

Mondamin's February 2024



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

CITY COUNCIL NEWS

The Mondamin City Council met on January 7 to hold a public hearing about the sale of a narrow, wedge-shaped piece of ground that is owned by the city. It lies along the N. Main Street homeowners' property and the Union Pacific railroad right-of-way. City ownership of this piece of ground was discovered when a former resident was in the process of selling her home a few years ago. Since that was the case, the city attorney was contacted for guidance. According to state law, the city has to offer the land for sale to the public. The law does not allow the city to give it away to interested individuals. The council determined to sell the land for \$.21 per square foot. Several adjacent property owners attended the public hearing to ask questions and learn information to decide if they wanted to buy the ground from the city which would extend the depth of their property and give them clear title to that adjacent ground if they ever wished to sell their residences.

Other council business at the January meeting was the passing of numerous resolutions that are required to be passed annually. This included resolutions such as appointing city council commissioners, mayor pro tempore, city attorney and public works superintendent.

The next meeting will be held Monday, February 5 at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall. On February's agenda will be a discussion of the city's budget and how the reduction in property taxes from the state will impact city finances which provide services to Mondamin residents. The state legislature has passed new formulas for calculating property tax disbursements to cities.

Jimmy King Shelter Usage

Interested residents have asked how often the Jimmy King Shelter is used and if the free-will donations cover the shelter's expenses. There were forty-one reservations made to use the shelter during 2023 with donations totaling \$1,711. This averaged to \$42.77 donated per reservation. No donations were received from nine reservations.

This park shelter is financed by free-will donations. General expenses are for upkeep, cleaning, and electricity for lights, air conditioning or heat. The shelter has recently had some upgrades of new tables and chairs. New acoustic tiles to help with sound echoes in the

meeting room will be installed soon on the shelter's walls.

COMMUNITY NEWS



So how long has it been since the Mondamin area has had a snow storm like the one that started on January 8 and continued for several days? School was closed, events cancelled, no Sunday services were held in our local churches, roads were closed, we were encouraged to stay home, water pipes froze, furnaces quit and the temperatures plummeted below zero. Even some days the high temperature was below zero!

For the past few years we had gotten used to mild winters without these kinds of storms and temperatures. In January 2023 in Harrison County, the average temperature was 25 degrees with the lowest temperature dipping to 11.6 and the high was 40 degrees. We received only .16 inches of precipitation in January last year. We don't want to set any new records as far as snow and temperatures are concerned, but we do have a lot of winter left in Iowa. Stay safe and warm!

Despite the cold, wind, and snow, there wasn't a lack of residents willing to help clean out driveways and scoop sidewalks. That's part of the benefit of living in a small town. Thanks for the help!

Data from <https://data.courier-journal.com/weather-data/harrison-county/19085/1923-10-01/>

The beautiful Christmas decorations that were in the Mondamin City Park for all to enjoy the last several weeks are now taken down and stored until next year! Thank you to the group of 17 (13 adults and 4 students) who braved the chilly weather and quickly got snowmen, wreathes, Santa, reindeer, candy canes, and strings and strings of lights ready for storage. We appreciate your help very much! All helpers were treated to candy and ice cream cones when the work was completed.

Mondamin Community Partners plans to host **Light up the Park** again next year so mark your calendars for **Sunday, December 1, 2024.**

Recently Mondamin Community Partners has secured a website domain. As soon as we become operational, information about this group can be found at abettermondamin.org. Our email address will be mcp@abettermondamin.org. Currently we are looking for local businesses to help sponsor our website. If you are interested in helping, contact Mary Seago at 641-202-0224.

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. Your donations would be appreciated.

If you missed the Legislative Coffee in January, there are two more scheduled during this session of the Iowa legislature. You can visit with State Senator Costello and State Representative Windschitl on February 24 and March 23 starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Logan Community Center. The doors open at 9:30 a.m.



