

Chulatarian

Rotary
Club of Chula Vista 

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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)

**MUSIC WITH JOE DeMERS &
CHRISTIAN CONTRERAS**
Friday, JUNE 26, 2026, Noon



Our very own pianist Joe DeMers will showcase his wide musical talent this Friday. He will be joined with a very talented young man, Christian Contreras.

Joe DeMers is a native of North Dakota where he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from North Dakota State University. He then moved to West Point, New York and joined the United States Military Academy Band where he obtained a Masters Degree in Music Education. He retired from the Army in 1998 and moved to Bonita with his wife and two kids. Since then he has worked for the Sweetwater Union High School District as a choir accompanist and was the choir director and piano teacher at Eastlake HS for 14 years. He is currently working at Olympian and San Ysidro High Schools and is a staff accompanist for Southwestern College. He is the Music Minister at St. Peter's by the Sea Lutheran Church in Ocean Beach and is a freelance pianist throughout the San Diego area. He has been playing for the Chula Vista Rotary luncheon for 10 years.

Cristian Contreras is a student at San Diego State University in Finance. He plans on being involved in music during his time at SDSU. Music has been a part of his life since he was 3 and enjoys every minute spent playing it and its different forms, from jazz to pop to funk/R&B and even classical. It brings him joy and his goal is to spread that positivity through his music. Christian stays active through sports and working out daily as well as camping, backpacking, and hiking. He enjoys serving Christ and following in his footsteps as best as he can, and one of the ways is through

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MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—JUNE 12, 2026



Lisa Johnson presents Lucy Fragoso with Reading Legacies with a donation of \$500. Lucy provided an update on their reading programs which seek to connect incarcerated parents with their children through books. She circulated an interest list for members who may wish to volunteer.



This week's sponsor for the Jim Biddle News at Noon, Carmen Sandoval, presents the lucky drawing winners with their gifts—Ken Weimer, Bob Bliss and Bill Torre.





**JIM BIDDLE
NEWS AT NOON**

**BY
BETTY WAZNIS**

PRESENTED 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 our past president and grandma extraordinaire, Carmen Sandoval. Carmen fills many roles in our club, and we'll hear more about that later.

"You either get it or you don't," said Russ Peck, who is known as the preeminent expert on theater organs from San Diego to Los Angeles. "It's just what turns you on, and this thing... I just love these; I love playing on 'em. Working on 'em. It's a way of life." The instrument's massive power and sound drew in Peck. While behind the keyboards, he is not just a one-man band, but a one-man symphony orchestra. At just seven years old, he had discovered his purpose in life. Since then, Peck has dedicated himself to playing, tuning, maintaining and composing gigantic instruments. At Silent Movie Mondays, an organist plays music during a silent film screening — the way the films were originally made to be shared. Balboa Theatre is gearing up for its third season of these screenings. Theater organs first gained ground in the 1910s, as a cheaper way to accompany silent films than a multi-instrument band. They exploded in popularity the 1920s, before quickly falling out of fashion as soon as "talkies," or films with sound, overtook the industry.

It's challenging to get film rights, much less the original sheet music, so Peck puts together a score that combines his huge catalog of silent film music, classical music to the 1920s and popular music of the 1920s. To make it historically accurate, he does not use any music written after the film was made, other than sections he composes himself. Silent Movie Mondays returns for Season 3 beginning in September with an incredible lineup of iconic silent films as well as special guest theatre organists from across the country. Arrive early to enjoy pre-film entertainment from the Wonder Morton Theatre Organ and stay after each film for an engaging post-film conversation with the evening's featured organist and a local film expert. Silent Movie Mondays play monthly at Balboa Theatre.

California, known throughout the country as being notoriously slow at counting ballots, and despite Governor Newsome asking for a faster vote count, the CA Secretary of State's website still shows unofficial results. Currently leading among the 61...yes, 61 candidates on our recent primary ballot, are Xavier Becerra with 28%, Steve Hilton with 24.8%, and Tom Steyer with 22.6%. Not fairing as well were candidates Barack D. Obama Shaw and LivingForGod AndCountry DeMott, who were among many candidates who had less than .3% making it appear as though they might not have even voted for themselves. Election results will be certified July 10th.

