

Northern Sonoma County's Favorite Paper

FREE

CLOVERdale Connect

Bringing our community together since 2020

February 2026



Editor's Note

February is here and it's traditionally the love month. When's the last time you told the people you care about specifically what you admire or are comforted by knowing them? I am at a certain age in my life when my contemporaries are passing. In December we had four memorial services to attend, so let's have February be "appreciation" month where we stop and acknowledge the people who enhance our lives in both little tiny ways and in huge grand ways. It might make the world a little better. Instead of focusing on our differences, as we look at what we all have in common. Notice the good in people and say something out loud – that's a great way to honor this love month.

I appreciate every one of our readers and the businesses that support this paper. I appreciate those who submit articles and the people who send emails or letters in the mail with their comments and words of appreciation. It all makes a difference.

See you around town!

Dana



Local love birds **Erin and Lyle Mewes** enjoy seeing what's new in each issue of *Cloverdale Connect*



Front Page Photo Contest Winner **Brad Horrall**
He wins a Gift Card from **West Coast Sourdough**

CLOVERDALE ARTS ALLIANCE

FEBRUARY COMMUNITY EVENTS:

2/5 THE Jazz Club featuring guitar trio Rick Vandivier, Mason Razavi, and Hristo Vitchev

2/13 Party Gras! Dinner, drinks, and dancing with music by The King Street Giants

2/14 Blues Night featuring The Blue Lights

2/19 and 2/20 Americana Night featuring two nights with local favorite David Luning

For more information and tickets, please visit our website:
www.cloverdaleartsalliance.org

DAHLIA & SAGE

COMMUNITY MARKET

DOWNTOWN CLOVERDALE @115 EAST 2ND STREET

OUR CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT THIS MONTH IS RICKY!

"I LOVE D&S MOST OF ALL FOR THE FRIENDLY GREETINGS I RECEIVE; IT'S SO SWEET THAT THEY REMEMBER MY NAME. I STOP BY THE HOT FOOD DAILY AND LOVE THE COMFORT FOOD - POT PIES, MEATLOAF, MAC & CHEESE, & ROASTED CHICKEN. SUCH AN EASY MEAL. THE FRESHLY BAKED DESSERTS ARE ALSO MUCH APPRECIATED."

FEBRUARY ROUND UP: PROUDLY SUPPORTING WASHINGTON PTSA

WHY I LOVE...

BE MINE

CHARM ME

YOU & ME

Need flowers in February? Stop by our bouquet rack for a selection of quality flowers!

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POSTAL CUSTOMER

Look Inside! 2026 Citrus Fair Parade
and Fair, La Familia Sana Opening,
The Love Concert and much more
Cloverdale Connect Inc PO Box 404 Cloverdale CA 95425



Four days of... **FUN FUN FUN**

SAVE BEFORE THE FAIR!

PAY-ONE-PRICE WRISTBAND: \$29.00
Good any day; sold through February 12th.

General Admission: \$11.00
Sold through February 12th (\$12 at the door)

CHECK OUT THESE HIGHLIGHTS!!

Friday, February 13
Senior Day

Seniors 62 and Over Enter FREE

Ribbon Cutting - Main Entrance
Wine Tasting - Tea Room
BINGO! - Auditorium
Lily Lemon & Oran Orange - Auditorium
Gas Money - Auditorium

2026 Cloverdale Citrus Fair

Saturday, February 14
Parade Day

Parade Downtown at 11:00 AM

Junior Poultry & Pygmy Goat Show
Wine Tasting - Tea Room
Orange Juicing Contest - Exhibit Hall
Orange Surprise Contest - Exhibit Hall
Funky Dozen - Outdoor Stage
Court 'n' Disaster - Outdoor Stage
Poynlyss Sisters - Outdoor Stage

COUNTRY CONCERT NIGHT

Max Vogel – Live in Concert
Doors Open: 5:45 PM

- \$15 Concert-Only Ticket
- \$25 Concert + Fair Admission
- \$7 Juniors (12 & Under)

Sunday, February 15
Family Day

Junior Rabbit & Cavy Show
Wine Tasting - Tea Room
Orange Juicing Contest - Exhibit Hall
Lemon Delight Contest - Exhibit Hall
Blues Burners - Outdoor Stage
Ballet Folklorico Legado de mi Alegria - Auditorium
Clave MC - Auditorium

Monday, February 16
Kids Day

Kids 12 & Under Enter FREE

Junior Dog & Training Show
Small Animal Round Robin
Baby Derby - Auditorium
Orange Juicing FINALS - Exhibit Hall

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Or visit: CloverdaleCitrusFair.org

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Cloverdale Properties

Wine Country Real Estate Network

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Spanish-style home with 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, and a den/office on one acre. The property features a paver driveway and a formal living room with a fireplace. Step into the formal dining area and enjoy the open kitchen with a breakfast nook. \$849,000.00

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Cloverdale Kiwanis

Corned Beef & Cabbage

Cloverdale Citrus Fair Drive-Thru **Tues. March 17**

Drive-thru open 4:30-6:30pm

\$25

Tickets available from any Cloverdale Kiwanis member

Call Laurie for credit card payments
707.328.2147

Ticket sales cut-off date: March 6

Corned Beef & Cabbage with all the Trimmings

CUSD Employee of the Month

Laura Ware

Sponsored by
Dahlia & Sage Community Market

Cloverdale Unified School District is proud to recognize Laura Ware, Special Education teacher at Cloverdale High School, as our Employee of the Month. Laura is known for her dedication, warmth, and unwavering commitment to students and colleagues alike. She co-teaches in English and Math, supporting students of all abilities and ensuring every learner feels valued and capable. Always ready to help, Laura is the kind of colleague everyone can count on. She is well known to be positive, collaborative, and caring.

Beyond the classroom, she serves as the Special Education Department Chair and volunteers on multiple committees, helping strengthen programs and promote inclusion. As both a Cloverdale resident and parent of a district student, Laura brings a deep sense of care and connection to her work. Congratulations, Laura, and thank you for all you do for our students, staff, and community!

DEADLINE for ad space reservations, artwork, and content
3rd Friday of every month, 5pm

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production@cloverdaleconnect.com • billing@cloverdaleconnect.com • CloverdaleConnect.com



PET of the MONTH

Blue

Blue is very friendly and loves walking around downtown saying hi to everyone. He is always happiest after walks downtown.

-Ellie Andrews



Send your pet photos for PET of the MONTH to:
info@cloverdaleconnect.com

Prizes courtesy of DogGonit and Cloverdale Connect



LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

TEDI SPAIN & MARIA KENNEY
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The Grange 456 Michele Armanino

Behind the Cloverdale Performing Arts Center, on Cloverdale Blvd., there is a building called the Grange. Over a century ago, a Grange's purpose was agricultural, a place for farmers and community to share ideas, break bread and aid their community. The Cloverdale Grange, at 201 Commercial Street, was constructed in 1930 and was the site of the town's first firehouse. Since then, it has been a jail, doghouse and city hall. Most recently, the CPAC rented the hall as a performance space until the new CPAC was built in 2007.

Whisker Talk

Brigid Wasson



It's a sad fact that pets do not live as long as we do. Most dogs and cats will live to a maximum of 15 years, and after 10 they will start to exhibit signs of being a "senior." Here are some ways to make those latter years happier and healthier for your animal family members.

- Diet.** Pets' needs change as they age. They may need more or less calories, fat, or protein. They may have less appetite so will benefit from wet food or broth added to kibble.
- Teeth.** If you've ever had dental problems, you know how uncomfortable it is. If your pet has bad breath, avoids eating, or paws at their mouth, a dental exam is in order.
- Exercise.** Senior pets may not be as energetic or flexible as they used to be, but they still need exercise. Leash walks with your dog or play time with a feather wand for your cat can help them feel better and live longer.
- Accommodation.** Steps to the bed or other furniture and bowls placed down low can reduce jumping which is hard on aging joints.

