

March 1, 2021

The Westport Wave

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A Place Called Lilem

Thad M. Van Bueren

We are presently in a unique position to support a long-overdue reckoning. I'd like to tell you how you can help. This is a story of the first local people. It is also a story about genocide, survival, and the possibility for healing. Healing begins with active listening and acknowledging past wrongs, not ignoring them or acting like they don't ripple down to us. It is only then that meaningful amends can occur and, with them, restoration of community, respect, and mutual support.

Imagine what this coast looked like a couple of hundred years ago, before white colonists arrived to clear cut the forests and kill or displace the original inhabitants. It was a land rich in resources. There were intertidal foods, fish aplenty, and forests full of nuts, berries, seeds, and animals. From times long past the original people prospered. They were not in fact the *yuki* or *yuke*, a term that means "enemy" in the Wintun language. Their inland relatives from Round Valley called them *Ukohtontilka* or *Ukosontilka*, "ocean people." They called themselves *Epûs* and their roots here likely reach back to the end of the last ice age over 10,000 years ago.

Every *Epûs* hamlet was an independent community, with ties among villages formed by trade and intermarriage. Of particular interest for this tale is the mussel rock people who called themselves *Mishkeun*. They had several villages including *K'etim* and *Lilem* on the coastal plain near the mussel shoals south of Westport. Their village of *Kasolak* was on the ridge east of that. *Mishkeun* lands extended inland to the Little North Fork of the Ten Mile River



Artwork by Thad Van Bueren

and abutted the *Shipoi* hamlet in Westport and the *Metkuyak* hamlet at Seaside.

I will not belabor the atrocities of American colonization, but the scale of the genocide is clear from the precipitous decline of the *Epûs* population. From an estimated pre-contact population of 750 only 50 survived by 1864 according to the Commissioner on Indian Affairs. By 1926 only four were left.



Lilem (outlined in black, lower left on map)

Can you visualize our modern community devastated to that extent? It's unimaginably horrific.

Yet *Epûs* descendants intermarried and kept their culture alive as they comingled and sought refuge in reservations and rancherias. Some members of the Coyote Valley, Round Valley, and Sherwood Valley tribes trace their direct heritage back to the *Epûs*. They spend time here often, gathering sustenance, holding ceremonies, and maintaining their long-time ties to this special place. It has not been any easy road for them. I am grateful to call some of them friends from my archaeological work.

Now there is a way we can support and openly embrace tribes by encouraging reparations. Senator Mike McGuire and Assemblyman Jim Wood have coauthored Senate Bill 231 to transfer 172 acres of

state land to a tribal nonprofit. That land (shown on the map at left) is associated with the villages of Lilem and K'etim and the resource rich mussel shoals there.

The proposed law is written to ensure public access is maintained. Resources will also be protected and no development will ever occur. Tribal elder Eddie Knight, who is an *Epûs* descendent, told me that the tribes look at this as an opportunity to conserve resources, maintain access, and deepen ties with the community. They will be excellent stewards. In the spirit of healing and land conservation I encourage you to write letters of support to our legislators. You can use a web search to find the SB 231 text (a link to the bill's text is also provided in the article below) and addresses for our local legislators. You can also voice your comments at the March 2nd Westport MAC meeting (see article below).

Westport MAC Meeting Via Zoom On Tuesday, March 2nd

Thad Van Bueren

The Westport Municipal Advisory Council will meet Tuesday, March 2nd at 7:00 PM via Zoom teleconference. Please contact WMAC95488@wildblue.net if you want details on how to participate. If you want to comment or ask a question on an agenda item, please mention that in your email to the WMAC so the meeting host can acknowledge you at the proper time.

Each agenda topic will be introduced by the WMAC Directors. The host will then acknowledge public speakers, if any, one at a time. Speakers will have up to 3 minutes each. Your courtesy is essential to ensure every person is heard. Public comments on that topic will then close and the Directors will decide if any action will be taken.

