

Mondamin's

April 2024



Mission: To help residents learn what is happening in town and around the area.

CITY COUNCIL NEWS

Mondamin's City Council met on Monday, March 4 to discuss several different topics. Many of the agenda items concerned the new water treatment project which includes new water meter improvements and a request to extend a water main west of the city limits. About 58% of the project has been completed using CDBG funds and \$1,353,132 coming from a USDA Loan. Also, Casey Pape from Farm Service Agency presented options for CRP on the city's land adjacent to the new wells and water treatment plant. The council will review the options and choose how that property can best be used by the city once the plant is completed.

Attached to this newsletter is a chart to help explain who pays property tax and how those tax dollars are divided among local jurisdictions.

The town's Heritage Day was also on the agenda. That celebration will be held Saturday, June 8.

The next council meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 1.

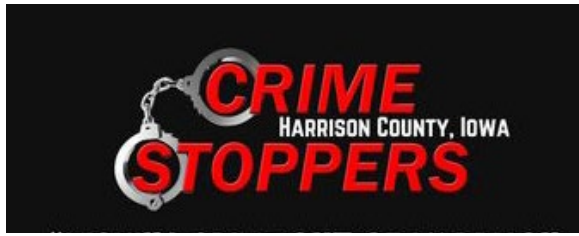
COMMUNITY NEWS

Mondamin's Fire and Rescue annual dinner/dance will be held on Saturday, April 6. The steak dinner will be catered by Texas Roadhouse from 5:00-7:00 p.m. The dance, with music provided by Rock and Roll Cowboyz, begins at 7:00 p.m. and lasts until 11:00 p.m.

Raffle tickets are available for \$5.00 each. Prizes are

- 1st prize 75" UHD TV
- 2nd prize is a \$100 in cash
- 3rd and 4th prizes are \$50.00 each.

Because the rescue part of the department is not tax supported, this annual fundraiser is the main source of revenue to buy supplies and equipment for the emergency services provided to this area. Tickets for the dinner/dance are \$60.00 a couple or \$30.00 for a single. You can purchase your tickets from any fire/rescue department member or stop at the Jiffy Mart in Mondamin. Also, if you received a flyer in the mail, you can mail the bottom portion of the flyer to Mondamin Fire & Rescue at 602 Maple Street, Mondamin, IA 51557. If you are not able to attend, but would like to donate to the department, any amount is appreciated and can be mailed to the above address. Thank you for your support!



If you see a crime, call **1-866-901-0357**.
Your report is anonymous.

Harrison County Crime Stoppers meets the first Thursday of each month in the sheriff's office at 7:00 pm and you are welcome to attend.

Matthew's House Food Pantry is open to the public on Sundays from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. At the present time the food pantry could especially use the following: cereal, hamburger helper, canned fruit, sugar, mustard, ketchup, paper towels, toilet paper, and shampoo. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

The American Legion fish/chicken dinner held on March 9 set an all-time record of meals served – 141! The next dinner will be April 13. Records are made to be broken! Bring your friends and enjoy a delicious meal at the next fish fry.

West Harrison Sponsors 2nd Annual Spring Clean-up Day Set for April 25.

West Harrison's 3-12 graders will again be supervised by the staff to provide the energy and muscle to spruce up the school grounds and the Mondamin City Park and to do chores for residents who call by April 23 to place their names on the list.

- 3rd-5th graders will be stationed at the school grounds.
- 6th-8th graders will be located in the park with plans to paint the open shelter.
- 9th-12th graders will rake flower beds or yards, paint or do small repairs at community residents' homes with teacher supervision.

Coordinators for this activity are West Harrison guidance counselor, RaeLea Herman (712 646-2231), Maggie Rains (712 646-2249), and City Clerk, Alyx Hirst, (712 646-2431). If you would like to have some spring chores done at your home or business, please contact any one of the three numbers listed above by April 23. **This event will begin at 10:45 am on April 25.**

Last year these groups worked in the park picking up sticks, cleaning flower beds, raking leaves and mulching around the flower bed borders at the Mondamin Public Library. Another group moved fallen tree limbs, raked, and really made these areas look beautiful for spring. And the same will certainly happen again this spring as well.

Mondamin Community Partners is hosting a Vendor/Flea Market at the Mondamin Community Center on July 13 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. If you are interested in having a table at this event, email mcp@abettermondamin.org to register.

Plan now to attend Heritage Day on June 8. The committee is in the discussion/planning stage for the parade and the activities that will follow in the Mondamin City Park. Watch for more details as the date gets closer.

