

## 2 hurt in wrong-way crash in Queensgate roundabout

**RICHLAND, WA**  
A Richland man is facing negligent driving charges after driving the wrong way in the Queensgate roundabout and crashing into an oncoming pickup.  
The crash happened just before 6 p.m. Saturday when Thomas L. Bright, 50, was approaching the roundabout southbound from Queensgate Drive to Interstate 182, said the Washington State Patrol.  
The pickup driver Emily

M. Hart, 33, of Connell was already in the roundabout when Bright hit her going the wrong way.  
She was hurt and taken to Kadlec Regional Medical Center in Richland and later released. Her 6- and 8-year-old passengers were not hurt. All were wearing seat belts, said WSP.  
Bright, who was driving a Dodge Durango SUV, also was taken to Kadlec to be checked.  
The two new roundabouts opened at the end of August. The \$5 million project widened Queensgate, added bike and pedestrian amenities and created roundabouts at the freeway and at Columbia Park Trail.  
— WENDY CULVERWELL

## Ben Franklin Transit looks for answers for stranded taxi riders

**RICHLAND, WA**  
Ben Franklin Transit's board meets Nov. 26 to consider strategies to bring back the services it lost when a contractor abruptly shut down in October.  
Clients who depended on A1 Tri-City Taxi to ferry them to work, school, doctors' offices and other destinations not served by regular routes were stranded when the Richland-based company halted operations at Hal-

loween.  
Ben Franklin was forced to suspend service.  
Ben Franklin has attempted to restore some service by using its Vanpool and Community Van ride share programs to help with some travel needs.  
Riders who can be encouraged to use regular buses or to turn to local taxi companies or Uber or Lyft on-demand ride service pending a long-term solution.  
The board meets from 5-7 p.m., at 1000 Columbia Park Trail, Richland. A decision is expected. No other details were available.  
Updates are posted online at [bft.org/serviceupdates/](http://bft.org/serviceupdates/)

# U.S. senator joins nationwide call for caution on Hanford waste change

BY ANNETTE CARY  
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**RICHLAND, WA**  
The public needs more time to comment on an issue as important as reclassifying high level radioactive waste at Hanford and other Department of Energy sites, says 75 organizations nationwide.

On Monday, Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., added his support to their call for more additional time on the DOE proposal.  
DOE is considering a change to how it interprets the legal definition of high level radioactive waste, which would allow more flexibility in how it disposes of some waste at the Hanford site.  
Defining less of the nation's nuclear waste as high level could speed up environmental cleanup and save billions of dol-

**DOE IS CONSIDERING A CHANGE TO HOW IT INTERPRETS THE LEGAL DEFINITION OF HIGH LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE, WHICH WOULD ALLOW MORE FLEXIBILITY IN HOW IT DISPOSES OF SOME WASTE AT THE HANFORD SITE.**

lars.  
But it also could mean more toxic waste allowed to remain in the ground at Hanford, say critics.  
Wyden wrote in a letter to Anne Marie White, DOE assistant secretary for environmental management, that the proposed definition change could provide less protection for future generations and the environment.  
"... (C)hanging the definition of what has always been considered high level waste requiring permanent disposal is a

significant change and could lead to dramatically different clean-up practices and outcomes," he wrote.  
He called for a 120-day extension to the public comment period, which now is 60 days ending Dec. 10.  
A letter signed by leaders of 75 organizations was sent Wednesday to White making the same request.  
Among organizations backing the letter were Hanford Challenge, Columbia Riverkeeper, Heart

of America Northwest and the Natural Resources Defense Council.  
"The new interpretation would be "a drastic and controversial change" to DOE environmental cleanup policy, the letter said.  
"We believe all interested stakeholders — and the DOE — agree that this decision requires thorough and thoughtful consideration by all affected parties," the letter said.  
Congress has passed laws that define high level radioactive waste as waste that results from processing irradiated nuclear fuel if the waste is "highly radioactive."  
At Hanford, chemicals were used to separate plutonium from irradiated fuel at huge processing plants. The plutonium was produced from World War II through the Cold War for the nation's nuclear weapons program.  
The fuel processing left 56 million gallons of radioactive and hazardous chemical waste in underground tanks until it can be treated for disposal. It now is considered high level waste.  
DOE is proposing that waste from fuel processing not be classified as high level if it can meet the radioactive concentration limits for low level radio-

SEE WASTE, 4A

## ON THIS DAY

**1964** | On a 40-acre farm south of Kennewick, one of the Columbia Basin Project's most popular and avidly pursued crops in growth. About 10,000 pheasants are raised on the state game department's land in Finley each year and are later released on public lands, principally in the Basin. The cover, feed and water available on the project has made it a mecca for wildlife ever since the first major release of water in 1952.

