

# The Carmel Pine Cone

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## As election day looms, candidates say why they think they'll win

By MARY SCHLEY

ON THE final stretch of the most hotly contested city election in years, the candidates for mayor and two council seats are predicting the outcome — some more confidently than others — and explaining why they think voters will make the selections they do.

When the dust settles after the polls close April 12, voters will have replaced outgoing Mayor Jason Burnett with either councilman Steve Dallas or councilman Ken Talmage, who will lose his seat at the dais if he's not elected mayor. (Dallas is running from a safe seat and would remain on the council for another two years if he doesn't win.) With councilwoman Victoria Beach also not seeking reelection, voters will choose two newcomers from among a field of five contenders: Jack Pappadeas, Bobby Richards, Richard Kreitman, Jan Reimers and Dave Mosley.

"I expect the mayoral race to be close, but I am hopeful that the citizens agree with me that it is time for change," said Dallas. "We are in the fourth quarter, and the time is now to put in your best quarterback."

Dallas said he has a home-field advantage over Talmage, since he was born and raised here, has worked here in building and development for years, and is raising his family here.

"I know this town and have made a lot of solid connections over all these years," he said. "Every day, I spend time on the streets connecting with people and city employees. The feedback I have been getting is incredibly encouraging, and my campaign messages of honesty, integrity and transparency have resonated with a lot of people, so I know I am on the right track."

Dallas also said his "Contract with Carmel" has been effective, and that he'll do his best to live up to the commitments he's made. "I have demonstrated my ability to work toward compromise and to find middle ground that best addresses the divisive issues for our community," he said.

### 'Expect it to be close'

Talmage said he is optimistic about the outcome, "though

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## Council leaves door open for wood fires

By MARY SCHLEY

THE DECISION still isn't final, but after several hours of discussion Tuesday night, the Carmel City Council unanimously approved a three-year beach fire program that would keep all wood fires off the beach for at least a year, while letting beachgoers warm themselves with propane.

Before becoming final, the plan would need CEQA review and final council action, plus approval by the California Coastal Commission, so current rules that allow wood fires except on weekends and holidays will likely remain in effect for quite some time. And with the possibility of a major shakeup in the council after next week's election, the whole thing, which has been hotly debated, could be reversed.

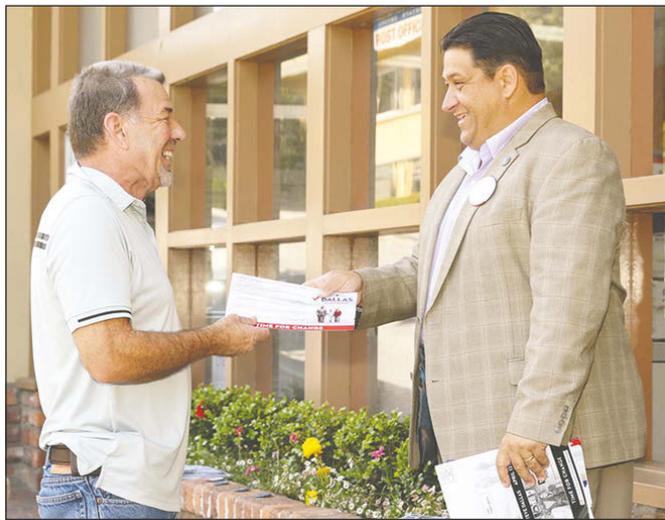
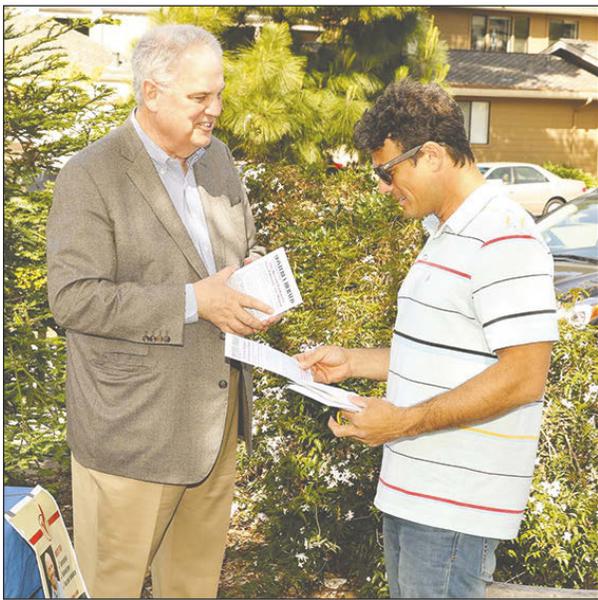
Mayor Jason Burnett acknowledged the uncertainty when he emphasized that the new program would be adjusted along the way.

