



# MID-COLUMBIA

## WASHINGTON SENATE

# Nuclear energy legislation OK'd

One bill would create education program for kids in grades 8-12

ANNETTE CARY  
TRI-CITY HERALD

The Washington State Senate approved bills Friday to educate students about nuclear energy and position the state to take advantage of

economic development and jobs from new small modular nuclear reactors. Both were sponsored by Rep. Sharon Brown, R-Kennewick, who has introduced six bills this session with themes of promoting nuclear energy. She also sponsored a memorandum that passed the Senate earlier to encourage Congress to develop a permanent national repository for used nuclear fuel and high level radioactive waste.



Brown

The two bills passed Friday still must face the challenge of a state House controlled by Democrats. Senate Bill 5093, creating a nuclear-education program for students in eighth through 12th grade, was passed by the Senate 44-5. There are 20,000 unfilled jobs in

Washington related to STEM fields, or science, technology, engineering and math, Brown said. "We need to encourage kids to look at this type of jobs," she said. The average pay for a job at a nuclear plant is \$85,000, she said. "If we want Washington's students to be able to compete for these high-paying jobs, we have to start introducing them to nuclear science and technology early on and nurturing their interest in this growing field,"

she said. The director of the Washington State University Energy Program would administer the new program, which is designed to be a public-private partnership. Groups like the American Nuclear Society and nuclear-related businesses and utilities could play a role. State funds would be supplemented with donations.

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## KIONA-BENTON CITY SCHOOLS

# Woman now is level 2 offender

Melissa Salsbury illegally visited school for assembly

TY BEAVER  
TRI-CITY HERALD

A Richland woman convicted in 2011 of forcing underage girls to work as prostitutes is now a mid-level sex offender after she illegally visited a Mid-Columbia high school as part of a motivational assembly.

Because Melissa Marie Salsbury's offender status has been raised to a Level 2, her neighbors will now be alerted to her offender status, and she will have her information posted on Benton County's online sex offender registry, said sheriff's Sgt. Kevin McCary.

She also will still be restricted from being where children congregate, such as parks, public pools and schools. Salsbury, 23, who also goes by the name Mia Rose, was with the group of musicians and artists A.N.E./Money Over Misery when it visited Kiona-Benton City High School recently to talk to students about bullying, peer pressure, education and overcoming negativity.

Salsbury was a Level 1 sex offender at the time and prohibited from being at the school. District officials learned of Salsbury's status after the assembly and said her appearance was never cleared through the district office. A spokesman for A.N.E. said the group was unaware of her status.

The incident already has led Ki-Be and other area

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## SOBERING LESSON AT SOUTHRIDGE



Andrew Janson - Tri-City Herald

Kennewick Police Officer Stan Howard gives a mock field sobriety test Friday to Southridge High School student Jazmyn Chavez during a skit performed as part of the Every 15 Minutes program at the school. The program warns about the dangers of drinking and driving, and has been given to seniors in Kennewick high schools for more than two decades. The title is a reference to a statistic from the early 1990s that said someone dies in an alcohol-related car crash every 15 minutes. That statistic been revised to one death every 53 minutes.

## PASCO MURDER CASE

# Court-appointed attorney removed

Suspect filed motion that claimed public defender would be 'compelled to lie'

KRISTIN M. KRAEMER  
TRI-CITY HERALD

A defense lawyer was removed from a Pasco murder case Friday after his client filed a motion claiming a court-appointed attorney is obliged to lie. Kenyatta K.E. Bridges's trial was to begin Monday, but that won't happen now that a new attorney must get up to speed on the 3-month-old case.

Judge Carrie Runge closed the courtroom to the public for 15 minutes while she listened to the concerns of Bridges and his lawyer Scott Johnson. Then, once back in open court, Runge ruled it was best to release Johnson from the case.

"The court has found that it will be a conflict of interest for Mr. Johnson to continue as your attorney," she told Bridges.

Bridges is charged in the Dec. 3 fatal shooting of a 22-year-old man in the Stonegate Apartments parking lot.

Prosecutors allege he was involved in luring Lorenzo "Richie" Fernandez Jr. to the scene, was armed with a gun as Fernandez was killed — though he did not fire any shots — and fled with the suspected shooter.

Charges against Bridges were amended earlier this week in Franklin County Superior Court to include first-degree murder while he or an accomplice was armed with a deadly weapon; conspiracy; and second-degree unlawful possession of a gun.

He has been in jail since his Christmas Day arrest in Spokane.

His wife, Mary A. Faucett, is accused of getting the victim's phone number hours before his death and later calling the man under the guise she wanted to hook up with him. Her trial is March 25.

The case against DeShawn L. Anderson — who's charged with killing Fernandez and shooting up a car full of people weeks earlier — had been on hold while he underwent an evaluation over concerns he may be developmentally disabled.

