

# NEWS RELEASE

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**Contact:** Kyle Jansson  
Monmouth-Independence History Project  
503-838-2313  
[mihistoryproject@gmail.com](mailto:mihistoryproject@gmail.com)

**Alternate Contact:** Audrey Caro  
[mihistoryproject@gmail.com](mailto:mihistoryproject@gmail.com)

## **History timeline, research resources prepared for Independence, Monmouth**

Two compilations that make it easier for people to learn about the history of Monmouth and Independence have been prepared and are now available on the websites of the two cities.

“It has been nearly 20 years since Scott McArthur published his book about Monmouth’s history,” said Kyle Jansson, who is facilitating the efforts of the Monmouth-Independence History Project. “The timeline and the list of historical research resources build upon the work of previous historians such as Scott McArthur. More importantly, they will help people benefit from the work of historians during the past 20 years and the large amount of historical information now available in digital form.”

The history timeline highlights more than 75 events: murders, controversial race and political issues, institutional milestones, population changes, varied accomplishments, and national developments that had direct local impacts. Many of the listed events have Internet links for additional information.

There are more than 40 historical research resources listed, many of which people can look at through Internet links in the document. These include archives, newspapers, oral histories, oral and video presentations, and public records.

The M-I History Project began in November following a request by a human rights task force appointed last summer by Independence Mayor John McArdle and Monmouth Mayor Cecelia Koontz. The task force made several recommendations to identify and address issues of systemic racism in Independence and Monmouth. They wanted to know more about how a culture of racial bias had grown historically in the community.

The M-I History Project’s mission is to facilitate research and programming to provide context to our locally diverse history and support a more equitable and culturally-informed community through shared learning and dialogue.

“We have a couple of other projects in the planning stage, and a long list of suggestions for other projects,” said Jansson. “Many people have provided input so far, and I especially want to thank the cities of Independence and Monmouth and Western Oregon University’s library archives for their help.”

Both the timeline and the history resources list will be updated periodically. Suggestions for additions to them, and requests for additional information, can be sent to the M-I History Project at [mihistoryproject@gmail.com](mailto:mihistoryproject@gmail.com)