



The Bridge

Making community connections

Welcome Back to School! September 6th

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September 2023

We are looking forward to having all our students back in our buildings and for the 2023-2024 school year to be amazing. While the previous years have been fraught with overcoming major challenges, this year feels like a year of growth.

Back-to-school night is Tuesday, September 5, from 5:30-6:30 pm. Come visit classrooms and connect with teachers before the first day of school. If you have a Lundy student, you will also be able to pay for school supplies at this time.

Students return to classes Wednesday, September 6! If you have any questions regarding registration, back to school, breakfast and lunch information, please contact your students' school front office. You can reach Lundy at 541.937.2105 and Lowell Jr/Sr High at 541.937.2124.

We have some exciting additions to our staff this year! Scott Yakovich joins our leadership as the Superintendent of Lowell. James DeCrane is joining our Lowell Jr/Sr High School staff. He will be teaching Spanish classes as well as sharing some of his many other skills in upcoming classes.

Lundy Elementary welcomes Sean Bedell to its ranks. He will be taking on our 6th grade class and some special projects. We also welcomed Dr. Haidee Copeland to the district earlier this year. She is the Director of Special Education and Student-Family Services, and we are so thankful to have her.

Enjoy the final days of summer but start planning for bed-times and routines in order to make the transition to the school year easier. We are excited to have our students back in the class enthusiastic and ready to learn.

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You will notice that the new classrooms and weightrooms are continuing to progress. We are looking forward to their planned completion in January 2024. Another renovation is the updated security in the Lowell Jr/Sr High School. Just like at Lundy, visitors to the Jr/Sr High School building should plan to enter through the main entrance to enhance security.



It's nice to be able to employ students during the summer to foster pride and help keep the school grounds in great shape. Two of those students this year included LHS senior Elizabeth Able and LHS junior Cheyanne McNamee. Each student's work ethic and positive attitude was appreciated, as well as all the hard work they performed this summer.

Lowell High School Alumni Highlight: Austin Bloom

Austin Bloom is a 4th generation Kintzley who graduated from Lowell High School in 2010. He was a talented student athlete who successfully competed in football, basketball, and baseball. At the young age of 14, he started working on race cars and competing in races throughout the state.

Upon graduating he attended Lane Community College for Graphic Design. This decision enabled him to move to Orlando, FL to work for The Walt Disney Company at Walt Disney World for a few years. In early 2014, he was offered a job working for a race team outside of Charlotte, NC. He found that being successful in the racing industry wasn't just based on his love of the sport, it was his strong foundation of mathematics. He still lives in North Carolina with his wife Kaley and their two sons, Bryce (4) and Caden (1)



Near the end of 2022, he made a career change and is now working in the real estate division for Lamar Outdoor Advertising. Before the career change he spent the last ten years working in motorsports in various roles.

Working in the motorsports world, Austin had the opportunity for extensive travel. He was lucky enough to race in 42 states and four countries while collecting over 130 wins as a crew chief. Travel has slowed down with the addition of his two boys and the career change. These days he enjoys golfing, taking Bryce to watch racing, and traveling with the family.



Reflecting on his time at Lowell, Austin has some great memories from playing sports and explained, "...as I get older I look back and really cherish the life lessons I learned from the teachers and coaches I had. A lot of those simple one-liners or just casual conversations still stick with me to this day. I recall people saying that attending a smaller school and community didn't give you the opportunities that larger schools did. I would strongly disagree with this. School is what you choose to make of it. At a smaller school you have teachers and/or coaches that care and know you on a personal level. They become vested in you and your future."

Congratulations, Austin, on all your accomplishments in the last 13 years.
 The Lowell community is very proud of you!



RED DEVIL REPORT

Lowell Athletics Update



MIDDLE SCHOOL FALL SPORTS

REGISTRATION

Registration is open for all middle school sports! Please make sure your athletes are up-to-date on their biannual physical exams and registered at https://or-lowell.edupoint.com/PXP2_Login.aspx prior to participating.

PARTICIPATION

Football (6-8) *Head Coach: Wade Davis*
 Location: Lowell practice field (behind Lundy)
 First Practice: Tuesday, September 5 at 5:30 p.m.
 Parent Meeting: Tuesday, September 5 at 7:00 p.m.

Volleyball (6-8) *Head Coach: Jessica McCart*
 Location: Lundy Elementary gym
 First Practice: Wednesday, September 6 at 3:15 p.m.
 Parent Meeting: Wednesday, September 6 at 5:15 p.m.

Cross Country (5-8) *Head Coach: Jill Chapman*

The season is already underway, but it's not too late to join! Contact Coach Jill for more information.

