

Good Gourd! A New American Record!

Steve Brigham, Editor

Since I put the issue together around Halloween every year, it's becoming a tradition for the November *Wave* to report on the results of the latest Giant Pumpkin Contests worldwide. Anyone who's ever grown pumpkins has got to appreciate what it's like on the Championship level – these people take their jobs very seriously, sometimes even

growing their monster gourds in specialized greenhouses. The goal is to produce the heaviest pumpkin possible, with no disqualifying cracks or blemishes, and beat the competition in an officially sanctioned pumpkin weigh-off. Worldwide, the two most important pumpkin weigh-offs are in Ludwigsburg, Germany and Half Moon Bay, CA.

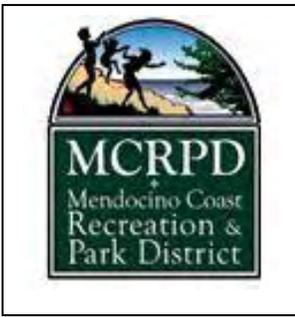
Although in recent years the world's heaviest pumpkins have been grown in Europe, this year the heaviest championship pumpkin in the world (by 141 pounds) was grown in Sumner, WA by Joel Holland, and it won the Half Moon Bay weigh-off on October 9th by a whopping 361 pounds over the second-place



Joel Holland of Sumner, WA (with his wife Mari Lou at right) celebrates his 2363-pound New American Record Heaviest Pumpkin, which won this year's Championship Pumpkin Weigh-Off in Half Moon Bay on October 9th. This is the heaviest championship pumpkin grown anywhere in the world this year.

winner from Olympia, WA. At 2363 pounds, Joel's champ beat the old American record by 102 pounds.

This new American Record pumpkin still fell 261 pounds short of Belgian Mathias Willemijns' 2624-pound World Record Pumpkin that he won with last year in Ludwigsburg. Mathias' best pumpkin this year was 2222 pounds, still good enough to win the Ludwigsburg weigh-off on October 8th by a wide margin. Sad to say, Mathias had two real big pumpkins split on him this year as they were growing, which disqualified them from competition. But you know he'll be back next year, and so will Joel and a host of other growers hoping to set new records!



**November
MCPRD Classes at
the Westport
Recreation Center**

Tabby Korhummel

Mondays 9:30AM – Yoga with Melinda

Tuesdays 8:30AM (New Time!) – Tai Chi with Beck (drop-in rate \$5/class)

SPECIAL PAINTING CLASS! On **Sunday, November 19th**, our special guest teacher will be Shirley Washburn! She will lead a painting class. Both oil and acrylic paints will be available for class use. A 16” x 20” canvas will be provided with the materials fee of \$20. Pre-registration is a must for this class. Please call Tabby at [707-367-0010](tel:707-367-0010)

We love new students, so please come try all of our classes! All classes are great for beginners and experienced exercisers alike! For more information please call Tabby at [707-367-0010](tel:707-367-0010) or message the **Westport Community Recreation Center on Facebook.**

Westport Yoga

Melinda McLaughlin

November finds Westport Yoga returning to a generalized practice after our focus on feet last month. We meet on Mondays from 9:30AM to 11:00AM at the recreation center on Abalone Street. This practice is founded on the teachings of B. K. S. Iyengar and includes a variety of asanas (poses) to strengthen and improve the body's functions. Classes are open to all.

The drop-in rate is \$12/class. Purchase of six or more classes is available for \$10/class. Props, which are essential to this practice, are on hand thanks to Westport Village Society and Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District. While yoga mats are also available, your own mat is always a great idea.

**November at the Westport Hotel
and Old Abalone Pub**

We are pleased to announce that the **Hotel and Pub will be open this year through December.** The last open Pub day will be on Saturday, December 30th, and the last open Hotel day will be Monday, January 1st, after which we will be closed for the month of January 2018. Tabitha Korhummel has accepted our General Manager position, as Joywolf will be moving on and continuing work in Mendocino. As always thanks to the locals for keeping us open!!

In November, we will continue to have Alejandro Yanez playing beautiful flamenco style guitar on Fridays from 6PM to 9PM. Don't miss our very own Westport treasure Erin Brazill, who will be performing on Saturday evening, November 4th, plus Lavender Grace on Saturday evening, November 18th. Afternoon Tea continues to be available on Saturdays from 3PM to 5PM. We will be closed Thursday, November 23rd for Thanksgiving. More dates will be announced, so please follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/abalonepub/> for events, current menu and hours. See you at the Pub!

