

Great Show!

Steve Brigham, Editor

As we savor the last few official weeks of summer here on the coast, our *Westport Wave* theme this month highlights some truly “great shows” that have just happened or will happen this month in Westport.

Starting on this page, you’ll read about the very successful Westport Volunteer Fire Department Barbecue, which was held on August 17th. This year’s traditional summer celebration was a real winner, made even better by the fact that it was actually warm and sunny! See page 3 for exciting news about expert Tai Chi instructor Scott Menzies, who would like to teach a weekly Tai Chi class in Westport if there is enough interest. Plan on attending his presentation on September 9th to show that you’re interested, as I’m sure many of you are!

More great shows abound right here in town, including Tabby’s regular weekly lineup of great classes at the Westport School (see page 8). And I’d personally like to point out Baile’s column on page 3 on the possibility of having some truly expert Wild Foods teachers teach classes here if only we can get enough people interested (please give him a call to say yes, and let’s get this ball rolling!) Another person to call is Val Hale (page 3), who is spearheading the much-needed repainting of our Westport Church (which also serves as our Town Hall). Val needs monetary donations for paint and materials, so call him and pledge your money today!

Finally, take a look at my review (on page 4) of the current Mendocino Theatre Company production “In The Next Room”, a fantastic play that is not only directed by a famous Westportian but also stars a brand new Westportian. It’s definitely a “must see”, and if you haven’t been to the theatre in a while (like I hadn’t), you’ll be so happy you went (it sure beats the heck out of a flat screen!) “Great Show” to all!



Dishing it up at “The Best BBQ In The Land”.

WVFD Summer Festival and BBQ A Community Success!

Frank Maurice, Captain, WVFD

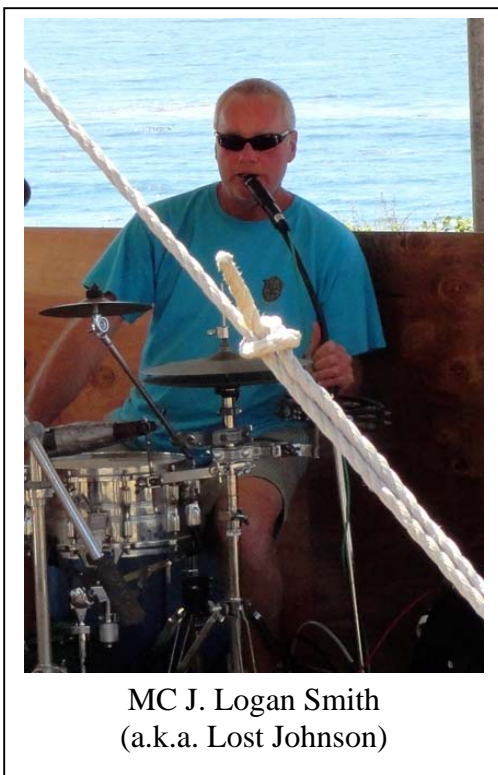
For the 35th year, the Westport Volunteer Fire Department’s Summer Festival and BBQ was full of activity from noon to sunset with local bands, dancers, crafts, Zumba demonstrations, games, face painting, microbrews, local wines and a barbecue with soft drinks and a dessert booth. Fundraising was aimed at supporting the Fire Department’s need for vehicles, equipment and building maintenance.

The BBQ featured barrel-roasted tri-tip and chicken, veggie lasagna as well as Vegan lasagna, corn on the cob, freshly made green salads with homemade dressing, and a fabulous dessert booth with blackberries sundaes. Festivities included a local handmade quilt raffle, craft booths, many games for children including a jumpy house courtesy of Mendocino County Recreation District, and face painting, the grand opening of the Westport Disc Golf Course, and a visit by a CAL FIRE engine and crew. Gross proceeds, including meals, beverages, games, raffles, and donations were around \$13,000.00.

The Westport Volunteer Fire Department wishes to express its appreciation to those businesses that supported the WVFD Summer Festival and BBQ. Major sponsors were DBI, Frey Vineyards, Lagunitas Brewing Co, Pacific Star Winery, Pacini Wines, Bruttaco, Lee Tepper and Dorine Real from the Westport Hotel for coffee donations, and Chef Barrel John for bringing and setting up the barrels and helping with the cooking.