"I don't think any of us should pretend we know all the answers, because I certainly don't, and I don't think we do as a community," he said. "My request is that we structure it in a way where we can learn from it and adjust it as we see what works and what doesn't work."

Two dozen people spoke at Tuesday's meeting, including the usual anti-wood-fire faction of Kathy and Gary Bang, Karen and Hugo Ferlito and Margaret Eaton.

"We've had 22 public meetings and 12 votes," Kathy

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PHOTOS/KERRY BELSER

With the days before the election winding down, mayoral candidates Ken Talmage (top left) and Steve Dallas (top right) stumped for votes outside the post office this week. And at Tuesday's council meeting, Police Chief Mike Calhoun thanked outgoing Mayor Jason Burnett (with wife, Mel, at lower left) for his years of service to the city, including contending with the ongoing issue of beach fires, which prompted a protest and march led by fiery resident Jeanne McCulloch (lower right).

## DROWNING VICTIM DESCRIBES COMING BACK TO LIFE

### ■ She and rescuer call for lifeguards

By MARY SCHLEY

THE WOMAN who nearly drowned while swimming at Carmel Beach March 26 — and who this week talked about the experience of coming back from the dead — is calling for

## Activist admits he removed campaign signs

### ■ Caught in the act on surveillance cam

By KELLY NIX

THE LEADER of the "No on Measure X" campaign was caught on surveillance video Tuesday night removing two "Yes on X" campaign signs outside the Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce office and tossing them on the ground, an act that was reported to the police by the chamber president.

Moe Ammar told the police Thursday afternoon that two hidden cameras captured activist Luke Coletti pulling up to the chamber office in his truck before removing Yes on X campaign signs outside the chamber office at Central and Forest avenues.

"If you look at the video, there's no doubt it is Luke," Ammar said Thursday afternoon.

Coletti, who has led the charge to defeat Measure X — which asks voters on April 19 to change the zoning of the

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a city-run lifeguard program there, at least when the beach is busy with visitors, many of whom are not ocean savvy.

"It's beyond me why this city doesn't have a lifeguard service," agreed John Dilks, who lives in one of the beachside houses between Del Mar and Eighth Avenue, and just happened to see a struggling woman in the surf pointing out to sea toward a motionless body floating in the water that Saturday afternoon.

Fortunately for Jillien Smith, who was swimming and body surfing with friends at the beach when she was overcome by the cold water and riptide, Dilks saw her through his telescope and promptly bolted down to the beach to help pull her from the water.

"The water was not more than waist deep, but I'm guessing she was 75 or 80 yards out, right at the shore break," he said, adding that he bent the 37-year-old woman over his arm as he brought her back to shore in hope of forcing out some of the water she'd inhaled.

"I got Jillien in and started giving her mouth to mouth, and then this woman, Debby, was giving her chest compressions," he said.

At the same time, off-duty Cal Fire Battalion Chief Jonathan Cox, who lives south of San Francisco and was visiting family on the Peninsula, was walking with his wife on the beach and jumped in to take over chest compressions.

"There was a guy shouting and pointing, and as we walked up, there were some people pulling a lifeless body out of the water," he said. "That's when I realized something serious was going on."

While Cox continued pumping Smith's heart by pressing on her sternum, Dilks continued giving her breaths. A couple of times, they had to clear her mouth and airway of seawater.

"You're so focused — it's one of those hyper focused situations where you don't notice anything else around you,"

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