THE BUILDER

Kiwanis CLUB OF HEALDSBURG

October 2026 **Volume 103 No. 1**

New Club Officers Installed During Festive Evening at Longboard's Barrel Room

New President Bob Taylor congratulated by Lt. Governor Richard Della Maggiora following installation

In a festive evening bash, club officers for the 2026-2027 year were installed by Lt. Governor Richard Della Maggiora on September 29 at Longboard's Barrel Room.

The festivities kicked off with a feast of Smashburgers smashed by Lockie, his daughter, and crew, appetizers salads and drinks brought by members and including Longboard wines.

Taking the gavel from outgoing president Liz Bippart was Robert Taylor who will serve as president for the year. Serving with Bob will be Joandell Hahn vice president/president Elect; Melanie Taylor, secretary, Ron Dobley project treasurer, Dick Bugarske administative treasurer, and Liz Bippart, immediate past president.

Incoming Board of Directors members installed were Susan Sheehy, Loretta Strong, Jerry Strong, Caroline Wright, Barbara Erickkson, Eric Frost.

Outgoing President Liz in her final remarks summarized our events and activities during the past year. (See Page 3)

President Bob in his first act delegated VP Joandell to run his first meeting since he will be out of town. See President's message for his installation remarks.

Regular Tuesday meetings at the Villa Chanticleer Annex.

Meeting Dates:

Oct 6: Committees.

Oct 13: Susan Sheehy takes us along to Europe.

Oct 20: Pie Order Day. Learn about the Pie Company from Ripon.

Oct 27: Howl-o-ween night meeting.

Other Events:

Oct 29: Dia de los Muertos. celebration in the Plaza.

Dec 4: Merry Healdsburg in the Plaza.

The Healdsburg Kiwanis Club meets Tuesday noon except the Last Tuesday of the month is an evening social meeting.

For information about the Healdsburg Kiwanis Club Contact President Robert Taylor 707-953-7242. or Secretary Melanie Taylor 707-953-7240.

Kiwanis ----- Serving the Children of the world®

Project Treasurer Ron Dobley accepts Distinguished Service Award with thanks

Outgoing Prez Liz with her President's Award

Admin Treasurer Dick requests donation to HHS Key Club

Healdsburg Kiwanis Club Officers 2026-2027

President – Robert Taylor
President Elect - Joandell Hahn
Secretary – Melanie Taylor
Admin. Treasurer - Richard Bugarske
Project Treasurer - Ron Dobley
Past President – Liz

Board of Directors

Susan Sheehy **Loretta Strong**
Jerry Strong **Caroline Wright,**
Barbara Erickkson **Eric Frost**
Liz Bippart

Memorial Scholarship Board of Directors

Dan Maraviglia, Chair
John (Jack) Brandt **Dennis Stead**
Ron Dobley **Guy French**
Dan Gianni **Richard Yates**

The Builder

Harry Jackson, Editor

Happy Birthday

Dennis Stead – Oct. 7
Tim Tuscany – Oct. 11
Chrystal Silva – Oct. 18
Lucy Lewand – Oct. 21
Dan Gianni – Oct. 27
Patti Robarts – Oct. 27
Debby Dormire – Oct 28
Barbara Erickson – Oct. 29
Lee Gunnerson – Oct. 30

Kiwanis Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following members who joined the Kiwanis Club during the month of October

Claudia Bugarske – 10-1-25
David Troia – 10-1-25
Paulene Rogers – 10-3-17
Dana Burwell - 10-20-92
Liz Bippart – 10-22-13
Rick Wood - 10-23-12
Charles Reichel - 10-24-74
Jan Gianni - 10-27-09
James Luchessi - 10-30-01

The President's Message

I am looking forward to a fun year as your new president, after 40 years of membership, I figured it was my time to take up the reins. Enjoyed the installation including all the good-natured ribbing that was fired at me. Thanks to Lockie and crew for the great smashburgers and to all involved in the planning for the installation. I'm sorry I won't be able to preside over my first meeting, I'm sure Joandell will do a fantastic job.

In with the old out with the young.
Bob

Our events and activities during the past year by Outgoing President Liz:

October: Halloween Party at Robert Young Winery, Dia de Muertos Celebration.

November: Friendsgiving Celebration, Pie Day, 1st Responders Luncheon, Visit to Charlie Palmer's Appellation Healdsburg.

December: Serving Darlene's secret recipe Mulled Wine at the Merry Healdsburg Celebration, Christmas/Hanukah Party Luncheon.

January: Souper Bowl Party at the Senior Center

February: Key Club Bake Sale, HHS Athletic Hall of Fame Legends Ball.

