

MONDAMIN'S



February 2026

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

CITY COUNCIL NEWS

New Mayor Conducts First Council Meeting of 2026

On Monday, January 5, 2026, Mayor Richard Proskocil called the regular monthly meeting to order. All council members were present. The meeting agenda, last month's council minutes, and December claims were all approved unanimously.

Public Comments: Resident Maggie Rains asked the council if they had any knowledge of available lots for sale including the city owned land near the new water treatment plant. She said that some people have been asking if she knew of any land within city limits that they could buy to build a house for themselves. Council members responded with suggestions of lots in town that were for sale privately. Then they discussed what all would be needed to develop the land by the water plant on the east end of Cedar Street.

Community Center Report: Manager Bertie Anderson sent a report about the

annual Christmas party held on December 21st. The report said that one hundred fifty people were in attendance. It was the largest crowd attending the party to date. After the report was read, a council member, Karen Breyfogle, brought up a question from a few residents regarding the annual **Christmas Lighting Contest** sponsored by the city. The clerk explained that it had not been brought up at the December meeting, so the plans weren't in place to hold it for 2025.

Library Report: Librarian Marla Rife reported on the library's December activities. She said that the Mingle Jingle Event had only a few participants. Weather, illness, and busy schedules of people in December were factors that impacted attendance. She will try for other dates next year. She has plans to have a children's summer reading program. Marla also said that the library was recipient of two grants: The MidAmerica Energy grant will be used to install a few outdoor outlets on the building and the gazebo. The King Family Foundation grant will be used to buy new books, new chairs, and new laptops for adult use. Patrons can get items printed for a charge at the library.

Fire Department: No report was available; however, discussion was held about the recent fire on N. Main that destroyed a home. The fire chief and the Public Works Supervisor had reported that the nearest fire hydrant was working and provided water for the Mondamin Firefighters to use. The Logan Fire Department was also present to use

their water pumper truck to supplement the Mondamin fire truck.

Property Maintenance: Public Works Supervisor gave an update on the Speck property on Pine Street.

Unfinished Business: Discussion was held about capping off the water line at the old water treatment plant on S. Main. Reasons why it is necessary to cap it were given. Members suggested that remaining ARPA funds could be used to pay for valves to cap the line to prevent stagnant water from infiltrating the treated fresh water in the water tower. The council authorized the clerk to gather three bids for valves and installation costs. The other items were motions to accept bids for installing a walk-in shower and laminate flooring at King's Court.

New Business: Most of the items were resolutions for appointments for the city's designated depository, official newspaper, city attorney, and commissioners.

Mayor Pro Tempore- Karen Breyfogle
City Attorney- John Hines of Crary,
Huff Law Firm
Public Works Supervisor – Mike Kelley

Commissioners:

Water -Lacie Rife & Jim Rains
King's Court Liaison- Lacie Rife
Streets – Mary Seago & John Glennie
Parks – Jim Rains
Wastewater – John Glennie & Mary Seago
Landfill – Karen Breyfogle

Crimestoppers – Karen Breyfogle
EMA – Richard Proskocil

Discussion was held on King's Court Tenant Contract. Then the item was tabled for more research.

After consideration for the library's electrical installation, the council voted to seek two bids before awarding a contract for the work.

Discussion was held about finding a substitute for Public Works Supervisor Mike Kelley. Mike has not had a day off since he was hired. Several persons were suggested to perform some of the essential duties when he is absent. They will be contacted. The suggested pay of \$18.00 per hour will depend on the hired substitute's experience.

After discussing whether a planning commission and a board of adjustments for zoning is needed to proceed on infrastructure and housing development, it was decided that more research is needed and they will ask SWIPCO and the city attorney for guidance. This may not be necessary if the City Ordinances already have zoning rules in place. The last item was a motion to approve getting a bid to replace windows on the south side of the King's Court units. N and N Construction has previously replaced the north side windows on the 1983 structure.