New kidnapping investigation unfolding just miles from where 84-year-old Nancy Guthrie vanished has reignited public concern in Arizona's Catalina Foothills. The proximity of the two cases briefly fueled speculation online, prompting the Pima County Sheriff's Department to issue a clear public clarification while officials say the situations are separate, even as both investigations continue to draw intense attention. Authorities confirmed they are actively handling two kidnapping-related cases in the region, but stressed there is no link between them. The sheriff's office stated that the newer case and involving charges against Coral Michelle Smith, is being investigated independently from the Guthrie disappearance while officials emphasized that separating facts from speculation is critical as both cases progress under public scrutiny.

The second kidnapping case occurred roughly seven miles from Guthrie's residence in the Catalina Foothills area. The close distance sparked renewed anxiety among residents already shaken by Guthrie's disappearance in early February while the timing and geography raised questions online and law enforcement has reiterated that no evidence connects the two incidents.

(Continued on page 7)

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BIKES FOR KIDS—MAY 29 & 30



L-R: Kevin and Kimberley Marshall working on a bike—under Gary Bryant’s watchful eye. Bernard Hernandez and Michael Oliveri team up on a “big” bike—wires all over! Thanks everyone for your work.



L-R: Rochelle Carroll and Jeanette Badal checking participants in. Mike Bell and Ken Weimer unboxing a bike at the assembly.

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BIKES FOR KIDS—MAY 29 & 30



Clockwise from top:
Rick Richardson, Lisa Johnson and Jan Mellinger discussing next steps after tape;
happy kids bring a big smile to Jon Miller, Rick watching SafeKids staff help with riding tips for new riders;
Scripps Health provided the helmets;
Gary Bryant and John Lorah helping out a new bike rider.

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SIGN UP TO HELP IF YOU CAN!

Sponsored by:



AMERICA
250
years

CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY EVENT

**4TH
OF
JULY**

BBQ DINNER • MUSIC • GAMES • FIREWORKS

CV VETERANS HOME | TIME 5:00 PM

Address: 700 E. Naples, CV, 91911

Behind the Facility at the Shuffle Board Area between (D & amp;E)

Grab your lawn chairs and blankets and join us for an evening of fun, community, and fireworks!

Sign up at the next meeting, or let Tina Mattias know you can help.
Sbsustainablecommunities@gmail.com

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

DARK—NO MEETING—FRI July 3

4TH OF JULY BBQ—CV VETERANS' HOME, 5:00 P.M.—SAT July 4

**PRESIDENT'S MEETING—FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW ROTARY YEAR -
Friday, July 10—Noon**

FOOD DISTRIBUTION—ST. MARK'S—Hilltop & I—Fri. July 10, 8:30 am

JIM BIDDLE NEWS AT NOON (continued from page 3)

Nancy Guthrie has been missing since February 1, when authorities believe she was abducted from her home after being dropped off by her son-in-law while the FBI has released surveillance footage of a possible suspect seen on her porch the night she disappeared. Despite thousands of tips submitted to the 88-Crime hotline, the individual has not been identified and the search continues without resolution.

Today's sponsor, Carmen Sandoval Fernandez is a past president, editor of the weekly *Chulatarian*, and Chairs the International Projects Committee. She is also our Club's Executive Secretary. She is still keeping busy with her large extended family and Master Gardeners – working on her first-year requirement of 50 hours of volunteer work to maintain her certification. In fact, she was at the Fair most of the day – yesterday. Wonder grandchildren – Maricela (4+) and little brother Mauricio (17 months) – still live in Chicago – AND are COMING TO VISIT – THIS SUNDAY! Carmen & Jesse can hardly contain their excitement. On tap so far – Disneyland (first visit since the pandemic when they used to be annual pass holders), the Fair, the zoo and more! Travel coming up this year are the Oregon coast, Las Vegas, Mexico City and Italy – and probably Chicago again. Rotary is super important to Carmen and remains her best way of giving back to the community.

The weather in America's Finest City this weekend will be sunny, and the temperature is expected to be in our usual fabulous mid-70's. Perfect weather for enjoying outdoor activities at the beach or the San Diego County Fair, which opened Wednesday. Lots of music around town including Saturday events at Liberty Station and the East Village Blues Fest. I can't conclude the news with Carmen as the sponsor without mentioning her beloved Padres. They are out of town for a while in Baltimore, St. Louis, and Texas. Currently in second place in the NL West behind Wendi's Dodgers, they will play at home again on June 22nd, when they will face the Atlanta Braves. Let's hope these road games go well, and they come back to town swinging.

This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, brought to you today by past president Carmen Sandoval.

Rotary fellowship at the Padres-Braves game last Tuesday.

Enjoying Rotary fellowship with beer are David Hoffman and Steve Brodbeck

