The Run Down On Traffic Fines

So to speak

BY REX EASLY

There are 135 “opportunities” for you to get a ticket from the municipal police in Los Cabos. So you thought you escaped all that nonsense when you left the States and came down to lawless Mexico home of no worries? Nope. In fact most of these fines are similar to the ones in the United States.

Each fine is assigned a number which represents the multiplier of the minimum wage, calculating your fine. Minimum salary per day is $73 pesos or about $4.56 USD. Yes, that’s per day, not per hour. To calculate the fine you multiply the assigned number x $4.56 dollars to get the grand total. We calculated the fines here for you math retards at a 16 to 1 exchange rate. So here is a breakdown of some of the traffic fines in US dollars.

The least expensive fines start at $13.68 for turning without signaling, and not wearing a seat

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Where Did Our Lagoon Go?

Now you see it, now you don’t. Well, over two years

BY MISTY WATERS

An estuary is a partially enclosed coastal body of brackish water with one or more rivers or streams flowing into it, and with a free connection to the open sea. It comes from the Latin word aëstuarium, meaning “a tidal marsh or opening”.

The La Poza lagoon near Todos Santos is an example of that definition. The lagoon is fed by rain water that runs down from the mountains that sit on the spine of our peninsula. It rains up there way more than it rains down here near sea level, and the water that rushes, sometimes trickles, down the mountain side is most of what we have for fresh water. All we have is that trickle down, what we desalinate, and what we pump out of the ground, which again, is trickle down water that has soaked into the land.

Our pretty lagoon that we can usually count on to make it through droughts has been under unusual stress lately, resulting in the water receding, causing our lagoon to get smaller by the day. It is now a mere shadow of it’s former self.

Estuaries form a transition zone between river environments and ocean environments. They are subject both to ocean influences—such as tides, waves, and the influx of saline water—and to river influences—such as flows of fresh water and sediment. The inflows of both sea water and fresh water provide high levels of nutrients both in the water and in sediment, making estuaries among the most productive natural habitats in the world.

The La Poza lagoon near Todos Santos is an important ecosystem in Baja California Sur. 110 bird species have been

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4
Que Pasa in Cabo?

BY DAVID FLORES

Fishing tourney coming. The 2016 Cabo Summer Slam presented by PELAGIC will take place June 3 to 5 this year in Cabo. It’s a thrill a minute tournament where participants can win cash, awards and prizes by catching marlin, tuna, wahoo, and dorado. Geeze, sounds like everything but golf fish.

This year’s purse is estimated to be $50,000. Awards will be presented to the anglers and four person teams for their performance in releasing the most billfish, (blue marlin, black marlin, striped marlin, sailfish, swordfish, and guppies), and/or catching the heaviest gamefish (tuna, wahoo, dorado), during the two day tournament. (Saturday, June 4th & Sunday, June 5th).

Check in will be Friday at Baja Cantina on the marina, with a kick-off party starting at 7:00 pm. Awards presentation also at the Cantina. More info at www.pelagicgear.com.

San Jose estuary in slow death throes. Make that fast death throes, according to some. If you haven’t been there, the estuary in San Jose has been a state ecological reserve since 1993, comprising nearly 2,000 acres of mangroves, palm trees, and assorted fauna, flotsam, jetsam, and flora and is home to more than 200 species of migratory, endemic birds, and assorted homeless bums who like to set it on fire. In addition, it is an important source of water for San Jose.

According to Oscar Arizpe, a biologist with a masters degree in science, “one of the estuary’s arms has practically disappeared due to lack of interest from the authorities.”

This wetland has been deteriorating during the past 15 years due to the bums, illegal palm tree chopping, natural phenomena like 2014’s hurricane Odile, and pollution from the sewage treatment plant that sits next to it. Treatment capacity has been overwhelmed since 1980. The city government, which changes every three years, has begun recovery programs every administration, only to drop it when pressed by other priorities. This time, and for the “nth” time, organized business and civil organizations are bundling up to create yet another organization that involves the federal, state and city government to come up with a solution and raise funds to do something.

So far, the influential Los Cabos Coordinating Council (CCCC), an umbrella group whose members are mostly the merchant class, is trying to unite all levels of government and the population in a joint effort to rescue the estuary. The group will receive advise from CIBNOR, the state’s institute for biological research.

Downtown business ass. in action. Amigos de Cabo San Lucas (do we have to translate that for you, Bunky?) held a series of meetings with city officials to continue their efforts to improve Cabo San Lucas’s urban image. Parking is one of their priorities, as business owners have suffered low sales because there is practically no place to park in downtown.

That is, without using the few parking lots. The city officials responded, painting some red curbs white for parking here OK. Amigos also wants to create additional handicapped spaces, since many of our Gringo visitors are old and creaky.

Since a large number of parking areas have been taken over by local cabs, the association is also asking for a revision of those. There is a plan proposed for meters in downtown, but nothing has been decided yet.

Hidalgo street, which runs up to the Cantina. More info at www.gringogazette.com
Holy cow! Bad news and worse news! My mom posted my handsome self in the want ads for cat adoptions from the Humane Society last issue.

I want to make this perfectly clear: I am not up for grabs. I have a very good gig here and I know it. All I have to do is hustle out and get the words, I want it on record that I’m back at work. Very good gig here and I know it. All I have to do is hustle out and get the want ads for cat adoptions from the Humane Society last issue.

Canada renews on promise to Mexico. One of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s campaign promises was to stop requiring Mexicans to obtain a visa to visit that country. That law, imposed in 2009, greatly pissed off Mexicans, so much that it strained international relations. It was seen as an easy campaign promise to fulfill, but now it’s threatening to torpedo the June 29 meeting between in Canada between President Barack Obama his Mexican counterpart, Enrique Pena Nieto, and Canadian PM Trudeau. The dispute became so contentious that Pena Nieto cancelled a visit to Ottawa and Calgary in 2014 over the issue. The Canadian government says it is working on the matter and that it remains committed to restoring visa-free travel for Mexicans.

Canada imposed visa requirements on travellers from Mexico and the Czech Republic without warning in July 2009, blaming skyrocketing refugee claims from the two countries. The anger only grew after the Conservatives, in response to threats from the European Union over free trade, lifted the Czech visa requirements in November 2013, but kept them on Mexico. Nearly 1,000 Mexican visas were arriving in Canada and filing for asylum, the most of any country. Processing those claims, both successful and unsuccessful, cost more than $400 million a year.

Canada has not said what the hold-up has been in reinstating visa-free travel, but it seems clear there are concerns that doing so will result in a new flood of unfounded asylum claims. In the House of Commons this week, Conservative immigration critic Michelle Rempel cited department figures showing that before visas were required, one in four Mexican visa applicants was applying for refugee status. It is now fewer than one in 100. Visa ofﬁcers have also been rejecting five per cent of Mexican visa requests for fear the travellers will not leave Canada after their visit.

The department says its preferred threshold for visa-free countries is less than two per cent. After the visa was introduced, the number of claims fell to 1,199, the cost plunged from $304 million to $44 million; immigration violations dropped from 9,000 in 2006 to 3,500 in 2010, according to a 2012 evaluation of the program. The number of violations is part of the criteria the Immigration Department uses when deciding whether or not to remove visa restrictions — they look at an average of how many visas are refused and how many people violated immigration rules over the last three years.

Of course none of those statistics makes Mexico less demanding of visa-free entry to Canada.

The latest edition of Mexico’s most important travel trade show, Tianguis Turistico, celebrated last month in Guadalajara, has been billed as the most successful in its 41-year history. Attended by 910 travel service providers, 1,605 buyers and 9,413 people from 79 countries, the trade show managed to nail down more than 37,000 business appointments, a new record on all fronts, said the Tourism Secretariat.

The presence of 32 Asian buyers was a welcome sign given Mexico’s interest in diversifying into that market, particularly China, India and south Korea. What, Gringos are chopped liver now?

While the importance of international tourism was emphasized during the four-day show, the Enrique Peña Nieto administration also focused upon the importance of the domestic market during the traditional low seasons. Yup, we’re continued on page 7.

The Benefits of Cosmetic Surgery

Blending surgical skills with artistic talent to create a more beautiful you!

By Dr. Dick

Most people have cosmetic surgery to improve their appearance and self-esteem, as well as to look younger. If you’ve been bothered about your appearance, cosmetic surgery can help improve the way you look and feel.

To celebrate the opening of their newest medical facility in San Lucas, Saint Luke’s Hospital is offering special prices on all cosmetic treatments during the month of May & June. The hospital provides a variety of cosmetic treatments including breast augmentation, lift, reduction or reconstruction; thigh and arm lift; buttocks augmentation or lift; surgery on the face, chin, eyelid, nose and forehead; liposuction; tummy tucks and more. These procedures are very affordable, usually less than half of the cost in the United States.

Those who prefer non-invasive treatments, can select from a range of skin care procedures such as Botox, chemical peels, fillers and laser therapies, all using the most advanced state-of-the-art laser equipment. You are in expert hands at Saint Luke’s, with board certiﬁed plastic surgeons specializing in aesthetic and reconstructive surgery who use the very latest equipment and technology.

During the month of May & June, renowned surgeon Dr. Omar Flores from Guadalajara will be performing world-class quality treatments at reduced prices. For example, lower cheeks and under chin liposuction cost less than $4000 pesos. Other procedures are 20-30% off list prices. It’s also a good time for men to get an eyelid lift and neck lift to improve their appearance and self-esteem. Call today for your free consultation and quote. Ph: 624 157 1970

The Saint Luke’s team is the acknowledged leader in preventive medicine, and understands that with early detection most illnesses can be treated and cured.

The key is early detection and that takes vigilance. Saint Lukes offers a range of health check-up packages, for a complete and accurate diagnosis of your health and for peace of mind. Visit the link below to view the variety of check-up packages for you and your family at very affordable prices:

www.saintlukeshospitals.com/check-ups.php

If you lead a hectic and stressful lifestyle, a health check-up is even more important and you can now combine your health check-up and cosmetic treatments with a rejuvenating wellness package in Los Cabos. This includes luxury accommodations at a top-rated Spa Resort where you can enjoy an array of soothing and revitalizing spa therapies and skin care treatment. You will also enjoy the gym and hydrotherapy facilities at a world-class spa like the Desert Spa at the Villa del Arco Beach Resort. And you have the option to include recreational activities such as golf at the Jack Nicklaus Ocean Course at Cabo Del Sol, or a full day fishing on the Sea of Cortez.

Why not plan now, for the best health & wellness package in Los Cabos. Contact the client manager, who will discuss a personally tailored plan just for you. Or visit the hospital and meet the surgeon, for a free consultation, and discuss the treatment that’s right for you. For details and costs, check the online link www.saintlukeshospitals.com/health-wellness.php.

Local residents and those not requiring accommodations or recreational activities, contact the client manager to arrange a free consultation for a health check-up or the cosmetic treatments of your choice. Further information, Ph: 624 157 1970, or send email to: healthwellnesloscabos@gmail.com. Remember, your health is the most important asset you have. Why not make an investment in your health today.
WHERE DID OUR LAGOON GO?... continued from page 1

recorded lounging out at La Poza by the Carmona/ProNatura study between 2014-15. This is 25% of all observable species in our state. Many of these species, including the critically endangered Belding’s yellowthroat, Xantus’s hummingbird and the gray thrasher, are endemic only to this area. There are only about 1500 to 4000 Belding’s yellowthroat left on the planet due to habitat loss.

Society has placed 64 bird species on the endangered list and they live only in Baja California Sur. In addition, the Audubon Society has 39 species that are dangerous with the increase in global warming and the resulting increase in the number of hurricanes.

Another service the estuary blesses us with is the protection of the area surrounding it. The lagoon helps protect shoreline soil from the erosive forces of ocean waves. Lagoon plants act as a buffer by dissipating the water’s energy and providing stability by binding the soils with their extensive root systems.

Another service of this versatile lagoon is it transforms nutrients and purifies water. Sediments, nutrients, and toxic chemicals enter the lagoon from both urban and agricultural runoff. A key issue of concern to Todos Santos residents is fertilizers and pesticides that have been applied to the land by local farms. This problem is compounded by the pollutants picked up in the commercial and residential areas when the water from the Sierras travels through the rivers and canals of the town. The lagoon is one of the key culminating points of the Todos Santos watershed, and it removes these pollutants by trapping the sediments and pollutants and holding them in the soil. The slow velocity of water in the lagoon allows the sediments to settle to the bottom where plants hold the accumulated sediments in place. The lagoon traps and buries these chemicals and pollutants.

And let’s not forget the small animals especially our beloved insects - which are essential links at the lowest levels of the food chain that attracts the birds and other wildlife. Insects are God’s creatures, too, and they deserve a nice lagoon to live in.

So, now. Do you believe us that La Poza lagoon is more than just a pretty recreational playground for us? Then let’s get on with the realities. Just look at the pictures here and you will see the vast difference in the health of the water in the two years since fresh water has been cut off almost entirely.

We traced the creek that used to feed it. Judging from the small ditch that it carved out, it’s never been a gully washer, but a slow, steady contribution, enough to keep the balance between fresh and salt water, and enough to keep the lagoon bed full of water. It has always fluctuated, but this is

Over the course of two years the lagoon in the estuary near Todos Santos has gone from this to this...
THE RUN DOWN ON TRAFFIC... continued from page 1

belt. (Fine is for each scofflaw in the car.)

Next, driving with bright lights on in the city, driving the wrong way on a one way, driving a motorcycle without a helmet, emitting excessive emissions, (does Mexico City know about this law?) and parking in a prohibited area, such as taxi areas, green and red painted curbs, parking against traffic, and parking less than eight meters from fire hydrants cost $22.80. Do we even have fire hydrants? If we do, it’s certain there is no water in them. That’s why you see the most the tanker trucks charging after fire trucks. These “pumpers” don’t pump from fire hydrants, they pump from tanker trucks.

Driving without a license costs $36.48 dollars while driving with expired plates, throwing trash out the window, (includes beer cans), refusing to obey officer instructions, not stopping for a pedestrian or emergency vehicle, and the biggy we all commit, driving while talking on a cell phone costs $45.60.

