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# MID-COLUMBIA

SECTION B | [tricityherald.com](http://tricityherald.com) | Thursday, February 5, 2015

CONTACT THE NEWSROOM: 582-1502; [news@tricityherald.com](mailto:news@tricityherald.com); fax 582-1510

## BENTON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

# Trafficking suspect in court

KRISTIN M. KRAEMER  
 TRI-CITY HERALD

An Oregon woman pleaded innocent Wednesday to allegations she was teaching a younger teen girl how to have sex with strangers for money.

Allison C. Farleigh, 19, of Philomath, is charged in Benton County Superior Court with promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor.

Her trial is scheduled for March 30.

She was arrested Jan. 29 at the Days Inn in Kennewick.

Detectives got word last week of an ad on the Internet website Backpage.com that appeared to show a 14-year-old girl who has been missing from California, according to Kennewick police and court documents.

The website routinely features sex

advertisements in exchange for money.

Police and federal agents responded to the posting and scheduled a time to exchange money for services with a girl who answered the phone, documents said. Farleigh tried to leave the hotel as authorities arrived, but was stopped and taken into custody.

Hotel staff told detectives that another girl was traveling with Far-

leigh. They identified a picture of the missing juvenile and said she too would be found in the room, documents said.

The 14-year-old was not there when police searched the hotel room.

However, investigators talked to a 17-year-old girl who said she had traveled from Oregon to Kennewick

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## ARGENT ROAD REPAIRS Franklin County balks at paying

Commissioners tell city money can be put to better use

GEOFF FOLSOM  
 TRI-CITY HERALD

Franklin County is better off using its road money for rural projects than for a route crossing between Pasco and the unincorporated "doughnut hole," commissioners told a city official Wednesday.

The city wanted the county to pay for its portion of repairs to Argent Road, which would add an inch and a half of pavement to the street, said Ahmad Qayoumi, Pasco's public works director. Pasco was asking the county to pay up to \$152,068 of the project's estimated \$641,359 cost.

"We want to use this as an opportunity to work with the county," he said, adding that Argent Road is a deteriorating street that is an important link between the unincorporated county and Tri-Cities Airport and Columbia Basin College.

But commissioners, while agreeing that Argent Road is important, were concerned about the city council's goal of annexing the entire doughnut hole, meaning the city would like the entire section of Argent Road to eventually be in the city limits.

"If the county were about to annex an area in the city, would you pay to improve the roads for us?" commission Chairman Brad Peck asked Qayoumi.

Paying for the project also is difficult because the county wants to save money to use on rural roads that are in worse shape than Argent Road, the commissioners said. Federal funding for rural road projects is drying up at an even faster rate than money for urban areas.

"It is unfortunate, but the

See **ARGENT** | Page B2

## Man shot to death in Pasco

TRI-CITY HERALD

A 42-year-old man was fatally shot Wednesday night in front of Fiesta Foods in Pasco, police said.

The unidentified man was shot multiple times and died at the scene.

Investigators were reviewing surveillance footage and talking to witness, police said.

Two men were seen leaving on foot after the 8:40 p.m. shooting.

More details are expected to be released this morning.

**Level 3 sex offender listed as transient**

A Level 3 sex offender previously living in Richland is listed as a transient in Benton County.

Juan M. Chavez committed his crimes when he was a juvenile, and his victims were girls ages 2- to 5-years-old and a



Chavez

17-year-old.

The Department of Corrections is supervising Chavez, and he is monitored by GPS tracking.

He is known to visit the 1800 block of Fowler Street in Richland.

Chavez is banned from all parks, schools and their

See **POLICE** | Page B2



Andrew Jansen | Tri-City Herald

Brad Schaible, left, and Zack Kitchen, of C&S Glass, prepare window openings before installing the glass Wednesday at the new Eastgate Elementary School in Kennewick. Tri-City business leaders are predicting continued growth in education, health care, manufacturing and other local industries.

## TRI-CITIES REGIONAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

# Leaders predict bright future

Eventual opening of Manhattan Project national park expected to help drive future growth, official says

KRISTI PIHL  
 TRI-CITY HERALD

Tri-City population growth and the creation of a Manhattan Project National Historical Park are among the rea-

sons Tri-City business leaders voiced high expectations for the coming years.

The momentum created by growth in areas such as education and health care is anticipated to continue, said Ajsa Suljic, regional labor economist for Benton

and Franklin counties on Wednesday at the 16th annual Tri-Cities Regional Economic Outlook at Pasco's TRAC.

Hotel expansion during the next year will help the area prepare for the expected surge in tourism with the opening of the Manhattan Project National Historic Park, said Kris Watkins, Visit Tri-Cities president & CEO.

See **FUTURE** | Page B2

## BRIEFS

### Parks & Recreation honored for sports event hosting

Kennewick Parks & Recreation was one of only two Washington organizations to be recognized with a 2015 SportsEvents Readers' Choice Award.

