

March 1, 2016

The Westport Wave

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March 1st Westport Meetings Focus on Transportation

Thad Van Bueren

Heads up! Two consecutive meetings at the **Westport Community Church**

on the evening of **Tuesday, March 1st** will highlight transportation topics. The first meeting starts at 5:30 PM and is hosted by Phil Dow, the Executive Director of the Mendocino Council of Governments. Bike and pedestrian trail planning efforts will be reviewed and the discussion will then turn to ways to fund design and construction projects. A Caltrans representative will also share recent results of a Pacific Coast Bike Survey and take input on local transportation concerns.

The Westport Municipal Advisory Council will meet at 7:00 PM on March 1st after the MCOG meeting. The agenda for the WMAC meeting will include follow up on suggestions for local bike/pedestrian projects, review of a Coastal Development Permit for the second phase of the Newport coastal trail, and a discussion of the landslide area on Highway 1 just north of Chadbourne Gulch. A parking lot and a trail out to the bluff edge are proposed as additions to the existing Newport Trail. The WMAC will also follow up on some ongoing topics. If these issues interest you, please join us for the two meetings! Information can be downloaded on the "Next Meeting" page of the WMAC web site at:

http://www.westportmac.org/next_meeting.jsp



Our Annual Westport Headlands Easter Egg Hunt is on March 27th (see page 5).

Old Abalone Pub Re-Opens Thursday, March 17th

Dorine Real

We are so excited to announce the re-opening of the **Old Abalone Pub** at The Westport Hotel, starting on Thursday, March 17th! **On March 17th, we will have a traditional St. Patrick's Day menu prepared by our new Chef, Brent Anderson, from 5:00PM to 9:00PM, and part of the proceeds will be donated to our beloved Westport Volunteer Fire Dept.** Friday and Saturday, March 18th and 19th, come to dinner and experience Brent's bold flavors and culinary creativity, and listen to our own home-grown musician **Erin Brazill** Saturday night from 6 to 9PM. We encourage *advance reservations all weekend*. The Abalone Pub will also be serving afternoon tea from 3-5PM on Saturday afternoons and will be open regularly from 5:00PM to 9:00PM Thursdays through Saturdays until summertime. Friend us on Facebook and access our menu as well as hear about current events, or join our email list for a monthly newsletter. Do you have ideas for events/art/music for the Pub? Please email Joywolf at westporthotel@mcn.org.



Westport Dogs at play. (photo by Erin Brazill)

Westport Headlands Doggie Play Date at 12:00 Noon on March 5th

Erin Brazill

Please bring your friendly furry friends to the Westport Headlands at 12:00 Noon for a romp in the grass for an hour of play, socialization (the human and doggy kind), and running around. Socialization is so good for dogs and helps them become happier, safer, less "barky" (or at least that's the theory), and is just plain fun. It is also a chance to meet other dog lovers in our beautiful community: to stick our heads out of our cozy homes for a breath of fresh air, stretch our legs, take inventory of who's around, who's got the best daffodils, meet new people (me!), have a little chat ...and maybe even see a whale or two!

No pup – no problem! It's great for dogs to meet all different kinds of people, so if you want to just come by and say hello, that's great too! I'll be out there unless it is absolutely dumping rain (in which case I will put a sign up at the store the night before – promise). I will bring extra toys, treats, and clean-up bags as well.

For now, let's just meet up on top at the Headlands in the field at noon on the 5th of March – and depending on the enthusiasm of the day/dogs/families, we can

decide if we want to have a go at Eddie White's Beach or not.

Thank you to everyone who came out last time! I have been so excited to do this again, now and hopefully monthly from here on in...now that maybe, maybe we are past the most severe parts of Winter...wait did I say that out loud???

