



The Bridge

Making community connections



Blackberry Jam Festival

* Music * Food * Fun *

July 26 - 28

The **Lowell Annual Blackberry Jam** will be back to its three-day schedule this year, July 26th-28th, at Rolling Rock Park in downtown Lowell and **admission is free!**

Friday evening kicks off the festival with the first of ten live bands that will perform during the weekend alongside food trucks and craft vendors. McKenzie Crest wines will return this year and as always, our popular jars of Blackberry Jam will be on sale at the information booth.

The **Parade** starts Saturday morning at 11:00 a.m. followed by our favorite **Dr. Delusions Illusions** at the main stage at 11:45. Please register for the parade! We would love to see our entire community participate. Please contact Lonna at 541-937-2312 or download the parade application on the Jam website, blackberryjamfestival.com, and drop it off at City Hall.

The yearly **3-on-3 Basketball Invitational** starts at 11:00 a.m. Saturday morning in the High School Gym. Registration details will be posted on the Blackberry Jam Facebook page leading up to the event.

Lowell High School will have a 50/50 **Bingo** tent this year to raise money for the Class of 2025 Senior Trip. Contact Mindy at 541-999-4743 for additional information about Bingo.

The 2023 **Cornhole Competition** was such a hit we are bringing it back this year. Registration will be at noon on Saturday, with teams beginning at 1:00 p.m. The **Horseshoe Tournament** will also be back, with registration at 5:00 p.m. on Friday for a 6:00 p.m. start time. Pre-registration is available on the Scoreholio app, or you can contact Brad Anderson at 541-914-1736 to register. Both competitions have a 20 team maximum, so register soon.

We are happy to announce that the **Kidz Corner** will be brought back this year thanks to volunteers Lyn Alexander and Jessica McCart. The Kidz Corner will be open from 1-4 pm Saturday and Sunday.

See more BBJ information on page 5...

The Bridge

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July 2024

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The Lowell School District has often been associated with catch phrases like “we are on the move” and “a private school education with a small school feel.” But what do these things mean? For the Lowell School Board, the administration, and the staff, it means that we always want to be moving forward and striving for the best for our students.

Recently, our school district has grown to add classrooms, and lower class sizes. We have added three new positions at the elementary school and two new positions plus a counselor at the high school.

Studies show that class size does make a difference. With the help of the Early Literacy Grant, we have taken steps to lower the student teacher ratio in our classrooms. With smaller classes, the teachers are better able to meet the needs of the students, establish better relationships, manage behaviors, and increase literacy.

Students who read at grade level by third grade will most likely do well throughout their educational career. With lower class sizes in our elementary grades, we will have a much better chance of meeting and maintaining that standard.

In our high school, it is important to continue to add classes to keep our students interested in learning and continue to make the path to graduation more engaging. We have added teachers with endorsements in science and social studies. Previously, only one teacher was available in each of those areas of study. This will afford our students more opportunities to learn about a wider range of topics in these subjects. Along with teachers, we have also added additional classrooms and will begin making another classroom space ready for this fall.

Every year, we keep working to get better. This year is no different, we are still on the move.

Register Your Student Now for Next School Year!

Student registration is now available online. Go to the District website:

lowell.k12.or.us

and then to the **Resources** section where you’ll find an easy link to Student Enrollment Online.

If you need help with lost login information or have questions, please leave a voicemail at 541-937-2124, option 1.

After you have completed the registration process, your student's school office will be in contact with you if they need additional information. Thank you!



LOWELL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUMMER MEALS FOR KIDS

JULY 8 - AUGUST 16

This summer, Lowell School District is serving free breakfast and lunch to anyone **18 years old or younger**. Summer meal service will operate Monday to Friday, beginning Monday, July 8 and ending Friday, August 16. All meals will be served in the Lundy cafeteria. The Lundy covered courtyard will be designated for dining.

