



# The Bridge

Making community connections



Lane County statistics show that 1 in 3 adults have experienced child abuse or neglect in their lives and 23,000 Lane County children and youth have experienced child abuse and neglect. Further information gathered through the Oregon Child Abuse Prevalence Study suggests that Lane County residents believe that child abuse and neglect can be prevented when:

- ◆ Kids are connected
- ◆ Families are supported
- ◆ Community members take positive action

90 by 30's goal is to get ahead of the problem to stop the abuse before it starts. To that end, the county was divided into three regions, with the East Lane Region supporting our local communities.

One of the strategies implemented in East Lane Region is the **Welcome Baby** program. This program provides a gift package for every new baby born in our region and includes a visit to families from three weeks before their baby is born until three weeks after the baby is born. The package includes a diaper bag or sleep system, tummy time quilt make by community members, baby caps knitted by community members, the Period of Purple Crying video or app, and, a resource binder. Foster Grandparents (approved for this program) deliver the Welcome Baby bundle and make contact with the family. They also do the appropriate follow-up contact. This program is operating successfully and is in the process of expanding.

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# LOWELL SCHOOLS: We're on the *Move...*

Happy Spring, Lowell Families and Community!

We are past the half way mark this year and checking items off of our list!  
Mask mandates ended and masking decisions brought to local levels—check!  
Daylight savings completed--check!  
Spring break completed—check!

I am not sure who else feels this way, but I want my lost hour of sleep returned from daylight savings, however I sure do love the extra daylight each day. And I could use another week of spring break, but I love being back in school with the fantastic students and staff at Lowell.



Checking those items off seems like we are quickly moving toward the end of the year, but there are so many things left to accomplish before we close the books on 2021-2022.

Our grounds department is continuing to mow, weed and plant to make this place look ready for spring! Our coaches are in full swing of spring sports. Our teachers are making sure that students have hit their benchmarks and are planning for the future of our students. We are hiring staff to meet the needs of our growing district. We are planning and budgeting for the next year and beyond. We have many board meetings yet this year and April 6<sup>th</sup> is the first budget meeting. While we are checking items and “to-dos” off of our list, we are far from finished for the year.

Here are some items to add to your list for this year: if you haven’t checked out a baseball game, a softball game, or a track meet, put it on your calendar to do so! You can find the schedules on our website. If you haven’t been able to volunteer for a classroom but would like to, now is your chance! Want to see how our school board works or how the budget committee makes its recommendations? Watch the meetings being live streamed on Facebook Live or join us in person. Board meetings are the fourth Monday of each month. The Community Forum, State of the District Address and Budget Presentation will be May 23, 2022, at 6:00pm.

Happy Spring Everyone,  
Johnie Matthews  
Lowell School District Superintendent



## Students of the Month

**Payten Webb** (at left) is an 8th grader at Lowell and the daughter of Brandon and Lisa Webb. Her favorite hobby is playing badminton with her family. Some of Payten’s interests are going swimming, bike riding, and drawing. Her favorite subject is ELA because she is pretty good at it and she also really enjoys going to the beach. Her favorite food is tacos. She is a very good student and a joy



to have in school.

**Austin Smith** is a senior at LHS and the son of Esther Doty. He likes to go swimming and fishing with his friends and also likes to spend time with his family. Austin has played football for all four years of high school. His favorite class is Government and his interests include sports and fast and loud cars. Austin has gone from an average student to a very good student as he prepares to graduate this year.

**Congratulations Payten and Austin on being selected Students of the Month!**

## Lowell High School Alumni Highlight: Mollie & Nicco Garcia-Cash

Mollie (nee Prenevost) and Nicco both graduated from Lowell High School in 2012. They were married in 2013 and have two sons, Cortez (5) and Cruz (3). They bought their home in Fall Creek in 2017 and have lived there since.

Mollie graduated cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in Accounting from NCU. She has worked in the Lowell Business Office since 2018 and has been the assistant volleyball coach since 2015. She is currently in the New Business Managers Institute.