Driving without plates, speeding, and running from the police cost $91.02. Abandoning victims in an accident costs $228 while the most unauthorized use of a public parking space or ramp at a cost of $456 US big ones. Yikes!

The worst states thinking you can drink and drive here, think again. The police now give breathalyzers tests here too. A person is considered intoxicated at .050 milligrams of ethanol per millimeter of blood (mg/ml). Police are allowed to stop motorists and ask them to take a breath test (alcoholimetro) if they have reason to believe that the driver is over the limit. Lately they have been setting up road blocks to test for boozers, mostly on weekend nights.

There are 3 fines for driving while intoxicated. The first is $91.20, the second is $182.04, and the third is $364.08. Most people are arrested on the weekend for drunk driving. If another passenger in the car is sober, he may drive the vehicle home. If not, the car is impounded.

If you arrive at your car, and the license plates are missing, don’t panic. Well, panic is sort of called for, you’ve been caught in a no no. There will be a ticket on your windshield. The police removed your license plates in order to assure that you show up to pay the fine. However, it isn’t very effective. At times, it seems like there are more cars here driving around without their plates than with. Part of the reason for that is the state has been out of license for quite a while now. New cars get a silly little paper license plate.

Where do you pay the fine? All fines are paid in cash at the transito office located on the road to Todos Santos, on the right side of the road. To avoid long lines and a major hassle, don’t go on Monday to pay your ticket. Monday is mayhem day, due the number of incidents that occur on the weekend, and these people move at glacial speed even on a good day.

One more thing: If you get a moving violation, expect to surrender your drivers license. It’s scary to newbies, but really it’s no big deal. These people don’t want your license, there is nothing they can do with it, they are just impounding it to ensure you show up to pay your fine.

The complete list of traffic fines can be found online at: www.elosacabos.gov.mx/pdf/ley/reglamento-de-transito-del-municipio.pdf

If you’re paying a city fine, thank your lucky stars you weren’t picked up on the four lane or at the airport. Those are our only federal jurisdiction and the fines are way, way, astronomically higher. How high? We’ve published them twice now, pay attention! 

Here’s Who’s Passing Out The Fines

Mexican police have been judged among the worst in the world, worse even than African countries, reported the World Internal Security and Police Index 2016.

According to the report, the diagnosis prepared by the International Association of Police Sciences, placed Mexico in 118th place of the 127 countries evaluated for capacity, processes, legitimacy and results of security institutions. The rating Mexico received places it below countries like Sierra Leone, Zambia, Liberia, Tanzania, Guinea, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua.

Mexico is ranked higher than only nine countries, such as Venezuela, Cameroon, Bangladesh, Mongolia, Pakistan, Uganda and Nigeria.

The worst evaluation for Mexican police was in the area of legitimacy, and it is ranked 125th of the 127 countries evaluated, the two lower countries were Congo and Pakistan. The countries with the best evaluations in the study were Singapore, Finland, Denmark, Austria, Germany and Australia. The study measures legitimacy according to indicators of public opinion, confidence, legitimacy is a test to understand how the public views security providers, especially the police, from a favorable point of view,” said the report.

According to the index, Mexico has doubled it police forces in the last 30 years, but even so it is placed in the lowest levels for performance and effectiveness.

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I write this note just after the federal income tax return filing deadline of April 18, 2016, specifically for expats who did not file by then. In case you didn’t notice, this year’s regular filing deadline was off by three days due to DC’s Emancipation Day holiday. Yeah, we never heard of it either, but we’ll take another holiday.

Those who reside outside the United States (and Puerto Rico) as of the filing deadline qualify for an automatic two month extension to file a return and to pay tax due. Either spouse filing a joint return qualifies for the extension, but it runs only to June 30. If you file a return within that time and pay whatever you owe, you will not be subject to the failure to file or failure to pay penalties. However, the IRS will calculate interest due on the tax from April 18 onward and send you a bill.

IRS rules say that the taxpayer must attach a statement to the return, saying that the taxpayer qualifies for the automatic extension. I recommend writing those out in RED LETTERS at the top of the return: “TAXPAYER RESIDES OUTSIDE THE U.S.—AUTOMATIC EXTENSION” or words to that effect.

Normal taxpayers are entitled to a six month extension of time to file, but not to pay. Expats can get that too, by filing Form 4868 within the automatic extension window, on or before June 30. But it runs concurrently with the automatic extension, so an expat who applies gets an extension to file to October 15. They do not stack up.

If a taxpayer needs additional time, there is yet another two month extension available by writing a letter to the Austin Texas IRS Service Center. “I need the additional time to prepare a complete and accurate return” will likely get your request granted.

Lastly, there is a special extension of time to meet residence abroad tests to qualify for exclusion of Foreign Earned Income. Form 2350 is used for this purpose, and may get you 30 days past the date when you expect to qualify for the residence abroad tests.

As alluring as extensions are, I recommend their use only when necessary. Blowing through an extension can be expensive. But most importantly, the IRS clock to audit your return will not begin until you file. Keep that in mind.

Orlando Gotay is a California licensed tax attorney (with a Master of Laws in Taxation) admitted to practice before the IRS, the U.S. Tax Court and other taxing agencies. His love of things Mexican has led him to devote part of his practice to the tax matters of U.S. expats in Mexico. He can be reached at tax@orlandogotay.com.

In related news, Fonatur, the federal tourism development agency that created San Jose’s tourist zone and the Cabo marina, has signed an agreement with the state and city governments to maintain and spiff up Cabo San Lucas’ historic downtown.

Meaning, they will spend a whole bunch of money to make us look prettier.

The plan calls for a homogenous look in the downtown facades, signs, and to finally knock down the overhead utility wires, and bury the area’s phone, electrical and WiFi stuff underground. A job that was started but never finished.

In addition, Fonatur will build a center for the attention and protection of our tourists, which will take complaints of all kinds from our precious pilgrims. Government officials said so, and we believe them. Yeah, we’re pretty stupid that way.

Government officials tested for drugs.

A pop up test was performed on over 200 Los Cabos government officials last week, and guess who was there at the front of the line? Mayor from the main drag across the street from the Tesoro resort, is full of restaurants in need of eaters. It was agreed that at sunset, the street will be a parking zone. Well, none of this is going to do much good because once again the parking spots will be taken by the business owners and the employees, who get there first.

Que pasa in Cabo?... continued from page 2
May Day! May Day!

Just kidding. May Day in Mexico is dedicated to workers. It’s kind of like our Labor Day. Except in the United States laborers go to the beach, the mountains, or their couch, they don’t have to turn out in a march, as they do here. CROC, the main union for the hospitality industry, dresses them up in matching white T shirts and marches them past city hall. Our workers are pretty docile about screwing up their holiday, unlike in the state of Querétaro over on the mainland, where the governor had to flee off the stage at their Labor Day event. He and other dignitaries fled when unhappy teachers, civil servants, garbage collectors, and assorted civil organizations used the occasion to express their dissatisfaction with the authorities.

Governor Francisco Domínguez and his cabinet fled when the protest began at the annual Labor Day parade, which delayed the event for two hours.

The first group to make their feelings known was the STSPE, a union of government workers, whose members began yelling insults at the governor, including the controversial soccer fans’ cry, “Eeeeh, puto!” We won’t translate that for you because it’s not nice.

Next, the crowd began throwing icky things at the stage and yelling, “Out, out!” That’s when the governor and fellow dignitaries made a quick exit, leaving their places up on the dais to be filled by the dissident marchers.

Municipal garbage workers protesting the privatizing of the service while teachers expressed their opposition to education reforms and the dismissal of teachers who had failed their evaluation tests.

Governor Domínguez popped up the next day to tell a press conference that he had instructed his cabinet members to open a dialogue with those workers who had legitimate demands. Would that include the teachers who couldn’t pass a competency test? How are they going to deal with them? They obviously would rather riot than study and take the exam again.

Here’s our question: Why do protestors protest for special breaks for themselves, instead of channeling their energy into getting better and more transparent government?

Here’s our answer, which may or may not be correct: Because they see the system as so rigged against them, that they think their best shot is not to fix that system, but to game the existing crooked system to their advantage.

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It’s Turtle Season!

Get your fresh turtle eggs, cheaper than Viagra

BY BEN GAY

Turtle season is under way on the Oaxaca coast, on the mainland of Mexico where thousands of mamas arrive every year to deposit as many as 100 eggs each. They rather carelessly, it seems, dig shallow holes in the sand, squirt out their children, and immediately hustle back to the Pacific Ocean and swim away. These are not candidates for Mother of the Year. Half the eggs don’t even hatch, and from those that do, baby turtles will emerge after cooking for about 45 to 70 days.

At that point they will get the hell out of Dodge as quick as they can, scurrying down the beach to the sea, running a gauntlet of predators and the powerful surf. It’s estimated that only 2% survive to become careless mamas and daddies themselves. Turtles are what, about 5 billion years old? Why haven’t they perfected this procreation thing by now? Well, maybe they have, there are a lot of turtles in the sea.

The eggs are easy pickings for humans and 20 nests of eggs will fill a sack with 2,000 of them, which will fetch between $35 and $70 U.S. on the black market. They are used as the poor man’s Viagra. Their big predator these days is the looters. Specifically male people.

“The looters arrive at night, with their sacks, and remove the eggs minutes after they are laid”, explained Haro Bélchez of the government agency ProPepa. “They deliver them to distributors who take them to Juchitán or Puerto Escondido, which are the main distribution and sales points.”

Last month a monitoring and surveillance plan was implemented in conjunction with the National Protected Areas Commission, the federal police and the Navy. They will use two drones in the hunt.

Idyllic cowboy scene? No! Those sacks on the donkeys are filled with purloined turtle eggs and the guy in the foreground with his ass in the air is robbing a turtle nest for more.

Highway checkpoints will also be set up and additional beach and sea patrols by ProPepa inspectors and the Navy are being considered. So far this year, ProPepa has registered 33,884 nests dug by this year’s mamas, with most under protection and the remaining 2,000 are being monitored by the drones.

Authorities seized 5,000 stolen eggs in one weekend last month, and were able to return them to the beach and bury them in the sand again before the little tykes knew what happened to them.

Here, closer to home, our beaches are not so deserted, and we have plenty of volunteers to patrol. Those volunteers include Gringos, Canucks, and Choyeros. (Locals). A big part of the Los Cabos effort is the hotel guards who have been trained to locate and protect any turtle nests on their beach.

And anyway, we all know better than to eat little baby turtles. Don’t we?™
Say Again, Why Was Tax Day Moved This Year?

The District of Columbia celebrates April 16 as Emancipation Day. On that day in 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act (an act of compensated emancipation). The Act freed about 3,100 slaves in the District of Columbia nine months before President Lincoln issued his broader Emancipation Proclamation.

The District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act represents the only example of compensation by the federal government to former owners of emancipated slaves. Hmmmm...so the compensation didn't go to the government to former owners of slaves. It went to those who emancipated slaves. Hmmm....so the compensation didn't go to the federal government to former owners of slaves.”

Taxes were due on Tuesday this year. Taxes were due on Tuesday this year. Emancipation Day is observed on the nearest weekday. Monday. Emancipation Day is observed on the nearest weekday. Monday. Taxes were due on Tuesday this year. Taxes were due on Tuesday this year. Emancipation Day is observed on the nearest weekday. Monday. Monday. Taxes were due on Tuesday this year.

So here’s how it affected us this year: Although Emancipation Day occurs on April 16, by law when April 16 falls during a weekend, making Emancipation Day an official public holiday in the District.

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As dry as anyone can remember it. The people living around the lagoon and directly affected by it each day are keen on finding out where their water went.

These are tourist businesses that suffer, because their guests want to play on the lagoon. One bed and breakfast that fronts where the water used to be, has kayaks, stand up paddle boards and row boats now put away in storage because the lagoon is unusable.

We do know that the fresh water for the lagoon does trickle through land owned by the Moreno family, so of course that family is high on the list of suspects of who’s hogging the water. But they do have a permit from the federal water agency to take a percentage of the water that flows up from their wells, and along the surface of their land. This is the way Conagua divvies up water: Not so many gallons or liters, but a percentage of what's available. If this family is letting the same percentage of water through as they always have, then there is way less water to be had than there used to be. Unlike, say many of the Todos Santos residents, as they point to the green hills around us and the hurricanes that have dumped copious amounts of water on us, just as the lagoon has been receding.

Perhaps the dying estuary is not so important when seen through the eyes of town residents who don’t have clean water coming through their taps, but it does seem as though a comprehensive water plan allocating the scarce resource fairly is called for. The problem is, what’s fair? That depends on who you talk to.

We do know that the fresh water on us, just as the lagoon was coming.

De la Rosa stated, “We must be true to our people and give them the confidence that our government officials are healthy and in conditions to work and take care of their needs.”

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Quivira Celebrates First Title Delivery

With a big party, snacks, drinks, tours, the whole nine meters

BY MAX POWER

In a clubby atmosphere with chill out Bohemian music, lots of cocktails, and snacks on a cracker, the Copala at Quivira officially delivered its first title in the residential community dubbed, “A Treasure of a Lifetime with the Good Life Los Cabos style.” Well, they’re Realtors, not poets. The developers just broke who were there for the snacks and liquor.

In the immortal words of Alberto Coppel, “Copala is one more proof that longtime members of the Pueblo Bonito group, some of whom acquired timeshare many years ago at our first property, Pueblo Bonito Blanco, or at Pueblo Bonito Rose, or at

title or legal problems, and people can buy there with confidence. Copala will integrate several amenities into its “Good Life” concept, such as an organic garden, a pet club, (watch your step), a hotel, a holistic club, an art gallery, a wine club and a yacht club.

Copala is three miles of beachfront on the Pacific side of Cabo. The Jack Nicklaus golf course just opened there, and it is, in the opinion of this writer, who has played every course but Eldorado, the most spectacular course in all of Baja. Yup, it has actually dethroned Diamante. It is an awesome course, with many holes right on the edge of the planet, where the raging ocean beats the rocks all to hell 200 feet below. (Now, that’s poetry)!

