



City of Folsom Newsletter

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DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE

September 2007



Folsom History Museum

Built on Sutter Street in 1893, the Enterprise Hotel held weddings in its lobby. The Granite House will recreate the style – and the lobby – of a grand hotel in historic Folsom, though not the function.

Forward past

19th century Folsom will meet the 21st century at Historic Folsom Station

The transit-oriented community – a mix of housing, businesses, walkways and public transportation – may be the development gold standard of the future, but in Folsom, it's history. Literally.

In the 1850s, Folsom's founder, Joseph Folsom, and engineer Theodore Judah envisioned building a railroad to serve the gold fields. They chose a spot on the American River for the depot and laid out the town of Folsom around it. Every home and business was within walking distance of the trains.

Their railroad, which began in 1856, was the first in the West, making Folsom almost certainly the first transit-oriented community in California.

"We have this very rich history in Folsom," says Redevelopment Agency Director Amy Feagans. "It began with the Gold Rush and this was the center of it. This is where it started in the West."

Now the City Council and the Folsom Railroad Block Developers, headed by Jerry Bernau, want to bring the

See **Block**, page 5

What's Happening

- ◆ Start aiming your camera at award-winning shots. **Folsom Focus photography contest is accepting entries beginning Oct. 1.** New this year: cash prizes. Details at www.patronsofthearts.org/folsomfocus.htm.
- ◆ Take in a **free Saturday matinee ... at the library.** Kids 7-12: first Saturday of the month at 1 p.m. Teens: Third Saturday at 3 p.m.

Inside

- ◆ Learn how to prepare for a disaster at the **Sept. 15 emergency preparedness fair.** First 500 visitors take home a free first aid kit. See story on page 2.



Be prepared: '3 days' could save your life

Three days. That's how long experts, including FEMA and the California Office of Emergency Services, say you should plan to survive on your own if a disaster strikes. No matter how quickly relief and public safety workers arrive at a scene, they cannot get to everyone right away.

"We saw what happened in New Orleans," says Police Lt. Bryan Sather. "People thought they were going to get immediate assistance, but the police had to respond to the highest-priority needs first."

The City of Folsom is supporting the national "3 days" campaign by sponsoring an emergency preparedness fair on Sept. 15, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Community Center, with information, demonstrations and supplies to help you plan for an emergency. As a start, the first 500 visitors will receive a family first aid kit.

Exhibitors will include OES, the Red Cross, several City of Folsom departments, the National Weather Service, hospitals, utility companies, the Salvation Army, other public agencies and related businesses. The Fire and Police departments will display vehicles, including the police mobile communication and command center, a regional unit that can patch through communications when phone lines are down.

Folsom is a relatively safe community – there is no earthquake fault line here, we don't have hurricanes, and a break in Folsom Dam would probably not flood the town, says Police Sgt. Eric Heichlinger, who is helping organize the fair – but a tornado touched down nearby and we can't predict such events as flu pandemics, power out-



ages, hazmat spills or fires.

With wind patterns, it's not impossible, Sather says, that effects from a distant event, such as a dirty bomb in Sacramento, could reach Folsom.

The '3 days' campaign consists of three basic steps: create a plan, prepare a survival kit and get involved. Your plan should specify how family members can contact one another if local phone service is down. Designating a relative outside the area as a contact point may be a good idea.

The list of items for your disaster kit is long – you can get a complete one at the fair – but necessities include one gallon of water for each person per day, a water purification kit, food, medications, flashlights, cash and your first aid kit. You may need to prepare three kits – one each for home, office and car.

You may also want to be prepared to help your neighbors by learning CPR, taking community emergency response training (CERT) and knowing the community's resources.

For more information ...

- Sgt. Eric Heichlinger: 355-7298
- City of Folsom Police Department: [www.folsom.ca.us/Police Department/Family Disaster Plan](http://www.folsom.ca.us/Police%20Department/Family%20Disaster%20Plan)
- OES: www.oes.ca.gov (search "emergency checklist")
- FEMA: www.fema.gov (search "are you ready")
- U.S. Health & Human Services Dept. plan for women: www.4women.gov/tools/disaster.cfm

Don't hang up! You may need to hear this message

Not all computer-generated phone calls are nuisances. Now they could be important messages from your Police or Fire department.

