

March 1, 2023

The Westport Wave

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Come Celebrate the WESTPORT WHALEFEST On March 25th!

Derek DiOrio and Thad Van
Bueren

The Westport Whale Festival will resume this year on Saturday, March 25th from 10AM to 5PM on the Westport Headlands! It is sponsored by the nonprofit Westport Village Society and Kyle Siler - owner of the Westport Whale house. The event celebrates the spring migration of Gray Whales from Alaska to Baja California and scads of fun activities are planned for people of all ages. Come drop in at any time between 10 and 5 and join the fun!

The event will feature music, dancing, and skits all day at the main tent; hearty food and drinks; educational talks by local marine experts and an exhibit of a jawbone and baleen from a 70 foot fin whale; tours of the famous Westport Whale property; booths offering event merchandise and locally made goods; and diverse activities for children. Kids will love the treasure hunt, face painting, coloring templates featuring whales and ocean themes, music and skits, and a bouncy house. Drinks will include grog fit for a leviathan (beer & wine), hot chocolate to warm your bones, and other non-alcoholic beverages. The hearty food will include clam chowder and



Derek DiOrio (left) and Kyle Siler (right) with the Westport Whale

vegetarian chili and cornbread, as well as an assortment of baked goods.

Educational talks and whale watching will occur at various times during the day at the Headlands overlook platform. Whale experts will share their knowledge of whale biology and ecology, as well as their enthusiasm for whale conservation. A temporary exhibit will offer a chance to see the jaw bone and baleen of a 70 foot Fin Whale that washed ashore at Blues Beach in February of 2007.

You are invited to contribute your energy to make this event memorable. If you're game to lend a hand and rub fins with your neighbors, text Derek at (401) 525-8220. It's a great chance to immerse yourself in our community, both human and cetacean!

Next Westport Fire Safe Council Meeting March 11th

Melinda McLaughlin

The next meeting of Westport's Fire Safe Council is Saturday, March 11, 2023 at 10:00AM at the WVFD Firehouse. We welcome all district residents. This council hopes to help residents protect their homes, our community, and our rural environment from catastrophic wildfire.

At our February meeting we discussed these items:

Westport Volunteer Fire Department's (WVFD) district has grown a bit. Our former boundary was from mile marker 71 to 92 on Highway One and 6.5 miles to the east along that distance. It is now from mile marker 71 to mile marker 95 (Hales' Grove). The 6.5 miles to the east remains the same.

We are participating in a grant with the Redwood Forest Foundation, Inc. (RFYI) for shaded fuel reduction (undergrowth) funds and ingress/egress on Branscomb Road and our valley roads. It is pending approval.

Carla Thomas reported that a Certified Emergency Response Team (CERT) could be formed with six people from our district who are willing to participate and complete the required training. CERT is funded by our state and trains teams to assist evacuees should they come to Westport. It would also support our local businesses in providing daily necessities.

Also, Mendocino County Fire Safe Council (MCFSC) is available to our residents to schedule inspections known as "hardening homes" for fuel reduction and make recommendations on how to do so. To reduce their travel and inspection costs, they ask for neighborhoods/roads to schedule together.

Lastly, two 5,000 gallon water tanks are planned for placement on Branscomb Road and another four in Rockport, greatly assisting water supply for district calls.

Please join us at our next Westport Fire Safe Council meeting on Saturday March 11th at 10:00AM at the Westport Firehouse!



The Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub

Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub News

Tabby Korhummel, General Manager

We are so excited to welcome Odile Perkins as our new chef! Odile most recently worked at the local's favorite restaurant Djangos Rough Bar and Grill in Noyo Harbor. Her cooking has been greatly missed since the 2020 shut down forced Djangos to close. Odile also very much missed working in the kitchen where she feels most at home making delicious meals.

Born in France, Odile's love of cooking began as a small child helping her family's restaurant. She moved to Mendocino in 1975, where her father opened La Grange restaurant, Little River Café, and The Garden Cafe. Odile has managed and cooked in many other successful coastal restaurants such as Sharon's By the Sea and the Mendocino Cafe.

Today, Odile still bakes fresh baguettes from her father's recipe to serve with clam chowder, seasonal soup, clams in white wine garlic butter broth, crab bruschetta, crab melts, and garlic bread to go with her cioppino. She takes pride in making her menu from scratch, including the chips for her famous "Blue Chips" made from thinly sliced crispy fried Kennebec potatoes topped with blue cheese crumble dressing, diced tomatoes, and green onion. Also on the new menu is her equally famous Apple Gallett, Chocolate Pots de Crème, and Bread Pudding.

