

# Chulatarian

Rotary  
Club of Chula Vista 

UNITE  
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GOOD



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)

**DARK—NO MEETING THIS WEEK!**  
Friday, May 22, 2026, Noon



Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, began in the aftermath of the American Civil War (1861-1865), which resulted in over 620,000 deaths. Communities across the North and South began decorating the graves of soldiers with flowers and holding commemorative ceremonies in the spring, a practice inspired by earlier European traditions of honoring the dead with floral tributes.

The first national observance was proclaimed on May 30, 1868. After World War 1, the holiday expanded to honor all American military personnel who died in any war and the name was officially changed to Memorial Day. In 1971, Congress established Memorial Day as a federal holiday and set its observance on the last Monday in May, creating a long weekend for Americans.

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## HIGHLIGHTS FROM MAY 15, 2026



The sponsor for the Jim Biddle News at Noon, David Hoffman presented a gift to a lucky guest, Ramon Moncada and Bob Bliss—FINALLY wins again.

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee has a tough job reviewing dozens of applications from seven schools and selecting the recipient. Tough because they are so many talented young students in our area. Thank you! This year's committee was:

**Kimberley Marshall (Chair)**  
**Jerry May**  
**Jesse Fernandez**  
**Wendi Messina**  
**Diego Quilantan**  
**Bernard Hernandez**

**Betty Waznis**  
**Mike Bell**  
**Beta Dinsmore**  
**Bill Torre**  
**Carmen Sandoval**  
**Beta Dinsmore**

**GOOD-BYE POLIO**  
**THANKS ROTARY**





## JIM BIDDLE NEWS AT NOON

BY  
BETTY WAZNIS

### PRESENTED BY GUEST EDITOR LISA JOHNSON

Good afternoon, Rotarians, visiting Rotarians, and guests. Today's Jim Biddle News at Noon is sponsored by David Hoffman of Hoffman Hanono Insurance.

After decades behind bars, Betty Broderick has died at age 78. During an infamous appearance on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, her kids were memorably divided about their mom's punishment and continued to be in the decades leading up to her death. Betty was serving a life sentence with the possibility of parole when she died in the early hours of Friday, May 8, per the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. She was convicted of second-degree murder with an enhancement for use of a firearm after shooting and killing her ex-husband, Dan Broderick, and his new wife, Linda Kolkena, in their bed on Nov. 5, 1989. She also gained national notoriety for the incident, which came after an affair between Dan and Kolkena, and a messy divorce that saw her and Dan, a lawyer, battle over the sale of their family home and custody of their four children: Kim, Lee, Dan Jr. and Rhett. In the 1992 *Oprah Winfrey Show* interview, host Oprah Winfrey spoke with two of Betty's kids, Kim and Dan Jr., who were divided about their mother's punishment.

Enter the Baby Grand Hotel – a polychromatic pastiche at the heart of Crown City. And if that isn't a clever marketing statement, I don't know what is! The San Diego hospitality company that reimagined the city's historic Lafayette Hotel with ornate furnishings, Murano glass chandeliers and an Oaxacan restaurant reminiscent of a Mexican church is now ready to deliver on its promise to create an equally unique — and highly designed — luxury hotel in Coronado.

Just steps from the Hotel del Coronado, the 31-room Baby Grand opened yesterday, about a year later than originally anticipated. The new two-story hotel occupies the site of a former 1950s-era motel, pool and sprawling parking lot, a relic of America's now faded roadside motels that once were ubiquitous along the country's highways. With today's lodging destinations now increasingly focused on the experience of a hotel or resort stay, as opposed to a place where you simply sleep for the night, CH is taking that mission to a whole new level — as it did with its \$31M restoration of the Lafayette on El Cajon Boulevard.

The property features design elements reminiscent of other Consortium Holdings venues, such as Born & Raised, Seneca, and Polite Provisions, but also incorporates coastal-island touches, including a private lagoon, seashell-themed furniture with custom headboards in every room, and lush landscaping. "We want to create immersive experiences that kind of pull people out of reality," said Shawn Bianchi, Head of Hospitality for Consortium Holding. The hotel houses two restaurants. The featured Night Hawk restaurant serves Greek-inspired dishes amid a waterfall and tropical setting, opening at 11 a.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. on weekends. Reservations are recommended, though walk-ins are welcome.

Past President David Hoffman has been a member of our club since 2004. He and Hilda are now grandparents to Alex's daughter, Saoirse, who is already two years old. Sophia, who has serenaded us many times, has one more year at SDSU before, hopefully, joining David in the family insurance business. Austin is graduating high school this year and will be attending Southwestern College. David said it has been very special to see his children grow up alongside many Rotarians. Amazing how David's children grow up but us Rotarians don't age or grow up.

Golf legend Tiger Woods is once again at the center of a major legal development after a Florida judge ruled prosecutors can access his prescription records. This decision marks a significant turn in the ongoing DUI case stemming from a March 2026 car crash. The ruling sheds new light on the complexities of celebrity privacy and public accountability. In a recent court ruling, a judge ordered Woods to turn over his prescription drug records to prosecutors as part of his DUI case. The decision comes after Tiger was involved in a car accident on March 27<sup>th</sup>, in Jupiter Island, FL. [P-6] During the incident, He was found to have hydrocodone pills in his pocket, which he had taken before refusing a urine test. The judge's ruling allows the prosecution to access detailed information about the number of times prescriptions were filled, dosage amounts, and any warnings related to the medications, particularly those concerning driving. The records will be sealed from public view but will be shared with law enforcement, expert witnesses, and Tiger's defense team. (continued on page 6).