MEAL	BEGINS	ENDS	SITE LOCATION
BREAKFAST	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	LUNDY CAMPUS CAFETERIA & COURTYARD 45 S. MOSS ST. LOWELL, OR 97452
LUNCH	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER



RED DEVIL REPORT

Lowell Athletics Update



SOFTBALL ALL-STATE AWARDS

Awards have continued to roll in for our outstanding softball team after yet another trip to the state tournament;

Amerika Baszler (sr) — 1st Team All-State Outfielder

Kaili Kirkhart (sr) — Honorable Mention All-State Catcher

Kassidy Matthews (sr) — Honorable Mention All-State Pitcher

Madison Thurman (so) — Honorable Mention All-State Infielder

ATHLETES & COACH OF THE YEAR

Rowan Files, a senior, was named Lowell High School's Male Athlete of the Year for the second time. As a three-sport Varsity athlete, Rowan went to state in football, basketball, and track all while maintaining a spot on honor roll. He helped his team win the football state championship and was named 1st Team All-State Tight End, 1st Team All-State Linebacker, and the All-State Defensive Player of the Year after leading the 2A division in tackles this season with 117. In basketball, Rowan earned 2nd Team All-League recognition as his team finished in the top 16 of the state tournament. And in track, Rowan was a team captain who placed in three district events (100m, 4x100m, javelin) and placed 3rd in state at the 100m. During the season, Rowan set the all-time school record for both the 100m and 200m with times of 11.2 and 22.9, respectively.



Amerika Baszler, a senior, is Lowell's Female Athlete of the Year. Amerika was a Varsity star and team captain in both volleyball and softball while also staying on honor roll. In volleyball, Amerika earned 1st Team All-League honors while playing the setter and outside hitter positions. She helped her team finish 2nd in league and 6th in state. Adding to that in softball, the team finished 2nd in league with Amerika earning 1st Team Outfielder and Player of the Year awards. Continuing to state, the team reached the top 16, where Amerika was recognized again with 1st Team All-State Outfielder honors.

Ray Yarbrough was named Lowell's Coach of the Year for his effort and success with our football team. He ended his first year as Lowell's head coach with an undefeated regular season, a league championship, and Lowell's first ever football state championship. Coach Yarbrough was also named the OACA 2A Football Coach of the Year. He is loved by his athletes and is recognized for his year-round dedication to his sport.

DON'T MISS OUT ON LOWELL ATHLETICS UPDATES

While The Bridge may be going out of circulation, the Red Devil Report will continue. If you would like to keep up with Lowell Athletics, you can find our monthly updates in the Lowell Athletics Bulletin at lowell.k12.or.us/athletics.

Election season is underway. It's election season, and we have three positions that will be on the November ballot: positions 2, 3, and 5. When running for election, candidates must declare which specific position number they are running for. Each member serves a four-year term and they do not get paid for their service.

For more information on how to run for the above positions, please refer to the "Candidate Filing Instructions" on the city website at <https://www.ci.lowell.or.us/citycouncil/page/city-council-election-information>. You can also pick up a candidate packet at City Hall. The city must receive all documentation of candidacy by 5:30 p.m. on August 27, 2024.

What are the requirements to run for election to Lowell City Council? You must be registered to vote in the State of Oregon. And, you must have resided within Lowell city limits a minimum of 12 months preceding the election.

Navigating city management. It has occurred to me that some of you may be wondering what a City Administrator does, and I often get asked that when people outside of work inquire about what I do for a living. I thought I'd take a moment to explain the role and its importance to our community.

What does the City Administrator do? The City Administrator's responsibility is to oversee the day-to-day operations of our city, ensuring that everything runs smoothly and efficiently. Here are some key responsibilities:

City Operations. Managing and overseeing all aspects of our city's operations, from public works to community development.

Policy Implementation. Working closely with our City Council to implement their policies and decisions.

Financial Management. Preparing and managing our city budget, ensuring that taxpayer funds are used wisely and effectively. This also includes procuring goods and services and managing contracts.

Public Relations. Handling public relations and serving as a point of contact for any concerns or issues you may have regarding our city.

Intergovernmental Coordination. Coordinating with various local, state, and federal officials to ensure cohesive and effective governance.

Reporting and Recommendations. Providing regular updates to the City Council on the city's status and making recommendations for improvements as needed.

What's in a Name? You may have heard the terms "City Administrator" and "City Manager" used interchangeably. In our city, the role of City Administrator encompasses the same responsibilities typically associated with a City Manager in other cities.

How can I help you? If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns about our city, I encourage you to reach out to me. I am here to serve you and our community. You can reach me at City Hall, by email at admin@ci.lowell.or.us, or by phone at 541-937-2157.

Upcoming meetings – Meeting details available here:
<https://www.ci.lowell.or.us/calendar/month/2024-07>

July 2—City Council @ 7:00 pm

July 9 – Blackberry Jam Festival Committee @ 7:00 pm

July 18 – City Council @ 7:00 pm

July 23—Library Committee @ 4:30 pm, Library Conference Room

Notes: The Parks Committee meeting will be rescheduled since its regular meeting date falls on July 4. The Blackberry Jam Festival Committee will meet weekly to finalize festival preparations. Check the city website for updates on meeting dates/times.

