

February 1, 2018

# The Westport Wave

Published by the Westport Village Society, P. O. Box 446, Westport, CA 95488



The Westport Recreation Center (formerly the Westport School)

## Formation of the Little Red Hen Working Group

A few Westport residents met at the end of January to consider the need for and feasibility of our community taking possession of the School building presently residing on Westport Community Church's property.

All those in attendance believe in the worth of maintaining this building as a community use facility.

We also know that for this goal to be accomplished our residents and institutions need to come together to form new, healthy alliances. So this exploration is starting from a complete absence of assumptions about the financial and management structure.

The "group" intends to remain open to whoever wants to contribute their thoughts or energy. The focus is on finding common ground and developing a

shared vision of a path forward, free of making decisions at this time.

Immediate practical steps that can be taken before any final commitment is made by anybody include: having the building inspected to determine its probable lifespan; projecting the cost of liability insurance; making a list of ready-to-go classes/events and determining the interest in attending and paying for them.

The proposed community center is presently fully powered with water and sewer at this time and will remain open for use by the community for the month of February...possibly longer. Much depends on the actions of the FBUSD Board.

Our community needs to come to agreement regarding its future. **Our next LRHWG meeting will be on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00PM at the Westport Recreation Center. Please join us!**

## Valentine's Making at the Westport Community Recreation Center

Sarah Cullar

We'll be opening up the Westport Recreation Center for Valentines making on **Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 3:30PM to 5:00PM**. Anyone is welcome to attend. We'll have paper, doilies, glitter, a variety of accents, and ideas. Bring anything else you'd like to use/share.

## Westport Yoga

Melinda McLaughlin

Westport Yoga classes have resumed on **Mondays from 9:30AM to 11:00AM** and will continue provided we have heat, water, and a building! Our practice is in the tradition of B. K. S. Iyengar. A variety of props are available. Our focus through February is on strengthening the various areas of the body. All levels are welcome. There is a \$12 drop-in fee. A purchase of six or more classes is available for \$10/class. Questions: call Melinda at 964-2729.

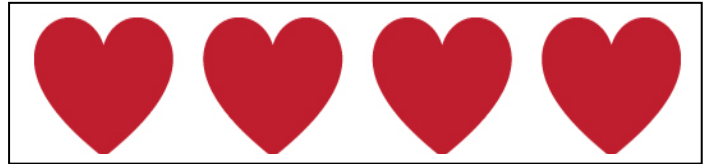
## Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub Happenings

Tabby Korhummel, General Manager

**The Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub re-opens on Valentine's Day, Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>** for a five-course dinner for two with a 5:30PM and an 8:00PM seating for \$150 per couple, continuing through the weekend as a four-course special.

Your romantic Valentine's evening includes live music, Champagne toast, Amuse-bouche, Soup or Oysters, Salad, your choice of local Beef, wild caught Fish, or Vegetarian entrée, and Dessert.

On **Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> from 3:00PM to 5:00PM**, Dorine will offer a Valentine Themed Tea featuring her famous fresh baked scones, a variety of lovingly hand crafted tea sandwiches, seasonal fruit, chocolate, and a mini dessert of the day with a pot of tea of your choice. Saturday afternoon tea is a beautiful way to celebrate with friends or simply reward yourself. Call to reserve your spot!



The celebration continues on **Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup> with brunch service from 10:00AM to 2:00PM**. Call to reserve your table! 964-3688.

## Come Get Weird With Us!

**On Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5:00PM to 7:00PM** at the Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub, join local Artist and winner of the Fort Bragg Mural Challenge Derek DiOrio for a Paint Night in The Parlor – and free yourself (if only for a couple of hours) from the “rational”!

Join us in playing surrealist art and word games and release the mind from the shackles of conventional thought. \$35 fee, and space is limited, so please reserve your seat in advance by calling us at 964-3688.

The Surrealist movement that arose in Europe in the early 1900s used playful procedures and systematic stratagems to create provocative works and challenge the conventions of art, literature, and society. They conducted their experiments through art and polemic, manifesto and demonstration, love and politics; but, it was above all through game-playing that they sought to subvert academic modes of inquiry and undermine the complacent certainties of the bourgeoisie.

## Artists in the Spotlight

For the months of February and March our art show at the Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub will feature the works of our community center teachers Shirley Washburn, Aimee Maxey, Donna Traycik, and Sue Korhummel. Our first artists' reception of the year will be held on **Saturday March 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Come mingle with the Artists and enjoy refreshments in the parlor from 5:30PM to 7:00PM. With beautiful music in the Pub by Erin Brazill from 6:00PM to 9:00PM, be sure to make reservations if you plan to stay for dinner.

