.
- Time: 7:00PM
- Location: Columbia Township Hall, 53053 CR 388, Grand Junction, MI 49056

For more information or questions, please contact the Township Clerk at 269-434-6227 or [clerk@columbiatwp.com](mailto:clerk@columbiatwp.com).

1/21/2025 Columbia Township Kara Laraway, Clerk

**"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."**

—Harriet Tubman



**COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF PLANNING COMMISSION DATES FOR THE 2025/2026 YEAR**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT Columbia Township, will hold its Planning Commission meetings on the following dates during the 2025/2026 year (the Second Wednesday of each month). All meetings are open to the public, and residents are encouraged to attend.

**Meeting Schedule:**

- Date(s): 2/12/25, 3/12/25, 4/09/25, 5/14/25, 6/11/25, 7/09/25, 8/13/25, 9/10/25, 10/08/25, 11/12/25, 12/10/25, 1/14/26, 2/11/26, 3/11/26.
- Time: 7:00PM
- Location: Columbia Township Hall, 53053 CR 388, Grand Junction, MI 49056

For more information or questions, please contact the Township Clerk at 269-434-6227 or [clerk@columbiatwp.com](mailto:clerk@columbiatwp.com).

1/21/2025 Columbia Township Kara Laraway, Clerk



# CHURCH DIRECTORY



Pastor Gary Napp

## Journey Family Church

Sunday Bible Study: 9am  
Sunday Service Times: 9am & 11am  
Prayer Night: 6:30pm on Tuesday

FUSION Youth Group: MS: 6-7:30pm / HS: 7:30-9pm on Wednesday

Location: @ The Church  
514 W. Van Buren Street, Gobles • (269) 628-2288  
www.journeyfamilychurch.com

## Kibbie Christian Reformed Church

00479 CR 687 South Haven, MI 49090  
269-637-6575  
11am Sunday Worship Service-Pastor Vern Swieringa (vswier245@gmail.com)  
Additional activities:  
Children's Worship ages 4-8yrs old  
AA Meetings every Thursday 7pm  
Community Potlucks the 2nd Wednesday every month @ 6pm  
Principe de Paz-Spanish Church  
3 pm Sunday Worship Service-Pastor Alfredo De La Rosa (pastordelarosa72@hotmail.com)  
Additional activities:  
Spanish Bible Study every Wednesday 6pm  
www.kibbiechurch.com  
www.facebook.com/kibbiechurch

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## Bloomington Bible Church

Jer. 6:16 *Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.*

A Caring Church Family with In-depth, verse-by-verse Bible Study, the Old Hymns & Praise, & Prayer Power.

Interim Pastor *Dave McAlpine*

**Sunday Services:**  
9:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship Service  
**Wednesday** 4:00 pm Bible Study "Jude"  
Phone: (269) 427-2101  
Deacon Phone: 370-0026  
210 Chestnut Street NW at Pine  
Bloomington, MI 49026  
*Isn't It Time To Come Home?*

## Bangor Baptist Church

55661 M-43 East P.O. 236, Bangor, MI  
Phone (269) 427-7067  
Sunday School 10:00 am  
BBkids Church 10:00 am  
Morning Worship 11:00 am  
Evening Worship 6:00 pm  
Monday Prayer & Praise 6:00 pm  
Everyone Welcome  
Wed. Women's Bible Study 5:00 pm  
Adult Bible Study 6:00 pm

## Horseshoe Community Bible Church

4950 104th Ave., Grand Junction, MI  
Phone (269) 521-4580  
Sunday School 10 am  
Sunday Worship 11 am  
Evening Services 6pm  
Wed. Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 6:30pm  
Pastor Don Miller

## Bloomington Christian Church

Sunday School 9:45 am (classes for all ages)  
Sunday Worship 11:00 am  
Sunday Gospel Kidz 5:15 pm (3yrs-6th Grade)  
Tuesday Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:00 am  
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer 7:00 pm  
Senior Bible Study 1st & 3rd Friday 11:00 am  
208 East Pine Street, Bloomington  
(269) 521-4233 •  
bdalechurch1858@gmail.com  
Church Office - Friday

## Northpoint Ministries of Gobles

04077 M40, Gobles MI 49055  
269-628-9199 • northpointgobles@gmail.com  
Pastors: Gary Lounsbury & John Losen Jr.  
**Sunday** - Worship Service 11am  
**Monday** - Bible Study 7:00  
**Wednesday** - Prayer Meeting 7pm

## Trinity Lutheran Church & School

"Engaging & connecting all people to the love of Jesus"  
Sunday Praise Service 9:00 am  
Sun. School/Bible Study 10:15 am  
Traditional Worship 11:00 am

Additional activities for all ages listed on our website at www.trinitylutheran.com  
721 Pine St. Paw Paw, MI 49079 • (269) 657-4840  
Email churchoffice@trinitylutheran.com  
Church office hours are Monday-Friday 8am - 4pm  
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## Merson Church

