

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)

CHRIS ROMERO
THE OUTREACH PROJECT
Friday, March 28, 2025 - Noon



A proud member of the Mission Valley Evening Rotary Club, Chris Romero been in working in nonprofits for over 20 years and has been in meal packaging for a decade.

A three-time AmeriCorps alum; he's managed volunteer programs and non-profit events for a variety of great organizations including KaBOOM!, the YMCA and the Susan G Komen Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk.

Chris has a passion for introducing students to volunteerism and bringing communities together around critical needs projects. Through different meal packaging programs, he has helped groups package and donate over 16 million meals to domestic and international feeding organizations.

GOOD-BYE POLIO
THANKS ROTARY





MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—March 21, 2025



Jan Mellinger read the News at Noon for Betty Waznis who could not attend and was the sponsor also. The drawing winners were Rasha Roshdy, Gary Bryant and Bill Torre.



President-Elect Ben Koala with the guest speaker, Elizabeth Fitzsimmons, with Episcopal Community Services.



JIM BIDDLE NEWS AT NOON by Betty Waznis

• LIVE



Brought to you by:

THIS WEEK'S
SPONSOR

With Betty Waznis

Hello, everyone, and welcome to today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon. Today brought to you by Jan Mellinger. NASA's Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams have returned from space after their "weeklong" mission stretched to more than nine months. They splashed down off the coast of Florida aboard a SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule Tuesday evening. Williams, 59, and Wilmore, 62, launched to space last June on a rocky test flight of Boeing's Starliner spacecraft. NASA officials later decided it was too risky to return them on the same vehicle. They spent 286 days in space — one of the longest periods of time on board the International Space Station. The astronauts are concluding their trip with a routine space station staff rotation, departing alongside an American and a Russian cosmonaut. Four other astronauts arrived at the ISS on Sunday, taking over space station duties. Williams and Wilmore are undergoing thorough health evaluations as doctors check them for the many changes that can occur after months of no gravity. These include spinal changes – without gravity the spinal column expands, adding as much as an inch to their height – the "baby feet" syndrome – without normal walking in earth's gravity, the bottoms of the feet thin and became more sensitive – and other changes to vision, heart, and immune systems.

The wholesale price of eggs has dropped sharply since the beginning of March after soaring for months, but it may take a few weeks for us grocery shoppers to see the decline. Wholesale egg prices have fallen to a national average of just over \$4 for a dozen large white eggs, down from a peak of more than \$8 at the end of February. But because eggs typically have a four-week shelf life, it might be the end of this month before retail prices start to drop. Economists said that the decline in wholesale prices, which are still above long-term averages, was very likely fueled by a combination of factors: bird flu coming under control, weaker consumer demand, ramped-up supply and producer pricing decisions. They note that prices might not come down evenly across the country, depending on local competition, grocery chains' loss leader strategies, and the typical high demand for eggs leading up to Easter.

This has been a history making week for college basketball in San Diego. For the first time, four local teams have made the NCAA Division 1 national "March Madness" tournament. San Diego State men's team kicked off the week in one of the First Four rounds but were not able to beat perennial powerhouse University of North Carolina. The University of California San Diego is not generally thought of as a sports powerhouse. but since moving up from Division 2 to Division 1 four years ago, is now eligible for Division 1 tournament play.

The women's team, Big West Division winners, competed but lost against Southern University of Baton Rouge in another First Four qualifying round Wednesday. Like the women's team, UCSD men also made the March Madness cut as 12th seed in their first year of eligibility. They faced number 5 seed Michigan last night and in a thrilling game came close to victory but lost 68 to 65 to the Big Ten tournament champs. And finally, 14th seed SDSU women face 3rd ranked LSU tomorrow night.