March: Selling hot dogs at the Lake Sonoma Steelhead Festival, Pancake Day.

April: HHS Scholarship Night, Susan Sheehy, wins the Marie Sparks 2026 Volunteer of the Year Award.

May: Third Annual Texas Hold'em Tournament, Honoring our 2026 Healdsburg High Students of the Month, FFA Twilight Parade and Fair.

June: Pancake Breakfast for HJHS 8th grade graduates, Kiwanis Night at the Prune Packers, an evening picnic in Cindi Brown's in the beautiful backyard.

July: Healdsburg Senior Center annual picnic at Riverfront Regional Park.

August: A book reading by authors Ken Dalton and Emma Tremont at the Healdsburg Library: Jane's Camp Rose: An Era of Magic, Brandt's Beach Barbeque.

September: In with Bob, out with Liz.

Special Installation Guests

Our installation host Longboard Owner Oded Shakked

We Welcome new members John Funkhauser and Robin Garrison

John Funkhauser, Loretta Strong, Robin Garrison

John is originally from Chicago. As a young man he joined the U.S. Marine Corps came to California for basic training and discovered there were much better places to live than Chicago. In his travels in California, he kept discovering better places to live and immediately moved there – from Orange County to Sonoma County to Rio Nido and finally his final resting place, Healdsburg.

He was recently doing internet searches for good companionship and fun. A photo of a group of our members having fun appeared and "Here I Am".

He had not heard the Objects of Kiwanis until his orientation but then realized that it was a perfect fit. "Why can't the government work like that?"

Robin is originally from Schenectady NY, home of GE corporate headquarters. Robin worked there in Corporate Sales for 30 years. She has lived in Healdsburg for 8 years with her dog.

Board of Directors Minutes Summary

The Board Meeting was not held in person due to a lack of a quorum. The meeting was convened via E-mail by President Liz Bippart and a quorum was established, via email Roll Call.

Administration Management

Club membership was unanimously approved for John Funkhauser and Robin Garrison

Healdsburg Kiwanis Foundation

Grants/Donations/Requests

The following requests were approved:

- Santa Rosa Youth Rock Boosters- $750 to support School of Rock, Healdsburg youth.
- Key Club Regional Training - $750 for the Conference where over 50 North Bay high schools will gather at Diablo Valley College on Sept. 26, 2026. This donation will help support our HHS Key Club students, including food and supplies.
- Healdsburg Junior High Fall sports - $750 for supplies (Not all supplies and equipment are covered.) The Healdsburg American Legion Post 111 will be assisting us with this donation and will help our Club start a Healdsburg Junior High Booster Club.

Key Club Financial Request:

With 70 students actively participating, the HHS Key Club requested $4000 for the 2026-2027 school year to cover the cost of Club gear ($15), Club dues ($16), Club events and the opportunity to attend Regional Key Club rallies and conferences. The tip jar at the installation yielded an additional $833 Key Club support.

A quorum of Board members at the September 29 Installation meeting approved the $4000 request.

Meeting Speakers

Sep 1: Leilani Clark, Communications Manager Land Paths.

LandPaths is an environmental education and conservation leader with the mission is to foster a love of the land in Sonoma County. We believe everyone should have access to the awe and inspiration of nature.

Annually, we engage thousands of participants like you in joyful, caring, and transformative relationship with the land. We do this mainly through creative outings led in both English and Spanish, environmental education, nature camps, and people-powered land stewardship of local open spaces.

https://www.landpaths.org/

Leilani's presentation focused on land stewardship volunteer opportunities with LandPaths in Healdsburg and beyond. She also shared a bit about their nature camp programs for youth and teens.

Volunteer opportunities -Ways to Participate

- Care for the land and connect with community on a volunteer stewardship day.

