

May 1, 2014

The Westport Wave

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It's Rubber Ducky Time!

Steve Brigham, Editor

*Where the turf meets the surf
Down on Wages Creek,
Plan to stay, spend the day, it's unique!*

*There's a smile on every face
When the Rubber Duckies race
Where the turf meets the surf at Wages Creek!*

Any of you who have ever lived in San Diego County will recognize the above as a thinly disguised version of Bing Crosby's old Del Mar Racetrack theme song. And if *Der Bingle* were around (he loved "the races"), he'd sing it for us on **Sunday, May 11th**, at the **24th Annual Westport Mother's Day Rubber Ducky Races and BBQ** at the beautiful **Westport Beach Campground**, where Wages Creek meets the sea.

First held in 1991 to raise money for the purchase of the Westport Community Headlands, "Ducky Sunday" has long been our traditional Westport Mother's Day celebration, with fun for the whole family, complete with a delicious barbecue served on china with silverware, live music, a gift of a flowering plant for every mother, a terrific raffle featuring a one-of-a-kind handmade quilt, a Decorated Duck Beauty Contest, and of course our three famous Rubber Ducky Races (Handcrafted, Kids', and Classic) on the challenging Wages Creek Racecourse.

It's always a great show when the rubber duckies are released into Wages Creek in each race and begin their water-powered journey to the sea. Thrills, spills, and unexpected eddies assure that no race is decided until the finish line! Although nowadays many towns all across America have started their own Rubber Ducky Races, our Westport Races were perhaps the first ever in California, and they are still the best! So bring your mother and your family and your friends on **May 11th** – we promise, everyone will love it!



"Most Beautiful Duck" 2013, by Renee Jardine.

Decorate Your Duck for Westport's Great Rubber Ducky Event!

It's time to design your own Rubber Ducky for the big Beauty Contest at **Westport's 24th Annual Great Rubber Ducky Event on Mother's Day!** So now's your big chance to do so at a special Duck Decorating Workshop which will be held at **The Westport School on Saturday May 3rd from 2:00 to 4:00PM.** Rubber Duckies and decorations will be available for all participants (parents should plan on assisting small children), and we also encourage you to bring your own duck and materials to create a truly unique entry!

Then bring your beautiful ducky to the **24th Great Rubber Ducky Races and BBQ in Westport on Sunday May 11th.** Follow the signs north from the village to the **Westport Beach RV Park and Campground**, where duck registration begins at 11:30AM and the Beauty Contest is held at 12:30PM. For more information about this fun family event and **Mother's Day Barbecue**, please visit our website at <http://www.westportvillagesociety.org/>



Time To Buy Raffle Tickets to Win a Priceless Hand-Made Quilt!

The photo above is of Aimee Maxey's fantastic, hand-crafted, one-of-a-kind queen-sized quilt that she has made and donated for our Raffle on Ducky Sunday. This beautiful dragonfly-decorated quilt features bright hues of purple, rose, teal, and ocean blue that give it a radiance of excitement, awe, and an "I really want to have you on my bed!" feeling! Aimee did an outstanding job making it a one-of-a-kind keepsake, and we all owe her an ocean of gratitude for her many hours of volunteer work!

This Ducky Raffle Quilt is on display until May 10th at **Racine's** in Fort Bragg, where you can buy raffle tickets (tickets are \$1 each, 6 for \$5, and 30 for \$40, and you do not have to be present on Ducky Sunday to win). Tickets are also available at the **Westport Community Store**, and of course at the Ducky Races and BBQ on May 11th as well. But wait, there's more! There are also many other prizes to be won at the Ducky Raffle, including gift baskets and beautiful flower bowls full of garden color. The more tickets you buy, the better your chances of winning – and all proceeds go to the upkeep of the Westport Headlands!

May Community Meetings

Westport Municipal Advisory Council – Tuesday, May 6th, 7PM at the Westport Church.

Westport Volunteer Fire Department – Wednesday, May 7th, 6PM at the Westport Firehouse.

Westport County Water District – Board Meeting – Saturday, May 10th, 10AM at the Westport Firehouse.

Neighbor 2 Neighbor Community Meeting – Tuesday, May 13th, 6PM at the Westport Hotel.

Westport Ten Mile Cemetery District quarterly Board Meeting – Wednesday, May 14th, 10AM at the Westport Church.



Wild Foods and Herbs: Land and Sea Foraging, Preparation, and Use

Westport 2-Day Workshop, May 3rd & 4th

Instructors: Corine Pearce and Julie Druker

Corine Pearce has the heart and wisdom of her family's long heritage of First Peoples in Mendocino County. She deeply understands the depth of the natural bounty and balance of plant life in our community. Julie Druker has been harvesting Seaweed on the Mendocino Coast since 2003. She founded Yemaya Seaweeds in 2007, selling the ocean's harvest at local Farmers Markets. She teaches classes in Mendocino and Sonoma County. This 2-day Workshop Starts on Saturday with a meeting at the **Westport Store at 8AM**, then proceeds to the Beach for an Opening Ocean Blessing and minus tide Seaweed identification and harvesting. Cost is \$20-\$40 sliding scale, but Everyone is Welcome! For more information and directions contact Baile Oakes at 707-964-7721, or email BaileOakes@gmail.com.

