Is That An Apple Store?

Don’t get your hopes up, it’s not the same as in the U.S.

BY LACEY STORER

For those of you who have an iPhone, iPad, Macbook or any other Apple device (and, that’s a lot of you, considering that more than half the households in the United States have at least one Apple product) we have some interesting information for you. A new MacStore has opened in the Puerto Paraiso mall in Cabo.

Now, there are a couple things we want to point out to you. First, it’s a MacStore, not an Apple store, which is what we have back in the States. The difference is that if you buy something from the MacStore you’re buying from a Mexican franchise that sells Apple products, not Apple itself. However, employees tell us that your MacStore warranty is international, which means it will be honored at Apple stores back in the States.

Second, signs on the storefront bill it as a “Premium Apple Reseller.” Initially we thought this meant the merchandise was all refurbished and recycled.

Save The Whale Sharks!

The federal government is trying

BY LACEY STORER

The federal government is implementing new measures and changes in regulations in a robust effort to protect and preserve the whale sharks who make their home in the Bay of La Paz. Whale shark tours have exploded in popularity within the past five years, to the point that they are now one of the main attractions in the Bay of La Paz. According to Semarnat (Mexico’s Department of Environment and Natural Resources), 56% of the whale sharks are only about 15 or so minutes off the bay; tourists don’t have to trek to a remote location to see them.

But while the tourism and attention is great for La Paz, it’s not so great for the animals. According to Semarnat (Mexico’s Department of Environment and Natural Resources), 56% of the

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Bicycles! We had an article on Cabo bicycling opportunities in the last issue and one in this issue also. We broke them into two separate issues so you don’t get drunk on too much goodness heaped on you all at once.

Maybe I should have started this out by explaining how much I love bikes. All kinds. All bikes are nice bikes. Anything with two wheels, that you lean to turn, instead of cranking a steering wheel. That’s what makes them fun, is the leaning in. That, and the windy feeling you can create just by cranking up the speed. An alert biker will note how windy it all feels, while you are zooming by everything around you that’s standing as still as dead stone statues.

Some bikes have motors, some do not, but all are worthy of love. My first bike was built by my big brother from parts he salvaged from I don’t know where, and I was smart enough not to ask. Best be able to tell Mom I didn’t know. This beauty was calico; like Joseph’s coat, it was of many colors.

It looked like a three speed but was actually a one speed. Looking back, I doubt if my brother even knew how to make a bike shift, but he knew how to bolt a shifter onto the handlebar, making me and my new bike look oh so grand, like I was gliding around on a very expensive, very significant bicycle. Which would have looked odd in our neighborhood.

Many years later I was working in the Hoover Vacuum Cleaner factory, putting the rear wheels on rear axles, when my boss announced he was selling a motorcycle and did I know anyone who needed one. He had me at motorcycle. And of course, I needed one.

Although I had never thought about owning a motorcycle, I didn’t know anyone who had ever owned one, and I sure didn’t know how to ride one, I bought that sucker sight unseen. I was finally able to lift it by myself. We had an article on Cabo motorcycles?) He thoughtfully wrote instructions onto the gas tank, swung a leg over, and I was off.

I can’t say that on that first day I had a leaning-into/wind-in-the hair kind of experience. Let’s just say I learned to wear jeans while astride the beast. I still have the scar from the hot pipes searing my skin as I lay under the bike that weighed more than me. I did finally manage to wiggle out from under it, retrieving my leg, but I was never able to lift it by myself.

Over the years I’ve had more motorcycles than I can count, maybe a couple dozen. Then, two years ago, I decided I was done. Simply done. I even look back, which surprised me most.

But in the archives of Carrie’s greatest motorcycle hits, (there are many), here’s a good one: I found a small motor screwed down to a bread board, currently being used to drive a knife sharpening operation. I recognized it as an old motor originally sold to power a kid’s pedal bike. There were several makes, the most famous being the Whizzer brand. Back in the 40s and 50s it would arrive by mail order, in a box, and would be fairly easy to mount on a bike. They were gasoline, and most of them were friction wheel driven, that is, a small wheel would be in contact with either the front or back wheel of the bike, driving it forward.

When the two wheels were put in contact with each other, the bike would become a real motorcycle! How cool is that? Well, I bought the motor complete with bread board, and brought it home. It was easy to install on one of my many bicycles, but far less easy to drive. And much less easy to stop the thing.

To start the motor, I only had to reach behind with my right hand and
What are they doing with our fourlane? An official with Mexico’s communications and transport ministry confirmed the ministry signed an agreement allowing local developers to reroute part of the fourlane that runs from Cabo to San José, whether you like it or not. The stretch of road from KM 17 to KM 24 – that would be from the El Tule bridge to Cerro Colorado, where the H+ Hospital is located – will be nudged further inland.

The developers will pay for the new road, which they estimate at about $30 million USD, as well as several roads leading from the fourlane to the hotels and beaches. In return, they will receive part of the existing “old” road for their own use as frontage road for the hotels.

The hotels want it because they say it will create a buffer between their properties and the zoom zoom, noisy loud freeway. The opposition, and there is considerable, feels it’s a beach grab by the hotels, at the expense of the locals.

Construction has already started. Expect them to tip toe through this, as they did last time developers picked up and moved the highway. Yes, there was a last time. Look closely near Chileno Beach and you will see the old highway growing over with weeds.

