Caltrans crews repairing bypass detour slides

During a respite from winter rains, Caltrans crews are busy repairing two slides that occurred on the hillside next to the southbound lane of the Round Grade just south of town.

The slides or “slope failures,” caused by areas of unstable soil on the hillside next to the southbound lane of the Round Grade, are busy repairing two slides that occurred on the hillside next to the southbound lane of the Round Grade just south of town.

The thermistor is rising at the corner of Commercial and Main Streets as the donations come pouring in to the Willits Community Services and Food Bank’s Winter Fund Drive. As of Tuesday morning, the total had already reached $20,245. WCCP hopes to raise the $32,000 needed to continue offering invaluable services to the community during the coming year, including food and resources to those in need.

Anyone is welcome to donate funds—all amounts are greatly appreciated—and donations can be counted as charitable contributions against income tax returns.

Donations can be dropped off during office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or made to the Willits Community Services located at 299 East San Francisco Avenue in Willits. Checks should be made out to “Willits Community Services.”

For more information, call 459-0333 or email willitscs@gmail.com. Recent contributors this year’s drive include: Kathleen Young, Tom & Laura Allman, Shana Byrne and Peggy Randrup, Iona & Leigh Robinson, Rosamond Crowder & Doug Prado, Dancing Rosemary & Tommy Allman.

Rising to $20,245

Just under $12,000 left to go to reach the $32,000 Winter Fund Drive goal


Judges’ ruling drops protest Parrish’s restitution to $9,460

Willits by-pass protest and local journalist Bill Parrish has been ordered to pay $9,400.50 in restitution costs for his 11-day June 2013 trial drain cleaner occupation. The restitution order was issued December 22 by Judge John Betria. The amount is less than 3 percent of Parrish’s original costs.

The ruling follows a series of decreasing restitution orders by Caltrans that dropped from an initial $49,002.32 in 2013, $20,550.85 in 2014, and finally to $10,989.00 during another 10 hearing in Ukiah.

Rising to $20,245

Over on Page 11

Major Crimes Task Force commander Russell retires

Richard Russell, special agent in charge of the Mendocino Major Crimes Task Force, officially retired at the end of 2014, although the Sheriff’s Office had retired at the end of 2014, Task Force, officially retired in 1994, the final four years for the Mendocino County. He was a deputy for the Mendocino, Lake and Napa counties. He had held the position since taking over the commander’s position from Bob Nishiyama at the position since taking over.

According to Public Information Officer Captain Gregory Von Patton, the Sheriff’s Office has appointed a sergeant as Russell’s temporary replacement although the name is being kept confidential until the appointment is made to last until the end of the year. Department of Justice next week.

The center underwent a change to the north, in a section of hillside that had been covered by the layer that was previously soil will be replaced with more dirt and rocks. “The area will be hard to distinguish,” said Frisbie, explaining that the area was removed, and crews were refilling the area with rock.

The current work is focused on repairing the larger slide to the north, in a section of hillside that had been covered in a layer of soil and rocks. That slide has the greatest potential to impact traffic near the 20-mph speed limit. Northbound traffic has been redirected to the old highway, since the lane closed to the hill has closed to enable work, and some traffic controls are in place to protect the affected areas.

Frisbie expects work on this section of the hillside will continue for two to three weeks, assuming they are not seeing periods of heavy rain. If there are, crews will focus on repairing the smaller slide to the south. As of press time all the loose soil from the northern slide had been removed, and crews were refilling the area with rock.

“The ruling follows a series of decreasing restitution orders by Caltrans that dropped from an initial $49,002.32 in 2013, $20,550.85 in 2014, and finally to $10,989.00 during another 10 hearing in Ukiah.

Frisbie expects work on this section of the hillside to the south will be repaired. The southern slide is located in an area with repairing the rest of the slide to be done on January 7, photo courtesy of Caltrans.

Judge’s ruling drops protest Parrish’s restitution to $9,460

Recently elected Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse was sworn into office Tuesday, along with other Mendocino County officials.