Most of all, enjoy every day with your senior dogs and cats.



Jude Gibson, a Cloverdalian since 2009 and former President of the CPAC, now holds a seat as an executive member of Cloverdale Grange Hall, 456. In October, 2025, thirty-five determined Cloverdalians were sworn in as board members. One of the board's main goals is to focus on the opening of a well-needed thrift shop in the Cloverdale Grange. The building, which is still in need of repair, was in danger of being shuttered as its upkeep was unsustainable. The hall is getting a head to toe make over with long-needed repairs and updates. Sonoma County allocated much needed funds providing the Grange with a new roof and updated electrical. "Women in their sixties, seventies and eighties painted the interior of the Grange with the volunteer assistance of Cloverdale painting contractor, Andres Marquez." says Jude.

"Thrift shops are important in our community for so many reasons." says Jude. "They are good for the environment as they keep things out of the landfill. They support the community food pantry and allow artists to be creative by reducing waste. They offer unique finds and benefit charities." she says. "We will offer scholarships too, once we are up and running."

The Grange had its successful soft opening and ribbon cutting on January 10. Its hours of operation will be Thursday and Saturday, 10-3 p.m. "We need more volunteers if the community desires the shop to be open on more days. Shifts are only 2 ½ hours long, so it's very doable! We're just a bunch of folks who want to serve our community - neighbors helping neighbors," says Jude.

Wine Country Rock Crawlers

On December 13th, 15 off-road vehicles packed with toys met up in Healdsburg for a special community drive. They cruised through the Dry Creek Valley, weaving their way to the Cloverdale Fire Department, where they were welcomed with open arms.



They enjoyed a station tour, took photos, dropped off toys for kids in our community, shared plenty of laughs, and then wrapped up the day with lunch at La Tequila.

It was a great day spent with friends. It always feels good to give back to the community where some of their club members live and work.

For more information about the Wine Country Rock Crawlers, find them on Facebook.

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Cloverdale, CA 95425
Phone: 707.894.2742

Living Water Church
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707.894.3274

Oat Valley Baptist Church
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707-894-2535

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
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Cloverdale, CA 95425
707.280.9433

Leading With the Heart Nora Archambeau, M.A.

"Let the nudges of your heart lead the way."
— Jane Lee Logan, Artist of Princess Sassy Pants & Co.

One late afternoon, I was driving home to Cloverdale and daydreaming how the intention of my recent meditations has been concentrated around my heart/the heart. To my surprise, I had an "a-ha" moment. I realized that since starting this practice four months ago in a class at The Zen Den Studio 5 Yoga, my interactions and dealings with others have gone wonderfully smoother (not perfect, yet noticeably better). What delight! The focus of the intent had sprung forth and was now developing. There has felt a softening within and without. And, voila, I had the title of this column, "Leading with the heart!"

Reflecting on the month of February, the accentuated "heart" month, we are especially challenged (dare I say, called?) to up the ante when it comes to approaching everyday life with our hearts. Cloverdale is blessed with a multi-cultural, international population. This flavor of life should be cherished and explored. I find it especially cool to live in a town where business owners can shake up the heartbeat of the community. That is, five establishments have imbued new life into several town corners (please see below). I believe this is because they are leading with their hearts!

How can we therefore cultivate our lives applying more heart?

1. **Rea Prince's Root to Rise Meditations**, a local meditation practitioner extraordinaire;
2. **Pick's Roadside**, open for business serving burgers, fries, milkshakes, and Community;
3. **North End**, a fashionista's mecca for cool clothing vibes, jewelry, and fun Girlz' Nites;
4. **La Familia Sana**, a beautiful historic space to warmly assist underserved neighbors;
5. **Cloverdale Grange 456 Thrift Store**, a renovated spot ready to bring in the Change!
6. Last, **"Sunshine, Lollipops, and Rainbows"** by Leslie Gore, 1963 (a great year, btw!), is such a happy song that would sound awesome played at Pick's...hint, hint.



Grow Your Green Thumb with Us!
Join our Garden Club in Cloverdale and connect with fellow plant enthusiasts. Learn from experts, share tips, and cultivate friendships.
Next Meeting: February 25th 1-3 PM
Speaker: Mike Kopetsky- Seasonal Gardening
Membership Benefits:
Monthly Speaker Series
Exclusive Member Events
Gardening tips
Membership Fee: \$30/year
Not a member? Call Karen Devine for more info: 707-321-9062
Save the date: Annual Plant Sale April 18th



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*DUTCH APPLE	*BOYSENBERRY	*NECTARINE COBBLER	*STRAWBERRY RHUBARB
*APRICOT	*BOYSENBERRY COBBLER	*PEACH	



LIFE NOTICES

Obituaries • Birthdays • Weddings • Retirements
Anniversaries • Birth Announcements

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Florence Pauline Ottoboni
Oct. 5, 1930-Dec 7, 2025



Florence was born on October 5, 1930, in Oakland CA to Mario and Jeanne Cuttica. In 1946, she and her parents moved to Cloverdale where she attended and graduated from Cloverdale High School. She met the love of her life, Nathaniel “Albie” Ottoboni in Cloverdale and they married on February 4, 1951. They relocated to Oakland in the mid 1950’s, where they raised their family.

Florence is survived by her children Michelle Ottoboni, and Kevin Ottoboni, her grandchildren Amanda Young, Kevin Ottoboni Jr., Zoe Ottoboni Ball, and Hanna Ottoboni as well as her great-grandchildren Rebecca Ball, Harper Ottoboni, Raegan Ottoboni and Walker Ottoboni. She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother Peter Cuttica and her devoted husband Albi Ottoboni.

Florence gave generously of her time to St. Augustine's elementary school as a member of the PTG and student's favorite – hot dog Thursdays. Once Michelle and Kevin graduated, she then devoted herself to St. Vincent de Paul Society, spending her time shopping for the food pantry and distributing food twice a month with the other volunteers.

Florence will be remembered fondly for her sense of humor as well as her dedication to volunteering and giving back to her church community. She will be missed very much.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to St. Vincent de Paul's St. Augustine.

Cloverdale Senior Multipurpose Center
Melanie Hall

Happy February to you! This month is certainly a “love” month. Not only do we get to celebrate the love we have for family, friends, and animals, but it is also an enjoyable time to raise awareness about heart health.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC.org, “heart disease is the leading cause of death for men, women, and people of most racial and ethnic groups. High blood pressure is a leading cause of heart disease, and heart disease is costly. Having a healthy plan with a variety of foods, keeping a healthy weight, and not smoking can help keep blood pressure in a healthy range, which lowers your risk for heart disease and stroke.”

In addition to having a healthy diet, it is also important that we remain as physically active as possible and engage socially with others. At the Senior Center, several physical activities are offered, serving both purposes. Many times, I hear sharing of stories amongst the attendees. Some classmates meet not only in class, but also outside of the center socially, and one class even decided that this year we should have a group who walk in the Citrus Fair parade on behalf of the center.

I am excited to be in the parade with the Senior Center group. This will be my first time walking in the parade on behalf of the center. I am looking forward to the physical activity, along with sharing this special experience with others. I cannot think of a better way to make my heart feel happy as well as healthy than doing this fun activity and celebrating Valentine's Day at the same time!

The Senior Center is sponsoring bingo at the Citrus Fair on Friday, February 13, at 2:00 P.M. This date at the fair is Senior Day, so those who are 62+ years old get in free. I hope to see you there, and we can all spread a bit of joy and love, which sure makes my heart feel happy!

