

# Chulatarian

Rotary  
Club of Chula Vista 

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ROTARY CLUB  
OF CHULA VISTA

The weekly newsletter of the Rotary Club of Chula Vista  
Chartered February 16, 1926 - Club Number 908 - District 5340  
Meets Weekly, Noon, 4475 Bonita Road, Bonita (Chula Vista Golf Course)

**ANDREA CALDWELL**  
**JACOBS & CUSHMAN SAN DIEGO FOOD BANK**  
Friday, January 23, 2026 - Noon

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[www.chulavistarotary.org](http://www.chulavistarotary.org)

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Established in 1977, the Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank is a critical component to the welfare of San Diego County, providing nutritious food to people in need, advocating for the hungry and educating the public about hunger-related issues. For more information about the organization, please visit [www.sandiegofoodbank.org](http://www.sandiegofoodbank.org).

The Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank and our North County Food Bank Chapter provide nutritious food to people in need, advocate for the hungry, and educate the public about hunger-related issues.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- The San Diego Food Bank feeds approximately 400,000 people every month in partnership with 450 nonprofit community partners.
- They are the fourth largest independent food bank in the country.
- They distributed 52 million pounds of food in fiscal year 2024-2025; almost 45% of that food being fresh produce.
- They have a 99% rating on Charity Navigator.

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## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - JANUARY 16, 2026

President Ben Koala called the meeting to order. Jan Mellinger gave the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance.

Songmaster Chuck Bevan selected “YMCA!” to get the meeting started and energized.

Upon reconvening, Board Treasurer Risa Baron introduced guests and visiting Rotarians.

President Ben reviewed upcoming programs and events, then paused for lunch.

He discussed the Rotary Means Business event held on Tuesday, January 13th, which he was very involved with forming. This is a gathering of Rotarians from across the region that provides a important opportunity to network and make new lasting contacts.

Ben also mentioned the Three Kings Day event that was happening on Saturday, January 17.

Betty Waznis provided the Jim Biddle News at Noon, sponsored this week by Tom Davies.

The drawing winners were Leon Redondo, Kimberley Marshall and Wendy Messina.

Tiffany Allen, the new City Manager of Chula Vista, provided an update on the many projects and activities underway. (Notes by Bill Torre—thanks!)



News sponsor Tom Davies pictured with this week’s winners: (l-r) Wendy Messina, Kimberley Marshall and Leon Redondo. (Photos by Bernard Hernandez)

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## JIM BIDDLE NEWS AT NOON by Betty Waznis

LIVE



Brought to you by:

THIS WEEK'S  
SPONSOR

With Betty Waznis

Hello, everyone. Welcome to today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today sponsored by Tom Davies. For the first time in three years the whole length of Pacific Coast Highway is open.

The newly restored seven-mile-long section, which opened Wednesday, had closed after two major landslides in 2023 and 2024. Both are in Big Sur, the remote beautiful coastal region that draws millions of visitors a year. The region has more than 1,500 active slide areas, making it among the most landslide-prone areas in the Western United States. In some places, chunks of the road had slipped into the ocean. In others, more than a million tons of earth had barreled onto the highway, slicing it to pieces. Caltrans has managed to stabilize the slopes with thousands of steel reinforcements drilled up to 60 feet deep.

On Monday Google parent Alphabet Inc became the fourth Big Tech powerhouse to be valued at \$4 trillion, a once unbelievable milestone resulting from the artificial intelligence arms race. Alphabet joined the \$4 trillion club on the same day that Apple announced it will rely on Google's AI technology to help smarten up its virtual assistant Siri after coming up short in its own efforts to bring more advanced features to the iPhone. The \$4 trillion club has previously welcomed computer chipmaker Nvidia, which became the first to cross the barrier in July. Both Apple and Microsoft also surpassed market values of \$4 trillion last year, but they have fallen back amid worries that the spending spree on AI will turn into a bubble. Closely following are Amazon valued at \$2.6 trillion, Facebook parent Meta Platforms at \$1.6 trillion and Tesla at \$1.5 trillion.

More than 100 classic restored autos lined up in the parking lot last Sunday outside the San Diego Automotive Museum, ready to roll in the second San Diego Excursion. The event celebrates the San Diego Exposition Road Race held in 1915 to promote the just-opened Panama-California Exposition. Sponsored by the La Jolla chapter of the Horseless Carriage Club of America, Sunday's event included Model T's, Model A's, Packards, Pierce Arrows, Rolls Royces, Buicks, Nationals, Chalmers Detroit's, Whites and many more. After gathering at the park, this rolling and highly functional automotive museum gently headed out, taking surface streets, some vehicles moving under 40 miles per hour, through Hillcrest Mission Hills, Presidio Park then entering Point Loma where the parade followed some of the same streets as the 1915 road race, finally ending at Liberty Station.

