

Estate overlooking beach offered for \$79 million

By PAUL MILLER

A MAGNIFICENT compound at the north end of Carmel Beach has quietly been placed on the market by its owners, Carl and Jane Panattoni.

And while Carl Panattoni, who is CEO of an international firm specializing in commercial development, wouldn't confirm the price he is asking for his four-acre, three-home estate, word has been spreading around town that it's a humdinger: \$79 million.

If it goes for anywhere near that price, the sale will nearly triple the highest residential real estate sale in Monterey County to date. In 2001, a home on 17 Mile Drive near The Lodge sold for \$28 million. But that was before the Great Recession.

"It's an iconic property, and we've invested a lot of money in it," said Panattoni, by way of explaining what he believes is its impressive value.

The main home was once owned by movie star Gene Hackman, and then by disgraced financier Craig McFarland. In 1993, the Panattonis bought it from McFarland's family and started making major upgrades. In



PHOTO/COURTESY CARMEL REALTY

A four-acre, three-home property above Carmel Beach and adjacent to the Tenth Hole of the Pebble Beach golf course could set a huge new price record for local real estate.

2000, they also acquired two adjacent homes that had been donated by their previous owner, Larry Hart, to Yale University and a charitable foundation.

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Council adopts strict policy on office harassment

■ But consensual boss-worker relationships not banned

By MARY SCHLEY

AFTER PAYING an outside law firm to develop a new sexual harassment policy and then tossing out the result because councilmembers thought it was too convoluted and cumbersome, the city council last week approved a new, simpler version drafted by city attorney Don Freeman.

"We had an unfortunate experience a few years ago," Freeman said at the Feb. 7 meeting, referring to the sexual harassment lawsuit filed by former human resources manager Jane Miller that resulted in a \$600,000 settlement by the city and the resignation of city manager Rich Guillen.

After rejecting the policy offered by the law firm, councilmembers asked Freeman to work on the existing policy, and he presented a reorganized, revised version last Tuesday night.

"The purpose of this policy is to establish a strong commitment to prohibit and prevent harassment and retaliation in employment and for investigating promptly and thoroughly and resolving internal complaints" Freeman's proposal began. The policy was created, he said "so that individuals who are found to have violated it will be subject to disciplinary action that is commensurate with the severity of the offense."

It goes on to state the city prohibits "any form of harassment and will not tolerate such actions by any employee, regardless of employment status." As a result, everyone associated with the city, from elected officials and volunteers, to

An earlier version was considered too convoluted and cumbersome

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P.G. COUNCIL INTRIGUED BY IDEA OF OWNING DESAL PLANT

By KELLY NIX

BUSINESSMAN NADER Agha added a new wrinkle to his Moss Landing desal proposal this week when he asked the Pacific Grove City Council to build and own the plant, but council members questioned whether the city has the manpower and the expertise to be in the water business.

At Wednesday night's council meeting, Agha pitched his desalination plan — which he says will solve the Monterey Peninsula's water problems — in hopes the city will take over the project, which would be located on his 200-acre Moss Landing property. Because of a county ordinance prohibiting private ownership of desal plants, Agha's desal operation, which he calls "The People's Moss Landing Water Desal Project," would need to be aligned with a public agency, such as Pacific Grove.

Council members were intrigued by the plan, but they also questioned whether the city — which is facing massive budget problems and has a thin staff — has the ability to take it

on.

Councilman Alan Cohen called the project "very innovative," but said the city would be "taking a lot of risk" if it was involved with the desalination operation.

"I just don't know if Pacific Grove is ready to take a huge step in this, to spend staff time on this," Cohen said.

Agha, who originally floated his desal idea in conjunction with a North County community services district and whose latest plan has been snubbed by the cities of Monterey and Seaside, said it was a "great opportunity" for Pacific Grove to be the public agency for the project.

"Some people may not like me for various reasons,

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Cuba: Travel opens up to a place 'stopped in time'

By KELLY NIX

FOR FIVE decades it's been illegal for most Americans to travel to Cuba. Even with the Cold War long over, those who wanted to visit the Caribbean island in recent years have needed special permission from Washington, or had to slip in via an intermediate country, such as Canada or Venezuela.

But the experiences of one Carmel author and photographer on a recent trip to Cuba highlight today's accessibility of the Communist nation to Americans. "The most encouraging thing is how much easier it is to get into Cuba right now," said Michal McClure, 71, who came back with a wealth of stunning photos of the country and its people.

In 2011, the Obama administration loosened travel restrictions to Cuba by allowing private companies to organize "cultural group" tours, which made it possible for 400,000 Americans to visit the country last year.

"I was able to fly to Miami from SFO and then travel from Miami to Havana on a charter flight," said McClure, who in 2008 published the pictorial book, "Hawaiian Cowboys."

Expecting to fly on a questionable Cuban airliner, McClure instead found himself on a



Cuba's former capitol building (top), now the site of the Cuban Academy of Sciences, was photographed by Carmel resident Michal McClure when he visited the country recently. In Havana, he met Perfecto Romero (left), Fidel Castro's official photographer during the revolutionary days.

PHOTOS/MICHAL MCCLURE

PLASTERER GETS 30 DAYS FOR NOT HAVING CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE

By KELLY NIX

A TRADESMAN who was busted for illegally doing plastering at a Carmel restaurant has been ordered to serve 30 days in jail — a penalty not often given for someone operating without a valid contractor's license.

Cesar Resendiz Mendieta, 26, of Salinas, pleaded no contest to one count of contracting without a license and a count of failure to carry workers' compensation insurance. During a Jan. 18 hearing in a Salinas courtroom, Resendiz was also ordered to pay at least \$4,000 in fines related to the crime, according to Venus Stromberg with the Contractors State License Board.

Since first being caught in 2011 for operating without a license, however, Resendiz took and passed the trade exams required by the CSLB, which licenses and regulates the state's 300,000 contractors.

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