For more information on the Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub, please call us at **(707) 964-3688** or email us at [westporthotel@mcn.org](mailto:westporthotel@mcn.org), and follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/abalonepub/>

## Facing Opportunities and Challenges

Westport Village Society Board

The planned disposal of the old Westport School is on many minds. The Fort Bragg Unified School District voted recently to offer it to a responsible organization. If there is no interest over the next two months it will be removed by sale or disposal. In recent years many have enjoyed recreation and art classes there, sponsored by the Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District. The question is whether there is sufficient interest and funding to empower a local group to operate the building.

This opportunity comes with challenges. As a nonprofit dedicated to community service, the WVS has given it serious consideration. Our mission is in part “to help sponsor, organize, and fund civic improvement projects which are charitable and educational in nature for the broad cultural, educational and civic betterment of the village of Westport and its surrounding areas.” In reviewing the situation, we asked ourselves: How long will this particular building last? What will it take to operate? Is there substantial community support? Will accepting this building bring us closer to the community center many want?

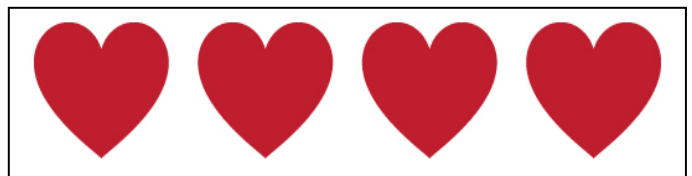
While the old school may remain serviceable for a few years, it is a temporary facility. It was used when it arrived in 1999 and the FBUSD says it is near the end of its useful life. The eventual cost for disposal is also unknown, with the FBUSD estimating \$15,000 or more. No building inspection has taken place to verify the use life or whether asbestos is present.

Because the building is on the grounds of the Westport Community Church, WVS would have no ability to replace the old school later with a more robust facility. No grant funding could be obtained without property ownership. WVS also realizes operating the old school has costs that include utilities, insurance, and upkeep estimated at about \$500 per month. At present we lack any pledges for that level of sustained community support. MCRPD has yet to commit to help WVS or assume responsibility themselves.

The WCC said in December they would not accept the school building because they lack funding and it is outside of their mission. At community meetings in January some wondered if the Church might reconsider their earlier decision, mission, and governance. Questions were asked about the sustainability of the WCC operation after the FBUSD stopped paying the utilities on December 31, 2017. A local donor is covering those costs for a few months. The Church Board meets the first Sunday of each month at 12:00 Noon and all are welcome.

Absent a dedicated source of funding to cover the operating and disposal costs, WVS proposed an alternate concept to the WCC in December. We suggested they donate the property to WVS so we might develop a community center, while allowing religious services to continue on the property. The transfer of ownership would qualify WVS for grant funding to facilitate operations and improvements. We believe with community support and our strong fundraising record that project could succeed.

WVS is willing to consider other scenarios. We have a Community Center Committee that anyone can join, or an independent group can bring us a proposal. WVS is willing to offer guidance on project management, financing, and other topics based on our experience operating as a 501(c)3 nonprofit. In our view, the old school is an opportunity, but it is not the only possibility. We welcome your ideas. Please contact us at [wvs@westportvillagesociety.org](mailto:wvs@westportvillagesociety.org) or 964-7272 with your ideas.



### 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<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Please see the Mini-Grant Application Form on our WVS website [www.westportvillagesociety.org](http://www.westportvillagesociety.org) for details.





The Westport Community Church

## Westport Community Church February 2018 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 [baileoakes@gmail.com](mailto:baileoakes@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. **Our February Church Board meeting will be held on Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 Noon, and all are welcome!**

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 10:00AM – Our Bi-Monthly Quaker Worship Group

Katharine White leads our regular 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 10:00AM – Carolyn Cathey, “What’s Your Scheme for 2018? – Part 2”

Carolyn Cathey leads a continuing discussion on “What’s Your Scheme for 2018?” This January topic was so popular that we decided to continue our discussion on goals, how important they are, and what productive steps we can take to shift them from thought to actuality. What are your short-term goals, and even more important, what are your long-term goals? What are the many ways we block our dreams? What Millionaire Mindsets might we adopt to help us release our negative thinking? During the meeting we’ll discuss Faith Wheels as an aid to our goal setting. The Spiritual is a huge support in helping us choose what is best for each of us, and in experiencing the positive results in our lives. Bring your goals, or work on them during this meeting of minds where we all share our challenges and successes. *The Westport meetings are interactive discussions, like a workshop.*