The ocean view, master planned gated community has Mexican hacienda style one, two, and three-bedroom condos, as well as wonderfully designed high end custom homes.

Copala’s multi story condominiums are built high on the hill, and feature sweeping views to China, (as long as Hawaii ducks down a little). They are also a good idea for someone who isn’t here all the time: Lock and leave. Or turn your unit into the rental pool and let it pay itself off. The units feature solid concrete construction, ample soundproofing, and many built-in upgrades, (like tempered glass windows), sold as standard.

On completion, Copala will boast a total of 258 condominiums and 86 homes. First floor

your terrace; penthouse condos offer a rooftop terrace with a splash pool, fire pit, outdoor grill and other amenity upgrades. All this starting at only $360,000. The custom built individual

waving your wallet wouldn’t help; We know a Realtor with clients who was turned away by the sales staff because the car full of buyers didn’t have an appointment. Natural conservation areas,

ground on the full ownership condos and homes last year, and have already delivered many, some of them occupied already.

Two condo buildings are finished, as well as 20 residences and the club house. The first title was delivered a week before, to Thaddeus Krupa, in a ceremony attended by Mr. Krupa’s legal counselor, a local notary public who landed the deal, and Pueblo Bonito development owner Letty Coppel. Also up front with the ribbon cutting crowd were Pueblo Bonito’s CEO Alberto Coppel and several dozens brokers, friends and hangers on. Those might have been the ones

our Sunset Beach resort, have confidence in us, and are now buying into Copala.” Coppel added that the one thing Pueblo Bonito has built in Los Cabos in addition to resort condos and homes and timeshare, is credibility.

Rafael Covarrubias, the big gun from Mexico City who was hired to sell all of the different configurations of residences at Copala, explained the big hoopla as, “It’s important for the Los Cabos community to know that what started as a dream is now a reality.” We read that as his little victory jig. And that he wants everyone to know there are no

ent floor plans. Each residence boasts Spanish colonial, hacienda-style charm that honors the region’s Mexican heritage. Free standing homes start at $450,000.

The clubhouse is open, and it’s gorgeous, right on the sand, but it’s already getting an overhaul, getting two infinity edge pools, a spa, business center, children’s playroom, more restaurants, and banquet space. Lunch here would be a great way to look around, but the development runs such a tight door, that is nearly impossible. You can’t even get on the property without calling ahead. And no, ownership also includes beach club membership, with a beach

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19
I dedicate this recipe to my boss, the publisher of this paper, who's philosophy of cooking goes something like this: Screw it if there are more than three ingredients, send out for Dominos. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches comes in at three, as does her all important waffles, with egg, mix, and water. She's equally good with breakfast: yogurt, fruit, and muslin sprinkled on top. Every damn day. She does have a point that everything she likes fits within her three ingredient parameters, I have to allow her that.

But today you, my precious readers, and I, are going to cook up a dish that would drive the boss around the bend because it takes patience, time, and loving care with more than 30 ingredients. Those are three ingredients Carrie does not posses. She has no patience, no time for cooking, and certainly no loving care with food. So here goes without her. She will show up when it’s ready, sniff at it, and ask if it’s available at Taco Bell. If it’s not, it’s immediately put on the suspect list. May, June, and July are the favorite months to celebrate weddings, and one of the most traditional dishes to be served in Mexican weddings is the mole sauce. Pronounce like moly. But not only the mole that most restaurateurs offer in their menus, which by the way I don't understand why it is still being so limited. Specially now, when it is not as hard as it was before to find a large variety of ingredients almost in every supermarket in town.

Mexican food is by no means, limited in selection like you see on the local restaurant menus. Actually, there might be more than 15 different kinds of enchiladas and a similar number of moles. In the state of Oaxaca alone, there are several kinds of moles.

Well, going back where I was, there is a kind of mole that is called Manchamanteles. The translation would be literally: stained table-cloth. And the name comes exactly from what you are thinking. The table cloth will have mole stains all over it because it’s consistence is similar to a broth and nearly everything in the kitchen goes into it. This dish was first created in the city of Puebla like many other traditional Mexican dishes, and the reason is because that area had a major diversity of Mexican tribes and because Puebla was created for the Spaniards and their Mexican wives and their criollo descendants. The word criollo means the result of a baby with a Spanish father and a Mexican mother. Creol in English. Half breed in TV Westerns. This went on in a big way because no Spanish women traveled from Spain to the Americas in those days. What’s a soldier to do?

So this is the biggest example of the cooking culture. The moles and many other traditional dishes are the mixture or blend of flavors from the many varieties of chiles, turkey, peanuts, tortilla, cocoa, all of Mexican origin, and spices imported from overseas, as well as almonds, sugar, wheat bread with egg and sesame seeds, a mixture which has brought fame to this ceremonial stew, which Mexican households usually only eat on very special days, as in baptizes, weddings, and anniversaries. A good mole will have up to 30 ingredients in it, which means it’s a mother to make.

Manchamanteles is the greatest example of the creativity of Mexican, and Creole women, who wanted to give a good use to all the ingredients they had in their kitchen and in their cupboards, and for two, to please their husbands, children and even the Spaniard soldiers. There were no male cooks or chefs in those times. Manchamanteles has been also continued on page 19.
With Cuba, Rubio is Cuban and he opposed normalization of relations. But following negotiations this week, Rubio agreed to withdraw his hold and the confirmation then sailed through the Senate as part of a procedural motion known as unanimous consent.

Jacobson is widely respected in Mexico and in U.S. diplomatic circles because of her knowledge of Latin America, her fluency in Spanish, and her deft handling of cross-border trade negotiations. In an interview with The Times late last year, Jacobson, 55, lamented leaving the ambassador’s post vacant at a time when Mexico seemed to be opening its potentially rich economy. “There are huge opportunities for Americans” thanks to structural economic reforms in Mexico, especially in the energy and telecommunications industries, she said. “The advocacy, support and visibility of a U.S. ambassador to help promote American businesses ... makes a difference,” Jacobson said.

Jacobson’s supporters in the Senate had tried to bypass Rubio’s hold on her nomination. Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) told his colleagues on Tuesday it was “incomprehensible” that such a vital diplomatic post remained vacant. “The longer the United States goes without having an ambassador to Mexico, the more the relationship will suffer,” he said on the Senate floor when he tried, unsuccessfully, to push Jacobson’s confirmation through. “She enjoys overwhelming support. There is no reason not to move forward.”

Jacobson was not the architect of the administration’s Cuba policy, but she was its most visible shepherd, which was her job. After Obama announced his decision in December 2014 to renew diplomatic ties with Havana, she led talks with the government of President Raul Castro.

Now it seems Marco Rubio’s hissy fit is over.

Oh for crying out loud. A buncha political protesters in Chiapas last week led to the death of two young children who were unable to get medical attention due to a highway blockade.

The brothers, aged four and six, are believed to have ingested penicillin after discovering vials of the antibiotic in a garbage dump in the indigenous community of Chanal. They were taken to a clinic in nearby San Antonio but the doctor was not present, having been detained by the highway blockade. It was those protesters at the same blockade who shortly after prevented an ambulance carrying the two boys from proceeding to a hospital in a neighboring town. The boys’ parents had found a private vehicle to make the hour-long trip instead, but the children were pronounced dead on arrival.

The protesters were members of the Ecologist Green Party who are at odds with the mayor of Chanal. They claim he has failed to keep campaign promises. However, he hasn’t been mayor for long, nor was he even elected. His wife was one of three mayors elected last year after being nominated at the CONTINUED ON PAGE 24
Cerritos, Pescadero & Todos Santos: A good way to spend a day

For those ready to escape the non-stop excitement of Cabo, consider a more relaxing pace, less than an hour’s drive north of downtown Cabo San Lucas. You’ll find an artist’s colony, an authentic Mexican town, laid back residential areas, and the best swimming and surfing beach on the south Pacific side of the peninsula.

Todos Santos offers a charming, authentic environment, with the traditional central plaza, dozens of art galleries, and small hotels. Some of the streets are torn up right now for utility upgrades, but the jewelry stores, galleries, cafes and restaurants are all still open and inviting. Visit the Hotel California (no connection to the Eagles’ song, despite their best efforts to promote that with T-shirts), browse shops full of handcrafted treasures, and enjoy some great Mexican cooking.

What you won’t find are buildings taller than three floors, chain stores, or fast food joints.

Speaking of food, Todos Santos has a full range of temptations. Try Alma & Manny’s or the Todos Santos Inn for breakfast, Bob Marin or Hotel Casa Tota for lunch; Los Adobe, or the Santa Fe for dinner. South of town, near the Pemex, is Dana’s Diner, which has 13 TVs and 13 channel feeds for sports. The gourmet French restaurant Chez Laura is a bit difficult to find, but wow, it is amazing. You step off a dusty dirt road into another world. For fabulous chili relleños try Miguel’s across from the Pemex. Next to the Pemex is the very sophisticated La Casita.

Want off beat? Go to the mask museum, called Faces of Mexico. Tucked on a side road in Todos Santos, the proprietor provides an enthusiastic tour of authentic masks from the various eras of Mexican history.

The cultural museum on Juarez Ave. also has interesting historic displays. Todos Santos is home to the annual music festival every January, an artist’s open studio tour in February, and the ever-popular GastroVino in April. Many visitors extend their Cabo vacation and get to know the real Mexico by staying a few days in either Todos Santos or the nearby beach areas. Cerritos Beach is part of El Pescadero, but where the town of Pescadero is old Mexico, Cerritos has that vibrant beach vibe. Cerritos and its neighboring beach, San Pedrito, are both world-class surf spots. There are a couple of ways to get to the beach, either the old dirt road at km 65, or the new dirt road at km 67. Either way, it’s a bump, but what the hell, you’re in a rental car.

Cerritos is perfect for swimming and enjoying the sand and sun for a day, or a week. Take a surfing lesson or rent a boogie board. Kick back with your favorite refreshment and watch the surfers. There’s a beach club there with tables and beach umbrellas out on the sand, so you don’t even have to pack a lunch if you don’t want to.

El Pescadero is a small town on the way to Todos Santos. It has a rich history of agriculture, ranching and fishing. The lush poblano chili fields are everywhere, as well as strawberry, tomato and basil fields. The town is between the ocean to the west and the Sierra Laguna mountain range to the east. A modern four-lane highway runs right through it connecting Cabo San Lucas to Todos Santos, then goes north to La Paz. Stop at one of the many taco stands along the highway, or buy veggie or fruit along the road. In the afternoon when the fishermen come in with the day’s catch you can buy fresh fish off the boat at Punta Lobos. For a small propina (tip) they’ll filet it for you, too.

Turn off the dirt road just before the Pemex in Pescadero, left toward the ocean, to discover Hierbabuena, a huge vegetable garden with an open-air restaurant smack in the middle of it. They serve fresh organics from the garden, and a nice selection of wines. Stop by the little bakery on the road in and buy a pan dulce, a Mexican version of a doughnut. Duck into some of the little local shops, but be aware, there is no English spoken here.

Off the main street in Pescadero is a tiny backyard restaurant called La Pasidita that has, 1 kid you not, the best burgers on the planet. Drive around the baseball stadium, and turn at the first dirt road on the left past the keeping policeman, (speed bump). La Pasidita is a locals place, though, and is only open after 6 p.m. Maybe 7 pm, sometimes a little later.

For a truly unique experience book a room at the Arriba de la Roca, (which means “top of the rock”) a high-end boutique hotel that specializes in personalized service and is perched on top of a cliff. For adults only (it’s on a cliff, after all). You’ll experience 360 degree views not matched anywhere else in Baja.

Visitors interested in hiking, horseback riding, surfing, charter fishing on a traditional panga, a Mexican fishing boat, adventure tours, or just experiencing Mexican village life, should head to Pescadero, Cerritos and Todos Santos. They are less than an hour’s drive north along the Pacific.
Circus Tent On Our Marina Front? Really?

Nope. This big tent was set up on the South side of what’s left of the marina front parking lot. The lot used to be very useful for all the marina workers, until the cultural center was built, taking about two thirds of the parking spaces.

And now this big tent is taking up two thirds of the one third that was left. And, of course they took their part out of the crip parking, guess blue signs don’t mean anything to the chamber of parking, guess blue signs don’t mean anything to the chamber of commerce. Because that’s who’s tent it is: CANACO, the chamber of commerce erected it for their annual Expo-Proveeduria, a kind of trade show with dozens of vendors renting space to show their wares, mostly to the hospitality industry. Well, what other industry do we have here, we’re pretty much a one industry town.

The entire lot was closed to parking from Friday, May 6, through Sunday, May 8. In years past the providers’ trade show has been held in banquet rooms of local hotels.

Reminds us of what the governor said when, at the opening of the cultural center, he was asked where were the downtown merchants and marina workers supposed to park now. He said, “Let them take the bus”. So, who gets the rent the show promoters pay to use the parking lot? We can’t say for certain where the money trail leads, but the city owns the parking lot and keeps whatever money the ticket guy collects. Mostly the guy keeps the arm to the gate up and just lets cars in for a ‘gratuity’. What, you’ve been paying to park there? So you’re the one who pays.

Garcia with their plan, which includes synchronizing the stoplights along both avenues. Geez, anyone could have told Garcia that. But they can not even reliably get them to work, let alone synchronize them. The report also included a plan to protect pedestrians and crip, and was well received by Garcia. Well, by that we mean he was polite and smiley as he patted the children on the head.

Winos contribute. The 5th annual Gastrovino Festival that took place in Todos Santos last month raised over 8 grand, which were donated to the Todos Santos fire department and the town’s ranch kids’ school. The Gastrovino silent auction was a huge success thanks to generous donations and bidders. Jeff and Judy Welch won the TOSEA Mag Bay trip, Benito Ortega’s sculpture for the bomb- eros was won by Nancy and Dennis Naigle, and Sami Mitchell won Corazon Zapotecos’ weaving for the Internado. (Ranch kids’ school). Please support business people and artists who donated to this year’s auction, click link for full list: facebook.com/groups/AmigosdellInternado.

