

Polk County
Itemizer-Observer

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\$1.00

Man drowns in Dallas pool

Itemizer-Observer staff report

DALLAS — A 22-year-old Dallas man died after being found unresponsive at the Dallas Aquatic Center Saturday afternoon.

At about 2:26 p.m., aquatic center employees called 911 saying CPR was in progress on a person at the pool, according to a press release from the Dallas Police Department.

Lifeguards attempted lifesaving efforts until Dallas Fire & EMS medics arrived to take over. Medics took the man, Marshall Weaver, to Salem Health West Valley, where attempts to save his life were unsuccessful, police said.

Dallas Police Department, in conjunction with the Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office and the Polk County District Attorney, are investigating the incident.

"At this point, it appears this was a tragic drowning accident," Dallas Police Chief Tom Simpson said in the release.

The department didn't have additional details by Monday evening, but will release more as soon as it is appropriate, Simpson said.

Arnett arrested on rape charges

Itemizer-Observer staff report

POLK COUNTY — Harol Ramos Arnett, 23, was arrested on Aug. 23 for al-

legedly raping a 13-year-old girl between July 1 and Aug. 22.

According to the probable cause statement, Arnett was living with the girl and her mother in a detached garage. He approached the girl in an unwanted sexual way, the statement said.

Later, he asked the girl to help him with a dresser in the garage. He shut the door behind her, put his hand on her throat, and had unwelcome sexual intercourse with her. Arnett allegedly had unwanted sexual intercourse with the girl at least one other time.

He was arrested by Polk County Sheriff's deputies and charged with first-degree rape, second-degree rape, first-degree sodomy, strangulation, and first-degree sex abuse. He is lodged in the Polk County Jail. Security is set for \$207,500. Arnett was appointed an attorney, Julio D. Vidrio. His trial is set for Oct. 13.



Arnett



Photo illustration by STEPHANIE BLAIR/Itemizer-Observer

The intersection of Sacre Lane and Church Street bustles with children when school is in session.

Traffic sparks concerns

Monmouth resident wants changes at intersection of MES

By Stephanie Blair
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Paul Sieber, a resident of Monmouth for longer than four decades, is looking for a change in his neighborhood.

Nine years ago, Sieber was serving on Monmouth's Traffic Safety Commission.

He submitted a request to the commission, asking that the streets and sidewalks around Monmouth Elementary School be improved for the safety of the students who commute to school by walking and biking.

"You have to understand that there are (more than 500) students at MES, they all arrive basically through that intersection, and they don't come alone, they come

with their parents and their cars, all the buses come through there, garbage trucks, milk delivery trucks all come through that intersection," Sieber said. "The street between Sacre and 99 is three blocks, and a lot of kids are coming on bikes, and there's no bike lane, no guidance to tell them or show them where they should be."

The request — which called for raised crosswalks at the intersection of Church Street and Sacre Lane, the relocation of speed signs to "effective distances" from the intersection, and the installation of bike lanes and school zone or school crossing signs — was not pursued by the commission.

Now, after nearly a

decade, Sieber has directed his request to the city council — more specifically, to councilor Laurel Sharmer.

In an email response to Sieber's request, Sharmer claimed, "If nothing is done about this I guarantee there will be campaign signs around town next year that say, 'Safety for MES Students! (insert name) for Monmouth City Council.' And we will throw the bums out."

Sharmer read Sieber's emailed request during the citizen comments section of the Aug. 15 Monmouth City Council meeting.

The council then passed Sharmer's motion to direct city staff to prepare a report describing how to maximize pedestrian and bicyclist safety near MES, as well as a

budget for those changes, with a 4-1 vote.

Sieber requested to be added to the group preparing the report as a citizen advisor, but was denied admission due to the council's decision to "bypass any citizen advisory group participation at this time," as Public Works Director Russ Cooper, the leader of the staff group filing the requested report, explained to Sieber via email.

Sharmer then wrote an email to Cooper and Sieber, endorsing Sieber's request to join the group.

The email was copied to Councilor Royal Johnson, City Manager Scott McClure and Emily Mentzer, editor of the *Itemizer-Observer*.

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Vets help fix home

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Brandon Doeden had recently purchased a fixer-upper home outside of Monmouth on Airlie Road when his life screamed to a halt.

Three months ago, he was in the middle of do-it-yourself renovations when he was in a motorcycle accident in Fossil.

"It was pretty surreal," Doeden said of the accident that left several other people injured, as well.

The crash put him in the hospital and left him facing months of recovery. Finishing the renovations — or even getting things to the point where he could make do — wasn't possible.

"I've spent a lot of time here, looking at what I need to get done," said Doeden, who still walks with a significant limp.

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JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Marv Olson helps complete work on Brandon Doeden's home on Aug. 19.

IN YOUR TOWN

DALLAS

High school track and field project to be completed over two years.

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FALLS CITY

City seeks feedback on transportation needs.

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INDEPENDENCE

City unveils new logo featuring the Cooper Block tower.

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MONMOUTH

Community Yard Sale returns on Saturday.

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POLK COUNTY

Suspect arrested after pursuit into Polk County.

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SPORTS

Dallas cross-country coach Monique Lankheet seeks elusive accomplishment.

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Harvey, Labor Day increases fuel prices

Itemizer-Observer staff report
POLK COUNTY — As Harvey continues to blast Texas and the Gulf Coast with heavy rains, inflicting some of the worst flooding in history in the Houston area, gas prices are climbing in many parts of the country.

For the week, the national average for regular unleaded adds 4 cents to \$2.38. This is one of the largest one-week price surges for the national average seen this summer. The Oregon average gains 2.5 cents to \$2.84.

Harvey isn't causing significant increases in pump prices in Oregon since Oregonians don't depend on the Gulf Coast for gasoline. Still, prices here will likely climb a few cents due to increased demand for the Labor Day holiday.

Social media

Be sure to follow the *Itemizer-Observer* on Twitter @PolkIONews, Instagram and like us on Facebook and check www.polkio.com.

THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK



wed
Come support a fundraiser at Salem Health West Valley Hospital going on today and Thursday. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mostly sunny
Hi: 80
Lo: 56

thu
Celebrate the end of summer with Johnny Limbo and the Lugnuts for the final Sounds of Summer concert. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Mostly sunny
Hi: 83
Lo: 55

fri
Show off your musical skills, or hear some jams at the Guthrie Park Acoustic Music Jam Session. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Sunny
Hi: 93
Lo: 59

sat
The Annual Monmouth Community Yard Sale returns to Main Street Park. See what items you can find! 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunny
Hi: 98
Lo: 60

sun
The Polk Flea Market offers a variety of treasures just waiting to be found at the county fairgrounds. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$1.

Sunny
Hi: 97
Lo: 58

mon
Celebrate Labor Day and get ready for the first day of school for Polk County students on Tuesday.

Sunny
Hi: 94
Lo: 61

tue
Support the Wolves when Western Oregon's women's soccer team hosts Northwest Christian. 4 p.m. \$5.

Partly sunny
Hi: 97
Lo: 62