

Happy  
**NEW**  
YEAR

**2010**  
Cities One Community  
**JANUARY**

SHOW SOME  
**LOVE**

*Smith Fine Arts Series*



  
**YOU'RE INVITED!**  
**61<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL**  
**MICC**  
**COMMUNITY AWARDS**



MLK Day  
of Service,  
January 26



# Community Calendar January 2026

**Addresses for events are generally in Monmouth (M) or Independence (I)**

## **Thursday, January 1, Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, 1863**

Serving Prime Rib, Golden Hop Saloon, 133 C St (I)

Independence Downtown Association meets, 8 AM, K Insurance Group, Central Plaza (I)

Central Lions Club Free Community Breakfast, 8:30-10:30 AM, Monmouth Senior Center (M)

Friends/Library bookstore open, 10AM- 2 PM, 311 Monmouth St (I)

Bounces & Rhymes, 10:30 AM, Monmouth Public Library (M)

Family Feud, 7 PM, Rookies Sports Tap, Monmouth

## **Friday, January 2, National Science Fiction Day – also Isaac Asimov's birthday**

Serving Tri Tip, Golden Hop Saloon, 133 C St (I)

The McAllister 4, 1-4 PM, Elysium Botanicals (I)

Johnny Wheels & The Swamp Donkeys, 6-9 PM, Elysium Botanicals

## **Saturday, January 3, Alaska became the 49<sup>th</sup> state, 1959**

Friends of the Library Book Sale, 10AM – 3PM, 311 Monmouth St (I)

Bingo at the Elks Lodge, 1 PM, 289 S Main St (I)

Brunch served, 11 AM – 2 PM, Golden Hop Saloon, 133 C St, (I)

The Roundhouse Band, 6-9 PM, Elysium Botanicals (I)

## **Sunday, January 4, National Trivia Day**

Polk County Flea Market, 6am (early bird), 9am (general admission), Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall

Brunch served, 11 AM – 2 PM, Golden Hop Saloon, 133 C St, (I)

The Feel Good YaYas, 1-4 PM, Elysium Botanicals (I)

Visit & Create, 4-7 PM, Spectrum Artworx (M)

## **Monday, January 5, 1972 Nixon approved \$5.5B for space shuttle**

Monday BOGO 50% Burgers, Golden Hop Saloon, 133 C St, (I)

## **Tuesday, January 6, Pepe Le Pew (cartoon) debuted in 1945**

Monmouth Library's "Spot the Plot Scavenger Hunt" begins today and runs through the end of the month

Monmouth Business Assn. meets, 8 AM, Monmouth City Hall, 151 Main St W (M)

Veteran's Chat, 10-11 AM, Heron Pointe Sr. Living, 504 Gwinn St E (M)

Taco Tuesday at Rookies Sports Tap (M)

Family Story Time, 10:30 AM, Monmouth Public Library (M)

Happy Hour all day, Golden Hop Saloon, 133 C St (I)

Age Café, 10 AM, Monmouth Senior Community Center (M)

Family Story Time, 10:30 AM, Monmouth Library (M)

Epoxy Resin Casting, 4-7 PM, Spectrum Artworx (M)

CHS Girls Basketball vs McKay, 5:30 PM, at CHS

CHS Boy's Basketball vs McKay, 7 PM, at CHS

Monmouth City Council meets, 6:30 PM, 151 Main St W (M)

## **Wednesday, January 7, 1782, 1<sup>st</sup> commercial bank in US opened**

Office hours, Indep. Mayor Kate Schwarzler, 8:30-10:30 AM, 555 Main St (I)

Pre-Kindergarten Wednesday Workshops, 10-11:30 AM, Ash Creek Arts Center, 311 Monmouth St (I)

Storytime, 10:30 AM, Independence Library (I)

Polk Co Master Gardeners Info Session, 12-1 PM, Online

Get Lit Book Club, 6 PM, Monmouth Library (M)

Polk Co Master Gardeners Info Session, 6-7 PM, Online

## **Thursday, January 8, 1964, LBJ declared the "War on Poverty"**

Serving Prime Rib, Golden Hop Saloon, 133 C St (I)

Age Café, 10 AM, Monmouth Sr. Comm. Center, 180 Warren St (M)

Friends/Library bookstore open, 10AM- 2 PM, 311 Monmouth St (I)

Bounces & Rhymes, 10:30 AM, Monmouth Public Library (M)

Runaway Arts Art Journaling with Christy Wood, 3-6 PM, Spectrum Artworx (M)

Teen & Adult Paint with Jen, 4 PM, Independence Library (I)

Museum's Winter Speaker Series with Andante Vineyard, 6 PM, Valkyrie Wine Tavern (I)

WOU Women's Basketball vs Montana State University, 7 PM, WOU

Family Feud, 7 PM, Rookies Sports Tap (M)

Climate Café, 7-8:30 PM, Monmouth Senior Center (M)

## **Friday, January 9, The first iPhone is introduced, 2007**

### **Last day to order hearts for the Walk of Hearts**

Serving Tri Tip, Golden Hop Saloon, 133 C St (I)

Open Studio, 12-3 PM, Spectrum Artworx (M)

The EDGE Band, 6-9 PM, Elysium Botanicals (I)

## **Saturday, January 10, The League of Nations was formed in 1920**

Saturday Youth Class, 10 AM – 12 PM, Ash Creek Arts Center, 311 Monmouth St (I)

Community Craft Day, 10 AM-4 PM, Monmouth Sr Comm Ctr (M)

Brunch served, 11 AM – 2 PM, Golden Hop Saloon, 133 C St (I)

Veteran of the Month, 1 PM, Heritage Museum & Riverview Park (I), if held

Bingo at the Elks Lodge, 1 PM, 289 S Main St (I)

WOU Women's Basketball vs Seattle Pacific University, 2 PM, WOU

SureFire, 6-9 PM, Elysium Botanicals (I)

## **Sunday, January 11, 1964, US Surgeon General declared cigarettes may be hazardous to health**

Brunch served, 11 AM – 2 PM, Golden Hop Saloon, 133 C St (I)

Jon Franke, 1-4 PM, Elysium Botanicals (I)

Beginner PanPastel, 5-7 PM, Spectrum Artworx (M)

## **Monday, January 12, "Batman" debuts on TV, 1966**

*Applications open for City of Monmouth 2026 Spring Tree Planting Contest*

Monday BOGO 50% Burgers, Golden Hop Saloon, 133 C St (I)

3 Session, Kathleen Flanigan Cartooning, 4-6 PM, Spectrum Artworx (M)

## **Tuesday, January 13, The National Geographic Society is founded, 1888**

Happy Hour all day, Golden Hop Saloon, 133 C St (I)

Taco Tuesday at Rookies Sports Tap, Monmouth

Age Café, 10 AM, Monmouth Senior Community Center (M)

Family Story Time, 10:30 AM, Monmouth Public Library (M)

Computer Basics Free Computer Class, 1-2:30, Mon. Library (M)

MiniFig Painting, 4-7 PM, Spectrum Artworx (M)

Independence City Council meets, 6:30 PM, 555 S Main St (I)

## **Wednesday, January 14, "The Simpsons" debut on TV, 1990**

WOU Wednesday!

Office hours, Indep. Mayor Kate Schwarzler, 8:30-10:30 AM, 555 Main St (I)

Chamber Greeters, 8:30 AM, Michelle Ashley Custom Cakes at Brew Coffee & Taphouse (I)

Pre-Kinder Wednesday Workshop, 10-11:30 AM, Ash Creek Arts Center, 311 Monmouth St (I)

Storytime, 10:30 AM, Independence Library (I)

CHS Boys and Girls Wrestling Dual BWR Meet, 6 PM, at CHS

Open Mic Night, 6-8 PM, Brew Coffee & Tap House (I)

Music Jam Night, 6 PM, Monmouth Senior Community Center (M)

# Community Calendar January 2026

## **Thursday, January 15, Wikipedia was launched**

Serving Prime Rib, Golden Hop Saloon, 133 C St (I)  
Friends/Library bookstore open, 10AM- 2 PM, 311 Monmouth St (I)  
Bounces & Rhymes, 10:30 AM, Monmouth Public Library (M)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Book Club, 2 PM, Monmouth Public Library (M)  
Family Coloring Club, 4 PM, Independence Library (I)  
Thirsty Thursday, 5:30 PM, 211 Main St (I)  
Thursday Adult Art Class, 6:30-8:30 PM, Ash Creek Arts Center, 311 Monmouth St (I)

WOU Men's Basketball vs Simon Fraser University, 7 PM, at WOU  
Family Feud, 7 PM, Rookies Sports Tap, Monmouth

## **Friday, January 16, "Superman" comics debuted, 1939**

Serving Tri Tip, Golden Hop Saloon, 133 C St (I)  
CHS Girls Basketball vs Silverton, 5:30 PM, at CHS  
The Blue Light, 6-9 PM, Elysium Botanicals (I)  
CHS Boys Basketball vs Silverton 7 PM, at CHS

