



UNWRAP SOMETHING SPECIAL THIS YEAR.

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The Prairie News

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THREATENED MONARCHS?

Butterfly protections?

USFWS proposes listing monarchs as threatened

By TAMMIE SLOUP

FarmWeek

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing federal protections for the monarch butterfly. On Dec. 12, the service proposed listing the monarch as a threatened species and designating critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act.

According to a notice in the Federal Register, USFWS determined the monarch butterfly meets the definition of a threatened species due to ongoing impacts from loss and degradation of habitat, exposure to insecticides and the effects of climate change.

"To improve future conditions so that the monarch migratory populations stabilize and grow, we need to (1) achieve a significant increase in the availability of milkweed and nectar plants in monarch



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Dec. 12, proposed listing the monarch butterfly as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act

breeding and migratory areas; (2) protect and enhance overwintering habitat; (3) avoid and minimize impacts to monarchs and their habitat from insecticides and herbicides; and (4) maintain public support for the conservation of monarch butterflies," it is written in the notice.

The listing proposal is accompanied by a proposed rule that offers species-specific protections and

flexibilities to encourage conservation and a proposed "critical habitat" designation for the species at its overwintering grounds in 4,395 acres in coastal California.

Comments can be submitted to the Federal Register through March 12.

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.

Stark Co. ups levy

School tax levy will increase by 7.99%

By JOHN A. BALLENTINE

For The Prairie News

WYOMING – The Stark County School Board passed a 7.99% increase in the 2024 tax levy at Monday's meeting by a 5-2 vote.

Board members voting yes were Ann Orwig, Bruce West, Erin Price, Dane Richards and Emily Leezer. Brian Rewerts and Joe Rediger cast no votes.

A truth-in-taxation hearing was held just prior to the monthly school board meeting. Superintendent Brett Elliott gave a presentation of the revised tax levy that was originally presented during November's meeting.

In November, the board opted for a 10% levy increase on Elliott's recommendation in order to receive funding with a tax rate in 2024 at 5.3508, which is .0174 less than the 2023 tax rate at 5.3682.

On Dec. 2, the board met and reduced the levy increase to 7.99% after the county's estimated assessed value of properties in the district was lowered to an increase of 7%. During the regular meeting, the adjusted tax levy was approved.

Elliott said Stark County school district is losing teachers to bordering school districts as part of the ongoing teacher shortage. He said that for \$3,000 to \$4,000 more in salary teachers are going to bordering districts. He said those districts are increasing teacher salaries by up to 36% with a combination of factors.

Two residents spoke "against any tax increase and voiced concern regarding a declining population in Stark County and the potential long-term financial impact."

One resident told the

Continued on Page 2

Galva schools levy increases by \$756,411

By CAROL TOWNSEND

For The Prairie News

GALVA – The Galva School Board on Monday approved a tax levy ordinance in the amount of \$5,466,367, up \$756,441 from last year.

Equalized assessed value of property in the district increased from \$103,920,607 to \$120,377,584 due to the expiration of one of Galva's TIF districts.

The tax rate will be \$4.54 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

The board also approved to sell \$1.2 million in general obligation school bonds. Community State Bank of Galva offered the lowest interest rate at 4.05-4.25%. Kendall King of the King Financial company said the bank gave a good rate to the district.

The bonds will be for four years. King said that

next year, another one of the city TIFs will expire.

Math teachers Trish Klein and Jeremy Painter gave some facts about a new math curriculum for Algebra I. They both said they wished they had more training before it started and said the program has been slow going.

Elementary Principal Adam Norway said he has been working hard to improve attendance. He said

he has a trip planned for first and second semester for students who only miss two or less days of school per semester. The Junior-Senior High School is also working hard on improving attendance.

Board members gave a brief report on seminars they attended at the recent state school board conference held in Chicago. All of the Galva school board

Continued on Page 2



Pictured above are recipients of the Wildcat Pride Awards handed out Monday: (from left to right) teacher Ali Weston and seniors Olivia Hartman and Kaidan Wood. Hartman and Wood will finish their senior year Friday, as they have met all of the requirements. Hartman has received all As and Wood achieved his goal according to Junior-Senior High School Principal Kurtis Smyth. Photo by Carol Townsend.

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STARK: McGann back in January

Continued from Page 1
school board that in the near future, when the population is reduced, that the school board and school district employees will “be out of a job.”

No comment came from the board, as is its common practice.

Interim Principal Thomas Blumer will leave this month, as Principal Megan

McGann returns in January from maternity leave.

The board approved a 2025-26 risk management plan and the latest Press Policy updates. Additionally, a resolution to regulate expense reimbursements was approved.

After a closed executive session, the board returned and announced that Kyle Cantwell was hired as a

high school boys basketball assistant coach, Chase Dietz was hired as a part-time worker, Tyler Brown resigned as junior high girls volleyball coach, Payten Hillier was hired as junior high girls volleyball coach and Tim Faber retired from his position as a custodian.

GALVA: Meal program a success

Continued from Page 1
members attended.

It was reported that the free breakfast and lunch program is doing very

well. The only money parents have to pay is for extra food.

The following hirings were approved for 2025-26: Krystal West as varsity head volleyball coach, Heather Anderson as assistant volleyball coach, Michelle Mersman as high school cheerleading coach, Ali Weston as junior-senior

high dance coach, Mike Boston as varsity head golf coach, Brandon Owens as assistant golf coach, Taylor McMeekan as junior-senior high cross country coach and Brenda Anderson as a cafeteria substitute. The board also accepted the resignation of Brandon Gerleman as an assistant football coach.

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PUBLIC RECORD

Traffic citations & Ordinance violations

11-15 - Shawn M. Brown - Uninsured vehicle and display registration plate decal.