Raffle donors were All Aboard Adventures, Andy's Ice, Carol Hall's, Coast Hardware, Chocolate Haus, Circa, Compass Rose, Creative Hands, Creative Heart Designs, Dirt Cheap, Andy and Roberta Dyakon, E.R. Energy, Ginabelle Smith, Outlet Store, Gallery of Senses, Harvest Market, Howard Creek Ranch, Bill and Bobbie Knapp, Out of this World, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Rhodes Napa, Round Man Smokehouse, Sparks, Surplus Store, Teamwork, and Zappas.

Many thanks to the local bands coordinated by Logan Smith: Hanging Chads Reunion, Lost Johnson Band, Dunes Boys, Steven Bates, Jeff Bane, Butch Kwan, Sue Sisk, Rick Banker, Karl Schoen, Sean Connolly, Marcel Guarchi, and Lee Rider.



MC J. Logan Smith (a.k.a. Lost Johnson)

Thank you to all the servers who showed up to help with all the wonderful food: Pam, Melinda, Lois, Mickey, Sally, Bill, Robin, Mikey, Pete, Rebecca, John, Rhiannon, Ed, Karen, Lin, Marguerite, Rosalie, Dave, Nita, Baile, and also to Aimee and Angelica who made the healthy green salads with home-made dressings. Hats off to all the chefs and cooks who



Lin Taylor and Mike Perry serving great beer on tap from Swampy's Newport-based WVFD fire truck.

made all the delicious chicken, tri-tip, bread, and corn: Toby, Steve, Don, Dave, and Val, and to Tabitha, Savannah, Fiona, Arista, Carolyn, and Joy for the great desserts! Thank you also to Bob Finnell who allows our electrical hook-ups to be run from his house, as well as all the other volunteers that we may not have mentioned. Your hard work has been a big step ahead for our community, and the WVFD will be much better in the future because of your efforts!

Westport Village Society Annual Meeting October 4th

Save the date – Friday, October 4th – for the **Westport Village Society 21st Annual Meeting**, which will be held at the Westport Church starting at 6:30PM. Join us for a great community-bonding evening, featuring an overview of the WVS activities and accomplishments during the past year. Refreshments will be served, history books and ducky t-shirts will be sold, and you'll have an opportunity to see what the WVS is doing for our Community and also tell us what you think should be done!

The Westport Village Society is a non-profit organization that serves the greater Westport region, from Ten Mile to Rockport. Visit our website at www.westportvillagesociety.org to learn more about us, and let's all get together on October 4th to meet our neighbors and talk about what we can do to make our Westport region a better place!

Tai Chi Instructor To Speak In Westport on September 9th

Tabby Korhummel

Join Taijiquan/Qigong instructor and proprietor of Fort Bragg's Perfect Circle Taijiquan Scott Menzies for a presentation at the **Westport School on Monday, September 9th at 6:00PM.** With the goal of beginning a regular Taijiquan/Qigong class in Westport, Scott will be talking about his training, practice, and options for such a class. He will talk about Qigong, Chen-style Silk-Reeling Practices, Chen-style Basic Practices, and Push Hands, as well as their role in Taijiquan as both a martial art and health & wellness practice. Scott started studying Yang-style Taijiquan in Taiwan in 1999. Upon moving to mainland China in 2002, he began his foray into Chen-style Taijiquan as a martial art, studying Taiji Push Hands and Qigong in Mandarin Chinese. Scott is also a long-term practitioner of Vipassana meditation (as taught by S.N. Goenka).

Westport Wild Foods Workshops Just Around the Corner?

Baile Oakes

In last month's *Wave*, I put out a call for Westporters who would like to attend workshops regarding the wild edibles that can be had for free within our front, back and side yards (or anywhere else). A few people responded to the call for interest, but not enough to bring some wonderfully knowledgeable experts to our outpost on the edge. So if you are "on the fence" and would like to see this happen or need more information, please call me, Baile Oakes, at 964-7721, or email me at BaileOakes@gmail.com. Thanks!