Come visit us at the Old Abalone Pub at the Westport Hotel, open from 5:00PM to 8:30PM Thursdays through Sundays.



The Westport Church

There is an African tribe where when someone does something wrong they get taken to the center of the village. The tribe surrounds them and for 2 days says all the good that the person has done. The tribe believes that each person is good but sometimes people make mistakes, which are really a cry for help. The tribe unites to reconnect people with their good nature, and it is very beautiful.

March Classes at the Westport Community Center

Various classes and meetings are planned at the Community Center in March. If you would like to host an event at the Community Center, please sign up and put your phone number on the calendar in the Westport Store or contact Erin Detrick at erind.3500@gmail.com to ensure there are no scheduling conflicts. Event hosts are asked to follow simple rules posted in the two meeting halls. Masking is suggested but not required. A sliding scale donation of \$5-\$10 per person per session is suggested for ongoing classes:

- **Mondays and Wednesdays at 5:00PM** – RIPPED exercise program with Kayla. This combines resistance, speed, force, endurance, and core exercises to promote fitness.
- **Wednesdays at 9:00AM** – Tai Chi with Beck.

Thich Nhat Hahn Discussion Group – Second Sunday, March 12th, 2:00PM

Baile Oakes

This Westport Community Church discussion group is focused upon **Thich 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. We request that attendees be vaccinated and we will meet according to Church Covid precautions.

24/7 Westport Wave

The Westport Wave is always free to everyone at any time on the Newsletter page of our website www.westportvillagesociety.org – where you’ll find our most current issue as well as over 11 years of monthly back-issues, all in living color, with live links! Check it out, and tell your friends!

DeHaven Update

Thad Van Bueren

The Westport Village Society is initiating research, planning, and installation of signs on the 26-acre DeHaven Creek beach and Headlands property. The property was acquired in December 2022 with generous contributions from the State Coastal Conservancy, local community, and owner Donna Medley.

Research activities on the property will inform the development of a management plan. Several useful investigations have previously taken place including a geological assessment, botanical and wetland analysis, and an archaeological survey. This spring and early summer botanist Kyle Wear will update the botanical survey and wetland delineation. His findings will help determine if special status plants are present (rare, threatened and endangered species) and identify any areas that may warrant protective measures.



1964 Caltrans aerial photo of the DeHaven property, looking south

Historic images like the 1964 Caltrans aerial oblique above provide essential tools that will be used to assess long term changes to the landscape on the DeHaven property. This one was taken facing south with Westport visible in the distance. Comparisons of photos from different periods can be used to under-

SIGN 1: 48" X 32" CAST BLUE VINYL ON ALUMINUM

**DEHAVEN CREEK
BEACH AND HEADLANDS**

Conserved and Managed by
WESTPORT VILLAGE SOCIETY

- Beware of Waves and Cliffs
- No Motorized Vehicles
- No Camping
- No Fires or Fireworks

This project is made possible with generous assistance from the State Coastal Conservancy, WVS donors and Local Tribes.

For more information, please contact the Westport Village Society at PO Box 446, Westport, CA 95488, visit www.westportvillagesociety.org, or email us at wvs@westportvillagesociety.org.

**OPEN DAWN
TO DUSK**

**PLEASE PACK
OUT ALL TRASH**

STAY BACK

**UNSTABLE
CLIFFS**

SIGN 2: UV PRINT VINYL W/ LAMINATE ON ALUMINUM



WVS DeHaven Creek Headlands Singnage / Mockup - 2023

Signs to be installed on the new DeHaven coastal property

stand rates of bluff retreat, changes in vegetative cover, and to plan for the impacts of sea level rise. The 1964 view (on page 5) shows the old coast road looped east before crossing the creek. The new highway bridge is under construction and the new highway approaches are not yet fully graded.

Once resource constraints are better known public and tribal input will be sought on how to improve public coastal access. Public meetings will be announced in future articles. Engineer Brad Porter of Moffat and Nichol Engineers has been retained by WVS to design a modest parking lot on the headland south of DeHaven Creek, as well as a durable stairway from the south bluff down to the beach. Planned Entry and cliff warning signs have been designed and will be produced by Braggadoon in March as shown above. If you are interested in helping to install them please contact wvs@westportvillagesociety.org or call me at 964-7272.

