

March 1, 2026

The Westport Wave

Published by the Westport Village Society, P.O. Box 325, Fort Bragg, CA

WVS Hosts Meeting on Headlands Event Policy

By Thad Van Bueren, WVS President

The Westport Village Society will host a special in person meeting on Wednesday March 25 at 6:30 pm to review and discuss whether or not to continue to issue permits for events on the Westport Headlands and, if so, what kinds of events and under what terms. The meeting will take place at the Community Center and all are invited to attend.

In the past, both community events such as the annual Westport Volunteer Fire Department BBQ and private events such as weddings have been allowed under the terms of issued permits that stipulate the terms and conditions of those temporary uses. WVS developed a policy to allow uses that do not conflict with our obligation to manage the property for conservation and public access. That obligation is set forth in a Management Plan for the property and in a deed restriction recorded in favor of the State Coastal

Conservancy, the agency that funded the land acquisition.

WVS established a permit process to allow events in the Headlands Park that benefit the community as long as they do not conflict with our conservation and public access mandates. Community benefits have been judged in relation to the WVS mission that includes “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 Town of Westport and its surrounding areas.” Private events never fit that criteria, but WVS felt funds generated by permitting activities like weddings offered a way to support ongoing costs of maintaining the property.

The permitting process and oversight of those allowed events typically requires significant effort by WVS volunteers. WVS currently lacks sufficient volunteers who are knowledgeable about the permit process and willing to donate the time required to manage such events. We welcome your input on this topic.



An afternoon of low hanging clouds and fog couldn't dampen the spirit and enthusiasm of the many artists and attendees of the August 16th, 2025 WVFD Fund Raising BBQ at the Westport Headlands. The March 25th WVS meeting will explore topics surrounding the preservation and maintenance of the property, as well as the volunteer based logistics required to continue the hosting of such events. Input welcome!



Exciting Updates at Westport Church and Community Center

Dear Westport community,

We're reaching out to share urgent news about the Westport Church and Community Center. During our last termite treatment, we discovered significant damage that requires immediate repairs. This will involve replacing part of the foundation beneath the church, repairing fascia boards, installing new exterior doors, and painting both the church and community center. Your continued generosity is essential to make these repairs possible and keep our gathering spaces safe and welcoming.

To help grow that support and give back, we're launching a host of new initiatives designed to engage and enrich our community. Beginning next month, you'll find monthly guest speakers, local get-togethers like potlucks and hikes, and plenty of opportunities to connect with friends and neighbors. Our brand-new website, westportcommunitychurch.org, will offer event

details, news, and easy ways to get involved, making it simpler than ever to stay informed and participate.

We encourage everyone to stay up to date on upcoming events and to suggest new ideas for gatherings or programs that would benefit our community. Your input is invaluable as we strive to create a welcoming and dynamic meeting place for all.

We're especially excited to announce our new audio/video system, made possible by a generous grant from the Westport Village Society, which allows community members to join meetings and speaker events remotely via Zoom. Many thanks to the Society for their support!

To help fund ongoing repairs and programs, we're introducing annual membership fees: \$30 for individuals and \$40 for families. Signing up is simple—just visit our website:

www.westportcommunitychurch.org

and **click on “Become a Member”**. Use the integrated payment system to join or renew your membership. Your contributions keep our center thriving and enable us to give back through expanded offerings and improved facilities.

Let's build a stronger, more engaged Westport community. Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely, *The Westport Church and Community Center Team*



The Community Center offers a roomy and comfortable meeting place with a host of audio/visual equipment for sharing important content with the community both on-site and via Zoom.