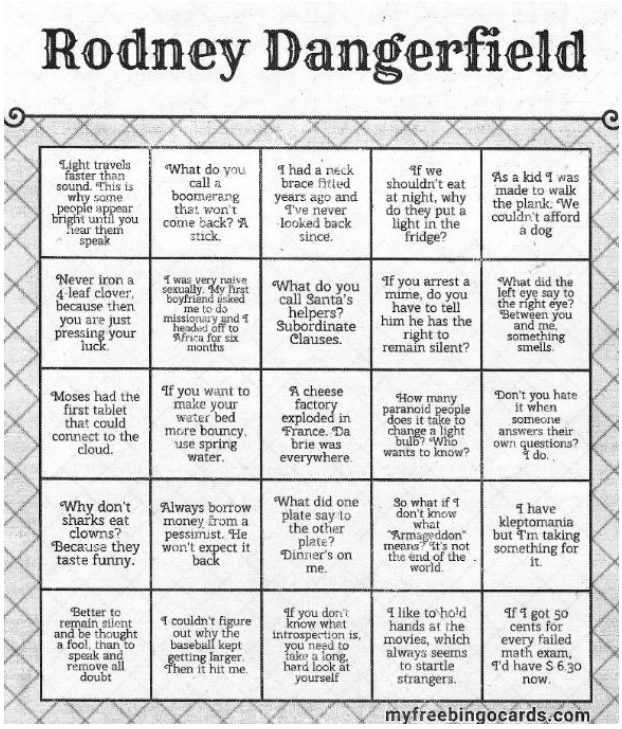
- Connect people with the land as a LandPaths' docent.
- Partner with us through your district, business, or community organization.
- Donate to support our Work

Nature camp programs

Owl Camp is a weeklong nature immersion experience designed to offer campers a safe place to learn and play outdoors, follow their curiosity, build community, deepen their confidence, foster a sense of belonging and engage in stewardship.

Sep 8: Club Business - Looking into the new year.

With no scheduled speaker there was a short business meeting and discussion about upcoming projects. There was plenty of time for a fun game of Rodney Dangerfield Bingo led by Dick Bugarske.



Sep 15: David Hubbell - Healdsburg High Work Based Learning Director.

David discussed his role as Work Based Learning Director that is primarily running the HHS Internship Program. Participation in the program is a graduation requirement for all HHS students.

Healdsburg High School offers the only internship program of its kind in Sonoma County. With the generous support of the Healdsburg Education Foundation, the program looks to mentor the workforce of tomorrow by exposing high school students to real world work experience.

All juniors at Healdsburg High School attend a 6 day internship at a local business in January and February. Students are required to conduct career research, draft a resume and cover letter, attend an interview and are prepared on workplace etiquette. Each student has a specific project focus at the internship site and a key deliverable.

Mentors are matched to the students based on the student's career interest. Businesses are coached in preparing for their intern and asked to give honest, specific feedback on their student's performance.

Over 80 local businesses participate in the program, along with 150 juniors. "The response from local businesses has been astounding. We have more business mentors than we have students," says Chris Vanden Heuvel, Superintendent of the Healdsburg School District. "Career readiness is a key initiative at Healdsburg High, and the Academic Internship Program gives our students a competitive advantage."

https://hhs.husd.com/

Sep 22: Susan Sheehy - Quicksilver Mining and Utopian Visions - Pine Flat History.

Susan Sheehy presented her Healdsburg Museum Docent History Talk on the rise and fall of Pine Flat—a town northeast of Healdsburg in the foothills of the Mayacamas Mountains that was the fastest-growing town in Northern California in the early1870s. It was a short-lived quicksilver (mercury) mining boomtown that peaked with thousands of residents in before vanishing when mercury prices collapsed.

- **The Boom:** Sparked in the 1870s, farmers and prospectors rushed to the 20-mile Cinnabar Mining

District in the mountains above Healdsburg to mine cinnabar for mercury.

Cinnabar

- **Population:** The rowdy camp grew rapidly, housing between 1,000 and 4,000 residents at its peak.
- **The Collapse:** The town disappeared almost entirely just a few years later as the market price for mercury dropped. It was severely damaged in the 1906 earthquake and completely destroyed by the 2019 Kincade fire, leaving no trace.
- **Local Lore:** Historian Joe Pelanconi documented that the area's history included Chinese laborers facing mercury poisoning risks, a Donner Party survivor, and local prominent figures caught in violent mystery.

An aerial Photograph of the area showing the relative location of Pine Flat and the Geysers and the Russian River is show on the back page

Sep 19: Foss Creek Clean-Up

The 20th edition of the Clean-up happened at the Community Center from 9:30-12 noon on Saturday, September 19th. We provided a simple lunch for 60+ folks from about 11am. Larry Unsworth manned the hot dog grill with several Key Club students helping out.

Larry's helpers

At Saturday's Foss Creek Clean-Up lunch, Pattie, Susan, Liz, Larry, Patti, Eric, John, Darcy, and I were joined by Key Club members Angel Francisco Perez, Angelique Orozco, Ariel Jaurequi, Ava Wolske, Bella Abel, Evelin Garcia, Jason Wanzer, Jordan Pereyra, Lily Keller, Lizette Serrano, Maebel Evans, Nayeli Navarro, Savannah Hayes, Sian Katsuki, Sofia Mendez Mercedo, and Yamileth Jimenez. We served over 60 volunteers and helpers. It was a splendid community service day.