WVFD Fire Extinguisher Recharge Program for the Westport Community March 11th

Frank Maurice, Fire Chief, WVFD

The Westport Volunteer Fire Department **Fire Extinguisher Recharge Event** has been **RESCHEDULED** for **Friday, March 11th from 10:00AM to 2:00PM.**

The WVFD has arranged through a private grant to give all Westport and close surrounding area residents the opportunity to recharge their fire extinguishers at no cost to them. The Ukiah Oxygen Company will be recharging your fire extinguishers at the Westport Fire Station at 37551 North Highway 1, right next to the Westport Recycling Center. That way, you can recycle and dump your trash on that day and also get your fire extinguishers charged with just one stop!

If your fire extinguishers are over 12 years old, they will go to Ukiah for hydro-testing (canister-strength testing), then filled and returned in about one week. We can only recharge dry-style extinguishers. If yours is a liquid type or you want to purchase a new dry-style extinguisher, there will be new ones for sale by Ukiah Oxygen at the WVFD Fire Station that day. Please mark your extinguishers with your name and phone number, so that we don't mix them up.

Home fire extinguishers are your best defense to quickly keep a small house fire from destroying your entire home. Without them, you can be helpless in those critical first minutes when a fire starts. Please take advantage of this great opportunity to make sure your home is as fire-safe as possible! Please call me (Frank) on my cell phone (707) 357-1866 if you have any questions.

Spring Market Sunday March 13th

Sarah Mathias

Our local Westport Markets will continue in March with a **Spring Market on Sunday, March 13th from 12:00PM to 4:00PM**. The Market will be on the Westport Headlands, unless weather prevents it. In the case of rain we will move it to the Westport Recreation Center and Church. If we are outside, bring whatever you have to sell, be it handmade goods or flea market items. If we have to move it inside, space will be limited to 1-2 tables per vendor (depending on the number of vendors we get). If you are interested in being a vendor, please contact Sarah Mathias at 962-0181 or westportcafleamarket@gmail.com. You may also check in on the markets on Facebook by connecting with the Westport Markets page.

Our next market after March will be in May with our Annual Westport Spring Yard Sale. This sale is held on the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend from 9:00AM to 3:00PM on the Westport Headlands. After that this year, we'll once again hold the Westport Flea Market on the last Sunday of each month from June to September. Last year, these ran from 11:00AM to 2:00PM on the Headlands.

Westport Ten Mile Cemetery District News

Gary Quinton, Operations Manager, WTMCD

The Board of Directors of the Westport Ten Mile Cemetery District is considering the addition of a monument at the Westport Cemetery for which the Board is seeking input from the community within our District.

Since the 1870s, local citizens have been buried in the Westport Cemetery. Many of these people were buried with wooden markers to mark their resting place, and over the many years, many of those markers have perished and no longer exist. In a number of cases, we today have records of people being buried in the Westport Cemetery, but we cannot definitively verify exactly where they are buried.

The proposal would be to have those names engraved on a stone or marble slab within a marble monument gazebo that would enhance the ocean view area of the

cemetery and also provide a seating place for people to sit and meditate. The monument under consideration (see photo below) is a Victorian style marble gazebo. It is 10'6" wide and 10'6" high. Many of the monuments in the Westport Cemetery, especially the older ones, are in the Victorian style, allowing this new monument to "fit in" with the existing appearance of the cemetery. The most likely location would be near the north fence at the end of the wide path through the middle of the cemetery. This entire project would be paid for with donations.

The Cemetery Board would very much appreciate the community's input on this issue. If you like it, don't like it, or are neutral, please let us know. This will only happen if this is something that our community wants. Please reply to **Gary Quinton** at onthecoast707@gmail.com or call **(707) 964-7073**



New Monument for the Westport Cemetery?



The Westport Community Church

Westport Community Church March Calendar

Founded in 1880, the **Westport Community Church** is pleased to offer a variety of experiences to help us discover ways to become more in touch with our spiritual heritage. We are doing our best to nurture a tradition of having weekly gatherings at the Church (which is at the end of Abalone Street on the left) to explore various spiritual paths. All suggestions and participants for services are welcome at the Westport Church – and we welcome all denominations to hold services here!