3313 102nd Ave., Gobles  
**Sundays**  
Sunday School 9:30 am  
Morning Worship 10:45 am  
Evening Service 6 pm

**Ladies Bible Study**  
Tuesday 9:30-11:00 am

**Wednesday Nights** during the school year - Clubs, Youth Group and Prayer Meeting 6:30 PM  
Call (269) 673-5274 for transportation services



Pastor Jim Robertson

## Townline Church

9:15 am - Sunday School for ALL ages  
10:30 am - Sunday Worship Service

10:30 am - Worship on Facebook Live  
Wednesday - 2nd and 4th - Pastor Office Hours  
5pm-7pm at TCMC  
Thursday - every other - Team Jesus Youth Group  
Saturday - 1st of every month - Hands of Jesus  
8am Breakfast at Robin's Nest

41470 24th Ave, Bloomington / (269) 521-4559  
Pastor Jim Robertson  
www.facebook.com/townlineumc  
townlineumc.org



## BASKETBALL

### BOYS JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL

#### JV Boys defeat Constantine



On Tuesday, January 28th the Gobles JV Boys beat Constantine 43 to 36.

The Tigers were led by Ignacio Berzosa with 19 points with David Sager and Brian Heintzman pitching in 11 and 9 respectively.

The young Tigers continue to play great defense and find ways to win games late in the contest.

The Tigers sit at 8 wins and 1 loss, heading into a conference game this Thursday as we host Delton Kellogg for a key league contest.

After Thursday there are just three weeks left in the season, the boys continue to improve and are looking forward to the future as they develop into Varsity basketball players.

### GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

#### Tigers defeat Schoolcraft in great WIN!

Girls Varsity Basketball dropped a tough game on Monday to Galesburg Augusta 61-57. The game went back and forth all night and the Tigers were not able to overcome a late Galesburg rally. Daisy Jackson had 15 points and 13 rebounds, Kylee Killeen had 10 points and 14 rebounds. Zoie Wood had 10 points. Lily Heintzman had 8 points and Ellei Wood and Alana Gonzalez each had 7 points.

On Tuesday the girls traveled to Schoolcraft a place where Gobles has not had much success. After jumping out to an early lead the Tigers let the lead slip away and were in for another close finish. The Tigers found themselves down by 3 points with 11seconds left 1 the game. Kylee Killeen took the inbounds pass and raced up the court and made a 3 point basket with 1.6 seconds left on the clock to tie the game. After a Schoolcraft time out Killeen was able to steal the inbounds pass and she was fouled while attempting to shoot with no time left on the clock. Kylee made her first free throw attempt ending the game. The game was full of ups and downs but the girls never gave up and battled until the final horn. It was a great team win with all the girls contributing. Killeen ended with 18 points, 10 rebounds, 3 assists and 3 steals. Daisy Jackson 14 points, 5 rebounds and 5 steals. Lily Heintzman 12 points and Ellie Wood grabbed 9 rebounds and had 3 points. Zoie Wood dished out 5 assists and 3 points.

### GIRLS JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL

#### JV Girls 1st Big Victory!

The Gobles JV girls basketball program earned it's first big victory as we traveled to Schoolcraft in a 4 quarter battle that came down to final seconds free throw by Addison Jacobs to win 31-30

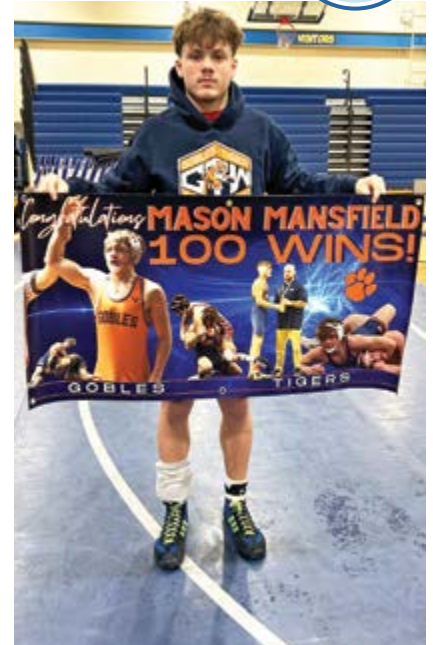
Lead by Halle Bigelow at point guard, Carly Akers, Dania De Lucas, Alana Gonzales and Gabby Dewater assisting in guard play along with out 2 forwards Addison Jacobs and Addie Hazard it was a team victory.

We have a full upcoming schedule as we head to Delton on Friday and games next week Monday, Tuesday and Friday.

Thanks for all the support and hope to see you all at our next game.

Thanks, Coach V

## WRESTLING



### Mason Mansfield 100 Wins!

Tigers wrestling went 6-1 last week. On Jan 22, they defeated Galesburg 68-6 and Parchment 71-6. Then, on Jan 25, they lost to Hastings but rebounded with a 57-18 defeat of Buchanan, a 55-20 defeat of White Pigeon, a 48-16 defeat of Kenowa Hills, and a 58-16 defeat of Mendon at the Buchanan Super Duels.