*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/>*

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:00AM – Our Bi-Monthly Quaker Worship Group

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

## 24/7 Westport Wave

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



## The Winter Chorus

Dorine Real

Last night I heard my favorite winter song: the chorus of the Pacific Chorus Frogs in the pond north of my house. Actually, I've been hearing these frogs for a few months now, but they've been making a different sound, referred to by poetic scientists as the Autumn Awakening Call. The frogs are somewhat reclusive during the dry season, preferring to snug down into a clump of damp foliage or some such moist, inconspicuous location (though they can and occasionally do climb trees or bushes, living up to their older name of Sierra Tree Frog). After the first rain, they start looking around for their home pond, and produce a one-syllable call ("crrroak") in daytime. You can hear recordings of all the chorus frog's calls at :

<http://www.californiaherps.com/frogs/pages/p.sierra.sounds.html>

When the male frogs arrive at the pond, they start to make the wonderful "ribbet" song, and yes, they are

competing to sing the most and loudest. A female chooses and approaches a male, then she swims out into the pond with the male on her back and finds a nice plant or rock to attach her egg cluster to. She can lay about 500 eggs a year. That's good, because there are many challenges in a frog's life cycle. Early predators include fish, giant water bugs, and garter snakes. The adult frogs, though only one to two inches long, are even eaten by red-tailed hawks. Another big danger is that their pond will dry up before the tadpoles have time to turn into frogs. Still, they seem to be doing well as a species, perhaps because they have a good tolerance to UV radiation and acid water, conditions that are causing harm to many other amphibians.

People who move to California sometimes arrive with a strange idea that we "don't have seasons." They seem to think that if there's no snow, it isn't winter. Soaking rains and grasslands that suddenly turn green aren't the winter signs featured in school readers. But when you hear the mating music of the Pacific Chorus Frogs, you know it's winter on the Mendocino Coast.



## Remembering Jeff Saunders

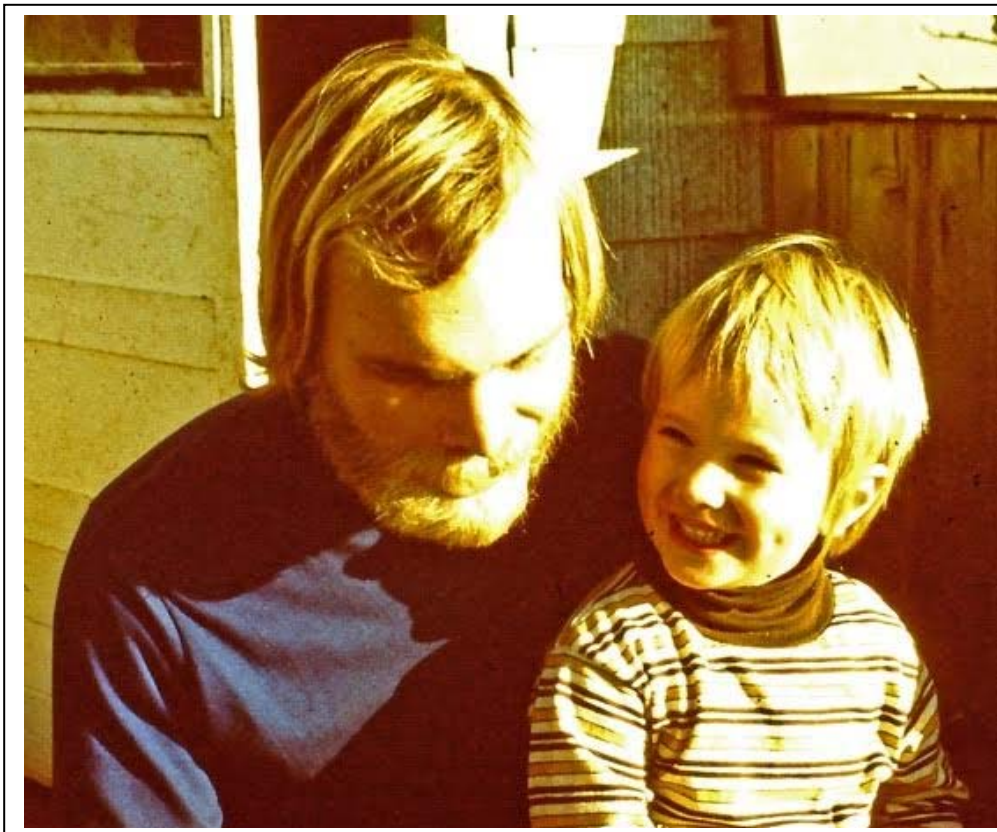
“I’ve been crying off and on all weekend, every time I realize (again) that I truly won’t ever get to see Uncle Jeff again. I’ve had so many fun and funny and poignant memories flitting across my mind. He was our coach, our brother, father, honorary mayor, marriage officiant, woodworker, wise cracker, Jimmy Buffet pusher, teacher, sunset aficionado/appreciator, font of knowledge, mountain climber enthusiast...