Bridges described himself as the "alleged accused" and a "layman" in his motion, which was filed with the Franklin County Clerk's Office late Thursday morning. The two-page, handwritten document was titled, "Motion to dismiss for lack of jurisdiction and fraud, and without courts appointed attorney who is compelled to lie."

Johnson said he learned of the motion Friday morning as he was preparing to spend the whole day in court arguing pretrial motions in preparation for Monday's trial.

Johnson asked Runge to close the hearing because anything he has discussed with his client is "protected information that shouldn't be publicly disclosed."

Johnson said that forcing them to divulge their reasons in a public setting would violate attorney-client privilege and prejudice Bridges.

The Herald objected on the record to the courtroom being closed to the public.

Bridges initially told Runge he was OK with the brief closure, then said,

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## KENNEWICK KIDNAPPING

# Woman abducted Thursday found safe

Couple were at hotel; husband booked into Benton County jail

TRI-CITY HERALD

A Walla Walla woman who police say was abducted from a Kennewick grocery store parking lot was found safe Friday thanks to help from friends and relatives.

Police found Samantha K. Noethe, 22, about 9:30 a.m. at the Kennewick Suites hotel, said Kennewick police Sgt. Ken Lattin.

She was with her husband, Paul D. Gross, who is a suspect in her abduction, police said.

Gross, 31, was arrested and booked into the Benton County jail on suspicion of domestic violence unlawful imprisonment, a felony, and domestic violence assault.

Gross was last known to be living in Walla Walla, but his Facebook page says he used to live in Pasco.

Noethe suffered cuts and bruises from crashing her car during the abduction in the WinGo parking lot morning. "Other than that, she was safe," Lattin said.

Noethe was forced from her black BMW after she was boxed in by several people in cars, and then she was driven from the scene.

Noethe hit vehicles in the parking lot trying to get away. The abduction was caught on the store's security cameras, and an employee said it happened. Police said at the time they believed Noethe was in

See **SAFE** | Page B2



Salsbury



Bridges



Gross



Noethe

## BRIEFS

### Richland residents can stream movies, TV shows for free

The Richland Public Library will start a new free service Monday to stream movies, music and other entertainment services. It will use the digital streaming service Hoopla, which allows patrons to choose from thousands of movie titles, TV shows, audiobooks and music to stream on a mobile device or computer. The content is always available. Movies and TV shows are available for use for 72 hours, music for seven days and audiobooks for 21 days. Downloads will be limited to 10 per month. Richland residents can use the

library and its services for free, but must have a library card. Nonresidents can purchase a library card for \$40 a year. A new e-card is available for nonresidents for \$25 a year. It allows use of all of the library's digital services.

### Franklin PUD close to naming selection for general manager

The Franklin PUD Commission expects to have a finalist selected Tuesday for the general manager of the utility district. Ed Brost announced in November plans to retire in May after helping with the transition to a new manager. He has been with the PUD since May 2006. The PUD received 17 applications and five finalists were interviewed. Commissioners expect to announce

their selection at 1 p.m. March 10 meeting at 1411 W. Clark St., after a closed-door discussion.

Final approval is expected at the board's meeting March 24.

### Walla Walla County jail chief 'dismissed' by Sheriff Turner

The chief deputy in charge of the Walla Walla County jail lost his job earlier this week. Sheriff John Turner said he could not discuss why Keilen L. Harmon was fired. Harmon also declined to talk. "On the advice of my attorney, I'm not going to make a statement at this time," he said. Turner appointed Harmon to supervise the jail after Turner was elected in 2010. Harmon previously

worked at the Benton County and Walla Walla County jails and at the Washington State Penitentiary.

### Kennewick High JROTC in Walla Walla competition

Twenty-six members of Kennewick High School's Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps unit will participate in a drill and marksmanship competition at Walla Walla High School today. Eleven schools with Army, Navy, Marine and Air Force JROTC units are expected to participate. The daylong competition starts at 8 a.m. in the Walla Walla High School gym. The free event is open to the public.

— Tri-City Herald

## ON THIS DAY

► In 1955 | If you want 'em mealy, friend, cut a slice from either end! True words: Cut a slice off each end of 'old' or winter potatoes before you bake them, and they'll be more mealy — more delicious. —Columbia Basin News

Connect with us



# SENATE | Brown wants reactors made in state

FROM PAGE B1

The education program would provide grants for nuclear ambassadors who would visit classroom to introduce nuclear science and technology and for science teachers to attend workshops on nuclear energy.

The Nuclear Ambassadors Program could be a "game changer" in how the state sees nuclear power, she said.

"For many people, especially those of an older generation, the term 'nuclear power' automatically brings to mind Chernobyl and Three Mile Island," she said.