Mason Mansfield has over 100 career wins for Tigers Wrestling. He was recognized for this after his win at the Parchment duel.



# Go Tigers!

**we support your team, because, well, it's our team too.**  
simple human sense

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**NOTICE**  
**GENEVA TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS**

Building, electrical, mechanical & plumbing inspections are necessary on all new construction, mobile or modular homes. All used site-built, mobile or modular homes must be inspected by Building Inspector before being brought into or relocated within township. Minimum 14 ft. wide, 840 sq. ft. living space.

**Permit Applications Must Include Property Number**

For more information, contact inspectors:  
**BUILDING – MICHIGAN TOWNSHIP SERVICES**  
1-800-626-5964

**ELECTRICAL – MICHIGAN TOWNSHIP SERVICES**  
1-800-626-5964

**MECHANICAL – WALTER DEVISSER**  
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**PLUMBING – MICHIGAN TOWNSHIP SERVICES • Phone: 1-800-626-5964**  
*Published by Geneva Township Board*

**GENEVA TOWNSHIP Board Meeting**  
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GENEVA TOWNSHIP HALL  
62127 CR-380  
Geneva Township Board

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# Covert Public Schools

## 37th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

Covert Public Schools' 37th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration was on Sunday, January 19th. The theme was "Living the Dream" with Reverend DeWayne Jackson from New Jerusalem Church, Bangor, MI, as the keynote speaker. Students performed and community leaders spoke. After the celebration service, guests broke bread together with an amazing dinner.




Theme: "Living The Dream"



The weather outside is less frightful and recess can be delightful, when playing in the snow is a go! Let it snow, let it snow!!






STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

December 19, 2024



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

PHILLIP D. ROOS  
DIRECTOR

VIA EMAIL to [brunty@covertps.org](mailto:brunty@covertps.org)

Yolanda Brunt  
Superintendent  
Covert Public Schools  
35323 M140  
Covert, Michigan 49043

SUBJECT: Improved Air Quality and Equality

Dear Yolanda Brunt,

Congratulations! I am pleased to inform you that the Office of the Environmental Justice Public Advocate in the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), has selected your project, Improved Air Quality and Equality, to receive an Environmental Justice Impact Grant award in the amount of \$500,000. The complete grant award announcement will be shared publicly later today.

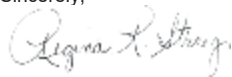
Thank you for sharing your plans to have a real impact in your community. Your project was selected from among 189 applicants all seeking to make a difference. The \$20 million Environmental Justice Impact Grant funding provided through Governor Whitmer's 2024 budget will fund 43 projects, including yours, in communities across the state.

The specific funding amount and grant award is contingent on completion of a finalized grant agreement between your organization and EGLE. Due to the quantity and complexity of the application review process our original timeline estimates have shifted. We anticipate making any necessary adjustments to project timelines, workplans and/or budgets as part of the grant agreement finalization process.

We will reach out soon with information regarding next steps. I look forward to working with you on this project. If you have questions, please reach out to me at [StrongR1@Michigan.gov](mailto:StrongR1@Michigan.gov) or EJ Impact Grant Project Manager Kate Hutchens at [HutchensK1@Michigan.gov](mailto:HutchensK1@Michigan.gov) or 517-599-3904.

Once again, thank you for all you do to advance Environmental Justice.

Sincerely,



Regina R. Strong, MS APR  
Environmental Justice Public Advocate  
Office of the Environmental Justice Public Advocate  
517-614-0278 | [StrongR1@Michigan.gov](mailto:StrongR1@Michigan.gov)

cc: Senator Aric Nesbitt  
Representative Joey Andrews  
Phil Roos, Director, EGLE  
James Clift, Deputy Director, EGLE  
Kate Hutchens, Environmental Justice Coordinator, EGLE

Covert Public School's has been selected to receive a Michigan Environmental Justice Impact Grant.



**MISSION** – Provide a quality education in an inclusive and supportive environment while promoting excellence through innovative possibilities.

**VISION** – A nurturing community where all are inspired and empowered to pursue their dreams.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.covertps.org](http://www.covertps.org)  
Follow Covert Public Schools on Facebook for updated information on sports, activities, and events.

## Jobs for Michigan Graduates Kick Off Celebration

This year, Covert High School is running a new program called Jobs for Michigan Graduates or JMG, for short. This program focuses on skills students will need as they enter the workforce. During their Kick-Off Celebration, JMG students presented speeches and shared their experiences in the program with their families and Covert staff members. Students served a communal meal, and they were presented with certificates to recognize their accomplishments in the program thus far.

We are excited to see how our students will benefit from such a vital program and what college and career pathways they will forge in the coming years!



