

Mondamin's

June 2025



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

CITY COUNCIL NEWS

The Mondamin City Council met on Monday, May 5, 2025, for the regular monthly meeting. Discussion items included cleaning fees for the Community Center. When the center is used for non-paying renters, it still costs the city for the cleaning service. It will continue as a discussion item with the American Legion and the Community Center board next month. The council set a date of the end of May to inventory trees on city property that need to be removed or trimmed. Mike and Alyx will complete the inventory, so it can be let for bidding in upcoming months. Also discussed was the Heritage Day parade route on June 14. The council wants the route to stay the same as previous years with the beginning of the parade to start at the WH High School parking lot. The parade will end there as well.

A major discussion item was researching insurance companies for city liability. ICAP representatives were present to give the council an estimated quote for FY 2025/2026 premiums and what coverage the city would have if it approves remaining with ICAP insurance.

The city council passed a motion to approve a contract with Harrison County Law Enforcement for FY 2025/2026.

A representative from Harrison County Department of Health was at the meeting to provide information on programs that are available to Mondamin residents to assist them with various health issues. One free assistance available is the Diaper and Formula program. People interested in this service are encouraged to check the Harrison County Department of Health website for more information or to contact this service.

Public Comments: The council did approve a building grant for a S. Vine resident. One resident gave an update on his restoration house project. Another resident inquired about a nearby abandoned house and what is happening with it. The council explained that the process is complicated and takes much time to proceed. This is true with many properties when needing to research who is the assigned owner of such property, locating that owner and if it is in an LLC, particularly an out-of-state company, it is very difficult. Then a law firm is consulted and begins court proceedings. This can be costly and time consuming.

There was a citizen complaint about rooster crowing. The complaint will be investigated. The town-wide Spring Clean-up Day was a big success as the large landfill dumpster and the city's own dump trailer were filled to capacity with residents' unwanted items. The next regular monthly meeting will be Monday, June 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Heritage Day
June 14, 2025

The Mondamin Community Partners and the Mondamin Community Center Board have been planning Heritage Day, 2025 for months! The celebration is almost here. It takes a lot of people to put on an event like Heritage Day, so we thank everyone who has volunteered to help!

This issue of our newsletter will have a schedule of all the events so we hope you will know what is happening, where it will take place and when it is supposed to happen.

If you are hungry for a good breakfast on Saturday morning, the Church of Christ is serving breakfast starting at 7:30 a.m. This will be a free will offering with the money going to the Ministerial Alliance Benevolence Fund.

Vendors will be in the park starting at 9:00 a.m. After breakfast stop by to see what interesting things they have for sale.

We encourage businesses, clubs, organizations, families, and children to take part in the Heritage Day Parade with the theme "Hooray for the Red, White and Blue." Registration for the parade begins at 9:00 a.m. in the West Harrison High School parking lot. The parade will begin at 10:30 a.m. From the school, the parade route goes to the highway and all the way down

the highway to Main Street and then it will turn right. Find a special place to view this annual event.

We extend a special invitation to the children to enter the kiddie parade. It would be fun if they would decorate their bicycle, wagon, pet, wear a Super Hero costume, etc. Be creative! Prizes will be given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.

Immediately following the parade, come to the Mondamin City Park. (Bring your lawn chairs.) There will be a dunk tank, six bounce houses, a kiddie train, face painting, games and prizes sponsored by the Loess Hills Lancers 4-H club, a horseshoe contest, root beer floats, desserts, and Bill Nelson and his Jiffy Mart crew will be there with a food stand. You shouldn't go hungry! Everything is FREE except for the food!

At 11:45 a.m. we will have our baked goods auction which is an **extremely important** part of Heritage Day. **The proceeds from this auction will help fund Heritage Day 2026.** Make sure you are there to spend a ton of money to help us continue holding Heritage Day.

WE NEED ITEMS FOR THE BAKED GOODS AUCTION. BRING YOUR ITEMS TO THE JIMMY KING SHELTER IN THE PARK STARTING AT 9:00 a.m. If you have questions, contact Maggie Rains.

