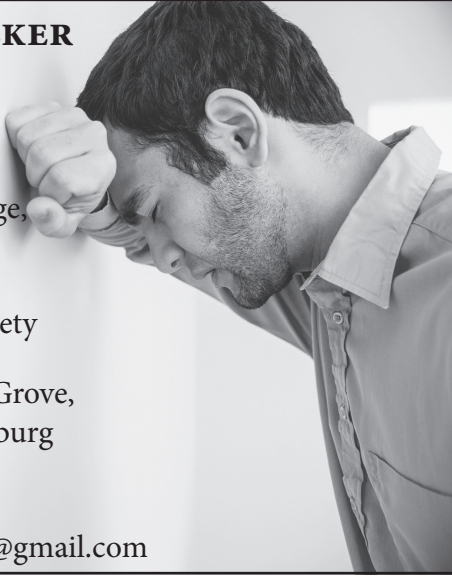


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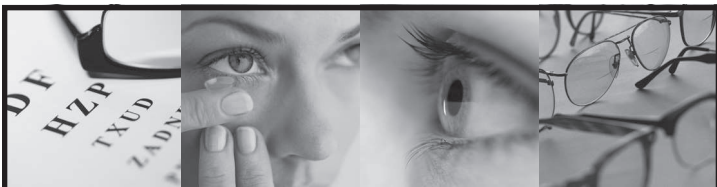
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Bullying *from A1*

Jeremy and Emily at the middle school and partnered with them in conversations with the University of Oregon who helped them build the Tiger Room,” Bridgens said, noting that, as an elementary school, Bohemia has worked to build bridges with the local middle school — including incorporating techniques found at Lincoln Middle School’s Tiger Pride room.

The room is a place for restorative conversations and is based on data collected by the University of Oregon and several studies surrounding student behavior.

Inside the room, students who have experienced conflict come together under the guide of a mediator and talk through their issues. However, the practice has met criticism by some around the state as not being effective — particularly for students of color.

Nancy Willard has spent six years studying bullying and possible approaches schools can take to better address the issue. She has worked with the Salem-Kaizer School District and is working on material to be utilized statewide.

The current process of

majority of caucasian teachers and administrators, the issue can be compounded. In speaking on the issue of bullying last year, Lincoln Middle School Vice Principal Emily Wren noted that some bullying had taken on pejorative language based in race — specially for Hispan-

dents.

“One of the things we had to very much work on is when we put someone who feels like they’ve been mistreated... putting them in the same room as someone who just mistreated them,” she said. “It doesn’t feel very good to have to go up and hang out with that person so we have to work on the facilitation of those conversations and we’re working with Lincoln Middle School on that.”

At Lincoln, a new program #ICanHelp has followed up multiple anti-bullying campaigns from last school year. According to school counselor Tim Partridge, the program gives students an ownership over the issue and asks that they report behavior that could be identified as bullying.

Student council heads the program — developed and used at a national level. According to #ICanHelp, the program has worked with students to remove more than 800 instances of bullying or harassment where the bulk of those instances take place: social media platforms.

“Our kids aren’t allowed to use their cell phones during the school day,” Wren said — a sentiment echoed by Bridgens. “But they do go behind our backs.”

“...we have to work on the facilitation of those conversations and we’re working with Lincoln Middle School on that.”

— Tammy Hodgkinson
South Lane School Board member

restorative conversation, according to Willard, allows the student with an advanced social standing to maintain that standing.

“They know exactly what to say during the conversation,” she said.

For students of color in a school district with a ma-

restorative conversation,

For those students, coming to a restorative conversation with a Caucasian mediator can be daunting.

It’s an issue that hasn’t escaped South Lane administrators or the South Lane School Board. Prior to breaking for the summer of 2018, board member Tammy Hodgkinson introduced an agenda item questioning what the district could do to create a more welcoming environment for people of color.

Bridgens also noted that schools are attempting to improve the restorative conversation process for all stu-

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DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Are you ready?

Protect your home and family from flooding

Flooding is a natural disaster that often strikes with little, if any, warning. The environmental awareness site Natural Rivers states that floods are the most common natural hazard in North America in terms of number of lives lost and property damage. Floods can occur day or night and any time of the year. Flooding can also occur in all different terrains.

In September 2018, many of the inland towns of North Carolina were flooded in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence, displacing millions. The following month saw severe flooding in central and southern Texas that prompted Governor Greg Abbott to declare a state of disaster in 18 counties. Accuweather reported in the summer of 2018 that historic flooding closed famed Hershey Park, shuttering attractions for a few days.

Flooding can cause considerable distress, uproot families and damage structures. But even people who live in flood zones can take steps to be flood-safe.

- Purchase flood insurance. Many people and properties are not covered for flooding under standard homeowners insurance policies. As a result, it is essential to purchase separate flood insurance. The home improvement and information site HouseLogic says that flood insurance may be required by mortgage companies for those financing homes in flood plains.
- Have a “go bag” ready. This is a great idea in preparation for any type of emergency situation. Go bags can include a few changes of clothes, important documents and phone numbers, essential toiletries, extra cash, and non-perishable foods. You may want to stock go bags with flashlights, batteries and waterproof shoes as well. Evacuate if a flood is predicted to be severe.
- Know your flood level. Check flood maps at the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s website (FEMA.gov) or your local building department. This will help you know just how high the water might rise in certain scenarios so you can plan accordingly.
- Safeguard key home systems. Protect sockets, switches, breakers, and wiring in a home by placing them at least one foot above the expected flood level in your area, offers the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety. Move the furnace, water heater and any other key appliances so they sit above the property’s flood level.
- Vent the water. Foundation vents, sump pumps, drains, and more can help keep water from accumulating in or around the foundation of a home.
- Consider a grading change. The grading or slope of ground can be adjusted to direct water away from your home. If your street is prone to standing water after ordinary rainstorms, talk to your county planning or environmental services department about potential modifications.
- Prepare for the worst. Home piers or columns can lift the lowest floor of a home above flood level. It’s an expensive undertaking but can be worth it in high-flood areas.

Flooding is no joke. Homeowners can safeguard their homes with some protective steps.



PUT TOGETHER A PLAN

Make sure all the pieces are in place to render you and your family prepared in the event of a natural disaster.

- Listen to radio or television newscasts for the latest weather information, and follow all evacuation directions and suggestions.
- Keep a stock of non-perishable food items as well as bottled water on hand inside your home.
- Keep a 72 Hour Kit on hand inside your home that is easy to get to in the event of a disaster.

For more information and tips on disaster response and preparedness, contact your local emergency services center.
South Lane Fire & Rescue • 233 Harrison Ave, Cottage Grove 541-942-4493 • 55 South 1st Street, Creswell 541-895-2506



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