## Cinnamon Rolls and Math Skills Add Up To Delicious



Exams aren't always dreaded. Students in Consumer Math had to independently follow a recipe and prepare cinnamon rolls from scratch. Besides developing skills in reading, measuring, and correctly preparing a recipe, popularity grew for these students as there were plenty of pans of these delicious cinnamon rolls for sharing. Well done (literally).



## High School Robotics is Gearing Up

The Covert High School Robotics Team is preparing for its anxiously awaited 2025 robotics season. The team has begun building the drivetrain for their new robot and laying out the wiring. We're all excited to see what this season brings!!

## Students Celebration of Writing with a One Word Life Project Keepsake

Mrs. Smith's creative writing students wrapped up their semester-long project with a celebration of writing and had guests come into the classroom so they could share their favorite writing pieces. All semester students have been rigorously working on a culminating writing project that consisted of 50 writing assignments. The topic was one they were experts on...themselves. After completing all of their writing, they create a table of contents and bound their project into a book. This will be a great keepsake for years to come as they can read back and reflect on how much they have grown or changed through the years.

### One Word Project

As students returned to school for the new year of 2025, they were asked to think of one word that would become their focus for the year. Students in Mrs. Smith's English classes all created a poster of their chosen word to remind them where they want to grow in the new year. The students were to write about why they chose their word, find three pictures that represented their word, create three goals they would be able to accomplish if they focused on their chosen word and then visually represent them. Our students have very ambitious goals and a renewed sense of drive heading into the new year. We know this year will be as amazing as we make it!





So... Whoo-ooo-oo's ready for a deal?



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**February is Black History Month.**

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“Opportunity may knock only once but temptation leans on the door bell.”  
-Oprah Winfrey.

**Inventor.....**  
Granville Tailer Woods was an inventor who held more than 50 patents in the U.S. He was the first African American mechanical and electrical engineer after the Civil War. Self-taught, he concentrated most of his work on trains and streetcars. Wikipedia

Celebrating **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

### Notable figures to celebrate this Black History Month

Each February, individuals across Canada and the United States celebrate Black History Month. Both nations have much to celebrate, and these are just a few of the individuals who have done much to advance the causes of Black people in the United States and Canada.

• **Fannie Lou Hamer:** The subject of a new biography by historian Keisha N. Blain released in late 2021, Fannie Lou Hamer rose to prominence during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s in the United States. Born to sharecropper parents in Sunflower County, Mississippi, in 1919, Hamer became an activist in 1962, ultimately providing a powerful voice to a widely underrepresented segment of the African American population fighting for civil rights in the 1960s.

• **Viola Davis Desmond:** Born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1914, Viola Davis Desmond took a stand for African Canadians in 1946 when she refused to sit in the balcony at the Roseland Theatre in New Glasgow, a section designated for Blacks. Desmond was forcibly removed and arrested and ultimately fined and sentenced to 30 days in jail. She took her case all the way to the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, which upheld the verdict. Desmond passed away in 1965, but in 2010 the province of Nova Scotia issued an official apology and pardoned her.

• **Bayard Rustin:** The March on Washington is among the most widely remembered events during the civil rights era in the United States, and Bayard Rustin was one of the event's principle organizers. Rustin, who was candid about his sexuality as a gay man in private, often worked behind the scenes during the Civil Rights Movement, which occurred during a period when homosexuality was still criminalized. Rustin later became a public advocate for gay rights in the 1980s.

• **Elijah McCoy:** The son of former slaves who had escaped enslavement in Kentucky via the Underground Railroad, Elijah McCoy was born in Colchester, Ontario, in 1844. Despite his humble origins, McCoy would become an influential inventor and engineer, ultimately holding more than 50 patents in Canada, the United States, France, Austria, Germany, Great Britain, and Russia. African Americans and African Canadians have contributed much to the United States, Canada and the world.

# Bloomingtondale 2025 Winter Sports CARDINALS

Photo by Richard Strange

### Boys Basketball

#### High School Boys Basketball Sweeps Lawrence in Home Doubleheader

The High School Boys Basketball teams made a statement on their home court, sweeping the Lawrence Tigers in both JV and Varsity Boys Basketball action. The Varsity team dominated from start to finish, securing a 60-45 victory over the Tigers.

### Alumni Basketball

#### 3rd Annual Alumni Basketball Game a Success

The 3rd Annual Alumni Basketball Game was a huge success, drawing a crowd of enthusiastic supporters and former players for a fun-filled evening of hoops. The game saw intense action on the court, with the grey team emerging victorious in a hard-fought contest.

### Wrestling

#### Varsity Wrestling Shines at Fennville Invitational

The varsity wrestling team had a strong showing at the Fennville Invitational on Saturday, with several athletes securing top finishes.

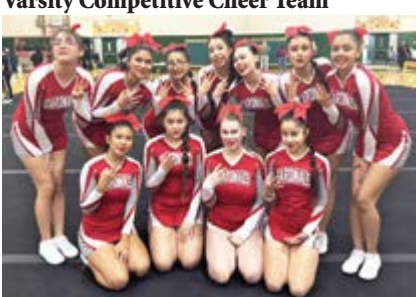
Leading the charge for the Cardinals were Javon Pittsley and Aiden Byers, who each delivered standout performances. Pittsley's all-around play and ability to create scoring opportunities helped propel Bloomingtondale, while Byers contributed key points and hustle plays throughout the game. The two proved to be a dynamic duo, combining for a large portion of the team's scoring in the win.

