

Mondamin's

AUGUST 2024



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

CITY COUNCIL NEWS

The Mondamin City Council had its regular monthly meeting in July and then two special meetings. The regular monthly meeting was held July 1 at 7:00 p.m. Among the bills to be discussed and paid was an ICAP (Iowa Communities Assurance Pool) for city insurance. The premium for this 2024-2025 is \$62,104.00, an increase of 34.7%.

There was no old business.

The first item of business for the council was a discussion about derelict or nuisance properties. The council voted to have the town's property maintenance inspector, John Harrison, check these properties for nuisance violations according to the town's code of ordinances. If a property has been deemed in violation, a notice will be posted on the door of that property.

Heritage Day events and activities were

reviewed. The council voted to split the baked goods auction proceeds with 50% of the money going to the Christmas party and 50% to the Heritage Day Fund. The council also discussed the upcoming city-wide garage sales that were scheduled for Saturday, July 13. Next year the Mondamin Market and the garage sales will again be held on the same day.

With the resignation of city public works supervisor, Steve Hinkel, the council has voted to post the position and conduct interviews in late July.

The last item of business was a review of the Code of Ordinances for 2024 and then setting a public hearing for discussing the ordinances. The public hearing was set for the first reading of the proposed ordinances for Monday, July 8 at 6:00 p.m.

At the special meeting held on July 8 no members of the public were in attendance to give their opinions about adopting the proposed ordinances. No written public comments had been received either.

City water rates will increase according to the USDA rate schedule published in the proposed ordinance book. Water service will increase from \$38.50 to \$47.50; water will increase from \$.50 per 100 gallons to \$.80 per 100 gallons. The increase is due not only to the new water treatment plant, but also to the

price of water testing and water supplies which have drastically increased. In addition, the sewer service fee will increase from \$19.50 to \$22.00 which is the first increase since 2019.

Other agenda items for discussion were the city's ash trees that may suffer from ash borer disease and the drainage of water or ice that may accumulate on the city's sidewalk in front of 407 Maple Street. This area has had issues since the Iowa DOT replaced sidewalks along Maple Street in 2021.

COMMUNITY NEWS



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

Harrison County Crime Stoppers holds a monthly meeting the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Harrison County 911 is conducting a school supply drive. All donations can be dropped off at the Harrison County Sheriff's office until August 16. If you have questions or need another drop off option, contact Megan Evers by Facebook messenger or MEvers@hcia.us.

Saturday, July 13, Mondamin Community Partners hosted the first annual Mondamin Market in the community center. Nine vendors were busy selling items from crafts jewelry, and sports trading cards to barbecue spices and ceramic dishes. One vendor displayed and sold a large number of collectible antique planters. The vendors reported that they were satisfied with the number of customers and were very happy to have the market indoors in air conditioning on such a hot summer day and also to have food available for them. The K-Kids group served sandwiches for a noon lunch to the visitors and vendors. The vendors said that they plan to return to the event next year. Mondamin Community Partners wants to thank everyone who worked, bought items or participated in the market.

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.

Call the **Loess Hills Lavender Farm** for details about upcoming events, to make reservations, and to find out the cost. Their phone number is 712 642-9016 or email them at lhlavenderfarm@gmail.com. You can also check out their Facebook page or website.

Their summer hours are
Wednesday – Saturday
(10:00 a.m. – 5:00
p.m.)
Sunday
(1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)



The Sandbar has Taco Tuesday each week and Pizza Night each Friday except the first Friday of each month which is Pasta Night. Pasta Night's menu features delicious shrimp scampi, tomato meat sauce over pasta, and beer cheese sauce over pasta with bread sticks. If you don't feel like cooking and want something yummy, stop in or give them a call.



It's almost apple picking time! **Small's Fruit Farm will open on September 1** for pick your own apples and pumpkins.

Each Monday afternoon bring your own beverage and stop by the Jimmy King Shelter in the park at 1:30 p.m. to meet friends for fun conversation.

Mondamin resident, **David Tallon, was selected by Gov. Kim Reynolds** to be on the Engineering and Land Surveying Examining Board. His appointment is subject to Senate confirmation. Congratulations, Dave.

Have you visited the Willow Lake Nature Center yet?

Harrison County Conservation Board provides conservation education programs for all ages. The goals of conservation education is to ensure that people of all ages understand, appreciate, and care about our natural world by:

- Understand-to gain a basic understanding of ecological principles
- Appreciate-to develop an appreciation of local natural resources
- Care-to foster a lifetime connection with nature in order to make environmentally responsible choices.

