



# The Bridge

Making community connections

## Highway 58 Newspaper to Appear Online Sunday, February 28

The Bridge

Volume 23, Issue 9

March 2021

A group of Lane County volunteers will launch an online newspaper on Sunday, Feb. 28 as a free service to Oakridge, Westfir, Pleasant Hill, Lowell, Dexter, Jasper and other communities along Oregon’s busiest mountain highway. Highway58Herald.org is being funded by donations, grants and advertising and is being created to fill a news vacuum in communities whose residents need accurate, comprehensive and reliable information to participate fully in community life and to stay safe in times of emergencies.

The editor is Doug Bates ([dugglobates@gmail.com](mailto:dugglobates@gmail.com)), a retired newspaper journalist, who lives in Oakridge. A volunteer reporter covering Pleasant Hill and Lowell is Dean Rea, also a retired newspaper journalist, who lives in Eugene ([deanrea@comcast.net](mailto:deanrea@comcast.net)).

Highway58Herald is not Facebook or any other kind of social medium. Neither is the website a “chat forum” or a home for gossip, misinformation, personal invective or political activism. It does not intend to compete with existing information websites maintained by cities, schools and other organizations.

Weekly newspapers have vanished from the Highway 58 corridor, and Eugene’s struggling daily newspaper no longer provides dependably regular news from these communities. Neither do Eugene’s broadcast TV stations. Highway58Herald.org is being created to fill this void with professional journalism that can best be produced for this area by a not-for-profit platform supported by donations, grants and (modest) advertising.

Headquartered in Oakridge, Highway58Herald.org will serve the thriving as well as the struggling communities along the 87-mile length of State Highway 58, which at various times of the year is Oregon’s busiest highway freight route or tourist route between Oregon and California. Stretching from the southeastern outskirts of Eugene in Lane County to the tiny hamlet of Crescent in Klamath County, this transportation corridor is home to more than 26,000 Oregonians.

“What you will be seeing on Feb. 28 is quite possibly the future of community journalism, particularly in small markets,” says Bates. “In Oregon it’s already happening, thanks to former colleagues of mine from The Oregonian like Quinton Smith ([YachatsNews.com](http://YachatsNews.com)) and Les Zaitz ([SalemReporter.com](http://SalemReporter.com)). “We’ve stolen all their best ideas – with their blessings, of course.”

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

Dear Lowell / Fall Creek Families,

As I sat down and wrote my monthly article for the Bridge a little under year ago, I started out with “unprecedented times,” “distance learning,” “COVID-19 pandemic,” and all the other key words and phrases associated with what we were about to encounter. I don’t think any of us imagined it would be what it was and still is to this day. But, we have made it this far and I feel that the staff here has done a phenomenal job in all facets and departments to work together and ensure that we are making our decisions on what is in the best interest of the students.



As I take a deep breath and reflect on the past year, a lot has taken place and we aren’t out of the woods yet, but we are in a much better place than we were last March. Our Kindergarten – Third Grade students have been live and onsite since September. Our Fourth – Sixth graders have been live and onsite for almost a month now. And, we brought back our Jr/Sr high school kids in weekly cohorts so they get to experience some normalcy as well. It has not been easy with all the rules and guidelines that need to be in place to ensure we can have kids in our buildings. And, although we can start to see some light at the end of the tunnel, we still need to keep pushing forward to ensure that we make it through the tunnel.

I don’t know what next month will bring but I’m guessing more of the same. This has been a wacky school year to navigate and predict through. It seems like there are more questions than answers and if anything is constant with the rules and regulations, its change.

I am saying all this to let you know that no matter how tough the times get in our district, state, nation and world, we will consistently strive to do our best and ensure that your children know they are welcomed and supported when they attend our schools regardless of Distance Learning or On-Site Capacity. Our number one priority is your children. That is the reason we show up on a daily basis and that is the reason we will consistently think of better ways to support them as well as you.

We are in this together and the District is only one aspect of this wonderful community. We rely on you all for your constant willingness to be flexible (no more apparent than this year), team and community oriented ,and most importantly, your desire for your kids to have the best education that they possibly can. We have the same desire in the District as well. Much like snowflakes, no two kids are the same. We recognize that and want you to know that we are here to help and support you all in any capacity we can.