The meeting will discuss Senate Bill 231, a proposed state law that will transfer the 172-acre Blues Beach property to a tribal nonprofit for management as a natural area (see Lilem article beginning on page 1). Public access will be maintained as a condition of the transfer. You can find a copy of the proposed bill at: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB231.

Westport Community Store & Post Office Expanded Service During COVID-19 Crisis

In this COVID crisis, the **Westport Community Store** now offers the following services:

- Call-ahead ordering – store personnel can grocery shop for you
- Curbside pickup of take-out food orders, groceries, PO Box Mail and packages delivered to the store
- Delivery of take-out food orders, groceries, PO Box Mail and packages delivered to the store
- Flexible non-contact payment methods
- All orders will be packaged and disinfected prior to pickup or delivery. **The Westport Community Store wants to do anything possible to help its customers stay safe and minimize possible spread of COVID-19. Deliveries available in the greater Westport Community area. Call the Store at 964-2872 to order or get more information.**

What's Happening at The Westport Hotel In March

Tabby Korhummel, General Manager, Westport Hotel
Spring is in the air and we are excited for our next events!

On Wednesday, March 17th, we will serve our traditional Saint Patrick's Day corned beef and cabbage dinner as a take-out dinner fundraiser for the Westport Volunteer Fire Department. Please pre-order by calling 707-964-3688 or emailing westporthotel@mcn.org. Pick up your To-Go dinner between 6:00PM and 7:00PM on March 17th, and make your cash or check donation to our WVFD volunteer fire and rescue department.



The take-out Dinner includes your choice of entree; vegetarian or beef with Irish soda bread and Irish whiskey cake for dessert. We will also have drinks available. **Please be sure to pre-order!!**

Saturday, April 3rd – Put on your Cheshire grin and best wonderland fashion for the merriest un-birthday you have ever had! In true Mad Hatter fashion we will be celebrating April Fool's Day on Saturday, April 3rd from 1:00PM to 3:00PM with a (weather permitting) tea party and plant sale on the back lawn. Look for more details in next month's *Westport Wave*, or call Tabby at 964-3688 for more information.

Westport Church March Spiritual Programs Cancelled

Baile Oakes

Due to the COVID crisis, regular Westport Community Church services are cancelled for the foreseeable future. Stay safe and stay healthy, and **see page 8 for our March spiritual message!**

Free Masks for COVID Protection

COVID Response Network

Courtesy of the Mask Awareness Project of the COVID Response Network, complimentary mask kits are available at the following locations, so anyone can pick up free mask packs anytime:

Fort Bragg – Down Home Foods and Colombi Market

Mendocino – Spark Gallery, Corners of the Mouth, and Frankie's

CRN Mission

The mission of the **COVID Response Network** is to do what we can as concerned people to make a broad, deep, and effective response to the threats of COVID-19. Our pilot region is the Mendocino Coast of California.

Concealed Carry (CCW) Training

Westport Volunteer Fire Department

WVFD Chief Dan Maxey is making arrangements for a CCW course to be conducted here in Westport by a certified instructor, so long as at least 10 people sign up by March 19th. This course is mandatory for anyone wanting to apply for a concealed carry permit. The 2-day course will be held on a weekend, probably in late March or in April. Tuition for the course is \$500.00 per person, plus applicable fees. For more information, and to sign up, please call Dan Maxey at 707-357-4353 by March 19th.

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 nine years of monthly back-issues, all in living color, with live links! Check it out, and tell your friends!



GOT YOUR COVID VACCINE?

Great! Here's what comes next:

Continue MASKING UP, social distancing, hand washing, and testing because...

- #1. You can still transmit the virus.**
- #2. Immunity is not complete until 1–2 weeks after your second vaccine dose.**
- #3. Vaccines prevent illness in *most* but fail to work in *some* cases.**
- #4. Covid 19 continues to mutate and develop resistance to current vaccines.**
- #5. Wearing masks and social distancing show you stand with our community effort.**

STOP THE PANDEMIC.



www.covidresponsenetwork.net



#cubretemendo



Headlands volunteer work crew clearing invasive English Ivy February 20th.