Admission is free and the nature center is open

Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.,
Wednesday until 6 p.m.
Sundays 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
(April 7th-October 27th)
Saturdays 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
(May 25th-August 31st)
Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m
Closed all other holidays.

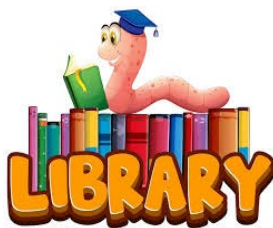
For more information go to their Facebook page: Harrison County Conservation Board, Iowa.

**Harrison County Welcome Center
Farmer's Market**

2931 Monroe Avenue
Missouri Valley, Iowa 51555

Thursdays, May 16th to
October 17th, 2024
3:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Local produce, baked goods, eggs,
honey, and crafts.



LIBRARY NEWS

“Read, Renew, Repeat!” was the theme of the summer reading program held every Wednesday in June from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Nine young people participated in the activities and read about conserving our resources and learning what materials can be saved to be recycled.

Library Director, Christine Hussing and former West Harrison librarian, Donella Pauli, will again be organizing a book club open to West Harrison 3rd and 4th graders. (This is a change from previous years.) Information will be distributed at

the school’s open house on August 22 for these two groups, but if you have questions, contact Christine at the library.



The latest selection chosen by the adult book club is *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett. They will meet on October 9 to discuss this book. Do you have an interest in reading? Want to join the book club? Just stop by the library and talk to Christine. Everyone is welcome.

If you haven’t found a rock yet, there is still time! If you find one, turn it in to Christine to be hidden again.

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?!?!?!?!?



Loess Hills Lancers 4-H Club

Michelle Lewis and Amanda Lawrenson,
Co-Organizational Leaders
by Donella Pauli and Maggie Rains

“Watching the kids grow as individuals, becoming more confident, and learning new things,” is what first year leader Amanda Lawrenson likes about being a co-organizational leader for the Loess Hills Lancers 4-H club.

The month of July was a very busy time for the twenty-five local 4-H members as they prepared for and participated in the Harrison County Fair. Whether the members had cattle, rabbits, made muffins, or entered static projects, they were hard at work to meet their deadlines.

Members of the Loess Hills Lancers club did well at the county fair. Below are listed some of the highlights of this year’s entries.

- Static projects going on to the Iowa State Fair: Addison Gochenour, Brooke Cooper, and Jerzey Kraft.
- Awardrobe Clothing Event and Style Show: Erin Lewis.
- Jaysa Lawrenson: Champion Senior Showman in Rabbits.
- Maycie Lawrenson: 2nd place in Junior Showmanship for Rabbits.
- Justin Cooper: Champion Polled Hereford Breeding Heifer.
- Danielle Cooper: Reserve Champion Polled Hereford Breeding Heifer.
- Paige Higgins: Champion for a jungle themed decorated cake.
- Jaysa Lawrenson: Reserve Grand Champion Main Dish at Milk Made Magic. (Five members competed in this event in seven different categories prior to the county fair.)
- Eight members baked muffins or an apple pie. Kendel Baldwin received an honorable mention for his lemon raspberry muffins and Danielle Cooper, with a 4-H member from another club, received Reserve Champion for their apple pie.
- Jaysa and Blake Lawrenson: Reserve Grand Champion Muffins. (Pumpkin Cream Cheese)
- The auction raised \$11,810 which stays in the county to help 4-H’ers cover various costs throughout the year. (The club thanks everyone who purchased pies and muffins this year.)
- The Club received 1st place in booth decorating and 3rd place in trash barrel decorating.

The Loess Hills Lancers have several divisions so students from kindergarten through 12th grade can join and participate.

- K-2nd grade are Clover Kids.
- 3rd graders are Senior Clovers.
- 4th – 6th graders are Junior members.
- 7th – 8th graders are Intermediate members.
- 9th – 12th graders are Senior members.

The Loess Hill Lancers were formed when the Allen Cloverleaf 4-H'ers and the West Soldier Valley club joined together to form the new club. The charter was issued in 1990.