Community Yard Sale Saturday, May 24th

Thad Van Bueren

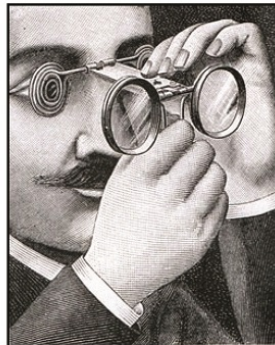
A previous community yard sale held three years ago on Labor Day weekend was a lot of fun, so we thought we'd try it again! This year the Westport Community Yard Sale is being planned for **Saturday, May 24th** on the Westport Community Headlands. Spaces will be rented in advance on a first come first served basis for a \$10 fee that will be used to help pay the cost of an ad in the Fort Bragg Advocate News, event signage, and street side decorations. We'll also send a public service announcement to local radio stations. If you would like to participate, contact Thad at 964-7272 by May 15th (advertising deadline is May 16th, so don't dally!!).

When you think about it, this is a very "Green" event. Re-use is even better for the environment than recycling. And it is a truism that one person's junk is another's treasure! We also encourage local farmers to join the event at no charge. The Westport Community Store will of course have food and libations and perhaps other local goods such as crafts may be sold at your rented booth spaces. Please plan to haul away your unsold items, as we'll need to leave the area in its natural condition when we leave. Perhaps this event could become a yearly tradition if there is enough interest.

Big Apple Raffle!

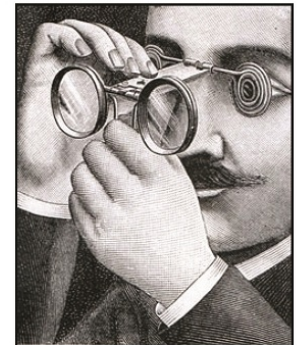
The **Big Apple Raffle** is a fundraiser for the Mendocino Choir Boosters, with proceeds going to fund the **Mendocino Choir's** upcoming trip to the New York City Heritage Festival (one of the singers in this group is Marie Fostiak's granddaughter Muriel Shuttuck!) **Raffle Tickets are \$5 each and are on sale NOW at the Westport Community Store.** This is your big chance to win some fantastic prizes, including tour packages, weekend getaways, fancy dinners, and much much more! The Raffle Drawing will be held at Cotton Auditorium on **May 20th**, so stop by the Westport Store and **BUY TICKETS!**

Westport Community Yard Sale Many Families—Diverse Treasures!!



**Saturday
May 24**

**9 to 4
on the
Headlands**



Also Enjoy: **Westport Farmers Market and
Local Food & Libations**

Think Green: Reuse Is Better Than Recycling!!

The Art of T'ai Chi Ch'uan

Scott Menzies

*Editor's Note: Scott Menzies opened his studio, Perfect Circle T'ai Chi Ch'uan, last June in Fort Bragg, and has been teaching classes in Westport with MCRPD for over six months. Starting **May 6th**, his **T'ai Chi Martial Arts** class will move from Thursdays to **Tuesdays at 6:15PM** at the Westport School. Drop by and join in – you'll be glad you did!*

Most people think of T'ai Chi Ch'uan (which is pronounced *Tie Jee Chwehn*) as a health and wellness exercise loosely based on martial arts and done in groups at parks. While partially true, the reality is that it really is a martial art, and treated as such, has even greater benefits for practitioners. The class I teach in Westport on Tuesday evenings emphasizes Push Hands, which is the core of the martial art. It's not just about learning martial movements, but learning the core fundamentals to movement and engagement. From this understanding, the actual martial movements flow naturally, which is why this is a martial *art* that takes time to develop, as opposed to 'self-defense' that seeks to provide specific defense strategies in a short period of time.

Being a martial art, a deeper goal is to not only develop typical martial arts skills, but to also develop

an ethos that I call the “Daoist Warrior”. While most of us have no need to become bamboo-flying ninjas, we do have a need to learn skills that help us better engage on the battlefield of life – the everyday interactions and situations we must deal with, not all of which will always be happy and smooth. Push Hands does this by training us to stay calm but engaged in challenging situations. Relying upon its Daoist underpinnings, it asks us to neither resist nor retreat, but lead, helping us be more calm and thoughtful in our everyday dealings. The ultimate goal is inner peace – to make us better friends, partners, colleagues, and, when necessary, adversaries who are nonviolent but not pacifist. Nonviolence does not mean refusing to take hard action. It means taking any necessary action, be it hard or not, coming from a place of inner peace and compassion.

In our dealings in everyday life, we often rely upon anger to bypass the fear we feel at confronting a problematic situation. Any action taken out of fear, anger, or other mental imbalance is not technically nonviolent, and, while we may rely upon such emotions to motivate us to take action, it's important to be working at personal practices that train us to end such reliance. The key to this is the development of equanimity. Any practice that develops focus, awareness, and equanimity is a productive practice. If your everyday life is not becoming more peaceful and your equanimity is not increasing, then you need to examine your technique, whatever practice you are engaging in. T'ai Chi Ch'uan has a pathway to equanimity built in. The great benefit of T'ai Chi Push Hands is that it asks you to engage in martial arts in a meditative manner that allows you to observe what manifests when you are interacting with others in what is essentially a combat-like way. This trains us to be more nonviolent in our interactions in everyday life.