That’s not the only road moving The old road to the East Cape that runs from El Encanto de la Laguna to Zacatitos is on the move. It’s been fenced in some areas and a new road up the hill, farther away from the ocean, is being paved.

And it turns out, the city knew nothing about it until recently! According to Susana Zatarain, who oversees the city’s assets, the road move was approved way back in 2006 by Mexico’s communications and transport ministry and the state road board. Why the city was not informed then is a mystery. Residents are worried that all of that land between the old and new road will become private which will mean a loss of beach access to the public. They’re getting organized to protest and block the road move. Stay tuned.

Population boom coming soon The Los Cabos restaurant ass. announced recently that the openings of several new resorts whole lot more crowded. 20,000 trained resort employees? Why should these be any different?

Pack up the kids Three Los Cabos resorts – Grand Solmar, Palmilla and Hacienda del Mar – were ranked among the top family-friendly resorts in Mexico by Family Vacation Critic, an offshoot of TripAdvisor. To make the list, hotels had to meet a strict list of family-specific criteria, like baby equipment accessibility and free Wi-Fi. The properties were also personally vetted and visited by a member of Family Vacation Critic’s team of hotel experts, and had to be recommended by 75 percent or more of families who have rated the property a four- or five-star review. Of course you can also use this list to research hotels to avoid.

Library closes for summer You didn’t even know there was a library, did you? Well there is, up in Todos Santos. The Palapa Society Children’s Library will close for the summer on Tuesday, June 27, to get ready for their big move to the new Palapa Learning Center campus.

The new venue will have lots more room, fun activities for kids ages 3 to 17 and will, as always continue to be free for the children of Todos Santos.

The trainees included firefighters and employees of Zoemat, the federal agency that oversees Mexican beaches. The group also included local citizens who wanted to be trained just for the heck of it.

Another day, another award The Cabo fire department trained 160 beach lifeguards during a water rescue seminar, with help from instructors of the San Diego fire department. The trainees included firefighters and employees of Zoemat, the federal agency that oversees Mexican beaches.

Speaking of Pueblo Bonito... A large laundry under construction by the Pueblo Bonito resort is being protested by the residents of the Arco Iris barrio in Cabo.

The locals say the industrial laundry doesn’t belong in a residential neighborhood, and that the proximity of large water heaters, fueled by propane, could blow them all to Kingdom Come. (We don’t know why we capitalize that, we don’t even know where that is). Protesters were met by armed, private Pueblo Bonito security thugs.

Later that day, the city’s office of urban development’s head honcho said the construction was approved years back by the city council, who considered it safe and sane, and not a threat to anyone, so there.

Library opens again The Cabo fire department trained 160 beach lifeguards during a water rescue seminar, with help from instructors of the San Diego fire department.

The trainees included firefighters and employees of Zoemat, the federal agency that oversees Mexican beaches.

Hugs for everyone Juan Tellez, a local therapist known for his laughter therapy series, returned to Los Cabos tourist authorities at the Ritz Carlton in Marina Del Rey, California.

Grand Velas also received an award in the category of “Best New Hotel,” competing with El Ganzo, JW Marriott Los Cabos, ME Cabo and The Towers at Pacifica, inside the Pueblo Bonito Sunset Beach complex.

The trainees included firefighters and employees of Zoemat, the federal agency that oversees Mexican beaches. The group also included local citizens who wanted to be trained just for the heck of it.
Apple products; you know, outdated iPods and laptops that have been patched together from pieces of other computers. But employees assured us that this is not the case; the products in the store are new, not pre-owned.

Even though it’s not actually an Apple store, the MacStore has the look and feel of one. It has the same monochromatic white and grey color scheme, the same sleek, minimalist tables and counters. And there’s a whole herd of techies and computer geeks who are waiting to answer your questions (although not all of them speak English, so have the Google Translate app ready on your phone).

The store offers everything from iPhones, iPads, Macbooks and MacBook Airs, and accessories like chargers, cords, phone cases and headphones. And if your Mac craps out on you while you’re in Cabo and you need it fixed right away, the MacStore has a team of computer geeks who can usually repair it.

However, if your computer is completely fried and you need to replace it, the MacStore is not the place to go to buy a new one. All the laptops have Spanish operating systems and keyboards, so unless you’re completely bilingual, forget it.

The iPhones and iPads are also in Spanish, but their settings can easily be switched to English. So if yours breaks while you’re down here and you just can’t live without it, go ahead and get it from the MacStore. But be warned, you’ll pay a higher price than you would back in the States (import fees and all that). For example, the 32 gigabyte iPhone SE, which is basically a redesigned iPhone 5, costs $495 USD; on Apple.com it’s $399. And a 32 gig iPhone 6 is $473; Apple.com sells it for $549.

And if you get to Cabo and realize that your phone charger is still plugged in back home (which we imagine is the reason why most of our colleagues will need to visit the MacStore) that will cost you from between $30 to $60 USD, depending on the brand you get. They have Apple chargers as well as Belkin products, which are less expensive. If you want to check out the MacStore and what it has to offer for yourself, it’s on the top floor of the mall, in the outdoor courtyard.

