

Cloverdale Connect

Bringing our community together since 2020



Editor's Note

If you went to your mailbox around the first of May to get your copy of **Cloverdale Connect** and did not find it there, it is absolutely my fault. The files were late getting to the printer which delayed printing and delivery. However, here's my excuse! I was on a wonderful trip down the California Coast with more than 40 women on the 2nd Annual Girls Cruise. We all had such a great time that we have set the date for the 2027 Cruise next April. Good news – it will be earlier in the month and should not cause a delay in delivering the May 2027 issue of **Cloverdale Connect** on time!

May marks the beginning of Friday Night Live and the promise of summer nights. Our Event Calendar this month is extensive, with so many things happening – arts, music, theater, information, sports, music, and even a luau. Cut the calendar out and stick it on the fridge because you don't want to miss anything.

Enjoy all our area has to offer and I'll see you around town!

Dana



Rick Tang Photography

The entire team at **Grocery Outlet** reads *Cloverdale Connect*



Front Page Photo Contest Winner
Brigid Wasson

She wins a Gift Card from **West Coast Sourdough**

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE
at the plaza

Starts May 22nd

Postcard with concert lineup inside!

Downtown Cloverdale
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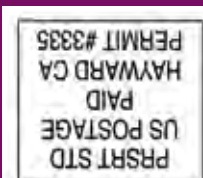
DAHLIA & SAGE

COMMUNITY MARKET
DOWNTOWN CLOVERDALE @115 EAST 2ND STREET

Our customer spotlight this month is!
"Love being here and shopping local!"-Dave
"Friendly, funny, fun staff in a store that has everything we need
Thanks for being in Cloverdale!"-Anne

Don't Forget to sign up for our new loyalty program. Just type in your phone number at checkout & enjoy the rewards!

HAPPY Mother's DAY
Grab a bouquet for Mother's Day



*****EGRWSSSEDDM*****
POSTAL CUSTOMER

Look Inside! Esmeralda Soils & Groundwater Webinar, Local Author Jim DeMartini, Ram Sale, and much more
Cloverdale Connect Inc PO Box 404 Cloverdale CA 95425



Cloverdale Properties Wine Country Real Estate Network



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CLOVERDALE COMMUNITY CHOIR

Dr. Mario Dell'Olio, Artistic Director
Kira Bombace, Piano

STEPPIN' OUT!

May 15, 2026, 7:30
May 16, 2026, 2:00
May 17, 2026, 2:00

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Cloverdale, CA

Cloverdale Connect

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CUSD Employee of the Month Tabitha Crystal

**Sponsored by
Dahlia & Sage Community Market**



We are very excited to recognize Tabitha Crystal as Cloverdale Unified School District's Employee of the Month!

Tabitha joined CUSD in 2024 as our District Budget Technician. With an extensive background in accounting, she has made the transition to school business look easy. Her attention to detail, work ethic, and knowledge are second to none. She possesses a willingness to learn new things and to help others do the same. She is an asset to our district and plays a vital role in keeping our district running smoothly.

The next time you see Tabitha around town, please join us in thanking her for her hard work and the dedication she brings to our schools and community.

Fundraiser for ALA National President-elect Melanie Taylor

Veterans and those who share their interests should be pleased to learn that one of Cloverdale's own, Melanie Taylor, has been elected to serve as the National President of the world's largest patriotic service organization for veterans' support: the 800,000-member American Legion Auxiliary.

Taylor will begin her tenure as national president in July 2028. During that year she will travel to visit many of the nation's 8,000 ALA units and will host seminars around the nation, including a reception in Washington, D.C., for the person who will be elected the 48th U.S. President in 2028.

Some of the National President's expenses are reimbursed, but many are not. For this reason, fundraising events are already under way. Local Unit 293 of the ALA plans to put the "fun" back into "fundraiser" with a dinner-dance on Saturday, May 16. The Sons of the American Legion will cater dinner, with music provided by the contagiously-energetic Fargo Brothers band. The ticket price of \$50 per person includes wine. To buy tickets, call Unit President Melonie Delsid at (707) 953-5219 or email Delsid1@comcast.net. The event begins at 6 p.m. at the Cloverdale Veterans Hall, 205 W. First St., Cloverdale.

The ALA is part of the broader American Legion Family which includes the American Legion and the Sons of the American Legion. Membership is open to male and female spouses, mothers, grandmothers, sisters, and direct descendants (up to two degrees of consanguinity) of veterans who served, as well as to female veterans themselves.

The last time a Sonoma County resident served as the ALA's National President was the early 1920s, when author Jack London's half-sister Eliza London Shepard filled the role. She served as manager of London's Beauty Ranch which, with the site of his Wolf House, later became part of Jack London State Historic Park.

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

Cloverdale Connect Inc. 6800 published monthly, distributed via direct mail, and at participating merchants
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production@cloverdaleconnect.com • billing@cloverdaleconnect.com • CloverdaleConnect.com



PET of the MONTH

Big Lou

Louie aka "Big Lou" loves reading **Cloverdale Connect**
Michael and Kara Busselen



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

Prizes courtesy of DogGonit and Cloverdale Connect



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LIFE NOTICES

Obituaries • Birthdays • Weddings • Retirements
Anniversaries • Birth Announcements

\$1.25 per word + photo in print edition and online
Submit to info@cloverdaleconnect.com

Whisker Talk Brigid Wasson



Click, click, click. If this is what you hear when your dog walks across the floor, his nails are too long! Nail trimming is an important but often overlooked part of dog (and cat) care. Long nails can cause discomfort as they bend the toes into an unnatural position. Over time this can cause leg and back pain and the gait becomes unnatural. Think of wearing shoes that don't fit and how that would feel in your body. So why don't owners keep their dogs' nails trimmed?

- 1) **Fear.** If you don't know how to do it, it is easy to cut the "quick" and cause pain and bleeding.
- 2) **Resistance.** Most dogs aren't fond of having their feet restrained, so they will struggle or even bite.
- 3) **Equipment.** Without proper equipment, you may be crouching on the floor awkwardly, or using cheap clippers that don't work well. Depending on the dog, nail trimming is advised about once a month.

We invite you to come down to Curly Doodle Dog Grooming where we will trim the nails while you wait, and show you how to do it if you wish.



The Beet Restaurant & Wine Shop
116 E 1st Street, Cloverdale, CA
Wed-Thurs: 12pm - 9pm
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FIRE HYDRANT PAINTING CONTEST

Celebrate America's 250th anniversary on July 4th, 2026 by joining the fire hydrant painting contest on the boulevard. Individuals, Businesses, and Organizations are encouraged to participate.

Scan QR code to Apply!

Applications also available at the Chamber Office and Cloverdale Ace Hardware. Paintings must be completed by June 14th prizes will be awarded during the downtown parade.
Contact - Al Delsid delsidal@gmail.com



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Cloverdale Church Guide

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Cloverdale, CA 95425



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Grace Lutheran Church
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www.GraceCloverdale.org
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"Grace Lutheran Church Cloverdale CA"

Jehovh's Witnesses
27100 Dutcher Creek Rd.
Cloverdale, CA 95425
Phone: 707.894.2742

Living Water Church
450 S. Franklin St.
Cloverdale, CA 95425
707.894.3274

Oat Valley Baptist Church
31000 Cooley Lane
Cloverdale, CA 95425
707.894.2998



Join us for our Sunday service at 10am.
All are welcome!
553 W. Second Street, Cloverdale
Across from City Park
For more information email us at
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St. Peter's Catholic Church
491 S. Franklin St.
Cloverdale, CA 95425
707-894-2535

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
1011 S. Cloverdale Blvd.
Cloverdale, CA 95425
707.280.9433

Higher Dreams Nora Archambeau, M.A.

"To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe." Anatole France — French Academy speech, December 24, 1896 (Azquotes.com)

When I began contributing to this wonderful community newspaper 2.5 years ago, the intention was to write on life and consciousness and to offer action steps that might coax friends and neighbors to live a bit more easily and fulfilled. As new horizons beckon me into 2026, I wish to pen on a topic deepest to my heart — **dreams**. Waking dreams, sleeping dreams, daydreams (no, not sleepwalking too...or, maybe?).