The health and wellness reputation is not undeserved, however. T'ai Chi Ch'uan strives to build the warrior from within, which is why the same practices that are used to train martial artists are also just really great for all forms of health – mental, physical, and social. Rather than break down the body by punishing it, the goal is to build it carefully over time, inside and out, which is why we have stories – some legendary, some documented – of old masters being able to defeat young challengers. This is why there is no “prime” in

T'ai Chi Ch'uan, like there is in Western boxing, for example.

I started my T'ai Chi Ch'uan training in Taiwan in 1999, studying Yang-style forms. Truthfully, it started as a cultural exploration. My wife and I were in Taiwan to teach English and further experience Asia after I finished my Peace Corps tour in Nepal, so when a Taiwanese friend asked me if I wanted to join a T'ai Chi class, I immediately said “Yes!” I quickly started to realize that my knees, which had been historically problematic, were improving. Soon I started seeing that there really were health and wellness benefits to the practice, which helped motivate me to continue. It wasn't until my wife, Emily McPhail, and I moved to mainland China in 2002 to cap our stay in Asia that I was exposed to, and became fascinated with, Push Hands and T'ai Chi Ch'uan as a martial art. The martial component was there in Taiwan, but, for some reason, I wasn't ready for it. But I was looking for something deeper when we arrived in China, and when I met Master Zhou Fei, I knew I'd found what I was looking for. I studied intensively with Master Zhou for the next six months, before we decided it was time to return to the U.S. in 2003. I started teaching almost right away, returning to China in 2007 with a student of mine to get a month's further training. It was a great experience for me to take Ryan (Arvidson), who was a really awesome student, to China with me, and then see him hold his own really well against his new Chinese martial arts “brothers” (it actually caused a bit of friction, how well he did!) Master Zhou was really pleased, and happy to take him on as an official *tu di* (disciple)!

Time And Tide

Steve Brigham

It always seems that there's a lot of low tides in the spring, and they all come at sunrise or early morning. This month, we've got a whole week of early morning “super-minus” tides in the minus-1 range, so it will be a great time for tidepooling. The fun starts on Tuesday May 13th with a minus 0.5 tide at 6:02AM, and goes all the way through Tuesday May 20th with a minus 0.9 at 10:33AM. Peak low tides are an impressive minus 1.3, on both Friday May 16th at 7:08AM and Saturday May 17th at 7:55AM.



Westport Village Society Update

Thad Van Bueren, President, WVS

A number of topics came up at the recent WVS Meeting on April 23rd, so I thought I'd share a few highlights for those who could not attend. We began by discussing the Westport School, in part because the "Small Necessary School Funding" program no longer exists, and it therefore appears unlikely the school will ever reopen. Beth Pine, the Executive Director of the Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District, kindly gave an update on the vibrant recreation program Tabby Korhummel coordinates. Everyone agreed that program provides huge amounts of benefits to our community and should continue.

The MCRPD is currently negotiating a 5-year agreement with the Fort Bragg School District to continue its recreation programming here and elsewhere. Beth mentioned the programming will be expanded to include arts this summer, and she encouraged community use of the building that should be coordinated with Tabby. Baile Oakes also told us the Westport Church Board has been discussing the future of the school with the FBUSD. Speaking for the Church, he suggested local control of the building might be worth pursuing, since the facility will probably not reopen as a school. WVS took no action, but expressed support for the ongoing recreation and community activities at the school.

An update was given on the many community projects undertaken by the Neighbor 2 Neighbor committee in the first quarter of this year. Some of those projects have been featured in this newsletter

and, for that reason, I will not belabor all of the wonderful grassroots actions. The most recent activity included modest improvements to the stairway at Pete's Beach north of town (check it out next time you go there). The WVS Board gave accolades to the N2N committee for their generosity and community spirit.

We also discussed the possibility of placing sculpture on the Headlands. This discussion highlighted the need to develop a thoughtful position and guidelines, informed by community input. If WVS decides to allow the temporary or permanent installation of one or more sculptures, we'll need to consider issues like size, number, location, and aesthetic compatibility. Since everyone has different tastes in art and the Headlands is a natural space, WVS decided to approach the issue in a stepwise manner. We will allow the temporary (one year or less) installation of "Gaia", a beautiful sculpture by Westport artist Baile Oakes (see photo this page), at the west edge of the event field, south of the viewing platform, in late May. We encourage you to give us your thoughts about placing sculpture to inform the development of a policy that will guide future decisions on this matter.

When To Call 911

Bill Knapp, President, WVFD

The Westport Volunteer Fire Department has recently had inquiries from the community about whether to call 911 or to call a member of the Fire Department directly in case of a problem. Usually the question is related to a medical problem, either not feeling well or an accidental injury. No matter what the situation, the fastest and best way to get WVFD to respond is to **CALL 911**. One phone call and the entire department gets paged out. The 911 dispatcher is trained to help determine what level of response the situation requires. While initiating the page-out, the 911 dispatcher will provide information to the caller on what people at the scene can do immediately to maximize safety and prepare for arrival of first responders. If you **THINK** it is an emergency, that alone is sufficient to call 911. It is not an imposition on WVFD or other elements of the Emergency Response System to be called. That is why we are here! So please **CALL 911 FIRST!**



The Mendocino Theatre Company cast of *Grace*.

