MONDAMIN'S

Newsletter

JUNE 2026

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

CITY COUNCIL NEWS

Mondamin's City Council Meeting was held on May 4, 2026, at the city hall.

Council member Mary Seago and Mayor Proskocil were absent; the other members voted unanimously to approve the May agenda, last month's meetings and April/May claims. There were no public comments at the meeting.

Community Center Report stated that the center was reserved only twice for the month of May. The Harrison County Development Corporation held its annual banquet at the community center.

Library Report given by Marla Rife. She thanked Mike for bringing mulch for the middle school students to place around the flower beds around the building. She informed the council about the upcoming summer events. The first one is a children's author who will come and read a bedtime story that she has written to young children and their parents. The date and time are yet to be determined. Then she said the Harrison County libraries are planning to host a Library Crawl where patrons can visit the different libraries and see what each one has to offer.

Fire Department Report given by councilwoman Lacie Rife. The department is working on replacing a camera that was damaged in a fire four years ago.

During the Property Maintenance Report Clerk Hirst said that the owner of the Chestnut and S. Clark house said he plans to have the old building materials cleaned up by Thursday, May 7. The council told the clerk to send a nuisance letter to the owner of the yard at S. Noyes and Pine to mow and clean up his yard.

Unfinished Business

The council voted to decline the approval of the building permit for 104 S. Vine Street until council members are able to discuss the plans that need to follow the city's ordinance regulations.

Brandy Mace was hired by the council to clean the community center for $75 each time. Her wages will not increase the city's expenses for the community center because Bertie Anderson will still schedule reservations but at a reduction in her wage.

New Business

The council unanimously voted to appoint Bill Nelson and Mary Moore to fill the vacancies on the Public Library Board. Both new members fit the qualifications of the city ordinance regulations. The council thanked the retiring board members Carol Birdsall and Jess Hopkins for their service.

The council reviewed and discussed bids for resurfacing Cedar Street. The main topic was how the resurfacing and financing the job would be done. Midwest Coating won the bid.

After Public Works Supervisor Kelley explained the conditions of the water plant aerator at the new plant, the council approved for him to clean the aerator immediately because the iron content in the water filter is overflowing. No bid for cleaning it was received from Viking and the aerator needs to be cleaned now.

The next item was the termination of the main to the old water treatment plant. The pipe for the main that was to be shut off with an Inserta Valve to prevent backflow of old water was found to be too porous to withstand the pressure that would occur then. The valve cost $8000. An additional $700-$1500 would be needed to repair the pipe. The council discussed the effects of a second option that would be more fiscally responsible which would be to cap the pipe off which would shut off the blockhead for 4 to 6 hours to the customers on the west side of the tracks. According to DNR regulations when the water comes back on, those customers would be under a boil advisory until two bacterial clear samples were tested and recorded. The council insisted that if this was done the west side of track customers would be informed as to the date and time, in order for them to store up water before doing the repair. The council voted to approve the second option of capping the old defective main.

To clean the aerator and vehicles, etc., Mike asked the council's permission to buy a pressure washer for $690. Motion passed.

Item F dealt with questions regarding the planting of trees in the city's right of way. Councilman Glennie brought up that water mains could be in the way of the tree or its roots could eventually damage city pipes. According to Ordinance 618-4, planting of trees on city right of way is not allowed. A motion was made to deny permits for the tree planting. Motion passed in a 3-1 vote.

Public Works Supervisor Kelley explained his design for changing the landscape at the Veteran's Memorial in the City Park at the corner of N. Noyes and Cedar Streets. He wants to add rubber edging and fill in areas, so that it will be easier to mow. The council approved the motion to accept his plan.

Supervisor Kelley provided the council with a quote of $9250 for a new electric pump for the lift station control panel. The old one has burned up and a back-up one has been used to keep the system operating for the last four months. Council passed a motion to buy the new electric pump for the lift station control panel.