Nicco served in the Army from 2012-2015, including a deployment to Djibouti, Africa. He became a Springfield Police Officer in 2016 and has since joined the SWAT Team, become a defensive tactics instructor, and joined the K9 team with his dog, Gryff. He has earned Lifesaving and Meritorious Service awards from SPD and Medals of Honor from SPD and the Oregon Peace Officers Association.

Mollie and Nicco love to travel and celebrate every anniversary in a different state, hoping to see all 50 states in their first 50 years of marriage. They are avid fans of Lowell and U of O athletics. Cortez is in pre-kindergarten, finished his first wrestling season, and is now doing jiu jitsu. Cruz is playing soccer and getting ready to start his first year of preschool.



### Lowell Varsity Track and Field

The team had a strong start to the season at the Tri-County Ice-Breaker in Junction City on March 17th. Their next meet will be April 7th in Glide.

Team members are sophomores Rowan Files, Preston Neet, and Kendee Hermansen; and, freshmen Jada Cantrell, Dixie Marchi, Lizzy Green-Jolley, Isabella Peterson, Jewl Pierce, Elizabeth Stewart, Ryan Pelroy, and Colten Wendt.

Head coach Jill Chapman is assisted by Brandon Chittum.

Continued from cover page:

Another strategy implemented in the East Lane Region to prevent child abuse and neglect is the **Roots of Empathy** program. Empathy is foundational to helping children navigate relationships, form connections, and be inclusive of others. This program offers empathy-based programs in at least 30 first-grade classrooms in Lane County, including Lundy Elementary. The program was so well received it was expanded to Lundy’s 6th grade classroom.

Volunteer instructors deliver an age appropriate curriculum and invite community families into classrooms to demonstrate the power of a secure attachment relationship between infant and parent — the first and most powerful model of empathy. Increased empathy in children results in increased acts of compassion and kindness among children and decreases in aggressive behavior. For more information about how you can become involved, contact the K(no)w More Website at <http://knowmorelanecounty.org>.



**Roots of Empathy**

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## City Beat by City Administrator Jeremy Caudle

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### Take the Survey on Law Enforcement within the City of Lowell

We want your input on what additional law enforcement services you would like to see within the city limits. For instance, would you like to have a police officer patrolling the city 7 days a week? Do you think nighttime patrols by a private security would be enough? Or do you want to keep things as they are? You can take the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CB22W5P>

If residents indicate that they would like to see expanded law enforcement services, then the next step would be to hold Town Hall meetings with the public on this topic. At the Town Hall meetings, representatives from law enforcement agencies would be invited to share information with the community on what an expanded law enforcement presence in the community would look like. This would also include a discussion on the costs of such services to the City, along with any fee or property tax increases that would be required to fund such services.

Call or stop by City Hall if you would like a hardcopy of the survey. City Hall's phone number is: (541) 937-2157.

### Library Survey Results

Thank you to everyone who took the survey on what you would like to see in the library collection. Here are some highlights from the survey:

- ◆ The types of materials people are most interested in are bestsellers (73%), general adult fiction (64%), children's books and adult nonfiction (44%), board books/picture books and mysteries (37%).
- ◆ Most popular topics are crafts/hobbies (60%), house and home/gardening (50%), and cooking/entertaining (45%). There is interest in a wide variety of other topics, too.
- ◆ One third indicated they preferred downloadable e-books.
- ◆ Over 52% said they would be extremely or very likely to want to borrow materials from other Lane County libraries if we could join that consortium in the future.
- ◆ Saturday hours (both morning and afternoon) are particularly desired, as are weekday afternoons.

Your responses will inform the types of materials that the City acquires for our opening day collection.

### Notice to Abate Noxious Vegetation

Pursuant to Lowell Revised Code (LRC) Section 5.122, notice is hereby given that no owner or person in charge of property may allow noxious vegetation to be on their property or on the public right-of-way abutting their property. It shall be the duty of an owner or person in charge of property to cut down or to destroy noxious vegetation. For parcels one acre or larger in size, noxious vegetation need only be controlled 20 feet from an adjoining property where development has occurred and is not required to be controlled adjoining undeveloped property unless specifically requested by the owner of the undeveloped property. The City intends to abate noxious vegetation within not less than ten days of a final notice to abate such vegetation sent to the property owner and that all costs of doing so will be charged to the owner of the property being abated. A citation may be issued in lieu of or in addition to abatement action.