Mayor Proskocil said in his report that he is still getting a feel for the job and learning the mayor's duties. He looks forward to working with the council

members. They are very interested in the topics and engaged in making decisions.

Clerk Hirst reported that she is finalizing the auditor's report. She said that Tree Wise Men removed 24 trees on city property in three and one-half days. Their work was well done and cleaned up.

Public Works Supervisor Kelley informed the council about several issues. He said he met with the ICAP insurance inspector who came to inspect the fire department. The inspector found only one item to improve which is to develop a plan naming who will be responsible for inspection and maintenance of the AED's. Mike has been busy cleaning up the Speck property by removing iron and old cars. He reported that the new water meters have proved beneficial by helping to find a major leak in an old water meter pit. The leak has been stopped and the pit is fixed. He told the council that he will have a future agenda item to rent a man basket to use in cleaning the aerator at the water treatment plant. It needs to be cleaned annually, but this being the first year of its operation, a larger quantity of iron is clogging the aerator. He needs to remove this sediment to improve its efficiency.

The final item of this meeting was to set the July monthly meeting for Wednesday, July 8 at 7:00 p.m. and the September meeting on Wednesday, September 9 at 7:00 p.m.

With the business completed, adjournment was called for at 9:27 p.m. The council will meet next on February 2, 2026.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Christmas lights that decorated the park for the holidays have been taken down and stored until next year! Thank you so very much to our group of 25 plus people of all ages who helped with this project on January 4th. Thank you also to those who brought trailers to transport the items. Mondamin Community Partners thanks all of you very much! We'll see you sometime in November to decorate the park for 2026!

Each year we try to add some new decorations. If you are interested in donating money so we can continue making the park festive, just contact us at mcp@abettermondamin.org. We sincerely appreciate the community's support.

Mark your calendars: Light Up the Park is scheduled for November 15, 2026!



Have You Taken Care of This Responsibility Yet?

Pet Licensing

Every owner of a dog over the age of 6 months must obtain a dog license from

the City Clerk during the month of **January** of each year. You can obtain a dog license by coming to the City Hall with the most recent copy of your pet's vaccination record for proof of a current rabies vaccination. The annual fee is \$10 for each male and spayed female dog and \$15 for each unspayed female dog.

You may download the appropriate form at <https://mondaminiowa.com/city/>

Board Members Needed

The Mondamin Public Library needs three people who would like to help make decisions about the library by being on the Mondamin Library Board. The group meets once a month. If you are interested, stop by the library and talk to Marla Rife or call her at (712) 646-2888. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

Summer Intern Positions

Harrison County Conservation Board is looking for summer intern positions. The Naturalist Intern may be 16 years old or older and will work directly with the Naturalist to conduct summer camps, public programs, and maintain the Willow Lake Nature Center. This is one position. There are two Conservation Intern positions that will work directly with the park rangers and natural resources staff in the park and wildlife areas. They must be 18 years old due to operating equipment and chainsaws.

Click on the links below for more information!

<https://www.mycountyparks.com/.../Seasonal-Naturalist-Intern>

<https://www.mycountyparks.com/.../Seasonal-Conservation...>

Information was taken from the Harrison County Conservation Board's Facebook page.

Helpful Contact Information

Mondamin City Hall

Mayor: Richard Proskocil

Phone: (712) 561-0520

mayor@mondaminiowa.com

City Council Members:

Mary Seago

John Glennie

James Rains

Karen Breyfogle

Lacie Rife

City Clerk/Treasurer: Alyx Hirst

Hours:

Monday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Phone: (712) 646-2431

Fax: (712) 646-2430

Email: clerk@mondaminiowa.com

Mailing Address:

PO BOX 196, Mondamin, IA 51557

Physical Address: 120 South Main Street,
Mondamin, IA 51557

Website: www.mondaminiowa.com

Facebook: City of Mondamin, Iowa

Public Works Department

Mike Kelley

Public Works Supervisor

Phone: (712) 634-0957

Email: publicworks@mondaminiowa.com

Mondamin Public Library

Library Director: Marla Rife

Hours:

Monday 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Library hours follow the school schedule with closings.