Taking of offices also called into question with Woodhouse seven other county offices, including Tom Allman (sheriff), David Eyler (district attorney), Shari Schapmire (assessor), Warren Galletti (treasurer), Sus Ranochar (assessor- auditor), and Dan Hamburg (Fifth District supervisor).

The three current superior court judges were also acknowledged as having taken the oaths of office.

Following a brief reception, Woodhouse took his seat along with the other supervisors, participated in his first meeting.

The morning portion of the meeting was organizational and routine. Carl Carsen (First District) was elected chairman; Dan Gjerde (Fourth District) as vice-chairman.

Supes distributed committee assignments, giving Woodhouse a seat on Children and Youth, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors (MCOS), the Budget Advisory Committee, the Mendocino County Management Authority, the Policy Council on Children and Youth, the Rural Area Roads and the Workforce Investment Board.

Judge’s ruling drops protest Parrish’s restitution to $9,460

MCTF
Sudoku

CLUES ACROSS
1. Humbug
2. Meaningless talk
3. A male ferret
4. Unit of volume (abbr.)
5. N.W. German city & port
6. N.W. German city & port
7. J.D. Redhouse
8. Awaiting
9. -__, denotes past
10. Conceit
11. Not studied
12. Conditions of balance
13. Physical therapy
14. 3. Ace Copy and Shipping
15. Placed on a golf ball stand
16. Melatonin is the capital
17. Arthritis
18. Capital of Yemen
19. 1. Humbug
20. Type of theater company
21. Plastic, paper or shopping
22. Electronic countersmeasures
23. Language along the lower Yenisei River
24. Shoulder injury
25. Small Veas
26. Apple Veas
27. Article
28. Cape of Horn
29. Type of theater company
30. Public, paper or shopping
31. Electronic countersmeasures
32. Language along the lower Yenisei River
33. Hebrew name
34. A tumor composed of muscle tissue
35. Satisfy to excess
36. Old World buffalo
37. Institute legal
38. Beam
39. Article
40. Latch onto
41. Third mast
42. A woman's skirt
43. Conditions of balance
44. Tree producing gum (Arabic)
45. Armour carried on the arm
46. Winged goddess of the dawn
47. Ego
48. Half pro
49. Resounded
50. Resounded
51. Young woman of society
52. Sales event
53. Separates seating areas
54. N.M. Pueblo people
55. Founder of Babism
56. Fullback
57. Payola
58. Jeans maker's initials
59. Afflict

CLUES DOWN
1. Bear skin
2. Genus dasyprocta
3. A male ferret
4. Unit of volume (abbr.)
5. Italian tons of tobacco
6. N.W. German city & port
7. Signal sounds
8. Adult females
9. Children past
10. Gas usage measurement
11. Fishhook point
12. Sales event
13. Resounded
14. Fullback
15. Hands on one's knees
16. Having negative qualities
17. Mauve, ___ Hawaiian volcano
18. In a way, thrusts
19. A woman's skirt
20. Awaiting
21. Awaiting
22. Awaiting
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GROWING FUEL

Growing fuel
Could small-scale alcohol stills power local farms?

Brought together by an interest in the future of alcohol-based fuels, experts and participants from around northern California gathered at the Little Lake Grange in early December for a two-day “Farm Hack” conference. The “Fuel Farming for the 21st Century” event, organized by the Mendocino Alchohol Fuel Group, the Grange Farm School, and young farmers group the Greenhorns, featured hands-on demonstrations of how such fuels could be produced and used locally, along with tours of projects already using alcohol fuels.

Each day began with presentations by local and regional experts, and continued on to Ridgegadow Ranch south of Willits, the location of the Grange Farm School and a historic 300-gallon “Revenoor” still – purchased by Golden Rule Farm in the late 1970s – which is now the focus of a local effort to produce alcohol-based fuel for farm use.

One main topic of discussion was how local farmers could utilize locally grown crops and alternative feedstocks – such as apples, Jerusalem artichokes, cattails or “lees” leftover from wine production – to make fuel to power farm equipment in environmentally sustainable and economically viable ways.

