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Disputed Ansel Adams plates include Mission, Lone Cypress

By CHRIS COUNTS

A DEBATE is raging over the authenticity of 60 glass negatives purchased for \$45 by a Fresno man who believes they were created by the late photographer, longtime Carmel Highlands resident Ansel Adams.

Beverly Hills appraiser David Streets — who grabbed headlines this week when he valued the negatives at more than \$200 million — shared 17 of the controversial photographs with The Pine Cone. The photos will no doubt be of interest to many residents since they include striking images of the Carmel Mission and the Lone Cypress. Streets said the collection contains a total of eight Monterey Peninsula images.

But an Oakland woman threw cold water on the claim of authenticity — and the \$200 million valuation — Thursday when she told KTVU-TV one of the images supposedly taken by Adams in Yosemite National Park was actually taken in 1923 by her uncle, Earl Brooks.

“I thought, ‘Oh my God, that’s exactly the same picture,’” as one she knew well, said Mariam Walton.

Streets raised more than a few eyebrows Tuesday when he suggested the “Ansel Adams” negatives were worth so much. But he told The Pine Cone his estimate was actually “very conservative.”

‘The real McCoy’

Matthew Adams, who runs the Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite, was widely quoted this week as saying the negatives could not possibly be worth as much as Streets claims, even if it could be proved that they belonged to his grandfather, which he said was unlikely.

Streets, though, said he’s convinced the negatives did belong to Adams.

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These striking images of the Carmel Mission and the Lone Cypress are claimed to be by Ansel Adams and worth millions. But they could be by an Oakland man and worth a bit less.

Jane Miller releases Guillen’s emails, but not her replies

By PAUL MILLER

AFTER RECEIVING a \$600,000 settlement from the City of Carmel and apparently agreeing not to publicly discuss the case, former human resources manager Jane Miller went on a public relations offensive this week, supplying two Monterey County newspapers with emails she claims demonstrate that city administrator Rich Guillen had an inappropriate relationship with her.

But the messages supplied by Miller to Monterey County Weekly and the Monterey County Herald, in which Guillen compliments Miller and tells her he “adores” her, do not include any statements that go to the heart of Miller’s claim that she was harassed at work and retaliated against when she rebuffed Guillen’s advances. And they pointedly do not include any of Miller’s emails to Guillen.

Miller and her lawyer, Michael Stamp, ignored repeated requests from The Pine Cone for the complete email exchanges. Without them, there is no way to judge the propriety of Guillen’s behavior or the validity of her lawsuit.

“These emails seem inappropriate, but they could also be innocent, especially if she responded in kind,” said a source close to city hall who did not want to be identified. “Did she tell him to stop, or that she liked him, too?”

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Requests to see both ends of a conversation are repeatedly ignored

COURT SIDES WITH CITY IN MANDURRAGO CASE

By MARY BROWNFIELD

THE CITY of Carmel has won a round in court against developer John Mandurrigo, who for the past nine years has been trying to demolish an old downtown bank building at Dolores and Seventh and replace it with apartments, condos, shops and a garage.

In a decision released July 22, Monterey County Superior Court Judge Lidia Villareal concluded the city didn’t break the law or violate Mandurrigo’s rights during a convoluted decision-making process that ended in the project’s denial late last year.

The decision came only a few weeks after an appeals court ruled that another Superior Court judge erroneously dismissed one of Mandurrigo’s lawsuits over the project.

Mandurrigo told The Pine Cone Tuesday he’s not sure

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PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

A plan to tear down this former bank building was dealt a serious blow by a Monterey County judge last week.

Suspected DUI teen rolls car after Pasadera party

By MARY BROWNFIELD

A PEBBLE Beach teenager lost control of his speeding car while driving drunk, hit a boulder and flipped the 2007 Mercedes E350 into the front yard of a Pasadera home early Saturday morning, according to California Highway Patrol officer Bob Lehman. The driver, 19-year-old Edward O’Shea, and one passenger, 18-year-old Christopher Schmidt of Monterey, were hospitalized after the crash, while the third passenger, 20-year-old Salinas resident Julian Cornel Dela Cruz Sillano, was treated at the scene. Lehman said unconfirmed reports indicate the teens had been at a party in the upscale housing development off of Highway 68.

While speeding down the curving, downhill stretch of Estrella d’Oro, O’Shea “hit some kind of boulder in the front yard and rolled the vehicle over,” at a home in the 400 block, Lehman said. “There were injuries to all three parties.”

Schmidt suffered a head injury and was taken by AMR ambulance to Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital, while Sillano complained of bruising to his forehead and received treatment from medics but was not hospitalized.

O’Shea also went to SVMH via ambulance for care of

scrapes to his arms, legs, face and other areas of his body, according to Lehman. CHP investigators concluded O’Shea was drunk and driving at an excessive speed when he

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Stargazer makes pitch to save Big Sur tracking station

By CHRIS COUNTS

SINCE THE late 1970s, the U.S. Air Force has operated a missile tracking facility near the top of Anderson Peak, a 4,000-foot mountain that looms above the Big Sur coast just north of the Esalen Institute.

But according to Patrick Barthelow of Auburn, the U.S. Dept. of Defense has plans to remove the facility and its 36-inch telescope — and he’s not happy about it.

Barthelow said he believes the facility has provided a great benefit to the public and will continue to do so, if it is permitted to remain in place. In an effort to gain

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