

# Mondamin's

## September 2025



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

### CITY COUNCIL NEWS

At the Monday, August 4, Mondamin City Council meeting, the members were updated about the progress on the renovation taking place at 401 Cedar Street. There was a discussion about the condition of the property that burned at 301 S. Clark Street last March. Also, there was an update from the city attorney on progress for the property at 409 Pine Street. The city now has title of this property and will move to the next step in the process.

Under Old Business, the council heard what the progress is for the tree inventory of trees on the city right of ways that are dying of ash borer and other viruses. The splash pad at the Mondamin City Park will need to be turned off while the contractors for cleaning and painting the water tower are working. It may take several weeks that the tower's water will be at lower than usual capacity. It is disappointing for children to not be able to cool off at the splash pad; however, the routine maintenance was overdue at the water tower until the new treatment plant was completed this spring. The last item under Old Business was how to deal with controlling the spread of weeds

on the water treatment grounds at 501 Cedar Street. Methods for controlling the weeds have to be approved by the DNR.

New Business items included approving the purchase of a post hole digger, membership to the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, renewing the liquor license for L.O. Sandbar, and setting the date for the sale of the city-owned lot at 107 S. Main Street. The date for the public hearing for the sale will be held at the next regular board meeting on Monday, September 8, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. Approval for a building permit was given for the owner of 203 N. Clark. The city clerk asked to have her office hours changed to 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. This was also approved.

### COMMUNITY NEWS

Mondamin Community Partners is sponsoring its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual **Boo Bash** on **Sunday, October 5, 2025**, in the Mondamin City Park starting at 2:00 p.m. The fun will begin with a scavenger hunt starting promptly at 2:05 so don't be late! The afternoon will be filled with FREE games like football toss, spill the cans, ring toss, water balloon toss, mummy sack races, bean bag toss, Simon Says, and others. Prizes will be given and refreshments will be served.

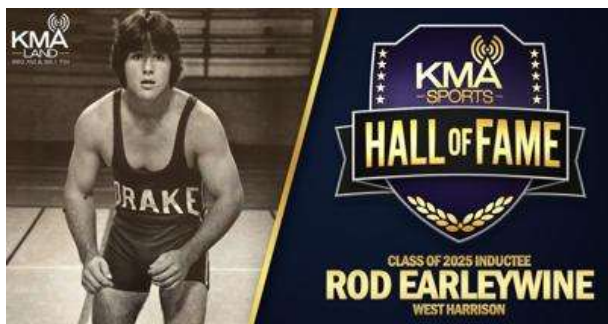
Raffle tickets will be sold for a 1/3 cord of firewood donated by Lickety Split Firewood of Pisgah, a beverage basket filled with gift cards and various fall beverages, four gift cards from Pizza Ranch for their buffet and passes to Vala's Pumpkin Patch near Gretna, NE. The cost for raffle tickets is \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

The West Harrison Post Prom Parents will be selling chocolate chip cookies 2/\$1.00 and Stirtz Pumpkins will be on hand with pumpkins of all sizes for sale to help you get ready for Halloween.

Come join the fun! Boo Bash will be a great time! We'll see you, your family and friends at 2:00 p.m. on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Boo Bash needs volunteers (adults or high school students) to help run the games! If you can help, Contact Donella Pauli at [dpauli@iowatelecom.net](mailto:dpauli@iowatelecom.net) or 712.646.2687.

## 2025 KMA Sports Hall of Fame Class



This article and picture were copied from [kmland.com](http://kmland.com). Go there to read the entire interview.

(KMAland) -- The 2025 KMA Sports Hall of Fame class continues to take shape today with one of the most influential figures in Iowa high school wrestling.

A former two-time state champion and four-time state qualifier from West Harrison, Rod Earleywine, made an impact on the sport of wrestling in a number of ways.

"I always wanted to give back to the sport that has given so much to me," Earleywine told KMA Sports. Once his college career came to an end, Earleywine was not done with wrestling spending 12 years as a coach at West Sioux before moving into officiating.

"I really enjoyed those years, officiating, a lot," Earleywine said. "I worked a lot of state tournaments, and those memories are awesome." Earleywine, who was inducted into the Iowa High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame this past winter, was recognized as one of the top officials in the state, landing a spot in the IHSAA Officials Hall of Fame in 2007.

"I started wrestling in second or third grade," Earleywine said. "There was a local kid in Little Sioux named Terry Carritt. He was a state champ as a sophomore in high school, and he was kind of my idol growing up. My big brother Chuck was into wrestling, so just following those guys."

"We'd go to the Legion Hall and wrestle on old mattresses. That's the first mat I ever wrestled on. We'd go there and practice once a week. It was just a great learning experience we had in the Little Sioux gym for many years. That's where I really got my start."

Earleywine is the first West Harrison alum to be honored in the KMA Sports Hall of

Fame. The 2025 KMA Sports Hall of Fame ceremony is slated for Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in Shenandoah's Gladys Wirsig-Jones Auditorium.