Westport Church Painting

The long-awaited and much-needed repainting of the Westport Church (which also functions as our Town Hall) is about to begin! To date, Val (Xavier) Hale has raised \$350.00 of the total of \$530.63 that has so far been spent on materials. Now, it's your turn to help! Please call Val at 489-6380 if you would like to donate money to help pay for costs!

Water District News

Two quick things this month, the first of which is about the chlorine that keeps your water safe to drink. Because of the late summer heat and low seasonal water levels that have elevated the algae count in Wages Creek, we've had to up our chlorine treatment a little bit lately. This treatment is completely safe and necessary to produce clean, drinkable water. So if you notice a little more chlorine in your water these days, it just means that we're doing our job. (Editor's note: I haven't noticed any extra chlorine in my water, which always is very clear and tastes great, and all my plants are growing very well with it!)

One other seasonal thing is the "rotten egg smell" that some of you near the water may be getting these days. Well, you probably have already figured this out, but that's NOT from the sewer! It's actually from a large amount of decaying seaweed that has washed up on some beaches. But you knew that, right?

Haul Road Blues

Thad Van Bueren

The Westport Municipal Advisory Council's appeal of the permit for the Dune Rehabilitation Project at MacKerricher State Park was denied by the Board of Supervisors on August 26th. Despite the advocacy of Supervisors Dan Gjerde and Carre Brown for a balanced approach to coastal access and restoration, the other three supervisors held sway in denying the appeal. While some permit conditions were altered slightly, the outcome will still involve destruction of most of the haul road.

Many of us feel that destruction of coastal access is a step backwards. It will actually harm endangered species, not protect them. We don't agree with this plan to exclude people from the dunes. So some of us will appeal the decision to the Coastal Commission. The appeal will be filed by concerned individuals, rather than the WMAC. While the WMAC will continue to monitor the appeal process, it is stepping back to let others carry the torch for public access. There is reason to hope that a balanced solution may emerge from that process, since Coastal Commission staff expressed strong concerns about loss of public access as a result of this project. You can keep up with the latest news on this project by checking the Breaking News page on the WMAC web site.

Westport Recycle Center News

Donna Brigham

Take Your Tops Off!

Last month, I told you the basics of Redemption, which in this case refers to the empty CRV and CA CASH REFUND plastic bottles that you bring to the Recycle Center and get money for. What I didn't emphasize last month is one vitally important thing that you must do before your Redemption can take place, and that is TAKE YOUR TOPS OFF!

Here's how it works: the bottle caps on plastic CRV bottles (such as soda and water bottles) are made of a different plastic than the container. They must be removed and put in your non-redeemable plastic recycling before your redeemable containers are weighed and I give you money for them.

So take your tops off, but please don't wait until you get to the Recycle Center to do it, since the time it takes to do so will just keep other customers waiting. One more time: TAKE YOUR TOPS OFF (BUT PLEASE DO IT AT HOME!) Thanks so much!

Community Garden News

Steve Brigham

At the **Westport Community Garden**, which is right next to the Westport School at the end of Abalone Street, we're in full harvest now. Or more correctly, you are, since this is a free garden that is open to anyone at any time. Although (as they say in the ad biz) "quantities are limited", we hope you'll find something you like every time you visit (remember to look closely for the beans and peas, since they're a little hard to spot amidst their foliage). As a bonus, all of our vegetables are now identified with easy-to-read signs.

Right now (in the greenhouse), ready for harvest, are three types of summer squash, Italian green beans (my personal favorite), Blue Lake green beans, lemon cucumbers, basil, and several varieties of tomatoes. (A few of the tomato plants got a little fried in one of our "heat waves", but they've still got tomatoes on them – I may choose to plant the tomatoes in the ground next year, since sometimes the black pots get a little too hot in our small greenhouse.) Outside the greenhouse, you can pick sugar-snap peas (use young

peas whole, or shell older ones), kale, red swiss chard, and lettuce.