Welcome to Our Newest Member

Westport Volunteer Fire Department

The Westport Volunteer Fire Department is pleased to announce that Jamie Haggard has joined our Department as an active duty member.

Jamie has a lengthy history in the Westport area and comes to us from a large fire department in Sacramento County. He began his fire service career in 1992 as a volunteer with the Elk Grove Fire Department and became a paid member the following year. Starting as a Firefighter/Paramedic, Jamie was promoted to Apparatus Engineer and eventually retired as a Captain after 28 years of service. Jamie spent most of his career on a ladder truck and still maintains his Paramedic certification. He is supported by his wife Lori and their two children, Madeline and Sydney. Let's welcome the Haggard family to our community!



MIT Diving and Coating Crew servicing the Westport Water Storage Tanks:
Left Steve Sanchez, Center Chris Rendon, Right Samuel Placek

water mains. Fire hydrants are opened to move a large volume of water at a higher-than-normal velocity through the system. This procedure mobilizes particles and minerals that settle over time and flushes them out of the pipes resulting in higher water quality. We try to do this at least once a year. This activity will cause periods of discolored water that may stain light-colored laundry. We recommend customers avoid washing light colored laundry on the date scheduled for their area. The water will remain safe to use and will generally clear within a few hours after flushing is completed. If you notice discolored water in your home or business run the water at the hose bibs

outside for a few minutes until clear, then run the cold water inside until the water is clear.

The RCAC is in the process of doing an income survey of the population inside the Westport County Water District. This important information will be kept strictly confidential by the RCAC and only used to determine the funding options for improvements to our district. Please take a few minutes and complete and return the short survey form.

Again, I would like to bring awareness to our website, westportcountywaterdistrict.com. Kayla is doing a fantastic job creating and maintaining it. There is a lot of good and current information there.

Westport County Water District News

John Morrill, WCWD Operations Manager

Everything is going well with our facilities. The crew from MIT Diving and Coating braved the storm February 22nd and cleaned and inspected our water storage tanks. They did this by diving into the tanks with vacuum devices and audio and video equipment. This is a reoccurring task every 5 years.

You may also notice us flushing our drinking water system March 23rd and 24th. Flushing is a vital maintenance activity to clean and flush the City's



GOT SNOW? Much of Westport got an unusual snowfall February 24th! Here's a view of Thad & Donna's house on Howard Creek!

Sunday, March 12th – Thich Nhat Han Discussion Group, 2:00PM, Westport Church (see page 3)

Tuesday, March 14th – Westport Municipal Advisory Council meeting, 7:00PM, Westport Community Church. Face masks required. Contact WMAC95488@gmail.com for info.

Thursday, March 16th – Bookmobile, 9:00AM to 9:30AM, Westport Store (masks encouraged)

Tuesday, March 19th – **New Moon, 10:23AM**

Monday, March 20th – **Spring Equinox, 2:24PM**

March 2023

Westport Calendar

(Please see also the Westport Community Center activities and classes on page 3)

Thursday, March 2nd – Bookmobile, 9:00AM to 9:30AM, Westport Store (masks encouraged)

Tuesday, March 7th – **Full Moon, 4:40AM**

Wednesday, March 8th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM (call Chief Dan Maxey at (707) 357-4353 to attend remotely)

Thursday, March 9th – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 7:00PM (call Kayla Cooper at (707)367-1057 for information on attending by Zoom)

Saturday, March 11th – **Westport Fire Safe Council Meeting, 10:00AM, Westport Firehouse (see page 2)**

Saturday, March 11th – Westport Community Garden Volunteer Work Day, 10:30AM, Westport Community Garden

Sunday, March 12th – **Daylight Saving Time Begins at 2:00AM (Set Clocks AHEAD One Hour)**

Wednesday, March 22nd – **Ramadan Begins At Sundown**

Saturday March 25 – **Westport Whale Festival, 10AM-5PM** at the Headlands with tours of the Westport Whale House. See article on page 1 and poster on the next page.

Thursday, March 30th – Bookmobile, 9:00AM to 9:30AM, Westport Store (masks encouraged)

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. Both the current *Westport Wave* and over 11 years of monthly back-issues are also on the Newsletter page of our WVS website www.westportvillagesociety.org.

Contributions for our April 1st, 2023 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by March 27th, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com. Thanks!