As we start to creep back towards normal, please know that we are all in this together and we all have important roles to play. “Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.” –Henry Ford.

Respectfully,  
Johnie Matthews

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### **Volleyball and Cross Country Update**

With the decrease in the number of Covid cases in Lane County, the Lowell High School volleyball team will be able to play this year. The official start of practices was on February 22, but the team is limited in what they can do until Friday when Lane County moved to the High level. The first match of the season is on March 2 at 6pm at Monroe High School. Unfortunately, no spectators will be allowed.

Cross Country also began practicing on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. They are scheduled to run at the Harrier’s Challenge at Dorena Lake on March 6<sup>th</sup> for their first meet.

## Football Season is Underway!

High school football teams in Oregon got some long-awaited good news February 10th. The Governor's Office said in a release that the Oregon Health Authority will revise its guidance for outdoor contact sports, easing restrictions for schools that have returned to at least limited in-person learning.

The new guidance will allow football teams, who began non-contact practices Monday, to progress to contact practices next week and start the season as scheduled March 1, provided they meet requirements for in-person instruction and follow health and safety protocols. Schools in counties that are low and moderate risk can move forward with their football plans. For those in high and extreme risk counties, schools "must offer on-site responsive testing for symptomatic individuals and close contacts, contact information for contact tracing, and a waiver."

In addition to meeting health and safety protocols, schools in high and extreme risk counties wishing to resume outdoor contact sports "must also have at least limited in-person instruction occurring, with the goal of achieving hybrid or full in-person instruction for students this school year," the release said. "Schools must also be in compliance with state guidance for COVID-19 testing."



Practices haven't been the same during the cold, rainy days of winter as compared to our usual nice Fall days but the team has been working hard and is ready for their first home game on Friday, March 5th. Unfortunately, fans won't be allowed in the stands.

Team members include seniors Bernie Anderson (#71), Audra Chapman (#26), Nicky Sotomayor (#50) and Carter Wendt (#73); juniors Andrew Bardis (#52), Raymond Fassbender (#60), Deacon Savio (#2), Anthony Smith (#12) and Austin Smith (#7); sophomores Jaxon Alexander (#22), Beauden Asher (#55), Trenton Edwards (#90), Jesse Neet (#24), Trapper Roat (#79) and Hayden Vaughn (#5); and, freshmen Justin Brooks (#77), Gabe Dorelien (#14), Jacob Eves (#8), Rowan Files (#70), Jaden Jalof (#11), Alex Palencia (#28), Zane Pearson (#13), Brody Thurman (#36) and Justus Thurman (#1). Head coach Pat Todd is assisted by Ryan Maher and Mark Kintzley. Go Red Devils!!

## Students of the Month



**Nicole Tucker** (at left) is a senior at Lowell and the daughter of Rochelle Lundberg. In her free time she likes to spend time going on walks with her dog and exploring new places. But, when the weather is bad she enjoys staying in and watching old movies. Explains Nicole, "My favorite subject will always be band. Being someone who hasn't been involved with sports, playing music has taught me how to be a team player."



**Colton Wendt** is an 8th grader and his parents are Chantelle and Matt Wendt. Colton likes playing board games and video games, hanging out with friends and riding bikes. His favorite food is sandwiches. He plays the baritone and likes to swim and go fishing.

**Congratulations Nicole and Colton on being selected as Students of the Month!**

## City Beat by City Administrator Jeremy Caudle

### **From the Desk of Mayor Don Bennett:**

During the February 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Council agreed to support planning for City sponsored outdoor events in 2021. The Blackberry Jam Committee will be considering what activities can be held while abiding by the State guidelines. The Parks and Recreation Committee will consider plans to install irrigation systems in Rolling Rock and Paul Fisher parks before summer, and the possible return of movie nights. We must keep people safe while providing events the community will enjoy.

City Council approved plans for the Sunset Hills subdivision for 16 lots. Over the next year, nearly 50 residential lots will be available when you add Sunset Hills, Crestview, C&S Construction on north Hyland, Sunridge Development, and individual private lots. You may ask, can our Public Works facilities handle the increase. The answer is, "Yes!"