In the months ahead, I will be sharing many facets of the dreamscape: historical origins, benefits, activation tips, themes, and dream resources. I am excited to break down the mysterious world of dreams and how they may be of service in everyday life.

People are often under the misconception that they do not dream. *That is false*. We all dream. We simply do not *remember*. There are plenty of ways on how to trigger dream recall. With dreaming come incredible benefits: a reboot of our neurological pathways, the elimination of negative moods, cellular healing, creative problem-solving, etc. For us to dive in, I wish to first "jog" people's minds by listing several ways to activate dream recall.

Dream Recall Activation

1. **A Dream Journal** ~ Have fun creating an aesthetically pleasing journal;
2. **Dream-inspired Movies** ~ *Uglies* (2024), *Silver and the Book of Dreams*, (2023), *Strawberry Mansion*, (2023), *Inception*, (2010), (to name a very few!);
3. **Journal** ~ Write about any lingering feelings or judgments from your day;
4. **Intention** ~ Think of a pressing question and write it down before bedtime;
5. **Write** ~ Transcribe any dreams in the present tense for a few mornings;
6. **Work the Dream** ~ Are there any exciting insights that bubble up?
7. **Action Steps** ~ Commit to take 3 action steps towards a positive outcome!



Uncorked
A PROM NIGHT TO REMEMBER
MAY 30, 2026 7:00pm - 10:30pm
Join us for an unforgettable evening of wine, music, dancing, and lasting memories—celebrating our community in style. Featuring community-voted awards and special recognition.
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Tickets go on sale Wednesday March 18*
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www.cloverdalewinewalk.com A CLOVERDALE WINE WALK & CHAMBER EVENT

AVH Thanks Outgoing Board Members

Alexander Valley Healthcare (AVH) would like to recognize three dedicated Board members who have helped guide our organization through years of growth.

James Berry, owner of Berry Financial & Insurance Solutions, has served on our Board since 2020, including membership on the Finance Committee and several years as Board Chair. James has a gift for asking the tough questions and holding us to a high standard — always with the best interests of our patients in mind. His financial expertise and genuine appreciation for our mission as a Community Health Center have made him an outstanding leader.

Dr. James "Jim" Novak served on our Board for six years. During the COVID 19 pandemic, he rolled up his sleeves as a volunteer at our vaccination clinics, and his clinical insight on the Compliance Committee has helped us maintain the highest standards of care.

We're happy to share that both James and Dr. Jim will continue to support AVH as advisors on our Board of Governors. We are thankful that they're staying on the team.

Bob Freelen, Vice Chair, has served since 2021 and will be retiring from the Board in May. Bob brought valuable experience in fundraising and fiscal oversight, and his wise counsel and service on the Development Committee has been a gift to our organization. We are grateful for his involvement and dedication.

As a community based health center, AVH depends on dedicated volunteers like James, Jim, and Bob. Their knowledge, experience, and heart have made a real difference to the people we serve.

Interested in getting involved? We invite community members to consider joining the AVH Board of Directors, which is made up of more than 50% patient representation. It's a wonderful way to give back and help guide local healthcare through an exciting — and important — time of growth.

For more information visit www.alexandervalleyhealthcare.com/board-of-directors



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Cloverdale Rotary Celebrates Century of Service 1926-2026

The Rotary International Club of Cloverdale is marking an extraordinary milestone this year: 100 years of service, leadership, and community impact.

Founded in 1926, the Cloverdale Rotary Club has long been a cornerstone of the community, bringing together local leaders, business owners, and volunteers dedicated to the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self." Over the decades, the club has supported countless local initiatives—from youth programs and scholarships to community events and infrastructure improvements—helping shape Cloverdale into the vibrant town it is today.

Rotary itself began in 1905 in Chicago, growing into a global network of over 1.2 million members committed to humanitarian service, peacebuilding, and community development. Cloverdale's chapter has proudly carried that mission forward for a full century, adapting to the needs of each generation while maintaining its strong sense of community connection.

To honor this 100-year legacy, the Cloverdale Rotary Club will host a special centennial celebration this June. The event will commemorate the club's rich history, recognize past and present members, and celebrate the lasting impact Rotary has had on the Cloverdale community. Attendees can expect an evening of storytelling, connection, and appreciation for the many hands that have contributed to a century of service.

As the club looks ahead to its next 100 years, one thing remains clear: the spirit of service in Cloverdale is as strong as ever.

~ Paid Content ~



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.

The Cloverdale Forager by Jim DeMartini

A fourth generation San Franciscan, Jim DeMartini has lived in, and practiced law in Cloverdale for 49 years. Besides being a full-time trial lawyer Jim has spent many of his days in the field and in, or on the ocean, looking for the food gifts that nature leaves all around us. Jim's daughter, Sophia, a Cloverdale High grad, lent her sketching skills to the production of The Cloverdale Forager.



What Are Reviewers Saying?

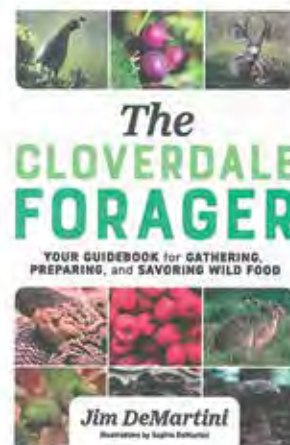
"Amazing Book. Cleverly written. Insightful author with a command of the written word that might be most closely compared to Hunter Thompson. Or maybe the great Herb Caen. No matter, if you have the slightest interest in the cornucopia of edible foliage that surrounds you, this is the book! Highly recommended." RV

"Good information and easy to follow. Very enjoyable read with some great tips for living off the land, complete with simple recipes. Information is presented in a straightforward, but friendly, kind of way not preachy." MJ

"Good book." Alan

"Great insight." Popsc4

If it's in the wild, and allowed to be hunted, picked or collected in Northern California—chances are good that longtime forager, Jim DeMartini, has a story to tell and advice to give. From a lifetime of experience crawling around on all fours looking for the perfect mushroom, to wading through the surf and capturing succulent surf smelt, to bribing 10-year-olds to gather hard-to-find- banana slugs, to fishing the pristine waters of Clear Lake, California for black bass, DeMartini shares humorous and informative reflections, stories, and recipes.



The **The Cloverdale Forager** is available at SoCo Trading 117 E. First St., Cloverdale
Look for the **Cloverdale Connect Local Authors** display



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*APRICOT	*BOYSENBERRY COBBLER	*PEACH	



Rotary "Rise Against Hunger" A Great Success

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Dolores Jacinto 1925-2026

It is with sadness, yet deep gratitude for a life well lived, that Dolores' children share her passing at the age of 100.



Dolores was born on Rancho Sespe in Ventura County, California, the eldest of four children. She met her beloved husband in high school, and they married after his discharge from the Navy in 1945. Soon after, they moved to Sante Fe Springs, where they raised three children.

Dolores worked for many years in a bridal salon, but her favorite role was as a teacher's aide. In 2010, she settled in Cloverdale to be closer to family, coming full circle from her ranch beginnings to city life, and back again at Red Fox Ranch.

A member of St Peter's Catholic Church and the Senior Center, she enjoyed crocheting and there she met her devoted caregiver. Though she became hard of hearing, her social spirit never faded – she embraced texting and social media to stay connected.

Her faith and her family were her greatest treasures. She had a gift for making each person feel truly seen and valued. Her children teased her, saying that the secret to her longevity was eating meat daily, salting her food and drinking a glass of wine every night.

Dolores is survived by her children Bob (Marsha), Irene (Pat), and Debbie (Steve); six grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandson; and many extended family members and friends. A memorial at Red Fox Ranch will be held at a later date.



