

Cloverdale Connect

Bringing our community together since 2020

November 2026



Editor's Note

November is "gratitude month". Many of us are fortunate to gather with family and friends for the holiday. We used to have a tradition at Thanksgiving dinner where we'd go around the table and each person, no matter what their age, would say what they were grateful for. Let's bring that idea back and not just on one day, but each day this month - be grateful. Perhaps doing that will create a new daily habit where we look on the bright side instead of on what divides us.

Thank you to all who participated in the Pasta To Go fundraiser to benefit the Senior Center last month. The fantastic Pasta Pals from the Cloverdale Lions Club, led by Chef Ray, prepared the entire meal, and then we had Melanie, Anthony and Trish from the Senior Center, plus me, as runners to take food out to the waiting cars. We all had a fun time raising money.

So many positive events are happening in November and December. Let's celebrate the good in our community! See you around town!

Dana



Annie, Michelle, and Torrie at Plank Coffee start their morning by reading **Cloverdale Connect**



Front Page
Photo Contest Winner
Melonie Delsid
She wins a
Gift Card from
**West Coast
Sourdough**



"I want you to join the American Legion family"

The American Legion family is Americans taking care of Americans. As a Legion member, you will open opportunities to expand your life and to utilize your unique talent

Contact any Legion member or
Gene Marcinkowski 707-291-0500





DAHLIA & SAGE

COMMUNITY MARKET

DOWNTOWN CLOVERDALE @115 EAST 2ND STREET

OUR CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT THIS MONTH IS
MIRANDA AND WENDY BOYRIE!

"WE LOVE COMING HERE BECAUSE ALL OF THE STAFF ARE SO FRIENDLY. AND WE LOVE ALL OF THE FRESH PRODUCE!"

CRAVING PIE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON? WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED WITH HOUSE-MADE PIES! DON'T FORGET TO PRE-ORDER YOUR WILLIE BIRD TURKEY!

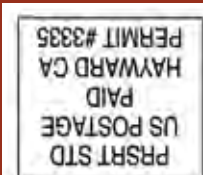
HAPPY THANKSGIVING



CAN'T GO WRONG WITH SOME PUMPKIN PIE!



PRE-ORDER YOUR WILLIE BIRD



*****ECRWSSEDDM*****
POSTAL CUSTOMER

Look Inside! Veterans' BBQ, Claus for a Cause, Christmas Giving Program, Courtney Davis Raffle, Kiwanis Crab Feed, and much more.
Cloverdale Connect Inc PO Box 404 Cloverdale CA 95425

EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
Wine Country Real Estate Network

OPPORTUNITY AWAITS IN CLOVERDALE!



3-bed, 2-bath home backing to a park and close to downtown shops and dining. Bring your personal touches and make it your own!
\$539,000.00

CALDERWOOD INN – HEALDSBURG



Experience the charm of Healdsburg at the historic Calderwood Inn. This beautifully restored boutique inn blends wine country elegance with walkable access to renowned dining, tasting rooms, and Sonoma County adventures. Ideal for hospitality investors, retreat visionaries, or buyers seeking a landmark property in one of California's most desirable destinations. An Exceptional Opportunity at a New Price. It is one of 3 boutique inns, offered as a package or individually. Schedule Your Private Showing. 25WGrant.com.

DOWNTOWN CLOVERDALE COMMERCIAL



Over 4,000 sq. ft. with prominent storefront, private offices & rear storage.
\$599,000

PALOMINO LAKE



This 4-bedroom, 2-bath home on one acre in Palomino Lake offers sweeping Alexander Valley views, room to garden, and a dedicated irrigation well.

CO-WORKING OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

Private shared office space for rent in a conveniently located shopping center in Cloverdale. Perfect for accountants, real estate agents, small business owners.

Call for details and private showings.
Shalia Vanderweken, SRES, CRS, GRI, Associate Broker
DRE #00517842 | 707-321-9601
Wine Country Real Estate Network

Claus for a Cause
Savannah Del Campo-Snyde

For years we hosted a Giving Tree where community members could share Christmas wishes. Then we decided to take it a step further and create something even more interactive and magical. After all, what could be more magical than Santa and Mrs. Claus? Well...maybe if you add a few elves and a professional photographer to capture those unforgettable moments?

Thanks to the most amazing group of family, friends, and volunteers who generously donate their time, talents, and hearts, "Claus for a Cause" was born. Seeing the joy, excitement, and true holiday magic in the eyes of every child, family and even our four-legged visitors, is what makes this event so special. It has become something we look forward to every year. While we suggest a \$5 donation, everyone is welcome. We believe every person – and every pet – deserves the chance to experience a little Christmas magic, regardless of their ability to give.

Over the past three years, we've raised thousands of dollars that have gone directly back into our community through our local non-profit partners, helping ensure children and families have something special to celebrate during the holidays. Because of the incredible generosity of our community, we've been able to help fulfill hundreds of Christmas wishes and keep the spirit of giving alive long after the holiday season has ended. Thank you for being part of our story. Whether you volunteer, donate, attend, or simply help spread the word, you are helping us create magical memories and make a meaningful difference

Photos with Santa & Mrs. Claus
DECEMBER 5TH 2026
5:00 PM - 7:30PM
207 Gamay Drive Cloverdale CA

CLAU\$ FOR A CAUSE!

\$5 DONATION SUGGESTED

Help make the holidays a little brighter!

All proceeds from Claus for a Cause benefit Cloverdale's Annual Christmas Gift Program and Redwood Community Services' Holiday Gift Giving Program, helping bring holiday magic to local children and families in need.

Candy canes
Hot cocoa
Elves
Festive Music

venmo

Important Information for Cloverdale Connect
Advertisers and Columnists
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Because of the upcoming holidays, the **DEADLINE** for the December issue will be **ONE WEEK EARLY** this year.
Deadline is **Friday November 13th**.
All submissions for the December issue must be received by the new deadline.
As always, thank you

LIFE NOTICES

Obituaries • Birthdays • Weddings • Retirements
Anniversaries • Birth Announcements
\$1.50 per word + photo in print edition and online
Submit to info@cloverdaleconnect.com

DEADLINE 3rd Friday
of every month, 5pm



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



PET of the MONTH



Scarlet

Having fun at the dog park! She is part of the 9am crew.

Robert Woods

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

Prizes courtesy of DogGonit and Cloverdale Connect

Whisker Talk

Brigid Wasson



The recent fire on Cooley Ranch is an unpleasant reminder to get ready for disaster, and that includes our pets. Here are some steps to take now before it's an emergency.

Prepare a pet emergency kit. Keep carriers, leashes, collars with identification tags, food, bottled water, medications, bowls, waste bags, etc. close at hand. Vet records and photos of your pet can be stored electronically on whatever cloud you use for easy access.

Make an evacuation plan. Know where you can take your animals ahead of time. Identify pet-friendly hotels, friends, or family members who can help. Practice loading your pets into carriers or vehicles, especially if they are nervous or difficult to catch. Make sure you have sturdy carriers for cats and leashes for dogs.

Be ready to leave early. Keep your vehicle fueled and your pets' supplies accessible. If authorities issue an evacuation warning, don't wait until the last minute. Smoke, traffic, and confusion can make a stressful situation even more dangerous.

Never leave pets behind! If it's unsafe for you to stay, it's unsafe for them, too. If this is difficult for you for any reason like you are disabled or don't have a horse trailer, reach out for help. We've all been through this before and we are stronger together.

For a free ID tag or to check your pet's microchip registration stop by Curly Doodle Dog Grooming downtown.

