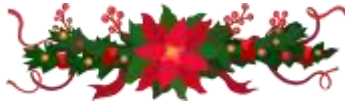


# Mondamin's



December 2024



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

## CITY COUNCIL NEWS

On November 4 the Mondamin City Council met for their regular monthly meeting. They approved the bill for cleaning the water tower. Other bills were approved to pay invoices presented by contractors for the new water treatment plant and the water meters that are being upgraded to radio read capability. Also on the agenda was the Christmas lighting contest and the flood elevation survey for the 501 Cedar Street area. The council members voted unanimously to use the ICAP grant to purchase new first aid kits for the city vehicles.

## Water Treatment Plant Project Update

The water treatment plant equipment is now being connected and readied to be operational sometime in January. Around town, you may have noticed digging equipment and the work being done by ARMODUS Company. The crew is busy installing new radio-read meter pits. They are working quickly to finish before winter weather arrives. Having these new meter pits will make accurate readings of

individual home's water usage plus preserve privacy from having a public works person read the meters. Some of the older meters were located inside or under the homes. Now the radios will read the meters each month and that reading will automatically be entered in the city clerk's computer for each home's utility account.

## Christmas Lighting Contest

The council voted to hold a Christmas lighting contest again this year. Prizes are set at \$100 for first place, \$75 for second, \$50 for third, and \$25 for fourth. Judging will be held on the evening of December 20 and the winners will be announced at the Mondamin Christmas Party on December 22. Let's light up Mondamin!

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Avenue of Flags Committee Presents Check

During West Harrison's annual Veterans Day program on November 11, a check for \$2,000 was presented to the West Harrison's Honor Society as a thank you for the student body's and staff's commitment to raising and taking down the flags that fly downtown and at the park for federal holidays.

David Tallon, the guest speaker, mentioned how veterans learn to serve their country and communities. He also praised the students and staff for several ways that they are serving their school and communities. Thank you to the elementary classes, the Middle School Choir and the West Monona/West Harrison High school band and choir for their inspirational music.

On Thursday, November 14 **Bonnie Castillo from Harrison County Emergency Management** met with a group of people at the Mondamin Public Library to continue discussing emergency preparedness. Kristi Hildreth, administrative assistant with the Harrison County Home & Public Health, attended the meeting to discuss the many services offered by her agency. From providing respite services to helping you if you need diapers for your baby or immunizations, you can get help from this office. You can learn more about this group by going to their Facebook page or their website [www.harrisoncountyhealth.org](http://www.harrisoncountyhealth.org). You can contact Kristi at [khildreth@harrisoncountyhealth.org](mailto:khildreth@harrisoncountyhealth.org) if you have questions.

**Thank you to everyone who helped** decorate the park on November 22 for Light Up the Park. Thank you also to those who provided cookies, decorations, sponsored the nativity animals and reindeer, brought items for Matthew's House Food Pantry, and helped in any way with the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Christmas celebration on November 30. Mondamin Community Partners appreciates everything the community did to make this event special.

**Mondamin's Christmas Celebration** will be held on Sunday, December 22 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Mondamin Community Center. Come join your family and friends for food, fellowship, and a good time. Santa will arrive at 5:30 p.m.

This annual event is sponsored by the City of Mondamin, area businesses, community

volunteers and the Mondamin Community Center board.



## **Danyell Peasley**

### **Mondamin's Postmistress**

by Maggie Rains and Donella Pauli

It wasn't that long ago that Danyell Peasley was a manager at the Family Dollar store. At the urging of her son who saw the job opening listed for the post office in Mondamin while he was job searching online in California, Danyell applied for the opening at the Mondamin Post Office after former postmaster, Ray Thompson, retired. After two days of orientation, 10 days at an academy where she received intense instruction from the new postal manual that covers RSS post offices (These are offices mainly equipped with electronic equipment, but the Mondamin post office is not one of those.) Danyell had to take three assessments to qualify to be an employee of the US Postal Service. One timed test dealt with common sense questions and answers. The second test was a test of basic math skills, and the third test covered customer relations. In June of 2022 Danyell was offered the job at the Mondamin Post Office.