In addition to preparing for the annual county fair, the Loess Hill Lancers have several community projects that take place each year. Prior to Thanksgiving the 4-H group provides Thanksgiving kits to Matthew's House Food Pantry so they can help those who need a little extra help to have a good Thanksgiving meal. At Christmas time each year the group goes Christmas caroling and gives residents a bag of goodies. Before Easter the club hosts the annual Easter Egg Hunt in the Mondamin City Park. They also try to participate in the local parades and help with other projects when asked.

The officers who are leading the club this year are

- Brooke Cooper, President
- Jaysa Lawrenson, Vice President
- Kendel Baldwin, Secretary
- Jerzey Kraft, Treasurer
- Danielle Cooper, Historian

If you are interested in finding out more about 4-H in general and the Loess Hills Lancers specifically, contact Carol at the Harrison County Extension Office in Logan. Any of the club's leaders Michelle Lewis, Amanda Lawrenson, Doug Cooper, Jill Higgins, or Jeena Hall could also talk to you about the 4-H program. The club meets the first Sunday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Mondamin Community Center.

"Being in 4-H is a great place for kids to learn new skills and a place for them to build on something in which they are already interested," said Michelle Lewis, Co- Organizational Leader.

"To Make the Best Better" is the motto of 4-H clubs everywhere. And the members of our local club, the Loess Hills Lancers, are no different. Congratulations on their achievements this year! Through their experiences in 4-H, members truly learn to follow their motto in all aspects of their lives.



my **HEAD**
to clearer thinking,
my **HEART**
to greater loyalty,
my **HANDS**
to larger service, and
my **HEALTH**
to better living, for
my **Club, my Community,**
my **Country,**
and my **World.**

Interesting tidbits about 4-H:

- Several people are credited with starting 4-H clubs because several similar clubs were all started about 1902. Jessie Fields Shambaugh from Shenandoah, Iowa, has been called the "Mother of 4-H." A.B. Graham from Ohio is sometimes also given credit for developing 4-H clubs.
- During World War II, 4-Hers participated in Feed a Fighter and were encouraged to grow a larger garden or raise more livestock. They were very involved in the Victory Gardens.
- Jessie Fields Shambaugh developed the clover pin which originally was a three-leafed clover which stood for HEAD, HANDS, and HEART.
- Later the 4th clover was added and stood for HUSTLE, but was soon changed to HEALTH.

- 4-H clubs are in all 50 states.
- More than 80 countries have 4-H programs today.

A complete history of 4-H in Harrison County may be found at

<https://www.iowa4hfoundation.org/about-us/foundation-history/iowa-4-h-history-by-county/iowa-4-h-history-by-county/2012/03/19/harrison-county-iowa-4-h-history/>



Just to bring a little smile . . .

Billy comes home from school on his first day and mom asks him, "What did you learn today?"

"Not enough," said Billy. "They said I have to go back tomorrow."

Why did the math book look so sad?

Because it had many problems.

Why did the boy eat his spelling homework?

Because the teacher told him it was a piece of cake.

My childhood crush and I are finally getting married this year!

Me in August, and her in November.

Why was Cinderella such a lousy football player?

Because her coach was a pumpkin!



SCHOOL NEWS

As of July 1, 2024, the West Harrison Wellness Center rates increased for Family or Individual Memberships. If you are a current member that has an active membership, you will pay the new rates when you renew your membership. If you are a new member wanting to join, you will pay the new rates starting July 1, 2024.

- \$150 per 1 year membership
- \$80 per 6 month membership
- \$40 per 3 month membership
- Key FOBs are \$10 each

First responders, fire department members, and law enforcement officials have access to the facility without cost except for the FOB.

Information from Keri King

If you are a new family to the West Harrison School District for the 2024-2025 school year, please use the following link to register your student(s): <https://iacloud2.infinitecampus.org/campus/apps/olr/application/login/login-email/3>

The school supply list for the 2024-2025 school year is available on the West Harrison web site <https://www.westharrison.school> If you are interested in purchasing supplies to help children this school year, please drop the items off at either the elementary or high school office. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

**Friday, August 22 Open House
for West Harrison PreK-12th Grade
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Friday, August 23 First Day of School
for the 2024-25 School Year!
1:30 p.m. dismissal**

DID YOU KNOW?

Are you left handed? Does that cause problems for you in a right handed world? Did you know that you have your own day to celebrate?

**International Left-Handers Day is
August 13.**



To celebrate, here are some facts, folklore, speculation, myths, and just some fun information which may or may not be true because researchers can't agree on their findings!