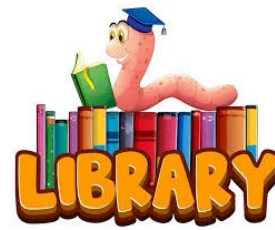
Avenue of Flags

In April current flag subscribers will receive renewal forms in the mail. Flag renewals cost \$15 per flag. If anyone wishes to sponsor a flag, request a form from Alyx at City Hall or any of the Avenue of Flag Committee Members: Becky (712 299-5830), Ben (402 9903447), Bob (402 290-9042), or Maggie (712-646-2249).



West Harrison, Little Sioux, Modale, Pisgah and Mondamin Alumni Banquet

The alumni banquet committee met Thursday, March 7 to begin planning the program for the banquet on June 8. Suggestions for a caterer for the banquet were taken and one will be contacted. Invitations will be mailed out to alumni. If you are a graduate/attended West Harrison or any of the high schools that make up West Harrison and you would like to attend the banquet but did not receive an invitation, contact Norma at (712 310-0483) or Larry at (712 646-2916).



LIBRARY NEWS

The donations to the library have continued to arrive. Thank you all so very much! Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Come join us at the city park on April 8 to view the solar eclipse at 10:42 am. We have 50 pairs of glasses.

Stop in to see what's new. Remember, there is something for everyone in the library!



The book club met on March 27 to discuss *All Creatures Great and Small*. They will meet again on May 22 to talk about *Hang the Moon* by Jeanette Walls. All are invited to join the group.




Maclayn Houston

West Harrison Senior

By Donella Pauli and Maggie Rains

A little over 18 years ago on October 3, 2005, West Harrison's elementary



secretary posted a sign on her office door announcing the birth of Maclayn Vincentia Houston. As staff members saw the sign: “What’s her name?” “How do you pronounce her name?” “Did you see what Amy and Eric named their baby girl?”

Fast forward 18 years and there’s no doubt about it now that the West Harrison community certainly knows her name and Maclayn has put her name in the athletic record books for volleyball and basketball for years to come. (See her records listed at the end of this article.)

Sports have been a part of Maclayn’s life for almost as long as she can remember. Her mother, Amy, took her to play on select teams, AAU teams, and to learn how to play the games starting in 1st grade. Her two older brothers, Ty and Trenton, both West Harrison graduates, have served as role models for Maclayn as she watched them work very hard and put everything into whatever they did.

When Maclayn was asked which sport she enjoyed the most, she answered, “All of them. I guess it’s whichever one I’m playing at the moment.” Her advice to young girls is to pick a sport that they are passionate about and to put in the time to get better.

One highlight of Maclayn’s volleyball career was a 10 day trip to Costa Rica in July of 2023 as part of the group GLASS – Girls Leadership Academy for Service and

Sports. GLASS is a leadership development program designed to help high school female athletes unleash their full potential on and off the field of play. Maclayn went to Costa Rica with girls from all over the United States. The group visited different cities, worked with special needs groups, performed service projects, enjoyed excursions such as going on a catamaran, played sports with children in the various areas, worked out by a dormant volcano, and attended leadership workshops. One service project that she remembers well is spending time at a homeless dog shelter where there weren’t enough volunteers to walk and bathe the dogs on a regular basis. The girls spent time helping with these jobs.

In addition to being exposed to a different culture with lots of rice and beans to eat, (Yes, she said she is a picky eater!) Maclayn mentioned that it was nice to spend time with girls who had similar interests. In fact, the girls still keep in touch with each other. This is a program that Maclayn highly recommends to other West Harrison girls.

Maclayn has had an outstanding athletic career during her years at West Harrison High School. When asked about Maclayn, her volleyball coach, Kathy Glennie said, “The thing that stands out the most to me about Maclayn is her hustle and drive to be better every day. She is

knowledgeable, not only about volleyball, but also every sport she plays. She is humble, positive, kind, coachable, witty, never complains, and always has an infectious smile on her face. Maclayn is a team player. She never made volleyball about herself; it was always about the team. I will miss her, but I'm happy she's taking the next step to play volleyball at Morningside."

West Harrison's girls' basketball coach, Drew Radloff, offered these comments about Maclayn: "Once I started coaching Maclayn during her sophomore year, I knew right away that she had all the necessary attributes to be legendary. Most people think those attributes are basketball skills, though she does have those, but the leadership qualities she possesses made it an easy decision for the team and myself to name her captain for three years. Her hard work in practice and in the off season was unmatched. The records she broke came as no surprise to me. The single greatest thing I admire and appreciate about Maclayn is her positive attitude and mindset when working as a team. The maturity, grit, athleticism, and energy she brought to the team, school, and community will be greatly missed."

Maclayn will finish her WH athletic career by participating in track where she will run the 400 M hurdles and participate in high jump. When asked about Maclayn, her track coach, Steve Forbes, said,

"Maclayn is the easiest athlete I have had the privilege to work with. She is very coachable and listens to every word of advice you give her. She goes out and gives 100 percent in the meets and never worries about who she has to run against. She is an athlete that is so down to earth she never gloats if she wins and if she is off that day, she picks herself up and works harder to get better." We hope her track season goes well and maybe there will be more records set.

