

# MONDAMIN'S



## January 2026

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

### CITY COUNCIL NEWS

The Mondamin City Council met on Monday, December 1, 2025, in Mondamin's City Hall. Reports from the library, the community center and the fire department were submitted. It was noted that the community center will be hosting a community Christmas party on Sunday, December 21 with Santa making a stop about 5:30.

The city attorney, John Hines, was present to discuss several properties that are not in compliance with city code. John Harrison, the property maintenance inspector also attended the meeting to bring the council up to date on his projects. Details about these properties are included in the minutes which you can read on the city's webpage, the Missouri Valley newspaper, and places where the minutes are posted.

The council approved Resolution #2025-12 which reappoints James Rains to the vacant city council seat, pursuant to the Mondamin City Council's order.

The city's social media policy was discussed. The council decided to turn off

comments on the city's Facebook page and to disable Messenger.

Other items discussed were the digital sign located on the library's property and the brush pile at the sewer lagoon. It was also decided to get a bid for laminate flooring for units 1 and 2 at King's Court.

The FY25 audit of the city's books has begun.

Public Words Director, Mike Kelley, told the council that the pressure transducer for the water tower needs to be replaced. He reported on the snow cleanup and mentioned that the skid loader needs new tires.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 5, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at city hall.

### COMMUNITY NEWS

**Welcome to January, 2026!**

**January** is the first month of the calendar year. It is associated with new beginnings



and is named after the Roman god Janus, who looked forward and backward, symbolizing the start of a new year. In the northern hemisphere January, the second month of winter, is generally the coldest month of the year; while in the

southern hemisphere it is the second month of summer and is the warmest.

### **Mondamin's Annual Christmas Party**

was held on Sunday, December 21, 2025, with one of the largest crowds ever attending – over 150 people! Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal followed by the highlight of the evening: a visit from Santa Claus. As Roberta Anderson said, “All the children truly enjoyed seeing jolly old Santa.” The children went home with new toys and 50 adults were given a turkey or ham to have for Christmas dinner. Jerry Thomas made two plates of delicious candy that were given away in a drawing.

This event was sponsored by the city, area businesses, volunteers, and the Mondamin Community Center. Thanks to the volunteers who took the time to give back to the Mondamin community at Christmastime.

### **West Harrison Graduate Becomes an Author**

From the About section of Adam Gochenour's new book he writes, “I have always had a passion for storytelling. Back in high school, I spent hours writing short stories. Outside of school, I channeled my creativity in other ways, most notably by playing in a band throughout my 20's. Writing was something I always returned to, but I rarely finished anything. I loved the excitement of new ideas, but I lacked the patience to see them through. Finally, in

September 2025, after six months of writing every night, *Nothing but the Crust: An Ordinary Man. An Innocent Life. A Purpose Worth Fighting For* was released.”

Gochenour, who grew up in rural Harrison County before moving to the Omaha area, modeled his main character after a younger version of himself – an HVAC worker which he still is today. He included many locations in his book that are real places in Southwest Iowa.

Amazon Books describes Gochenour's book like this:

“Jay Morris never expected his ordinary life as a heating and air technician to collide with pure darkness.

“One night, after stopping to help a stranded motorist, he's forced at gunpoint into a chain of events that will change him forever. The mysterious bags he carries lead him into the shadows of drug lords and human traffickers—worlds he never imagined existed so close to home.

“But in the middle of the chaos, Jay discovers something worth fighting for: a young girl whose trust and resilience awaken a courage he didn't know he had. Protecting her becomes more than survival—it becomes his purpose.

“As they cross the Midwest together, Jay must confront not only ruthless enemies but also the question of how far a man will go to do what's right. Their bond may be the only light strong enough to face the darkness hiding in plain sight.”

Adam Gochenour's debut novel will soon be available at the Mondamin Public Library. Stop in to check it out!

Information for this article was taken from Peck, Hailey. Council Bluffs The Daily Nonpareil. November 29, 2025, page 1-A2.

Amazon Books, [https://www.amazon.com/Nothing-but-Crust-Ordinary-Ruthless-ebook/dp/B0FPVJZ3D7?ref=ast\\_author\\_dp&th=1&psc=1#customerReviews](https://www.amazon.com/Nothing-but-Crust-Ordinary-Ruthless-ebook/dp/B0FPVJZ3D7?ref=ast_author_dp&th=1&psc=1#customerReviews)

## Just to Make You Smile....



Who is Frosty's favorite aunt?  
Aunt Artica

What do you call a snapshot from the North Pole?  
A polaroid

What do you call little snowmen?  
Chill-dren

What kind of math do Snowy Owls do best?  
Owlgebra

Why did Princess Elsa fall off her sled?  
She Let it Go! (If you don't get this one, ask a little girl!)

