

May 1, 2018

The Westport Wave

Published by the Westport Village Society, P.O. Box 446, Westport, CA 95488

Westport Rubber Ducky Races – Mother's Day, Sunday May 13th!

Steve Brigham, Editor

Forget about the Kentucky Derby, folks. This is much better, and it's been happening every year here since 1991. I'm talking about the **28th Annual Great Westport Mother's Day Rubber Ducky Races**, which will be held on **Sunday, May 13th at the Westport Beach RV Park and Campground** just north of town starting at 11:15AM when the gates open and going all the way to 3:30PM when our fabulous Raffle will be held. Lots of great food and music, plus three great Ducky Races on Wages Creek make this a day for great family seashore fun! And all proceeds go to the Westport Village Society for the preservation and maintenance of our Westport Community Headlands.

The Rubber Ducky was actually invented over a century ago, as a toy that would encourage children to take their baths. Many of us remember back in 1970, when Ernie on Sesame Street first sang his Rubber Ducky song, which made a whole new generation of kids actually *want* to take baths! (For those of you who didn't see it in 1970, here it is at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDy4PZPMDwU> and if you want a modern version, here's a great one from just last year with one of my favorite stars, Daveed Diggs (from *Hamilton*) at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=punrsuK62fM>)

In 1990, Marie Fostiak and Bill Eagleton of *The Westport Community Store* saw a feature article in the Santa Rosa Press-Democrat about floating rubber duckies down a river in Delaware, and Marie got the idea try it near her home on Wages Creek. A few



2017 Most Beautiful Duck Winner Monica Duckwinsky, by Kendra Holmes

crashed duckies and a year later, the Westport Rubber Ducky Races were born to raise money for the community purchase of our Westport Headlands and also to honor mothers on Mother's Day. Eventually, our modern Wages Creek-To-The-Sea race course was developed as one of the best ducky race courses in the world, and Ducky Day became the major annual fundraiser for our Westport Village Society.

Our Rubber Ducky Races have been synonymous with Mother's Day in Westport for almost 30 years now, each year featuring three separate ducky races, a Decorated Duck Contest, a fantastic raffle, and great food and desserts served on real china with real silverware! Over the years, the Westport Rubber Ducky Races have been copied many times by many towns and cities around the world, but we were among the first (and we're still the best!)



Ducks Ready To Go!

Westport's Great Rubber Ducky Races Is Mother's Day May 13th!

Elika Freeman, Event Co-ordinator

The 28th Annual Westport Rubber Ducky Races race is May 13th! Gates open at 11:15AM, and our first race will be at 12:00 Noon. This year's food will be provided by Sugar Coated Catering and Zocolove Collective. We are looking for community involvement for set up at 9:30AM and for clean up at 4:00PM as well as donations of nice items for our rummage boutique which can be brought to Mendo Dog in Fort Bragg or delivered to Roxanna Hogan. Unfortunately, due to strict health code regulations, all food donated for the baked booth either needs to be baked in a commercial kitchen or bought from a store, and while we will miss the abundance of



Need a Racing Duck? Buy One at The Races!

homemade goodies that we usually offer, we hope some folks will bring something to sell for dessert. This year's beautiful quilt for the raffle (see photo on page 11 of this newsletter) is on display at the Westport Hotel, and the raffle sun hats will be on display in the window of The Spunky Skunk in Fort Bragg for the first couple weeks of May, so check them out and bring your extra dollars to try your luck at the raffle. The Raffle Drawing will be at 3:30PM at the Ducky Races. And don't forget about our Duck Beauty Contest! You can decorate, paint and pretty-up a duck and bring it to the registration booth before 11:45AM for the contest. **Looking forward to seeing you all on Mother's Day in Westport!**

Please reach out to Elika to get involved or for more information [707-734-3103](tel:707-734-3103) or elikafreeman@gmail.com



Ducks Galore!



And The Winner Is...???



May at the Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub!

Tabby Korhummel, General Manager

The Old Abalone Pub is open for dinner from 5:00PM to 9:00PM Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. With new menu items, drink specials, fabulous wine selection, and of course our fantastic ocean view dining, you are sure to have a memorable time. Every Friday, enjoy live music with Alejandro Yanez, from 6:00PM to 9:00PM. Every Night is Locals Night! Mention "Local Love" and enjoy 10% off your bill!

