

# Chulatarian

Rotary  
Club of Chula Vista



**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)**

**ROTARY CLUB OF CHULA VISTA**  
**INSTALLATION/OUTSTALLATION**  
**Friday, June 27, 2025, Noon**



Be prepared for a fun Friday at the San Diego Country Club as we bid good-bye to President Jesse Fernandez and then welcome Ben Koala to office.

As tradition has dictated for many years, Past-President Mora de Murguia has executed her plan and it will be a very memorable occasion. What does she have in store for President Jesse?

Also, as a result of another tradition—the theft of the President’s gavel - the historic gavel is still missing... Will it be returned in time for President-elect Ben? Will BEN return from Calgary in time?

Some members will be recognized for their special work throughout the Rotary year. Who will they be?

So many questions!

Hope you reserved your seat—see you soon Rotarians—remember—at the **San Diego Country Club!**



## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—June 20, 2025

President Jesse Fernandez called the meeting to order. President Jesse gave the invocation. Songmaster Chuck Bevan led us in song with “Hotel California” in honor of the guest speaker from Gaylord Pacific. The speaker Pete Borum was so tickled with our singing that he recorded us on his phone (see photo on page 4). It turned out his mother was a music teacher and he sings all the time with his two young children.

Treasurer Rasha Roshdy introduced guests and visiting Rotarians, as President-elect Ben Koala was on his way to Calgary, Canada for the Rotary International Convention.

Pancho the Polio Pig expressed his sadness at his last meeting of the year (pig tears were shed). Great job Pancho—it has been an excellent year in weekly donations to fight polio.

President Jesse covered some of the highlights of the years and reviewed the many accomplishments by our Club. He expressed his appreciation to everyone who also work behind the scene to help our meetings flow smoothly. Thank you Rotarians!

Tina Matthias encouraged members to help with the 4th of July BBQ at the Chula Vista Veterans’ Home. Set up is at 3:30 with the BBQ scheduled to begin at 5:00 pm. Everyone can stay and watch the fireworks from the Veterans’ Home afterwards. A sign-up sheet was circulate for volunteers. (See page 6 for contact info.).

Lisa Johnson filled in for Betty Waznis once again on the Jim Biddle News at Noon. Thanks Lisa!

Mary Johnson introduced Pete Borum from the Gaylord Pacific Resort. He shared an extensive amount of information from the development of the resort to tips on how to snag a day pass to the pool area. It was a very interesting presentation. Thank you Pete!

### INVOCATION GIVEN BY PRESIDENT JESSE FERNANDEZ

**Let us pray, Lord, As we gather here today to mark the end of another year in our Rotary journey, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible blessings we have experienced together.**

**This year has been filled with challenges and triumphs, with every moment reminding us of the spirit of service that unites us as Rotarians.**

**We have dedicated our time and efforts and stood together in our mission to make a difference in our communities and beyond. Lord with your guidance, each of our members has played a pivotal role in bringing our ideals to life. We are not just a club; we are a family bound by a common purpose.**

**Together, we have reached out to those in need, and our collective heart has made a profound impact. May we continue to be inspired by the spirit of service and the commitment to our Rotary values.**

**We pray for your ongoing guidance as we embark on new projects that will further our mission of peace, friendship, and understanding. Amen**



## JIM BIDDLE NEWS AT NOON by Betty Waznis

• LIVE



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With Betty Waznis

### **BROUGHT TO US BY GUEST EDITOR LISA JOHNSON**

Good afternoon, Rotarians and guests. Today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon is brought to you by Bernard Hernandez.

U.S. Border Patrol agents have uncovered and disabled a large-scale narcotics smuggling tunnel linking Tijuana to the San Diego area. The uncompleted tunnel extended more than 1,000 feet inside the U.S. and was highly sophisticated. In early April, Border Patrol agents assigned to the San Diego Sector Tunnel Team discovered the tunnel as it was actively under construction. The Tunnel Team made entry into the tunnel, which ran under a portion of the Otay Mesa Port of Entry. Based on preliminary indications, the tunnel had a projected exit point near or within a nearby commercial warehouse space.

The investigation revealed the tunnel was equipped with electrical wiring, lighting, ventilation systems, and a track system designed for transporting large quantities of contraband. When agents made the first entry into the tunnel, they encountered multiple makeshift barricades. These barricades were placed haphazardly by the tunnel workers in an apparent effort to impede agents' southbound progress and the eventual identification of the tunnel's origin.

Agents carefully mapped the tunnel, which measured 2,918 feet in total length. Inside, the tunnel dimensions measured 42 inches in height, 28 inches in width and ran approximately 50 feet underground at its deepest point. On Monday, Border Patrol in collaboration with Homeland Security Investigations and Government of Mexico authorities worked to locate the origin point of the tunnel. The entrance was located within a residence in the Nueva Tijuana neighborhood. Mexican authorities served a warrant at the location and found the entrance to the tunnel had recently been concealed by freshly laid tile.