WVS Mini-Grants

The Westport Village Society Mini-Grant Program awards grants in three different community service categories: 1) benefit/beautification of the community, 2) events, and 3) outreach. Funds are available again this fiscal year, through June 30, 2018. Please see the Mini-Grant Application Form on our WVS website www.westportvillagesociety.org for details.

24/7 Westport Wave

The Westport Wave is always free to everyone at any time on the Newsletter page of our website westportvillagesociety.org – where you'll always find our most current issue as well as nearly six years of monthly back-issues, all in living color, with live links! Check it out, and tell your friends!



The Westport Community Church

Westport Community Church November 2017 Calendar

Founded in 1880, the **Westport Community Church** is a multi-denominational church which serves the Westport community and its many spiritual paths. It is also the prime meeting hall for the Westport Community and its activities. In addition to being a community meeting hall, we are also doing our best to nurture our tradition of having weekly spiritual gatherings at the Church (which is at the end of Abalone Street on the left), with all religious and spiritual denominations both welcome and encouraged to hold both regular and special services here. Please contact us at westport.community.church@gmail.com for use of the Westport Community Church for community meetings, activities, or religious services, and also to see how you can help keep our Westport Community Church organization improving and our Westport Community Center buildings and grounds maintained and improved.

1st Sunday, November 5th, 10:00AM – Our Bi-Monthly Quaker Worship Group

Katharine White leads our regular 1st Sunday Quaker Worship Group meeting. The format is a simple, quiet meditation for 45 minutes followed by Katharine 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.

2nd Sunday, November 12th, 10:00AM – Carolyn Cathey, on “The Power of Surrender”

The Power of Surrender. What does that mean? To some, surrender is frightening, fearing loss of control over your life. What are our misconceptions about this action? What are the benefits? At this Sunday's meeting, we'll discuss the illusions and the truth of surrender, and why defenselessness through surrender makes us powerful. In truth, surrender is the most powerful decision we make. Do you agree? If not, why not?

Carolyn Cathey's new book, “Divine Messages from Jesus for a magnificent life” is now available in paperback and Kindle versions. For more information, please see <https://carolynecathey.com/divine-messages-from-jesus/>

3rd Sunday, November 19th, 10:00AM – Our Bi-Monthly Quaker Worship Group

Katharine White leads our regular 3rd Sunday Quaker Worship Group meeting. The format is just like our 1st Sunday Service.

Please note that the Westport Community Church now has a new e-mail address, westport.community.church@gmail.com. If you would like to be on our mailing list and receive reminders of our programs and services as well as other Church news, please send us an e-mail and we'll include you on our e-mail list.

You are invited to our monthly community volunteer meetings on the first Sunday of every month at 11:30PM at the Church – please stop by to see how you can help improve our valuable Community Center and community resources!

WVFD Responding

Bill Knapp, President, WVFD

Westport Volunteer Fire Department's response area covers roughly 108 square miles. It extends from mile marker 72 on Highway 1 (just north of Abalobadiah) to the Usal Road turnoff, and six miles inland from the Pacific Ocean. We also respond to calls at Usal Beach even though it is technically outside our response area.

During the past three years, from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2017, WVFD responded to 150 emergency calls. 64 of those calls were for medical emergencies and 35 were for traumatic injuries. 55 of the patients with a medical emergency or traumatic injury had serious conditions, and 15 required an air ambulance helicopter. 17 of the calls were fire-related, mostly involving wildland fires. 8 calls involved a downed power line. The other 26 calls were for miscellaneous situations, including motor vehicle accidents without injuries, water rescues, fallen trees blocking the highway, and, in two cases, dog rescues.

We rely on private donations to support WVFD's operations. Our annual fundraising appeal letter should be in your mailbox soon. Please consider making a generous tax-deductible gift to WVFD. Thank you for your support!

Winter Weather Preparedness

Westport Volunteer Fire Department

The National Weather Service expects us to have a weak La Nina weather system this winter. The forecast also predicts a winter that is colder than normal. The National Weather Service is currently unable to predict whether total rainfall for the season will be above normal, at normal, or below normal. However, major flooding in past years has been associated with weak La Nina weather systems, due to the prevalence of atmospheric rivers which produce intermittent periods of heavy rain.

