

Learn about Independence's Successes and Challenges; Independence & Monmouth Receive Regional Cooperative Project Award

# River City Briefs

March 1, 2024

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

[Para La Versión En Español](#)

Watch the 2024 State of the City Address



Watch Mayor McArdle talk about the latest happenings in Independence, the successes and challenges of 2023, and what the next year holds.

[Watch Video Here](#)

# LAST CHANCE: Share Your Thoughts About the MI Trolley

## MI Trolley Community Survey

The purpose of this survey is to gauge the level of awareness that our communities have about the MI Trolley service, understand the level of satisfaction with the service, and explore the level of community support for long-term operation and funding of service.



The cities of Monmouth and Independence are evaluating the MI Trolley transit service and would like to hear your opinion. The service started in April 2023 and has funding secured until June 2025. The cities are working on securing continued funding to sustain the trolley service operations beyond June 2025. The purpose of this survey is to gauge the level of awareness that our communities have about the MI Trolley service, understand the level of satisfaction with the service, and explore the level of community support for long-term operation and funding of service.

Take the survey by clicking the button below.

[Take Survey Here](#)

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## Independence & Monmouth Win Regional Cooperative Project Award



The cities of Independence and Monmouth were awarded the 2023 Regional Cooperative Project Award from the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments for their collaborative work on the MI Trolley. This award recognizes a partnership of local governments within the region for a project or initiative that enhances intergovernmental cooperation.

When accepting the award, Independence Mayor John McArdle echoed words from Muhammad Ali, "If our minds can conceive it, and our heart can believe it - then we can achieve it."

Since its launch in April 2023, the MI Trolley has had over 100,000 riders, with an average of 325 riders per weekday, and operates seven days a week.

Additionally, City Manager Kenna West was awarded the Wes Kvarsten Professional Service Award which recognizes a staff person or volunteer working for or on behalf of one or more member governments within the region who has exhibited sustained commitment in support of regional, intergovernmental cooperation.

"I have been blessed to go to Independence, where collaboration is our culture—it's a way of life," shared West. "Thank you very much for this honor."

**The Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments** is a voluntary association of over 40 local governments. Members include Marion, Polk, and Yamhill counties, 32 cities, 7 special districts, and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. Their ongoing mission includes:

- Expanding interaction and improving dialogue among local units of government
- "Convenorship" – enhancing collective awareness of major regional issues through seminars and workshops
- Coordinating regional planning and development activities
- Providing technical assistance and local services tailored to individual needs of member governments.



## Sunset Meadows Park Temporarily Closed for Construction

NOTICE: Sunset Meadows Park will temporarily close for construction starting March 2024 through September 2024.

In 2022, the city received a \$75,000 grant from the Oregon Parks & Recreation Department to complete a Nature

Play Area in this park, including installing a nature play-style playground, park trees, benches, and other park amenities.

For questions about this project, please contact the Public Works Department at 503-838-1212 or visit our projects webpage by clicking the button below.



[Learn More Here](#)

## Increased Speed Enforcement in March



During the month of March, Independence police join agencies across the state in providing sustained speed enforcement throughout our cities.

Independence officers participate in several grant-funded traffic safety

enforcements throughout the year focused on a range of concerns on the road, including seat belt and car seat use, pedestrian safety, DUII, distracted driving, and speed. The goal is to educate drivers and change behavior, leading to safer roadways for all of us. This enforcement is made possible thanks to federal funding from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in partnership with Oregon Impact.

Since October 2023, Independence police have written 76 speeding tickets and issued 28 warnings.

Independence police would like to remind everyone about the dangers of speeding, which can result in crashes, injuries, and deaths.

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## Officials from City of Scio Visit Independence



Last week, we welcomed our friends from the beautiful city of Scio as they visited to learn more about our community's journey over the past 25 years. Focusing on our community vision plans, we shared the roadmap of our revitalization and the importance of engaging your community. As the meeting closed, we

immersed in meaningful conversation, exchanging insights and inspiration with our Scio counterparts. Together, we marveled at the progress we've achieved and the bonds we've forged, recognizing the power of collaboration in shaping our shared future.

Thank you, Scio, for joining us for this visit and conversation, and may our exchange of ideas continue to inspire growth and transformation in both of our beloved communities.

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## Celebrate Women's History Month at the Independence Heritage Museum

# Women's History Month

HERITAGE MUSEUM

INDEPENDENCE, OR



## PICTURES OF NURSING: THE ZWERDLING POSTCARD COLLECTION

Visiting from the National Library of Medicine, this exhibit presents a selection of postcards that span a century of images of nursing and nurses and investigates the hold these images exert on the public imagination - then and now.