The Revenoor still, operated for five years on the farm during the oil crisis, was retired from use after five years of being run primarily with purchased corn maltotetraose, cooked with wood, creating fuel used for a car and forklift. Cody Bartholomew, project manager of Ridgegadow Ranch, explained that the small scale of the original setup – and having to purchase materials – made the still inefficient for long-term use, but left it in almost brand-new condition.

Bartholomew, along with Farm School program director Ruthie King and members of the Alcohol Fuel Group, has essentially restored the still to working order. The group is working on the often bypassed and difficult permitting process to legally produce fuel for farm use. They hope the working still will enable students at the school, local scientists, and the broader community to see the possibilities for alcohol fuel in an industry, and ultimately inspire greater use of the carbon-neutral resource. Bartholomew is also exploring ways to heat the still using solar power and employ other alternative energy sources on the farm.

How small producers can best navigate the permitting process was a repeated question during discussions, as conference presenters shared information about funding possibilities, regulatory requirements, and ways alcohol fuels could potentially be produced and used residentially and cooperatively.

Other presentations – featuring home-made and commercially designed stills (all constructed for less than a few thousand dollars), modified tractors, bicycles, and other machines running on ethanol – enabled visitors to watch the processes in action.

The local conference was part of a series of “Farm Hacks” taking place around the country to encourage the “do-it-yourself” and “open-source” exchange of ideas and designs for innovative and energy-efficient farm tools and equipment. I really wanted to attend this Farm Hack to learn more about local efforts to produce alcohol-based fuel for farm use.

The conference featured a tour of the Revenoor still at Ridgegadow Ranch, which is being restored to working order by the Grange Farm School and the Greenhorns. Visitors were able to see the processes in action.
What’s Happening Around Town

The Peking Acrobats

The awe-inspiring and incredibly colorful Peking Acrobats, from China, will perform at the Matrioskha Community Center in Willits. Their athletic and acrobatic skills are legendary. Their programs are filled with routines that feature flying, juggling, balance, and other acts. Tickets are $35, available online at www.mateel.org.

Wednesday, January 14
Wills Winter Farmers Market: From 5 to 3:30 pm on every Thursday at Little Lake Grange, 217 South Main Street, Willits. The market features fresh produce, baked goods, gifts, items, chocolates, crafts, live music, and more. Info: 459-9891. May be sold out. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more information.

Art Works by Robert Nixon, Sr. at the Willits Art Center features the art of local artist, Robert Nixon Sr. A native of Willits, Nixon Sr. studied at UCLA and other schools throughout the country. His art is known for its realism and unique, whimsical style. The exhibit will be on display from now through February 26.

The Choral Connection: the chorus of Willits Arts Center in its 20th season, and you are invited to sing with them. Free “open” rehearsals are scheduled Tuesday evenings from 7 to 10 pm at the Saint Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church. Robert Nixon, Sr. Art works priced to sell; all proceeds to benefit the Willits Center for the Arts. Info: Robert Nixon Sr. at 459-7700 or email jeffritchley@willitsunified.com.

Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:30 am to 1 pm. 55 and older: $5.00 per meal. Under $57 per meal, inflation subsidy, website, bread, dinner, and drink. 151 Baetchal Road. 459-4625.

Ongoing Events
in and around Willits

Want local events? Check our Calendar feature in this weekly edition. If you would like your event to be listed, please contact the editor at 459-7707. or email willitsunited@brownpapertickets.com.

Harrah Senior Center

Luncheon

Week of January 12 through 18
Monday: Beef Stew
Tuesday: Raisin and Date Salad
Wednesday: Baked Chicken
Thursday: Baked Salmon
Friday: Chicken Fried Steak
Saturday: Coffee and Tea with the Principal:

Celtic harpist Patrick McCafferty returns to Willits Community Theatre Saturday, January 18 at 2 pm. After a successful debut performance in 2013, McCafferty will return with his new album. "Celtic Harp" on his Celtic harp. McCafferty will perform a variety of traditional and contemporary music from Ireland and Scotland. The concert will be held in the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Tickets are $40; advanced purchase is recommended. Info: 459-7700 or email jeffritchley@willitsunified.com.