About 15 years ago, two measures were approved by the voters to upgrade and increase capacities of the water and wastewater facilities and build a new water tower on East First Street. Lowell used to get its drinking water from ground wells. New EPA restrictions and limited well water output necessitated the City transitioning to lake water. Lake water is piped from the main channel near the Covered Bridge to the water plant. Water is cleaned, treated, and pumped to the water towers. Common piping between both towers keeps their individual water levels even. Wastewater leaves the homes and is again cleaned and treated at the wastewater plant to meet Oregon DEQ standards. The discharged water is cleaner than the intake lake water. The discharged water is piped to a location near Dexter Dam.

There is a continuous outflow from Dexter Dam as the electrical turbines operate 24 hours a day. The City has approximately 450 customers and the upgrades 15 years ago will allow an increase in City capacity to 800 customers, or about equal to a population of 2,500.

### **City Council, Planning Commission, and Committee actions.:**

At its February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, the Planning Commission took the following actions:

- Recommended approval to City Council for Land Use File 2019-04 – Sunset Hills Subdivision (Map 19-01-14-21, Tax Lot 05000).
- Approved site plan for Land Use File 2020-01—Tristan Ferguson Site Review (Map 19-01-14-22, Tax Lot 2301).

Planning Commission approval was unanimous for both actions.

At its February 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, the City Council took the following actions:

- Approved Land Use Application #2019-04 in the matter of the Sunset Hills Subdivision owned by Bahen Investments, LLC and located on Assessor's Map and Tax Lot #19-01-14-21- 05000, along with conditions of approval. (Approved unanimously.)
- Discussed if it would be possible to hold the Blackberry Jam Festival considering COVID-19 restrictions. Discussed shared ideas for other potential events that would meet public health protocols.

At its February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Blackberry Jam Festival Committee took the following actions:

- Approved a motion to cancel Blackberry Jam Festival for 2021 due to current COVID-19 restrictions. (Approved unanimously.)
- Agreed to meet in two weeks' time to share ideas on possible events that would meet current public health restrictions.

### **Monthly Police Log (January 16—February 15)**

Date	Time	Type	Location
1/16/2021	12:02 AM	ASSAULT	LOWELL
1/16/2021	3:48 AM	ALARM	S PIONEER ST
1/18/2021	3:54 AM	SUSPICIOUS CONDITION	E MAIN ST
1/18/2021	4:10 AM	ASSAULT	LOWELL

**Monthly Police Log (January 16—February 15) - continued from page 4**

Date	Time	Type	Location
1/18/2021	3:03 PM	DISPUTE	WETLEAU DR
1/18/2021	5:17 PM	ABANDONED VEHICLE	N HYLAND LN
1/20/2021	7:34 PM	OTHER AGENCY ASSIST	N CANNON ST
1/21/2021	7:27 AM	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	N PIONEER ST
1/21/2021	3:00 PM	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	N CANNON ST
1/21/2021	8:38 PM	ABANDONED VEHICLE	E 5TH ST/N HYLAND LN
1/23/2021	4:50 AM	LOUD NOISE	N CANNON ST
1/24/2021	2:19 PM	ABANDONED VEHICLE	N CANNON ST
1/25/2021	1:37 PM	THEFT	S PIONEER ST
1/25/2021	2:16 PM	FRAUD	E 1ST ST
1/26/2021	8:01 AM	THEFT	S PIONEER ST
1/26/2021	4:26 PM	PATROL REQUESTED	N CANNON ST
1/27/2021	1:30 AM	LOUDMOTORCYCLE	N CANNON ST
1/27/2021	1:16 PM	HARASS	E 4TH ST
1/28/2021	2:15 PM	TRESPASS	E 4TH ST
1/30/2021	11:55 AM	ALARM	S MOSS ST
1/30/2021	7:58 PM	MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH	N MOSS ST
1/30/2021	8:14 PM	REPOSSESSED VEHICLE	W 7TH ST
1/30/2021	9:51 PM	ASSAULT	E 2ND ST
1/31/2021	11:00 AM	ABANDONED VEHICLE	NORTH SHORE DR/MARINA VISTA DR
1/31/2021	8:40 PM	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	W 2ND ST
1/31/2021	9:30 PM	WELFARE CHECK	E 2ND ST
2/1/2021	2:03 AM	LOUD NOISE	N CANNON ST
2/1/2021	2:34 PM	SUSPICIOUS CONDITION	S PIONEER ST
2/2/2021	10:17 AM	ALARM	S MOSS ST
2/2/2021	3:12 PM	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	N MOSS ST
2/3/2021	7:17 PM	BURLARY	W 2ND ST
2/4/2021	8:53 PM	INCOMPLETE 911	CAROL ST
2/4/2021	11:32 PM	LOUD NOISE	W MAIN ST
2/6/2021	3:57 PM	TRESPASS	N MOSS ST
2/6/2021	9:59 PM	FOLLOW UP	WETLEAU DR
2/9/2021	3:33 PM	SUSPICIOUS CONDITION	N CANNON ST
2/11/2021	7:54 AM	ABANDONED VEHICLE	NORTH SHORE DR/MARINA VISTA DR
2/12/2021	10:59 AM	DISPUTE	W 4TH ST
2/12/2021	3:43 PM	DISPUTE	N CANNON ST
2/12/2021	6:52 PM	FOLLOW UP	N CANNON ST
2/13/2021	2:54 PM	ALARM	S MOSS ST
2/15/2021	9:29 AM	ALARM	S MOSS ST
2/15/2021	4:38 PM	ABANDONED VEHICLE	WETLEAU DR