Key Dates For The 2026 Election:

- July 13: **Nomination Period Opens** (First day to "pull papers"—pick up your official signature forms from the Clerk or Registrar of Voters)
- August 7: **Nomination Period Closes** (File by 5:00 PM)
- August 12: **Extended Filing Deadline** (Only if an incumbent does not file)
- September 7: **Write-In Candidate Period begins**
- October 5: **Vote-by-Mail Ballots mailed to voters**
- November 3: **Election Day**

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**Cloverdale Performing Arts
Center Presents**



The Love Concert

**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 14TH
7:30 PM**

Come one come all to The Love Concert
featuring songs from local recording artist
Paula Gilbert's new album called
"Love is the Answer".

This entertaining soiree promises to be a
beautiful evening of Love.

209 N. Cloverdale Blvd, Cloverdale, CA

Geyserville Chamber of Commerce



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

AT COPPOLA WINERY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH
5:00 - 7:00 PM

- WINE
- SMALL BITES
- NETWORKING
- COMMUNITY

Welcome to all &
free to attend!



Please RSVP at www.visitgeyserville.com

Cloverdale Connect Mission Statement

The mission of Cloverdale Connect is to bring the community together with respect and dignity; uplifting community members while avoiding divisiveness, opinion, and negativity.

Pop and His Donkeys
Kevin Moore and the staff of the Cloverdale Historical Society

This fun 1909 postcard is from McCray's "Old Homestead" resort just north of Cloverdale's city limits. Donkey rides were one of the many forms of entertainment available at the resort. Donkeys cost 15 cents per hour to rent. Almost all photos from the time feature "Pop McCray," the well-known proprietor. A newspaper article reported that almost 1,000 people attended a birthday party for Pop, a beloved entrepreneur of Cloverdale.



Cloverdale, CA



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February Gardening Tips from Sonoma County Master Gardeners

Sponsored by Sanz Nursery

- Clear vegetation as soon as possible. It is important not to clear brush and trees during bird nesting season March 1st to August 31st to protect our bird populations.
- Finish pruning roses. A general practice in Sonoma County is to have them pruned by Valentine's Day.
- Also finish pruning summer-flowering and foliage trees as necessary. Deciduous trees are much easier to prune when leafless, as the branch structure is more clearly visible. Cut out all crossed and damaged branches and prune for shape.
- You can plant bare root trees and shrubs that are now available at nurseries.
- Snails may begin making their presence known, either directly or by holes they eat in leaves. Removing by hand is an effective control method, but it takes dedication to go out in very early morning or after dark armed with a flashlight to catch as many as possible. The more you control snails before they lay eggs, the fewer there will be later.
- Clean and sharpen garden tools using a rasp or stone. Sharp pruners are easier on both plants and your joints. Storing hand tools year-round in a 5-gallon bucket of sand with some vegetable oil mixed in helps keep them sharp. Every time you push them into the sand, the tools will get an effortless cleaning and lubricating. Motor oil isn't recommended, as it's harsh on hands and difficult to dispose of properly.
- February is a good time for washing out old pots and trays. You can put clay pots in the dishwasher after first rinsing off dirt and debris. The dishwasher will sterilize them and they'll be ready for spring planting. Rub pots with linseed oil after cleaning to make them more attractive.



The Beet Restaurant & Wine Shop
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Friday: 12pm – 11pm
Sat: 12pm – 9pm
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Center Stage at the Cloverdale Performing Arts Center

Lenore Messler

The CPAC stage and screen come alive this month with shows designed to delight, inspire, and bring our community together!

Our February lineup kicks off with **Dirty Cello on February 7**, returning to Cloverdale with their high-energy, genre-bending blend of blues, rock, and Americana. With cello like you've never heard it before, Dirty Cello is guaranteed to get your heart thumping and your toes tapping!

Then, join us for **The Love Concert on Valentine's Day**, an evening of uplifting songs from local recording artist Paula Gilbert's new album Love is the Answer. Featuring local talents Colleen Shields, Carol & Lenny, Mila Torres, and Mal Tornay, with a guest appearance by Cupid MC rapper Jack Prescott.

Our 2026 monthly **Movie Nights continue on February 19** with the family-friendly animated hit The Bad Guys (PG). We round out the month with the **Raven on the Road Production A Good Deal, opening February 27**. Brimming with humanity and humor, this play is a bittersweet tale of love, loss, and family connections.

We look forward to seeing you at the theater!



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FEBRUARY EVENTS CALENDAR

Cloverdale Grocery Outlet

Feb 5 Thurs.	6-8pm Esmeralda Town Hall Meeting, Veterans Hall 7-9:30pm The Jazz Club, featuring: Rick Vandivier, Mason Razavi & Hristo Vitchev Cloverdale Arts Alliance
Feb 7 Sat.	7:30pm Dirty Cello Cloverdale Performing Arts Center (CPAC)
Feb 11 Wed.	8am-12:30pm Turf's Up! Tree Care and Lawn Conversion in a New Regulatory Landscape, Finley Center, Santa Rosa
Feb 13 Fri.	2026 Cloverdale Citrus Fair, Senior Day, Bingo 6-10pm Party Gras! Dinner, drinks, dancing with music by The King Street Giants Cloverdale Arts Alliance
Feb 14 Sat.	2026 Cloverdale Citrus Fair, Parade Day Citrus Fairgrounds 5:30pm Max Vogel Concert Citrus Fairgrounds 7:30pm The Love Concert CPAC 7:30-9pm Blues Night featuring the Blue Lights Cloverdale Arts Alliance
Feb 15 Sun.	2026 Cloverdale Citrus Fair, Family Day Citrus Fairgrounds
Feb 16 Mon.	2026 Cloverdale Citrus Fair, Kids Day Citrus Fairgrounds
Feb 19 Thurs.	6pm Rotary Bingo, La Tequila Restaurant 7-9:30pm Americana Night with David Luning, Cloverdale Arts Alliance
Feb 20 Fri.	7-9:30pm American Night with David Luning, Cloverdale Arts Alliance
Feb. 21 Sat	Grand Opening of La Familia Sana's Family Resource & Resiliency Center



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Tips for travel budget savings

Be flexible. Search not only on your ideal travel days, but also a few days before and after.

Fly on weekdays, the midweek days — Tuesday and Wednesday — typically have lower demand and are often the best days to travel for lower prices.

Be flexible on the destination. Consider subbing Quebec City in for Paris if you want Old World charm.

Reprice your flights and hotels. As long as you've booked a hotel, car or flight that can be canceled without penalty, you should make it part of your weekly routine to check for price drops.

Use points and miles when appropriate. If you have a stash of points and cash fares are high, it makes a lot of sense to use those points instead.

Join AARP - You can join AARP for discounts even if you are not retired. The advocacy group for older adults offers various discounts, including \$65 to \$200 off British Airways flights and 10% off stays at Hilton hotels. You can also use your AARP membership to save on car rentals, including 30% off a car rental at Budget or Avis.

Stay outside of the national parks and take advantage of the free days. National Park week in April, National Public Lands Day in Sept, and Veterans Day in Nov.

Use your library card for museum admission. California libraries offer various lending programs, notably the state-wide California State Library Parks Pass for free state park entry.