Buckle Up! Wild Tragicomedy *Grace* Playing NOW at the Mendocino Theatre Company!

The Mendocino Theatre Company is proud to present *Grace*, a breathtaking new play by Craig Wright, under the direction of Carter Sears. Complete with toe-tapping rockabilly music and an exotic Floridian set, this wonderfully unique new play gives local audiences the chance to experience one of American theatre's rarest genres: Tragicomedy.

Evangelical Christians Steve and Sara Hutchinson have just moved from Minnesota to Florida with a plan: to start a chain of gospel-themed hotels. For the Hutchinsons, this represents more than a new business opportunity with an increasingly unavailable and mysterious Swiss financier: this is God's plan, and God's plans cannot be derailed.

This bracingly funny play is a theatrical crowd-pleaser about the differences between religion and faith, the nature of time, and mysterious second chances brought about by a kind of grace that few of us can comprehend.

Audiences will be excited to know that *Grace* features the talents of recent MTC comic favorites. Penuel Corbin, who was previously seen in *In the Next Room* or *The Vibrator Play*, will play Steve; Nicole Paravicini, last seen in *The 39 Steps*, will play Sara; Adam David Jones, fresh off of his run in *Other Desert Cities*, will play NASA Scientist Sam; and newcomer Joel Waldman will play Karl, the German exterminator.

***Grace* plays at the Mendocino Theatre Company at 45200 Little Lake St. in Mendocino through May 25th, Thursdays-Saturdays at 8:00PM, with 2:00PM matinees on selected Sundays.** For tickets and more information, please contact the Mendocino Theatre Company Box Office at 707-937-4477, or go to <http://www.mendocinotheatre.org/>.

Grace Rocks!

Annastazia Lukgudinov

When a play opens with a gun shot as does *Grace* (by Craig Wright, currently playing on the Mendocino Theatre Company stage), the ensuing suspense feels like the drink the person next to you just spilled in your lap. It stays with you for the full 90 minutes while you sit on the edge of your seat. Director Carter Sears takes no prisoners as the play unfolds around neighbors in a Florida apartment complex. In the first apartment, Steve Hutchinson, (played by Penuel Corbin), and his wife Sara, (Nicole Paravicini) have recently moved from Minnesota, inspired to build a thriving business running a chain of hotels with a Gospel theme, all subsidized by a silent partner based in Switzerland. Next door, a young NASA scientist, Sam, (Adam David Jones) works from home, ashamed and traumatized by injuries from an accident and the loss of his fiancée. Not by accident, bad blocking, nor due to the diminutive dimensions of this gem-like theatre, the two apartments occupy the same place at the same time, setting a primary theme that follows the characters like a familiar dog from a parallel universe.

What sets this play on fire is the caliber of the cast, and the ferocious subtleties of direction. A quartet completed and welded together by Karl the German exterminator, (played by unforgettable newcomer, Joel Waldman, the defacto historian and poet of Elk, California) these four actors move around the stage from one apartment to the other throwing a ball of energy and inspiration, blasphemy, and logic that eventually deprives the audience of any former cosmic certainty they might have brought in with them. Allegory puts on a whole new suit, and as Steve's faith is tested, and Sara works a miracle, the Space Program takes a back seat to palmetto bugs and termites. Whether it's anxiety, the holy ghost, or the rockabilly music floating overhead, there comes unmistakable foot tapping from the direction of the audience.

Performed with less conviction, this play could be hard to digest, but Penuel Corbin's iron grasp on the explosive nature of faith and disappointment leads to a seismographic and shining deliverance of a contemporary truth. Adam David Jones nails the limitations of technology to the cross-hairs of the Hubble and wrestles with the black hole of his own existence until everyone in the theatre is prepared to pull the plug. Nicole Paravicini, in her portrayal of the conflict between instinct, intellect, and deference, reveals the paradox of young marriage, when honesty and loyalty compete with the persistent weeds of reality to define the couple. Her gentle and compassionate evolution throughout the play is remarkable, and her command of the stage is in fine balance with the trinity of male actors: one who deftly delivers the unbridled passion of belief even as it comes back to bite him, another whose overwhelming emotional perspectives are masterfully channeled, and the third, a guilt ridden hero who carries the weight of the ages in his plastic canister as he quietly and patiently heads off the unconquerable armies of nature.

Grace, despite its nod to suicide, murder, genocide, the holocaust, torture, betrayal, terminal cancer, lost love, gun control, plagues of insects, transforming mutilation, and unbearable itching, not to mention man's willingness to keep on going in the face of certain failure is.... hilarious. More importantly "Grace" makes fun of no one and makes believers of everyone, not by a happy ending, but by tantalizing

insights (is the pure of heart the villain?) and disturbing questions (is the German exterminator really the good guy?), conundrums the audience cannot dismiss long after leaving the theatre. What opens with a gun shot startling enough to have made you spill your martini in your neighbor's lap lets you go home laughing to yourself about all the wrong things. As one character quips, "PC? It figures."

