

# MONDAMIN'S



## December 2025

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

### CITY COUNCIL NEWS

The November meeting for the Mondamin City Council had a short agenda. The main topic for the night was the approval of the Annual Financial Report (AFR) which would be sent to the state by its deadline. The council voted to approve it.

The other important agenda item was to review the bids that had been sent to the city clerk to cut down diseased trees. After all the bids from various companies were discussed, the council voted to accept the bid from Tree Wise Men service from Council Bluffs. Council members researched this company before voting to accept the bid. Their bid (less than \$15,000) was substantially lower than the other bids that had been received to cut down twenty-five trees on city property and clean up the area after removing the trees. The next lowest bid to the one that was accepted was \$24,000 while the highest bid was \$40,000.

There were no requests for building permits submitted and no commissioners' reports. Clerk Hirst said her work focused primarily on completing the AFR report by the deadline. She also said that she had not received any applications to fill the open

council seat which were due by the meeting date.

Public Works Supervisor reported that he is readying an area at the sewer ponds to receive the tree debris.

The next council meeting will be Monday, December 1, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall.

### COMMUNITY NEWS

#### City/School Election Held on November 4, 2025

The regular election to choose city officials and school board members was held on Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>.

West Harrison Board of Education had openings for four spots on their board. (District 1, District 3, District 4 were regular vacancies, and District 2 was open due to the death of Board Member, Lorraine Thomas.) The district residents who took out papers and had their names on the ballot were Randy Wohlers, Hillary Stevenson, John Glennie, and Tammy Flint. Wohlers and Stevenson were re-elected and Flint and Glennie were newly elected to serve on WH board. They will begin their terms on December 1.

For the City of Mondamin no one chose to run for the two-year term of the office of Mayor, so that position was filled by write in votes. Seven different people received votes, but the top vote getter for this position was Richard Proskocil.

There were three open slots on the Mondamin City Council for the four-year terms and those re-elected were: Lacie Rife, John Glennie, and Karen Breyfogle. They join Mary Seago and James Rains on the Mondamin City Council. (James Rains has recently resigned from the council and his replacement will be appointed at the December 1 council meeting.)

All newly elected city officials begin their terms on January 1, 2026.

NOTE: Also receiving votes in the city's election were Donald Duck, Mickey Mouse, and Margaret Thatcher just to name a few! Someone has a sense of humor!



## Community Center Board Plans Mondamin Christmas Party

The annual Mondamin Christmas party will be held on Sunday, December 21, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Mondamin Community Center. The menu includes ham, turkey, chicken and noodles, chili, cheesy potatoes, nachos, relish tray, ice cream, desserts, and beverages. That list of goodies sounds amazing!

In addition to a scrumptious supper, Santa Claus will be arriving at 5:30 p.m. to visit

with the children to find out if they have been naughty or nice and what they'd like for Christmas.

You and your family won't want to miss this fun time on December 21<sup>st</sup>!

## Mondamin Residents Received Letter about Flushing Wipes



The City of Mondamin needs everyone's help. Wipes that are labeled "flushable" and paper towels should not be flushed down our toilets! It is that simple! Do not flush anything except toilet paper!

"Flushable" wipes are not truly flushable because they do not break down like toilet paper and can cause severe clogs in home plumbing, public sewer systems, and wastewater treatment plants. They can clump together, block pipes, damage equipment, and create expensive maintenance issues for both homeowners and municipalities. Instead of flushing them, always put them in the trash.

### Why "flushable" wipes are a problem

- **Wipes don't dissolve:**

Unlike toilet paper, which is designed to disintegrate quickly in water,

wipes are made of more durable, cloth-like fibers that hold together.

- **They clump and clog:**

Wipes can get caught in pipes and, when combined with other flushed items like grease, paper bits, or other debris, they create large blockages.

- **System-wide issues:**

These blockages can cause sewage backups in homes, and in the larger public system, they can clog pumps, damage machinery at treatment plants, and lead to sewer overflows.

- **Marketing vs. reality:**

The "flushable" label is often a marketing strategy, and even wipes that break down slightly are not held to the same strict standards as toilet paper and can still cause problems.

Help the City! Help the Public Works director! Help yourself! Help us! If you do your part, we won't have to write about toilets, wipes, flushing, and toilet paper again! Flushable does not mean FLUSHABLE!



**Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day** is observed annually on December 7 to honor the 2,403 Americans killed and 1,178

wounded in the 1941 surprise Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The day was officially designated by the United States Congress in 1994 and serves as a time to remember the event that led to the U.S. entering World War II.



