

River City Briefs

October 13, 2023

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

Para La Versión En Español

Celebrate a Special Halloween Event in
Downtown Independence



Be part of the magic and join us on **Tuesday, October 31, 2023**, in downtown Independence from **4:00 PM to 6:00 PM** for our Downtown Tricks and Treats event!

Stop by participating businesses to receive your treats, and don't forget to check out our special entertainers performing all sorts of tricks throughout downtown!

Kids will get the opportunity to see a magician and balloon twister, a singing clown duo who ride tall bikes, a professional hula hooper, a stilt walker, and more! Additionally, the Independence Public Library will be hosting a make-your-own Halloween bag craft for kids. All activities are **FREE** and family-friendly, so kick off your Halloween holiday festivities in downtown Indy. A map showing all participating businesses will be available on the Facebook event page by October 27.

Visit Event Page

Local Artist Norah Steed Creates Art to Connect with her Community



Have you ever wondered who's responsible for some of the vibrant artwork in downtown Independence businesses, like the fall scene at Ovenbird Bakery?

Meet Norah Steed—a local multimedia artist who believes art can be a gateway to connecting residents with their community.

"It (art) really creates some personal buy-in to the community you're in to participate in its artistic front," said Norah.

Norah was the winner of the inaugural Artful Indy poster design contest this past summer, an effort meant to establish funding streams for local nonprofits like the Friends of the Library and the Heritage Museum Society.

For artists seeking advice on how to get their work out there, Norah offers her experience as encouragement.

"Any opportunity you have to have to connect with new people and participate and have your art seen in new places—can only be beneficial," said Norah.

Norah is now a student at Oregon State University majoring in Forestry.

See more of Norah's art at www.sites.google.com/view/norah-steed/home/

[Watch Video Here](#)

What Would You Name this Park?



Have you submitted a park name suggestion yet?

The city of Independence needs your help naming the park unofficially known as "Sunset Meadows." The property is located at 889 Maple St., on the south side of Independence in a new subdivision development. The city adopted an Open Space Master Plan in 2015 and within that plan, recommendations were given for each of the parks in Independence. The recommendations for this park were to establish a strong north/south connection to existing pathways, incorporate Nature Play elements, and provide new planting. In 2022, the city of Independence was awarded \$75,000 in grant money to build a Nature Play Area at Sunset Meadows Park.

Submitted recommendations will be sent to the Independence Parks and Recreation Board, which will narrow the list to their three favorites. After considering the three options, the official name will be adopted by the Independence City Council.

[Submit Suggestion Here](#)

Independence Hosts Oregon Main Street Conference, Gathers Over 200 Attendees



Ideas, networking, and success stories aplenty were present at last week's Oregon Main Street Conference, hosted in downtown Independence. Economic development gurus, downtown association members, business owners, and more gathered to learn from one another and offer personal connection during the

three-day conference, which included pivotal sessions featuring Independence city staff. The conference theme this year was “Idea to Implementation.”

Oregon Main Street program coordinator Sheri Stuart and Mayor McArdle kicked off the conference by welcoming the over 200 attendees at an early awards session.

“Independence has always been this magical place,” said Oregon Main Street program coordinator Sheri Stuart. “I think this community really embodies our conference theme.”

[Read More Here](#)

Independence Police Assist Oregon State University with Law Enforcement Services

The Independence Police Department recently entered a Memorandum of Understanding contract with Oregon State University to assist with law enforcement services during home football games. OSU covers all the costs associated with our officers, and only those not scheduled to work in Independence can participate. Moreover, our officers gain experience in crowd management applicable to the exciting events we see in Independence.

Our team, along with Polk County Sheriff's deputies, had a blast keeping the Dam safe and look forward to continuing this partnership.

Go Beavs!



Independence Ghost Walk Draws Large Attendance

An estimated 2,000 people came to the Independence Ghost Walk this year - an astounding record-breaking number.

Under the banner of a crisp and beautiful fall evening, residents and visitors flocked to downtown Independence to hear spooky stories, get interactive tours, and



engage with their community.

We would like to extend a great deal of gratitude to our 30 volunteers who made this event so fun and special. This event wouldn't be possible without their help and presence.

We hope to see you all next year!

Independence & Monmouth Receive AARP Livable Community Designation

On October 10, the cities of Independence and Monmouth received an AARP Livable Community designation at the annual Age-Friendly Summit at Western Oregon University.

Being a designated AARP Livable Community means our cities are intentionally dedicated to increasing accessibility for people of all ages in our communities.



AARP Oregon State Director Bandana Shrestha said the time is now for state leaders to take action on making communities more age-friendly.

“Oregon is now the oldest contiguous state west of the Mississippi,” Shrestha said. “Policies that support older adults benefit people of all ages and abilities. The Age-Friendly Summit elevates the contributions of older adults while exploring ideas that can enrich communities state-wide.”

The city of Independence looks forward to fostering a more inclusive, accessible, and welcoming community for everyone.

Help Create a Safe and Walkable Neighborhood Near Central Plaza and Central High School

CENTRAL TALMADGE PLAN

Building a safe and walkable neighborhood



About the Project...

The Plan aims to create a vibrant new center—or heart—within the city of Independence, focused around the commercial, cultural, social, and health service activities available near Central High School. The Plan seeks to expand travel options within the primarily auto-oriented neighborhood and commercial area near the school, promoting convenient and safe walking, biking, and trolley access. The Plan will also introduce new and enhanced community gathering spaces and activities. The changes will promote additional business and housing opportunities and offer safe and convenient access to and through the neighborhood for people of all ages and abilities.

For more information

Go to the project webpage:
<https://www.ci.independence.or.us/central-talmadge-plan/>

Contact Fred Evander.
fevander@ci.independence.or.us
(503) 837-1168

Get Involved

Share your thoughts with us through one of the following methods.

October
17

Open Storefront

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Drop in to meet the team, learn about the project, and share your input.



The Gate 1501 Monmouth St.

October
17

Community Conversation

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Bring your ideas! Connect with your neighbors and share your experience, concerns, and vision for the community.



The Gate 1501 Monmouth St.



Survey

Follow the QR code to take the online survey or go to www.menti.com and use code 1243 0223.

[Learn More Here](#)

Bike Indy Oregon Offers Adventure on Two Wheels



DROP THE HAMMER WEEKEND

FALL 2023 EDITION



www.BikeIndyOregon.com

OCT 14 & 15, 2023 START YOUR RIDE ANYTIME BETWEEN 9 AM - 12 PM
 Riverview Park- 50 C St, Independence, OR 97351
FREE. On-site registration.
 Explore. Bring a friend. Make a friend. Have fun!
 Roads. Gravel. Small Town Goodness.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

 PICK A ROUTE

DROP THE HAMMER ON A STRAVA SEGMENT 

 SUPPORT LOCAL

[Learn More and Register Here](#)

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Oregon's Story Begins Here



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