

# Western invites community input

University works to gather perspectives from on, off campus for new strategic plan

By Emily Mentzer  
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — When Rex Fuller was first hired as Western Oregon University's president in April 2015, he anticipated having conversations with the campus community and residents of the surrounding area.

This year, those conversations took a more formal approach. In April 2016, a committee of 25 people representing a cross-section of campus started working in earnest on a new strategic plan for the university.

The old plan was found on a shelf and was five years old, Fuller said.

All the goals with the new plan point to student success.

At a town hall on Nov. 16, about a dozen members of the community mingled with strategic plan committee members to discuss WOU's mission and goals.

Dave Foster, professor of psychology, has a background in industrial organization psychology and has experience helping governmental entities through the strategic planning process.

He sits on WOU's planning committee and said one of the things they hope to address is how to keep



Cec Koontz, middle, speaks with Marshall Guthrie, left, and Paul Sieber, right, about WOU's goals. Koontz and Guthrie are both on the Western Oregon University board of trustees, as well as on the strategic planning committee.

EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer

WOU relevant in a changing world.

"We and all public universities find ourselves in a

time of tremendous change," he said. "With the dissolution of the Oregon State University System, we now have our own board."

With uncertainty surrounding the future of higher education — specifically the funding — the goal of strategic planning is to help point the university

in a direction that's sustainable and successful, Foster said.

Fuller said once the plan is adopted by the board in January, it will not sit on a shelf and collect dust, but rather be put to use right away in the budgeting process for 2017-18, which has been revised to include

a university-wide budgeting committee.

"They'll consider that (the strategic plan) as we make final decisions," Fuller said. "That alone will open up the dialogue. Right now, the budget's a little bit of a black box."

The new plan is more specific than the old one was, said Laurie Burton, faculty member on the strategic planning committee.

"I think this time we're a little more encompassing of our campus in the process," she said. The old plan wasn't integrated into university life the way the new one will be, she added.

Monmouth Mayor John Oberst said he has noticed the old plan trend in community engagement between the city and WOU.

Students and professors help with workshops at the Monmouth Senior Center, and Monmouth City Manager Scott McClure helps teach a public policy course using real challenges faced by the city of Monmouth.

"People don't realize the opportunities that are present because this university is here," Oberst said. "Or there's an attitude that I've heard expressed — and I've

## DEADLINES

### NEWS DEADLINES

For inclusion in the Wednesday edition of the *Itemizer-Observer*:

**Social news** (weddings, engagements, anniversaries, births, milestones) — 5 p.m. on Thursday.

**Community events** — Noon on Friday for both the Community Notebook and Community Calendar.

**Letters to the editor** — 10 a.m. on Monday.

**Obituaries** — 4 p.m. on Monday.

### ADVERTISING DEADLINES

**Retail display ads** — 3 p.m. Friday.

**Classified display ads** — 11 a.m. on Monday.

**Classified line ads** — Noon on Monday. Classified ads are updated daily on [www.polkio.com](http://www.polkio.com).

**Public notices** — Noon on Friday.

## CORRECTIONS

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## WEBSITE

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The *Itemizer-Observer* is also on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Watch for breaking news, links to stories, sports scores updates and more.

## WEATHER

RECORDED	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
Nov. 15.....	59	45	.29
Nov. 16.....	50	43	.10
Nov. 17.....	54	37	.00
Nov. 18.....	50	37	.T
Nov. 19.....	59	44	.03
Nov. 20.....	57	50	.29
Nov. 21.....	56	43	.03

Rainfall during Nov. — 2.86 in.  
Rain through Nov. 21 — 37.81 in.

heard it here tonight — that all I get for going to Western is a parking ticket."

Western Oregon and its facilities contribute enormously to Monmouth and the surrounding communities, Oberst said.

"Just for the stuff that's available on WIMPEG channel 17," he said. "If you watched that for an hour a night for a month, you'd be so much smarter. It's amazing."

The strategic plan is still coming together. The committee is still taking community input. To participate in the process and to learn more: [wou.edu/planning](http://wou.edu/planning).

## Dallas chamber hosts PB drive

DALLAS — The Dallas Chamber of Commerce is hosting a peanut butter drive to benefit Dallas Christmas Cheer. Food and gift boxes are delivered to families in need on Christmas Eve. This year, organizers hope to collect 350 jars of peanut butter to make sure every family gets at least one jar.

Deliver jars or cash to purchase jars to the Dallas chamber office, 168 SW Court St., by Dec. 21.

For more information: [dallasoregon.org](http://dallasoregon.org).

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3rd Annual Salem Health West Valley Hospital  
**Holiday Craft Sale**  
Tues, Nov. 29th & Wed, Nov. 30th  
7:30 am - 3:30 pm  
525 SE Washington St, Dallas Conference Room 1

Common Sense Tip FOR DRIVERS

**DON'T PASS STOPPED CARS.**

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West Valley Housing Authority will hold their **Work Session Meeting on Wednesday, November 30, 2016 beginning at 11:30 a.m. at 204 SW Walnut in Dallas, Oregon. The Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 30, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. at 204 SW Walnut in Dallas, Oregon. An Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660 will be held immediately following the Regular Meeting, if required.**

Agenda for the meeting is posted on the Housing Authority website at [www.wvpha.org](http://www.wvpha.org). The location for the meeting is handicapped accessible. Please advise the West Valley Housing Authority if you need any special accommodations to attend the meeting. For information, please call 503-623-8387, TDD 1-800-735-2900.

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Solution on Page 9A

	8	7	6	4				
		7				1		
6			5	1	2			8
		5	6					
3			2					5
			4	9		6		
8		4						
	9	2		6				
	1		3		4			

How to do Sudoku  
Fill in the grid so the numbers 1 through 9 appear just once in every column, row, and three-by-three square. See example above.