

Once In A Blue Moon

Steve Brigham, Editor

This month, on July 31st, we'll have a Blue Moon. You've heard of a blue moon, right? People use the phrase "once in a blue moon" to refer to something that happens only very rarely. Does this mean that a blue moon is a very rare thing? Well, not exactly. But it does point to the fact that before television and computers, human beings didn't have a whole lot else to do except make stuff up about the moon.

There are actually two kinds of blue moons, and one of them has to do with how the moon cycle interacts with our wacked-out how-many-days-are-in-this-month-again? modern calendar. In most seasons (which are 3 months long), there are 3 full moons. Only occasionally are there four full moons in a season, and the 3rd of those is called a blue moon. Sometimes, though, there are 2 full moons in one month (like this one) but there are still only 3 full moons in the season. That didn't used to qualify as a blue moon, but now it does, because of a mistake in a 1946 *Sky and Telescope* magazine article that everyone ended up believing anyway. Got that?

Don't even get me started on time zones, since they can screw up a perfectly good blue moon, depending on where you live. Anyway, if you do the math, you'll find that a "real" blue moon has an average value of once every 2.7145 years. But when you add the "modern" blue moons (like the one this month), your total average blue moon value goes all the way down to 1.33 years (which doesn't seem all that rare to me). If you really want rare, forget about a blue moon and go for a "Two Moon". That's when there are only two full moons in a season, and it can only happen in a Dec. to March season. It did happen here in 1961-62, and it won't happen again until 2314-15! (There was also, of course, a Blue Moon in 1961 – the Marcells' fantastic doo-wop version of the song by that name – songs that great are also very rare!)



Free vegetables for all at the Community Garden!

Community Garden News

Steve Brigham

It does seem like I only get around to overhauling the Westport Community Garden "once in a blue moon". This year, I was two months late, but at least now it's done, and we can look forward to a nice harvest of 20 kinds of organically grown vegetables starting in August. But was I really late? Well, April was a cool month in Westport, and May was even cooler. In cool springs, you just don't get a high enough soil temperature here to get the summer vegetables growing very well. But now that both the soil and air temperatures are higher, the garden should grow quite rapidly – so check it out, right next to the Rec.Center!

Many thanks to Bob Finnell for doing the initial clearing at the garden this year, and to David Brothers for putting the greenhouse back together. And my biggest thanks of all goes to Gary Quinton, who not only (and very generously) donated many sorely needed big new pots, but also delivered the soil mix to fill them! We'll be planting more plants as the summer progresses, so stay tuned for future updates!

New Classes At The Community Recreation Center

Take a look at the July Calendar of Classes on the last page of this newsletter – there are some great new classes this month, with something for everyone! In addition to the regular weekday line-up, there will be two special Sunday classes this month – Kids’ Chemistry with Sarah on July 5th at 11:30AM, and Sew a Cute Coin Purse with Aimee on July 19th at 12:00PM. It’s all happening at the Westport Recreation Center at the end of Abalone Street, so check it out and attend a class today!

Kids' Movie Night July 18th

This month's feature will be *Finding Nemo*. Doors will open at 6PM on Saturday, July 18th, with the movie starting when the popcorn is ready (usually by 6:20PM). Bring pillows and blankets/sleeping bags for the kids and a comfy chair for yourself.

Critical Incident Stress Management Training Class July 24th and 25th

WVFD EMT and Chaplain Dr. Lin Taylor will teach a class on Critical Incident Stress Management on Friday and Saturday, July 24th and 25th at The Company Store, 303 N. Main St., Fort Bragg. This course is open to anyone who may assist during a crisis or traumatic event, with topics to include communication methods for crisis intervention, common psychological and behavioral crisis reactions, and predictors of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Certification is offered with the completion of this 2-day course, and tuition is \$120.00. Please pre-register with Lin Taylor, Ph.D at (707) 357-0808 or email: lintaylor@wildblue.net

24/7 Westport Wave

Did you know that the easiest way to read *The Westport Wave* is on the Newsletter page of our website westportvillagesociety.org – where you’ll always find the most current issue as well as all the monthly back-issues back to November 2011, all in living color! Tell your friends!