## **Saturday, January 17, Benjamin Franklin, Betty White, & Al Capone's Birthdays**

Community Craft Day, 10 AM-4 PM, Mon. Sr. Comm. Ctr. (M)  
Streamside Stewardship, 11 AM, Monmouth Library (M)  
Brunch served, 11 AM – 2 PM, Golden Hop Saloon, 133 C St (I)  
Annual Membership Meeting & Election of Officers, 1 PM, Polk County Museum, Rickreall

Bingo at the Elks Lodge, 1 PM, 289 S Main St (I)  
Beginner Drawing Misha Pierce, 4-8 PM, Spectrum Artworx (M)  
Northwest Transit Band, 6-9 PM, Elysium Botanicals (I)  
Nickerson-Rossi Dance, 7:30 PM, Rice Auditorium (M)

## **Sunday, January 18, Daniel Webster & A A Milne's birthdays**

Brunch served, 11 AM – 2 PM, Golden Hop Saloon, 133 C St (I)  
Let's Draw at the Gallery, 1 PM, River Gallery, 184 S Main St (I)  
Beth & Friends, 2-4 PM, Elysium Botanicals (I)  
Visit & Create, 4-7 PM, Spectrum Artworx (M)

## **Monday, January 19, MLK Day**

MLK Day of Service, 9 AM, gather at Monmouth Senior Ctr (M)  
3 Session, Kathleen Flanigan Cartooning, 4-6 PM, Spectrum Artworx (M)

## **Tuesday, January 20, The Beatles release 1st album in US, 1964**

Family Story Time, 10:30 AM, Monmouth Library (M)  
Mystery Book Club, 4 PM, Independence Library (I)  
CHS Girls Basketball vs Corvallis, 5:30 PM, at CHS  
CHS Boys Basketball vs Corvallis, 7 PM, at CHS

## **Wednesday, January 21, 1<sup>st</sup> nuclear submarine launched, 1954**

Office hours, Indep. Mayor Kate Schwarzler, 8:30-10:30 AM, 555 Main St (I)  
Storytime, 10:30 AM, Independence Library (I)  
Lunch & Learn – Reset & Rebuild Your Year, 12-1 PM, Independence Civic Center (I)

Ukulele Jan Night, 6 PM, Monmouth Senior Center (M)

## **Thursday, January 22, 1924, First transatlantic flight, 1970**

Taco Tuesday at Rookies Sports Tap, Monmouth  
Launch Mid-Valley Coffee Club, 9 AM, Indy Commons (I)  
Friends/Library bookstore open, 10AM- 2 PM, 311 Monmouth St (I)  
Bounces & Rhymes, 10:30 AM, Monmouth Public Library (M)  
M-I Night Shift, 5:30 PM, The Sippery Coffee Co (M)

## **Friday, January 23, Rock & Roll Hall of Fame 1st inductions, 1986**

Open Studio, 12-3 PM, Spectrum Artworx (M)  
Rewind Band, 6-9 PM, Elysium Botanicals (I)

## **Saturday, January 24, California Gold Rush began, 1848**

Bingo at the Elks Lodge, 1 PM, 289 S Main St (I)

Zen Tangle Drawing, Misha Pierce, 4-6 PM, Spectrum Artworx (M)

## **Sunday, January 25, 1<sup>st</sup> Transcontinental Flight (CA to NY), 1959**

*Last day to submit information to 2C1C for February edition*  
Beginner PanPastel, 5-7 PM, Spectrum Artworx (M)

## **Monday, January 26, British settled Australia, 1899, with 778 convicts**

3 Session, Kathleen Flanigan Cartooning, 4-6 PM, Spectrum Artworx (M)

## **Tuesday, January 27, Birthday of Mozart (1756)**

Family Story Time, 10:30 AM, Monmouth Public Library (M)  
Snowman Crafts, 4 PM, Independence Library (I)  
Epoxy Resin Casting, 4-7 PM, Spectrum Artworx (M)  
Independence City Council meets, 6:30 PM, 555 S Main St (I)

## **Wednesday, January 28, National Data Privacy Day**

Greeters, 8:30 AM, The Gate Youth Association (I)  
Office hours, Indep. Mayor Kate Schwarzler, 8:30-10:30 AM, 555 Main St (I)

Pre-Kinder Wednesday Workshop, 10-11:30 AM, Ash Creek Arts Center, 311 Monmouth St (I)

Storytime, 10:30 AM, Independence Library (I)

Lego Party & Contest, 3-4:30 PM, Monmouth Library (M)

## **Thursday, January 29, Prohibition was made law by the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment, 1919**

Friends/Library bookstore open, 10AM- 2 PM, 311 Monmouth St (I)  
Bounces & Rhymes, 10:30 AM, Monmouth Public Library (M)  
WOU Women's Basketball vs Simon Fraser Univ., 5:15 PM, WOU  
WOU Men's Basketball vs Seattle Pacific Univ., 7:30 PM, at WOU

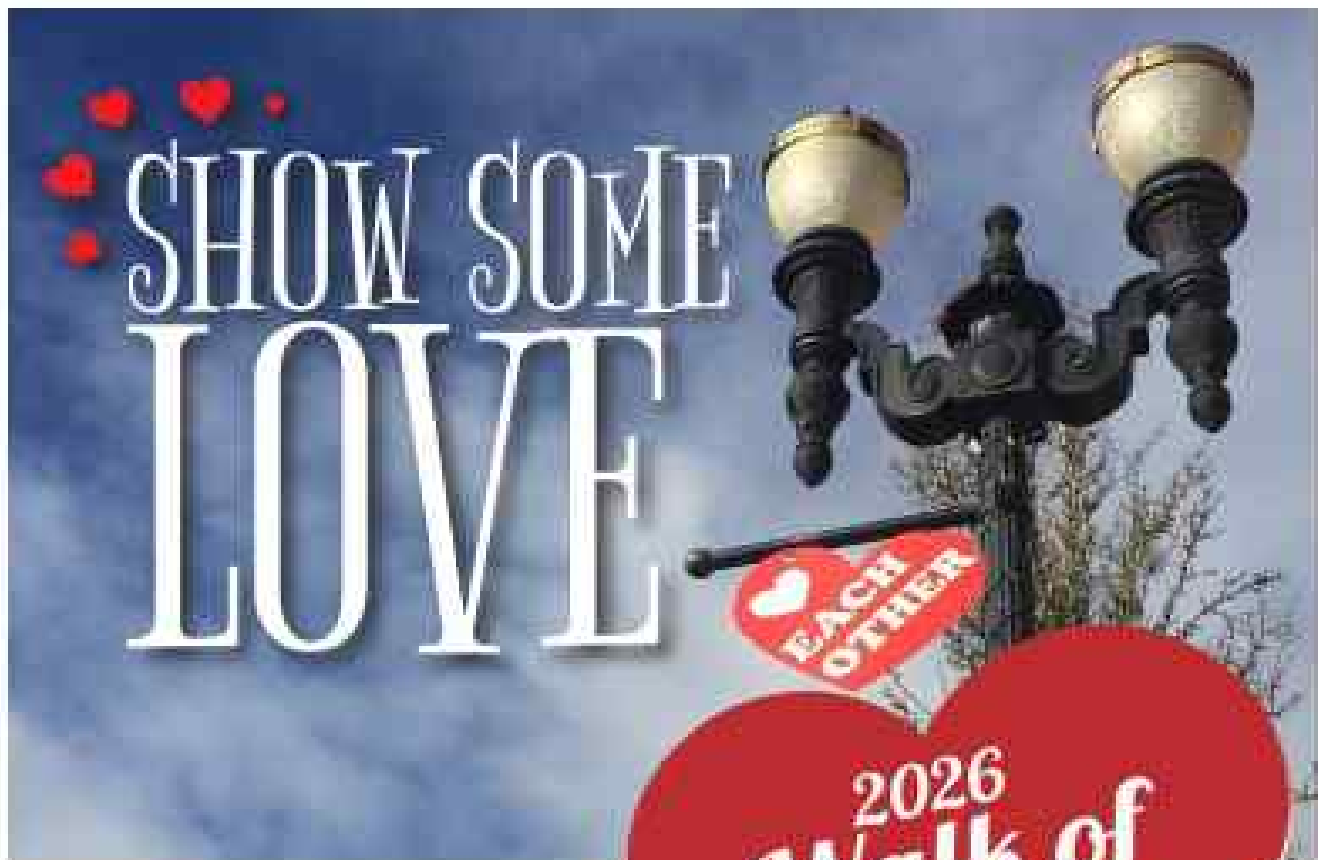
## **Friday, January 30, The "Lone Ranger" begins a 21-year radio run in 1933**

Movie "Freakier Friday", 2:00 PM, Monmouth Library (M)  
CHS Girls Basketball vs Crescent Valley, 5:30 PM, at CHS  
CHS Boys Basketball vs Crescent Valley, 7 PM, at CHS  
"You Can't Take It With You", 7:30 PM, Pentacle Theatre, West Salem

## **Saturday, January 31, 1<sup>st</sup> Social Security Check issued (\$22.54) in 1940**

Saturday Workshop, 10 AM-3 PM, Ash Creek Arts Center, 311 Monmouth St (I)  
Runaway Arts Introduction to Gel Plating with Christy Wood, 12-3 PM, Spectrum Artworx (M)  
Bingo at the Elks Lodge, 1 PM, 289 S Main St (I)  
WOU Women's Basketball vs Western Washington Univ., 2 PM WOU  
"You Can't Take It With You", 7:30 PM, Pentacle Theatre, West Salem

***Love Local Scratch-It Promotion begins tomorrow!***



**Express your sentiment with a personal message on a bright red heart.**

Your message of love will hang on a lamp post in downtown Independence during the month of February.