The American Legion is hosting a fish/chicken fry at the Mondamin Community Center starting at 12:30 p.m.

Make sure you purchase raffle tickets to win one of our great prizes this year: a one night stay in a cabin at Willow Lake donated

by the Harrison County Conservation Board, a beautiful wood 1776 flag made and donated by Jeff Evers, a \$25. gift card to Loess Hills Lavender Farm donated by the farm, a West Harrison Booster Club basket, a Missouri Valley Booster Club basket, and a patriotic wall hanging made and donated by Zeta Proskocil. Any one of these prizes would be great! The tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. They will be for sale before Heritage Day from the members of MCP and at the park on the 14th. You don't have to be present to win.

Please join us. It will be a great time!
Heritage Day is June 14, 2025!

More information is attached to the back of this newsletter.



Remember you can drop off dry cleaning at the Jiffy Mart. Drop your items off by Tuesday and they will be back by the next Tuesday.

Iowa Cancer Consortium

Residents of Harrison County were invited to attend an in person or online a workshop about cancer in Iowa on May 1 at 1:00 p.m.in Logan at the Harrison County Department of Public Health office. Information about recent news items about the cancer rates across the nation was presented. Iowa has the second highest rates of cancer in the nation. Iowa's College of Public Health is doing the research into reasons why cancer is occurring in this state

so often and what correlations there are to causes. Several questions were asked by attendees.

For more information contact Iowa Cancer Registry at CancerConcern@uiowa.edu or to join Iowa Consortium for updates on research progress. A resource guide which contains available programs or grants to Iowans can be found at their website: www.iowacancerregistry.org/99. This workshop was presented to all of Iowa's 99 counties.



**This continues to be a problem for the city!
Please help. Don't flush wipes even if the package says you can.**



Please use eyes and ears and utmost CAUTION around the Mondamin City Park! Since school is out and many children are on the move to play at the playground, the basketball/pickle ball court, and use the splash pad, they often aren't watching for vehicles. They may be on bicycles, carts or running. Parents/guardians/babysitters need to stay alert also. Let's have a fun and safe summer!



If you see something, give Crime Stoppers a call. Your call remains anonymous.



RETIRING WEST HARRISON TEACHER

Mrs. Angie Smith
Reading Is a Passport to
Countless Adventures.

By Donella Pauli

During her forty years of teaching, (twenty-five of those years at West Harrison) Angie Smith has enjoyed watching children learn to read! Angie always liked school herself and she likes to work with kids so her chosen profession was a perfect match!

Mrs. Smith earned her BS Degree at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln; her MS Degree at Wayne State College; an Early Childhood special education endorsement at Hannibal LaGrange College in Missouri; and a special education endorsement at Buena Vista College in Storm Lake, IA. Mrs. Smith began her career in education as an elementary classroom teacher. Before coming to West Harrison, Angie taught in Nebraska on two different Indian reservations and at Logan View. Her first position at West Harrison was teaching 3rd grade. After twenty-five years in the elementary classroom, she taught Early

Childhood Special Education and Elementary Special Education.

Angie says that every day in education is different. Most days are really good, but there are challenges. She says she is a bit competitive and likes to problem solve so she has enjoyed the challenges. To anyone she says, "We need good teachers. Go for it!"

"Teaching isn't just a profession—it's the art of lighting a path where others can learn to walk on their own."

Angie and her husband, Lee, live in Lyons, NE, and have four grown sons. Elley is a utility lineman and is married with a daughter, Lizzie who is Angie and Lee's only grandchild so far. Jesse is a property manager for Target in Sioux Falls, SD. Mitchell is married and owns an auto repair business on Main Street in Lyons. Benjamin works at the DOT, farms with Angie and Lee, and is engaged to be married.

When school starts again next fall, Mrs. Smith won't miss Mondays, but she will miss working with the families that she has gotten to know and seeing her students progress through the grades.

Angie's plans after retirement are to spend more time with her family, work in her garden, volunteer, and maybe travel more than she has been able to do while teaching.