**Please report suspicious activity and tips to the Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) by phone at 541-682-4150 or 541-682-4141. For a crime in progress or other emergency always dial 9-1-1.**



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## FROM THE LOWELL FIRE DISTRICT

By Chief Lon Dragt

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Bill Priser has been a resident of Lowell for most of his life, attending Lundy Elementary and graduating from Lowell High School in 2012. Originally he became a volunteer firefighter at the Lowell Rural Fire Protection District as an outlet to serve the community outside of his regular job. Over the last few years he has worked diligently to be part of our team, attended trainings and responded to emergency calls. Bill is proud to have grown up in Lowell and enjoys working directly with this community during our district events. He is enthusiastic to start working with the Lowell Fire District and focusing full time on serving this community.

Recently a full-time position opened within the Fire District, where seven applicants went through a weekend of testing and a Chief's Interview. After discussion, Bill Priser was selected to fill the open position as Shift Lieutenant. We are looking forward to having him on board.

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### City Beat—continued from page 5

**Outdoor Burning Season Opens March 1.** The outdoor burning season opens in the City of Lowell on March 1 and runs through May 31. City regulations for burning are provided below. All outdoor burning is also subject to the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) and residents should check their advisory hotline at 541-726-3976 or [www.lrapa.org](http://www.lrapa.org) prior to burning.

Prohibited burning includes:

- Burning refuse, garbage, or other waste products
- Burning construction or demolition waste
- Field, ditch, or weed burning
- Commercial or industrial burning as defined by LRAPA
- Burning of wet woody yard trimmings, leaves, and grass clippings

Allowed burning includes:

- Fires initiated for firefighting training purposes
- Recreational fires used for cooking with fire in a fireplace, barbecue set; or an outdoor fireplace, fire ring, or pit fueled with cut and split firewood
- Bonfires or religious ceremonial fires as approved in writing by LRAPA and the LRFDP
- Burning clean woody yard trimmings on LRAPA approved burn days in March, April, May, and October

Whenever possible, choose other ways to dispose of yard debris. Chipping, composting, and hauling are alternatives. The City of Lowell maintains a green waste drop-off site at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, located at 240 South Moss Street. The facility is open the last Saturday of the month from 10:00-12:00. Residents may drop off acceptable materials at no charge. Proof of residency is required, and may be confirmed with a recent water, electric, cable or telephone utility bill.

## Clothing Bank Open to Serve

The Clothing Bank continues to be open on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays with hours from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Clothing donations are welcome on days that the clothing bank is open, or contact Brandy Stewart at 541-530-0123 or [Stewartx6@fastmail.fm](mailto:Stewartx6@fastmail.fm) to make other arrangements.