SONOMA COUNTY'S

favorite monthly wine event



5TH ANNUAL CLOVERDALE WINE WALK

2026-2027 DATES

- NOVEMBER 7, 2026
- DECEMBER 5, 2026
- JANUARY 2, 2027
- FEBRUARY 6, 2027
- MARCH 6, 2027
- APRIL 3, 2027
- MAY 1, 2027

TICKETS INCLUDE:

- Complimentary wine & beer tastings
- Lunch included
- Commemorative wine glass
- Olive oil tastings
- Pop-Up vendors at select locations
- Live music on select dates

\$45 Advance purchase online

\$50 Day of event

\$30 Designated Driver

GET YOUR TICKETS ONLINE:
www.CloverdaleWineWalk.com

the cloverdale wine walk

FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER - MAY
11AM - 3PM

Enjoy wine, beer, music and 10+ Downtown Cloverdale businesses.

Downtown Cloverdale Sonoma County





EXCELL TINT & DETAILZ LLC

916-678-0883

FINANCING OPTIONS AVAILABLE

 NANO CERAMIC WINDOW TINT	 COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL TINT	 PAINT PROTECTION / CLEAR BRA	 VINYL WRAP	 CERAMIC COATING
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SERVICING CLOVERDALE AND SURROUNDING AREAS

THE CHRISTMAS TABLE

CITRUS FAIR

December 25th / 4:30-6:30 pm

FREE COMMUNITY DINNER

EVERYONE WELCOME



Partnership Opportunities:

- Cloverdale ACE: Register-Round-Up & See's Candy
- Donations: Cash, Online Donations, Raffle Prizes

<https://parksidecloverdale.church/christmastable>

HOSTED BY:

PARKSIDE CHRISTIAN CHAPEL & CLOVERDALE CITRUS FAIR

707-894-2893

CloverdaleChristmasTable@gmail.com



CUSD Employee of the Month

Daisy Ruvalcaba Lopez

Sponsored by Dahlia & Sage Market



We are excited to announce Daisy Ruvalcaba Lopez as the Cloverdale Unified School District Employee of the Month. A 12-year district veteran, Daisy is an exceptional administrative assistant whose impact reaches far beyond any single job description. No matter what questions or challenges cross her desk,

she handles them with remarkable organization, professionalism, and a genuine commitment to helping others. Each morning, she masterfully navigates the ever-changing puzzle of substitute coverage, working with quick thinking and flexibility to ensure classrooms run smoothly and learning continues without disruption.

One of Daisy's greatest strengths is that she always puts students first. No matter how busy the day becomes, she approaches students' needs with care, patience, and a willingness to help. She understands that the little things she does behind the scenes make a big difference in the lives of our students, staff, and families.

That devotion to our youth extends far beyond the front office. As an assistant soccer coach, "Coach Daisy" leads by example, instilling teamwork, perseverance, and respect in our student-athletes both on and off the field. She shows our kids that true success is built on strong character, sportsmanship, and how we treat one another.

Daisy brings warmth, a bright spirit, and unwavering reliability to Washington Middle School and the broader Cloverdale community. Her dedication and compassion make our school a better place every single day. Congratulations, Daisy, and thank you for your outstanding service.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:







Cloverdale Church Guide



Good Shepherd Episcopal Church
Open, Affirming, and Welcoming
Sunday Services at 10 AM
Taize Meditation Hour Tuesdays – 9:30 AM

122 North Main Street, Cloverdale
707-891-6015 / goodshepherdclloverdale.org





Grace Lutheran Church
890 N. Cloverdale Blvd. Cloverdale, CA
www.GraceCloverdale.org

Join us for worship 10:00 am in person
or by web - Facebook LIVE
"Grace Lutheran Church Cloverdale CA"



Worship Service Sundays 10:15am
"Know you're loved"
450 S Franklin St, Cloverdale
707) 894-3274



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
info.parksideclloverdale@gmail.com

Place your Church Ad HERE
Email: adsales@cloverdaleconnect.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.



SAVE THE DATE SHRED - A - THON

We are sponsoring a **FREE Shred-A-Thon** and would like to invite you to come by and securely destroy your documents containing personal information, such as old checks, bills, bank statements, medical tax records, tax forms, pay stubs and more.

Please also consider donating non-perishable canned goods for our canned food drive.

DATE

Saturday, November 14th
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

LOCATION

Corner of Commercial and
2nd Street, Cloverdale

129 N Cloverdale Blvd, #2
Cloverdale, CA 95425



Questions? Contact:
W Real Estate: 707-669-2444 | cloverdale@wrealestate.net

Reading the Room Nora Archambeau, M.A.

"As you move forward toward a dream, the dream moves toward you." — Julia Cameron, author of **The Artist's Way**, journalist, and poet.

Here we are in the full beauty of autumn, e.g., leaves falling in golden, red, and yellow hues; the first appearance of car window condensation; and our fav Pumpkin Spice Latte at Plank (227 N. Cloverdale Blvd.)! This splendor points to current astrological forces at work. Venus, the planet that represents beauty, love, self-care, relationships (to self and others), and financial upgrade is also in retrograde from October 3 to November. 14. If you find yourself feeling more loving, compassionate, and open, attribute it to Venus. In contrast, the planet Mars is in a hard aspect in Leo (forgive me, veteran astrologers!). "Mars is the planet of energy, action, desire, and survival. Named after the Roman god of war, it governs how you assert yourself, chase your goals, and handle conflict." (Al internet) So, have you been feeling the effects of both influences, either happening one after the other, or simultaneously?

This juxtaposition has influenced my dream life. One dream shows that I'm being given larger and larger sums of money, while on the next night, a precognitive dream (see below) instructs me to be on the look-out for someone trying to micro-manage, which incites fury. Alas, this dream is manifesting. Another lesson to absorb, right? For now, it requires the application of calm, loving awareness, and outspokenness. It also helps to read the room first when struggle arises. May lessons stretch us on the pathway to a-wake-ness.

Dream Resources:

1. *The Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity*, 1992; available in hardcopy and e-book at Cloverdale Library.
2. *Precognitive Dream: A dream that foretells or forewarns the dreamer of a person or incident that may come to fruition in waking life.*

Andrés Correa New Director of Operations at La Familia Sana



La Familia Sana is excited to welcome Andrés Correa to La Familia Sana as their new Director of Operations. Andrés brings experience in nonprofit operations, behavioral health, public health, financial management, grants, compliance, and community partnerships across Sonoma County.

Before joining La Familia Sana, Andrés served as Operations Manager at On the Margins Therapy & Psychological Services and spent more than a decade at Santa Rosa

Community Health, where his work included health education, public health programs, care navigation, compliance, and community outreach.

Through collaborative work throughout Sonoma County, Andrés became familiar with La Familia Sana and developed a strong appreciation for the way our organization supports families and the broader community.

"I've gotten to know La Familia Sana through their work in the community, and I've always respected the way the organization shows up for families. I'm excited to now be part of the team and contribute in a new way."

As Director of Operations, Andrés will support staff and leadership, strengthen financial and operational systems, and help build the infrastructure needed for La Familia Sana's continued growth.



ALL VETERANS ARE INVITED

American Legion
Wednesdays

8:30AM FREE Morning Coffee Hour

205 W First Street
Cloverdale, CA 95425

Cloverdale Library Community Connection

John Koetzner, Children's Services Librarian
Things to be Thankful for This Holiday Season

As we move into the holiday season, the library has undergone a number of changes that are finally coming to fruition. Our new library catalog is finally in place with some nice changes. One change is that our Link+ service which gives us access to over seventy libraries from the Oregon border to San Diego is now integrated into the regular catalog instead of being a separate catalog. This makes it a bit easier to search and to track items you borrow through the Link+ interlibrary loan service.

Yet another change is our Libby eBook and audiobook app will now show those checkouts through your library account when you do a login or when you are on the Sonoma County Library app. For staff, we have a more seamless process for ordering books, seeing our branch book budgets in real time, and many more functions that are less time-consuming and more efficient.

One of the other things to be thankful for this season is the new strategic plan that many people in the community gave input into, prior to it being drafted. The new plan was previewed for us at our recent staff day, and it will soon be on the SCL website. We focused on local community to capture the richness of each community the Sonoma County Library serves. If you recall, we called the planning document Your Library, Your Voice.