Rainfall Report

Steve Brigham

As Yogi Berra might say, "Normal just ain't normal anymore". After the surprisingly encouraging (and refreshingly "normal") rainfall during our Fabulous February and Miracle March this year (which made up for some of the rain we should have gotten last fall but didn't), we got dry again in April, just like last year. I recorded just 1.89 inches of rain here in April on Pacific Avenue, which brings us to only 27.50 inches of rain here since last July 1st (our annual "normal" is around 42 inches here, and it's long been said that we need at least 38 inches of rain each year in Westport to properly recharge our aquifers).

You folks up in the hills have had more rain than I have down here at the sea, but it still looks like the best any of us can do at this point is to end up with a "rainy" season of barely 70% of "normal" (last year was around 75%). While that's a lot better than most of the rest of California, it's going to show up in our creek flows and water tables at some point, especially since we got all our rain at once this year, which at times produced a lot of runoff instead of ground water. That makes a big difference, since every drop of rainwater that flows into the ocean is water that we'll never see again and cannot use.

Some folks are talking about an El Nino for this fall, and I certainly hope they're right. But the bottom line is that no one can safely predict that until the mid-summer ocean temperature measurements are taken in the tropical Pacific Ocean, and that's still a few months away. So we'll just have to keep hoping for rain at this point, and be thankful that we're still green right now because of the wet February and March that we had!

Help Bring Bike Lanes to Westport!

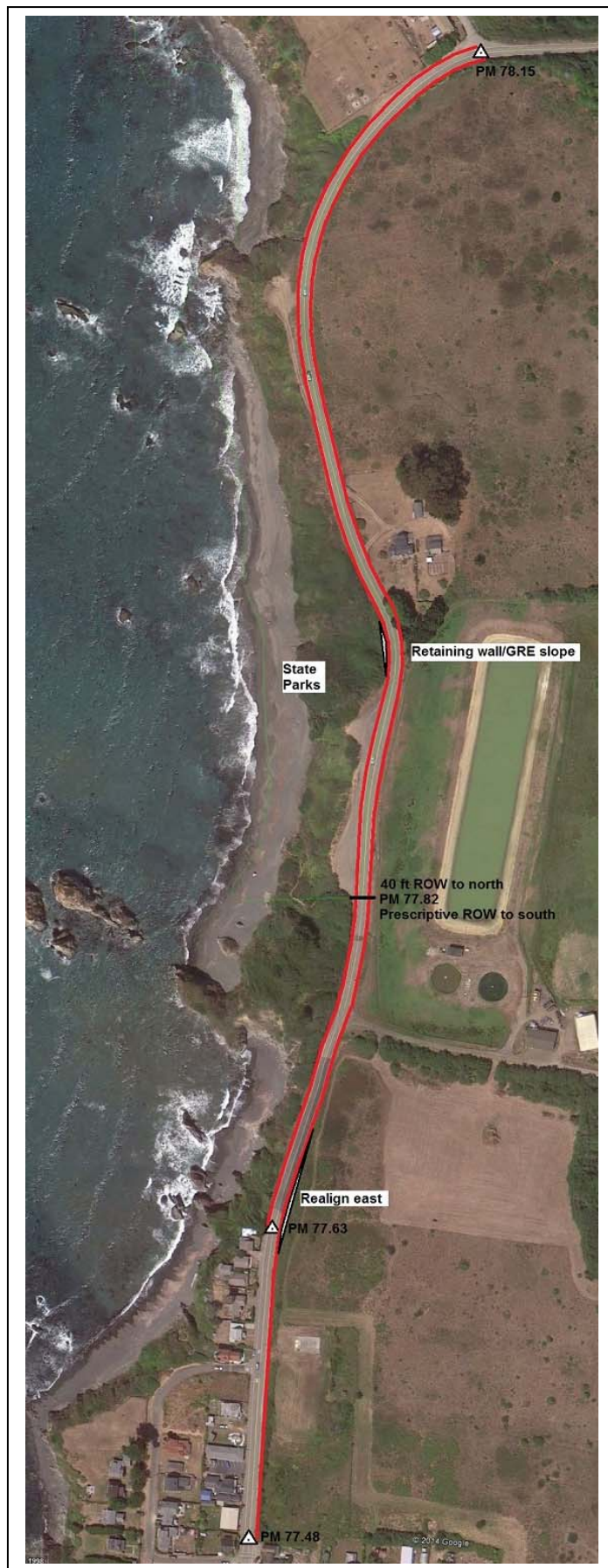
Thad Van Bueren

Over the past few months many of you have expressed support for the idea of putting shoulders on Highway 1 north of the village to make it safer to bicycle and walk to Pete's Beach, the fire station, cemetery, and Wages Creek Campground. The good news is that there is now something you can do to improve the chance of funding that project this year! I am preparing an application for ATP grant funding, a new program that will support non-motorized transportation improvements in California. The ATP program includes special set-asides for rural low income communities, and we are also well-positioned to apply for the grant because of two recent planning studies that clearly establish the need for such improvements.