Here are some notable events at the Hotel and Pub in May: on May 4th, we will introduce our new spring menu with several new items, like house-made Rosemary Flat Bread with goat cheese prosciutto ham, grilled onions, mushrooms, and arugula, or a vegan version with pesto, grilled onions, mushrooms, arugula, and dates. YUM!

The Pub will be open for **Mother's Day Brunch on Sunday, May 13th from 10:00AM to 1:00PM**. Come for the earlier seatings to leave plenty of time to make it to the Rubber Ducky Races. Moms planning on attending the Rubber Ducky Races will receive a voucher for the boutique. Make your reservations by calling (707) 964-3688.

Come check out the new art this month. Again it is a group showing of local talent, including several acrylic pour paintings by Donna Traycik. Donna is excited to do a workshop to share this super-fun technique with the community.

Once again Derek DiOrio lead super-fun Paint Night In The Parlor in April. We are planning another for late May or early June, so follow us on Facebook for all the latest activities! For more information on the Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub, please call us at (707) 964-3688 or email us at westporthotel@mcn.org. Like our Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/abalonepub/> for weekly updates on what's happening at the Old Abalone Pub!



May Art Display at the Westport Hotel and Pub!

Westport Yard Sale May 27th

Sarah Cullar

The Annual Westport Yard Sale will be moving to Sunday this year and will be on May 27th from 10:00AM to 2:00PM on the Westport Headlands. Bring whatever you have to sell (new, used, handmade, etc.). Please contact Sarah Cullar (962-0181 or sarah.e.cullar@gmail.com) to reserve your spot. The table fee is 10% of your sales (due at the end of the day) with a cap at \$20 to help pay for advertising. This has been a very successful event the last three years. We get a lot of people looking to shop, so let's give them a lot to choose from!



The New Westport Community Center

Community Center Update

Steve Brigham

On April 19th, the Fort Bragg Unified School District accepted Westport Community Church's bid to buy the former school building, which is on Church grounds. The details of transfer of ownership will be completed sometime this month. Our community's desire to use the building as a first-stage community center is at hand.

Our community now needs to come together to determine how we wish to manage and support our new Community Center with ongoing programming and special events. Now is the time to make sure you attend the Community Center meetings, which is an independent group attended by a wide variety of Westportians from many different local organizations, with the goal of a broad-based Westport community management of our Community Center. **The next Community Center meeting will be held on Saturday, May 12th at 2:00PM at the Community Center** – please make it a point to be there to help your Community Center grow!

Our Local Hospital Needs Our Help – Vote Yes on “C”

John Allison

Since 1971, Mendocino Coast District Hospital has provided a wide range of medical services to residents and visitors in our coastal community. A lot has happened during the past 47 years. When the mill in

Fort Bragg closed, a number of people lost their private health insurance. Today, roughly 80% of the Hospital's patients are covered by Medicare or Medi-Cal, and payments under those government programs do not cover all the costs of providing medical services. Facilities and equipment wear out and need to be repaired or replaced. Government regulations require significant money to be spent on new infrastructure, such as a computerized electronic medical records system.

To address these issues, Measure C will be on the ballot in the primary election this June. If approved by two-thirds of the voters, Measure C will impose an annual tax of \$144 per parcel for 12 years. Money raised by the parcel tax can only be used to pay for local emergency room and ambulance services, attracting and retaining quality doctors and nurses, critical repairs and upgrades to medical equipment and facilities, and maintaining local surgery and obstetric services. No parcel tax funds can be used to pay for administrators' salaries, pensions, or benefits. An independent taxpayer oversight committee, working with the Hospital Board, will ensure that spending of parcel tax funds complies with these requirements.

The parcel tax is expected to raise \$1.7 million a year over the next 12 years. That money will stabilize the Hospital's finances and help put the Hospital in a sustainable financial condition. Most rural hospitals in California are supported by a parcel tax. If you'd like a copy of the answers to frequently asked questions about Measure C, or if you'd like to talk about the parcel tax, please send me an email at jrallison27@gmail.com.

In addition to voting Yes on Measure C, we can help support the future of our Hospital by getting involved. There are opportunities to serve on the Finance Committee and the Planning Committee of the Hospital Board. Also, members of the public are encouraged to attend public meetings and direct questions, comments and suggestions to members of the Board or the Board committees. Finally, 3 or 4 of the 5 Board seats will be up for election this November. We can help the Hospital by recruiting and supporting qualified candidates.