Save on entrance fees with Bank of America. Bank of America cardholders can enjoy free general admission to more than 225 cultural institutions in dozens of U.S. cities on the first weekend of every month just by showing their cards. It's through the Museums on Us program

Additional information and more details are available here <https://thepointsguy.com/travel/budget-travel-tips/>



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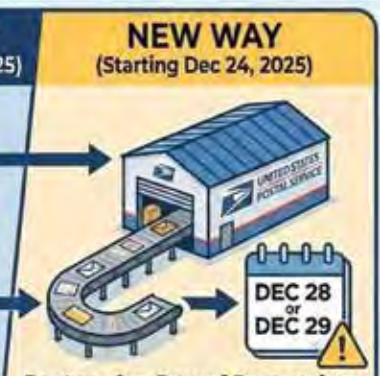
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**USPS POSTMARK CHANGE
STARTING DEC 24, 2025**

OLD WAY
(Before Dec 24, 2025)

 **DEC 27**
Postmark = Day of Drop-off (e.g., Dec 27)

NEW WAY
(Starting Dec 24, 2025)

 **DEC 28 or DEC 29**
Postmark = Day of Processing (e.g., Dec 28, 29... +1-2 Days Delay)

CRITICAL FOR DEADLINES (Taxes, Ballots, etc.)

IF YOU NEED SAME-DAY POSTMARK:
Go to the USPS Counter & Request a Manual Postmark!

PSA Shared on December 27, 2025. Stay Informed!



Cloverdale's Creative Corner has a new home. We invite all artists, makers and creativity enthusiasts tired of the negativity of social media, wanting to get excited about art - January 2026

www.spescloverdalescreativecorner.com

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Connect With Cloverdale High School
June Schriener

Beginning in March, North Bay Construction Corps will offer a three-month program for high school seniors to learn basic construction trades and job skills. Examples of skills that will be taught will be electrical and plumbing, concrete work, tool handling and safety, heavy equipment operation, blue print reading, and applied math. Meetings will take place on Saturdays from 8:00am-3:00pm and some week nights from 5:00am-7:30pm. Seniors applying need to turn in their applications by February 6th.

FFA students attended the "Made for Excellence" Advanced Leadership Academy. Students are also competing in the floral design, veterinarian course and Parliamentary procedure competitions. In January, an exciting casino night was held for the monthly FFA meeting where prizes were won like air-pods, a tv, and even a fish!

Are you or someone you know interested in being a high school sports coach? Cloverdale High school is in search of a JV baseball, JV softball, and Varsity football coach. Please call 707-894-1900 for more information.

Upcoming events: No school 2/12-2/16



February: Reflecting on Progress and Looking Ahead
Glen Senestraro, CUSD Superintendent

February marks an important midpoint in our school year, a time to reflect on our progress and recommit to the work ahead. While the pace of the year remains steady, this moment gives us perspective on the collective impact being made across Cloverdale Unified.

Every day, our staff demonstrate dedication, professionalism, and care for students. In classrooms and across campuses, educators and support teams are creating environments where students continue to grow academically, socially, and emotionally. Beyond the classroom, our winter sports are in full swing, and our student-athletes are competing with pride, teamwork, and determination. In addition, Cloverdale High School recently showcased the talents of our students through a drama production that highlighted creativity, collaboration, and the arts as an essential part of a well-rounded education.

These experiences, academic, athletic, and artistic, reflect the perseverance and commitment that define this time of year. The work happening now, whether in the classroom, on the court, or on the stage, is shaping the achievements we will celebrate in the months ahead. I am continually inspired by the dedication of our staff and students and grateful for the partnership of our families and community.

As we look toward spring, let us remain focused on our shared purpose: ensuring every student feels supported, valued, and capable of success. Together, we will continue to build momentum and strengthen the learning community we are proud to serve.

Thank you for all you do to make Cloverdale Unified a place where students thrive.

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A Growing Flock Will Carter

At a meeting held on May 24th, 2023, the Cloverdale City Council adopted ordinance 751-2023. This approved \$37,250 for installation of and the initial year of service for a system of Flock Safety Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) devices at the perimeter roads of Cloverdale. These initial cameras are located at the North end of Cloverdale Blvd., at Citrus Fair Dr. & S. Cloverdale Blvd., at Sandholm Ln. & Dutcher Creek Rd., and near Asti Rd. & E. First St. Another four ALPR devices (approved by the State) can be found along both sides of Highway 101 between the Citrus Fair Dr. and Highway 128 interchanges. You can identify them by their black poles, black ALRP camera units, and their small solar panel. Once you recognize them, you will notice them all over!

Individual agencies/businesses are responsible for funding ALRPs, and Flock Safety is not required to disclose any details publicly, including count, placement, or the agencies/businesses which operate them. However, a site which tracks installed ALRPs, deflock. me, reports over 220 installed throughout Sonoma County. At this time, Flock ALRPs are limited in their use to local agencies, for the purposes of vehicle identification and tracking, with a history of 30 days. However, privacy advocates have raised concerns about Flock's privileges as a private company to modify terms of use and general fears of normalized surveillance.

Our own Flock ALRPs have been of great service to the Cloverdale Police Department. A review of CPD press releases from 2025 identifies at least five incidents in which Flock ALRPs were used by CPD or cooperating agencies to affect arrests of suspects, including suspects of violent crimes. When compared to our total Public Safety expenditures, it is easy to see how Flock ALRPs have provided great value to the Cloverdale Police Department and to the City of Cloverdale.

In this era, both sides of the Flock argument are prone to exaggeration and misinformation. While I feel confident that Flock ALRPs serve the safety of our community effectively and empower our law enforcement officers in new and important ways, successful use does not absolve Flock Group Inc. from reasonable scrutiny.

Cloverdale Performing Arts Center Presents

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Currently I'm limited to conventional bikes adding on e-bikes in the March time frame.

By appointment only as I start up the business. 707-756-6122



Cloverdale Kiwanis celebrated our 23rd Annual Crab Feed on December 13th. We had great crab, great people, silent auction, and celebration! Thank you Cloverdale!!

Cloverdale Library Community Connection

John Koetzner, Children's Services Librarian

The Library: One-Stop Inflation Fighter

As our economy continues to squeeze us a bit financially, one way you can save money locally is the Cloverdale Library's eResources. By going to the library's homepage, just click on the eLibrary tab (or click on the three lines left of our logo to see a dropdown menu) that takes you to an eLibrary tab that links to databases that support reading for all ages, entertainment for all ages, news, and so many other types of services and collections. Just by browsing the A to Z eResources, you will find hundreds of databases. This month, I unveil several.

For children, we have Bookflix which pairs a nonfiction book with a work of fiction to support reading. There are also Hoopla and Kanopy that have kids sections that include movies, tv shows, books, comics, and more that don't count against checkouts for the library. Teens and adults will find Kanopy and Hoopla fun to use as well with content aimed at all audiences.

In addition to entertainment content, the library has educational content such as Britannica School, National Geographic Kids, Learning Express (that supports math, English, and science from basic skills to college-level skills), and tutor.com. Adult users will find adult portions of Learning Express that include test preparation for several trades and college skills practice and exams. We also have LinkedIn Learning as well with instructional videos.

Anyone who has mourned the disappearance of print magazines and journals over the past several years should cheer for the electronic subscription to Libby Magazines with content from over 3000 digital magazines. The Libby app makes it easy to read them on a tablet or phone too. The library gives you access to the Press Democrat, New York Times, Washington Post, and over 7,000 worldwide newspapers through Press Reader.

Tired of paid music streaming services? The library has commercial-free Freegal, a streaming music service that also allows you to download three songs a month and keep them forever. This is a small sampling of what you'll find for free at the library, so let the library help be your inflation fighter.



Cloverdale Simple Gesture

Shown on left is Rotary President Kevin Kostoff working with Redwood Credit Union Cloverdale branch manager Shawna



Mansur, registering people for the "Cloverdale Simple Gesture" program, which allows a person to register at no cost, allowing a Redwood Credit Union donation to flow directly to the Cloverdale Food Pantry. The program also allows participants to donate food that is picked up and delivered to the pantry periodically.