Check out the full interview with Earleywine on [kmland.com](http://kmland.com).

**Mondamin Legion to host first fish/chicken fry of the fall.** Come to the Mondamin Community Center and join your neighbors and friends for a delicious meal on Saturday, September 6, 2025, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. You'll be glad you did!



**The 14<sup>th</sup> annual Embrace the Hills Bicycle Event** begins in Mondamin ("Where the corn is tall, but the hills are taller.") on September 20, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Mondamin Community Center.

Options for this event are to ride 28 miles for a mild ride with rolling hills, 36 miles for a middle route that is just as awesome, or

48.5 miles on a route with bigger, better hills.

Proceeds from this event will go to Matthew's House Food Pantry.

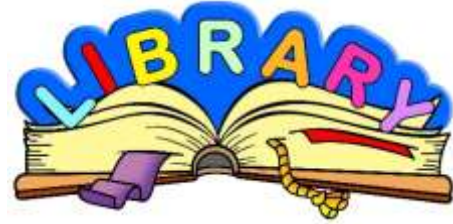


Drop off items to be dry cleaned at the Jiffy Mart by Tuesday and they will be returned by the following Tuesday.

**News about Town:** A gusty windstorm tore the roof off the former Keith's Store and some bricks from the upper story's facade. Many tree limbs blew down in the neighborhoods, as well, during the night of July 21. In the weeks since then, Larry Stevens, owner of the old Keith's Store, has had a new roof installed and fixed the missing bricks. The following Saturday, July 26, another storm dumped three inches of rain on Mondamin in a short period of time. There was minor street flooding.

To help reduce the flooding when mowing, please keep the lawn clippings out of the street. When it rains, the clippings clog the sewer drains which prevent the excess water to drain away from the streets and yards.

## APPLES



## LIBRARY NEWS

Prior to school starting, children registered to win one of two backpacks filled with school supplies given away by the Mondamin Public Library. The two winners were Baylea Conyers and Ridge Neill. Congratulations, students, have a great year!

The elementary book club for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders will not begin until the end of October. Watch for information in this newsletter and from teachers at school.

Stop by the library. There is something for everyone!

## Just to Make You Smile .....

What is a math teacher's favorite dessert?

Pi

Why did the ice cream truck break down?

Because of the rocky road!

What did the tree say to autumn?

Leaf me alone.

What do trees do in September?

Turn over a new leaf.

Why should you always knock on the fridge before opening it?

Because there could be salad dressing!

In our area when the calendar flips to September, our minds start to think about apples! Scattered throughout this month's newsletter are bits of history concerning Harrison County, Mondamin, and apples. The information was taken from Larry Stevens' newspaper clippings.

**APPLES** **W. T. Worth, horticulturist, and founder of the Raglan Apple Industry, sifted some of the Harrison County soil through his fingers in 1895 and said, "This is apple country." His friends warned him, "You're crazy!" for at that time Iowa was thought to be too far north for profitable fruit growing.**

The **Spotlight** section will be back next month. If you have an idea of a person or a group that you'd like to know more about, let us know.

**APPLES** The first apple crops of the Raglan district were sold to farmers who came with teams and wagons for barrels of fruit. This period gave way to the railroad and sales to commission and wholesale men. Then delivery was made by truckers to Des Moines, Omaha, and Sioux City.

## Mondamin Memories

### Mondamin Enterprise

January 31, 1920

### Methodist Church Destroyed By Fire

The Mondamin M. E. church burned to a crisp Sunday with most of the residents standing by, powerless to prevent the destruction. It was a frame building and was going too strong before it was discovered to be put out with means at hand. In fact, there was no means except to get buckets and a ladder both of which were impossible in time to save the building.

The morning sermon was just nicely started when Yale Linn rushed in with the announcement that the building was on fire. It was decided at once that the building could not be saved and the furniture was carried out. Practically everything in the main room, including the piano, was carried out. So far as we know Doris Powell was the

last one to leave the building, bringing with her the rostrum carpet. In the side room,

considerable furniture, dishes, etc. were destroyed.

As soon as the volunteers had the furniture at a safe distance, they gave their attention to protecting the nearby buildings, Cyril Gillette's house and Wilbur Hagerman's garage. Besides that, the roof of the school house across the way required protection from the burning shingles.

About all the wells in that part of town were pumped dry several times and by keeping the neighboring buildings well soaked, they were saved.

How the fire started is a mystery. Only the stove on the east side of the building had been fired up for the morning service and the fire was first seen about in the middle of the west side of the roof. It is easy to say it was from the chimney, but the chimney had been inspected and was known to be in good condition. Anyway, the fire came out of the roof at least 80 feet from the chimney.

We understand that the congregation has secured the old L.D.S. church building for temporary use.

(Just a reminder that these newspaper articles are copied exactly the way they were printed with spelling and punctuation the way it was in the 1920's!)

