

# Mondamin's

## January 2025



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

### CITY COUNCIL NEWS

At the regular monthly meeting the city council members approved more payments of \$52,250 to JEO Engineering Contractor for the new water treatment plant and a payment of \$21,700.28 to ARMODUS for installing water meter pits at residences that did not have them or to replace defective older meter pits. A change order of \$2,480 for water meter improvements was also paid dependent on USDA review and concurrence. The street finance report for FY2024 was approved. Council member Karen Breyfogle was appointed as Mondamin's 2025 landfill commissioner.

The council members discussed the possibility of replacing Mondamin's older tornado sirens with a more up-to-date tornado siren from the Little Sioux Scout Ranch since the ranch has been sold to the Iowa Heritage Foundation. Council member John Glennie briefed the council about the Mondamin Community Christmas party. The date is set for Sunday, December 22. Work at the new water treatment plant is wrapping up sometime in January or February.

### COMMUNITY NEWS

Mondamin's annual community Christmas party was held Sunday, December 22 at the Mondamin Community Center. Guests were treated to delicious main dishes topped off with ice cream and cookies.

To the children's delight, Santa arrived about 5:30 to hear what each one wanted for Christmas. After talking to Santa, each child received a sack of goodies.

Tons of presents were available for the children to win through a drawing. The adults had a chance to win one of 25 hams or 34 turkeys.

Thank you to the Mondamin Community Center Board, the City of Mondamin and all the party's sponsors who helped make a fun evening for all in attendance.

#### Christmas Lighting Contest Winners

- 1<sup>st</sup> Dusti & Stephanie Winegar
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dustin & Kalsie Rife
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Randy and Debra Farris
- 4<sup>th</sup> Terry & Kim Rife

#### Light Up the Park a Huge Success!

Have you ever seen a camel, donkeys, reindeer, a calf or lambs munching contentedly on hay as snowflakes fell on them? On Saturday afternoon, November 30, a huge crowd of people who came to Mondamin's park did. Everyone had plenty of opportunities to take photos with the animals. The soft snowfall with Santa and

Mrs. Claus strolling among the animals seemed like a scene from a Hallmark movie! Santa and his Mrs. spent a couple of hours visiting inside the beautifully decorated Jimmy King Shelter with children of ALL ages. Many of the children wrote letters telling him what they hoped he would bring them on Christmas Day. While they waited for their turn to talk to him, they could have hot chocolate and could select from a huge variety of cookies. Before Santa left for his next stop, he went outdoors, waved his magic staff, led some festive cheers and suddenly the outdoor displays in the park lit up.

Mondamin Community Partners wants to thank the decoration donors, those who

Mondamin Community Partners is asking for volunteers to help take down the Christmas displays on **Thursday, January 2, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.** Remember school is not in session so we would appreciate help from students. We will meet at the Jimmy King Shelter. Many hands make light work.

helped at the event, those who donated cookies, and the volunteers including West Harrison students who worked to kick off the holiday season. The items donated to Matthew's House were very much appreciated. Thank you to ARMODUS for sponsoring the animals from Scattered Joy Acres and everyone who came out on a chilly, snowy day to enjoy the event.



**Matthew's House Food Pantry** always appreciates your donations. They always need personal hygiene items and canned fruit and vegetables. The food pantry is open on Sundays from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. If you or someone you know is in need of food and supplies, Matthew's House is here to help members of our community. It is located in the basement of the Methodist Church at 109 S. Vine Street in Mondamin.

### **COFFEE with CASTILLO**

Once a month on the second Thursday, Harrison County EMS/9-1-1 Director, Bonnie Castillo, comes to the Mondamin Public Library at 9:00 a.m. to have informative conversations with local residents. Several times this fall, Bonnie has brought materials to give away that are helpful during emergencies or disasters. Her presentations have included preparing family emergency plans in case of tornados or fires.

December's discussion topic was Red Cross resources during emergency situations such as medical emergencies or home fires. The Red Cross representative for Harrison County demonstrated CPR techniques to hopefully save unresponsive persons. She also showed when to use AED equipment and how to use AED equipment to restart an unresponsive person's heart.