He was a high influence in so many of our lives; the whole town was his family, not just the good percentage of us who were literally his family. I’m posting a picture (at right). Look at those kind eyes and that smile. Man, what a Loss for us all. Love you forever, Uncle Jeff.”

-- Kim Claus, December 10, 2017



**From Dorine Real:** “Jeff was the guy who always kept track of what was going on in the larger community, the natural community of which we are a part: his calendar always recorded the rainfall, the first swallow, the first frog songs.



When Lee and I moved to Westport in 1974 the first person we met was Millie Saunders, who came to our house to invite us to attend a meeting about getting the Fort Bragg school district to reopen the one-room school building on the highway. This project eventually morphed into an independent preschool and school and piloted the event that later became the Fire Department barbecue. Jeff (see our photo at left of Jeff and his son Ski) led our planning meetings, and we got the project going without officers, rules of order, or voting. Structure came later, but the first phase was based on common goals, trust, respect, and actually enjoying each other’s company. I’m sure

Jeff would not have said he had a Zen leadership style. More likely, he would have said I had that wrong, he never led those meetings.”

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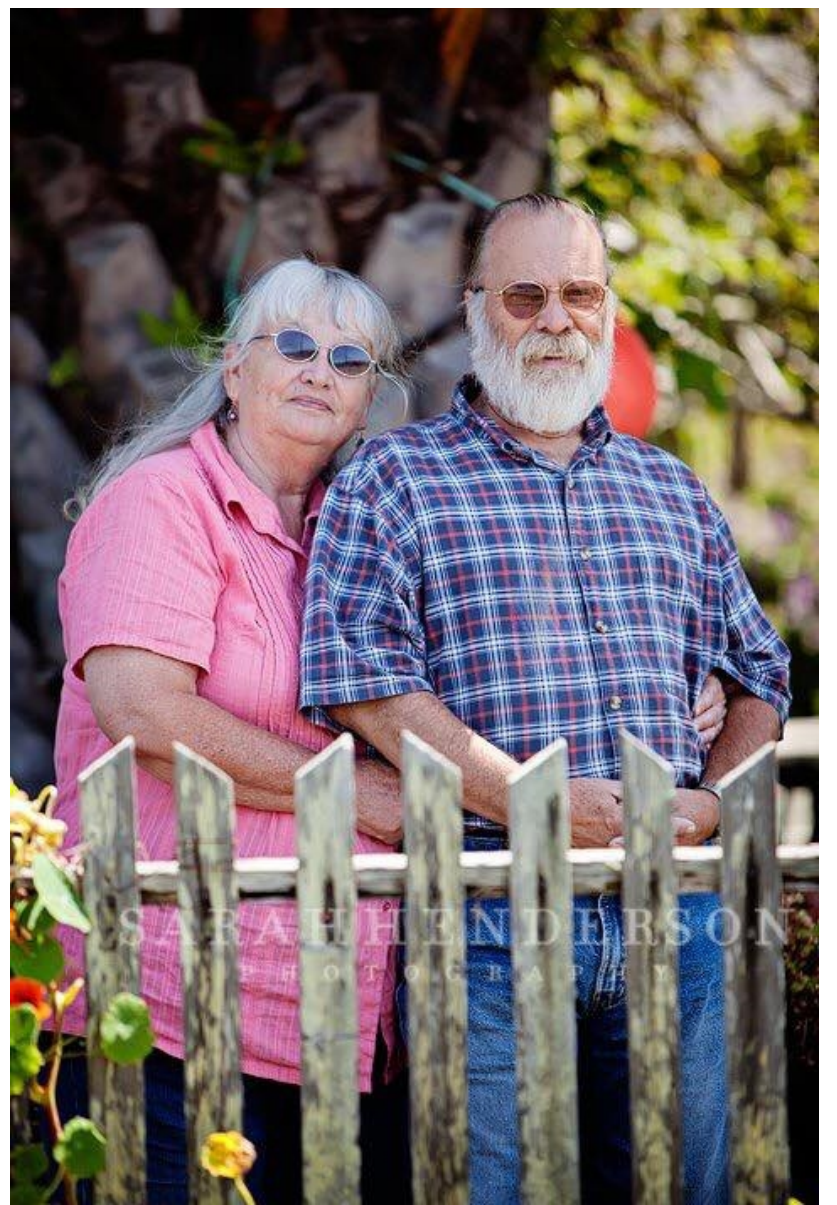
**From Elaine Todd:** “You can thank Jeff Saunders for the quality of rock and roll radio. In 1970-71, there was a one-hour radio show on KDAC dedicated to Rock which would start with intense rude sounds and then they would play some rock. Jeff Saunders got a job doing that hour-long show and called it “Free Form Radio”. He would beautifully run one song seamlessly into another.