Westport Flea Market July 26th

Sarah Mathias

Energized by the Community Yard Sale, a few of us have decided to put together a Westport Flea Market on the last Sunday of each month on the Westport Headlands. The first will be this month on **Sunday, July 26 from 11:00AM to 2:00PM**. We are looking for anyone interested in participating in this endeavor. If you are interested in being a vendor and/or helping organize and spread the word please contact Sarah Mathias at sarah.e.mathias@gmail.com or 962-0181.

Community Headlands Report

Steve Brigham

This past winter and spring, we had three very productive community meetings on the Westport Community Headlands that to my mind only reinforced our traditional concepts of Headlands management as set forth in our existing Headlands Management Plan. As Chair of the WVS Headlands review process, this community dialog and the 17 written surveys that were returned have convinced me that Westportians still want the Headlands to be as natural as possible while at the same time providing access to the event area and the stairs to the beach. There seems to me to be no need to change our Headlands Management Plan, but instead we should simply redouble our efforts to manage the Headlands in a natural as well as functional way.

The Westport Headlands is a very successful natural habitat for many native plants and animals just the way it is, and there is much agreement on that. There is good consensus that we must continue to focus on limiting the spread of (but not removing) certain semi-invasive plants such as Himalaya berries and ivy, and that we will continue to do. We also have the opportunity to add some site-specific native plantings such as lupine in certain areas. It is my feeling that we do have a consensus that we all want to keep the Headlands as natural as possible, and this is the basis of the report I will give at the next WVS Board meeting on July 18th. Natural habitat can blend nicely with considerate human use on the Westport Headlands. That has been happening for over 10 years now, and it will continue to happen in a similar manner in the future.



The Westport Community Church

Westport Church July 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 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, 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month have a regularly scheduled focus. The 1st Sunday and the rare 5th Sunday have purposefully been left open for community members to suggest other speakers/focus for these days. Please contact Millie Saunders at 964-3030 regarding your suggestions and help.

1st Sunday, July 5th – open for a community member to fill or there will be no meeting this day. Please call Millie if you are interested.

2nd Sunday, July 12th, 10:00AM – Carolyne Cathey, “Power to Choose, & Cause and Effect”

Spiritual Power Tools are provided by the Divine for you to use to co-create the masterpiece that is your life. Your every thought, word, and action is a choice. The secret is to choose well. In what areas of your life do you make less than ideal choices? And why? What do you choose for your life?

Carolyne Cathey, Student Practitioner with the Mendocino Center for Spiritual Living, leads a shared discussion on why you make the choices you do, and how to work backwards from your goals to the causes that determine the outcome.

3rd Sunday, July 19th, 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.

4th Sunday, July 26th, 10:00AM – Mettika Hoffman “Buddha’s Teachings For An Ethical Life”

Mettika open this morning by leading us in a guided meditation. Following will be a presentation of the historical Buddha's teachings that recommended that beings lead an ethical life, which at the core, in simple terms, means to the best of our ability to abstain from killing, stealing, sexual misconduct, harmful speech, and intoxicants which cloud the mind. These abstentions can be understood not only in a limited way but also as a broad guideline. Living in this way provides safety and well being to self and others. This Sunday we will have the opportunity to explore and reflect on what this means in our daily lives. Time for discussion will follow the presentation.

Cindy Mettika Hoffman is a lay minister in the Thai Forest Tradition and certified Dharma leader. She offers ongoing educational opportunities on Buddhism at Three Jewels Hall in Fort Bragg.

Please remember:
All Sunday Services/Meetings at the Westport Community Church begin promptly at 10:00AM.
Please come join us!

New Westport Cemetery Entrance Sign

Steve Brigham

The Westport Cemetery is one of the most scenic historic cemeteries in the USA. It is also Westport's finest museum, where so many of our founding mothers and fathers are memorialized, as well as being very much a functioning cemetery (just as it has been for over 140 years) with plenty of space for interments for many generations to come.