Our main weather-related concern this year is the possibility of road closures due to mudslides, particularly on Highway 1. It will be important for all of us to be as prepared as we can be. Here are some specific suggestions:

- Make sure your propane tank is full.
- Have plenty of flashlights with spare batteries
- Maintain an extra supply of prescription medications (a 60-day supply is recommended).
- Have plastic jugs or other empty containers on hand that can be filled with potable water.
- Have an extra supply of non-perishable food.
- Keep your vehicles as full of fuel as you can.
- Develop an evacuation plan, especially if you are located in a low-lying area that could be affected by heavy rains or high surf, or if you are located on property that could be affected by a mudslide.
- Create a survival kit you can take with you. The kit should contain canned food and other non-perishable food, a manual can opener, flashlights with extra batteries, a portable radio, prescription medicines, toiletries and other personal items, extra clothing and blankets, a first-aid kit, and drinking water (a gallon of water per person per day is recommended).
- Review your insurance policy and contact your insurance agent if you have any questions about coverage for your home or business in case of flooding, mudslides or earth movement.

Finally, it will be very important for each household to have a communication and rendezvous plan in case Highway 1 is closed by a mudslide and members of the household are separated from each other. If some of the people in your household are south of the slide while others are north of the slide, what will you do? It is best to plan now for that possibility.



larger multi-use event space that could be used for meetings/classes, performances, potlucks, and recreation. An improved facility might also be used as an emergency shelter. WVS can't get grants for a property it doesn't own—so our search continues. We welcome your constructive ideas.

A spring cleanup event was also mentioned.

Feedback Sought on Westport Village Society Priorities

Thad Van Bueren, President, WVS

We'd like to make the community aware of ideas for projects discussed at the WVS annual meeting October 6th and ask for additional feedback and indications of interest from volunteers. Please call me at 964-7272 or email wvs@westportvillagesociety.org if you have thoughts on the following topics or have something else to propose. We rely on the community for energy and ideas we can move forward.

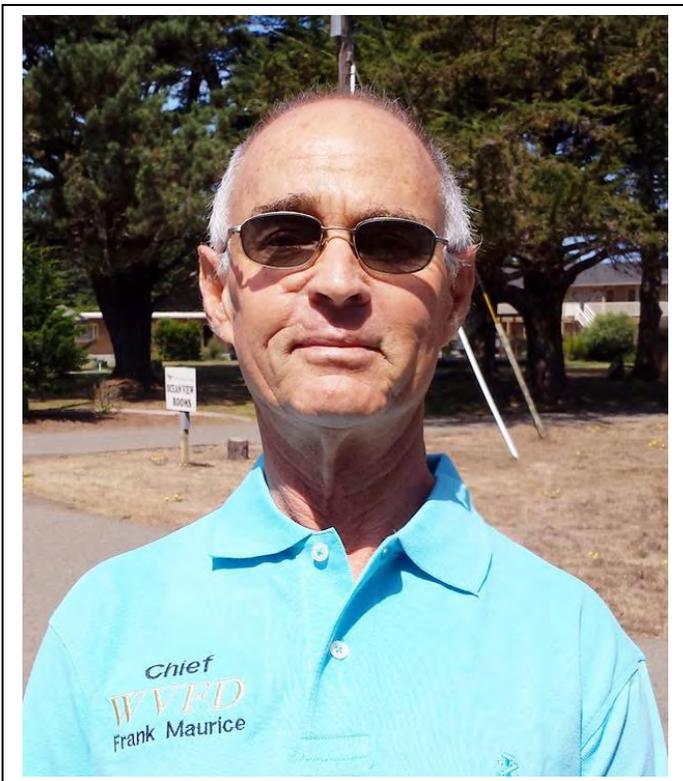
A joint meeting of all Westport organizations was suggested to enhance collaboration. Since many of our Directors already serve on other boards (WVFD, Church, Cemetery District, WMAC), we already bring some of that to the table. But a more organized town hall meeting may have merit if there are specific projects that depend on collaboration. Think about this as you keep reading.