**APPLES** The apple crops were mostly the Jonathan variety. When Eve ate the forbidden apple, it was probably a Jonathan for that is a variety that has stood the test of time and it was the Jonathan apple that made the Raglan orchards nationally famous. Per the Des Moines Register in 1934.

## DID YOU KNOW?

For September this column has some knowledge for all our readers – useless knowledge! Please don't fact check it; just share it. Everyone needs useless knowledge!

- ❖ The first oranges weren't orange. The original Southeast Asian varieties were green. Even today, many oranges in tropical climates stay green when ripe.
- ❖ A group of flamingos is called a flamboyance. It fits their bright pink color.
- ❖ The longest hiccupping spree lasted 68 years. Charles Osborne started hiccupping in 1922 and stopped in 1990.
- ❖ Women have more taste buds and can see more colors than men.
- ❖ Cows have best friends. Studies have shown cows get stressed when separated from their close companions.
- ❖ Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur. Each tiger's pattern is as unique as a human fingerprint.
- ❖ Sea otters hold hands while sleeping to avoid drifting apart. It's called a "raft," and sometimes they wrap themselves in kelp.
- ❖ An average of 3.6 cans of SPAM are consumed each second.

- ❖ Nutmeg is extremely poisonous if injected intravenously.
- ❖ If every Oreo ever made were [lined up](#), it would reach the moon and back more than five times.
- ❖ Apple seeds contain cyanide.
- ❖ In the 1830s, ketchup was used as medicine to treat such ailments as diarrhea, indigestion and jaundice.
- ❖ Four out of five children are able to recognize the [McDonald's logo](#) by the age of 3.

We aren't sure what you'll do with this useless knowledge....

## BUT NOW YOU KNOW!

Some of the above information was taken from the [Crescent Connection](#), Issue 8.

**APPLES** In addition to the Worth family, other growers during the early times were. C. Metcalf, C.H Larison, J.C. Arnold, E.A. Small, Lee Rippey, John Stoner, and Jim Withem & Sons.



## SCHOOL NEWS

School has begun for the 2025-2026 school year! By now students, teachers, and parents should have their schedules figured out and be into a routine. Athletes who are participating in football, volleyball, and cross country have been practicing, and, in

some cases, have already had games, matches, or meets. Check the schedules so you can attend an event to support the Lady Reds and the Big Reds. That's where the 7-12 Hawkeyes are playing this year. Good luck to all the teams!

### Information about Athletic Passes or Tickets

**Gingerich Structures** has made a generous donation to West Harrison so that **ALL West Harrison students will receive a free pass to attend all home athletic events!** Please take advantage of this awesome opportunity to support the Lady Reds and Big Reds this school year.

In addition, **senior citizens** can receive a free pass to attend home events by stopping in the West Harrison high school office.

**Parents**, check out the QR Code on West Harrison's Facebook page to purchase passes or tickets to athletic events. (Remember, don't purchase one for your students!)

You can also purchase tickets at [HTTPS://www.gobound.com/ia/schools/misourivalley/tickets](https://www.gobound.com/ia/schools/misourivalley/tickets)

For Fall Sports Fans: **West Harrison's 5th and 6th grade boy athletes** are joining with Missouri Valley's 5th and 6th graders to play Southwest Iowa league football. The list of games is as follows:

- Sunday, September 7, play is at Shenandoah at 12:30 p.m. WH/MV plays Atlantic

- Sunday, September 14 their game is at Underwood where they play Shenandoah at 12:30 p.m.
- The team plays Treynor on Sunday, September 21 at 11:00 a.m. at Atlantic.
- Sunday, September 28 is an 11:00 a.m. game with Underwood played at Missouri Valley.

If there are other teams who would like their schedules published in this newsletter, just let us know.

**APPLES An Armistice Day blizzard in 1940 wiped out the apple orchards of Mondamin. Every tree had to be replanted and it took several years before the orchards were fully restored.**

**Thank you** to the organizations, groups, and individuals who donated school supplies for the 2025-2026 school year. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by our students and teachers.

## EVENTS

- September 1 Labor Day
- September 1 No School
- September 6 4:30 -6:30 p.m.  
American Legion's Fish/Chicken Fry at  
the Mondamin Community Center.
- September 12  
FCCLA Krispy Kreme Fundraiser  
begins. Contact the school or  
check the WH web page for details.
- September 20 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Embrace the Hills Bicycle Event
- September 29 Post Prom Fundraiser  
begins - Selling Midwest Mixes
- Check the WH web page or the athletic  
schedules that were attached to the  
newsletter last month for dates and  
times for all the MVWH athletic  
events.



**Thank you for your hard work!**

**APPLES 2025 Jim and Renee Small, owners of Small's Fruit Farm, have retired, but their apples will still be available at Sustainable Sanctuary owned by Mike and Erin. Small's recommend that you stop at their market at 2348 Loess Hills Trail, Missouri Valley, IA. Apples will be available soon! There will be NO UPick this year. The story of Mondamin apples continues!**