

The Healdsburg Tribune

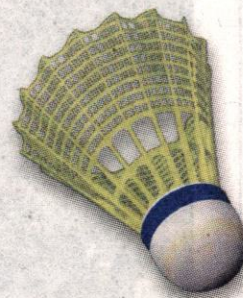
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OUR 161ST YEAR NO 18

APRIL 30, 2026

Shuttlecock season

Healdsburg's badminton team poised for pennant 6



Pre-SMART era

125 years ago, rural Healdsburg was only 3 hours from the City 4

'... would smell as sweet'

'Snapshot' is all about Shakespeare this week 5



Photo by Christian Kallen

Ready for when the time comes?

The City of Healdsburg has launched a new program that may be the first of its kind—a resource center on the end of life, with all its physical, emotional and spiritual aspects. Co-founders Taya Levine and Anna Grant sit in the new Compassion Corner, with a quilt made by Dr. Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, author of 'On Death and Dying.'

Resource for life's last questions

● 'When the Time Comes' opens

Staff Report

Over 100 people showed up for an open house at the Healdsburg Senior Center this Mon-

day afternoon. The topic was one close to us all, at one time or another: The end of life, with all its physical, emotional and spiritual aspects.

The pilot program, launched with development funding from the Community Foundation Sonoma County and hosted by the City of Healdsburg, is the first of its kind, according to Senior Center Supervisor Anna Grant.

At the end of 2025, the Healdsburg City Council voted to approve When the Time

Comes (WTTC), a new program designed to help residents navigate end-of-life planning and support. Taya Levine and Grant made the pitch for a resource center offering free resources on handling questions, concerns and complexities related to the final decisions an individual or a family must make.

"When the Time Comes helps people face death with clarity, plan with care and be supported by others—reclaiming death as a

— More on page 7

Eyes on the cameras watching us

● Flock Safety system failures scrutinized

By Christian Kallen

Police Chief Matt Jenkins returned to the City Council last week to clarify his March presentation on the use of surveillance cameras, or "public safety camera systems" in Healdsburg. Jenkins acknowledged in March that "there are some community concerns that were surfacing" regarding recent news reports of cities and other jurisdictions having their data harvested by immigration control or other federal agencies.

Some have begun calling such comprehensive traffic data collection technology a "surveillance network" whose potential for abuse is significant. In February a class-action suit was filed in California by the Oakland-based firm, Gibbs Mura. It alleges Flock Safety violates California laws and privacy

rights by sharing data on California drivers with law enforcement agencies outside the state, including federal agencies.

The lawsuit was widely reported, and other lawsuits and reports surfaced. Flock Safety of Atlanta, Georgia, was by far the most prevalent such data-collection company. Its nationwide network of nearly 100,000 Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) cameras is found in some 6,000 communities and their law enforcement agencies—including the Healdsburg Police Department.

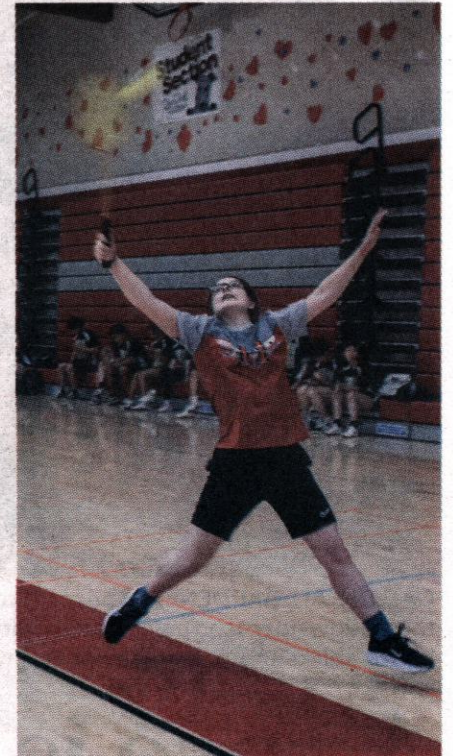
The local Flock system is connected to a regional information network, the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), which compares license plate and other vehicle information to see if it produces a "hit"

— More on page 3

SPORTS



STRIDER Alex Francis of the HHS badminton team practices his lunge return at Smith Robinson Gym last month. He's been a strong player in both singles and doubles matches this year.



SPREADEAGLE Senior Caitlyn Parker remains undefeated for the past two years in singles play.

Photos by Michael Lucid

Badminton team turns into a program

● First-ever NBL badminton pennant to hang at gym

By Stan Bischof

Even though badminton is a relatively new sport for Healdsburg High, the team is poised to bring home its first pennant when it wins its North Bay League Redwood Division title. Last week the Healdsburg High badminton team cemented an unassailable lead in the league, with wins against rivals Windsor and Roseland University Prep. With only one game left to play, Thursday against Elsie Allen, the pennant is guaranteed.

Badminton at HHS only began in 2017. Coaches Ever Flores and Vincenta Vega

did an excellent job of recruiting a team and getting them started. After a couple of years I was asked to replace them, and I agreed largely due to the obvious enthusiasm of the players.

Going in I was quite up-front about expectations, in particular that it would take maybe five years to build a strong team. As a coach my focus has been on the fundamentals, such as footwork, that are critical to good badminton. Any of the players will know what my reminders of "right foot!" mean, and they are learning when to "swing!" and when to "push!" Yet as I tell them, playing well

comes first—winning is secondary.

This year, due to their hard work, we have a championship team and are bringing home Healdsburg badminton's first league pennant. Not only that but given the excellent recruiting led by senior team member Edgar Navarro, we have the beginning of a true badminton program and not just a team.

The ideal size for a badminton program in our league is about three dozen players. Our varsity squad requires about a dozen team members and those tend to be third- and fourth-year players. Similarly our JV needs another dozen, and after that we need a group of developing players to move up as their skills improve.

In the past we have had small teams

that have been very individually strong but we have not had the incoming talent to replace them as they graduated. This year we have had only six returning players but a very healthy 29 new freshmen and sophomores.

Our team has been well led by seniors Caitlyn Parker, undefeated for two years in singles; Alex Francis, strong in both singles and doubles; Edgar Navarro, a very smart tactical player; and Alexa Cervantes, doubles specialist. Next year we will have just one experienced player, fourth-year Bryanna Cortez Sierra, to anchor the team. But we also have some very promising new players such as freshmen Carrie Osborne, Luis Lopez and Alexandra Jensen, who have shown themselves quite capable of varsity play.

Now that we have sufficient incoming talent to create future strong teams I can truly say we have transitioned from a team to a program.

I am really looking forward to watching these players improve in the coming years. Special thanks this year to my assistant, Kai Lau, who has helped immensely running our matches and keeping us organized.

Stan Bischof is the Healdsburg High badminton coach. Learn more at worldbadminton.com.