The topic of a Community Center came up. WVS has considered many options over the past 15 years and we'll keep at it. We'd like to create a facility that meets more of the community's needs and desires if a viable option appears. The community appreciates the facilities on the Church grounds, though they have many limitations. From past input you've told us you would like a center with better bathrooms, a commercial kitchen, and spaces that can be used for purposes such as a library/archive/classroom and a

After further discussion by the WVS Board on Oct. 21st, we're thinking this might focus on helping the Church clean out their storage building. The building might then be put to better use. One suggestion made at a recent Church Board meeting was the possibility this storage building might be leased to WVS for a nominal fee. Perhaps it could be used as a library and archive as a temporary measure. What do you think of that possibility?

The topic of trail improvements in Westport Union Landing State Park met with some enthusiastic support. We've been in touch with State Parks about the potential for volunteer work parties to fix the trail down to Pete's Beach, the trail along the bluffs between Dehaven and Howard creeks, and the overlook platform on the north side of Howard Creek. If you're willing to lend a hand, please contact me. We may get approval on short notice, trying to do the work before the onset of winter storms.

Two other ideas were suggested, but each will require leadership and guidance from a dedicated and knowledgeable volunteer. A wildlife habitat project was suggested in the treatment plant ponds. We know the City of Arcata treatment plant involves a similar approach, but this kind of project will require the cooperation of the Water District and other agencies to move forward. The other idea is an old concept to underground utilities in the village. A project of that scope would require a lot of work and dedication. We're willing to support a local volunteer committed to achieving such an ambitious goal.



WITH GRATITUDE

Lin Taylor Maurice

It is with my heart and soul I wish to thank this community, friends, and neighbors who have supported me with their love, food, flowers, cards, and financial help as I face the challenge of learning a new way of living without Frank.

The first time Frank visited Westport he knew he wanted to return. On our quest to locate a new area to live in we passed this town in the dark. He insisted we return in the daylight hours and explore it further.

The outpour of love and strength reminds me daily of why Frank wanted to make Westport our home.

The attendance of over 200 people to Frank's memorial showed me how many lives he touched and their appreciation of his energy and time he dedicated to helping others. The cards and testaments were an

affirmation that Frank and I were loved and appreciated.

A thank you to Chief Daniel Maxey and the entire WVFD crew (see photo below) who made sure Frank had a Fire Department Internment with Fire engines from all over the county of Mendocino including Cal Fire and the California State Fire Association complete with bagpipes and dress uniforms to send him off with honor to the next fire station beyond.

Frank always felt he was given the best fire department during his time serving as Chief. Not only did he have active helpful administration on the WVFD Board, he had his Assistant Chief Daniel Maxey who was there to cover him and assist as needed. He had the rare timing of having new recruits who were willing and enthusiastic to spend hours training to become EMT's and officers of the department as well as the experience of firefighters that had served on the department for years. He was so proud to serve as Fire Chief and help others.

Frank had a saying when I first met him that "If it's not fun it's not Frank" so with that spirit of enjoying life and helping others, may we continue his legacy of living life to the fullest.

As I navigate on to my next chapter I am so grateful for the continued love and support that everyone continues to extend to me.

Thank you to each and every one.

*"Perhaps they are not stars in the sky;
But rather openings where our Loved One's
Shine down to let us know they are happy
And light our way"*

Native American Blessing





I believe the documentation provided in these reports played a role in the positive Decision that occurred in the Rural Call Completion in December 2016 (and which is on-going). You can find these prior reports posted our website by the way.

So yes, we still keep have problems but we have to keep at this - documenting and keeping pressure on both the CPUC and telecommunications companies so that our counties get the reliable telecommunications infrastructure we need. These surveys are part of that effort. We can't advocate without good data.

Firestorm Utility Outage Survey

Trish Steel, Broadband Alliance of Mendocino County

Dear friends and neighbors: our county has suffered a huge trauma, and our hearts go out to the many people who have suffered major losses. I am inspired by communities coming together to support those who lost everything.

As we look ahead in the recovery efforts, we also need to assess what happened during that time. The small part that the North Bay North Coast Broadband Consortium hopes to play is to document the extent and scope of the telecommunications outage that affected at least 3 of our 4 consortium counties (Napa, Mendocino, and Sonoma). Basically, we want to know, **“Who lost what services, for how long, and how did the concurrent power outage affect telecommunications.”** This helps us understand infrastructure weaknesses and specific provider dependencies. It also documents real impacts on people and businesses.

