

Ex-Scappoose resident gets \$600K injury lawsuit award

Cable worker fell 13 feet off ladder secured by bad line

BY BRIAN STIMSON
The Chronicle

On Friday, a Multnomah Circuit Court jury awarded former Scappoose resident Marshall Porter, 36, \$618,000 for injuries sustained from a fall from a cable transmission line in March of 2002, according to Steve Piucci, of Piucci & Dozier, one of the two lawyers who handled the case. The lines were owned and operated by AT&T Broadband of Ohio, a company owned by Comcast. Theresa Davis of Comcast said the company

has no comment on the case.

Porter worked for the now defunct Telecom Support Services Inc

Of the total amount, \$500,000 was given for pain and suffering, \$56,000 for medical bills, \$50,000 for wages lost, and \$12,000 for education, said Piucci.

The incident happened on EM Watts Road by Forest Street when Porter attached a hook ladder on one of the cable transmission lines between two poles. According to Piucci, the jury was told that it is standard practice, approved by the Employer's Liability Law and Electrical Safety Code, to use the middle, low-hanging cable as a weight-bearing line for up to 5,000 pounds. The line had been repaired a

month earlier by Comcast workers and had been only secured with a rope – a temporary repair intended to hold the line for 1 day.

As Porter attempted to splice wires from the middle of the transmission line, the cable secured by the rope broke, and Porter fell 13 feet to an asphalt landing, shattering his hip and hurting his leg and arm. Porter underwent two surgeries on his hip, and has sciatic nerve damage from his hip to his knee.

"He can walk, but not normally," Piucci said. Porter is now limited to a more sedentary career, which the \$12,000 of education money will go towards.

Porter was unavailable for comment by publishing deadline.