The 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month currently have a regularly scheduled focus. The 1st, 4th, and occasional 5th Sundays are open for community members to suggest other speakers and topics for these days. Please contact Church President Millie Saunders at 964-3030 to discuss your ideas and see how you can help the Westport Community Church.

2nd Sunday, March 13th, 10:00AM – Carolyn Cathey, Mendocino Center For Spiritual Living

Carolyn Cathey, Student Practitioner of the Mendocino Center for Spiritual Living, will speak on "**Evolution, Expansion, and Free Will**". Evolution and expansion is Creation – always evolving, always expanding, always reaching toward new vibrational-energy levels. As part of Creation, you are also

evolving and expanding. Free will means you may choose to move toward the highest energy level of Truth/Love, or the lowest energy level of Illusion/Fear. What kinds of triggers move you into negative energy instead of positive? How can you handle the unexpected so that, despite the situation, you continue moving toward the highest energy vibration, Pure Love?

3rd Sunday, March 20th, 10:00AM – Our Monthly Quaker Worship Group

Katherine White is helping us to establish an ongoing Quaker Worship Group meeting on the third Sunday of every month. The format is a simple, quiet meditation for 45 minutes followed by Katherine 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.

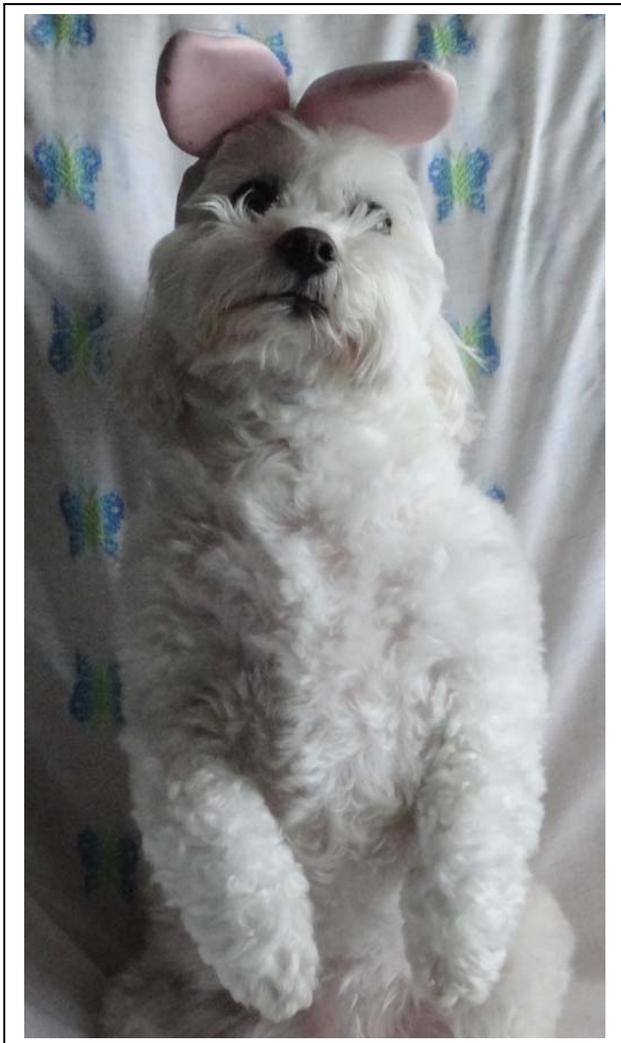
Court-Ordered Community Service Opportunities In Westport

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/weed cutting, painting, handyman work, and more.

Please call us and tell us about your work skills, and let's see if we can match your skills to work that needs to be done. That match-up will be a benefit to you and your Westport Community at the same time, and your work can be confidential and non-judgmental. We can also help you with the registration paperwork and compliance/completion documents. If you are interested, please call Gary Quinton at 964-7073.