12-8 - Teresa R. Wilkins - Expired registration.

Incidents & Accidents Stark County

12-9 - A Toulon resident reported a cellphone theft to the Stark County Sheriff's Office.

12-12 - Joshua D. Davidson, 43, Kewanee, was arrested by authorities from following a pursuit that originated in Henry County. Stark County Deputy Calib Ingle arrested Davidson following a single-vehicle accident at the intersection of 650E and 1650N.

Davidson was issued multiple citations including disobeying a stop sign, reckless driving, improper lane usage, failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident and possession of meth between 15-100 grams. Also, passenger Cody J. Parker, 30, Peoria, was charged with possession of meth with less than 5 grams. Both Davidson and Parker were released with notices to appear.

12-13 - Anthony G. Risch, 27, Bradford, reported expired vehicle plates from his truck were stolen.

12-14 - Ana Maria Gabriela Fortunero-Rojas, 33, Princeville, was cited for speeding 72 mph in a 55 zone, driving without a valid driver's license, driving with no vehicle insurance and failure to secure registration upon ownership. She was released with a court date.

12-14 - Harassment and or threats were the source of a complaint received from a Bradford resident in the 400 block of E. Main St.

12-15 - Tynasha R. Smith, 34, Peoria, was arrested by the Peoria Police Department on an outstanding Stark County warrant for failure to appear on the charge of driving with a suspended license. Smith was also found wanted on a pending Tazewell County warrant. She was released with a notice to appear.

Galva Report

Officer dispatched:

12-9 - to the 100 block of NE 5th St. for an aggressive and loose dog. As the result, Bradley Yelm, 36, Galva, was issued an administrative warning ticket for allowing a dog to run at large.

12-9 - to the 300 block of Commer-

cial St. to check on and elderly subject who had fallen and had facial injuries. Stark County Medic was dispatched for transport.

12-9 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 600 block of SE 2nd St., Nathan Appler, 36, Dewitt, Iowa, was cited for operating a vehicle when registration suspended for mandatory insurance. He was released with a court date.

12-10 - to assist the Galva Street Department remove a disabled vehicle to allow for tree work. The vehicle was inoperable. A warning letter was sent to the vehicle owner.

12-10 - An officer was conducting radar patrol on N. Center Ave. when a northbound vehicle drove past at a high rate of speed. The officer pursued the vehicle north of town but stopped for safety reasons.

12-11 - to the 200 block of NW 4th Ave. for a disturbance involving a group of juveniles trying to fight others. The situation was defused.

12-12 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 300 block of Market St., Angelo Dandrea, 87, Galva, was arrested for operating a vehicle with a cancelled drivers license. He was issued a citation with a court date and then given a ride home.

12-12 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 100 block of Market St., Jennifer Simpkins, 39, Rock Island, was arrested for driving while license revoked. She was released with a court date.

12-12 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 500 block of SE Industrial Ave., Aylayna Simmons, 18, Oneida, was cited for operating a vehicle when registration suspended for mandatory insurance. She was released with a court date.

12-13 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 900 block of SE 2nd St., Timothy Eland, 62, Chillicothe, Mo., was cited for operating a vehicle when registration suspended for mandatory insurance. He was released with a court date.

12-13 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 900 block of SE 2nd St., Michael Gustafson, 56, Galva, was cited for operating a vehicle when registration was suspended for mandatory insurance. He was released with a court date.

12-13 - to the 500 block of SE Industrial Ave. for an illegal-dumping complaint.

12-13 - to the 600 block of NW 7th St. for a landlord-tenant dispute.

12-13 - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. for a disturbance complaint.

12-13 - Roseline Loritan, 32, Bradford, cited for speeding in the 1100 block of SE 2nd St.

12-14 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 900 block of SE 2nd St., James Purnell, 41, Homewood, was cited for operating a vehicle when registration was suspended for mandatory insurance violation. He was released with a court date.

12-14 - to the 00 block of SW 2nd St. to handle an unruly customer .

12-14 - to the 100 block of NE 9th St. for a verbal domestic disturbance.

12-15 - to the 900 block of W. Division St. for a subject screaming and yelling. The subject appeared to be suffering from a mental-health crisis.

12-15 - to the 300 block of SW 3rd St. for a 911 call. Caller was suffering from a mental-health crisis.

Property Transfers

12-9 - Mildred J. Allen Estate and Nita S. James, Exec. to Andrew J. and Hannah M. Plumer - Pt Sect. 20-12-5 NE - Consideration = \$351,808.

12-9 - Misty L. Turnbull to Corbin J. Turnbull - Culbertson's Western Add'n - Block 1 Lot 5 - 501 N. Ogle St., Toulon - Consideration = \$0.

12-10 - James M. Nellinger to James M. Nellinger, Trust - Pt Sect. 3-13-7 SE - Consideration = \$0.

12-12 - Marvin D. Smith, Jr. to Gary L. and Rachel M. Lee - Castleton Pt Block 2 Lots 5,6,7,8,9,10,11 - 205 Sherman St., Castleton. Consideration = \$0.

12-13 - Bradford AL RE, LLC to 100 Courtyard, LLC - Pt Sect. 26-14-7 NE Courtyard Estates Subdivision Lot 1 - 100 Courtyard Boulevard, Bradford. Consideration = \$2,125.

12-13 - Peterson Health Systems, Inc. to 100 Courtyard, LLC - Pt Sect. 26-14-7 NE - Arvilla Acres, Vg of Bradford - Lot 1 - 100 Courtyard Boulevard, Bradford. Consideration = \$0.

