



TALKS HAPPENING

Champ Car and Indy Racing League officials
serious about unification, Sports

Tomorrow's Outlook
Mostly sunny and hot.
High: 91° Low: 53°

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
High: 86° Low: 56°	High: 86° Low: 54°	High: 86° Low: 53°

Albany Democrat-Herald

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ALBANY DEMOCRAT-HERALD, MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2006

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NEWS TIPS

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BUSINESS



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BROTHERS CONCRETE

A Brothers Concrete worker cuts through the decking of the Ellsworth Street Bridge in Albany this past spring.

Brothers gets cut of bridge work

BY ALEX PAUL
ALBANY DEMOCRAT-HERALD

An Albany concrete-cutting company is getting a welcome infusion of business from Oregon's \$1.3 billion highway bridge repair and replacement program.

Brothers Concrete Cutting has completed five bridge jobs so far and expects to do several more for the Oregon Department of Transportation. General Manager Chris Beck said the company's commitment to being on time and getting the job done quickly is a key reason it has been so successful with ODOT projects under way across the state.

"People, especially on state projects, want to know you'll be there on time,

get in and get out of the way," said Beck, an Oregon State University business management graduate, who has been with the company six years.

To accomplish its goals, he said, Brothers has invested heavily in new equipment, including a variety of saws that cost up to \$20,000 each.

Founded in 1978 by Dick and Carolee Harding, Brothers has grown to 25 employees during the peak summer season. Beck said the company can cut through concrete or asphalt. Some jobs are asphalt over concrete that are especially time-consuming and hard on equipment, which is maintained by two full-time mechanics, has a worklife of about five years.

Saw blades, which are tipped with diamond, cost about \$2,000 and have a lifespan of about 1,000 feet, Beck said.

After the Brothers crew dismantles the old bridge decking, other contractors haul it away and replace it with new concrete.

"Brothers has been a great company to work with," said Scott Vogl, a general superintendent for Wildish Construction, a Eugene contractor involved in various bridge projects. "They are consistent and reliable, and we have been able to count on them to always deliver a premium service."

In addition to its bridge work, Brothers specializes in street cutting for the Ore-

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Brothers: Getting cut of bridge work

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gon Department of Transportation and municipalities. The company also cuts openings to expand windows in basements or to locate utilities under concrete slabs.

Although most jobs are bid by the foot, Beck said, the hourly rate is \$125 for a saw cutter and labor is about \$50 to \$65 per hour.

Brothers recently completed a big job at Autzen Stadium, drilling thousands of holes for railing attachments at the University of Oregon arena. A crew is also working on a project on Portland's Powell Boulevard that may take up to six months.

Another major job has been the westside combined sewer overflow tunnel for the city of Portland and Impregilo/Healy JV. A tunnel was bored under the

Willamette River in downtown Portland to connect the eastside sewer to the westside line. Brothers has done some preliminary work

on that project.

In addition to its Albany shop at 1721 Fescue St. N.E., Brothers has a vehicle yard in the Wilsonville area.