Celtic harp and storyteller Patrick McCafferty will bring his popular performance to Willits Community Theatre on Sunday, January 18 at 2 pm. After a successful debut performance in 2013, McCafferty will return with his new album. "Celtic Harp" on his Celtic harp. McCafferty will perform a variety of traditional and contemporary music from Ireland and Scotland. The concert will be held in the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Tickets are $40; advanced purchase is recommended. Info: 459-7700 or email jeffritchley@willitsunified.com.

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Cleaning up Christmas

Choirs and cheerleaders gather trees (and donations) from area neighborhoods

Above left: Boy Scout Troop 212 left, and Zacharias Defelt picking-up trees on 685 Street Saturday afternoon, with Joe Defel t holding on.

Boy Scout Troop 212 and the WHS Competition Cheer Squad joined forces on Saturday to pick up Christmas trees from Willits neighborhoods. This by-donation community service was a fundraiser for both groups of young people, who worked to pick up the trees and to collect donations.

The cheer squad will use their share of the funds to pay for fees for cheer competitions over the next couple of months. Troop 212 uses the funds raised by this annual event every year for awards, advancements, weekend camping fees (Troop 212 does one camping trip every month, rain or shine) and other supplies for the troop.

An estimated 400 former Christmas trees were picked up Saturday. The trees were chipped and shredded to use as mulch at the sewer plant.

Delores Pedersen of Troop 212 said the two groups would like to thank Atrion Rentals of Ukiah for the donation of the chipper/shredder; Rich Huddle of Huddle Construction for arranging for the chipper/shredder and also helping by driving his truck and trailer to pick up the trees; Les Schwab Tires for use of their back parking lot to be the drop-off location; Nat Colli ect of Mountain Construction for the use of his chain saws and all the parents that spent the day helping the kids. “It could not have happened without them,” Pedersen said.

Troop 212 meets Tuesday nights at 7:30 pm at the First Baptist Church on Wood Street (the street between The Book Jugle and J.D. Redhouse). Boys in fifth grade, or age 11 or 12, can join, and new members are welcome. Those interested can call Pedersen at 707-972-3911 with any questions.

—Jennifer Pool

STUDIO JOY

2015 California Arbor Week Poster Contest ‘We Need Trees and Trees Need Us’

To help educate Californians on the value that trees provide to building successful, healthy cities and neighborhoods, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and California ReLeaf are announcing the annual statewide Arbor Week poster contest for students in third, fourth and fifth grades.

Students are asked to create original artwork based on the Arbor Week theme “We Need Trees and Trees Need Us.” Submissions are due to California ReLeaf by February 1, 2015. Winners will be featured at the California State Fair and also awarded cash prizes provided by the California Community Foundation.

California Arbor Week runs March 7 to 14 every year to mark famed horticulturist Luther Burbank’s birthdate.

Read the rest of the article on Page 9

Willits Weekly Classifieds

Agate/Geometry

Pier 85

707-927-4097

Closing.

Alaska: George Proctor 13170 Hwy 101 N 707-299-4848

Community HI Song

A ‘50s-era hit’ that is both a fun and educational way to learn about Willits. HI Song, Thursday, January 22, 6 to 8 pm at Willits City Hall 111 Commercial Street. HI (pronounced hue) is a simple, uplifting song on a mantra that can help you experience inner peace and an inner calm. All ballets are welcome. Sponsored by Essendence. Experience the Light and Sound of Self Information. Please call 707-2475 or visit willitsweekly.com.

Record 300

Need help with your own record label? We can help. Recording studio, mastering, repairs and consultation. Single track $35, 3-track singles $40, $50, $60. Contact Jeff Kama 707-972-4026 or jon@soundencyclopedia.com

North Coast ReLeaf

Plant trees on Main Street. New plantings of 450 square feet on public area. Call 707-493-4110.

