

First Vessel Uses Alternate Channel to Bypass Wreckage at the Baltimore Bridge Collapse Site

The Ship Remains Stationary Along with 21 Crew Members on Board

A tugboat pushing a fuel barge was the first vessel to use an alternate channel to bypass the wreckage of Baltimore's collapsed Francis Scott Key Bridge, which had blocked traffic along the vital port's main shipping channel.

The barge supplying jet fuel to the Department of Defense left late Monday and was destined for Delaware's Dover Air Force Base, though officials have said the temporary channel is open primarily to vessels that are helping with the cleanup effort. Some barges and tugs that have been stuck in the Port of Baltimore since the collapse are also scheduled to pass through the channel.

Officials said they're working on a second channel on the southwest side of the main channel that will allow for deeper draft vessels, but they didn't say when that might open. Crews are undertaking the complicated work of removing steel and concrete at the site of the bridge's deadly collapse after a container ship lost power



The Dali, a massive container ship from Singapore, still sits amid the wreckage and collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in the Baltimore port, Monday April 1, 2024. (Kaitlin Newman/Baltimore Banner via AP)

and crashed into a supporting column. On Sunday, dive teams surveyed parts of the bridge and checked the ship, and workers in lifts used torches to cut above-water parts of the twisted steel superstructure.

Authorities believe six workers plunged to their deaths in the collapse, including two whose bodies were recovered last week. Two other workers survived.

Moore, a Democrat, said at a Monday

afternoon news conference that his top priority is recovering the four remaining bodies, followed by reopening shipping channels. He said that he understands the urgency but that the risks are significant. Crews have described the mangled steel girders of the fallen bridge as "chaotic wreckage," he said.

"What we're finding is it is more complicated than we hoped for initially," said

U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral Shannon Gilreath. Meanwhile, the ship remains stationary, and its 21 crew members remain on board for now, officials said.

The bridge fell as the cargo ship Dali lost power March 26 shortly after leaving Baltimore on its way to Sri Lanka. The ship issued a mayday alert, which allowed just enough time for police to stop traffic, but not enough to save a roadwork crew filling potholes on the bridge.

Synergy and Grace Ocean filed a court petition Monday seeking to limit their legal liability, a routine but important procedure for cases litigated under U.S. maritime law. A federal court in Maryland will ultimately decide who is responsible and how much they owe.

The filing seeks to cap the companies' liability at roughly \$43.6 million. It estimates that the vessel itself is valued at up to \$90 million and was owed over \$1.1 million in income from freight. Officials are trying to determine how to rebuild the major bridge, which was completed in 1977.

Congress is expected to consider aid packages to help people who lose jobs or businesses because of the prolonged closure of the Port of Baltimore. The port handles more cars and farm equipment than any other U.S. facility.

The Cool Creature Crawl

Whimsical animals abound in seek-and-find scavenger hunt

The Oregon Zoo welcomed 20 animals this week, but they don't have fur, feathers or scales. These new arrivals are made of wood, and they were created by Portland artist Mike Bennett for a new scavenger hunt at the zoo: the Cool Creature Crawl, presented by First Tech Federal Credit Union.

Inspired by some of the lesser-known animals that call the zoo home, Bennett crafted a pacific lamprey, a naked mole rat and a crocodile monitor, among others. The two-dimensional, hand-painted creatures are located throughout the zoo. "I've always been drawn to unsung heroes," said Bennett. "Everyone knows you can see lions or elephants at the zoo, but not everyone knows about the southern ground hornbills. This is a fun way to celebrate these cool creatures."

Guests to the zoo will see the first creature on the crawl, a rocky mountain goat, near the main entrance. From there, they'll be challenged to see how many more they can spot during their visit. "As a proud partner of the Oregon Zoo for six years, we're thrilled to bring wonder and discovery to the Portland community with the



Cool Creature Crawl' Debuts with Support from First Tech

Cool Creature Crawl," said Mairi Burns, vice president of brand marketing for First Tech. "We've collaborated with the zoo on a scavenger hunt since 2019 and this is a really exciting next step."

As part of Metro, the Oregon Zoo helps make greater Portland a great place to call home. Committed to conservation, the zoo acts globally on behalf of species from pikas to polar bears. Over the past 30 years,

it has prevented extinctions, expanded populations, advanced conservation science and formed powerful communities to protect wildlife in the Northwest and around the world.