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Jason Burnett won't run again — says Talmage should succeed him

By MARY SCHLEY

WHATEVER JASON Burnett is doing in April 2016, it won't be any last-minute campaigning for mayor.

Burnett, who joined the Carmel City Council in 2010 and is nearing the end of his second two-year term as mayor, announced Thursday he will not seek a third term.

"I have decided not to run for reelection, for a whole host of reasons, personal and professional," he told The Pine Cone. "And I think Carmel will be in good hands with Ken Talmage as mayor, if that's who the voters decide to elect. I've worked very closely with him for the past four years — he's been my vice mayor for three out of four years and has been my No. 1 adviser on the water situation and is fully up to speed on that."

Although Talmage, who has been on the city council since 2006, said he will make an official announcement late this month or early next, he filed his Candidate Intention Statement with the city clerk's office Oct. 15 stating his plans to run for mayor.

"Over the past few weeks, I've met with a number of community leaders to listen to and discuss the city's needs and priorities and the upcoming election," Talmage said Thursday. "Almost unanimously, these community leaders have urged me to run for mayor and given their endorsement."

Talmage said their support is due to the knowledge and experience he's accumulated during nine years on the council, including four terms as vice mayor, and his two-plus



Jason Burnett

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YES, YOU CAN GO HOME AGAIN



PHOTO/ELAINE HESSER

Even though she looks a little lonely, this wee one represents the end of a decades-long search and a storybook welcome to a home that hasn't changed much since she left — except that it's a lot more famous. See page 9A.

Sam Farr will not seek 13th term

■ Candidates starting to emerge for chance at rare vacancy in Congress

By KELLY NIX

AFTER A distinguished 23 years representing the Monterey Peninsula in the U.S. House of Representatives, Democratic Congressman Sam Farr announced Thursday morning in Salinas that he will not seek reelection next year and will retire at the end of his term in January 2017.

After an introduction by former Assemblyman Fred Keeley, Farr addressed the crowd of about 100 people at the Steinbeck Center, telling them that the decision to hang up his hat was motivated by his desire to spend more time with his family, including wife Shary, daughter Jessica, and grandchildren Ella and Zach.

"Next July 4, I'll be 75 years old," Farr, with his wife by his side, told family, friends and the press.

"And I was just thinking about what you do with the rest of your life. And what you want to do with the rest of your life is spend time with your family and grandchildren. So, Shary said, 'You know what? It's time to come home.'"

'Pretty much in shambles'

Recounting his early days in office, Farr said when he was first elected to Congress, "things here were pretty much in shambles."

"Fort Ord was a mess," he said. "It had closed and we weren't sure what we were going to do to reuse it."



PHOTO/KELLY NIX

Congressman Sam Farr, with his wife Shary by his side, told supporters Thursday that he wants to spend more time with his family and won't seek reelection. His announcement leaves wide open an election for a seat that hasn't been seriously contested in two decades.

COUNCIL SAYS CANDY STORE SHOULD BE 'UNIQUE'

By MARY SCHLEY

THE COUPLE who want to open a candy shop on Dolores Street were told last week by the Carmel City Council to come back with plans that would make their store unique — and to remove the word, "factory," from the name.

On Sept. 23, the planning commission decided not to grant a permit to Dennis and Rashmi Joshi to open what they wanted to call Carmel Chocolate Factory. The Joshis asked the city council to reverse that decision, but when it came before them Nov. 3, council members decided their store was too much like a franchise candy store to be allowed to open here as proposed.

When they first appeared before the planning commission in August, the Joshis were asked to redesign the interior of the store to make it a better fit in town — and not at all like the shop they already have on Fisherman's Wharf. When they returned

Sept. 23 with a new plan as requested, the commission split over whether to allow the business to open, with two commissioners deciding it would be too touristy and wouldn't be a good fit for downtown. The 2-2 vote constituted a denial.

"Despite the fact the applicant acted according to their direction, the planning commission denied it based on personal, subjective taste and preference, which are insufficient legal grounds," attorney Pam Silkwood, representing the Joshis, told the city council at the Nov. 3 hearing.

'Totally ludicrous'

Senior planner Marc Wiener also recommended the council approve the application, saying it would be patronized by residents and visitors — not just tourists — and that it would fit in on a street that contains restaurants, tasting rooms and a deli.

He further noted that restaurants and food stores "are subject to strict regulations" and greater scrutiny by decision

'What we love about Carmel is that it's like no other place on earth'

makers, though city attorney Don Freeman said the quality of the merchandise was not open for discussion, since any judgment in that regard would be "arbitrary."

Jonathan Sapp commented that every business in town is tourist oriented to some extent, and said planning commissioners' objections on those grounds were "totally ludicrous."

"When we ask an applicant to jump through hoops and they do so, they deserve to get their permit," resident and gallery owner Richard Kreitman said. "When they don't, we

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Mayors to ask for delay of water cutback order

By KELLY NIX

PENINSULA MAYORS Thursday night were poised to finalize a document that asks the State Water Resources Control Board to relax its 2009 order that California American Water and its customers quit taking most of their water from the Carmel River by the end of next year.

At a meeting scheduled for late Thursday, the mayors were set to consider approving an application requesting the state water board extend its Dec. 31, 2016, cutback deadline to the end of 2020. The extension would alleviate the damage to the Monterey Peninsula economy threatened by the original cutback order, issued in 2009, which required Cal Am to cut about 70 percent of the water it draws from the river due to concerns for the steelhead trout and red-legged frog.

The proposal for the delay comes after about two years of talks between state water board staff and officials with Cal Am, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, and the mayors' water authority. The goal, according to the mayors, is to alter the original order in ways that "are reasonably attainable and fair to the ratepayers, and achieve the objective of reducing unauthorized overdrafts of the Carmel

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