

# 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)

**GABE FASOLINO**  
**TIES THAT BIND—Making Connections In Mexico**  
**Friday, May 30, 2025, Noon**



Gabe Fasolino, Past President & Founder of the La Mision Rotary Club will tell us about the good work his Club has undertaken in Mexico and how an English speaking Rotary Club was able to build strong connections to their Spanish speaking community in Baja.

Their many projects include vision screening, improving school facilities and providing assistance to victims of a recent fire. We will learn more about this very active club.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Friday, June 27, Noon**  
**Installation/Outstallation**  
**San Diego Country Club**

**INVITATION COMING SOON!**



## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—May 16, 2025

President Jesse Fernandez called the meeting to order. Leon Redondo gave the invocation.

After lunch, President Jesse shared a video from Rotary International highlighting some of our global projects.

Laura Humphreys reminded us the Chula Vista Animal Care Facility work project (assembling dog beds) is Sunday, May 18, 10 am and which tools to bring.

Gary Bryant discussed the Ronald McDonald House Red Shoe Day on Wednesday, May 21, 7-9 am at East H and Paseo Ranchero. He introduced his guest Claudia Benavidez who will be volunteering with our team.

Peter Luna, the President-elect of the Chula Vista Rotaract Club, was introduced and he told us about his club. They meet twice a month with one in-person meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at Novo Brazil. They are looking forward to participating in our activities as much as possible.

Betty Waznis gave the Jim Biddle News at Noon. Ben Koala was the sponsor, however he was at Disneyland with his son. The lucky drawing winners were Chuck Bevan, student Kaela Ann Fuentes, and Diane Flint Wages.

Bob Silvas, Chair of the Youth Services Committee, gave an overview of the many projects they have undertaken this Rotary year. The highlight was hearing directly from four of the eight students that were selected and sponsored by our Club to attend RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award), a three-day leadership development forum held in the mountains. Members were encouraged to volunteer next year.

In a panel format, the students shared their apprehensions about going, making meaningful connections with other students in a very short time, learning so much about themselves and being inspired by the speakers. A few expressed delight at seeing snow fall. The students from Castle Park are already planning to form a new Interact Club at their school. One of the Otay Ranch students was Reed and Beta's granddaughter, Sofia.

Kaela Ann Fuentes and Rianna Cain, members of the Olympian High Interact Club shared some of their experiences during the school year, which included making dog chews and supporting the Humane Society of Tijuana. They conduct outreach through their Instagram account.

Bob Silvas mentioned that his first Rotary experience was as an Interact student at Castle Park High.

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





## 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 Ben Koala and Koala Financial and Bonita Tax Service.

On Monday the United States and China said they would each suspend their tariffs for 90 days while negotiations continue. Tariffs on Chinese goods will drop from 145% to 30%, and China's tariffs on U.S. goods will fall from 125% to 10%. After Monday's agreement boosted investor confidence, global stock markets jumped with the announcement. The benchmark index in Hong Kong surged 3%, about the same amount as the SP 500 in New York. Crude oil prices and Treasury yields rose, while gold fell. The Russell 2000 rose 3.4%, reflecting optimism for smaller U.S. companies.

Rite Aid customers, including those at the Rite Aid on Telegraph Canyon Road, can expect their local store to close or change ownership in the next few months, as the drugstore chain goes through another bankruptcy filing. The company plans to sell customer prescription files, inventory and other assets as it closes distribution centers and unloads store locations. Stores will remain open for now, but the company isn't buying new inventory, so bare shelves are likely to become more common.

San Diego State University will award degrees to 12,277 students during three days of graduation ceremonies beginning today at Viejas Arena. The five most popular degrees being granted to this year's graduates are psychology, criminal justice, finance, general business and computer science. The class of 2025 is among the largest in the 128-year history of SDSU, which enrolled a record 38,396 students last fall at its main campus on Montezuma Mesa.

The university is anticipating further growth. The California State University Board of Trustees said in February that it intended to fund a major new science and engineering research center at SDSU, which should be up and running in 2027. In addition, San Diego State will open a new \$80 million STEM education center in Brawley in Imperial County this fall. The center is largely meant to train people to work in the emerging lithium extraction and processing industry next to the Salton Sea, a crucial element for electric car batteries and other in-demand uses.