Three items concerning Heritage Day were on the agenda. The Heritage Day planning committee asked the council for money to give to parade winners. The council approved a motion to provide $250 for the committee to use as prize money. The committee will decide how to divide the money to be used for the various categories of the parade to award the winners. Next, the Council approved the motion to close

Elm Street and N. Noyes Street to vehicle traffic and allow pedestrian traffic. In a Heritage Day event overview, it was stated that the pony ride would be located in the parking area behind the Church of Christ where it would be shady.

Councilwoman Breyfogle had received a message asking how to reach someone at the city clerk's office when she is absent. The members discussed several options to resolving this problem. The council made a motion to hire a substitute for the clerk. This person would be responsible for answering the phone, taking messages and other simple duties with the public. Clerk Hirst would conduct the training for the substitute and this would begin December 31, 2026, as a trial period to see if this is an acceptable solution.

The clerk had received a request by a resident at 105 S. Noyes to apply for a permit to have chickens. Mike Kelley inspected the proposed chicken house which is a chicken tractor enclosure that is secure from chickens escaping and for protecting the ten hens. The resident will follow the animal ordinance by making a $50 deposit.

The council approved a motion to hire Robert Wright to bale the grass on the city's property around the new water plant.

Maggie Rains asked the council if it would approve the planting of trees in the park in memoriam. Diseased or damaged trees have been removed and new trees for shade need to be added. The council discussed this idea and suggested that plaques be added to tree planted in memoriam. The council approved the motion to allow trees to be planted in memoriam on a case-by case situation.

The last agenda item was a council discussion of the outcome of the Spring Clean-up Day held in April. The members said that they received comments of appreciation for this service to residents. It costs the city $200 to use the county landfill's facilities and dumpster. However, the city was paid $200 for the scrap iron that was collected and hauled away. The practice of having a clean-up day will continue in the fall.

Since the mayor was absent, there was no Mayor's Report.

Clerk Hirst said in her report that she will keep the council updated on issues or topics that arise between meetings through emails.

Public Works

Superintendent Kelley said that he has been busy with filling potholes in the streets, mowing and spraying 2-4-d on weeds and dandelions on city property. He reported that a resident had contacted him for permission to paint the public restrooms by the splashpad. She had extra paint left from her projects. He said he plans to install new toilets in the park restrooms. The restroom floors will also be painted with textured non-slip paint. In his report he warned that the city bobcat is making a bad noise. The merry-go-round is missing! It is being sand

blasted and repainted. Hopefully, it will be back by Heritage Day.

As there were no commissioners' reports or other business, the meeting adjourned.

COMMUNITY NEWS

There will NOT be a July newsletter!

The Monday afternoon coffee club meets each Monday afternoon at the Jimmy King Shelter in the park at 1:30 p.m. Bring your own beverage and join in the conversation.



The primary election is Tuesday, June 2. The polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Remember to vote!



Heritage Day – June 13, 2026 "Party Like It's 1776 – Celebrating 250 Years"

You really don't want to miss Heritage Day 2026 in Mondamin. Come for breakfast, be in the parade or watch it, and spend the afternoon in the park having fun!

Here is a schedule of events:

Saturday, June 13, 2026

7:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Breakfast served at Church of Christ – Free Will Offering

9:00 a.m. Begin registering for the parade at West Harrison High School.

9:00 a.m. Vendors in the park are open! Raffle tickets are available.



10:30 a.m.
The Heritage Day Parade, "Party Like It's 1776: Celebrating 250 Years," begins at the school and will go down Maple Street (the highway) and turn right at the bank and go to Cedar Street and turn right until Clark Street where it will turn right, then left on County Road and go back to West Harrison. (The parade does go by the park!) Parade winners will be announced in the afternoon at the park.

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Silent Auction at Jimmy King Shelter. Final bids at 1:29 p.m. High bidders get the items at 1:30 p.m.

