



The Bridge

Making community connections

Meet Lowell High School Principal: Joshua Metzger

The Bridge

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September 2022

The end of summer is always an interesting time in a school community's life. Maintenance staff work to finish projects to make the school safe and welcoming, teachers are planning curriculum for the year, and bus drivers plan routes for students. Meanwhile at home, back-to-school ads are everywhere, parents plan last activities for summer, and students start returning to the building for registration, schedules, and sports. It's an exciting time, and even more so this year.

My name is Joshua Metzger, Lowell High School Principal. This will be my 16th year as an educator, and I've never been more excited to be starting a school year. This is a year of major change at Lowell High School with six new teachers and a new principal. While this could be a time of trepidation, I think this is an exciting start to the school year. Our new and returning staff members are excited about what makes a district like Lowell great — a chance to develop relationships with students and families in the community, and, helping guide our students through school and on to their next adventure. Our team has been busy coming into the building and preparing for the best part of working in education, seeing their classrooms full of students again.

The last week of August we focused on team building and getting ready to welcome our most important team members into the building: you. We're excited to have students and families back on campus for class and events. Our staff is excited about not just teaching, but teaching in this community. Rural education offers the opportunity to build close relationships with the community and students, and Lowell is an amazing community to be a part of. The community of Lowell shows up for its schools, whether they're supporting our students in the classroom or cheering on our teams in competition.



September is here, so it's time to get excited. Here's to a great year at Lowell High School. Let's go Red Devils!

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

New Faces at Lowell Jr/Sr High — More profiles and details will be coming in future issues.

With the retirement of Brian Beard, we are pleased to welcome Ray Yarborough (far left) as Lowell's new Career & Technical Education (CTE) teacher. He is passionate about coaching football and his new teaching assignment at Lowell. Also joining the high school staff this Fall (left to right) are Jason Patterson (Social Studies), Jesse Vaughn (English), and Mychel Steckler (Math). Also new to the District is Special Ed Director, Linda Brecht-Kwirant.



Lowell High School Alumni Highlight: Pat & Vallie Todd

Pat Todd graduated from Lowell in 1979. In 1981, he joined the Army National Guard and served for 12 years. In 1982, he married his high school sweetheart, Vallie. They moved to Ashland, where he attended Southern Oregon University and played football. He was an offensive tight end, 4-year letterman and 3-year starter. Pat earned Honorable Mention All-Conference in the fall of 1984. He was inducted into the Southern Oregon Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008.

After graduating from SOU, Pat taught in Sandy, OR. He coached football (all levels and all positions) and was the head men's basketball coach from 1999-01. He also coached freshman and JV baseball. His claim to fame was coaching varsity basketball at Sandy and getting the win against Barlow High School. This gave the famous Freddie Jones (UO) his only high school loss. Vallie says, "The place was rockin!"

In 2007, Pat and Vallie moved back to Lowell and Pat was fortunate enough to replace Mr. Coldren in 2008 as Athletic Director and Health/PE teacher. He is Lowell's head football coach and also coached basketball and softball.

Vallie Wierman graduated from Lowell in 1982. She married her high school sweetheart, Pat Todd, in 1982 and just celebrated 40 years of marriage! They have two wonderful daughters, Bethany Bruck and Madelynn Maher and nine grandchildren ranging in ages from 3-15 years. Vallie's main career choice was to be a mom. She has had many side jobs including aerobics instructor, jr. high volleyball coach, barista/manager at a coffee shop, and a manager of Curves (fitness center for women) while they lived in Sandy. Since moving back to Lowell she has been a seamstress for fashion designer Sarah Seven and an office manager for J&K Electrical.

Vallie's hobbies include baking, sewing, reading, and kayaking the lake with friends. Just for fun, she provides Stomping Grounds coffee shop with sweet treats. She loves spending time with her family...and of course enjoying cheering on LHS football and doing whatever she can to help Coach Todd.

Coach Todd says he doesn't have any hobbies, he just coaches football! He is looking forward to retirement and spending time fishing, hunting, reading, and watching his grandkids participate in athletics!