Phone: (712) 646-2888

Address: 201 Maple Street, PO Box 190

Email: library@mondaminiowa.com

Mondamin Community Center

Facility

Manager/Reservations:

Roberta (Bertie) Anderson

Phone:

402) 639-1814

Address: 200 Maple Street

Email: marber2@live.com

United States Post Office

Phone: (712) 646-3015

Address: 106 Maple St.

Hours:

Monday – Friday: 7:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Saturday: 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.

Sunday: Closed

Just to Make You Laugh



What month is the best for coffee?
Feb-BREW-ary.

Do you have a date for Valentine's Day?
Yes, February 14th.

What did the boy owl say to the girl owl on Valentine's Day?
Owl be yours!

Did you hear about the nearsighted porcupine?
He fell in love with a pin cushion!

Knock, knock!
Who's there?
Jamaica.
Jamaica who?
Jamaica Valentine for me yet?

Groundhog Day

"February 2 is known as Groundhog Day in the USA. The official groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, lives near the city of Punxsutawney in Pennsylvania. When he emerges from his burrow on February 2, his behavior is said to predict the change of seasons: If he immediately returns to his burrow, six more weeks of winter will follow. Otherwise, spring is on the way."

"The tradition goes back to German immigrants settling in Pennsylvania. In Germany, people spotted hedgehogs

coming back to life from their winter hibernation and saw this as a sign that spring was about to start. Since hedgehogs are rare in Pennsylvania, this tradition was transferred to groundhogs.”

<https://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/months/february.html>



February 14th

February is the last month of winter for meteorological purposes, but astronomically, winter ends with the spring equinox around the 20th of March. But in Iowa, you never know for sure when winter will end.

“February is the shortest month so if you are having a miserable month, try to schedule it for February.”

Lemony Snicket

How are you doing on those New Year’s resolutions that you made on January 1? By the second week in February 80% of the resolution are already broken. You don’t have to tell!



Richard Proskocil Mondamin’s New Mayor

By Maggie Rains

When former Mondamin Mayor Jamie Howrey decided he wasn’t going to run for a third term on the November 2025 ballot, Richard Proskocil was approached to run as one of a few write-in candidates for the job of mayor.

The Proskocils – Richard and his wife Zeta-have lived in various Midwestern cities. Richard worked for thirty-nine years in sales for bread companies such as Metz Bread Company (Readers may recall the Old Home Bread commercials.), and Sara Lee. He prefers working for small family-oriented companies. The companies transferred him and his family to Toledo, Ohio; Rockford, Illinois; and cities in between.

Many of the adult Proskocil children and other relatives live in Council Bluffs, Iowa, or eastern Nebraska which explains why Richard is a Husker fan even when the chips are down.

In 2021, Zeta began looking for a home that would suit their needs to be closer to their family. A large and attractive house in Mondamin was listed for sale. was big enough to accommodate their growing family and Zeta’s quilting hobby.

Richard said that they have never lived in a town this small, but they are ready for a quieter lifestyle. They like living here because it is a clean town and there are many friendly people that have welcomed them to Mondamin. Richard and Zeta are active community members. They attend the Church of Christ in Mondamin and help with several community activities. Zeta is a board member of Mondamin Community Partners; consequently, Richard has helped with several of their projects.

After deciding to retire from bread sales, Richard felt he wasn't ready to just stay home. His friend Jerry Shelton referred him to go to work at Karol King's farm. He spends most of his days there especially in planting and harvesting seasons.

When asked what personal qualities or experiences he has had that he feels will help him as a mayor, Richard said he is a "people person" and he isn't afraid to speak up. He found that he likes being involved in community activities. Because of his previous job experience, he is not afraid of change, and he knows how to delegate duties to reliable employees. To prepare for mayoral duties, he has registered for the required zoom training that is offered by the state through Iowa League of Cities.