12-13 - Bonnie Boss, Shannon Hornby and Jennifer Skinner to Mark R. McGlothlen - Duncan Block 2 Lots 2,3,4,5,6 - 650 Township Road, 1021 E., Duncan. Consideration = \$35,000.

12-13 - Bonnie Boss, Shannon Hornby and Jennifer Skinner to Mark R. McGlothlen - Duncan Block 2 Lots 1 and 7 - 650 Township Road, 1021 E., Duncan. Consideration = \$0.

12-13 - Candace S. Corn and Clea J. Riggins to Bonnie Boss, Shannon Hornby and Jennifer Skinner - Duncan Block 2 Lots 17,18,19,20,21,22. Consideration = \$0.

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GUEST VOICES

Presidents exercise power, move on

Pardons. Just say the term and people will give you an opinion. The offender got out of his sentence unjustly. The offender was unjustly convicted and a wrong has been righted.

The offender has redeemed himself and is worthy of grace. The opinions are there and they certainly are not exclusive of each other.

Recently, the country has been somewhat animated about President Biden's pardon of his son, Hunter Biden, on gun and tax evasion charges. Both Democrats and Republicans have taken to the airwaves to voice their disapproval, especially as President Biden had explicitly told the public that he would not pardon his son. My read on the issue may annoy or anger some and it may amuse others.

The power to pardon is given exclusively to the President by the Con-

stitution for federal crimes. Most state constitutions also give a similar power to governors for state crimes.

There is no appeal from the president's choice to pardon. It is his power absolutely. Most people that I have spoken to are upset Biden issued the pardon for his son. President Trump incurred a lot of anger when he granted a pardon to former Gov. Rod Blagojevich who was convicted of corruption charges. President Clinton also incurred public displeasure when he pardoned his half-brother on drug charges.

Presidential pardons tend to be given at the end of the president's term because there may be political difficulties for the president should he be facing election. And that is the key. The only recourse the public has for a pardon the public views as wrong is to impeach the president or to vote him out of office.

The ballot means nothing if the president is not running for office.

Impeachment has a similar limitation and Congress is simply not inclined to take up an impeachment over a pardon. Neither course of action will take the pardon away. The individual's pardon is irrevocable.

Biden, Trump and Clinton all made decisions to pardon, as have other presidents. Those decisions are beyond the public's purview. The only person with the authority and power to pardon is the president, and there is no appeal. Trump will regain the presidency in January and his pardon of Blagojevich received minimal, commentary, if that, during the campaign. There are simply some things that happen in government that are above the pay grade of us regular folks.

Biden exercised his power and authority. It is simply time to move on.

Richard Koritz is an Illinois native and former DeWitt County State's Attorney.

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BRIEFS

City of Wyoming will keep current insurer

WYOMING – Wyoming’s city council on Tuesday heard Ben Leezer of the Leezer Insurance Agency in Toulon present a third insurance carrier’s proposed premium for coverage.

That company is Bliss-McKnight, which offered the highest proposal compared to Tokio-Marine and Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust.

Leezer recommended Tokio-Marine, the city’s current carrier, for a total policy renewal of \$58,056. The council passed a resolution later during the meeting approving that cost for Tokio-Marine’s premium.

In another presentation, Melinda Edwards represented The Stark County Elementary Parents’ Club and requested a donation from the city for the club’s annual auction fundraiser. This year’s auction fundraiser will be held March 15 at the 4H/Junior Fairgrounds in Wyoming.

The Parent’s Club intends to raise \$60,000 to replace and refurbish the



The Illinois State Scholar Program has honored six Stark County High School students for academic achievement. Scholars honored (left to right) are: Lauren Best, CJ Richards, Adam West, Dillon Steelman, Garrett Bruecks and Lauren Orwig. Selection is based on ACT or SAT scores and the sixth semester class rank.

current playground at Stark County Elementary School in Wyoming.

The council approved a \$1,000 donation.

City Superintendent Joe Kinsella reported that all has been going well. He said he intends to line some sewer lines next spring.

Water/sewer manager Jim Mercer stated, “The sewer plant is running well. Repainting of the water building’s interior has started.”

Economic Development director Denny Rewerts had no reported updates.

– John A. Ballentine



Wayne Glisan (right) commander of the Galva American Legion, presented Diane and Bob Cardiff with a plaque at Saturday’s monthly veteran’s breakfast, thanking the couple for their generous support and friendship. Photo by Carol Townsend.

Peace, good will, and happiness for you this Christmas and every other!

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This is the time of year that has always brought a flood of memories of years gone by. There is nothing that can be said that you haven’t heard before.

It is our hope that your memories of Christmas past will help you through the Christmas present. The loss of a loved one can never be compensated by the passage of time. May the blessing of the Christ Child help you to bear this time.



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May the Christmas Season fill your heart with love, your home with happiness and your life with peace.
Merry Christmas!



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The Greatest Story Ever Told
St. Luke, Chapter 2, Verses 1-20

1. And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.
2. And this taxing was the first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.
3. And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city.
4. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem (because he was of the house and lineage of David);
5. To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.
6. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.
7. And she brought forth her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.
8. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
9. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.
10. And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
11. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.
12. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.
13. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and Saying.
14. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.
15. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us.
16. And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the babe lying in a manger.
17. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.
18. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.
19. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.
20. And the shepherds returned glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.



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OBITUARIES

Suzanne R. Bell

GALVA – Suzanne R. (Armstrong) Bell joined husband Duane in heaven on Dec. 13, 2024, patiently waiting 189 days to again, be forever by his side.

Born July 1, 1938, she was the daughter of Burton and Dorothy (Whiles) Armstrong of Cambridge, Ill. She had two sisters who were her best friends, Donna (Jerry) Smith of Galva and Sharron Cheek, of Galesburg, and many cousins who stayed close over the years. She appreciated their friendship and childhood memories.

