

# Mondamin's

## MAY 2024



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

### CITY COUNCIL NEWS

The first item of business for the April 1 Mondamin City Council meeting was to hold the public hearing to approve the resolution for the construction contract and bond for the 2024 Water Meter Improvements. The council reviewed the proposed budget for FY 2024-2025. This coming year Mondamin's budget will see an increase in property tax revenues; however, the Iowa legislature has voted to recalculate tax valuations and rollback the percentage for the following years' property revenues that municipalities will receive. With this decrease looming in the future, the council will need to take a hard look at what services can be cut to stay within the budget. The public hearing for adopting the 2024-2025 budget is set for Monday, April 29, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall.

The council is reviewing the People's Service Contract that tests the town's water quality and submits samples to the DNR to

make sure the water meets EPA standards of safety. It is also reviewing and recodifying town ordinances. After the state wide tornado testing date last month, it was found that there are issues with Mondamin's tornado siren. These issues will be resolved through the Harrison County EMA department. Action was taken to approve use of the Jimmy King Park Shelter for the annual Heritage Day Celebration on Saturday, June 8 and setting the date for Mondamin Community Partners' Vendor Fair on July 13. Watch for more details.



### Spring Clean-up Date Set

Mondamin City Council is sponsoring a clean-up day just in time to spruce up the town before the annual Heritage Day and the Alumni Banquet. The date for the city-wide Spring Clean-up Day is **June 2 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.** Dumpsters will be by the Mondamin Public Library next to the recycle bins.

If you have things like a microwave, TV, electronics, or tires that you want to make disappear, you **MUST** contact the city clerk before June 2 as the Harrison County Landfill will charge for

those items. Ron Dorrance, Sr. will be available to take scrap metal such as washers, dryers, lawnmowers, pieces of scrap metal, etc. If you have large items at your home that you cannot haul and need to have disappear, contact Alyx Hirst, City Clerk, at City Hall (646-2431) before June 2 to arrange for pick up.

There should be **NO EARLY DUMPING** and these items can **NOT** be dumped: paint, chemicals, propane tanks, herbicides, pesticides, PCB's, gas cylinders, dead animals, asbestos, contaminated soil, rubble, clean brick, asphalt, oil waste, batteries or yard waste.

This is your opportunity to clean up your part of Mondamin. Please help!



**Make junk disappear!**

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

Mondamin's annual celebration, Heritage Day, is set for Saturday, June 8. Plan now to come join all the festivities. Kick off the day with breakfast served at the Church of Christ from 7:30 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. Then come pick out a special spot to enjoy the parade which begins at 10:30 am. If you'd like to be in the parade, sign up will start at 9:00 a.m. at the West Harrison

School parking lot. Have your children decorate their bikes, pull a wagon, bring a pet and come be in the parade. The top three will win prizes! All churches, organizations, family groups, and businesses are encouraged to take part in this year's parade.

Following the parade come to the Mondamin City Park for fun activities for all ages. Bill Nelson and his Jiffy Mart crew will be serving lunch in the Jimmy King shelter with K-Kids serving delicious desserts to top off that lunch. If you get a little warm, Sno-Cones will also available for purchase as will fresh popcorn.

The annual Baked Goods Auction will take place in the park. If you have purchased items in the past, you know what good bakers there are in our community and how yummy the cakes, cookies, and pies are. If you are interested, there will be a horseshoe tournament which is always fun. There will be a car, motorcycle, and tractor show. Shine up your prized possession and enter it in the show. The MidStates Bank will once again have their money tree. Maybe this will be your lucky year and you'll win big bucks! Speaking of winning... don't forget the raffle! Mondamin Community Partners will be raffling great prizes: a West Harrison family activity pass, (a \$250. value) thanks to the West Harrison Booster Club; admission

to the Henry Doorly Zoo, courtesy of the zoo; a one night stay in an East Deluxe Cabin (Monarch Ridge or Prairie View) at Willow Lake (Up to a \$100 value) donated by the Harrison County Conservation; and 4 adult Pizza Ranch Buffets, (a \$53. value) donated by the Pizza Ranch in Mo. Valley. Raffle tickets will be for sale all day in the park.