On another note: Since we are rolling into the holiday season and this is the month we are thankful for so many things, the Friends of the Cloverdale Library will hold their 2026 Annual General meeting on Tuesday, November 17th at 4:00 in the Forum Room of the Library. You are invited to come and learn what projects the Friends have completed during the year, with a fiscal update regarding their fundraising for Library programs and resource materials. The meeting will include delicious treats.

Alonzo – A Canine Companion

Juliana Rial



Canine Companions is a nonprofit organization that provides expertly trained service dogs to children, adults and veterans with disabilities—completely free of charge. Behind every successful partnership is an incredible community of volunteer puppy raisers, trainers, staff, donors and supporters who help make greater independence possible.

As a Canine Companions graduate and service dog handler, I have experienced that mission firsthand through my service dog, Alonzo.

Alonzo knows more than 40 cues that help me navigate everyday life. He can open and close doors and drawers, turn lights on and off, retrieve my phone, keys or cane, pick up dropped items, tug to help me stand, provide deep pressure therapy, speak on command to get someone's attention and even go get help.

But Canine Companions gave me more than an expertly trained service dog—it gave me a community. The support continues long after graduation, and Alonzo and I continue practicing, strengthening his skills and learning new ones as my needs change. I've also had the opportunity to give back through volunteering, education and advocacy.

You don't have to need a service dog to become part of this mission. Canine Companions relies on volunteers across the country. Volunteers can raise a future service dog, help at events, join a local volunteer chapter, assist with outreach and fundraising, or volunteer at a Canine Companions campus.

Every service dog represents countless people who gave their time, love and support along the way. Alonzo has changed my life—and volunteering or donating can help create that same opportunity for someone else.

To learn more about Canine Companions, explore volunteer opportunities or make a donation, visit canine.org.



Cloverdale Christmas Giving Program

Angela Cordova

Help Us Bring Christmas Joy to Local Families

The holiday season is right around the corner, and Michael Velasquez and I are once again raising funds for the Cloverdale Christmas Giving Program through St. Vincent de Paul.

Every year, our amazing sponsors help us provide Christmas gifts and a holiday dinner to families in our community who are facing difficult times.

Every family is carefully vetted and approved for assistance.

You can help by:

- Sponsoring a child or children
- Sending a donation via Venmo or Apple Pay
- Writing a tax-deductible check to St. Vincent de Paul

No contribution is too small!

Together, we can help ensure local families experience the joy and magic of Christmas.

For more information or to become a sponsor, please contact: Angela Cordova, 707-479-8089, call or text

Thank you for your kindness and generosity!



Recently Washington Middle School disc golf club members had a field trip to Lake Sonoma disk golf course with Coach Butler. A great time in the sunshine away from campus, enjoying the great facilities near the hatchery.



Cloverdale Kiwanis Vineyard Races



Traditionally, the Cloverdale Kiwanis Vineyard Races begin with a rowdy countdown and a blaring horn. This year nearly 350 runners instead took a silent moment to remember Dolly Parton and the impact her Imagination Library has had on our community over the last 15 years. They began running to the opening notes of “9 to 5”.

Following a long tradition Race Director, Julie Carter celebrates with the last runner to cross the finish line, 82 year old Daniel Kulula from Windsor. Dan is a long time trail and road runner. He has participated in many of the Cloverdale Kiwanis Vineyard Races.



Tune-up Your Taste Buds – Tisza Bistro ~ Tim Boccia



Did you know there's an untold part of the fable of Little Red Riding Hood? The part the Grimm Brothers left out! Now remember, who was after Little Red Riding Hood in the Black Forest of Germany? The wolf! But she outsmarted him. She knew if she led him to Tisza Bistro in Healdsburg, he would stop trying to eat her - because of Tisza's mouthwatering food.

It worked beautifully - the two shared a table! Ok, so Tisza Bistro is a Central European restaurant (think German, Czech and

Hungarian). House-made sausages (bratwurst, Debreziner, Kasekriner - look them up!). Schnitzels (4 kinds! 2 pork, 1 veal and 1 chicken), as well as the best 8 oz burger in Healdsburg. Usually fish, duck, beef goulash can also be found. Everything has so much umami.

The wolf is hooked on the schnitzels - thinly pounded meats, coated in finely ground breadcrumbs. Pan fried. Each prepared differently. He's had all 4 schnitzels (oh, the jagerschnitzel - mushroom cream sauce!). They're all amazing. Sides the entrees might include buttered spatzle (the delicious, small pasta-like dumplings), braised red cabbage, house-made potato dumplings and pickled veg, etc.

To celebrate Oktoberfest, each Monday this past October had a different Oktoberfest special - multi course for one price. The wolf ordered it - first a rosti (crispy potato pancake) with smoked salmon and sour cream. Then a beef goulash (luscious rich beef stew in a paprika sauce) and 3 sides with it (oh and a dessert) - \$40.

I order my paprika (Hungarian) from Amazon. In Central Europe paprika is an ingredient, not just a garnish.

Also, their take on mac and cheese - spatzle with gooey alpine cheese fondue and crispy shallots. Everything they serve never disappoints. Cool Biergarten there. The wolf says tune-up those taste buds and try it!

Have a smart thermostat? It could earn you \$200.

Enroll your eligible Google Nest, ecobee™, or Sensi thermostat in SCP Rewards and get a \$200 reward, plus a \$5 monthly bill credit.

Once enrolled your smart thermostat will help reduce energy when it matters most, as well as help keep your community powered all summer long.



Scan to learn more
sonomacleanpower.org

Discover
SCP Rewards

Sonoma Clean Power customers with a compatible smart thermostat may qualify.



 **Sonoma
Clean Power**

November Gardening Tips from Sonoma County Master Gardeners

Sponsored by Sanz Nursery



- Now is the time to dig up and divide ornamental grasses and perennials. Make sure to keep roots moist once you've excavated a plant. Set plants in a shaded area and cover roots with damp newspaper while you are working.
- Keep in mind that the main success of any garden is healthy, productive soil, improved with an annual addition of 2-4 in. of compost or well composted, aged manure, or other organic material. Because fresh manure can quickly burn and kill entire plants, it's important that it ages for several months before it has contact with foliage and roots. Work it into the soil a little or spread on top for mulch.
- If you don't have access to manures, then add composted organic material. Adding 2-4 in. of either is best. Your soil will be much improved by spring.
- If you have deciduous trees, rake up leaves as they fall. Shred large leaves before composting or run a lawn mower over them. If not shredded, large, moist leaves will mat and decompose very slowly, making a slippery, gooey mass in your compost pile or on beds.
- Heavy feeders such as roses and fruit trees should get a good dose of organic fertilizer. Winter rain allows nutrients to penetrate into the ground where they break down and are ready to feed plants in spring.
- Although days are often mild in November, we could have frost at any time. The first frost often occurs in the county in mid-November. You can use an anti-desiccant spray such as Cloud Cover or a spun fabric row cover. Covering plants with sheets or lightweight blankets or burlap is another option.
- Spring-flowering bulbs are on display in nurseries and garden centers. When the ground becomes soft from rain, put bulbs in the ground as soon as you can, following package directions.
- Most nurseries have a supply of six-packs of these and other winter bloomers.