Sue met Duane at Galva High School and after graduation they were married on Nov. 17, 1957, at the Methodist Church in Bishop Hill. Loving Galva, they made that their home.

Their family started with four sons; Steve (Susan) of Galva, Richard (Jane Doss) of Fort Meyers, Fla., our deeply missed, Ron (Georgia) of Galesburg and Chris (Tricia) of Broken Arrow, Okla. The family grew, adding 10 grandchildren, Becca, Dan, Remington, Wendy, Kerry, Tracy, Ce Ce, Chloe, Molly and Jonah and an additional 10 healthy great-grandchildren.

Sue loved decorating, baking and getting ready for holidays or get-togethers.

A visitation will be held in her honor from 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 21, at the Rux Funeral Home in Galva.

A coffee luncheon will be held at the Messiah Lutheran Church in Galva afterwards.

Harold S. Chamberlain

GALVA – Harold Sylvester Chamberlain, 95, of West Jersey, Ill., was born May 19, 1929, in West Jersey and passed away peacefully surrounded by his two daughters on Dec. 11, 2024, in Minnesota, where he resided with a daughter over the last two-plus years.

Harold was a hearty man who spent his lifetime farming and operating HS Chamberlain Tree Service.



Bell

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ray and Florence (Rennick) Chamberlain; wife, Janice Lucille (Wigant); sons, Randy Howard and Kevin Wayne; “adopted” son Scott Mason; infant granddaughter Christina Joy Breezley; and brother Walter Chamberlain.

Harold is survived by his daughters, Christine (Dave) Mohler, Zumbro Falls, Minn., and Beth (Jim) Breezley, Farmington, Minn.; daughter-in-law, Diana Chamberlain, Princeton, Ill.; grandchildren, Randy Ray Chamberlain, Heather (Tim) Boyum, David Mohler, Holly (Garrett) Meier, Will (Val) Mohler, James (Katie) Breezley, Trevor (Dena) Breezley and Kylie (Alec) Helseth; 18 great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Shirley Johnson; and several nephews and nieces.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Richard B. Clark

GALVA – Richard B. “Dick” Clark, 88, of Galva, died at 12:18 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 15, 2024, at Seminary Manor in Galesburg.

He was born Dec. 11, 1936, in Ellenboro, Wis., the son of Louis and Anna (Landon) Clark. He had married Doris Winters Walsh and later married Bonnie J. De-Crane on Feb. 15, 1995, in Las Vegas.

Survivors include his wife of Galva; his two sons; Steve (Jenny) Clark of Waukegan, and Brian (Shelly) Clark of Tiffin, both of Iowa, his siblings, Raymond Paul Clark of Victoria, Catherine Schiessl (Christine Graff) of Dubuque, Iowa and Lois Jean Melvin of Rockford, two grandchildren, Cameron (Ali) Clark and Isabella Clark, two great grandchildren, Maggie and Gabe Clark and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and five brothers; William, Patrick, Michael, Lee and Gene “O.D.”

Dick served his country in the U.S. Army from 1954-56. He worked for Midwest operating engineers and was a heavy equipment operator. He was a member of Local 150 for over 60 years and holds a lifetime membership. He enjoyed traveling, remodeling and flipping homes and looking at vehicles, trucks and construction sites.

He was a crafty and talented individual who enjoyed drinking coffee and visiting with his family and friends.

Cremation will be accorded and no services are planned at this time. Rux Funeral Home in Galva is assisting the family with arrangements.

Judy K. Schaffer

WYOMING – Judy K. Schaffer, 76, of Wyoming, passed away at 7:50 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 15, 2024, at her residence, surrounded by family. Judy was born on April 1, 1948, in Toulon, to Arthur and Evelyn Storey. She married Dennis E. Schaffer on Dec. 17, 1966, in Peoria. He preceded her in death on Feb. 15, 2008.

Surviving are two sons, Tony (Teresa) Schaffer and Larry “Doug” Schaffer, both of Wyoming; five grandchildren, Justin (Miranda), Richard, Naomie (Jake), Brianna and Kolton; five great-grandchildren, Sage, Jaxon, Hunter, Sky Paige and Danny; three sisters, Dianne “DeeDee” (James) Smith of North Carolina, Linda (Ronald) Schierer of Peoria and Karen Van Scyoc of Peoria; and several nieces and nephews. She was also preceded in death by her parents; one granddaughter, Brittany Schaffer; and a brother-in-law, Richard Van Scyoc.

Judy was a member of Wyoming American Legion Women’s Auxiliary for many years and the Ladies Bowling League for several years. She was very blessed to be a stay-at-home mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Judy was a very giving lady who never let you do without if she had it, she gave it. She loved to bake, mostly pies, and her family would fight over who got the first piece or whole pie.

Her visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 20, 2024, at Haskell Funeral & Cremation Services in Wyoming. Funeral mass will be at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 21, 2024, at St. Dominic Catholic Church in Wyoming. The Rev. John the Baptist Uwigaba will officiate. Burial will follow in St. Dominic Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Stark County Ambulance Service or to St. Dominic Catholic Church. Condolences may be left for Judy’s family on her tribute wall at www.haskellfuneral.com.