The Silent Auction is replacing the Baked Goods Auction that has been part of Heritage Day since the beginning. We need you to come place your bids and then come back and place a higher bid! Here are some of your favorites from past years that you can bid on and take home with you:

❖ **Scrumptious, Chocolatey Scotcheroo Bars made by Kim Nunez** will take care of your sweet tooth and you'll be glad you came to the Jimmy King Shelter and placed bid, after bid, after bid, after bid until they are yours! Don't let anyone else get a higher bid on these mouthwatering treats!

❖ Peanut butter cookies? Peanut butter pancakes? Peanut butter pie? No, Silly, **it's a moist, creamy, peanut butter cake with silky frosting made by Holly Mortensen** (Zeta's daughter) and if you like peanut butter, you will fall in love with this cake. Shake loose some of that cash in your pocket and get a wonderful dessert!

❖ **The Best Chocolate Chip Cookies Ever made by Peggy Smith**. If you've ever had one of Peggy's yummy cookies, you will want to pay big bucks for 2 dozen of her specialty! Just get the highest bid in and you won't have to share! These are for sure the best you will ever eat!

❖ Breakfast will never be the same if you taste one of **Myrna Ehlert's delectable, lip smacking Cinnamon Rolls!** Just come put the last bid on her rolls at 1:29 p.m. and they will be yours to take home! What time is breakfast, Myrna?

❖ What the heck are kolaches? **Kolaches are traditional Czech pastries made from a soft, sweet yeast dough** typically filled with fruit or sweetened cream cheese. But the good news is you don't have to be Czech to love kolaches and Zeta Proskocil will have them for you to bid on at the silent auction! Haven't had one before? Now is your chance!

❖ **Kalsie Rife is providing the ever-popular Midwestern chewy, finger-licking OOEY, GOOEY, SCOTCHEROOEY bars.** You can't go wrong with this no-bake treat! It will be difficult to eat just one, but you won't have to do that because if you have the highest bid, they will be yours! Come on! Get that last bid posted!

❖ What would a silent auction be without a pie? **Maggie Rains will offer Grandma Lil's Rhubarb Custard Pie** to be sold to the highest bidder at the silent auction. Any recipe with the name Grandma in it has to be really good! Don't be afraid to bid…high… higher…highest to get that delicious, flaky, rhubarb pie. You won't be sorry!

❖ And last on our list, but certainly not least! Have you ever tasted **Jerry Thomas' homemade ice cream?** This luscious dessert has typically been the highest selling item on our Baked Goods Auction so we expect the same result on the Silent Auction! Jerry doesn't need 31 flavors to be famous. He only needs one! You will want to bid high and often so this delicious ice cream goes home with you.

❖ Wait, wait, wait …. Here's a surprise! We all like surprises, don't we? There's one more delicious item for the Silent Auction coming from someone who is known for baking all kinds of tasty, delicious items.

Carol Birdsall is bringing a tangy, lemon meringue pie! Any guesses on who will make the first bid on this delicacy?

The money from the Silent Auction goes toward helping us support next year's Heritage Day. Since its inception, the committee has been able to keep your costs low for attending such a fun event. Your generous donations, our raffles, and the money from this Silent Auction will help keep most of the events in the park FREE for you and your family. Please help us continue to do that!

12:30 p.m. Trivia Contest. Here is what you need to do: Get your family, classmates or friends together and make a team of no more than 6 people who are over 16 years of age, think of a name for your team, and then register your team. (There is no charge for a team this year, but we will accept donations to cover our expenses.) You can register via texting or calling ahead of Heritage Day by contacting Donella Pauli at 402-659-1299 with your name and the names of your teammates, **or** register at the park at the tables where raffle tickets are being sold.

We have a limited number of tables so you may want to bring lawn chairs. We will provide clip boards. If you have questions prior to Heritage Day, contact Donella at the number listed above.