To obtain this funding, we must partner with the Mendocino Council of Governments and Caltrans. That is where you come in! I will be asking MCOG to assume the role of the applicant in behalf of our community at their May 5th meeting in Ukiah. The meeting will be held at 1:30 PM in the Board of Supervisors' Chambers at 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1070. If you can't attend, please write a letter to the MCOG Directors by Friday morning and email it to the Executive Director Phil Dow at dowp@dow-associates.com. Call me at 964-7272 if you'd like a ride to the meeting.

Phil has been a steadfast advocate for non-motorized transportation in the County, and he took the time to meet with Caltrans District 1 Director Charlie Fielder in our behalf last week. As a result, Caltrans has agreed to write a letter of support for our grant application. We will be competing with several other local applications, so a show of local support will be very valuable at the MCOG meeting. Supervisor Dan Gjerde has indicated he supports our application.

Assuming MCOG is willing to act as the grant applicant, letters of support for the "Westport Bike Lanes ATP Grant Application" should be sent to Teresa McWilliam, Caltrans Division of Local Assistance, Office of Active Transportation and Special Programs (MS 1), P.O. Box 942874, Sacramento CA 94274-0001. Teresa can be reached at (916) 653-0328 or teresa.mcwilliam@dot.ca.gov.





Westport Redwood Furniture Moves To Fort Bragg

Mary Saenz

Saenz Design and Hand Made Furniture is Joe and Liza Saenz-Bernard's new gallery-store at 320 North Franklin Street in Fort Bragg, and they are now looking for other artists who wish to share this attractive retail gallery space. This showroom has 12 foot by 12 foot spaces, depicting a room in a home. Joe and Glen Arnold, craftsmen/carpenter associate, work on book cases, armoires, bars, stools, bedroom sets, hope chests, and wide range of door jams, mantles, floors, decks, etc, for your home décor. The vision for their store started off being a show room for Joe's strong Mission style. What evolved, after a few phone calls to friends, and one First Friday, was a coming together, of separate room displays and themes for Joe's furniture. This store of hand made furniture is lavished with fabrics, paintings, tapestries, thick rugs, quilts & pillows.

The story behind the new furniture store goes back a couple of generations. The style, strength, and beauty of Joe's furniture is derived from his Spanish heritage. Many years ago, Joe visited the Spanish Galleon furniture store, where he was offered a four-year internship, learning to use tools and design and build furniture. This experience directed him to

several jobs in the southern California area working on Green Brothers-style homes.

At the Franklin Street gallery, Elaine Stevens, president of the non-profit Pacific Textiles (PTA), collaborated with Lolli Jacobson and others and set up a loom for member Mina to weave on. Selected members show hand-woven, knitted, crochet, dyed/printed fiber arts, wall hangings, rugs, and scarves. Tangerine Steinbrecher shows a stained glass window and Arts and Crafts lampshades, which goes together with Joe's Mission style furniture. Come say hello on May 2nd for First Fridays Galleries Openings. For more info please go to their web site,

www.saenzdesignbernardfurniture.wordpress.com

A Review Of The Westport Hotel's Saturday Afternoon Tea

Tessa DeFries, Senior Restaurant Critic,
"You Are What Chew Wheat" Magazine

I don't usually get in the car and go out for tea. And I almost never get in the car with my dog and go out for tea. But on this occasion, I had to escape my house with my dog in tow (I was the one in tow), because a realtor was coming over to show our house to some people. I would have happily served the house-lookers tea if I could have just stayed home and watched a movie, but instead the car drove us to the Westport Headlands Park, and the dog jumped out catching my foot in the leash and together we went and peed on a pole. I knew it was going to be one of those stupid adventures where the dog runs up and down the beach pretending it's Disneyland and I stand around poking at rocks and looking at my watch. The house-lookers back at my house should be in the bedroom by now, and I can't remember if I stashed my underwear when I changed to go out. I stared at the water, imagining the invisible presence of the Loch Ness Monster's cousin, making the most of the bobbing sea weed. The dog has clearly no concept of why you don't tiptoe out across the wet rocks. And he's down. Now he's out. And he's wet. And it's only been 20 minutes. The house-lookers are visiting the

attic now. I hope they notice that I vacuumed up there. I started up the beach staircase. OMG. Called the dog. Hooked on the leash. At least if he's going to drag me around all the time, he can damn well drag me up this launch pad. These people need a funicular railway. At the top, he bolts, and the leash flies out of my hand. Two tourists yelp, and jump into their car, parked, unfortunately, next to mine. You know that dream where your legs won't go fast enough? Yeah. That one. So I'm running in extremely slow motion in the direction of the car where the dog is bouncing in place, and I studiously avoid eye contact with the prisoners in the Mini-Cooper next to me. I use the remote key toy that came with my car to show that even if my dog ignores me, my trunk goes up like magic when I tell it to. Dog leaps in, wagging and wet and smiles contentedly as I lock him away in the trunk. It's only been 30 minutes.

