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**Former
WOU
students
guilty on
sex crimes**

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Two men were convicted on sex charges on Feb. 3. Measure 11 crimes involving a single victim.

Robert Godeaux Savoy III, 23, was convicted of first-degree rape, first-degree sex abuse and third-degree sex abuse.

Christopher James Weekly, 23, was convicted of first-degree sodomy, first-degree sex abuse, second-degree sex abuse and third-degree sex abuse.

The incident occurred in 2014 in the city of Monmouth while Weekly and Savoy were students at Western Oregon University.

The investigation by Monmouth Police Department and the disciplinary process at WOU took some time, District Attorney Aaron Felton said.

Whether or not the victim also was a student is unclear from court records. Felton said he declined to say anything that may further identify the victim.

The trial took place over two days in front of Polk County Circuit Court Judge Norman R. Hill. Both Weekly and Savoy waived their rights to a jury trial.

"The case was tried by Chief Deputy DA Jayme Kimberly, who did an outstanding job in getting justice for the victim," Felton said. "The investigation conducted by detectives from Monmouth Police Department was thorough and highly professional."

First-degree rape and first-degree sodomy are Measure 11 crimes which carry mandatory sentences of 100 months in the Department of Corrections.

Sentencing is scheduled for 4 p.m. on Thursday in Polk County Circuit Court.

Dallas man arrested on homicide charge

Itemizer-Observer staff report
DALLAS — Police arrested Cody Moore on Feb. 3 on criminally negligent homicide and first-degree criminal mistreatment charges.

The charges are related to the drowning death of a child that occurred on Oct. 6, 2015, according to a report from Dallas Police. Moore, 21, of Dallas was indicted on Feb. 3, but Polk County Court records didn't reveal more details about the incident, including the name of the alleged victim or where it happened.

Moore is being held on \$50,000 bail and is scheduled to appear for a pretrial conference on Feb. 25.



The facade of the Blue Garden is nearly complete, except for its refurbished sign. It will once again grace the building this week, with an informal "lighting," the first in 30 years, scheduled for Thursday evening.

A sign of what's to come

The classic Blue Garden building facade will be completed this week

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — For the first time in about 30 years, the old Blue Garden sign will add its light to Main Street in downtown Dallas.

Thursday the newly refurbished sign will be reinstalled on the building, which is undergoing major transformation of its own behind the remodeled facade.

Around dusk Thursday evening, Blue Garden owner Bob Collins will flip the switch to light the sign.

It will be an outward indication of progress on a project that Collins admitted has been more work than he anticipated. The building had been declared a nuisance by the city, and once he started work, he knew why.

"The old girl was on her last leg," Collins said Monday.

A portion of the ceiling had collapsed, exposing the interior to rain.

"It was all mold and mildew," he said, "and it was



Blue Garden owner Bob Collins leans on the old counter in what will soon be the remodeled cafe.

just ugly." Collins, who is financing the remodel piece by piece, persevered and has made notable progress, starting with abatement of the mold and removal of all the old kitchen equipment.

The building had been locked up for 15 years when he bought it, and Collins found evidence of that — old bottles of salad dressing — in one of the freezers.

"It was just terrible," Collins said.

He decided the remodel would have to be from the ground up if he was going to do it.

"It's an overwhelming big project, but we keep moving forward on it," Collins said. "Every day we get a little closer on it."

Collins just finished installing new sewer lines, a new grease trap and a new

storm drain that will keep about a half a million gallons of rain water out of the city's wastewater treatment plant. He's made necessary repairs to the roof on two levels. New plumbing and heating systems are being installed now.

"A lot of stuff that you don't really think of it having anything to do with the restaurant, but it is just trying to make it all correct," he said.

Collins has completed a seismic upgrade that will prevent a complete collapse and allow people to get out if a big earthquake were to strike.

"I have enough lumber in here that I could have framed two very large homes. We've lined all the walls, we framed within the frames," Collins said. "It's a pretty big expense, but we wanted to do it right."