The Westport Community Church

Westport Community Church May 2018 Calendar

Founded in 1880, the **Westport Community Church** is a multi-denominational church which serves the Westport community and its many spiritual paths. It is also the prime meeting hall for the Westport community and its activities. In addition to being a community meeting hall, we are also doing our best to nurture our tradition of having weekly spiritual gatherings at the Church (which is at the end of Abalone Street on the left), with all religious and spiritual denominations both welcome and encouraged to hold both regular and special services here. Please contact baileoakes@gmail.com for use of the Westport Community Church for community meetings, activities, or religious services, and also to see how you can help keep our Westport Community Church organization improving and our Westport Community Center buildings and grounds maintained and improved. **Our May Church Board meeting will be held on Sunday, May 6th from 11:00AM to 1:30PM at the Church – all are welcome to attend!**

1st Sunday, May 6th, 10:00AM – Our Bi-Monthly Quaker Worship Group

Katharine White leads our regular Quaker Worship Group meeting. The format is a simple, quiet meditation for 45 minutes followed by Katharine 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.

(2nd Sunday, May 13th – no services today, time for the Ducky Races! Carolyn Cathey moves to the 4th Sunday, May 27th for May only.)

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

Katharine White leads our regular Quaker Worship Group meeting. The format is just like our April 8th Service.

4th Sunday, May 27th, 10:00AM – Carolyn Cathey, "Creative Problem Solving: Deepening Trust in Our Inner Wisdom"

Carolyn says that becoming more powerful means learning to rely more on our Inner Wisdom to solve problems. We do this by deepening the trust in ourselves and our abilities. As part of our discussion, we'll explore our inner world through a creative problem solving exercise. Think of a problem you'd like to solve, and then we'll experiment by going inward for the solution. Prepare to amaze yourself! *Westport meetings are interactive discussions, like a workshop.*

Carolyn Cathey's new book, "Divine Messages from Jesus for a magnificent life" is now available in paperback and Kindle versions. For more information, please see <https://carolynecathey.com/divine-messages-from-jesus/>

24/7 Westport Wave

The Westport Wave is always free to everyone at any time on the Newsletter page of our website westportvillagesociety.org – where you'll always find our most current issue as well as over six years of monthly back-issues, all in living color, with live links! Check it out, and tell your friends!

The Erosion of History

Thad Van Bueren

On a recent beach walk north of Howard Creek, an old relic of the former railroad between Union Landing and the Howard Creek watershed was observed at the base of the cliff (see photo at right). This is not the first example of historic relics washing down the cliff. I've seen pieces of rail in previous



Railroad wheels north of Little Howard Creek in 2018. (Courtesy of Lesli Langslet)



The McFaul's Studebaker 'locomotive' in 1919. (Courtesy of Mendocino County Historical Society)



Shay locomotive up Howard Creek, ca. 1920.
(Courtesy of Mendocino County Historical Society)

1906 earthquake and fire according to Grover McRay. This testimony appears quite plausible, though I have made no effort to track down a bill of sale. We do know the railroad ran over three miles from Howard Creek to Union Landing, a shipping point developed by the McFauls.

During its initial operation the railroad was a low budget scheme. During the Great War (1914-1918) the McFauls converted a 1915 Studebaker

years below the Caltrans Vista Point. While some may regard these relics as junk, they also exist as touchstones for events that have shaped our local history.

As fake news proliferates, it is worth anchoring our outlook on verifiable facts. Photographs are some of my favorite clues. For example, the picture of the rail car wheels on the beach in April 2018 is tangible proof that the railroad followed a route along the top of the cliff. It also attests to bluff recession, something that can be linked to larger processes such as sea level rise recorded with measured observations over time. By comparing facts it is possible to verify which are true or false.

The *Mendocino Beacon* reported on February 15, 1908 that articles of incorporation were filed for the Howard Creek and Jackson Valley Railroad in 1908. This fact is confirmed by the filed papers. Roy McPike of Westport put up \$19,800 in capital for a three mile railroad from Howard Creek to Union Landing, while J. M. Mannon and J. H. Barker each put up \$100. The railroad was reportedly built with streetcar rails salvaged in San Francisco after the

automobile into a miniature locomotive and used it on the line until 1919, as shown on page 6 in a period photograph. Between 1920 and 1924 Ira Thompson managed a mill up Howard Creek for the Hobbs Wall Lumber Company. Thompson owned the land, while investors financed the effort to scale up the logging operation. A 28-ton Shay locomotive (see photo this page) was used to haul sawlogs to the mill and then transport the finished lumber to Union Landing for shipment. According to Robert J. Lee, Emil Neiminen was the engineer.