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May Gardening Tips from Sonoma County Master Gardeners Sponsored by Sanz Nursery

- Spring rains are usually over by May and gardens may begin to need irrigation.
- If you didn't trouble-shoot your irrigation system for cracks, leaks, and clogs last month, do it now. Dirty filters can wreak havoc, especially if you are on a well. Clean out filters and replace as needed.
- If you start to irrigate this month, practice water-conservation by watering in early morning or evening and using slow release methods such as drip or soaker hoses.
- It's time to plant flowering annuals and all summer veggies—beans, cucumbers, eggplant, kale, lettuce, melons, peppers, squash, and tomatoes. If you don't have a dedicated vegetable garden, consider planting a few veggies in the ornamental garden. Leafy greens in particular make attractive additions to beds and borders.
- Continue to fertilize roses and other heavy feeders.
- Check for weeds to emerge where garden areas are irrigated.
- Prune all spring-flowering trees and shrubs after bloom. Pruning forces new growth that will bear flowers next spring.
- May is a windy month in much of Sonoma County. Take care that new plantings, especially trees, are staked properly.
- Deadhead azaleas, camellias, and rhododendrons once they've finished blooming.



MAY EVENTS CALENDAR Cloverdale Grocery Outlet

- May 7 Thurs.** **9-10:15am** Pickleball for the Experienced Player
10:30-11:45 Pickleball for Newcomers
www.cloverdale.net/parksandrec
- May 9 Sat.** **10am-4pm** Eco-Friendly free self-guided Garden Tour, savingwaterpartnership.org
11am Make & Take Mother's Day Bouquet Mavis & Mavis, 117 N. Cloverdale Blvd.
1-3pm Gathering In Bloom Sonoma Stems North End 233 N. Cloverdale Blvd.
7:30pm Comedy Night – Clara Bijl, Sue Alfieri, Ian Williams, Cloverdale Performing Arts Center
- May 10 Sun.** **9:30am-1pm** Cloverdale Farmers Market W. 2nd St.
11am Queer Wine Tasting & Brunch Rock Seas Farm Fusion, Hopland
2pm Wine Tasting McNab Ridge Winery, Hopland
- May 11 Mon.** **10am** Gigong
11am Tai Chi 24 Form Cloverdale City Park, West 2nd St.
- May 14 Thurs.** **9-10:15am** Pickleball for the Experienced Player
10:30-11:45 Pickleball for Newcomers
www.cloverdale.net/parksandrec
10am Coffee With the Mayor & Friends Guest: School Superintendent Glen Senestraro Cloverdale Senior Center, 311 N. Main St.
- May 15 Fri.** **4pm** "Coco" (Spanish) presented by La Familia Sana, Cloverdale Performing Arts Center
7:30 "Steppin' Out" Cloverdale Community Choir, Cloverdale Performing Arts Center
- May 16 Sat.** **2pm** Steppin' Out" Cloverdale Community Choir, Cloverdale Performing Arts Center
4pm "Coco" English Version presented by La Familia Sana, Cloverdale Performing Arts Ctr.
6pm American Legion Auxiliary Fundraiser for Melanie Taylor, Vets Hall, Cloverdale
- May 17 Sun.** **8-10am** Cars & Coffee, Happy Donuts Furber Ranch Plaza, Cloverdale
9:30am-1pm Cloverdale Farmers Market West 2nd St., Downtown Cloverdale
2pm Steppin' Out" Cloverdale Community Choir, Cloverdale Performing Arts Center
- May 21 Thurs.** **9-10:15am** Pickleball for the Experienced Player
10:30-11:45 Pickleball for Newcomers
www.cloverdale.net/parksandrec
6-7:30pm Esmeralda Environmental Workshop Registration for virtual meeting: esmeralda.org/events/2026-environmental-workshop
- May 24 Sun.** **9:30am-1pm** Cloverdale Farmers Market W. 2nd St.
5-6:30pm Classical Music in the Wild Campovida, Hopland
- May 28 Thurs.** **9-10:15am** Pickleball for the Experienced Player
10:30-11:45 Pickleball for Newcomers
www.cloverdale.net/parksandrec
- May 30 Sat.** **12-4pm** Cloverdale Luau, 114 Lake St.
7-10:30pm A Prom Night to Remember Cloverdale Chamber Event
www.cloverdalewinewalk.com
- May 31 Sun.** **9:30am-1pm** Cloverdale Farmers Market W. 2nd St.

***FREE Event Calendar Listings; Highlight your listing \$50; contact adsales@cloverdaleconnect.com**



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enrollment. Join between May 7–14, 2026




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Veterans Hospital Donations



Lillian Wohlfarth, long time Cloverdale resident and volunteer at Creative Notions (the craft shop run by Cloverdale Senior Center), is once again collecting caps, scarves, and lap-size afghans (about 32" x 36") for the Veterans Clinic and Hospital in San Francisco.

Some of our longer-term residents may know that participants all over Sonoma County used to create and collect these creations to give to the Veterans hospital. When COVID struck, the efforts were put on hold because the hospital could not accept hand-crafted donations. The project saw such a positive turnout before then, we are bringing it back to life. Before the epidemic, more than 200 blankets, scarves and caps were donated to veterans through the hospital/clinic's donation department. If you are able and willing to crochet or knit, you now have an outlet for your creations. Lillian and her daughter will take the items down to San Francisco at various times during the year. We anticipate two to four annual trips; we will advise through signs at the Senior Center and Creative Notions when a delivery is pending.

Those interested in making a donation can visit Lill on Friday mornings at Creative Notions, or call the Cloverdale Senior Center at 894-4826, or email Lill at mountainpinelill@gmail.com.

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

Off The Shelf Susan Erkel Ryan

DS George Cross Mysteries by Tim Sullivan

Who doesn't love a good mystery. It is a lovely ride when you have a talented driver, and thanks to a recommendation from my friend, Sheryl Cotluere, Copperfield's book buyer extraordinaire, I found one in the *DS George Cross mysteries*. There are eight books in the series, with author Tim Sullivan promising more books to come. The first book *The Dentist* introduces you to George Cross. Detective Sergeant Cross seems to have found his calling in bridging the gap between the dead and the truth, acting as a voice for the voiceless. He is drawn to cases of the dispossessed, the outsider, in part because he understands what it is to be an outsider. As the story of the murder of a homeless man unfolds you are also solving the mystery of DS Cross. Cross is a fascinating mosaic of bizarre quirks and stunning intelligence.

A stickler for order and procedure to the annoyance of his peers, he rides a bike (instead of driving a car), has his own office (no other detective does), cannot tolerate his food touching and his manner can be quite rude. The series has well-developed, fascinating supporting characters – especially DS Josie Ottey. She is the Watson to Cross's Sherlock Holmes, but far from a bystander; she is a strong, intelligent single mother who pivots from frustration at the daily difficulty of maintaining a partnership with Cross to deep admiration of his genius. Cross's brilliance seems to come from his ability to 'plod' – taking the time to look closely when others rush.

Even though you are plodding along with him, the writing is so witty and well observed that participating in the process of solving these crimes is a delight I have read the first two books in the series, and I am on to the third, Sheryl has read all eight. For me there is nothing better than getting completely lost in a well-crafted British mystery, and Tim Sullivan's DS Cross series perfectly fits the bill. It immediately transports you into a fully realized world, masterfully combining rich atmosphere with an authentic sense of place. Enjoy.

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Virginia "Ginny" Malvesti (Giovannetti)

August 6, 1942 - March 18, 2026



Daughter of the late A. Joseph and Dina Giovannetti. A 1960 graduate of Cloverdale High. She attended Chico State University. She taught elementary education in Woodland and Healdsburg and in later years worked at Bed, Bath & Beyond.

Ginny was preceded in death by her husband Ron Malvesti, her parents and her brother Leo. She is survived by her loving daughter Deanna Danforth (Lee) and her adoring granddaughter Cate. She is also survived by her brother and sister Paul and Geri Giovannetti.

Services were held March 26 in Healdsburg, CA.