Scan QR to order your heart TODAY!

Order forms at [www.downtownindependence.com](http://www.downtownindependence.com)

Order DEADLINE: **January 9th, 2026**

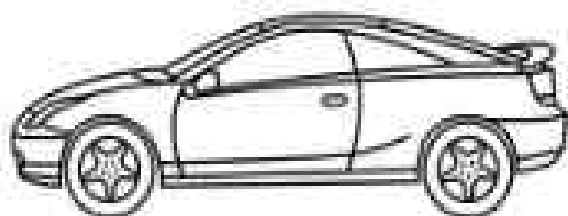




# MINET FIBER

Monmouth Independence Network  
**THE POWER OF LOCAL**

503 837-0700,  
www.minetfiber.com  
405 Hogan Rd N, Monmouth



## TRANSPARENT — AUTO REPAIR —

503 930-5749, Scott@TransparentAutoRepair.com  
Hours by Appointment  
Location: 4545 Independence Hwy, Building 22,  
Independence

Did you  
know...  
Batman,  
the TV  
series,  
debuted in  
January of  
1966.



## Maganda Glassworks LLC

599B S 3rd St, Independence, OR 97351  
(503)606-6646

We have drop in  
options under \$25



**Come for a class!**

**We teach fused glass, stained  
glass & torchwork!**



**Perfect for date night or group event!**

*A special place where people gather,  
connect & create beautiful things together!*

See our class schedule on our website or by clicking  
"Book Me" on Facebook

Monday	1:00pm - 8:30pm
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	10:00am - 4:30pm
Thursday	10:00am - 8:30pm
Friday	9:00am - 8:30pm
Saturday	9:00am - 6:00pm
Sunday	Closed

Square



MagandaGlassworks.com



# PARTICIPATING BUSINESS

Make a purchase of \$5 or more and  
**RECEIVE A SCRATCH-IT**  
Winning Prize card!

## PROMOTION DETAILS

While supplies last, February 1st through the 28th, 2026.  
**LOVE YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES** by making a purchase of  
\$5 or more from any of the participating vendors and  
receive a Scratch-it with each purchase.

## EVERYONE IS A WINNER!

Each Scratch-it is worth  
\$1, \$5, \$10 or \$20 towards your next purchase at  
any participating business through February 28th.



The City of  
Independence

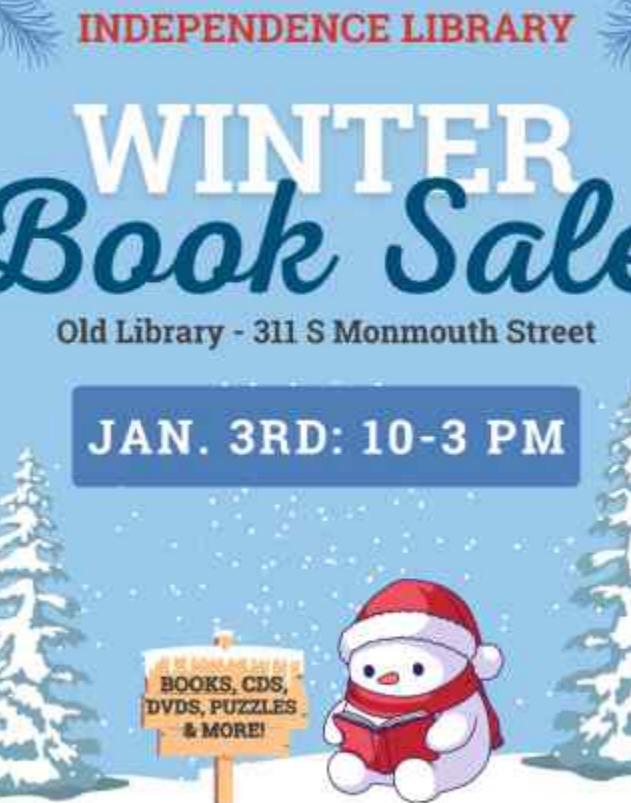
This promotion brought to you by

The Independence  
Downtown Assoc. (IDA)





A colorful graphic for the City of Monmouth Tree Board 2026 Spring Tree Planting Contest. The background is a light blue sky with two dark blue clouds. At the top, the text "City of Monmouth" is in a large, bold, dark blue font. Below it, "Tree Board" is in a smaller, dark blue font. To the right, "2026 Spring Tree Planting Contest" is written in a large, bold, dark blue font. In the center, there is a cartoon illustration of a small, orange-brown house with a red roof, a chimney, and a front door with a rainbow. The house is surrounded by green grass and several trees, including two large green evergreens and some smaller trees with orange and yellow autumn foliage. A speech bubble from the right says "Win and Save!". At the bottom, the text "Application available: January 12" and "Deadline to enter: February 6" is written in a dark blue font.



FRIENDS OF THE  
INDEPENDENCE LIBRARY

WINTER  
*Book Sale*

Old Library - 311 S Monmouth Street

JAN. 3RD: 10-3 PM

READ AND SAVE!  
BOOKS, CDS,  
DVDS, PUZZLES  
& MORE!

For more info: Call 503-838-1811

# Native Plant Sale – Bareroot Trees and Shrubs

Our bareroot sale is back! We are doing a pre-orders only. Sorry, no in-person purchasing will be available. Pre-order now and pick up at the Delbert Hunter Arboretum in Dallas in February. See details below.

*If you are seeking a large quantity of something that you don't see listed, please reach out. We may be able to accommodate. Contact our Outreach Coordinator, Morgan Neil at: [morgan.neil@polkswcd.com](mailto:morgan.neil@polkswcd.com).*

## Pick up details:

**Saturday, February 21, 9am-1pm**

Delbert Hunter Arboretum

631 SW Park St.

Dallas, OR 97338



**POLK**  
**SOIL & WATER**  
**CONSERVATION**  
**OREGON**

**Join us at “Climate Cafe” on January 8, 2026 from 7:00 - 8:30 PM**

The Monmouth-Independence Climate Group will host an open exploration of personal emotions around climate anxiety in a supportive, “Cafe-Style” setting. Please join us to listen and share the often complex feelings and concerns about this pressing issue. 7:00 - 8:30 PM January 8, 2026, Monmouth Event/Senior Center, 180 Warren Street, Monmouth. People of all ages are invited to attend.

Here is a diagram of emotions frequently associated with anxiety about the climate situation. The January Climate Cafe will focus on the “Fear” quadrant. February, March and April’s Cafés will focus on Sadness, Anger and Positivity, respectively.





# UPCOMING EVENTS **JANUARY**



**WED  
14TH**

## **GREETERS**

Michelle Ashley Custom Cakes  
@Brew - 8:30am

## **LUNCH&LEARN - RESET & REBUILD YOUR YEAR**

Independence Civic Center | 12PM-1PM

**WED  
21ST**

**THUR  
22ND**

## **M-I NIGHT SHIFT**

The Sipperry Coffee Co. &  
HomeSmart Sisters Reality | 5:30PM

**NEW**

## **GREETERS**

The Gate Youth Association  
8:30AM

**WED  
28TH**



### **POLK COUNTY MUSEUM PROGRAM:**

Annual Membership Meeting, Election of  
Officers

January 17, 2026, 1 PM

Polk County Museum, Rickreall

### **Mozart's Birthday**

On January 27, 1756, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
was born in Salzburg, Austria.

He started making music at age 5, and in the next  
30 years, until his very untimely death, he was in-  
credibly creative. Mozart, the  
musical genius, created over  
600 compositions, including  
operas, symphonies, piano and  
five violin solos, works for  
string quartets, masses, and  
more.



# Sign up to Host 2026 Networking Calendar is **OPEN!**



**Greeters:** Every 2nd and  
4th Wednesday at 8:30  
AM

**M-I Night Shift:** 3rd  
Thursday at 5:30 PM



**Enhanced Visibility**  
Your business fosters  
connections.



**Meaningful Connections**  
People remember who  
hosted the room.



**Community Impact**  
Hosting means giving back  
and standing out.

**Attention MICC Members!**  
We're eager to showcase you, your  
business, and your organization in  
2026! Sign up today to host one of our  
monthly networking events.



Scan the QR code and fill  
out the 2026 interest form!

