

# Mondamin's

## March 2024



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

### CITY COUNCIL NEWS

The Mondamin City Council met on February 5 at 7:00 p.m. at the city hall.

During the February city council meetings, the members have been focusing on developing a FY2024-2025 budget for Mondamin, passing resolutions required for completing the new water plant, and generating ideas for new projects. A special budget meeting was held on Wednesday, February 21 to learn how the new State of Iowa property tax laws and disbursements will impact the town's budget for the next foreseeable years. The council reviewed each department's current and projected budgets, ICAP insurance costs with projected increases, and reviewed water plant components' costs and progress. Fiscal responsibility and prioritizing services by importance that will best serve residents will drive the budget development.

The month of January is when Mondamin residents have typically been reminded to renew their pet licenses. We are a

little late with the reminder so please stop in at the city hall to get a license form from Alyx if you haven't already done so. Be sure to bring a copy of your dog's/dogs' rabies vaccination card. The annual fee is \$10.00 per male dog and each spayed female or \$15.00 for each unspayed female dog according to City Ordinance 4-1-2.

As well as dog licensing fees, residents with chickens are also required to secure an annual permit at this time.

The next Mondamin City Council meeting will be on March 4, 2024, at the city hall at 7:00 p.m.

### Old News

January was the month of voting on resolutions for the city council. The following appointments were made:

- Mayor Pro Tem  
Karen Breyfogle
- Public Works Superintendent  
Steve Hinkel
- Official Depository  
MidStates Bank
- Signature Authorization  
Mayor Howrey, Mayor Pro Tem Breyfogle, and Clerk Hirst
- Street and Wastewater Commissioners  
Jim Rains and John Glennie
- Water Commissioner  
Terry Coyle
- Park Commissioner  
Mary Seago

- Landfill and Senior Housing  
Karen Breyfogle
- EMA Commissioner  
Jamie Howrey
- Official Newspaper  
Missouri Valley Times-News
- City Attorney  
John Hines
- Building Inspector  
John Harrison

Other resolutions include those dealing with the water treatment plant, water meters, loans, and the change in mileage reimbursement.

Heritage Day, the King Foundation Grant, new tires for the city work truck, the restroom in the park, a generator for the tornado siren, utility billing, and park shelter income were discussed.

## COMMUNITY NEWS



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. Your donations are appreciated.

**If you missed the Legislative Coffee** in February, there is one more scheduled during this session of the Iowa legislature. You can visit with State Senator Costello and State Representative Windschitl on March 23 starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Logan Community Center. The doors open at 9:30 a.m. This is a good event to attend to find out what is happening at the legislature in Des Moines.

### **American Legion Fish/Chicken Dinners Are Back!**

The first fish/chicken fry of the season will be held on Saturday, March 9, 2024, at the Mondamin Community Center from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Come have a delicious meal and visit with your friends!

### **Blood Levels Are Critically Low**

The American Red Cross says that the number of people donating blood has dropped 40% in the last twenty years. Because of that, the United States is facing an emergency blood shortage. Platelets and red blood cells are most frequently needed because platelets only last for five days after donation while the red blood cells last up to forty-two days.

You have the opportunity to help this crisis. On March 28 between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. West Harrison's National

Honor Society is hosting a blood drive at the school. For more information call 712 646-2231. You could save a life!

### It's that time again!



On Sunday, March 10, 2024, at 2:00 a.m. like it or not, Daylight Savings Time begins. Set your clocks one hour ahead. You know the saying, "Spring Forward, Fall Backward!" It's also a great time to check the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

### Avenue of Flags



The Mondamin Avenue of Flags donates a portion of its proceeds each year to the West Harrison Chapter of the National Honor Society. Each year when the National Honor Society receives the funds, the students send out a form to each classroom teacher asking them to identify ways each of them could use the funds to support the classroom. Teachers

then can choose to apply for those funds. Applications are due to the National Honor Society before winter break. When students return from winter break, the National Honor Society meets to select which projects to fund. This year, Mondamin Avenue of Flags funds were able to support the following projects:

- A hydroponics tower for environmental science class to use as part of their curriculum
- A large fish tank and aqua garden for a combined effort of the agriculture and science departments to begin a catfish-raising operation.
- New PE equipment for elementary, including dodgeballs, shuttlecocks, and a badminton net.
- A class set of headphones for second grade.
- Lego manipulatives for preschool.
- Materials and support for the Spanish Fallas unit.
- Monetary assistance for the student trip to Spain.

