

Independence Police Welcome New Graduate;
Last Movie in the Park this Friday

River City Briefs

August 29, 2025

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

Para La Versión En Español

August: From Concerts to Classrooms

A Note from Mayor Kate

As summer winds down, I want to take a moment to thank everyone who came together to enjoy summer in Independence. From our summer concert series to the Community Fiesta, these gatherings remind us of the joy that comes from being part of a community that celebrates and has fun together. I'm grateful to all the volunteers, performers, community groups, and city staff who made these events possible.

As we turn the calendar into September, there's plenty to look forward to. Shakespeare in the Park will bring *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to our community, the Hop & Heritage Festival is just around the corner, and the Ghost Walk will give us a chance to experience our history in a unique (and possibly spooky) way.

September also brings *The Wall That Heals*, a traveling replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. From September 18–21, Independence will host this powerful and moving tribute. I encourage everyone to take the opportunity to visit and reflect—it will be a profound moment for our city.



With students heading back to school, I encourage everyone to be mindful on the roads—watch for school buses, crosswalks, and kids walking or biking. Let's all do our part to keep our community safe during this busy time of year.

Here's to a safe return to school, an enjoyable close to summer, and a beautiful start to fall.

In service to our community,
Mayor Kate

60-Second Council - August 26, 2025 Meeting



City Council Meeting Recap

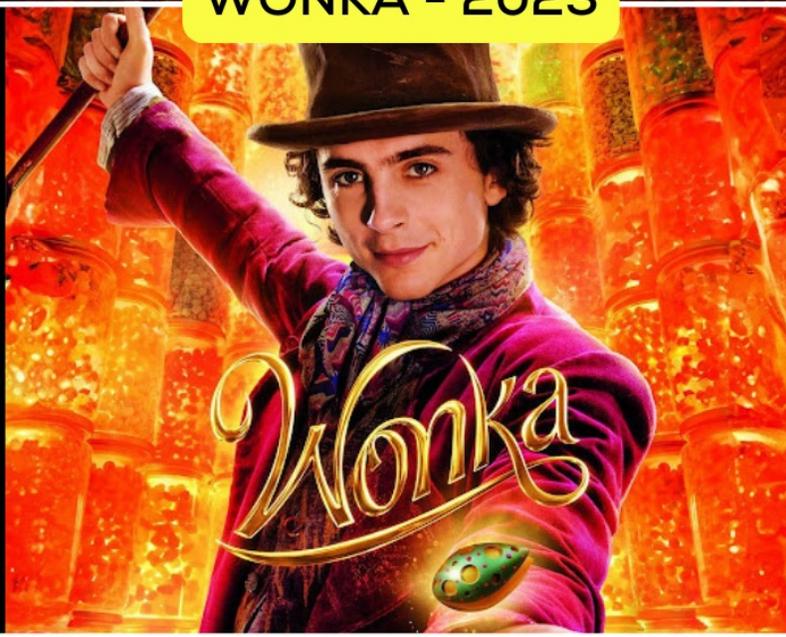
On Tuesday night, the Independence City Council took the following actions:

- Adopted Ordinance No. 1627, annexing portions of the Old Inman-Poulsen Rail right-of-way into the City. This brings City-owned land within City limits, designates it as mixed-density residential, and supports long-term planning for future road and pathway connections
- Approved the censure of a Councilor for a violation of Council Rules
- Concluded the meeting with announcements about upcoming community events: The Wall That Heals, Shakespeare in the Park, and the final Movie in the Park of the season
- Announced that City Hall will be closed Monday, September 1, in observance of Labor Day

Learn more by visiting the city of Independence website.

Watch Video Here

Last Movie in the Park this Friday



INDEPENDENCE AMPHITHEATER - RIVERVIEW PARK
**RIVER'S EDGE
SUMMER SERIES**

This week's free movie in the park:

WONKA - 2023

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 2025 AT 9:00 PM

FOR MORE DETAILS, VISIT WWW.CI.INDEPENDENCE.OR.US/RIVERS-EDGE-SUMMER-SERIES/

The credits are about to roll on another great season. Join us for the grand finale of Movies in the Park with Wonka!

We're closing out summer with music, magic, and just the right amount of sweetness. One concession-style vendor will be serving up popcorn, shaved ice, and treats to make your night even better.

Friday, August 29, 2025
Movie starts around 9 PM
Independence Riverview Park

Bring your blankets, snacks, and favorite movie crew—let's end the season on a sweet note!

[Learn More Here](#)

Independence Seeking MINET Board Applicants

WE ARE SEEKING

MINET BOARD MEMBER

We are accepting applications for a vacancy on the MINET Board, representing the general public. This position is open following the expiration of a prior term on June 30, 2025.