NOVEMBER EVENTS CALENDAR

Cloverdale Grocery Outlet

- Nov 4 Wed. 5-7:30pm** Cloverdale FFA Drive-Thru Tri Tip Dinner
Citrus Fairgrounds
- Nov 5 Thurs. 7-9:30pm** "Sakoyana" at the Jazz Club
Cloverdale Arts Alliance, 204 N. Cloverdale Blvd.
- Nov 7 Sat. 11am-3pm** Cloverdale Wine Walk
Downtown Cloverdale
- Nov. 11 Wed. 7:00pm** Healdsburg Community Band Concert -
FREE Veterans Memorial Building.
205 W. First St. Cloverdale.
- Nov 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22** "The Business of Murder"
Cloverdale Performing Arts Center
- Nov 14 Sat. 12-1pm** Veterans Lunch, 1101 S. Cloverdale Blvd.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- "The Blue Lights", Cloverdale Arts Alliance Blues
Night 204 N. Cloverdale Blvd.
- Nov. 17 Tues. 4-5:30pm** Friends of the Library annual meeting
Cloverdale Library
- Nov. 18 Wed. 1pm** Green Thumb Garden Club – "Foraging"
Call 707-321-9062
- Nov. 19 Thurs 6pm** Rotary BINGO! La Tequila,
134 N. Cloverdale Blvd.
- Nov 21 Sat. 10am-2pm** Holiday Craft Fair Cloverdale Senior
Center, 311 N. Main St., Cloverdale

FREE Event Calendar Listings
Highlight YOUR listing \$50
contact adsales@cloverdaleconnect.com



Economy Tree Service
Tree Trimming Tree Removal Stump Grinding Brush Chipping
Cloverdale residents receive 10% off
Expires 11/30/26
Wayne Sager, ISA Certified Arborist
wsager@gmail.com 707-894-0800
ISA Certificate #WE-9731A, Contractor License #946149

Attention Advertisers!

Reserve Holiday advertising in **Cloverdale Connect**

Deadline Friday November 13th!



Make sure your business is featured
in our special annual
Holiday Section.

adsales@cloverdaleconnect.com
707-322-3403

5TH ANNUAL CLOVERDALE FFA DRIVE THRU TRI-TIP DINNER

Purchase Tickets
through Square



\$75.00/family meal
\$40.00/a la carte



Dinner Includes:
1 Full Tri-Tip
Loaf of Bread
Salad
Beans
Dessert

Event location sponsored
by Cloverdale Citrus
Fair



BBQ by Lions Club
Wednesday, November 4th, 2026
@ Citrus Fairgrounds

Start time: 5:00pm-7:30pm
All proceeds go to Cloverdale FFA
Please make checks payable to
Cloverdale FFA Alumni and Supporters



Green Thumb Garden Club

Established in 1957

Grow Your Green Thumb with Us!

When you're out walking in
Cloverdale countryside
Ever wonder how to forage for fun foods and
other interesting stuff?
Learn more about foraging from our
November speaker
Join us at our November 18th meeting
at 1:00 pm

For more information, please contact Karen
Devine at 707 321-9062

Kevin Moore



Kevin Moore, a warm and bright light to all those who have met him, has gone gently into the good night. Kevin was and will always be remembered as a kind and caring soul who was a dedicated public servant and a loving family man. Despite acquiring a non-cancerous lung disease common to firefighters, he maintained a positive outlook, humor, kindness and above all gratitude.

Kevin came to Cloverdale at the age of 20 to join the Fire Department. His long career in public service included serving as the Deputy State Fire Marshal for a large part of Northern California.

Kevin mixed his uncanny powers of observation with a drive for problem solving to help friends and strangers alike.

Kevin was known all over the world for his passion in preserving American farm windmills. His internet videos and websites brought a great opportunity for him to enjoy a feeling of gratefulness that only helping others could bring. He often told his family that it's about the people, not the windmills, that he relished the most.

Kevin's greatest joy came from being with Robin, his wife of 45 years, his daughter Kathy, son-in-law Bryan and his son Loren and daughter-in-law Allye. When speaking of his two granddaughters, Kevin said, "Just when you think you have life all figured out and it can't get much better, grandkids come along filling you up with more happiness than you think you can hold."

Quick with a smile and a corny story or an old adage, he often said, "If we measured our wealth in smiles from strangers and the friends we have acquired, I would be the richest man alive.

Kevin respectfully requested that you donate a wave to a stranger or an extra kind word to a child in his memory at your earliest convenience.

He wanted to remind his friends and family that gratefulness is not just a switch to turn on when things go well; it is also a light that shines in the darkness.



Locked Out, Again! Michele Armanino

Picture this: You're a tired parent, lugging bags of groceries into your trunk while pacifying a crying baby, only to inadvertently lock your keys, and your baby, in the car! **Jesus Chavez**, proprietor of **Cloverdale Lock and Key**, is familiar with this scenario! "When I get these types of calls, I make sure I'm there right away. I've never had to break the glass with a child inside," says Chavez. "Parents are always grateful that I got the job done so quickly,"



Chavez, who immigrated from Michoacan, Mexico when he was twelve years old, was an employee of Redwood Empire Sawmill in Cloverdale for many years. Unfortunately, he hurt his back and was therefore placed in vocational rehabilitation. "I passed the test for an alarm technician and a locksmith," says Chavez. He found a job in northern Santa Rosa at Bill's Lock and Safe Service, Inc., which helped him support his family of five daughters. In 2002 Chavez purchased Cloverdale Lock and Key and simultaneously ran his own store while still working as an employee at Bill's.

"I'm so grateful to be in Cloverdale," says Chavez. "I've never been used to big cities. The people are awesome here and it's an easy commute. I'm so happy to be able to help people in stressful situations. I always try to be there within a half hour, if not the same day. I never get tired of seeing the peace of mind on people's faces when they see me coming."

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Moving Back to Sonoma County ~ Elissa Morrash



Lately I've been wondering if I take a lot for granted. Is it possible that we become complacent, almost unaware, of the goodness of life when we have it? That we tend, as generations do, to dwell on the negatives, the problems, the animosities.

I've recently talked with buyers that left Sonoma County for a property in another state and now want to come back. In some cases, I knew the individuals when they left, so I understand their motivations at the time – a new job, the death of a partner, a desire for a bigger less expensive home for a growing family.

It turns out that what they miss about Sonoma County is both practical and intangible. They miss the weather, which apparently is still better than almost anywhere else in the U.S. They do not miss the threat of wildfires but in their new

areas they are dealing with tornadoes and hurricanes. They do not miss the high cost of living here. Taxes and cost of gas are things that came up with everyone. On the other hand, they all missed what they called quality of life. Abundance of fresh organic foods, innovative restaurants instead of fast food, the geographic beauty of the county, and of course the coast. One said, sort of grimly, that her new state had the fewest environmental regulations of any place in the U.S. It seems that after a time, the 'high' cost of living here dims in comparison to the quality of life and benefits of living here.

The other intangible is the people. They found the people here, the attitudes, the graciousness of their neighbors to be what they missed most. We have large and small communities and neighborhoods, all with widely different experiences and lifestyles.

As a real estate advisor, I will say that returning to Sonoma County is not easy, but the rewards are pretty great. Something to be thankful for.

Elissa Morrash (DRE 01872845 is a licensed Global Advisor with Engel & Völkers Healdsburg and a Cloverdale resident. Her community service includes the Cloverdale Planning Commission, Cloverdale History Museum and Chamber of Commerce. Call or text (707) 694-8821 for a real estate consultation. Elissamorrash.evrealestate.com

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CUSD News ~ Glen Senestraro

Autumn Achievements and Community Spirit Across CUSD

As fall foliage turns bright gold and orange across the Alexander Valley, our Cloverdale Unified School District campuses are buzzing with vibrant learning, athletic milestones, and dedicated community engagement. From celebrating bilingual achievements to honoring our school leadership, our educators and scholars continue to uphold the district's core mission: Engage, Challenge, Nurture.