"Knock, knock!" "Who's there?"  
"Lettuce." "Lettuce who?"  
"Lettuce in, it's cold out!"



**Spotlight will be back in February!**

## DID YOU KNOW?

Did you receive or purchase a sweatshirt or t-shirt for Christmas with a funny saying on it? They are everywhere! All ages of people seem to be wearing a shirt that says something funny. They seem to be popular because they serve as a unique form of self-expression, communication, and connection in our modern culture. They allow individuals to communicate their personality, humor, and view of the world. You may not be interested in wearing one, but they are very popular.

According to AI, here are the primary reasons for their popularity:

- **Self-Expression:** T-shirts act as a canvas for people to showcase their personality, interests, and humor. It is a simple way to express who you are without saying a word.
- **Conversation Starters and Social Bonding:** Witty shirts often break the ice and turn casual encounters into shared laughs. When someone understands and appreciates the humor, it creates an instant

connection among people with a similar sense of humor.

- **Social Commentary and "Wearable Irony":** Sarcasm is a powerful tool for social commentary.
- **Psychological Outlet:** Wearing a sarcastic shirt can function as a cheap, easy coping mechanism or a way to express how one feels without directly starting conflict.
- **Influence of Pop Culture and Trends:** Humorous shirt designs often go viral on social media platforms like TikTok, Facebook, and Pinterest, driven by pop culture moments and trends.
- **Accessibility and Customization:** The ease of creating custom shirts through print-on-demand services means they are available quickly and don't usually cost too much.

So what do these shirts look like? Here are some popular sayings found on shirts today. (Of course, some shirts contain inappropriate or insulting words which are not printed here.)

Do NOT Read the Next Sentence!  
You little rebel, I like you.  
I had my patience tested. I'm negative!  
Admit it. Life would be boring without me!  
Just because I'm awake doesn't mean I'm ready to do things!  
Sorry for What My Face Said!  
No, I'm the Favorite!

I May be Wrong, but I Doubt It!  
Of Course, I Talk to Myself; Sometimes I Need Expert Advice!  
Don't Worry: I Got This. I Watched a YouTube Video  
I'm not a person you can put on Speaker Phone!  
I'm not a control freak, but you're doing it wrong!  
I'm not lazy – I refer to it as selective participation.  
My life feels like a test I didn't study for.  
Not my first rodeo.  
Not my Circus; Not my Monkeys!  
I'm silently correcting your grammar!  
It's Weird being the Same Age as Old People!  
Leftovers Are for Quitters!

Even babies get in on the funny shirts:  
Actually, This is My First Rodeo!  
Babies: World's Cutest Tax Deductions.  
Don't Make Me Call My Grandma!  
If I Refuse to Nap is that Resisting Arrest?

And the list could go on and on.

Wearing something like this might not be how you want to express your opinions or your personality, but prepare yourself: these shirts are everywhere and if you find one that describes you, you just might decide to wear it!

**NOW YOU KNOW!**



## Mondamin Memories

### Mondamin Boys Toil Hard, Best Girls with 20-1 Mark

By Howard Brantz

World Herald Sports Staff Member

February 21, 1961 – Mondamin, Ia.

Mondamin probably has had more talented athletes than the spunky crew that has carried the Hornets to a 20-1 record.

But there never has been a harder working bunch, Coach F. E. McElmurray insists. He's probably right.

While Mondamin's girls were compiling another winning season, the boys did even better.

The Hornets lost a 59-58 verdict to Modale, then went out to avenge the only loss, 55-48.

They hope to prove it more decisively in the third meeting with their arch rivals tonight in the sectional opener in Soldier.

What spurred the team to the blistering victory pace that included four decisions in the Harrison County meet?

It wasn't height. Sparkplug Dennis Godden is the tallest of the regulars at just half an inch over six feet.

Godden, a 25-point-average scorer, uses tremendous spring in his legs to handle a major portion of the rebounds.

Jingle and Mingle which was scheduled for December 13 at the library was called off due to snow and cold weather.

Patrons were encouraged to come into the library during the month of December to make an ornament and have a snack.

The book club is currently reading *The Most Fun We Ever Had*. If you'd like to join the group, just stop by the library and talk to Marla.

During the month of January, Marla will be forming a book club for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders that will meet until May. Talk to her if you or your student is interested.