As far as goals that the new mayor has for Mondamin, he'd like to oversee how the town progresses. It already is a pleasant and clean town to live in, but he'd like to improve its attractiveness in the downtown area and in some

neighborhoods. He'd also like to see younger people be involved in volunteer and community affairs. He said financial burdens on small towns and getting people involved are the biggest obstacles to accomplishing these goals.

Obviously, it is early in Mayor Proskocil's term, but he was pleasantly surprised at how well organized and professional the council members and city employees were when he conducted his first meeting in January.

Good luck to Mayor Proskocil as he becomes more familiar with Mondamin, our citizens, and the duties of his new job: Mayor of Mondamin, IA!

DID YOU KNOW?

Most of us are familiar with children being diagnosed with attention- deficit/ hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), but did you know that adults can suffer from the same condition? Sometimes this condition begins in childhood and continues into the teen years and adulthood, but it was never diagnosed in childhood.

Have you experienced challenges with concentration, impulsivity, restlessness, or organization? As an adult, ADHD can hurt your social relationships, interfere with your daily activities and your work performance. If you have some of the symptoms listed below and are concerned, perhaps you should contact your health care professional.

- Inattention
- Hyperactivity – having too much energy or moving and talking too much
- Lack of self-control-acting without thinking or being impulsive
- Challenges with following instructions and completing long tasks
- Losing things such as keys, wallets, and phones
- Being easily distracted
- Being forgetful such as missing appointments, paying bills, or returning calls
- Having difficulty sitting still for long periods of time
- Tapping hands or feet or getting up and down
- Interrupting others while they are talking
- Likely to engage in high risk behavior

If you have some of these symptoms, don't automatically think you have ADHD. Stress, physical conditions, mental health conditions, or illnesses can cause similar symptoms. It is extremely important to have a thorough evaluation by your health care provider. They can offer support, medications, or give you other suggestions to help you. You may even be able to help yourself by exercising regularly, eating healthy meals, getting plenty of sleep, take

medications on schedule and avoid the use of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol. If you want more information on ADHD in adults, go to www.cdc.gov/adhd.

Credit to www.cdc.gov/adhd for the information in this article.

NOW YOU KNOW!

Pennies Are No Longer Minted

“Find a penny, pick it up, all the day you'll have good luck. Find a penny, leave it there, all the day you'll have despair.”

Whichever saying you believe, it won't be one that is passed down to the younger generations any more. Because it cost 3.7 cents to make a penny, it was decided to cease production in November 2025. The pennies were first made in 1792 after the mint was first established. Over the years the designs on the front and the back have changed. When pennies were first minted, they were made of pure copper, but that changed in 1857 to 88% copper and 12% nickel and again during World War II to a zinc coated steel because copper was needed for the war effort. In 1909 Abraham Lincoln became the first President featured on our coins and he was still on the penny until November 2025.

Businesses are already figuring out how they will handle us paying our bills without pennies. The general thinking is that our totals will be rounded up.

One thing to think about is what will happen to the idiom, “A penny for your thoughts”? Saying “A nickel for your thoughts “just doesn’t have the same ring to it.



The Mondamin Public Library needs three people to join their board. (See article under Community News.) If interested, stop by the library.

Saturday, February 14, 2026, stop by the library for Valentine’s Day treats!

Saturday, February 21, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. Marilyn Mentzer, candidate for Iowa House, will be at the library for a Meet ‘n’ Greet if anyone has any questions for her.

The book club is currently reading the riveting thriller, *First Lie Wins*, by Ashley Elston. The club will meet next on February 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Mondamin Memories

Builders of Iowa Highway West of Magnolia Know Now What Colorado Is Up Against

(The World Herald’s News Service)
Logan, Ia., Aug. 10, No Year.