Your kiddos shouldn't be bored at all as the Loess Hills Lancers will have games with prizes. There will be face painting, the kids pedal tractor pull for various age groups, train rides around the park, and Joe Cole, the magician, sponsored by Midwest Welding will entertain kids of ALL ages. You never know, he might pull a quarter from behind your ear! Joe Cole will have a strolling magic show beginning at 12:30 p.m. and the family show will start at 1:30 p.m. in the bandstand. The best part about all of these activities is that they are FREE!

In next month's newsletter we will have a detailed schedule with times.

Mark your calendars now so you don't miss all the fun!



As a footnote, we will need baked items for the auction. We will post details about this event later, but for now just think about what you might bake and donate to Heritage Day.



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

**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 greatly appreciated.

**Mondamin Community Partners** is hosting a Vendor/Flea Market at the Mondamin Community Center on July 13 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. If you are interested in having a table at this event, email [mcp@abettermondamin.org](mailto:mcp@abettermondamin.org) to register. Please spread the word to other vendors.

### **Avenue of Flags**

There is still time to sponsor a flag in honor of or in memory of someone. Just 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 will be held on Saturday, June 8 starting at 4:30 p.m. (The Community Center will be open at 12:30 p.m. for visiting etc.) 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) before May 18. The cost is \$20. per person and no refunds will be given after **May 18.**

Come early to enjoy the Heritage Day activities then attend the Alumni Banquet.



### Memorial Day Services

Members of the Jesse Strong American Legion Post #378 will conduct Memorial Day Services on Monday, May 27, 2024, at the following local cemeteries:

9:00 a.m. Calhoun Cemetery  
9:45 a.m. Soldier Valley Cemetery  
10:30 a.m. Little Sioux Cemetery  
11:15 a.m.

Noyes Cemetery at Mondamin



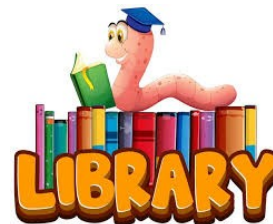
**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**  
*Spring Fling*  
**MAY 4TH** 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**DON'T MISS OUR SEASON OPENER!**  
Stop by the farm to pick up your own lavender plants, enjoy lunch at the farm (from 11am-2pm) and shop our handmade items in our large and fully stocked Craft Store!

*Raffle tickets will be available for purchase for your chance to win a basket of Lavender Farm goodies.*

**LOESS HILLS Lavender FARM**

**SUMMER HOURS:**  
WED-SAT: 10AM-5PM    SUN: 1PM-5PM    MON & TUES: CLOSED  
2278 Loess Hills Trail, Missouri Valley IA



### LIBRARY NEWS

#### Group Watches Eclipse

A nice crowd joined Christine at the city park on April 8 to watch the solar eclipse. She provided the approved glasses and had information about the eclipse for those who attended.

#### Summer Reading Program

starting soon! Watch for details.



**The book club** will meet again on May 22 to discuss *Hang the Moon* by Jeanette Walls. Set in Virginia during the years of Prohibition, *Hang the Moon* is the coming of age story of Sallie Kincaid. Sallie is the daughter of Duke Kincaid, the man in charge of Claiborne County, and she has just returned to town after being sent away to live with her aunt. All are invited to join the group. Just stop by the library to pick up a copy of the book.

Harrison County Library  
**Rock Find**  
*June, July and August*

The Harrison County Librarians will be hiding rocks around our communities for you to find.

When you find one, bring to your local library for a prize.

We will then hide the rock again for someone else to find!

*Which library can get the most finds in each community?!?!?!?!?*



## **Mondamin Rescue Squad EMS**

**By Donella Pauli and Maggie Rains**

### **“Mondamin Fire and Rescue.**

### **Mondamin Fire and Rescue Units are needed at . . .”**

No matter what time of day or night it is and no matter what the members of the Mondamin EMS are doing, when the call for help comes, they respond.

The two squads of EMT's cover sixty square miles providing rescue services to the residents of the Mondamin area and frequently giving mutual aid to other EMS groups in the surrounding area.

In 1958 the “old bus” was purchased as the beginning of Mondamin's EMS. Before the interstate highway was built, EMS units were formed to help treat the victims of the many vehicle accidents. At that time the speed limit was 75 mph during the daylight hours and the two lane roads had curbs on the sides up against the shoulders which increased accidents and the need for emergency personnel.