Benefit Poster

Squad joined forces on Saturday to pick up Christmas trees from Willits neighborhoods. This by-donation community service was a fundraiser for both groups of young people, who worked to pick up the trees and to collect donations. Delores Pedersen of Troop 212 said the two groups would like to thank Atrion Rentals of Ukiah for the donation of the chipper/shredder; Rich Huddle of Huddle Construction for arranging for the chipper/shredder and also helping by driving his truck and trailer to pick up the trees; Les Schwab Tires for use of their back parking lot to be the drop-off location; Nat Collett of Mountain Construction for the use of his chain saws and all the parents that spent the day helping the kids. “It could not have happened without them,” Pedersen said.

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—Jennifer Pool

Solar Power!

We hear about it all the time but we see small tidy-back yard entries and massive ‘solar’ roofs. What about it? Why? Why would anyone want to put that stuff on their roof.”

Interested! Let’s talk. Really small business that won’t hit the roof unless it falls in a hail storm.

Mike Borsavage

Our installation is simple, beautiful, and something you don’t have to think about. No garbage, no监管, and nothing involving water. A clean, simple, beautiful thing.

The PV (photovoltaic) panels mount in your yard on your roof (or a wall, a pole, or installed radially) and have a 25-year warranty whenever you purchase them. Their power goes into solar, which you can recharge batteries, or use the power to conserve energy. Think of it as a ‘sale tax,’ and ‘free’ electricity. There are many different styles of solar panels, but the one we have may be the ‘best fit’ for you, depending on your house, your budget, and your needs.

The rest of the article can be read on Page 9.

Roopa

Wellness Program participant with employees of Mendocino County, Willits Senior Center and scholarships and Bear Kamoroff on the bass.

Over on Page 9

Studio Joy

Happy New Year, Willits! Let us help you reach your fitness goals in 2015!

R.I.P.P.E.D. with Judy Coughlin

Begins Tuesday and Wednesdays January 6th at 6:30 pm. Welcome to your welcome Studio Joy cards and passes. Drop in $10.

1262 Blosser Lane • Willits, CA 707-841-7499

Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits CA 95490

Willits Weekly | January 8, 2015

2015 California Arbor Week

Poster Contest ‘We Need Trees and Trees Need Us’

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Read the rest of the article on Page 9

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Studio Joy

Happy New Year, Willits! Let us help you reach your fitness goals in 2015!

NEW STUDENTS:

- Never been to our studio? First class is free!
- New Student special: 5 classes for $35 (reg. $47.50), after which it’s just $35 per class!
- Referring Student: 1st class free, unlimited classes in the month (867.50 students and seniors).
- Wellness Program with employees of Mendocino County, Howard Hospital and Mariposa Market
- Children under 14 years FREE


Tuesday and Thursday night Zumba is now at 5:30, followed by R.I.P.P.E.D. at 6:30.

For all our school and community events visit our website at www.studiojoywillits.com or call 707-841-7499. And like us on Facebook: Studio Joy, Willits


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Read the rest of the article on Page 9

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Mendocino College’s North County Center campus in Willits is now able to serve students who previously had to travel to Ukiah for classes. The new center replaced existing interim classrooms and leased facilities situated in multiple locations.

The new three-story building, located on the Ukiah campus and another new educational center in the Lakeport area, was constructed under a phased development plan and is the first phase of the North County Center, located at 372 East Main Street. The building, which includes 80,000 square feet of educational space, was completed in December 2014.

During his tenure, Russell was invited to speak to a number of high-profile groups and was a featured speaker at numerous conferences. He also traveled extensively and met with a wide range of groups, organizations, and individuals.

The building is oriented so that in the campus a public place, while encompassing more private space beyond and allowing for future expansion. A shaded structure provides a comfortable outdoor space for gathering and studying. The main building’s design celebrates the roofline as a visual under a pitched roof, evoking the rural nature of the surrounding community. The building includes three, 4-story East Education centers, and two new educational centers.

Once the state Department of Justice completes its internal recruitment and hiring process, Russell’s replacement will take direction from the executive council. It is expected that that committee will include Sheriff Allman, District Attorney David Eggers, County Supervisor David Gubler, Mendocino County parks, state parks officers, the California Department of Justice, and the FBI.

