

Truck removed, driver indicted after failed escape

‘I’m not getting arrested today’

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Timofey Erofeeff was indicted on several charges Thursday after an attempted escape from police into the Columbia River, while his red Ford F-150 pickup was lifted out of the water by a crane at North Tongue Point.



Timofey Erofeeff



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

ABOVE, Timofey Erofeeff launched his Ford F-150 truck into the Columbia River in an attempted escape from police. The truck was removed by a crane and taken to a local tow yard. **RIGHT,** Ensign Kira Adams with the Coast Guard's Incident Management Team in Astoria observes employees with WCT Marine & Construction lift the red Ford F-150 truck out of the Columbia River and onto a dock at North Tongue Point using a crane.



Coast Guard

Erofeeff, 27, from Scotts Mills in Marion County, was observed Wednesday morning trespassing on boats at North Tongue Point and was approached by officers Kevin Berry and Thomas Litwin of the Astoria Police Department.

In a court document, Berry described approaching Erofeeff's pickup to arrest him after learning he also had a parole violation from Deschutes County.

"Erofeeff proceeded to take off at a high rate of speed straight away from me," Berry said. "Erofeeff turned onto a dead-end pier and began accelerating. Erofeeff launched his vehicle off the end of the pier, into the Columbia River at a rate of speed I estimate to be about 45 mph."

Erofeeff left his sinking vehicle and started swimming

across a side channel of the Columbia toward an island about one-third of a mile away. He began to struggle, and the Coast Guard was called for a possible rescue. But he made it back to the pier, where he was thrown a life jacket and ring and eventually rescued by employees from nearby shipwright WCT Marine & Construction Inc.

He was taken by ambulance

to Columbia Memorial Hospital for minor injuries and hypothermia.

"When I asked him why he took off in his vehicle, he told (me) he knew I was going to arrest him and he thought to himself, 'I'm not getting arrested today,'" Berry said.

During a videoconference Thursday from Clatsop County Jail, Erofeeff was indicted by Deputy District

Attorney Steven Chamberlin on one count of first-degree burglary, a Class A felony, for attempting to steal from the moored vessel The Zephyr, and another count of attempting to elude police with a vehicle, a Class C felony. He also faces misdemeanor charges of reckless driving, refusing to obey a police officer, third-degree escape, second-degree criminal trespass-

ing and offensive littering for the truck, fluids and debris in the river.

"It was just a long, arduous process finding the truck," Jeremy Milligan, a shipwright with WCT Marine, said of bringing in a diver to search underwater.

After locating the pickup, WCT Marine brought a crane out on the pier, hooked the truck to a tow hitch and lifted

it onto the dock. The Coast Guard's Incident Management Division oversaw the removal but ordered no ongoing cleanup. The truck was taken by Classic Towing to a yard in Miles Crossing.

Bail was set at \$75,000 for Erofeeff. He is scheduled for an arraignment on the indictment early next month. Kris Kaino was appointed as his defense attorney.

Officials: Deadly NYC fire lit by child playing with stove

By JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York City's deadliest residential fire in decades was accidentally lit by a 3½-year-old boy playing with the burners on his mother's stove, officials said Friday.

The flames spread quickly through the kitchen, then roared through a door the boy's mother had left open as she fled her first floor apartment with the boy and her other child, Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro said. A stairwell acted like a chimney, carrying the flames through the entire build-

ing within minutes and blocking the main escape route.

Twelve people died, including girls ages 1, 2 and 7 and a boy whose age was not given.

"We were told the boy had a history of playing with the burners and turning them on, and before the mother knew it, this fire had gotten a good hold of the kitchen," Nigro said.

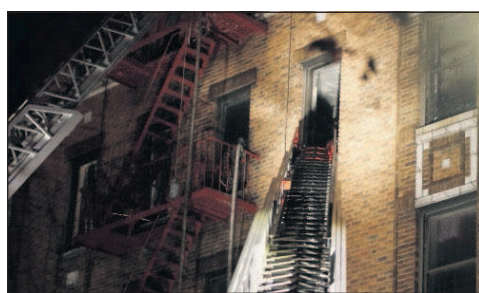
Excluding the Sept. 11 attacks, it was the deadliest fire in the city since 87 people were killed during a social club fire in the same Bronx neighborhood in 1990.

