

## Trial delayed for driver in crash

The trial of a Happy Valley man involved in a suspected DUI-related traffic collision that killed a Cottonwood motorcyclist in 2014 saw it put off Friday in Shasta County Superior Court.

Roger Thomas Ladewig was scheduled to begin standing trial next week, but it was delayed at the request of his defense attorney.

A new trial date is expected to be set on Oct. 7.

Ladewig is charged with felony vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence and other charges.



Ladewig

He is accused of causing a March 24, 2014, traffic collision in the Happy Valley area that killed motorcyclist James Lee Wooten, 63.

## Crews put out fire in north Redding

Redding firefighters Friday afternoon extinguished a 1-acre vegetation fire in the area of Masonic Avenue and Center Street in north Redding.

Scanner reports said an arson suspect was detained at the Dollar Tree store off Lake Boulevard and a fire investigator was called to the scene.

Crews reported shortly after they arrived that they had the fire under control with water hoses surrounding the fire.

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Staff reports



## Man pleads guilty to manslaughter in fatal 2014 crash

Jim Schultz, Record Searchlight | 1h ago

A 38-year-old Happy Valley man pleaded guilty Monday in Shasta County Superior Court to vehicular manslaughter in connection with a 2014 traffic collision that killed a Cottonwood motorcyclist.



# Plea deal reached in fatal '14 crash

## Man pleads guilty to felony manslaughter

JIM SCHULTZ  
RECORD SEARCHLIGHT

A 38-year-old Happy Valley man pleaded guilty Monday in Shasta County Superior Court to vehicular manslaughter in connection with a 2014 traffic collision that killed a Cottonwood motorcyclist.

Roger Thomas Ladewig, who has seen his case plagued with numerous delays since it began, pleaded guilty to felony vehicular manslaughter without gross negligence while intoxicated.

Ladewig faces anywhere from probation for five years to a four-year prison sentence under the terms of his plea deal. He is set to be sentenced on April 3.

Should he be placed on probation, Superior Court Judge Cara Beatty said Monday, Ladewig could be sentenced to four years in prison if he violates its terms, which include a condition prohibiting him from drinking alcohol.

Ladewig's plea comes as he was scheduled to begin standing trial late next month.

He was arrested after a March 24, 2014, traffic collision in the Happy Valley area that killed motorcyclist James Lee Wooten, 63.

Authorities said that Ladewig was under the influence of alcohol when he turned in front of the motorcyclist.

It was revealed during Ladewig's December 2015 preliminary hearing that Wooten had methamphetamine in his system and was apparently speeding at the time of the crash.

During that preliminary hearing, California Highway Patrol officer Mike Cregge testified that Ladewig was driving his westbound pickup on Palm Avenue when he turned left in front of Wooten's eastbound Harley Davidson motorcycle as he tried to pull into a private driveway. Wooten was thrown off his motorcycle and died at the scene.

"He (Ladewig) said he thought he had enough time" to safely make the turn, Cregger said.

According to a CHP report, Ladewig, who also failed a field sobriety test, took a breath-test, which measured his blood-alcohol level at little more than 0.09 percent, a bit above the legal driving limit of 0.08 percent.

Deputy District Attorney Laura Smith said at that hearing, however, that the crash was clearly Ladewig's fault, saying he saw Wooten's motorcycle approaching him before he turned into its path.

"The defendant knew the risks, saw the risks," but turned in front of the motorcycle anyway, she said.