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## RED SHOE DAY HIGHLIGHTS!



Above l-r: Beta Dinsmore, Rochelle Carroll and Gary Bryant.

Right l-r: Karen Torre, Jerry May & his beautiful pyrenes dog, and Bill Torre.

Below: Mother and son duo Irasema and Diego Quilantan.



Red Shoe Day is Ronald McDonald House's largest community fundraiser of the year. There were 800+ volunteers at 90 intersections across San Diego County.

Also, both online and intersection donations will unlock an equal amount towards their Imagine the Moment Campaign, thanks to the Fowler Family Challenge match.

Thanks to all the Rotarians who took part of their day to help out.

Our team was stationed at the intersection of Paseo Ladera and the mini highway known as East H St.

The team included leader Gary Bryant, Tina Matthias, Beta Dinsmore, Jerry May, Bill Torre and wife Karen, Irasema and Diego Quilantan, Nathan Oestreich, Cheryl Shields, Autumn Reid, Nancy Kerwin and John Lorah.

Our friends with the Eastlake-Chula Vista Rotary Club were at the Bonita Road/Otay Lakes intersection.

We will have \$\$\$ total raised in a few weeks.



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## MORE RED SHOE DAY MOMENTS



L-R: Nancy Kerwin has done this before! Cheryl Shields and Autumn Reid working the median with a Red Shoe AND a Red Bag, John Loran and Tina Matthias waving their Red Shoes in the crosswalk.

Join us for a ...

# Rotary Social

After building bikes, come enjoy drinks, a taquero, and fun!

Home of Mark & Stacy Scott  
4097 Bonita View Drive  
5:30 PM



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Top two photos l-r: Cheryl Cox receives a donation from our Club for the Chula Vista Animal Care Facility. A four-legged friend and staff came to visit to remind us of their foster program, their volunteer dog walker opportunities and much more. They expressed their appreciation of our ongoing support of their work.



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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The annual Manny Adler & Jon Miller Bike for Kids is coming. This year, we will be assembling 150 bicycles. We are looking for volunteers to help Friday (May 29) in the afternoon and Saturday (May 30) morning/afternoon.

A sign-up sheet has been circulated during the meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting but want to volunteer, contact Bob Silvas via email. Let him know the date and times you are available.

- WHERE:** CDA (Rick Richardson's office) located at -  
**180 Otay Lakes Road, Suite 103, Bonita, CA 91902.**
- SCHEDULE:** Friday - assembling from 3 to ? (Will need a few strong volunteers to help transport bikes from Mark Scott's house to the CDA at 2:00)  
Saturday - distribution from 8:30 to 2:00
- TO VOLUNTEER:** Sign up during the club meeting or contact Bob at [bsilvas@silvygroup.com](mailto:bsilvas@silvygroup.com).
- BONUS:** The Social Committee is planning a social event after the last tire has been inflated. More to come!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**DARK—NO MEETING—MAY 22**

**BIKE ASSEMBLY—Fri, May 29**

**CLUB SOCIAL—Fri, May 29 at Mark Scott's Home**

**BIKES FOR KIDS EVENT—Sat, May 30—@ Child Development Association (Bonita)**

**INSTALLATION/OUTSTALLATION LUNCHEON  
Friday, June 5—Noon—Living Coast Discovery Center**

**DISTRICT 5340 GOVERNORS' DINNER—June 26, 5:00 pm**

**2026 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION  
TAIPEI, TAIWAN—June 13-17**



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Rotary  
Chula Vista Eastlake  
Presents:  
**NOITE NO BRASIL  
GALA**  
A FUNDRAISING EVENT BENEFITING OUR CHARITABLE PROGRAMS  
SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2026  
4:00PM  
SWEETWATER SUMMIT REGIONAL PARK CLUBHOUSE  
3218 SUMMIT MEADOW RD, BONITA, CA 91902  
REGISTER: [GIVSUM.COM/OPPORTUNITIES/NOITE-NO-BRASIL-GALA-9C3FDB45A](https://givsum.com/opportunities/noite-no-brasil-gala-9c3fdb45a)  
**TICKETS  
\$110**

**JIM BIDDLE NEWS AT NOON (continued from page 3).**

The South Carolina Supreme Court on Wednesday overturned Alex Murdaugh’s murder convictions and ordered a new trial in the killing of his wife and son in June 2021, saying the trial was marred by the “improper” influence of the county clerk, Becky Hill. In a 5-0 ruling, the court said Hill “placed her fingers on the scales of justice, thereby denying Murdaugh his right to a fair trial by an impartial jury.” “Although we are aware of the time, money, and effort expended for this lengthy trial, we have no choice but to reverse the denial of Murdaugh’s motion for a new trial due to Hill’s improper external influences on the jury and remand for a new trial,” the justices wrote.

With its ruling, the court also vacated the two life sentences Murdaugh had received for the murder charges. Still, he separately pleaded guilty to dozens of financial crimes and will remain behind bars on concurrent state and federal sentences of 27 and 40 years. Attorney General Alan Wilson said his office plans to retry Murdaugh on the murder charges. “While we respectfully disagree with the Court’s decision, my Office will aggressively seek to retry Alex Murdaugh for the murders of Maggie and Paul as soon as possible,” he said. Wilson told reporters his “hope is to get this case retried by the end of the year,” but noted the window is still open for his team to ask the South Carolina Supreme Court to reconsider its decision or to appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States.

And that concludes today’s edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon. Today’s news was brought to you by Past President David Hoffman, the Hoffman Family, and Hoffman Hanono Insurance.