Colon Cancer Awareness Month in Mexico
Getting screened could save your life

BY DR. DICK

Colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among men and women in the US, and is estimated over half of all colon cancer deaths could be prevented, if people got tested regularly. August is Colon Cancer Awareness Month in Mexico and there’s no better time to learn the facts about colon cancer and get tested. Getting screened could save your life.

If you are 50 or older, you should speak with your doctor about colon cancer screening. Screening can find colon cancer before symptoms develop when it’s easier to treat and survival rates are better. Screening can help find growths called polyps that can be removed before they turn into cancer. The good news is that fewer people have been dying from colon cancer over the past few decades. That’s due to improvements in screening. However, more than 50,000 deaths from colon cancer are expected this year, accounting for 9% of all cancer deaths.

Several screening tests have been developed to help find colorectal cancer early, when it is more treatable. Medical experts recommend that people over 50 years get screened at regular intervals with one of the following tests: high-sensitivity fecal occult blood tests (FOBT), stool DNA testing, or standard colonoscopy, or virtual colonoscopy. People at increased risk because of a family history of colorectal cancer or polyps or because they have inflammatory bowel disease, may be advised to start screening before age 50 and/or have more frequent screening.

High-sensitivity FOBT: Polyps and colorectal cancers can bleed, and FOBT checks for tiny amounts of blood in feces (stool) that cannot be seen. With FOBT, stool samples are collected by the patient using a kit, and the samples are returned to the doctor for evaluation. If FOBT is the only type of colorectal cancer screening test performed, yearly testing is recommended.

Standard colonoscopy: In this test, the rectum and entire colon are examined using a colonoscope, a flexible lighted tube with a lens for viewing and a tool for removing tissue. The tube is inserted through the anus into the rectum and the colon as air is pumped into the colon to expand it so the doctor can see the colon lining more clearly. During a colonoscopy, any abnormal growths in the colon and the rectum can be removed. A thorough cleansing of the entire colon is necessary before this test and patients receive some form of sedation during the test. Studies show that colonoscopy reduces deaths from colorectal cancer by about 60 to 70 percent. Colonoscopy is recommended every 10 years for people at average risk as long as their test results are negative.

Virtual colonoscopy: This screening test, also called computed tomographic [CT] colonography uses a CT scanner to produce a series of pictures of the colon and the rectum from outside the body. A computer then assembles these pictures into detailed images that can show polyps and other abnormalities. Virtual colonoscopy is a newer method of screening the colon and is less invasive than standard colonoscopy and does not require sedation, providing a proven screening test for individuals who cannot, or will not have a colonoscopy. As with standard colonoscopy, a thorough cleansing of the colon is necessary before this test, and air is pumped into the colon to expand it for better viewing of the colon’s lining. The accuracy of virtual colonoscopy is similar to that of standard colonoscopy, and virtual colonoscopy has a lower risk of complications. However, if polyps or other abnormal growths are found during colonoscopy, a standard colonoscopy is usually performed to remove them. With the combination of newer and faster CT scanners and computer software that can produce images equivalent to an endoscope, virtual colonoscopy seems to be a logical choice in the screening for colon cancer. During the CT scan, the doctors will, if requested, check for the symptoms of prostate cancer at no extra cost.

Saint Luke’s Hospitals have installed the latest and fastest CT scanner in Cabos, which is highly suitable for virtual colonoscopy screening. The Somatoc Scope delivers outstanding image quality, and is able to reduce radiation dose up to 40% while maintaining high levels of quality, and diagnosis confidence. The scan time takes approximately 20 seconds, with very low radiation during which the patient holds his or her breath. After the exam, there are two methods that can be used to deal with a polyp that has been identified by the CT scan. If the patient desires to have a same day standard colonoscopy when a polyp is identified, he or she waits for approximately 45 - 60 minutes in order to confirm if a polyp has been identified. This time is needed to carefully examine the colon using computer images. If a polyp is identified, the patient then has a standard colonoscopy performed to remove the polyp. If no polyp is found, the patient goes home.

Dr. Luis Enrique Sotelo is the leading gastroenterologist in Los Cabos and resident specialist at Saint Luke’s Hospital. To learn more about colon cancer screening tests, arrange a consultation with Dr. Sotelo, to review your present condition, and discuss the best options for you. The fecal occult blood tests (FOBT) normally costs $495 pesos, virtual colonoscopy $9000 pesos (reduced to $6500 pesos during August) and standard colonoscopy $14,000 pesos, prices include IVA. Contact Saint Luke’s for more details - there’s no better time to learn the facts about colon cancer and get tested: info@staltaukeshospitals.com Tel: 624 142 5911 (24/7) Dr. Dick: (624) 157 1970.
whale sharks in the bay have some kind of injury from boats. Making matters worse is the fact that whale sharks are listed as “vulnerable” by the World Wildlife Federation; vulnerable is one step below endangered and indicates that the animals face a high risk of extinction in the wild.

There are currently regulations in place to protect the whale sharks. Boats are only allowed to go out during the official whale shark season, they must stay within the designated whale shark watching zones and can only come within a certain distance from the animals. Swimmers must not touch the animals, must swim along their sides and not in front of them, and keep a minimum distance of 16 feet from the animal’s head and 20 feet from tail. It’s also forbidden to take pictures with flash and to use propulsion engines to swim near the whale sharks.

