

November 1, 2018

# The Westport Wave

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**The Way We Were** – left to right, Arista Regalia, Jaden Jackson, Rain Saunders, Daniel Kisliuk, Teacher Donna Traycik, Fiona Regalia, the **Westport School Bell**, and Clare Kisliuk in March 2005. They are showing off their sunflower art, which was inspired by Vincent van Gogh.

## The Westport School Bell Is Back!

Thad Van Bueren

On September 30, 2018, the old **Westport School Bell** was reinstalled right where it used to be for many years, in front of our Westport Community Center Building, which was the most recent site of the Westport School.

The Bell was donated to the Westport Village Society by the Kelley House Museum. The history of the Bell is not fully known. It was donated to the Kelly House Museum in 1979 by Elinor Hayes and resided on the museum grounds for many years. A Kelly House newsletter article by Teresa Jardstrom, who taught at the former Westport School across the highway from

the Westport Inn from 1932 to 1952, said the Bell originally came from a ship.

Bill Brazill believes the Bell is made of cast iron, although the nice tone and putative maritime origin could suggest otherwise. The bell lacks a maker's mark that can be used to establish the foundry that cast it and when it was made. It features a large "W" on one face, which suits its known historical use but could also reflect the name of the ship it ostensibly came from. The pull arm is embossed "55 turns per minute," which sounds a bit improbable for a school bell and may thus reflect a retrofit.

The Westport School Bell was temporarily loaned to the Westport School by the Kelley House Museum during the most recent Westport School period. This

was a small necessary school which served grades K through 5 from 1999 to 2010 in the portable building near the Westport Church, under the aegis of the Fort Bragg Unified School District and with Kathleen Murray as the lead teacher. But the Bell was retrieved by the Museum when the School closed in 2010. Prior to that, elementary schools were known to operate in Westport from the 1870s until 1952.

It is speculated that the Westport School Bell came from the 1891 Second Westport School, which is now the home of Lee and Dorine. The Third Westport School that closed in 1952 sat across from the Westport Inn on Highway 1. There was an effort in the 1970s to operate an independent private school in Westport, but that did not last long.



### Just Do It – VOTE!!!

Steve Brigham, Editor

Americans of all political denominations agree that the upcoming **Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>** nationwide election is one of the most important in our recent history. But it won't be so important unless everyone **VOTES!** Here in Westport, we all vote by mail these days, which is about as convenient as it gets. If you've already voted, good on you! But if you haven't sent your ballot in yet, it must be postmarked by November 6<sup>th</sup> to count. You can also hand deliver your ballot to any polling place on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

There are a few issues with voting by mail that some voters wonder about. One is that insufficient postage might cause your ballot to not be delivered. It won't – if a ballot envelope has no stamp or insufficient postage on it, the Postal Service will still deliver it, and they'll just bill the County Elections Department for it. Starting next year, this won't even matter, since all California mail-in ballots will be postage-paid!

Another issue is whether your mail-in ballot might be refused because your signature does not match the one on your voter registration (a valid worry, especially if your signature varies a lot). Actually, the election folks are pretty lenient with this, but this year (thanks to legislation by our own State Senator Mike McGuire), for the first time in California, if they have a question about your signature, they will send you a card telling you that and allowing you to verify your signature and have your vote counted. Finally, there is actually an official State website you can visit to verify if your mail-in ballot has been received and counted, and here it is: <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/>



### Art in a Box/Heart Message

### Westport Community Church

November 11, 2018, 2:00 to 4:00PM

Donna Traycik

Sue Korhummel and Donna Traycik invite you to join them in creating your personal art box. We ask that you bring any photos you appreciate of people, animals, or places in your life, plus three small tangible tokens that represent you in some way. Cigar boxes and other materials such as papers, calendars, markers, fabric, and yarn will be provided, however feel free to bring your own if you desire.

We will show examples and give minimal instruction for the process of decorating the inside and outside of your box. If you can cut and glue, you can do this. The last 15 minutes will be for sharing your feelings and insights during the process and displaying your end result. No rules except, "Unleash your creativity!"

This is a free workshop, but any contributions to the Church are appreciated. Please let Sue (964-2741) or Donna (964-7560) know if you will be attending. Space is limited to 12. First come, first served.