Schaffer



Clark



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1st Congregational Church of Toulon

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218 N. Henderson St., Toulon

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Email fcctoulon@gmail.com

website: firstcongregationaltoulon.org

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LEGAL ADS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, STARK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

CAUSE NO. 2024TX7 TO THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS (AND IF DECEASED, TO THEIR UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES), AND TO THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, AND TO ALL INTERESTED DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES THEREOF, INCLUDING AMONG OTHERS ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL, ILLINOIS DEPT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY, STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPT OF HEALTHCARE & FAMILY SERVICES (PUBLIC AID) GENERAL COUNSEL AND STARK COUNTY CLERK, STARK COUNTY TREASURER, CITY OF TOULON, STARK COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY, AND TO OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND PARTIES INTERESTED IN THE PARCELS HEREINAFTER NAMED:

| Parcel Number | Owners/Parties Interested | Cert Number | Street Or Common Address |
|---------------|--|-------------|------------------------------------|
| 03-18-304-002 | MCCURDY, ELIZABETH ANNE | 202100013 | 109 JACKSON ST. |
| 03-18-304-002 | MCCURDY, ALLAN DEAN WARD | 202100013 | 109 JACKSON ST. |
| 04-36-200-006 | RIVERSIDE PROCESSING CO INC A/K/A RIVERSIDE PROCESSING, INC. PRES: W GALE PHEIFFER | 202100026 | STATE ROUTE 17 & TOWNSHIP ROAD 700 |
| 04-36-200-006 | PRINCEVILLE STATE BANK | 202100026 | STATE ROUTE 17 & TOWNSHIP ROAD 700 |

TAKE NOTICE THAT THE ABOVE SAID PARCELS WERE SOLD ON OCTOBER 25, 2022, FOR GENERAL-TAXES FOR THE YEAR 2021 AND PRIOR YEARS, AND THAT THE PERIOD OF REDEMPTION FROM SUCH SALE EXPIRES MAY 19, 2025. TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT A PETITION FOR ORDER DIRECTING ISSUANCE OF TAX DEEDS HAS BEEN FILED IN THE ABOVE SAID CAUSE AS TO THE ABOVE-NAMED PARCELS BY STARK COUNTY, AS TRUSTEE, AND THAT ON JUNE 20, 2025 AT 11:00 AM [COURTROOM 1], SAID PETITIONER WILL APPLY FOR AN ORDER THAT A TAX DEED ISSUE AS TO EACH ABOVE SAID PARCEL NOT REDEEMED ON OR BEFORE MAY 19, 2025. /S/ STARK COUNTY AS TRUSTEE, PETITIONER.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK
ADDRESS: 130 WEST MAIN, TOULON, IL 61483
TELEPHONE: (309) 286-5911
Published 12/6, 12/13, 12/20/24

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ESTATE OF KEITH D. ORR, Deceased.
No. 2024P121

CLAIM NOTICE (Publication)

Notice is given of the death of Keith D. Orr. Letters of Office were issued on November 26, 2024 to Dianna Orr and Lorie Manthe as Independent Representatives whose attorneys are Barash & Everett, LLC.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the clerk of court, Henry County Courthouse, Cambridge, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before June 5th, 2025. Any claim not filed by that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit: <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/> service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If

you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit: <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.
Barash & Everett, LLC
Attorney for Executor
211 W. 2nd St.
Kewanee, IL 61443
(309) 852-5555
Published 12/13, 12/20/24, 1/3/25

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Estate of LYNN M. YELM, deceased
No. 2024-PR-125

CLAIM NOTICE (Publication)

Notice is given of the death of LYNN M. YELM. Letters of Office were issued on December 12, 2024, to Casey J. Pozzi, 18205 2400 East St., Princeton, IL 61356, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Michael Massie, Massie & Quick, LLC, P.O. Box 205, Galva, IL 61434.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Henry County Circuit Clerk, Henry County Courthouse, 307 W. Center St., Cambridge, IL 61238, or with the representative, or both, within six months from the date of first publication, the BAR DATE, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten days after it has been filed.
Massie & Quick, LLC
Attorneys for Estate
P.O. Box 205
Galva, IL 61434
Telephone: (309) 932-2168
Published 12/20, 1/3, 1/10/25

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-1

JULY 1, 2024 through JUNE 30, 2025 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE WYOMING COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF STARK AND MARSHALL COUNTIES, ILLINOIS

BE IT ORDAINED by the Trustees of the WYOMING COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT of Stark and Marshall Counties, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION 1: The following Annual Budget and Tax Appropriation Ordinance, containing an estimate of receipts, expenditures and appropriations for the FIRE PROTECTION (CORPORATE) FUND, AMBULANCE SERVICE FUND, and INSURANCE FUND, is hereby passed, approved, adopted and appropriated for the Corporate uses of and by the WYOMING COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT of Stark and Marshall Counties, Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2024 and ending on June 30, 2025:

SECTION 2: FIRE PROTECTION (CORPORATE) FUND.

A. ESTIMATED REVENUES

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Beginning Cash on Hand (Checking \$369,087.74) | \$369,088 |
| 2024 Property Taxes (Fire Protection Tax) | \$119,400 |
| Interest | \$200 |
| Replacement Tax | \$10,800 |
| Foreign Fire Insurance | |
| Tax Revenue | \$4,000 |
| Miscellaneous Income | \$500 |
| TOTAL REVENUES and BEGINNING CASH BALANCE: | \$503,988 |

B. ESTIMATED APPROPRIATIONS/EXPENDITURES

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Firefighter Expense | \$50,000 |
| Building Maintenance & Repairs | \$20,000 |
| Truck Maintenance & Repairs | \$20,000 |
| Equipment Maintenance | |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| & Repairs | \$20,000 |
| Utilities | \$10,000 |
| Trustee Expenses | \$1,500 |
| Secretary/Treasurer Expenses and Stipend | \$2,000 |
| Capital Purchases | \$200,000 |
| Equipment Purchases | \$100,000 |
| Professional Fees | \$4,000 |
| Telephone / Internet | \$7,500 |
| Dues | \$500 |
| Legal Expenses | \$3,500 |
| Office Expenses and Misc. | \$500 |
| Fuel | \$10,000 |
| Miscellaneous Expense | \$5,000 |

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE FIRE PROTECTION FUND: \$454,500

SECTION 3: AMBULANCE SERVICE FUND.