Since it is currently basketball season, we thought this memory from 1961 would be appropriate. Many of

you will recognize the names of the players. One of the players still lives around Mondamin, one gentleman lives in Missouri Valley, and many family members of the others still live in the area.

Thank you, Larry Stevens for providing our Mondamin Memories!

“We’re a free-lancing ball club,” Coach McElmurray says, “No one plays a set spot. We can interchange each boy in the other’s position.

“We work from five different spots on the floor and it makes no difference where a player is when the play starts.

I’ve seen Gary Earlywine (5’ 6 ½”) move into the center and score on a hook shot as pretty as you please.”

The secret of Mondamin’s success, rival coaches say, is ball handling and teamwork, plus good coaching.

Godden is a deadly out-shooter along with his close-range work. Jim Cooper (5’ 8 ½”) and Godden are the only senior starters. Gary Small, a (6’ ½”) senior, is the number 1 reserve.

Earlywine and Roger Spooner (5’ 10 ½”) are junior starters. The big surprise has been freshman Royle Roden, smooth-working (5’ 11 ½”) marksman, who is the No. 2 scorer.

“This year’s boys’ team arrived ahead of schedule, according to the pattern of other McElmurray-coached teams.

His first good team, which he started building in 1953-54, posted a three-year record of 30-37 before falling to a 21-8 senior mark.

Four years later, after a 19-41 stretch, the Hornets won 18 and lost seven. The best previous year prior to the current club followed at 22-4.

Last year’s team won nine and lost 10, so no one expected this winter’s huge success.

“Best I hoped to do was win 70 per cent,” confessed McElmurray.

**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.



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.



## SCHOOL NEWS

The organizational meeting of the new West Harrison Board of Directors was held on December 10, 2025. The following directors were sworn in by Board Secretary, Tonya Radil: Randy Wohlers, Julie Kuhlman, John Glennie, Hillary Stevenson, and Tammy Flint. Following being sworn in, the group elected their officers for the next year. Randy Wohlers was elected president and Julie Kuhlman was chosen as the board's vice president.

Director Kim Nunez was thanked for her time, service, and dedication to the West Harrison School District. Her term had ended and she did not seek re-election.

The board continued their meeting by making the necessary appointments for the coming year. The complete minutes may be read on West Harrison's web page at [www.westharrison.org](http://www.westharrison.org) Their next

meeting will be January 14, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the high school library.

## Do You Know Who Is SOARing at West Harrison Elementary?

If you check the school's website or their Facebook page and you read that particular students have been chosen as SOARing for the week, do you know what that means? The children are chosen because they demonstrate the following characteristics:

- S** Safety
- O** On task
- A** Achievement
- R** Respect

Congratulations to all those who have been chosen and good luck to all those who are working hard to meet the standards of SOARing!

## West Harrison's Wellness Center

Do you remember last month's article about making New Year's resolutions? If you made a resolution about getting more exercise, you might be interested in learning more about the West Harrison Wellness Center.

Wellness Center Hours for the Public:

4:00 a.m.- 6:30 a.m.	Monday-Friday
3:30 p.m.-Midnight	Monday-Friday
4:00 a.m.-Midnight	Saturday-Sunday

**Note:** Wellness Center is closed to the public while school is in session. When school is closed for no school days and breaks, the Wellness Center will be open all day.

Taken from the June 12, 2024, West Harrison Board of Directors' meeting:

**“The fee to use the facility for a family or individual is \$150 per year, \$80 for 6 months, or \$40 for 3 months. Each family will be issued up to two key fobs at a cost of \$10 each. Members who lose a fob will be charged a fee of \$10 to replace it.”**

When you join, there is a liability waiver that must be signed.

Contact the high school office at 712.646.2231 if you have questions.

## EVENTS

Thursday, January 1  
New Year's Day

Sunday, January 4      6:00 p.m.  
Loess Hills Lancers 4-H Club meets  
at Mondamin's Community Center

Monday, January 5  
School Resumes

Monday, January 5      7:00 p.m.  
Mondamin City Council  
Mondamin City Hall

Tuesday, January 6  
Nothing Bundt Cake Prom Fund  
Raiser begins

Friday, January 9  
JV Girls Basketball (Tri Center vs.  
MV) **Cancelled**

Saturday, January 17  
Varsity Boys Basketball (Whiting vs.  
MV) **Cancelled**

Saturday, January 24      TBD  
District Large Group Speech  
Contest at Lewis Central High  
School in Council Bluffs

Tuesday, January 27  
Nothing Bundt Cake Prom Fund  
Raiser ends



**May this year bring new happiness, new goals, new achievements, and new inspirations to your life. Wishing you a year of happiness, prosperity, and good health!**