Martin Sheen does Cabo. Well, not the actor, who might be too embarrassed to visit us after his son Charlie’s latest performance here. Well, if he embarrasses over his nutty son, you wonder how he even can leave his house. But we digress, we’re talking about Martin Sheen the sailboat, which was in town last week for a rest stop. Although the Sea Shepherd boats devote most of their time to chasing illegal poachers in...
So How Do Taxes Work Around Here?

If people would only pay income tax, they would get an amazing array of benefits

BY CATHY WATKINS

You might be surprised at all the benefits the Mexican government provides to those who pay their taxes. However, up to 6 in 10 of Mexico’s workers don’t pay taxes or receive the benefits because they work under the table at such jobs as buying and selling goods in the street and regulating and collecting taxes from these mobile vendors is a challenge. They sell everything from tourist items to tacos, cigars, and jewelry, brooms, plants, and furniture. On the weekends many work in the tianguis - open air markets. That’s a large group of people who are left out of what has become a pretty good safety net.

Like the United States, Mexico has a progressive income tax system that’s based on income brackets. Annual tax rates for individuals vary from 2% to 35%. An income of $150 or less per year would pay 2% while incomes over $230,000 are taxed at 35%. There is no poverty line here to be exempt. Yes, people making only $30 a month are required to pay some taxes, but 60 cents may not even bankrupt that person, and by signing up to pay it, they get huge benefits. Still, most won’t do it. For people who pay into the system, the government provides programs for housing, health care, child care, education, and retirement. Many of these programs do not depend on how much one contributes, so the poorest get the biggest bang for their peso. But again, so many of them will not join the system.

Let’s talk about payroll tax.

There is a tax for the National Workers Housing Fund which has the acronym INFONAVIT. Both the employer and the employee pay into a savings fund towards this. Employers are required by law to furnish housing to their employees, but we’re not talking company towns here. This requirement is met by contributing to the Mexican federal government agency INFONAVIT. The payment is equal to 5% of the employee’s salary. After building up credits the employee gets to purchase a house using a point or credit system. Points are earned based on the number of weeks they work and how much they contribute, and favors the employee. There are two options to use the points; If they are young, a person can use it to buy a house, land, or renovate an existing house. The other option is to wait a long time, up to 30 years, before using the money. By then there will be enough points in their account to buy their retirement. Contributions can be made as long as the person is working. If you qualify with your points, the house is yours for no additional money. Should a family decide to buy a more expensive house, they would have to pay the difference.

INFONAVIT used to be entirely run by the government, including they would build your house. No more. That became problematic with corruption and sub standard housing. Now the employee just takes their points in their account to buy a pretty grand house for their retirement. Contributions can be made as long as the person is working. If you qualify with your points, the house is yours for no additional money. Should a family decide to buy a more expensive house, they would have to pay the difference.

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The origins of Mariachi music can be traced back to Mesoamerica and Europe, with strong influences of indigenous music, and African music from the many slave ships arriving in the 1600s. The Spanish discovered that slaves from Africa were valuable as workers, because they were more resistant to many European diseases than were the indigenous natives in Mexico.

Mariachi has become a marketable commodity for Mexico, and its variety of folkloric regional styles have evolved in much the same way as bluegrass music did in the United States, (which can be traced back to Appalachia). In Mexico, the original mariachi music has been handed down from father to son and has come from a rural setting to mainstream music.

At this early time in mariachi, women were relegated to the role of ranchera singer, (singing sentimental country songs), but even that began to change with the growing interest of mariachi in the United States. Linda Ronstadt is not a mariachi but she made an album of Mexican music that became very popular with Mexican-Americans in the border states. And she couldn’t even speak Spanish! Before that time, Mexican women’s roles were quite limited, and they could even do more so; long straight skirts, high heeled boots, lots of makeup, and tall styled hairdos.

Before the popular singers Patty Page, and Edie Gorme began to sing their lyrics, the image of the ideal Mexican woman was very different (compliant and subdued), but these popular singers personified the role of women as also lovely, sinners, and sufferers. Lucia Reyes, who died in 1944 was the first woman who recorded Mexican music that was backed by mariachis’ and she recorded many songs in a style that is now called “estilo bravo”, (“savage or wild style”).

There are debates about exactly where this music was born. Although the state of Jalisco may exactly where this music was born. Although the state of Jalisco may have seen the beginnings of the mariachi, Guadalajara also claims to be first, and Mexico City claims to be the birthplace of modern Mariachi. Even the definition of the word ‘mariachi’ is debated. Some think that perhaps it came from the French word for “marriage”, but others argue that most likely, it originated with indigenous people in western Mexico.

If the history, decade by decade from 1890 to present, and biographies aren’t enough information. Neckties, (monos) are made to order in solid colors, or may also be embroidered. The back of this book contains References (170-171), and Resources, page 178, so you have an idea of where to purchase these costumes, or accessories, and there’s an index for those who want to locate specific subject information. The list of chapters includes the Preface, History of the music, Screen stars and living legends, Rise of the modern Mariachi, and Education and conferences.

Then there is a wealth of recipes, some accompanying specific chapters, plus a section in the back. The recipes include many “rules of the Spirit of Mariachi”. The recipes for fruit margaritas and ice first caught my eye, and of course the torta de chocolate and pastel de tres leches made me hungry, but there are also recipes for basic Mexican fare; birria, pollo en chilado, and sopas, like posole. Page continued on 26
Ask a Mexican

This Week’s Question is:
What makes a taco stand, a great taco stand?

1. José Antonio Zamudio Hernandez, 29 years old, restaurant administrator. I think a great taco stand is determined by many different factors: first, location - it has to be in a place where it’s easy to find or get access to, unless it’s an already famous taco stand. Second, hygiene - if people get sick they won’t be going back and they will tell people which tacos made them sick, no one likes the runs. Quality - tacos are not only meat on tortillas, it has to have a certain grade in order to be good. If the meat is bad and chewy, or the tortillas hard and dry, tacos won’t be as satisfying. And finally, service; even if tacos are the bomb but people get treated poorly, the stand will lose clients.

2. Ansony Murillo, 25 years old, kitchen chef. If it’s on the street, the flavor and hygiene as well as their customer service are looking for a cheap alternative versus taquerias. Also, the taquero (person who prepares tacos) must know his stuff, from the way the meat is cut to the way tortillas are oiled; it’s not an easy task and it’s not as simple as people may think. And the onion and cilantro must be cut right, if it’s too big or too small it’s gross. If the street smells amazing from a block down, then it’s probably a good taco stand.

3. Victor Hugo Magaña, 19 years old, student and cashier. Taco stands must have a good quality-price ratio. People go to street taco stands because they are looking for a cheap alternative versus taquerías. Also, the taquero (person who prepares tacos) must know his stuff, from the way the meat is cut to the way tortillas are oiled; it’s not an easy task and it’s not as simple as people may think. And the onion and cilantro must be cut right, if it’s too big or too small it’s gross. If the street smells amazing from a block down, then it’s probably a good taco stand.

4. Luis Fernando Hernandez Hernandez, 27 years old, waiter. I think the meat and salsas are key, if there’s people eating there it’s a bonus; it means it’s good and more people trust it. The stand must also be clean, it’s not an easy task and it’s not as simple as people may think. And the onion and cilantro must be cut right, if it’s too big or too small it’s gross. If the street smells amazing from a block down, then it’s probably a good taco stand.

5. Edgar Medrano Carranza, 19 years old, unemployed. Salsas are the key to good taco stands, and the meat as well. Tortilla is also very important, it may be a little bit expensive, but I rather spend on tacos than on doctors and medicine if I ever get sick. The taquero must also be nice, I know it probably sounds weird but it’s a plus when they’re nice.

6. Anubis Espinoza Hernandez, 31 years old, merchant. I am very specific about my taco stands, and only go to one in particular. What I like about it is how they treat me, no matter what time it is there’s always service and they use good ingredients. It may be a little bit expensive, but I rather spend on tacos than on doctors and medicine if I ever get sick. The taquero must also be nice, I know it probably sounds weird but it’s a plus when they’re nice.
Putin’ On The Ritz
We just had to say that.

BY BILL FOLDES

Last week sales opened for the initial phase of 27 single family free standing homes at West Enclave, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve Residence in Puerto Los Cabos.

PLC is a beautiful, calm, gated community of large homes built on a hillside overlooking the Sea of Cortez. It’s the other side of San Jose, past the little community of La Playita and the fancy pants new marina recently built there. In our opinion Puerto Los Cabos is the new Pedregal, attracting the kind of upscale people the Pedregal used to before the homeowners association lost their grip on the rules and regs and it became, well, not what it originally was. There are apartment people living there now, and it shows.

We predict sales will go fast, as the entire community is so hot now, and $70 million in pre-sales of this small enclave have already been reported.

The Residences, as they’re called, will be located adjacent to the Ritz-Carlton Reserve hotel that will open next year. And of course the hotel amenities are available to the homeowners.

This enclave of homes in Puerto Los Cabos are adjacent to the Ritz Carlton hotel and enjoy all the amenities of the famous hotel, right down to the concierge and butler service.

Prices for the initial phase range on up from $4.2 million.

Each indoor/outdoor style villa will feature a combined 10,000 square feet of indoor/outdoor living space, sleek and modern architecture with floor to ceiling windows overlooking the Sea of Cortez, a double kitchen, and five en-suite bedrooms with indoor/outdoor showers.

Outdoor amenities include more than 4,000 square feet of outdoor living space complete with a private swimming pool and spa, covered living and dining area with bar, a fireplace and open air courtyard with a fire feature. That’s a gas fire spigot spewing more heat in the air, along with pretty flames.

Owners of the Residence will have access to the legendary Ritz-Carlton service, including a full-time director of residences, an owners-only concierge, and additional residential staff dedicated to the needs and whims of Residence owners and their guests. A la carte services from the adjacent Ritz-Carlton Reserve hotel include in-residence dining and catering, butler service, housekeeping and specialized children’s programs. For more information email info@questrorealestate.com. Local number is 624 146 9659. In the States call Tessa Bajema at 480 626 8290. Website is www.puertoloscabos.com.
called fruit mole by some foreigners. With the simple name of this recipe manchamanteles, (again, tablecloth stains, I say it again because I know you suck at Spanish). In this dish you will find an infinity of flavors and aromas in it. Although unlike other moles, this one has the particularity of being made with fruits and nectar.

The origin of this recipe is situated in Puebla, land of moles. It is a deep red color thick broth that can be combined with chicken or pork or even a combination of both. To enjoy it to the maximum also serve on the plate white rice and warm tortillas and why not some of the fruits that were used to prepare the mole.

Ok, now going to the mole. Before we go to the recipe I will like to say that this doesn't have to be hot. Remember that if you remove the seeds inside the chiles, you will get the entire flavor with almost none hotness.

It is an complete meal in one dish and great to serve as dinner on a windy summer evening.

About the Recipe
The preparation of this recipe requires patience, kitchen experience, and strong nerves. It has always been a whole ritual and yes, it takes time.

If you don't have apple nor pear to prepare the manchamanteles, don't worry because in the original recipe any seasonal fruit can be used like the apricot, peach, banana, etc. The only fruit that does be indispensable is the pineapple.

The pineapple can be used fresh or canned. Prepare the manchamanteles with a homemade chicken stock so it has a natural flavor.

The preparation of this mole takes 50 minutes.

Ingredients
8 Ancho Peppers
6 Tomatoes
2 Pineapple slices without skin nor core
1 Apple
1 Pear
1 cup of Almonds
1/2 Onion
1 Garlic head
6 Cloves
2 Bay leaves
1 Cinnamon stick
1 Marjoram sprig
1 Thyme sprig
1 tablespoon of Sugar
1/2 tablespoon of Oregano
1/2 teaspoon of Nutmeg
1 qt of Chicken Stock
3 tablespoons of Vegetable Oil
3 tablespoons of White Vinegar
8 Black Peppercorns
1/4 tablespoon of Salt

Procedure
1. Cut the superior part of 8 ancho peppers, then reserve.
2. Cut 6 tomatoes into quarters, then set aside.
EVERYTHING ON SCHEDULE

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The Residences at Solaz, a Luxury Collection Resort, Los Cabos is exclusively represented by Snell Real Estate
Flower Vendor Spreads Fragrance And Smiles

Everyone wants to see her coming

BY CATHY WATKINS

She’s been selling flowers by walking the streets of Cabo for 10 years, working hard to provide for her family. Her name is Sderina Ortiz. She’s 48 years old and a single mother with three children ages 26, 14, and 12. Originally, she’s from the state of Guerrero. Her husband left her 12 years ago, so she decided to leave Guerrero and come to Cabo with her children. Her youngest child was only one year old at that time.

Sderina walks around selling her flowers five days, resting on Sunday and Monday. She has her regular route in downtown Cabo, and by now knows most of the merchants there. With her warm smile and gentle manner, she is welcome in most of the bars, and knows to approach couples and push her flowers at the gentleman. She even knows the people who frequent the bars, and is well aware of which are pushovers for her product. After selling flowers for so many years, she has an established client base that buys regularly from her.

She starts selling round 5:00 p.m. and walks around town with her arms full of flowers until they are empty. After all, she has a perishable product and must sell them all each night. When she starts out, you can hardly see her from behind all those flowers she carries. It’s amazing that as hard as she works and as much as she walks, she isn’t skinny; She is far from it.

Most of the time, she is accompanied by one or the other of her sons who help her by holding the flowers and trailing along behind. She said that she likes to bring one of the boys with her because they are less apt to get into trouble if they’re with her. Her youngest son is very shy, which is just the opposite of her. Her face is always lit up with a smile, and she will talk to you. That is if you speak Spanish, as she speaks no English. She is shy with English speakers, but gets along just fine with that smile. So fine, in fact, that it’s not uncommon for her fans to buy her a drink. She prefers a nice cold beer, and she’ll sit and rest while she drinks it. But she’s still selling! She will make the deal as she drinks her beer.