Organizations and venues across the nation were nominated by SportsEvents magazine readers based on professionalism and quality service in sports event hosting. The winning groups were selected based on online voting and were listed in the magazine's January 2015 issue.

The city department manages more than 800 acres of parks and dozens of facilities, including the Southridge Sports and Events Complex.

"We feel we won this award based on our effort to give local and out of town visitors an experience that can't be matched in the Pacific Northwest," said Brandon Lange, the department's sponsorship and sports marketing coordinator.

The Snohomish County Sports Commission was the only other Washington group to receive the award.

### Salmon Recovery Funding Board taking grant proposals

The Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board is accepting proposals for grant funding for projects in the Yakima Basin.

The board funds projects intended to protect or restore salmon, steelhead and bull trout habitat. Applicants must request at least \$5,000, and most must show an ability to match at least 15

percent of the grant.

Cities, counties, conservation districts, tribes, private landowners, fisheries enhancement groups and state agencies are among those eligible, according to a news release.

Pre-applications, which are filed through the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, are due by March 31, with full proposals needed by April 24. Information is available at <http://bit.ly/1Kcz7tk>.

### WSU Tri-Cities professor receives grant for art project

A Washington State University Tri-Cities professor received a grant.

The state nonprofit Artist Trust provided the Grant for Artists award to Sena Clara Creston, in WSU's digital technology & culture and fine arts departments. The grants are for

as much as \$1,500.

The interactive piece, *The Umbrella Ship*, will be a three-wheeled machine propelled by wind hitting a large umbrella.

It will transition from a bed to a ship to a bicycle and be built from repurposed materials, said a news release.

Creston's work focuses on how materials, movement and interaction affect a viewer's experience. The clinical assistant professor uses new and old technology to build kinetic and interactive sculptures, said the release.

The project is meant to "provide the audience with the constructed reality and physical sensation of a childlike dreamscape," Creston said in the release.

— Tri-City Herald

## ON THIS DAY

► In 1955 | W. J. Justlick reported his dog died of strychnine poisoning. It is the third dog death in 10 days. Police stated a "dog hater" is believed to be responsible for the death of Justlick's beagle and four other dogs in the same vicinity since last March.

— Columbia Basin News

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# COURT | Teen charged with growing marijuana

FROM PAGE B1

with Farleigh so they could prostitute themselves.

The girl told a federal agent that on one occasion at the Kennewick hotel, Farleigh had arranged for a man to have sex with both of them, court documents said. The man showed up and paid Farleigh \$840, but the younger girl said she freaked out.

The girl alleged that she would hide in the bathroom at multiple locations in Washington and Oregon while Farleigh had sex with clients.

The girl said she was under the guidance and direction of Farleigh, who was showing her how to make money to support herself, documents said.

Farleigh remains in the Benton County jail with bail set at \$8,000. She's been ordered to have no contact with the victim while the case is pending.

## West Richland teen charged with growing pot in his bedroom

An 18-year-old is accused of having a marijuana grow operation in his bedroom, even after his parents demanded he remove the drug from their West Richland home.

Andrew A.J. Coffel pleaded innocent Wednesday in Benton County Superior Court to one count each of manufacturing, delivering or possessing with intent to manufacture or deliver marijuana and possessing marijuana.

His trial is set for April 20. His parents contacted West Richland police in September after Coffel allegedly refused their orders.

Officers got a search warrant after his parents said Coffel had marijuana hanging from

the ceiling to dry and a plant in his closet. Coffel, who was sleeping, had to be woken up by his mother so police could search his bedroom.

Police immediately saw "green vegetable matter laid out on the floor and branches hanging from string along the upper wall," according to court documents. An officer recognized it as marijuana from his training and experience.

Coffel admitted that he knew it was illegal for him to possess marijuana, documents said.

In Washington, a person must be at least 21 to possess and use up to one ounce of pot.

During the search, police seized several branches of marijuana with buds, a white garbage sack containing marijuana plant material, marijuana buds and smoking devices with residue, court documents said. A marijuana plant inside a five-gallon bucket was discovered in the bedroom closet, along with a timer used to activate a grow light and a digital humidity meter, documents said.

Officers also recovered potting soil and a plastic milk-yog jug with plant food, and allegedly found a rifle in the closet that belonged to Coffel's mother.

Days later, police and an evidence technician removed 155 grams of usable marijuana from the branches that were seized from the bedroom, court documents said. Samples were tested at the Washington State Patrol Crime Lab, and they were confirmed as marijuana, documents said.

Coffel is out of custody on his personal recognizance.