All Day	Food Stand, Food & Drink Vendors
All Day	Games & Prizes
All Day	Over 30 Vendors
All Day	Horseshoe Contest
All Day	Dunk Tank & 4 Bounce Houses
11:30 – 3:00 p.m.	Kiddie Train Rides
11:30 – 3:00 p.m.	Face Painting
12:30 – 3:00 p.m.	Loli Pop dah Clown
11:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Pony Rides
2:00 p.m.	Winners of raffle drawn

Heritage Day Raffle

We have some great prizes this year. You will certainly want to buy some raffle tickets. They will be available at the Jiffy Mart, the Mondamin Public Library, and from any MCP committee member (Maggie Rains, Mary Seago, Lacie Rife, Zeta Proskocil, and Donella Pauli) prior to Heritage Day and you can purchase raffle tickets at the park. The cost is $2.00 per ticket or 6 tickets for $10.00

The prizes this year are

- A $100 gift card to Family Fare donated by Lacie Rife and MCP.
- 4 adult buffet dinners at Pizza Ranch in Mo. Valley donated by Pizza Ranch.
- A 250 Year Birthday Celebration of the U.S. souvenirs donated by Donella Pauli.
- A wooden flag - We the People 250 Years which was made and donated by Jeff Evers.

Avenue of Flags

Renewal letters have been mailed out to past subscribers. If you have not received a renewal form or if you have never ordered a flag to fly at the park, or along the highway, or by the school, you can ask for an order form at City Hall or from the Avenue of Flags committee members: Becky Coyle, Ben Nuzum, Bobby Neill or Maggie Rains. Thank you for supporting us and the West Harrison students!

June & July Events at Loess Hills Lavender Farm

Saturday, June 6 at 1:00 p.m. It's Ladies' Afternoon Tea with Yvonne Holenbreck, a South Dakota rancher's wife will present and entertaining program about available fabrics during the Depression. Lavender tea, coffee, and dessert will be served. The cost is $28. per person and reservations are required.

Sunday, June 7th at 1:00 p.m. is Open Tea Party. The cost is $25.per person and reservations are required. A meal is served and a presentation given.

June 12th – 14th Store & Farm are Closed.

Sunday, June 18 at 10:30 a.m. you can attend "Make Your Own Fairy Gnome Garden" craft class. This class is $28. per person and reservations are required. Lavender lemonade will be served.

Saturday, June 20 at 10:30 a.m. At Open Group Tour you can bring your group of any size to learn about lavender. The tour is 45 minutes to an hour and the cost is $5. per person. No reservations are needed.

July 3rd – 5th Lavender Farm & store will be CLOSED.

Saturday, July 11th at 12:00 p.m. Open Tea Party $25 per person Reservations are required. A meal is served and a presentation given.

Sunday, July 12th at 1:00 p.m. Open Group Tours $5. per person.

July 18th-19th from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. It's LavenderStock Festival Weekend. Come to the festival. Vendors and crafts.

Saturday, July 25th at 1:00 p.m. Learn how to make a wreath and take it home with you. $28. per person and reservations are required.

Check Facebook and their website www.loesshillslavender.com for details and more events.
Email Lhlavenderfarm@gmail.com to make reservations or to ask questions.



To practice for the Trivia Contest at Heritage Day, try to answer these questions:

How long is an NHL hockey rink?

What is the most used spice in the world?

What is the name of Barbie's little sister?

The answers are at the end of this newsletter.

Making a difference®

by Maggie Rains

The theme of the Harrison County Development Corporation's annual meeting's guest speaker, Jessica Kolterman, was "Making a Difference". She comes from the small town of Seward, Nebraska, and after living in Washington, D. C. for her career, she decided to return to her hometown and began a new career. Now she is a co-CEO of Lincoln Poultry in Fremont, Nebraska. For those of you who do not know what that company is and why it is important in Harrison County, it supplies the chickens that are so popular at Costco stores all over the nation. There are several chicken growers near Mondamin.

Ms. Kolterman gave many examples of how stepping up to show up can make a difference whether it is being active in community affairs and events or seeing a problem and finding a positive solution.

