November 1, 2026

The Westport Wave

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WVS Update

By Thad Van Bueren

The Westport Village Society held its Annual Member Meeting on Friday October 2, 2026 at the Westport Community Center. The Directors elected to serve three year terms were Rob Holt, Sabel Regalia, and Thad Van Bueren. At the quarterly meeting on October 21 the WVS Board confirmed that Thad Van Bueren will continue to serve as President, Sheila Winslow will continue as Treasurer, and Sabel Regalia will serve as the Secretary. No Vice President was appointed at the meeting and the Directors were asked to give the matter attention prior to the next regular Board Meeting on January 27, 2027.

The DeHaven access improvement project is still actively under construction. At the time this article was prepared the stairway was completed, the parking lot and accessible path have been paved, fencing has been installed around the parking lot, and some signs are being installed. The remaining tasks include striping the parking spaces, installing additional signs, putting in erosion control, blocking off the dirt road access near the stairs, and seeding bare ground with native wildflowers. Those tasks will hopefully be wrapped up in early November.



View from the upper landing of the now completed stairway to the headland at the south end of DeHaven Beach .



The parking area pavement is now in place at the DeHaven Headland.



Pavement now includes the ADA accessible pathway onto the headland.

Kenneth Allen Rogers Parole Hearing

By Thad Van Bueren

A parole hearing for a former Westport man named Kenneth Allen Rogers will take place by videoconference and telephone on January 7, 2027 at 1:30 PM according to a notice distributed by the California Board of Parole Hearings. The hearing is to determine "whether the release of the incarcerated person will pose an unreasonable risk or danger to society." Registered victims or their designated representatives have the right to appear and express their views. To do so, they must give notice of their intention to participate by December 23, 2026 by contacting the Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services at victimservices@cdcr.ca.gov or by calling (877) 256-6877. The public may also file written comments by the December 23 deadline.

For those unfamiliar with this notorious local case, Kenny Rogers was convicted of conspiracy to commit first-degree murder and attempted first-degree murder in the June 17, 2005 shooting of Alan Simon. Simon had replaced Rogers on the Westport County Water Board in an August 2004 recall election, and had then voted to fire Rogers as Assistant Fire Chief. The evidence at trial showed that Rogers at the time of the shooting was Chairman of the Mendocino County Republican Party, and that he viewed these setbacks as hurtful to a "political career" in "Sacramento."

The shooting occurred at 10:26 PM on a Friday night. Richard Peacock, a 54-year old resident of Sacramento and employee of Rogers with a long criminal record, knocked on Mr. Simon's front door and then shot through it nine times. Mr. Simon dove to the floor, resulting in his being grazed by a bullet in the forearm and scalp. He was able to remain conscious and give the 9-1-1 dispatcher a description of the shooter's vehicle, a white Miata convertible with unique damage to the left front fender. The next day Richard Peacock was arrested in Laytonville. In September 2006, Richard Peacock was tried and convicted for attempted murder. Because of Mr. Peacock's having "three strikes," he was sentenced to 71 years to life.

Kenny Rogers was later tried and convicted on July 22, 2009 by a Mendocino County jury of hiring Peacock to kill Alan Simon. Deputy District Attorney Tim Stoen established his guilt using circumstantial evidence including the testimony of several Westport residents. The evidence showed that the gun discarded by Mr. Peacock had been in the possession of Mr. Rogers, that Mr. Rogers had a photo of Alan Simon's house on his digital camera, that Mr. Rogers was so angry with Mr. Simon that "spittle was flying" at the mention of his name, and that the shooter Richard Peacock did not know Mr. Simon and had no connections to Westport.

After the trial Mr. Rogers hired a new defense counsel, Kenny Giffard, from Sacramento. On March 26, 2010 before rendering judgment and sentence, Judge Ron Brown conducted a hearing on Mr. Giffard's motion for a new trial, which was based primarily on the allegation of "ineffective assistance of counsel." Mr. Giffard contended that J. David Markham, the trial attorney for Mr. Rogers, had made a prejudicial mistake in asking a question he did not know the answer to in advance, and had improperly advised Mr. Rogers not to testify on his own behalf. At the hearing Mr. Markham testified there was a tactical reason for asking the "blind" question so as to show Mr. Rogers was "not the loose cannon" the prosecution contended him to be. Mr. Markham also testified that he had advised Mr. Rogers of his right to take the witness stand, but had recommended his not doing so. He made this recommendation, he said, based on 22 hours of meetings with Mr. Rogers during which he determined Mr. Rogers (1) was unable to adequately explain important evidence, (2) made incriminating statements with unawareness of their effect, and (3) came across as unbelievable.