At the WVS quarterly Board Meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup>, officers and committees were selected for the coming year. The officers will be **Thad Van Bueren** as President, **Gary Quinton** as Vice President, **Bill Knapp** as Treasurer, and **Melinda McLaughlin** as Secretary.

Community participation is encouraged in our active WVS committees. If you are interested in participating in our **Community**

**Center Committee**, please contact Melinda McLaughlin at melindasmclaughlin@gmail.com. To participate in the **Headlands Committee**, contact Gary Quinton at gquinton@mcn.org. Contact Lesli Langslet at leslilangslet@gmail.com to get involved in the **Fundraising Committee**. We appreciate the time you contribute to our organization!

## Westport Village Society 2018 Annual Meeting Report

Thad Van Bueren, President, WVS

The **Westport Village Society Annual Members' Meeting** was held Friday October 5<sup>th</sup> at the Westport Community Church on Abalone Street. A special award was presented to Dorine Real and Lee Tepper for their many years of service as WVS founders, Board Members, and long-time supporters. The award was a framed picture of a Ducky Race surrounded by an elaborate three dimensional frame created especially for the occasion by Derek DiOrio at the request of the WVS.

At the Annual Members' Meeting, three candidates stepped forward to run for two vacant WVS Board positions. In light of that development, Vice President Steve Brigham announced his resignation with the express desire to allow election of all three candidates. The Board accepted his resignation on Steve's assurance that he will continue to edit the *Westport Wave* Newsletter, manage the Community Garden, and participate in managing the Westport Headlands, as he has for over seven years. Outgoing Secretary Sarah Cullar was thanked for her service. She mentioned that she will continue to organize events and invited the community to the Halloween trick or treating, followed by a potluck at the Church.

The three Directors elected at the meeting by members' vote were Rock Bush, Tabitha Korhummel, and Gary Quinton. The main topics discussed during the open forum were the Community Center and emergency preparedness. Coordination among the various interested local organizations was encouraged.

## November at the Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub

Tabby Korhummel, Hotel and Pub General Manager

Fall is in the air at The Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub! We are now open from 5:00PM to 9:00PM Thursdays through Saturdays for dinner. We are also open from 3:00PM to 5:00PM on Saturdays for Tea in the Parlor.

**Please see our flyer on page 10 of this newsletter for our November special activities.**

Call (707) 964-3688 for reservations and like our Facebook page for weekly special menus: <https://www.facebook.com/abalonepub>. Remember to mention "Local Love"!

### 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 nearly seven years of monthly back-issues, all in living color! Check it out, and tell your friends!



The Westport Community Church

## Westport Community Church November Calendar

*Please note that Katherine White presently needs to take a break from her gifting our community with a Bi-Monthly Quaker Worship Group. We have been so fortunate for her dedication to our community these past years. She brought to us deep peace and connection with our true selves, community, and Creation. She will be very missed, with love and deep gratitude for her service to our village.*

### **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 10:00AM – Rabbi Margaret Holub**

Rabbi Margaret Holub will lead us in a morning of Jewish prayers and chants followed by her facilitating a spiritual conversation. This is short notice for our community...she will be here just a couple of days after you receive this, so please help spread the word! Her visits have always been wonder-full !

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 10:00AM – Tich Nhat Hahn Discussion Group**

This is the first in a series of 2nd Sunday Discussion Groups focused upon Tich Nhat Hahn's Book: "Living Buddha, Living Christ". No need to have the book. We will share passages from the book and discuss how they might or might not influence how we show up for our selves and all Creation.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:00AM – Pastor Bill McGuinness**

Pastor Bill McGuinness, recent Interim Minister of the Mendocino Presbyterian Church, will share some very interesting information with us : Hiding in Plain Sight. Deeply rooted in the transition from the Old Testament to the New are a couple of key theological shifts that, taken together, are true game-changers – BUT, they are rarely noticed, taught or preached in an integrated holistic way, much less lived out !

## **New Westport Community Church Committees**

### **Westport Community Church Board**

New Westport Community Church committees were created at the September 16, 2018 WCC Board meeting. Chairs, listed below in boldface, were appointed October 21<sup>st</sup>. The committee chairs are in charge of setting up meetings and will serve as points of contact for public input. If you need contact information for the Board chairs, please contact the WCC Secretary (Thad Van Bueren) at 964-7272.