Avian Almanac Robert Bauer

If you head east into the Alexander Valley on Hwy 128 in Geyserville, you will come upon a wildlife tower where the road crosses the Russian River. For the past decade, the nest has been the annual brooding home for a pair of Ospreys, one of the more fascinating predatory birds. Although considered a hawk, Ospreys are the sole members of their very own family and genus, *Pandionidae Pandion*. They are also one of a handful of hawks and falcons that migrate, with Ospreys sometimes covering close to 2,500 miles on their journey from Northern California to Mexico and Central America.

Ospreys are unique among raptors with a diet consisting solely of fish, which they will snag by diving into the water feet first, often disappearing below the surface. They're among the best anglers in the bird world scoring a documented success rate of about 1 in every 4 attempts. One of the physical features that add to this prowess is their reversible outer toe which allows them to grasp prey firmly with two talons in front, and two in back.

If you have never seen an Osprey, or an Osprey nest I would encourage you to get a cup of coffee and take the drive to Geyserville. Spend a sunrise observing the nest. If you're lucky you'll see the adults take off and return from their early morning hunt. If you're really lucky, you'll see the little heads of nestlings popping into view. For an even greater adventure, take a kayak trip down the lower Russian River. Along with Ospreys you may be treated to a Bald Eagle or two.

We live in an area teeming with wildlife that support the predatory life cycles of raptors. Among the most captivating is the Osprey. Get out there and immerse yourself in their wonderful world.



Pictured selling cookies and raffle tickets to raise money for local food charities are Rotary Interact Club members Miles Val Verde, Interact Vice President Astrid Wike, club president Maxine Lamaster, and Interact Director Robert Redner. These students going out of their way to help others exemplifies the Rotary motto of "Service above Self," and are a living example of what makes this country great.

~Paid Content ~

Alley Mural Depicts Childhood Fantasy Mary Jo Winter

A whimsical 28-year old mural in the alley between E. First and Broad Streets still has the ability to catch the eye and capture the imagination, although it has faded somewhat over time.



Painted in 1998 on the side of what is now the First Street Barber Shop, the mural depicts a large fairy and elf, lush flora, bumblebees, butterflies, a large frog and more.

Kim Sperry, whose "In the Pink Health Foods" store occupied the building at the time, got the idea for a mural at a self-expression and leadership course she took in San Francisco. Part of the course was to develop a project. She chose to do something that would express beauty that everyone would enjoy.

Naming it "Awesome Alley," she started talking to her customers about it. At the library, she discovered a picture by illustrator Teri Sloat in the children's book, "When I am Hungry." Not only was Sperry able to get permission to use the picture for the mural, Sloat even donated an afternoon to help enlarge the picture to the size of the building.

It took local artists Cathy Farris, Lois Boettger and Judy Christopher 50 hours to enlarge the picture using projectors and giant sheets of paper spread out in the Tea Room at the Citrus Fairgrounds.

Rich Johnson Painting prepared the building surface with help of local students on Community Unity Day. Lois Boettger coordinated the painting. She and her sister Susan Chiantella sketched out the pattern on the wall, and both helped paint it. Her husband Steven added the gremlins. Even one of Sperry's customers volunteered to help.

Paint was donated by City Hall and the Planning Department. Laurie Siebenthal helped choose the paint pallet.

What started as "Awesome Alley," turned into a real community project that has withstood the test of time.

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RESIDENT ARTISTS:

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Mckenzie Gladden Wins Varsity Boys Division Title



Local girl, McKenzie Gladden became the first Girl to win Varsity Boys Division Title, while maintaining a 3.5+ GPA. The Washington Middle School 8th grader made history at the North Valley League (NVL) Finals, winning the 105-lb. Varsity Boys division and becoming the

first girl in Cloverdale wrestling history to earn a title in the boys' division.

Now in her third year of wrestling, McKenzie's commitment

and drive have continued to set her apart. Alongside her historic win, she was also named Most Valuable Wrestler at the NVL finals, an honor awarded to just three athletes in the entire tournament.

Since 5th grade, McKenzie has consistently earned Principal's Honor Roll (3.5 GPA or higher) while balancing multiple sports, further highlighting her discipline both on and off the mat.

Through her relentless work ethic and competitive spirit, McKenzie has emerged as a standout athlete in the Cloverdale community, proudly representing both Washington Middle School and Cloverdale wrestling at a high level.

Courtesy [ads_by_mads](#), [Cloverdale Chamber](#) & [wrestling.mckenzie105](#)



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Author and Grammy Award-winner Coming To JES

John Koetzner, Children's Services Librarian

This month, we are heading into the end of the school year, and with that comes the beginning of the summer reading program at the library. However, we're not quite there, and what better way to inspire kids to read than to bring an author and musician to Jefferson Elementary School? Thanks to Friends of the Cloverdale Library and Sonoma County Library, Lucky Diaz will be performing at the school on May 7th.

Diaz is the author of three children's books: *Paletero Man*, *La Guitarista*, and *Fix-it Familia*. He's also a musician who has recorded eight albums as Lucky Diaz and the Family Jam Band, winning a Grammy in 2024 for *Brillo, Brillo!* and two Latin Grammy Awards for *Buenos Diaz* in 2019 and *Fantastico!* in 2013. Known for his dynamic performances with his wife Alisha Gaddis, Lucky mixes music, reading, dance, and lots of energy into his program for young people.



In addition to music, Lucky and his wife Alisha have also worked as Emmy Award-winning TV creators for PBS. They starred in in PBS's *Lishy Lou and Lucky Too!* So, the children will have high energy, music, and books heading into summer. Not a bad start for moving into a new season.

Center Stage at the Cloverdale Performing Arts Center Lenore Messler

CPAC is thrilled to present a variety of shows designed to inspire, entertain, and bring us together. On May 2, Mendocino Dance Project presents *Surface Tension*, a powerful contemporary work expressing the times we are currently living. How do we stay sensitive to one another when we are constantly confronted by so much turbulence in the world?

Join us for *Surface Tension* as we find one another and stay resilient despite the chaos. Laugh the night away on Saturday, May 9, at our Comedy Night featuring Clara Bijl. An "internationally unknown" comedian, Clara has performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, has two comedy albums, wrote for a Swiss comedy TV show, and boasts that she was once stranded on an escalator for hours due to a power outage. Joining her are Bay Area favorites Sue Alfieri and Ian Williams. Then, gather the whole familia for a heartwarming musical journey with Disney Pixar's *Coco*: in Spanish on Friday, May 15 at 4pm (in partnership with La Familia Sana), and in English on Saturday, May 16 at 2pm. See you at CPAC!

Cort Harold Amelung

Cort Harold Amelung, a lifelong Cloverdale native, passed away suddenly yet peacefully at home following recent health challenges, leaving behind a life deeply tied to the community he always called home. The Amelung name has long been part of Cloverdale's history, and Cort carried that legacy with a steady, understated pride. His family was known for operating local staples including Harold's Dante Hotel; "The Dante", Harold's Car Wash on the Boulevard, and a neighborhood laundromat - places that became gathering spots for the community and part of everyday life in Cloverdale.

Cort was a private man who kept to himself, but those closest to him knew a different side - witty, funny, and full of a dry sense of humor. He loved to play subtle jokes, often delivered with perfect timing, and his humor was something his close friends especially appreciated. Though his circle was small, his friendships were strong, and he was a generous and loyal friend - someone who showed up, helped quietly, and gave without ever needing recognition.

He lived a simple and humble life. He found peace in the outdoors - hunting deer and wild pig, fishing, and exploring under open skies, often alongside his best friend Scott Gladden, and always with his dog Brownie.

During his marriage to Marilyn, Cort had three children Dillon, Sadie, and Dallas whom he was very proud of and loved deeply. He also had a stepdaughter, Shannon, and her daughter, Olivia.

For the last decade of his life, Cort and his partner, Nancy Bach, built a life together marked by companionship and shared moments. Cort was preceded in death by his mother, Noriece Amelung, his father, Harold Amelung, and his brother, Bill Fleming.