This week I have witnessed many examples of "Showing Up to Make a Difference" just in Mondamin. Maybe it was seeing trash blowing down a street and having a resident get out of her truck to help a neighbor pick up the papers; that makes a difference. Someone realized that the park bathrooms needed a fresh coat of paint which caused a resident and her friends to take time out of their busy weekends to use their excess paint to make the restrooms more attractive. Other good deeds would be driving someone to a doctor appointment when that person can't drive or offering to help a neighbor get their groceries or medicines when they are too sick to leave home. Another difference maker common in small towns is providing meals to someone who is having a difficult time. You don't find that in cities very often. Those things are all ways to show up and make a difference.

As Ms. Kolterman recounted with her examples, she said this is what is great about living in small Midwestern towns. This is what I see as being great about living in Mondamin. We should all try to **BE A PERSON WHO SHOWS UP TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**



New This Year: Bricks Can Be Added to City Park's Veterans' Memorial

Many people have asked about ordering more bricks at the Veteran's Memorial in Mondamin's park in memory of or to honor someone. A company that will do the inscribing has been found. The Avenue of Flags committee and the Jesse Strong American Legion Post #378 of Mondamin are working together to order bricks for interested persons. To have someone's name inscribed, it will cost $100 for a 4 X 8 brick. The inscription is limited to three

lines. The original charge for the bricks that are currently at memorial also was $100. per brick. The money will be used to offset the cost of the inscription and for upkeep of the memorial site. If you are wanting to purchase a brick to continue this project at the memorial, you should ask Alyx at Mondamin City Hall (712-646-2431) to give you a form to list how you want the brick inscribed. You can also contact Maggie Rains (712-420-6036), American Legion Post Commander, Dave Tallon (402-594-4115), or any other members of the local legion post or other Avenue of Flags committee members that are listed in the article about the Avenue of Flags.

Just to Make You Laugh



Some special Patriotic Jokes for Heritage Day and the 4th of July – Enjoy!

What do you get when you cross a dinosaur with fireworks?

Dino-mite!

What do you call a parade of rabbits on the Fourth of July?

A hare-raising experience!

What did one flag say to the other flag?

Nothing. It just waved!

Why did the burger go to the July 4th party?

To ketchup with friends!

What kind of music do fireworks like?

Pop music.

Why did the duck say "bang"?

Because he was a firequacker!

Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?

At the bottom!

Why couldn't the Liberty Bell do well in school?

It kept cracking under pressure!



Chase Durfee

Loess Hills State Forest
Natural Resource Technician
by Maggie Rains

In March after a warmer and drier winter in western Nebraska in the Sandhills along interstate 80 north of Ogallala and North Platte, Nebraska, several huge wildfires have occurred already in 2026. It takes hundreds of ranchers and trained fire fighters to contain these fires. You may wonder where these firefighters come from to help fight these fires. One such firefighter is our own area resident, Chase Durfee.

Durfee, a 2005 West Harrison graduate, has had a lifelong interest in wildlife and

conservation management. One of his very first jobs was as a part-time employee of the Department of Natural Resources located in Pisgah, Iowa, that started in high school. After two years of college where he earned an Associate Degree in Science from Iowa Lakes Community College, he was fortunate enough to be hired on full time. For over seventeen years he has worked full time as a Natural Resource Technician at Loess Hills State Forest in Pisgah. Initially, he was hired by district forester Brent Olson. Now his boss is Jeff Seago of Mondamin who is the current district forester.

In this area, Chase has had plenty of experience with controlled burns conducted by the DNR and with fighting local wildfires. Because of this, he has taken the tests to become red carded. A person has to be red carded to be able to go out on fire details.

As the wildfires in Western Nebraska raged, an EMAC request was made for additional resources to put these fires out. The State of Iowa responded by supplying some resources to their neighboring state. Six men, three of whom were from western Iowa were qualified to accompany two trucks to the area of the wildfires. Durfee had twenty-four hours to prepare and decide if he would go considering that he was leaving his family for an extended time. Durfee and Mark Vos from Soldier, IA were assigned to go with the trucks. One truck was a local DNR brush buggy that is used to fight fires in the rugged, timbered Loess Hills.