The win marked an important step for the Cardinals as they continue to build momentum heading into the latter part of the season. The team's defense, particularly in the second half, was crucial in keeping the Tigers from making a serious run.

Earlier in the night, the JV Cardinals also put on an impressive performance, earning a well-deserved win over Lawrence, continuing the sweep.

With plenty of skill and passion on display, the game was an exciting reunion of talent, camaraderie, and school spirit. The grey team capitalized on key plays and strong teamwork to secure their win, but both teams showed great sportsmanship and pride in representing their alma mater. We're so grateful to everyone who came out to support the event. It's always great to see alumni come back and relive those competitive moments. We hope this tradition continues to grow each year.

The varsity wrestling team had a strong showing at the Fennville Invitational on Saturday, with several athletes securing top finishes. Leading the way for the Cardinals were Rowan Hegelmann, Evalyn Hegelmann and Molly Menzel, who each earned a first-place finish in their respective weight classes. Ashley Cortes came up just short of first place but still earned a well-deserved second-place finish, showing tremendous resilience and skill throughout the tournament. Troy Zuck also made his mark on the mat, earning a third-place finish after battling through a tough bracket. In addition to the medalists, Zavier Gonzalez and Joseph Rodriguez De La Cruz added to the team's success by winning their respective matches, contributing to an overall strong performance.



### Middle School Wrestling

#### Middle School Wrestling Team Excels at Fennville Tournament

The Middle School Wrestling team delivered a standout performance at the Fennville Tournament Friday night, showcasing their grit and determination against some tough competition. The team walked away with several impressive finishes, including a 2nd place finish by Willie Bemis, 3rd place by Dalton McCaig, and a 4th place finish by Gary Steinman.

With several strong performances under their belt, the Middle School Wrestling team is setting the stage for a promising season. Coach Dygert's guidance and the team's hard work are sure to lead to even greater success in future tournaments.

### Competitive Cheer

#### Varsity Competitive Cheer Team Shines at Coloma Invitational, Takes 3rd Place

The Varsity Competitive Cheer team put on an impressive performance at the Coloma Invitational on Saturday, securing 3rd place in a highly competitive field. Their hard work and dedication were evident as they executed their routines with precision and energy, earning well-deserved recognition.

The competition at the Coloma Invitational was fierce, but the team kept their focus, delivering a routine filled with sharp stunts, tumbling, and synchronization. The third-place finish is a testament to the talent and determination of the squad, who have been preparing for months in hopes of a strong season. Congrats to Coach Stone and the entire team for this well-earned achievement—keep up the great work!

**GO CARDINALS!**

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## EDUCATIONAL AND MEANINGFUL WAYS TO CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Each February, the United States commemorates the impressive contributions of Black individuals.

Black History Month traces its origins to 1915, 50 years after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States. In that same year, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (later known as ASALH) was founded to promote the achievement of Black Americans and others of African descent. In 1926, a more formal holiday was established by Dr. Carter G. Woodson with a national Negro History Week, which evolved into today's Black History Month. February was chosen because it coordinates with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass — two individuals who were essential to the fight for equal rights for Black people.

Black History Month is loaded with opportunities to learn more about influential Black individuals. Local libraries, television channels and schools often focus on such individuals throughout the month of February, providing ample chances for individuals from all walks of life to learn more about people and events that have shaped the nation.

- **Watch documentaries.** During Black History Month, many networks feature documentaries on influential figures who made their marks in the Black community and beyond. Streaming services also may have documentaries or special interview series available that highlight certain Black figures.

- **Visit a cultural center.** Museums and other cultural or community centers emphasize Black history in February. Even in smaller towns one may be able to attend speeches or readings at local libraries.

- **Watch movies.** Curate a collection of films that were directed by Black directors or feature Black actors in lead roles. Films that chronicle the biographies of Black historical figures also can be educational.

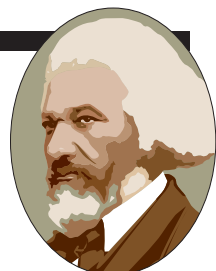
- **Learn about local Black history.** There may be specific Black individuals in your local community who are notable for their accomplishments or efforts. In addition, many people might be surprised to learn about events in their own communities that helped to shape Black history.

- **Read MLK Jr's famous letter.** People can revisit the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. by reading his "Letter From Birmingham Jail." The letter is considered vital for anyone hoping to understand the Civil Rights movement in the United States.

Black History Month provides plenty of chances to learn about influential figures and historical events.