For the first few days she had a mentor to help her, but then she was on her own. In addition to Danyell, there are two rural carriers who work out of the Mondamin

Post Office. Candy Wallis delivers to Little Sioux and the rural areas surrounding Mondamin. Nick Reza picks up the mail in Missouri Valley to deliver it to Modale, businesses located at the I-29 interchange, and in the town of Mondamin. These two rural carriers deliver between 1000 to 1500 pieces of mail to the route customers each day.

Some interesting facts about the local post office is that their budget has consistently been in the black financially. (Suppose that has anything to do with using fewer electronic devices?)

Their one day high for the number of packages is 250! Many of those pieces were due to eBay sellers in our area.

Danyell believes it is very important to build trust with her customers and know their personalities. Confidentiality is one of the most important expectations of a post office employee. She understands the frustration that postal customers have when their mail isn't delivered some days, when the cost of postage increases, or that the hours her office is open is not always convenient for everyone. She really appreciates her customers who use some kindness, respect and have some patience with her as she works to solve delivery issues and provide professional and quality service.

With the Christmas season upon us, here are some deadlines for mailings that you should know:

Ground Advantage	December 18
Priority Mail	December 19
Priority Express	December 21

Danyell is advising customers to prepare for the next postage increase that will take effect in January 2025. The rate will increase from 73 cents for a stamp to 76 cents. When asked why the increases didn't ever go to an amount like 75 cents, Danyell laughed and explained, "The USPS is the number one business in our country to keep pennies in circulation."

If you think everything has gone high tech at the post office, there is one thing that hasn't changed. The post office still delivers baby chicks in cardboard boxes with holes in the sides. Their fuzzy heads peak out as they chirp, chirp, chirp away. Danyell said, "Oh, yes, baby chicks still arrive at the post office awaiting delivery. We also deliver baby ducks, quail, mealworms, and crickets." Each day brings something new to be delivered.

If you haven't met Danyell Peasley, stop by the Mondamin Post Office to say hello.



**Thank you, Library Director Christine Husing, enjoy your retirement!**

The Mondamin Library Board recently interviewed candidates for the position of library director. Marla Rife was selected to fill the position; she will be trained by

Christine before she leaves at the end of December. Welcome to the library, Marla!

**The elementary book club** will meet again on December 9. The group is reading *Kidnapped at the Capital* by Ron Roy. Any 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grader is welcome to join the group.

**The book club** will meet again on January 22, 2025, to discuss *If You Tell*, a true crime story, by Gregg Olson. Stop by the library if you are interested in joining.



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

What do you get if you cross a Yule Log with a duck?

#### **A Fire Quacker**

What do you call a chicken at the North Pole?

#### **Lost**

What happens when a snowman gets angry?

#### **It has a meltdown.**

How much money did Santa Claus pay for his sleigh?

#### **Nothing, it was on the house.**

Which of Santa's reindeer is the fastest?

#### **Dasher**

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

During the holiday season if we are fortunate, most of us spend more time with family than we do the rest of the year. Do you have that one family member who always seems to drop something unusual or off the wall into the dinner-table conversation? Here are some interesting unknown facts to help you become that person.

- The *Mona Lisa* has no eyebrows. She originally had eyebrows, but due to cleaning and erosion, they no longer are on the painting.
- "I am." Is the shortest complete sentence in the English language. Your English teacher taught you that a sentence must have a subject and a verb to be a sentence. **I** is the subject and **am** is the verb.
- Camels have three eyelids to protect themselves from the blowing desert sand. The third clear eyelid and two rows of long eye lashes help protect their eyes.
- Minus 40 degrees Celsius is exactly the same as minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit. The Fahrenheit scale and the Celsius scale intersect at one point and they are equal at -40 degrees.
- It is impossible to lick your elbow. (If you say this one, how many people

will try it?) The entire joint of the elbow is between the upper and lower arm, not just the pointed part on the outside of their arm.

- It is physically impossible for pigs to look up into the sky.  
The pig's spine and neck muscles restrict them from looking up.
- What is the only food that doesn't spoil?  
The only food that doesn't spoil is honey. (Although, if it gets really old, do you really want to eat it?)
- Elephants are the only animals that can't jump.  
Unlike other mammals, the bones in an elephant's legs point downward which means they have no "spring" to push off the ground.

So now you can be the one to mention that interesting fact to spur your family's conversation during the holidays.