Cort will be remembered as someone who didn't seek attention, but left a lasting impression through his humor, loyalty, and steady presence. His roots in Cloverdale - and the life he lived here will not be forgotten.

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Terry and Jonni Conway



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

May...I ask you a question? Are you happy with the way our path is headed? I understand detours, even forks in the road... but really...is this the way to peaceful coexistence? Our history is fraught with disagreements and wrongheaded decisions, but really...can't We do better? From my perspective, which is anchored in the music industry, I have observed the songs that have brought us to where we are today, the Music of Our Lives. The patriotic music of wartime, the tunes of peace and good times to the protest songs of the great unrest of the 1960's. It seems as if the "Pendulum of Life" has reached its extreme and time has come today to bring about the equilibrium of common sense and decorum.

Our world is on the precipice of a great upheaval, A I is everywhere and evermore encroaching into our lives, being used to "advance" mankind, but really...whose future? What will it look like for our kids...Progress is inevitable...but not without safeguards.



Speaking of which, safeguards are in need of rejuvenation, a true "check and balances" form of governance.

So, let's rethink our approach to our collective future, let's celebrate our vast wealth, our fellow citizens, and let's get back to civility and prosperity, for all, not just the select few. And let's continue to celebrate the "Music of Our Lives" reminiscent of the better times that lay ahead!

Let us nurture the "flowers of prosperity" in this garden we call earth.

God Bless you and keep you safe. Thanks for tuning in and listening!

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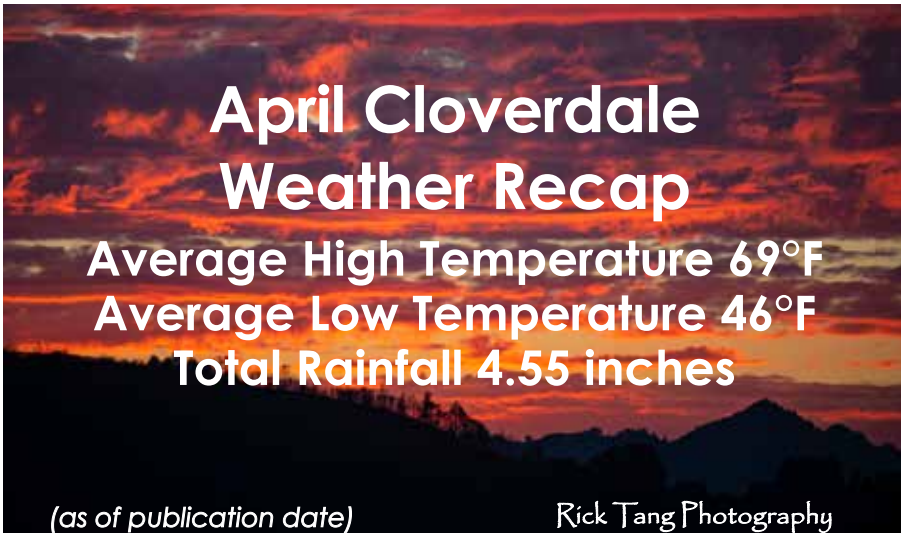
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April Cloverdale Weather Recap
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Spring Cleaning for Your Electronics
Will Carter

Last year I wrote an article in which I discussed some of the steps you can take to organize, review, touch-up, and "clean" your digital life. This Spring, I will be taking Spring Cleaning more literally with advice on how to physically clean your electronic devices safely and effectively!

Plastic Surface Screens (TVs, monitors, automotive, etc.): Their faces are usually a thin plastic sheet which can be very fragile. To protect it, be sure to use a soft microfiber cloth meant for use on screens, lenses, or glasses. Your first pass should be dry and use a very gentle circular pattern to lift the dust and skin oils from the surface. Never use a cloth which has any visible grit or debris! If needed, follow this up with purpose-made cleaner spray or wipes, like those found at Ace Hardware, using the included instructions.

Glass Surface Screens (Standard phones and tablets): Using a gentle cleaning method like that used for plastics screens is ideal, as these have fingerprint resistant coatings which can be removed by harsher cleaning.

Dust: Some computers and other devices come with dust filters which can be removed for easy cleaning, however, exercise caution when attempting to remove dust from your devices themselves! Products like canned air are great for exterior cleaning of devices and for durable items like keyboards, but improper attempts to clean electronics by canned air alone, without trained hands opening the device, can block airways causing overheating or spin internal fans damaging the device.

Metal/Plastic Surfaces: This one is easy! After many years of cleaning customer devices, one solution stands out for never causing damage and always giving an effective clean – An ammonia glass cleaner (like Windex) applied to a microfiber towel.

When cleaning electronic devices, or in their immediate vicinity, be sure to power down the device fully and unplug it from wall power or any charger. Always review manufacturer recommendations on how to clean devices and defer to that when advice differs. If you're uncertain how to clean any of your devices, or your device needs a deep clean, reach out to a techy friend or trusted technology professional.

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Cloverdale Kiwanis Vineyard Races will be held on Sunday, October 18, 2026. The races will be starting and partying at the Cloverdale Municipal Airport.

MORE DETAILS SOON!



Sister Support NETWORK

Illustration of three women smiling under a heart.

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Joy Camilli
Joyce Sartori
Kate Greene
Kathy Herman & Gary Giovannoni
Kiwanis Club
Linda Elliott
Lucy Ogden
MR Wallace
Maria Erickson
Marilyn A Michelin
Mark Thayer & Jean Herschede
Marne Dupere
Mary Jo Winter
Melissa & Bill Cox
Michael & Dorina Olson
Mike Barnett
Mildred & Philip Thomas
Nancy Dalwin
Neva Goodman
Pat & Cindi Buell
Paul Cowden & Chuck Levine
Paul & Rebecca Van Lith
Ray & Ann Smith
Richard & Michele Stratton
Richard Price
Ricky Serbin
Robert Maddock & Marianne Rickards
Robert Redner
Robert Scott Tim McDonald
Ron & Jane Pavelka
Rotary Club of Cloverdale
Sam & Shelley Witten
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Tuesday 10-4 PM
Wednesday 10-4 PM
Thursday 10-4 PM
Friday 10-4 PM
Saturday 10-1 PM

Creative Notions (707) 894-4110
119 1st Street
Cloverdale, CA.

Cloverdale Senior Multipurpose Center
EST. 1997

Senior Center (707) 894-4826
311 N. Main
Cloverdale, CA.

All proceeds support our local Cloverdale Senior Multipurpose Center.

CREATIVE NOTIONS

SALE

Don't miss our weekly Sidewalk Sale every **Wednesday**, weather permitting! And here's the best part: on the **1st Wednesday** of each month, everything inside the store (except yarn) is 50% off! It's the perfect time to shop & save big!

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

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.

Coming to Cloverdale Performing Arts Center

COMEDY NIGHT
FEATURING
CLARA BIJL



With Special Guests
Sue Alfieri and
Ian Williams

SATURDAY, MAY 9
7:30PM

Disney · PIXAR
COCO



Movie Night at CPAC
Spanish Version:
Friday, May 15 at 4:00pm
Sponsored by La Familia Sana

English Version:
Sat., May 16 at 2:00pm
Tickets: \$10

Summer Youth
Theater Camp
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June 8th - 26th
For ages 6 - 18

See website for more
info and to sign up.

CloverdalePerformingArts.com

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Cloverdale CA 95425
707-894-2067

Open: 11am-2pm
Saturday & Sunday

office@cloverdalehistory.org



EXTRA! EXTRA!

The Cloverdale History Museum announces its newly updated website at www.CloverdaleHistory.org.

More history and photos soon will be added soon!

CSMC Community Market
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Cloverdale Senior Multipurpose Center




Grace Lutheran's Gift to Little Free Food Pantry

Recently, during Lent, the congregation of Grace Lutheran Church collected multiple bags of non-perishables as a gift to the "Little Free Food Pantry" at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church.