**Meetings will take place at the Lowell Rural Fire Protection District station,
389 N. Pioneer Street, unless otherwise noted.**

Maggie Osgood Library News

The Summer Reading Program kicked off June 22 with a visit from the Oregon Reptile Man. The fun lasts until August 17 when Dealightful Family Entertainment, the magic, facepainting, balloon, group that we had last year, returns. To participate stop by the library to get a reading log and a list of activities. There are crafts and stories every Tuesday and Saturday at 10:30.

2nd Annual Blackberry Jam Book Sale will be held Saturday and Sunday, July 27 – 28. Thousands of books including picture books, classic science fiction, and best sellers. All proceeds go to purchasing new books for the library. And look for our float in the parade!

New Library Hours begin July 1st

Mondays	Closed
Tuesdays	9:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
Wednesdays	1:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.
Thursdays	9:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
Fridays	Closed
Saturdays	10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Sundays	Closed



The Maggie Osgood Library is co-located with City Hall at 70 N. Pioneer Street in Lowell

Continued from cover page

As always, Tim Stratis will be running the **Greased Pole Climb** and **Coins in the Hay**. If you're still looking for more fun, events include the Lowell Fire Department's **Drag, Crawl and Squirt** event over by Stomping Grounds Coffee, the **Springfield K-9 Unit Demonstration** on Saturday, and a magician both days!

The Blackberry Jam, in partnership with the Lowell Grange, is excited to bring a new feature event this year. The **Atlantic & Pacific N-gineers Model Railroading Club** will be at the Lowell Grange, 51 E. 2nd Street, on Friday night, all day Saturday, and Sunday afternoon. Running a small gauge track allows for multiple trains to be run in a limited area. Having the train show at the Grange will provide a cooling center in case there's hot weather and also share our historic Grange hall with festival visitors. So, beat the heat and visit the trains!

If you would like to be a part of the Blackberry Jam but aren't able to attend meetings year-round, we can use some volunteers during the three days of the festival. Please reach out to Meesa Anders at 541-206-2727 if you have a few hours you can spend volunteering. High School Seniors wanting to earn community service hours toward graduation requirements can contact Shannon Fassbender. Anyone who lives in the community and would like to participate in planning for 2025 is welcome as well! We would love to see events like the Car Show, fishing derby and pie eating contest happen again someday.



FROM THE LOWELL FIRE DISTRICT

By Chief Lon Dragt

Back Yard Burning Season Closed

Just a reminder that the back yard burn season is closed. Outdoor burning of tree trimmings and yard debris is now prohibited. Recreational fires are still permitted as long as the fire is no larger than four square feet, with flames no higher than four feet in height. The fire must be built on bare ground (dirt), and away from combustible surroundings. The material being burned must be clean and dry, producing little to no smoke or embers. There must be a person in attendance at all times while the fire is active. For more information contact the Fire District Office at 541-937-3393 or the Oregon Department of Forestry at 541-726-3588.

As the weather gets warmer and drier, all outdoor burning is likely to be prohibited, so stay informed and check the burning regulations often.

Think Water Safety This Summer

In recent weeks the district has participated in a number of water rescue incidents that included overturned rafts in the Middle Fork of the Willamette River, to boating accidents in our local lakes. We would like to remind everyone to be smart in and around water.

Whether at home or enjoying our local waterways, it is always important to keep safety in mind when in or near water. Drowning can happen at any time of year, but be especially cautious during the summer months when drowning incidents can increase by as much as 89% as compared to the rest of the year.

When the weather turns warm, as it is now, everyone naturally wants to be in or around the water to help stay cool. Hanging out at the pool or the lake on a hot day is a great way to beat the heat. For people between the ages of 5 and 24, drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death.

It doesn't have to be that way, though. Most water-related accidents could be avoided by knowing how to stay safe and following a few simple guidelines. Learning how to swim is essential if you plan on being on or near water. Many organizations provide swim instruction to folks of all ages, check to see what classes are available in our area.

Contact the district office at 541-937-3393 or check our web site at www.lowellfiredistrict.org for more information on water safety and boater safety.

WATER SAFETY





\$5 for 4-H members
\$10 for non-members

K-8th Grade

LOWELL

4-H Summer

CAMP

Bring a water bottle!