The Red Cross presenter also gave examples of how the organization has helped during local individual and community disasters such as fires and flooding and tornado events.

Did you know that it takes two minutes to get out of a burning house? Or that seven times a day someone dies from a house fire or that every forty minutes a fire injury is reported? One of the most surprising resources that the Red Cross has is to provide free smoke alarms with installation to homes which have smoke alarms that are older than fifteen years old.

Call **1-833-422-1751** or visit [redcross.org/smokealarmIA](https://www.redcross.org/smokealarmIA) or [redcross.org/smokealarmNE](https://www.redcross.org/smokealarmNE) to make an appointment if your home is in need of smoke alarms.

Coffee with Castillo discussions at the library will continue in January 2025. (Watch for the exact date on the city's Facebook page or on posters in the regular places in town.) Please come join us with your favorite morning mug of coffee or tea and learn how to protect yourself and your family. Bonnie also plans to have a booth in the park during Heritage Day on June 14.

**Do you have an event that you'd like mentioned in the Mondamin Newsletter?** Let us know before the end of the month and we will publish it so the community is informed.



### **Hello, January! Hello, 2025!**

January was named for the Roman god, Janus who is depicted with two faces, one looking into the past, the other having the ability to see into the future. What a fitting symbol for the first month of a new year!

### **Do you suppose any of this weather folklore for January is true?**

- Fog in January brings a wet spring.
- A favorable January brings us a good year.
- If grass grows in January, it will grow badly the whole year.
- A summerish January, a winterish spring.

### **Have you given some thought to 2025? Here are five simple tips to kick start your new year:**

1. Plan Ahead
2. Get Organized
3. Create Deadlines For Yourself And Stick To Them
4. You Don't Have To Be Perfect
5. Take Time For Yourself

**“Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for talk beside the fire; it is the time for home.”**

**Edith Sitwell**



## Marla Rife

### Mondamin Library Director

by Donella Pauli and Maggie Rains

Welcome to the new director of the Mondamin Public Library, Marla Rife. During her training, Marla was surprised to learn how the libraries in Iowa share books. If a patron wants a particular book that the Mondamin library does not have, she can order it from another Iowa library.

Marla began her work on December 5 and is excited to be working with patrons in the Mondamin community. By working out of town for the last few years, she felt she had lost touch with local people. She is glad to be back.

Many of the existing programs will continue such as the Summer Reading Program, book club, and Coffee with Castillo. Marla would like to add more programs to bring children to the library and have adults be part of those activities. She stated, "I'd like to make it so the children don't want to leave the library!"

Securing grants will be important to continue library programs as future offerings will include more technology in children's reading.

When the annual Heritage Day rolls around, Marla hopes to have the library be involved in the parade and activities. That's just one more way to make the community aware of what the library has to offer our patrons.

The biggest problems that Marla sees for small libraries are the number of hours they can be open, the limited size of their budgets, and finding ways to get people involved. If you haven't been in the Mondamin Public Library in a long time, stop by and say hello to Marla. You'll be surprised at what the library has to offer. Remember, there is something for everyone at the library!



The elementary book club will meet after school on January 13. Each of the members will be reading a book from the *I Survived* series. If you have a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grade student who is interested in joining, just contact Donella Pauli or the child's teacher.

The library's book club is currently reading *If You Tell*, a true crime story, by Gregg Olson. This book is a gripping true-crime story about three sisters who overcome their mother's abusive house and survive. This group will meet January 22, 2025. If you are interested in joining, stop by the library.





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

How do mountains stay warm in the winter?

**They put on their snowcaps!** 

What's cold, white and goes up?  
**a very confused snowflake.**

What do you call a penguin in the Sahara Desert?

**Lost**

What kind of ball doesn't bounce?  
**a snowball**

Why was the snowman looking in the bag of carrots?

**He was picking his nose!**



## **DID YOU KNOW?**

### **Important Harrison County Contact Information**

Do you have this information available when you need it?