Ben Vallejos, former Chula Vista Rotarian who has led the Living Coast Discovery Center marine wildlife sanctuary in Chula Vista for the past 12 years, announced this week he plans to retire next month. Vallejos, 58, said he loved his job but wanted to spend more time with his family, including his parents, who are in their 90s, and his wife, who also recently retired. Under Vallejos' leadership, Living Coast which hosts 80,000 visitors per year. has grown its annual revenues from \$500,000 to \$2.5 million, expanded educational programs and upgraded exhibit areas for sea turtles, shore birds and a pollinator garden.

SDSU Aztec men's basketball stands at 12-4 overall and 6-0 in conference wins after beating Wyoming on Wednesday, 76 to 57. They are now ranked second in their last year in the Mountain West conference, before they join the Pac 12 this July. Their next game is Saturday at Viejas Arena against New Mexico.

This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today brought to you by Tom Davies.

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## MORE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Guest speaker, Chula Vista City Manager Tiffany Allen shares highlights of the many projects underway to improve the quality of life in our region. Thank you Tiffany!

### **SEND IN YOUR NEWS!**

**Recent milestone? Big event? Career change?  
Under the weather?  
Let Rotary in on your news—share with  
President Ben or Exec Sec Carmen**

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Our most sincere condolences to  
Mora de Murguia on the passing of her father.



*Trivia Night 2026 is coming! Hosted by the Rotary Club of Chula Vista, this exciting evening of trivia and teamwork raises funds for local charitable causes.*

**ENTRY FEE**  
**\$50 PER PERSON**  
**\$400 PER TEAM**  
**OF UP TO 8 PLAYERS**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2026**  
**@ 6:00 PM**  
**(DOORS OPEN AT 5:15)**

**THE VENUE AT EASTLAKE**  
**871 DISTRICT PLACE, SUITE 104**  
**CHULA VISTA, CA 91914**

**REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 10TH**  
[www.chulavistarotary.org/page/trivia](http://www.chulavistarotary.org/page/trivia)

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION**  
Teams that have registered /paid in full by February 20 will receive two free mulligans (free answers!) Registration closes at midnight March 6.

**TABLE TAILGATE  
WHILE PLAYING**

- Bring your own food & snacks
- Beer and wine will be sold  
**NO OUTSIDE LIQUOR  
ALLOWED DUE TO  
OUR LIQUOR LICENSE**

*Questions?*

[cvrotarytrivianight@gmail.com](mailto:cvrotarytrivianight@gmail.com)



*Your participation in this fundraiser will benefit the Rotary Club of Chula Vista's Foundation Fund. Proceeds will support local charities. The CV Rotary Foundation Fund is a 501 (c)3 organization and your contributions are tax deductible.  
(Tax ID # 33-0544219)*

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## YOU ARE INVITED!

### Centennial Celebration

Please join the Chula Vista Rotary Club to celebrate 100 Years!

Take a look back and a look ahead at the incredible years of club service, fellowship, and community support.

Enjoy connecting and reconnecting with Chula Vista Rotarians and enjoy refreshments, dinner and more!

**FEBRUARY 20, 2026**

**5:00 PM TO 7:30 PM**

**4:30 PM Registration Opens**

**5:00 PM Cocktail Reception**

**5:30 PM Buffet Opens**

**6:15 PM Program + Dessert**

**Purchase tickets online**

San Diego Country Club  
88 L Street  
Chula Vista, CA 91911

**\$100 per ticket**

**\$75 for pre-paid members**

**PURCHASE TICKETS:** <https://www.chulavistarotary.org/page/centennial100>

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**100th CLUB CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION—FEB 20, 2026, 5:00 pm  
San Diego Country Club, \$100 per person**

**SENIOR GIFT BASKETS ASSEMBLY— FEBRUARY 13—Corrected date**

**TRIVIA CONTEST—Friday, March 13—Sign Up Open!**

**TIJUANA HOME BUILD— Saturday, April 11, 6:30 am**

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## **ST. PAUL'S SENIORS GIFT BAGS**

**Our Club, in partnership with Altrusa Chula Vista, will once again be providing 50 Valentine Gift Bags to Seniors.**

**Please see the list below to get an idea of what is needed or if you prefer, give cash to Lisa and she will buy items for you.**

**Bring items to this Friday and upcoming meetings.**

**Bag assembly is Fri. February 13 at 11:00 a.m.**



- Canned or non-perishable food items
- Office supplies, pens, envelopes
- Cleaning supplies
- Kitchen, bathroom and home care items
- Hygiene care items
- Laundry detergent, fabric softener
- Dish sponges
- Toilet paper, Kleenex, paper towels
- Blankets
- Socks, sweatshirts
- Denture cleaner, Eye glass cleaners
- Treats - wrapped mints, chocolates

**Thanks everyone!**