### **City Park Decorated for Christmas**

A large group of Mondamin residents gathered on November 16 to transform the park into a colorful wonderland! The Mondamin Community Partners thanks all 30+ of you who came to help get ready for **Light up the Park!** It was a fun afternoon as we had people of all ages join in the decorating.

Please remember that what goes up, **MUST COME DOWN!** Watch the City of Mondamin's Facebook page to learn when we will need help taking all the decorations down and storing them until next year. We try to watch the weather and pick a day that is conducive to doing that project.

### **Light up the Park**

Unfortunately, Mondamin Community Partners had to cancel **Light up the Park** that was scheduled for November 30. Due to road conditions the reindeer couldn't make it to Mondamin.

Be sure you drive by or walk through the park during the month of December to enjoy the decorations!

**Just to Make You Smile....**



Why are Christmas trees bad at knitting?  
They always drop their needles!

What do you call Santa when he takes a break?  
Santa Pause

What do you call an old snowman?  
Water

What do grapes sing at Christmas?  
'Tis the Season to be jelly!

What do you call a ghost in the winter?  
Casp-brrr.

My New Year's resolution is to stop procrastinating.  
But I'll wait until tomorrow to start!



## **MONDAMIN NEWSLETTER**

by Donella Pauli

"How would you like to help me with a project?"

"What do you have in mind?"

"Since we don't have a newspaper in town, it has been suggested that someone needs to write a newsletter. Often there are events happening and people don't know anything about them so they miss attending."

"A newsletter?"

A conversation similar to that was the birth of the Mondamin Newsletter over three years ago. It doesn't have a fancy name. It doesn't have professional writers. Sometimes there are spelling or punctuation errors. Sometimes the computer and printer aren't in working order. Sometimes the writers can't find much new to include in the newsletter, but they always find corny jokes! Sometimes they take the month off because their fingers are tired. But once a month printed versions of the newsletter are delivered to the Mondamin Post Office, the Jiffy Mart, Heartland Coop, West Harrison School, Mondamin Public Library, MidStates Bank, and Matthew's House Food Pantry. You can



pick up a copy to take home or read it while you are in the business. In addition, City Clerk, Alyx Hirst, prints our copies and puts the newsletter on the City of Mondamin's Facebook page, so if you can't find a paper copy, you can always go to Facebook to read all the news.

We try to include news from West Harrison and highlight some of the students' achievements. Each month we include any community event that is taking place at the Mondamin Community Center, the local churches, businesses, or organizations. If you know of anything that is happening that others need to know about, please let us know so we can publish it. If your group is having a fund raiser, let us know so we can tell others.

As you have probably noticed, we have tried to include helpful public information about topics like Crime Stoppers, dry cleaning opportunities, hours to vote, and the unflushable flushable wipes! (**Please help with this.** Share with your neighbors who may not read the newsletter or the letter from our Public Works Director! We really would like to quit writing about sewers and toilet paper! Gross!)

If you have ideas for people or organizations to highlight in our Spotlight section, please let us know! We really do have some interesting people around Mondamin that we'd like to meet. If you or your organization is hosting a public event, give us the details for us to share with others.

We are at a point where we need to ask for a little money just to pay for paper and ink. (We will always work for free!) Watch for details about that. It is still in the planning stages about how we will handle that. We think perhaps we will just ask for donations to cover those costs. So far, the newsletters have been printed by Alyx Hirst at the City Hall.

So, we (Maggie Rains and Donella Pauli) aren't professional writers and we don't have a catchy name for our newsletter. We just want to let you know what is happening around Mondamin and we could use your help. We'll be in touch!

### DO YOU KNOW?

Are you a person who makes resolutions at the beginning of each year? Do you stick with them or do you gradually go back to your old ways? If you want to make a resolution for 2026, the time to start thinking about what you want to accomplish is now. Maybe the tips below will help you be successful, but did you know that 88% of people have failed to keep their resolution by the end of January?



**2026 Will Be Here Soon**

**A New Year's resolution** is a tradition where individuals resolve to make positive

life changes, accomplish personal goals, or improve their behavior at the beginning of a calendar year.

Common resolutions often fall into categories such as:

- **Personal Development:** Learning a new skill or language, reading more books, practicing a new hobby, or focusing on self-care.
- **Relationships:** Spending more quality time with family and friends, practicing active listening, or expressing appreciation more regularly.
- **Health and Fitness:** Exercising more, eating healthier, losing weight, drinking more water, improving sleep quality.
- **Financial Goals:** Saving more money, creating a budget, paying off debts, or reducing unnecessary expenses.