## Update on Library and City Hall Construction Project

Construction bids for the library and City Hall project are due Tuesday, April 5.

### City Council and other committee/commission actions:

Actions from the February 22 Blackberry Jam Festival Committee:

- Decided to hold a festival on July 30 – 31.

Actions from the March 1 City Council regular meeting:

- Received presentation from Lowell Rural Fire Protection District on burning regulations within the city.
- Discussed community survey on law enforcement services.
- Approved a "Grant Agreement" with The Ford Family Foundation for the Maggie Osgood Library in the amount of \$191,466.
- Appointed Lisa Bee-Wilson to the Budget Committee.
- Postponed action of a residential right-of-way agreement.
- Approved a temporary construction easement with Lane County for the "Safe Routes to School" construction project.

Actions from the March 2 Planning Commission meeting:

- Recommended that City Council approve a tentative subdivision plat for the Lake Town subdivision.

Actions from the March 2 Planning Commission meeting:

- Approved a community shade tree program.
- Approved a list of priorities for city parks.

Actions from the March 8 Blackberry Jam Festival Committee meeting:

- Continued work on Blackberry Jam Festival planning.

Actions from the March 15 City Council regular meeting:

- Approved a residential right-of-way agreement with Lowell Investment Properties, LLC.
- Approved a tentative subdivision plat for the Lake Town subdivision.
- Provided direction to staff regarding the public hearing and notice process for a proposed Dollar General commercial business and four-plex multi-family development on N. Moss St.
- Approved a supplemental budget resolution.
- Approved a purchase and sale agreement with Lowell Investment Properties, LLC regarding the City's 205/295 E. Main St. property.
- Authorized the City Administrator to seek grant funding for Rolling Rock Park improvements.
- Appointed Meesa Anders to the Blackberry Jam Festival Committee.
- Received a list of priorities from the Parks and Recreation Committee.

### The Blackberry Jam Festival Needs Your Help!

The Blackberry Jam can only be a success with the help of the community. Please attend the next BBJ Committee Meeting on Tuesday, April 12 at 7:00 p.m., at the Maggie Osgood Library located at 70 N. Pioneer Street. Come find where you can be part of making this a success! For information please email [info@ci.lowell.or.us](mailto:info@ci.lowell.or.us).



## FROM THE LOWELL FIRE DISTRICT

By Chief Lon Dragt

### In Memory of Ron Ballenger by Captain Lloyd Hall

I met Ronald Ballenger in the fall of 2008. I was a brand-new firefighter but that didn't matter to him. He talked to me as if I had been around since the beginning. He was a kind and boisterous man who was eager to share stories and joke around with any of the crew that was on shift. As a brand-new recruit, I did not know how much Ron meant to the communities of Fall Creek and Lowell. Sitting there and listening to him talk about the early days of Lowell Fire brought a grin to his face that was contagious. Over the years I began to see how much this man meant to our community.

I would like to tell you about what Ron meant to Lowell Fire, the community he lived in and served. Ron Ballenger wore many hats in his time with Lowell Fire from Firefighter to Board member. And at each stop along the way he impacted the lives of the community around him. From all the information I can gather, in the late 60s Ron and a group of likeminded individuals came together to form Lowell Fire. In the early days a group of community members responded from different areas of Lowell and Fall creek to help their neighbors and provide fire protection services. I can remember how Ron often spoke with excitement of jumping on the truck and zipping down the road on the way to fires and about how they all were there for community and to help their neighbors. In 1973 Lowell Rural Fire Protection District was officially founded and Ron was counted among the founding members of the agency. During his time with Lowell Fire, Ron served as a volunteer firefighter, Fire Officer, Fire chief and was a long-time member of the board of directors. Ron was also instrumental in procuring Lowell's first fire station and the substation in the Little Fall Creek area. In 2016 Ron was recognized by the OFDDA for his 35 years of service to Lowell.