As befits the Westport Cemetery's status as a historical museum, whenever the Cemetery District Board makes necessary repairs, it is a restoration project as much as it is a repair project. A year ago, both the front fence and the entry sign at the Westport Cemetery needed replacing after many years of weathering. Operations Manager Gary Quinton completely rebuilt the front fence with the help of volunteer labor, refurbishing and installing the same historic pickets on a brand new framework. More recently, Gary installed a brand new entry sign – although this sign was made to look old, it is produced on aluminum, and like the new fence it promises a life span of at least 50 years. And so at the Westport Cemetery, everything old is new again, but with the same look as it has always had!



Exploring Local History

Thad Van Bueren

While I find history fascinating, there is something particularly special about exploring our own family roots. I have recently been delving into my own history for the first time in some years. It has been a rewarding experience. I was inspired to pursue that by watching a short video of a TED talk by David Isay, the founder of Story Corps. He argues that capturing video of conversations with the people at center of our lives fundamentally changes us as people. I highly recommend seeing his video: <http://www.npr.org/2015/06/05/411734279/how-do-we-change-when-we-really-listen-to-the-people-we-love>

History is not just about dates and names, although those details are always a useful place to begin. It is more importantly about gaining insight into life experiences and wisdom. That may come from stories, as well as other valuable sources like diaries. I recently found an unpublished manuscript written by my paternal grandmother, for example. It offered her perspectives about the immigrant experience in American, written at the peak of the Great depression in 1933. She immigrated to the US from the Netherlands in 1926 with her husband. By 1933 she had three children, but found the time to write a 125-page academic book that sprung from her graduate research. It is very insightful for its time.

If your family has deep roots in the Westport area or you are simply interested in local history, you might want to check out some new resources I've recently compiled and posted on the WVS "Local History" web page. One of the most recent additions is a complete inventory of the Westport Cemetery that Nic Grosjean helped me map about a year ago. You can find a map of the family plots, as well as a detailed map showing every monument. A spreadsheet provides a complete list of the details recorded on every monument. Check it out at: <http://www.westportvillagesociety.org/history.html>

Other new content on the Local History page includes a complete inventory of all electronic photographs in the WVS archive. I've also printed out lists of local census, land patents, shipwrecks, and directories as pdf files that can be opened with the free Acrobat Reader program. Those lists are also available as Excel spreadsheets for those who have that proprietary software. I hope you'll enjoy checking out our local history.



2015 Westport Volunteer Fire Department Officers: Top row, left to right – Assistant Chief Dan Maxey, Captain Glen Jones, and Secretary John Allison; Bottom row, left to right – President Bill Knapp, Captain Steve Golman, Captain Beck Regalia, Chief Frank Maurice, and Treasurer Lee Tepper.

folks to make desserts, dessert booth help, help with the kids' games, and there are also many other jobs setting up the day before the BBQ and on the day of the event.

The WVFD BBQ is our main fund raising event of the year. This year, we hope to break all records and have a huge attendance. Your fire fighter volunteers are available 24/7 to help the community, and now we really need YOUR help with this fund-raiser. So be a BBQ volunteer, and show your appreciation for all of the hard work and training

Save The Date – WVFD Annual Fundraising BBQ August 15th

Lin Taylor, Chaplain and EMT, WVFD

Save the date – **Saturday, August 15th** – for the **Westport Volunteer Fire Department Annual Fundraising Barbecue**, which will be held on the **Westport Community Headlands from 12:00PM to 5:00PM** on that day. There will be live bands and kids' games, plus a host of talented vendors. Our famous BBQ of Tri-Tip and Chicken, plus vegetarian meals, will once again be just \$15 for adults and \$12 for kids under 12 and seniors 65 and over.

Would you like to have a sales booth at the BBQ? Booth space is free – we simply request a donation to the WVFD of 10% of your total sales, plus a raffle prize from your collection. Last year, over 350 people attended the WVFD BBQ, so this is a great summer sales opportunity!

The WVFD needs YOU to help us hard-working fire fighters put on our annual fund-raising event. We can really use help this year from people who can assist cooking the meat and chicken. Help is also needed with dishwashing (this year we are using REAL plates for the first time!) We also need meal servers,

that we do to keep our skills up and respond to fire and medical emergencies.

If you can help with the WVFD BBQ, or would like to be a vendor at this event, please call me, Lin Taylor, at (707) 357-0808, or email me at lintaylor@wildblue.net. Watch for more information on the BBQ in the August *Westport Wave*!

