

[WATER SPORTS]



MARK FOYER / REVIEW

An employee of Hill Pool Service does some work to the bottom of the swimming pool at Half Moon Bay High School. Maintenance is being done in and around the pool for safety upgrades. The pool should be ready by the time practice for the season starts.

Pool gets winter facelift

BY MARK FOYER

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Some material is bubbling up, and parts of the pool deck are coming apart.

It's enough to raise some red flags at the Half Moon Bay High School swimming pool.

From now until the middle of the month, the pool will be closed for maintenance.

"It had to be done," said Bill Saxenmeier, the swimming coach at the high school. "It was starting to become a health issue."

Saxenmeier said the cost to fix the pool is about \$125,000 and is privately financed.

Among the issues — cracks along the pool deck that have

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— BILL SAXENMEIER, HALF MOON BAY SWIMMING COACH

resulted in some cut feet.

"We could have done some quick patch work," Saxenmeier said. "But doing it this way is better."

Hills Pool Service of Burlingame is doing the work. "They have worked with us

in the past," Saxenmeier said. "I have always been happy with their work."

The pool has been worked on since the high school was closed for the Christmas break. Foreman Jose Guerrero said it took two days to drain the pool.

"Everything depends on the weather," Guerrero said. "We want the pool to be ready when the kids come back."

Practice is set to start on Jan. 28, with the Cougars hosting their first meet one month later.

As the repairs of the pool continue, there has been talk of changing the pool substantially, from making the pool deeper, to changing the length of the pool and the deck area.

"We don't have the money to reconfigure the pool," Saxenmeier said. "All told, it will cost about \$1 million to do it."

Every day since the pool closed, Saxenmeier has been there to look at the progress.

"The pool will look a lot better when it's done," Saxenmeier said. ■

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