The clothing bank provides free items to anyone in need and all sizes are available. It's located in George Hake Center at 4 East Lakeview Street (behind the football field). Thank you to our community for being so generous with their donations, they are appreciated very much!



## Lowell Community Preschool Has Openings!

Lowell Community Preschool is now OPEN for enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year! Children must be independently potty trained AND be three years of age on or before September 1, 2021.

Please contact Jessica Pelroy at 541-953-9200 (or message us on our Facebook page) for more information or to enroll your child today!.



## Local Real Estate News & Tips

### Thinking About Selling or Buying a Home?

Here are some essential tips for sellers and aspiring home buyers:

- Putting a home up for sale can be stressful, and some owners have a hard time making objective decisions when it matters most; **PRICE IT RIGHT**.
- Homes that have failed to attract a buyer in a reasonable period of time may be overpriced.
- It doesn't pay to set the price too high; most buyers will need financing and the bank will generally use an appraisal based on recent sales to justify the loan amount.
- Pricing your home competitively from the get-go increases the odds of a quick sale.
- If your home is priced too high when it hits the market, you run the risk that active, qualified buyers will scroll right past it.
- New listings are called "hot" for a reason—buyers get excited about them. Showings are likely to cool off noticeably after the first 30 days on the market.
- When weighing an offer, make sure to consider the potential costs of holding on to your property longer than you want or need to (including the mortgage, property taxes, insurance, maintenance, etc.).
- Buyers should start by talking to their mortgage professional about your financial situation and credit history to determine your loan options. It's important to know how much house you can afford based on your down payment and income.
- Expect to pay more for a turnkey property; if you consider a fixer-upper, judge structural deficiencies more harshly than cosmetic flaws. It can be costly to replace major components or to change the layout, but redecorating with flooring, fixtures or paint is relatively easy and sometimes offers instant equity potential.
- Location is key. Even if the site seems perfect for you at the present time, think about whether it will appeal to a large pool of buyers if you should decide to sell in the future.



While the current real estate market has extremely low inventory, there are lots available in four subdivisions with city utilities. This could be the perfect time to build and/or sell – For more information, talk to your favorite real estate professional.

# 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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*Permit #1*

*Lowell, OR 97452*

## 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: March 2021

- 1—JV/Varsity Volleyball @ Monroe, 4:30/6:00 p.m.
- 2—Read Across America—Events All Day!  
**City Council Work Session, 7:00 p.m.,  
Maggie Osgood Library, 70 N. Pioneer Street**
- 3—Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m., Maggie Osgood Library
- 4—JV/Varsity Volleyball @ Oakridge, 4:30/6:00 p.m.
- 5—Varsity Football v. Monroe, 7:00 p.m.
- 6—Cross Country @ Harrier's Challenge at Dorena Lake
- 9—JV/Varsity Volleyball v. Oakland, 4:30/6:00 p.m.
- 10—Curriculum Day — Half day of school  
**Fire District Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Lowell Station**
- 11—JV/Varsity Volleyball v. Jefferson, 4:30/6:00 p.m.
- 12—Varsity Football @ Oakland, 7:00 p.m.
- 14—Daylight Saving Time — Move your clocks forward one hour!
- 15—**School Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., PDC at Lundy Elem.**
- 16—JV/Varsity Volleyball @ Regis, 4:30/6:00 p.m.  
**City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Maggie Osgood Library**
- 18—JV/Varsity Volleyball v. Central Linn, 4:30/6:00 p.m.
- 19—Varsity Football v. Reedsport, 7:00 p.m.
- 22-26 — Spring Break—Have fun and be safe!
- 23—JV/Varsity Volleyball @ East Linn, 4:30/6:00 p.m.

- 25—JV/Varsity Volleyball v. Monroe, 4:30/6:00 p.m.
- 26—Varsity Football @ Central Linn, 7:00 p.m.
- 27—Green Waste Facility — 10:00 a.m. until noon
- 30—JV/Varsity Volleyball v. Oakridge, 4:30/6:00 p.m.



### KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION for 2021-22

Do you have a child that will be five  
on or before September 1<sup>st</sup>?

Call Lundy Elementary to receive your  
Kindergarten Enrollment Packet  
541-937-2105