A. ESTIMATED REVENUES

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| 2024 Property Taxes (Ambulance Tax) | \$205,450 |
| Interest | \$- |
| Loans | \$- |

TOTAL REVENUES and BEGINNING CASH BALANCE: \$205,450

B. ESTIMATED APPROPRIATIONS/EXPENDITURES

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Contractual Ambulance Service | \$228,240 |
|-------------------------------|-----------|

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE AMBULANCE SERVICE FUND: \$228,240

SECTION 4: INSURANCE FUND.

A. ESTIMATED REVENUES

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| 2024 Property Taxes | \$16,400 |
|---------------------|----------|

TOTAL REVENUES and BEGINNING CASH BALANCE: \$16,400

B. ESTIMATED APPROPRIATIONS/EXPENDITURES

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Insurance Premiums | \$19,500 |
|--------------------|----------|

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE INSURANCE FUND: \$19,500

ESTIMATED CASH BALANCE ON HAND AT YEAR END: \$23,598

SECTION 5: SUMMARY. The amount appropriated for the Fire Protection District purposes for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, by fund is as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FUND: | \$454,500 |
| AMBULANCE SERVICE FUND: | \$228,240 |
| INSURANCE FUND: | \$19,500 |

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS: \$702,240

SECTION 6: That the total sum of **Seven Hundred Two Thousand Two Hundred Forty and No/100 Dollars (\$702,240)** is hereby appropriated for the FIRE PROTECTION FUND, AMBULANCE SERVICE FUND, and INSURANCE FUND for the Corporate uses of and by the WYOMING COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT of Stark and Marshall Counties, Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2024 and ending on June 30, 2025.

SECTION 7: All unexpended balances of any item or items of any general appropriation may be expended in making up a deficiency in any other item or items in the same general appropriation, or for the same general purpose or a like purpose, as herein provided.

SECTION 8: All unexpended balances of appropriations for the fiscal year, which has just been concluded, are hereby appropriated for the fiscal year begun for the purpose hereinbefore set forth.

SECTION 9: This Budget and Appropriation Ordinance shall be in full force and effect, ten (10) days after its publication, as required by law.

PASSED December 2, 2024
APPROVED December 2, 2024
WYOMING COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

By: Ross Elsasser, President
ATTEST: Keith Knobloch, Secretary
Published 12/20/24

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REBATE...\$10,000*
EMAG.....\$1,216
SALE PRICE \$48,999

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MSRP...\$43,340
REBATE...\$1,500*
EMAG.....\$2,841
SALE PRICE \$38,999

2024 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT
FULL POWER • 30+ MPG BEST SELLER
0% APR OAC

MSRP...\$32,985
REBATE...\$2,750*
EMAG.....\$2,236
SALE PRICE \$27,999

2024 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500
LT • CREW CAB • Z71 • 4X4 • 5.3 BEST SELLER
\$14,500 OFF MSRP!

MSRP...\$60,530
REBATE...\$8,250*
EMAG.....\$6,281
SALE PRICE \$45,999

2024 CHEVROLET TAHOE Z71
4X4 • LEATHER • CENTER BUCKETS OFF-ROAD
\$11,500 OFF MSRP!

MSRP...\$74,280
REBATE...\$2,500*
EMAG.....\$8,981
SALE PRICE \$65,799

2024 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LT
SAFETY PKG • 35+ MPG! BEST SELLER
LAST ONE!

MSRP...\$26,385
REBATE...\$1,500*
EMAG.....\$1,886
SALE PRICE \$22,999

2024 GMC SIERRA 1500
SLE • 4X4 • CREW CAB • 18'S
\$14,500 OFF MSRP!

MSRP...\$57,590
REBATE...\$9,000*
EMAG.....\$5,591
SALE PRICE \$42,999

2024 GMC TERRAIN SLE
AWD • SAFETY PKG • 30+ MPG! CONVENIENCE
.9% APR OAC

MSRP...\$34,310
REBATE...\$3,750*
EMAG.....\$2,561
SALE PRICE \$27,999

2023 GMC SIERRA SLE
4X4 • 4-DOOR • 20'S BEST SELLER!
LAST ONE!

MSRP...\$55,740
REBATE...\$8,000*
EMAG.....\$4,741
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Mowing Bids
The Stark County Junior Fair is accepting bids for mowing and trimming of the fairgrounds located in Wyoming, Illinois, for the 2025 season. Bids should be in Barbie Allen's, Board Director and Secretary, possession by Friday, January 31st, no later than 5:00 p.m. The Stark County Fair has the right to reject any or all bids. Bid sheets with specifications are available from Barbie Allen (309) 361-8024.

SPORTS: Daum scores 32 to lead Rebels to win

Continued from Page 12
 against Peoria Heights, Sophie Finnegan added 10, Taylor Price and Kenna Newton scored six apiece and Jacey Endress and Emily Demetreon chipped in five points apiece.

Points were tougher to come by in the 56-31 home loss to Wethersfield on Dec. 11. Johnston led with 10 points, Demetreon scored six and Newton tallied five.

The Lady Rebels were to play Putnam County at home Wednesday and travel to Varna Midland Thursday. The last home game of 2024 is Dec. 23 vs. Lewistown, then it's off to the Warkins Holiday Tournament for games vs. Erie-Prophetstown on Dec. 27 at 11:30 a.m. and vs. Stockton at 2:30. Tourney play continues Dec. 28 and 30.

The Lady Rebels have been assigned to the Monmouth United Sectional complex for the postseason.