HARRISON COUNTY LANDFILL

Hefty ENERGY BAG PROGRAM

Check this list for the many hard-to-recycle plastics that can go in your Hefty® EnergyBag® orange bags. All items must be clean, dry and free of foil lining.

<p>PLASTIC PACKAGING - NO FOIL LINING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See-through chip bags • Snack food bags • Plastic pet food bags • Fresh/frozen vegetable & fruit bags • Salad bags • Shredded cheese packages • Cheese stick packages • See-through granola & energy bar wrappers • See-through candy wrappers • See-through stand up pouches • Pudding cups • Yogurt tubs • Butter/Margarine tubs • Sour cream tubs • Dry mix liners (cake, powder mixes) • Cereal box liners • Cookie/cracker box liners 	<p>PLASTIC BAGS & WRAPS*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic air pillow packs • Plastic bubble wrap • Plastic grocery bags • Plastic food wrap • Food storage bags <p>FOAM PRODUCTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foam cups, plates & bowls • Foam to-go boxes • Foam packing peanuts • Foam egg cartons • Foam block packaging <p>PLASTIC DINNERWARE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic straws and stirrers • Plastic utensils • Plastic colored cups • Plastic plates and bowls • Rigid plastic clear glasses
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The following items ARE NOT accepted in the orange bags

NO NO batteries or electronics NO food, liquid or coffee grounds NO cans, glass or plastic bottles NO 1, 2 or 3 plastics NO paper cartons or boxes NO medical products or hazardous waste NO hoses, tubes or rope NO tin or aluminum

*These include plastic bags & wraps! Some drop-off recycling programs are not available locally.

Have you tried the Hefty Orange Bags yet? The Harrison County Landfill says the bags are available at stores in Harrison County. This is a great place to get rid of all those plastic grocery sacks and other small items that can't go anywhere else to be recycled. Fill the orange bags with items listed on the chart (You should have gotten one last month with the newsletter.) and tie the bag shut and put the bag in with other plastics.



Do you have Harrison County Crime Stoppers' phone number in a convenient location if you need it? Remember it is **1-866-901-0357**.

Check out the Harrison County Crime Stoppers Face Book Page. They post very helpful information such as ways to check if a person has a criminal record, if a person is listed on the Iowa Sex Offender Registry, how to report an anonymous tip to law enforcement, and information about missing people. (Jesse David George from Missouri Valley has been missing since June 28, 2023.)

Crime Stoppers received 5 tips online during January.

The group has clothing for sale; if you are interested, see below.

Order Yours Today!

Hoodie \$50.00
Shirt \$35.00
Beanie \$20.00

CRIME Harrison County STOPPERS
1-866-901-0357

CRIME Harrison County STOPPERS
1-866-901-0357

CRIME Harrison County STOPPERS

Ways to order
1.) Order Online www.harrisoncountyiowacrimestoppers.org
2.) Message us on Facebook Messenger
3.) Emailssalter@harrisoncountyiowacrimestoppers.org

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.

Church of Christ Chicken Dinner will be held on Sunday, February 25, 2024, at the Little Sioux Church of Christ beginning at 5:00 p.m. A free will offering will be taken at the door with proceeds going to the youth for camp and other events. Come have a delicious meal and help the young people!



Jerry Shelton

By Katelyn Hoff

with Donella Pauli and Maggie Rains

This month's Spotlight features longtime resident Jerry Shelton. He was well-

known for his adventurous and outgoing personality and always having a smile on his face. He grew up in the Mondamin area and graduated from Modale High School in 1960. Then he enlisted in the Air Force for four years and served as a fire protection specialist. Jerry returned home and married Sharon Keith on August 15, 1964.

In 1966 Jerry and Sharon returned to their hometown of Mondamin where he took over managing Keith's Store from his father-in-law, Fred Keith. Since that time, Jerry and Sharon have been residents of Mondamin and raised their children, Todd and Jodi here.