These groups are charged with developing ideas and priorities that will be brought forward to the WCC Board for decisions. As mentioned in past articles, the WCC is committed to broadening its mission to better serve the community. Anyone in the community is welcome to participate in committee and WCC Board meetings. You don't need to be a WCC board member to participate. Information may also be shared by email and direct conversation. To promote participation, meetings will generally be announced in advance. However, informal discussion among members can also be used to explore topics.

**Maintenance Committee (Val Hale, Sue Korhummel, and Steve Brigham)** Focus: Property maintenance and improvements. We appreciate your help in maintaining and improving the Church and the Westport Community Center for all to enjoy!

**Our November Westport Community Church Board meeting will be held on Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:30AM at the Church – all are welcome to attend!**

**Governing Procedures Committee (Thad Van Bueren, Erin Detrick, Dorine Real, and Baile Oakes)**  
Focus: How the WCC is governed; property use; strategic planning. **This committee will meet Wednesday November 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at the Church to initiate discussion.**

**Spiritual Services Committee (Baile Oakes and Sue Korhummel)** Focus: Providing spiritual programming.

**Community Center Programming Committee (Erin Detrick, Val Hale, and Thad Van Bueren)**  
Focus: Providing community programming. The facility continues to be available for community use. Please discuss plans for events in advance with committee members to ensure there is no other use scheduled.

**Fundraising Committee (Val Hale and Erin Detrick)** Focus: Providing financial support to sustain the WCC; budgeting. Contributions to our nonprofit 501(c)(3) charity can be sent to the **Westport Community Church at P.O. Box 23, Westport CA 95488**. If members of the community have ideas for any event to raise funds, we'd love to encourage that!

## Westport County Water District News

### Westport County Water District Board

The Board of Directors of the Westport County Water District is pleased to announce that **John Morrill** has signed on as our **Chief Operator**. John had been working with Josh Azevedo on a part-time basis, and since Josh's sudden and tragic passing last spring, John has been our main resource, though he had a full-time position in Rio Vista. Freddie Heldstab and David Wilson have also been instrumental in keeping the water and sewer systems functioning. With John now here full-time, we are much more secure. John is highly qualified and truly dedicated to the District – we are lucky to have him here. Freddie

will continue to assist when necessary, and David Wilson is now taking classes and tests for certification as an Operator, which bodes well for the future. Things were rocky for a while, but at no time were either clean water or proper waste water treatment/disposal at risk, thanks to the diligence of John, Freddie, and David, as well Jeff Whitehouse, who put in countless hours assisting the operators. Here's to clean water in the taps, and no poop in the ocean!

The District's other employee is Heather Hawes, our Office Administrator and Bookkeeper, who has been and continues to be invaluable. As State and County regulations, permits, and testing requirements become ever more complicated (and expensive: licenses and permits alone now run almost \$13,000 a year, with lab fees another \$6,000), Heather's accounting and organizational skills are more and more important for the District. Heather never dropped the ball in the crisis after Josh died, though he was a close friend and his passing affected her deeply. Thanks, Heather!

Here's an invitation: the monthly meetings of the Westport Water District Board of Directors are open to the public. We encourage anyone who is interested to join us at 10:00AM on the second Saturday of each month at the Westport Firehouse. The agenda for each meeting is posted at the Westport Community Store on Tuesday or Wednesday of the week before the meeting. Check it out!

Yours Sincerely, **David Brothers, Val Hale, Lee Tepper, Jeff Whitehouse, and Ann Woodhead**, the Board of Directors of the Westport Water District.





## The Westport Volunteer Fire Department Needs Volunteers!

Dan Maxey, WVFD Fire Chief

The **Westport Volunteer Fire Department** depends on our active duty members to respond to 911 emergency calls. We have been losing some members as their life circumstances change and they are no longer available to respond. As a result, during the next six months we need to recruit at least 4 new members to be able to continue providing the same level of response that we have provided in the past.