If you are of a certain age, your elementary teacher may have insisted that you learn to write with your right hand. Your teacher may have thought being left handed was just a bad habit. You may have been slapped or punished because you tried to use your left hand. Sound familiar?

That doesn't happen anymore as we now know that everyone should use whichever hand is most comfortable, but there certainly are various opinions concerning left handed people. Even research done at prestigious universities draws different conclusions.

So here we go – you decide for yourself what fits you or the left handers you know.

- Today between 10 and 12 percent of the world's population is left-handed. Genetics plays a role, but it isn't the entire story. Identical twins have the same

DNA, but one may use his right hand and the other his left.

- Scientists have studied the brains and it shows that left-handed people have a larger corpus callosum (The part of the brain that works with communication.) They also have a symmetrical brain with the left and right portions of their brain shaped alike. Right-handers often have an asymmetrical brain with one hemisphere often being larger than the other.
- In 1998 Burger King had a full-page ad in *USA Today* claiming that they had developed the "left-handed Whopper." It was the same burger, but they said they turned it 180 degrees so that the fixings wouldn't drip out. That was a good April Fool's Day joke!
- Left handers have the advantage in some sports: boxing, baseball, and tennis.
- On a keyboard around 3,000 words are typed solely with the left hand while only 400 are done with the right. Left handers might be faster typists because they are using their dominate hand.

- Swiping credit cards is tough for left handers.
- Cutting with scissors is difficult unless you purchase a pair of left handed scissors. (Ever had trouble with this?)
- The flap covering the zippers on pants blocks easy access from the left side.
- If you hold a glass measuring cup in your left hand, you have the metric measurements. (Not what most of us use.)
- It's very difficult for a left hander to write in a spiral notebook or a 3-ring binder. (Try it.)
- Old school can openers only work well in the right hand.
- Car cup holders are almost never on the left for US drivers.
- The number pad on keyboards is on the right.
- Vegetable peelers don't work for lefties.
- The most important buttons on a camera are always on the right.

- When a leftie holds a tape measure in his left hand, the numbers are upside down, but they do make ones especially for lefties.

You could probably add some of your own difficulties as a left hander, and the list could go on and on of things that are difficult to do in a right handed world.

Some people have the unsubstantiated theories that left handers don't live as long as right handers, they are smarter, they are better athletes, and they earn more money. Ronald Yeo, Psychology Professor at the University of Texas-Austin says, "Of all the interesting facts about handedness, probably the most important one is that it doesn't matter much at all. The differences between righties and lefties are really rather subtle, and of much greater scientific interest than any kind of practical use."

If you are left handed, celebrate your gift on August 13 because that day is especially for you!



Just for fun here are a few famous left-handed people:

Albert Einstein, Jay Leno, Aristotle, Babe Ruth, Charles Darwin, Gerald Ford, Benjamin Franklin, Lady Gaga, Sir Isaac Newton, Larry Bird, John McEnroe, Justin Bieber, Martina Navratilova, Bill Gates, Ronald Reagan, Julia Roberts, George H.W. Bush, Henry Ford, Bill Clinton, Harry Truman, Barack Obama, LeBron James (although he plays basketball right handed) Leonardo de Vinci, Jimi Hendrix, Michelangelo, Prince William, Vincent van Gogh, Oprah Winfrey, John D. Rockefeller, Mark Zuckerberg, Paul McCartney, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

NOW YOU KNOW!

If you have an idea for a person or group that you'd like to see in our Spotlight section, please let us know.

If you know of an upcoming event that you'd like mentioned in the Mondamin Newsletter, let us know.

You can drop off all suggestions and ideas at the Mondamin City Hall.

EVENTS

Sunday, August 4, 2024 6:00 p.m.
Loess Hills Lancers meet at
Community Center

Monday, August 5, 2024 7:00 p.m.
Mondamin City Council meets at
City Hall

Wednesday, August 7, 2024
Blood Drive at the Mondamin
Community Center

Thursday, August 22, 2024 4:45 p.m.
Preschool Parents Meeting

Thursday, August 22, 2024 5:00 -7:00 p.m.
West Harrison Open House for
PreK-12th grade

Friday, August 23, 2024
First Day of School at West
Harrison 1:30 dismissal

Tuesday, August 27, 2024 5:30 p.m.
Volleyball at TJ, Council Bluffs

Friday, August 30, 2024 7:00 p.m.
Varsity Football at East Mills

