

Mondamin's February 2025



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

CITY COUNCIL NEWS

Mondamin's City Council members met on Monday, January 6. The main order of business was to approve several resolutions to appoint council member to be commissioners for various services offered by the city. Karen Breyfogle was appointed as mayor pro temp. Mike Kelley was appointed as public works superintendent. Appointments were also made for the town's official banking institution, attorney, news outlet, and established the 2025 mileage reimbursement rate.

The council approved purchasing turn signals and safety lights for the city's Polaris Ranger. Quotes were received from Boland Recreation for park equipment to replace picnic tables and from DK Home Improvement for a gutter at City Hall. Northern Tool submitted a quote for a salt spreader.

The City Council will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 3, 2025.

Mondamin Library Board is looking for new members – see article in the Library section.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Jim and Renee Small, the 5th generation owners of Small's Fruit Farm, have announced their retirement and the closing of Small's Fruit Farm near Mondamin. The farm has been in Jim's family since 1894 and in their words "The farm has been more than just a place of work for us. It has been our home, our passion, and a source of treasured memories."

For many families picking apples at Small's was a family tradition each fall. Thank you to your family for the delicious pies, apples, other fruits, and vegetables you've provided the community for all these years. Both the customers and Jim, Renee, and their family have many memories from Small's Fruit Farm. Enjoy reminiscing days gone by and enjoy your retirement!



The first coffee of the legislative session was Saturday, January 25. Two more are scheduled for Saturday, February 22 and Saturday, March 29 starting at 10:00 a.m. in the Logan Community Center. These gatherings are a great opportunity for you to learn what is happening in Des Moines and you can ask questions of Senator Mark

Costello and Representative Matt Windschitl. If you need more information about these gatherings, contact Gary Guge at 712-216-0200.

Matthew's House Food Pantry is open to the public on Sundays from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. The food pantry can always use donations which can be dropped off during those hours.



Jesse Strong Post #378, American Legion has a drop box for flags that need to be retired located right outside their meeting room door of the Mondamin Community Center. Just place your tattered flag in the box and they will properly take care of it.



Presidents Day, February 17



Mondamin Community Partners wants to thank Kim and Tony Nunez, Jim and Maggie Rains, Richard and Zeta Proskocil, Pat and Susie Perry, Gregg Beam, and Donella Pauli

for taking time on a chilly January 2 afternoon to take down the Christmas decorations in the City Park. The decorations survived the windy winter conditions and are packed and stored until next year when we prepare for Light up the Park on November 29, 2025. Mark your calendars now!

Do you need DRY CLEANING services?

You can now drop off items on Tuesdays at the Jiffy Mart and pick them up the following Tuesday. Service by Max I. Walker Company began January 14th.

“February is the shortest month, so if you’re having a miserable month, try to schedule it for February.” Lemony Snicket



The City of Mondamin is asking all residents to please not flush any type of wipes even if the package is labeled FLUSHABLE. This practice can lead to blocked sewers or backups ending up costing you or the city huge repair bills.



Remember you can report crimes anonymously.



Valentine's Day, February 14

The Monday afternoon coffee group that meets in the Jimmy King Shelter will not be meeting during the month of February. Please join the group again starting March 10, 2025, for coffee and conversation.



Bonnie Castillo
Harrison County Emergency
Management Director
by Maggie Rains

Bonnie Castillo grew up in Southwest Iowa and began her career in Emergency Management at the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) while working in Sioux City as the District 3 Executive Officer 1 (EO-1). In this role, she managed the district budget and facilities program, but soon became the district liaison for the Statewide Emergency Operations Center and FEMA reimbursement claims following a major snow event. After experiencing flooding, she developed expertise in the Federal Highway Emergency Relief program.

During the 2008 flood event, Bonnie transitioned to the role of Disaster Recovery Program Manager in Ames, where she

managed all recovery efforts. She later advanced to Statewide Emergency Operations Manager, overseeing Disaster Response and Recovery, and later added the Highway Helper Program, and the 24/7 Traffic Management Center to her responsibilities.

After working remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic, Bonnie chose to prioritize family and stepped away from the Iowa DOT. Following a brief hiatus and exploration of other roles, she returned to Emergency Management, accepting a position in Harrison County in April 2024.

The County Emergency Management position requirements of FEMA coursework and classroom training was completed prior to starting her role in Harrison County. In addition to the required training, she completed multiple emergency management courses while at the Iowa DOT, including an Operations Academy Senior Operations Management Program sponsored by the University of Maryland.

She was also selected to serve on multiple National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) disaster response and recovery panels in Washington, DC, and attended yearly disaster related conferences.

When asked which disaster/crisis had made the biggest impression on her, she replied, "Each disaster is unique and creates a heartbreaking situation for every family affected. While some events may be larger in scale than others, for those impacted, that disaster is the biggest and most significant moment in their lives. This is

something I have carried with me throughout my career in emergency management. Every event, whether a severe snowstorm, flooding, or another emergency has been a learning experience. No matter the size or the number of families involved, each deserves the best response possible.”