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## FREDERICK DOUGLASS AN INTEGRAL FIGURE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY



Influential and inspirational figures abound throughout African-American history. One of the more famous such figures is the abolitionist leader Frederick Douglass, who was born into slavery but would grow up to become a noted intellectual and ardent supporter of causes ranging from the abolition of slavery to women's rights to Irish rule.

Born in Talbot County, Maryland around 1818 (the exact year of Douglass' birth is unknown), Douglass' mother was a slave and his father likely a white plantation owner. Douglass was separated from his mother at a very young age, a practice that was not uncommon at the time, and sent to live with his maternal grandmother, Betty Bailey. That arrangement did not last long, as Douglass was soon living in the home of a white plantation owner, who may or may not have been Douglass' father.

Douglass eventually found himself living in Baltimore with Hugh and Sophia Auld, the latter of whom would begin to teach the young Frederick Douglass the alphabet, ignoring the ban on teaching slaves. Though Hugh Auld would object to his wife teaching a slave child and demand she stop, the limited exposure to reading and writing had been enough to stir Douglass, who would learn to read and write from white children in the neighborhood and by teaching himself.

Once Douglass learned to read, he became an avid reader, reading newspapers and political writings that would

help shape his anti-slavery stance in the years to come. In addition, Douglass would use his literacy to help other slaves follow in his footsteps, teaching them to read and write at a weekly church service.

In 1833, Douglass was taken from Hugh Auld and returned to work for Thomas Auld, who would send the teenaged Douglass to notorious "slave-breaker" Edward Covey, who routinely and viciously abused Douglass until a physical confrontation between the two would force Covey to stop abusing Douglass once and for all.

In 1838, desperate to flee slavery, Douglass finally succeeded in doing so on his third attempt, when he escaped on a train using a false identification with the help of a woman named Anna Murray, who would soon become Douglass' wife.

The couple would eventually settle in Massachusetts, where Douglass would become heavily involved in the abolitionist movement, sharing his story. In 1845, Douglass' first autobiography, "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave," was published and became a bestseller. The book remains required reading for many of today's high school students.

Though the book was a success, Douglass' status as a runaway slave still put him in danger of being recaptured, a reality that forced Douglass to depart for Ireland, where

he would spend two years speaking of the ills of slavery. Douglass also frequently spoke in England, where a group of his supporters collected funds to purchase his freedom. By 1847, Douglass was a free man and returned to the United States.

Upon his return to the United States, Douglass became even more heavily involved in the abolitionist movement, producing abolitionist newspapers and supporting women's rights.

With the arrival of the Civil War, Douglass had risen to a level of such prominence that he consulted with President Abraham Lincoln, who still did not earn the famed abolitionist's vote in 1864 election because of Lincoln's unwillingness to publicly endorse suffrage for freed black men. Following the war, Douglass was appointed to numerous political positions, even becoming the first African-American nominated for the vice presidency of the United States in 1872, though Douglass had no knowledge of the nomination and did not campaign.

Douglass would pass away in 1895, leaving behind an enduring legacy that remains one of the more inspiring and influential tales in American history.



### FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH

# 2025 WINTER SPORTS BANGOR VIKINGS

## Basketball

### BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

#### Vikings Struggling Against Tough Rivals

Friday, Jan 24

**From Coach Culbertson:** Friday night Bangor lost to Cassopolis 46 - 59. This game was an improvement compared to when we played them earlier in the season. As a team we out rebounded Cassopolis led by Terrance Payne with 13 rebounds and Jaret McCoy with 8 rebounds. As a team we shot 47% from 3. Jonah Luter scored 19 points and had six assists. Landen Valentine scored 11 points with 3 deflections. Our next game is Tuesday Jan 28 at Hartford with JV at 6 PM and Varsity 7:30 PM.

**Tuesday, Jan 28**  
Bangor Varsity Boys Basketball lost 37 - 69 against Hartford last night. Jonah Luter scored 14 points. Luke Remington scored 9 points. Jaret McCoy had 3 blocks. The next game is Thursday at home vs Decatur. JV starts at 6 PM and Varsity 7:30 PM.

### BOYS JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL

#### JV Vikings 34 Hartford 58

Tuesday, Jan 28

**From Coach Cox:** Last night we traveled to Hartford to play the Huskies. We struggled with Hartford's press and free throws 3-16. Every player did score, which was a plus. We lost the game 58-34. We will be back in action Thursday at home vs Decatur 6pm start with Varsity to follow.  
**Key player:** Alan Guzman-Ventura scored 12 points and had 4 assists

## Wrestling

### VARSITY WRESTLING

**Saturday, Jan 25**  
**From Coach Muñoz:** Bangor Varsity Wrestlers were at the Fennville HS Individual Invite on Saturday.