My First Wave Photo Assignment

Marty Anderson

Honestly, the sacrifices I make for journalism! As you may recall, I recently accepted the offer to be a regular columnist for *The Westport Wave*. So a couple of weeks ago, I got a call from Bootsie, my *Wave* Copy Desk Editor (she's also Steve's cat). "Hey, I've got a great assignment for you", she says. "Easter's coming up in March, and we need an Easter Bunny photo."

OK, fine, I said – I think I know where to find some bunnies around here, and before I chase them I could always take a few pics. "Well, that's not exactly what I had in mind", she says. "I want you to wear some bunny ears, and you will be the Easter Bunny!"

Now even though I am a dog, I don't mind working for a cat (did I mention that some of my best friends

are cats?). But dressing up as the Easter Bunny wasn't exactly what I had in mind when I took this job. So I politely asked Bootsie why she didn't just wear the bunny ears and pose for the picture herself. All she said was "Well, you look more like the Easter Bunny than I do. And I don't want to do it anyway."

Dog, that's a cat for you. Anyway, I did it. Give me a medal, I deserve it! But don't expect me to dress up for any Easter egg hunts. I'd much rather chase a bunny than be one. Hey, by the way, the next Headlands Doggie Play Date is at noon on March 5th! Oh yeah, and here's my big finishing line –

HAPPY EASTER FROM THE WESTPORT WAVE!

Headlands Easter Egg Hunt Sunday, March 27th at 11:00AM!

Sarah Mathias

Hey kids! The Great Westport Easter Egg Hunt is happening on Easter Sunday, March 27th, at 11:00AM on The Westport Headlands! We're asking that each child participating bring a dozen eggs, filled or dyed. Donations of eggs can be left at the store on Saturday night. So get your parents (and grandparents) *mooving*, and see you there!

Local Information for Newcomers

A "Welcome to Westport!" information packet has been created for distribution to anyone new to the community. The packet contains information about the WWS, WVFD, Recreation Center, Church, local businesses, and more. If you are interested in receiving a packet, or if you'd like one to be sent to someone, please contact Sarah Mathias at 962-0181 or sarah@huntersplayground.com.

Correction

Thad Van Bueren

A photograph shown in last month's newsletter incorrectly identified a boy in the floodwaters of Wages Creek during the winter of 1964-1965 as Pete Masolini. According to Tom Kisliuk, the person in the picture was actually Tommy Masolini. Thanks Tom for sharing that correction. My sincere apologies for the error.

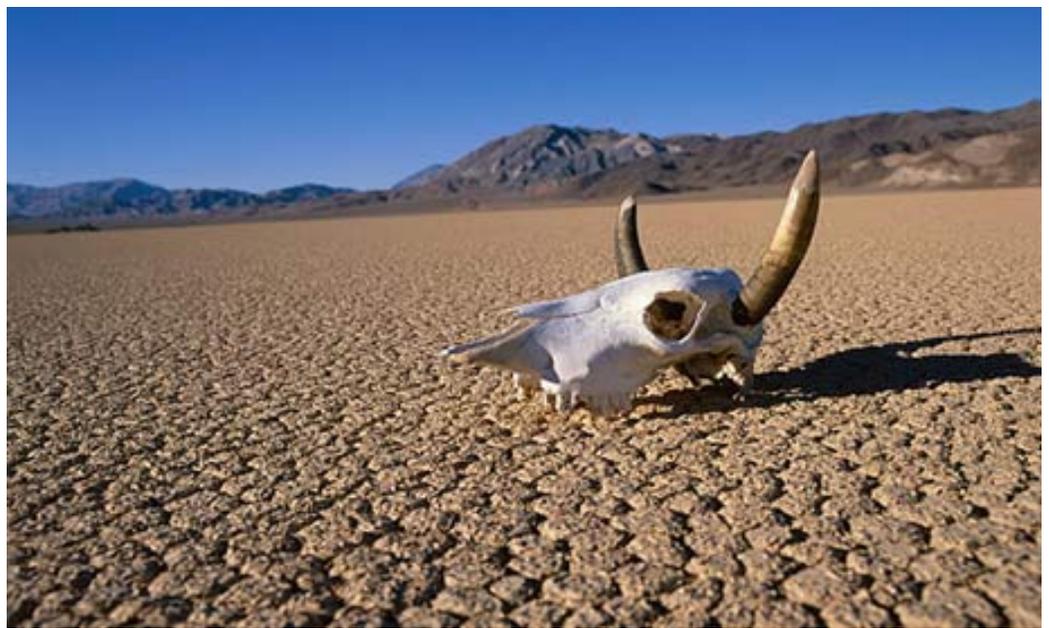
El Niño vs. The Blob IV – Godzilla Takes A Dive!