Joining the WVFD as an active duty member is a commitment. Members are expected to attend most training sessions and to respond to a reasonable number of our 911 emergency calls. At the same time, the rewards of being an active duty member are considerable. You will be providing a critical service to our community. You will be part of a cohesive team that works together seamlessly to get the job done. Training costs and equipment costs are paid by WVFD. While WVFD members are unpaid volunteers, WVFD does provide some insurance coverage and CalStar/REACH memberships at no cost to the members.

Now is a particularly good time to join the WVFD team. We will be sponsoring CPR and AED certification training in November. We will also be sponsoring a basic emergency first aid certification course after the first of the year. These training programs will be free for people who are committed to being active duty members of WVFD. For active duty members who want to become certified as an EMT, WVFD will pay the cost of tuition and books for the EMT course that will be offered by

Mendocino College here on the coast starting in January.

If you would like more information about active duty membership in our Westport Volunteer Fire Department, please contact WVFD Fire Chief **Dan Maxey** (357-4353), President **Bill Knapp** (964-7355), or any active duty member of WVFD.

## Community Garden News

Steve Brigham

At the **Westport Community Garden**, you pick your own fresh, delicious, organically grown vegetables anytime you want them, **ABSOLUTELY FREE!** And there are still lots of great vegetables ready for harvest anytime right through November and into December! This month, we'll have Chinese Snow Peas, Sugar Snap Peas, Tomatoes, Swiss Chard, Red Swiss Chard, Curly Kale, Spinach, Beet Greens (and baby Beets), Parsley, Chives, Cilantro, Oregano, and Thyme, plus an assortment of salad greens such as Romaine Lettuce, Red Lettuce, Arugula, Mesclun (French Curly) Lettuce, and Salad Bowl Leaf Lettuce. So just look for the greenhouse at the Westport Community Center at the end of Abalone Street, and yes, **everyone in the whole world is welcome** – and the Garden is open 24/7, so it just doesn't get any more convenient than that. Just pick what you want, at any time, and enjoy!

## 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.



The Westport Slide (and the highway that traverses it) has been slowly moving downhill for generations.

## Westport Slide Repair

Thad Van Bueren

Have you been wondering about the activities currently underway at the big slide on Highway 1 south of town? The **Westport Municipal Advisory Council** was curious too, and so we sent an inquiry to Caltrans in Eureka. Caltrans Engineer Frank Demling reports that the “Westport Slide Complex” on MEN-1 between postmiles 75.7 and 76.2 is undergoing emergency repairs that will be completed within a year at a cost of \$25 million. These repairs are designed as a temporary repair to address the emergency for five or more years while a more permanent solution is planned and approved.

The construction of two retaining walls has just begun. It will take all winter, during which time the one-way traffic with signals will be in effect. Construction of the final roadway should be

completed by late next summer. Demling shared the approved Damage Assessment Form (DAF), approved by the Federal Highway Administration. It provides preliminary geotechnical recommendations for construction of soldier pile ground anchor walls. These are the same type of walls recently placed at the curve just north of Wages Creek (and Seaside). If you have an interest in seeing this document, please contact me at [thad@mcn.org](mailto:thad@mcn.org) or 964-7272.

Finally, here’s the latest update from Caltrans, from the Caltrans Structures Representative, forwarded to us by Frank Demling: “(In October) we started drilling piles for the north wall. Drilling should continue for approximately 2 months, followed by several months of excavation, lagging, and ground anchors. The south wall is still being designed, and we have not ordered piles yet. The project will remain in one lane with signals until completion hopefully sometime in the summer of 2019”.



## Steve's Fearless Winter Weather Forecast

Steve Brigham

“There are three kinds of lies – lies, damned lies, and *statistics*”. No one is really sure who said this first, but Mark Twain surely popularized the quote over a century ago. I thought of this in the beginning of October, when we had rain the first three days of the first month of our statistical Water Year, which goes from October through September. By October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Ukiah had gotten something like 1.1 inches of rain (more than we did in Westport), but since the “average” rainfall for Ukiah is just .01” for those three days, they suddenly had **11,000% of their normal rainfall to date!** Now that’s a pretty good start to the rainy season!

But it didn’t rain much the rest of October in Ukiah (here either), and so now they’re finishing the month with 1.33” of total rain, which is just 67% of their normal 2 inches. So based on October, how much rain will we get this 2018-2019 rainy season? Probably not 11,000% (here in Westport, that would equal close to **43 feet** of rain!). 67% might be closer to the truth (that would only be around 29 inches here), but I think we’ll get more than that. So much for *statistics*.

