

# Repair of Bilyeu Avenue sinkhole may be costly

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TILLAMOOK — Repairs to the recent pavement collapse caused by a culvert failure at Bilyeu Avenue, near the SR 131 intersection in Netarts could take about six weeks and cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$100,000, according to Aaron Suko, county Public Works director.

The sinkhole was caused by water seepage from a culvert failure earlier this month, and the road has been blocked to traffic entrance from SR 131.

Preparing bid documents for the work may take up to two weeks, he said.

There is "no conclusive proof" that nearby sewer line excavation work for the nearby Centex housing development contributed to the pavement collapse, Suko said. He noted that C & M, the Centex contractor for excavation work has equipment to deal with this kind of repair, and is expected to be one of the contractors bidding for the repair job.

Suko said the culvert's 3-to-5-foot sections settled into

the ground and, over the years, the joints separated, providing an opportunity for water to enter the ground around it. More will be learned about the culvert failure when the contractor excavates it, he said.

He estimated the culvert may be 15 to 25 feet below the road surface at the downhill end and approximately 12 feet deep at the top of the road.

Part of the repairs will include elevating the level on a section of the road, eliminating some of its current dip, he said.

The current 1-foot diameter culvert is expected to be replaced by one 4-foot in diameter.