The blaze broke out on the first floor of a five-story

building just before 7 p.m. and quickly tore through the roughly century-old structure near the Bronx Zoo.

Many residents of the building, a mix of native New Yorkers and Latino and African immigrants, were able to flee via fire escapes. At least 20 people were clambering down the icy, metal escapes when firefighters arrived, Nigro said. But the flames moved so fast that many never made it out of their apartments.

About 170 firefighters worked in bone-chilling cold, just 15 degrees, to rescue a dozen people from the building.



Firefighters respond to a deadly fire Thursday in the Bronx borough of New York.

AP Photo/Frank Franklin II

Thierno Diallo, 59, a security guard originally from Conakry, Guinea, who lives in a ground floor apartment said he was asleep when he heard banging on the door. It took him a moment to realize what was happening.

"Only when I heard people screaming, 'There's a fire in the building!'" he said. "I heard somebody, 'Oh! Fire! Fire! Fire!'"

He ran outside in his bathrobe, jacket and sandals. Kenneth Kodua, 37, said he

left his apartment to get food, leaving his roommate behind, and came back to find people fleeing in a panic.

Hours later, he was still trying to find out whether his roommate had escaped.

"I tried calling her. I tried calling. No answer," he said, still clutching his bag of uneaten food. His phone was dead.

Many questions remained in the immediate aftermath of the blaze, including how the fire spread so quickly in a brick building built after catastrophic fires at the turn of the 20th century ushered in an era of tougher enforcement of fire codes.

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA



ALMANAC

Astoria through Thursday.

Temperatures	High/Low
High/Low	53°/42°
Normal high/low	48°/37°
Record high	60° in 1980
Record low	18° in 1978

Precipitation	Amount
Thursday	1.08"
Month to date	6.00"
Normal month to date	8.97"
Year to date	82.31"
Normal year to date	66.34"

SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight	4:38 p.m.
Sunrise Saturday	7:58 a.m.
Moonsrise today	2:14 p.m.
Moonsset today	3:38 a.m.

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Venus is lost in the sun's glare around the 12th of the month on its way towards superior conjunction (on the far side of the sun) on January 9.

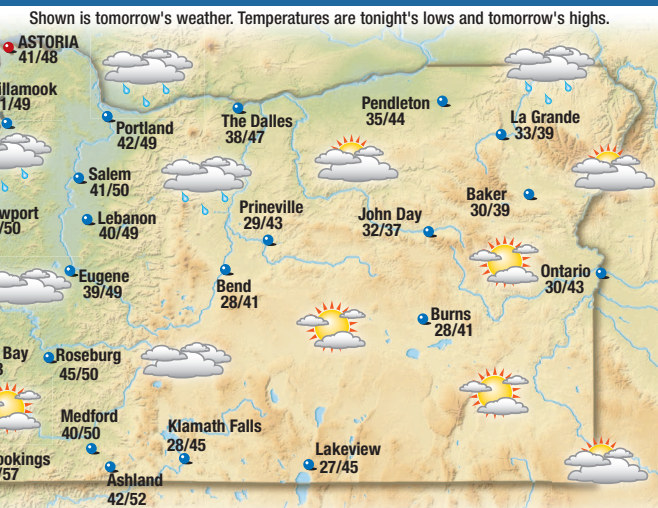
TOMORROW'S TIDES

Time	High	Time	Low
10:20 a.m.	9.9 ft.	4:13 a.m.	2.8 ft.
11:49 p.m.	7.8 ft.	5:31 p.m.	-0.4 ft.

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Sat.
Atlanta	51 36 s	49 29 pc
Boston	16 8 c	22 10 sn
Chicago	18 5 sn	7 -1 pc
Denver	61 12 pc	46 16 c
Des Moines	16 -4 sn	2 -10 pc
Detroit	19 12 sf	18 3 sf
El Paso	68 38 s	70 39 s
Fairbanks	-14 -18 s	-4 -7 pc
Honolulu	80 67 s	80 65 pc
Indianapolis	20 13 sn	15 -3 sn
Kansas City	33 4 c	10 -4 pc
Las Vegas	67 43 s	67 44 pc
Los Angeles	61 54 s	75 53 s
Memphis	42 28 s	40 18 pc
Miami	81 63 pc	80 57 pc
Nashville	40 26 s	40 15 c
New Orleans	56 43 pc	60 50 r
New York	24 18 pc	27 16 sn
Oklahoma City	42 22 c	29 14 c
Philadelphia	27 19 c	28 18 sn
St. Louis	31 17 c	17 3 c
Salt Lake City	49 33 pc	50 30 pc
San Francisco	59 43 pc	59 47 pc
Seattle	51 42 r	48 33 pc
Washington, DC	35 25 s	37 21 c