In 1962 members of our community's first EMS crew were Jim Unruh, Sr., Hershel Rounds, Gene Muxfeldt, Gene McClannahan, Clair Chisman, Harlan Collins, and Gene Schafer. These first members could basically administer first aid,

stop bleeding, give the patient oxygen, put on splints, and quickly get the patient to a hospital.

Today Mondamin's EMS consists of 21 members with 9 of those who have had hours of training to become EMT's. At a minimum each person has had 110 classroom hours of instruction and 55 hours of lab work. To remain certified, a person must earn 24 hours credit in person or online in a two year period. One night a month is spent in updating training. In order to keep liability insurance, all EMS members must have annual physicals.

Most EMS procedures are guided by protocols. For example, before the unit calls for a medical helicopter to come get a patient, certain criteria need to be met. Patients are generally transported to the nearest Level 1 Critical Care Hospital, but if the patient requests to be taken to a particular local hospital, the squad tries to oblige.

When asked what changes had taken place in EMS services, long-time member, Larry Guttau, mentioned now needing to use sterile gloves, no longer doing mouth to mouth resuscitation, and, of course having advanced equipment to help the patients before they arrive at a hospital. One example is in the event of a missing person, Mondamin's EMS

has a drone and heat seeking goggles to help search for them.

On average the Mondamin EMS has 150 calls per year. As of April 18, 2024, the squad has already answered 81 calls for help. Recently, in just one day the rescue squad answered 5 calls and the fire department had 1. Following each call, the squad takes time to analyze their calls to determine what went right and what their team could have done to improve how they handled the situation.

One of the greatest benefits the rescue squad noted about their volunteer work is the amazing support the group receives from the community. Their annual fund raisers have been very successful which is important because the Iowa State Legislature does not designate levies for rescue squads. The outpouring from the community during extreme situations is also exceptional. Several years ago when I-29 was closed during a blizzard, the community center was opened for motorists to stay the night. Residents came with cots, blankets, food, and whatever else would make the overnight guests more comfortable. That kindness was shown a few years later when the fire hall was opened to provide safety to winter travelers. Many of the same people brought necessary items to the Boy Scouts

and their parents after the devastation at the Little Sioux Scout Ranch in June 2008. Most recently in October 2022 the community once again supported Mondamin Fire and Rescue by supplying food, water, and support for those working to contain a large grass fire.

On the other hand, one of the greatest concerns of the EMS is that more volunteers are needed. One development that hopes to create more interest for young people to become an EMT is the Junior EMS program. This program has been in existence since 2006 at West Harrison High School. To be eligible for Junior EMS, a student must be a junior or senior, must have a physical, and needs a parent signed waiver. According to Junior EMS Director, Tony Nunez, "These students receive an introduction to proper procedures; CPR certification; C-Collar and backboard packaging; air splints and stair chair training; basic first aid; taking vitals; attending one regular monthly meeting with the senior members; search and rescue procedures; fire hose and fire extinguisher training; practice emergency rescues with senior members; legal and ethical issues; and safety precautions around fire and rescue scenes." Beginning in 2013, the members can earn a high school credit for being a Junior EMS member.

The Junior EMS students are allowed to go on calls with senior members, and, if their teacher approves, they can go on calls during the school day. They also help with special events such as the fund raisers and parades.

This year there are twelve Junior EMS members. Since its inception, the program has educated over 230 students. Since the program started at West Harrison, several of these students have gone on to secure medical careers and a few who have remained in the community are currently EMT's. The Mondamin program has been used as a model for other EMS groups to start their own group of Junior EMS.

In a small community there can be many stressful calls for the squad to handle. When they need to debrief, CISD (Critical Incident Stress Debriefing) is available to all members as soon as 24 hours following the call. This service is especially helpful for new younger members. Fire Chief Brian Rife said, "We are a family and look out for each other. There are a lot of things we see that others don't."

In 1974 President Gerald Ford approved EMS Week to celebrate the important work done for our nation by these groups. This year May 19-25, 2024, marks the 50<sup>th</sup> EMS Week with the theme, "Honoring our Past, Forging Our

Future.” Mondamin EMS should certainly be honored for their past responses and with the community’s continued involvement and support, their future will be forged!