She’s got this gig down pat, as the flowers she sells are shipped directly to her, so they are fresher and last longer. She prefers to keep her prices low in order to sell more, so they cost less than $6 for a stem of lilies and 3 roses. Individual roses are also for sale. Many times she gives you a free rose if you buy the bouquet.

Many people want to know how she has managed to corner the flower market in downtown Cabo and keep a strong hold on Senora Ortiz’s flower stand is all the streets, restaurants, and bars of downtown Cabo. Her overhead is shoe leather.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34
Baja Sur Fishing...Sunday, May 8, 2016

After more false starts than we can count, the billfish numbers seem to be on the rise. There are enough blue flags flying on the returning boats to offer encouragement to those visiting anglers hoping to release one of those monsters after a quick photo of their moment of fame.  

Fishing

Pisces’ Tracy Ann released a total of 6 pilot sharks, a large 180 pound thresher shark, and a striped marlin for 10 year old Bentley Willcott from Texas, who was on a special birthday trip to Cabo with his dad Matthew.

As May settles in, the number of multiple releases each afternoon by boats racing back to the Marina. The annual three-month ban on the taking sharks as decreed by the Mexican Government began on May 1 and will continue until July 31. Of course, recently as if on cue, the spawning sharks have begun to creep up. Fleet reports reflect a growing number of multiple releases each they bring a dead shark back to the dock. A couple of boats caught dorado, and tuna catches were on a par – all small fish. Small game catches continue but to a lesser degree with boats remaining closer to shore catching groupers, ladyfish, triggerfish, babosa, sheepshead, skipjack, roosterfish and one solitary wahoo weighing around 40 pounds.

Marlin and shark were caught between Santa Maria and the 1150 Spot; smaller game was on the Pacific side at Migrino. It has been partly cloudy and windy on the Pacific, with lighter winds on the Cortez side and average sea temp of 76 degrees.

San Jose

Striped marlin action dropped off again; sporadic reported from the 1150 Spot along with some action straight off San Jose del Cabo. However, no big numbers, no baitfish nor feeding frenzy reports. We have seen more dorado than we have for some time — still no significant numbers, but at least we saw a few dorado in the 15- to 20-pound class. As fast as this action developed, it slowed just as fast to seeing an occasional small, smaller-sized dorado — a bit discouraging, but once again that is not abnormal for this time of year.

Wahoo were being found from Red Hill, Palmilla, to Imán, San Luis and Vinoroma. Some anglers landed as many as three, while reporting many other lost hook-ups. Strikes reportedly came on Rapalas, rigged ballyhoo, caballito and chihuil. Better action earlier in the week, a little more finicky later in the week, off colored water conditions never seem to help the wahoo bite.

Yellowfin tuna were still being found on Imán Bank and towards the north, though this action has dropped off, noth-ing consistent at all, some charters caught up to three yellowfin, while others never even had a strike. Strips of squid was the best bet for hooking a tuna, though a few were also taken on baits such as ballyhoo or chihuil and yo-yo iron jigs. Some decent quality yellowfin in the 25- to 80-pound class were reported in limited numbers.

East Cape

As May settles in, the days are mild and seas are flat, partly cloudy and windy on the Pacific side at Migrino. It has been mostly cloudy and windy on the Pacific, with lighter winds on the Cortez side and average sea temp of 76 degrees.

Some great fly fishers really stepped up this week. Some of those big yellowtail up to about 40 pounds plus amberjack, larger rooster fish and even some big pargo liso (mullet snapper) that haven’t been seen in a while…surely not that big!

Although normally peak season for striped marlin, the recent flurry has slowed to a disappointing bit large for most inshore fishing. Some of the fleet found it’s great – next day so-so. One boat does great — the boat next to it can’t even buy a fish! One day it’s cabrilla and sierra; the next in the same spot, it’s bonito — next day roosterfish, but no bonito. However, late in the week we had a rush of some of those big yellowtail up to about 40 pounds plus amberjack, larger rooster fish and even some big pargo liso (mullet snapper) that haven’t been seen in a while...surely not that big!

Finally, after more false starts than we can count, the billfish numbers began to creep up. Fleet reports reflect a growing number of multiple releases each they bring a dead shark back to the dock. A couple of boats caught dorado, and tuna catches were on a par – all small fish. Small game catches continue but to a lesser degree with boats remaining closer to shore catching groupers, ladyfish, triggerfish, babosa, sheepshead, skipjack, roosterfish and one solitary wahoo weighing around 40 pounds.

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Medical Tourism In Mexico Growing

Good, cheap deals on that next open heart surgery

BY JEFFERY MCDONALD

Mexico is the second most popular country in the world for medical tourism. More than a million visitors from the U.S. alone, and a great many more from around the world, visit Mexico each year just to get patched up on the cheap. This total is only about 100,000 visitors less than Thailand, the number one most popular country in world for medical tourism.

The proximity to treatment is the second biggest factor in the tourist’s mind, (other than the cost of the treatment itself), when deciding where to go. It can take a minimum of 22 hours to travel to Thailand, but getting to Mexico is easy peasy.

Depending on the procedure, savings in Mexico range from about 35% to as much as 90% over the same treatment in the United States. The passage of the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) has not reduced the number of uninsured in the U.S. if it is covered at all in the States. The most common medical treatments, in that order.

- Weight loss
- Fertility treatments
- Dental care
- Cancer or oncology treatment
- Weight loss
- Fertility treatments

Also the cost of the medical providers this year, than $3.4 billion dollars for Medical tourism will generate more economic development agency, than the deductible or co-pay in insurance. Also the cost of the treatment done in Mexico is often less than the deductible or co-pay in insurance. Also the cost of the treatment done in Mexico is often less than the deductible or co-pay in insurance.

The government is putting more resources every year into promotion of its domestic medical providers, creating what are called medical clusters in 12 Mexican states. The clusters attempt to improve the quality of treatments, promote services through websites, medical publications, and directories and all written in English. The directory in Baja California charges no fee for doctors to be listed.

There is a growing, important factor affecting world wide medical tourism called JCI accreditation. JCI stands for “Joint Commission International” which evaluates the quality of treatment offered by institutions which it visits. Mexico had applied for this designation.

- Americans also come to Mexico for cheaper prescription drugs. People are required to declare these purchases, such as Xanax or Tramadol which are two of the most popular, upon their return to the States only if they are bringing back more than a 90 day supply.

Today the border facilities have extremely sophisticated technologies under the street leading to the port of entry for detecting drugs and controlled substances of all kinds. But relax, Max, the sniffers dogs and the sensors probably can’t smell your Viagra.

Recently the Government of Baja California invested $625,000 in promotion and funding of its medical tourism industry. They also provided $1,200,000 in Mexico to create a medical district, which includes the creation of a Health Tourism Advisory Board and a Health Tourism Department to carry out public policy and encourage medical tourism in northern Baja, Southern Baja, no. The board consists of representatives from hospitals, medical professionals, family clinics, and laboratories.

Although much needs to be done in the areas of promotion and providing high quality services, Mexico is on a path to being the biggest player in the world for medical tourism field, if only because of its proximity to the United States market.
WHAT’S GOING ON IN THIS?...
continued from page 12
last minute to fulfill gender quota requirements under election laws. All three have since resigned and their positions have been filled by men. In two cases, the men were husbands of the elected mayors.

When the ambulance carrying the two boys attempted to pass through the blockade, protesters identified the driver as a municipal employee and refused to let him pass. He was dragged from the vehicle, beaten and taken to a nearby community where according to the most recent reports was being held for a $2,000 ransom. In the meantime, after setting fire to the ambulance, the protesters were reported to have severed all communications with the city of Chanal, having cut off its electrical power, telephone service and highway access.

Hope for victims of stolen cars.

A Mexican tech startup known as Dronix is teaming up with anti-auto theft firm LoJack to create a fleet of drones that can patrol the skies above Mexico City in search of stolen vehicles.

Though overall car theft has declined in Mexico, retrieving stolen vehicles remains a major challenge. Last year less than half of all the reported stolen vehicles were located. The Nissan Tsuru was the most stolen vehicle of 2015.

Dronix and LoJack think new technologies can help both the cops and insurance companies do a better job. The drones will be equipped with cameras and will have radio antennas that can help triangulate stolen vehicles. The drone will locate the car following signals emitted by the LoJack gear installed inside. Personnel from LoJack will then be alerted as to the whereabouts of the vehicle and will physically go to the exact location of the stolen car and work with law enforcement to retrieve it.

Now, here’s the way LoJack has worked in the U.S. for several decades: The police in most towns were given locating software by LoJack, so they can find the stolen car when the owner turns it on. No drones needed. But in Mexico the local Keystone Kops are not responsible enough to use the gear if they had it, which they wouldn’t for long because they would either screw it up or sell it for cash.

The publisher of this paper has LoJack in her truck but when it was stolen in Mexico, the local cops could not use LoJack to find it for her. So she promised the police CONTINUED ON PAGE 34
international waters, even sinking them, the Martin Sheen is part of the organization's new campaign to address the plastic pollution problem and poaching in protected areas.

Sea Shepherd USA staff explained that the name of this vessel carries the prefix of R/V because it is engaged in direct action of a different sort, as a research vessel. Unlike Japan's so-called “research” whaling vessels, this ship is engaged in legitimate and very important research — including documentation and investigation — much like the work Sea Shepherd has been doing with its colleagues at Ocean Alliance in the Gulf of Mexico investigating poaching on the Blackfooted Albatross.

Horizon Oil Spill.

The RV Martin Sheen has been sailing around Revillagigedo Islands investigating poaching inside the marine reserve. **Write this down, in ink.**

This Sunday, June 5th, the Los Cabos Humane Society will hold its Paws on Parade event at Los Cabos Humane Society investigating poaching on the Blackfooted Albatross.

San Jose Al-Anon Family Group

Meetings

11:00 a.m.

Next to Calvary Chapel

Corner of Degollado and Margarita Maza de Juarez

Info: Cell 624-165-3333

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San Jose marina looking at expansion.

With 194 slips full to capacity this year’s high season (December – April), The San Jose marina is looking into adding more slips.

“We are using only 50% of the water right now,” Said Enrique Fernandez, the marina manager, who is crunching the numbers in building more slips, but also how to keep them occupied during the slow, summer months. Well, hello, it’s not like they take money to run. They just sit there. And at what they charge in the high season, they could send those concrete docks to Bermuda for the summer, so c’mon!

**Meanwhile, up North.** Semar’s possibility that it may be able to welcome 67,000 cruise tourists a year, has apparently renewed the interest of the federal government in adding a cruise ship dock — thus increasing the possibility of longer stays and more money spent in Northern Baja. Well, they need something up there, because they aren’t as pretty as we are.

Cruise ships could travel from San Diego, stop at Ensenada, Santa Rosalita and Puerto San Carlos on their way down to Cabo, then push on to Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta. As it stands now, the cruise ships run like hell to get 1,000 miles south in one day and one night because there is no place to stop along the way.

The project has full support of Northern Baja’s governor Kiko Vega.

Popular from the government.

The hospitals in these plans are funded by the government and run by the state. All a person’s medical expenses are covered in the system, so it’s totally free. If you need specialized treatment, you are covered to go to a bigger city such as La Paz or Guadalajara. Some of the drawbacks are an extensive wait time to see a specialist, often a three month wait or longer. Suguro Popular would not be convenient for a bullet wound or a heart attack. But then there are long waits for IMSS and ISSSTE also.

The government also owns and runs day care centers which provide free child care for working mothers, many run by independent contractors. The centers are open from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm. One drawback is a lack of capacity and a very long waiting list to get in. As a result, the rules and regulations are strict. A child can’t attend if he is sick, and a doctor’s note is required to return. If your child misses one day, a letter with explanation is required. You may risk being kicked out of the program for missing two days or more. Those slots are sought after, and they need to be used, not empty.

OK, we’re done with payroll taxes, moving on...

The public school system is free for students and is mandatory up to 9th grade. High school is almost free. A family only has to pay around $10 per year and purchase a few supplies. However, teachers are known for asking for more money from the parents who are very resentful of this practice. Also, there are so many holidays, not to mention teacher strikes, it sometimes seems like kids are hardly ever in school. During the registration process, a family might camp out in line to assure their children even get in. Schools are so over burdened they work in split shifts with some kids coming home in the dark and other kids going to school in the dark.

There are government funded universities that are almost free costing around $25 a year. These universities are able to CONTINUE ON PAGE 37

San Jose Al-Anon Family Group

Meeting

11:00 a.m.

Next to Calvary Chapel

Corner of Degollado and Margarita Maza de Juarez

Info: Cell 624-165-3333

Que Pasa in Cabo?

continued from page 14

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continued from page 14

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Proposal to amend the Condominium Regime State Law

Illumination and Commentary by a Real Estate Attorney

BY RAUL LEON

A proposal to amend the Condominium Regime State Law is heading the local congress, and this amendment is lobbied for and drafted by The Developers of Los Cabos Association, (yes, those who had moved the highway away from the ocean once and that are trying to do it again). Recently, I have had the opportunity to see the text, and what I saw clearly is that this, is an amendment just to protect their interests, letting aside the important problems that could (and should) be addressed in this law to make it better and fair.

As written, this amendment proposes to provide privileges and extraordinary faculties to the developers alone, “to promote the investment and protect it”, further allowing the developers to have more control over the communities without challenge from the public. Locally, we all have seen and/or suffered from the excesses of some developers, and this new amendment simply provides them more privileges without barriers.

There are several problems with this vision: First and most of all, the aims of a condominium regime law should be to protect and promote the condominiums and the homeowners, not to protect developers. Worldwide, condominium laws are meant to protect the weak part of a legal relationship, and put limits on the strong part, and this is exactly the opposite on this case. It is tantamount to the consumer protection law being amended to protect the merchants from the consumers, and this example applies perfectly. In the case of the proposed changes to the Condominium Law, the homeowners would be the consumers, and the developer’s would be the merchants.