Headlands Work Day

Thad Van Bueren

After a nice overnight rain, Saturday, February 20th turned sunny. It was another perfect work day at Westport Headlands Park. Five volunteers pitched in to remove invasive plants, socialize with safe distancing, and to share donuts. It was a great exercise!! The Westport Village Society thanks Erin and Julie Brazill, Jim Genereux, Rhiannon Korhummel, and Thad Van Bueren for their effort.

WVS will continue to hold work days every third Saturday of the month from 10:00AM to 1:00PM. The next one will be **Saturday, March 20th**. The event will be cancelled if it rains. Please bring gloves, water, and loppers/pruners. We will socially distance for safety, but it is a good idea to bring a mask as a precaution. Please contact us at wvs@westportvillagesociety.org with questions or input.

Reflective Address Signs Will Help Us Find You!

Westport Volunteer Fire Department

Reflective address signs will help the Westport Volunteer Fire Department and other responding agencies find your house in the event of an emergency. It is now possible to order reflective signs with your house number from the Fire Department. These high quality metal signs will have the house number in reflective white on a green background. The number can be either vertical or horizontal.

The cost is \$25.00 per sign if you want to install the sign yourself. Or, for an extra \$10.00 a member of the Fire Department will install the sign for you. These prices include our cost of having the signs made as well as our cost of the materials we use to mount the signs we install. All proceeds in excess of those costs will help support the Westport Volunteer Fire Department.

To order a sign just fill out the order form that is on the last page (page 10) of this edition of the *Westport Wave*. If you want to order more than one sign please use a separate order form for each sign. You can obtain additional order forms by sending an email to John Allison at jrallison27@gmail.com.

Completed order forms should be mailed to the Westport Volunteer Fire Department at P. O. Box 67 in Westport with a check for the amount of your purchase (\$25 for each sign you want to install yourself, \$35 for each sign you want the Fire Department to install). After we receive your order form(s) and payment we'll place an order with the company that makes the signs. We'll then let you know when your sign(s) have arrived.



Westport County Water District News

Ann Woodhead, Board Member, WCWD

All quiet on the water front, after some serious trouble at the water plant in late January, when the main valve in front of the water plant failed while the distribution system was being flushed, normally a routine process. Our stalwart operator John Morrill, with the assistance of trainee David Wilson, replaced that valve (and 3 others in the infiltration gallery) remarkably quickly and got everything back to normal on January 30th. Most of us didn't even know it was happening! Crisis averted. Thank you, John and David.

This is the last article I'm writing for the *Wave* as a member of the Board of Directors—I'm leaving the Board on March 20th. I am very happy to report that there are two people interested in signing on, and if they both commit as expected, the Board will be back up to its full complement of five members, as specified in our By-laws. Hurray!

It's been rewarding to support our community by serving on the Water District Board. I've learned a lot, met a number of good people I might otherwise never have known, and come to appreciate the hard work of the people who keep the system running. When my late husband was on the Board for many years, he used to say that his job was to "make sure there's clean water in the taps and no s___ goin' into the ocean." Here's to that!

Help In Westport During The COVID Crisis

Gary Quinton and Bill Knapp

When you live in the Westport community, you do not live alone. You do have friends and neighbors. It's kinda like the old sitcom *Cheers*, "where everybody knows your name".

If you get sick or are at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 during these unprecedented times, remember that you live in an unprecedented part of the United States. This is not the big city where you are just a name and number, you are a neighbor and friend. If you are quarantined at home, let your community know about it. For your sake and ours. We want to help, and we can.

If you are quarantined at home with COVID-19 or in self-quarantine because of medical advice, symptoms or underlying medical conditions, it will be hard living in our area, but your neighbors can make the difference, we can help.