When asked about her years in the West Harrison Community, Angie said, "I came to West Harrison looking for a job and I have appreciated that opportunity. But I got so much more! I grew professionally. I have friends here in the community. I have worked with some of the greatest kids and their families."

The West Harrison community thanks you, Mrs. Smith, for your years of dedication and devotion to the children in our school district. We thank you for making that 94 mile round trip every day. Good luck in your retirement!



LIBRARY NEWS

It's summertime and you're very busy, but don't forget to read! Summer reading for your children is very important. If elementary children don't read over the summer, they can experience a decline in reading comprehension and skills. Studies indicate that children can lose up to three months of reading comprehension over the summer. So what should you do as a parent?

- Create a reading routine. Just like you have softball and baseball practice, set aside time for reading.
- Make the reading fun!
- Provide access to books. That's where the Mondamin Public Library comes into the picture. Check their hours.

- Focus on choice. Let them choose what they are interested in reading.
- Discussions. It will be more meaningful to them if you ask questions about the characters, plot, and theme.
- Happy Summer Reading!

Throughout the summer check the Mondamin Public Library's Facebook page to learn about summer library activities. You won't want to miss the fun!

Library Hours

Monday	1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	CLOSED
Wednesday	1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Thursday	9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Friday	CLOSED
Saturday	8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Sunday	CLOSED

The book club will meet on July 23, 2025.

There won't be a newsletter in July.



Just to Bring a Smile

What did Snow White say when her pictures weren't ready?

Someday my prints will come!

Why did the chocolate chip cookie go to the doctor?

Because it was feeling crumbly.

What did the dad say when the boy asked him to explain the solar eclipse to him?

No sun!

What do you call chiropractors that work for the zoo?

Animal crackers.

What is another name for a grandfather clock?

An old-timer!

Mondamin Memories

Have you ever been on Mondamin's main business block (Highway 127) and thought to yourself, "My goodness, that vehicle was certainly going too fast!"

In the late 1940's, justice in Mondamin looked a little different than it does today, but they had a way to take care of speeders. Here is our **Mondamin Memories** article submitted by Larry Stevens.

Every Driver Guilty in This Iowa Court

"Justice in the Rough" Rules in
Mondamin: Mayor Splits Fees

Omaha World Herald by William H. Graham

"Justice in the rough, " similar to that found recently in Sarpy County, flourishes at Mondamin, Ia., 40 miles north of Omaha on the paving to Sioux City.

Presiding over the court there is Mayor J. L. Gillette, 61, who mans the village water pump and carries a mail route when he isn't sitting on the bench. His marshal, Watson Bellville, 55, also doubles as justice of the peace.

"It's a kangaroo court, sure," said Bellville, and Gillette added "Every man who comes in here gets convicted."

They learned much of their procedure by listening to Omaha police court over the radio, they said. And they were certain their court wasn't much worse than Omaha's.

"Fees Not Responsible."

Since the first of the year, they have had 78 cases, mostly speeders. Not one person has been found "Not Guilty." The fact that they get fees (court costs) which the law allows them to split only in "guilty" cases has nothing to do with their 100 percent convictions, both insisted.

All speeders are charged—not with speeding—but with reckless driving. Omahans have been numerous in the court. Marshal Bellville doesn't have a car or a motorcycle to chase down speeder suspects.

When he sees one coming he just jumps out into the street, waves his arms, and blows a whistle. The motorist is then hauled into court and accused of going over the town's 15-mile per hour speed limit.

Asked how he could judge the speed of a car from the curb, Marshal Bellville said: "Anyone can tell whether a car is going 15 or one hundred miles an hour. I never pick them up unless they're going over 30, and I

can stand on the curb and tell before a car gets to me whether it's going 30 or 35 miles an hour.

Everyone Guilty

"We make no bones about it—every man who is brought into this court is guilty. The mayor doesn't even have to give them a hearing. In my justice of the peace court, however, they're entitled by the state law to bring witnesses and make a defense if they care."