Second, it is an amendment made just by one of the parties involved: the Los Cabos Developers Association, without balance and review by the consumers or their advocates or consumer groups/agencies. Remember that this law will apply to the entire State, not just Los Cabos. Remember too, that after they finish building and selling their condos and homes and leave for other locations, this condominium law will stay in effect as rule of law without a time limit. Remember too, that not all developments are touristic and luxury high end properties. Remember that, in a democracy, (the most important point) that consulting the persons affected or the public is a requirement, which has not occurred. Also as the proposed amendment stands now, this amendment would only add costs and requirements to the day to day legal processing of the condominium regimes and the consumers, adding additional red tape to the processes and making harder it to comply with the law. Therefore, the amendments will making the way easier for developers to attack the validity of the resolutions taken on assemblies of the home owner’s themselves, and in addition, making it harder to collect any delinquency in court, as the proposed changes would be very hard for Home Owner’s and their Associations to comply with all of the new proposed requirements. It also would make it difficult for small developers to compete.

We strongly hope that at the State Congress, all the above objections are noted and that this amendment is not passed as it is presented. We hope that the opportunity to correct and improve the law is taken by our State representatives and that instead of providing more privileges and protection to the developers, the condominium and homeowners are protected from the abuses of developers. We hope that the processes and requirements become less instead of increasingly difficult – to remove obstacles of justice from the path of the victims, not to increase them. We hope that the politicians are sensitive to the needs of the public and understand that promoting tourism and investment should not be done by granting privileges to special interest groups, but by protecting tourists and investors from all walks of life and nationalities. We further hope that or representatives understand that this law applies and should serve to all, not just to a single sector.

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Real Estate

The investment portfolio you can enjoy.

BY LETICIA DIAZ RIVERA

From multimillion dollar businesses to a real estate property, investing is a way to make your money grow. But, how often can you say that you can profit AND enjoy your investment? You can invest in bonds, stocks, commodities but you can’t take them to the beach nor make memories with your children, grandchildren and friends. I am happy to share with you the top 5 reasons why real estate investment is far better than the stock market.

You create multiple sources of income. This can be as easy as letting your property appreciate over time. With the proper maintenance and enhancement, through the passing years, it will gain value (capital appreciation) that can be monetized once you decide to sell it. It can also be a rental property: be it a short term (vacation) or long term rental, tenants will pay a rent that even after taxes and maintenance fees paid, can be translated into additional income.

It is easier (and way more fun) to do research. Stocks are usually denominated by a series of letters such as BCOR, PPPI; are never tangible and the closest visual thing you will see is a report indicating its market behavior. A property, on the other hand, can take your breath away with unstoppable Sea of Cortez views or catapult your creativity by creating multiple sources of income.

Three Ways To Pull Equity Out Of Your US Property To Buy Property In Baja Sur With US Income Tax Benefits.

BY DON D. NELSON

1. If you have lived in and occupied your US primary residence for at least 2 years out of the five years prior to the date it is sold, under US tax law $500,000 of any gain on sale ($250,000 if filing as single or married filing separately) is exempt from US taxation. This is one of the last big tax breaks left in the US taxable code which can allow you to take the equity from your house tax free and purchase a property in Los Cabos.

2. Though there are limits on the amounts of interest you can deduct for personal taxes on your personal residence mortgage (which is generally limited by the interest payable on the current amount of the mortgage you used to purchase the property plus the amount of funds borrowed for improvements), you can always with a second mortgage or a line of credit borrow an additional $100,000 and still have the right to deduct all interest paid on this loan on your tax return. You can use this $100,000 as part of the purchase price of your new property in Los Cabos.

3. There are limits on the amount of interest you can deduct on your personal real property loans. The tax deductible interest rules of personal real estate loans are complex. See IRS Publication 936 at www.irs.gov for a full explanation of the limitations.

Cabo Corridor

Plaza Calafia

Plaza Calafia is located about 3 miles from the town of Cabo San Lucas in the gated community of Cabo Bello and is comprised of 6 three story buildings. A total of 78 condominiums, mainly 2 bedroom units, are situated around cactus/flower gardens. A full time maintenance staff and onsite manager can help all Owners with any of their needs.

One of the most beautiful beaches in Cabo is a short walk with small natural sand cove and crystal calm water where you can swim, snorkel and sunbathe. Amenities include 2 tennis courts, an adult pool and family pool with hot tubs and a BBQ area. Plaza Calafia is great for that vacation home or vacation rental.

Contact Suzanne Bruinsma, Baja Properties, sbruinsma1@gmail.com, Mex Cell 624-155-3056.
Every Wednesday in May.
Misons Del Cabo Resort Condominiums. 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Meet at Pool Bar.
MLS# 16-529 #4003 1 Bedroom $169,900
MLS# 14-959 #2001 1 Bedroom $174,500
MLS# 14-960 5#106 2 Bedroom $299,000
Joyce - RE/MAX Cabo San Lucas (624) 129-9667

Monday May 16, from 11:30 am- 2:30 pm,
Terrazas 12 Rancho Cerro Colorado MLS# 14-65, 4bd / 4ba, fully furnished. Price $450,000 USD Nick and Evy. ph. 624 157-3170, Los Cabos Agent

Tuesday May 17, from 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm, Casa Poolside- MLS# 16-822, Beautiful Condo 2bd 2ba / 2 . 301. Price $239,000 USD Nick and Evy ph. 624 157-3170, Los Cabos Agent

Wednesday May 18, from 10:00 am- 2:00 pm, Casa Linda Vista, MLS# 16- 844, Unobstructed Arch View 3bd / 3.5 ba. Price $585,000 USD Nick and Evy. ph. 624 157-3170, Los Cabos Agent

Wednesday May 18 from 1pm -4pm, Casa Vistana 38, MLS# 15-198, Contemporary 3 bdr, pet-friendly, 24/7 security, common area with: jacuzzi, kids & adult pool, 5 290,000USD, Marielos. 624 155 0153

Thursday May 19, from 12:00 pm- 3:00 pm, Vista del Arco, MLS# 15-1118, Amazing Ocean View 3bd / 2.5ba. Price $449,000 USD Nick Fong and Evy Rokeine ph. 624 157-3170, Los Cabos Agent

Friday May 20, 2:00 to 4:00, Castillo de Arena Parade of Homes Tour, meet at Castillo de Arena Office and tour these beautiful homes: Casa McMahon, MLS# 14- 1368, $275,000.00 Casa Glover MLS # 14-1216, $395,000.00, and Casa Clark MLS # 14-941, $799,000.00. Paul, East Cape Homes, 624 147 0111

Monday May 23, from 12:00 pm- 3:00 pm, Maranata 21, MLS# 15-228, Amazing Ocean View 3bd / 3.5 ba. Price $449,000 USD Nick and Evy. ph. 624 157-3170, Los Cabos Agent

Tuesday May 24, from 12:00 pm- 3:00 pm, Casa Poolside- MLS# 16-822, Beautiful Condo 2bd / 2ba, Price $239,000 USD Nick and Evy. ph. 624 157- 3170, Los Cabos Agent

Wednesday May 25, from 10:00 am- 2:00 pm, Casa Linda Vista, MLS# 16- 844, Unobstructed Arch View 3bd / 3.5 ba. Price $585,000 USD Nick and Evy. ph. 624 157-3170, Los Cabos Agent

May 25th from 1 - 4pm, Condo Blue Bay at Pedregal 402, MLS# 15-169, Only 3 bdr, 4 bath with maids quarter on complex, jacuzzi, large closets, ocean view. Pool on common area. $138,000USD, Marielos 624 155 0153

Thursday May 26, from 11:00 am- 2:00 pm, Casa Esquina, Cabo Bello MLS# 15-2183, 3bd / 3ba. Price $340,000 USD Nick and Evy. ph. 624 157-3170, Los Cabos Agent

Friday May 27, 2:00 to 4:00, Castillo de Arena Parade of Homes Tour, meet at Castillo de Arena Office and tour these beautiful homes: Casa McMahon, MLS# 15-1368, $275,000.00 Casa Glover MLS# 14-1216, $395,000.00, and Casa Clark MLS # 14-941, $799,000.00. Paul, East Cape Homes, 624 147 0111

SOLDS
1. Rancho Las Playitas Lot 9, 10,000 m2 with fabulous ocean views, MLS# 15- 2219, $27,000 USD, R. Houston/Los Cabos Properties, C. Miller/Baja Realty and Investment
2. Rancho Las Playitas, Lot 10, 51000 m2 country living and ocean views and breezes, MLS# 15-2220, $27,000 USD, C. Miller/Baja Realty and Investment
3. Lote Rosa 3A, 851 m2 corner lot in Brisas del Pacifico with bay and ocean views. MLS# 15-2341, $25,000 USD, C. Miller/Baja Realty and Investment
4. Lote Bolla B10, 1bd corner unit, 1st floor with amazing pool and garden views. MLS# 15-1325, $145,000 USD. C. Griffith/ Cabo Premiere Investment and Real Estate, V. Sartev/ Vansirius Real Estate.
5. Casa Tereosa ~ 3 bedroom, 2.5 bedroom fully furnished house in Cabo Bello. MLS# 15-1064, $395,000. L. Phillips / Remax, M. Nicol / Cabo-Sale
6. Cresta del Mar lot 84 ~ $1,499 sq. meter lot in Cresta del Mar. MLS# 14- 974, $125,000 with seller finance. M. Nicol / Cabo-Sale
8. Cresta del Mar lot 47 ~ $1,409,000, Cresta del Mar community, 1/4 acre Ocean and Panoramic view lot. $125,000. Nick Fong / Los Cabos Agent, L. Miller / Cabo Linda.
9. Maranta 15, MLS# 15-626, Great 2 Story home with incredible views and privacy. $149,000. N. Fong and J. Schmidt/ Los Cabos Agent, T. Curtis/ Century 21
Agent Profile
Marisol Carrizales

Marisol Carrizales is part of the Cabo Prudential office since 2013. She was born in La Paz, Baja California Sur and has lived in Los Cabos for the past 14 years. One of a very few locally born Real Estate agents in the MLS, she did her college degree in Architecture, studies that perfectly combines with her keen awareness of clients needs and concerns during the real estate process.

Ongoing communication and personal contact, market updates and staying on top of the sales operation helps her provide the best possible experience while you are looking for your dream place in Los Cabos.

Contact Marisol Carrizales from the Cabo Prudential Cell 624-147-5939 or marisol@prucabogold.com.

REAL ESTATE: THE INVESTMENT…
continued from page 28

designing your new home, plus, it gives you the opportunity to visit residential communities to analyze and compare the different options.

You are the boss. Unless you are familiar with the intricate world of trading, you need to hire a broker to advise you and to manage your funds. When investing in real estate you hire a professional real estate expert to advise you on the options available, his/her input, experiences and feedback provide you a much more unique driver’s seat view towards your future.

It is an asset you can use. Have you heard someone ever saying: let’s plan our Thanksgiving weekend at our EDXC stocks! How about: we are flying to Cabo to spend Christmas in our house by the beach. Better than that is hearing this too: would you like to join us? I rest my case.

Create memories. Remember the weekend you went snorkeling in Cabo Pulmo? Or your first hole in one by the Pacific? What about when you and your kids escaped the harsh winter and biked along the beautiful Malecon in La Paz? The photos of picture perfect sunsets and your healthy golden tan are the first things your guests will notice as they walk into your home and are the base for stories you and your family will cherish for generations to come.

Do I need to say more? Don’t let time pass by and invest in the one thing you can actually live and enjoy: real estate in Baja California Sur. Whether building from the ground up, remodeling a home or buying a condo in downtown, an investment property will surely pay off with dividends to your peace of mind.

Reach out to your Real Estate professional of choice and start enjoying your hard earned wealth.

By Leticia Diaz Riveras, Broker, Coldwell Banker Riveras Office Phone - (624) 147-5471.

THREE WAYS TO PULL OUT...
continued from page 28

use any tax losses produced by your rental property of offset other taxable income on your return.

So long as your modified adjusted gross income does not exceed $100,000 on a joint US tax return you can deduct up to $25,000 of rental property losses on your tax return to offset your other income if you actively manage your rental real estate. If you modified adjusted gross income exceeds that amount the amount of losses you can use to offset other income is reduced. Any disallowed rental losses (called passive losses) carry over and can be used in the future.

Read IRS Publications 527 and 923 at www.irs.gov to learn the important details of this limit.

As a side note, if you purchase property in Mexico (whether personal or rental) and use a mortgage for part of the purchase price, the same US tax rules previously discussed apply to your property in Baja Sur.

Don Nelson is a US Tax Attorney (and a retired CPA) who has CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

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legislature approved the gospel zoning map we currently live by. Los Cabos has now evolved and the Wild West days as the old timers like to call them are long gone. We do have a way of predicting what will be built around you, heights, densities, setbacks. It is all there in the pretty colored map (with really small print). Take the time to do the homework. Go visit the nice people at Implan or find lots of info on their website: www.implan.com.mx

New Digs for Cabo Gold Real Estate. Long time Baja Real Estate Gurus Debra and Steve Dobson, owners of Cabo Gold Real Estate, are moving on up. After 15 years in their current Cabo Corridor location (aka The Blue Net Hospital Center) they decided it was time for a change. Perfect timing as a brand new commercial/hotel complex has just been completed in Plaza Pioneros (aka the Amerimed Center) and Cabo Gold is just days away from moving in. Debra and Steve are two of the pioneers in the real estate industry starting Cabo Gold real estate in 1993. In 2000 - 2001 they became Prudential Cabo Gold proud owners of the first three Prudential franchises sold in Baja. Two years ago when Prudential disappeared from the Real Estate world after selling out to Berkshire Hathaway Home Services (owned by Warren Buffet) Debra and Steve went back to their Cabo Gold roots and now they are picking up the game with a shiny new location with lots of parking, room for their entire sales and admin offices and wait for it..... they are adding a Coffee Break Café, Cabo Gold Café. So exciting! Best wishes to both of you and your staff. Wonder if they will let us crash the Grand Opening?