West Harrison appreciates the opportunity of working with the City of Mondamin on the Avenue of Flags project. We would also like to thank all those who help fund the Avenue of Flags and this grant opportunity.

Benjamin E. Nuzum  
Honor Society Sponsor

## “Oh, Say Can You See...”

March through April is the time that the Avenue of Flags Committee will be mailing out subscription renewal forms to current subscribers of the flags. The renewal fee is \$15.00 per flag being sponsored. If anyone is interested in sponsoring a flag in honor of or in memory of someone, a new flag subscription is \$35.00 per flag. Payments can be made at MidStates Bank in Mondamin or at the City Clerk’s office. Checks should be made out to **City of Mondamin**. Please consider renewing or buying a new subscription.

The Avenue of Flags has been a very successful community project since May 2016, and a marvelous sight to see each federal holiday when the flags line Highway 127 through downtown Mondamin, the streets near the school and surrounding the City Park. (Read more about how the Avenue of Flags helps West Harrison students in Ben Nuzum’s article.) Thank you to all partners in this effort who continue making this project successful and a point of pride for our community for the past eight years!!

Mondamin Avenue of Flags Committee

Bobby Neill, Maggie Rains,  
Ben Nuzum, and Becky Coyle

## LIBRARY NEWS

### West Harrison speech students

performed their contest pieces on Wednesday, February 21 at the Mondamin Public Library. The crowd enjoyed hearing their selections and it was good practice for the students as they went to District Individual Speech Contest on February 24.

The students did an outstanding job at District! The following students received I ratings and advanced to the State Speech Contest on March 9 in Adel: James Kraft, Devyn Harris (2), Kendel Baldwin (2), Brooke Cooper, Izzy Ely, Jerzey Kraft, and Erin Lewis. Reagan Mauseth and Erin Lewis received II ratings on their entries.

Congratulations to the students and their coach, Mrs. Gina Birdsall.

**Thank you for your generosity** in our recent “Be Our Valentine” fundraiser. The community’s response to our request was overwhelming. If you haven’t had time to donate yet, your gift would still be appreciated. Thank you!



**The book club will meet on March 27th** at 7:00 p.m. in the library to discuss *All Creatures Great and*

*Small* by James Herriot (the pen name for James Alfred Wight). This book details the heartwarming and humorous adventures of a young English country vet as he makes his rounds to see both his four legged and two legged friends.

If this interests you, just stop by the library to get a copy of the book and join the discussion.



**Christine Hussing**  
**Mondamin Public Librarian**  
By Donella Pauli and Maggie Rains

There is something for everyone in the library! That may not have been true in 1934 when a community library first opened in Mondamin, but in 2024 after seven years as the current Mondamin Public Library director, Christine Hussing, says if she doesn't have what you want to read, she will find it for you!

It's not out of character for Christine to be working in the library. As a child she loved to read all kinds of books, but remembers that she liked *Gus, the Friendly Ghost* and *Harry by the Sea*. When she is working with children, she hopes she can share with them her love

of reading and learning and let books broaden their imaginations.

There was a librarian in her public library in Texas that impressed her by his knowledge. He could just answer any question the patrons asked him and if he didn't know, he made sure he found out the answer and told the person later. He impressed her so much that she thought, "I want to be just like him!"

If you visit the Mondamin Public Library looking for a particular book and the library doesn't have a copy, Christine can order the title through State of Iowa Libraries Online (SILO), an amazing resource for every library in the State of Iowa. SILO searches not only the public libraries, but also college and university libraries. The requested selections are delivered to our local library on Tuesdays and Thursdays; in turn, the driver picks up any selections that have been requested from the Mondamin Public Library.

Perhaps you aren't sure what you'd like to read. Christine can direct you to the new titles or a different genre than you have been reading. She says the children are more open to change than adults. The adult patrons are more like, "We read what we like and that's what we want."