This fall Maclayn will attend Morningside University in Sioux City where she will major in nursing and continue her volleyball career with the Mustangs. We wish her the best of luck!

Maclayn Vincentia Houston, daughter of Ryan and Amy Stolz and the late Eric Houston, has left her mark on West Harrison and no longer will our community ask, "What's her name?" "How do you say her name?" We know it now!



VOLLEYBALL RECORDS BROKEN BY MACLAYN HOUSTON 2023 SEASON

Most Kills in a Season	291
Most kills in a Career	764
Most Kills Per Set in a Season	4
Most Digs in a Season	330
Most Digs in a Career	858

BASKETBALL RECORDS BROKEN BY MACLAYN HOUSTON 2023-24 SEASON

High Game Score	46 Points
High Career Scoring*	1328 Points
Average Points Per*	
Game for a Career	19.8 Points
1000 Career Points*	
Effective Field Goal Percentage*	46.2%
Most Free Throws in a Game	20
	71.4%
Most Free Throws in a Career*	425

* Accomplished in 3 years



Just to bring a little smile . . .

Did you hear about the submarine that sank on April Fools' Day?

Someone left a window open!

How do you keep a fool in suspense?

I'll tell you tomorrow!

Why do bumblebees hum?

They don't know the words!

What do baseball teams and pancakes have in common?

They both need a good batter!

What did the envelope say to the stamp?

Stick with me and we'll go places!

Do you have ideas for this newsletter?

Please let us know. Do you know someone you'd like to see in our Spotlight section?



SCHOOL NEWS

West Harrison Child Fair

A child fair for West Harrison children will be held on Wednesday, April 10 from 9:00 am until noon. Children ages birth to 5 who live in the West Harrison School District and are not presently in kindergarten are eligible to attend, but you **MUST have an appointment.**

A developmental screening to learn if your child is playing, moving, thinking, and talking at his/her age level will be given. Screenings include vision, hearing, speech and language.

Call West Harrison Elementary at **712 646-2016** to make an appointment.

Golden Garden Prom set for April 13 at 6:30 pm.

Juniors Hosting Shoe Drive

Juniors are still working hard to raise money for prom and graduation! Currently, we are hosting a shoe drive. All of the shoes we collect will be reused and given to those in need with many of them heading to third-world countries. Shoes can be brought to the school during the day or contact Ms. Haag (thaag@w-harrison.k12.ia.us) to schedule a drop-off. You can help us by donating

gently worn, used, and new shoes. We will be collecting shoes until April 15th. Our goal is to collect 100 bags of 25 shoes for a grand total of 2,500 shoes! Help us reach our goal and donate your shoes today! (article from WH's Facebook page)

On April 25 West Harrison 3rd-12th graders will be involved in a Community Clean-Up Day. The school grounds will be spruced up by the 3rd through 5th graders. Middle school students will be working in the city park while the high school students will do chores at listed residents' homes. Watch for more details on the city's and school's Facebook pages. (See the complete article in the COMMUNITY NEWS section of this newsletter.)

Track meets are in full swing for both boys and girls in junior high and high school. Check the activities section at www.westharrison.org or the track schedule that was attached to last month's newsletter. Support the Hawkeyes!

DID YOU KNOW?

April showers bring ... many times we think of April as a time of spring rains, warmer weather and a time of revival after a long, cold winter season. April is the first full month of spring where we come into the month full of energy for all that spring will bring. It's out with the old and in with the new.

It's time to prepare our lawns, gardens and fields. We look for the first spring flowers to peak through and decide what colorful posies to plant a bit later. Gardeners are planting potatoes and planning what else will grow well this season. Farmers are fertilizing, applying herbicides, and planting so they are finished by May 10.

Like most months, April has special days to celebrate like *Be Kind to Spiders* week, (Will that one make anyone's list?) *Pillow Fight Day* on April 6, and *No Housework Day* on April 7. (Ladies, make sure you celebrate this day!) April isn't all flowers, gardens, crops, and warm weather. There are many historical events that took place in April. Here are a few. Do you remember studying about them or living through them?

- ❖ 1775 The Revolutionary War started with "the shot heard 'round the world."
- ❖ 1789 Our first US President was inaugurated.
- ❖ 1860 The Pony Express started.
- ❖ 1869 The Continental Railroad was completed in Utah.
- ❖ 1912 The *Titanic* sank.
- ❖ 1917 America entered World War I.
- ❖ 1923 The first baseball game was played at Yankee Stadium.
- ❖ 1952 *The Diary of Anne Franke* was published.
- ❖ 1964 Ford unveiled the Mustang.