Who doesn’t Love an Auction? A new concept in selling high end Villas has arrived in Los Cabos and judging by recent success may be here to stay awhile. Concierge Auctions, made a stunning entrance into our market place with their first of many to come successful auctions. Debuting their talents last month with Casa Karen, a Cabo del Sol, 5 bd, 5 1/2 bath with over 7,000 square feet of indoor/outdoor living area beauty. This property, originally priced at $3.1 million dollars was auctioned without reserve and closed at $2,400,000. Netting basically what the seller was intending to receive in the long run but without the stress of waiting it out for what could be a couple of years of marketing, offers and more offers and harsh negotiations. Concierge Auctions got the job done in 30 days. The Sellers were thrilled, the buyers were excited and the realtors were compensated with full commissions. In all languages we call this a win-win. Doesn’t take long for any of us to figure out this might just be great alternative marketing solution and so there you have it. Three more auctions scheduled immediately. A big one in the Pedregal on May 10th, followed by a Punta Ballena Villa on May 25th and then an east cape beachfront Mansion on June 16th and this party is just got started. We can not wait to what is next on the Going, going, gone list. Check these miracle workers out on Conciergeauctions.com and look for a full article with lots of fun, exciting details on this process and the people behind the scene in the next edition of the GG.

Compiled by Cyndi Williams
Cyndi D. Williams, Broker/Owner, Cabo Premiere Investment & Real Estate, 624-158-8650 Mex Cell, 624-143-3700 Office, Cyndicbre@aol.com

WHAT’S NEW IN REAL ESTATE... continued from page 29

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What’s New in Real Estate... continued from page 29
Little Known US Expatriate Taxation Facts In Mexico

BY DON D. NELSON

Though most foreign assets are reportable on various specialized forms filed with your US tax return. If you own foreign real estate and title is in your own name (or a Fideicomiso) and do not rent out the property, there is no reporting required on your US tax return or for that matter any other reporting due the US Government.

Foreign mutual funds (and most foreign money market funds) require filing of another special form with your tax return. If you do not file this form and make elections to report the income each year, you are penalized with higher taxes and interest when you finally sell your foreign mutual fund. These rules were put in many years when Congress was convinced by US Mutual Fund companies that there business would be hurt unless investment in foreign mutual funds was made unfavorable for tax purposes.

The 2015 the $100,800 US foreign earned income exclusion applies to earned income (wages or self employment) income earned abroad if you need the physical presence test or bonafide resident test. You can see if you qualify in IRS Publication 54. It is not automatic and can only be claimed on your US tax return.

The IRS can deny this exclusion if you file your return more than 18 months late. This exclusion does not apply to rental income, dividends, interest or capital gains or any income other than earned income.

You must report your rental net income in Mexico from your Mexican real estate on your US return and you also owe taxes on it in Mexico even if you are not a resident. In Mexico you must pay Mexican income taxes on it and also pay IVA tax. If you are renting for only a short time, you may also owe local lodging excise taxes. The Mexican income tax can be claimed as a credit directly offsetting any US income tax you owe on the rental income. The IVA and lodging taxes can be deducted on your US tax return as rental expenses.

If you own 10% or more of a Mexican corporation you may have to file form 5471 with your US tax return if required by the rules governing that form. Failure to file that form in a timely manner may result in the IRS assessing a $10,000 US penalty for failure to file even if you owe no taxes.

The US has a tax treaty with Mexico. It also has in the past year entered into an OECD agreement where the two countries have agreed to exchange income tax information with the other. At some point in the future what you do in Mexico will not stay in Mexico and vice versa.

If as a US Citizen you have lived and worked in Mexico for a while and not filed your US tax return, the IRS currently has a “streamlined program” that may allow you to catch up by filing only the past 3 years US tax returns and past six year FBAR (foreign bank account reports). They will not penalize you under that program for failing to file FBAR forms or other foreign reporting forms. They have stated they may discontinue this program at any time. Now is the time to surface with the IRS and avoid potentially huge penalties.

FBAR (foreign bank account reporting forms) must be filed each year with US Treasury if at any time during the calendar year your combined highest balances in your foreign financial accounts exceeds $10,000 US. This form must be filed on line. Foreign accounts include foreign pension plans, cash surrender value in foreign insurance, foreign broker accounts, and even gold if held for you in a foreign country as a custodian. Failure to file this form or filing it late can result in penalties of $10,000 US or more.

Don D. Nelson is a US tax attorney who has been assisting Americans in Mexico for over 25 years with their US tax returns and tax planning. He is also a partner in Kauffman Nelson LLP, Certified Public Accountants. His website is located at www.TaxMeLess.com. He has 2 tax blogs with the latest tax developments of interest to those in Mexico located at www.usexpatriate.blogspot.com and www.us-mexicantax.blogspot.com. His email address is ddnelson@gmail.com. He can be reached at his US phone number 949-480-1235.


La Paz

Puerto Illusion

Puerto Illusion (Port of Illusion), is the newest condo development in La Paz, the Capital of Baja California Sur. Sitting directly on the city’s bayside boardwalk, not only does it provide immediate access, but also offers brilliant sunsets that sink into the bay. Located in the safest, most convenient and desirable location in La Paz, Puerto Illusión also boasts several amenities such as a pool, jacuzzis, elevator, ramadas, and emergency power system. Every unit is equipped with high quality finishes, private storage and exclusive parking.

The project is environmentally friendly, as well as, handicap accessible. Available units include two bedroom/two bathroom, and single bedroom with studio and bathroom. Starting at $ 139,000 USD.

Contact Eduardo Ramirez Broker of Global Real Estate at (612) 128-44-33 or (612) 128-44-34 for more info.


In order to assure a safe and secure investment in Baja California Sur please be sure to work exclusively with an MLS agent. If for any reason you are not fully satisfied with their service you may inform the MLS at admin@mlsbcs.com.

To search all of the listings available in the MLS, visit: www.mlsinbajasur.com. 
Emotion vs. Reason

When conversing with real estate agents, you will often find that they talk to you about buying real estate, they will refer to your purchase as a "home." Yet if you are selling property, they will refer to it as a "house." There is a reason for this. Buying real estate is often an emotional decision, but when selling real estate you need to remove emotion from the equation.

You need to "de-personalize" your house as a marketable commodity. Property. Real estate. Your goal is to get others to see it as their potential home, not yours. If you do not consciously make this decision, you can inadvertently create a situation where it takes longer to sell your property.

De-personalize the House

The reason you want to "de-personalize" your home is because you want buyers to view it as their potential home. When a potential homebuyer sees your family photos hanging on the wall, it puts your own brand on the house and momentarily shatters their illusions about owning the house. Therefore, put away family photos, sports trophies, collectible items, knick-knacks, and souvenirs. Put them in a box. Rent a storage area for a few months and put the box in the storage unit.

Do not just put the box in the bodega, basement, garage, or a closet. Part of preparing a house for sale is to remove "clutter," and that is the next step in preparing your house for sale.

Removing Clutter, Though You May Not Think of it as Clutter

This is the hardest thing for most people to do because they are emotionally attached to everything in the house. After years of living in the same home, clutter collects in such a way that may not be evident to the homeowner. However, it does affect the way buyers see the home, even if you do not realize it. Clutter collects on shelves, counter tops, drawer, closets, garages, attics, and basements.

Suggestion. Take a step back and pretend you are a buyer. Let a friend help point out areas of clutter, as long as you can accept their views without getting defensive. Let your agent help you, too.

Kitchen

First, get everything off the counters. Everything. Even the toaster in a cabinet and take it out when you use it. Find a place where you can store everything in cabinets and drawers. Of course, you may notice that you do not have a cabinet space to put everything, clean them out! The dishes, pots and pans that rarely get used? Put them in a box and put that box in storage, or donate those items to a Tiangus sale to benefit a non-profit such as your local Spay and Neuter Clinic.

Keep in mind homeowners will open all your cabinets and drawers, especially in the kitchen. They want to be sure there is enough room for their "stuff." If your kitchen cabinets, pantry, and drawers look jammed full, it sends a negative message to the buyer and does not promote an image of plentiful storage space. For that reason, if you have a "junk drawer," get rid of the junk. If you have a rarely used crock pot, put it in storage. Do this with every cabinet and drawer, create open space.

Make sure the area beneath the sink is as empty as possible, removing all extra cleaning supplies. You should scrub the area down as well, and determine if there are any tell-tale signs of water leaks or termitic damage that may cause a homebuyer to hesitate in buying your home.

Closet

We are talking about extra clothes and shoes – things you rarely wear but cannot bear to be without. Do without these items for a couple of months by putting them in a box, because these items can make your closets look "cluttered full." Sometimes there are shoeboxes full of "stuff" or other accumulated personal items, too.

Furniture

Many people have too much furniture in certain rooms – not too much for your own personal living needs – but too much to give the illusion of space that a homebuyer would like to see. You may want to consult with the photographer, or view staged homes and to see how they place furniture in the model homes.

Storage Area

Basements, garages, attics, and sheds accumulate not only clutter, but junk. These areas should be as empty as possible so that buyers can imagine what they would do with the space. Remove anything that is not essential and take it to the storage area. Or even better, have a garage sale!

Our goal as real estate professionals is to help you prepare your house for a very competitive market and present it in the best possible condition to generate showings, you never get a second chance to make a good first impression!

Lisa Welsch & Alvaro Colindres
Coldwell Banker Riveras
Real Estate in Todos Santos
lwelsch@cbriveras.com acolindres@cbriveras.com
FLOWER VENDOR SPREADS... continued from page 21

$1000 if they would bring it back to her. It took 45 minutes for the chief of police to return with it. He took a check from her for his reward. And he kept the $7,000 in computer equipment that was inside the truck to forget to put return of that in the fine print.

Dirty gas. Not only is the gasoline sold in Mexico more expensive than in the United States, but its quality is substandard compared to what is sold north of the border.

All vehicle fuels sold in the U.S. must by law contain a minimum of 10% ethanol, a gasoline additive and oxygenate that reduces carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxide emissions. However, the gas that is exported to Mexico are shipped without any additives.

“We purchase, as do other countries, base gasoline. Additives are added afterwards in order to comply with each country’s official standards,” said Pemex. But automotive fuels sold by Pemex contain just 2.7% oxygenates such as ethanol. Mexico is unable to comply with that 5% because the infrastructure to process the 10 million liters of ethanol that would be needed daily does not exist. Every day, said Pablo González, 200 million liters of gasoline and diesel are consumed in Mexico.

Several specialists quoted by the newspaper El Universal agreed that fuels distributed in Mexico are low-quality and that there hasn’t been a real commitment from the authorities to improve them.

No Olympics here. Mexico’s two main television broadcasters, Televisa and TV Azteca will take a pass on airing the Olympic games from Brazil this summer.

América Móvil, the region’s biggest telecommunications company, and controlled by billionaire Carlos Slim, won exclusive broadcast rights for Latin America, except Brazil. It has resold exhibition rights to broadcasters across the region but not to the biggest Mexican television companies.

“We didn’t reach an agreement,” said América Móvil spokesman Arturo Elías Ayub, who declined to give details. The games are set to take place in August in Rio de Janeiro.

Televisa and Azteca between them control more than 90% of Mexico’s broadcast television. The Olympics will be carried on two government-owned broadcast television channels, as well as on pay TV systems and online via América Móvil’s Claro Sports website.

Mexicans are shrugging it off, as they show greater interest in the soccer World Cup than in the Olympics, in which the country isn’t a major medal winner.

No Mexican sent back. Mexico’s new ambassador to Washington plans to make a top priority helping Mexicans living in the U.S. get citizenship so they can avoid getting deported if they commit crimes.

He noted that Mexico has a “well-developed reaction mechanism” for providing assistance to Mexicans facing deportation proceedings in the U.S. The goal is that “no Mexicans are deported and that the corresponding legal process is followed.”

How much is a Mexican worth? A lot. Way more than this paltry contribution. Some of the families of Mexican tourists who were accidentally killed by government forces while touring in Egypt last year have settled for $140,000 each.

Negotiations continue with relatives of five other tourists who

CONTINUED ON PAGE 39
TROPIC OF CANCER AT MIRAFLORES

May 21, Saturday. 5:00 pm. Full Moon Nights Rural Edition at the Tropic of Cancer center on the road to Los Barriles. Paint exhibition by local artists and a lot of local art on sale. Around 6:00 pm starts the Full Moon Night with wine, music, contemporary dance, singers, poetry, historic chronicles of local artists and rural community. With collaboration of Francis Upper recognized Holland activist and The Astronomy of Los Cabos Society who brings telescopes to see the sky. Guest artist Gabriel Fonseca will show a documentary. Coordinated by Santiago, Miraflores and La Rivera neighborhoods with support of Economic Development of the State. Spanish with help in English. Free. And, yeah, it's his smart dab at the tropic of cancer about half an hour north of San Jose on the road to Los Barriles. There's a market there, you can't miss it.

CABO SAN LUCAS

CULTURAL PAVILION Downtown Cabo

Every Thursday. 7:00 pm. The Pavilion Movie Club is back again. Every Thursday a different movie. Different languages. Mostly English with Spanish subtitles. Free.

May 17 and 18. Tuesday and Wednesday. 6:30 pm. Party and Colors of Mexico. Folk dances from different parts of Mexico showing their customs and traditions. By Manicari Pericue Folk Ballet. Donations: students and kids $50 pesos, adults $100 pesos. Practically free. More info and tickets with Rogelio Linas 624 355 3446.

Until May 18. Wednesday. Registration for musicians, groups and bands to play at the Music Festival June 21 in San Jose. It's a big celebration of music with multiple stages around downtown San Jose. www.fiestadelamusicaloscabos.net. This is a big, multi venue fiesta that goes all night.


May 26 and 27. Thursday and Friday. From 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Music and Song Composers Workshop. By Rafael Mendezo recognized for their Tropa gender songs in sung by Oscar Chavez, Lila Dawns, Amparo Ochoa and other bohemian singers. Coordinated by Jaime Martinez and the Culture and Arts Municipal Institute. Free. Spanish. Registration by email: espacioculturalsoscabos@hotmail.com with Alan Castro.

May 28. Saturday. 5:00 pm. Chaski Fest Los Cabos 2016. Good vibrations for the Earth Planet festival with live music by Mistica Vibration, Oco Martinez, Limanya Percussion, a master class of yoga and meditation, vegetarian food tasting, health and wellness conferences and more. Spanish with help in English. Free.