Today's sponsor, Jan Mellinger, is a licensed marriage and family therapist who recently retired very happily after 23 years at Scripps Health. She currently works part time doing therapy by Telehealth. Some pretty interesting hobbies in her past – she raced Porsches and is a certified Porsche driving instructor. She showed horses competitively and now occasionally shows cats. Jan's been a Rotarian for 34 years, was Chula Vista Rotary's second woman president, and comes from a Rotary family. Her grandfather, Reg Seabrook, was an active Chula Vista Rotarian from the mid 1950's to his death in 1974. He was the president of the San Diego Country Club here in Chula Vista; he arranged for Eisenhower's helicopter to land there for the presidential Chula Vista visit sponsored by our club.

This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon. Today brought to you by Jan Mellinger.





ABOVE & BEYOND RECOGNITION



Engineering Professor **Dmitriy Kalantarov** joined Southwestern College in Spring of 2021. Before coming to us, he served as Dean of Sciences at San Bernadino Valley College and prior to that, he was chair for Mathematics, Engineering Technologies, and Computer Sciences at Essex County College in New Jersey; he held teaching positions at several colleges in that region. Professor Kalantarov holds a BS in Mathematics and Electrical engineering, an MBA with concentration in Global Business Management, an ME in Engineering Physics and a PhD in Physics.

At SWC, he single-handedly revitalized our Engineering program by renewing all curriculum, making connections with 4-year local universities, clarifying the pathway to the different Engineering specialties and acquiring several grants to provide student scholarships. Since he joined SWC, enrollment in Engineering courses has increased by approximately 80%, with course success rates averaging approximately 78%. He is advisor for two Engineering student clubs, SHPE and SWE, and started our first Jag Racing team of students who design and build a race car that competes against other major universities. SWC is the only community college participant in this race.

From two of his students: Overall, really great professor I like how his class is based around applying everything we learn and using the things we learn to apply them to the real world. He is the best professor I have ever had, very good at teaching and really cares about his students.



President-Elect Ben Koala with Rotarian of the Week, Kimberley Marshall, and Lori Torio.



Member Spotlight



Kimberley Marshall

Kimberley's favorite part of being a Rotarian is making a positive impact in the community and spending time with friends!

Kimberley was born and raised in San Diego as the eldest of three siblings. She married her high school sweetheart, Kevin, and they have shared 35 wonderful (mostly!) years together. In 1990, they co-founded Copy Link, a technology company based in Chula Vista. With her business deeply rooted there and the time she dedicated to the community, Kimberley essentially lived in Chula Vista for over 30 years.

Today, she and Kevin reside in Bonita. They are proud parents of three incredible children—Devin, Courtnie, and Kevin James—and are blessed with one amazing granddaughter, Sage.

After dedicating 30 years as Controller at Copy Link, Kimberley recently retired. Her commitment to service extends beyond her professional career. She previously served on the board of Rancho Vista Church as treasurer and currently contributes her time as a board member of the Chula Vista Salvation Army.

Kimberley's passions include music, dancing, traveling, spending time outdoors, cooking, and baking bread. However, her greatest joy is opening her home to what she affectionately calls her "nomads." For over 15 years, she has welcomed guests in need of a place to rest, renew, and restore their spirits.



MEET PROJECT MERCY FAMILY



Cristal Espinosa Matias (age 22) and Yoana Ballesteros Espinosa (age 3).

Husband Benjamin Ballesteros Méndez, not pictured. He works as a mechanics helper.

HOME BUILD IS SATURDAY, APRIL 12

TWO WEEKS AWAY!

CLUB CALENDAR

DISTRICT TRAINING ASSEMBLY—Saturday, March 29

TIJUANA HOME BUILD—Saturday, April 12, 6:30 am

CHULA VISTA ANIMAL CARE FACILITY (14 volunteers needed) - Sunday, May 18

BIKE SAFETY RODEO—Saturday, May 24 (two shifts needed—morning/afternoon)

GOVERNOR'S DINNER— Saturday, June 7, Mission Valley Marriott

**INSTALLATION/OUTSTALLATION—Fri, June 27, 12-1:30
@ San Diego Country Club**