I best knew Mr. Ballenger as a board member; he was diligent in his duties to the citizens of the fire district. He served with honor and dedication while he was a member of Lowell Fire. Even after his retirement from the board you could find him seated in the training room as board meetings were conducted each month. As a member of the community, he was there to do his part and support the district as a community member by being informed.

I enjoyed the times I got to spend with him over the years as a firefighter at Lowell, an organization he helped found, a fire service family he helped shape, and a fire district that he served even after he moved on from an operational role. I will miss talking to Ron about the early days, the friendships, the comradery. But I will never forget the time and effort given by Ron or the sacrifices his family gave to let him be a part of all of our lives. I will miss his friendly words and the grin he had while talking to our firefighters about the old days.

The impact Ron had on this community, Lowell Fire, and myself is indelible. Thank you, Ron, for all of the work you did in our community to make this a better place to live and grow. You will be missed.

### Ron Ballenger Celebration of Life

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, April 9, at 1:00 p.m., at Fall Creek Christian Church. Finger foods and cookies will be provided. All are welcome to come celebrate this wonderful man who served this community for over 47 years.



### Regattas in April

The 2022 Covered Bridge Regatta will span two weekends again this year. First up is the Masters and Juniors Regatta on Saturday April 9th and Sunday morning April 10th. Then the following weekend will be the Collegiate Regatta on Saturday, April 16th.

In addition to some spectacular racing, there will be food and coffee booths and more! Please go to [oarowing.org](http://oarowing.org) or email [regatta@oarowing.org](mailto:regatta@oarowing.org) for more information.

Also, mark your calendar for the PAC-12 Regatta coming to Lowell on May 15th!



# In and Around the Community

## Extension Service Arts & Crafts Event

More details will be coming but in the meantime, please mark your calendars for a Spring Arts and Crafts event on Saturday, April 16, from 1:00-2:30 p.m. at the Lowell Fire Hall, 389 N. Pioneer Street.



Oregon State Extension Service is holding this event as part of their community outreach program. Updated information will be posted on community bulletin boards as it is received.

## Easter Egg Hunt April 16th, 1:00!

Join us for a fun Easter Egg Hunt and meet the Easter Bunny! The hunt is sponsored by the Lowell Grange but this year it will be held at Rolling Rock Park on North Shore Drive starting at 1:00 p.m.

Bring a sack or basket to put the eggs in and meet at the stage so children can be placed into age groups from toddlers to 9-years-old.



## Senior's Potluck to Resume!

The Senior's Potluck at Fall Creek Christian Church will start back up again on Friday, April 29th at noon. Bring a potluck dish to share. All are welcome to come fellowship with us.



## Breakfast at the Grange Resumes April 3rd

A hearty breakfast awaits you at the Lowell Grange! Come and enjoy home cooked eggs, hashbrowns, waffles, pancakes, sausage, bacon, fruit and beverages.

Breakfast at the Grange will resume serving regularly on the first Sunday of each month from 8:00-11:00 a.m. Donations are gratefully accepted. All proceeds go to the Building Restoration Fund used to make building improvements to the Grange Hall.

## Skit Night at the Grange

The Lowell Grange will host the Mohawk-McKenzie and Walthville Granges on April 13th at 6:00 p.m. to each present 20-minute skits. This Grange tradition is to have the Granges write their own skits and see if they can perform them while keeping straight faces!

Raffle tickets for gift baskets will be sold and refreshments will be provided. Hope to see you there.

## Pilates—Yoga—Self-Defense at the Grange!

We are fortunate to have some talented, community-minded residents to offer great classes right here in Lowell.

Pilates classes will continue at the Lowell Grange (51 East 2nd Street) each month. Classes are held on Mondays from 6:30-7:15 a.m. and 8:15-9:00 p.m., and on Wednesdays from 7:30-8:15 a.m. The cost is \$30 per month or \$10 for drop-ins. Mats will be provided but feel free to bring your own if you prefer. Info: Joe at 206-920-3256.

Yoga will also continue at the Grange each Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. Bring your mat, some water, and any other accessories you might want for your practice. Questions: call or text Ava at 541-261-2176.