TESORO HOTEL Downtown Cabo, who doesn't know where that is?

May 21. Saturday. 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm. Yanis Marshall Workshop. Special High Heels Dance Workshop and Street Jazz Dance Workshop for dancers and everyone who wants to learn some dance in heels. Remembering choreographers like The Spice Girls, Beyonce, etc. Marshall was a finalist on the TV Show Britain’s Got Talent in 2014 and an artistic coach of the French version of Dancing with the Stars, now the new choreographer of Cirque du Soleil's cabaret-style show called Zumanity in Las Vegas. Also a guest teacher at the Broadway Dance Center, New York City. More info and registrations mail: americanomelley@yanismarshallworkshops.com

AMELIA WILKES PLAZA Downtown Cabo main plaza on Hidalgo.

Every Friday from 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Handcraft market by local craftsmen. And craftsicks.

CERRITO DEL TIMBRE CULTURAL HOUSE Behind Aramburo Supermarket, Downtown Cabo.

May 21, Saturday. 7:00 pm. Full Moon Nights. Every full moon local and guest artists celebrate bohemian night with live music, dance and poetry, songs written and sung by their artist. For all audiences. Spanish and some help in English. Free.

MACONDO BOOK STORE Above La Europea at Walmart

Every Saturday. 8:30 pm. Live music by different guest artists. Cafe showing every Wednesday. 7:30 pm. Movie club. Some English. Free. https://www.facebook.com/macondo.csl

May 21, Saturday. 8:00 pm. Live music by Moroni Renteria and his guitar. Bohemian night with live music, wine and books. Every Saturday a different guest artist. 176 3797. To see more activities at Macondo visit www.facebook.com/macondo.csl.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Open Monday to Sunday. From 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Donations welcome.

CABO MARINA FRONT

Every Saturday. From 12:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Art exhibition by local artists, workshops, paint, sculpture, photography, food tasting, theater, live music and dance. Spanish. Free.

SAN JOSE

CIRCOTEKA Angela Ceseña St. between the fourlane and Barlovento St.

Every Thursday. 7:00 pm. Reading club for kids. Actors dressed up, read and act a short story for the kids. More info about reading lounges: todossomoselotro@gmail.com. At Angela Ceseña St. between Fourlane Street and Barlovento St., San Jose. Spanish. Free.

SAN JOSE CULTURAL HOUSE Downtown.

May, Jun and July. Saturdays. 7:00 pm. Cultural Saturdays at Casa de Cultura. Every Saturday a different show of a different activity. Jazz and hip hop, Arabic dance, salsa dance and more. Spanish, but come on, it's dance and dance knows no language barrier. 20 pesos donation.

Every Tuesday. 8:00 pm. Documentary Movie Club. Every Tuesday a different documentary about human issues and wild life. Spanish, sometimes in English. Free.

LA PAZ

ALIANZA FRANCESA

Every Tuesday. 6:00 pm. Different French film each week. Alianza Francesa cultural center at 525 Gomez Farias St. between Republica St and Guerrero St. Esterito town, La Paz. facebook.com/alianzafrancesalapaz. Spanish, French, English and other languages. Free.

Every Friday. 6:00 pm. International films movie club.

CENTRO CULTURAL LA PAZ

From Monday to Friday. 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. On permanent display, permanent photography collective exhibition that highlights the cultural identity of Baja California Sur. In the Codex Peninsula of the Centro Cultural La Paz, on 16 de Septiembre at the corner of Belisario Dominguez. Text is in English and Spanish. Free.

To get your event listed here, email the details to david@gringogazette.com. There is no charge. 🎟️
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP In English (La Paz) Crossroads Christian Fellowship. Sharing the living water of Jesus with thirsty people. 3124 Aboesco between Sonora and Sinaloa. (Up the alley under the Crossroads sign) Call Milton Sanders at 6121357567 or 612141832. www.crossroadslapaz.org (o)

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GOLDEN CACTUS GALLERY is excited to now be in Plaza Casa Blanca on the highway to Todos Santos, across from the motel La Roca near the animal shelter. There is a stop light there so make a U-turn and voilà! (It's just 3 miles from the marina.) Mon - Sat 12 - 6 PM. Cell: 624-147-5287 (o)

OFFICIAL TRANSLATOR Spanish-English, licensed by the Supreme Court of Justice of the State of Baja California Sur. Celene Poupart, cell 624-147-5287 (o)

AMERICAN DELI FRANCHISE Opportunity available for San Jose and La Paz. Call 624-158-8650 (o)

FOR SALE, 2002 CENTURY. Walk around cuddy cabin, twin four stroke outboards. tuna tower, generator, air conditioned. Inclues triple axle aluminum trailer. This is a perfect Baja fishing boat and over nighter. Two beds, Full head, auto pilot and too much to list. For pics and details go to http://www.megallanyachts.mobi Currently in dry storage building at San Jose marina. $65,000.00 OBO. Call for questions 714-713-1001. Email robsvaur@yahoo.com (o)

LIQUOR LICENSE FOR SALE. Cell 624-155-1049 (o)

BIG LOT FOR SALE At the entrance of Puerto Los Cabos. 65,000 sq. feet. Motivated seller, accepting offers. Zoned for anything, soldosrado@me.com 624-147-0507 (o)

LIQUOR LICENSE FOR SALE. Call Rosalinda 624-155-1049 (o)

GRINGO HALF PRICE SPECIAL. 2 ½ bedroom 2 ½ bath Condo near Cabo Marina available for short term rental. $125 per night plus cleaning. More information at FishTalkRadio. com. Go to bottom of any page and click on Condo Condo. Contact John at 805-207-3522 or John@FishTalkRadio.com. (o)

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1993 Z28, immaculate, 18K original miles, 6 spd, LTI engine. Patriot maroon w black top. Ontario plated. Original owner. The perfect boys toy for cabo! $19K US. rickrand2@gmail.com Rick. (TF)


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Questions? Call the office in Cabo at 14 30865. U.S. number is 562 714 6735

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Are you interested in working at the Consular Agency in Los Cabos?

The U.S. Consulate General Tijuana is seeking a U.S. citizen applicant for the position of Consular Agent in the Consular Agency in Cabo San Lucas.

For more information about this job opportunity visit: http://tijuana.usconsulate.gov/consularagent.html

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**Walk It In**

You can bring them into our office which is on the marina in Cabo San Lucas, second floor in front of the Cultural Center over Captain Tony's.

**Mail It In**

You can mail it to 303 Magnolia Dr, Laguna Beach, CA, 92651

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form their own rules and system, so they are not regulated by the government. Government run universities always include the word autonomous in their name, and the students are known for their activism and protests. Just because it's free doesn't mean the quality is poor. Many of these universities have excellent reputations. The National Autonomous University of Mexico City (UNAM) has been judged the 80th best in the world. That one university that were cut.

The Garlic cloves that were peeled.
6 Cloves
1 Cinnamon stick.
1/2 teaspoon of nutmeg.
8 black peppercorns.
5. Mix the saucepan ingredients and fry them for about 3 minutes, until the garlic cloves are lightly fried and the tomatoes soften; stir regularly.

Cook Many Ingredients
1. Incorporate in the saucepan, along with the other ingredients:
   1 tablespoon of sugar.
   1 cup of chicken broth
   3 tablespoons of White Vinegar.
   3/4 tablespoon of Salt.
2. Mix the saucepan ingredients and being the broth to a boil over high heat.
3. When the broth boils reduce to low heat and leave the mixture cooking for about 15 minutes, until the solid ingredients often and the broth reduces a bit.
4. Transfer from the saucepan to a blender, with a kitchen spoon, the mixture that was cooked.
5. Blend very well the ingredients and reserve.

The Last Steps
1. Finely chop 1 apple, 1 pear and 2 pineapple slices without skin nor core; then set aside.
2. Add in the saucepan:
   The mixture that was blended.
   The apple that was minced.
   The Pear that was minced.
   The pineapple slices that were minced.
3. Mix the saucepan ingredients and bring the manchamanteles mole to a boil over high heat.
4. When the manchamanteles mole boils reduce to low heat and leave it cooking for 4 minutes, until the fruits soften and they release their juice.
   There you have it! If you have managed to wade through all this, you must not have a life. Or possibly cooking is your life.
   Alyjandra

Looking for a fresh start? I am a quiet, pure Siamese kitten without the superior attitude and emotional baggage of some of those hoity toity diva Siamese. I also don’t carry on like most Siamese, with all that chatter. I’m quite a catch, if I do say so myself. A beauty queen, even. Well, a beauty princess, I’m still a kitten.

I’m good with lots of naps, tolerant of children, dogs, not so much.

I’ll be here at the shelter until you arrive for me, but please get a move on, as I’m not too pleased with some of my bunk mates. They’re more on the ordinary side than I am. Ask for me by name, as I may be on nap when you arrive. Nyla.
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- Strong customer service and selling skills
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If you are a strong team player, a lover of fashion with an intense desire to have a successful career in the retail industry, and looking for a company that offers support, recognition, coupled with a fun working environment, then this is the role for you!

Send resume to Kathleen Caflay at info@iodomani.com.

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**Events 2016**

**Every Monday, 8:30 am Pickleball in San Jose. Contact rondumbarton@gmail.com**

**Every Tuesday at 8 a.m. Rotary Club at the Sheraton Hacienda del Mar resort. In the Chapel. RSVP: 172-0009 y 172-0010**

**Every Wednesday, 7:30 to 8:30 pm. Bike ride in San Jose. Free if you bring your own bike, or rent from Sportia bike store. Form up at Plaza del Pescador in San Jose, across from the Royal Solaris hotel at 7:15 pm. (624) 130-7159. info@sportia.mx**

**First Thursday, Yo Reciclo sets up tents to receive clear glass bottles, metals, plastics (except Styrofoam), small home appliances (except TVs of all kinds), cellphones and accessories, edible vegetable oil, ink cartridges and toners of HP, Samsung and Xerox only: please. In San Jose at Centenario corner with Ildefonso Green. In Cabo San Lucas at the parking lot off the baseball stadium. 8 am to 2 pm. info@yoreciclo.org.mx**

**Every Thursday, 8:00 a.m. Rotary Club breakfast. At the Playa Grande Resort, Restaurant Brigantine, Cabo San Lucas.**

**Every Thursday. From 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Organic market. Historic downtown activities program. Postal Park, Constitution and Madero streets. La Paz. Free.**

**Every Thursday, 12:00 – 8:00 pm. Artisans Market at Maco Raspado (Vegetarian restaurant). On the road to the Hacienda beach resort (behind the Puerto Paraiso mall), across from the Marina Fiesta hotel.**

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**JUNE**

**Every Thursday from 6pm to 9pm. Art Walk. Historic downtown, San Jose. Visit galleries, many serve wine, they close down the street.**

**Every other Thursday. You guess which one. Los Cabos Tomatoes, ladies social group. All women who aspire to be a tomato are welcome. loscabostomatoes@gmail.com.**

**Every Friday Palmilla Farmers Market Every Friday 9 am to 1 pm in the parking lot of the Palmilla strip center**

**Every Friday Todos Santos Farmers Market. Music and fun stuff. James Black, nwerlo4u@earthlink.net, www.facebook.com/Todos-Santos-Farmers-Market.**

**June 5th Sunday. 3:00 to 7:00 pm. Paws on Parade at Flora Farms: Dog Costume Parade and Contest and BBQ. Entertainment and raffles. M.C. will be Michael Moloney from Extreme Makeover. In Support of the Los Cabos Human Society. Margarita Partridge, Cell: 044 624 129 7399. Visit www.fosteracaboshumanesociety.com**

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**To get your event listed here, email the details to david@gringogazette.com. There is no charge.**
Dirt Road Protocol
There’s rules out there? Who knew?

BY DAVE KAMENA

Driving on dirt roads in Baja is a Gringo obsession. All surfers know it. All off roaders know it. The dirt roads are almost endless and always have a prize at the end - a surf spot, a great view, a hot spring, or just a place to have a big fire and a good time. Some of us grew up driving dirt roads, and some only get to do it when we come down to Mexico.

If you drive enough miles on these roads, you’ll find that sometimes you need to speed up and drive fast over the bumps in order to hover over them and lessen the jarring (albeit ruin your suspension). The guys in the races have made an art of this. In the last few years of living down in Baja, however, I’ve noticed that the locals don’t generally drive hell bent fast like that on their roads, and the biggest cloud of dust is usually following a shiny SUV with California plates. Since all of us like to blend in when traveling and be as good to the local scene as possible, I’ve come up with a few common sense reminders for those of us who may have forgotten, like I do at times.

Slow down. Nobody wants to be the asshole who’s kicking up dust all over the place.

Pay attention. There are critters and people on these roads, and they probably don’t want to breathe the cloud of crap billowing out behind you. Give them a brake and slow down a little.

Respect the road. When you float over the washboard it creates deeper washboard. Mexico doesn’t tax its citizens enough to send out teams of pothole fillers like in the U.S. Out in the desert you can screw up the roads, but respect the neighborhoods.

Pack it out. We all hate trash, and as Gringos we feel like there is too much of this on the Mexican roads, but I’ve seen my fellow surfers leave garbage behind too many times to count. Take out your trash and maybe a little bit more.

Often, articles such as this can sound like they are written by a bitter local, (and sometimes they are,) but not in this case. I got the idea traveling far off the grid in Montana, while talking to a rancher. He was most likely trying to convey the message to me as a violator of these rules, and it made me reflect on my behavior at home in Baja, so I decided to try and show at least as much respect for my adopted home, and pass it along to you. hope to see you soon on the trail.

WHAT’S GOING ON IN THIS?...
continued from page 34

Egypt says were accidentally killed by security forces. Egyptian forces mistakenly opened fire on tourists when their tour director mistakenly took them off the reservation. Survivors have told Mexican diplomats they came under fire from a plane and helicopters. It was actually the fault of the tour company, but the Egyptian government has stepped up with the money.

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