Seaside Road Construction

Steve Brigham

Over the past several weeks, those of you who either live in or visit Westport have undoubtedly spent some time waiting for the new signal to change at the construction zone on Highway 1 at Seaside. Perhaps, with that kind of time on your hands, you have wondered “What the “h” is going on here?” Well, so did valued reader Jim Genereux, and so he sent me this internet link to a Caltrans report that describes this construction project. Thanks, Jim! – here it is: http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist1/d1/projects/envdocs/seaside_final_is_8-2011.pdf As it turns out, this construction project is actually just a “2005 storm damage repair”, albeit a \$4 million one! A major-league retaining wall is to be built to shore the roadbed up, and (get ready for this) it's going to take not just this summer, but next summer, too!

Which Rainy Season Is It Anyway?

Steve Brigham

OK, it's July 1st. That means that we're done with the 2014-2015 "rainy season" in California, right? Time to total up the rainfall for the last 12 months, right? Well maybe, but not exactly.

You'd think that everyone everywhere in the world would just total up their annual precipitation based on the calendar year. But that would be too simple! California, for example, has for many years chosen to be different, and measure its annual rainfall from July 1st through June 30th. (A fiscal year total? I've always assumed that they thought that in our winter-wet climate that fall should be linked with the following winter. But in California, water equals money, so maybe it was a fiscal thing after all.) However, our current drought has everyone starting to use something called a "water year", which is October 1st thru September 30th. That means our "official" annual rainfall for 2015-2016 will be measured starting on October 1st 2015 and ending on September 30th, 2016.

OK, fine. But now what do we do with the next three months? Now I know what folks must have felt like when Pope Gregory changed the calendar back in 1582 and the day after October 4th was October 15th! If it rains here in July and August and September this year, what am I supposed to do?

Just in case you're interested, my Happy Acres rainfall total for July 1, 2014 thru June 30, 2015 was 41.37 inches, with most of that rain coming in November and December. That sounds a lot wetter than it really has been, mainly since it's hardly rained at all since before Christmas – in the past 6 months, we've had only 6 days when it's rained over four-tenths of an inch! You know it's been a weird year when half of the rain all winter and spring long here came in just one day (February 6th).

And so, our past rainy season in Westport will be remembered as one with a nearly normal 12-month rainfall total, but with just one big wet spell followed by a very long dry spell. Now we know how it can be wet and dry here at the same time. But at least we did get closer to our normal annual totals than anyone else (virtually all of California finished the "rainy" season with just 50% to 70% of normal). So we win!



The *New Horizons* spacecraft will fly by Pluto on July 14th. Pluto's moon Charon is at upper right, with the Sun (3 billion miles away) at top center.

Pluto Makes A Comeback!

Steve Brigham

When is a planet not a planet? When it's a "dwarf planet", of course! That's a long story, but you'll be hearing more of it as NASA's *New Horizons* spacecraft prepares for its flyby of Pluto on July 14th. It's taken nearly ten years for this grand piano-sized spacecraft to get to Pluto, even though at 32,000 mph., it's been going as fast as we could possibly make it go. The trade-off for that kind of speed is that *New Horizons* has no brakes – but it will be taking a lot of measurements and photos in the days ahead, so many that it will take 16 months to transmit all that data to Earth. Since Pluto is only around two-thirds the size of our Moon and is 3 billion miles away, no one has ever seen it and its big moon Charon as anything but a blur in the 85 years we've known about it, so the new photos will be truly amazing!

During the 20th Century, little Pluto was recognized as an eccentric from the get-go, but it wasn't until the 21st Century that Mike Brown of Cal-Tech started finding more Pluto-like "planets" that orbit beyond Neptune and in fact have orbits somewhat influenced by it. Dr. Brown has written a wonderful book titled *How I Killed Pluto and Why It Had It Coming*, which is one of the best books I've ever read (and is actually available at the Fort Bragg Library!) In this book are fascinating stories about his discoveries of many Pluto-like worlds as well as his own private world, proving that even planetary scientists have real lives. It's definitely a "must read" for Pluto month!

Logan's Corner

“Winds of Contentment”

We become True Artists
When we open our hearts;
Allow others to help us grow.
We're only players,
When the Music tells us so.