The city has set up a "reverse 911" notification system that links a computer database with GIS mapping technology to automatically telephone residents in emergencies. The system is paid for through a Sacramento Police Department grant from the Office of Homeland Security and is being used regionwide.

The database contains every Folsom landline phone number, including TTY numbers, and the software lets dispatchers activate calls to all of them at once or to subsets of residents by geographic area or other criteria. It also can call specific teams of Police or Fire officers or city officials.

The reverse 911 system would be employed during disasters, of course, but it could be used for more limited needs, too, such as warning seniors of a high-heat-index day or asking neighbors to keep an eye out for a lost child.

For the Police Department, says Peggy Gregson, police technical services manager, the system will reduce the number of 911 calls that must be handled and free officers to focus on incidents rather than having to notify residents.

So if you sense a computer when you answer your phone, don't hang up too quickly. If it's reverse 911 calling, Gregson says, the caller will always be immediately identified as the Police or Fire department.

You can get the form to register cell or Internet phones at [www.folsom.ca.us/depts/police/reverse 911.asp](http://www.folsom.ca.us/depts/police/reverse%20911.asp). TTY users can register at www.sacpd.org.

Water deal for growth area

A source of water for Folsom's sphere-of-influence area south of Highway 50 has been found that will serve the entire area's needs and meet the requirements of Measure W.

Finding water was expected to be a hurdle in the development of the 3,600-acre parcel south of Highway 50 and west of the El Dorado County line.

Measure W, passed by Folsom voters in 2004, amended the city charter to require that a new source of water be secured before the area can be developed. None of the costs of providing that water can be passed on to residents within the current city.

"It's a big step finding the water supply," says Ken Payne, Utilities director. "It's huge."

The SOI-area property owners reached the agreement in late July with Natomas Central Mutual Water Co., based in Rio Linda, to buy the entitlements to 8,000 acre-feet of water a year from the federal Bureau of Reclamation, with the option of buying another 7,000 acre-feet if there is sufficient surplus. The water will come from the Sacramento River.

An acre-foot of water can supply two average households for a year.

Natomas Central is a small private water



Over 50? It's your time to rock

Being over 50 in Folsom means never having to be bored. A full eight pages in the fall activities guide are devoted to programs for your age group at the new senior center at 48 Natoma St. And don't think just gentle: If you're looking for mental or physical challenges, you'll find them here. For example: exploring Desolation Wilderness; studying French; writing children's books; kayaking. Quieter pursuits include knitting, painting, Mah-jongg, bridge.

If you like to be on the go, trips from a day to a week are offered (think John Muir Ranch, Canadian Rockies, New Orleans).

Free Alzheimer's or dementia support groups are scheduled monthly. Blood pressure screenings are free every fourth Monday, and hot lunches are served at 11:30 Monday through Friday in the lounge (reserve a day in advance at 351-3386.) A \$2 donation is suggested but not required.

If you just want to hang out and chat, play games or read, you can do that, too, for free, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Senior and Arts Center opened June 1. The arts offerings include a free public art gallery and art classrooms. For more information, call 355-7285.

company founded by farmers who needed it primarily to irrigate crops.

City of Folsom representatives and the SOI-area property owners have been working with Natomas Central for about 18 months. The agreement won't be final until several

more steps are completed. They include studies to make sure the Natomas Central farmers will not need the water and that the transfer will not impact the area's groundwater. The Bureau of Reclamation must approve the water transfer and

issue permits.

Once the steps are done, the city will enter into a memorandum of understanding with the property owners to accept the water.

The city also needs a way to bring the water to Folsom. Payne is looking at pipelines being installed by a water purveyor in the eastern part of the county. The landowners in the SOI area will pay all the costs of buying and conveying the water.

The landowners are paying a premium, Payne says, to get the water from the Sacramento River and not the American River. All of Folsom's current water comes from the American River, but the city has joined a water forum agreement that pledges to try to preserve that river.

Based on that agreement, Payne says, "the property owners recognized it is better for the region's environment to take the water from the Sacramento River."

New high school opened Aug. 13

Not every structure is completed, but Vista del Lago High School opened to an "upbeat" faculty and student body on Aug. 13.

"There's an excitement and energy about starting a new school that's there right now," says Janie D'Arcos, Folsom Cordova assistant superintendent for secondary instruction.