HIGH SCHOOL FALL SPORTS

Our **cross country team** is led by Jill Chapman and assisted by Cody Brooks. Athletes (pictured right) are sophomores Ayden Medart and Callum Plahn.



Our **football team** is led by Ray Yarbrough and assisted by Mark Kintzley, Kole Powell, Brody Scott, and Chad Smith. Athletes (pictured left) include seniors Luis Estrada, Rowan Files, Ryder Greco, Brody Thurman, and Justus Thurman; juniors Paul Clark, Harley Hardison, Ryan Pelroy, Zander Rogers, and Jamar Thurman; sophomores Ciaran Burch, Liam Burch, Saul Clark, David Finch, Taylor Gielish, Carter Harris, Alexander Sotomayor, Barrett Straight, and Josh Walker; and freshmen Colton Crutcher, Carson Ewan, Gage Greco, Tyler Harris, Zak Hermansen, Adrian Islas, Wyatt McNamee, Christopher Meador, Jax Norcutt, Wyatt Pelroy, and Koda Robert.

Join us for Homecoming during the September 29th football game vs Waldport.

Our **volleyball team** is led by Rachel Thurman and assisted by Ray Fassbender and Mandy Kintzley. Athletes (pictured right) include seniors Amerika Baszler, Kameron Baszler, Brooke Davis, Kaili Kirkhart, Annabelle Pickett, and Vicki Skordahl; juniors Kiahna Baszler, Aly Curry, Hazel Garner, Cheyanne McNamee, and Oztyn Straight; sophomores Lily Almeida-Savio, McKenna Fassbender, Matti Skordahl, and Madison Thurman; and freshmen Savannah Bell, Jade Clark, Kaylie Dodson, Aubrey Gastelo, McKenna McComas, Evelyn Rogers, McKinzley Seeley, and Aniah Watson.



Legislative update with Representative Charlie Conrad.

At their August 15 meeting, City Council received an update from State Representative Charlie Conrad. Conrad described some of the bills that the legislature recently passed.

During the last legislative session, Conrad's office secured \$306,420 for the City of Lowell's water treatment plant. This funding will pay for critical upgrades to the water plant, including its computer system. The current computer system has failed, and the city is using a loaned system.

The computer system automates the plant. Without it, someone would need to be at the water plant 24 hours a day. The upgrades will also allow staff to control the plant remotely. This will help staff run the water plant more efficiently. For instance, the remote-control features mean that the standby operator won't have to leave home just to turn a knob.



Pictured: Left, Mayor Bennett. Right, State Representative Charlie Conrad.

City Council priorities for 2023-2024.

The City Council held a work session on Saturday, August 26.

The purpose of the work session was to identify priorities for 2023-2024. Some of the key items of discussion were:

- Selecting a new auditor. The city is currently in the process of evaluating proposals from auditing firms.
- Completing a utility rate study. The rate study will analyze the city's utilities operations, trends in water/ sewer sales, and long-term capital improvements needs.
- Obtaining grants for parks improvements. The most immediate needs are reopening the parks restrooms. The City Council discussed reopening the restrooms on a limited basis to reduce the risk of vandalism. A long-term goal is to secure grant funding to install vandalism-resistant fixtures in the restrooms.
- Code enforcement. Priorities for code enforcement include properties with severely overgrown vegetation, properties with accumulations of garbage, and mitigating buildings that are unsafe for habitation.



Pictured (left to right): City Council - Jimmy Murray, Maureen Weathers, Mayor Don Bennett, Gail Harris. State Representative Charlie Conrad. Not pictured, Councilor Tim Stratis.

Thank you to all the Blackberry Jam Festival volunteers. I would like to thank all the Blackberry Jam Festival volunteers who made this year's event a success. The festival went smoothly, and we received positive reviews from attendees on the bands and food vendors. Our volunteers' commitment and hard work made a difference, and we couldn't have done it without them.

Upcoming meetings – Meeting details available here:

<https://www.ci.lowell.or.us/calendar/month/2023-09>

- 9/5/23 – City Council meeting is cancelled.
- 9/7/23 – Parks Committee meeting at 7:00 pm.
- 9/19/23 – City Council meeting @ 7:00 pm.

Meetings will take place at the Lowell Rural Fire Protection District station located at 389 N. Pioneer Street

Maggie Osgood Library News

The library has continues to remain busy with titles and activities for everyone. July was the first month actual data collection began and here are some statistics as of August 1st:

- Total items in the catalog: 5,796
- Total Library Cards: 267
- Total Check-outs through July: 1,053

New Hours for September 2023 through May 2024:

- Mondays 11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
- Tuesdays 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
- Wednesdays 1:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.
- Saturdays 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.