#### **Assessor's Office**

**Court House – Logan**

(712) 644-3101

[assessor@harrisoncounty.iowa.gov](mailto:assessor@harrisoncounty.iowa.gov)

#### **Attorney's Office - Missouri Valley**

(712) 600-6004

#### **Auditor's Office**

**Court House - Logan**

(712) 644-2401

[auditor@harrisoncounty.iowa.gov](mailto:auditor@harrisoncounty.iowa.gov)

#### **Board of Supervisors**

**Court House - Logan**

(712) 644-3123

#### **Communication**

**Law Enforcement Center**

(712) 600-9774

911 for emergencies

[911@hcia.us](mailto:911@hcia.us)

#### **Conservation Board - Woodbine**

(712) 644-2785

[hccb@harrisoncountyparks.org](mailto:hccb@harrisoncountyparks.org)

#### **Drainage Clerk**

**Court House – Logan**

(712) 644- 2185

[lrenz@harrisoncounty.iowa.gov](mailto:lrenz@harrisoncounty.iowa.gov)

#### **Emergency Management**

(712) 644-2353

[ema.hcia.us](mailto:ema.hcia.us)

#### **Engineering & Secondary Roads**

(712) 644-3140

#### **Environmental Health, Planning & Zoning**

**Court House Annex**

(712) 644-2302

[mpitt@harrisoncounty.iowa.gov](mailto:mpitt@harrisoncounty.iowa.gov)

**GIS & Mapping****Court House – Logan**

(712) 644-1324

[twegner@harrisoncounty.iowa.gov](mailto:twegner@harrisoncounty.iowa.gov)**Harrison County Welcome Center**

(712) 642-2114

[welcome@harrisoncounty.iowa.gov](mailto:welcome@harrisoncounty.iowa.gov)**Home & Public Health**

(712) 644-2220

[dshearer@harrisoncountyhealth.org](mailto:dshearer@harrisoncountyhealth.org)**Homemaker Agency**

(712) 644-3238

[ssalter@harrisoncountyhealth.org](mailto:ssalter@harrisoncountyhealth.org)**Human Services****Court House Annex**

(712) 644-2460

**Landfill**

2812 E. Hwy. 30 Logan

(712) 644-3093

Toll-Free (800) 672-3093

**Recorder****Court House**

(712) 644-2545

**Sheriff****Law Enforcement Center**

(712) 600-9774

Toll Free 866-745-0711

[bdoiel@hcia.us](mailto:bdoiel@hcia.us)**Treasurer****Court House****• Vehicle Registration**

(712) 644-2144

**• Property Taxes**

(712) 644-2144

**• Driver's License**

(712) 644-2057

**Veterans Affairs**

(712) 644-2760

[va@harrisoncounty.iowa.gov](mailto:va@harrisoncounty.iowa.gov)

You might find this information helpful enough to save these pages.

**NOW YOU KNOW!**

If you have any ideas for stories or a person or group that you'd like to see covered in our Spotlight section, please contact Donella (712) 646-2687 or Maggie (712) 420-6036. We'd appreciate your ideas or suggestions.

**SCHOOL NEWS**

Classes resume January 6 following Winter Break. Check the school's webpage or the athletic schedules included in last month's newsletter to find a list of activities.

**West Harrison athletics is sponsoring a fund raiser** where you can donate to help a specific team. You don't have to buy anything. Just copy and paste this link into your browser and donate to whichever sport you'd like to support.

<https://www.gobound.com/ia/schools/westharrison/fundraise>

**(Note: There is no letter r at the end of the last word in this link.)**

## EVENTS

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

New Year's Day

Saturday, January 4, 2025

Youth Basketball Tournament at West Harrison

Sunday, January 5, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Loess Hills Lancers 4-H Club at Mondamin Community Center

Monday, January 6, 2025

7:00 p.m.

Mondamin City Council Meeting  
City Hall

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

ICAN FASFA Night at West Harrison

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

8:00 a.m.-  
2:30 p.m. NHS Blood Drive at West  
Harrison High School

Monday, January 20, 2025

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
Inauguration Day

Saturday, January 25, 2025

Large Group District Speech Contest  
at ACGC