• **SC boys** – Connor Daum had 32 points to lead Stark County to a 60-56 victory Dec. 14 at Lowpoint-Washburn.

The hosts led 32-29 at intermission, but the Rebels (3-5) held them to three third-quarter field goals. In that period, Ross Saner had four of his 10 points and Chris Barnwell scored four of his five.

Saner had 20 points Dec. 12 against North Fulton, but Stark County lost 48-32. Stark County led 18-4 after eight minutes, thanks to eight points from Saner and seven from Daum. But the Rebels had only four points over the middle two quarters, and North Fulton led by 15 after three.

Following a game Thursday at Midland, Stark County is off until the Warkins Memorial Classic, a pool-play tournament that begins Dec. 27 at Erie. Stark County plays twice on the first day – at 11:30 a.m. against Sterling Newman and at 2:30 p.m.

against Lena-Winslow.

Pairings for Dec. 28 are based on pool-play finishes. The tournament ends Dec. 30.

The IHSA assigned Stark County to the Brimfield Sectional for the 1A state tournament. Regionals in the Rebels' sub-sectional are to be played at Biggsville West Central and Roanoke-Benson. Brimfield, Elmwood, Princeville and ROWVA-Williamsfield are in the same sub-sectional as

Stark County.

• **Galva girls** – Galva (3-8) topped Peoria Heights on Dec. 16, 61-33, to rebound from a 55-25 loss at Ridgewood on Dec. 11.

The Lady Wildcats were to travel to face Kewanee on Dec. 18.

After that, Galva will compete in the 13th annual Lee Westerman Girls Tournament at Princeville. Galva opens play on Dec. 26 vs. Elmwood at 9 a.m., then plays Friday and Saturday, Dec. 27-28.



All are welcome to join us for our Christmas Eve Service
 Dec. 24 at 7 pm
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The annual meeting of the Stark County Junior Fair will be held on Thursday, January 9th at 6:00 p.m. at the Stark County Fairgrounds in Wyoming, IL for Stark County residents 18 or older. There are 4 open Director positions.
 Barbie Allen
 Stark County Junior Fair Secretary

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- Looking for someone trying to make their life better. Lots of nice womens clothes, sizes 6 to 10, shoes, sizes 6 to 7, household items, antique collectibles, over 200 collectible pigs, antique cookie jars, several 100 pieces of Jewel Tea, will sell separately, old fashion costume jewelry from 30s & 40s, two handmade quilts from early 1800s to 1900s, never used, always bagged, twin quilt with matching shams, hand embroidered squares by me, put together by my grandmother, lots of antiques in back in tents under tarps too. Affordable prices, no decent offer refused. Shown by appointment, call D at (309) 206-6537 or (309) 932-1003
- FOR RENT**
- **TOULON:** Upstairs 2 bedroom apartment for rent in Toulon, 105 E. Main. Call (309) 678-1831

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THANK YOU

The Wyoming Christmas Baskets would like to say thank you to all who gave generously by your monetary donations or your time, we are truly grateful and blessed by such a caring and giving community. May you all have a wonderful and blessed New Year. God bless you.

Mike Finnegan, Treasurer
 Marilyn Swearingen, Director
 Wyoming Christmas Baskets

Season's Greetings and Thank You to all our customers for their continued support

Streitmatter Land Improvement
 Wyoming

MSW Projects, Marshall-Stark Public Transportation
309-364-2287

Stark County Regular Van Schedule for December

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mon., Dec. 2: Peoria | Thurs., Dec. 5: Kewanee |
| Mon., Dec. 9: Princeton | Thurs., Dec. 12 Peoria |
| Mon., Dec. 16: Kewanee | Thurs., Dec. 19 Princeton |
| Mon., Dec. 23: Peoria | Thurs., Dec. 26 Kewanee |
| Mon., Dec. 30: Peoria | |

Please note: If local schools are closed due to bad weather, MSW will be closed and there will be no transports

Pick up:
 Bradford 8:40, Wyoming 8:55,
 Toulon 9:10; Depart from destination city at 2:30

Fees: People under age 60: \$10 except to Kewanee is \$6; People aged 60 & over: voluntary donation
 Call by 4:00 p.m. the day before you would like to ride the van to make your reservation.

Individual transports are available M - F with advanced reservations.

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND
 STARK COUNTY

The Stark County Good Samaritan Fund has been busy this year. As I am sure you understand the economy has taken a toll on many working families in our area. The Ameren bill just seems to go higher and the rents are being raised to what we here in Stark County would never have dreamed. And all it takes is a bump in the road, a sickness, an accident, a major car repair and then the bottom falls out for many in our community. But in those cases when the paycheck is short or over stressed with extra bills the Stark County Good Samaritan fund can help. You can help, because the fund is supported by the good people of Stark County. Can you help us help others this year? Send donations to the Stark County Good Samaritan Fund, PO Box 233, Toulon, IL 61483

Thank you and have a Merry Christmas.

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Galva boys to be busy in Bureau County

By NICK VLAHOS and JEFF LAMPE
For The Prairie News

Northeastern Bureau County will become a familiar destination for the Galva boys basketball team the next few weeks.

The Wildcats were scheduled to play Thursday night (Dec. 19) at La-Moille-Ohio. They return there in the days after Christmas to play in the LaMoille Holiday Classic.

Galva (6-1) opens the tournament at noon Dec. 26 against DePue. Games continue Dec. 27 and 28. Galva has the best record of the eight teams in the tournament, according to Coach Jake McClintic. Galva also plays Saturday at Elmwood and Monday at home against Varna Midland.

