

March 1, 2015

The Westport Wave

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An Early Spring In Westport

Steve Brigham, Editor

It's been an early spring here in Westport – in fact, except for one big storm in early February, winter has hardly happened at all this year (so far, anyway). Meanwhile, the East Coast of the USA has been having one of their snowiest winters ever. This was one of those years where the groundhogs on both coasts were right – Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow in Pennsylvania on February 2nd, and they are having six more weeks of winter, and Kitty-Cat (we don't have any groundhogs here in Westport) did not see his shadow, so we've had an early spring.

This was also one of those years where many different predictions for our rainy season here in Westport were all correct. Some folks (including me) said that it was going to rain a lot, while others said that our drought would continue. How could we all be right? Well, we've gotten 38.76 inches of rain this past fall and winter as of March 1st (as measured here on Pacific Avenue), which is over 20% above our average to date and way better than what we had last year at this time. But that rain came all at once, and if you take away a 30-day period in November and December plus the one day of February 6th, we've only gotten 10.21 inches of rain. So this past fall and winter has been wet and dry at the same time!

Our wet fall/dry winter pattern this year has been just what many of our wildflowers like – especially those that have become naturalized from other countries. The bright yellow flowers you see all over town right now are of *Oxalis pes-caprae* (also called Sourgrass or Bermuda Buttercup), a tiny bulb which is originally native to South Africa. This year it's really



Oxalis pes-caprae, a bulb originally native to South Africa, is naturalized in many parts of the world, including Westport.

having a good year, since in its native climate it thrives on wet autumns and fairly dry winters.

One other notable characteristic of our winter this year is that there has been practically no really cold weather at all – here on the seashore, we've had no temperatures below 40 degrees F. In fact, the whole West Coast has been radically warmer than normal to the same degree that the whole East Coast has been radically colder than normal. This is in fact being called a “snapshot” of what our mid-21st Century weather is predicted to be like every year – a harbinger of things to come. The biggest problem with this is that without lots of snow (and rain), the western USA will have much less water to drink.

Hey wait a minute! There are 353 quintillion gallons of water on this planet – that's 47 billion gallons of water for every person on Earth! The only problem is that nearly all of the water is in the ocean. Wouldn't it be nice if we could use some of that water?



The Westport Community Church

Westport Community Church March Calendar

The Westport Community Church is pleased to offer a variety of experiences to help us discover ways to become more in touch with our spiritual heritage. We are doing our best to nurture a tradition of having weekly gatherings at the Church to explore various spiritual paths. All suggestions and participants for services are welcome at the Westport Church – and we welcome all denominations to hold services here!

The 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month have a regularly scheduled focus. The 1st Sunday and the rare 5th Sunday have purposefully been left open for community members to suggest other speakers/focus for these days. Please contact Millie Saunders at 964-3030 regarding your suggestions and help.

March 1st and 29th – These dates are open for a community member to fill or there will be no meeting these days. Please call Millie if you are interested.

2nd Sunday, March 8th – **Dr. Steven Doyle, Center for Spiritual Living – “Surrender and Dharma”**

What does the word “surrender” mean in a spiritual context? How do we do it? What is Dharma and how can we know it? This discussion is a bit of “how to”. How do we make our lives our path to awakening? Basically, how to play with it. Steven Doyle, Ph.D. has trained in Ericksonian hypnosis, Movement

therapy, and Shamanic practices. He has lead seminars in Hypnosis and many other healing modalities in the Western states and Hawaii over the past 40 years.

3rd Sunday, March 15th – Our Quaker Worship Group

Katherine White is helping us to establish an ongoing Quaker Worship Group meeting on the third Sunday of every month. The format is a simple, quiet meditation for 45 minutes followed by Katherine reading Quaker passages and a shared discussion of our experience including sharing of any of our thoughts or readings that one is inspired to bring to the group. This has been and will continue to be a very peace-filled and nurturing experience.