If you are interested in being part of this important community group, contact an EMS member, EMS Captain Jeff Seago, or Fire Department Chief Brian Rife.

**“Mondamin Fire and Rescue.  
Mondamin Fire and Rescue.  
Units are needed at . . .**

Thank you to those who answer that call!

Maybe YOU are the next one to answer the call!

Information for this article came from Jeff Seago, Brian Rife, Mike Liljedahl, Larry Guttau, Tony Nunez, and Megan Evers.



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

What do you call a hen who regularly counts her eggs?

**A mathm chicken**

What is a robot’s favorite snack?

**Computer Chips**

What do you call a cow with no GPS?

**Udderly Lost**

What did the shower say to the toilet?

**You look a bit flushed!**

What do you call a sarcastic duck?

**A Wise Quacker**

What did the Dorito say to his son?

**You’re a chip off the old block.**



## **SCHOOL NEWS**

**West Harrison will share softball and baseball with Missouri Valley!**

A one-year agreement was made between West Harrison and the Missouri Valley CSD for West Harrison to send students participating in high school baseball and softball to play with the student-athletes from Missouri Valley. Christi Gochenour, Superintendent for Missouri Valley said they approved the sharing “pending approval from both the Iowa High School Athletic Association and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union.” Neither school would want the programs bumped up from Class 2A to Class 3A.

West Harrison Superintendent Marty Fonley was quoted in an April 8th Facebook post by Matt Gengler of the *Missouri Valley Times* as saying, “We didn’t finish the softball season last summer due to low numbers. This spring the district reviewed our enrollment by grade and anticipated participation numbers in 8-12. It became clear that sharing was the best option for students to participate this summer.”



Other teams in the Rolling Valley Conference are facing the same problem of low numbers of participants.

Portions of this article were copied from Matt Gengler’s Facebook post. To read the entire article, check out his Facebook post from April 8, 2024.

**Right before this newsletter was printed, it was learned that softball will be shared with Lo-Ma. More details in next month’s newsletter.**

### **First Annual West Harrison Alumni Basketball Game to Be May 18**

All West Harrison graduates both guys and gals are invited to come play in the first annual West Harrison alumni basketball game starting at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 18, 2024, in the high school gym. Those who graduated in an even numbered year will make up one team. While their competitors will be those players who graduated in the odd numbered years. Before the game begins there will be a free throw contest and a 3 point shooting contest.

For a fun evening, come watch the stars of yesteryear! A free will donation will be accepted from the players and the fans. All donations will go toward the West Harrison boys’ summer basketball program.

### **K-Kids Hold Successful Event**

West Harrison’s K-Kids hosted a craft fair on April 6, 2024, with ten vendors for shoppers to visit to find that perfect item. When the 24

member group tallied the results they had 38 cans of food and \$144. for Matthew's House Food Pantry. Other earnings from this event will be kept for a future project.

The K-Kids' advisors, Deb Kuhlman, Karen Breyfogle, Mary Cartmill and RaeLea Herman, have guided the students with several projects since they formed the group last year. They have made dog pull toys for the Humane Society twice, collected toys and money for Children's Hospital, donated money to a family who lost everything in a fire last year, and had a toy drive for the food pantry.

The students and their advisors thank everyone who attended the craft fair and supported their fundraiser. Watch for details on their next project.

### **Elementary Track Day**

One of the most anticipated days of the elementary school year is Track Day. This year's event will be Friday, May 3. Grades 4-6 will compete in the morning beginning at 9:00 a.m. In the afternoon starting at 1:00 p.m. grades K-3 will take over the track. Come watch the future Hawkeye track and field athletes!

### **Track Teams Have State Qualifying Meet This Month**

West Harrison boys and girls will have their State Qualifying Track and Field Meet on May 9 at

Woodbine starting at 4:00 p.m. Come support the Hawkeyes! Check the school web page for information about purchasing tickets.

### **Varsity, JV, and JVR Baseball schedules are attached.**



Baccalaureate services for the West Harrison Class of 2024 will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8. Graduation will take place on Sunday, May 12 at 3:30 p.m. in the high school gymnasium. Good luck to the Class of 2024!