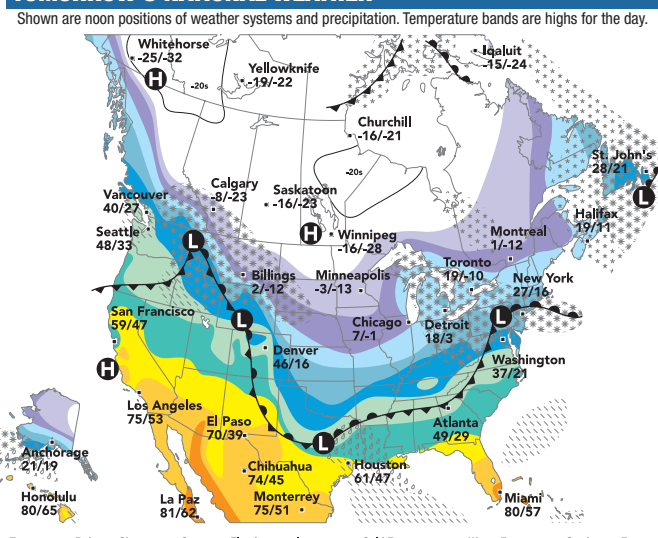
REGIONAL WEATHER



REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Sat.
Baker City	39 30 c	39 14 c
Bend	53 28 c	41 21 c
Brookings	54 48 c	56 46 c
Eugene	55 39 r	49 31 c
Ilwaco	52 43 r	47 36 c
Klamath Falls	46 28 c	45 24 c
Medford	51 40 c	50 36 c
Newberg	54 39 r	48 33 c
Newport	53 42 r	50 38 c
North Bend	57 44 r	53 39 c
Olympia	51 39 r	47 28 c
Pendleton	44 35 c	44 23 c
Portland	54 42 c	49 33 c
Roseburg	55 45 r	50 40 c
Salem	56 41 r	50 31 c
Seaside	53 42 r	48 34 sh
Spokane	31 29 i	34 18 c
Springfield	56 40 r	49 31 c
Vancouver	53 40 r	47 32 c
Yakima	39 33 r	47 24 pc

TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER



Mildred Vergene Scheffers

Astoria

March 24, 1921 — Nov. 25, 2017

Mildred (Fick) Scheffers, known as Millie to her friends, was born in Guthrie, Iowa, the daughter of Herman Fick and Mary (Gernantz) Fick. She was born into a large family with 10 siblings.

Mildred married Claude Scheffers in December 1938, and they soon moved to Newport, Oregon. In Newport, both Millie and Claude worked in the fishing industry. Claude was a commercial fisherman and Millie worked as a plant foreman in the local cannery. They had two children, William and Mary Lou.

After many years in Newport, she eventually moved to Astoria to be

near her daughter. She was known for walking all over town, most especially the Astoria Riverwalk. She enjoyed spending time with her daughter, watching the boats in the river, putting puzzles together, or visiting with friends at the Astoria Gateway senior residence.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Claude, in 1996; nine of her 10 siblings; her son, William, in 1964; and her daughter, Mary Lou Marshall, in 2017.

Survivors include her brother, Duane Fick; three grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.



Mildred Scheffers

DEATH

Dec. 28, 2017

KEETH, Spurgeon Dallas, 92, of Hammond, died in Hammond. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Assault

• Joel Merrill, 30, of Seaside, was arrested Wednesday by the Seaside Police Department on one count of fourth-degree assault after allegedly assaulting his girlfriend.

LOTTERIES

OREGON
Thursday's Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 5-0-5-6
4 p.m.: 7-2-0-4
7 p.m.: 7-1-4-8
10 p.m.: 9-5-4-6

Thursday's Lucky Lines: 01-05-12-15-18-23-27-31
Estimated jackpot: \$38,000

8-8-9
Thursday's Keno: 02-03-04-05-08-11-13-15-23-24-45-49-50-51-56-59-62-67-74-77
Thursday's Match 4: 03-07-16-18

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