

Mondamin's



October 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, September 8, 2025, in the Mondamin City Hall at 7:00 p.m. The agenda, the minutes from the previous meeting, and submitted claims were approved.

There were no public comments and the community center manager had submitted her report to the council. There was nothing new reported from the fire department or the library.

John Harrison from Bluffs Inspection Service was present to give an update on the progress being made on the property at 401 Cedar Street. Clerk Hirst reported that she had received an email from the Favinger family that they had found a rental in Logan and are no longer living in the property. Harrison stated that he had surveyed the property and noted that no improvements had been made.

A notice had been sent to the property owner of 301 N. Main Street, but the owner had failed to mow the property.

Harrison had a company come and mow the lawn and the charges will be sent to the owner for collection. Harrison noted that some tires had been removed from the pile and an old camper had been relocated. The city consulted with their attorney on how to move forward.

The city now owns 409 Pine Street and the windows and doors have been boarded up. The council is exploring options for demolition. John Harrison will reach out to determine if this property contains asbestos or lead. More discussion will take place.

Follow-up letters will be sent to the owners of 410 N. Main Street and 100 S. Clark. Court documents had been received from the city attorney regarding 405 Maple Street so the council instructed John Harrison on how to proceed.

The City of Mondamin now has a contract with Evolv to allow the city to accept debit, credit, and electronic checks in person, over the phone, or through online bill pay. This service will charge the customers a small convenience fee for using GovCard Payment Solutions. There will be more information available soon on how this will work.

Consideration and discussion took place about the Alyrt Messaging System Platform for City Notifications. This is a way to get information to residents quickly. The council decided to try this system for six months and then reassess the effectiveness

of the notification system. (For more details on this topic check the council minutes posted in the post office or printed in the newspaper.)

The tenant in apartment #1 of King's Court asked the council to consider installing a walk-in shower for them as they have difficulty stepping into the tub. The council decided to install a walk-in shower for this resident.

A new date of October 7, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. was set for a public hearing for the sale of the city-owned lot at 107 S. Main Street.

More discussion was held about the land at 501 Cedar Street. Options being discussed are to rent the land for farming, using it as hay land or to sell the property to a developer.

Discussion on departmental grant proposals took place. It was mentioned that depending on what is awarded in the grant, the city's insurance costs could be increased or other expenses may arise from the purchase or installation. All departments (fire department, library, or community center (American Legion) are asked to attend the next council meeting on October 7. The city council needs to approve any grant application that is submitted.

Discussion took place about King's Court. Some council members believe it may be best for the city to sell King's Court due to the cost of maintenance of the property. This was tabled.

Discussion of the clerk's hours took place.

The Fall Clean-up Day is scheduled for October 19, 2025, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Remember you must be a city resident to participate. Contact the city clerk at 712 646-2431 if you have questions about whether an item qualifies to be put in the dumpster.

Submissions for the King Grant were discussed. Mary received two quotes for bathrooms at the city park from Mike Kelley and a quote for new street signs from Clerk Hirst. The council thought both ideas were great!

Mayor Jamie Howrey will not be seeking another term as mayor. If you are interested in serving your community in this capacity, stop by the clerk's office and talk to Alyx. You must be a resident of Mondamin to be considered a candidate.

The city clerk has worked with Williams & Company on the city's audit. The council will be receiving a report. Bidding packets will be sent out soon for the tree removal project.

The public works report included that the water tower cleanup went well. New fire alarms have been installed in all the units at King's Court before the final HUD inspection. Wipes in the sewer are still a problem.

BOO BASH will be held in the park on October 5th.

Due to a conflict, the next city council meeting will be October 7, 2025.

COMMUNITY NEWS

BOO BASH is back! Mondamin Community Partners is sponsoring **BOO BASH** again. Last year everyone had a great time, but this year BOO BASH will be bigger and better!