On March 29, 2010, Judge Ron Brown denied Kenneth Allen Rogers' motion for a new trial and denied probation. Following the Penal Code's required sentence for conspiracy to commit first degree murder, Judge Brown sentenced Mr. Rogers to state prison for the term of "25 years to life." He then remanded Mr. Rogers into the custody of the California Department of Corrections. Mr. Rogers will not be eligible for parole until he has served a full 25 years in prison (i.e., in 2035).

As Deputy DA Stoen argued during the 2010 hearing, probation should be denied because of the sophistication, planning, and cold bloodedness of the crime. This shook our small community. You are encouraged to submit written comments to the Parole Board. Those comments might say something as simple as "Release of Kenneth Allen Rogers on parole will continue to pose an unreasonable risk of danger to society."



Babaji

Finding Peace Within

When we are calm and peaceful the vibrations coming out of our being act like medicine for the world today, where there is so much chaos, anxiety, fear, greed - where there is so much tension.

Every major spiritual tradition teaches us the same thing: to look for the love and trust that resides within us. When all of our anxiousness and restlessness settles down, clarity and connection with something higher emerges and we can experience peace.

Life has good times and not-so-good times. Somedays we feel weak, vulnerable, or completely overwhelmed. Sometimes it feels as if the whole sky is falling down upon us. Where do you find comfort in those moments? Like a bird flying over the vastness of the ocean that finds a place to perch on a ship's mast - where is your place to rest?

When my mind feels unsettled, I picture my spiritual teacher with his hand raised, saying, *"Be Fearless."* Focusing on that gives me strength and reminds me that I am supported. But it is up to us to build that space inside for ourselves. If we choose doubt, we feel lost. If we choose faith and trust, that inner support will always be there.

Our modern minds love to question and overthink everything. A mind that is always analyzing and doubting cannot create a safe haven. To find peace, we need to keep things simple and listen to our hearts.

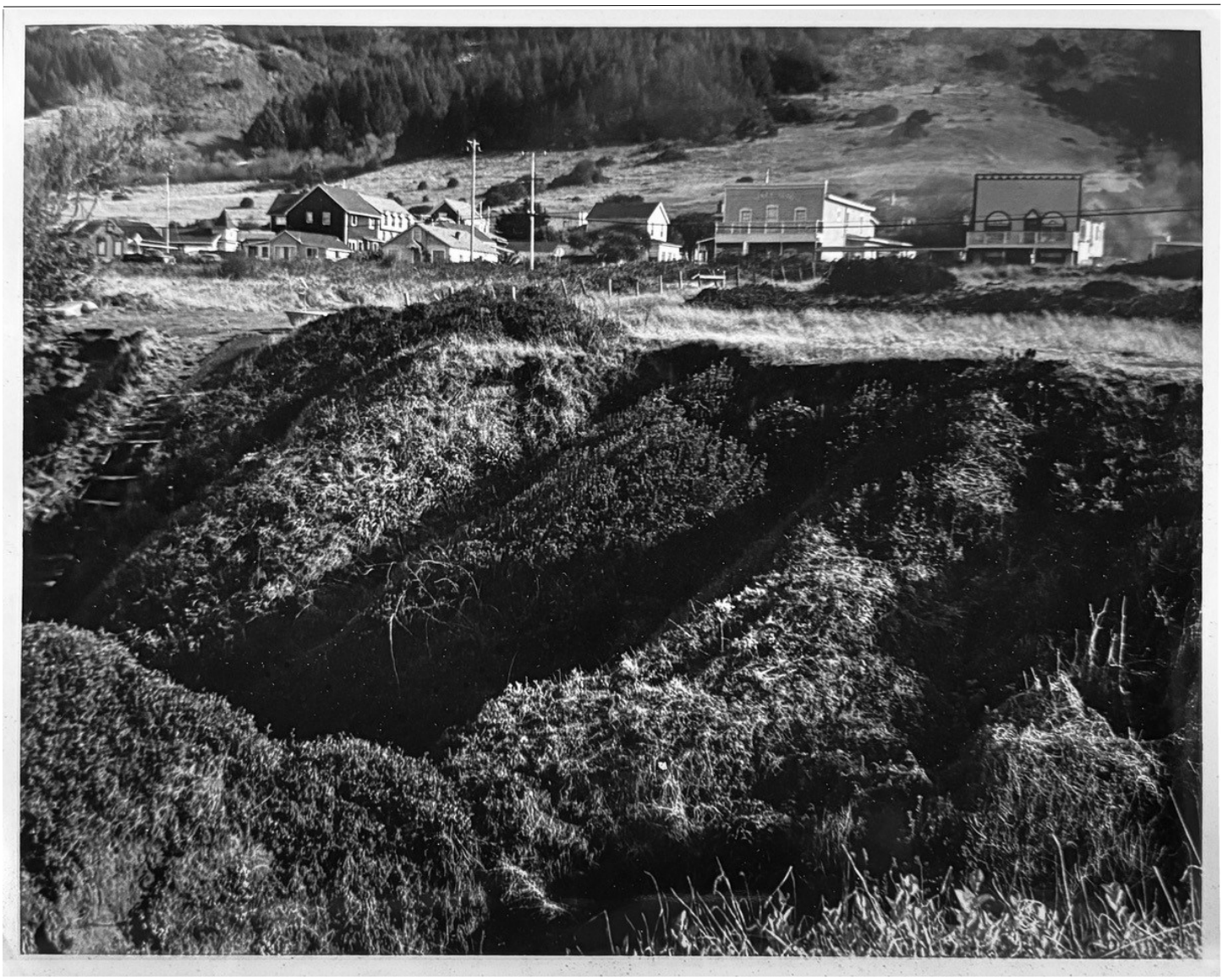
When we have love, trust, faith, we find that place to rest.