Steve Brigham

One wreaks havoc on our planet via ferocious storms, while the other brings crippling drought (at least to California). This is the fourth installment of the continuing 2015-2016 saga of Godzilla El Niño and The Blob (see my Westport Wave articles in our August 2015, November 2015, and February 2016 issues for the first three articles in this series).

In case you hadn't noticed, it didn't rain much here in Westport in February. In fact, we only had one major "storm", and even then it only rained hard for a few hours. Meanwhile, Southern California continued to be bone dry all month (just like they've been all winter). The big problem with this is that February is traditionally one of our wettest months in California. And (as if you didn't already know), February 2016 was supposed to be the month that THE BIGGEST EL NIÑO IN ALL OF HISTORY WASHED ALL OF CALIFORNIA INTO THE OCEAN! So I know what you're thinking. What the (your word here) is going on? What happened to El Niño? To put it another way, WHAT HAPPENED TO EL NIÑO???

For months now, everyone has been saying that this "Godzilla" El Niño was "too big to fail". Amidst dire predictions, we in California all watched and waited for the deluge to begin. Even when nothing really major happened in December and January (especially in Southern California), there was always February – that was the real big wet month in the 1982-83 El Niño, which this 2015-2016 model was beginning to resemble most of all). But now February is gone, and instead of El Niño, all we've gotten is El No-no. Hey, we're running out of rainy months here!



New "Super El Niño" forecast for California, with simulated ensuing landscape. (Well, maybe not – it could still rain. Aw, who knows anymore anyway...)

So here's the latest explanation. As it turns out, instead of being "too big to fail", Godzilla was actually "too big to succeed", at least as far as Southern California was concerned. (Altogether now..."How big was it?") Well, in December and January, Godzilla was so big that the southerly jet stream was pushed all the way up to Northern California and the Pacific Northwest, and missed Southern California entirely! Yes, boys and girls, they're saying now that the rain we got in Westport in December and January was El Niño (coulda fooled me, since I was expecting a little more than that). Bottom line here is that the "Pineapple Express" never quite left the station, at least as far as most of California was concerned.

Then, in February, a huge area of high pressure dominated California (just like last year), and no one in California got much rain. Was it The Blob? Well, not exactly, since The Blob supposedly began disappearing last December. OK, so we were supposed to have this big fight between Godzilla and The Blob, but then neither of them showed up? Yup! (Sort of like the offensive squads at the Super Bowl.)

Now if you're just totally confused about this whole thing at this point, don't feel bad, since just about everyone else is too. To further confuse you, I've got a few explanations of my own that you won't find

(yet) hardly anywhere else. First of all, Global Warming, and it's many areas of warmer-than-average air and water in the Pacific and elsewhere around the world, has affected the behavior of this El Niño big-time as far as most of California goes. (Indeed, it has been hard to figure out this year exactly where the effects of Global Warming stop and El Niño begin, and vice versa.) Probably because of Global Warming, this El Niño started out last year way heavy on its western flank (that's way out in the middle of the Pacific Ocean), which resulted in what's called a *modoki* pattern. That can mean dry in California, and that pattern has continued somewhat into this year. Lots of factors are at work here, and some things are just plain different now than they were in past El Niños that we've experienced. I think it was Global Warming that made this 2015-2016 El Niño so big, and so weird. So big that it just may end up being rather dry in California and not wet after all!