Thank you, Grace Lutheran, for your generous gift to the community.
The pantry is now restocked and is open 24/7 for anyone who is in need.

Cat Rescue of Cloverdale

We need the communities help! Kitten season is here and we are getting calls everyday!

We are a dedicated group of volunteers focused on Rescue, Rehabilitation and Adoptions in our community. Our goal is to spay and neuter cats, provide necessary medical care, find them a lifelong companion, and stop cat homelessness in the community.

HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR CATS:
ADOPT LOCALLY — Find your new best friend here!
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PO BOX 354
Cloverdale, CA 95425
www.catrescueofcloverdale.org



May Musical

Celebrate springtime with four of our favorite musicals, one for each Wednesday in May.

TRUE WEST FILM CENTER

SCAN FOR MORE MAY FILMS INCLUDING FREE KIDS MATINEES



Mama Mia
Wednesday, May 6



Rent
Wednesday, May 13



Grease
Wednesday, May 20



La La Land
Wednesday, May 27

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

Cloverdale's Mid Century Modern Dental Office



The Ives Dental office on N. Main St., the new Cloverdale office of Dr. Rodriguez-McCann DDS, was built in 1964 for Dr. Harold Ives. Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright protégé Aaron Green, it is based on the core tenets of Organic Architecture as practiced by Wright and Green:

- Low pitched overhanging roof
- Use of natural daylight
- Natural materials
- Connection of the building to the natural site
- Connection of interior spaces to each other (with minimal division)
- Connection of interior spaces to exterior spaces
- Built-in elements, including furniture and cabinetry

Dr. Ives and Aaron Green's professional relationship was established when Ives contracted with Green to build their home at 484 Clover Drive in 1955. The house burned down in 1999. The home had vaulted ceilings and redwood walls,

In November 1963, Dr. Ives and his wife Elinor signed a contract with Green and contractor Frank Rose to get construction started at a bid of \$31,047 in January 1964. Dr. Ives used the building from 1964 to 1973, when he moved to Happy Camp, a small former mining town in Siskiyou County, and practiced there until 1986. Dr. Clifford Snider assumed his practice and bought the building in September 1973. In 1999, the dental practice passed to Dr. Richard Nicholls. The building was still owned by the Snider family, and when Snider died in 2017, relative Cindi Lands became the owner of the building. In 2025, she sold the building to Aaron Green's son Allan Green.

Dr. Rodriguez McCann will be opening his practice in this historical building and states: "I am truly honored to be a part of this historical building and to continue a tradition of care that has served Cloverdale for more than 60 years".

What Esmeralda Says to our Community Matters

Jennifer Sullivan

Google the following: "Is an addendum the same as an EIR?" The answer is no. In a recent comment sent to Cloverdale City leaders, Devon Zuegel of Esmeralda said they're "nearly identical."

An EIR has a different legal structure, public review process, and disclosure burden. EIRs cost more, take more time, and are more comprehensive because they are different. They're critically different in their level of review and accountability, and four thousand pages does not equal an EIR. If they are "nearly identical," why is Zuegel resistant to doing one?

Another Zuegel claim, that "CEQA law requires the City to prepare an addendum and not a new EIR," is a questionable legal conclusion. CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 is the rule for deciding whether changed circumstances, project changes, or new information require further environmental review, including a Subsequent EIR.

A Subsequent EIR is required when substantial changes or new information create new or substantially more severe significant environmental impacts. Esmeralda is relying on AVR's 2009 EIR, but Cloverdale has changed since then. Baumgardner, SMART, Potter Valley uncertainty, and the still present Masonite contamination all matter.

Yes, the site has been studied, tested, and cleaned up over decades, and it still has contaminated soil and groundwater. Zuegel points to future plans and controls as reassurance, but that means further cleanup is being deferred until contamination is encountered. The public and City leaders are being asked to trust that if contamination is encountered, it will be detected, disclosed, and addressed.

Zuegel's final reassurance is that Esmeralda would not invest hundreds of millions if the site were unsafe. But developer self-interest is not CEQA review. Profit motive is not public oversight. Cloverdale residents, not Esmeralda investors, will live with the long-term consequences if the analysis is wrong.

~ Paid Content ~

Cloverdale Ram Sale Celebrates 100 Years

Jennifer Corriea

A tradition centering around sheep production that is known today as the Cloverdale Ram Sale began in June 1926 and has stood the test of time, celebrating its centennial this year and remaining just one of two ram sales held in the state today.

News publications from the early 1920s support the assertion that both private and public sheep sales were commonly held as far back as the 1880s. However, the Cloverdale Ram Sale evolved directly out of the North Bay Sheep and Wool Exhibit, a three-day event that included sheep and wool judging, wool grading exhibitions and sheep dog trials.

Headed by Cloverdale's C.E. Humbert, the original committee included names that were synonymous with sheep production in Sonoma County, most notably Santa Rosa's Leslie Crane and J.M. Jamison, along with others from the neighboring counties.

Although the sale has never included more than about 200 head, from the late 70s into the 90s Sonoma County's sheep industry was hit with a perfect storm that diminished the larger herds and threatened the existence of the annual occasion.

Predation reportedly accounted for between 10-20 percent of total flock loss, combined with cheaper imports from Australia and New Zealand hitting the markets and decreased demand for wool due in part to competition from synthetic fibers along with the repeal of the Wool Act, saw rams go unsold and those that did only bring \$100 to \$200 according to a 1991 article in the *Santa Rosa Press Democrat*. Part of the ability to remain relevant has been adapting to the times as Jim Neumiller, a board member since the late 70s, explained.

The initial event is still intact and is something the current board is intent on keeping alive, according to President Rex Williams, who is on his second go-round in the role. "When I was working with Bruce Campbell back in 1990, there were over 10,000 ewes in the county and now there is probably less than half that amount," said Williams, an auctioneer at the sale for at least 30 years. "This is a legacy of Sonoma County agriculture, even if the sheep numbers are small. It's a multi-generational undertaking. It is important to preserve the history."

Marcelino Figueroa La Familia Sana Volunteer of the Month



At La Familia Sana, our volunteers are at the heart of everything we do.

This month, we are proud to recognize **Marcelino Figueroa**, whose commitment to community, connection, and service shows up in both his words and his actions.

We asked Marcelino to share a little about what inspires him and what community means to him.

What inspires you most?

My inspiration is fostering community connection and ensuring we have representation at the city, county, and regional levels. It is important to me that our community knows they can count on us as we continue to move forward.

What is your favorite part of volunteering?

My favorite thing about volunteering here is the feeling of giving wholeheartedly and seeing the community be receptive and appreciative. It is important to remember that even when we cannot contribute financially, we can still make a significant impact by volunteering our time and effort.

What does community mean to you?

To me, community means being a selfless member of the collective. Regardless of our individual circumstances, our community is a part of who we are—an extension of ourselves. That is why it is crucial that we give back.

What are your interests outside of volunteering?

I am someone who likes to stay busy. Outside of volunteering, I look for alternate ways to make a positive impact with my time to continue helping our town and my loved ones.

Is there anything else you would like to share?

I would like to encourage all community members to approach the resource center with an attitude of gratitude and the pure intention of making the most of the resources available to us.

Editors note: Marcelino also serves on the Board of Directors of the Cloverdale Senior Multipurpose Center.

Let's Travel Crag Clark

Choosing the right travel insurance this summer requires more than clicking “comprehensive” and moving on. First, don't assume “comprehensive” covers everything. Most policies exclude major disruptions like war or already-known events, meaning if it's in the news it's likely not covered.

Second, look beyond trip cancellation. Post-departure benefits—such as trip interruption, delays, and medical coverage—can be just as important once your trip begins.

Third, avoid a one-size-fits-all approach. Your policy should match your destination and risk level; a basic plan may not be enough for regions with political instability.

Fourth, understand medical evacuation limits. Many policies only transport you to the “nearest adequate” facility, not back home. If returning to your preferred hospital matters, consider upgraded coverage.