Come to the Mondamin City Park on October 5 at 2:00 p.m. Don't be late because we will start the Scavenger Hunt promptly at 2:05 p.m. When the Scavenger Hunt is over, all participants will have several games from which to choose like Ring Toss, Spill the Cans, Frankenstein Bean Bag Toss, Water Balloon Toss, Football Throw, Get a Tattoo, Decorate a Pumpkin, or Mummy Sack Races. The last game of the afternoon will be Simon Says.

Besides games, there will be raffle tickets to buy to win some awesome prizes (Raffle tickets are available prior to October 5th at the Jiffy Mart and the public library.) and chocolate chip cookies to purchase from the Post Prom Parents. You can buy a pumpkin and stay for refreshments.

Don't miss all the fun! We'll see you on October 5th!



The American Legion will have a fish/chicken dinner on Saturday, October 4, 2025, from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. in the Mondamin Community Center. Stop by to visit with friends and have a delicious meal! Carry outs are available. Everyone is welcome.

On October 21, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. there will be a **flu shot clinic** at the Mondamin Community Center. There is no easier way to get your flu shot because it is right here in Mondamin.



Lavender Farm's season is winding down.

Starting in October the Farm and Craft Store will be open the first two weekends only.

Saturday, October 4 open 10:00-5:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 5 open 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 11 open 10:00-5:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 12 open 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 12 is the last day they will be open for this season; however, the farm may be open for a week in November for your holiday shopping. Just watch their Facebook page and webpage for details.

May 9, 2026 is opening day for next season!



If you see a crime, call **1-866-901-0357**.
Your report is anonymous.

Harrison County Crime Stoppers meets the first Thursday of each month in the sheriff's office at 7:00 pm and you are welcome to attend.

The annual Community Thanksgiving Service will be held on November 30, 2025, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at Holy Family Catholic Church in Mondamin. Everyone is welcome! Mark your calendars now.

The city is **STILL having trouble with people flushing wipes. PLEASE!**



Just a reminder DO NOT flush any type of wipe even if the label says it is OK to do so!



Ms. Kristi Rushing

**K-8 Vocal and Instrumental Music Teacher
at West Harrison**

By Donella Pauli

Texarkana, TX is Kristi Rushing's hometown; but in addition to Texas, she has also lived in Alaska, Oklahoma, and now Council Bluffs, Iowa. Following high school, Ms. Rushing became an x-ray technician and worked in the radiologic technology field for twelve years.

Following her graduation from East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, TX, she began her second career in music education. During this career she has taught in Texas, seven years in Anchorage, Alaska, in, Lawton, Oklahoma, and now in Mondamin, Iowa. Ms. Rushing likes working in small schools and likes to teach all aspects of music.

Ms. Rushing's interest in teaching actually began years before she became a teacher as her own instrumental teachers asked her to help them with the younger students in summer band. (Ms. Rushing admits she was always a band geek!) She just took a short detour to get back to what she loves: a career in music education.

At West Harrison Ms. Rushing teaches K-4th grade music to students in those grades twice a week. Fifth/Sixth grade band and

choir each meet twice a week as do the Seventh/Eighth grade band and choir. Ms. Rushing happily reports that she has 32 students who have chosen to participate in beginning band and 13 in 7th/8th grade band. In addition to her duties at West Harrison, she travels to West Monona two afternoons a week to teach 6th grade choir and 7th/8th grade choir.

She plans to have these older students audition for Honor Choirs and Bands. When asked why music is important in the curriculum, Ms. Rushing commented, "When you can involve a student's hands and voices, math and reading scores will be impacted. A bit of history can be learned by singing historical songs."

Ms. Rushing's goal at West Harrison is to have her students in every grade strive for excellence! She loves her job and says that everyone has made her feel welcome and they have been so helpful. In her spare time she writes Christian music which can be found on all streaming platforms.

Ms. Rushing lives in Council Bluffs to be close to her son and his family. Please find the opportunity to visit with Ms. Kristi Rushing to get to know her and to welcome her to West Harrison!