The city's second high

Ride Folsom Trails Sept. 29



Riders of all ages and abilities are invited to join in the city's annual Ride the Folsom Trails Day Sept. 29. Experienced cyclists will lead three groups – six, eight or 10 miles, depending on ability – and acquaint you with the trail. Meet at 10 a.m. at Cummings Park on Creekside Drive. Snacks and water are provided before the ride; lunch is served after. Reservations are required: \$10 each or \$15 per family. Call 355-7285.



Dick and Cheryl Walters survey the nearly completed low-water landscape they won in a regional contest.

Folsom couple win new yard

The only things original in Dick and Cheryl Walters' front yard are one pistache tree and the driveway. Everything else – their lawn, a tupelo tree that was drowning, even their sprinklers – were torn out to make way for a new "water smart" landscape.

The Briggs Ranch couple won the yard makeover as the grand prize winners in a recent drawing sponsored by the Regional Water Authority. More than 700 customers of the RWA's 22 water agencies entered. The contest is intended to educate people about the attractiveness of low-water landscaping, says Don Smith, city water management specialist. "It's not cactus and rock."

On the contrary, the Walterses' new yard is a showplace for the beauty of water-efficient gardening. The new plants include redbud, golden rain and crape myrtle trees and flowering specimens like lavender, butterfly bush, daylily and sedum. The pavers in the new walkways are permeable, meaning they absorb water rather than allowing it to run off.

A key to the success of the maintenance – provided by the contest for one year – is the new drip irrigation system, which is controlled by a high-tech timer that senses the weather and waters accordingly.

All labor and materials for the project were donated. The Walterses don't miss their lawn. "This is gorgeous," Cheryl Walters says. "We really love it."

A public unveiling ceremony and walkthrough will be 3-7 p.m. Sept. 21 at 124 Briggs Ranch Drive.

school welcomed a student body of 610 freshmen and sophomores. In two years, as classes are added, the number of students should reach 1,500 to 1,800.

Vista relieves some overcrowding at Folsom High, which opened to 2,300 students, down from nearly 2,900 last year. It was built for a student body of 2,200.

The new high school will be the home to a joint-use school and city branch library that will open in the spring. The library will offer full services to the public, including children's area and programs, computers, study rooms, online access and new best sellers.

The school also has a student union – rare on high school campuses, D'Arcos says – and will

have a stadium and pool. This year, the Vista football team plays at Folsom High.

Annual road repairs to begin

The Public Works Department will begin its annual pavement management work right after Labor Day. Pavement management, which protects or extends the life of roads, consists of either applying slurry seal to a road or patching and overlaying it with asphalt.

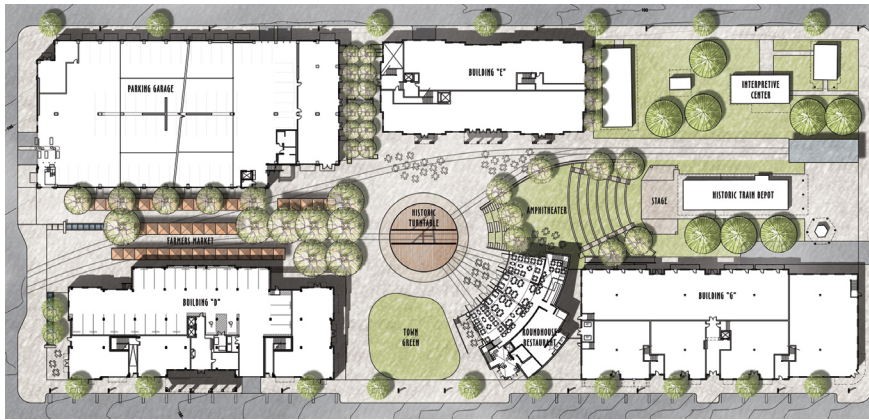
Every road in Briggs Ranch will be either sealed or overlaid this year. Other streets will be sealed as needed, and some arterial roads will be overlaid.

Slurry sealing will take place during September, followed by the overlaying

work through October and then again in the spring.

A slurry seal is a thin coating that protects the

streets from damage. An overlay is a 2-inch application of asphalt that increases the life of the road.