We might not come in for a cup of coffee, but we can get you needed supplies. We can assist you and still be safe to ourselves, our families and our neighbors. When you're quarantined, there might be things that must be done around your property, that have to be done. We can help. There might be any of a long list of things you cannot do that a neighbor can do, but only if you let us know.

We want to reactivate the Westport Neighbor to Neighbor Network. Contact either of us if you need help or can help if notified. We will coordinate calls for help and offers to help, while helping as much as we can.

Gary Quinton at (707) 964-7073 or email gquinton@mcn.org

Bill Knapp at (707) 964-7355 or email bill@netwidget.com

Your Neighbors can't help you if they don't know you need help. Remember, if you have an emergency, any emergency, call 911! Be calm and safe, and use common sense. Social distancing is proving to be effective. We are all in this together.



With the help of a few other community members, we managed to muscle the greenhouse back to its original location after it made an unexpected leap up to the community center roof following a windstorm. Thank you to all who helped in moving it! A couple more, new raised beds were built in February and are ready to be amended and planted. Some tidying up of the garden also happened in February and for March we will continue to improve the infrastructure of the garden by re-building the last of the decaying garden beds, repairing fencing, amending soil/compost mulching, laying down weed barrier cloth (and woodchips) in the greenhouse and constructing a compost system.

With these improvements done in March we'll be on track to plant in time for the projected last frost date for our zone in April! **Spring is upon us!!**

March at The Westport Community Garden

Derek DiOrio

Stop by the **Westport Community Garden** in March for fresh, organically grown veggies – ready for you to harvest, **ABSOLUTELY FREE!** At the Westport Community Garden, fresh vegetables are free to everyone every day, so please come do your part by harvesting regularly so that nothing goes to waste! Just bring your own cutting utensil and a bag to take your goodies home. We're at the end of Abalone Street at the Westport Community Center (look for the greenhouse).

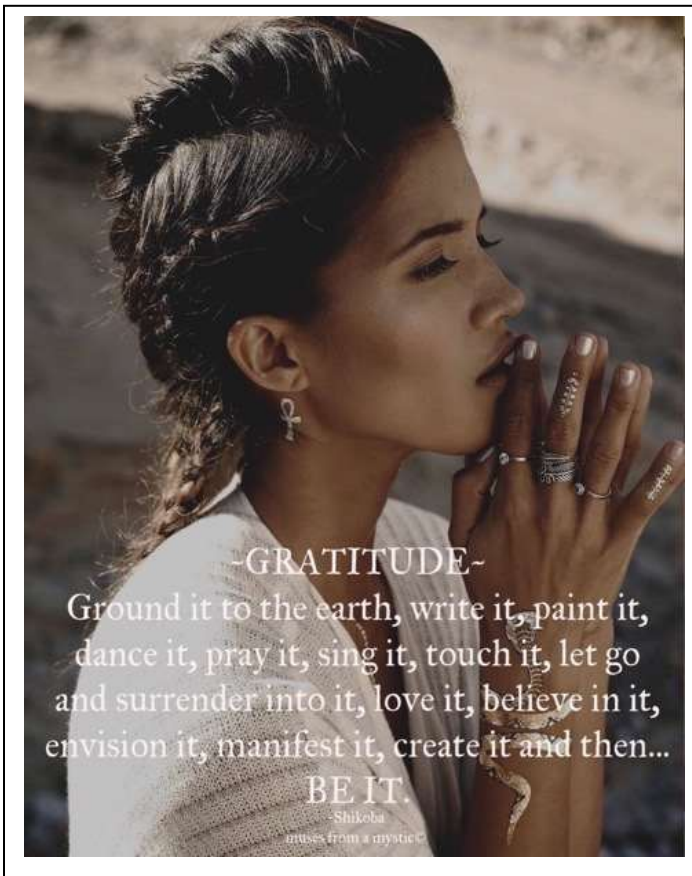
A variety of different leafy greens, herbs and brassicas are all available for picking during the month of March. As usual, the community garden work days are the first and third Saturdays of the month (weather permitting) and, with spring quickly approaching, we could really use some more hands in the Garden!