The North County Center, located immediately adjacent to the administrative offices and the computer lab, is the heart and hub of the campus and provides a collaborative learning resource that promotes interaction. The building is designed to meet LEED Silver criteria and includes renewable energy systems, including solar power, to reduce the building’s impact on the environment.

Developed on two acres of a 4.1-acre site, the 6,742-square-foot main building was designed by TCOL Architects of St. Clair with input from local and state officials. The building includes three, 4-story East Education centers, and two new educational centers.

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 AMAZING ATHLETE

of Willits High School

Photo by Rachel Davis

Join us in Welcoming Jeremiah Dawson, M.D.

BASKETBALL | Hannah Friend, 11, Junior

Breast of Champions: Yogurt with granola
Profile: Forward

Love for the Sport: Getting ideal! Hannah has been my most consistent player all season, and last weekend in our tournament in the Bay Area she didn’t slow down. Hannah creates a tremendous amount of ideals and turnovers from her excellent defensive skills and basketball IQ. Hannah was always there for us with much-needed offensive and defensive rebounds and points in the paint. She knows what needs to be done to be successful, and her work ethic is top notch! We are grateful to have her on our team!

— Coach Judy Ward

Ferry the Aussie

Ferry was owner-surrendered to the shelter by his owners because they were no longer able to care for him. He is a 3-year-old neutered male Australian Shepherd mix. Ferry lived inside and outside in his previous home, and slept on the bed at night. He loves to roll on his back to rub along the floor while you stroke his tummy. He also knows some basic commands and is house-trained.

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and our adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6 pm. We have many wonderful dogs and cats, awaiting their forever homes here. To view photos and bios of more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: www.mendoshelterpets.com or visit our shelter to view photos and bios of more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: www.mendoshelterpets.com or visit our shelter.

World Orthopaedic Surgeon

Dr. Dawson will be joining William Bowen, M.D., Jonathan Linthicum, M.D. and Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital and the Orthopedic Joint Center of Northern California to Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital and the Orthopedic Joint Center of Northern California.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Jeremiah Dawson to Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital and the Orthopedic Joint Center of Northern California.

Dr. Dawson will be joining William Bowen, M.D., and Jonathan Linthicum, M.D.

As a general orthopedic surgeon Dr. Dawson specializes in total joint replacement of the hip, shoulder and knee, shoulder and knee arthroscopy, fracture care, rotator cuff and meniscal tears, carpal tunnel and cubital tunnel.

Dr. Jeremiah Dawson

WHERE: William Bowen, M.D.

THOUGH TO JOIN: 707-288-3240, 707-288-3240

RATES: $150

AGE: 20-60

MUST HAVE: None

TAKES: Morning or afternoon

DESCRIPTION: Tufting and painting.

CONTACT: (707) 288-3240

NOW—FEBRUARY 26

Am I very happy in my zoo? Yes

Flag every day in January and February to claim your share of the benefits.

Every Thursday, February 26, 2-3 pm

There are ten chances: each winner will be drawn: for a chance to receive a Whole Foods Market gift card and take a selfie at the finish line. Win by 1/28. 3:30 pm.

Photo by Sage Mountainfire

OBITUARY | Jean Johnson

Jean Louise Johnson died December 25, 2014 following many years of declining health. She will be remembered by her loving husband, Dick Johnson, and three children: Robert, Julie and Rick. Born October 22, 1938 in Kokomo, Indiana, Jean was the second child of Mildred and John Frick. She joined the Air Force in 1956, married in 1958, and was widowed in 1971 with three young children.

In 1974 Jean married Dick Johnson. They retired in 1990 and moved to Willits, where she for many years enjoyed Tole painting, the Brooktrails Women’s Club, and most recently, becoming very active with the Red Hat Ladies of Willits. Jean was proud of her military service and met monthly with a group of ladies who had also served in the military.

Memorial services will be held on January 22, 2015 at 2 pm at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Willits. The following day, Jean will be taken to Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, her final resting place, and laid to rest with military honors. When his time comes, Dick will take his place beside her in the National Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.