## NOW YOU KNOW!



## SCHOOL NEWS

**Healthy Living Week** was celebrated by West Harrison PreK-4<sup>th</sup> graders the week of November 11-15. Activities were held to help the students learn to keep their bodies

and brains healthy. The theme this year was the Olympics.

**Due to low numbers in high school girls' basketball**, West Harrison will be sharing the 9-12 girls' basketball program with Missouri Valley for the 2024-2025 basketball season. West Harrison's Julius Michalik will act as an assistant coach for the team.

Missouri Valley uses a cashless entry much like West Harrison does. You may pre purchase your ticket or pay by card at the gate. Troy Maasen, West Harrison Athletic Director, was told that Missouri Valley will honor West Harrison's passes: student, adult, senior, family activity passes, and Rolling Valley Conference passes. A basketball schedule is attached to this newsletter. Good luck, girls!

**West Harrison's annual elementary Book Fair** kicks off on December 4 from 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. in the elementary library. This book fair gives students, parents, and grandparents the opportunity to purchase good books from Scholastic for the young readers. In addition, you could always buy a good book and donate it to the West Harrison Elementary Library. There isn't anything that creates excitement about reading like a new book! Profits from this fund raiser help purchase additional books for our students to read. Books make great Christmas gifts! Below is the complete book fair schedule:

Wednesday, Dec. 4      1:30 – 2:30 p.m.  
 Thursday, Dec. 5      3:35 – 6:00 p.m.  
 Friday, Dec. 6      3:35 – 5:30 p.m.  
 Saturday, Dec. 7      9:00 a.m. – noon  
 Monday, Dec. 9      3:35 – 5:30 p.m.  
 Tuesday, Dec. 10      3:35 – 4:30 p.m.  
 Wednesday, Dec. 11      1:30 – 2:30 p.m.  
 Thursday, Dec. 12      3:35 – 4:30 p.m.  
    & 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

fund raiser for prom sponsored by the junior class.



**It's time for holiday music!**

The K-8 Winter Concert will be held on Thursday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m. at West Harrison.

West Monona will be hosting the 8-12 Winter Band Concert and the 9-12 Winter Choir Concert at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 16.

**West Harrison Community School** will dismiss at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, December 20, 2024, for winter break. Classes will resume on Monday, January 6, 2025.

**The basketball schedule for West Harrison's JV boys** is attached to this newsletter. Their first game will be December 5 at West Harrison. Due to low numbers, they will be playing just two quarters.

**Share The Christmas Spirit!**

West Harrison K –Kids and Builder Club are sponsoring a **CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE** from now until December 6. Drop off new or gently used toys for children ages 0-12 at West Harrison Elementary. The toys will be delivered to Matthew's House Food Party on December 6. Celebrate the season of giving!

**How about Breakfast with Santa?**

On Saturday, December 7, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. you can have pancakes, visit the bake sale, talk to Santa, and have your gifts wrapped all for free will donations. There will be vendors on site for your Christmas shopping. There are still open spaces for vendors. If you are interested in a table the cost is \$20. Contact Delaney Mentzer ([dmentzer@west-harrison.k12.ia.us](mailto:dmentzer@west-harrison.k12.ia.us)), one of the prom sponsors, to reserve a table. The event is a



## EVENTS

Sunday, December 1                      6:00 p.m.  
Loess Hills Lancers 4-H Club will meet  
at Community Center

Monday, December 3                      7:00 p.m.  
Mondamin City Council will meet at  
City Hall

Wednesday, December 4                1:30 p.m.  
West Harrison Book Fair begins. See  
complete schedule in SCHOOL NEWS.

Saturday, December 7                    9:00 – noon  
Breakfast with Santa and other  
events at West Harrison Commons  
for a prom fund raiser

Thursday, December 12                 7:00 p.m.  
K-8 Winter Concert at West Harrison

Thursday, December 12  
Last day of West Harrison Book Fair

Monday, December 16                   7:00 p.m.  
8-12 Winter Band Concert and 9-12  
Winter Choir Concert at West  
Monona

Friday, December 20                    1:30 p.m.  
West Harrison dismisses for Winter  
Break

Sunday, December 22                    4:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
Mondamin Christmas Party at  
Mondamin Community Center  
Santa will visit.

Wednesday, December 25

**CHRISTMAS DAY**