## Sign up today!



**Phone**  
503-838-4268



**Website**  
[www.micc-or.org](http://www.micc-or.org)



## ABOUT 2C1C, Two Cities, One Community:

- 2C1C has a standing policy of giving free advertising to local businesses! These ads are generally sized from to 1/3 to 1/4 page. Smaller print will be accommodated or edited for space and clarity.
- Deadline for submissions is the 25th of the month.
- This online magazine is ready to publish by the 1st of each month.
- If you have questions, please let us know by texting 2C1C at 503 580-8525, or send an email to marilyn97351@gmail.com.

If you have an **event** or **advertisement** to be featured in a future edition of 2C1C, please send your information to the one of the contacts shown above. As noted, information and/or ad copy is needed by or before the 25th of the month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

*2C1C, Two Cities, One Community, has been a regular monthly publication since May, 2012. Editor: Marilyn Morton*



Sign up by January 12



<https://tinyurl.com/59nh8e8d>

## 2026 MLK DAY OF SERVICE

Help make a difference in Monmouth. Join the City of Monmouth and volunteer and give back on this national day of service. Volunteers will help do basic yard work and cleaning for community members who need assistance. We will gather at 9:00am at the Monmouth Senior Community Center at 180 Warren St. and volunteer activities will take place until 12:00pm.



If you have any questions, please reach out to Suzanne Dufner at 503-751-0147  
[sdufner@ci.monmouth.or.us](mailto:sdufner@ci.monmouth.or.us)

## January 19, 2026

### Friends of the Monmouth Senior Center Pancake Breakfast

First Saturday of every month, 8:30 AM, Monmouth Senior Center, 180 S Warren St, Monmouth. Join us the first Saturday of every month: for \$10 all-you-can-eat pancakes, eggs, sausage, biscuits & gravy, juice, and coffee.

We'll save a seat for you!  
**NEXT PANCAKE BREAKFAST IS  
FEBRUARY 7TH**







Thank you, MINET, for wi-fi  
on the trolley!

**Monmouth Monthly:**  
ci.monmouth.or.us

**River City Briefs:**  
ci.independence.or.us

**Subscribe  
to these  
monthly  
newsletters**

Find out  
what's going  
Happening  
in our  
communities!

*River City Briefs*



**INDEPENDENCE**  
*Oregon's Story Begins Here*

# River Gallery

It's time to usher the New Year in! **River Gallery** is prepared to celebrate the New Year with you and about 65 local artists with Fine Art to Folk Art. Pop in to celebrate the New Year!

**Window Show Artist:** Gerry Brehm. We all love our animals and Gerry's animal kingdom, including his Ceramic Buffalo, will delight you! You will definitely be enchanted with his eclectic designs.

**Focus Show Artist:** Pam Serra-Wenz. Pam says that the results of her dreams are reflected in some of her abstract paintings.



**River Gallery**

184 S. Main Street, Independence  
541 838-6171, [rivergalleryart.com](http://rivergalleryart.com)



## WESTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY HOME GAMES & TOURNAMENTS

- January 8:** Women's basketball vs Montana State University Billings. 7 p.m.
- January 10:** Women's basketball vs Seattle Pacific University. 2 p.m.
- January 15:** Men's basketball vs Simon Fraser University. 7 p.m.
- January 17:** Women's basketball vs Saint Martins University. 2 p.m.
- January 29:** Women's basketball vs Simon Fraser University. 5:15 p.m.
- January 29:** Men's basketball vs Seattle Pacific University. 7:30 p.m.
- January 31:** Women's basketball vs Western Washington University. 2 p.m.

## CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL HOME GAMES & TOURNAMENTS

- January 6:** Girl's Basketball vs McKay, 5:30 PM
- January 6:** Boy's Basketball vs McKay, 7 PM
- January 14:** Boy's & Girl's Wrestling Dual BWR Meet, 6 PM
- January 16:** Girl's Basketball vs Silverton, 5:30 PM
- January 16:** Boy's Basketball vs Silverton, 7 PM
- January 20:** Girl's Basketball vs Corvallis, 5:30 PM
- January 20:** Boy Basketball vs Corvallis, 7 PM
- January 30:** Girl's Basketball vs Crescent Valley, 5:30 PM
- January 30:** Boy's Basketball vs Crescent Valley, 7 PM

*Ask Me Anything!*

## MAYOR OFFICE HOURS

Every Wednesday morning, 8:30 - 10:30 AM |  
Ash Creek Conference Room, Independence Civic Center



Mayor Kate Schwarzler

## Smith Fine Arts Series



### Nickerson-Rossi Dance, January 17, 7:30 PM, Rice Auditorium

Michael Nickerson-Rossi's choreography is filled with a complexity that takes the audience through a beautifully orchestrated mixture of artistic movement and emotional freedom. This intricate, evocative performance is sure to showcase the beauty and art of dance at its finest. The Nickerson-Rossi Dance Company has performed his innovative contemporary dance works with a balletic touch internationally and are an anchor to the Palm Springs dance community.





You can use your **Polk County Community E-Gift Card** at a **variety of retail, restaurant, service, and entertainment locations**, making it easy and convenient to use the same gift card at multiple locations.

This makes the Polk County Community Card an ideal gift for any occasion: from employee rewards to holiday surprises, the Community Card works for everyone. New businesses continue to join the **merchant** network so be sure to check back to find out about the latest small businesses you can support.

## Call for Art 2026

in the Monmouth City Hall Rotating Gallery

### Theme “Anything Goes”

Landscape, Still Life, Abstract, Portrait, Photos, etc



Applications and guidelines can be found on line under the Arts & Culture Commission link under City Government @ <https://www.ci.monmouth.or.us> or by scanning the QR codes below

Application  
QR Code



Guidelines  
QR Code



GREENWOOD GROUP PRESENTS

## THE 9TH ANNUAL WINTER COAT DRIVE

BEGINNING OCTOBER 6TH, 2025  
THRU THE 2025/26 WINTER SEASON

OUR EFFORTS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT  
THE ELLA CURRAN FOOD BANK

**DONATION BOXES AVAILABLE:**

- EXP REALTY OFFICE  
(163 D ST, INDEPENDENCE)
- CITY OF INDEPENDENCE  
CIVIC CENTER
- GROCERY OUTLET  
(1405 MONMOUTH ST)



LIZ BOISVERT 541-243-2547  
LIZ@GREENWOODGROUPOREGON.COM  
LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKER





Friday, January 23 is **Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Day**, when new members are inducted.

The first members inducted (in 1986) were :

Little Richard  
 Chuck Berry  
 James Brown  
 Ray Charles  
 Sam Cooke  
 Fats Domino  
 The Everly Brothers  
 Buddy Holly  
 Jerry Lee Lewis  
 Elvis Presley

**LONG LIVE ROCK ‘N’ ROLL!**





# JANUARY



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> Open Monday - Thursday 11-6 pm				<b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</b>		<b>Friends Book Sale</b> 10-3 pm (Old Library)
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			<b>Storytime</b> 10:30 am	<b>Teen &amp; Adult Paint with Jen</b> 4 pm		
11	12		13	14	15	16
			<b>Storytime</b> 10:30 am	<b>Family Coloring Club</b> 4 pm		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		<b>Mystery Book Club</b> 4 pm	<b>Storytime</b> 10:30 am			
25		27	28	29	30	31
		<b>Snowman Crafts</b> 4 pm	<b>Storytime</b> 10:30 am			

## GOLDEN HOP SALOON

133 C St. \* INDEPENDENCE, OR 97351

### WEEKLY SPECIALS:

**MONDAY:**

**BOGO 50% BURGERS**

**TUESDAY:**

**Happy Hour ALL DAY**

**WEDNESDAY:**

**WOU WEDNESDAYS**

**THURSDAY:**



**FRIDAY:**



**SAT & SUN:**



## BINGO

AT THE ELKS LODGE



**SATURDAYS AT 1 PM**  
**\$20 ENTRY CASH PRIZES**

**INDEPENDENCE ELKS LODGE #1550**  
 289 S. MAIN STREET INDEPENDENCE, OREGON

### Specific needs

- Cereal
- Canned fruit
- Canned/boxed milk
- Canned tuna/chicken
- Corn
- Dry Beans
- Hamburger Helper
- Hearty soups
- Instant oatmeal
- Pasta and sauces
- Peanut butter
- Rice
- Rice-a-roni
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Toilet Paper
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes

Monetary donations



# Ella Curran Food Bank

### *Watch us Grow:*

The new Ella Curran Food Bank building is going up on Hoffman Road. So far franchise utilities & irrigation sleeves are installed, curbs and paving are in, and the bio-swale is under construction.

### How to help

- **Drop off donations:** Deliver food or monetary donations to 865 N Main St, Independence, during operating hours.
- **Volunteer:** Fill out a volunteer interest form on their website.
- **Donate online or by check:** Send monetary donations via their website or mail a check to the address on their website.