The 4.9-acre Historic Folsom Station will be a modern transit-oriented development that will let visitors experience a “walk through history,” says Redevelopment Agency Director Amy Feagans. The parking garage, under construction, is at upper left. Granite House is in the lower left corner, Sutter Row is lower right and the Leidesdorff Building is top center. The Valley Road Roundhouse faces the turntable and the future amphitheater. For more pictures of the project, see www.folsom.ca.us.

Block (from page 1)

city’s early history back to Folsom in the area known as the Railroad Block. To represent its new theme, Bernau has renamed the project “Historic Folsom Station.”

The 4.9-acre site, more than two football fields long between Sutter and Leidesdorff streets, was the original hub of the town. The train depot is on the block’s east side, and almost dead center is a turntable that once headed locomotives back to Sacramento.

The project will create a modern transit-oriented community with shops, offices, apartments, public areas and, of course, public transportation: Light rail is adjacent to the site on the west. The plans call for a 316-space parking garage (now under construction), three mixed-use buildings, a stand-alone restaurant and a public plaza with an outdoor amphitheater. The historic train depot and railroad interpretive center will be refurbished.

The Railroad Block partners are constructing the four buildings. Bernau and the architects researched Folsom’s history and designed each building to reflect an authentic aspect of the city’s past. “The history part of this is what draws me into it,” Bernau says. “We have a great opportunity to work the city’s history into our project.”

Granite House will be at the corner of Sutter and Reading streets, where the Granite House Hotel once stood. The building will resemble a grand hotel with bay windows, balconies and a lobby with a fireplace. Sutter Row, at Sutter and Wool streets, will look like four buildings to match the rest of Sutter Street. The Leidesdorff Building, along Leidesdorff Street, will have an industrial look – heavy timbers, metal roof – that’s historically correct for that side of town.

Together, the three buildings will contain seven retail shops, a restaurant, 13,000 square feet of office space, 60 one- and two-bedroom loft apartments and 80 parking spaces.

The fourth building is the Valley Road Roundhouse restaurant, based on a roundhouse Bernau discovered in his research. The building will have the curved shape of 19th-century roundhouses – which housed locomotives – and will be built exactly where Folsom’s roundhouse once stood.

The city is developing the public plaza, which totals 2.6

acres – more than half the site – and will provide versatile space to hold events such as farmers markets, street fairs and performances. There may even be an ice skating rink in winter. The amphitheater will face a stage behind the depot.

This area, too, will depict the city’s history. The centerpiece is the reconstructed turntable, built on the original foundation, and the city may erect an engine house to display a historic locomotive. Embedded modern train tracks will follow the route of the first railroad, and outlines on the pavement may show the locations of historic structures, including the water towers.

The finished plaza “will be like a walk through history,” Feagans says. “We did a lot of research so we could incorporate true design elements.”

The Historic District Commission approved the conceptual plans for Bernau’s buildings in June after a long design process that included public workshops and stakeholder meetings. The HDC will review the plaza design this fall, and the City Council still must review both.

The buildings and the plaza will begin construction after the garage opens in spring 2008 and finish by late 2009.

The Folsom Railroad Block Developers consists of Bernau Development, Sotiris Kolokotronis and Ryan Fong. The architects are Ankrom Moisan Associated Architects of Portland, Ore. BMS Design Group of San Francisco designed the plaza.

Sutter Street to get new look

As the Historic Folsom Station is being developed, Sutter Street also will get a facelift. The historic area is being revitalized to make it more attractive and friendly for tourists and residents. The changes will include widening the sidewalks for outdoor dining and replacing the 1960s-era shed roofs with period awnings, canopies and balconies. The median, which also dates from the 1960s, will be removed. The whole area will be made more accessible. Work is expected to begin in 2008. The city staff will coordinate the timetable with the merchants and residents.

Special Events

Through Sept. 30 – **27th Antique Quilt and Vintage Clothing Show.** History Museum's signature exhibit. Pre-1940 quilts, all handmade. Fashions from 1870s to 1940s. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day. History Museum, 823 Sutter St. \$3 admission. 985-2707.

Sept. 7 – **Pack Smart: How to Pack a Single Carry-On.** Senior First Friday program.

Learn how to pack a carry-on for a two-to four-week trip. 10 a.m. Folsom Library. Free.