If you live in one of these counties, I would like to ask you to please take a few minutes to complete our online survey and if possible, to share it. We have done surveys in the past (2014, and 2015) and the data from those surveys were part of outage reports that were shared widely with elected representatives, the CPUC, and the FCC. Our reports were even cited in Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports and by CPUC commissioners in specific proceedings.

You can access the survey in at least 3 ways:

- By going to the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/firestorm2017>
- From the Broadband Alliance Homepage at www.MendocinoBroadband.org
- From the Broadband Alliance [Facebook page](#)

The survey will be open for the month of November. Please contact me if you have any questions. Thanks!

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 and weed cutting, painting, handyman work, and more. We can help you with registration paperwork and compliance/completion documents. If you are interested, please call Gary Quinton, (707) 964-7073.



Westportian Derek DiOrio Wins Fort Bragg Mural Competition!

Steve Brigham and Derek DiOrio

The 2017 Fort Bragg Mural Competition is over, and Westportian Derek DiOrio has won First Prize! Pictured above is the proud artist with his championship artwork – go see it! Here’s Derek’s special report for The Wave...

The desolate, heartless eyes of a primeval nightmare have risen from beneath the waves at [224 E. Redwood Ave.](#) in Fort Bragg. Painted in acrylic, on three wooden panels, an ocean-inspired scene of calamity unfolds -- further exemplifying the beauty,

necessity, and good-nature of chaos and bewilderment. This creation measures 8' x 12', is framed in redwood, and compositionally pays homage to earlier nautical traditions. Throughout history, seafaring men and women have spoken of sightings of unique and awe-inspiring creatures during their travels abroad -- with tales being passed down from generation to generation. This ancient tradition is something which continues to live on today, here in Westport, and is exemplified through my most recent mural in Fort Bragg.

(Be)Wilderness Comes.

(Re)Claims All.

This project was part of the city of Fort Bragg’s first annual Mural Competition, and with the generous support of participating property owners and the Community Foundation of Mendocino’s A.D. Abramson Visual Arts Award, the City narrowed down the artists to just three -- myself, Suzi Long of

Mendocino, and Hannah Webb of Los Angeles. We all worked very hard on our murals and would like to thank everyone who participated in coming out to see our work and in the voting process! I would like to thank all the people who assisted me during the construction of this project and to all the people who gave me their support during the voting part of this project to assure my win! Thank you Westport!!!

Cheers,

Derek A. DiOrio

Fine Art. Illustration. Graphic Design.

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There's always much to be thankful for, and here's how they celebrate Thanksgiving at Westportian Tom Kisliuk's house – with Cinnamon and Poppysed bobbing for apples! HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL!!!

November 8th – Westport Ten Mile Cemetery District Quarterly Board Meeting, 10:00AM, Westport Community Church

November 8th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM, Westport Firehouse

November 9th – Bookmobile, 9-9:30AM, Store

November 11th – Veterans' Day

November 11th – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 10:00AM, Firehouse

November 12th – Carolyn Cathey, on "The Power of Surrender", 10:00AM, Westport Church

November 18th – New Moon, 3:42AM

November 19th – Third Sunday Quaker Worship Group, 10:00AM at the Westport Community Church

November 23rd – Thanksgiving Day

November 2017 Westport Calendar

November 1st – All Saints' Day

November 2nd – All Souls' Day

November 3rd – Full Moon, 10:22PM

November 5th – Daylight Saving Time Ends, 2:00AM (set clocks **BACK** one hour)

November 5th – First Sunday Quaker Worship Group, 10:00AM at the Westport Community Church

November 5th – Westport Community Church Monthly Board Meeting, 11:30AM, Westport Church

November 7th – Election Day

November 7th – Westport Municipal Advisory Council Monthly Meeting -- Check WMAC website (<http://www.westportmac.org/>) to see if this meeting will happen at the Westport Church at 7:00 PM.

The Westport Wave is a free monthly community newsletter published by the **Westport Village Society**, a non-profit community-benefit organization. Internet subscribers to *The Wave* receive their **COLOR** copies on or before the first day of every month by e-mail. Printed (black-and-white) copies of our current newsletter are also available for free at the Westport Community Store. **Check out our website www.westportvillagesociety.org, to read and download both our current issue and over five years of past issues of *The Wave*.** Contributions for our December 1st, 2017 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by November 26th, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com, or P.O. Box 237, Westport, CA 95488. Thank You!