Pat and Vallie have played key roles in building the Lowell athletic program. Over the years, they have devoted endless time and energy to managing the concession stands and organizing the Hall of Fame Banquet, Pictures with Santa, and the Football Moms' Banquet. In the summers Pat runs camps, weights and conditioning, and passing league. At the BBJ Festival you can find them serving up homemade blackberry cobbler. In addition, Pat and Vallie spend many hours supporting Lowell athletes in the stands. They also attend Fall Creek Christian Church, where they are part of the worship team and Pat occasionally shares a Sunday message. Pat and Vallie are both looking forward to being fully retired and footloose and fancy free!



RED DEVIL REPORT

Lowell Athletics Update

JUNIOR HIGH

All interested 6th - 8th grade students at Lundy/Lowell, Mountain View, and Bridge Charter are invited to join our Fall sports programs. Please make sure your athletes are up to date on their biannual physical exams and registered at <https://www.familyid.com/organizations/lowell-school-district>.

Football practices will start on Tuesday, September 6 and volleyball practices on Wednesday, September 7. Cross country is already underway, but it's not too late to join! Please contact the coaches for details.

HIGH SCHOOL

Our cross country team is led by Jill Chapman and assisted by Brandon Chittim and Cody Brooks. Athletes (pictured right) include junior Preston Neet; sophomores Dylan Allen, Elizabeth Green-Jolley, Elizabeth Stewart, and Levi Stewart; and freshman Callum Plahn.



Our football team is led by Pat Todd and assisted by Ray Yarbrough, Mark Kintzley, and Brody Scott. Athletes (pictured left) include seniors Beauden Asher, Trenton Edwards, Jesse Neet, Dylan Scott, Hayden Vaughn, and Lehi Zylstra; juniors Luis Estrada, Rowan Files, Ryder Greco, Brody Thurman, and Justus Thurman; sophomores Paul Clark, Ryan Pelroy, Zander Rogers, and Jamar Thurman; and freshmen Saul Clark, David Finch, Carter Harris, Alex Sotomayor, Barrett Straight, and Joshua Walker.

Our volleyball team is led by Rachel Thurman and assisted by Ray Fassbender, Alexis Curry, and Bryce Pickett. Athletes (pictured right) include seniors Esperanza Guzman-Fields and Lydia Plahn; juniors Elizabeth Able, Amerika Baszler, Kameron Baszler, Brooke Davis, Annabelle Pickett, and Vicki Skordahl; sophomores Kiahna Baszler, Jada Cantrell, Alyson Curry, Hazel Garner, and Cheyanne McNamee; and freshmen Casey Astbury, McKenna Fassbender, Nevaeh Neet, Matti Skordahl, and Madison Thurman.



Preschool Openings!

Lowell Community Preschool is looking forward to another great year.

Preschool children must be age three by 9-1-22 and be potty trained. Preschool is held T/W/Th from 12:30-3:00 p.m. for \$175 per month.

Pre-Kindergarten children must be age four by 9-1-22 and be potty trained. Pre-K is held T/W/Th from 8:00-11:30 a.m. for \$200 per month.

Call/text Jessica Pelroy at 541-953-9200 or email pelroyj@yahoo.com for more information.

School Supplies Donated

VFW Post Commander Jim Matthews dropped off a generous donation of school supplies, thanks to a partnership with Dollar Tree. Supplies will be shared in the classrooms and with others in the community. Thanks VFW Post #3965 in Springfield.



City Beat by City Administrator Jeremy Caudle

The public is invited to attend and participate in a community meeting to learn about the Lowell Development Code Update project and provide feedback. Over the last two years, the City of Lowell, along with the Department of Land Conservation and Development's TGM Assistance Grant, has been working on implementing the recommended code changes as was found in the Lowell Downtown Master Plan. The project also addresses several "housekeeping" updates to various portions of the Development Code and addresses minimum lot standards for residential zoning districts.

A vital portion of the project is public outreach and engagement. The City of Lowell, DCLD and the consultant have prepared a draft version of the updated Development Code. We are ready to share that draft with the community at-large to garner feedback from the community of Lowell. The City of Lowell will hold an open-house community meeting where the public can engage with City staff and review the proposed code updates. Light refreshments will be provided.