Of course, there are always people who are willing to break the rules. There are panga owners who take groups out even though they don’t have a permit and/or go out during the off season when they’re not supposed to. They get too close to the animals and don’t instruct their passengers not to get too close or not to touch the whale sharks. They let too many people into the water at one time (the law states no more than six).

And although there is also a law that boats have to take turns letting their passengers into the water, so as not to have too many people crowding around the whale sharks and making them anxious, some captains simply ignore it. They just drive their boats right up and let their passengers splash into the water.

To combat all of this, Semarnat has made several changes. For starters, the official whale shark season has been reduced from 11 months (July to May) to seven months (October to May) in order to give the whales some resting time when they’re not being harassed by eager tourists.

Semarnat will also be charging a fee to tour providers to pay for rangers who will monitor the bay and make sure the boats that are in the whale shark watching areas are approved to be there. They’re also working with Pronatura, Mexico’s largest environmental conservation group, to place a high-resolution camera in El Mogote – the large sand bar that frames the bay – that can capture images from nine miles away. This will let rangers monitor the boats going out on tours in real time, and help them to stop bad boating behavior, such as getting too close to the whale sharks, as it’s happening.

“It’s better for us to pay for the rangers to watch that area and protect the whale sharks and make sure the people out there are responsible,” says Terry Neal, owner of Island Cat, one of the tour providers in Cabo that offers whale shark watching tours. “Otherwise, we’re going to take pictures with flash and ruin another part of our business.”

But perhaps the biggest change is in the whale shark tour permits. For starters, Semarnat is reducing the number of permits given from more than 100 to 85. They’re also requiring more training. Training courses are now two days instead of one, and three people from each tour company have to go through the training: the business owner, the boat captain and a guide. Before, only one person from each company had to go through training. The new training courses for the business owners have finished, but so far no dates have been set for the training for captains and guides.

According to Semarnat, there were 110 applicants for the classes. Terry’s assistant, Christine, arrived 30 minutes early to sign up and there were already more than 100 people waiting; some had slept there that night in order to get entry into the classes. Christine stood in line for eight hours in 100 degree weather just to get permission to take the class.

Once the training has been complete, tour providers can apply for a permit. But the training is only one requirement; they must also present a management plan and have experience. And with the decrease in permits being given out this year, a permit isn’t guaranteed just because a company completed training. Neal says special consideration will be given to people who’ve received permits in the past and have shown that they follow the regulations.

Hopefully, these changes and new permit requirements will help weed out the boat owners who aren’t properly trained or licensed and care more about taking money from tourists than keeping the animals safe. At the very least, it’s a step in the right direction.
Uber moves in on PV

In our last issue I told you about squabbling between taxi drivers and Uber drivers in Mazatlán, with a few incidents coming to blows. What, you didn’t believe me? Is it because I’m a cat you don’t take me seriously? Well, your loss.

Trust me when I say the same thing could happen in Puerto Vallarta. Uber just announced it would be working PV and Nuevo Vallarta just north of PV. They haven’t announced a start date yet, but they’re looking for drivers in both areas.

There are some 3,000 taxi drivers in the municipality, and as far as they are concerned, Uber doesn’t have the necessary authorization to operate. They’re planning on protesting if they have to, and they have the support of the former mayor, who issued a statement saying Uber’s presence would create a negative impact for many area families, meaning it could put Papa taxi driver out of a job.

Uber has defended itself by promising to boost the local economy and make streets safer by reducing the number of drunk or distracted drivers. It also said it would promote an environment that was more connected and less congested.

A taxi union spokesdude said they are also developing a mobile platform to become more innovative, and we assume more competitive with services like Uber, although it seems like it might be a little late in the game for that.

App makes donating blood easier

A blood donation startup with the less than musical name of Blooders has chalked up 2,800 donations in three years, which is a pretty big deal in a country where people don’t usually donate unless a close relative or friend turns up short on blood.

Blooders is a digital blood donation platform (which means they have an app, website and Facebook page) that connects patients needing transfusions with blood donation campaigns created digitally by hospitals with voluntary donors. Since starting in 2014, Blooders has signed up 9,500 people in Mexico City, Monterrey, Puebla and Villahermosa.

Blooders users sign up, schedule an appointment and fill out the required forms. One big advantage of the app is that the scheduling process reduces wait times from the usual four hours to just one. The service sends out emails reminding donors of their appointment, with notifications four hours and again one hour before the scheduled time.

The app is currently available in 27 hospitals: 16 in Monterrey, nine in Mexico City and one each in Puebla and Villahermosa, but there are plans to expand and hopes to be in 10 states by the end of the year.

A four hour wait just to give blood? Could be a reason people don’t like to give.

Mexican mangos big in US

Could mangos be the new avocado? Mexican mangos are gaining popularity in the United States, which has almost tripled its mango consumption in the last decade.

Just last year, Mexican producers exported a record 73 million crates of mangos worth $206 million.

Looking For Some TLC

In case you can’t tell from our pictures, we’re sisters. You might also have noticed the stereotypical “hang dog” look on our faces. Before Baja Safe rescued us, we were badly abused and beat up, and left on a roof cooking under the sun for few weeks with no shade. We don’t know what we did to deserve that, we’re good girls! We’re two year old poodle-spaniel mixes, both about 10 pounds. And after what we’ve been through together, there’s no way we could ever be apart, so we’re looking for someone who wants love and affection from both of us.

