State fines Old Youngs Bay Bridge contractor over safety after fall

Bridge worker lost balance and fell in June

By EDWARD STRATTON

The Daily Astorian

The state Occupational Safety and Health Division has fined contractor Purcell Painting & Coatings \$1,520 over a worker who fell off the Old Youngs Bay Bridge in June.

Merle Hicks, 55, suffered back and sternum injuries, broken ribs and a brain contusion after falling about 13 feet to a floor below. An accident synopsis found that Hicks was moving from a ladder used to access the lower deck of the mobile scaffold when his foot



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian Purcell Painting & Coatings employee Merle Hicks suffered serious injuries after falling off a mobile scaffolding system while working on the Old Youngs Bay Bridge.

Youngs Bay. He was taken to

shore on the barge, by ambu-

lance to Astoria Regional Air-

port and by Life Flight Net-

slipped and he lost his balance.

Emergency personnel stabilized Hicks and used ropes to lower him to a barge on

work helicopter to Oregon Health & Science University. Investigators found the

workers were not protected from or properly trained for fall hazards while working on the upper deck of the mobile scaffolding, which was also found to be unlevel. They came to the construction site between June and November to interview employees, including Senior Foreman Bill Lawrence.

'When Bill was asked why the employee(s) working from the top deck were not tied off Bill stated that he just missed it," the state report said. "After the accident Bill made it mandatory for all employees working from the mobile scaffolding to use fall protection and be tied off."

Astoria man pleads not guilty to sex abuse

By JACK HEFFERNAN The Daily Astorian

Astoria man accused of inappropriately touching a dancer at Annie's Saloon pleaded not guilty Wednesday to a sex abuse charge.

Matthew Stineman, 30, has been charged with second-degree sexual abuse and harassment. The alleged incident occurred during a lap dance on Nov. 20. He was arrested later in the evening at another

Stineman has also been convicted three times in Clatsop County for driving under the influence of intoxicants. The first conviction was dismissed after he completed a diversion program.

"The new crime involved intoxication as well," Chief Deputy District Attorney Ron Brown said in court Wednesday.

Stineman was released soon after his arrest due to jail overcrowding but has been wearing an ankle bracelet. An early resolution conference has been scheduled for February.

Inslee to decide town's oil fate

Associated Press

VANCOUVER, Wash. — Whether Vancouver becomes an oil town is up to Washington Gov. Jay Inslee.

The Columbian reported the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council finalized its recommendation Tuesday to deny permits for the proposed Vancouver Energy oil terminal and voted to send its report to the governor.

The decision solidified the council's Nov. 28 vote to recommend to Inslee that he should deny the project.

Inslee has 60 days as of Tuesday to make his decision.

The report the Washington State Energy Facility Site **Evaluation Council forwarded** to Inslee is more than 100

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(4:30) The Condemned Steve Austin

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(162) SF Machinery (N) Small Town (N)

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pages long and accompanied by a 430-page supporting document that recaps the findings of fact.





Alder and Maple Saw Logs & Standing Timber

Northwest Hardwoods . Longview, WA







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Ghost Wars "The Feast" (N)

Top Chef "Keep on Truckin'" (N)

Small Town

Evening listings

CNN Tonight With Don Lemon

15) WatchWhat (:45) Million Listing

Deep in My Heart ('54, Mus) José Ferrer

uper "You're Not My Momma" (N)

he Ingraham Angle

Paid Program

Time Life Library



Anderson Cooper 360

Inside Actors Studio "Kristen Wiig" (N) Mill.Listing "Who's Your Daddy?" (N)

**** 42nd Street ('33, Musical) Ruby Keeler, Dick Powell. (.45) **** Yankee Doodle Dandy (1942, Musical) Joan Leslie, Walter Huston, James Cagney.

Tucker Carlson Tonight

The Profit "Mr. Cory's Cookies

Rural Eve. News Market Journal GA Farm Monitor SF Machinery

CNN Tonight With Don Lemon

Fox News @ Night

★★ Underworld: Rise of the Lycans ('09) Bill Nighy, Rhona Mitra, Michael Sheen. | Van Helsing "Be True" (N)

Shark Tank

Steve Lantvit

CNN Tonight With Don Lemon

Million Dollar Listing Los Angeles

Rural "American Century Invest" (N)

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