**Individual Results:**  
Daniel Marin Hernandez 2-1 (3rd Place)  
Luis Alfonso Arenas 0-2  
Aiden Muñoz 2-1 (2nd Place)  
Isabel Marin Hernandez 1-2 (4th Place)  
Wyatt Schneider 3-0 (1st Place)  
Araceli Bowen 0-2  
Ayden Hamlet 0-2  
Jack Loomis 3-1 (3rd Place)  
Trap Abbott 2-1 (2nd Place)  
Brendon Jackson 2-1 (2nd Place)  
Enrique Macedo 2-2 (4th Place)

**Wednesday, Jan 29**  
**From Coach Muñoz:** Bangor Varsity Wrestlers traveled to White Pigeon for a SW10 matchup.

**Team Results:**  
Bangor vs Centreville 39-36  
Bangor vs White Pigeon 21-48  
**Individual Results:**  
Daniel Marin Hernandez 0-1  
Luis Alfonso Arenas 2-0  
Aiden Muñoz 2-0  
Isabel Marin Hernandez 0-2  
Wyatt Schneider 1-1  
Araceli Bowen 0-2  
Ismael Reyna 0-2  
Ayden Hamlet 0-2  
Jack Loomis 1-1  
Trap Abbott 2-0  
Brendon Jackson 1-1  
Enrique Macedo 2-0

We head to Cassopolis on Saturday Feb. 1 for the Southwest 10 Conference Tournament. Wrestling begins at 9am.

### GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

#### Bangor 42 Hartford 31

Tuesday, Jan 28

**From Coach Witkowski:** Final Score. Bangor 42 Hartford 31  
**Stat Leaders:**  
Madison Lenox 11 points  
Jaelynn Little 8 points  
K'liyana O'Steen 8 points  
Lexi Wisneski 7 points  
Izzy Horvath 6 points  
O'Steen 5 rebounds  
Wisneski 2 assists  
Little 4 steals  
Cielo Maldonado 2 blocks

**Comments:** Vikings played their first game due to weather in 12 days. Vikings forced Hartford into a lot of turnovers and ended a 15 game losing streak to Hartford  
**Play next**  
January 31 at home vs Decatur Bangor record Overall 4-5 Conference 2-4

### GIRLS JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL

#### JV Vikings lose to Hartford

Tuesday, Jan 28

**From Coach Beck:** The JV Girls played a tough game last night against Hartford. They ended up losing by 9, we had some great shots made by Solexy and Andrea. The girls play again this Friday at home!

### 8TH GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL

#### Lady Vikings walk away with WINS!

Monday, Jan 27

**From Coach Gardner:** Last night the 8th grade lady Vikings took on Comstock at home. The girls struggled to get going only scoring 9 points in the first quarter but came back strong in the second quarter scoring 16 points. The Vikings were able to keep Comstock to just 3 points in the first half and 6 points total for the game.

The girls were able to walk away with a 35-6 win. Sophia Burton led the way with 16 points followed by Taylor Gardner with 13 points and went 9/14 from the free throw line. Nereida Sanchez and Anika Mortensen had 2 points apiece and Chloe Criffield finished with 1 free throw. The girls are now 2-0 on the season.

The Vikings take on Hartford at home tonight at 4:30 before jv/varsity girls play and could use all the support as it should be a very good and physical game.

**Tuesday, Jan 28**  
**From Coach Gardner:** Last night the 8th grade girls played a makeup game against Hartford. The girls were able to start out with some strong defense and jumped out to 9-4 lead to end the first quarter.

The girls continued their strong defense all game and were able to walk away with a 23-12 win. Leading the way was Sophia Burton with 11 pts Anika Mortensen with 10 pts and Taylor Gardner with 2 pts. The girls record is now 3-0 and will play their 3rd game in as many days tomorrow in Lawrence with a 6pm start.

## Lady Vikings Rule!



### 7TH GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL

#### Bangor 7 Comstock 19

Monday, Jan 27

**From Coach Corona:** The 7th grade girls were excited to be playing their 2nd game of the season. They played hard but didn't make enough points to win. Bangor lost to Comstock 7 to 19.

The girls had great hustle Kimberly Gamino - Villalobos had 3 points, Daphne Fritz had 2 points, and Brisma Barajas Gutierrez and Clarrisa Criffield each had 1 point a piece.

The 7th-grade girls will be back on the court Wednesday at Lawrence

### 7TH/8TH GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL

#### The girls record is now 4-0

Wednesday, Jan 29

**From Coach Gardner:** Last night both the 7th and 8th grade girls basketball teams combined to play Lawrence. It was an interesting task to try and play 16 girls in one game but we managed.

We jumped out to an early 6 pt lead and our defense again continued to be the best it's been leading to a 24-11 win.

The Vikings were led in scoring by Chloe Criffield with 7pts followed by Taylor Gardner with 5 pts, Ro'emya Reid pitched in with 4 pts, and Sophia Burton had 3 pts. Cassidy Hayes and Clarrisa Criffield both pitched in with 2 pts a piece and Brisma Barajas Gutierrez had a single free throw and multiple steals in the game.

The girls record is now 4-0 as they head into a Monday night game in Cassopolis with a 6pm start.