The Mill burned in 1924 and was never rebuilt, so we can closely date Lee's historic image. We also know from other dated photographs and documents that Union Landing remained in operation until World War II. Since landings required constant repair, I assume small scale timber harvesting continued in the intervening years, supplying the motive for keeping the landing in use. Perhaps the old Studebaker locomotive was put back into operation, though that must be regarded as conjecture. Darwin Thompson told me the rails were salvaged in the early 1940s when metal was at a premium for the war.



Crossing the Digital Divide – “Stress Factors”

Joseph Feigon

(Editor's Note: Following is one of a series of articles on Web use and computers graciously provided by Joe Feigon, courtesy of the Mendocino County Observer. Thanks so much, Joe!)

Backups: you've heard me talk about backing up your pictures and documents and financial data, how are you doing? Backups are critical, particularly that information (data) that you could never replace, e.g., pictures. PC or Mac, having a secondary (external) drive for backup is essential. Let's consider a backup routine and device your first priority if you have no existing backups.

If you use a Mac, learn about Time Machine. If you use a PC, get a copy of SyncBakFree or use the native tools that came with the backup device you purchased. HP, Lacie, etc., all include a software package, with an easy-to-setup configuration guide that will enable you to backup your photos, documents and other important information without too much effort.

Let's assume you do have a backup device, let's consider what happens when that unit dies. Notice that I used "when", disk drives will fail, all of them. Don't wait until you can't recover data to consider a tertiary (3rd) backup destination.

Cloud – Dropbox, Google, Microsoft, Apple – are you setup? 5-15GB of free storage, per vendor. I'm a big fan of Google's "free" suite of services. Dropbox offers 5GB gratis, as does Apple and Microsoft. Google Drive is 15GB! Get a gmail account, it's all there.

I purchased a couple of inexpensive tablets recently, and took one out of the box to test before delivering to my client. When I initiated the tablet, it asked me if I'd like to restore my data from my Google account. Of course I wanted to see how effective a bare-metal Cloud recovery was. I entered my Google ID and password, waiting roughly an hour for ALL my contacts and Droid desktop apps to populate on the new, 7" Android based tabled (about 10% the cost of an iPad). Wow – just after dinner, I was able to log onto Facebook, check Gmail, use my wireless tools, and grab just about every other "app" I have on my Smartphone. This is cool, and such a relief knowing, if I did lose my phone, my addressbook is safe in the Cloud. Next week, after my new Exede quota cycle starts, I'll replicate my photos to my Google Drive – everything non-business will be backed-up to the Cloud.

Check out the Broadband Alliance website for recent articles on passwords and other security issues - <http://www.mendocinobroadband.org/crossing-the-digital-divide-by-joseph-feigon/>

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 and weed cutting, painting, handyman work, and more. We can help you with registration paperwork and compliance/completion documents. If you are interested, please call Gary Quinton, (707) 964-7073.

Remembering Josh Azevedo

Steve Brigham

Unfathomably, everyone's best friend everywhere on the Mendocino Coast, and our own Westport Water District Superintendent and Operator, passed away on April 9th. A burial service and memorial celebration was held in Fort Bragg on April 21st, and was attended by hundreds of people. An avid fisherman above all, our "Sea Donkey" has gone to the great fishery in the sky. We love you, Josh, and we wish you clear skies and good tailwinds in your future adventures.

Here is the obituary from the Fort Bragg Advocate-News on Apr. 20, 2018:

Joshua Craig Azevedo was born on April 23, 1982, and raised in Fort Bragg. He passed away suddenly on April 9, 2018. He was 35 years old.

Josh was a third generation local to the Mendocino Coast. He grew up enjoying summers camping along Big River with his family. Those were some of his fondest memories and he cherished them throughout his life. He attended Fort Bragg High School where he played J.V. and varsity football as an offensive lineman for the Timberwolves and enjoyed the game tremendously. He graduated with the class of 2000. Josh went on to earn his Grade T3 Water Treatment Operator license with also having earned his Grade 1 Wastewater Treatment Operator license and his Grade 2 Water Distribution Operator Certificate as well. He lived in Kibesilah for many years and worked for the Westport Water District. He was a former firefighter for the Westport Volunteer Fire Department.

When he wasn't working, he was either fishing, hunting, enjoying the outdoors or a Giants or 49ers game. Everyone either knew Josh or knew of him and all of the fish he caught off of his Boston Whaler, the "Sea Donkey." He always had a story about fishing to tell you or a picture of the fish he just caught to show you. He was known for his comical sense of humor, always making people laugh wherever he would go. Josh was always the life of the party. He had a passion for life that was contagious and he lived every moment to the fullest!

