

# Cement Ship ready to re-open Sunday

*Cement Ship*  
By ANNA MARIA BASQUEZ

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SEACLIFF STATE BEACH — State parks rangers have declared an open deck date at the Cement Ship.

The ship, which has been closed to visitors since November, is under repair and expected to re-open Sunday, said Dave Matthews, a ranger at Seacliff and New Brighton state beaches.

He said as long as all the work is completed, the opening should go as scheduled.

The ship, which faced a bleak future after being thrashed by El Nino storms, was evaluated and has been under repair for the last two weeks.

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of it is that it is concrete being worn away by the sea," said Jodi Apelt, of the Seacliff Visitor Center. "Someday it will have to be closed. It's just a fact of nature."

She said a woman visiting the center told her that in 1930 she would never have believed the Cement Ship would still be there

after 60 years.

"And it may last another 60," Apelt said. "No one knows."

A volunteer day inviting the public to participate in the final cleanup and repairs will be Saturday between 8 a.m. and noon.

Repairs included asphalt and piling repairs.

*6-11-98*  
The 435-foot ship was built for use in World War I. It wasn't completed before the war's end.

It stayed in the Naval Shipyard in Oakland until 1929 and was then bought by Seacliff Amusement Co.

The ship was converted into the "party ship of the 1930's" and used as a hot entertainment spot, featuring big band music, ballroom dancing and gambling, among other things.

The ship has seen some heavy storms. Its last threatening season was in 1982, after which a group of volunteers headed efforts to refurbish its decks.

Volunteers wanting more information about final repair day can call 475-0164.