Westport Community Meeting
Emergency Preparedness
and Resiliency

~~~~~  
**March 7, 2026 ~ 1-3 pm**

**Come and Hear about Programs and Funding from**  
**Mendocino Fire Safe Council**

Eva King, MCFSC Community Outreach Coordinator  
 and Regional Coordinator for the NFPA Firewise Program

**Snacks Served**

or attend by WVS's new Zoom Video System  
 go to [www.westportcommunitychurch.org](http://www.westportcommunitychurch.org) to zoom

**Westport Community Center**

**Fire and Home Insurance**

Roadside Fuel Reduction

Chipper Days

Driveway and Home Defensible Space

Home Hardening Protection from Wild Fire

Fire Wise Community Resiliency Program

Household and Community Emergency Disaster Planning

Hosted by the Westport Village Society

Co-hosted by Westport Fire Safe Council, Westport County Water District

Westport Volunteer Fire Department, Westport Community Church



*Scan the QR code at left for a link to additional information including how to attend the meeting remotely **via Zoom**.*

*Or visit the Westport Community Church web site at:*  
<https://www.westportcommunitychurch.org/event-details/fire-safe-council-disaster-resiliency>

# WESTPORT HOTEL & OLD ABALONE PUB

March 2026

PUB HOURS: THURSDAY-SATURDAY 5-8:30PM

DINE OUT FOR THE W.V.F.D



Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup> 5-9pm  
Have a meal with friends and help  
support the W.V.F.D. Live Music!  
Corned Beef & Cabbage  
or Vegetarian Shepherd's Pie  
Irish Soda Bread and Cake  
\$30 donation

Whiskey bar hosted by W.V.F.D



SPRING EQUINOX TEA  
SATURDAY MARCH 21ST  
3:00 - 5:00 PM  
BY RESERVATION ONLY

LIVE MUSIC SAT. MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup>  
WITH  
CHAD SWIMMER & FRIENDS  
5:30-8:00PM



## TRIVIA NIGHT WITH ARISTA, AT THE OLD ABALONE PUB

Friday March 13th, sign up by 6:00pm with  
your team name/members \$10 to play, trivia  
starts at 6:30 pm. One round each Media,  
Science and History with surprise bonus round.  
Winning team takes the pot!



**Babaji**

## Trust

A life where there is trust is a very rich life. Without trust, no matter how much one has, no matter how healthy one is, life becomes gripped with fear and becomes difficult to enjoy. We shut ourselves off from the blessings that are already showering upon us. We are not able to make our life a meaningful life.

Where there is trust, there is no fear. I once met a woman who was so gripped by fear that she would become homeless, who at the same time recognized that she had enough resources to support her family for two generations. I have also seen those people who barely have enough to get through the next day, yet they work hard, live fully and live with joy in their hearts. There is a shine in their eyes because there is trust.

We have to come to a place of knowing that if God/the Divine has given us life, he or she will also provide what we need. No matter what situation we may be placed in, we will be given the strength to get through it. The day we begin to live a life of trust is the day we begin to live.

We all have faced our biggest fears at some point in our lives and have survived them. The mind will keep presenting those “what ifs” but instead of flowing into the fear, try to tell yourself in those moments: “if that happens, I am blessed with the ability to deal with it.”

Whenever we go into fear, we should immediately find a way to get out of it. The longer fear stays in our system, the more poisonous our body, our mind, and our behavior becomes - everything changes when we go into fear mode.

Most fears are based on attachments. We have to understand that whatever we are attached to, sooner or later we will be separated from it. The only thing that can free us from attachment is trust.

Please save yourself from fear. A person who lives out of fear becomes like that bud that really never blossoms - no matter how much sunlight and nutrition is given to it, it remains closed. Have trust, blossom, let the fragrance spread. Let many be touched by it and live a full life and a meaningful life.



*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. He is currently in India at his Ashram in Varanasi to check in on the many social service projects serving impoverished communities nearby. For more information, please visit [www.sonomaashram.org](http://www.sonomaashram.org) or reach out by email at [info@sonomaashram.org](mailto:info@sonomaashram.org). We'd love to hear from you!*

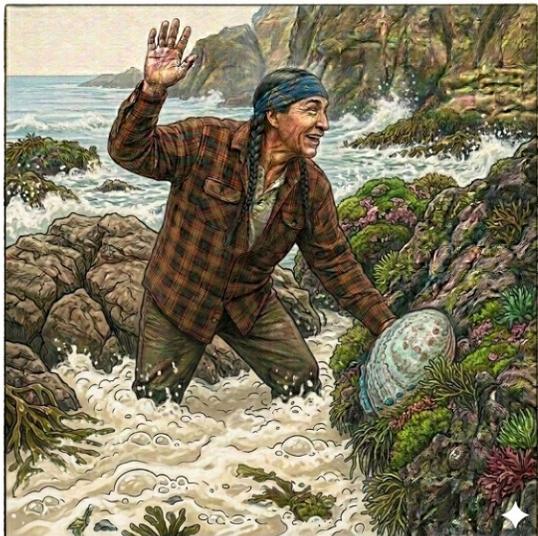


Image by Ed Truthan via Google Gemini AI