Vanity toys with our minds and souls;
Gifts coming in ribbons and bows –
Where lights are bright,
And an ego grows.

The greatest gifts are
what we share.
And the greatest gifts
be Love and Happiness.

Vanity and Happiness are
incompatible.
Only Love knows the Truth.
And Love sings in ancient proverbs,
While dancing upon
the winds of contentment.

J. Logan Smith, 5/15, Westport, CA



WVFD Captains Glen Jones and Beck Regalia, with Otto Marsh's granddaughter Jamie, prepare to scatter Otto's ashes into the sea on June 13th. So long Otto, now you're swimming with the whales.

July 2015 Westport Calendar

- July 1st** – Full Moon, 7:19PM
July 4th – Independence Day
July 5th – Kids' Chemistry Class with Sarah, Community Recreation Center, 11:30AM
July 7th – WMAC Meeting, 7:00PM, Church
July 8th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM, Firehouse
July 9th – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM
July 11th – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 10:00AM, Firehouse
July 12th – “Power To Choose, & Cause and Effect”, Carolyne Cathey, Center for Spiritual Living, 10:00AM at the Westport Community Church
July 14th – Bastille Day
July 15th – New Moon, 6:24PM
July 18th – Eid al-Fitr
July 18th – **Westport Village Society Quarterly Board Meeting, 9:00AM, Westport Church**
July 18th – Kids' Movie Night, Westport Community Recreation Center, 6:00PM
July 19th – Third Sunday Quaker Worship Group, 10:00AM at the Westport Community Church
July 19th – Sew A Cute Coin Purse Class with Aimee, Community Recreation Center, 12:00PM
July 23rd – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM
July 26th – Mettika Hoffman, “Buddha's Teachings For An Ethical Life”, 10:00AM at the Westport Community Church
July 26th – Westport Flea Market, 11:00AM to 2:00PM, Westport Community Headlands
July 31st – Full “Blue” Moon – 3:42AM

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, to read and download present and past issues of *The Wave*. Contributions for our August 1st, 2015 issue are due by July 27th, and should be sent to editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@wildblue.net, or P.O. Box 237, Westport, CA 95488.

July 2015



**WESTPORT'S COMMUNITY
RECREATION**
Located behind the Church
24900 Abalone Street



Hunter and Raven making flower crowns last summer.

THANK YOU Savannah!!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	NEW 8:30-10:00 YOGA	9:00-10:30 a.m Tai Chi	1 New Time 830-9:30 Zumba Toning	2	3 New Time 830-9:30 Zumba Toning	4
5 KIDS CHEMISTRY 11:30 a.m	6 8:30-10:00 YOGA	7 9:00-10:30 a.m Tai Chi	8 830-9:30 Zumba Toning	9	10 830-9:30 Zumba Toning	11
12	13 8:30-10:00 YOGA	14 9:00-10:30 a.m Tai Chi	15 NO CLASS TODAY	16	17 NO CLASS TODAY	18 FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT Finding NEMO
19 SEW A CUTE COIN PURSE 12:00	20 8:30-10:00 YOGA	21 9:00-10:30 a.m Tai Chi	22 830-9:30 Zumba Toning	23	24 830-9:30 Zumba Toning	25
26	27 8:30-9:45 YOGA	28 9:00-10:30 a.m Tai Chi	29 830-9:30 Zumba Toning	30	31 NO CLASS TODAY	

Mondays Gentle yoga FlowYoga for everybody strengthen Core and back improve flexibility and Clear the mindfocus on positive affirmation	Tuesday Tai Chi with Scott Menzies http://www.pctaichi.com (530)410-3333	Wed and Fri zumba toning use LIGHT weights to gently sculpt muscles while moving to world rhythms	KIDS CHEMISTRY With Sarah prepare to Have messy fun	Family movie night Get cozy, wear your jammies if you want! Bring a cozy chair or pillow. We will provide popcorn	SEW A CUTE COIN basic skills required makes a great gift
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1.5 hour classes are \$12 drop in and \$10 with a PREPAY class pass 1 hour classes are \$8 drop in and \$6 with pass
Call Tabby @ 707-367-0010 for info or to schedule a class.