For more information log on to www.asimplegesture.org.

Pilot Program Launch

Tate's Tire Pros is proud to partner with AAA to bring you a first-of-its-kind pilot program. AAA Memberships are now available for purchase in our store!



AAA Membership offers more than just roadside assistance—it provides benefits that make every journey safer, smarter, and more rewarding:

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Available at both Tate's Tire Pros and Cloverdale Automotive & Tires.

This pilot program is an exclusive first look at AAA Membership and all the ways it can enhance your driving experience. Visit us today to learn more and join this exciting program

TRANSLATE to Spanish Button

Easily translate *Cloverdale Connect* content from English to Spanish on our website by using the orange **TRANSLATE** button in the upper right-hand corner. **¡Pruébalo!** www.CloverdaleConnect.com



Rotarians working in front of Dahlia & Sage Community Market (Will Jobson, Robert Redner, and Clint Ryle). Explaining the "Simple Gesture" program, designed to eliminate food insecurity in our area.

For every person registered on asimplegesture.org, Redwood Credit Union donates \$10 to the Cloverdale Food Pantry, plus the program allows the person to contribute food as well. Rotary is proud to help with this program, which allows the community to participate in 'Service above Self.'

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Out & About

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JT and June enjoying **Cloverdale Connect** in the warm sunshine in Cabo San Lucas.

Submit photos to: info@cloverdaleconnect.com

PICK'S HAMBURGERS

ROOT BEER

January Cloverdale Weather Recap

Average High Temperature 64°F
Average Low Temperature 41°F
Total Rainfall 6.85 inches

(as of publication date)

Rick Tang Photography

Roots of Rock KOWSfm.com ~ M.J. Girard

The shortest month of the year is chock-a-block full of L O V E ! Ancient Roman fertility rights was the origin of this celebration. Later, Christian adaptation revolved around martyred saints named Valentine, eventually becoming, through medieval poetry, the love filled day of the fourteenth, the day according to legend, that birds started mating. (Love Birds...e.g., Doves, Budgies)? Well, in all fairness, everyday is a "holiday"...so why not celebrate Saint Valentine's Day every day with the one you Love! With an unexpected kiss, a rose or a special evening out.



When it comes to music, whose main theme is love; either making up or breaking up, looking for love, or looking to give it up, one will recall the music of their lives and the loves that shared those moments, hopefully with fondness.

Recalling some of the very best songs; Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You" also sung by Dolly Parton, Etta James "At Last" the Righteous Brothers "Unchained Melody" or Elvis Presley "Love Me Tender". Also, "Endless Love" the duet by Diana Ross and Lionel Richie. Let us not forget the Beatles song that Frank Sinatra called the greatest love song of the last half century (20th) "Something". I'm sure you have a favorite or two as well. Feel free to contact us at KOWSfm.com with your requests or comments. We have a vast array of excellent entertainment options to choose from.


The "Roots of Rock" will be featuring the best loves songs during February every Sunday morning at seven, with archival programs available on Monday.

Incidentally, we are offering an amazing opportunity to our listenership, an hour-long program, produced with one of our regular host! "Host With The Herd". Check it out. More information is available on the website: KOWSfm.com

Thanks for listening...we appreciate your support!

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Clo Dems Want You to Know

Your Voice, Your Cloverdale: Will You Step Up?

We all love this town. From the bustling activity on the Boulevard to the quiet mornings in our parks, this community is special because of the people who call it home. But a community doesn't run itself—it is led by those who show up.

This November, we will vote for new leaders.

Several critical seats will be open for both the **Cloverdale City Council** and the **Cloverdale Unified School Board**.

Who is Up for Election?

On the City Council, **three of the five seats are on the ballot this cycle**.

- **Andrés Marquez:** Appointed in February 2025 to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Gus Wolter, Marquez is currently serving the remainder of that term.
- **Marjorie Morgenstern and Brian Wheeler:** Both elected in 2022, their terms are expiring this year.

On the School Board, **two trustee seats will be decided by voters**.

- **Jenny Candelaria-Orr and Jacque Garrison** currently hold the seats up for election.



Is 2026 your year to run?

Too often, we assume running for office is reserved for "career politicians." That is a myth. The best local leaders are simply neighbors who care—parents, retirees, and professionals who want to ensure our roads are fixed and our schools thrive.

Where to Start

You don't have to guess the process; guidance is available.

- **City Council Hopefuls:** Visit Cloverdale.net and search for the "Candidate's Information Guide" under the City Clerk's section. The Clerk is your primary contact for nomination papers.
- **School Board Hopefuls:** While the district office is helpful, your main resource is the Sonoma County Registrar of Voters (sonomacounty.ca.gov), which publishes the essential "Candidate Guide" and handles filing.

Our democracy works best when we have choices. We need diverse voices and fresh ideas on our ballots this November. Please consider running—Cloverdale is counting on you.

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True West

ICONS



True West **Icons Screenings** showcase films marked by legendary performances, often lesser-known roles that reveal an actor's range and distinctive influence.

This month, True West launches its **Local Icons** program, weekly screenings of classic films with legendary performances, curated by members of the Healdsburg community. Scan the QR code below for more info and to get your tickets.

Screenings selected by:

- March 4 - Kelly Dorrance of Reeve Wines
- March 11 - Marcy Flores of El Corazón Healdsburg
- March 18 - Ariel Kelley
- March 25 - Laurie Ubbon



TRUE WEST FILM CENTER

True West Film Center is a community-funded nonprofit organization dedicated to the art of cinema.



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CREATIVE NOTIONS

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We are grateful to our volunteers and customers for their continued support.

SALE

Donations

If you have donations, please call the Senior Center at 707-894-4826. We are open Monday through Friday, from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM.



Creative Notions

119 1st Street
Cloverdale, CA.

(707) 894-4110

Cloverdale Senior Multipurpose Center

311 N. Main
Cloverdale, CA.

(707) 894-4826

All proceeds support our local Cloverdale Senior Multipurpose Center.



CLOVERDALE GRANGE 456 THRIFT STORE

Now Open!

Donating your gently used items is good for the community and the environment.

201 Commercial St. Cloverdale
Facebook: [Cloverdale Grange 456](#)
Open Thursday & Saturday 10am-3pm

Bring donations **ONLY** during business hours please. cloverdalegrange@gmail.com

215 N. Cloverdale Blvd.
Cloverdale CA 95425
707-894-2067

Open: 11am-2pm
Saturday & Sunday

office@cloverdalehistory.org



CLOVERDALE HISTORICAL MUSEUM SOCIETY

Food Pantry News & Food Distribution News

The Food Pantry has made the decision to not move to the Grange.

The Redwood Empire Food Bank is **changing their schedule** and locations. There will no longer be a distribution at St. Peters. There will now be weekly Thursday distributions at the LDS Church, 1101 S. Cloverdale Blvd., at 10am. Don't forget – Citrus Fair on Monday, Thursday at LDS Church and Friday at the Food Pantry.



CSMC Community Market

Fresh High Quality Affordable Produce
At Wholesale Prices!

Sponsored by Trione Vineyards & Winery

Fridays 10-11am
Open to Everyone!

Cloverdale Senior Multipurpose Center

Senior Center Endowment Program

Please give generously to the Community Endowment Program supporting the Cloverdale Senior Multipurpose Center (CSMC) at Redwood Credit Union. Your donation provides for future generations to enjoy the benefits and programs available at the Senior Center.

Choose a one-time, weekly, or monthly contribution to the CSMC Endowment Fund at RCU. Consider including CSMC in your estate planning as part of your will or trust.