## On this Date

### BIRTHDAYS

Actress **Estelle Parsons** is 91. Comedian **Dick Smothers** is 80. Former Vice President **Joe Biden** is 76. Singer **Joe Walsh** is 71. National security adviser **John Bolton** is 70. Actress **Bo Derek** is 62. Former NFL player **Mark Gastineau** is 62. Pianist **Jim Brickman** is 57. Rapper **Mike D** (The Beastie Boys) is 53. Actor **Joel McHale** is 47. Country singer **Dierks Bentley** is 43.

### TODAY IN HISTORY

In **1910**, the Mexican Revolution of 1910 had its beginnings under the Plan of San Luis Potosi issued by Francisco I. Madero.  
In **1945**, 22 former Nazi officials went on trial before an international war crimes tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany. (Almost a year later, the International Military Tribunal sentenced 12 of the defendants to death; seven received prison sentences ranging from 10 years to life; three were acquitted.)  
In **1947**, Britain's future queen, Princess Elizabeth, married Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, at Westminster Abbey.  
In **1967**, the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Clock at the Commerce Department ticked past 200 million.  
In **1969**, the Nixon administration announced a halt to residential use of the pesticide DDT as part of a total phaseout. A group of American Indian activists began a 19-month occupation of Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay.  
In **1975**, after nearly four decades of absolute rule, Spain's Generalissimo Francisco Franco died, two weeks before his 83rd birthday.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS



PHOTOS BY BOB BRAWDY, Tri-City Herald

Edward L. Nelson, 28, appears Monday via a video link in Franklin County Superior Court with attorney Michael Quillen, right. Judge Jackie Shea Brown found probable cause to hold Nelson on suspicion of promoting prostitution.

## Pasco police crack down on prostitution in weekend sting

BY KRISTIN M. KRAEMER  
[kkraemer@tricityherald.com](mailto:kkraemer@tricityherald.com)

**PASCO, WA**  
Two men and six women were arrested Sunday night in a Pasco police crackdown on prostitution and sex trafficking.  
Efrain Gonzalez, 26, and Edward L. Nelson, 28, both were locked up on suspicion of second-degree promoting prostitution, a felony.  
The allegation means they either profited from the prostitution services of another person or aided in the crime being committed, like driving a person to a location knowing it was for prostitution.  
Gonzalez, who lives in the Tri-Cities, and Nelson of Kent appeared Monday afternoon in Franklin County Superior Court.



Efrain Gonzalez, 26, makes his preliminary appearance via a video link in Franklin County Superior Court on Monday with attorney Michael Quillen, right. Judge Jackie Shea Brown found probable cause to hold Gonzalez on suspicion of promoting prostitution.

Judge Jackie Shea Brown set bail at \$4,500 each. Prosecutors have until Wednesday to file charges or release them.  
While six Tri-City area women were arrested in the sting, police cautioned that they may be victims of sex trafficking.

Four of the women — all in their 20s — were picked up on investigative holds for misdemeanor prostitution.  
The two other women, while also suspected of prostitution, were arrested on felony drug charges, said Detective Sgt. Bill

Parramore.  
The 8-hour operation was led by the Pasco police Street Crimes Unit with help from the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office. Police asked for advocates with the Support, Advocacy & Resource Center, or SARC, to be available.  
Parramore wouldn't go into detail about how the sting was conducted, but said an undercover officer was involved.  
His team tries to do at least one or two similar operations a year, he said.  
Parramore said there are more interviews to be done by Detective Jasen McClintock, who's trained in working with sex-trafficking victims, in tandem with SARC resource center advocates to determine if the women were being trafficked or were choosing to prostitute themselves.  
Investigators also are trying to finish search

SEE STING, 4A

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# Oregon marijuana prices dive — and sales soar

Associated Press

PORTLAND, ORE. — Rampant overproduction in Oregon's market for legal, recreational marijuana has produced a 50 percent drop in prices, according to state economists. That widely documented collapse has been tough on farmers and retailers — but a boon for consumers. A new state analysis

finds the price collapse sparked a big uptick in marijuana purchases and a corresponding increase in associated tax revenue. The Oregonian/OregonLive reported. "Lower prices are helping to drive the volume of sales higher and induce black and medical market conversions into" the legal, recreational market, said Josh Lehner of the Oregon Office of Economic