As for our upcoming rainy season, which we presume will get here eventually, you may have heard talk about “El Nino” and “The Blob”. Oh dear, not this again! Now it sounds like we’re right back to where we were three years ago, when an El Nino was forecast but most of California wasn’t all that wet. In case you’re interested, I wrote several articles about the weather that year, in our August 2015, October 2015, February 2016, and March 2016 issues, which you can read on our website at <http://www.westportvillagesociety.org/newsletter.htm> (you’ve already got that bookmarked, right?)

Our 2015-2016 rainy season here in Westport featured a dry fall, a wet December and January, then a dry February followed by a wet March. It was a warm, wacky rain year here that seemed dry, except that it really rained a lot in December, January and March (much more so than it did in most of the rest of California), and so we finished the rainy season with 52 inches of total rain, about 120% of our normal totals. And that could happen again in 2018-2019 (of course, if we miss out on just a few big storms, our winter rainfall totals could be much less).

One big flaw in this prediction is that Westport’s winter weather is notable for being quite different from year to year, and so the likelihood of having the same winter weather as we did just three years ago is pretty slim. So just to make it a little different, we can go on the Internet and read about a million predictions from a whole bunch of reliable and not-so-reliable sources and – there’s that word again – *statistics*. (I actually do that, but I think I’ll wait until the *December Wave* to bore you with some of that.)

One intriguing winter forecast every year, though, is the *Old Farmer’s Almanac*, which has been predicting weather since 1792 and always seems to be at odds with many other weather scientists, especially in predicting weather in our neck of the woods. This year, the *Old Farmer’s Almanac* is actually predicting cold and wet for California’s winter (just like they did in 2015-2016, I believe). Maybe this year we’ll actually get some cold, too – we’re due, after all.

One thing for sure is that Climate Change is likely to bring increasingly schizophrenic and extreme weather to California, as it is doing all over the world. When it’s dry it will be drier, when it’s windy it will be windier, when it’s hot it will be hotter, when it’s cold it will be colder, and when it’s rainy it will be rainier. And it can change from one thing to the next pretty quickly. Watch for two-week weather cycles this winter in Westport, and don’t be surprised if there is a marked change every two or four weeks, just as there was 3 years ago here.

In next month’s *Westport Wave*, I’ll write about the various good sources of weather information that are available on the Internet and how to use them. Everyone has their favorite sources for the weather forecast, and so do I. Although I must confess that my favorite sources have lots of (urp!) *statistics!*



## November 2018 Westport Calendar

**Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup>** – All Saints Day

**Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>** – All Souls Day

**Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>** – Daylight Saving Time Ends, 2:00AM (Set Clocks BACK One Hour)

**Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>** – Rabbi Margaret Holub, 10:00AM, Westport Community Church (see p.4)

**Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>** – Election Day (VOTE!!!)

**Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>** – Westport Municipal Advisory Council Monthly Meeting CANCELLED

**Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>** – Diwali (Hindu Festival of Lights)

**Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>** – New Moon, 8:01AM

**Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>** – Bookmobile, 9:00-9:30AM, Westport Community Store

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

**Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>** – Veterans Day

**Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>** – Tich Nhat Hahn Discussion Group, 10:00AM, Westport Community Church (see page 4)

**Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>** – Art In A Box Heart Message Class, 2:00PM to 4:00PM, Westport Community Church (see page 2)

**Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup>** – Veterans Day Holiday

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

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

**Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>** – Westport Community Church Governing Procedures Committee Meeting, 6:00PM, Westport Community Church

**Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>** – Pastor Bill McGuinness, 10:00AM, Westport Community Church (see p.4)

**Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>** – Westport Community Church Monthly Board Meeting, 11:30AM, Westport Community Church

**Thursday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Thanksgiving Day

**Thursday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Full Moon, 9:39PM

**Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Hanukkah Begins at Sundown

**Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>** – Westport Municipal Advisory Council Monthly Meeting, 7:00PM, Westport Community Church (please check <http://www.westportmac.org/> for possible cancellation)

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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 December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by November 27<sup>th</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!



**HAPPY THANKSGIVING from *The Westport Wave*!**