Coming to Cloverdale Performing Arts Center



OPEN MIC NIGHT
MUSICIANS, COMEDIANS, POETS, DANCERS, SINGERS, ETC.

Saturday, February 14th 7:30pm

Tickets: \$25 online
\$30 at door

An evening of uplifting love songs from local recording artist Paula Gilbert's new album "Love is the Answer"

With guest appearance by rapper Jack Prescott.

Saturdays, February 21, April 11, June 13

Doors Open at 6:30pm
Event Runs 7-9pm

\$5 Admission Fee

www.CloverdalePerformingArts.com



A Good Deal
BY RON NASH

**February 27-28
March 1, 6, 7, 8**

A Raven Theater
On The Road
Production

NOURISHING HOPE THROUGH COMMUNITY

FRIDAY 11:00 - 1:00 PM

202 COMMERCIAL STREET
(COMMERCIAL AT SECOND)
CLOVERDALE, CA



CLOVERDALE FOOD PANTRY



Cat Rescue of Cloverdale

Love is waiting for you

Happy Valentine's Day

Open your Heart and your Home- Foster a Rescue Cat!

Find Unconditional Love in Cloverdale. Adopt Local!

You had me at Meow

Call us today
707-321-0968

Be a Kitty's Secret Valentine—Sponsor Their Care!



Cat Rescue of Cloverdale is a Non-Profit organization



Edward Dale Dalbec
July 4, 1944 ~ December 13, 2025

Come share your stories at a celebration of life for Ed February 8th at 1pm at the Veterans Building in Cloverdale.



LAKE SONOMA STEELHEAD FESTIVAL

Saturday, March 7, 2026
10 am – 4 pm

Watch the mighty steelhead leap up the fish ladder, then dive into a day of fun with music, food, and activities. It's a wild day out for the whole family and entry is completely FREE.

 Milt Brandt Visitor Center
& Congressman Don Clausen Fish Hatchery
3288 Skaggs Springs Road, Geyserville

Rain or Shine!

FESTIVAL SPONSORS

Bear Republic Brewing Co.
Brandt Insurance
County of Sonoma, Supervisor Gore
Lake Sonoma Marina
Quivira Vineyards
Recology
Russian River Watershed Association
Sonoma County Winegrowers





FESTIVAL HOSTS

SteelheadFestival.org  

Get Customized and Low-Cost Home Energy Upgrades Directly Installed

From BayREN's New Efficiency & Sustainable Energy (EASE) Home program



BayREN's EASE Home Program helps income-eligible residents make energy upgrades for comfort and health at home.

Program Offerings

- Free site visit and customized energy recommendations from a trained expert
- Low-cost energy upgrades, such as insulation, duct sealing or replacement, air sealing, and much more
- Direct install by qualified program contractors that will handle all the details with co-pay due upon completion of work

Who Qualifies?

Sonoma County owner or tenant occupied single-family residences are eligible, must be a PG&E/SCP customer, and have a household income under or at 120% AMI.

Household Size	Income Limit
1	\$116,250
2	\$132,900
3	\$149,475
4	\$166,050

Benefits for Your Family

- Customized upgrades that reduce energy costs while increasing your comfort and health
- Hassle-free installation directly by BayREN-vetted contractors
- Transparent, fixed pricing, with BayREN covering up to 80% of the cost (co-pay not to exceed \$1,000)

Enroll now at <https://www.bayren.org/ease-home>
For information email to: Energy@sonoma-county.org or call (707) 565-6470



The Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) is a coalition of the Bay Area's nine counties partnering to promote resource efficiency at the regional level, focusing on energy, water and greenhouse gas reduction.
www.BayREN.org/EASE-home | info@BayREN.org

Sonoma County residents may now qualify for big savings on energy-efficient home improvements through the new EASE Home program, launched by BayREN in partnership with the County. EASE (Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Home) provides customized upgrades like insulation, duct sealing, smart thermostats, and weatherization—professionally installed to improve comfort, lower bills, and create healthier homes.

Eligible households receive a free site visit from an energy advisor and a tailored upgrade plan. BayREN covers up to 80% of costs, while participants pay a 20% co-pay (max \$1,000).

To qualify, homes must be built before 2010, be located in Sonoma County, and the household income must be at or below 120% of the area median income (up to \$116,250 for one person or \$166,050 for a family of four).

Obtenga mejoras energéticas personalizadas y de bajo costo para su hogar

Del nuevo programa de eficiencia y energía sostenible (EASE Home) de BayREN



El programa EASE Home ayuda a los residentes con ingresos elegibles a realizar mejoras energéticas para su comodidad y salud en el hogar.

Ofertas del programa

- Visita a su hogar sin costo y recomendaciones personalizadas de un experto capacitado
- Mejoras energéticas de bajo costo, como aislamiento, sellado o reemplazo de conductos, sellado de aire y mucho más
- Instalación directa a través de contratistas calificados que se encargarán de los detalles y el copago es pagado al finalizar el trabajo.

¿Quién es elegible?

Para ser elegibles los participantes del programa deben vivir en una residencia unifamiliar en los nueve condados del Área de la Bahía, deben ser clientes de PG&E y deben tener unos ingresos familiares inferiores o iguales al 120% de los ingresos promedio de la zona (AMI).

Tamaño del grupo familiar	Límite de Ingresos
1	\$116,250
2	\$132,900
3	\$149,475
4	\$166,050

Beneficios para su familia

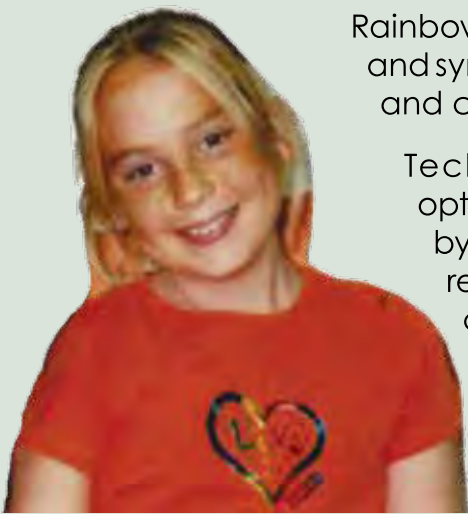
- Mejoras personalizadas que aumentan su comodidad y su salud
- Instalación sin complicaciones directamente por parte de contratistas autorizados de BayREN.
- Precios transparentes y fijos: BayREN cubre hasta el 80% del costo.

Inscríbase hoy en <https://www.bayren.org/ease-home>
Para más información: Energy@sonoma-county.org o llame al (707) 565-6470



La Red Energética Regional del Área de la Bahía (BayREN) es una coalición de los nueve condados del Área de la Bahía que se han asociado para promover la eficiencia de los recursos a nivel regional, centrándose en la energía, el agua y la reducción de los gases de efecto invernadero.
www.BayREN.org/EASE-home | info@BayREN.org

Courtney Jade Davis
February 6, 1991 – January 5, 2008



Rainbows have different meanings and symbolism to different people and cultures.

Technically, rainbows are optical illusions of light caused by sunlight refracting and reflecting in water droplets creating a spectrum of seven colors that appear as a circular arc, with no two people seeing the exact same one.

Rainbows, though, have inspired countless stories, myths and interpretations throughout history. Beyond their beauty, they carry rich spiritual meanings and are often seen as symbols of hope, transformation, diversity and divine connections. Rainbows are often seen as bridges between the physical and spiritual worlds. Some believe they are sent by loved ones who have passed on, offering comfort and reassurance of their presence. Rainbows have a very special and significant meaning to us.



