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Man Claiming to Be Pastor Accused of Raping Boys

07/29/1992

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McALESTER - A man who said he was former pastor was in the Pittsburg County Jail on Tuesday on charges of rape and sodomy of three boys.

A preliminary hearing is scheduled Sept. 22 for Kenneth Raymond Dewoody, 50, of Crowder. He was charged with nine counts of rape and sodomy. Bail was set at \$100,000.

Deputies found pornographic magazines and videotapes in his home north of McAlester.

The boys, ages 14 to 17, allege Dewoody raped and sodomized them, sometimes in front of other boys, sometimes while watching pornographic movies, authorities say.

Two of the boys met Dewoody at Ask Creek Church, where Dewoody was a pastor, authorities say.

But G.C. Gray of Blocker, the church's pastor since the 1980s, said Dewoody had never been a pastor there and was not a member of the church.

Dewoody also told authorities he is an ordained minister, according to the sheriff's report.

Church Reconstruction Gets \$5.2 Million Boost

MUSKOGEE - Reconstruction of St. Paul United Methodist Church got a \$5.2 million lift recently.

The money was an insurance settlement for the cost of replacing the building. More money is coming for the value of the building's contents, destroyed by a fire last Christmas Day.

Construction is to begin as soon as architect Gary Sparks produces plans acceptable to the congregation and church officials. Sparks' first ideas are to be presented to the building committee Aug. 13.

Construction contracts could be let this year, and if construction begins by early March, the building could be completed in 1993.

Preliminary plans call for the sanctuary to be similar to the structure that burned, with at least one tower to be built reminiscent of the two that framed the church's main entrance. The building will probably be designed to seat 600 to 800 people.

Area Man Faces Trial On Molestation Counts

WAGONER - A Tulsa businessman will stand trial in two child molestation cases.

Following a preliminary hearing Monday in Wagoner County District Court, John Adrian Morgan, 33, was ordered to stand trial on nine counts involving two girls, ages 9 and 11.

Morgan, who lives in Wagoner, denied the charges as well as a report that he told Wagoner police he had molested up to 150 other children. He is being held without bail in the Wagoner County jail.

Morgan operates Jani-King Janitor Service in Tulsa.

Historic Hastings Home Falls Victim to Blaze

TAHLEQUAH - Fire has destroyed the W.W. Hastings home, which the former U.S. congressman built in 1889 as a wedding gift.

Hastings, who also was the chief of the Cherokee Nation for one day, built the home for his fiancée, who died before the wedding.

The home, which had been declared a historic landmark, was sold to Raymond and Jewell Morris in 1979. They were in Texas when the house burned early Sunday.

Assistant Fire Chief Bob Adrian said the blaze apparently started in a closet. Two-thirds of the two-story structure, including some antiques, were lost, he said.

Inmate Knifed in Fight Released From Hospital

McALESTER - An Oklahoma State Penitentiary inmate stabbed during a fight in the exercise yard is out of the hospital and is in a disciplinary unit, a prison official said Tuesday.

Another inmate is also in the disciplinary lockup unit, while a third is recovering in his cell from a broken nose, said OSP spokeswoman Lee Mann.

Prison officials continue to investigate what caused the Friday afternoon fight among the prisoners, who were part of the general population. Officers found two homemade knives.

Andrew Tucker, 30, was stabbed in the back and thighs several times, Ms. Mann said. He was taken to McAlester Regional Health Center when his blood pressure began to fall, she said.

Tucker has been placed in the E Block, used for disciplinary segregation, along with Ezekiel Davis, 23, who was not injured.

Leon Fowler, 27, was returned to his cell, Ms. Mann said.

Tucker is serving 20 years for a 1979 robbery conviction in Oklahoma County; Fowler is serving 50 years for a 1989 conviction of second-degree burglary in Osage County after three previous felony convictions; and Davis is serving life for a 1989 first-degree murder conviction in Tulsa County, officials said.

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