Mayor Gillette keeps a homespun docket. During the first part of his term he began each case with "Be it remembered," etc., but lately, he has discarded this formality and recited the bare facts. Frequent are the entries wherein he has found a motorist guilty and assessed a \$2 and cost fine. Costs average \$3 per case. In many of these cases, his docket shows that defendants "didn't have but \$3 so I took the \$3 to pay court costs." These costs, he and Marshal Bellville split, the mayor taking two-thirds and the constable one-third. Fines go into the village treasury.

Judge and constable have a 16-year-old Iowa law book to guide them. Many of the laws therein are repealed or amended.

If anyone cared to appeal, Mayor Gillette doesn't know just how they'd go about it—except that they'd have to post a \$50 bond. He keeps no appeal forms handy.

Omahans Fined

A dozen Omahans have meted out "justice" there in the past three months. These include: H. J. Murphy, paid \$2 fine and \$2 costs; J. H. Kretz, \$2 fine and \$3 costs; R. H.

Dunnell, \$2 fine and \$3 costs; Mrs. Velma Williams, \$2 fine and \$3 costs; J. C. Peterson, \$2 fine and \$3 costs; John Hoover, \$2 fine and \$3 costs; Joseph Meyer, fined \$5 and costs, "but he only had \$3 so I excepted (accepted) it as costs and released him;" H. W. Van Horn, fined \$5; Frank Swanson, \$2 fine and \$3 costs; J. W. Barber, fined \$5 and costs, "but only had \$2, which I took and charged to costs."

Albert Barnes, fined \$2 and costs, "but he only had \$2, which I paid for costs; Max A. Wasserman, \$3 costs paid; Dr. Cady, Arlington Neb. \$5 fine and \$3 costs, and Lee Davis, \$2 fine and \$3 costs.

An entry under date of June 8 shows Magistrate Gillette had this case: "G. L. Boyer, North Platte, Neb, reckless driving. I fined him \$5 and costs which he refused to pay and got tuff (tough) and wanted to lay it out in jail. So I gave him five days in county jail." Following this was a notation stating that Mr. Boyer decided after one day in jail to pay his fine.

Magistrate Gillette chuckled over this case: "They looked like newlyweds and the bride wanted to go to jail with him."

Both Gillette and Bellville (when he acts as justice of the peace) insist Iowa law permits them to split fees from "guilty" cases. Council Bluffs lawyers assert up-to-date Iowa laws make no such provision.

"We've got Iowa law back of us," say the Mondamin judges.

The Omaha Auto club has had a number of complaints about a "speed trap" at Mondamin.

(We try to copy these **Mondamin Memories** exactly like the article was printed in the newspaper at that time. You may notice some differences in punctuation or word use, but that is how the story was printed.)



Sunday, June 15th is Father's Day

"A father is someone you look up to no matter how tall you grow." Unknown

"My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person, he believed in me." Jim Valvano

"My father didn't tell me how to live. He lived, and let me watch him do it." Clarence Budington Kelland

"The older I get, the smarter my father seems to get." Tim Russert

DID YOU KNOW?

From time to time we have used this section to write about particular National Holidays/Days that are celebrated either in our country or across the world. We can celebrate National Avocado Day or National Rotisserie Chicken Day if they are two of your favorites. The month of June has 201 National Days which means that there must be something for everyone.

But did you know that National Days are not declared by any specific agency or office? There is no formal accreditation process or government agency that determines the legitimacy of a National Day. Anyone can declare a National Day and it is often done by individuals, businesses, or organizations to raise awareness of something or to promote a cause.

Now you know you don't need permission to start a special day. So with that being said, what are your interests or likes? What National Day would you or your friends like to start? Let us know and we'll publish it in our newsletter! 😊

NOW YOU KNOW!



SCHOOL NEWS

Take in a softball or baseball game this summer. The area has children/teens of all ages playing games. Check the schedules we attached in April or just ask a grandparent where their grandchildren are playing. Players of all ages appreciate your support!

Remember the high school softball and baseball games are being played with Missouri Valley.

EVENTS

Sunday, June 1, 2025 6:00 p.m.
Loess Hills Lancers 4-H Club meets at
Mondamin Community Center

Monday, June 2, 2025 7:00 p.m.
City Council meeting at City Hall

Saturday, June 14, 2025 All Day
Heritage Day in Mondamin. See
schedule for all activities.