4th Sunday, March 22nd – Mettika Hoffman, Fort Bragg Buddhist Sanga, Three Jewels Hall

Cindy Mettika Hoffman, a lay minister in the Thai Forest Tradition and certified Dharma leader will give a 20-minute guided meditation. These instructions are helpful for those who have never meditated as well as though who have a practice. Following meditation, there will be a short talk on the topic of how to access joy in our everyday lives. The teaching entitled "The Second Arrow" will be introduced. There will be time for questions and sharing.

Please remember: All unday ervices/Meetings at the Westport Community Church begin promptly at 10:00AM. Please come join us!

*A life is like a garden.
Perfect moments can be had,
but not preserved, except in
memory.*

Live long, and prosper.

-- Leonard Nimoy



The Westport Community Headlands

A Natural Play Area On The Headlands

Sarah Mathias

Some of you (actually I'm hoping all of you) may have heard talk of a proposal to create a natural playground on the Headlands. In fact, in January, the Community Center Committee and I invited anyone interested in the topic to a meeting on the Headlands to discuss exactly that. It was a successful meeting and what came of it was

the identifying of a site that the majority of those in attendance agreed would be a lovely spot on which to create such a thing (the area immediately west of the south side of the bridge). In the ensuing weeks, however, I have come to realize that I haven't done my best to explain the idea to the community at large and I would like to take a little space to do that.

First, I'd like to put to rest fears that what we speak of in any way resembles a traditional playground. In fact I will be abandoning the use of the word playground and instead be calling it a natural play area, because no structures or man made objects will be involved.

Instead, what we are speaking of is really just a safe area in which children can play, with a few natural features to stimulate imaginative play. At the site suggested, this would mean the removal of some Himalayan blackberry canes, and encouraging the growth of more friendly plants that are native to the area, or at least that are recognized as part of the local coastal environment. The site already has a natural boundary between it and the bluff and provides some shelter from the wind. The natural play features may be a log placed in the area that the children can climb on, build on, etc., some stumps placed so that they invite children to walk on them or use them as stools and tables, and building materials such as driftwood and stones that the children may use according to

Headlands Visioning Discussion Meeting Saturday March 21st

Steve Brigham

The second in a series of Third Saturday Westport Community Headlands monthly Visioning meetings will be held on **Saturday, March 21st, at 11:00AM on The Westport Headlands**. The purpose of these community meetings is to begin our Westport Village Society decennial review of Headlands management plans and practices with friendly on-site community listening discussions that are open to all. This is the time to review our Headlands Management Plan (you can download it at westportvillagesociety.org in the Headlands section), and also set new policies for items and ideas not covered in the Management Plan.

We are now in the process of creating a written survey that all interested people can fill out, so that we can consider as many opinions and viewpoints as possible. Our goal this year is not necessarily to change, but rather review and improve, and because we are meeting every month, if you can't make it one month, we'll fill you in the next month. Our February meeting had good attendance, with around 25 people showing up. We hope to see you on March 21st, as we celebrate the first full day of Spring in Westport!

their imaginations. The only built item would be a picnic table in the vicinity for the adults to use and supervise from while the children are enjoying the area.

Truly, creating a play area such as this would involve a process more like landscaping than building. Nothing would advertise it as a play area, but it would be an inviting area for people of all ages to spend some time and children would do there what children naturally do: explore and play. With the recent removal of the play structure from behind the church due to the discovery that it was in failing condition and too great a liability for the church to continue to have on its grounds, having an area for children (and adults) to gather and play would seem to be desirable.

In the creation of this space, both the mission of the WVS and the management plan for the Headlands would be considered and used to guide it's creation. As such, I will be attending the visioning meetings that are now being held every third Saturday at 11 a.m. on the Headlands both because I wish to be a part of that discussion and because I want to make myself available to anyone who would like to look at the area or discuss the idea with me. I invite your input whatever it may be.

“Spring Ahead” On March 8th!

Steve Brigham

My goodness, it seems like it was just New Year's Day yesterday, and now it's already March? Maybe it's because I've been waiting for winter to happen for two months now, and I just got frozen in time. OK, so we finally took our Christmas Tree down on February 23rd, and I guess I'd better finally get with the program. Since it's March now, that means our Spring Equinox is coming, this year on March 20th at 3:45PM.