Extra-special thanks and a tip o' the garden hat to Greg Dougherty, who did a meticulous job this spring clearing the giant weeds in and around the greenhouse – Great job Greg! Now all we need is you, dear readers – to stop by and pick vegetables! It's free and easy, and you can harvest any time you want!



What's Going On "In The Next Room"?

Steve Brigham

Congratulations, dear readers, because you're going to the theatre this month! And you're going to have a fantastic time! That's because the **Mendocino Theatre Company** is currently performing "In The Next Room" – a very funny but also very poignant play by Sarah Ruhl (the play was a finalist for the 2010 Pulitzer Prize), under the expert direction of our own Westportian award-winning dance professor, dancer, actress, director, and choreographer Ann

Woodhead. And not only that, but another Westportian, Pen Corbin, is playing the leading role! This is a terrifically entertaining and very professional production with very talented actors and actresses – a performance that will have you captivated from start to finish. And even though it’s subtitled “The Vibrator Play”, it’s really not what you think...

The setting is a fancy spa community (perhaps Saratoga Springs, New York) in the 1880’s – when electricity was brand, brand new. Also brand new was a type of “therapy” that the most forward-thinking newly electrified doctor/inventors were just beginning to experiment with as a cure for “hysteria”. The estimable Dr. Givings (Pen Corbin) is one such doctor, and through the magic of some brilliant set design, we, the audience, are able to see into his “operating theatre” as well as his entry parlor. But of course Dr. Givings’ loving wife Catherine (Cynthia Audo) cannot, and at some point it is inevitable that she will become curious about this new “therapy” that is going on “in the next room”.

This vibrator-therapy thing really did happen 130 years ago (it would actually become mainstream around 1900), and it is of course a great vehicle for lots of laughs (and giggles) from us, the 21st Century audience. But what this play is really about is the Victorian sense of both displacement and discovery, and for the next two hours, you’ll be happily drawn in to the very serious thoughts and feelings of the seven characters in the play as they search for emotional healing. Their world back then was beginning to spin mighty fast, as our world continues to spin mighty fast today. By the end of the play, you might just realize that even after all these years, we’re not that much different than they were!

I liked everything about this production, and there was nothing I didn’t like. And I laughed a lot! Ann Woodhead’s directing, costuming, and set design are perfect (including the props!), the lighting is excellent, and the acting is superb. Special praise is well-deserved for Pen Corbin (Dr. Givings) and Crystal Cook (Sabrina Daldry) – two very talented young performers who really carry the show. I feel lucky to have seen them perform at this stage of their careers, and they both no doubt have great futures ahead of them.

So “Two Thumbs Way Up!” from me, and my cat Bootsie has all Four Paws up, too! Do note, however, that because of the rather “stimulating” subject matter, this is probably not a play that is suitable for children. But also fear not – for in this production, all subject matter is discreetly and tastefully presented, just as it would be in Victorian times. There’s no embarrassment whatsoever – just giggles!

“In The Next Room” plays at the Mendocino Theatre Company at 45200 Little Lake St. in Mendocino on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8:00PM through September 28th, with additional Sunday matinees at 2:00PM on September 15th, 22nd, and 29th. For tickets or more information, please contact the Mendocino Theatre Company Box Office at (707) 937-4477, or go to www.mendocinotheatre.org. Enjoy the play!



Ten Mile bridges around 1949.

The Time Traveler

Thad Van Bueren

Jan Haagen-Smit shared the image above of two former bridges over the lower Ten Mile River. I’m guessing this was taken around the time the railroad was converted to the haul road in 1949. The bridge on the right was built in 1916 at the time the Ten Mile Branch railroad was constructed. There is evidence of recent demolition of the railway with bulldozer tracks and rails in the foreground. The old bridge is blocked off and a car is visible on the new low-slung bridge. The approaches to the new bridge are very newly

placed fill with no plant growth yet visible on them. It was a time of big changes in the woods and along the State Highway. How long did this second bridge last? Send your guesses (or direct knowledge) to me at thad@mcn.org. I'll share the answer in next month's column.



Fogbow west of Howard Creek.