The typical firefighter shift could be for 10 hours or up to 20 depending on other resources coming in to relieve the firefighter. Fire camps or motel rooms were arranged as sleeping quarters for the firefighters. Sometimes the lucky ones have a connection to a local person who allows them to stay in their home when they are off duty. The six Iowa men were lucky to have a work connection whose aunt invited them to stay with her at her home near the Morrill fire.

First the Iowa firefighting team was assigned to do mop up duties at the Morrill fire by Ogallala. This fire had started from a spark when fifty to sixty mile an hour winds pushed two electric wires against each other. Western Nebraska is declared to be in an Exceptional Drought area where a tiny spark can suddenly burst into flames and burn for miles and miles. To mop up after the main fire is contained, Durfee explained you traveled your assigned area on foot or by vehicle looking for smoke. When you found an area with smoke or heat, you dug and drenched with water to put out the heat source.

Next, they were assigned initial attack duties which means the firefighters stay at a staged location like a fire hall and be ready to respond to areas like a new wildfire or a reignition inside of the wildfire area. For 4 to 5 days, they were staged at the Keystone

Fire Hall and were called to multiple different locations to help put out hot spots inside the Morrill fire area.

The first wildfire call came around day 6. There was an 800-acre fire that the local fire departments had contained, but they learned that there was a bad wind switch coming at about two o'clock in the morning and the fire departments across the line in Kansas were short staffed and they wanted help. So, after eating supper and getting their instructions, the team convoyed two and a half hours to the south arriving on scene at 11:00 p.m. Durfee explained that it was a normal mop up mission until the wind switched. It got pretty hectic, but the team was able to keep the fire contained and they were relieved of their duties at 6:30 a.m. the next morning when the local volunteer fire departments took back command of the fire.

The second wildfire call came around day 9 when a system came through and dry lightning ignited two separate fires: the Ashby fire, which ended up burning 36,000 acres, and the Minor fire that to which Durfee and his crew were assigned. The team had to first stop the fire before it reached the cattle pens. Next, they needed to get a mile over the hill to try to stop the head of the fire from continuing south; and with the rough terrain, it was quite the challenge to try to get there. They tried for about 30 minutes to get up and over a couple different hills and pastures to get to the valley where they were needed. Once they got to the correct valley, they had to do a frontal attack on the fire. This wasn't the safest, but it is what was needed to be done in order to save thousands of acres of pasture. This particular fire burned 14,000 acres alone before it was stopped.

Local ranchers showed up to help their neighbors when their property was threatened. They didn't necessarily wait for the outsiders to give orders; they knew the land and the climate better. The ranchers used trucks with flatbed boxes that were mounted with water tanks, and one of them would spray water on the flames. Durfee said it was a rough and dangerous drive as the driver had to decide which ravine would lead to the hillside that was on fire. It was easier for the ranchers since they knew the territory. The team just followed the ranch trucks whichever way they went. After twelve, days the team was sent home since the fires were mostly contained.

When Durfee was asked how fighting fires in the western Sand Hills compared to fighting fires in our local area, he said that fires go bigger and faster in Nebraska. They can burn tens of thousands of acres for miles. He said instead of disking around fields or homesteads, road graders and other heavy equipment is used to make a fire break. He said they filled their water tanks from the large windmill tanks on the ranchlands. Another challenge to face was driving in the sandy soil. It is easy to get stuck in the

sandy tracks and takes longer to reach the fire. He said it was challenging to get around the huge yucca plants that grow there. They are much bigger than the kind around here. He said some buildings such as sheds and old abandoned houses used to store farm equipment burned because brush, trees, dead wood and grasses had grown too close. His advice would be to keep trees and brush away from houses and outbuildings.

Durfee reported that this part of Nebraska is going to have a very long recovery because at this time there is no moisture due to the extreme drought and the sandy soil. As soon as grass tries to grow, sand blasts it down and it withers. It will take years for it to recover compared to how quickly grass will begin to grow back in our burned locations. Because the pasture land is decimated in western Nebraska, many of the ranchers are selling their cattle herds if they can't find or afford to buy hay.