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

"A parade is a procession of people or vehicles moving through a public place in order to celebrate an important day or event." American English Collins Dictionary

There are all types of parades: military parades, Disneyland parades, Christmas parades, Thanksgiving Day parades, Mardi Gras parades, Homecoming parades, Inauguration Day parades and the list goes on and on.

The first parades in the United States date back before the Declaration of Independence. New York City's St. Patrick's Day parade

is the oldest in America which started in 1762. It was created by Irish immigrants who were homesick for Ireland.

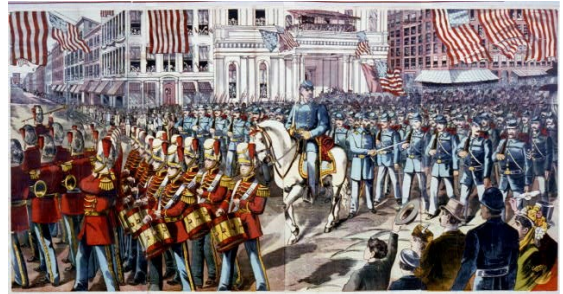


Even before the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade, Gimbels Thanksgiving Parade debuted in Philadelphia in 1920. It was organized by its employees to celebrate the upcoming Christmas season.

In 1924 Macy's held their first parade which originally was a Christmas parade, but quickly changed to Thanksgiving Day. The balloon attractions started in 1927 with Felix the Cat and then Mickey Mouse was added in 1934. In 1932 it was broadcast on the radio and then first televised in 1946. At first the tradition was to just let the balloons float away and whoever found them got a prize from Macy's. Of course, that has changed along with several route changes over the years. There have been a few mishaps due to excessive rain and winds. Once Donald Duck's hat filled with water and then drenched the parade watchers. High winds have blown the balloons away from the

handlers and even hurt some of those watching the parade. Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade is considered the best in America. In 2023 it was estimated that 3 million people watched it live while another 28.5 million watched on TV.

Military parades are held to support the troops or to celebrate a victory. George Washington was known to use parades to boost the morale during the Revolutionary War.



The largest military parade took place in 1865 to note the end of the Civil War. Over 200,000 soldiers participated in that parade.

The parades continued through World War I and World War II. They came to a halt during the Vietnam War because of the anti-military attitudes prevalent in the United States at that time. The last military parade was held in 1991 at the close of the first Gulf War in Iraq.



No matter what kind of parade you enjoy, there are many different kinds of parades to watch in America and they have been part of our culture even before we were a country. Speaking of parades, make sure you join us at the Heritage Day parade on June 8 at 10:30 a.m. We hope you have lots of candy thrown your way!

## **NOW YOU KNOW!**

## **MAY EVENTS**

Wednesday, May 1  
May Day

Thursday, May 2                      4:00  
p.m.      Kandi Baxter JH  
Invitational Track and Field  
Meet at West Harrison

Friday, May 3              All Day  
West Harrison Elementary  
Track and Field Day

Saturday, May 4  
State Large Group Music  
Festival

Sunday, May 5              6:00 p.m.  
Loess Hills Lancers meet at  
Community Center

Monday, May 6              7:00 p.m.  
City Council Meeting at City  
Hall

Wednesday, May 8      7:00 p.m.  
Baccalaureate at West  
Harrison

Thursday, May 9  
West Harrison Senior  
Breakfast

Sunday, May 12                      3:30 p.m.  
Graduation at West Harrison

Monday, May 13                      5:00 -  
7:00 p.m. Elementary Carnival

Tuesday, May 14  
Middle School Family Event

Thursday, Friday, & Saturday      May  
16 - 18      State Co-Ed Track  
and Field Meet Drake Stadium

Friday, May 24  
Last Day of School at West  
Harrison

Monday, May 27  
Memorial Day  
Remember and Honor

## **Missouri Valley/WH JVR** **Baseball**

June 4 at Avoca                      11:00  
a.m.

**June 11 Glenwood in MV 11:00  
a.m.**

June 13 at Audubon      11:00 a.m.

**June 19 AHSTW in MV 11:00  
a.m.**

June 27 at Glenwood 12:00  
p.m.