Kristin M. Kraemer: 509-582-4531; [kkraemer@tricityherald.com](mailto:kkraemer@tricityherald.com); [Twitter: @KristinMKraemer](https://twitter.com/KristinMKraemer)

# PUPPIES IN PUDDLES



Andrew Jansen Tri-City Herald

Tom Marocchini, 67, left, and Mike Dameron, 75, both of Kennewick, walk their rat terriers, Mikki and Minnie, on Wednesday at Columbia Park in Kennewick. Mild temperatures and rain are likely to continue into the weekend, with a 60 percent chance of rain today and a 70 percent chance of rain Feb. 6.

## SULTAN

# School operates hatchery

Salmon program run by biology students unique in the state

### ASSOCIATED PRESS

SULTAN — Biology students at Sultan High School are raising salmon in a hatchery on campus and expect to release them into the wild later this year.

The school's hatchery apparently is unique in the state. Students also visit nearby spawning streams to learn about the life cycle of salmon.

Principal Tami Nesting said the hatchery program encourages students to solve real-world problems to keep the fish healthy.

"I've worked in schools with large budgets and incredible science labs," Nesting said. "That doesn't even come close to what we often-times take for granted on our small-school campus."

Other Washington high schools have programs in which students work at nearby hatcheries. But Nathan Olson, a spokesman for the state Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, said he knows of no others that have a hatchery on

campus. "It's nice for our students to see that we have something most schools don't," said Ryan Monger, the science teacher who oversees the hatchery. "Salmon are our most important resource in Washington state. It connects them to that."

Without the hatchery, students would be stuck in the classroom because the district lacks money for field trips or expensive lab experiments, he said. Monger estimates that his yearly budget for labs is about \$3 per student. With the hatchery, students get a chance to go beyond memorizing facts and put their knowledge of biology to work.

"Any chance I get to have students doing real-life science, I like," he said. "It's a very cool project."

Each fall, the high school gets about 10,000 chow salmon from the nearby Wallace River Hatchery. Water is collected from runoff in a concrete basin behind the hatchery. It flows into shallow troughs inside, where alevin, or newly hatched salmon, are kept while they grow.

Through the school year, Moore and his classmates care for the fish. They collect data by catching the coho and averaging individual results.

"It's going to be a good feeling to release hundreds of fish into the river," said Jessy Moore, the Sultan High senior tasked with running the hatchery this year. "It's definitely a changing experience to be a part of this."

Throughout the school year, Moore and his classmates care for the fish. They collect data by catching the coho and averaging individual results.

It's Moore's job to feed the fish.

"This is the best part, watching them come up and eat," he said, sprinkling fish food over the murky water.

Don Foltz, a retired Sultan teacher, fills in for Moore, 17, during vacation breaks and has long volunteered to help students continue the project throughout the year.

Raising coho comes with challenges that aren't common in the classroom. In October, a trough at the hatchery broke. All of the salmon were killed.

# ARGENT | City will consider paying if it has to

FROM PAGE B1

county does need to preserve everything we can for these roads," said Commissioner Rick Miller.

The county is placing a larger priority on rural connecting routes like the Pasco-Kahlotas highway, Dent Road and North Glade Road, said Matt Mahoney, the county public works director.

"It's not even a blip on our transportation program," Mahoney said of Argent Road.

Qayoumi pointed out that Franklin County had \$50,000 in federal money that it was required to use on projects in Pasco's unincorporated urban growth area.

Commissioners then agreed to have Mahoney review roads in the urban area to see if any were more in need of help than Argent Road. They said they would consider helping out with the Argent project if no greater priority is found. The city will consider mak-



Andrew Jansen Tri-City Herald

Franklin County commissioners said they would rather use their road money to improve rural roads, not help Pasco repair a portion of Argent Road in an unincorporated part of the city.

ing the improvements itself if the county does not contribute, Qayoumi said.

Also Wednesday, commissioners:

- Agreed to pay \$300 to rent space at the TRAC event center for a public open house on a planned Juniper Dunes access road. The meeting, which is part of a federal environmental review, is from 5 to

8:30 p.m. Feb. 17.

The county pays to rent the facility, even though it owns it, to be transparent, Peck said. "We actually contract to rent it and treat it like an independent fund, which it is," he said.

Geoff Folsom: 509-582-4543; [gfolson@tricityherald.com](mailto:gfolson@tricityherald.com); [Twitter: @GeoffFolsom](https://twitter.com/@GeoffFolsom)

# FUTURE | Last year was best since 2011

FROM PAGE B1

Opening the park could take three to five years, but when it does open, the Tri-Cities can expect to welcome 100,000 visitors in the first year.

New hotels will add about 570 more guest rooms to the Tri-City market this year, bringing the availability to 3,900 rooms. That makes it more competitive for area hotels in the future, she said.

The Washington State University Tri-Cities Wine Science Center, which opens this year, will add to tourism by bringing in visiting scientists, students and journalists, Watkins said.