Nuclear technology has made great strides since then, and even greater strides will be made with the next generation of small modular reactors, she said.

Her second bill, Senate Bill 513, was passed by the Senate 27-21.

It would require the state Department of Commerce to coordinate and advance the siting and manufacturing of small modular reactors in Washington.

As proposed, the small nuclear reactors would be manufactured in modules and then shipped to the location they would operate, with additional modules added as demand for electricity increases.

Brown's goal is to have the small reactors manufactured

in Washington. The Tri-Cities would be a logical place for that, given its experienced nuclear work force, the community's general support of nuclear technology and access to barges on the Columbia River for reactors that could be shipped to the growing market for nuclear energy in Asia.

Brown is concerned that Washington may be left behind as plans develop in nearby states for small modular reactors. NuScale Power of Oregon is developing a small modular reactor and is advancing plans to operate its first small reactor, likely at the Idaho National Laboratory with support from Energy Northwest. The power it would produce would be used by the Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems.

Critics have said that such a project is at least a decade in the future, but Brown counters that it is not too soon for an energy company to have plans formed.

"Are we going to forge a path forward to more manufacturing jobs and more gainfully employed residents? Or are we going to sit back and let Oregon, Idaho, Utah take our intellectual capital from us while we say would, could, should?" she asked.

"There is no reason in the Tri-Cities and the state should not be leading in this area," she said.

In testimony on the bill, supporters talked about the safety of nuclear energy and its role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, particularly as the closure of coal plants in the West requires new base load power production.

Opponents said the small reactors have not been proven safe or cost-effective, and they may promote nuclear weapons proliferation.

Brown also has strong hopes for the passage of Senate Bill 515, which would require the state's Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council to study the siting of small modular reactors in the state.

The council would be required to identify possible locations and the permits and studies needed for siting decisions. It also would recommend how the siting and permitting process could be streamlined. A report would be due by Dec. 1.

Mid-Columbia nuclear supporters have proposed that one of the nation's first modular reactors be used as a Department of Energy demonstration project to meet the future power needs of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland and at Hanford when the vitrification plant begins operating.

► Annette Cary: 509-582-4533; acary@tricityherald.com; Twitter: @HanfordNews

# Fans line up for festival tickets

WALLA WALLA UNION BULLETIN

Craig Roberts hasn't seen his old friend Dave Grohl in at least a decade.

But the Berkshire Hathaway Realtor, who sold Grohl his Seattle home years ago and played in a Jack and Jill baseball league with the Pool Fighters founder when he was a one-man show after the dissolution of Nirvana,

wasn't going to risk missing the chance to see him again.

So Roberts hauled in a chair and a blanket at 3:30 this morning on Main Street in Walla Walla to be the first in line for tickets at the Visitors Booth for the Gentlemen of the Road Stopover tour, featuring Pool Fighters and tour creators Mumford & Sons.

The festival, with dozens of other bands, takes place

Aug. 14-15 in Walla Walla.

"I think this is going to be the nicest waiting line ever," Roberts said around 6 a.m., when only two others had joined him.

By 9 a.m. the line had stretched beyond Falkenberg's Jewelers. And that was just fine with the owners of Salumerie Cesario, who planned a breakfast service made to order and deliver for folks standing outside.

# MURDER | All public defenders unavailable

FROM PAGE B1

"Everybody could stay. I'm good with that. ... I have no objections."

Johnson then talked quietly to his client, and Bridges changed his mind, saying "Yeah, we can close it." Johnson added that Bridges had wanted his family to be able to stay in the courtroom, but his attorney advised "It's all or nothing."

Bridges' mother asked if she had to leave because it is her son and she needs to see what's going on. Runge said it would only be for a short time so she could understand Bridges' motion, then the courtroom would reopen to the public.

In his motion, Bridges called the state of Washington a "fictitious plaintiff" because to have "a criminal case there must be a bonafied (sic) contract. No contract, no case, no plaintiff. Case is a fraud."

He said the Supreme Court should have original jurisdiction.

The motion also twice stated, "The Blackman is God!"

Bridges was referring to Allah's Five Preceptors or Nation of Gods and Earths. The group, founded about 50 years ago, reportedly teaches that black people are the original people of the planet and, instead of believing

in a mystery God, that the "Blackman" is God and his proper name is Allah.

Bridges likely will get another court-appointed attorney, unless his family can hire someone.

On Friday, lawyer Alexandria Sheridan with the bicounty Office of Public Defense said they asked Shane Silverthorn of Ellensburg if he could take the case.

Sheridan got a call from Silverthorn during the hearing and returned to the courtroom to say he is not available because he is handling a number of homicide cases in Kittitas County and Benton County.

Sheridan cannot take the assignment, and Shelley Ajax is representing co-defendant Anderson.