Timing is critical. Purchase insurance within 14–21 days of your initial trip deposit to qualify for valuable benefits like “cancel for any reason” and pre-existing condition coverage. Waiting too long can limit protection.

Also beware of “foreseeability.” Once an event like a named storm occurs, it becomes a “known event” and is typically excluded. Buying early helps avoid this trap.

Read the fine print carefully. Look for specific “hard triggers” such as government travel advisories, civil unrest, or supplier bankruptcy—these determine when you can make a claim.

Don't rely solely on your credit card coverage. These benefits are often limited, especially for international medical emergencies or costly evacuations.

Keep in mind that fear alone isn't a valid reason to cancel. If flexibility matters, “cancel for any reason” coverage is the only reliable option.

Finally, do your homework. Research your destination's risks, laws, and safety conditions. Even the best insurance won't replace informed, cautious travel decisions.

You can always get a free travel insurance quote at cloverdaletravel.com, the link is located at the bottom of the home page.

Poppy Days May 8-9

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 293 of Cloverdale will offer red crepe-paper poppies to the public, on May 8 and 9. The ladies will be at the entrance to Ray's Market from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, May 8, and at the entrance to ACE Hardware the same hours on Saturday, May 9. The poppies are completely free, but donations to the Unit for its many programs to serve veterans will be gratefully accepted.

Inspired by Lt. Col. John McCrae's poem “In Flanders Fields,” the ALA's red poppy program began in 1921 to honor WWI veterans. The crepe-paper poppies are handmade by veterans who are residents of VA medical centers. The funds raised by the Poppy Program are specifically used for veterans' rehabilitation.

Members of the public are asked to wear their poppies any time in May and particularly on May 22, the Friday before Memorial Day. Congress has designated that day as National Poppy Day in memory of the fallen and in honor of the living heroes who have worn our nation's military uniforms.



Poppy Chair Judy Chavez, Unit Secretary-Treasurer Julie Cambra and her daughter Elizabeth offer poppies at ACE Hardware in 2024.



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Esmeralda: Soils & Groundwater Webinar ~ Devon Zuegel



Hi there! I'm Devon, founder of **Esmeralda**, and we're proposing a plan for a new neighborhood at the southeast end of town.

Over the last 3+ years as I've met hundreds of locals and attended dozens of community events, I've grown to love Cloverdale. I am honored to have a chance to contribute to its next chapter.

In the spirit of transparency, there's been a lot of misinformation about the project flying around social media recently, and I want a chance to correct the record:

Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

Some folks have demanded that the City prepare a "new EIR", assuming the existing EIR is out-of-date or "stale". This is inaccurate.

The City's CEQA consultant has refreshed the EIR studies within the last 9 months, including the Noise Study, Biological Resources Study, Cultural & Tribal Cultural Resources Study, Water Supply Assessment, and Transportation Impact Analysis.

While a new EIR might sound more rigorous than an addendum to the existing EIR, this misses a few key facts:

- **The content of a new EIR would be nearly identical to the draft addendum.** The addendum doesn't just refresh existing studies but expands them, and it's already over 4,000 pages!
- **CEQA law mandates an addendum and not a new EIR** when a "Modified Project" satisfies strict legal criteria, which ours does. The City needs to follow the law.

As a failsafe, the EIR requires ongoing soil testing and (if necessary) further cleanup once grading begins. Notably, California is one of the most strictly regulated states for environmental cleanup.

The Water Board — an independent state agency staffed with professionals committed to public health and environmental safety — has monitored the site for decades to ensure it's safe for redevelopment. We would never invest hundreds of millions of dollars here if we had any reason to think it was unsafe.

Benefits to Cloverdale

This new neighborhood will also be a huge boost to Cloverdale by:

1. **Growing annual City revenues by about 35%:** Cloverdale has run a structural deficit for years. If this continues, the

City will need to cut services or raise taxes — like the recent Measure DD sales tax. Esmeralda is projected to generate a \$3–4M annual net fiscal surplus (i.e. after accounting for added public expenses!).

2. **Boosting local businesses & adding hundreds of jobs:** The new neighborhood and hotel will expand the customer base for existing businesses, and will also create employment opportunities for young people to stay in Cloverdale.
3. **Improving water infrastructure & drought resiliency:** We are required to build and pay for a 1-million-gallon water tank system and dedicate it to the City. This new storage will help pressurize the water system, add fire protection, and strengthen the City's water resiliency.
4. **Adding vast new public trails, playgrounds & habitat:** The previously-approved project included a private golf course. Instead, Esmeralda will open 100+ acres to the public as a riverfront park — and we'll pay for ongoing maintenance, not the City.

Community Input vs. State Override

Growth is coming; the question is whether Cloverdale has a seat at the table.

State housing law requires cities to hit production goals, and cities that fall behind face escalating consequences: projects they can't stop, civil penalties, and loss of state funding. Cloverdale already missed its goals in the last 7-year cycle, and it is not on track to achieve its goals for the next cycle. Esmeralda will help the City meet its obligations in a responsible, land-efficient way.

Esmeralda has done far more outreach than most developers, getting to know Cloverdale and incorporating feedback over 3+ years. None of this was required; it's simply the right thing to do, and it reflects our commitment to the community, which is the whole point of this project.

If Cloverdale falls short of state requirements, less conscientious developers will have the right to build what they want, with no local input. By contrast, we genuinely want to be partners and have put tremendous effort into doing so.

If you have questions, I invite you to read esmeralda.org/faq — and I'm always excited to spend time with Cloverdadians in person!

~ Paid Content ~



CUSD News ~ Glen Senestraro

Eagle Pride: Crossing the Finish Line in CUSD

The month of May has arrived, and with it comes the high-energy "final lap" for the Cloverdale Unified School District. From the classroom to the pitcher's mound, our students are showing the community exactly what it means to soar.

Jefferson Elementary School: Celebrating Our Community

It is a season of joy at Jefferson. The absolute highlight of the month is the beloved Family Day on the Green at the end of May. This festive tradition is a wonderful way for our youngest Eagles to celebrate the friendships they've built this year, bringing together students, teachers, and families for a sunny afternoon of fun. It's the perfect way to wrap up a year of academic growth and school spirit before the summer break.

Washington Middle School: Open House and Promotion

Don't miss the Washington Middle School Open House this month! It is the premier opportunity for parents and neighbors to tour the classrooms and view the impressive projects our students have completed this spring. As the 8th-grade class prepares for their promotion ceremony in June, this Open House serves as a wonderful showcase of the academic growth they've achieved before heading off to high school.

Cloverdale High School: Senior Season in Full Swing

While the memories of a fantastic Prom on April 11 are still fresh, the Class of 2026 is now laser-focused on their final requirements.

- **Senior Portfolios:** Our seniors are currently presenting their graduation portfolios, demonstrating their readiness for college and career.

- **Eagle Athletics:** Spring sports are in high gear! Our Eagle baseball and softball teams are battling for league standings, and our track and field athletes are hitting their personal bests as we approach the NCS trials.
- **Scholarship Night:** Late May will feature the Senior Awards Night, where our local organizations show their incredible generosity by awarding scholarships to our graduating Eagles.

JEH Continuation School: Perseverance Pays Off

At Johanna Echols-Hansen, the "finish line" is in sight. Students are working diligently to complete their final credits and graduation requirements. The individualized pace at JEH continues to be a success story for our district, ensuring that every student has a clear path to their diploma and their future goals.

District Updates

- **Assessment Season:** As we head into the final stretch of the school year, our schools are successfully wrapping up the ELPAC (English Language Proficiency Assessments for California) testing window. We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our hardworking teachers and testing coordinators who ensured a smooth and supportive testing environment for our English Learner students.
- **LCAP Planning:** The CUSD Board of Trustees continues to refine the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) for the upcoming year. Community input has been vital this spring, helping the board prioritize student mental health resources and campus facilities maintenance for the 2026-27 school year.

