



With the steel framework now in place the new Lommen Bridge, which spans the Nehalem River on Miami-Foley Road in north Tillamook County, is beginning to take shape. Dave Fisher/For EO Media Group

Nehalem River replacement bridge serves as a model

Designed to withstand major seismic event

By DAVE FISHER
For EO Media Group

NEHALEM — Building a bridge to withstand “the big one,” a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake, has been ever-present on the mind of Tillamook County Public Works director Liane Welch ever since a winter storm in 2007.

The replacement of the 382-foot Lommen Bridge, which spans the main stem of the Nehalem River on Miami-Foley Road, became Welch’s number one priority.

In December of that year, the north Tillamook County bridge, which dates back to 1955 and is named after a pioneer family, shifted as much as 3 inches on its foundation when debris carried by the river stacked up against the base of the structure. The bridge, according to Welch, had the dubious honor of being rated the second worst bridge in terms of safety in Oregon, second only to Portland’s Sellwood Bridge, which has since been replaced.

The 12.5-mile Miami-Foley Road east of U.S. Highway 101 serves as a detour route linking north Tillamook County to its neighbors to the south in the event the main coastal highway is closed.

“If the bridge were to fail, we no longer have this vital line during an emergency; the Miami-Foley is the backbone of the north county transportation system,” said Welch in explaining why it was important to design a structure that would not only hold up during a winter flood but also to a major seismic event. To that end, the bridge incorporates the use of isolation bearings atop foundations, which act as shock absorbers of sorts to minimize damage during large earthquakes.

With the recent completed fabrication and installation of the rigid steel framework the bridge is beginning to look

more like a bridge. Traditionally, concrete is used in almost 80 percent of bridge construction, however that could change in the future, according to Steve Fugate, president of Northwest-based Fought and Co., steel fabricator for the Nehalem River bridge project.

“Since we can construct longer spans with faster installation, we’ve shown that steel is a great environmental choice, especially with bridges spanning rivers and waterways,” said Fugate.

Building bridges over water adds to the complexity by strictly limiting work in the water and providing a short window of time allowed for each season. Using steel has provided the opportunity to save time in the construction schedule.

“We are striving to reduce the number of 24-hour shifts during the water season for less impact on the public and the environment,” added Scott Butler, project manager for the bridge contractor, Farline Bridge.

After a “pretty rough winter” this past year with rising river waters the project is still on schedule, says Welch of the nearly \$11 million project, made possible with a \$10 million grant, 90 percent of which is federally funded with a 10 percent local match. Barring any weather-related delays, the project will be completed in the fall of 2017. One thing that won’t change is the name; the new bridge will still be called Lommen Bridge.

During construction, Welch reminds motorists to be aware that the traffic pattern has changed slightly in the vicinity of milepost 11.5

where construction is taking place. There will be two lanes open unless the flaggers are needed at certain times.

“Also, the speed limit through the work zone is posted as 30 miles per hour and the sheriff has been enforcing this area more frequently, so please drive safely.”

Upgrades on cache sites needed

By LYRA FONTAINE
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Residents store medicine, provisions and other supplies in three emergency cache sites in Cannon Beach. Will those sites survive the Big One?

Ensuring that the cache sites are able to withstand an earthquake is important to the city’s emergency preparedness committee.

“My priority is to make sure all three sites are shored up to withstand a seismic event,” committee member Paula Vetter said at a late October meeting.

Many agreed that internal building modifications on the city’s three emergency container cache sites, for seismic purposes, would be one way to use the committee’s funds.

“The seismic upgrades at the three cache sites are the No. 1 priority, along with supplies and outreach for the fiscal year,” committee chair Karolyn Adamson said after the meeting.

The committee’s budget for this fiscal year is \$6,500. The amount can be spent on preparedness and education efforts through June 30. Cost estimates for the cache site modifications have yet to be determined.



File Photo

Emergency preparedness committee hopes to bolster stability at emergency cache sites in Cannon Beach.

The committee may consider purchasing a prototype for the sanitary facilities. Supplies needed might include propane-cooking burners and utensils.

“When you’re feeding hundreds of people, you need something to feed them with,” Adamson said.

Although budget priorities could include seismic upgrades on cache sites, outreach, business preparedness and supplies, members agreed further discussion was needed. The committee will meet again in December.

Kiosks to come

By December, three informational kiosks will be put in place downtown, midtown

and the Tolovana Wayside. Panels will include emergency preparedness information and a site-specific tsunami evacuation route map, upcoming monthly events and local recreational attractions.

The kiosks are funded by a \$30,000 grant from the Oregon Office of Emergency Management. The grant also funded eight beach access identification posts and a dozen pavement markers for the tsunami line that lets people know they reached the “safe zone.”

After the recent Manzanita tornado, the committee discussed the need for tornadoes to be part of the committee’s education efforts.

The Red Cross will assess whether certain Cannon Beach locations could be used as future shelters, said Stacy Burr, the city’s emergency consultant. Locations could include Coaster Construction, Cannon Beach Bible Church, Tolovana Inn, Breakers Point condominiums, Sea Ranch RV Park, Cannon Beach Christian Conference Center and Haystack Gardens, depending on whether the property owners would like to use the area as a shelter.

“There’s a lot of preparedness going on in the next eight months,” Burr said.

Consult a Professional



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A: Chilling the live crab, either in ice or the freezer, for at least 15 minutes before adding them to the boiling water will usually prevent this. The drop in their internal temperature puts them in a semiconscious state. This prevents the shock trauma from the boiling water which causes the leg and claw loss. After cooking, you can submerge the crab in your icy water to prevent the meat from sticking to the shell.



JEFFREY M. LEINASSAR
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Q: What do drugs cost if I land in the Part D donut hole? (Part 2 of 3)

A: Cost depends on whether you’re filling a prescription for a generic or brand-name drug. For generics in 2017, your cost will be 51% of the price. For brand names, it will be 40% of the price your plan has negotiated for that drug. Because of changes from Congress, your share of generics’ cost will drop yearly until it hits 25% in 2020. P.S. Are you in the Extra Help program? If so, you’ll never be in the donut hole.



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Q: What is the difference between an essential oil and a fragrance?

A: Fragrances are artificial chemicals created in a laboratory. They have no therapeutic benefits to the body and in fact are the cause of many allergies and hormone imbalances. Essential oils are extracted from natural plant material and have medicinal therapeutic values to the body when applied properly. If you are interested in learning more about essential oils and how you can use them for your own health and wellness, call Angela at Waves of Change Wellness Center 503-338-9921.



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Q: What’s a good guideline for BTUs?

A: The most simple guideline for understanding BTU ratings is the higher the number, the greater the heat output of the burner. Conversely, the lower the BTU number, the less heat output. In culinary endeavors, both high and low BTU ratings are very desirable for optimum cooking performance.



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