Courtney's Godmother, on January 4th, 2026, shared with us this beautiful rainbow (pictured) and said, "It's Courtney's Rainbow!!!! I was so hoping to see one today or tomorrow and here it is. I saw a rainbow on the same day after Courtney's funeral and never forgot it. Strangely, I have spotted at least three or four right around this time and around her birthday, so I am always so thrilled. Truly a great sign."

There was the biggest and brightest double rainbow we have ever seen after Courtney's service on January 12th, 2008. We look at that rainbow as a sign sent by Courtney offering us comfort and reassurance of her presence.

We will be doing a post flood clean up, on Feb. 7th , at the Cloverdale River Park for Courtney's 35th Birthday. Please stop by and say Hello.

"Life is only as bad as you make it"



GRAND OPENING



FEBRUARY 21ST
ALL-DAY OPEN HOUSE
10AM - 4PM

- Family Fun Activities
- Music
- Food & Beverage
- Dance Performance
- Discover Local Services

Join the CELEBRATION!

La Familia Sana invites the community to celebrate it's grand opening in Cloverdale—a welcoming, culturally rooted space dedicated to whole-family health and wellness. This special event marks the beginning of a new chapter of accessible, compassionate care supporting physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Join neighbors, families, and friends as we connect, learn and celebrate a shared commitment to healthier futures.



Scan the QR code to donate today!

www.lafamiliasana.org | 707-669-0289

La Familia Sana Grand Opening

La Familia Sana is putting the LOVE back in CLOVERdale and we invite you to celebrate this moment with us.

Our new La Familia Sana campus at **439 N. Cloverdale Blvd** is already open and in motion. Every day, families walk through the doors, partners gather in the space, and real care is happening — from food access and health support to connection and community navigation. The Family Resource & Resiliency Center was created to be a true community hub, rooted in dignity, access, and belonging, and that vision is already alive here.

After 4.5 years of showing up wherever our community needed us, this space represents a milestone worth marking — not because the work is finished, but because it continues to grow.

We invite you to join us for our **Grand Opening Celebration** on **Saturday, February 21, from 10:00 AM–4:00 PM**. It will be a family-friendly day to connect, reflect, and celebrate the people who make this work possible — neighbors, partners, volunteers, and supporters alike.

We'd be honored to celebrate together.

CLOVERDALE REGIONAL LIBRARY

PUZZLE SWAP

Every 4th Sunday of the month
3:30–4:30 pm





ALL VETERANS ARE INVITED
American Legion
Wednesdays
8:30AM FREE Morning Coffee Hour

205 W First Street
Cloverdale, CA 95425



Support Our LOCAL Businesses!

Submit your "Shout Out" to
info@cloverdaleconnect.com

Shout Out to **Regina Plumbing** for quick, clean, professional service! Highly appreciated and recommended.

Martha MacLean

Huge Shout Out to **The Outpost** for my beautiful new jacket! It's incredibly warm and cozy! I absolutely love it. (thanks for tipping off my son)

Juli Southard

I just want to give a Shout Out to the wonderful folks at **Happy Donuts**. Cloverdale is lucky to have them! Love the breakfast sandwiches.

Janice Morrissey

I need to give props to **Dunken** (sic) who is one of our **(US Post Office) mail carriers**. He has the best attitude and sometimes I can hear him singing songs. He walks up to my door when I have a package and always says "Hello" to my dog. We are so fortunate to have him here in Cloverdale.

Cheri Torvick

Compliments to **Redwood Credit Union** Team for their 100% friendly and efficient customer service. As a team they are always working together to successfully assist members with financial transactions. The true spirit of Cloverdale lives in their office!

Andy Kotnik

We met a family member in Cloverdale at **Piacere Ristorante Italiano** for Sunday brunch. The food was fantastic, the waitstaff attentive and kind and the pricing was reasonable. It's a hidden treasure for sure!

Rebecca Lucas

Shout out to **Curly Doodle Dog Grooming** for two good nail trims for our two good dogs today. Thanks for having Saturday appointments.

Mervyn Welch

Want to give some feedback on **Pick's Roadside** in Cloverdale. Working today so me, my son and crew came by for a bite. The food was high quality. Very tasty. Fed 3 people for \$60 which seems fair to me. They also listened to the community and now have their milkshakes priced at \$9 instead of \$13, originally advertised. We didn't order one but saw a few and they were big! And heard they were delicious. Everyone enjoyed the food.

Ian Jones

I recommend **All N One Detailing**. We had one of our vehicles done there and they were well prices and did a great job.

Heath Blackwell

Just hired **Veterans United Hauling and Junk Removal LLC** for another time and can not say enough good things. Reliable, fair pricing, punctual, and thorough (not to mention just two nice people!) If you have trash or a haul job, reach out to them.

Merwyn Welch

The **UPS Store** has the absolute best customer service! I went to pick up my large package and without hesitation Matt carried it to my car. He's done this on many occasions. But honestly every employee that works there is so kind and friendly.

Chrissy Hart

BARREL TASTING
48TH ANNUAL

WINEROAD
SONOMA County, CA

THE BARRELS ARE BACK!
BE THE FIRST TO TASTE THE FUTURE.

THE LONGEST RUNNING WINE EVENT IN CALIFORNIA.
CELEBRATE OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY WITH A \$50 TICKET.

MARCH 7 & 8, 2026
\$50 WEEKEND TICKET
REVIVING A CLASSIC DESIGN FROM OUR 2007 EVENT
PAINTING BY CRAIG NELSON

Free Microchip and Vaccine clinic coming to Cloverdale Saturday February 28th noon-4pm!
Our Cuddle Shuttle will there- free adoptions!
Location- Cloverdale Police Department

Find the purry new family member of your dreams!
Come visit- you just might fall in love!

Free vaccines for dogs and cats!
Dogs- Bordetella and DHPP
Cats- FVRCP (no rabies)

Free microchips for dogs and cats!
Includes free lifetime registration!

NORTH BAY ANIMAL SERVICES

FREE copies of *Cloverdale Connect*
Available each month at
Dahlia & Sage, Plank Coffee, Senior Center, Chamber of Commerce, Zini's Diner, Happy Donuts, Gin Gilli's, Geyserville Grille and other locations from Hopland to the Santa Rosa Airport.

YOU DESERVE TO BE SAFE.
WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU.

707-565-8255 **www.FJCSC.org**

Local Event to Address New Challenges from Irrigation Ban

In January 2027, a new California law will ban irrigating 'nonfunctional' lawns with potable water, i.e. drinking water, in commercial, industrial, institutional, and HOA properties. To help landscapers and property managers prepare, the Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA) is hosting their 8th Biennial Russian River-Friendly Landscaping half day event, *Turf's Up! Tree Care and Lawn Conversion in a New Regulatory Landscape*, on February 11, 2026 at the Finley Center in Santa Rosa, from 8am-12:30pm.

Assembly Bill 1572 specifically bans irrigating nonfunctional turf (NFT) with potable water; nonfunctional turf refers to ornamental, decorative lawn areas that do not serve a functional purpose for community gathering or recreation. For example, the small turf patches placed between parking spaces or in front of businesses. These areas exist for aesthetics or spacing and are not designed for gathering or play. This ban does not apply to individual homes' front or backyards in HOAs, and properties that use recycled water. This ban also does not apply to existing trees or shrubs that are within or adjacent to patches of turf.

Property owners and managers subject to this law have options such as connecting to recycled water (if available in the area) and converting lawns into water-wise landscapes with native plants. Though landscape transitions have a multitude of benefits, it is easier said than done, requires extensive planning, and can be expensive.

Converting lawns into beautiful landscapes with native plants not only uses less water- it supports pollinators and saves costs on long term maintenance. This type of landscape conversion is aligned with RRWA's Russian River Friendly Landscaping (RRFL) Program, which encourages landscaping in a way that benefits the property, community, and watershed.