Sunday, June 15, 2025
Father's Day



Have a safe and fun-filled Independence Day. The holiday commemorates the passage of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

**There won't be a
newsletter in July.**

Take some time to visit a few pieces of Mondamin's history. These three buildings will be open from 11:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on Heritage Day. Compliments of Larry Stevens.

The Keith's Store building was built in 1916 by Tom Wallis. Fred Keith started his grocery/dry goods store there in 1931. Throughout the years, the upstairs was a dance hall, a skating rink, a movie theatre, an opera house, and a community hall. Bessie O' Boyle, a 4th grade teacher died there at a dance in 1944. Anna Blair took her place at school.

Today Mondamin's memorabilia is displayed in the upstairs: Mondamin High School graduation pictures from 1900-1962, the school bell, the archway front of the 1895 school building, two plaster murals from the high school building, athletic uniforms, obituary files, military uniforms, pictures of the town of Mondamin, signs, etc. You will certainly find something that will interest you in the upstairs of Keith's Store.

The Holton House was originally a drug store built in about 1870. In 1890 the Spooner family lived there. They sold the house in 1948 to the Holton family. Some of the antiques inside came from the Maule, Baxter, and Wallis families. Outside, the iron gate came from the Magnolia Cemetery and the bell tower came from the Echo Country School which was east of Mondamin.

In the 1930's three families lived in the house at the same time. Each family had two rooms and they shared the outhouse.

A Drug Store was on the east side of the hardware store from 1936-1960. The marble soda fountain is the original one that was built into the store. The greeting card display cabinet came from Miller's Store in Pisgah. In 1960 Kenneth Gee bought the store out and removed the contents to his store in Little Sioux, IA.

Heritage Day Raffle



**Wooden Flag
made by Jeff Evers**



**One night's stay in a cabin
at Willow Lake**



\$25 Gift Card



WH Booster Club Basket



MV Booster Club Basket

**Patriotic Wall Hanging made
by Zeta Proskocil**

Heritage Day Schedule

Saturday, June 14, 2025

- 7:30 – 10:00 a.m.** **Breakfast at Church of Christ**
(Proceeds from breakfast are donated to the
West Harrison Ministerial Alliance Benevolence Fund)
- 9:00 a.m.** **Begin registration for parade at**
WH parking lot.
- 9:00 a.m.** **Vendors are open in the park.**
- 10:30 a.m.** **“Hooray for the Red, White & Blue”**
Parade Begins. (Decorate your Golf Carts, Kids’
Bicycle Division, Cars, Tractors, Floats, etc.
- 11:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.** **Mondamin’s Historical Buildings Open.**
(See the reverse side of this paper for details.

FOLLOWING THE PARADE FUN IN THE PARK:

- ❖ **Baked Good Auction at the Jimmy King Shelter at 11:45**
(Proceeds from this auction support Heritage Day 2026 activities.)
- ❖ **Food Stand at the Jimmy King Shelter by Jiffy and Crew.**
- ❖ **Desserts and Root Beer Floats by Kiwanis’ K-Kids and Builder’s Club.**
- ❖ **Tropical Sno All Day**
- ❖ **Games and Prizes (Ring Toss, Duck Pond, & Dime Toss) All Day**
- ❖ **Dunk Tanks All Day**
- ❖ **6 Bounce Houses All Day**
- ❖ **Horseshoe Contest All Day**
- ❖ **Pie Eating Contest 1:00 p.m. (Register earlier - 3 adult pairs & 3 kid pairs)**
- ❖ **Buy a Mondamin Cook Book at Raffle Table**
- ❖ **Kiddie Train Rides 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**
- ❖ **Face Painting 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
- ❖ **Vendors 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
- ❖ **Loli Pop Dah Clown 12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
- ❖ **Raffle Tickets Winners drawn at 2:00 p.m.**
- ❖ **American Legion Fish/Chicken Fry 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**
- ❖ **Show ‘N’ Shine for Cars and Tractors immediately after the parade**