DID YOU KNOW?

Last month this column literally contained useless information, but hopefully it at least made you smile.

The topic this month is the complete opposite. It is a very serious topic that we

sometimes want to keep hidden and not discuss openly. September was Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month. Perhaps you saw the lawn signs in our neighboring towns or saw a PSA on TV.

Suicide is a leading cause of death, with over 49,000 lives lost each year just in the United States. People of all ages, genders, and backgrounds are affected. The statistics are almost unbelievable, but the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention tells us that:

- **1 in 5 adults experience mental health issues each year.**
- **In 2024, there were an estimated 2.2 million suicide attempts.**
- **54% of Americans have been affected by suicide in some way.**
- **Suicide is the 9th leading cause of death in Iowa.**
- **590 people died by suicide in Iowa in 2022.**
- **There are 18.5 suicides for every 100,000 Iowans per year.**
- **5.2% of suicide deaths in Iowa in 2023 were teens.**
- **The state's suicide rate for adolescents aged 15–19 is higher than the national average.**

If you notice any of these signs in a family member or friend, you need to do something:

- **Talking about or making plans for suicide.**
- **Expressing hopelessness about the future.**

- **Having severe or overwhelming emotional pain or distress.**
- **Showing worrisome changes in behavior such as withdrawal from or changing social connections, changes in sleep, anger or hostility that seems out of character or out of context, or recent increased agitation or irritability.**

If someone you know displays any of the above signs, is struggling, or in a crisis, help is available. If your concern is about a student, contact the school's guidance counselor. Text or call 988 or chat 988lifeline.org or reach out to a mental health professional in your area. 988 offers judgement-free support for mental health, substance use, and more 24/7.

When West Harrison's guidance counselor, RaeLea Herman, was asked about an online resource that she recommends to students who need extra support, she said, "This is a very good one."

<https://www.yourlifeyourvoice.org/Pages/ways-to-get-help.aspx>

This resource is the Boys Town National Hotline. They can be reached online or 24/7 at (800) 448-3000. Their website covers not only suicide, but also bullying, dating, anxiety, break ups, abuse, anger, grief, and many other teenage issues.

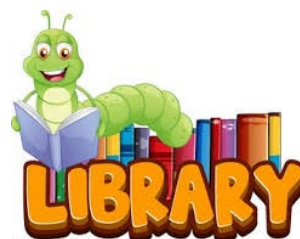
What else can you do if you notice these signs in a loved one? Educate yourself and learn how to approach someone who may be at risk. Engage in conversations that normalize mental health discussions, helping to break the stigma around seeking

help. One of the best ways to do that is to open conversations about mental health with those around you. Just your willingness to listen and offer support can make a significant difference.

CHI Health in Missouri Valley has designed a program to help older adults who are experiencing depression and/or anxiety related to life changes that are associated with aging or a chronic diagnosis. Anyone can make a referral, including self-referrals. Contact Senior Life Solutions, Wellness Center, (712) 642-9827.

People of all ages and genders think about suicide. People of all ages and genders actually commit suicide. Be the person who recognizes that a person needs help and get them that help by using the resources mentioned in this article or others that are suggested.

NOW YOU KNOW!



September was **National Library Card Sign-up month!** Did you miss it? You can stop by the Mondamin Public Library anytime to get your library card.

Want to join a book club? Stop in the library and talk to Marla.



Look for the library table at BOO BASH!
Stop and say, Hello!



Just to Bring a Smile

Where do monsters buy cookies?

From the Ghoul Scouts

Why did the turkey cross the road?

It was the chicken's day off!

Why did the apple pie go to the dentist?

Because it was needing a filling.

Why do trees not go to school in the fall?

Because they're easily stumped!

Why did the lions move at the end of the summer?

Because pride goeth before the fall!

What reads and lives in an apple?

A bookworm

Did you laugh? Did you at least smile? Do you have a favorite joke?