SO, I remember that The Westport Hotel is serving High Tea on Saturdays, and as I saunter across the street in, yes, slow motion, still ignoring the Mini-Cooper-Couple, I consider the possibility that "High Tea" in Westport, California, might mean something else, but I can't go home yet, so I decide to take my chances. Inside the door, it's a little dark, but I remember I have those glasses that turn dark, and gradually it lightens up. There's a quartet of middle-elderlies, (still mobile but a little stiff), partaking in the corner, so I choose a little table within earshot, and sit down, and notice suddenly that I should have brought somebody with me. Who goes out for High Tea by themselves? This could be awkward. I receive a lovely menu with a multiple choice quiz on local teas, so I look for the root words and pick Bergamot because I like the sound of the word. Then I have to choose between a scone, with butter and jam, or the whole nine yards with bells and whistles, which is what we're meant to be here doing anyway, and so I pick the whole nine yards and justify it by reminding myself of the looky-loos exploring my closet.

While I wait, I think my neck has grown giraffe-like, and I wonder if Bob and Carole and Ted and Mable are puzzled by this woman who I sitting by herself for High Tea, unblocked by the back of a companion, not even a cell phone to pretend she is not just here for the cookies, so I crane my neck around and find a book shelf, thank you GOD, and grab a book. Sea Glass. See glass. It's just glass.

It's old beer bottles banged around on rocks and scuffed up. But the Bergamot arrives. The pot is pink, and warm, and steamy. This is good. The cup is delicate, like the ones of my mothers I sold in a garage sale, and she freaked out. Really beautiful. The matching saucer, matching plate, the silver strainer – I think I can get into this. It's nice. I settle back, the book in my lap, open to the page explaining why orange sea glass is more valuable than green sea glass. I pour the milk, and add a little no-cal sugar, (who am I kidding?) and stir with the elegant shiny silver spoon. Yes. This is nice. Nicer than watching a movie. Much nicer than walking the dog. Walking? I don't think so. Nicer than drinking Diet Coke out of a can, one I lose somewhere before I finish it. It's quiet. Even the four Early Birds are quiet in their corner. Then the smiling tea lady delivers. It's a platter with a matrix of little sandwiches decorated with five different kinds of dried fruit: raisins, currants, cranberries, and lemon, a dash of orange, and three layers of fruit, pierced with a toothpick and a mint leaf for good measure, tiny rounds of bread with cream cheese, sprinkled with a dash of this and that, and flowers, violets, pansies, waiting to be plucked and popped into the mouth, and this whole platter is completely punctuated with nonpareils and chocolate balls with purple shells. A work of art. A disappearing work of art. A quickly disappearing work of art. And now I am delighted that I came alone, because if I had brought you with me, I would have had to share, and maybe talk a little when I really wanted just to scarf down, in slow motion, these delicious tidbits, and contemplate the word, "Bergamot". This could become a habit.

Crisis Intervention and Peer Support Class June 11th and 12th

Acclaimed crisis support expert and WVFD Chaplain Dr. Lin Taylor will present this two-day class for emergency personnel and other assisting individuals at the Mendocino Coast District Hospital Redwood Conference Room. Cost is \$200 for the two-day course, with scholarships and financial assistance available. For information and to register, please call Dr. Lin Taylor at 357-0808, or e-mail her at lintaylor@wildblue.net

Logan's Corner

J. Logan Smith

"True Art"

Mud must feel happy
in a good potter's hands,
Wild waters must flow freely
as they reach to the sands.
A painter's brush must feel so secure,
White clouds in a blue sky
must feel so pure.

Fine thread sewn from
an artistic Loom,
Merge to one cloth;
As with the Master chef's spoon.

Slippers must feel snug
over the ballerina's toes;
Free as gods of nature
Strong as a redwood grows.

For within true art
There is no competition
No confrontation
Nor indecision;
Is without right
Is without wrong
Is only the plight
Of the true artist's song.

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.



The Noble Duck

What a piece of work is a duck! How noble in reason, how infinite in faculty! In form and moving how express and admirable! In action how like an Angel! In apprehension how like a god!

Ducklet, Act II, Scene 2



Cemetery Appreciation Day

Steve Brigham

Small towns all across America share one very unique and wonderful type of museum, and it's called the Town Cemetery. Unlike other types of museums, these often-historical cemeteries are not just a bunch of stuff that you look at – they are real places that you can visit. And stand on the ground. And be there.

Small towns all across America not only love but care for their historical cemeteries. Many of these towns have a Cemetery Appreciation Day once or twice a year, where the townsfolk help “spruce up” the cemetery grounds and honor those that have gone before us. This year, on **Saturday, June 14th** (which is Flag Day), we'll be having our own Westport Cemetery Appreciation Day, where you can not only help beautify our historical cemetery, but also learn more about its history and the people who are memorialized there. Save the date – we'll have more about the program for this Special Volunteer Day in next month's *Westport Wave*, so stay tuned!

130 Years Ago In The Wave

Steve Brigham

OK, it wasn't called *The Westport Wave* back then. But it was our local newspaper back when Westport was just starting to get going 130 years ago. I'm looking right now at an original copy of the May 6th, 1884 issue of the *North Coast Review*, which was published in Kibesillah (interestingly enough, May 6th also falls on a Tuesday this year). You could subscribe to this weekly paper for just \$2 per year

(I'm happy to report that today's *Westport Wave* is a much better bargain), and it's got articles on lots of stuff going on around the county. In a future issue of *The Wave*, I'll have more about some of the articles in this edition of the *Review*. One fact that caught my eye was a report that in San Francisco, the going rate for a dozen ducks was \$6.00. Of course, these weren't rubber ones, but that still seems a little steep to me!

