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## WEATHER

Partly cloudy with a  
high of 63 and a low  
tonight of 44.

Full forecast on A5

## COMMUNITY

Swinging Bridge  
gets official name  
A3

## SPORTS — B

Lions take loss on  
Homecoming  
B1• RECORDS  
Obituaries  
Police  
A2• LORANE NEWS  
A5• CLASSIFIEDS  
Listings and public  
notices  
B6-B7FOLLOW US FOR THE  
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DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

The house at 850 E Quincy Ave. serves as a sober living environment for women recovering from addiction to transition back into a healthy lifestyle.

## At-risk residents find 'Safe Haven'

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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This May, Cottage Grove Safe Haven opened the city's first transitional home for women recovering from addiction. Five months in, the nonprofit is still looking for more residents.

The 'Booher House' — named after Darrell Booher, the former owner of the house who was also in addiction recovery — came to the nonprofit amid a challenging search for property in the Cottage Grove area. After Booher passed away, his surviving family, aware of the group's mission, happily

agreed to let Safe Haven use his property.

Safe Haven board member Billie Bird is the current 'house mother' at the Booher House.

"There's nothing else like it in Cottage Grove," she said of the project.

Though the project has garnered a degree of local popularity and support, only two women in recovery currently reside in a space which can house up to six.

Resident Heather Thompson is the first to use Safe Haven's services.

Earlier this year, Thompson had her own business and was engaged

to be married in Tacoma, Wash., when her brother's sudden death at age 29 brought her back to her hometown of Cottage Grove. After attending the funeral, she felt compelled to stay in town.

"I couldn't find it in my heart to leave my family because they were so devastated," Thompson said.

The strain of her brother's death had taken a heavy toll on the entire family and self-medicating became the prevalent healing mechanism among them.

"It was getting to the point where everyone was fighting and

See SAFE 6A

## Lane, Douglas counties outpace state in bullying rates

BY JOSHUA LEACH  
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Pushing. Shoving. Name-calling. Online malfeasance. It's a tale as old as time: kids can be jerks to one another. October is National Bullying Prevention Month and unfortunately, bullying has nearly always been a part of the school experience.

It's worse for LGBT youth, who reported higher bullying rates, according to a 2017 report by the nonprofit Oregon Safe Schools and Communities Coalition (OSSCC).

There have been some glimmers of hope — the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has said that the number of kids reporting being bullied has decreased by 11 percent in the last decade.

Sometimes viewed as a rite of passage through life, bullying can have real health consequences for children and teens. HHS says that bullied kids are more likely to go through depression, anxiety and may even see changes in their diet and sleep patterns. This could continue into adulthood.

Bullying has the added effect of hurting kids academically, too. Victims of bullying are "more likely to miss, skip or drop out of school" and can feel the effect on their report cards.

The bullies, on the other hand, are more likely to get into fights, abuse alcohol, be sexually promiscuous in their youth, be domestic abusers and have criminal records.

"Every bullying situation has two victims, both the bullied and

Nationally among eighth graders, 1-in-4 students report being bullied, which is still a lower rate than those reported in Oregon.

— Oregon Health Authority 2017 Healthy Teens Survey

the bully," said Terry Bennett, superintendent of North Douglas School District (NDSD).

The Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) 2017 Healthy Teens Survey revealed that 3-in-10 Oregonian

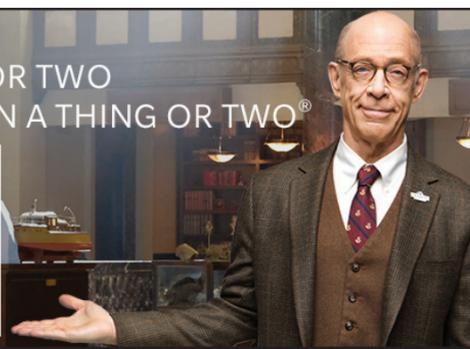
eighth-graders reported being bullied. Closer to home in Lane and Douglas counties, that number was higher, at 34.2 percent and 42.2 percent, respectively.

For eleventh-graders, the numbers were lower, but still alarming: 1-in-5 across the state, including Lane and Douglas counties, report being bullied. That number matches up with 2017 data on eleventh-graders from the National Center for Education Statistics.

Nationally among eighth graders, the number is higher, with 1-4 reporting being bullied, which is still a lower rate than those reported in Oregon.

And it's not just that the rate is

See BULLY 7A

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