Dick Bugarske

Happy/Sad & other stories

Dick Bugarske A tip of the cap to all BBQ helpers.

Liz Bippart Thanks to Dick and Claudia for loading and unloading of food and equipment for the BBQ many times.

Rowdy Yates The BBQ was fabulous.

Loretta Strong happy to report that at Jerry's Sutter appointment, the Doctor remarked "There are no 92-year-olds in here".

Dick Bugarske sad that the Healdsburg High football team is on a 19-game losing streak. They will be facing a team with the same 19 game streak. Happy that one of them will win.

Bob Taylor sad that he will be out of town and will miss his first meeting as president.

Lockie Gillies happy/sad dad not doing well but better this week. Condolences to Lockie and family, dad passed on September 28.

Susan Sheehy happy to learn that all her children and grandchildren are Canadian citizens.

Karen Tappin happy she adopted a kitten from a Native American pet adoption service in Covelo.

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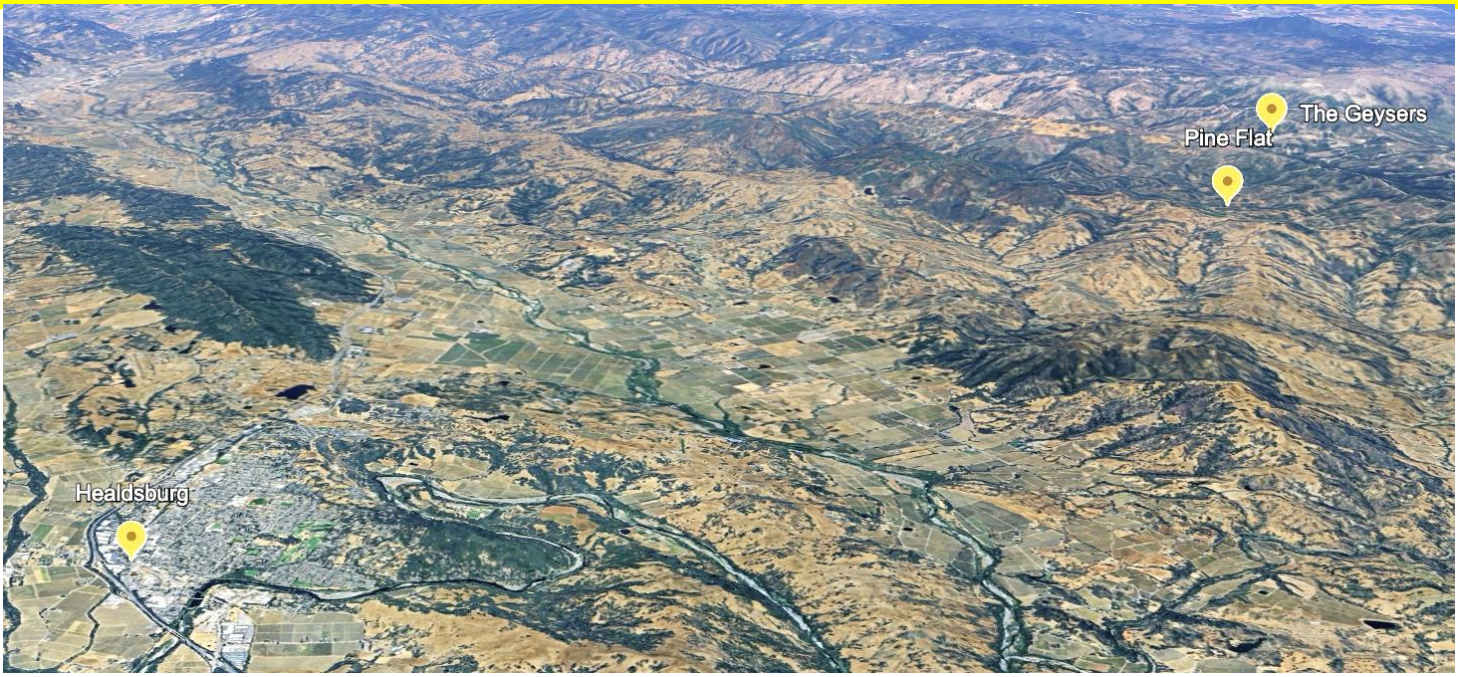

Happy/Sad & other stories (continued)

Debby Dormire sad to report that Jan Gianni's father Bill passed away at age 99. Jan is headed to Iowa for services.

Cynthia Brown happy to donate $75 for her Sept. 23 birthday. No song, no photo requested.

A big round of Applause for Liz at her last Villa meeting Good job Liz!