May 2014 Westport Calendar

May 1st – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM

May 2nd & 3rd – Wild Foods And Herbs Workshop

May 6th – WMAC Meeting, Church, 7:00PM

May 7th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department

Meeting, 6:00PM, Westport Firehouse

May 10th – Westport County Water District Board

Meeting, 10:00AM, Westport Firehouse

May 11th – Mother's Day

May 11th – 24th ANNUAL WESTPORT RUBBER DUCKY RACES, Wages Creek Campground and Beach, 11:15AM to 4PM

May 13th – Neighbor 2 Neighbor Meeting, 6:00PM, Westport Hotel

May 14th – Full Moon, 12:16PM

May 14th – Westport Ten Mile Cemetery Board

Meeting, Westport Church, 10:00AM

May 15th – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM

May 24th – Westport Swap Meet

May 26th – Memorial Day

May 28th – New Moon, 11:40AM


May 29th – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM

June 14th (save the date!) – Westport Cemetery Appreciation Day

The Westport Wave is a free monthly community newsletter published by the **Westport Village Society**, a non-profit 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 each month's newsletter are also available for free at the Westport Store. Visit www.westportvillagesociety.org, where you can sign up to receive *The Wave* by e-mail and also download present and past issues of *The Wave*. Contributions for our June 1st, 2014 issue are due by May 27th, and should be sent to editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@aol.com, or Box 237, Westport, CA 95488.



MAY 2014 SELF-ENRICHMENT WESTPORT SCHOOL CLASS SCHEDULE

MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WED.	THURSDAYS	FRI.	SATURDAYS
10:30AM-12:00PM	9:30-10:30AM		9:30-10:30AM		9:00-10:00AM
YOGA WITH JULIA (90 minutes)	NEW! CORE 'N MORE! (60 minutes)	YOUR CLASS HERE?	 Zumba Toning (60 minutes)	YOUR CLASS HERE?	BODY SCULPTING WITH AIMEE (NEW TIME!) (60 minutes)
	10:30-11:30AM				
	Kinder Gym and Tiny Tots Tumbling (60 minutes)				

T'ai Chi MARTIAL ARTS – TUESDAY EVENINGS 6:15–7:45PM
MOVING TO TUESDAY EVENINGS STARTING MAY 6TH! – JOIN SCOTT MENZIES,
 TAIJQUAN/QIGONG INSTRUCTOR AND PROPRIETOR OF FORT BRAGG'S PERFECT
 CIRCLE TAIJQUAN. ACHIEVE BALANCE AND INNER PEACE – FOR ALL AGES!

Yoga and T'ai Chi classes are \$12 each, or \$10 each with a Class Pass (6-10 classes paid in advance); other classes are \$8 each, or \$6 each with a 10-class Class Pass.

* **YOGA FOR ALL LEVELS** – BE PREPARED TO GROW AN INCH!

* **NEW!! CORE 'N MORE!** – USE YOUR BODY WEIGHT TO STRENGTHEN YOUR CORE! ESSENTIAL FOR BACK HEALTH AND EVERYDAY LIFE, GREAT FOR ALL AGES AND FITNESS LEVELS! FINISH WITH A REWARDING 15 MIN. DEEP STRETCH!

* **ZUMBA TONING** – USE LIGHT WEIGHTS TO GENTLY SCULPT YOUR BODY AS YOU MOVE TO LATIN AND WORLD RHYTHMS!

* **BODY SCUPLTING** – START YOUR WEEKEND OFF THE HEALTHY WAY, AS YOU GET IN SHAPE FOR SUMMER! THIS CLASS IS FOR ALL AGES, AND USES A VARIETY OF EASY WEIGHTS TO GENTLY SCULPT YOUR MUSCLES. ALL LEVELS WELCOME – BRING A WATER BOTTLE AND A SMILE! YOU'LL LEAVE EACH CLASS FEELING RELAXED AND OH-SO HAPPY AND HEALTHY!

* **TINY TOTS TUMBLING** – 2-3 and 4-8 YEARS PRE-GYMNASTICS FOR YOUR LITTLE ONES! THEY ALL LOVE IT!



Mother's Day in Westport

The Great Rubber Ducky Race At Wages Creek



Sunday

May, 11

- 11:15 Gates Open
- 11:30-2:15 Duck
Registration
- 12:00-2:30 BBQ
Served
- 12:30 Decorated
Duck Contest
- 12:45 Handcrafted
Race
- 1:30 Kid's Race
- 2:15 Classic Race
- 3:00 Quilt Raffle
Drawing
- Race Entry \$5.00



Raffle Quilt

Decorated



**Duck
Contest**



Tri-Tip or Veggie BBQ

\$12 Adult, \$5 Child

Benefits WVS

Info: www.westportvillagesociety.org

Caspar & Westport Beaches
RV Park & Campgrounds
Mendocino's Best Kept Secrets