JAZZ

OK, so maybe I’m milking it a little bit with the picture. I’m not a total mummy, but my injuries were pretty bad. I was hit by a car a while back and left on the road. Despite my injuries, I managed to keep moving and was eventually found and brought to Baja Safe. The vets couldn’t save one of my legs, but I’m getting the hang of being a tri-pod. I scoot around pretty good. I’m hoping there’s someone out there who’ll want to nurse me back to health with their love.

All animals at Baja Safe have been spayed/neuters and vaccinated. If you’d like to adopt one of these animals, contact Baja Safe by calling 310-728-6954 or visiting their website, www.bajasafe.com.
Erwin Potts Dies

Potts spent his early career as a newspaper reporter and editor and eventually became the first non-family member to lead McClatchy Newspapers as it grew into a national media company. He joined Sacramento-based McClatchy in 1975 as director of newspaper operations and retired in 1996 as chairman of the board of directors. Potts is responsible for expanding McClatchy from a group of largely California-based newspapers to one of the nation’s major newspaper companies.

He earned a degree in journalism from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, beginning his newspaper career in 1954 at the Charlotte News in North Carolina before serving in the U.S. Marine Corps for three years.

Potts also served on the boards of a number of professional and community organizations. Larry Jinks, former publisher of the San Jose Mercury News, served on McClatchy’s board of directors.

Potts is survived by his wife, Silvia, of El Dorado Hills, California; sons Jeffrey Potts of Folsom and Matthew Potts of Santa Cruz; and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son Bryan.

“He was old school,” Jeffrey Potts said. “He raised us in a way that many people aren’t raised today. He held us accountable for our actions.”

Services were held in Sacramento, where more than 300 people mourned the loss of Erwin Potts, an American original.

By Sacramento Bee

strangers?

Let there be light

Los Cabos Mayor Arturo de la Rosa announced that 5,000 families of the Azteca Tierra and Libertad barrios in Cabo will finally have electricity at the end of July this year.

We say finally because the neighborhoods have NEVER had water in the roughly 10 years they’ve been around. Although, the people living there are mostly squatters, so it’s not a complete shock that they’re just now starting to get utilities.

The power company (CFE) has invested nearly $700,000 USD to make this possible.

In addition, 5,000 streetlights will be installed in those two barrios and six other neighborhoods that lost their light poles to hurricane Odile three years ago.

Leo to the rescue! It sounds like there’s hope for the poor vaquitas after all. Vaquitas are an endangered type of porpoise.

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Get Your Tennis Tickets
The ATP 250 World Tennis Tour kicks off next month

BY CATHY WATKINS

The second annual Mexican Open of Tennis tournament will take place in Los Cabos July 31 through August 5 at the Delmar International School, located in the El Tezal neighborhood behind Walmart. The tournament is part of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) 250 World Tennis Tour.

The ticket pre-sale has started, with single day ticket prices starting at $23 USD. The three and six day tickets in the silver, gold and platinum categories are priced between $276 to $523. And this month, there is a special Father's Day promotion. All dads who purchase tickets before June 30 will receive a 20% discount by using the code #ATC2017.

Tickets are available on Ticketmaster, or can be bought in person at the Koral concierge desk, located in the lobby of the Hampton Inn Hotel in San Jose, and the Delmar International School in Cabo. The Delmar ticket booth is open Monday to Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Koral concierge desk is open from Monday to Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

As of now, several players have been confirmed to play in the tournament. Feliciano Lopez from Spain returns to Cabo for the second year in a row, seeking to win the title this time. He lost in the finals last year to Croatia’s Ivo Karlović. Sam Querrey from the USA is also back again, after an impressive win in the ATP 500 in Acapulco earlier this year when he upset the number two seed, tennis star Rafael Nadal. Other players, including Borna Coric from Croatia, Karen Khachanov from Russia, Frances Tiafoe from the United States and Thanasi Kokkinakis from Australia, have also been confirmed to play.

Last year all the matches took place at night because the heat of summer is not compatible with tennis. So why are we doing this again in the summer? Because organizers for the Cabo segment of the tours were late to the party and this date was the only one left. More information about the players and the tournament in upcoming issues of the Gringo Gazette.

To buy tickets for the ATP 250 tennis tournament, just look for the cardboard cutouts of good-looking tennis players. Yes, this guy is cardboard, but Santiago is real.
Estuary Housekeeping
An Ongoing Effort

Lest it go up in smoke again

BY STEPHANIE MCGlashAN

The San Jose estuary has caught fire several times over the years, the most recent being one afternoon this past April. The fire spread over 860 acres of the wetlands, and took eight hours and roughly 350 workers to put out.

Although this is not the first time the estuary has gone up in a puff of smoke, hopefully it will be the last. This latest incident rallied multiple groups to repair the damage and help restore the estuary to its natural state. These groups include the three levels of government, local NGOs (non-government organizations), the ecology office of Los Cabos, and the organizing committee (basically the Los Cabos hotel association) for the International Day of the Environment. These groups all have the same goal of protecting and conserving the estuary, and the plants and animals who live there.

The estuary is one of Baja’s most important wetlands, which makes its cleanup and restoration very important. Various efforts were and still are in place to ensure the area is cleaned and able to restore itself naturally. As part of the International Day of the Environment, two recent events were organized to bring awareness and gain support for the cleanup process.

