



Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian

Gene Gend of Associated Pacific and Marine Construction uses a chain saw to lop off the end of a pressure-treated plank Wednesday during a major repair job on the Seacliff State Beach Pier.

# Repairs under way at Seacliff pier

Cement ship once again will be available at close view

By MICHAEL SEVILLE  
OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

APTOS — Construction began this week on the Seacliff State Beach Pier in an attempt to revamp the pier, which has been closed for nearly a year after enduring devastating storms last winter.

Cranes, fork lifts, wood beams and construction workers converged on the pier Monday to begin placing new pillars and planks on the wharf to reinforce it for the upcoming winter season.

"This last winter, the pier took a big hit on several different occasions," said Jeff Barnes, a public interpreter for the state parks. "It has

been closed since Nov. 8 of last year after that first big storm beat it up pretty badly."

The construction company doing the work is Associated Pacific and Marine Construction of Morro Bay, which has experience repairing piers up and down the coast of California.

The company will replace 32 pillars, which are the round logs that hold the pier up over the water, along with many planks of wood that make up the surface of the pier.

Barnes said the repair work will take place on the first two-thirds of the pier; the last third was shielded from the waves during the

storms by the ship.

"This has been a long time coming, and this is going to be a good recreational opportunity for visitors to our state beach," Barnes said.

Funding for the repairs is coming from a bond measure that was passed by local voters well before the state fell on financial hardship.

Stan Laird of Associated Pacific Construction said the project was a typical job and nothing out of the ordinary was expected. He said he thought the project would take approximately 60 days to

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Pat Williams is surrounded by winged company as he enjoys the cool morning air Wednesday at Seacliff State Beach.

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complete, depending on the weather.

"We will be using a large diesel hammer to drive the pillars into the ground, but other than that, everything should be pretty simple," Laird said.

The Seacliff State Beach Pier is one of the most recognizable landmarks in all of Santa Cruz County with a famous shipwrecked appa-

ratus stoically settled right at the pier's end. The S.S. Palo Alto was built in 1917 in the San Francisco Bay and in 1930 was brought to Aptos where it was used as a recreational tour boat before becoming planted where it stands today.

With the repairs will come a reopening of the pier that will once again allow close-up looks at the mangled ship.

How the brown pelicans, which currently occupy the end of the pier due to its inaccessibility to the public, handle the reopening is yet to be known.