Now to be fair, this 2015-2016 El Niño has had a major effect in many places in the world, in the form of unusually powerful storms in some places, and crippling droughts in others. And in past El Niños, there have actually been dry spells in California right in the middle of winter. So it ain't over until it's over. Past El Niños have been famous for dumping all of their rain late in our rainy season, after they've actually weakened a bit (think of it like this – if Godzilla could only lose a little weight, he might be agile enough to do us some good!) And so most meteorologists are still saying that March and even April will be wetter than normal for all of California. In fact, the Westport forecast now for the first half of March is back to wet weather (although forecasters are at present being a little timid on committing to lots of rain). (As far as rain in Southern California in March? – well, that's still a bit “up in the air” to me.)

Of course, if you don't believe in Global Warming (or meteorology), there could be another explanation for why Godzilla Took A Dive in February. We do know that it was a big high-pressure system (which is basically a big mess of hot air) that kept California dry in mid-winter. Maybe it was all that “hot air” from everyone talking about how big a deal both El Niño and Global Warming were! Meanwhile, I'm going back to my tried-and-true “Flip Wilson method” of weather forecasting. From now on, just look out the window. What you see is what you GET!

March 2016 Westport Calendar

- March 1st** – Public meeting with MCOG/Caltrans focusing on Transportation issues at 5:30PM, followed by the WMAC Meeting at 7:00PM, Westport Church
- March 3rd** – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM
- March 5th** – Westport Headlands Doggie Play Date, 12:00 Noon, Westport Community Headlands
- March 8th** – New Moon, 5:54PM
- March 9th** – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM, Firehouse
- March 11th** – Free Community Home Fire Extinguisher Recharge Event, 10:00AM to 2:00PM, Westport Firehouse
- March 12th** – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 10:00AM, Firehouse
- March 13th** – Daylight Saving Time Begins, 2:00AM (set clocks AHEAD one hour)
- March 13th** – Carolyne Cathey, Mendocino Center For Spiritual Living, “Evolution, Expansion, and Free Will”, 10:00AM, Westport Church
- March 13th** – Westport Market, 12:00PM to 4:00PM, Westport Headlands
- March 17th** – Saint Patrick's Day
- March 17th** – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM
- March 17th** – Old Abalone Pub Re-Opens, 5:00PM
- March 19th** – **Spring Equinox, 9:30PM**
- March 20th** – Third Sunday Quaker Worship Group, 10:00AM, Westport Church
- March 22nd** – Full Moon, 10:19AM
- March 23rd** – Penumbra Lunar Eclipse, 2:39AM to 6:54AM, maximum totality at 4:47AM
- March 25th** – Good Friday
- March 27th** – **Easter Sunday**– Westport Easter Egg Hunt, 11:00AM, Westport Community Headlands
- March 31st** – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM

The Westport Wave is a free monthly community newsletter published by the **Westport Village Society**, a non-profit community-benefit organization. Please see www.westportvillagesociety.org for all current and back issues of *The Wave*, plus lots of great information on Westport, CA and the WVS! Contributions for our April 1st, 2016 issue are due by March 27th, and should be sent to editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com, or P.O. Box 237, Westport, CA 95488.

Westport Spring Market

Sunday, March 13 from 12-4 pm

Handmade jewelry, carvings, paper, yarn crafts, and soaps, plants, foods, and more.

If the weather is fair, the Market will be on the Headlands and will include Flea Market items.

If there is rain, the Market will be at the Church and Rec Center (east of the store on Abalone Street).

For more information or to be a vendor, contact Sarah Mathias at 962-0181 or westportcaflzmarket@gmail.com or via the Westport Markets page on Facebook.