



A GROUP OF DOUGLAS COUNTY STUDENTS IS HELPING STATE HIGHWAY OFFICIALS DESIGN A NEW BRIDGE.

Matt Templeman: NewsSource 16's Monte Muirhead has just returned from a special assembly at Elkton High School, and joins us live in Roseburg.

Monte Muirhead: State highway officials we talked with today, said it's the first time they can recall in Oregon, where students helped O-DOT design a bridge.

Logs now travel across the Elk Creek Bridge along Highway 38 at Elkton. But soon, logs will hold up the bridge. Actually, new concrete pylons that look like Douglas fir logs will support the new bridge.

O-DOT last year asked the school if they would design some special pylons for the bridge. In response, students designed pylons that will appear as if they have been gnawed by a beaver at the top. Grape vines will encircle the pylons. Each pylon will feature a separate animal from the Elton area. A butterfly, beaver, osprey and salmon.

Debbie Williams: "We get a beautiful bridge, and we're going to be putting a time capsule in it. ODOT says that bridges have an average lifespan of about 75 years, so that capsule in 75 years will be opened up."

Monte Muirhead: Student Richard Sanchez who designed the four animal drawings, received five hundred dollars, while other students were recognized for their contributions. Williams says concrete for the bridge is now being poured, and the new pylons should be completed sometime this fall.

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