Both Jeff and Millie were such special friends to me as they were for everyone else. Jeff was the secretary when we had our first school in Westport after the school district closed the school built for Westport because they wanted central schooling. We blocked their road and had street fairs to raise money for our school, just to name a couple of things. Both Jeff and Millie were pillars in the community of Westport and they are dearly missed.

As far as Millie, one cannot be without the other. They were such a support to each other as Millie, myself, and several other community members ran the election polls, established a local School here in Westport (twice!), and established the Community Church Board, just to mention a few of community activities we were involved in, and Jeff would be right there with us. He acted as treasurer for the school, and with all costs in our hands we closed the street by their house and had a fair to raise money.”

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**From Steve Brigham:** “Is it possible that some of us choose to live a life on Earth to meet just the right person and then go on to live with them forever? Or maybe we meet up once again with a lifelong mate here and reaffirm our vows in these splendid new 5-senses Earthly ways? Well, if there was ever a couple that did those things, it would be Jeff and Millie. What a team – and team players too.



When I first moved to Westport over 8 years ago, Jeff was one of the very first people to welcome me to the community. Jeff took daily walks around town, and he was one of the first locals I met. Who couldn't like this guy? Jeff was so friendly and compassionate and so totally honest. Jeff was the kind of guy that made you so happy to live in a small town. And like me, he really, really loved Nature. And all the birds and other animals really loved him back.

Over the years, it was my great honor to work with Jeff and Millie on community things. And I looked forward every day to waving at Jeff as he went by. Jeff actually invented the “Westport Wave” – not the newsletter, but the *wave*. Elbow at the waist, hand up, waved back-and-forth. We miss you, buddy.”





## Super Blue Blood Moon Comes Through For Westport

Steve Brigham, Editor

The last time it happened, the town of Westport didn't even exist yet. But in the early morning of Wednesday January 31<sup>st</sup>, against all weather odds, the skies cleared up here to reveal a **Super** (extra big) **Blue** (second full moon in the month) **Blood** (fully eclipsed full) **Moon**. And not only that, this Super Blue Blood Moon was right over the Pacific Ocean, creating a beautiful sight here.

I'm sure glad it cleared up, because this moon was particularly red, better than many of our blood moons in recent years. And I wasn't about to wait for the next one, since there won't be another SBBM right over the ocean in Westport for perhaps hundreds of years. Although I made a valiant effort to photograph the moon, my pocket camera really is no match for such nighttime photography. However, the photo above (taken in Arizona) quite accurately depicts exactly what the moon looked like at the same time from Westport, where we had a little over an hour of totality.

After such a big night, boys and girls, the Moon is tired now, so there won't be any Full Moon in February (this is known as a Black Moon). But then, the month of March will have two full moons again. That's two Blue Moons in three months, which can only happen in January, February, and March. Of course, blue moons have everything to do with the peculiar Western calendar that we use these days. And they wouldn't happen at all if Augustus Caesar and his great-uncle Julius hadn't each ripped off a day of February to put into their own months of July and August!

