



# Holiday GIFT GUIDE

Inside this week...a colorful start to the shopping season featuring ideas to fill stockings and warm hearts!



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# The Carmel Pine Cone

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## Neighbors corral wayward reptile

By MARY BROWNFIELD

WHEN TONY went AWOL, the neighbors found him snacking on plants and persuaded him to stay put in a driveway by feeding him until his owners arrived. It was the third time the Sulcata desert tortoise, who weighs 70 pounds and is about 2 feet in diameter, had escaped from his San Carlos Street yard since his owner, Rene Jackson, brought him home eight years ago.

In his most recent adventure, Tony broke through the front gate Nov. 15.

"My husband wanted to give him some extra wandering room," explained Jackson. So Tony's territory was expanded to include the front yard. (He usually lives in the backyard and stays warm in an insulated, heated doghouse.) A doggie gate was supposed to keep him from heading through the front entrance and into the street, but it proved no match for the muscular, armored reptile.

"When he gets stuck under the ping-pong table,

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PHOTO/COURTESY RENE JACKSON

When he's not escaping, Tony seems to like his heated, insulated doghouse in the backyard of his San Carlos Street home.

## Who wants Flanders?

By MARY BROWNFIELD

THE VOTE was decisive, with Carmel residents supporting the sale of Flanders Mansion by 63 to 37 percent. But that doesn't mean a public use of the home is out of the question, because the city will have to offer the property to other government agencies before it can put the old home on the market. However, local, regional and state organizations are hardly in a rush to snap up the Tudor house located off Hatton Road in Mission Trail park.

"We're not interested," said Matt Fuzie, California state parks superintendent for the Monterey District. "We can't, in these budget times, even think of taking on a project like that."

The mansion would also have to have statewide significance before state parks could justify buying it, he said. He doubted the mansion could reach that threshold.

"I've driven up there, and Flanders Mansion doesn't lend itself to the kind of use we would want," he added. "It would have to be a public use, and that would be difficult in a neighborhood setting like that."

Fuzie, who first looked at Flanders when he came to oversee the Monterey District four years ago, also shared his opinion of the Nov. 3 election that saw a big majority of voters agreeing the mansion should be returned to its original use as a single-family residence.

"I do think the voters were right," he said.

Joe Splane, finance and administrative services director for the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District, said the board considered acquiring Flanders a few years ago and decided against it.

"I don't think anything has changed at this point," he said.

The main reason is finances, according to Splane, but

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## P.G. moves to lift ban on vacation rentals

By KELLY NIX

IN ORDER to generate an extra \$200,000 per year in tax revenue, Pacific Grove is considering legalizing short-term rentals, which would require landlords to pay a 10 percent fee on rents and register their short-term units with the city.

If the city council approves the changes, homeowners and landlords will have to notify the city about their vacation rentals — similar to a requirement for the city's hotels.

"We are hoping that providing a mechanism to rent — coupled with significant penalties for not registering — will encourage [landlords] to take advantage of the program so they can rent legally," acting deputy city manager Jim Becklenberg told The Pine Cone Tuesday.

The planning commission will review the plan at its Dec. 3 meeting.

Becklenberg said the city would like to implement the new rules before the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am in February and the 2010 U.S. Open Championship in Pebble

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## JUDGE UPHOLDS DELAY OF WATER CUTBACK ORDER

### State's request to lift stay denied

By KELLY NIX

A MONTEREY County judge has decided there's no reason to let water cutbacks ordered in October by the State

Water Resources Control Board take effect on the Monterey Peninsula right away.

On Nov. 13, California Attorney General Jerry Brown requested that Monterey County Superior Court Judge Kay Kingsley void her Nov. 3 decision temporarily stopping the SWRCB from enforcing its order limiting the amount of water Cal Am can divert from the Carmel River. But this week the judge disagreed.

Kingsley stayed the cutback order in response to lawsuits filed against the SWRCB by Cal Am and the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District.

Kingsley's order prevents the SWRCB from enforcing the cutback order until a trial is held on the matter.

"We think the judge made the right decision," said Cal Am spokeswoman Catherine Bowie. "Although we will be pursuing increased water conservation, we don't believe the cutback order should be

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## CHS football's amazing season



PHOTO/CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL

This year's Carmel High School football team is 10-0, and they've outscored their opponents by a staggering margin of 522-121. And they really enjoyed capturing the Shoe in this year's showdown with Pacific Grove.

### A Padre championship?

By CHRIS COUNTS

LIKE A tsunami, the success of this year's Carmel High School football team — which plays King's Academy of Sunnyvale Friday, Nov.

27, in the semifinal game of the Central Coast Section Division IV playoffs — has caught many of its fans by surprise.

"Its one of those things like a rogue wave where everything comes

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## Teenager walks away from crash

AN 18-YEAR-OLD Carmel Valley woman crashed her Ford Explorer into a tree at Carpenter Street and Serra Avenue Saturday evening but managed to escape with no injuries more severe than a pain in her neck, according to California Highway Patrol public information officer Bob Lehman.

Carmel police diverted traffic around the crash while a fire crew got the woman out of her SUV, which sustained major front-end damage and had both

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