## Celebrate Independence's Hop Heritage All Weekend Long

# River City Briefs

September 16, 2022

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

Para La Versión En Español

#### Oregon Hop Run to Benefit Local Non-Profit



Did you know that all the proceeds from the Oregon Hop Run help benefit the Ella Curran Food Bank?

Founded over 40 years ago by Monmouth resident Ella Curran, who began by distributing canned foods from the back of her car, the Ella Curran Food Bank works to end food insecurity in our community. Through the continued support of food donations, financial contributions, and events like the Oregon Hop Run, the food bank is able to serve the most vulnerable in our community. And with the need growing, supporting our local food bank is more important than ever.

Join us tomorrow, September 17, 2022, starting at 10 AM in Riverview Park to help support the great work of one of our community's most important organizations.

To learn more about the race, register, or volunteer, click the button below.

**Learn More & Register Here** 

### Experience the Hop & Heritage Block Party in Downtown Independence

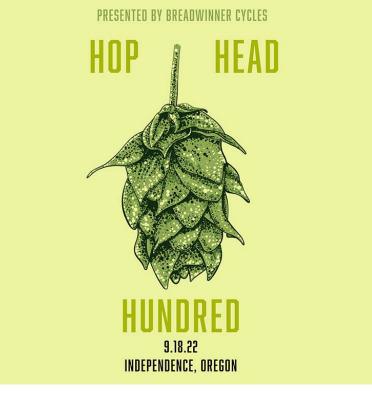


The Independence Downtown Association will once again be hosting its annual Hop & Heritage Block Party on Saturday, September 17, 2022, from 12:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

Live street performances provide entertainment as you visit stops at local restaurants and businesses. Each location has partnered with a brewery and will gladly trade a stamp on your passport for some tastings of great craft beers (and a few other beverages!). Tickets include a commemorative glass which will be ready and waiting for you at the ticket booth the day of the event. Fill your passport with stamps and be entered into the raffle for a chance to win a gift basket of local treats!

Ticket sales support the Independence Downtown Association, a volunteer organization dedicated to supporting a vibrant downtown. Passports and beer mugs can be picked up on the day of the event, starting at 11:30 AM at Indy Commons, located at 154 S Main Street, Independence.

**Buy Tickets Here** 



With the birth of the Oregon Interscholastic Cycling League in 2017, more middle and high school students across Oregon are getting a chance to explore the outdoors. As part of the larger National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA), student-athletes in the Oregon MTB League are able to train and participate with their peers in high-quality mountain bike events that emphasize the value of participation, camaraderie, positive sporting behavior, and well-being over the traditional competition.

The "Hop Head Hundred" is an annual fundraiser for the Oregon MTB League as a way to bring exposure and financial support to their mission. With fourteen teams across the state, totaling over 500 athletes, as well as a growing network of friends and family who support the athletes themselves, it's the perfect reason to hop in the saddle for a ride through Independence, Oregon.

Join them on Sunday, September 18, 2022, at 8 AM in Riverview Park.

**Learn More Here** 

What Are Your Housing Needs? Take Our Survey!



Have you ever wondered why housing is so expensive in Independence?

With our city being one of the most diverse and fastest-growing cities in Oregon, the city has prioritized making sure our current and future residents have an adequate and affordable range of housing types to choose from. While the housing situation in our city is complex, by letting us know what your housing needs, concerns, and suggestions for improvement are we can work to find solutions for the specific necessities of our community.

Take our Housing Needs Analysis survey below and be entered to win a \$25 gift card.

**Take Survey Here** 

#### MI Skatepark Awarded Grant from Oregon Parks & Recreation Department





The Oregon Parks & Recreation Department has awarded the City of Monmouth a grant for \$467,550 for Phase 1 Improvements to Monmouth Recreation Park. Utilizing an additional \$525,000 from a state legislative allocation, Monmouth will match the OPRD grant funds to complete improvements to Monmouth Recreation Park. This includes reconstructing and expanding the skate park facility from 3,500 square feet to 12,000 square feet, constructing a new paved pathway to connect the park to nearby neighborhoods, constructing a nature trail with a raised boardwalk designed to minimize wetland impacts, a gazebo ideal for appreciating the native wildlife, and rehabilitating park restrooms to ensure year-round use and compliance with ADA requirements. The existing parking lot will also be rehabilitated to improve the surface conditions and add ADA-compliant accessible parking and marked crosswalk features. Additionally, vegetation will be planted to distinguish

a new nature observation area and improve wildlife habitats.

A benefit to both Monmouth and Independence, the renovation of the existing skatepark and surrounding facilities have been a community priority for several years. Once the skatepark funding was secured, the cities sought to leverage that funding to secure additional money to make other improvements to the surrounding park. Furthermore, the City of Monmouth collaborated with the City of Independence to craft and submit the grant application.

**Read More Here** 

#### Local Officials Cut the Ribbon on the F Street Bridge



On Thursday, September 15, 2022, the City of Independence commemorated the re-opening of the F Street Bridge by cutting a red ribbon, signaling a new era for this essential piece of our city's infrastructure. Over 30 attendees helped cut the ribbon, including Chief Ben Stange from Polk County Fire District 1, Representative Paul Evans, Senator Deb Patterson, ODOT Area 3 Manager Anna Henson, Lead Bridge Engineer from OTAK Scott Nettleton, Independence Public Works Director Gerald Fisher, and Independence City Manager Kenna West.

As the only crossing on the South Fork of Ash Creek on the south side of OR-51, the city prioritized the replacement of the F Street Bridge. Funded in part by the Oregon Department of Transportation, the bridge provides a convenient way out of the south development area and, along with future projects, will continue to relieve congestion concerns at 7th and Monmouth Street. Additionally, emergency services now have increased access to the neighboring residential areas as the previous bridge harbored a weight limit that refrained emergency response vehicles from passing over it.

The bridge is also a great complement to the beauty of Inspiration Garden, which sits directly adjacent to the structure and is a visible indicator of our commitment to re-investing in our community. Forward-thinking projects like this help us stay ahead of problems, ensuring that Independence remains a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family for generations to come.

Look forward to a forthcoming video with all the speeches from the event.

#### Tree Planting Event to Take Place Next Week

Please join the City of Independence



and Pacific Power next Thursday, September 22, 2022, at 2 PM, for a commemorative tree planting event at Sunset Meadows Park. Gifts and special tree vouchers will be handed out to residents that attend the event.

Additionally, a surprise announcement will take place during the event.

We hope to see you there!

#### This Newsletter Brought to you by









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