A new addition to the menu of activities is a Self-Defense class with instructor Charles Fulton. These classes will be held on Wednesdays, April 6, 20, and 27 (not the 13th) at 6:00 p.m. Call or text Charles at 541-915-8283.

# The Bridge

Lowell School District #71  
65 South Pioneer Street  
Lowell, OR 97452

Phone 541 937-8405 Fax 541 937-8709  
On the web: [www.lowell.k12.or.us](http://www.lowell.k12.or.us)

## Making community connections

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## Postal Customer Lowell/Fall Creek

*The Bridge is a cooperative effort of Lowell School District #71,  
City of Lowell and Lowell Rural Fire Protection District.*

### Upcoming Meetings and Events: April 2022

- 1—Texas Hold ‘em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
- 2—Varsity Softball DH @ Waldport, Noon and 2:00 p.m.
- 3—Breakfast at the Lowell Grange, 8:00-11:00 am, 51 E. 2nd Street
- 5—Varsity Softball @ Monroe, 4:30 p.m.  
**City Council Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 70 N. Pioneer St.**  
Clothing Bank/Food Pantry; 2-5 pm; Hake Center on Lakeview
- 7—Varsity Track @ Glide, 3:30 p.m.
- 8—**No School! Grading Day**  
Varsity Softball v. Monroe, 4:30 p.m.
- 9—Varsity Track, AMJ Invitational @ McKenzie/Blue River, 10:30  
Varsity Softball DH v. Riddle, Noon and 2:00 p.m.  
Varsity Baseball @ East Linn, 1:00 p.m.
- 9-10—Covered Bridge Regatta, Lowell Marina
- 11—Varsity Softball v. Yoncalla, 4:30 p.m.  
Varsity Baseball v. Regis, 4:30 p.m.
- 12—Blackberry Jam Committee, 7:00 p.m., 70 N. Pioneer Street
- 13—Varsity Softball @ Yoncalla, 4:30 p.m.  
**Lowell Fire District Board meeting; 7:00 p.m., Main Station**  
Skit Night at the Lowell Grange, 7:00 p.m., 51 E. 2nd Street
- 14—Varsity Baseball DH @ Regis, 2:00 and 4:30 p.m.  
Varsity Track at Oakridge 2A-D3 League Meet, 4:00 p.m.
- 15—Varsity Softball DH v. Days Creek, 2:00 and 4:00 p.m.
- 16—Covered Bridge Regatta, Lowell Marina
- 16—Varsity Track, Maynard Mai Memorial at Glide, 11:00  
Easter Egg Hunt, 1:00 p.m., Rolling Rock Park  
Arts & Crafts Event, 1:00-2:30, Lowell Fire Station
- 18—Varsity Baseball v. Jefferson, 4:30 p.m.
- 19—Varsity Track at Monroe 2A-D2 League Meet, 4:00 p.m.  
Varsity Softball @ Glendale, 4:30 p.m.  
**City Council Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 70 N. Pioneer St.**  
Clothing Bank/Food Pantry; 2-5 pm; Hake Center on Lakeview
- 20—**Half Day of School! Curriculum Day, release at 11:50**
- 21—Varsity Softball v. Glendale, 4:30 p.m.  
Varsity Baseball DH @ Jefferson, 2:00 and 4:30 p.m.
- 22—Happy Earth Day!
- 23—Varsity Track, Meet of Champions, Sweet Home, 9:30 a.m.  
Texas Hold ‘em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
- 25—Varsity Softball v. Elkton, 4:30 p.m.  
Varsity Baseball v. East Linn, 4:30 p.m.  
**School Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m., PDC at Lundy Elem.**
- 27—Varsity Softball @ Elkton, 4:30 p.m.  
Varsity Baseball @ East Linn, 4:30 p.m.
- 28—Varsity Track at Oakland 2A-D3 League Meet, 4:30 p.m.
- 29—**Half Day of School! Prep Day, release at 11:50**  
Senior’s Potluck, Noon, Fall Creek Christian Church
- 30—Varsity Track at Junction City Invitational, 10:00 a.m.