Community Meeting Information

Date: September 28, 2022

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

Place: Lowell Rural Fire Protection District, 389 N. Pioneer Street, Lowell, OR

Contact: Jeremy Caudle, City Administrator, jcaudle@ci.lowell.or.us

To review the project materials please visit the City's website at:

<https://www.ci.lowell.or.us/downtown-master-plan/page/development-code-update-project>

City Hall and library renovation update. We anticipate construction to be completed on the new City Hall and library in September. Stay tuned to the city website for an update on when we will be moving into the new facility. City Hall will be open in the new facility prior to the library, as we are waiting for new books and shelves to arrive.

Notice of Planning Commission vacancy. The City of Lowell is accepting applications to fill one vacancy on the Lowell Planning Commission. The term of office will begin immediately. Planning Commissioners are appointed by City Council and serve two-year terms.

Qualifications: Must be a resident of either the City of Lowell or the Rural Lowell Fire Protection District.

To apply: Send a completed and signed "Volunteer Boards & Commission Application" in person or by mail to City of Lowell, Attn: City Administrator, PO Box 490, Lowell, OR 97452. The application is available at City Hall or on the city website at the following link (scroll down to the bottom): <https://www.ci.lowell.or.us/forms>.

Other information: The position remains open until filled. We will review applications on an on-going basis.

Questions? Feel free to reach out to us with any questions. You can contact us by telephone at (541) 937-2157, by email at jcaudle@ci.lowell.or.us, or by stopping by City Hall in person.

Maggie Osgood Library News from Librarian Peggy O’Kane

Shelves, books and furniture have been ordered. Decisions about the look and feel of various spaces are being made. We will have a library to be proud of well before the snow flies. In the meantime, there are many ways for you to be involved.

We want to restart the Library Board. This will be a group of approximately seven people: myself, a teen representative and five others who are willing to spend time in meetings and activities designed to help the Maggie Osgood Library best serve the community.

We are also looking for volunteers to sort books and/or enter data into the library catalog or Thrift Books. If you have an hour or more a week, please be in touch.

If you are interested, please contact city hall or email me at pokane@ci.lowell.or.us. Now that the first flurry or ordering things is over, I hope to be in contact with everyone who filled out a volunteer form during Blackberry Jam.

Extension Service Arts & Crafts Event

On Saturday, September 17th, OSU Extension will be hosting an arts and crafts event as part of their community outreach program. Join them at the Lowell Fire Station, 389 N. Pioneer Street from 3:30-4:30 p.m. for a Hot Air Balloon project.



Actions from August 2, 2022 City Council regular meeting:

- Approved a contract with Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network for small-business consulting services.
- Rescinded first reading of Ordinance 307, “An ordinance declaring a ban on psilocybin service centers and the manufacture of psilocybin products.”
- Approved a loan extension for a loan with Government Capital Corporation.
- Approved a resolution to extend the utility assistance program and to increase the amount of the benefit.
- Issued a city credit card to the Library Director.
- Approved an order for new water meters.

Actions from August 16, 2022 City Council regular meeting:

- Approved an order for library shelving.
- Approved a contract to audit the city’s financial statements.
- Approved an infrastructure contract with the Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

The Blackberry Jam Festival Committee held meetings on August 18 and 23.

Upcoming meetings – Meeting details are available here:

<https://www.ci.lowell.or.us/calendar/month/2022-08>

Due to construction at 70 N. Pioneer St., all City Council and committee meetings will take place at the Lowell Rural Fire Protection District station, located at 389 N. Pioneer Street, unless otherwise specified.

FROM THE LOWELL FIRE DISTRICT

By Chief Lon Dragt

A Reminder that Fire Season Is Not Over Yet

Fire Season is still with us and it is important to keep fire safety in mind at all times. Outdoor burning is prohibited and may open in October depending on weather and environmental conditions. Campfires and/or warming fires in most locations are prohibited and will remain prohibited until vegetation fire levels are greatly reduced by significant moisture. Contact the district office for more information on current fire safety considerations in the area.

Please also make sure that we leave the roadways open for fire personnel to respond when they are needed. It is very important to us to keep our community safe. While we appreciate the offer of assistance, we have the proper protection and training to get the job done safely.

