

City of Independence Hires New City Manager

River City Briefs

May 13, 2022

The City of Independence, Oregon | 555 S Main St, Independence, OR 97351 | 503 838-1212

[Para La Versión En Español](#)

City of Independence Hires New City Manager



Independence, Oregon (May 10, 2022) — After months of recruiting efforts, the City Council approved a contract with Kenna West as the new City Manager for the City of Independence. Mayor John McArdle and Independence City Council expressed their excitement about Ms. West joining the Independence team. “Among the slew of capable candidates that interviewed for the position, Ms. West proved to not only have the experience necessary for the job, but she understands what it will take to continue making Independence a great place to live, shop, and play,” said

McArdle.

With over 10 years of experience in public service, most recently as the City Manager at the City of Willamina, Oregon, a Juris Doctor from Northwestern School of Law at Lewis & Clark, a Bachelor of Arts from George Fox University (4.0 GPA), and a multitude of various honors and activities, West joins the City of Independence under a polished and experienced career.

[Read Full Press Release Here](#)

Sign up to Volunteer for Independence Days



Interested in volunteering for Independence Days this year?

To volunteer, individuals must meet the following requirements:

- Must be 14 years of age or older.*
- Must be able to lift heavy objects (up to 30 pounds) in certain roles involving set-up and take-down.
- Must pass a background check if handling money.
- Must wear a life jacket or vest if volunteering on or next to the river.**

*13 years and younger must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
Roles will be noted if you must be 18 years of age or older.

**The City of Independence will provide life jackets if necessary.

Click the button below to find out how you can be part of these fun and community-filled events

[Sign Up Here](#)

Building Department Update

Several items move through the Independence Community Development Department in any given month. This section of River City Briefs showcases some of the projects that are occurring in the community.

- **Central Plaza Tenant Improvement** - Improvements continue to be made to the Central Plaza Shopping Center. Signs are up for the new Grocery Outlet, and improvements inside the building are nearing completion.
- **Monmouth-Independence Trolley Project** - Work continues on the trolley project. Vehicles have been ordered and stop locations are in the process of being finalized. Additionally, progress is being made on the branding for the service. A recent survey of community residents helped narrow potential names for the trolley to I&M (the historic name for the railroad that traveled between the two communities) and Mindy. A name written in several times on the survey - MI Trolley - is also being considered. Service is expected to begin sometime before the end of the year.

If you have questions about the projects or anything else, please contact Fred Evander, Community Planner at (503) 837-1168 or by email at fevander@ci.independence.or.us.

MINET Seeks New General Manager

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

GENERAL MANAGER

MINET Fiber, a Municipal ISP
\$120,000-\$140,000

MINET is a fiber-based ISP owned jointly by the cities of Monmouth and Independence, Oregon and is seeking a new General Manager. The new General Manager will inherit a mature and stable ISP that has achieved great success in serving the two cities. The business has grown to also manage the ISP in nearby Dallas, Oregon. MINET is still interested in growing and is exploring opportunities to expand our footprint through broadband grants. The successful candidate will help the business grow and continue to thrive.



IDEAL CANDIDATE

Education and Experience

Bachelor's degree required, with graduate degree a plus. Candidate must have operational experience with an ISP or closely-related telecom business. The candidate must have a minimum of 10 years of supervisory/managerial experience and will have supervised a staff of ten or more. We will consider job experience, and any equivalent combination of education and experience which provides the applicant with the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to perform the duties as described.

MINET is seeking a new General Manager who will provide leadership to the team and outstanding customer service to customers.

As the leader of the business, they will be responsible for preparing budgets and financial reports, managing growth and capital expansion projects, and developing staff. They will be an excellent communicator (both written and verbal) to the community and the MINET Board. They will know how to sell and how to manage a sales staff.

[Learn More and Apply Here](#)

Childcare Training Program in Monmouth



Polk County Early Learning &
Early Elementary Educators Conference

BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE

Connecting Early Learning and Kindergarten

MAY 20-21, 2022

FRIDAY- VIRTUAL

SATURDAY- IN PERSON



The goal of the Bridges to the Future: Connecting Early Learning to Kindergarten event is to support parents, caregivers, early elementary school teachers and staff, and early learning professionals; particularly those with children between the ages of zero to eight, by providing an opportunity to learn and to advance the educational and transition opportunities for the children they teach.

The event will be held over a two day period. The first day, Friday, May 20th will be a full day (8am-4pm) Zoom conference, while the second day, Saturday, May 21st will be a full day (8am-4pm) in person opportunity at Western Oregon University. Friday will begin with a virtual keynote speaker, followed by smaller breakout sessions, intended to focus on

issues early elementary educators and early learning professionals care about most. On Saturday, participants will have the opportunity to select various break out sessions that meet their interests. Lunch will be provided to guests and presenters at no charge. These days are about exploration, integration, and connection. Tracks have been built to give participants the opportunity to determine what they are most interested in learning about and when they are able to attend.

[Learn More Here](#)

Independence Veteran of the Month

VETERAN OF THE MONTH

MAY 2022

BRANCH OF SERVICE:

US Army

RANK:

SP5 (T)

ENTRANCE DATE:

02/04/1966

DISCHARGE DATE:

12/12/1967



Donald G. Ediger

Aug. 13, 1943 - Jan. 29, 2022

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!!

Provided By: Polk County Veteran Services Office (503-623-9188)

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INDEPENDENCE

Oregon's Story Begins Here



City of Independence | 555 S Main St, Independence, OR 97351

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