Children’s Area in the Library

Special Project:

Volunteer Sherry Carter is leading a project to create a 2024 calendar like the ones Maggie Osgood used to make. We hope to make this an annual tradition. For 2024, the calendar will feature old Blackberry Jam posters. Watch for more information in coming newsletters.

September Programming:

- Saturday, September 2: 4H Stem-based Crafts/Activities, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, September Local History, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 20, Introduction to ASL (pre-registration required)
- Wednesday, September 27, Chasing Chapters Book Club, 6:00-7:00 p.m.



Sat, Sep 16 | Dexter Reservoir

Northwest Nationals!

Come join us for CDBA's Final hosted race of the year!

FROM THE LOWELL FIRE DISTRICT

By Chief Lon Dragt

The Lowell Rural Fire Protection District is celebrating 50 years of service this year. We were established in 1973. We serve 23 square miles that includes the City of Lowell and the rural communities of Fall Creek and Unity. The District provides structural and wildland fire suppression, EMS response, vehicle extrication, water rescue, low angle rescue, and Hazmat first response.

The District started out as an all-volunteer district and currently employs a Fire Chief, a part time Administrative Assistant, a Deputy Chief, a Captain and a Lieutenant. This, with our resident and volunteer members, allows us to have a 24-hour staffed station for response. The last few years we have received funding to bring on summer help to be upstaffed for wild fires.

With the help and support of our district patrons and members, we have grown from the 1950 Mack and a one bay station (located at the old City Hall) to a district that operates two stations with nine apparatus and a rescue boat, servicing approximately 4,000 people. The newest addition to the District's fleet is a 2020 HME custom Engine that carries 1,000 gallons of water, rope rescue gear, water rescue gear, Hazmat supplies, as well as suppression equipment.

Our current Board of Directors are:
 Jason Prenevost – Board President
 Mike Ballenger – Board Vice President
 Bob Burr – Board Secretary/Treasurer
 June Walker – Board Director
 John Myers – Board Director

Paid Staff:
 Lon Dragt – Fire Chief
 Nathan Brown – Deputy Chief
 Lloyd Hall – Captain
 Billy Priser – Lieutenant
 Beth Sprague – Administrative Assistant



We truly appreciate all of the support you have shown these last 50 years, and look forward to serving this community for the next 50 years.



Lane County's Firewise Grant Incentive Program is accepting applications from residents in unincorporated Lane County through September 29, 2023.

Firewise grants provide rural property owners with funding to help complete projects that reduce the risk of wildfire, such as clearing vegetation, replacing wood shake roofing, fire-resistant landscaping materials, noncombustible exterior siding, chimney spark arrestors, and more. Up to \$15,500 in grant funding is available for each qualifying property.

Apply online at www.lanecountyor.gov/firewise. Paper applications are also available in the Lane County Public Works Customer Service Center at 3050 North Delta Highway, Eugene.

Firewise grants are funded through Title III of the Federal Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Program – Section 601 of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008.

In and Around the Community



Chili Cookoff Winners!

We would like to thank our community for making this event successful by participating in judging our 3rd Annual Lowell Grange Chili Cookoff. For those that weren't able to stay until the winners were announced, here they are: 1st Place Amy Lockman & Suzanne Penagor, (top and bottom right); 2nd place George Garcia from our beloved fire department (bottom center); and in 3rd place, Joe Henderson.

Congratulations to these cooks and to all of our cooks who participated this year. See you next year!

Ballet to start in September!

Each Wednesday afternoon, beginning September 13th, Delight in Dance Company will offer ballet lessons at the Lowell Grange, 51 E. 2nd Street.

Cost is still \$10 per class but this year will be open to ages 4 through 12, with the ability levels to be determined based on those enrolled. Please contact Meg at 458-205-1212 or via email at meggreian@gmail.com for more information.



Final Push for Lane County Veterans Stand Down Donations

Last call for donations of Men's and Women's new undergarments including all weights of socks and thermal underwear; outerwear (new or clean and in good condition only please) including all types of shirts, pants, coats and footwear; fleece throws have been especially welcome items.

Donations may be dropped off at the Lowell Grange (51 E. 2nd Street) during our breakfast, **Sept. 3rd** from 8 am to 11 am. Or contact Ruth by text or phone at 541-510-5608 or phone Lonna at 541-937-2312. Monetary donations to purchase items on your behalf will also be accepted. Thank you in advance for helping us help our veterans!



The Lowell Youth Sport Team (LYST) Collective works to provide athletic opportunities and resources to kids in our community who are too young for school-sponsored sports (Pre-K through 5th).