## How Dry We Are

Steve Brigham

Well, we finally put a decent rainfall number on the board in January here in Westport, with a total of 10.16 inches of rain for the month here on the Headlands (and more up in the hills). But that wasn't enough to make up for

a really dry December, when we only had less than an inch of rain. In quest of our 43-inch "average" annual rainfall here on the Headlands, we now have just 19.01 inches since October 1<sup>st</sup>, which is half the total rainfall that we had a year ago on February 1<sup>st</sup>. We're definitely going to have to hustle it in February and March here just to make it to normal for this rainy season, so let's hope the rains keep coming!

This is turning out to be a fairly typical La Nina/ ENSO neutral rainy season, with very wet weather in the Pacific Northwest but somewhat dry in Northern California and really dry in Southern California. One way to follow it at-a-glance is on this webpage: <http://www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/awipsProducts/RNOWRKCLI.php>.

On this California Nevada River Forecast Center page, you'll see the latest cumulative rainfall data from a number of major California recording stations, plus the percentage of normal to date for each station, as well as comparison to last year's totals (although Westport isn't one of those stations, we're roughly in line with Eureka's totals). Right now, Westport is around 65% of normal rain to date, but the percentages get much less as you go south of here, all the way down to the 25% of normal range in Southern California. So if you're keeping score, check it out!





## The Year of The Dog

Marty Anderson

Hey, the humans finally got it right for a change, and it took the Chinese to do it! On February 15<sup>th</sup> in Westport, the **Chinese Year of The Dog** begins, so here I am celebrating with some of my Chinese toy dolls. Now you know that dogs are not only smart but very loyal, so maybe that means we'll all be in better shape this year than we were last year, which was the year of the Rooster.

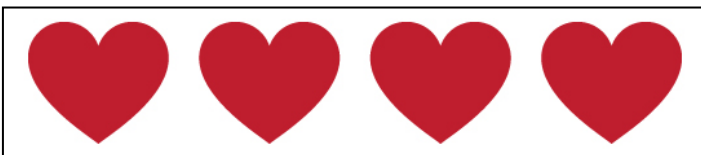
Here's a good website where you can find out a lot about Chinese astrology, including your own birth year animal, all very comfortably presented: <https://chinesenewyear2018.com/zodiac/dog/>. So Happy New Year from your faithful canine correspondent, and Gong Xi Fa Cai!

## 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.



## **February 2018** **Westport Calendar**

**Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>** – Bookmobile, 9:00AM to 9:30AM, Westport Community Store

**Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Groundhog Day

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**Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>** – First Sunday Quaker Worship Group, 10:00AM at the Westport Church

**Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>** – Westport Community Church Monthly Board Meeting. **12:00PM**, Westport Community Church

**Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>** – Westport Municipal Advisory Council Meeting-CANCELLED  
(please check for updates and current information at <http://www.westportmac.org/>)

**Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>** – Valentines Making, 3:30PM to 5:00PM, Westport Recreation Center

**Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>** – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 10:00AM, Westport Firehouse

**Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>** – Little Red Hen Community Center Meeting, **2:00PM**, Westport Recreation Center (end of Abalone Street, next to Westport Church (see page 1))

**Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>** – Carolyne Cathey, “What’s Your Scheme For 2018? – Part 2”, 10:00AM, Westport Community Church

**Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>** – Mardi Gras

**Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>** – Valentine’s Day

**Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>** – Ash Wednesday

**Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>** – Westport Ten Mile Cemetery Board Quarterly Meeting, 10:00AM, Westport Church

**Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>** – Special Valentine’s Day Dinner, 5:30PM and 8:00PM, Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub, call 964-3688 for reservations.

**Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>** – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM, Westport Firehouse

**Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>** – Bookmobile, 9:00AM to 9:30AM, Westport Community Store

**Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>** – New Moon, 1:06PM

**Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>** – Chinese Lunar New Year Begins, **1:06PM**

**Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>** – Presidents’ Day

**Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Paint Night in the Parlor with Derek DiOrio, 5:00PM to 7:00PM, Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub

**Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>** – Third Sunday Quaker Worship Group, 10:00AM, Westport Church

**Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>** – Bookmobile, 9:00AM to 9:30AM, Westport Community Store

**Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>** – Full Moon, 4:51PM

**Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Artists’ Reception, 6:00PM to 9:00PM, Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub.

**Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>** (save the date) – WVFD Saint Patrick’s Day Fundraiser, Westport Hotel

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*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](http://www.westportvillagesociety.org), to read and download both our current issue and over six years of past issues of *The Wave*.** Contributions for our March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by February 22<sup>nd</sup>, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at [westportwave@gmail.com](mailto:westportwave@gmail.com), or P.O. Box 237, Westport, CA 95488. Thank You!