Ever Think About Becoming A Firefighter?

Ever want to do something new and exciting? Want to learn new and valuable life skills? Think about joining the Fire Service and help your community.

Volunteers are critical to our nation's fire and emergency services. 69% (or 786,150) of firefighters in the U.S. are volunteers. These volunteers save communities \$140 billion annually. However, the number of volunteers has declined by about 12% since 1984. During the same timeframe, call volume has nearly tripled, largely due to the increase in EMS calls. In 2013, there were over 31 million calls to local fire departments.

The volunteer fire service is an aging population. Since 2000, there has been a 14.9 percent drop in the number of firefighters under the age of 40 in communities like ours. Communities our size rely almost entirely on volunteers.

There are many reasons for these trends, including:

- ◇ Increased time demands placed on firefighters and EMTs or more rigorous training requirements
- ◇ Proliferation of two-income families whose members have less available time
- ◇ Younger people moving out of smaller communities for better job opportunities

The Lowell Rural Fire Protection District is almost all Volunteer. We have a full-time (40+ hour per week) paid Fire Chief and 3 full-time (48/96) paid Shift Officers.

The District currently has 18 shift Volunteer Firefighter/EMTs and one Volunteer cadet Firefighter/EMT. The District needs more volunteer members to help protect the communities of Lowell, Fall Creek and Unity. You will receive all the training you want locally; all you need to do is apply.

Contact the District office for more information and the opportunities being a Lowell Fire District volunteer might bring. Go to www.lowellfiredistrict.org or call 541-937-3393 to see how to volunteer.

CDBA Drag Boat Races — September 17-18

The Columbia Drag Boat Association (CDBA) is the premier racing association in the Pacific Northwest. CDBA prides itself in offering a wide variety of class competition in a safe, fun and family-oriented atmosphere.



Four races are held locally in Oregon. Racers of all levels are encouraged to join. CDBA was established to enhance the growth of drag boat racing at a local level. The last race of the season will be held on Dexter Lake September 17-18. Come to the races and check it out!

Races begin at 9am each day
 ADMISSION: \$10 Saturday, \$12 Sunday (\$20 for a weekend pass)
 Parking \$5 per day

In and Around the Community

Breakfast at the Grange: First Sundays

Breakfast at the Grange is served 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.



Ballet is Coming Soon!

Delight in Dance Company will begin offering ballet lessons at the Lowell Grange, 51 E. 2nd Street, in September. Classes are open to ages 5-7 and 8-11. Please contact Meg at 458-205-1212 or email meggrecian@gmail.com for more information.




MIDDLE FORK WILLAMETTE
 WATERSHED COUNCIL
ANNUAL WATERSHED CELEBRATION



SEPTEMBER 15, 2022
5 PM - 8 PM
ELIJAH BRISTOW STATE PARK GROUP PICNIC AREA

Join Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council for an evening of food, drink, and live music, in celebration of our collective work in the Middle Fork Willamette watershed this year! Bring family or friends and enjoy a casual evening in celebration of our watershed.

Find out more and register online at
middleforkwillamette.org/events

Remembering Eileen Barney

Come join us to celebrate the memory of Eileen Barney on October 8th from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the old high school gym, 65 S. Pioneer Street.

She would have loved for everyone to enjoy a sweet treat and reminisce happy days on what would have been her 93rd birthday. So bring your favorite dessert to share and join us!




RAIN
 OREGON

Building Inclusive Entrepreneurial Ecosystems & Economies

Are you a business owner looking for financing options or to explore growth opportunities? Then this free four-week virtual program is designed for YOU!