Nothing was bigger about Josh than his love for

fishing, apart from the love he had for his family. Joshua was a loving son, grandson, brother and uncle. He is survived by his parents, Craig and Sarah Azevedo; grandmothers: Carol Azevedo and Jane Coverston; his sister and brother-in-law, Kayleigh (Azevedo) and Brent Maxey; his nephew and niece, Cache and Kaianne Maxey; and many aunts, uncles and cousins. In addition to family, Joshua had many friends he cared deeply about. He always told the ones he loved how much he loved them every time he was in their presence or even just over the phone. Josh was a soul larger than life and will live on forever through everyone's memories! Fish on Donkey! Tight Lines!

Do you have a memory and tribute to Josh Azevedo that you would like published in The Westport Wave? Please send it to me, Steve Brigham, Editor, at westportwave@gmail.com, or PO Box 237, Westport, CA 95488, for inclusion in the June Westport Wave.

Rainfall Report

Steve Brigham

Some folks have asked me why I didn't have a rainfall report in the April *Wave*. Truth be told, I didn't want to jinx us, since we'd been in a weird pattern of alternating wet and dry months all winter, and though March was wet enough, we really needed a big April rainfall-wise. Fortunately, we got our April rain, most of it courtesy of a "pineapple express" atmospheric river that doused us here on the Westport Headlands with over 5 inches of rain in just 48 hours on April 5th, 6th, and 7th!

That 5 inches really helped our rainy season totals, which were languishing at around 75% of normal due to our abnormally dry months of December and February (which are normally two of our wettest months). (In fact, we got twice as much rain here from April 5th to April 7th than we did in the entire months of December and February combined!)

So with the help of a 7-inch April rainfall total, we'll head into May now with a rainy season total (since October 1st) here on The Headlands of 35.65 inches (our annual average is around 43 inches). Not so good compared to the 63 inches that we had by May 1st, 2017, the 50 inches we had by May 1st, 2016, and the 41 inches we had by May 1st, 2015. But we'll take it!



Shout-out to Westport, Connecticut and their 10th Annual Rubber Ducky Race this year! They're a much bigger town than we are, with 26,000 people, and they have 3500 ducks in the water!

May 2018 Westport Calendar

Tuesday, May 1st – Westport Municipal Advisory Council Monthly Meeting, 7:00PM, Westport Community Church

Saturday, May 5th – Cinco de Mayo

Sunday, May 6th – Quaker Worship Group, 10:00AM at the Westport Community Church

Sunday, May 6th – Westport Community Church Monthly Board Meeting, 11:00AM, Westport Community Church

Wednesday, May 9th – Westport Ten Mile Cemetery District Quarterly Board Meeting, 10:00AM, Westport Community Church

Wednesday, May 9th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM, Westport Firehouse

Thursday, May 10th – Bookmobile, 9:00AM to 9:30AM, Westport Community Store

Saturday, May 12th – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 10:00AM, Westport Firehouse

Saturday, May 12th – Community Center Meeting, 2:00PM, Westport Community Center

Sunday, May 13th – Westport Mother's Day Rubber Ducky Races, Westport Beach RV and Campground, 11:15AM to 4:00PM

Monday, May 14th – Ramadan Begins at Sundown

Tuesday, May 15th – New Moon, 4:47AM

Sunday, May 20th – Quaker Worship Group, 10:00AM, Westport Church

Thursday, May 24th – Bookmobile, 9:00AM to 9:30AM, Westport Community Store

Sunday, May 27th – Last Day of Ramadan

Sunday, May 27th – Carolyn Cathey, "Creative Problem Solving: Deepening Our Trust in Our Inner Wisdom", 10:00AM, Westport Community Church

Monday, May 28th – Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 29th – Full Moon, 7:19AM

Sunday, June 3rd – Quaker Worship Group, 10:00AM at the Westport Community Church

Sunday, June 3rd – Westport Community Church Monthly Board Meeting, 11:00AM, Westport Community Church

Tuesday, June 5th – Election Day (VOTE!)

