

## Community celebrates Ken White Day

By MARY SCHLEY

GREETED BY Monterey High School cheerleaders, family and dozens of friends and admirers doing their best to croon “For he’s a jolly good fellow,”



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Feted like no one else, former Mayor Ken White was given the royal treatment at a surprise block party where Mayor Dave Potter read a proclamation in honor of his 90th birthday.

former Carmel Mayor Ken White was crowned and robed during a surprise party Saturday in honor of his 90th birthday. The bash shut down a block of Casanova south of Eighth and featured longtime KSBW anchors Dan Green and Erin Clark as emcees, as well as plenty of food and drink, popcorn, cotton candy, and endless accolades.

### Decades of service

At the party, Mayor Dave Potter read a proclamation honoring White for his decades of service to the community and the city, and at its Aug. 27 meeting, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors approved a similar resolution. California Assemblyman Robert Rivas authored one as well.

The proclamation read by Potter notes that White “began his long career in leadership in 1959 with the Monterey Unified School District as a football and wrestling coach, later becoming the athletic director,” and that he subsequently joined the Carmel Unified School District Board

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## Council wants house numbers on 2025 ballot

By MARY SCHLEY

LED BY Mayor Dave Potter, the Carmel City Council narrowly voted Tuesday to take the debate about street addresses to a public vote in November 2025. What the ballot measure would say — and whether it would be binding or just advisory — is to be determined.

City attorney Brian Pierik and administrative analyst Emily Garay were prepared to present an extensive report at the Sept. 10 meeting on the polarizing issue. It would have included an overview of “the multi-phased approach for an implementation plan and community engagement plan,” and a legal analysis of state codes calling for a standardized address system, but Potter asked Pierik to skip to a discussion of ways to put the matter to voters.

The attorney explained that it could appear as an initiative written by the council or the public, which would be binding, or as an advisory vote, which would have constituents expressing their opinions but would not obligate the council to change anything.

An initiative could be on the ballot in a special election — estimated to cost \$39,000 to \$59,000 — or added to the general election ballot in 2026 for \$8,000, according to city clerk Nova Romero. An advisory vote would have to be sought during a special election next year on March 4 or Nov. 4. Because the city is small, the election would take place in person only, not by mail-in ballot.

### Legal battle

While several residents disagree with his interpretation, Pierik said that in his legal opinion, the city’s use of directional addresses — such as Lincoln 3 SW of Seventh — violates state building, fire and safety codes, so if a ballot measure preserving the system is passed by voters, it could be preempted by the state. Among the codes’ requirements is that addresses be alphanumeric, which he said the city’s system is not.

Before taking public comment, council members Karen

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## State says water is Peninsula’s problem to solve

By CAITLIN CONRAD

THE MONTEREY Peninsula water shortage has frustrated home builders and stifled business growth for more than 30 years, but in a closed-door meeting this summer, officials with the State Water Resources Control Board made it clear that the board has no interest in helping solve what it sees as a local problem.

On July 26, community members met in Monterey to discuss what needs to be done to clear the water supply hurdle and build desperately needed housing, but the public and the media were not invited.

State Sen. John Laird facilitated the meeting and said

around 50 people attended. In the room were Peninsula mayors, representatives from the board of supervisors and all the local water agencies, members of the agricultural and tourism industries, and staffers with Assemblymember Dawn Addis’ office, all of them getting the chance to press their case in front of the state water board.

“I think it was the first time that stakeholders of many different points of view were in the same room with the water board and able to ask them direct questions,” said Laird.

### Lifting the order

According to Laird, the pressing questions boiled down to what must be done to lift a 2008 cease-and-desist order on pumping water from the Carmel River and pave the way for new housing. The 1995 water cutback order was issued to protect the river and its habitat, and ever since,

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## Baby orca dies after stranding on River Beach



PHOTO/POINT LOBOS FOUNDATION

A baby orca that washed up on Carmel River State Beach Tuesday died despite the efforts of rescuers. “RIP, little one,” a wildlife official said on social media. See page 31A.

## \$2M Concours car destroyed in second trailer fire

By MARY SCHLEY

TWO WEEKS after a fire destroyed a one-of-a-kind concept car that had been shown at the Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance, another rare vintage vehicle burned while being hauled down Highway 68 last Wednesday.



Sir Michael Kadoorie’s rare 1934 Hispano-Suiza won second place in its class at this year’s Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance (left) but was destroyed in a trailer fire last week.



PHOTO/(LEFT) PEBBLE BEACH CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE, (RIGHT) MFD