On June 3, there was a gathering at the estuary where participants were toured around, so they could observe the scale and intensity of the damage, the areas affected, and get informed on the actions needed to fix the damage. There was a follow up event on June 10, a cleanup of the estuary where participants collected garbage and debris left from the most recent fire. There are plans to continue with these events through June, and possibly into July.

If you’re interested in participating in one of the cleanup events, or want to stay up to date with events related to the estuary, find them on Facebook at Reserva Ecológica Estero de San José del Cabo.

A few years, mainly due to them getting caught in fishing nets. And the fishermen won’t stop using nets even now that they are paid to stay home. They are demonstrating and picketing and going out trolling for their fish anyway.

But now, Leonardo DiCaprio has stepped in to save the day. Or so he thinks. He, along with Mexico’s President Enrique Pena Nieto and Carlos Slim, the richest man in Mexico, signed an agreement to try and permanently ban gillnets in the upper Gulf. Leo and Slim also pledged to help raise money for local development and to find non-gillnet fishing options to try to offset the money the fishermen would lose from the bans.

Well, they better hurry. At the rate they’re dying off, the species is not long for this world.

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Que PASA IN CABO?

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that lives up in the top of the Gulf of California, the body of water that separates Baja from the mainland. There are only about 30 or 40 of them left. The vaquita population has declined drastically in the last
Beach Biking Made Easy
Electric bike tour lets you zip along the sand without knocking yourself out

BY LACEY STORER

The tour companies in Los Cabos offer multiple ways to ride through the desert and along the beach: on camel-back, on horseback, driving a four-wheeler. And now, Cabo Adventures has added a new form of transportation to the list: electric bikes.

The bikes, called Radrovers, are all-terrain, fat-tire bikes that can handle the soft, loose sand. And while you have to pedal to keep the motor going, you don’t have to pedal very hard or fast to gain speed. The bikes can go 20 to 25 miles per hour, which might not seem very fast – and it’s not when you’re riding in a car – but it feels fast when it’s just you and the bike and the wind is whistling past your face.

The tour takes place on Cabo Adventure's property they call Rancho San Cristobel, which is just a few miles outside Cabo as you head towards La Paz. Before starting, riders are suited up with not only helmets, but shin guards, elbow pads and gloves as well, which can be interpreted as bad things are possibly coming. The guide gives a pretty brief overview of how to turn the bike on, adjust the speed, (important), and on using the throttle, and then riders are given a few minutes to practice riding and get used to the bikes’ acceleration.

The first part of the tour loops riders through the desert, winding through the cacti and brambles and rocks. If you have any off-road biking experience, that will come in handy here. The second part of the ride takes us along the beach, where the terrain is mostly flat, with a few hills, but the sand is much thicker and softer and sucks us in. At certain points, not even cranking up the throttle is enough to get the bikes going, and most riders have to walk their bikes a little way until the sand firms up.

A word of caution: If you’re not typically active, or you’re not comfortable on a bike, this probably isn’t the activity for you. Yes, riding on a motorized bike means you don’t have to put as much effort (the guide says that these bikes are for fun, not a workout) but there are other things to consider. The technicalities of driving the bike – we’re talking braking, throttling, making sharp turns and driving in loose sand – can be intimidating. And dangerous if you are extra inept.

On a recent tour, there was one woman who, on the first sharp turn of the bike route, skidded, wiped out and came inches away from planting face first into a cactus! OK, OK, that woman was this intrepid reporter. (In my defense, I have skied, snorkled and hiked up Mount Solmar several times without incident, so I’m not a total sports klutz.)

Now, I don’t want to scare people off, because I was the exception rather than the rule (my fellow riders had no issues maneuvering their bikes along the desert trail). And the guide, seeing my distress after my near cactus collision, radioed for another guide to meet me on the trail and take me to what was essentially the bunny slope of bike paths. A flat, wide and easy trail that led us straight to the
Things are getting exciting on the East Cape. Real estate is selling and many new large projects will be starting. The electrical lines are being installed now and we expect a great deal of growth. That being said, it is a great time to explore while the East Cape is still so close to its natural state.

**July 8 7:30 last Reggae/RockNRoll Stamina concert of the season.**

**All-Day Passes** available for just $25 which includes pool access, a lounge and towel and $15 CREDIT towards food and beverages.

**Happy Hour** every day from 2:00 to 5:00, deals on beers and mixed drinks.

**Expanded tiendita inventory** now we sell cheeses and meats for your picnic lunch on the run.

**Family Packages, kids stay free** $299 for 3 days for a family up to 4 in a double queen room.

**Date Night Specials**, get out of town for a night and dine under the stars in a peaceful setting for $199 includes dinner and breakfast for 2

**Weekend Getaways** come for 2 nights includes dinner and breakfast for 2 $398.00

Surf and Stay 3 nights in a room for 2 with free board use $375.00

Food plans available. Call for local rates. Group rates for weddings, conferences and photo shoots.

Look for us at www.vidasoul.com. Read our reviews in TripAdvisor. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. Local numbers 624 142-1165 (Spanish and English) 624 154-6966 English and US 1-626-840-0485 English and Spanish.

Faulty foundation was the reason for the Lomeli Theater’s wall collapse back in March. The city has decided to demolish the old theater and build a new one.