- **At Jefferson Elementary**, early literacy and language acquisition remain front and center. Under the dedicated leadership of Principal Holden and staff, our young scholars have been demonstrating exceptional progress in the classroom as we head into the second quarter.
- **Reclassification Ceremony**: Jefferson MPR hosted CUSD's Reclassification Ceremony, honoring English Learner students who have successfully achieved full English proficiency. This milestone reflects years of hard work by students, teachers, and supportive families.
- **TK & Kindergarten Enrollment Openings**: Families looking ahead to the upcoming school year can schedule guided campus tours directly with Principal Holden. Jefferson's Universal Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program continues to give our youngest learners a joyful, structured jumpstart on their educational journey.
- **Washington Middle School** students have embraced autumn with tremendous energy, balancing academic rigor with active participation in campus leadership and outdoor learning.
- **STEM & Hands-on Exploration**: WMS science classes have taken full advantage of autumn weather to engage in environmental science projects, investigating local soil health and ecology right here in North Sonoma County.
- **Positive Campus Culture**: The WMS Associated Student Body (ASB) leadership team recently organized campus-wide spirit activities emphasizing inclusion, peer support, and kindness, ensuring every middle schooler feels connected and valued.
- It has been an action-packed season for our **Cloverdale High School Eagles!** Showing off their proud Blue and Gold colors, CHS students are excelling both in the classroom and on the field.
- **Eagles Athletics & Spirit**: Dressed in signature Blue and Gold, the CHS athletic teams and spirit squads delivered high-energy performances throughout their fall schedule, drawing enthusiastic crowds of residents, alumni, and families to the stands.
- **Board Room Spotlight**: CHS hosted the CUSD Regular Board of Education meeting in the High School Library. Student representatives shared key updates regarding campus clubs, college application workshops for seniors, and hands-on career-technical education (CTE) pathways.
- **JEH Continuation High School** continues to show what personalized instruction, and strong community support can achieve. Serving students through targeted academic pathways, JEH highlights the strength of flexible, student-centered learning.
- **Individualized Pathways to Graduation**: Small class sizes at JEH have enabled tailored learning plans this term, allowing several upperclassmen to accelerate credit recovery and stay on track for mid-year and spring graduation targets.
- **Life Skills & Career Prep**: Students at JEH participated in career readiness workshops focusing on practical post-secondary paths, resume building, and local community service partnerships, fostering civic pride and real-world confidence.

Thank you to our dedicated teachers, staff, parents, and community members who make Cloverdale Unified School District a warm, supportive home for every student. Go Eagles!

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Washington Middle School Cross Country 2026 League Champions — Boys & Girls Jamie Ogiamien

The Washington Middle School Eagles Cross Country team had an incredible 2026 season! From mid-August through mid-October, our 13 dedicated runners—six girls and seven boys—showed up, worked hard, supported one another, and competed consistently throughout the season.

All that hard work paid off at the NVL League Finals, where **both our girls' and boys' teams earned FIRST PLACE, becoming League Champions!** This outstanding accomplishment reflects the dedication, perseverance, teamwork, and determination each athlete demonstrated throughout the season.

Girls League Champions:

- Evelyn Cruz — 6th grade
- Trinity Cook — 8th grade (returner)
- Alexa Zuniga — 6th grade
- Yaretzi Barajas Becerra — 8th grade
- Itzayana Barajas — 6th grade
- Layla Villanueva — 6th grade

Boys League Champions:

- Flynn Cook — 8th grade (returner)
- Liam Hickman — 7th grade (returner)
- Noah Peterson — 8th grade (returner)
- Quinn Wilton — 8th grade (returner)
- Caine Angel — 8th grade
- Clayton Vickers — 8th grade (returner)
- Theo Kellogg — 8th grade

As I wrap up my second year coaching, I couldn't be prouder of this group. Beyond the wins and race times, these athletes demonstrated what cross country is truly about: commitment, resilience, encouragement, and pushing yourself to be better than you were yesterday.

Congratulations, Eagles! Two teams, two league championships, one incredible season!



Left to right back row: Caine Angel, Noah Peterson, Quinn Wilton, Clayton Vickers, Theo Kellogg, Trinity Cook, Flynn Cook, Jamie Ogiamien, Layla Villanueva.

Left to right front row: Liam Hickman, Yaretzi Barajas Becerra, Evelyn Cruz, Alexa Zuniga, Itzayana Barajas.

Remembering Mama Nina's Mary Jo Winter

Back in the 1970s and 1980s, Mama Nina's north of town was the place to go for traditional family-style Italian American cuisine.

The community-centered restaurant built its reputation on serving generous helpings of comfort food staples like spaghetti, ravioli and lasagna, each smothered in a rich, slow-cooked red sauce, as well as dishes like Chicken Parmigiana and Eggplant Parmigiana.

Located next to Redwood Empire Lumber on Redwood Highway North, the building had previously been the long-time home of Ernie's Saw Shop. Operating as an industrial saw sales, sharpening and small engine repair facility, it catered to the local timber and lumber workforce that defined Cloverdale's economy during that period.

During the transition from an industrial building to a restaurant, workers managed to maintain its rustic roadhouse charm, while adding a few modern touches, like the custom-matched hardwood floor and bar counter installed by the late Jack Stuart.

Just like there was no real Aunt Jemima behind the pancakes, there was no real Mama Nina behind the restaurant either. There were, however, Ethel Braccialini with her warm and friendly tableside presence serving the meals, and Sherry Schuler in the kitchen crafting the tempting recipes that defined the restaurant's unique style.

Ethel came to Cloverdale as a teenager and spent many years waitressing at a number of local restaurants, including the Encore and the Grapevine. A front-of-the-house icon, Ethel had a way of making each guest feel special, which added to the welcoming ambiance of dining at Mama Nina's.

Sherry moved to town as a child. Her parents, Fred and Eugenia Oster, settled on the Preston Ranch, where they ran a boys camp for a number of years. She married her high school sweetheart, David Shuler, and had five children. Her distinctive culinary skills greatly contributed to the success of Mama Nina's.

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Healdsburg Hospital is helping Sonoma County residents reclaim their mobility and return to the activities they enjoy most. As part of the Providence family of organizations, the hospital offers advanced spine care close to home for conditions including degenerative disc disease, spinal stenosis, fractures and pinched nerves.

What sets Healdsburg Hospital apart is the combination of advanced surgical capabilities with the personalized experience of a community hospital. Patients benefit from care delivered by a dedicated team that is deeply connected to the community while utilizing many of the same leading-edge techniques and technologies found at larger regional medical centers.

The spine program provides both operative and non-operative treatments, choosing the least invasive solution whenever possible. Services include regenerative therapies, minimally invasive procedures and advanced surgical options, including emerging techniques such as endoscopic spine surgery.

Patients commonly seek specialty spine care for persistent neck or back pain, as well as symptoms such as numbness, tingling, weakness, or pain radiating into the arms or legs. Following a comprehensive evaluation, the care team develops an individualized treatment plan tailored to each patient's condition, goals and lifestyle.

For patients who require surgery, Healdsburg Hospital offers streamlined outpatient services, experienced surgical teams and advanced pain management protocols that help support recovery and reduce downtime.



"One of the most rewarding parts of this work is seeing patients return to the things they love," said Dr. Yoshihiro Katsuura, orthopedic surgeon specializing in adult and pediatric spine care with Healdsburg Physician Group. "Whether that's spending time with family, staying active or enjoying a favorite hobby, that's what it's all about."

By combining advanced technology, minimally invasive techniques and personalized care, Healdsburg Hospital's spine program helps patients find relief, regain function and move forward with confidence.

To learn more, call 707-431-6376 or visit providence.org/healdsburghospital.



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My Final Corny Story (In Memoriam)
Kevin Moore

You can tell everyone that in the "old days," we had to take down the American flag every night at the fire station or risk a nighttime phone call from everyone from the mayor to the cub scout leaders for leaving the flag up after sunset. I once got a call at midnight from the fire chief who said, "Get your ass on the roof of the firehouse and shine a flashlight at the flag all night long or take the flag down at sunset." That lesson taught me a great deal about the importance of respect for others' beliefs and the great value of understanding what is important to someone else, should be important to me.