- Arts & crafts
- STEM focused hands-on activities
- Team collaboration

LOWELL FIRE DEPT
389 N. PIONEER ST
LOWELL, 97452

JULY 3
9-4 P.M.

Register online at beav.es/c9x
by June 26

Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made by 6/19/24 to Melinda Garcia, 541-844-0129, melinda.garcia@oregonstate.edu. OSU Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities and materials.




JULY 12-14 2024


KYLE CANNON MEMORIAL

BI-MART SUMMER CLASH

CO-SANCTIONED WITH ADBA

****TEST AND TUNE JULY 12th**

DEXTER RESERVOIR LOWELL, OREGON





In and Around the Community

Community Yard Sale — July 26th through 28th!

Let us know if you are having a garage sale the weekend of July 26th-28th and we'll add you to the community yard sale map. This is the weekend of the Blackberry Jam.

You can stop by Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop at 113 E. Main Street in Lowell, or call us at 541-729-4020 to provide your information. The deadline to have your information to us is Monday, July 22nd. There is no charge or purchase required to list your sale or to receive a map.

Maps will be available at Stomping Grounds starting July 25th. There is no charge or purchase required to list your sale or to receive a map.



A colorful poster for the Lowell Summer Recreation & Fitness Program. It features a blue sky background with green hills at the bottom. The text "FREE" is in a blue circle on the left, and "AGES 7-12" is in a blue circle on the right. The main title "LOWELL SUMMER Recreation & Fitness Program" is in large, bold letters. Below the title, it says "9:00 AM - 12:30 PM" and "BREAKFAST @ 9:00 AM LUNCH @ 12:00 PM". There is a QR code with the text "SCAN TO REGISTER" above it. At the bottom, it lists activities: "JULY 8-12 • SOCCER & NET GAMES", "JULY 15-19 • TRACK & FIELD", "JULY 22-26 • NATURE HIKING", "JULY 29-AUG 2 • DISC GOLF", "AUG 5-9 • BASEBALL & FOOTBALL", and "AUG 12-16 • FISHING & ARCHERY". A small target icon is on the left, and a person playing volleyball is on the right. At the very bottom, it says "OR VISIT WWW.LOWELL.K12.OR.US/SUMMER" and "THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER".

A poster for the Lowell Girls and Boys Summer Basketball Camp. It has a dark red background with a basketball hoop and net on the left. The text "LOWELL GIRLS AND BOYS" is at the top. The main title "SUMMER BASKETBALL CAMP" is in large, bold letters. Below the title, it says "Free Camp" in a white circle. A large orange basketball is in the center. At the bottom, it says "Grades 1st - 5th" and "JULY 16, 17, 18". There are two orange boxes: one with "4:00 PM - 6:00 PM" and another with "Bring your favorite basketball". At the bottom, it says "Lowell HS (New Gym)" and "Contact Amber Burton 541-521-9870".

Dear Readers,

It is with mixed emotions that I announce my retirement as the editor of this newsletter. After many years of “making community connections” by informing local residents of current events, sharing news, and celebrating achievements, the time has come for me to turn a new page in my life.

While I am excited for this change for me, I am hopeful that someone with a passion for our community and a desire to keep people informed will step forward to continue this important work.

If you are interested in taking on the role of editor and keeping this newsletter alive, please send an email to bridge@lowell.k12.or.us before August 31. —Maureen Weathers

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: July 2024

- 2—City Council Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 389 N. Pioneer St.
Clothing Bank/Food Pantry; 2-5 pm; Hake Center on Lakeview
- 4—Independence Day — City Hall closed
- 5—Texas Hold ‘em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
- 7—Breakfast at the Lowell Grange, 8:00-11:00 am, 51 E. 2nd Street
- 8—Summer Meals for Kids begins, Lundy Elementary, 9am/Noon
- 9—Blackberry Jam Committee, 6 p.m., 389 N. Pioneer
- 12-14—Columbia Drag Boat Races, Lowell Marina
- 14—Lowell Fire Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Main Station
- 18—City Council Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 389 N. Pioneer St.
Clothing Bank/Food Pantry; 2-5 pm; Hake Center on Lakeview
- 20—Texas Hold ‘em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
- 23—Library Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Library Conference Rm
- 26—Senior Potluck, Luncheon, Noon, Fall Creek Christian Church
- 26-28—Community Yard Sales, see map at Stomping Grounds
- 27-28—Library Book Sale, Maggie Osgood Library, 70 N. Pioneer



* Music * Food *
* Fun *

July 26—28
Rolling Rock Park