Christine stays busy all year with preparing activities for patrons. She always sponsors a Summer Reading

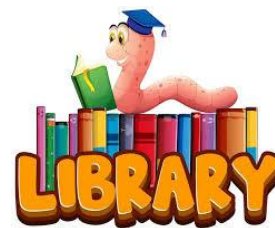
Program, conversational Spanish for the upper level West Harrison students, an adult book club, (Check out our article in this newsletter.) a book club for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders when there is interest, hosting high school speech activities, and visiting the Little Hawks after school program to read to the students and lead them in doing a craft which is very popular with the group.

Have you visited a library lately? There is so much more to do than just read. There are puzzles to work on. DVD's, audio books, and large print books are available to check out. If you like to play games, talk to Christine as the library has several. How about playing Jenga? There is an extra-large Jenga game for people of all ages to play. Would you like to work with your child on STEM activities? Christine can get those ready for you. How about spending time with a Maker Space? Do you need a computer? Of course, the Mondamin Public Library has those for you to use. If you need help printing a form or registering for something and you don't have a computer at home or don't know how to use a computer, Christine will help you. As we all know, technology changes very quickly and the library is no different.

When asked what the biggest challenges have been for her as library director, Christine responded, "Strangely enough, it's getting people to know where the

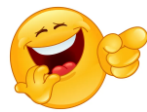
library is located." She receives frequent calls asking that question.

Secondly, with recent changes made by the Iowa legislature, securing funds to operate the library has become more of a challenge. In 2023 legislative action, a bill consolidated 15 existing levies used by Iowa cities to fund various programs and instead put that money into a general fund system. Mondamin was one of many public libraries in Iowa that had a voter-approved tax levy for the library, but with the passage of HF 718 the library no longer will receive that tax money. That action reduces the 2024/2025 library budget by nearly \$3,400.



Recently a fundraiser was held to help replace the lost tax dollars. Mondamin, Pisgah, and Little Sioux residents were extremely generous with "Be Our Valentine," campaign by donating over \$4,100. In addition, local townships (Jackson, Taylor, Clay, Raglan, Little Sioux, and Morgan) support the library with funds each year. Even though keeping our library properly funded is a challenge, we need to remember what Walter Cronkite said, "Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation."

So no matter what you need: to check out a great book, play a game, put a puzzle together, work on STEM activities, use a computer, get a question answered, or introduce your children to their new favorite book, Christine Hussing will help you find just what you want. Like J.K. Rowling said, "When in doubt, go to the library." Remember there is something for everyone in the library!



### Just to bring a little smile . . .

Why shouldn't you borrow money from a leprechaun?

**Because they're always a little short!**

Why do golfers have a hard time ending their golf game on St. Patrick's Day?

**They refuse to leave the green!**

What happens if a leprechaun falls into the ocean?

**He gets wet, of course!**

What does a bear cub call his grandfather?

**Grand-paw**

How can you tell when a bird just passed gas?

**It leaves behind a fowl smell!**



## SCHOOL NEWS

**Basketball** is over for the 2023-24 season. Here are the results of the season:

HS Varsity Boys Basketball	6-16
JV Boys Basketball	0-9

Brady Lewis, Sean Freet, Keenan Foland, Jacob Berry, Brody Gore, Kendel Baldwin, Nolan Birdsall, Mason McIntosh, Wyatt Michael, Carson Hopekins, Jason Barry, Jamison Martin, Nelson Clark, Noah Tilbury, and Harrison Gute made up the team this year.

Head Coach  
Rowdy Evans

HS Varsity Girls Basketball	7-15
JV Girls Basketball (2 quarters)	0-3

Sadie Larson, Mariah Bruning, Chloe Leinen, Ty Stirtz, Maclayn Houston, Devyn Harris, Sophia Blue, Rylee Evans, Danielle Cooper, and Tia Heilig were the girls who played basketball this year.

Highlights of this season include the following records set by senior, Maclayn Houston:

Most points in a game	46
*Most points in a career	1328

\*Average points per game for a career  
19.3  
\*1000 points in a career  
Most free throws in a game 20 -71.4%  
\*Most free throws in a career 425  
Effective field goal percentage 46.2%

\*Maclayn achieved these records in just 3 seasons. (In the April Mondamin newsletter, Maclayn will be in our Spotlight section. Be sure you get a copy!)