1981

The next day, to get out of the doghouse with the chief, I planned to raise a brand-new flag. I made sure I polished my boots, checked to make sure my uniform looked good and went out without another soul around and put up the new flag at 7:00 a.m. on the dot. As I did, I had an overwhelming feeling of respect for that flag and for myself. The chief came in the next morning and said something about how the new flag looked great and to my surprise, that was the end of the subject.

Forty-three years have passed, and I still have that same feeling when I see a flag being raised. Today is a new day, full of memoirs of yesterday but full of endless possibilities.

PS: Everyone in town heard the story of the late-night phone call. It became a running joke for years.



On the Wild Side
Jennifer Molidor

In the golden-amber valleys of Sonoma County, wild turkeys chart a rhythmic path beneath moss-draped branches of valley oaks. They forage through sun-dappled carpets of fallen acorns, their iridescent feathers catching the shifting light in sudden flashes of copper, emerald, and midnight blue.

They love to move together, as one. I've watched them move in unison among vineyards and wild chaparral, their clucks and trills punctuating the morning stillness. They are both wild and interwoven with the land.

Wild turkeys are very chatty with each other, which helps build relationships. They're gentle and social, and mothers are protective of their flocks (a group of male turkeys is called a gang or posse). They fly up to 55 miles per hour and live for 10 years. They've even infiltrated our language, in phrases like "talk turkey" or go "cold turkey." We might even call someone a turkey.

In North America, wild turkeys have held a cultural role for millions of years. They were revered by the Aztecs as a manifestation of a trickster god. The Navajo were among the first to domesticate turkeys. After centuries of hunting and habitat loss, there were few left in California. They were reintroduced to the Golden State in the 20th century, though once native here.



On Thanksgiving morning, our community celebrates a season of gratitude with a 5K Turkey Trot. Run or walk at your own pace, starting at the Cloverdale Plaza and meander along the Cloverdale Riverpark trail. Burn calories before the holiday meal and get out in nature for a little socializing, remembering the lessons of the wild turkey.

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Mario Dell'Olio finds reading **Cloverdale Connect** in Italy more interesting than the Coliseum!

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

Last month was a monumental one, my home in Ukiah was sold with real estate agent Mayra Benitez effortlessly and without any drama...well I say without drama, but to be perfectly honest I had to clear the house of over forty years of accumulated belongings, actually well over sixty years when you count the items brought from our families' home in San Francisco when we relocated to Potter Valley in 1964. I mention this because the emotional sorting and disposal of a lifetime of memories can be overwhelming. Thankfully, with the assistance of Cherie Blower, owner of Ukiah Thrift Shop and family members, the process was completed.

If you or someone you know is facing this daunting task, engage the trusted assistance of experts and give thanks for their support.

Giving thanks is the focal point of this season. Actually, being thankful is an everyday occurrence, because Every Day is a holiday. The gift of Life and Love is to be celebrated, every day in every way. Keep your thoughts clear of negativity, smile whenever you can, especially when meeting another person. Remember, "A friend was once a stranger you met along the way."

KOWSfm.com radio is proud to broadcast the sounds of the season 24/7/365 and appreciates our loyal listeners and underwriters, without whom we would not exist.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!



THINGS WE'RE THANKFUL FOR.

This November, we're reflecting on the relationships and community that makes what we do so rewarding.

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- Our community
- Our families
- Our hardworking team
- Safe travels
- Another year together

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October Cloverdale Weather Recap

Average High Temperature 91°F
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Alexander Valley Healthcare Welcomes Katherine Hylan Kirsten Tellez



Alexander Valley Healthcare (AVH) is thrilled to welcome Katherine Hylan, FNP, CNM, to our provider staff. Katherine brings more than a decade of California clinical experience in primary care and women’s health to AVH. A graduate of the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, Katherine has cared for diverse communities across rural and urban settings, including serving in the Peace Corps in Senegal and on the frontlines in Boston during the COVID-19 pandemic

Katherine believes great primary care starts with seeing the whole person. She thinks of each patient as a unique puzzle, bringing together their history, symptoms, imaging, specialist recommendations, and lived experience to understand the bigger picture. She works with patients to identify what matters most to them and develop practical, realistic plans through shared decision-making. Her goal is to help patients navigate a complicated healthcare system while keeping their individual needs and goals at the center.

Having fallen in love with Northern California during her nursing rotations, Katherine is excited to care for neighbors right here in Cloverdale. Outside the clinic, she is a mother of two elementary-aged children, coaches youth recreational sports, and enjoys camping, road trips, and outdoor adventures with her family, big dog, and two cats.

Katherine is currently accepting new patients at Alexander Valley Healthcare. To schedule an appointment, call (707) 894-4229 or visit alexandervalleyhealthcare.org.



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Two Locations, One Important Decision

SMART Survey for Healdsburg Station Location

SMART is bringing passenger rail service back to Healdsburg for the first time in nearly 70 years, and the public is invited to help inform an important decision: **Where should the Healdsburg SMART station be located?**

Two locations are being considered: **Depot/Hudson**, adjacent to Healdsburg's historic rail depot, and **Vine/West Plaza/Downtown**, near the Healdsburg Plaza. Although the locations are only about 0.45 miles apart, they differ in their proximity to homes, jobs and destinations; walking, bicycling and transit connections; parking; surrounding land uses; and opportunities for future development. The station will serve both the Healdsburg community and people traveling to and from Healdsburg throughout the SMART corridor.

SMART is conducting a public survey to gather input on the future location of the Healdsburg station. Residents, workers, businesses, visitors, and current and future SMART riders are encouraged to participate and share their travel needs, preferences and thoughts about the two locations. **The survey is available in both English and Spanish:**

<https://www.sonomamarintrain.org/healdsburgstationlocation>
 Located at the bottom of the web page.

Please complete the survey by Monday, November 30, 2026, at midnight.



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Shade Structures at the Dog Park

Rotary Club of Cloverdale, California, president Preston Addison and past president Robert Redner check the new plaque recognizing the club for providing shade structures at the Cloverdale Dog Park. Businesses contributing time and materials include Karma Dog Construction, Todd Lands Construction, Barnes Lumber and Ace Hardware.

Thank you, all!





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Are Smartphones Done Developing? ~ Will Carter

In January, Apple will begin to ship their newest and edgiest iPhone: The iPhone Duo. This device will be Apple's first take on a folding smartphone, something which has been rumored to be coming since long before the first folding smartphone, the Samsung Galaxy Fold, was released more than seven years ago.

As a technology enthusiast and professional I found myself feeling ambivalent about this new iPhone, which led me to realize: Most new phones are boring now, but that might be a good thing for most people! Watching the advent and initial development of the smartphone was exciting. Innovations and changes came in every generation of devices, which made them desirable and more functional. With time those innovations have slowed, improvements have become incremental, and owning the newest device has become more fashionable, less tech focused, and certainly not a necessity.

So, what is the good that I see in this change? For most consumers, smartphones are an essential good for modern life, much like cars. My average customer drives a "normal" car and uses a "normal" smartphone; few are updating either

to the latest model before they need to. As smartphones have migrated to an essential development cycle, some good changes have come:

- Phones are lasting longer! Smartphones themselves are capable of running longer without repairs and have plateaued in their performance for most users.
- New phones are being kept for longer, with the current average ownership cycle reaching well over three years! That's a much longer lifetime than the formerly popular 24 month "upgrade" cycle.
- There are fewer must-have new technologies, meaning iPhone and Android users have similar options and feature sets. When Apple rolls out "new" features for the iPhone Duo, they're mostly to do with it being their first folding phone.

Just like it has been for the last seven years of folding screens on Android phones, I expect that few regular smartphone purchasers will jump on the Duo. No matter which smartphone you get next, be sure to choose something based on your needs, not flashy marketing or "new" features.

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Let's Travel Craig Clark

Don't Let Your Luggage Disappear: Smarter Ways to Track Your Bags

Few things can ruin the start of a trip faster than standing at the baggage carousel while everyone else collects their suitcases. The good news? Travelers now have more ways than ever to keep tabs on their luggage—and finding a missing bag may be easier if you use more than one tracking method.