Mondamin Memories

Omaha, Nebraska, Thursday, April 26, 1962

No Flat Tires for Her

Woman Prefers Horses and Buggy

By Richard Osterholm
World Herald Staff Member
Mondamin, Ia.

Motorists did a double take this week while driving past Roy Copp's grocery and gas station three miles southeast of here on Highway 75.

Parked in front of the pumps was a team of horses hitched to a wagon. The oddity stems from Mrs. Annie Nelson's reluctance to bid farewell to the horse and buggy era.

The team and wagon are her only means of transportation.

"I've never had a car and don't want one," emphasized Mrs. Nelson, who, with her son,

Shorty, lives on a small farm near here. "I've been around horses so long that I couldn't change now if I wanted to, which I don't."

The horses which provide the power for Mrs. Nelson's shopping trips are among the oldest in the area. One is 23, the other 20.

"Raised 'em both from colts and wouldn't trade 'em for the world," said Mrs. Nelson. "Hauling me around is about all they can do any more. We did use 'em to pick corn

about two years ago. But most of the time they just run loose in the pasture.”

Mechanization scored a minor triumph a few years ago when a tractor replaced Mrs. Nelson’s aging team in the field.

“Heck no, I didn’t buy a tractor, snorted the Mondamin area farm woman in response to a question.

“I wouldn’t drive one if I had one. All I did was rent my land to a fellow who had a tractor.”

Mr. Copp said Mrs. Nelson is one of only a few customers who are not “double-sale” patrons.

“Usually I manage to sell a little gas along with the grocery orders, he explained.

“But when Annie tell me to ‘fill ‘er up,’ she means her grocery basket.”

“Maybe,” he chuckled, “I ought to start stocking some oats.”

This **World Herald** article is from **Mondamin, Iowa, 150 Years, 1868-2018, Compiled by Larry Stevens.**



SCHOOL NEWS

On October 1 West Harrison students and staff will be participating in the **15th Annual Healthiest State Walk**. This walk is a great first step toward a healthier lifestyle and

connecting with each other. The walk asks participants to make a commitment to improving their overall physical, mental, and social health for themselves and the state of Iowa. Let’s keep the movement going! For more information, visit www.iowahealthieststate.com.

School picture day is October 2 from 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Smile!

Thank you...



...for your generous donation! All West Harrison students received a pass to attend all home athletic events!

Homecoming 2025 activities took place the week of September 21-27. The students decorated the school hallways, participated in the jersey auction in Missouri Valley, had Homecoming Fun Night with a dunk tank, volleyball game, and a powder puff football game, and had spirit days all week long.

Friday, September 26 was the football game against the Shenandoah Mustangs (The Big Reds lost 33-0.) followed by a Parking Lot Party in the West Harrison parking lot. The Homecoming dance was Saturday in Missouri Valley.

West Harrison's Homecoming Queen was Brooke Cooper and Homecoming King was Kendel Baldwin. Congratulations to the

entire Homecoming Court and special Congratulations to Brooke and Kendel.



EVENTS

- Wednesday, October 1
15th Annual Healthiest State Walk
- Thursday, October 2 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Picture Day at West Harrison
- Saturday, October 4 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
American Legion Fish Fry at
Mondamin Community Center
- Sunday, October 5 2:00 p.m.
BOO BASH Mondamin City Park
- Tuesday, October 7 7:00 p.m.
Mondamin City Council Meeting at
City Hall

Sunday, October 19, 2025 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Fall Cleanup Day

Tuesday, October 21 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Flu Shot Clinic at Mondamin
Community Center

Monday, October 27
1:30 p.m. school dismissal
4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Parent/Teacher
Conferences at WH

Tuesday, October 28
1:30 p.m. school dismissal
4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Parent/Teacher
Conferences at WH

Wednesday, October 29
FCCLA Rally in Sioux City

Friday, October 31
No School
Halloween