The fact that it's already March again also means that we're back to the month that our gummint confuses everyone in the world for three whole weeks, since the USA decided 10 years ago to move the start of Daylight Saving Time up to the second Sunday in March instead of the last Sunday in March like everyone else in the world that uses Daylight Saving Time still uses. So set your clocks **ahead** at 2:00AM on **Sunday, March 8th** (or Saturday night if you don't want to stay up that late!)



Westport Hotel News

Dorine Real

The Westport Hotel continues to offer Saturday afternoon teas (see photo above). We are featuring treats with seasonal themes, including cherry blossoms and daffodils. On **March 14th** the tea will have a St. Patrick's theme.

We are now doing Spring Cleaning, and there we will have a garage sale the weekend of March 28th and 29th. Who knows what may be in it?

We plan to reopen the restaurant for the summer season. Although we aren't ready to hire yet, please help us plan by letting us know if you're interested in working here.

Local Listings

Our **Westport Local Listings** has moved to our website, www.westportvillagesociety.org, so check them out for local businesses and service providers. If you wish to have your name or business name included in the website list, please contact Sarah Mathias (962-0181 or sarah.e.mathias@gmail.com).

Resources for Those in Need

Sarah Mathias

During the holiday season, the WVFD is a distribution point for holiday meals from the Fort Bragg Food Bank. During the distribution process we realized that not everyone who is eligible may know about some of the programs that are available to those in need. This article is an effort to share some of the information available. Much of the following has been pulled from the websites of the various organizations.

The Fort Bragg Food Bank

The Fort Bragg Food Bank provides emergency food to those in need. Once a week, clients may pick up a bag of staple foods and choose from a variety of fresh produce, bakery items, and limited quantities of meat, eggs and dairy. Once a month eligible seniors and families with children under age 6 may also receive a box of staple foods through the Commodities Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). Eligibility is based on monthly household income and those interested in receiving services must fill out an application and bring it to the Food Bank in person at 910 N. Franklin St. in Fort Bragg. More information (including eligibility guidelines, distribution hours, and a printable application) is available at http://www.fortbraggfoodbank.org/home/our_history or by calling 707-964-9404.

As mentioned above, the WVFD works with the Fort Bragg Food Bank each holiday season to distribute holiday meals to locals. Once you register with the food bank you will be added to this list for as long as you remain active with them.

PG&E Assistance Programs

There are multiple programs available through PG&E that can help reduce power bills for those that qualify based on income. You can look at eligibility requirements for the various programs (CARE, FERA, and REACH) by going to <http://www.pge.com/en/myhome/saveenergymoney/fiancialassistance/index.page?> and choosing the program your are interested in on the left side of the screen. You may also call to inquire about assistance programs. For CARE (“deep” discounts based on annual income for households of all sizes) or FERA

(a monthly discount program based on annual income for households of three or more) call PG&E customer service at 1-800-743-5000; for REACH (a one-time emergency assistance program that coordinates with the Salvation Army) contact the Salvation Army at 1-800-933-9677.

Phone Bill Discount: California LifeLine

The California LifeLine Program is a state program that provides discounted home phone and cell phone services to eligible households (only one discount, home or cell, per household). You may get more information, including eligibility requirements, on their website: <https://www.californialifeline.com/en>. You may qualify based on income or current enrollment in other assistance programs. If you think you may qualify, call your home phone provider or cell phone company and tell them you are interested in applying for the California LifeLine program. You may also contact the LifeLine call center directly through the website.

Court-Ordered Community Service Opportunities In Westport

Gary Quinton

Do you need to serve court-ordered Community Service or serve in a Sheriff’s Department Work Release program? Why not serve it in your community? We would value your time!

There are several places and varied types of work in Westport where you can provide your hours and get credit towards the satisfaction of your court order, including work for the Westport Volunteer Fire Department, Westport-Ten Mile Cemetery District, and the Westport Village Society. Jobs include grass/weed cutting, painting, handyman work, and more.