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.



March Westport Calendar

(Please note that because of the COVID crisis, meeting occurrences, dates, and modes may vary.)

Tuesday, March 2nd – Westport Municipal Advisory Council Monthly Meeting Via Zoom, 7:00PM (see page 2)

Thursday, March 4th – Bookmobile, 9:30AM-10:00AM, Westport Store (service outside of Bookmobile only)

Wednesday, March 10th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM (call Chief Dan Maxey at (707) 357-4353 to attend remotely)

Saturday, March 13th – New Moon, 2:21AM

Saturday, March 13th – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 10:00AM (call Kayla Cooper at (707)367-1057 for information on attending by Zoom)

Sunday, March 14th – Daylight Saving Time Begins, 2:00AM (Set Clocks AHEAD One Hour)

Sunday, March 14th – Monthly Westport Church Thich Nhat Hahn Discussion Group CANCELLED

Wednesday, March 17th – Saint Patrick's Day

Wednesday, March 17th – Saint Patrick's Day WVFD Fundraiser Take-Out Dinner, 6:00PM to 7:00PM (pre-order please), Westport Hotel (see page 3)

Thursday, March 18th – Bookmobile, 9:30AM-10:00AM, Westport Store (service outside of Bookmobile only)

Saturday, March 20th – SPRING EQUINOX, 9:15AM

Saturday, March 20th – Headlands Work Day, 10:00AM to 1:00PM, Westport Headlands (see p.5)

Sunday, March 21st – Monthly Westport Church Quaker Worship Group CANCELLED

Saturday, March 27th – Passover Begins At Sundown

Sunday, March 28th – Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 28th – Full Moon, 11:48AM

Thursday, April 1st – April Fool's Day

Friday, April 2nd – Good Friday

Saturday, April 3rd – Tea Party And Plant Sale, Back Lawn, Westport Hotel (see page 3)

Sunday, April 4th – Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 4th – Passover Ends At Sundown

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. Both the current *Westport Wave* and over 9 years of monthly back-issues are also on the Newsletter page of our WVS website www.westportvillagesociety.org.

Contributions for our April 1st issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by March 27th, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com. Thanks!



Welcome to
WESTPORT
Safety First, Kindness Always.

The Westport Village Society
Presents

Preserve and Protect
A Headlands Work Party

Third Saturday
of Every Month
(weather permitting)
10 AM to 1 PM

Please bring water and gloves.
Meet in the Headlands.

WESTPORT VOL. FIRE DEPT.

REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKER ORDER FORM

Please complete the following information:

Name _____
Address _____
City, ST Zip _____
Phone Number _____

Address Number Requested

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Note: If your address has fewer than 5 digits, please X those boxes not used.

Mounting Preference

HORIZONTAL

HORZ _____ VERT _____
SEND CHECK TO:

WESTPORT VOL. FIRE DEPT.
CHIEF DANIEL MAXEY

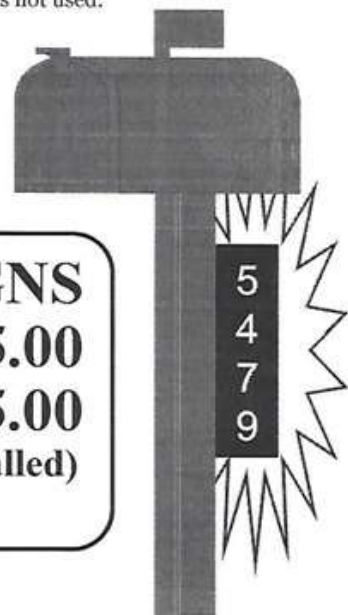
P.O. BOX 67
WESTPORT, CA 95488

707-357-4353

HELP US FIND YOU!

**V
E
R
T
I
C
A
L**

SIGNS
\$ 25.00
\$ 35.00
(Installed)



E-MAIL westportfire1@gmailcom