The Office of Public Defense only has four attorneys under contract for the homicide defense panel, so Sheridan said indigent defense coordinator Eric Hsu will have to find another lawyer after he returns to the office Tuesday.

A status hearing will be scheduled later next week to set new hearing dates. Bridges' bail remains at \$500,000.

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# SAFE | Suspect made angry Facebook post

FROM PAGE B1

danger.

"I think that it's safe to say this was a violent encounter," Lattin said. "She definitely didn't go willingly."

The motive for the abduction is not known, according to police.

About 3:20 a.m. Thursday,

a post apparently by Gross on one of his Facebook pages angrily complained and cursed about his wife's behavior. The couple have two children.

Police looked for Noethle throughout the day, seizing at least one car and searching at least two homes, before finding them at the hotel.

Online court records show

Gross, who describes himself as self-employed, has one prior or felony conviction in Benton County Superior Court for possession of methamphetamines in 2012.

Records show he had numerous other misdemeanor cases in Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla county district courts.

# OFFENDER | Information available online

FROM PAGE B1

school districts to review policies on background checks for brief visits from performers and speakers.

Salsbury's sex offender information is available through the Benton County Sheriff's Office website at <http://bit.ly/BCoffender>. Click on the "Sex Offender

Information" tab and search for her by name.

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<b>2006 Ford Expedition 4WD</b> 148,384 Miles P9102 <b>\$8,000</b>	<b>1999 Ford Ranger 4WD</b> 93,974 Miles P8966A <b>\$8,000</b>	<b>2006 Nissan Altima</b> 102,898 Miles P9043B <b>\$8,000</b>	<b>2002 Nissan Frontier 2WD</b> 149,835 Miles P8688A <b>\$8,000</b>	<b>1996 Toyota Tacoma 4WD</b> 151,960 Miles P9057A <b>\$8,000</b>	<b>2005 Subaru Forester</b> 134,559 Miles 15S17A <b>\$9,000</b>	<b>2002 Subaru Outback</b> 75,589 Miles P8920A <b>\$9,000</b>	<b>2003 Toyota 4Runner 4WD</b> 96,859 Miles P8714B <b>\$9,000</b>
<b>2007 Toyota Corolla</b> 130,222 Miles P8983A <b>\$9,000</b>	<b>2008 Kia Amanti</b> 57,449 Miles P8638A <b>\$10,000</b>	<b>2011 Suzuki SX4 AWD</b> 68,311 Miles 15S19A <b>\$10,000</b>	<b>2013 Ford Fiesta</b> 50,161 Miles P9148 <b>\$11,000</b>	<b>2009 Mitsubishi Eclipse</b> 43,317 Miles P9102 <b>\$11,000</b>	<b>2013 Chevrolet Sonic</b> 38,063 Miles P9111 <b>\$11,997</b>	<b>2013 Chrysler 200</b> 40,180 Miles P8736 <b>\$11,997</b>	<b>2012 Ford Focus</b> 31,856 Miles P8793 <b>\$11,997</b>
<b>2012 Ford Fusion</b> 61,509 Miles P8755 <b>\$11,997</b>	<b>2012 Mitsubishi i-MiEV</b> 3,696 Miles P9141 <b>\$11,997</b>	<b>2011 Nissan Leaf</b> 23,787 Miles P8878 <b>\$11,997</b>	<b>2010 Mazda Mazda5</b> 62,007 Miles P9019A <b>\$12,000</b>	<b>2014 Nissan Versa</b> 38,700 Miles P9101 <b>\$12,000</b>	<b>2013 Chevrolet Impala (Fleet)</b> 43,092 Miles P9121 <b>\$13,000</b>	<b>2012 Chevrolet Malibu</b> 70,113 Miles P8671A <b>\$13,000</b>	<b>2011 Honda Civic Coupe</b> 49,957 Miles P8642A <b>\$13,000</b>
<b>2010 Suzuki Kizashi</b> 46,585 Miles 15S30A <b>\$13,000</b>	<b>2013 Dodge Dart</b> 35,303 Miles P9085 <b>\$13,997</b>	<b>2013 Hyundai Elantra</b> 37,305 Miles P8619 <b>\$13,997</b>	<b>2014 Chevrolet Cruze</b> 63,150 Miles P9133 <b>\$14,000</b>	<b>2013 Volkswagen Jetta Sedan</b> 37,659 Miles P8689 <b>\$14,000</b>	<b>2013 Hyundai Sonata</b> 36,082 Miles P9067 <b>\$14,997</b>	<b>2011 Ford Escape 2WD</b> 50,183 Miles P8622A <b>\$15,000</b>	<b>2007 Honda Odyssey</b> 95,351 Miles P8952A <b>\$15,000</b>

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