Jerry believed in service to others and gave his all to the community. For twenty-eight years, he spent countless hours as a firefighter and EMT with Mondamin Fire and Rescue. He was instrumental in expanding and strengthening the facility and equipment. In 1993, he retired as fire chief. Jerry continued to serve the town as mayor and city councilman on two different occasions. Several non-profit groups created for the betterment of Mondamin were lucky to have Jerry as a member. Jerry was an active member of Mondamin's Jesse Strong American Legion Post #378 for many years.

While Jerry was collecting civil servant titles, he continued to run Keith's Store for over thirty years. By 1991, Mondamin's needs had changed so he

and Sharon downsized the store and moved across the tracks where they built the Jiffy Mart. They continued to provide a full-service butcher counter, groceries, and convenience items and a place for people to gather for coffee and conversation. After nine years at the Jiffy, Jerry's youthful spirit of adventure returned and in 2000 he retired once again.

On his first day of retirement, Jerry went to the Jiffy for morning coffee with the boys and came home with a new job. Jerry would spend the next nineteen years traveling throughout North America driving for Crusader and Arrow bus lines. He was on the road for weeks at a time, carrying sports teams, musicians, tourist groups, and shuttling Olympians. We can only imagine the stories Jerry both told and heard!

At an age when most settle into a more relaxed pace, Jerry continued to add to his resume and recreational activities. In addition to working on the Shelton-Keith farm, he began working at King Farms alongside men half his own age. His leisure time was spent playing golf, working on various projects in the garage, taking trips, serving the community, and his church. He was always willing to help family or friends build or fix anything. He built the cabinets in the Bride's Room at the Mondamin Community Center. His son, Todd, said that his wife would just keep a

list of items that needed to be done at their home so when Jerry visited them, he could do those tasks. He believed in the power of a hard day's work, candy bars, donuts, pop, and especially a good power nap.

Jerry was a man of conviction. Above all, he held a strong faith in Christ. He was dedicated to growing the Mondamin Church of Christ and used the Gospel to guide his path through life.

Jerry D. Shelton died on Saturday, January, 13, 2024, in Omaha, Nebraska. Jerry was special to his family, friends, and community members and each will miss him in his own way. At Jerry's Celebration of Life, many area residents attended to honor his memory, the kind of man he was, and remember his many contributions to our community.

LIBRARY NEWS



The book club met on January 24th and *All Creatures Great and Small* by James Herriot for their next selection. The group will meet on March 27 at 7:00 p.m. at the library. If this activity interests you, just stop by the library to get a copy of the book and join the discussion.



Just to bring a little smile . . .

What does an evil hen lay?

Deviled eggs

How much did the pirate pay for corn at the Farmer's Market?

A buccaneer

Good moms let you lick the beaters.

Great moms turn them off first!

How do cats make a birthday cake?

From Scratch!

Why do basketball players love to decorate houses?

They always want to get in the PAINT!

(If you didn't smile, did you at least groan?)

SCHOOL NEWS

FCCLA'S Krispy Kreme Fundraiser started on January 26 and will conclude on February 5. There is still time for you to get your donuts! Check the City's Face Book page or the West Harrison webpage for details. Don't let the opportunity pass to have some yummy donuts and help FCCLA!

West Harrison's Kiwanis Club members (students in 3-5 grades) conducted an extremely successful toy drive prior to

Christmas. The toys collected were displayed at Matthew's House Food Pantry and made available for people to take to children to make them happy at Christmastime.

The stuffed animals that weren't taken for Christmas gifts, will be used by the Mondamin Fire Department to put in backpacks and given to children as needed.

Future projects for the group include making valentines for local nursing home residents and helping the Harrison County Humane Shelter by making toys for the dogs waiting for adoption.

This group of students and their leaders are doing thoughtful things for our community.

Check the school EVENTS section at www.westharrison.school to find the dates for the remaining basketball games and wrestling matches of the season. Many of the activities have been postponed due to the winter weather so be sure to double check the date, time, and location of any of those events.