Completion of Iowa Highway 127 from Magnolia west to U. S. No. 75 has focused nationwide attention on what is

probably the most “mountainous” right-of-way in Iowa and on several unique road building experiments.

Though the project is but 3.94 miles long, it involved 747,134 cubic yards of earth excavation.

Giant’s Staircase

One of the cuts is 78 feet deep and one fill is 92 feet high. The 78-foot cut was made through an orchard growing on top of great deposits of loess soil.

This loess soil has the quality of standing erect in perpendicular walls for an indefinite time. It is this peculiarity of the soil that has made it possible to construct these cuts in “stepped back” slopes, the steps being 15 feet wide and 15 feet deep, a staircase for a Paul Bunyan.

Almost one-fourth mile of culvert pipe and 250 feet of metal slope drainpipes, to carry water from the terraces and prevent washing, were installed. Some of the concrete culverts were among the longest and largest ever built in Iowa.

Experimental Job

The road is classed as an experimental job and cost approximately a quarter million dollars for right-of-way and construction.

It goes through one of the most scenic sections of western Iowa, cutting through the south edge of the greatest orchard area in the state.

The road was made comparatively level, with no grade over 6 per cent. The road may be reached by crossing Ak-Sar-Ben bridge, then by going north on Alternate 30 to Missouri Valley, and north on Highway 75 to the junction with No. 127 about eight miles north of Missouri Valley.

Obtained from Larry Stevens' historical documents.

Note: How many times do you think you have traveled over this section of Hwy. 127 and didn't realize the unique construction that went into finishing this section of the highway? It is estimated that this highway was finished in 1927.



Do you have clothing items that need to be dry cleaned?

Take them to the Jiffy Mart by Tuesday and they will be returned by the following Tuesday by Max I. Walker.



This time of year Crime Stoppers is asking people to be alert to criminals stealing copper. If you notice flashlights or headlights in an area where there shouldn't be lights or people, they could

be stealing copper. Contact your local authorities.

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

February is a very busy month with winter sports' seasons culminating with district competition. If you haven't attended a wrestling meet or basketball game this year, check the schedule and support the Missouri Valley Big Red and Lady Reds. Check their website for instructions on purchasing your tickets. The 7th-12th grade Hawkeyes who are part of the Missouri Valley teams would appreciate your support.

Special Olympics Regional Basketball Tournament

West Harrison will once again host the Special Olympics Regional Basketball Tournament on February 7, 2026. Volunteers are needed to help run this great event and represent the West Harrison community. The tourney will run from 8:30 a.m. until about 1:30 p.m. If you can help any time during those hours, please email Mr. Nunez (anunez@w-harrison.k12.ia.us) or text (402-677-3635). Helping with this event is a great experience!

From West Harrison webpage.

Popcorn Sales

West Harrison's Teammates group is selling popcorn until February 2, 2026. Their goal is 200 bags! This is a win-win: You get a snack and Teammates helps students reach their full potential through mentoring. (Act fast! You only have until February 2nd.) Order here: <https://pci.jotform.com/AlmostFamousPopcorn/teammates-fundraiser-2026>



You're Invited: Pizza + Valentine Cookie Decorating!

Bring your appetite and your creativity — join us for a fun family lunch and Valentine cookie decorating!

- **When:** **February 12** — during elementary lunch times
- **Where:** West Harrison Lunchroom
- **What:** Enjoy lunch with your student, then decorate a homemade Valentine cookie together
- **Cost:** \$5 to join us for lunch (decorate free with your lunch ticket)

The menu includes homemade pizza, simple salad, fresh veggie sticks, golden corn, fresh fruit, milk, and a homemade Valentine cookie with decorating fixings. We can't wait to share lunch and sweet memories with you! RSVP's appreciated to the office (712-646-2331) or your child's teacher by **Friday, February 6th** for planning purposes. We hope you can come share the fun!