Got to Move On! Michele Armanino

Dr. Ken Allen teaches a weekly class at the Cloverdale Senior Center on longevity, and lectures on major health issues that affect seniors in this country. Current medical research finds that mobility is one of the most important factors contributing to longevity. It has been heartening for Allen, a member on the board of directors at the Cloverdale Senior Center, to see participants' health and outlook improve while engaging in his Qigong class. This ancient Chinese practice combines gentle movement, meditation and deep breathing. His presentations on diabetes, osteoporosis, and Alzheimers continue to enlighten seniors on ways to manage illnesses. Ken has always been a whirling dervish and his current goal is to inspire and educate people on the importance of vigor and strength.

Allen's background is an interesting one, evolving from restaurateur, to chiropractor and eventually brew master! As a young man, Allen ran a restaurant in Millbrae where there was a chiropractor's office next door. His interest shifted to the medical field and he spent four years at chiropractic college in St. Louis Missouri. Allen later opened a successful chiropractic practice in Booneville. He became interested in a story about six men in Hopland who, in the 1980s, began their own microbrewery. This prompted Allen to take a weekend seminar at UC Davis called Micro Brew in USA. One and a half years later, the Anderson Valley Brewery Company at the Buckhorn Saloon opened in Booneville featuring six beers. "Well," Allen chuckles, "we actually reopened the saloon as we found out the original, rowdy Buckhorn had already been in operation in 1873!" In 2010, and fifty-eight employees later, Allen sold the business.

Allen encourages people to attend the Cloverdale Senior Center's fundraising dinner on June 20: **Beer, Brats and Bluegrass**, ("Brats" being Bratwurst sausage); and the Booneville Beer Festival on May 2 at the Mendocino County Fairgrounds, featuring five live bands. Just a couple of fun activities to get out there and move!

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City Council Report Eleanore Webster

March 25th meeting: March was proclaimed Women's History Month. McKenzie Gladden of Washington Middle School was present to receive the recognition. McKenzie had opted to go into the boys' Wrestling League instead of the girls' Wrestling League. She placed first in the boys' League (writer's comment: WAY TO GO, McKenzie!!). Council members congratulated McKenzie on making history. March 23 to 27 was proclaimed Government Finance Professionals Week. Finance Director Susie Holmes was present to receive the recognition.

Survey results on the Community Garden survey were presented by Public Information Officer Maloney and Park Superintendent Galvan. Results indicated residents' favorable interest in developing the garden. The cost as presented is minimal. This is intended for households that do not have the ability to put a garden on their own property. Staff will bring more specific details back to City Council at the next meeting.

Council adopted a resolution to approve a new contract for Animal Shelter Services. This would be a monthly arrangement with the Humane Society of Sonoma County. This move results from the loss of contracts with North Bay Animal Services. A short-term arrangement is needed due to time constraints. A better system of care is needed long term.

Council considered a Measure DD road priority list and long-term funding strategy. 100% of the funds raised are being used in Cloverdale to fund roads, police, parks and pothole repair; 80% of the funds will be used for roads and potholes. Council requested real cost estimates for the top priority projects so that they can consider the cost of each one as part of the decision-making process. After costs are known, Council can consider whether or not to go for bond funding. The bond funding would help gain better cost efficiency, where savings would, in theory, exceed the cost of interest on the bonds.

April 8th meeting: There were many opening public comments about Esmeralda and potential conflicts of interest at the Council level. After hearing comments, Council proclaimed April 11 to 17 as Week of the Young Child. Ashley Dewey and Madeline Koby, teachers at Jefferson Elementary, were present to receive the recognition. Council proclaimed April 12 to 18 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators week. Tami Lemley, Cloverdale Dispatcher for the last 31 years was present to receive the recognition.

City Attorney Mog made a presentation regarding the Esmeralda Project. The presentation reviewed required steps and the City's process for considering an application (note: the formal proposal and application have not yet been delivered to City Council). The presentation did not present information on the project itself. The project will involve significant changes to the existing General Plan as well as Zoning and Environmental Impact Reports (EIR). Future steps require approvals from various federal, state and county agencies, along with building permits and development review. The Council must consider whether to consider an addendum to the existing EIR (this step does not involve public comments) or require a full new EIR (this step provides for public comments and is more expensive). There are standards that mandate a new EIR as opposed to an addendum. The City Attorney said the addendum must be considered first; if the impacts are significant, then a new EIR is required. The Planning Commission will hold hearings and make recommendations to the Council, which will then hold public hearings. There were public comments about voting on this project in a City-wide election, emphasizing the need for a full EIR, and expressing concerns about conflicts of interest between contractors and Council members. The Council members responded that they are listening, but they must follow the process, and they are frustrated at how long it is taking for the formal proposal and application to be presented.

Some of the Consent Calendar was pulled for discussion: Four Leaf is a contractor working with the Esmeralda group. This contract is on the City budget to ensure Four Leaf responds to the City directly and is not influenced by Esmeralda. The City pays them from funds deposited with the City by Esmeralda to handle project expenses.

City staff reported that the community garden is getting started, and should be available for the 2027 planting season.

Final vote on water and sewer rate hikes set for May 27th.

Note: for more information on these items, see agenda attachments and the video on the City website or YouTube.

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Cooking with David Maciel
Sponsored by Ray's Food Place

May brings warmer weather & Mother's Day and this flank steak recipe will keep Mom smiling. I've made this several times and it's always a hit. It pairs well with a cold pasta salad & a nice glass of your favorite beverage. It can be cooked in the oven but I prefer the BBQ or smoker. You can sear the flank steak on an open flame or in a cast iron pan.

Spinach and Gorgonzola-Stuffed Flank Steak

- 1 flank steak
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 cups fresh spinach leaves, washed and dried
- 4 ounces Gorgonzola cheese, crumbled
- 2 tablespoons fresh parsley, chopped

Instructions

Preheat the BBQ to 375°F. In a medium bowl, combine parsley, Gorgonzola cheese, spinach leaves, garlic, onion, 2 tablespoons of the olive oil, salt and pepper; mix well. Place flank steak on a cutting board and spread the spinach mixture evenly over the top of the steak. Roll up the steak and tie with kitchen twine at 1-inch intervals to secure it. Heat remaining 1 tablespoon olive oil in an ovenproof skillet over medium-high heat until hot but not smoking. Add steak roll and cook for 3 minutes per side or until lightly browned on all sides or sear on an open flame on the BBQ. Transfer skillet to preheated oven and bake for 20 minutes or until internal temperature reaches 145°F. Remove from oven and let rest for 10 minutes before slicing into 1/2-inch thick slices. Serve warm.

On The Wild Side
Jennifer Molidor

One of the most magical ecosystems in the West is the vernal pool. There's an entire world tucked into a few inches of water and mud. In late spring, a vernal pool appears quietly, a piece of sky held in the earth like a shallow puddle, rimmed with green so tender it feels like a first thought.

Quenched by this moisture, wildflowers erupt into tiny, jewel-like blooms, forming bright rings around the pool as it dries. Goldfields, tidy tips, and white Baker's navarretia create bands of color.

Beneath the surface, fairy shrimp turn upside down slowly, their translucent bodies catching light like drifting glass. They move without urgency as if the water is guiding them. They hatch from eggs that survive years of drought, waiting for just the right rain.

Frogs and salamanders take advantage of fish-free water. Migratory birds stop to feed on shrimp and insects. Shorebirds, herons, and ducks use these fleeting wetlands like seasonal diners. Before long, the water recedes in concentric life zones.

But it's a race: everything must feed, hatch, grow, and reproduce before the vernal pool dries up and gently disappears back into grassland. One moment, the pool is shimmering and full of life. The next, it has returned to dust, holding its secrets underground for the coming return of the rain.

Some of these creatures that live in vernal pools are endemic, meaning they exist only in these pools. Others are just stopping by. But only 10% of vernal pools remain as the planet warms. These vernal pools are important features of California landscapes, like Sonoma Mountain and Laguna de Santa Rosa, and host endangered species found in few other places on Earth.

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