Please call us and tell us about your work skills, and let’s see if we can match your skills to work that needs to be done. That match-up will be a benefit to you and your Westport Community at the same time, and your work can be confidential and non-judgmental. We can also help you with the registration paperwork and compliance/completion documents. If you are interested, please call Gary Quinton at 964-7073.



Pamela W. Allen and Dan Kozloff in *Gaslight*.
(photo by Brendan McGuigan)

The Mendocino Theatre Company Opens its 2015 Season with Victorian Thriller *Gaslight*

Felicia Freitas

Opening March 5th, the newly remodeled Mendocino Theatre Company is proud to present *Gaslight*, a stylish, edge-of-your-seat classic melodrama. Set in Victorian London, a time and place gripped by revolutionary technologies, the novels of Jules Verne, and tales of criminals like Jack the Ripper, *Gaslight* is the original psychological thriller. The play, written by Patrick Hamilton, is directed by accomplished Long Beach area director Stephen Dedola.

Strange things have been happening in the Manningham house. Objects are going missing, odd noises can be heard from sealed areas of the home, and the downstairs gas lamps dim as though someone were lighting lamps in hidden quarters. Her husband's insistence that she must be imagining these things and misplacing the objects herself leaves Bella terrified and uneasy. But just as she begins to doubt her own

sanity, a watchful detective arrives to raise questions about the man Bella calls her husband.

Gaslight, featuring sets and costumes styled with steampunk flair, will feature favorite MTC performers Pamela W. Allen, Dan Kozloff, Steven Jordan, Isla Bowery, and Lorry Lepaule. Given historical response to this play and new seating arrangements due to the recent visibility improvement remodel, patrons are highly encouraged to reserve tickets in advance.

Gaslight plays at the Mendocino Theatre Company at 45200 Little Lake St. in Mendocino **March 5th through April 12th, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8:00PM, and 2:00PM on selected Sundays.**

For tickets or more information, please contact the Mendocino Theatre Company Box Office at [707-937-4477](tel:707-937-4477), or go to mendocinotheatre.org.

Visit Mendocino Sports Plus For The Latest In Local News!

Steve Brigham

I've often thought how great it could be if *The Westport Wave* could publish in real time, with up-to-the-minute news and features any time of any day. But far be it from me to work that hard! Fortunately, there is someone who does work that hard, and it's our friend Paul McCarthy in Elk, who runs the Facebook site **MendocinoSportsPlus**. It's way more than sports, with local news, weather, and features all day long that you just won't find anywhere else, and you don't have to be a Facebook member to read it. The biggest "plus" is that every story is illustrated with a beautiful photo! So tune in every day (I do), and tell your friends! It's even great for folks who live far away and miss our Mendocino Coast!

Westport Community Yard Sale

Keep the upcoming Westport Yard Sale in mind as you start your spring cleaning, gardening, or other creative endeavor. This year's sale will once again be during **Memorial Day weekend, on Saturday, May 23 from 9:00AM to 3:00PM**. Bring your old items, fresh creations (local crafts!), locally grown produce and or plants, etc. to sell on the Headlands. More information to come in next month's *Wave*.

Have Solar? Let The WVFD Know!

Sarah Mathias

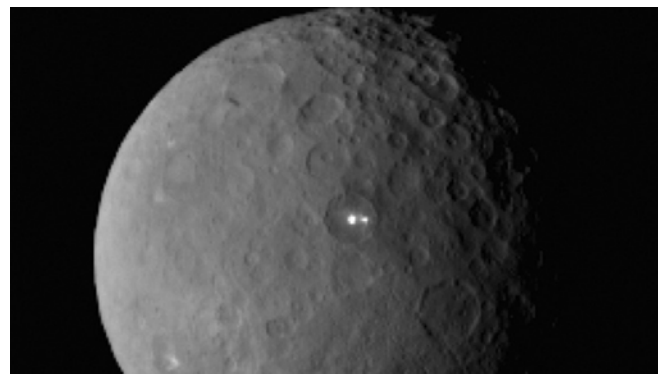
A recent Fire Department training held in Mendocino, and attended by members of the Westport Volunteer Fire Department, highlighted specific concerns involving fires at homes with solar installations. In light of this recent training, the WVFD would like to take proactive steps to inform itself about homes with solar installations in their coverage area. Knowing ahead of time that a home has solar equipment on site will help the fire department to more efficiently respond to a fire at that home and could potentially save lives. Conspicuous labeling of disconnection points have proven to be invaluable to responders and are slowly becoming required in new construction. As such, the WVFD is making two requests if you have any sort of solar installation powering your home.