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Big Horn Level II pkg, Heated seats, heated steering wheel, Night Edition, 3.0L Hurricane engine, 20" wheels. Was \$63,025

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Power heated, suede seats, heated steering wheel, power liftgate, 8.4" touchscreen with navigation, blind spot monitoring, dual climate control, power liftgate, 20" wheels & black out package, warranty!  
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Dual power sliding side doors and liftgate, full stow & go seating with 3 rows of seats, heated front bucket seats, power seat, remote start, 3 zone climate control, remote proximity sensing keyless enter and go, warranty!  
Now Just **\$21,998** **\$335** Per Month

**2021 RAM 1500 CREW CAB BIG HORN 4X4**  
P6608 ★ **LIFETIME POWERTRAIN WARRANTY!**  
5.7L Hemi V-8, heated bucket seats, power seat, dual climate control, 8.4" infotainment touch screen, power pedals, remote start, 20" wheels, tow pkg, front & rear park assist.  
Now Just **\$34,691** **\$522** Per Month

**2020 BUICK ENCORE GX-SELECT AWD**  
P6644 ★ **LIFETIME POWERTRAIN WARRANTY!**  
48K miles, has forward collision warning, lane sense, 8" infotainment system, 10-way power driver seat, selectable drivetrain-change from front wheel to all wheel drive on the go.  
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**2021 TESLA MODEL 3 LONG RANGE DUAL MOTOR**  
P6631 ★ **LIFETIME POWERTRAIN WARRANTY!**  
Navigation, full Moonroof, auto-pilot, 43K miles.  
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**2023 NISSAN FRONTIER SV 4X4 CREW CAB**  
P6510 ★ **LIFETIME POWERTRAIN WARRANTY!**  
V-6, automatic, power windows, locks, mirrors, cruise, aluminum wheels.  
Now Just **\$28,780** **\$432** Per Month

**2020 GMC TERRAIN SLE ALL WHEEL DRIVE**  
P6591 ★ **LIFETIME POWERTRAIN WARRANTY!**  
41K miles, power heated front bucket seat, dual zone climate control, lane keep, pedestrian braking, forward collision warning.  
Now Just **\$20,394** **\$309** Per Month

**2022 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW CAB LT 4X4 1500**  
P6583 ★ **LIFETIME POWERTRAIN WARRANTY!**  
Power heated seating, premium wheels, remote power drop tailgate, tow pkg, dual climate control, forward collisions warning.  
Now Just **\$35,991** **\$545** Per Month

**2020 JEEP GLADIATOR SPORT 4X4**  
P6515A ★ **LIFETIME POWERTRAIN WARRANTY!**  
3.6L V-6 engine, Gspd manual transmission, AC, cruise control, 3 piece hard top, tow package and more!  
Now Just **\$27,491** **\$417** Per Month

**2021 KIA SPORTAGE LX**  
P6620 ★ **LIFETIME POWERTRAIN WARRANTY!**  
Large infotainment touch screen, hand free Bluetooth, aluminum wheels, 23 city /30 Highway MPG. Sold with factory warranty!  
Now Just **\$14,991** **\$299** Per Month

**2018 NISSAN PATHFINDER SL 4WD**  
P6601A ★  
3 rows of leather, heated front and 2nd row seats, heated steering wheel, navigation, power lift gate, blind spot warning, rear parking sensors, dual-zone A/C, memory power, warranty.  
Now Just **\$15,000** **\$228** Per Month

**2012 RAM 1500 4X4**  
P6615 ★  
Rust free from Kentucky, 5.7L V-8 engine, automatic transmission, power windows, locks and mirrors, cruise control, air conditioning, bed liner, tow package, 20" wheels and is super clean inside and out!  
Now Just **\$11,491** **\$186** Per Month

**2019 SUBARU FORESTER PREMIUM SYMMETRICAL AWD**  
P6621 ★  
Large infotainment touch screen, blind spot monitoring, lane sense, adaptive cruise control, power heated seat, power lift gate, large power sunroof, and is sold with warranty!  
Now Just **\$17,353** **\$263** Per Month

**2019 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SE**  
P6582 ★  
Power seat, full stow & go seating with 2nd row buckets and 3rd row bench seating, premium infotainment with navigation & Bluetooth, warranty!  
Now Just **\$10,791** **\$169** Per Month

**2018 HYUNDAI SONATA SEL**  
P6477A ★  
Power heated front seat, keyless enter and go with proximity sensing, automatic emergency braking with pedestrian detection, smart cruise control, lane keep assist, blind spot monitoring, cross path detection, aluminum wheels, apple car play and is sold with warranty!  
Now Just **\$12,991** **\$199** Per Month

**2018 FORD F-150 XLT CREW CAB 4WD**  
P6603 ★  
Sport appearance pkg, 5.0L V8 engine, 10-speed automatic, sport cloth bucket seats with power seat, 20" wheels, remote start, tow pkg with reverse guidance, tail gate step, LED bed lighting and sold with warranty!  
Now Just **\$25,423** **\$385** Per Month

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