Wildfires, whether in farm fields, pastures or timbered land in our area, are a real threat. Three years ago, after fields were harvested and hot dry winds blew, Mondamin experienced a nearby wildfire. It is reassuring to know that we have well-trained, experienced and well-equipped wild fire fighters like Chase Durfee in our community ready to keep us and our property safe.

Adding to the Spotlight Article

There are many reasons for increased fire danger, but warmer temperatures and less precipitation can result in less snowmelt contributing to bad wildfire conditions. The 2025-2026 winter was one of the warmest and driest on record in Nebraska.

High winds, low humidity, extreme drought conditions, dry lightning, dry fuel, wind shifts, electrical wires, burning grazing pastures, cropland, homes and farm structures… all of those words and phrases became very familiar to people in Nebraska and western Iowa with the beginning of fire season on March 12.

The wildfires so far this year in Nebraska have burned nearly 1 million acres. The largest of these was the Morrill fire which burned 643,074 acres.

DID YOU KNOW?

What do you know about the month of June? Take a look. Do you know these facts?

- June is the 6th month of the year with 30 days. In the Julian calendar June was the 4th month of the year and January and February didn't exist.
- June is the transition month between spring and summer.
- June 1st is Dinosaur Day. (Not sure what you are supposed to do on that day!)

- June 3rd is Donut Day! (That is probably a day you can get into!)
- June 5th is Hot Air Balloon Day.
- June 8th is Best Friends Day.
- June 10th is National Iced Tea Day.
- June 11th is National Corn on the Cob Day.
- June 12th is Peanut Butter Cookie Day.
- June 14th is Flag Day. (That is one for us to celebrate!)
- June 19th is Juneteenth.
- June 21st is World Giraffe Day. (Maybe you could go to the zoo.)
- June 23rd – National Pink Day
- June 27th – National BINGO Day
- June is ….
- …. National Camping Month.
- …. National Smile Month
- …. National Oceans Month
- …. National Papaya Month
- …. National Outdoors Month
- June has a bug named after it -June Bug. (ick)
- No other month in the calendar year begins on the same day of the week as June. (Did you look to see if this is correct?)

NOW YOU KNOW!



Summer is a great time to get that book you've been wanting to read. Stop by the Mondamin Public Library!

Children need to keep reading during the summer to maintain the reading level that they have achieved during the school year. Visit the library; there are lots of fun things to do and your child can check out a great book to beat that summer decline.

On April 29, the book club met at the library with ten members in attendance. The book being discussed was *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger. This historical fiction novel is set in Minnesota and is about four orphans in a life-changing odyssey during the Great Depression. In 1932, the four orphans are forced to flee the harsh Lincoln Indian Training School after young Odie O'Banion committed a crime. He and his older brother, Albert, their best friend Mose who is mute, and a broken-hearted little girl, Emmy, sneak away in a canoe, heading for the Mississippi River and a place to call their own. Along the way they encounter various people and challenges.

The story reminded several of the book club members of the *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Everyone enjoyed the book, and, if it sounds interesting, you might enjoy it also.

Our next book club meeting will be Wednesday, June 24 at 7:00 p.m. The next book discussed will be *The Book Club for Troublesome Women,* a lighthearted story perfect for summer reading. Anyone is welcome to join this group; just stop by the library and see Marla.

Mondamin Memories

From the files of Larry Stevens

Newspaper Men of Interest at Mondamin Their association with Mondamin News, Past and Present

The Hustler, Thursday, May 13, 1943

(The picture mentioned in the article is not shown.)