Head Coach  
Drew Radloff

JH Boys Basketball 7-3

These JH boys played basketball during the 23-24 season: Noah Cox and Blake Lawrenson, 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Seventh graders who made up the team are Aiden King, Dylan Broderon, Justin Cooper, Easton McIntosh, and Wayne Larson.

Head Coach  
Julilus Michalik

JH Girls Basketball 1-6

Team members are 8th graders: Kaitlyn Evans, Paige Freihage, and Jocelynn Steffen (manager).  
7th graders are: Lexie Flint, Callie Muldoon, Laynie Michael, Dani Downen, Ameila White and Payton Stevenson.

Head Coach  
Amy Stolz

## Hawkeye Wrestling

These young men participated in high school wrestling: Landon Carritt, Taven Hussing, Austin Johnson, Payden Roberson, Trevvin Pfeifer, Markus Tyson, Julyan Tyson, Isaiah McNally, and Carter Freihage.

Five junior high wrestlers completed the season: Noah Cox, Hunter Hussing, Logan Roberson, Wayne Larson and Zack Chatterton. Noah Cox and Hunter Hussing qualified for the Junior High State Wrestling Tournament. They both went 4-1 at districts and finished 3<sup>rd</sup>.

West Harrison did not have any girls participate in wrestling this season.

Head Coach  
Tony Nunez



## Track and Field Season Begins

Athletes jump right from basketball games into track meets. Check out the schedule on the back of this newsletter to learn where and when the Hawkeyes will be participating in track meets. Both the girls and the boys would appreciate your support especially at our home track meets. Go Hawkeyes!

Check out **District Individual Speech** Contest results in the Library News section.

## DID YOU KNOW?



What do you think of when someone mentions the month of March? Maybe you think of spring and all the growth and newness that comes with the season. Some of you undoubtedly think of March Madness and hope your favorite college basketball team makes it to the Final Four. Whatever comes to mind, here are a few fun facts about March.

- ❖ In the old Roman calendar March was the first month of the year. January and February were added later.
- ❖ The Vernal Equinox takes place in March. The sun comes directly over the equator and makes night and day equal.
- ❖ March is considered the most unproductive month of the year. Are you wondering why? March Madness causes organizations to lose almost \$1.9 billion to salaries of unproductive employees and time spent betting on the NBA games. Of course, that isn't any of us!

- ❖ The first phone call was made by Alexander Graham Bell on March 10, 1876. What do you think he'd say about all the cell phones today?
- ❖ The Peace Corps was founded in March of 1961 by President Kennedy.
- ❖ In March 2024 there are many holidays such as Palm Sunday, Easter, and St. Patrick's Day.
- ❖ March is Veggie Month. You probably already knew that!
- ❖ March is the only month that has three consecutive consonants.
- ❖ If you are born in March, your flower is the daffodil which is the first flower seen in springtime and signifies winter is over!
- ❖ March 20 is the International Day of Happiness. This year's theme is "Happier Together". We just hope these little tidbits made you a little happier!

## NOW YOU KNOW!



## EVENTS

### “If March comes in like a lion...

- Sunday, March 3            6:00 p.m.  
Loess Hills Lancers meet at  
Mondamin Community Center
- Monday, March 4            7:00 p.m.  
Mondamin City Council meets at City  
Hall
- Saturday, March 9  
Individual State Speech Contest at  
Adel
- Saturday, March 9            4:30 – 6:30 p.m.  
American Legion Fish/Chicken  
Dinner Mondamin Community  
Center
- Sunday, March 10            2:00 a.m.  
Daylight Savings Time Begins
- Thursday, March 14        7:00 p.m.  
Academic Awards Night and  
National Honor Society Induction  
Ceremony at West Harrison

Sunday, March 17

**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY** 

- Monday, March 25  
All State Individual Speech Festival
- Tuesday, March 26        4:30 p.m.  
Boys HS Track Meet at Audubon  
(First meet of the season)

Thursday, March 28        8:00 - 2:00 p.m.  
National Honor Society Blood Drive  
at West Harrison

Sunday, March 31

**HAPPY EASTER**



**...it will go out like a lamb!”**