Analysis. Recreational marijuana in Oregon will be nearly \$543 million this year, up 29 percent from 2017 and well above economists' expectations. When Oregon legalized marijuana four years ago, expectations were enormous for the newly legal market. The state created incentives for producers to leave the black market, leading to overproduction

and the ensuing price decrease. A state study found the retail cost of a gram of marijuana plunged from \$14 in 2015 to \$7 last year. Recreational marijuana remains a small industry, relative to the size of Oregon's economy. For comparison, economists note that cigarette sales are 40 percent higher than marijuana sales. But legal marijuana is growing fast — state forecasts suggest it will be a billion-dollar market in 2025. While Oregon has no general sales tax, it does levy a 17 percent sales tax on marijuana.

## Dead newborn orca calf washes up on shore

NOOTKA ISLAND, B.C.

A dead newborn orca calf washed up on the shores of Nootka Island off Vancouver Island Friday, the same day the final recommendations from the Orca Task Force came out. Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans is performing a necropsy to determine cause of death and its ecotype, whether it's a southern resident, transient or other type of orca. Ken Balcomb, founder

and principal investigator at the Center for Whale Research, told Q13 News he does not believe the dead newborn is from the endangered southern resident population, but he won't know for sure until DNA results come in, which could take weeks. Southern resident killer whales' numbers are the lowest they've been in more than three decades, with only 74 left in the Puget Sound. Lead researchers say there are only about five years left until the current southern residents lose their reproductive abilities. — KCPQ-TV (SEATTLE)

## Washington issues its first marijuana research license

Associated Press

OLYMPIA — The Washington Liquor and Cannabis Board says it has issued the state's first license to grow marijuana for research.

Verda Bio Research in Seattle says it will be growing cannabis to conduct basic research on some of the plant's lesser-known compounds. Chief Executive Jessica Tonani says Verda intends to breed cannabis plants

to emphasize compounds that currently exist only at low levels, so that those compounds can then be studied for potential therapeutic uses. In addition to meeting the same requirements as other marijuana businesses, applica-

tions for research licenses are subject to an independent scientific review. Marijuana remains illegal under federal law, which has long hindered researchers' access to the plant. Some states that have legalized marijuana, including Washington, Oregon and Colorado, are offering cannabis research licenses as a way to improve access within their states.

## FROM PAGE 2A STING

warrants on all the vehicles related to the sting, he said. JoDee Garretson, SARC's executive director, says the Richland-based agency was pleased that police thought to include victim services in the operation. The Support, Advocacy & Resource Center provides around-the-clock crisis services, support and advocacy to survivors of sexual violence and human trafficking and their relatives in Benton and Franklin counties. Since May 2017, the agency has had 126 new clients all related to sex trafficking. Of those new clients, 46 percent are teenagers. Advocates currently are working with sex-trafficking survivors from age 2 to the early 60s, she said. Garretson said it is a larger problem in the area than they anticipated, and

the agency is in need of more staff to keep up with the demand. "It's just surprising to learn what is actually happening and important for people to understand," she said. Sex trafficking, like prostitution, involves the exchange of something of value for a sexual act. The difference is that with adults, there needs to be force, fraud or coercion to qualify as sex trafficking, Garretson said. Juveniles under 18 don't have that requirement because, even if a teen agrees to sex with an adult for money, they cannot legally consent because of their age. People who need help with an abuse situation can call the hotline at 509-374-5391. Kristin M. Kraemer: 509-582-1531; Twitter: @KristinMKraemer

## FROM PAGE 2A WASTE

active waste. While high level waste is defined mostly by the processes that created it, low level waste is defined mostly by its radioactive content. DOE also would consider a second way to determine that waste from chemical processing must be considered high level. It could be disposed of as low level radioactive waste if an assessment shows it can be safely disposed of without sending it to a deep geologic repository, such as the repository proposed for Yucca Mountain, Nev. The Energy Communities Alliance — which

includes Hanford Communities, a coalition of small governments near the Hanford nuclear reservation — supports the proposal to change the definition. It has the potential to save \$40 billion across the DOE complex, said Richland Mayor Bob Thompson. DOE has declined to discuss how changing the definition would impact different Hanford waste. However, it could make it easier to send waste held in up to 20 of Hanford's 149 single-shell tanks to a national repository for transuranic waste in New Mexico, the Waste

Isolation Pilot Plant. Transuranic waste contains certain levels of plutonium or other isotopes heavier than uranium. DOE also is in the early steps of considering how to close underground tanks at Hanford that have had most, but not all, of their radioactive waste removed. Changing the classification of tank waste might help a plan to use concrete-like grout to fill the tanks rather than trying to remove additional waste. Hanford Challenge opposes the change in defining high level radioactive waste, saying it could leave more waste at Hanford, including soil contaminated from past leaks and spills of 1 million gallons of tank waste.