**The Ella Curran Food Bank  
is a 501(c)3 organization  
870 N. Main St., PO Box 547  
Independence**

**Mondays 4-6 PM  
Tuesdays 9-11:30 AM, 4-6 PM  
Thursdays 9-11:30 AM. 4-6 PM**

**THE POWER OF  
ONE GREEN BAG**  
BUILDING COMMUNITY.  
SHARING FOOD.  
**ONEGREENBAG.ORG**  
**#ShareMore**



**THE ELLA CURRAN FOOD BANK**  
**870 N. Main St., Independence, OR 97351**  
**EllaCurranFoodBank@gmail.com, ellacurranfoodbank.org**





# YOU'RE INVITED!

## 61<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL

# MICC

## COMMUNITY AWARDS

DENIM TO DIAMONDS, CELEBRATING COMMUNITY STARS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2026

WESTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

6 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

PRESENTED BY OUR HEADLINER SPONSOR:



**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

TABLES OF 8 - \$400

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS - \$55

PAIRS - \$100



**Did you know that  
January 2 is  
National Science  
Fiction Day?**

Oregon has made a  
grand contribution  
to the genre.

Here are some of  
the most  
recognizable names  
of Oregon Sci-Fi  
authors:

Ursula K. LeGuin

Frank Herbert

Ken Kesey

Jean Auel

Katherine Dunn



**THURSDAY,  
JANUARY 1, 2026,  
8:30 AM-10:30 AM  
Monmouth Senior  
Center,  
180 Warren St,  
Monmouth**



Central Lions Club



# FREE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST





## INDEPENDENCE DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION (IDA), PO BOX 446, INDEPENDENCE, OR 97351

The IDA Board meets monthly on the 1st Thursday, 8 AM, at K Insurance Group, Independence. All welcome!

### **FEBRUARY: WALK OF HEARTS**

Promotion begins in December, continues through January. The hearts are \$35/side, or \$65 for both sides. If you purchase both sides you may have your heart when it comes down in early March. In 2025 IDA filled every light pole in town with hearts. People come downtown to walk to find their hearts. That's potential business going right down Main Street and beyond.

### **FEBRUARY: LOVE LOCAL SCRATCH-ITS**

A city program being managed by IDA in 2026. Scratch off tickets reveal discounts of \$1 to \$20 usable at any participating business.

### **MID-MAY: FLOWER BASKETS**

go up in downtown. Earnings from the Walk of Hearts goes toward purchasing the ever-growing number of downtown flower baskets.

### **JUNE: THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL CELEBRATION**

Happening on the last Friday of school. From 3-5 PM kids and parents come downtown to celebrate with free handouts for kids. Have a booth at the top of the park or a sale or a special happening in your shop aimed at kids and families. In 2025 over 500 kids visited downtown with their family members.

### **SEPTEMBER 26, THE HOP & HERITAGE FESTIVAL**

Since 2001 Hop & Heritage has happened in Independence. For 2026 look for a Fresh Hop Festival, wine tasting in the businesses, and buskers/music on the sidewalks. Bring potential customers in with wine offerings – IDA provides the wine. Be open and have sales. Sponsor a musical act or special vendor at your venue...many possibilities. Attend a Hop & Heritage Festival planning meeting!

### **OCTOBER 31: TRICK OR TREAT DOWNTOWN**

Monmouth and Independence both do Trick-or-Treat at the businesses. Independence is "open" from 3-5 and Monmouth from 4-6 PM. The trolley is on hand to transport cross-community Halloween participants. Be open, give away candy from your business, or have a booth on the street. Hundreds, of all ages, will come.

### **NOVEMBER: WREATHS AND HOLIDAY DÉCOR DOWNTOWN**

IDA provides the city with lighted wreaths for all the light poles downtown and on Osprey Lane.

### **DECEMBER: GLOW**

The light show in the park, is being taken over by IDA in 2026. IDA appreciates any and all help businesses can give not only to promote the

event, but to enhance it with individual participation.

### **Other things that happen downtown that people to your street, even to your**

**April through October, there are Farmers Markets** at Riverview Park and the Columbia Bank parking lot. Every Saturday from 10 AM to 2 PM expect shoppers downtown.

**4<sup>th</sup> of July:** Independence Days will be back in 2026, but will not be city run. We can't wait to see what special things will be happening. Don't waste the opportunity of so many feet on the street.

**Summer Series:** The City of Independence will once again sponsor the Summer Series at Riverview Park Amphitheatre. In previous years as many as 5,000 visitors have come to town.

**The Ghost Walk:** On the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of October the fun begins with Apparition Avenue at 4-6 PM, where guests visit some of the outlying sites no longer fitting into the big Ghost Walk. Hundreds of people enjoy Apparition Avenue. Then from 7-9 expect up to 2,000 or more people to roam Main and C Streets hearing ghostly tales and historic stories.

**First Saturday in December, the Santa Train** rolls in with gifts for every child and visits with holiday characters. Santa Train Stations and the Independence Elks Club provide this activity happening mostly on C Street.

*The Independence Downtown Association is a 501(c)(3) organization. Any donations made to IDA may be tax deductible. Please consult a tax professional*



# ASH CREEK ARTS CENTER

INVESTIGATE • EDUCATE • CREATE

ASH CREEK ARTS CENTER (ACAC), is a 501(c)(3) organization, funded since 2010 by donations and grants. At 311 Monmouth St, Independence. ***Your donations are always welcome.***



Pre-Kindergarten  
Wednesday Workshops  
January 14 & 28, 2026,  
10-11:30 AM

Join Tobin Roark in this fun and creative art class! Class includes art stations to encourage lots of creativity as well as a larger project students can work on together! Make sure to sign up online to ensure class is a go.



Saturday Youth Class with  
Michele Haney  
January 10, 2026,  
10 AM—12 PM

Join Michele for this fun and creative art class! Recommended elementary school age youth. All supplies provided by ACAC



Thursday Art Class (16+)  
January 15, 2026,  
6:30-8:30 PM



Saturday Workshop with  
Sonia Allen  
January 31, 2026,  
10 AM—1 PM.

Join us for this awesome Saturday workshop

## Exclusive Chamber of Commerce Membership Benefit *Access to Bend Chamber Association Health Plans*

- Association large employer group plans available to any eligible Chamber of Commerce member business with 2 or more employees
- Group health plans with rich benefits unique to large group plans
- Robust in-state PPO Network including OHSU and huge nationwide national in network access
- No charge COBRA administration
- Competitive, stable rates- currently 830 groups with 16,000 lives

To learn more, contact Karen Frascione. K Insurance Group is the exclusive authorized agent to offer the Bend Chamber Association Health Plans in Polk County. We are local active Chamber members. We meet with clients in person. We listen, we advise, we help and support our clients.



Karen Frascione  
503-838-4006 or 503-838-1158  
1327 Monmouth Street  
Independence, OR 97351  
[www.kinsuregroup.com](http://www.kinsuregroup.com)



## COMPUTER BASICS

FREE COMPUTER CLASS

January 13  
1:00-2:30

Learn how to log in, personalize computer settings, navigate applications, and manage files & folders. Includes hands-on practice. Build a strong foundation by learning the basics of computer use!

**CareerCenter**  
GOODWILL *Jan Seratians*



The mission of Goodwill Industries of the Columbia Willamette (GICW) is to provide vocational opportunities to people with disabilities as well as others with barriers to employment. To support this mission, GICW's Career Center program provides free workshops to community partners in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

## January 2026 Adult Programs

December 16 -  
February 14



## Cozy Up with a Book

Winter Reading Program

Read for 30 days to enter a prize raffle for a quilt, afghan, or stuffed animal handmade by the CLT 4 Charity.

Receive a hot cocoa spoon when you turn in your bookmark, too!

All Ages!



Join Aubrey Cloud from the Luckiamute Watershed Council for an informative talk on maintaining healthy streamside habitats.

January 17 @ 11:00 am

## Streamside Stewardship

Best Practices for Riparian Vegetation Management



Aubrey will share guidance on identifying native and nonnative species, removing invasive trees, and applying best practices near waterways to support resilient plant and wildlife communities.



Polk Co. Master Gardeners will be available 10:30-11:00 to answer your garden questions.

OSU Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities and materials. Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made two weeks before the program to Brooke Edmunds, 503-673-8395, brooke.edmunds@oregonstate.edu.



Oregon State University  
Extension Service



# JANUARY 2026

## Monmouth Public Library Youth Events

### FAMILY STORYTIME

**TUESDAYS AT 10:30 AM**

Join Librarian Hilary for our winter series full of stories, songs, and fun, followed by a craft! Ideal for ages 3 - 5.



### BOUNCES & RHYMES

**THURSDAYS AT 10:30 AM**

Join Librarian Hilary for our winter series full of bounces, rhymes, and songs, followed by a stay-and-play. Ideal for babies through age 2.

### LEGO PARTY & CONTEST

**JANUARY 28 FROM 3:00 - 4:30 PM**

Celebrate Lego's birthday, build with our Legos, and create a spaceship to enter in our Lego contest! Lego spaceships will be displayed in the library for community voting. For ages 5 - 18.



### FAMILY MOVIE: FREAKIER FRIDAY

**JANUARY 30 AT 2:00 PM**

As they navigate the challenges that come when two families merge, Tess and Anna discover that lightning might strike twice. Rated PG.