Airlines mishandled about 24 million bags worldwide in 2025, although the overall mishandling rate dropped 23% to 4.9 bags per 1,000 passengers. International travelers face an even greater risk, with bags five times more likely to be mishandled than on domestic flights.

Stack Your Tracking

Travel experts recommend “**tracker stacking**”—using two different tracking technologies. An iPhone traveler, for example, might put an Apple AirTag inside the suitcase and add a Tile using a separate network. Android users can combine a Tile with a Samsung SmartTag2.

Another option is “**High-Low Tracking**.” Place a Bluetooth tracker inside the suitcase and attach a permanent QR-coded identification tag to the outside. The tracker can help locate the bag, while the QR code gives someone who finds it a way to contact you.

For maximum redundancy, consider a **three-layer approach**: a primary tracker, a second tracker on a different network and a permanent identification tag.

Why so much backup? Airline baggage systems depend largely on barcode scans, while personal trackers rely on nearby smartphones or compatible devices. If an airline tag is damaged or a bag misses a scan, your personal tracker may still reveal its location.

Take a Few Precautions

Before leaving home, photograph your suitcase and its contents. At check-in, photograph the baggage tag, particularly its 10-digit identification number.

And remember: trackers are insurance, not magic. Keep medications, valuables, important documents and a change of clothes in your carry-on.

The best way to find lost luggage is to know where it is. The second-best strategy is making sure you can manage without it for a day or two.

Looking to the Future of the Cloverdale History Center and Museum

The Cloverdale Historical Society recently hosted a member event in which we provided an update on what the Society has done in the last few years and the challenges we face for the future. We want to share some of this with you.

The Society maintains the Gould Shaw home and garden Museum and the History Center. The Center holds a substantial number of artifacts and information about Cloverdale through the years as well as a research library and ongoing exhibits. These all are open to the public.

As a nonprofit organization, maintenance of the Museum and Center is dependent on volunteers and funding from member dues and donations. Like most nonprofits, we have ongoing expenses needed to keep the Museum and Center open, but we do not have ongoing, consistent income to address these expenses. This is a constant challenge for us. During the past two years, we developed a streamlined budget to address monthly costs, however, we also identified repairs that are critical to maintaining the Gould Shaw and Center buildings. We continue to need funding for these repairs.

To save costs, we no longer have paid staff. Board members, docents, and gardeners are volunteers. Together, we strive to keep the Museum, garden, and Center as valuable resources for Cloverdale. We would love to add Board members and other volunteers and new members to our Historical Society family. While there is plenty to do and a dire need for funding, we have fun working together and fulfilling the vision of preserving Cloverdale history and helping the community learn about Cloverdale. Please join us! Visit us at 215 North Cloverdale Blvd., email us at office@cloverdalehistory.org, and explore our website (cloverdalehistory.org) to learn about and support the Historical Society.



Cloverdale, We Need Your Help!

The Cloverdale Winter Festival is right around the corner, and we're calling on our amazing community to help bring the holiday magic to Downtown Cloverdale!

Friday, December 4, 2026 ~ Downtown Cloverdale
Festival Hours: 5:00–8:30 PM

We have several ways for you, your family, friends, or business to get involved!

DAY-OF SETUP VOLUNTEERS | 9 AM–2 PM

Help us transform downtown into a winter wonderland!

1. Decorating Christmas trees
2. Hanging ornaments and holiday decorations
3. Setting up festive displays
4. Setting up tables and event areas

FESTIVAL BAR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers must have the required certification to serve alcohol.

Shift 1: 5:00–6:30 PM

Shift 2: 6:30–9:00 PM (includes cleanup)

COOKIE DECORATING VOLUNTEERS | 5–6:30 PM

Help supervise our cookie decorating station and make the evening extra special for the kids!

CAN'T VOLUNTEER THE DAY OF? YOU CAN STILL HELP!

Have empty boxes lying around at home? Don't throw them away! We want to turn them into beautifully wrapped Christmas presents to decorate Downtown Cloverdale!

1. Gather empty boxes of all shapes and sizes from home.
2. Wrap them in festive holiday wrapping paper! Get creative with colors, patterns, and bows.
3. Drop off your finished presents at the Cloverdale Chamber of Commerce before Winter Festival!

This is a perfect opportunity for families, students, classrooms, local businesses, and community groups to get involved on their own schedules. The more presents, the merrier!

Contact: Cloverdale Chamber of Commerce, 707-894-4470; info@cloverdalechamber.com

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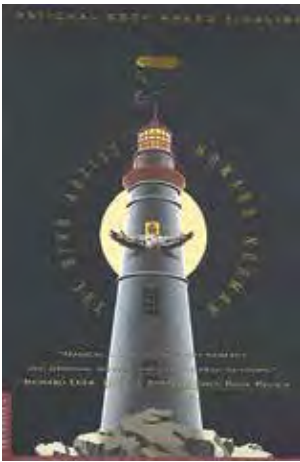


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Off The Shelf
Susan Erkel Ryan
***The Bird Artist* by Howard Norman**



In October 2014, I drove out to Point Reyes Station to one of my favorite bookstores to hear Howard Norman—one of my favorite authors—speak about his wonderful new book, **Next Life Might Be Kinder**. When I arrived, the bookstore was dark. Taken aback for a moment, I remembered my own days as a bookseller; I, too, often closed early to take a visiting author to dinner. So, I found a bench nearby and waited.

Across the street, a man paused at an ATM. "That looks like Howard Norman", I thought. Just then, he turned, caught my eye, and walked across the street with a wide smile. Extending his hand, he announced, "I'm Howard Norman." What ensued was a delightful half-hour conversation—the prelude to tea on a terrace overlooking Tomales Bay a year later. But that is another story.

Howard Norman always begins his books with an admission of a crime. From there the tale unfolds within an evocative haunting setting full of melancholy, deep lies and forbidden truths. The principal character is usually a hapless male, an antihero, that is volleyed about by people and the world in general as he tries to navigate life. Norman's muse is often Nova Scotia, particularly Halifax but in ***The Bird Artist*** (one of my all-time favorites) he moves north into a desolate fishing village on the coast of Newfoundland.

The first paragraph sets the tone:

"My name is Fabian Vas. I live in Witless Bay, Newfoundland. You would not have heard of me. Obscurity is not necessarily failure, though; I am a bird artist, and have more or less made a living at it. Yet I murdered the lighthouse keeper, Botho August, and that is an equal part of how I think of myself."

The Bird Artist enchants and chills much like a Grimm's fairy tale, spun from themes of survival, poverty, abandonment, and retribution. This folklore quality likely stems from Norman's early career as an ethnographer translating Inuit myths. Yet, unlike the Brothers Grimm, love remains firmly at the core of Norman's work—love for people, birds, nature, and the wild, unpredictable ocean.

The Bird Artist is a perfect autumn read. Norman isn't just a great writer; he's a mesmerizing storyteller who holds you spellbound until the final sentence. Make a cup of tea, get cozy, and dive right into this haunting read.

Cloverdale FFA Report
Maysin Cavness

Our biggest highlight from the past month was the FFA Haunted House, which turned out great. Members, officers, and drama worked together to plan, decorate, and set everything up, and it was awesome seeing all of the hard work come together. Thank you to everyone who came out to support the event and help make it such a success!

Cloverdale FFA was also proud to host the Sectional Opening and Closing competition. The Officer Team placed 1st overall and earned Gold, with Baileigh Wilson receiving Star Vice President and Emiliano Lopez receiving Star Sentinel. Our Advanced Gold team placed 2nd overall and earned Gold, with Isabella Secchitano receiving Star Treasurer. Advanced Blue team earned Silver. The Spanish team placed 3rd overall and earned Silver, with Valeria Anguiano Alfaro receiving Star Sentinel, while both Novice teams earned Bronze. We are extremely proud of the time and effort our FFA members put into practicing and representing Cloverdale FFA!