First, contact us so that we can note that your home has a solar installation in our Run Book (the book of local maps we use to find your location in an emergency). Currently, the best way to do this is to call the Fire Station at 964-4646 and leave a message with your name, address, a call back number, and that you wish to let us know that you have solar on site. Someone will call you back for further details.

The second thing that you can do is to conspicuously label all power disconnection points so that it is easy for responders to shut down power flow to the house or battery storage. This includes labeling the outside of the building that contains the power disconnection points if necessary.

It is always important for the WVFD to have accurate information in our Run Book. Having important information ahead of time can greatly increase the efficiency of response. Please contact the WVFD if there is anything you'd like us to know in case of an emergency. It is important that we know about gates or other obstructions to your property as well as how to get through them, about water sources that could be used in a fire, and any special medical needs that it would be helpful to be aware of in advance. It's also very important the WVFD knows that your house

exists and how to get to it, so if your house is recent construction, make sure we know it's there, and if your property is hard to find (UPS has trouble finding you, for example) please contact us to let us know the key points of finding you.



Did someone leave their headlights on on Ceres?

Dwarf Planet Has Overactive Albedo

Steve Brigham

While the European Space Agency is busy with their Rubber Ducky Comet, our friends at NASA now have an entire dwarf planet to deal with – namely Ceres, a possibly icy world 316 million miles away and 600 miles in diameter. On March 6th, the ion-propulsion space probe *Dawn* will encounter Ceres' gravity and begin spiraling into orbit in order to study Ceres close-up for the first time ever.

A funny thing happened on the way to Ceres. Just a couple of weeks ago, *Dawn* took some great photos of Ceres that showed what looked like two very bright lights in the middle of a big crater. Well, something's very reflective, at least, and the thought is that they may be icy volcanoes with plumes of frozen water, methane, or ammonia. No one will know for sure until *Dawn* gets closer to the planet and has time to take lots of photos (it will be in orbit around Ceres at least through 2016).

But wait, there's more! Another, more famous dwarf planet will also be in the headlines later this year. And that's Pluto, some 3 billion miles away, which we'll also see close up for the very first time on July 14th, as NASA's *New Horizons* spacecraft flies by.

A Valentine For Your Pet

Steve Brigham

Valentine's should be every day, and we all know that our companion animals are some of the "people" that we love the very most! So why not share that love with others by submitting a photo and commentary to *The Westport Wave*? This month, we'll start off with **Bootsie** (photo below), who has been best friend and protector for Donna and me for 17 years now, through thick and thin, in good times and bad. Just one look, and Bootsie can make a great day out of any day!

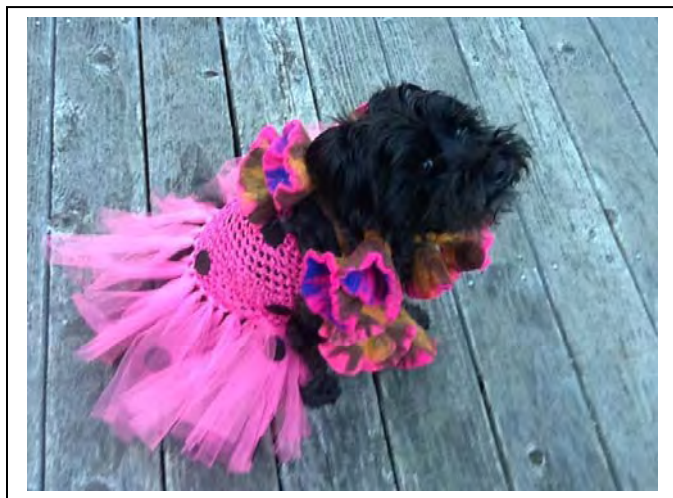


Ode To Bootsie

Steve and Donna Brigham
(with thanks to Mary Tyler Moore)

Who can turn the world on with her smile?
Who can take a nothing day, and suddenly make it
all seem worthwhile?
Well it's you girl, and you should know it!
With each glance and every little movement you
show it!
Love is all around, no need to waste it!
We can have the town, why don't we take it!
We might just make it after all!