The dramatic explosion of a SpaceX Starship upper stage rocket during a test at the company's Starbase facility on the Texas Gulf coast late Wednesday may have been triggered by the rupture of a high-pressure nitrogen tank, SpaceX founder Elon Musk said Thursday. The sudden explosion, fueled by ignition of methane propellant, created a huge fireball, billowing clouds of smoke and brilliant arcs of flaming debris shooting out like burning chunks of lava in a volcanic eruption. As of June 19, 2025, SpaceX has experienced four Starship explosions during test flights, with the most recent occurring on June 18, 2025, during a static fire test. Additionally, there have been two Falcon 9 in-flight failures.

Bernard, alongside his wife and fellow Rotarian Neisha, run Neisha's Dance & Music Academy. This year Neisha's will be celebrating 30 years providing the arts to children in Chula Vista. Bernard is a Chula Vista native. He attended Fred H. Rohr Elementary, Castle Park Middle and Castle Park High School. He received his Bachelor's from UCSD and his MBA from San Diego State University. After working at UCSD for 13 years and running a consulting business for 10, he joined forces with Neisha to run their dance studio together. Right now, Bernard & Neisha are at the airport heading to London to watch their most advanced ballet dancer, Bailey, perform in the prestigious Gala de Danza.

Bernard & Neisha have 4 children - Riley, Sydney, Luke & Stella. In his free time, Bernard enjoys watching live sports and is a season ticket holder of the San Diego Padres, San Diego Football Club, and SDSU Aztec Basketball. (Continued on page 5).





## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—June 20, 2025



L-R: Our guest speaker, Pete Borum, got such a kick from our singing “Hotel California” at the meeting that he took a video of us (!). It was kind of funny. President Jesse presenting Pete with a speaker’s mug.



L-R: News sponsor Bernard Hernandez was out of town but provided the gifts ahead of time—thanks Bernard! Lucky winners of the baseball treats, Padres hat AND gift card were: Carmen Sandoval, Bob Bliss and Rasha Roshdy. Pays to buy MORE tickets friends...





## MORE NEWS!

(Continued from page 3)

The original summer blockbuster hit ***Jaws*** turns 50 this year, and to celebrate the unparalleled success of the 1975 hit, NBC is airing a special three hour telecast tonight [Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>] at 8PM. Those hoping to tune into the special premiere can do so even without access to basic cable by streaming through Fubo, DirecTV, or Peacock. Those who wish to binge all four ***Jaws*** movies can find them already available for streaming through Peacock. To make the celebration even more exciting, director Steven Spielberg is set to make a special introduction immediately before the premiere. How many of us remember exactly where we were when we saw ***Jaws*** for the first time? I was at the Vogue Theater.

While *Jaws* scared us all, shark attacks are very real. An overwhelmed 9-year-old shark attack survivor said the attack happened so quickly that she hardly realized she had been bitten until she saw her blood-soaked hand emerge from the water. Leah Lendel, who is still undergoing treatment, broke her silence on Thursday — more than a week after a family snorkeling trip in Florida turned horrifying. The terrifying saga unfolded last week when the predator suddenly chomped down on Leah's right hand while she was in the water near Boca Grande with her parents and siblings. Bodycam footage from first responders captured medics crowding around the girl and reassuring her she was "very strong" and "brave" in the aftermath. The youngster was airlifted to the hospital in Tampa where she underwent major surgery to save her limb.

Concluding with the weather, this week, the U.S. is experiencing a mixed bag when it comes to weather. The East Coast is dealing with severe thunderstorms, while the Central and Western U.S. are experiencing above-average heat. Specifically, New York City and Washington D.C. were impacted by severe thunderstorms that knocked out power to hundreds of thousands. Meanwhile, a heat wave is expected to hit the Northeast this weekend and continue into next week. Tropical Depression Erick is also a factor, impacting the Eastern Pacific, while Hurricane Erick made landfall in southern Mexico with 125 mph winds, causing damage. Deadly flooding in West Virginia has led to a search and rescue operation with 6 confirmed deaths and 2 unaccounted for. Wow!

But here, in America's Finest City, the first full day of summer, which is tomorrow [June 21<sup>st</sup>], will bring more of our usual, fabulous and envious weather...low to mid-70's on the coast, and closer to 80 inland. Perfect weather to enjoy a Padres game...they play Kansas City this weekend, head to Liberty Station to celebrate International Make Music Day, enjoy a day at the San Diego County Fair, or just grab a good book and head to the beach.

And this concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, brought to you by dedicated Padres Fan, Bernard Hernandez.





We will need volunteers to help set up, cook, serve and visit with Veterans and clean-up.

Set-up begins at 3:30 on July 4th. BBQ is served at 5:00.

Please sign up at this Friday's meeting or email Tina Matthias at:

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

June is  
**ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS**  
Month



Rotary  
District 5340