

'ELITE' COMPANY



Western Oregon players celebrate after winning the NCAA Division II West Regional title on Monday evening.

LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer



Western Oregon seniors Julian Nichols, left, and Andy Avgi celebrate moments after defeating the University of California, San Diego on Monday night.

LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

WOU advances to the Elite Eight

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — The Wolves aren't done dancing yet.

Western Oregon's men's basketball team defeated the University of California, San Diego 60-55 on Monday night to advance to the Elite Eight on March 23.

"I couldn't be prouder," WOU coach Jim Shaw said. "... Both teams played like teams that expected to win and are used to winning. There weren't a whole lot of mistakes."

The Wolves took the NCAA Division II West Regional crown after a tightly contested matchup with the second-seeded Tritons.

Defense ruled the day, as UCSD held WOU to 36 percent shooting from the field and the Wolves held the Tritons to 41 percent.

Scoring chances came at

Marching On

What: NCAA Division II Elite Eight.

Who: No. 1 Western Oregon vs. Kutztown/Liberty.

When: Wednesday, March 23.

Where: Dr. Pepper Arena, Frisco Texas.

What's at stake: The winner advances to the national semifinals on March 24. Semifinal winners meet in the Division II championship game on March 26.

a premium, but Western Oregon made sure it didn't give the Tritons any extra opportunities. In total, the Wolves had zero turnovers.

"I think that's what we pride ourselves on is controlling the tempo and ball control," senior guard Julian Nichols said. "My job is to run the show and make sure we run a play and run it well. We did that from the beginning of the game. It's tough to go an entire game with no turnovers. That speaks for itself."

Senior forward Andy Avgi scored a game-high

25 points.

Nichols struggled from the field, shooting 2 of 12, but hit his lone 3-pointer of the game to give the Wolves a 55-52 lead with 1 minute and 13 seconds left in the game.

"I told Julian, he went 2 of 12, but he picked a hell of a time to make a 3 out of that corner," Shaw said.

The Wolves built the lead to six when Avgi converted a 3-point play to put WOU up 58-52 with a minute left and Western Oregon held on from there for the victory.

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IN YOUR TOWN

DALLAS

Dallas School Board considers a remodel of restrooms.

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FALLS CITY

Falls City takes the first steps toward starting Neighborhood Watch.

»Page 6A

INDEPENDENCE

Billy the Toymaker offers unique treasure hunt in downtown Independence.

»Page 2A

MONMOUTH

Monmouth Hardware has moved to a new location for the first time since the 1960s.

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SPORTS

Local girls basketball players earn all-region recognition.

»Page 12A

EDUCATION

The United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley is holding a book drive increase children's home libraries.

»Page 14A

Central High to host job fair

Itemizer-Observer staff report
INDEPENDENCE — A job fair on March 23 will bring 31 businesses and organizations to Central High School.

The fair, sponsored by WorkSource Oregon, Sedcor, the city of Independence, the Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce, the Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce, Incite and local staffing agencies, will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The event is free. Job seekers and attendees may park in the east parking lot at the school. Early entrance will be available for job seekers registered with WorkSource Oregon's fast pass system.

For more information: Neil Johnson, 503-378-8120; AJ Foscoli, 503-931-2429.

Police stop suspected burglary

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

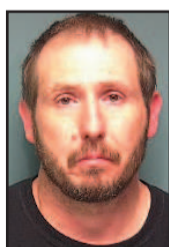
POLK COUNTY — Break-in, interrupted.

That is what happened early Friday morning on Red Prairie Road, according to the Polk County Sheriff's Office.

At about 6:40 a.m., a caller dialed 911 to report what was believed to be a burglary in progress in the 8500 block of Red Prairie Road

outside of Sheridan. The caller said a male subject had broken into the house and was still inside. The owner of the home was away at the time.

Polk County Deputy Jason Ball responded to the call, with back up from a Dallas Police officer because of the seriousness of the call. Once on scene, the officers surrounded the residence and called for the suspect to step outside the home.



Bond

house a few minutes later and surrendered without incident.

Bond was arrested and charged with first-degree

burglary, first-degree trespass, second-degree theft, second-degree criminal mischief and possession of methamphetamine.

Oregon State Police troopers arrived on scene after the arrest and helped search the home to make sure no one else was inside. Police found no other suspects.

Investigation into the incident revealed a side door to the home had been

forced open. Police found a crowbar in Bond's vehicle, which could have been used to pry open the door. Officers also found methamphetamine in the car.

Bond was taken to Polk County Jail, where his bail was set at \$77,000. He posted bail and was released on Saturday.

He is scheduled in Polk County Circuit Court on March 29 at 9 a.m. for an arraignment.

THE NEXT
7
DAYS
PLANNING
FOR YOUR
WEEK



wed
Check out the quilt display at Dallas Public Library, featuring quilter Janice Ames, the artist for the month of March. Free.
Mostly sunny
Hi: 57
Lo: 36

thu
Happy St. Patrick's Day! Monmouth Senior Center's soup and pie sale is today, while Dallas' sale is Friday. 11 a.m.
Sunny
Hi: 62
Lo: 37

fri
Faith Evangelical Free Church will host a bluegrass music jam, open to listeners and musicians of all ages. 7-10 p.m. Free.
Sunny
Hi: 63
Lo: 43

sat
Polk County Museum will host Family Day, with scavenger hunts, dress-up and vintage costumes. 1:30 p.m. Free.
Cloudy
Hi: 58
Lo: 44

sun
Come take flight with the Dallas Wingdingers RC Flying Club, which will host an indoor fly at Whitworth. 1 p.m. Free.
Showers
Hi: 58
Lo: 44

mon
If you're itching for some music, play with the Willamette Valley New Horizons Orchestra. 6:30 p.m. \$25 monthly fee.
Showers
Hi: 54
Lo: 43

tue
Indy public works employees will present "Bob the Builder" at the Indy Public Library for kids and families. 4 p.m. Free.
Showers
Hi: 56
Lo: 43