Sept. 7-9 – **Friends of the Folsom Library Book Sale.** Bargain books, CDs, DVDs, video and audio cassettes. Preview Friday at 6 p.m. for first choice; \$5 admission. Saturday/Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. free. 355-7374 or 608-8743.

Sept. 15 – **Emergency Preparedness Fair.** 500 fairgoers receive free first-aid kit. See page 2 for the story.

Sept. 15 – **Splendiferous Sweets III.** Desserts at twilight at the Folsom Zoo. 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$10 advance; \$12 at door. Small children free. Tickets at the zoo. 933-0535 or 626-0283.



Not all the gourds at the annual Folsom Gourd and Arts Festival are this fanciful. Some are downright functional. You can buy gourds, gourd art, other art pieces or art supplies Sept. 29-30 at City Lions Park. The event also offers art displays, demonstrations, entertainment and refreshments.

Sept. 16 – **Antique Peddlers Fair.** Antiques, collectibles, food, entertainment. Free light rail. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sutter Street. www.tbcashows.info

Sept. 17 – **Los Rios Transportation Plan Workshop.** Share ideas for access improvements to Folsom Lake College. 6-8 p.m. Folsom Lake Community Room. 446-9255.

Sept. 22 – **Yesterfest.** Travel back in time with activities, games and demonstrations at the Interpretive Area. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 200 Wool St. Folsom History Museum-sponsored event. 985-2707.

Sept. 22 – **Vintage Fashion Show.** Wedding dress theme.

Advance tickets required. 2-4 p.m. Trinity Folsom Church Parish Hall. 985-2707.

Sept. 29 – **Folsom Live! Live bands on Sutter Street.** Tickets: \$25 online; \$30 at gate. www.folsomlive.com

Sept. 29-30 – **Gourd and Arts Festival.** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. City Park. \$5. patronsofthearts.org.

Coming Up

Oct. 6 – **Antique Evaluation Day.** Wide variety of experts appraise your old treasures. \$8 per item. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sutter Street. 985-2707.

Oct. 13 – **MOWER Workshop.** Learn to compost and grasscycle. Free compost bin or mulching mower rebate. Preregistration, Folsom residency required. 9 a.m. Lew Howard Park. Free. 355-8393.

Meetings

City Council meets 6:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesdays, City Hall.

Planning Commission meets 6:30 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays, City Hall.

Parks and Recreation Commission meets 6:30 p.m. the first Tuesday, City Hall.

Library Commission meets 6:30 p.m. the first Monday, City Hall.

Architectural Review Commission meets 7:30 a.m. the second and fourth Thursdays, City Hall.

Historic District Commission meets 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays, City Hall.

Traffic Safety Committee meets 4 p.m. the fourth Thursday, City Hall.

Redevelopment Advisory Committee meets 4 p.m. the fourth Thursday, City Hall.

Landscaping/Lighting Districts meets 7 p.m. the third Thursday, City Hall.

Arts and Cultural Commission meets 6:30 p.m. the second Thursday, City Hall.

Utility Commission meets 6:30 p.m. the third Tuesday. Location varies.

Sept. 11 – **9-11 Commemoration Ceremony.** View the war on terror through the eyes of our youths. In this year's ceremony honoring the people who died in the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, elementary and secondary school students, along with city officials and others, will reflect on the impacts terrorism has had on our lives. Annual city event. Everyone is welcome to attend. 10 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial behind the library.

To report **Mather Airport flight noise**, email the date, time and location of the event to planenoiseinfo@saccounty.net or call Sacramento County aircraft noise report line at 874-0800. For information, see <http://airports.saccounty.net>.



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Folsom radio station: 1500 AM

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The bridge columns carry a lot of weight

The Bridge at Folsom Dam may appear simple, but what you don't see is a maze of complexity

The first bridge in recorded history known to be supported by columns was built across the Euphrates River in Babylon nearly 3,000 years ago. The columns were simple towers of stones, but they supported a wooden bridge that was 35 feet wide and 600 feet long.

Of course, no one drove semis across that structure. The two columns that will support the Bridge at Folsom Dam (along with the two abutments at the ends) are exquisitely complex, as they have to be. The bridge they must support will weigh millions of pounds.