And now on to the amazing **Bon Bon** (photos above and below), who is the faithful, loving companion to **Tom Burnham**. Tom writes, "Bon Bon is a Valentine every day. I am so grateful a friend rescued her and brought her to me. She is so excited to snuggle & rough house every morn when I wake up. She comes running up my belly, chest- then neck- when I say the word 'hug.' Lots of times she sits quietly and points her nose at the back door when she needs to use the lawn, points toward the kitchen counter when she thinks it's time for food, and if she points by the front door that means she wants to be social or go out for some fun. Often I catch her very still and pointing at a beautiful long distant view. She is quirky sometimes. She isn't fond of the command 'come' but if I say I've got something for U - she runs. She's also a bit of a Tomboy but doesn't mind dressing to the nines on occasion. Bon Bon is a real love bug – an Un-conditional Valentine!"



The Kite

Batul Merchant

Flitting through decades on paper thin wings.
 Unsteady. Made by the hand of a child.
 Scraps of colorful paper. Mother sings
 and washes clothes in the river. He flings
 little rocks. Tousled hair and ever so wild.
 Flitting through decades on paper thin wings.
 Gently riding on the clouds. King of kings.
 A little tug here and there keeps it mild.
 Scraps of colorful paper. Mother sings.
 He whistles a lilting tune. Chases springs.
 Fly higher little kite. Go on, be wild.
 Flitting through decades on paper thin wings.
 Darkness falls. Go home now. See what life brings.
 Cut the string. Let it fly. Go on, be wild.
 Scraps of colorful paper. Mother sings.
 It's old and young. The colors leak. Its wings
 reach the sky. Captured the heart of a child.
 Flitting through decades on paper thin wings.
 Scraps of colorful paper. Mother sings.

The Dipper

Carolyn Yale

The Dipper spills
 a few remaining stars
 in a sky becoming murky
 with new morning-- a day
 of fox scat on the garden stones,
 long-masted fishing boats offshore,
 whales that lift the sea in passing.
 The osprey has returned
 to nest upstream
 --this nervous edge where
 salt and fresh are mixed,
 where autumn storms must breach
 late summer's sandbar.
 We have cleared a swath
 from brambles on our landward side
 big enough to hold
 a sapling redwood— a promise
 tall enough to scan the Milky Way,
 and young for centuries.

March 2015 Westport Calendar

- March 3rd** – WMAC Meeting, 7:00PM, Church
- March 5th** – Full Moon, 10:06AM
- March 5th** – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM
- March 8th** – **Daylight Saving Time Begins, 2:00AM**
- March 8th** – Dr. Steven Doyle, Center For Spiritual Living, on “Surrender and Dharma”, 10:00AM at the Westport Church
- March 11th** – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM, Firehouse
- March 14th** – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 10:00AM, Firehouse
- March 15th** – Third Sunday Quaker Meeting, 10:00AM at the Westport Community Church
- March 15th** – Westport Community Church Board Meeting, 11:30AM, Westport Church
- March 17th** – Saint Patrick’s Day
- March 19th** – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM
- March 20th** – New Moon, 2:36AM
- March 20th** – **Spring Equinox, 3:45PM**
- March 21st** – Headlands Visioning and Management Meeting, 11:00AM, Westport Community Headlands
- March 22nd** – Mettika Hoffman, Fort Bragg Buddhist Sanga, Three Jewels Hall, 10:00AM at the Westport Community Church
- March 29th** – Palm Sunday

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