When: September 14th—October 5th

Time: Weekly on Wednesdays, 9:00-10:30 am

Deadline to register: September 11th

Info: <https://raincatalysts.org/moneymaker>


Rustic Country Farm' &
F a l l
Artisan Market
SEPTEMBER 24TH AND 25TH
SATURDAY 9AM TO 4PM AND SUNDAY 10AM TO 5PM
40305 REUBEN LEIGH RD LOWELL, OR 97452

- **INDOOR/OUTDOOR**
- **FREE ADMISSION**
- **FREE RAFFLE ENTRIES FOR A GIFT BASKET FROM VENDORS**
- ***ADDITIONAL TICKETS AT VENDOR BOOTHS**
- **FREE CRAFT CLASS FROM 12-1 BOTH DAYS**

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

Making community connections

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

Upcoming Meetings and Events: September 2022

- 1—Lowell Parks Committee, 7:00 p.m., 389 N. Pioneer Street
 - 2—Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
 - 3—Cross Country Meet @ Hydrangea Ranch, 9:00 a.m.
Varsity Football v. Gervais, 6:00 p.m.
 - 4—Breakfast at the Lowell Grange, 8:00-11:00 am, 51 E. 2nd Street
 - 5—Labor Day, City Hall closed
 - 6—JV/Varsity Volleyball @ Umpqua Valley Christian, 4:30/6:00 pm
Lowell School District Meet & Greet, 5:30-6:30 pm, Lundy Elem
City Council Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 389 N. Pioneer St.
Clothing Bank/Food Pantry; 2-5 pm; Hake Center on Lakeview
 - 7—First Day of School! Lundy Elementary & Lowell High School
Lowell Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m., 389 N. Pioneer Street
 - 9—Varsity Football @ Glide, 7:00 p.m.
 - 10—JV Volleyball @ Blanchet Tournament, 8:30 a.m.
Cross Country @ WOU HS/MS Meet, 9:00 a.m.
 - 12—JV Football v. Glide, 5:00 p.m.
JV/Varsity Volleyball @ Toledo, 5:00/6:30 p.m.
 - 13—Blackberry Jam Festival Committee, Appreciation Dinner
 - 14—Cross Country @ Silver Falls State Park HS Meet, 4:00 p.m.
Lowell Fire District Board meeting; 7:00 p.m., Main Station
 - 15—JV/Varsity Volleyball @ Monroe, 5:00/6:30 p.m.
 - 16—Varsity Football @ Central Linn, 7:00 p.m.
 - 17—Cross Country @ LCC MS/HS Meet, 10:00 a.m.
Varsity Volleyball v. Illinois Valley, Noon
Varsity Volleyball v. Oakland, 4:30 p.m.
OSU Extension Arts & Crafts Project, 3:30-4:30 pm, Fire Hall
JV Volleyball @ North Douglas Tournament, TBD
Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
 - 17-18—Drag Boat Races, Dexter Lake, 9:00 a.m. both days
 - 19—JH Volleyball—details to be determined
JV Football v. Alsea, 5:00 p.m.
 - 20—JV/Varsity Volleyball v. East Linn, 5:00/6:30 pm.
City Council Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 389 N. Pioneer St.
Clothing Bank/Food Pantry; 2-5 pm; Hake Center on Lakeview
 - 21—JH Volleyball — details to be determined
JH Football @ Cottage Jamboree, time to be determined
 - 22—JH/Varsity Volleyball v. Oakridge, 5:00/6:30 p.m.
 - 23—Cross Country @ Cheadle Lake Park MS/HS Meet, 3:00 p.m.
Varsity Football v. Taft, 7:00 p.m.
 - 24—Varsity Volleyball @ Creswell Tournament, time TBD
 - 26—JH Volleyball — details to be determined
JV Football @ Taft, 5:00 p.m.
School Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m., PDC at Lundy Elem.
 - 27—Cross Country @ Jefferson MS Meet, 4:00 p.m.
JV/Varsity Volleyball v. Central Linn, 5:00/6:30 p.m.
 - 28—Cross Country @ Jefferson HS Meet, 4:00 p.m.
JH Volleyball — details to be determined
JH Football @ Central Linn, 5:30
Lowell Development Code Community Meeting, 6:00-8:00 pm,
Lowell Fire Station, 389 N. Pioneer Street
 - 29—JV/Varsity Volleyball v. Toledo, 5:00/6:30 p.m.
 - 30—Senior's Potluck, Noon, Fall Creek Christian Church
Cross Country @ Waldport HS Meet, time TBD
Varsity Football @ Waldport, 7:00 p.m.
- October:
1—Cross Country @ Bryant Park MS Meet, 8:30 a.m.
Varsity Volleyball @ Reedsport, 1:30 & 4:30 p.m.