Be sure to join us for the annual Tri-Tip Dinner on November 4th at the Citrus Fair!

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City Council Report

Eleanore Webster

On **September 23**, Council proclaimed 9/15 to 10/15 Latino Heritage Month. Marcelino Figueroa, Senior Center Board member, community volunteer and all-around good person, was present to receive recognition. Council proclaimed Pollution Prevention Week (9/21 to 9/27), Creek Week (9/20 to 9/26), and National Public Lands Day (9/26). Casey Carr, Russian River Clean Team, was present to receive recognition.

Council held the 4th public hearing on District-based elections. Council selected Map 106, decided a 2-year Mayor's term, and determined the sequence of district elections. District 2 will be first in 2028, followed by Districts 1, 3 and 4 in 2030. District 4 will be a 2-year term to start. Future annexations would impact adjacent districts. Unless the annexed area is more than 25% of the city's population, there is no need to redistrict before the subsequent census.

Council considered proposed guidelines for funding of local nonprofits. Council wants to develop better ways of selecting recipients and holding them transparent and accountable for use of City funds. Finally, Council considered a request to add a staff member for the City Clerk's department. This will be in the next budget.

On **October 14**, Council proclaimed 10/3 to 10/11 Water and Wastewater Professionals Week. Cloverdale's Wastewater Pro, Jay Robinson, was present to receive recognition. Council then adopted the ordinance to establish district-based elections.

Most of the meeting involved the proposed Esmeralda project. The proposal involves amendments to the General Plan, Specific Plan, and Zoning. Esmeralda representative Devon Zugel and others presented the proposal (see agenda and video). Esmeralda made changes to the proposal based on input from the Planning Commission. Changes include an independent environmental oversight expert reporting to the City. An addendum to the 2009 EIR includes much of what would be in a new EIR. Both documents have mitigation measures that address environmental safety. This is a well-known site, so previous uses are known: lumber, wood preservation, wood waste disposal, and truck repair. Past contamination is well documented. Surface soil containing PCP and CCA were excavated and disposed of off-site.

There were many public comments and Esmeralda responses. Council members then discussed options for further discussion and a new EIR. Over the next month, there will be scheduled and special Council meetings on Wednesday evenings. They will identify topics, so people are aware of discussion points. November 4 is the set for the proposal's first reading and November 11 for the second reading. Council members can change their minds between the two readings.



Friends of the Cloverdale Library

Do you know who the Friends of the Cloverdale Library are or what they do? The Friends of the Library is a group of dedicated people who want to promote and support reading and literacy for all ages of individuals in the Cloverdale community. We do this by supporting several programs and services offered by the Library throughout the year. We raise funds to support the Library from member dues, donations, and the sale of books, magazines, paperback books, CDs, DVDs, and puzzles in the Library Lobby.

The Friends of the Cloverdale Library invite you to our annual



Jack Lyle

Jack was born on January 26, 1933, and passed away peacefully on September 24, 2026 at the age of 93. He grew up in Cloverdale leaving his senior year to join the U.S. Marines where he earned a Purple Heart and Bronze Star while serving in the Korean Conflict. Jack returned to Cloverdale where he worked for many years in the lumber industry while raising his family. He was married to his wife, Rose, for 72 years and they had four children, Judy Lyle Miller, John Lyle, Angela (Jon) Hetrick and Karen (Steve) Stewart. Jack loved to hunt, fish, golf, and was an avid gardener. He is survived by his wife, his children and his eight grandchildren.



Pictured at the Green Thumb Garden Clubs rest stop preparing to receive almost 300 hungry bike riders attending the 18th Annual Rotary "Asti Tour de Vine" bicycling event are Rotarian Frank Crivello, Susie Cummings, Garden Club President Deb Hall, Rotarian Dr. Bill Hoyer, Suzy Palmer, and Rotarian Robert Redner.

Every year the Garden Club continues to dazzle the riders with pure and homemade foods, enhancing the already extremely popular ride. Rotary sincerely thanks them for their service.



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Cooking with David Maciel
Sponsored by Ray's Food Place

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. It's the gathering of family and friends to enjoy a wonderful meal. If you're like me, I'm really a stickler about mashed potatoes. It's a relatively easy recipe but there are a few key ingredients and processes that can make the potatoes go from good to wow!!

Mashed Potatoes

I like to use Yukon gold potatoes, but Russet potatoes work just fine. Warming the dairy products is a key component. It prevents starch seizing - cold milk or butter hitting hot potatoes causes the starch molecules to tighten and turn gluey or sticky. Adding sour cream will give the potatoes a creamy texture. That's the wow part!

Ingredients:

- 3 pounds Yukon Gold or Russet potatoes (peeled and cut into 2-inch chunks)
- ½ cup unsalted butter (1 stick), plus extra for serving
- ½ to 1 cup whole milk or half-and-half (warm)
- 1½ teaspoons sea salt (plus extra for the boiling water)
- 3 cloves garlic (optional, peeled)
- Freshly ground black pepper or white pepper (to taste)
- ¼ to ½ cup sour cream (optional, for extra richness)

Instructions:

- 1) Place the potato chunks and garlic cloves into a large pot and cover them with cold water by about 1 inch. Add a generous tablespoon of salt to the water.
- 2) Bring the water to a boil over high heat, then reduce the heat to medium. Gently boil for 15 to 20 minutes until you can easily pierce the potatoes with a fork.
- 3) Drain the potatoes well in a colander, shake off excess water, and return them to the hot pot for 1 to 2 minutes to let extra moisture evaporate.
- 4) While the potatoes cook, gently heat the butter and milk (or half-and-half) together in a small saucepan until the butter melts.
- 5) Mash the hot potatoes by hand using a potato masher or potato ricer. Gradually pour in the warm milk and butter mixture while gently mashing until smooth and creamy. Avoid overmixing to keep the texture light instead of gummy.
- 6) Stir in the sour cream, salt, and black pepper to taste. Top with extra butter or fresh chives or parsley before serving.

Avian Almanac ~ A Walk With Merlin
Robert Bauer

Cornell University, our nation's premier ornithological research institution, provides a rich variety of avian educational opportunities & activities for the general public to include forums, webinars, online classes through the Bird Academy, and public participation in nation-wide birding research opportunities.

Their grand achievement is Cornell Lab's public access bird sound database called "Merlin Sound ID." Distributed for free, the bird identification application can be downloaded from the Cornell Lab website (<https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>) in either Android or iOS platforms. Merlin Sound ID is currently available for 2,066 species of birds, and includes comprehensive coverage of the entire United States. You can participate in adding new species to Cornell's Sound ID database by making sound recordings of birds in your area and uploading them to "eBird Checklists" along with geographic, seasonal, and date & time information.

But, for me, the most rewarding activity provided by this technology is simply "taking a walk with Merlin," and immersing myself in the delightful cacophony of bird-chat. As it turns out, there's a good reason for that. Not only have birds and birding become recognized by many as a wonderful form of nature therapy, but a study published in the February 2026 issue of the Journal of Neuroscience found that "Birding strengthens cognitive function by transforming momentary personal experiences into lasting knowledge." Dr. Erik Wing, lead author on the study and a neuroscientist at the Rotman Research Institute in Toronto, Canada found that "by accumulating sightings and experiences, birders develop complex mental networks as they connect species, behaviors, sounds, and habitats to identify birds." In other words, birding may enhance the brain's capacity to rewire and adapt.

So, to start your walk, open up the Merlin Sound ID application and start recording. As you walk along, bird sounds are picked up by the application and identified in real time. At the walk's conclusion you'll end up with a list of birds identified through their sounds. By paying attention to the application as it picks up individual bird sounds, you can eventually learn to identify the sounds on your own. Before long, you'll be amazing your friends with your bird sound expertise. And, as an added bonus, you'll be smarter.



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