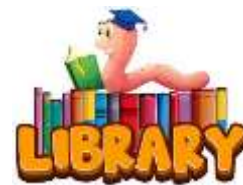
Since Bonnie has lived in different locales, she was asked what she liked about Harrison County. “I have truly enjoyed my time in Harrison County, and one of the things that has impressed me most is the incredible sense of community. This summer, I was amazed by the small-town festivals and parades—each one a testament to the pride and camaraderie that make this county so special. Harrison County should be proud of the way its communities come together to celebrate and support one another. I’ve also been fortunate to receive great support from my commission members and county supervisors, which has made my transition into this role even more rewarding.”

Castillo went on to say, “However, my favorite part of Harrison County is the Loess Hills. Having lived in Sioux City, my family spent a lot of time hiking the hills and riding motorcycles through the winding roads. Just weeks before applying for this position, I found myself teaching my grandkids about the formation of the Loess Hills while driving home from the Omaha Zoo. Being here now feels like coming full circle, and I’m grateful to be part of this community.”

Director Castillo would like to enhance preparedness in Harrison County,

strengthen response capabilities, and foster community engagement.

Director Castillo has had several sessions on emergency preparedness hosted by the Mondamin Public Library. Watch for details for one to be held in March. By attending you can learn a great deal from Harrison County’s Emergency Management Director!



LIBRARY NEWS

If you haven’t stopped in to meet the new library director, Marla Rife would love to have you come by the library to get a library card, check out the latest children’s or adult’s book, or just take a look to see what is available at your local library. If you have a particular title in mind and the Mondamin Library doesn’t have it, Marla can order it for you from any library in Iowa.

The elementary book club will meet next on February 24 after school. They are currently reading *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate. Her book, based on a true story, was the 2013 Newberry Award winner. Applegate blends humor and poignancy to create a tale of friendship, art, and hope.

Mondamin’s book club will meet again on March 26 and they will be discussing *The Personal Librarian*. New members are joining all the time. Just stop by the library and talk to Marla about joining.

The Mondamin Library Board is currently looking for two volunteers to serve as new members on the board. One person must live in Mondamin and the other may live in the rural area according to the library bylaws and ordinances. Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the library. If you are interested or if you have questions, contact Marla Rife – Library Director at 712-592-2016 or email questions to library@mondaminowa.com.



Just to bring a little smile . . .

Do you have a date for Valentine's Day?

Yes. February 14th.

Why do people walk slowly in February?

Because it's not March.

What did the stamp say to the envelope on Valentine's Day?

I'm stuck on you!

Why did the chick get detention at school?

He used fowl language!

Did you hear about the nearsighted porcupine?

He fell in love with a pin cushion!

DID YOU KNOW?

Every month has many interesting things that happen during its days. February is no different and the month isn't just about Valentine's Day. Here are a few facts about February:

- February is one of the most misspelled words in the English language.
- February is mostly recognized for Valentine's Day and flowers.
- The number of days in February has fluctuated from 23 – 29.
- Julius Caesar remade the Roman calendar and assigned the month 28 and 29 days. This calendar was approved in 713 B.C.
- February and January were the last months added to the Roman numeral calendar.
- February is the only month without a full moon.
- In the Southern Hemisphere February is the last month of summer.
- February was named after a purification ritual similar to an early Roman spring festival.
- February 2 is Groundhog Day.
- February 3 is The Day the Music Died (Ritchie Valens, Buddy Holly, and The Big Bopper died in an airplane accident.)
- February 7 is Send a Card to a Friend Day which was a holiday created by the card companies.
- February 9 is Pizza Day.

- February 9, 2025, is Super Bowl Sunday.
- February 14 is Valentine's Day.
- February 17 is Random Acts of Kindness Day.
- Presidents Day is February 19.
- Love Your Pet Day is February 20.
- The National Weather Service says that February is the snowiest month in the United States.
- Whatever you celebrate and whatever happens to you, may the month of February bring happiness and good fortune.

NOW YOU KNOW!

“February is the border between winter and spring.” Terri Guillemets



SCHOOL NEWS

The month of February is a very busy month at West Harrison. Both junior high and high school wrestlers and basketball players are completing their seasons. Check the schedules that were attached to a previous newsletter or go to the school's web page at <https://www.westharrison.school> and check the activity calendar. There is still time to catch some Hawkeyes in action.

Kendel Baldwin and Erin Lewis have advanced to the State Large Group Speech Contest which will be held in Waukee on February 8, 2025. They will be participating in ensemble acting. Congratulations and good luck!

Scheduled in February are Parent-Teacher conferences, speech contests, and music events.

The West Harrison Community School District offers career and technical programs in the following areas of study:

- Family and Consumer Science
- Business Education
- Vocational Agriculture
- Industrial Tech

EVENTS

Sunday, February 2 6:00 p.m.
Loess Hills Lancers meet at
Mondamin Community Center

Monday, February 3 7:00 p.m.
City Council Meets at City Hall

Saturday, February 8
State Large Group Speech Contest in
Waukee, IA

Monday, February 10 6:00 p.m.
Parent/Senior Night at West Harrison
for Boys Basketball

Friday, February 14
Valentine's Day

Friday, February 14
No School

Monday, February 17
Presidents Day

Monday, February 17
No School

Saturday, February 22
All-State Large Group Speech Festival
Ames, IA

Tuesday, February 25 7:00 p.m.
Pops Concert - Onawa



Ground Hog Day, February 2