INDEPENDENCE

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The city of Independence is accepting applications for a vacancy on the MINET Board, representing the general public. This position is open following the expiration of a prior term on June 30, 2025. **The deadline to apply is 5:00 PM on September 2, 2025.**

The Independence City Council will consider applicants at their meeting on September 9, 2025. To apply, complete our Boards/Commissions/Committee application form by the clicking the button below.

[Learn More Here](#)

Notice of Public Hearing for Removal of Hazardous Trees

On September 15 (at 5:30 pm), the Independence Historic Preservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing to consider the removal of three damaged/diseased trees in Pioneer Park at the Independence Civic Center.

The trees have decay in portions or dead branches that make the trees hazardous. New trees would be planted near the removed trees. The park and many of its trees are considered historic resources in the Independence Historic District.

The decision about the request will be based on the applicable approval criteria in Independence Development Code (IDC) Subchapter 59 (Historic Preservation). The approval criteria are available for review at the Independence Civic Center or online by clicking the button below.



[Learn More Here](#)

Dedicated Staff Care for City Parks



Every park you walk through in Independence has been shaped by that attention to detail. As the City's only parks staff member, Cliff carries the responsibility of keeping every green space ready for the community.

His days range from mowing athletic fields to prepping spaces for community events, and from keeping trails clear to making sure families can enjoy a safe, welcoming park. It's a lot of ground for one person to cover, but Cliff's work makes it possible for our parks to shine.

So the next time you see those crisp lines on the field or enjoy a clean, open park, know there's a lot of dedication behind it.

Independence Police Welcomes a New Academy Graduate



Last week, Officer Granite Stephenson graduated from the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) Public Safety Academy, joining officers from across the state in completing this milestone.

The 16-week Basic Police training program equips officers with the essential skills for patrol work in Oregon, blending scenario-based training, facilitated learning, and opportunities for self-reflection and assessment.

Officer Stephenson will now begin his 16-week field training course here at the Independence Police Department as he works toward achieving solo status.

Please join us in congratulating Officer Stephenson on this important step in his law enforcement journey!

Public Works Crews Freshen Up Intersections



Last week, our Public Works crews were out on G Street giving the curbs a fresh coat of paint. Curb painting is a key part of keeping traffic flowing safely and efficiently. The yellow markings indicate no-parking zones, which keep intersections clear so drivers can see oncoming traffic and pedestrians have safer crossings. Fresh paint also ensures fire hydrants and other critical access points remain unobstructed, which is especially important for emergency response. Though it may look like routine maintenance, these markings provide clear guidance for drivers and play a vital role in overall public safety.

The Wall that Heals Needs Volunteers

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteer to help visitors
have a meaningful
experience!

DETAILS

- ✓ September 18-21, 2025
- ✓ Over 200 volunteer positions
- ✓ Shifts available around the clock, rain or shine



SIGN-UP HERE



[www.ci.independence.or.us
/thewallthatheals2025/](http://www.ci.independence.or.us/thewallthatheals2025/)

We still have plenty of opportunities to volunteer, with shifts available all day and all night. From setup to visitor support, there's a way for everyone to contribute.

Sign up to volunteer here: <https://bit.ly/TWTHVolunteers>
If you'd like to support our volunteers in a different way, consider contributing through our Amazon Wish List: <https://bit.ly/TWTHwishlist>

Thank you for helping us bring this meaningful experience to our community

[Learn More Here](#)

Shakespeare in the Park Coming to Independence



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Oregon's Story Begins Here

A Midsummer Night's Dream



Lex Bolsinger as Helenus

Cole Richardson as Demetrius

Elliot Grass as Hermia

Graham Glazner as Lysander

SEPT. 4 & 5* AT 6:30PM | SEPT. 6 AT 4:00PM
RIVERVIEW PARK AMPHITHEATER | INDEPENDENCE, OR
FREE ADMISSION | *SEPT. 5 IS ASL INTERPRETED

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM IS MADE POSSIBLE BY:



Hop & Heritage Festival Returns this September



SAT, SEPT 20, 2025
Riverview Park
in Downtown Independence, Oregon
12 noon - 8pm

BEER TASTING

Purchase your Hops & Heritage pint glass and Passport. Then, use your passport to guide you to local businesses and sample local and regional beers.

\$25

(Includes 2oz. tastings at each location)
12pm-4pm



FAMILY FUN

KID ZONE

Let the kids run wild!

POP-UP VENDORS

Celebrate our town's HOP-HISTORY with local pop-up vendors featuring a BEER GARDEN, FOOD, CRAFTS, and YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS.

HERITAGE STAGE

Farm equipment displays, music and demonstrations.

FREE

12pm-8pm

ACTIVITIES

CORN HOLE TOURNEY

Compete in a fun, all ages, Share-The-Pot tournament.

\$30 entry fee (per team)

EVENING CONCERT

JFK will headline the concert.

Opening for JFK is *Nina and the Rebel Rockers*.

Concert begins at 4pm.

FREE

4pm-8pm



<https://www.facebook.com/IndependenceDowntownAssociation>

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