## DEATH NOTICES

**LADDIE G. STANTON**  
Laddie Gilbert Stanton, 79, died Nov. 11 at home in Richland. He was born in Pringle, S.D., and lived in Richland for 13 years. He was a retired computer technician for the government. Einar's at Sunset, Richland, is in charge of arrangements.

**TRUDY E. RITCHIE**  
Trudy E. Ritchie, 74, of Richland, died Nov. 16 in Richland. She was born in Dickinson, N.D., and was a longtime Yakima Valley resident. She was a homemaker. Smith Funeral Home, Sunnyside, is in charge of arrangements.

**LAURA W. DUNCAN**  
Laura W. Duncan, 87, of Kennewick, died Nov. 16 in Kennewick. She was born in Conrad, Mont., and lived in the Tri-City area since 1955. She was a homemaker and a retired Avon representative. Mueller's Tri-Cities Funeral Home, Kennewick, is in charge of arrangements.

**MONTY R. MCLAUGHLIN**  
Monty R. McLaughlin, 73, of Kennewick, died Nov. 18 in Kennewick. He was born in Colfax and lived in Kennewick for 41 years. He was a retired lumber salesman. Mueller's Tri-Cities Funeral Home, Kennewick, is in charge of arrangements.

**FREDA 'ELOISE' SCHERGER**  
Freda "Eloise" Scherger, 98, of Kennewick, died Nov. 17 in Kennewick. She was born in Burbank and lived in the Tri-City area since 1976. She was a retired audio visual support technician. Mueller's Tri-Cities Funeral Home, Kennewick, is in charge of arrangements.

**WILLIAM H. DEVEREAUX JR.**  
William H. Devereaux Jr., 85, of Salem, Ore., died Nov. 11 in Salem. He was born in Ellensburg and was a longtime resident of Pasco before moving to Salem. He was a retired postal worker. Virgil T. Golden Funeral Service, Salem, Ore., is in charge of arrangements.

**BRENDA B. MACAULAY**  
Brenda B. Macaulay, 84, of Richland, died Nov. 19 at Guardian Angel Homes in Richland. She was born in Malden, Mass., and lived in the Tri-City area for two years. She was a retired hairstylist. Life Tributes Cremation Center, Kennewick, is in charge of arrangements.

**DALE K. OSTENDORF**  
Dale Klaas Ostendorf, 82, of Kennewick, died Nov. 17 in Richland. He was born in Mason City, Iowa, and lived four years in Kennewick. He was a retired real estate agent. Mueller's Tri-Cities Funeral Home, Kennewick, is in charge of ar-

rangements.

**NORMAN D. JOHNSON SCHERGER**  
Norman Dale Johnson, 82, of Kennewick, died Nov. 16 in Kennewick. He was born in Pasco and was a lifelong Tri-City area resident. He was a retired power operator. Mueller's Tri-Cities Funeral Home, Kennewick, is in charge of arrangements.

**SHIRLEY A. IRBY**  
Shirley Ann Irby, 76, died Nov. 18 at home in Prosser. She was born in Prosser and was a lifelong resident. She was a retired checker at Holtzinger Fruit in Prosser. Prosser Funeral Home and Crematory is in charge of arrangements.

**EULALIO TORRES**  
Eulalio Torres, 63, of Pasco, died Nov. 18 in Pasco. He was born in Tamazula, Jalisco, Mexico, and lived in Pasco for 25 years. He was a cutter specialist in the food processing industry. Muller's Greenlee Funeral Home, Pasco, is in charge of arrangements.

**THOMAS E. GETIC**  
Thomas Earl Getic, 71, of Richland, died Nov. 19 in Richland. He was born in Huntington, Pa., and lived in the Tri-City area for 10 years. He was a retired bank auditor. Einar's at Sunset, Richland, is in charge of arrangements.

**Tri-City Herald**

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