Tuesday, June 5th – Westport Municipal Advisory Council Monthly Meeting, 7:00PM, Westport Community Church (please check <http://www.westportmac.org/> for scheduling)

The Westport Wave is a free monthly community newsletter published by the **Westport Village Society**, a non-profit community-benefit organization. Internet subscribers to *The Wave* receive their **COLOR** copies on or before the first day of every month by e-mail. Printed (black-and-white) copies of our current newsletter are also available for free at the Westport Community Store. **Check out our website www.westportvillagesociety.org, to read and download both our current issue and over six years of past issues of *The Wave*.** Contributions for our June 1st, 2018 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by May 26th, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com, or P.O. Box 237, Westport, CA 95488. Thank You!

Great Rubber Ducky Race at Wages Creek

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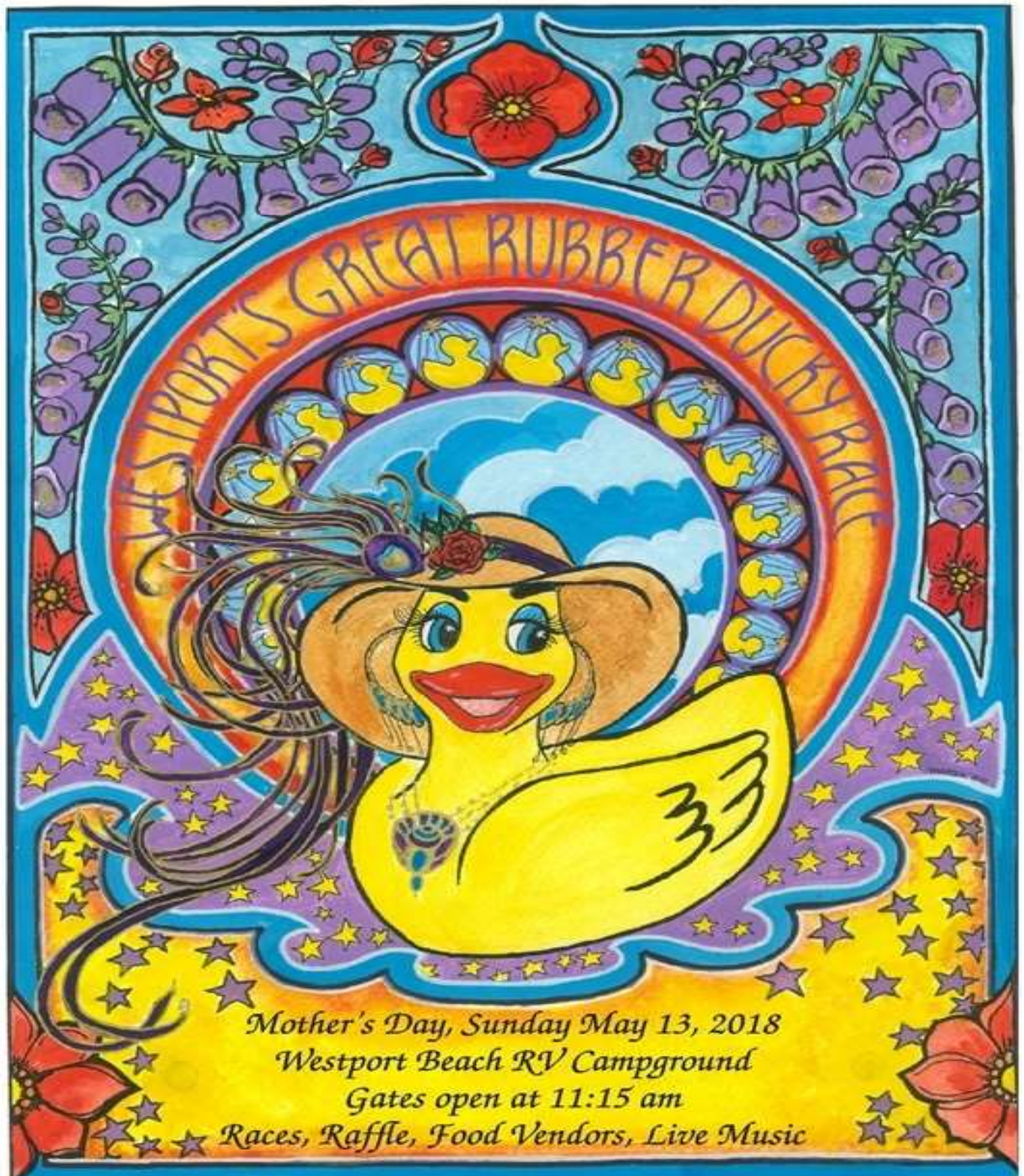
2018

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Every Mom gets Flowers, Every Kid gets a Prize