From the West Harrison Webpage:

West Harrison Bound Ticketing (Cancellations/Postponements)
Hawkeye Fans: If you purchased a ticket through Bound for an event that becomes cancelled or postponed this will be the procedures for refund or transfer:
1) If the game is postponed to another date at the SAME location it will

automatically transfer to that new scheduled date and game in bound. If you prefer not to go to the makeup game you can use the chat button (bottom right corner) on the Bound App or Website to have them refund your ticket.

2) If the game is postponed and a new location is given you will need to cancel your ticket with the previous location using the chat button and then purchase your ticket for the new location at that schools bound website. This will ensure it transfers into the correct school account for gate profits.

3) If a game is fully cancelled you will need to use the chat button on the bottom right side of the screen in the bound app or website to get reimbursement.

If you have any issues with reimbursement reach out to the AD office in the High School and we will get it taken care of with you.

HAWKEYE PRIDE

DID YOU KNOW?

When the clock struck midnight on December 31, 2023, did you make a New Year's resolution? If you did you were among 34% of American adults who set a goal for 2024. The top resolutions set by most of us involved losing weight, saving money, getting more exercise, quitting smoking, or doing something that will make our lives better.

Are you still keeping that resolution? Research shows that 23% of the people

quit their resolution by the end of the first week. A few more made it to Quitter's Day which is the second Friday in January. Did you keep your resolution that long? By the end of January, 43% of those who set a goal gave up.

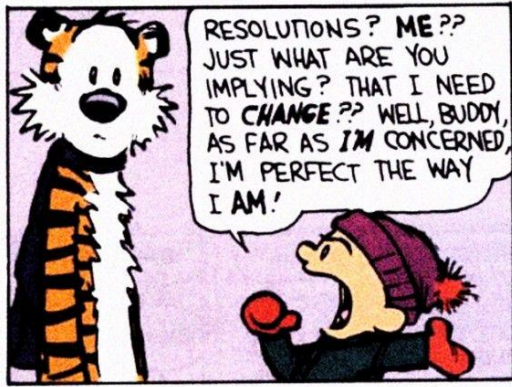
So why did so many of us fail with our resolutions? Psychologists say we set a goal that is very difficult to reach or that we really aren't ready to make a change. Terri Bly said, "The pain of not changing has to be greater than the pain of changing for us to reallychange!"

So it's February 1st. If you are still trying to keep that resolution, congratulations! Here are a few hints to help you be among the people who are able to keep their resolution the entire year.

- Don't give up on your New Year's Resolution!
- Write down your resolution.
- Make sure it's a realistic goal.
- Share your resolution with others.
- Pat yourself on the back when you succeed.
- If you have a setback, get right back to working on it.

Good luck to the 8% who are still working on their goals and for the other 92% of us who failed to keep our resolutions, there's always next year!

NOW YOU KNOW!



EVENTS

- Saturday, Feb.3, 2024
Large Group Speech Contest
Ankeny Centennial
- Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024 6:00 pm
Loess Hills Lancers 4-H Club
Mondamin Community Center
- Monday, Feb. 5, 2024 7:00 pm
Mondamin City Council
City Hall
- Monday, Feb. 5, 2024
FCCLA Krispy Kreme Fundraiser
ends at West Harrison
- Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024 TBA
Wrestling District Tournament
- Monday, Feb. 12, 2024 5:00 – 7:00 pm
Elementary/MS STEM Night at
West Harrison
- Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024
All-State Large Group Speech
Festival

Monday, Feb. 19, 2024
Presidents Day



Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024
Conference Honor Band

Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024
Individual District Speech Contest
at Thomas Jefferson High School
in Council Bluffs

Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024 5:00 p.m.
Chicken Dinner at the Little Sioux
Church of Christ. Free will
offering.



An extra day is added to the end of February every four years to make up for the Earth's orbit around the sun. Our planet takes approximately 365.25 days to complete its orbit — that added quarter day is why we have a leap year every four years.

Be careful of the quirky traditions and superstitions associated with leap year. We hope your leap year is a lucky one!