And having such a research facility in the Tri-Cities should help bring in wine enthusiasts because it legitimizes the claim of the Tri-Cities being in the heart of Washington wine country, she said.

Tourism benefits the local economy. Visitors spent about \$398.2 million last year, helping create 5,200 jobs and paying about \$36.6 million in taxes, she said.

Leisure and hospitality employment has grown about 2.5 percent a year, Suljic said.

Local job growth has been diverse, coming mostly through non-Hanford industries, Suljic said.

Last year was the best year the Tri-Cities had since 2011, before Hanford layoffs took a chunk out of local employment, Suljic said. The Tri-Cities averaged 105,200 nonfarm jobs, even more than the previous high reached when stimulus dollars catapulted Hanford jobs.

Job gains are expected to continue in manufacturing, health care, education, transportation and warehousing and professional and business services, which includes Hanford jobs, Suljic said.

Hanford and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory are expecting stable budgets at least for this year.

Congress will consider a \$2.3 billion Hanford budget for fiscal year 2016. That's up slightly from the \$2.2 billion budget Hanford has received the past several years, said Stacy Charboneau, manager of the Department of Energy Hanford Richland Operations office.

There are about 9,000 employees connected to Hanford, with some working for the Department of Energy but most for the federal agen-

cy's prime contractors, she said.

Officials expect that Hanford will continue to receive at least \$2 billion in federal funding a year for the next three decades based on the requirements set by the state and the federal Environmental Protection Agency, Charboneau said.

Meanwhile, PNNL is expecting a flat budget this year compared with last year, said Roger Snyder, the Department of Energy Pacific Northwest Site Office manager. The lab does more than \$1 billion of research and development work, employing about 4,300 people.

The lab continues to expand its ability to provide research and development services to more than 70 major clients. Less than 5 percent of the lab's work is tied to Hanford.

Construction on the national lab's new systems engineering lab should finish soon, Snyder said. Officials also hope to start building a new chemistry lab in the future and an office building is in the planning stages.

The construction industry stabilized last year, thanks to consumer and investor confidence in the Tri-City economy, Suljic said. On average, construction employs about 5,000 people. That remains under the employment seen during the 2007 boom but is better than what the state has seen as a whole.

About 3,640 homes were sold last year, making it a banner year for the real estate industry, said Ken Poletski, president of the Tri-City Association of Realtors.

The average house price was \$212,000, up by about 2 percent. While that is less than the 2007 high of about 3,880 homes, it's the third best year in the past 36 years.

Poletski is expecting to see home sales grow by about 5 percent over the next year. The average price in home sales likely will go up by 3 percent to 5 percent, said Poletski, broker/owner of Community Real Estate Group in West Richland.

Interest rates are expected to rise, which means affordability will drop, he said. More new homes likely will be sold because of the land available for residential development in the Tri-Cities.

Kristi Pihl: 509-582-4532; [kpihl@tricityherald.com](mailto:kpihl@tricityherald.com); [Twitter: @KristiAPihl](https://twitter.com/@KristiAPihl)

# POLICE | Waitsburg man faces burglary trial

FROM PAGE B1

grounds and libraries in Benton and Franklin counties. He is not wanted by law enforcement.

## Kennewick police to offer citizen academy

The Kennewick Police Department is offering a free five-week, 10-class Spring Citizen Academy for the public.

Classes will be from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays. The academy teaches the public about law enforcement and the day-to-day operations of the department.

All classes are held at the police station with the exception of the two tours.

Applications for the class are at [bit.ly/kplcademy](http://bit.ly/kplcademy).

## Trial set for Waitsburg man in burglary spree

A man charged with 13 crimes stemming from residential burglaries and thefts

in Waitsburg last month is scheduled for trial starting April 7 in Walla Walla County Superior Court.

Mason J. Bates, 34, pleaded innocent recently to burglarizing four homes and stealing various items on Dec. 27.

Sheriff's deputies were notified Dec. 28 that someone had entered a home and stolen several pieces of jewelry from the master bedroom. The burglar gained entry through an unlocked door.

In checking the neighborhood, deputies found another home had been entered by someone who cut a window screen.

A set of rings and possibly several coins were believed missing, according to a sheriff's report filed in court.

A window screen had been cut and entry made to two other homes, officials said.

Four guns were taken from the home on West Seventh.

Bates reportedly was living in the area at the time. His father, Glen Bates, told officials his son had indicated he was in trouble.

In Mason Bates' bedroom, deputies found a pair of tennis shoes with a tread pattern that appeared to match shoe prints found at two of the burglaries. Several coins were found under the bed, and an earring stolen in one of the burglaries was found on the ground under the carpet.

He is accused of four counts of residential burglary, four counts of theft of a firearm, one count of second-degree theft, two counts of third-degree theft and two counts of third-degree malicious mischief.

- Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

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