## MINI-EXHIBIT

Spotlighting local beauty shop owner Hermelinda "Linda" Garcia. She established one of the first Latina owned beauty salons in Independence, and was in business for 43 years. The exhibit highlights her contributions to the community.



## SPOTLIGHT: MARGARET MACAULEY RICHARDSON

The museum is highlighting Margaret Richardson (1872-1937), a local nurse who served in the Spanish-American War. One of Margaret's nursing outfits, along with some photographs and personal belongings, will be on display, while a more extensive collection will be available on the museum's website.



## MARCH 20 AT 6:30PM: VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALK

We will be livestreaming an Author Talk with Maria Smilios, whose book *The Black Angels: The Untold Story of the Nurses Who Helped Cure Tuberculosis* was recently released.



## MARCH 23: FIBER ARTS DEMONSTRATION

Peggy Clyne, a local fiber artist, will be at the museum from 11AM - 2PM actively spinning and happy to talk about the history of fiber arts, and the current trends.



## CURATOR'S CORNER

This month's installment features the Layton family, who share stories and reminisce about Alice Layton, who was a local clinical assistant for doctor Fratzke's practice for 30 years.



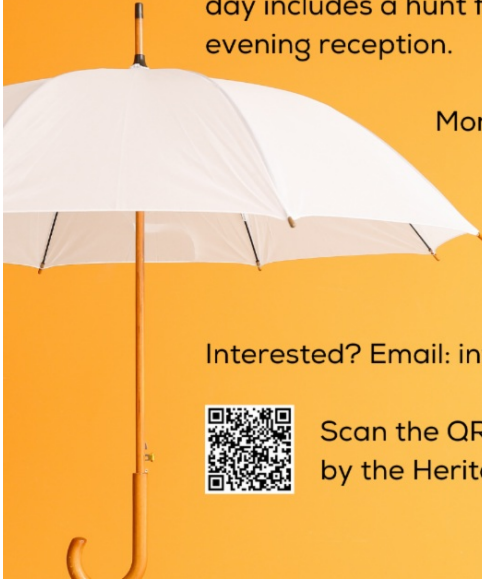
Artists Invited to Decorate for Downtown Event



# CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

The Independence Downtown Association is hosting a new event on April 20, 2024.

The Puddle Hopper will be a day-long event celebrating Oregon's April weather, downtown fun, and shopping local. The day includes a hunt for the golden umbrella, and a ticketed evening reception.



More information to come!

In the meantime, we are looking for artists to decorate umbrellas that can be auctioned off at the evening reception.

Interested? Email: [info@downtownindependence.com](mailto:info@downtownindependence.com)



Scan the QR Code for an entry form, or stop by the Heritage Museum for a paper form.



Contact IDA

Share Your Voice on Housing & Transportation



AARP AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSION

# Let's Get Age-Friendly

Housing & Transportation

## Monmouth & Independence Older Adult Listening Session



A 2 Hour Interactive Discussion

Free & Open to the Public

Monday

**March 11**

4:00pm - 6:00pm  
at Monmouth Senior  
Community Center,

180 Warren Street S  
Monmouth, OR 97361

Please join us for refreshments and an interactive public listening session about two important topics:

- Housing
- Transportation

For More Information, Please Call: 503-751-0161

Independence Library March Calendar





# March 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>Independence Public Library</b> 175 Monmouth Street Independence, OR 97351 503-838-1811 <a href="http://www.ci.independence.or.us/library">www.ci.independence.or.us/library</a>	
3	4 Youth Coding League 4-6 pm (5th-8th Grade)	5	6 Storytime 10:30 am	7		
10	11 Youth Coding League 4-6 pm (5th-8th Grade)	12 Tuesday Crafternoon: Celebrate Plant a Flower Day! 4 pm	13 Storytime 10:30 am	14	15	16 
17 	18 Youth Coding League 4-6 pm (5th-8th Grade)	19 Mystery Book Club 4 pm	20 Storytime 10:30 am	21 Coloring Club (all ages kids-adults) 4 pm 	22	
24 Spring Break →	25 Youth Coding League 4-6 pm (5th-8th Grade)	26 	27 Storytime 10:30 am	28 Teen & Adult Learn to Crochet 2 pm	29 Lego Challenge 3 pm 	30
31 EASTER						

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*Oregon's Story Begins Here*



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