Speech Students on to State Contest

The Ensemble Acting group of Kendel Baldwin, Izzy Ely and Jersey Kraft and the Musical Theatre contestants, Kendal Baldwin and Izzy Ely, received a I rating at the IHSSA contest on Saturday, January 24th. Both groups will be advancing to the state contest on February 7th in Des Moines. Congratulations to these students and good luck at the state competition! Samantha Bieler is their coach.

Professional Development for Staff

Have you ever wondered what the teachers do on Wednesday afternoons?

Mrs. Jackie Fonley, PK-12 Principal, shared the following information about Professional Development at West Harrison.

Career Readiness K–12

The staff explored a continuum of career-readiness skills and learned about the career clusters and bringing career awareness in elementary, middle school, and high school.

Activities included discussing and planning career-connected projects into classroom units, partnerships with local businesses for authentic learning, and scaffolding employability skills (communication, teamwork, problem-solving) across grade levels. This work is in addition to career learning, career tours, guest speakers and the supervised work experience program we already do.

AI for 5-12 Educators

Sessions introduced foundational AI concepts, responsible classroom use, and practical instructional tools that enhance learning while safeguarding privacy and academic integrity. Teachers practiced evaluating AI-generated content, designing prompts for learning tasks, and guiding students in critical consumption of AI outputs.

Writing Instruction with Our Shared Writing Consultant, Teresa Murray

Focused workshops targeted writing process instruction, modeling writing activities, and designing tasks that help writers develop voice and clarity.

Math Instruction with Our Shared Math

Consultant, Michelle Helt

Teachers explored strategies for building number sense, problem-solving routines as well as common instructional routines when teaching math.

School Safety

PD reinforced safety protocols, coordinated emergency procedures, and prevention-focused practices. Training included situational awareness, communication protocols, and collaboration with local first responders.

Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) PK-8

The staff continued work on tiered behavior supports, reinforcing school wide expectations. West Harrison students are expected to follow the SOAR expectations:

- **Safety**
- **On Task**
- **Achievement**
- **Respect**

The focus areas are teaching expected behaviors explicitly, using data to guide behavior interventions, and celebrating student successes.

If you have any suggestions for information to put in the newsletter, please let us know. Especially if your organization or church is having an event, we are happy to publicize it for you. You can text Donella (402-659-1299). We print the newsletter at the end of each month so try to get your news to us by the 28th or earlier.

EVENTS

Sunday, February 1 6:00 p.m.
Loess Hills Lancers 4-H Club will meet at Mondamin Community Center

Monday, February 2 7:00 p.m.
Mondamin City Council will meet at City Hall

Monday, February 2
Post Prom Chick-Fil-A fund raiser begins

Wednesday, February 4
100th Day of School

Thursday – Friday, February 5-6
Girls State Wrestling in Xtream Arena in Coralville, IA

Saturday, February 7 TBD
State Large Group Speech Contest at Valley High School in Des Moines

Saturday, February 7 8:30 a.m.
Special Olympics Regional Basketball Tournament at West Harrison

Monday, February 9 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
K-12 Parent Teacher Conferences at West Harrison

Tuesday, February 10 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
K-12 Parent Teacher Conferences at West Harrison

Thursday, February 12
Valentine's Lunch at West Harrison (See article.)

Friday, February 13
NO SCHOOL at West Harrison

Saturday, February 14
Valentine's Day

Saturday, February 14
Kids, stop by the Mondamin Public Library for Valentine's Day treats.

Saturday, February 14
Boys District Wrestling

Monday, February 16
NO SCHOOL at West Harrison

Tuesday, February 17
Chick-Fil-A fund raiser over

February 18-21
Boys State Wrestling in Des Moines

Saturday, February 21 9:00 a.m.
Meet 'N' Greet with Marilyn Mentzer, Candidate for Iowa House at the Mondamin Public Library. Stop by to meet her and ask questions.

Friday, February 27 7:00 p.m.
Dance Showcase Missouri Valley High School gym

Saturday, February 28
District Individual Speech Contest in Atlantic at Atlantic High School