Collins believes he is finally at a point in the restoration where he can think about working toward opening at least part of the restaurant.

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Dallas Street hearing slated

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The Dallas City Council is holding a public hearing Tuesday on the proposal to ask voters for a 10-year, \$10 million bond to pay for residential street repair.

The proposal would have the issue before voters in May 2016 and is backed by two citizens' committees that studied the condition and funding options for residential streets.

The majority of funding

for streets — including street maintenance, sidewalks, street lights and other operations costs — comes from state and federal gas tax revenue. In the 2015-16 budget, that amounted to about \$1,050,000, \$270,000 of which is allocated to street and sidewalk repairs.

In recent years, the funding allocated to streets has been dedicated to those in town with the highest use, collector and arterial streets.

The other approximately \$700,000 covers operations — personnel, materi-

als, and services, said City Manager Ron Foggini at the council's Feb. 1 meeting.

Questions about the bond election timing and other alternatives — such as a utility fee or revenue bond — were also discussed at the meeting.

Tuesday's hearing will provide citizens a chance to comment on the plan.

"There will be plenty of opportunity for folks to come and talk about it, one way or the other," Mayor Brian Dalton said. "We welcome that."

Learn more

What: Residential street funding public hearing.

When: 7 p.m. Tuesday, during the Dallas City Council meeting.

Where: City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas.

Of note: The council will be taking comments from residents about the proposal to put a 10-year, \$10 million bond on the ballot to pay for residential street repair.

**IN
YOUR
TOWN**

DALLAS

Fractal art "mesmerizes" viewers at the Dallas Public Library's February art exhibit.

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FALLS CITY

Faces after-school program receives national attention from Sen. Jeff Merkley.

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INDEPENDENCE

Master Gardeners get ready for annual Mother's Day Plant Sale and give out a few tips for things to do in the garden now.

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MONMOUTH

Western Oregon University's fall freshman enrollment has increased, but overall enrollment has dropped.

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SPORTS

Central's boys basketball team tries to build off wins to make a postseason push in the Mid-Willamette Conference.

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POLK COUNTY

Don't let scams get the best of you. Just hang up on suspicious callers.

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Voting for community awards to close

Itemizer-Observer staff report
MONMOUTH/INDEPENDENCE — Online voting for the 51st annual Community Awards Banquet, hosted by the Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce, will close on Friday.

All chamber members are included in the business award categories, as well as nomination forms for First Citizen, First Junior Citizen, Distinguished Service, Educator of the Year, and Educator Support Staff of the Year.

The banquet will be at 6:30 p.m., with social hour starting at 5:30, on March 4 at Eola Hills Wine Cellars.

Tickets are \$40. For more information, to register, vote or nominate someone: www.miccor.org.

THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK

Day	Event	Time	Cost	Weather	Hi/Low
wed	ASL classes begin today at Monmouth Senior Center. Learn the alphabet and basic sentence structure.	9-10 a.m.	Free.	Cloudy	Hi: 59, Lo: 44
thu	Meet other young professionals at a gathering at Washington Street Steakhouse. The group meets monthly.	5:30-7 p.m.	Free.	Showers	Hi: 59, Lo: 46
fri	Enjoy lunch and learn about rock hounding at the monthly potluck at the Monmouth Senior Center.	Noon.	Free.	Rain	Hi: 56, Lo: 43
sat	Central High's choir will host a dessert and performance at the school. The evening is a fundraiser for the arts.	7 p.m.	\$7-\$10.	Showers	Hi: 54, Lo: 43
sun	Celebrate Valentine's Day with chocolate and music at Dallas Alliance Church, benefiting displaced people.	2-4 p.m.	Free.	Rain	Hi: 54, Lo: 45
mon	A veterans support group, Polk County Battle Buddies, meets at West Valley Hospital. Dinner will be served.	6 p.m.	Free.	Showers	Hi: 60, Lo: 47
tue	Learn all the tricks of pruning grapes from Master Gardeners through hands-on training at the Gentle House.	10 a.m.	Free.	Showers	Hi: 57, Lo: 44