### SPOT THE PLOT SCAVENGER HUNT

**JANUARY 6 - 31**

There are riddles scattered around the library. Find the riddles, then match the correct book to the riddle!



**(503) 838-1932**

**168 Ecols St S**

**Tuesday-Friday**

**10:00 am-6:00 pm**

**Saturday**

**10:00 am-4:00 pm**

**SHOWTIMES for  
"YOU CAN'T  
TAKE IT WITH  
YOU" at the  
PENTACLE  
THEATRE:**

Friday, January  
30, 7:30 PM

Saturday,  
January 31, 7:30  
PM

Showtimes  
continue in  
February



## MUSIC JAM NIGHT

Second Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm.

## UKULELE JAM NIGHT

Third Wednesday of each month at 6:00pm.

**Monmouth Senior Community Center**  
180 Warren Street South  
Monmouth, OR 97361  
503-838-4874



# COMING SOON

## ADOPT AN ARTIFACT

### FUNDRAISING PROGRAM



You're invited to take part in a new initiative that supports the ongoing care of the museum's collection. By symbolically adopting an artifact for one year, you help us preserve and share the objects that tell Independence's story, so they can be enjoyed for generations to come.

Kicking off at the end of January 2026!



SPONSORED BY THE  
HERITAGE MUSEUM SOCIETY



In 2026, the Heritage Museum celebrates 50 years of preserving Independence history!

# AARP<sup>SM</sup>

## Tax-Aide<sup>TM</sup>

# VITA

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance



**Western Oregon**  
UNIVERSITY

### Free Income Tax Preparation Services!

Both programs operate on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from February 6 through April 11.

By appointment only. Learn more at [www.MITaxResources.org](http://www.MITaxResources.org)



#### AARP Tax-Aide Program

Offers free tax preparation services to low-to-moderate income taxpayers of all ages, but with a focus on those who are 60 years of age and older. You don't need to be an AARP member to take advantage of the Tax-Aide program.

**Appointment requests will be accepted on or after January 15<sup>th</sup>.** Visit our website or text/call 971-915-0316 to make your appointment.

#### WOU VITA Program

Offers free tax preparation services to:

- People who generally make \$67,000 or less
- Persons with disabilities; and
- Limited English-speaking taxpayers

**Many of our tax preparers are fluent in Spanish.**

**Appointment requests will be accepted on or after January 15<sup>th</sup>.** Visit our website or text/call 503-751-4132 to make your appointment.





# HERITAGE MUSEUM PRESENTS WINTER SPEAKER SERIES

JANUARY FEATURED SPEAKER

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:00 PM  
@ THE VALKYRIE WINE TAVERN

## ANDANTE VINEYARD

THE STORY OF ANDANTE VINEYARD AND  
THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY WINE INDUSTRY



Join us for an evening with Andante Vineyard as owners Joe Allan and Karen Saul share the story of their vineyard's beginnings and its place in the history of wine-making in Oregon's Willamette Valley.

### SUGGESTED DONATION AT THE DOOR

Drinks are not included in your donation

All proceeds support the Heritage Museum Society

JOIN US MONTHLY THROUGH MARCH FOR MORE  
ENGAGING SPEAKERS AT THE VALKYRIE WINE TAVERN  
301 S MAIN ST, INDEPENDENCE

-No minors or outside drinks permitted-



# ELYSIUM

botanicals

WINES & VINEYARD

Wine Tasting: \$20 for 5 pours.

Tasting Room Hours of Operation:  
Thursdays 12pm - 8pm; Fridays & Saturdays  
12pm - 9pm; Sundays 12pm - 5pm.

Botanicals Plant Store, Wednesday to  
Sunday, 12-5 PM

8175 Buena Vista Rd  
Independence, Oregon 97351

Phone: (971)-465-7394

Email: [Hospitality@Elysiumbotanicals.com](mailto:Hospitality@Elysiumbotanicals.com)

## MUSIC & ACTIVITY SCHEDULE AT ELYSIUM BOTANICALS WINES & VINEYARD

- Friday, January 2, 1-4 PM, The McAllister 4
- Friday, January 2, 6-9 PM, Johnny Wheels & The Swamp Donkeys
- Saturday, January 3, 6-9 PM, The Roundhouse Band
- Sunday, January 4, 1-4 PM, The Feel Good YaYas
- Friday, January 9, 6-9 PM, The EDGE Band
- Saturday, January 10, 6-9 PM, SureFire
- Sunday, January 11, 1-4 PM, Jon Franke
- Friday, January 16, 6-9 PM, The Blue Light
- Saturday, January 17, 6-9 PM, Northwest Transit Band
- Sunday, January 18, 2-4 PM, Beth & Friends
- Friday, January 23, 6-9 PM, Rewind Band



**VETERAN'S CHAT** FIRST TUESDAY EVERY MONTH 10-11 AM

MAKE NEW FRIENDS!

ENJOY COFFEE & DONUTS

OPEN TO PUBLIC  
JOIN US IN OUR DINING ROOM

503-831-8879 OR  
[SAYHELLO@HERONPOINTESL.COM](mailto:SAYHELLO@HERONPOINTESL.COM)

Independent & Assisted Living for Seniors 55+

**HERON POINTE**  
SENIOR LIVING

heronpointesl.com  
504 Gwinn St. E.  
Monmouth, OR 97361

GUIDED BY GOODNESS, LOYALTY, FAITH, AND FUN

a Compass Senior Living community



American Legion Post 33 and the Heritage Museum present:

*Veteran of the Month*

Each month, the American Legion Post 33 and the Heritage Museum honor a local deceased veteran from Polk County.

On the second Saturday of the month at 1PM, participants meet at the museum, then walk to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to raise the American and service branch flags. At month's end, the flag is presented to the veteran's family.

After the ceremony, attendees return to the museum for refreshments and to share stories.

To honor a veteran contact Billy Whisenant  
Phone: 805-574-9733 | Email: [whitebloom@live.com](mailto:whitebloom@live.com)



## Oregon State University Extension Service



### ONLINE UPCOMING EVENTS FOR POLK COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS:

Jan 7

#### Info Session: Polk Co. Master Gardener Program

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm PST Online

Jan 7

#### Info Session: Polk Co. Master Gardener Program

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm PST Online

Jan 17

#### Streamside Stewardship - Best Practices for Riparian Vegetation Management

11:00 am - 12:00 pm Monmouth Library

Register by visiting <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/program/mg/polk/events>

Other information and training opportunities available!



### **Monmouth Business Association meets Monthly at Monmouth City Hall**

The next meeting is Tuesday, January 6, 8 AM.  
Regular meetings are held on the first Tuesday of  
each month



INDEPENDENCE

**Monthly  
Every 4th Thursday  
at 9am!**

Join Launch Mid-Valley  
and Indy Commons at  
this monthly coffee club  
for business owners,  
entrepreneurs, and  
start-ups to connect and  
learn from one another.  
The next meeting is  
Thursday, January 22,  
2026



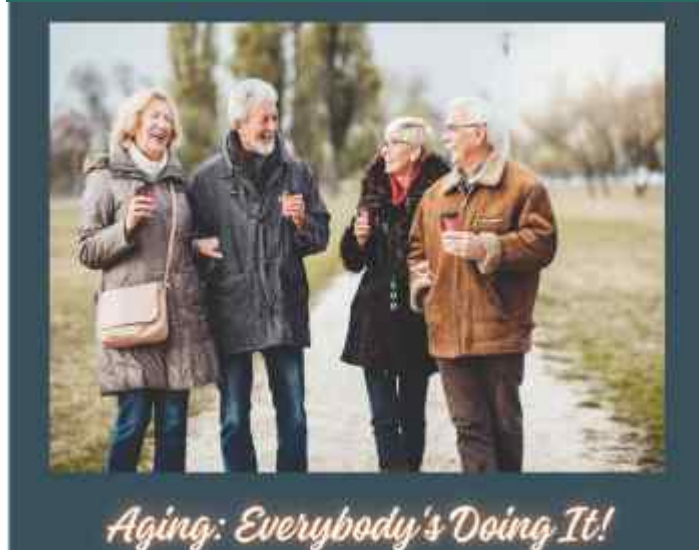


**River Gallery**  
 184 S. Main Street  
 Independence,  
 Oregon 97351  
 503/838-6171  
 rivergalleyart.com



**1ST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH EXCEPT AUGUST. POLK COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS ON HWY 99. OVER 100 VENDORS, 3 BUILDINGS, VINTAGE GOODS, COLLECTIBLES, ANTIQUES, WEIRD WONDERFUL UNIQUE FINDS.**

Early Bird Shoppers \$5, 6-9am. General admission \$1, 9am-3pm. Free Parking. Follow us on Facebook.



Age Café meets at 10 AM on the Second Thursday of each month

**MONMOUTH SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTER**  
 180 WARREN ST. S, MONMOUTH, OR  
 503-838-5678



The third Saturday of each month in 2025.  
 All ages and crafters of all kinds welcome!  
 Bring your own hobbies and food/snacks for the day.

