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Wharf 2 headed for makeover after car mishaps

■ Big holes in old decking

By KELLY NIX

SEVERAL GAPS in the nearly 100-year-old Fisherman's Wharf No. 2 and other defects that a consultant determined pose an "immediate threat" to the public will get a nearly \$1 million fix, the Monterey City Council decided Tuesday night.

The council OK'd hiring a contractor to repair a roughly 12-inch diameter hole that was caused last August when a



PHOTO/KELLY NIX

Steel plates like this one have been placed to cover dangerous holes in the decking on Monterey's Wharf No. 2.

First mention —

On the field or track, one big Hill

By ELAINE HESSER and CAROL DELENA

RACING LEGEND Phil Hill first appeared in The Pine Cone's pages on April 10, 1953, in advance of the 4th annual Pebble Beach Sports Car Road Races on April 18 and 19. For the first time, the event had expanded to two days.

On Sunday afternoon, the paper said, the highlight of the weekend would be "a grueling 100-mile race which will bring out the best of both cars and drivers." It went on to add, "Phil Hill, always a top contender for driving honors, will pilot his 2.9 Ferrari" around the 2.1-mile track in Del Monte Forest. A lifelong resident of Santa Monica, Hill was just a few days shy of his 26th birthday.

Two weeks later, several students from Carmel High School contributed to the paper in what was then its annual School Edition, and senior Alston Chase trumpeted the 1953 champion. "Phil Hill of Santa Monica, driving one

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PHOTO/JULIAN P. GRAHAM, PEBBLE BEACH CO. LAGORIO ARCHIVE

Phil Hill being congratulated by Maurine Church Coburn, third wife of S.F.B. Morse, upon winning Best of Show at the 1955 Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance.

car drove along the pier about 520 feet from shore.

"The hole was caused when a vehicle's wheel punched through the asphalt and wood decking," Monterey public works director Andrea Renny told The Pine Cone before the council meeting.

The decking and asphalt were weathered and in need of maintenance at the time.

"The asphalt surface was cracked which allowed water intrusion," Renny explained. "Over time, the wood began to rot in localized areas."

'Threat'

City crews last year covered the foot-long hole and others with steel plates as temporary repairs. Monterey also hired a consultant to do a structural assessment of Wharf 2. What the firm concluded was unsettling.

"The assessment report acknowledges that the defects pose an immediate threat to the safety of the public and the Wharf 2 structure and states that repairs should be performed as soon as possible," according to the report given

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Fed intervention over swastika graffiti at CHS

By MARY SCHLEY

NEARLY THREE years after a community member reported to the federal government that Carmel Unified School District officials weren't doing enough to curb antisemitic hate, the school board last month agreed to a lengthy list of demands by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights to address racism and harassment on its campuses.

While the complaint that led to federal intervention is nearly 3 years old, it's unknown whether there have been any more recent incidents of antisemitism in Carmel schools, especially at a time when the country has been roiled by anti-Israel protests in the wake of the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attack and the war in Gaza that followed. Questions on the subject went unanswered this week.

At the July 24 school board meeting, district superintendent Sharon Ofek said that on Dec. 21, 2021, the federal civil rights office received a complaint from "a

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Scams targeting elderly net thieves \$97,000

By MARY SCHLEY

A CARMEL couple was bilked out of \$40,000 by online fraudsters last Thursday, according to the Monterey County Sheriff's Office. The scam is the latest in a string of similar thefts that have seen the elderly victims lose nearly \$100,000 total and resulted in one arrest last month.

"Since May, our office has received multiple reports of incidents in which victims, all senior citizens, received messages via email or pop-up messages on their computers," Cmdr. Andy Rosas said. "In one case, a victim began receiving audio instructions to enter information into his computer. Other instances asked victims to contact a reputable software company regarding suspected fraudulent activity to personal bank accounts."

In each case, the victim ended up speaking with someone who pretended to be an employee of the Federal Trade Commission or a bank.

"Victims were instructed to go to their banks and withdraw sums of money ranging from \$10,000 to \$40,000"

Homeowners get OK for permanent use of public right of way

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CARMEL City Council on Tuesday narrowly voted to allow a couple to keep using more than 1,000 square feet of public property around their lot, even though their request met almost none of the standards required for approval.

When the planning commission in May approved Tony and Bernice Das' application to demolish a 2,301-square-foot house, merge two lots and build a new 2,466-square-foot, one-story house with a 478-square-foot garage at the northeast corner of Perry Newberry and Sterling Way, it required them to remove walls, stairs, railings and fencing that had been constructed in the public right of way years ago without approval.

At the council's Aug. 6 meeting, representing the Texas couple, architect Anatoly Ostretsov asked for permission to keep those encroachments, since they've been there for a long time and the neighbors like them.

"We thought less disturbance to the established ground

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PHOTO/CITY OF CARMEL

This low stone wall is built on public property and should therefore be removed, according to the city's planning department, but the council decided otherwise.

by going to multiple branches and making smaller withdrawals so as not to raise bank employees' suspicion of fraudulent activity, Rosas said.

"They were then instructed to package the money and wait for a person to come to their residence to pick up the package," he continued. "In all four reported incidents, a person arrived at the victim's residence, picked up the money and got away."

Double-dipping

But when one of the alleged thieves decided to take a second run at a Pebble Beach resident who had already paid a significant sum last month, sheriff's deputies were there to arrest him.

The 91-year-old male Broncho Road resident was first contacted on July 12, when he received an email that appeared to be from a well-known company, according to Cmdr. Joseph Banuelos.

"The email stated the victim's financial information had been fraudulently obtained and directed the victim to call a phone number

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