Away back in the early eighties there came to Mondamin, a Singing Master and Publisher of Music, W. H. Wonder, who operated the first printing plant in Mondamin, and first published a musical journal, the *Musical Banner*, in 1880, and a year later began the publication of the first weekly newspaper, the *Mondamin Independent*, the first issue appearing August 13, 1881. The *Independent*, a six-column folio, soon proved more lucrative and the musical publication was dropped. It was here at Mondamin, October 9, 1882 that the present publisher of the *Onawa Democrat*, Fred H. Wonder, was born one press day, and whose likeness, and that of his son, William, appear in the above picture. Later W. H. Wonder sold the *Independent* to D. W. Butts, who shortly afterwards moved the plant to Little Sioux continuing it there as the *Independent* until his death in 1912.

On leaving Mondamin, W. H. Wonder went to Whiting and for a time edited a local paper and finally went to Onawa, and published the *Onawa Democrat* until his death, when his son Fred. H. Wonder, present editor of the *Democrat* took over. It may be recalled that Mrs. W. H. Wonder the former Sarah Beaman of Mondamin still makes her home at Onawa. Associated with the Wonder family, and whose likeness is above is Joe Brown, who claims Mondamin as his birthplace, and who apprenticed on the *Mondamin Enterprise*, and then become attached to the *Democrat* force, getting out the most widely read and popular newspaper in Monona County.

Following the course of newspaperdom in Mondamin, the *Mondamin Enterprise* was established in April 1899 by Bruce Morrison, and later became the property of E. W. Wonder and Son, Oscar Wonder now of Haigler, Nebraska, followed by Messers Kelley, Copp, and lastly came under the guidance of Jess S. Moffitt, who as a job printer in Chicago, publisher of papers in Illinois, Indiana, Nebraska and Oklahoma, came to Mondamin in October of 1919 and faithfully served the interest of the community for twenty-three years, and was a leader in the civic life of the vicinity until October 1942 when he disposed of the equipment and the subscription interests were merged with *The Hustler*, and Mr. Moffit went shortly to Gresham, Oregon and is employed in a defense plant.

The present editor of *The Hustler,* H. W. Kerr, who established the paper in March, 1901, apprenticed as a youngster in the Geo. A. Wigton shop at Hastings, Nebraska, later

railroading as a station agent, lastly at Blencoe, IA., for the old Sioux City & Pacific Railroad.

H. A. Bloom, the most recent addition to the Harrison County newspaper fraternity, taking the helm of the *Harrison County Herald* at Logan, in August of 1941. Mr. Bloom learned the trade in Minneapolis, followed by employment in Clarks, S.D., Cresco and owned and operated the *Elma* (Iowa) *News Era* for ten years prior to coming to Logan. Mr. Bloom is ably assisted by Mrs. Bloom and their son in giving the readers a fine county official newspaper.

These gentlemen have been and or now are giving of their best to the interests of their respective communities and the counties they represent, seeking no special consideration or selfish interest for themselves, giving of their time and talent for the best interests of all mankind.

In point of service as publishers in their respective counties Fred H. Wonder and H. W. Kerr rank as the oldest in continuous service in their communities. So it is that the Wonder family especially, has been identified with community interests from Mondamin to Onawa, and with the support of William Wonder, the progressive son of Fred H. Wonder, and the veteran Joe Brown, the influence of the pioneer publisher of the first Mondamin newspaper will continue for good as time goes by.



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.

SCHOOL NEWS

June is a very busy month for softball and baseball players of all ages. Check the schedules that were attached to last month's newsletter. To be sure there haven't been any last-minute changes to high school games, go to the Events Calendar on the West Harrison web page at westharrison.school.

Enjoy your summer!





Remember to watch for children on bicycles and those close to the park and the splash pad!

TRIVIA QUESTION ANSWERS:

A hockey rink is 200 feet long.

Black pepper is the most used spice in the world.

Barbie's little sister is named Skipper.

EVENTS

Tuesday, June 2 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m
Primary Election

Saturday, June 13 All Day
Heritage Day in Mondamin

Saturday, June 13

All Class Reunion

Sunday, June 14
Flag Day

Saturday, July 4

Happy 250th Birthday America



Remember there is NO NEWSLETTER in July!