## Westport Story

by Earl M. Haas

(Submitted by William Brazill)

In 1948 in Westport, California a native American and his family lived on the Tar Flat as it was called that and the bluff west of the Westport store.

In the store which had a Bar at the time was an abalone hung above the bar itself measuring 12 plus inches as I remember it.

The Native American who pried it off the rocks was named Vernon "Sharkey" Bowen.

I was a lad of 16 at the time and remember exactly where it was caught...

Directly down from the store and over the 100-foot bank going down to the water's edge was a huge rock that only was accessible on 2 ft minus tides. About 50 feet north of the rock was flat mushroom-like rocks covered with green seaweed.

I remember Sharkey yelling to me while he was standing in knee deep water saying "I found a monster!" and was having a hard time getting it out of the crevice after he pried it off the rock.

Finally, he maneuvered it out of the crevice and both of us were astounded as to the size.

Both of us at the time always took as many Abalone's as we needed and most were all in the 8-inch range in size.

After removing the critter from the shell, Van Dorn asked if he could place it above his bar so everyone could see it, to which Sharkey said yes.

I left Westport in 1950 and as I remember it was over the bar at that time. After the bar closed and the bar area became the post office, I do not know what ever became of the shell.

[I'm] Now 86 and live in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains, Washington State.

- *Earl M. Haas*

**Support the Westport Volunteer Fire Department... Our Department depends on your donations!**



Your support and contributions will enable us to meet our goals and improve our equipment and training. Any amount helps... and helps keep our community safer.



**To Donate Today**

## March 2026 Westport Calendar

---

**Monday, March 2nd** – Community Church "Hike in the Hills" event from 9AM - 11AM. Participants to meet at the Westport Community Center, More [here](#).

**Tuesday, March 3rd** – Full Moon at 3:37AM PST. A **Total Lunar Eclipse** will occur at this full moon in the early morning hours. Another total lunar eclipse will not be visible in its entirety in California until December 31st, 2028. During totality the moon will WSW at approximately 38 degrees above the ocean.

- ~ Partial eclipse begins at 1:50AM
- ~ Totality begins 3:04AM
- ~ Totality ends at 4:02AM.
- ~ Partial eclipse ends at 5:17AM.

More info [here](#). Let's hope it's clear that night!

**Thursday, March 5th** – Tai-Chi with Beck, 7:00PM at the at the Westport Community Center, More [here](#).

**Saturday, March 7th** – Fire Safe Council & Disaster Resiliency Meeting, 1-3PM, Westport Community Center, 24900 Abalone St, Westport. Discover how you can "fire harden" your home and much more. Attendance also available via Zoom. More details and Zoom info [here](#).

**Sunday, March 8th** – Pacific Daylight Time begins at 2:00 AM. Set your clocks forward an hour!

**Wednesday, March 11th** – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM, Westport Firehouse.

**Thursday, March 12th** – Bookmobile, 9:00AM-9:30AM, Westport Store.

**Thursday, March 12th** – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 7:00PM, Zoom. Call Kayla Cooper at (707) 367-1057 for information on attending by Zoom.

**Tuesday, March 17th** – St. Patrick's Day.

**Friday, March 20th** – Vernal Equinox occurs at 7:46AM PDT.

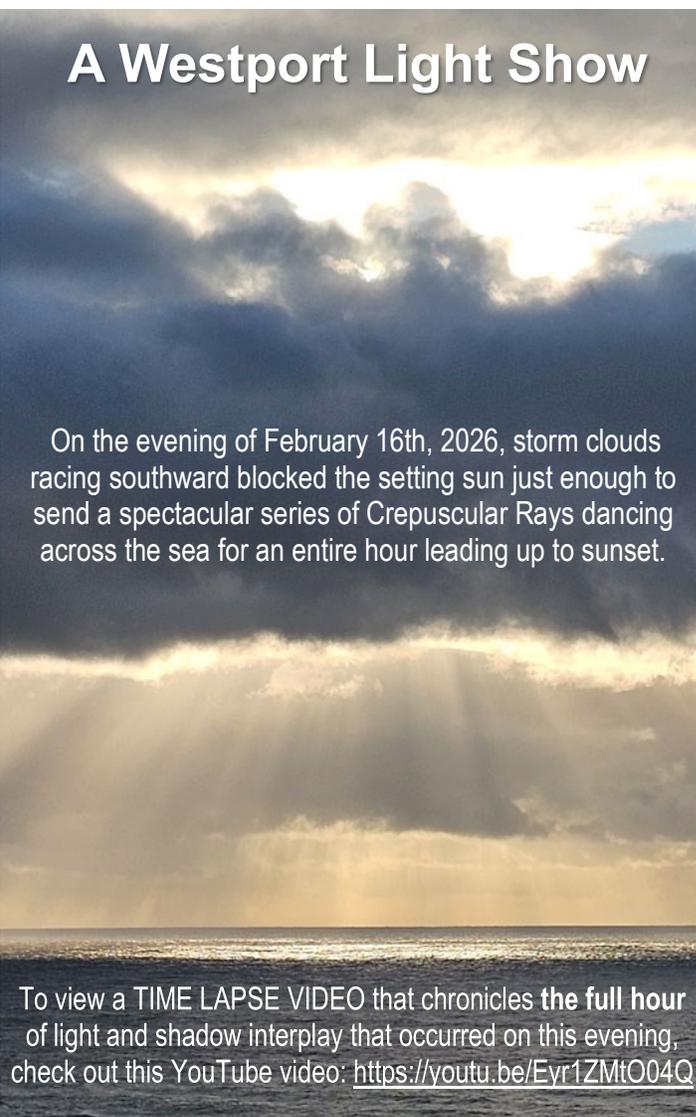
**Wednesday, March 25th** – WVS meeting to discuss issues surrounding the preservation, maintenance, and event hosting at the Westport Headlands. 6:30PM at Westport Community Center. Your input welcome!

**Thursday, March 26th** – Bookmobile, 9:00AM-9:30AM, Westport Store.

*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](http://www.westportvillagesociety.org).

**Contributions for our April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026** (or earlier if possible) and should be sent to editor Ed Truthan at [thewestportwave@gmail.com](mailto:thewestportwave@gmail.com)  
**Thanks!**



### A Westport Light Show

On the evening of February 16th, 2026, storm clouds racing southward blocked the setting sun just enough to send a spectacular series of Crepuscular Rays dancing across the sea for an entire hour leading up to sunset.

To view a TIME LAPSE VIDEO that chronicles the full hour of light and shadow interplay that occurred on this evening, check out this YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/Eyr1ZMtO04Q>