### Tips for Success

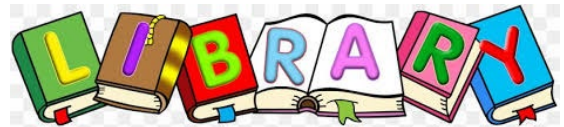
- **Be Specific:** Instead of a vague goal like "be healthier," define what that looks like specifically, e.g., "go for a 30-minute walk every day".
- **Set SMART Goals:** Ensure your goals are **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**chievable, **R**ealistic, and **T**ime-bound.
- **Make a Plan:** Outline the steps needed to achieve your goal and anticipate potential obstacles, creating contingency plans.
- **Track Progress:** Regularly monitor your progress to stay motivated and make adjustments as needed.

- **Start Small and Be Flexible:** Grand goals can be overwhelming. Start with smaller, manageable changes and be flexible if things don't go exactly as planned.
- **Recruit Support:** Share your goals with friends or family, who can help hold you accountable.
- **Be Kind to Yourself:** If you slip up, don't give up entirely; acknowledge the setback and continue moving forward.

### Good luck!

This information was taken from <https://www.google.com/search?q=new+year%2s+resolutions>

### NOW YOU KNOW!



After West Harrison's winter break, Library Director, Marla Rife, and retired school librarian, Donella Pauli will be visiting with West Harrison 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders to see if there is interest to have a book club. The group would meet after school to discuss books and participate in activities associated with the book.

In order to have an active group, it is necessary to have at least 6 students agree to read the book prior to the meeting and then attend the meeting.

If you have a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grader, you might mention it to them to see if they would like to be part of this activity. The student does

need to have a library card and a signed permission form. If you have questions, talk to Marla at the library.

The adult book club still meets. If you are interested in joining, stop by the library.

## Mondamin Memories

### Released From Polio Isolation on Her Birthday

September 4, 1949

Council Bluffs NonPariel

Dione Blair, polio patient from Mondamin, was bubbling over with happiness Saturday at Mercy hospital. She was just released from isolation when 11 friends burst in with a cake for a surprise seventeenth birthday celebration.

Sister Agnita, first floor supervisor, set aside the room for the party. Dione's mother, Mrs. Anna Blair, brought the angel food cake made by the girl's aunt, Mrs. John Cooper of Mondamin.

Dione entered the hospital August 6. She will be a senior when she returns to school. Hospital attendants said her condition was good, but there may be some residual effect to one leg.

Her fondest hope is to get home.

"They say I'm going to get out of here pretty soon," she said, as her friends munched cake and sipped cokes. Those friends were Janice Swaney, Beverly Cooper, Charlene Thomas, Carol Gamet, Donna Rae Birdsall, Norene Elliff and Bonnie Ruffcorn, all from Mondamin.

Other members of the party were Harold Cooper and Ray Johnson of Mondamin, and Dione's sister, Mrs. E.A. Barrineau of Omaha. Article from the files of Larry Stevens.

**NOTE:** Dione Blair married Bruce Norris, long time West Harrison music teacher. The couple had one daughter, Amy. The family was very active in the Mondamin Methodist Church and the Mondamin community in general. Bruce passed away on June 7, 2013, and Dione on November 6, 2017.

The polio epidemic reached its peak in Iowa in 1952. You may know others who suffered from this disease.

**Do you have any suggestions for stories for the newsletter?** Do you know of something you'd like to see in our Spotlight section? Please text 402.659.1299.



### Matthew's House Food Pantry

If you are in need of assistance, the food pantry is open each Sunday from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 5:00 until 6:30 p.m.

Donations are accepted during those times as well. They always need canned fruit,

vegetables, cleaning products, condiments, and personal hygiene items.



## SCHOOL NEWS

### **MV/WH Cheer Team Places for First Time at State Cheer Competition**

On Saturday November 1, 2025, the Missouri Valley/West Harrison cheer team competed at the ICCA State Cheer Championships. After all their hard work and preparation, the team took home a 5<sup>th</sup> place trophy. What a great way to end your season and we are proud of your accomplishments. West Harrison students on the team were Brooke Cooper, Erin Lewis and Kendal Baldwin. Troy Maasen

### **School Play**

“How I Met Your Mummy” was presented by West Harrison students on November 21, 2025.

