

Footpath repairs expected to run through March

By MARY SCHLEY

SAN ANTONIO Avenue north of Fourth Avenue is shut down in one direction, allowing only northbound traffic along the route toward the gate into Pebble Beach and forcing southbound drivers to head up Second Avenue and then down Carmelo or another parallel street, while extensive repairs are made to the adjacent pathway.

During winter rains in early 2023, much of the pathway eroded, and its grape-stake fencing separated from the edge and sagged into the properties below the roadway. A year later, the city hired a structural engineering firm to



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Traffic is restricted to one lane on San Antonio Avenue while repair work continues on the roadside footpath leading to Pebble Beach.

develop plans to repair it, and last month, the Carmel City Council approved a \$503,470 contract for the project.

Work began last week on the badly damaged sections of the 700-foot-long footpath that was built in collaboration with the Pebble Beach Co. 14 years ago.

Not built right

Public works director Bob Harary told the council last month that the process of designing the repairs revealed that the original construction was deficient in that, while the original buried concrete piers were fine, the posts and other infrastructure supporting the fence weren't properly connected to the piers. As a result, stormwater running on the west edge of the path rotted away the wood and undermined the fencing.

"It was doomed to failure," he told the council.

When the original project was in the works in 2009, the Pebble Beach Co. was the lead and hired Graniterock Pavex to build the path, which the city and the company decided should be completed in time for the 2010 U.S. Open so people could walk from town to the tournament entrance near the Carmel gate. The path was part of an overall effort to connect walkers in Carmel with the network of trails in Del Monte Forest, and the city and the company shared the construction costs.

Crews with Sharp, the contractor that won the repair bid, last week screened off the sections of the path that require the overhaul, which includes repairing 44 concrete piers, adding steel-reinforced

See **REPAIRS** page 19A

CUSD settles one harassment case, fights others

By MARY SCHLEY

OF THE three sexual harassment lawsuits filed against Carmel Unified School District last year, one has been settled for \$250,000, according to a district source, while the two others are proceeding.

A lawsuit filed Oct. 4, 2023, on behalf of an unnamed female, Jane Doe, by attorney B. James Fitzpatrick alleged pervasive, ongoing harassment by the district's lead custodian, Roel Martinez, and district officials' repeated failures to address her complaints or fire Martinez.

Only female

Doe, who has worked for CUSD for 25 years, said in the complaint that she was singled out for harassment because she was the only female custodian, and that Martinez repeatedly disparaged and made inappropriate comments about female students, parents and employees, and

that he groped her. When she complained, officials failed to respond and allowed the behavior to continue.

"CUSD has continued to subject plaintiff to unwarranted reprimands, unreasonable work demands, and disparately harsh treatment from district employees. CUSD has continued to harass and retaliate against plaintiff by launching reprisal complaints and investigations against her," the lawsuit says. "Plaintiff continues to suffer severe trauma and distress from this situation, with catastrophic consequences to her physical and mental health."

She alleged sexual harassment, sex discrimination, retaliation, failure to investigate and prevent harassment

See **LAWSUITS** page 15A

Covid-era parklets removed in Pacific Grove

By KELLY NIX

CONSTRUCTION CREWS this week demolished two adjacent dining parklets in downtown Pacific Grove to make way for new outdoor restaurant eating areas and other improvements. A third parklet, belonging to the owners of a seafood restaurant, is expected to be torn down next week.

The removal of the parklets comes after the P.G. City Council Sept. 18 voted 6-0 to have Marina-based Silicon Constructors Inc. build the Lighthouse Avenue Widening Project for \$242,360 plus a 25 percent contingency. On Monday morning, workers started tearing down the wooden parklet in front of Victorian Corner at 541 Lighthouse Ave.

A portion of Fountain Avenue was closed so there was some space for work trucks and other equipment. Crews removed the roof of the restaurant's parklet before pulling up the floor and dismantling other parts and tossing the wood pieces into a dumpster. By Tuesday afternoon, the dining structure and one next door used by Rudolfo's Café were gone.

Dining areas

"The remaining parklet for Wild Fish restaurant will be removed Nov. 25," Pacific Grove city manager Matt Mogensen told The Pine Cone this week. "The sidewalk widening project is expected to be completed prior to the end of the year, weather permitting."

The project involves building open-air seating areas in front of the three restaurants. Pedestrian traffic will be

Police chief offers details about shooting

■ Grateful for community support

By MARY SCHLEY

WHILE IT may be months before the Monterey County District Attorney's Office files its findings on the Oct. 25 officer-involved shooting near the Golden Bough theater, Police Chief Paul Tomasi is focusing on helping his officers and the department, as well as the broader community, recover from the tragedy. James Marshall, 27, died after threatening people with what appeared to be an assault-style rifle, charging a police officer with a crowbar, and being shot by another officer who was trying to protect his colleague.

Any other day

In an interview with The Pine Cone, Tomasi said the morning of the shooting, he was setting up job interviews with candidates to fill a vacant position in the department when one of his officers told him that reports were coming in of a man in the area of Monte Verde and Eighth pointing a gun at people and threatening them.

In response, he, Sgt. Gerald Maldonado and officer Rene Guevara hurried to the scene. After setting up a command post at Dolores and Eighth and requesting help from other police agencies, the three officers searched for Marshall, who by then was in the backyard of his nearby house.

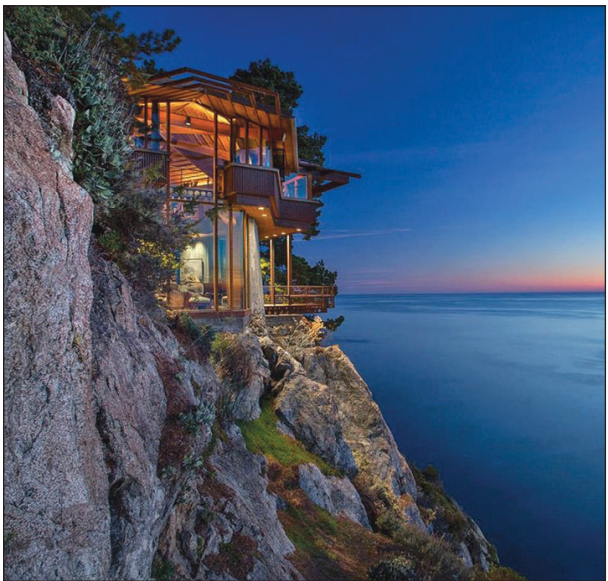
See **SHOOTING** page 19A



SCREENSHOT BY THE CARMEL PINE CONE

Police Chief Paul Tomasi (at right) and Sgt. Gerald Maldonado (left), along with James Marshall (center), are depicted in video captured Oct. 25 by Officer Rene Guevara's bodycam.

Home that clings to Big Sur cliff sells for \$\$\$



Not for the faint of heart is this dramatic home perched on the edge of a cliff in Big Sur — but the horizon-to-horizon views surely make the \$19.3 million purchase price worthwhile. See page 10A.

directed to` a wider, 8-foot pathway between the outer portion of the fenced dining areas and Lighthouse Avenue.

Other work includes removing trees and planting new ones in metal-grated wells, relocating signs and an existing light pole, while adding new pavement striping and markings.

The operators of Victorian Corner and Rudolfo's are in favor of the new outdoor dining plan, while Wild Fish

See **PARKLETS** page 24A



PHOTO/LUKE COLETTI

Workers dismantled two parklets in P.G. this week and will tear down a third Monday to make way for new restaurant seating.