You can start by using your imagination. Find a time when you are resting with nothing on your mind, close your eyes and bring your attention to your heart. Imagine a warm light glowing inside you. Picture that light filling up your whole body and spreading love out into the world.

The peace that resides within you is yours alone - it cannot be taxed and it cannot be taken from you. It's always there waiting for you.

You always have a choice. You can let your mind go towards grief, sadness, anger, and resentment, or you can choose to focus on the love and trust that resides within you. Look for that peace within you. Spend a little time there every day. Find your place to res

Babaji's mission is to help people experience fullness in life through simple spiritual practices and meditation. He divides his time between the Sonoma Ashram in Sonoma and Upasana Hilltop Sanctuary here in Westport. For more information, please visit www.sonomaashram.org or reach out by email at info@sonomaashram.org. We'd love to hear from you!



A Quarter Century Ago...

Above: *Photo of the Westport Headland taken in the spring of 2001. The "pre-stairway" original trail to the beach can be seen at far left. ~ Submitted courtesy of William Brazill.*



A stunning canvas of alto-stratus clouds catch the day's last light at Westport on Saturday, October 3rd, 2026 ~ Photo by Ed Truthan

November 2026 Westport Calendar

Sunday, Nov. 1st - Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00AM. Set your clocks back an hour.

Tuesday, Nov. 3rd - Nationwide Midterm Election Day

Thursday, Nov. 5th - Tai-Chi with Beck, 8:00AM at the at the Westport Community Center.

Thursday, Nov. 5th - Bookmobile, 9:00AM-9:30AM, Westport Store.

Wednesday, Nov. 11th - Veteran's Day

Wednesday, Nov. 11th - Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM, Westport Firehouse.

Thursday, Nov. 12th - Tai-Chi with Beck, 8:00AM at the at the Westport Community Center.

Thursday, Nov. 19th - Tai-Chi with Beck, 8:00AM at the at the Westport Community Center.

Thursday, Nov. 19th - Bookmobile, 9:00AM-9:30AM, Westport Store.

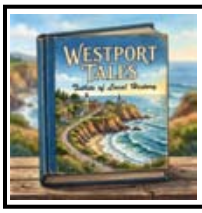
Thursday, Nov. 19th - Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 6:00PM, Zoom. Call Kayla Cooper at (707) 367-1057 for information on attending by Zoom.

Tuesday, Nov. 24th - Full "Beaver" Moon occurs at 6:53AM.PST. (a perigee "Supermoon" this month).

Thursday, Nov. 26th - Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, Nov. 26th - Tai-Chi with Beck, 8:00AM at the at the Westport Community Center.

Note: Basic/beginner Tai Chi Chuan with Beck on Thursday mornings improves focus, balance and strength, and is no charge for persons with paid memberships to the Church/Community Center.



Do you have a tale of local interest to share with the community? Submit your *"Westport Tale"* to editor Ed Truthan at: thewestportwave@gmail.com

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 14 years of monthly back-issues are also on the Newsletter page of our WVS website www.westportvillagesociety.org.

Contributions for our December 1st, 2026 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by Friday, November 27th, 2026 (or earlier if possible) and should be sent to editor Ed Truthan at thewestportwave@gmail.com **Thanks!**

