

Regional roundup

Lodi

Lodi man acquitted of rape charges

A Lodi man charged with allegedly raping a 16-year-old girl with a foreign object was acquitted Wednesday of all six charges against him.

A lawyer representing Steven Everett Owen, 18, said he felt the charges against his client were unjustified from the outset.

"I told the DA that there was not enough evidence to try this young man," said Gregory Davenport, adding his client has been jailed since July. "The jury has confirmed that."

Deputy District Attorney Alan Robison said the verdict only showed jurors had a reasonable doubt of the man's guilt.

The defense had argued that the activities, which occurred June 20 between the defendant and the girl, had been consensual.

The girl reported the alleged attack to her mother June 28.

"It appeared consensual from the outset," said Davenport, "so they (the jury) let him walk free today."