While the passage of AB 1572 will result in saving water in California, landscapers and property managers will need tools and information to manage a transition and be successful. This is where the *Turf's Up!* event comes in. Local experts will define nonfunctional turf, share with participants how to interpret compliance timelines specific to their business and land use type, review strategies to maintain tree health during lawn conversions, and discover available resources.

The RRFL event will feature case studies of properties that have already converted lawns, so attendees can learn by their example. "Folks like their grass and change can be hard, but clear thinking and simple truths will always prevail," said Dave Phelps, landscape architect, founder of Garden Enlightenment, and keynote speaker at *Turf's Up!*, "The best way forward is a clear strategy to take on the challenge and make the most of it. Looking to others who have successfully implemented a cohesive and transparent, phased approach in their community is a good way to start the process."

This February 11 event aims to provide a shared understanding of the law and ways that the landscapers and property managers in Mendocino and Sonoma Counties, can feel more prepared for this change. The event is free, but spots are limited! Learn more and register for the event at rrwatershed.org/event/turfs-up/.

Rotary Interact Citrus Fair Fun



Pictured on left is Astrid Wilke, Vice President of the Cloverdale High School Rotary Interact Club, displaying ideas for the Interact Club's project for this year's Citrus Fair to club members. On the right is Maxine Lamaster, Club President. Interactors do a display each year as a way to exhibit "Service above Self" to the community.

Kenyan Lewis ~ Rising Tide Sponsor: Dahlia & Sage Community Market

Kenyan Lewis is a local sculptor and has participated in the sculpture trail on and off for many years. His piece, *Rising Tide*, is located on Cloverdale Blvd in the empty lot in front of Railroad Station Bar & Grill. His permanent piece "90 percent Oscar" is located in the park across from Cloverdale High School.



Artist Statement:

"My most exciting childhood memories are of exploring the American River below our house. As a young adult, I later moved to a beach house in Bandon, Oregon before settling in Cloverdale. I believe these different environments influenced the development of my work. Rivers tend to change seasonally, while the environment of the beach is in a constant state of change. The new patterns and textures reorganized by every high tide and intense episodes of wind. Some texture in my work are snapshots of captured moments of the evolution of the landscape of the beach, rivers edge or desert textures. *Rising Tide* is a change from my more common functional architectural tile work in clay and glass, yet still references the random symmetry we live in. My most recent project involved glass wall panels at the 19Ten restaurant near Railroad Square in Santa Rosa".

Kiwanis Christmas Wish Program Miriam Vasquez

This organization has been around for many years, and I'm so glad I came across them. The sweetest souls run it with so much love and dedication. I've been helping them for a couple of weeks now, and it's been such a blessing. I will always use my platform to support things like this and to uplift our community.



I always say "if you're going to help somebody, don't just post about it" – but in this case, what they're doing is truly amazing and it deserves to be shared. I'm hoping that next year we get

even more people to pick up Xmas Wish Tags and support this beautiful organization.

Thank you so much to everyone who has helped – whether it was wrapping gifts, grabbing tags, or even just giving me boxes, paper, and materials. We appreciate it more than you know.



Snake Oil Salesman Or Medical Doctor?

Mary Jo Winter

For more than a century, the huge painted barn sign just south of Cloverdale advertising "Dr. Pierce's Medical Discovery" has greeted southbound travelers on Highway 101.

Ray Vaughn Pierce (1840-1914) was born in New York and graduated from the Eclectic Medical College in Cincinnati at the age of 22. Civil War draft papers list his profession as "physician."

After practicing medicine in Pennsylvania for a few years, Pierce moved to Buffalo, New York in 1867 where he manufactured and sold a number of proprietary medicines. He established the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, whose guests reportedly included the Sundance Kid. He also published a book entitled "The People's Medical Advisor" that sold more than two million copies.

A member of the State senate from 1877 to 1879, Pierce was elected as a Republican to the Forty-sixth U.S. Congress, serving from March 4, 1879, to Sept. 18, 1880, when he resigned due to poor health.

With credentials like these, it's easy to see why people trusted Pierce's medical opinions and purchased his medicines. What they didn't realize is that Dr. Pierce was more of a snake oil salesman than a medical doctor.

Pamphlets for his Golden Medical Discovery touted it as being able to "cure everything from gas pain to a finicky appetite." The licorice-flavored tonic, advertised as giving men "an appetite like a cowboy's and the digestion of an ostrich," contained quinine, opium and alcohol.

Pierce had a brisk mail order business, selling other medicines, as well, many of which were aimed at addressing "female illnesses. Surprisingly, his tonics and medicines were still being sold as late as the 1970s.

Today, Dr. Pierce's medicine bottles, boxes and other containers - some still full - are collector's items. Prices on eBay, the online auction site, range from \$7.99 to well over \$300.

Poet's Corner

"A Toast" by Howard Adler

Here's to love, here's to life,
good food, good friends, kids, husband and wife.
We dance and play work and sing
life is loves harp, each of us a string,
we don't always know how the music will go
but just to be played is the thing.

1982

Cooking with David Maciel

Sponsored by Ray's Food Place

In February we celebrate Valentine's Day, the day of romance and love. And what better way than this French dish beef bourguignon for two. Simply put beef slow simmered in red wine. I serve this with mashed potatoes. It's a warm comfort food recipe that's sure to impress.

Beef Bourguignon for Two

- 3 oz bacon (3 slices), chopped
- ½ pound beef stew meat
- 1 carrot, sliced into 1" chunks
- ½ red onion, sliced
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 1 cup red wine
- ¾ cup beef broth
- 3 fresh thyme sprigs
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- salt, as you go
- freshly cracked black pepper, as you go
- 6 ounces baby onions (~1 dozen)
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- ¼ cup beef broth, additional
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1 thyme sprig
- 12 button mushrooms, quartered
- ½ tablespoon olive oil
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter

Instructions

- Preheat the oven to 325 degrees.
- In a 2-quart cast iron braising pot, add the chopped bacon. Turn the heat to medium, and cook the bacon while occasionally stirring until it's no longer pink and is starting to crisp up. Remove it from the pan with a slotted spoon, leaving the bacon grease in the pan. Set it aside.
- Generously sprinkle salt and pepper over the beef chunks, and then add them to the pan you just removed the bacon from. Sear the beef on all sided until golden brown (but don't worry about cooking it through).
- Add the sliced carrot and red onion to the pan. Cook for 3-5 minutes, stirring occasionally.
- Sprinkle the flour over the vegetables and meat, cook for 1 minute while stirring.
- Add the wine, beef broth, thyme sprigs, bay leaf, tomato paste, and garlic clove to the pan. Add back the bacon pieces and a final big pinch of salt and pepper.
- Place the lid on the pot, and move it to the oven. Cook for 2 hours, stirring after one hour.
- About an hour before the time goes off, peel the onions and slice off the root ends.
- Place the whole onions in a skillet with the butter and olive oil. Turn the heat to medium-high, and sear the onions until they start to caramelize in a few places, about 5-6 minutes.
- Add the beef broth, bay leaf, thyme sprig, and a big pinch of salt and pepper to the skillet. Lower the heat to medium-low, and cook until the beef broth reduces to a syrupy liquid, and the onions are meltingly soft.
- Pour the onion mixture into a bowl.
- Without wiping out the pan, add the mushrooms, olive oil and butter. Turn the heat to medium, and cook until the mushrooms are starting to caramelize around the edges, about 7-8 minutes. Remove the mushrooms from the pan, and add them to the onions.
- When the beef is done cooking in the oven, remove the lid to stir in the onions and mushrooms.