**10:00am to 4:00pm**

**Community  
 Craft Days**

## KEEP WARMTH IN AND COLD OUT.

Add insulation now for year-round comfort and lower energy bills. Upgrading attic or wall insulation can significantly reduce your heating and cooling needs. It's one of the most cost-effective ways to improve comfort.



Claim your rebate  
for upgrading



## GET MORE HOT WATER FOR LESS.

Heat pump water heaters move heat instead of generating it, so they use up to 70% less energy than standard electric water heaters. Meaning lower bills for you and more hot water for your busy household, all year long.



Claim your  
**\$1,800**  
rebate for upgrading



## OPEN TO SAVINGS. CLOSED TO DRAFTS.

Old windows can be a major source of heat loss. Upgrading to energy-efficient windows helps keep your home more comfortable while your energy bills lower throughout the year. They also enhance curb appeal and long-term energy savings.



Claim your rebate  
for upgrading



### President's Message

As the year winds down (and our calendars somehow get fuller), I want to take a moment to say how grateful I am for this incredible business community. Monmouth businesses continue to show up with creativity, collaboration, and heart—and that's what makes this town such a special place to do business.

The holidays are a time for reflection, and for me, they also mark a transition. As I wrap up my time as President of the Monmouth Business Association, I want to say thank you for trusting me with this role. Serving alongside such a dedicated board and membership has been an honor—and yes, I promise I'm not disappearing, just changing seats.

I'm proud of what we've built together and excited to see MBA continue to grow under new leadership. I'll still be cheering you on, shopping local, and showing up whenever I can (old habits die hard).

Wishing you a joyful holiday season, strong year-end sales, and a 2026 that's even better than the last.

Warmly,  
**Roxanne Beltz**  
President, Monmouth Business Association





**December 2025**

As the year comes to an end, Ella Curran Community Food Bank thanks to the MonIndy Green Bag Team! **Thank you** for your commitment to end hunger in our community!

**The MonIndy Green bags are a source of generous food donations and symbol of teamwork as we all work together to help our neighbors!**

**Total statistics for October and November 2025:**

Number of Family visits  
2381 visits

Number of individuals served  
11,166 individuals

**2025 Thanksgiving Dinner Supplies Giveaway**

**This year's Thanksgiving dinner supplies giveaway was the largest ever.** 552 families/ 2404 people received all the supplies to cook a dinner at home: a whole turkey or a whole chicken, a bag of groceries, and bags of potatoes, onions, and carrots. Riverview Park was the location for the drive-through giveaway from 9:00AM-6:00PM on November 25<sup>th</sup>. More than 50 volunteers helped throughout the day. The day was filled with so much appreciation, generosity, and thankfulness!

**Total Number of People Served through November 2025**

**Total number of people served in 2024: 52,517**

**Total number of people served through November 2025: 53,385.**

**Ella Curran Food Bank expands hours of service**

Ella Curran Food Bank now has an additional pantry time on Thursdays from 4:00-6:00PM. Weekly hours are now: Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays: 4:00PM-6:00PM; Tuesdays and Thursdays: 9:00-11:30AM.

**Our New Building project news!**

In November, the new building site completed Phase Two of the building project. Onsite franchise utilities & irrigation sleeves were installed. Curbs are formed and poured, and the excavation of the Bio Swale, wall, and fencing is complete and asphalt is poured. This is a very exciting time! We are now continuing to fundraise for the final phase of the new building project! For more information call Patty: 503-917-1681

**THANK YOU FROM ELLA CURRAN FOOD BANK**

# VOLUNTEER WITH A PURPOSE!



BE PART OF A COMMUNITY THAT DELIVERS NUTRITIOUS MEALS AND JOYFUL SMILES TO SENIORS RIGHT IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

**MONMOUTH COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**180 WARREN ST. S**  
**MONMOUTH OR 97361**

**MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS**



Volunteers enjoy flexible scheduling and receive mileage reimbursement for their deliveries.

503-967-1849



volunteer@nwsds.org



**2000-2025**

*Two Cities, One Legacy*

**Did you know...**

Since its beginning in 2000, the Monmouth-Independence Community Foundation has given away over \$1,000,000 to our two communities?

**Did you know...**

Monmouth-Independence Community Foundation holds and grows funds for over 20 local non-profits and agencies?

**Local supporting local!**

## SUPPORT WHAT YOU LOVE ABOUT INDEPENDENCE

You now have the option to financially support the Independence Public Library, Museum, and Parks, either with a one-time donation or by becoming a monthly supporter.



**INDEPENDENCE**  
Progress. Every. Day.

Support the Independence Public Library, Museum, and Parks with either with a one-time donation or by becoming a monthly supporter.

Your contribution provides dedicated funding that will be used solely to support these services, helping maintain Library programs, preserve local history at the Museum, and enhance our Parks and public spaces.

Every dollar makes a difference. Join us in keeping Independence a vibrant and livable community.

To make a donation, visit:

[HTTPS://checkout.square.site/merchant/ML546C923CKBC/checkout/HXNOHT5CGP5LNYFJVF3DMERD](https://checkout.square.site/merchant/ML546C923CKBC/checkout/HXNOHT5CGP5LNYFJVF3DMERD)





Each month a few national and local news snippets will be shared, along with local advertising from 100 years ago this month.

### **Happening in the World**

At the end of January, 1926, Benito Mussolini comes into power in Italy.

The German airline, Deutsche Luft Hansa, was founded

### **Happening in the Country**

Prohibition was failing in many parts of the US

The comedy radio show, “Sam ‘n’ Henry”, debuted in Chicago. The show’s name was later changed to “Amos ‘n’ Andy”. Also in January, 1926, Burns & Allen debuted as a vaudeville act.



There was a lot of local buzz in January, 1926, about Buster Keaton filming “The General” in Cottage Grove.

### **Happening Locally**

Sousa and his Band play at the Salem Armory. Called “The World’s Greatest Musical Organization”, the show prices, which include War Tax, range from \$.85 (unreserved bleachers) to \$2.50 for lower floor and center balcony.

Translated into 2026 dollars, the range would be from \$15 to \$45.

Oregon’s discriminatory Black Exclusion Laws were repealed, but would continue to be a major topic of discussion.

Work began on the construction of the (now historic) Ritner Creek Covered Bridge.

The public schools of Monmouth and Independence are used as training schools for the student-teachers of the Normal.

Independence is a flourishing town about 3 miles from Monmouth. These two schools are under strict supervision of critic teachers, eight at Independence and four at Monmouth.

**Independence, Ideal Home City, Grows and Prospers.** Fine farming sections, excellent schools, streets, lighting makes residential features exceptional

### **Fight Card at the (Salem) Armory Tonight**

The third main event features Eddie Fox of Independence and Kid McCormick of Oregon City. They are good, scrappy, and well-trained youngsters.

### **TRAVEL in the Willamette Valley** ***Safely, Swiftly, and Comfortably in buses of the Parker Stage Lines***

Stages leave for...

Silverton, 7 AM, 1 AM, 5 PM

Mt Angel, 11 AM, 5 PM

Dallas, 7 AM, 9 AM, 11.23 AM, 2 PM, 5:15 PM

Falls City, 7 AM, 2:10 PM, 5:15 PM

**Independence, 7 AM, 9 AM, 11:15 AM, 3:10 PM, 5:15 AM, and Sunday only, 8:30 PM**

**Monmouth, 7 AM, 11:15 AM, 3:10 PM, 5:15 PM, and Sunday only, 7:10 PM, 8:30 PM**

McMinnville, 8:30 AM, 2:10 PM, 5:15 PM

Newberg, 8:30 AM, 2:10 PM, 5:15 PM

Tillamook, 8:30 AM, 2:10 PM

***Call 222 or 696 for information***

# WOU<sup>TM</sup> WEDNESDAY

Receive discounts when you wear your WOU gear on  
Wednesday visiting these local businesses



More discounts  
are available in  
Dallas!



## COMING EVENTS AND ATTRACTIONS

### Looking Forward to What's Next

2C1C reserves an area in this online magazine to preview activities that are coming in the next month (and sometimes beyond). Your event can be previewed in this section. Recurring local ads are also featured here!



# Accessibility Workshop

## FEBRUARY 23<sup>rd</sup> | 10am



Learn more at:  
[sparkletdesigns.com/accessibility](https://sparkletdesigns.com/accessibility)



BREW COFFEE & TAP HOUSE PRESENTS

# OPEN MIC

**MUSIC & MAGIC**  
**EVERY 1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAY 6-8PM**  
HOSTED BY FINN THE MAGICIAN  
211 S. Main St., Independence

### Shine & Sparkle CLEANING SERVICES

**Services Offered:**

- Regularly Scheduled Maintenance Cleaning
- One-time Deep Cleans
- Move-In/Out Cleaning
- New Construction/Post Renovation Cleaning
- Small Office Cleaning

**Get a Free estimate at:**  
[shineandsparkle.com](https://shineandsparkle.com)  
or  
503.580.6632

# MAIN STREET ICE CREAM PARLOR

109 MAIN ST E,  
MONMOUTH  
503 838-1485



## Delicious TACO TUESDAY



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Western Oregon UNIVERSITY

**SAT 3/14 2026**  
**RODNEY MARSALIS PHILADELPHIA BIG BRASS**  
Breaking barriers between genres—and creating a connection between the audience and performers.