The Wildcats had only one game last week, a 70-41 home victory over Peoria Heights. JP Sloan and Blake Stahl each had 16 points, MJ Louck scored 14 and Reid Harris scored 12 on 86% field shooting. Harris had nine rebounds. Stahl had five assists and Louck had five steals.

Regarding the 2025 Class 1A state tournament, Galva was assigned to the Pecatonica Sectional, according



The Stark County girls basketball team has started the season with a record of 5-4. Pictured above are team members: Front row (left to right) – Abby Nagode, Tessah Potter, Haylie Moodie, Taylor Price, Hallie Newton, Adelynn Gibson and Addy Westphal. Back row (l to r) – Coach Bob Bohm, Maeve Colgan, Emily Demetreon, Lucie Colgan, Cambri Holmstrom, Sophie Finnegan, Coley Johnston and Kenna Newton.

to the Illinois High School Association. Regionals in the Wildcats' sub-sectional are to be played at Amboy and Savanna West Carroll.

• **SC girls** – The Lady Rebels (5-4) are still experiencing some growing pains with a young lineup, but already surpassed last year's win total after just six games.

"When we face older, more experienced teams, we struggle with the ability to battle the toughness that senior-led teams bring to the court,"

Coach Bob Bohm said. "But the girls are starting to gel together. We have a saying for our team, "mudita," that Assistant Coach (Chad) Acree brought in, meaning vicarious joy for other's success. And we are buying in."

Stark County bounced back from a tough loss to Wethersfield by winning easily at Peoria Heights on Dec. 12, 63-18.

Coley Johnston put up 21 points

Continued on Page 11

Seasons Greetings
 Joy resounds in the hearts of those who believe in the miracle of Christmas! Wishing you all the Peace, Joy and Love of the Season!
























The Rennick Law Firm, P.C.
 117-119 West Court Street • P.O. Box 430
 Toulon, IL 61483
 (309) 286-5921
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Merry Christmas!
 May God Bless you and your family on this special day

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| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <p>2021 Buick Envision 4dr., Crossover Price \$25,500 Mileage 20,151</p>  | <p>2019 Buick Enclave 4x4 Avenir 4dr., Crossover Price \$16,000 Mileage 155,700</p>  | <p>HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS!</p> <p>NELSON Auto Sales</p> <p>201 E. MAIN STREET TOULON, IL 61483 309-286-3121</p> <p>WWW.NELSONAUTOSALES.COM EMAIL: nelsonauto4047@gmail.com</p> | | | |
| <p>2021 Chevrolet Equinox Premier 4x4 Premier 4dr SUV Price \$26,300 Mileage 32,389</p>  | <p>2023 Chevrolet TrailBlazer LT 4x4 LT 4dr SUV Price \$19,800 Mileage 77,828</p>  | <p>2022 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT 4x4 4dr Crew Cab 5.8 ft. SB w/1LT Price \$37,500 Mileage 63,354</p>  | <p>2020 Chevrolet Traverse LT Cloth 4x4 LT Cloth 4dr SUV w/2FL Price \$27,500 Mileage 58,307</p>  | <p>2007 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD Classic LT1 4dr Extended Cab 4WD LB Price \$10,000 Mileage 190,062</p>  | <p>2003 Chevrolet Silverado 3500 4X2 2dr Regular Cab Price \$6,500 Mileage 92,404</p>  |
| <p>1995 Chrysler Le Baron GTC GTC 2dr Convertible Price \$5,000 Mileage 122,557</p>  | <p>2019 Dodge Durango R/T AWD R/T 4dr SUV Price \$22,000 Mileage 125,475</p>  | <p>2022 Ford Edge Titanium AWD Titanium 4dr Crossover Price \$25,000 Mileage 53,800</p>  | <p>2021 Ford F-150 XLT 4x4 4dr SuperCrew 5.5 ft. SB Price \$30,000 Mileage 82,023</p>  | <p>2018 Ford F-150 XLT 4x4 XLT 4dr SuperCab 6.5 ft. SB Price \$21,500 Mileage 103,650</p>  | <p>2018 Ford Escape SEL AWD SEL 4dr SUV Price \$14,500 Mileage 100,909</p>  |
| <p>1990 Freightliner CONVENTIONAL FLD Price \$25,000 Mileage Email For Mileage</p>  | <p>2019 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT 4x4 SLT 4dr Crew Cab 5.8 ft. SB Price \$35,000 Mileage 87,866</p>  | <p>2010 Harley-Davidson Street Glide Price \$11,000 Mileage 28,429</p>  | <p>2022 Hyundai Sonata SE SE 4dr Sedan Price \$18,500 Mileage 46,327</p>  | <p>2019 Hyundai Santa Fe Ultimate 2.0T AWD Ultimate 2.0T 4dr Crossover Price \$22,700 Mileage 92,477</p>  | <p>2018 Hyundai Santa Fe Sport 2.4L AWD 4dr SUV Price \$15,000 Mileage 117,480</p>  |
| <p>2022 Nissan Altima 2.5 SR 2.5 SR 4dr Sedan Price \$21,000 Mileage 18,662</p>  | <p>2013 Nissan Sentra SV SV 4dr Sedan Price \$7,500 Mileage 96,153</p>  | <p>2020 Nissan Versa SV SV 4dr Sedan Price \$16,500 \$17,000 Mileage 75,998</p>  | <p>2020 RAM 1500 Big Horn 4x4 4dr Quad Cab 6.4 ft. SB Pickup Price \$29,500 Mileage 46,512</p>  | <p>2022 RAM 2500 Big Horn 4x4 4dr Crew Cab 6.3 ft. SB Pickup Price \$38,800 Mileage 42,419</p>  | <p>2021 Subaru Forester Touring AWD Touring 4dr Crossover Price \$22,500 Mileage 93,000</p>  |