**Lomeli Theater Gets A Do-Over**

After a wall collapsed, the city decided it was time for a new building.

**BY CALEB HOOGLAND**

It’s renovation season here in Los Cabos. With tourism down during the hot summer months, there’s construction all over the place, as the municipality tries to get things patched up before the next big tourist rush hits us in November. One example is the Lomeli Theater in downtown San Jose.

You might remember, one of the theater’s structural walls collapsed back in March. Thankfully, no people were injured. The only casualty was a parked car on the street (hopefully you didn’t leave your Rolls Royce downtown that day). Investigation into the collapse showed that it was the result of a faulty foundation; the base of the wall wasn’t deep enough or strong enough to support the wall, due to its height. Huh, who would have thought that the foundation is a pretty integral part of construction?

Due to the structural problems and the age of the building (it’s one of the older in the area) the city decided to demolish the theater and build a new one. The theater plays an important role in local cultural events. It’s the main indoor center for performing arts in downtown San Jose, with plays, concerts, dances, and other types of events held here.

During demolition, the city has decided to close the two-block stretch surrounding the theater in order to prevent any further incidents. Currently closed are streets Santos Degollado and Ignacio Zaragoza (the main “up” street). Traffic is being re-routed via a detour, so expect delays.

The city is investing upwards of $700,000 USD in the new theater. There is no scheduled date of completion, but we were told the project will take at least a year. The good news is, we will CONTINUE ON PAGE 17
Ask a Mexican

This week we asked: How has the heterosexual attitude towards homosexuals, and how has the gay movement progressed in Mexico over the years?

June is Gay Pride Month, and Mexico has come a long way in its attitude towards homosexuality. Querétaro, a city two hours north of Mexico City, hosted its first pride parade ever last week. And in Guadalajara, the governor walked in the pride parade waving a rainbow flag. Before him, the biggest political figure to march in a pride parade was the tourism secretary from Mexico City in 2011, so this was a big deal for the city.

Last year, the Mexican Supreme Court declared that a ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. In May, Mexico’s President, Enrique Pena Nieto, announced a constitutional reform that would legalize same-sex marriage across Mexico.

Penelope Villalobos, 34, librarian

I think things have gotten better for homosexuals, although there is still some discrimination in some areas, and a lot of hate. Some people still marginalize them, but the new generations are now more open to accepting homosexuals. I do think the movement has progressed, their human rights are being fought for now.

Fabian Rojas, 33, industrial maintenance technician

I believe things have changed for the better. There’s more tolerance and more acceptance, although more is still needed. We also need more unity; sometimes the heterosexual community pushes homosexuals away because they don’t understand. I am not too sure if the homosexual movement has progressed, but I do know that they are more organized with parades, institutions and campaigns. Social media has also been a big factor in changing the way heterosexuals interact with homosexuals.

Angel Fierro, 24, customer service agent

Homosexuals are being more accepted in society, little by little. There has been a lot of opposition, but in the last five years acceptance has grown faster. They have overcome a lot of obstacles, in many ways, but what comes to mind the most is marriage equality. Some time ago, homosexuals were perceived as an aberration, something that was repulsive.

Betsy Chan, 33, pastor

I think the acceptance is going from bad to worse: they are being discriminated against worse than before and even being humiliated. I do think the movement has gotten stronger; they have tried to be more integrated in society, but most people just look at what’s on the outside, overlooking their hearts and souls, and being violent and pushing them away.

Roberto Paredes, 56, realtor

Before, gays were closeted. Now, the younger generations are more accepting. My friends, who are my age, are mostly narrow-minded and a little bit rude. Not me though, I accept them and embrace homosexuals and their diversity. Of course, things have changed with time, and now there is not only gay, lesbian or bisexual, there’s pansexuals, asexuals, and a bunch of different denominations I do not know or understand. The movement has progressed to a point where they can now get married and in some countries adopt kids, which I think must be a huge win for them.

Saul Ulloa, 36, pastor

In society, acceptance has grown gradually. As a pastor, in terms of religion, it has been very complex because of the traditional concepts of homosexuality. It’s been rejected, criticized and judged as far as the religion goes. As far as the Lord’s word, the principle is that he does not make exceptions in people. As his people, everyone deserves love and respect. Society is more accepting than religion, because in a social aspect, people do not judge as much. The movement has accomplished many things, however, there is a certain amount of homosexual people who keep “defying” the “rules” by being extra exaggerated and showy, upsetting some traditional people.
Is That Mexican Donation Tax Deductible?

BY ORLANDO GOTAY

Sometime back, I noticed some interesting language in the US-Mexico tax treaty. The treaty is an agreement established in order to minimize double taxation between the two countries. The interesting part was in Article 22, which allowed deductions against US income tax for contributions to Mexican charities. Intrigued, I picked up the phone. The SAT, which is the Mexican IRS, publishes a regularly updated list of all recognized charities, much like its American counterpart. This lengthy list even has a section of entities that are authorized to receive “donations from abroad.”

The treaty says that deduction amounts are, among other things, limited to income reported under Mexican law. One way to look at the IRS side to make sure this was as it appeared to be. Finding someone within the IRS who had any clue about this was a task by itself. Finally, I located an IRS attorney in Washington. Friendly guy, but he answered my questions with lots of “oh, hmm, ehmms.”

