

Chulatarian



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koalacpa@gmail.com

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www.chulavistarotary.org

P.O. Box 324 Bonita CA 91908

**Editor: Carmen Sandoval
Fernandez**

csandovalzf@gmail.com



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)**

**DANIEL DENNERT
SAN DIEGO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
CURATOR & ARTS PROGRAM MANAGER
Friday, October 17, 2025, Noon**



Daniel Dennert is an Oceanside-born, San Diego native. He is an arts leader with over a decade of experience in programming and management within theater, museum, and educational organizations. Daniel is passionate about assisting and promoting artists in developing new work, playing an instrumental role in bringing projects to life across disciplines—from dance and musicals to visual and public art. He works diligently to foster processes that prioritize access and equity, with a particular focus on community engagement.

Daniel has held various industry service roles and regularly serves on selection and funding panels for organizations such as the California Arts Council, the Institute of Contemporary Art San Diego and Arts District Liberty Station. A lover of aviation, Daniel currently oversees the temporary exhibition and performing arts programs at the Airport Authority, where he aims to elevate the exceptional creators of the San Diego region to a global audience.

The Airport (SAN) just completed Phase 1A of the 3.8 billion dollar new Terminal 1 capital project. The program includes seven new public art commissions, in addition to spaces for performances and exhibitions. SAN's Arts Program has garnered national recognition and awards. With three flagship initiatives—public art, temporary exhibitions, and performing arts—the program allows for direct representation of local creatives, working with hundreds of artists every year, exemplifying the airport's role as a respected community partner and regional resource.

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MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR OCT 10, 2025



The Above & Beyond honoree for this quarter was **Thomas Gang**. Thomas is serving as the Dean of Wellness, Exercise Science and Athletics at Southwestern College. He has been in this position since 2023. Thomas previously served as the Dean of Athletics & Kinesiology / Athletic Director at Antelope Valley College (AVC) in Lancaster, California. His leadership at AVC was significant in reimagining a more dynamic, progressive curriculum and working with Faculty to establish a vibrant online education program. He now brings these skills to SWC.

L-R: President Ben Koala, Michael Monaco, Dean Thomas Gang and Sofia Salgado Robitaille.



L-R: This week's news sponsor Cheryl Shields pictured with happy winners Rasha Roshdy, Mike Green and Diane Flint-Wages.

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JIM BIDDLE NEWS AT NOON by Betty Waznis

LIVE



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SPONSOR

With Betty Waznis

Hello, everyone. Welcome to today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today brought to you by Cheryl Shields. San Diego's driest water year in nearly a decade ended last week. The water year is a 12-month cycle that begins on Oct. 1, when the state is headed into fall and winter, when most rainfall occurs. We recorded 5.07 inches of precipitation, barely half its seasonal average. San Diego hasn't been this dry since the water year that ended on Sept. 30, 2018, when the city got 3.34 inches of rain. The shortage of rain has produced varying levels of drought across the county, elevating the risk of wildfires at the time of year when dry Santa Ana winds begin to blow.

A remarkable discovery has been made off the east coast of Florida, where divers have recovered more than 1,000 gold and silver coins from one of the most famous shipwrecks in the Americas—the 1715 Treasure Fleet. The find was made this summer by Queens Jewels Salvage Company and announced last week. The fleet consisted of 12 Spanish ships that left Cuba in July 1715, carrying gold, silver, and other treasures from Mexico, Peru, and Bolivia. A powerful hurricane sank 11 of the ships off Florida's coast, scattering an estimated \$400 million in valuables along 50 miles of shoreline and claiming hundreds of sailors' lives. While some cargo was salvaged in the years after, most remained on the ocean floor for over three centuries.

The recent recovery includes more than 1,000 silver "pieces of eight," five gold escudos, and rare gold artifacts. Many coins are in excellent condition, showing clear dates and Mexican colonial mint marks. Modern salvage operations are conducted under state oversight to ensure artifacts are recorded and preserved. Once cleaned, weighed, photographed and cataloged, the State of Florida may claim up to 20 percent of the haul for museum exhibition.

Chunk, a towering brown bear with a broken jaw, swept the competition in the popular Fat Bear Week contest — his first win after narrowly finishing in second place three previous years.

The annual online competition which concluded last week allows viewers to follow 12 bears in Alaska's Katmai National Park and Preserve on live webcams and cast ballots in a bracket-style, single-elimination tournament that lasts a week. Chunk — known officially as Bear 32 — beat out Bear 856 in the final bracket. Chunk's weight was estimated at 1,200 pounds. While contest organizers cannot weigh individual bears during the contest, the bear contestants have had their density scanned for weight estimates using LIDAR laser technology. The wildly popular contest attracted over 1.5 million votes this year from fans who watched the bears as they fished in the Brooks River about 300 miles from Anchorage, enjoying the largest glut of salmon since the Fat Bear Week contest began in 2014.

Today's sponsor, Cheryl Shields, is the Senior Director of Marketing and Community Relations for Chick-fil-A in Eastlake. Her husband, Rob, is a Corporate Defense Attorney and Partner at his firm. Rob & Cheryl have been married for 27 years and have 22-year-old triplets. The triplets all graduated with their Bachelor's Degrees in May - and are all continuing their education. Hannah is in Law School in Alabama, Zach is currently interviewing for Med School and Caroline is starting her Nurse Practitioners degree. Beyond their jobs and education, Cheryl is a Mentor Mom to Moms of Preschoolers, Cheryl & Rob teach a parenting class at their church, and help lead the Marriage Ministry. Rob & Cheryl founded and ran A Night to Remember Prom for kids with special needs for 11 years and recently have a heart for vulnerable orphans in Zambia, Africa, where they sponsor 18 orphans and have spent their last 3 summers serving there - and they are headed there again this June. Cheryl is on the Board of Directors for the Zambia non-profit, Family Legacy. Cheryl and her family love to serve others and is proud to be a Rotarian - as "Service above Self" is in the DNA of who she is. This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today brought to you by Cheryl Shields.

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CLUB HIGHLIGHTS



Top right: It was a beautiful farewell to Laura Humphreys as she leaves the west coast for New Jersey. With Cheryl Cox, her husband David; Rotarians were in the house—Duane Buckingham, Bill & Karen Torre, and many others! Mayor McCann declared Laura Humphreys Day!



Top left: Duane Buckingham and Michael Oliveri made time to help with the food distribution at St. Mark's church. The next distribution will be November 14, just in time for Thanksgiving.

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Lisa Johnson and Gary Bryant from our Club Youth Services Committee present a check to the speakers team from “Loving You Through It” in support of their good work with cancer patients in South County. Thanks to everyone who brought scarves to donate also.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Saturday, October 18—**BEAUTIFY CHULA VISTA—8:30 am—noon**

WORLD POLIO DAY— OCTOBER 24th

Saturday, October 25—**Christmas in October**

Wednesday, November 5—**JUST IN TIME FOSTER YOUTH—First Home**

Tuesday, November 11—**Chula Vista Veterans' Home Lunch**

Friday, November 14—**Food Distribution at St. Mark's**

CHULA VISTA ROTARY 100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Sunday, February 15, 2026

TRIVIA NIGHT— Friday, March 13, 2026