**FRI 4/10 2026**  
**DE TIERRA CALIENTE**  
Latin, Caribbean, Brazilian and American fusion ignites the air with vibrant colors and irresistible rhythms.

**SAT 6/6 2026**  
**TAIMANE**  
Combining fierce rock, dance and ukelele—genres morph from classical to rock to flamenco.

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\$30 adults  
\$10 Non-WOU students  
WOU STUDENTS FREE!

If you would like to request disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in a WOU activity or event, please complete the online request form at least three (3) business days in advance. If you have questions, contact Disability Access Services at 503-838-8250 or ods@wou.edu



## FAMILY FEUD

every thursday  
at 7pm

Free for all ages

WIN ROOKIES CASH

- \$50 FOR 1ST
- \$20 FOR 2ND
- \$10 FOR 3RD

### POLK COUNTY MUSEUM PROGRAMS: OREGON ROCKS!

February 21, 2028, 1 PM at the Museum

Hang on to your seats as you learn about the incredible forces that have shaped the ground we live on in Polk County and why it's so special today. Presenters: William N Orr, Professor Emeritus of Geology, University of Oregon, and Sheila Alfsen, Program Director and Past President of the Geological Society of Oregon.

**FAMILY DAY, March 21, 2025, 1-3:30 PM at the Museum**  
Crafts, Demonstrations, Fun for All Ages  
Free Admission to this program

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## Western Oregon University 2025-2026 Events

**MONDAY**  
2/16/26

**Admitted Student Day**

*Must be admitted for Fall 2026 to attend*

**WEDNESDAY**  
3/4/26

**Criminal Justice Career Day**

*Hosted by the Criminal Justice Sciences Division*

**FRIDAY**  
3/6/26

**Celebrate Your True Self (GSA) Day**

*Hosted by WOU Safe Zone & the Office of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion*

**FRIDAY**  
4/10/26

**Spring Preview Day**

*Admitted & prospective students welcome*

**FRIDAY**  
5/8/26

**César E. Chávez Leadership Conference**

*Hosted by the Office of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion*

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Marketplace,  
Small Group**

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major carriers**

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**Save the Date!**

**Questions?** Contact Admissions  
Email: [admissions@wou.edu](mailto:admissions@wou.edu)  
Phone: 503-838-8211

**1327 Monmouth St.  
Independence, OR**

## FROM SENATOR DEB PATTERSON:

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I hope you all had a joyful holiday season and are enjoying a good start to the New Year. As you may know, this December saw the return of holiday festivities at the Oregon State Capitol, including the Christmas tree lighting and choir performances in the Rotunda. It was wonderful to connect with constituents during their visits to the Capitol, and at other celebrations last month throughout our communities.

The 2026 Legislative Session will begin soon on February 2, and it will last until March 8. All the committee meetings and floor proceedings are open to the public, and you can also track bills online through the Oregon Legislative Information System.

I am introducing two bills this session, which together form the Protecting Dignity Package. The first bill in this package is the Protecting the Dying Act, which aims to ensure high-quality, compassionate care for hospice patients. There have been reports from other states about investors taking over local community hospices and gaming the system to extract more profits. States like Nevada, Washington, and California have passed laws to protect vulnerable patients, and Oregon should, too. The Protecting the Dying Act will add safeguards to Oregon's licensing process, such as background checks and minimum qualifications for hospice operators.

The second part of this package is the Housing Accessibility Act. This bill will increase the production of accessible housing for people with disabilities and older adults. Accessible housing provides dignity and autonomy for those who need it. If your home does not meet your basic accessibility needs, even basic tasks become much harder. The need for accessible housing is also growing as our population ages. [As we look to the future, it's clear that while we may not all need accessible housing yet, many of us will need it down the road, and thousands of Oregonians need it right now.](#)

If you have questions about these bills or other issues the Legislature is considering, please feel free to reach out. You can contact my office at (503) 986-1710 or [Sen.DebPatterson@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Sen.DebPatterson@oregonlegislature.gov). I look forward to hearing from you.

*Deb Patterson*





## From Representative Paul Evans

I hope this finds you and your family in a festive spirit.

The last few weeks have been a whirlwind of early holiday activity. Elementary school choirs have filled the Capitol with song, community tree-lighting ceremonies have brought neighbors together for shared traditions, and students across Oregon are wrapping up their work ahead of a well-earned break.

The air is brisk, sweetened by seasonal coffee flavors and old-fashioned hot chocolate. It is a special time of year—one that invites reflection as much as celebration. At the Capitol, however, our work has been anything but quiet. We are determining the most responsible strategies for addressing budget reductions driven by lower-than-anticipated revenues, weighing proposals to stabilize and accelerate economic development, and reassessing how we prioritize transportation investments in light of the likely repeal of 2025 Transportation Package revenues.

There is no way around it: 2025 has been challenging, and 2026 promises to be even more difficult to navigate. While this may not be a majority view, I believe the year ahead will demand something both rare and essential—the courage to make hard choices, and the willingness to sacrifice in the present to secure our shared future.

We cannot continue operating government at the same level of service we have enjoyed in recent years. Federal changes have altered the budget landscape, and the cost of doing business has outpaced our ability to cover expenses through existing revenues. These realities require honesty, discipline, and thoughtful prioritization.

Unfortunately, some have chosen to make government “the enemy” for political gain, spreading misinformation and undermining public trust. Government is never perfect, but demonizing public servants who work every day on behalf of

Oregonians only makes the task of governing harder—and less effective.

We are living through a period of structural economic change. Meeting this moment will require creativity, innovation, and a renewed commitment to work together in common cause for the common good. We cannot tax our way into prosperity, nor can we cut our way to a dynamic economy. We must find balance. We must become better stewards of both our people and our place.

This holiday season, I hope you take time to gather with family, friends, and neighbors—to find joy, rest, and peace. After the New Year, I will be hosting a series of town halls to hear your ideas, perspectives, and suggestions for the path forward. We will need all hands on deck, and I want your personal involvement as we plan the work ahead.

Thank you for all that you do for our community.  
Happy Holidays,



Respectfully,



Paul



Representative Paul L. Evans, District 20,  
Oregon Capitol  
Phone: 503-986-1420,  
Capitol Address: 900 Court St. NE, H-471,  
Salem, Oregon 97301  
Email: Rep.PaulEvans@oregonlegislature.gov,  
Website: <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/evans>

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**Partners Featured, January 2026**

AARP Tax-Aide/VITA
American Legion Post 33
Ash Creek Arts Center
Azucena's Cleaning LLC
Brew Coffee & Tap House
Casa Burrito
Central High School Sports
Central Lions Club
City of Independence
City of Monmouth
Curves
Dry Town Tap Station
Dutch Bros
Ella Curran Food Bank
Elysium Botanicals
eXP Realty
FireHouse Crossfit
Friends of the Independence Library
Friends of the Monmouth Senior Center
Golden Hop Saloon
Grain Station Brew Works
Greece Lightning Express
Greenwood Group
Habanero's
Habebah Coffee & Cuisine
Hazel's on Main
Heritage Museum
Heritage Museum Society
Heron Pointe Senior Living
HomeSmart Sisters Realty
Independence Downtown Association
Independence Elks Lodge
Independence Public Library
Indy Commons
K Insurance Group
Koyotes Tacos
La Uvita Feliz
Love Local
Maganda Glassworks
Main Street Ice Cream Parlor
MaMere's Guest House
Mana
Maui Melts
M-I Green Bag Project
MI Trolley
Michelle Ashley Custom

Cakes
MINET FIBER
MLK Day of Service
Momiji
Monmouth Business Association
Monmouth Independence Chamber of Commerce
Monmouth Independence Community Foundation
Monmouth Monthly
Monmouth Public Library
Monmouth Public Works
Monmouth Senior Community Center
Monmouth-Independence Climate Group
Oregon Lions
Oregon State Extension Service
Pentacle Theatre
Polk County Community Card
Polk County Master Gardener Association
Polk County Museum
Polk Flea Market
Polk Soil & Water Conservation District
Representative Paul Evans
River City Briefs
River Gallery
Rookies Sports Tap
Senator Deb Patterson
Shine & Sparkle Cleaning Services
Sing Fay
Smith Fine Arts Series
Spectrum Artworx
Subway
Sushi Roll 'n
Tan Republic Monmouth
The Find
The Gate Youth Association
The Sippery Coffee Co
Transparent Auto Repair
Valkyrie Wine Tavern
Vibe & Thrive Esthetics
Walk of Hearts
Western Oregon University
WOU Sports
Yang's Teriyaki
Yeasty Beasty