We help coordinate the formation of local teams and notify interested families of athletic opportunities in our area. We also help provide equipment and sponsorships to families with financial barriers to participation.

How can you join?

Scan the QR code to the right and answer a few short questions to add your whole family to the LYST. It's quick, easy, and entirely FREE! And don't forget to follow us on Facebook as well at LYST Collective.



Lowell Hall of Fame Dinner Tickets Available!

Invitations have been mailed for the October 7th Hall of Fame Banquet and Celebration. If you haven't received an invitation and would like to attend, please either scan the QR code to the right; email aaf@lowell.k12.or.us; or text/phone Maureen at 541-954-5765.



Reservations need to be made by September 29 as they will not be available at the event. Please join us as we celebrate new honorees, eat a delicious dinner, catch up with alumni and friends, and help support the student-focused projects funded by the Lowell, Fall Creek Education Foundation.



We would love to have you there but if you aren't able to attend, tax deductible donations may be mailed to LFCEF, 65 S. Pioneer St, Lowell OR 97452. Thank you for your support!

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

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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 2023

- 1—HS JV/Varsity Football v. Illinois Valley, 5:00/7:00 p.m.
Texas Hold ‘em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
- 2—JH/HS Cross Country Ultimook Meet @ Hydrangea Ranch, TBD
- 3—Breakfast at the Lowell Grange, 8:00-11:00 am, 51 E. 2nd Street
- 5—Lowell School, Meet & Greet, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
HS JV/Varsity Volleyball v. Umpqua Valley, 5:00/6:30 p.m.
City Council Regular Meeting — cancelled
Clothing Bank/Food Pantry; 2-5 pm; Hake Center on Lakeview
- 6—First day of school!
- 7—Lowell Parks Committee, 7:00 p.m., 389 N. Pioneer Street
- 8—HS JV/Varsity Volleyball v. Blanchet, 4:00/5:30 p.m.
HS Varsity Football v. Blanchet, 7:00 p.m.
- 9—JH/HS Cross County Meet @ Western Oregon Univ., TBD
- 11—HS JV Football v. Harrisburg, 5:00 p.m.
- 12—HS JV/Varsity Volleyball v. Toledo, 4:30/6:00 p.m.
- 13—Jr. High Football @ Cottage Grove Jamboree, 4:00 p.m.
Lowell Fire Board Meeting, 5:00 p.m., Main Station
- 14—HS Cross Country Meet @ Country Fair Grounds, TBD
HS JV/Varsity Volleyball v. Monroe, 4:30/6:00 p.m.
- 15—HS Varsity Football v. Central Linn, 7:00 p.m.
- 16—JH/HS Cross Country Meet @ Oregon City HS, TBD
HS Varsity Volleyball @ Illinois Valley, Noon
HS Varsity Volleyball v. Oakland @ Illinois Valley, 3:00 p.m.
HS JV Volleyball @ North Douglas Tournament, TBD
- 16—Texas Hold ‘em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
- 18—Jr. High Volleyball—to be determined
HS JV Football @ Central Linn, 5:00 p.m.
- 19—HS JV/Varsity Volleyball @ East Linn, 4:30/6:00 p.m.
City Council Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 389 N. Pioneer St.
Clothing Bank/Food Pantry; 2-5 pm; Hake Center on Lakeview
- 20—Jr. High Football v. Oakridge, 4:30 p.m.
Jr. High Volleyball—to be determined
- 21—HS JV/Varsity Volleyball @ Oakridge, 4:30/6:00 p.m.
- 23—JH/HS Cross Country @ Lane CC Meet, TBD
HS Varsity Volleyball @ Mohawk Tournament, TBD
HS JV/Varsity Football @ Sherman County v.
Weston-McEwen, 2:00/4:00 p.m.
- 25—Jr. High Volleyball—to be determined
Lowell School Board Meeting, 4:00 p.m., PDC/Lundy Elem.
- 26—RAIN Entrepreneur Support, 2:00-3:30, 113 E. Main Street
HS JV/Varsity Volleyball @ Central Linn, 4:30/6:00 p.m.
- 27—Jr. High Football v. Central Linn, 4:30 p.m.
Jr. High Volleyball—to be determined
- 28—HS JV/Varsity Volleyball @ Toledo, 4:30/6:00 p.m.
- 29—HS Varsity Football v. Waldport, 7:00 p.m. — Homecoming!
- 30—JH/HS Cross Country Meet @ Sweet Home, TBD
HS Varsity Volleyball @ Oakridge v. Waldport, 1:30 p.m.
HS Varsity Volleyball @ Oakridge v. Reedsport, 3:00 p.m.