The Padres had an uneven week including a blown lead but also an unbelievable 21 to 0 victory over the Rockies. The shutout was pitched entirely by Stephen Kolek, who in only his second career start became just the 28th pitcher ever to go the distance in a shutout at mile-high Coors Field and the first since 1889 to do so anywhere in a game in which his team scored 20 or more runs. Next up - a weekend series at home against the Seattle Mariners. First game tonight at 6:40

Today's sponsor, Ben Koala, was born and raised in San Diego, husband to the lovely Fiona and father to three beautiful kids-- Lua (14), Aer (8), and Kya (3). In 2012 he started Koala Financial, Inc. and bought the long-running local business Bonita Tax Services. As a CPA with numerous other licenses and credentials including Certified Financial Planner, Chartered Life Underwriter, Personal Financial Specialist, Series 7 (Registered Representative), Series 66 (Investment Advisor Representative), plus a real estate sales license, he's expanded the services offered beyond tax and accounting to also include wealth management, retirement planning, life/long-term-care/disability insurance, real estate sales, mortgage lending, and more. He works with hundreds of local business owners and individuals in the Chula Vista/Bonita area to help them make the most of their money. He also works as an aircraft maintenance officer with the Air National Guard.

Ben couldn't be here today because Disney offered two free "Heroes Tickets" to Guard members for their role in combating the LA fires. Ben had a family Disneyland trip planned for Aer's birthday last November but he got sick, so this is a surprise to make up to him for that. This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today brought to you by Ben Koala and Koala Financial and Bonita Tax Service.





## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—May 16, 2025



Reed and Beta Dinsmore's granddaughter, Sofia, was one of eight local students sponsored to participate in RYLA—they had no idea she had applied! Bernard Hernandez asking questions for the students to discuss.



President-elect Ben Koala was the sponsor for this week's News at Noon. L-R: The lucky winners were Chuck Bevan, Interact student Kaela Ann Fuentes, and Diane Flint Wages. Congrats!



## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—MAY 16, 2025



Interact and RYLA students shared their experiences with us. Our Club sponsored two students from Castle Park, Chula Vista, Hilltop and Otay Ranch to attend RYLA. R: Kaela Ann Fuentes and Rianna Cain are from Olympian Interact.



Friday, May 23 was MOVING DAY for nearly 200 bikes. They were safety stored in Mark Scott's house and with a big assist from our friends at Bonita Kiwanis, we transported to Loma Verde Aquatic Center—as in one trip.



## BIKES & SUMMER SAFETY FAIR—A MAJOR HIT!



A group photo of the Bonita Kiwanis and our club members after completing the mission. Chris Lewis, Bob Silvas, Gary Bryant, Duane Buckingham, President Jesse and Chula Vista Rotaract President-elect Peter Luna, (not pictured Mark Scott and Carmen Sandoval). To start the day on Saturday, Mark Scott provided a refresher on how to put the bikes together.



L-R: Event Co-Chair Mora de Murguía and Gary Bryant teamed up to put the bikes together. Rotaractor Etienne Rimmel worked with President Jesse. Michael Oliveri finished a bike and was taking it to the other side for storage until the giveaway later in the day.



## BIKES & SUMMER SAFETY FAIR—A MAJOR HIT!



L-R: Mark Scott doing quality control inspections to ensure the bike is balanced and safe. Jan Mellinger lent a hand and jumped in to help with the “big” bikes. Rochelle Carroll getting ready for the giveaway and safety fair set-up. She helped with applications through her contacts at Chula Vista Elementary School District.



L-R: Event Co-Chair Lisa Johnson walking two bikes across the pool deck, Josh, Diane Wages' grandson, with Cheryl Shields. Josh lent his waste management expertise once again—a HUGE help. CVFD provided hands-on training on CPR, just one of many wonderful community resources present for the Summer Safety Fair.



**THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT EVERYONE!**



Rotaractors Peter Luna, Etienne Rimmele and Olympian Interact student helped with the major task of moving the bikes to this location. Bob Silvas, Gary Bryant, President Jesse and Mark Scott are ready to leap into action as distribution is about to kick off.



L-R: Gary Bryant assisting a mother, Duane Buckingham helping out, President Jesse explaining the no hand brake to a parent.