### **Annual Veterans Day Program Held**

by Maggie Rains

On November 11, West Harrison’s East Gym filled with community members who gathered to honor veterans. The program began with the local Jesse Strong American Legion Post #378 presenting the American

flag. Then the Missouri Valley/West Harrison High School Chorus raised their beautiful voices to sing a capella a reverent rendition of our National Anthem. The program continued with Honor Society members leading the activities. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by senior, Brooke Cooper. Principal, Mrs. Fonley, welcomed students, veterans, and guests. She explained that because of her family connections, she continues the Veterans Day Program at West Harrison.

The elementary and middle school students sang several patriotic songs. Senior Honor Society student, Danielle Cooper, introduced the first female veteran to ever speak at one of West Harrison’s programs. Brittany Freet, a U.S. Navy veteran and Harrison County’s Veteran Affairs director, spoke about the reasons she had enlisted in the armed services. She served as Master at Arms.

Following the guest speaker, the high school band played the musical tribute, *Armed Forces on Parade* narrated by senior, Kendal Baldwin.

Proceeds from subscribers renewing their subscriptions to Avenue of Flags were presented to senior, Erin Lewis. The \$2,000 raised will be used by West Harrison’s Honor Society to support educational experiences that benefit the school’s students. Students put up and take down the flags that are flown on federal holidays along Maple Street, at the school, and around the park.

After retiring the Colors, the 21-Gun Salute and the playing of *Taps* by the high school trumpeters, there was a social time to thank veterans and visit with others who had attended the program.

## MV/WH Dance Team Will Dance at State

Lexie Flint, West Harrison 9<sup>th</sup> grader, will participate in the State Dance Contest on December 3-5 as part of the Missouri Valley Dance Team. The group will participate in both Pom and Hip Hop while in Des Moines.

The girls will continue to dance at basketball games and sometime later in the spring, the group will do a showcase of their dances.

Good luck at the state contest, girls!



### The Book Fair Is Back!

The annual Scholastic Book fair will be held on the following dates:

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| December 8  | 3:35-6:00 p.m.                           |
| December 9  | 3:35 – 4:30 p.m.                         |
| December 10 | 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.                         |
| December 11 | 3:35 – 4:30 p.m.<br>and 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. |
| December 12 | 3:35 – 4:30 p.m.                         |
| December 13 | 9:00 a.m.-Noon                           |

Books make excellent Christmas gifts and the proceeds from the sale help provide the elementary students with the latest titles to read.



Saturday, December 13, 2025, is **Breakfast with Santa** from 9:00 a.m. until noon in the West Harrison commons sponsored by the junior class. There is also a bake sale, a reindeer food station, and vendors. Have pancakes with Santa, do a little shopping and then visit the Book Fair in the Elementary Library.

### West Harrison by the Numbers during the 2024-2025 School Year

- West Harrison Elementary and West Harrison MS/HS both received High Performing ratings on the Iowa School Performance Profile.
- 57.9% of our 7-12 students participated in at least one extra-curricular activity.
- Our HS students earned 384 college credits.
- As a part of our supervised work-based learning program, six HS students participated in internships, and six students participated in a supervised work experience.

- Nine HS students took classes at the Buss Center, which is a regional career academy in partnership with Iowa Western Community College, and received certificates in either Construction Management, Welding, or Precision Agriculture.
- Over 95% of our PK-5 families attended conferences.
- Our K-12 attendance rate is over 95%.
- Our school district covers 235 square miles.
- Buses and vehicles traveled 130,590 miles transporting our students to school, on field trips, and to activities. They traveled 571 miles each day, transporting our students to school last year.
- 294 of our students utilize bus transportation.
- We served 31,796 breakfasts and 36,060 lunches to students.
- The physical school building encompasses 117,315 square feet.
- WH maintains 450 networked devices for use by students and staff.

## EVENTS

- Monday, December 1 7:00 p.m.  
Mondamin City Council meets at City Hall
- Monday, December 8 3:35-6:00 p.m.  
Book Fair Begins  
See schedule on previous page.
- Saturday, December 13  
Book Fair Ends
- Saturday, December 13 9:00 a.m. – noon  
Breakfast with Santa  
School Commons
- Monday, December 15 7:00 p.m.  
Holiday Vocal Concert
- Sunday, December 21 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
Mondamin Christmas Party  
Mondamin Community Center  
Santa arrives at 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, December 22  
Winter Break begins for West Harrison
- Thursday, December 25  
Christmas Day
- Wednesday, December 31  
New Year's Eve
- Monday, January 5, 2026  
School Resumes

West Harrison posted this information on Facebook to celebrate American Education Week November 17-21. Celebrate your public school!