The columns you'll see, when they're completed, will be more than 100 feet tall. What you won't see is that they're almost that length below the ground. The columns are anchored with steel into bedrock, a solid layer of rock that lies 80 feet beneath the earth's surface.

"Most people think the footing (for the column) just sits there," says Public Works bridge engineer Dave Nugen. "But it runs deep into the earth."

Getting the steel to the bedrock requires drilling through a vertical pipe and, when the bedrock is reached, dropping a steel rod – rebar – into it. The steel is then grouted to the rock.

Building a column is an intricate process that requires scores of workers with diverse skills – and no fear of being in high places. Here's a basic step-by-step description:

1. Column-building starts with the footing, or foundation, dug 10 feet deep. The footings for this bridge are 50 feet by 34 feet. Twelve vertical pipes were sunk into each Folsom footing for the rebar anchors. The footings are filled with crisscross layers of rebar, then the concrete is poured over them. The steel rods are pushed through the pipes and grouted to the bedrock after the pour is complete. At the top, they're connected to the footing by plates and pulled taut to create tension, which tightens the plates onto the concrete to make the structure stronger.

2. On this bridge, each column is being built in three vertical segments. For each segment, workers build a cage of steel and then, using the tower crane, stand it either onto the footing or on top of the segment below it. The steel bars have couplers on their ends that interlock the cages.

3. After the cage is in place, it's enclosed in a steel form that will hold the concrete and shape the column. As the concrete is poured, crews guide the mixture around the steel and vibrate it mechanically to consolidate it and remove trapped air. Air could prevent the concrete from adhering to the steel. For the first seg-



Building the columns for the Folsom bridge will take a few months. They are anchored with steel to bedrock 80 feet below the ground and supported by (bottom) footings of steel and concrete. The columns are being built in three vertical sections. For each section, concrete is poured over steel cages and cured. Couplers on the steel link the sections together.

See **Columns**

Concrete ... or cement?

Are concrete and cement the same thing? No, although the terms are often confused. People commonly say “cement” when they are really referring to “concrete.”

Concrete is a mixture of several substances that include cement; conversely, cement is just one ingredient that goes into concrete.

Cement is made primarily of limestone that has been quarried, crushed, heated (“sintered”) to about 2700°F, and then ground to a fine powder. This powder is the finished product – cement.

When water is added to a mixture that contains cement, the cement acts as the agent that binds all the other ingredients together, much the way eggs bind together the dry ingredients in a cake.

And that’s what happens in concrete. Regular concrete contains several ingredients: cement; fine aggregate, which is like beach sand; coarse aggregate, which is like gravel; water; chemicals that help make the concrete mixture flow; and air (which is created by a chemical that introduces fine bubbles into the mix). The material that goes into your patios, your sidewalks and most bridges is concrete – not cement.

A similar product to concrete is grout, the material used to adhere the steel in the bridge columns to the bedrock. Grout is made up of cement, water and sand but does not contain the coarse aggregate, so it can be forced into smaller spaces.

Folsom fog



Even on sizzling summer days, concrete must be kept between 60 and 80 degrees when it’s poured. Kiewit used to cool it with ice, but the contractor is trying something new on the Folsom bridge: liquid nitrogen. The nitrogen is injected from a tank on the site directly into the concrete pumper truck. When it comes into contact with the air, it creates this thick and very cold fog. Nitrogen is not harmful to humans – it makes up 78 percent of our air – and with a melting point of minus-346 degrees, it’s definitely cold. It works on the concrete by cooling the air around it – and it works fast. Ninety-degree concrete can be lowered to 60 degrees in five or six minutes.

Columns ...

ment, the concrete is poured directly from a concrete pumper on the ground. As the column is built higher, the tower crane will lift the concrete and materials into place.

4. After each pour, the concrete must cure for a week to 10 days, depending on the weather. On hot or very cold days, it’s wrapped in insulation to control the temperature and keep it from dehydrating too quickly. Once a segment has cured, another

steel cage is locked on top of it, the form is pulled upward and the process begins again.

Trivia: Each column in this bridge will contain 1,500 cubic yards of concrete ... for a weight of more than 6 million pounds apiece.

Concrete is the perfect material for bridges: It can last for 50,000 years.

Notice the rebar extending above the form; these bars will be interlinked with the cage above them.