While you're pondering that, check out this rare local event photographed August 16th at the mouth of Howard Creek. It's a fogbow—the first complete one I've ever encountered. I came upon it while riding my bike about 9 AM. A camper was kind enough to snap the shot and share the image with me. By the time this picture was taken, the top of the arch was already fading a little. Years ago I was also lucky enough to see a moonbow during an evening shower. The natural world is full of such miracles, and what a wonder to simply witness them.

Crash Blossoms

Steve Brigham

Although I am a garden writer, this article isn't about gardening. But when I first read the newspaper headline "Violinist Linked to JAL Crash Blossoms", all I could think of was "what are Crash Blossoms?" – and I wasn't the only one with flowers on the brain. The 2009 newspaper article that accompanied this headline quite innocently told the story of a daughter of a plane crash victim who was fast-becoming a famous musician. But it was the headline that editors noticed the most, and "crash blossoms" has now become a popular term for "headlines gone wrong".

Have you ever read a newspaper headline and realized that it was just a little bit ambiguous? Lots of times, it's because headline writers (in order to save space) omit all those nice little words that normally clarify what we are trying to say, but sometimes the syntax comes back to bite you no matter what you do. Crash Blossoms (which by the way would make an excellent name for a rock band) typically can be read two completely different ways – and it's the unintended meaning that makes them "crash".

In the 1980s, the Columbia Journalism Review published two very funny anthologies of crash blossoms titled 'Squad Helps Dog Bite Victim' and 'Red Tape Holds Up New Bridge' (OK, now you're getting the picture). But headlines have been going astray since way before that. Here's a good one from World War I: "French Push Bottles Up German Rear" (ouch). Much later in the century, during a smaller (and rather silly) war, we learned that "British Left Waffles on Falkland Islands" (I hope the Falklanders liked them). At about the same time, I remember reading "Reagan Wins on Budget, But More Lies Ahead" (you can decide for yourself whether this blossom was prophetic). Somehow, though, I couldn't see anything wrong with "Capital to Get New Roof to Let Out Hot Air" (politicians produce so much of it, after all).

It always pays to read the papers. Otherwise, how would you ever know important news such as "Some Pieces of Rock Hudson Sold At Auction" and "Trump Makes Surprising Elimination" (ew – TMI). Consumer tips such as "Eye Drops Off Shelf" and "Stud Tires Out" are always helpful (even though more TMI). From small-town newspapers (although not this one), we've learned such gems as "Enraged Cow Injures Farmer With Ax", "Stolen Painting Found By Tree" (trees are smarter than you think), "Lawmen From Mexico Barbecue Guests", "Old School Pillars Are Replaced By Alumni" (might just work), and "2 Sisters Reunited After 18 Years In Checkout Counter" (did that happen at Safeway?) And the list goes on and on...

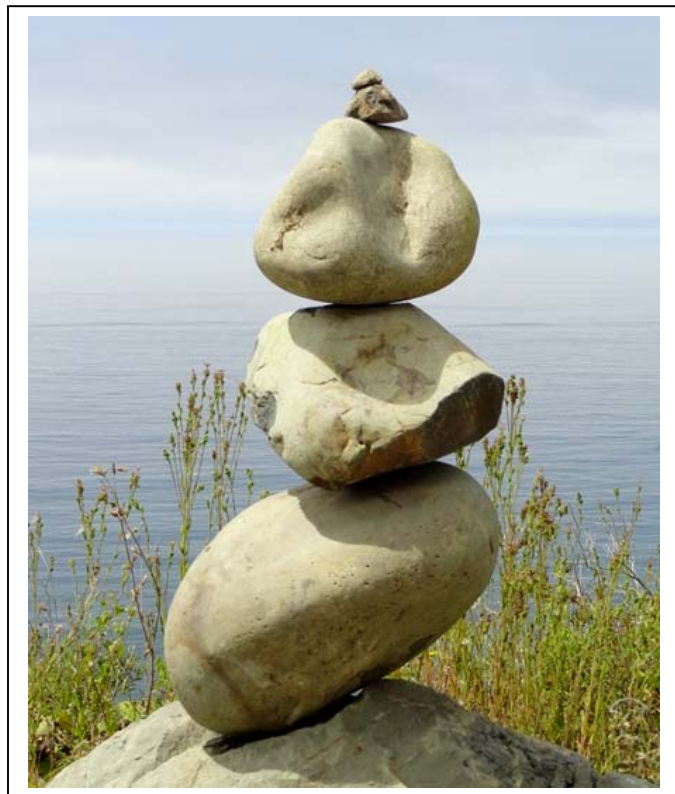
I hope I never (unwittingly) use a crash blossom for one of my garden article headlines. And I'm glad that I wasn't the one who wrote "Child's Stool Great for Use in Garden". (I'll bet they had a lot of readers, though!)



Westport Rocks!

Steve Brigham

The Rocks. If you ever driven south of town recently, I'm sure you've noticed them, along the Westport Grade section of Highway 1 north of Chadbourne Gulch. But where did they come from? This is the section of highway that I call "The Great Westport Slide", since it's an area where for centuries the whole mountainside moves downwards just a little bit every year, and moves the roadway with it. Two years ago, Caltrans leveled off some rough spots and installed some really big rocks on the ocean side of the highway (to keep cars from going off the edge), plus lots of cobbles in a drainage ditch on the other side of the road. Thus was created an opportunity in waiting – until last month, when a "worldwide traveler on a bicycle" spent two days balancing the little rocks on the big ones, creating a quarter-mile-long sculpture garden in just two days! Thank you so much to this anonymous artist for your fantastic display!



September 2013 Westport Calendar

- September 3rd – WMAC Meeting, Church, 7:00PM
- September 5th – New Moon, 4:37AM
- September 5th – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM
- September 19th – Full Moon, 4:13AM
- September 19th – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM
- September 22nd – Autumnal Equinox, 1:44PM


Friday, October 4th (save the date!) – The Westport Village Society 2013 Annual Meeting, Westport Church, 6:30PM

You are reading *The Westport Wave*, a free monthly community newsletter published on the first day of every month by the **Westport Village Society**, a non-profit organization. Internet subscribers to the *Wave* receive their free **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 free to all at the Westport Community Store. Visit www.westportvillagesociety.org, where you can also download issues of *The Wave*. Contributions for the October 1st, 2013 edition of *The Westport Wave* are due by September 27th, and should be sent to editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@aol.com, or P.O. Box 237, Westport, CA 95488.





SEPT. DROP-IN and Enrichment CLASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
10:30-12:00 AM	9:30-10:30 AM	9:00-10:00 AM	9:30-10:30 AM	9:30-10:30
<p>YOGA WITH JULIA 90min</p>	<p>RIPPED THE ONE STOP BODY SHOCK WITH AIMEE 60min</p>	<p>Yoga Flex n flow 60min</p>	<p> Zumba Toning 60min</p>	<p>BODY SCULPT 60 MIN</p>
				11:00-12:00
				<p>TINY TOTS TUMBLING PRE- REGISTRATION STARTS SEPT.13</p>

* **BODY SCUPLTING: USES A VARIETY OF WIEGHTS TO GENTLY SULPT YOUR MUSCLES ALL LEVELS WELCOME BRING A WATER BOTTLE AND A SMILE!**

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

***R.I.P.E.D RESITENCE- INTERVALS- POWER-PLYOMETRICS-ENDURANCE- AND DIET. A WELL ROUNDED WORKOUT SURE TO LEAVE YOU FEELING ALIVE!**

* **YOGA FLEX AND FLOW- YOGA FOR EVERYBODY FOCUS ON STRENGTH, BALANCE AND POSITIVE AFFERMATIONS**

* **ZUMBA TONING- USE LIGHT WEIGHTS TO GENTLY SCULPT YOUR BODY AS YOU MOVE TO LATIN AND WORLD RYTHMS**

* **TINY TOTS TUMBLING – 3-5 YEARS PRE-GYMNASTICS FOR YOUR LITTLE ONES 5 WEEKS SESSION SIGN UP. 367-0010**