As if the IRS recognized the Mexican charities list, he replied he knew about the list. Pressed again, he admitted no, no recognition. Somewhat cornered, he explained that “something had changed” in Mexican tax law that made all Mexican charities unrecognized for purposes of the American tax deduction. I asked, “What changed, and when?”

“More ‘ehmms.’” As it turns out, despite the treaty, no deductions are allowed because there is no recognized Mexican charity that can receive US tax-deductible contributions. None? Sounds wishy-washy to me.

Eventually, the friendly IRS lawyer did say that the Treasury Department was in conversations with Mexico on the subject. My conversations took place in October of last year. Something tells me those conversations might have been quietly shelved after Trump took office this year. I don’t think the Trump administration wants to resuscitate anything that seems to benefit Mexico in any way.

What burdens me is that there is no IRS guidance on this point. So beware! Someone can make a donation to a Mexican charity in good faith, relying on the treaty and hoping for a US tax deduction, only to get nailed for it later.

Many folks tell me things in Mexico are often not what they appear to be. This may be one of them, but the blame seems to be on the other side.

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 tax 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, online radio at mxir.com/orlandogotay or Facebook: GotayTaxLawyer.
CABO SAN LUCAS

CULTURAL PAVILION
Every Friday. 7:00 pm. Pavilion Movie Club. A different movie every Friday. Sometimes in English, sometime other languages with Spanish subtitles. Sometimes with guest artist. Free.

June 30 - July 1. Friday and Saturday. 7:00 pm. A Quarter Century Festival. Del Angel Dance Studio celebrates 25 years of performing and teaching.

July 2. Sunday. 8:00 pm. Los Cabos Youth Orchestra Concert celebrates its 9th anniversary playing themes from famous movies. Spanish. Tickets available at the Pavilion office. Free.

July 6. Thursday. 7:00 pm. MAGIC, a dance and acrobatic show benefiting the Red Autism Foundation. All audiences. Spanish with some help in English. In the main theater. Tickets are $11 USD.


LA RANA VEGANA Playa Migrino St. up from Miguel A. Herrera St. Turn right 2 blocks before the gas station (Pueblo Bonito Sunset area).

Every Thursday. 7:30 pm. Vagabond Movie Club. Every week a different movie, sometimes in English, sometimes in different languages always with Spanish subtitles. From June 14 until July 5 they will be showing a selection of Mexican Art Films.


July 6. Thursday. 7:30 pm. The Hamsters. Documentary. A humorous portrait of a modern, ordinary dysfunctional middle-class family in Tijuana whose spent their lives hiding secrets from each other, despite living under the same roof. Spanish. Free.

WIRIKUTA GARDENS At the East Cape Road round-about
Every Wednesday. 7:00 to 10:30 pm. Wirikuta, the story of the ancient Huichol tribe told through modern dance, acrobatics, music and audiovisual effects. Includes dinner buffet and open bar. In English and Spanish. For tickets: www.thewirikuta.com.

PLAZA EL PESCADOR Every Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. 6:00 to 10:00 pm. Art Fair. Food sampling and wine tasting at the restaurants and shops in the mall. Live music and local artists showcasing their work. Across from the Cabo Azul resort in the hotel zone, San Jose. Free.

SAN JOSE

MAIN PLAZA SAN JOSE
The PlazArte Program will continue in the same hours and days, but in different San Jose neighborhoods while remodeling is being finished.

Every Saturday. 6:00 to 10:00 pm. PlazArte. Four hours of arts workshops, music, dance show and family fun. Spanish. Free.

Every Sunday. 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Danzon Afternoons. Traditional Mexican romantic dance. Everyone is invited to dance. Spanish. Free.

COSTA AZUL BEACH
July 1. Saturday. 8:00 pm. Music concert on the beach. The Los Cabos Youth Orchestra Concert celebrates its 9th anniversary playing themes of famous movies in a beautiful setting. Bring your favorite beach chair or blanket and enjoy the music. Spanish. Free.

KORAL CENTER/EL MERCADO, Kilometer 15 on Highway 1.

Every Wednesday. 5:00 to 10:00 pm. Art Day. Art, paintings, books, live music. Spanish and English. Free.

LA DOLCE VILLA. Behind the Mega supermarket in San Jose

Every Thursday. 7:30 pm. Vagabond Movie Club. Every week a different movie, sometimes in English, sometimes in different languages always with Spanish subtitles.

COMMUNITY READING LOUNGES

At AMELIA WILKES PLAZA Main plaza downtown CSL, Every Saturday from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Herman Ita de Ysabela Reading club has a different book to read and comment. Saturdays starting April 9 Spanish mostly. Book donations are welcome. More info and special activities with Nixania email: todosomoselotro@gmail.com Free.

At PLAZA COTA, From Monday to Friday. From 7:00 am to 9:00 pm. Reading club. Books available to all. Lazaro Cardenas one block before to the main park in Cabo San Lucas. Spanish and some in English, Free.

At HOLLYDANCE CAFÉ, Leona Vicario St. And 12 de Octubre St, 2º Floor, downtown Cabo.

At KINNIS GYM. El Chamizal barrio near the Convention Center.

From Monday to Friday. 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm. Trotamundos Reading Club. Spanish mostly. More info and special activities on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/saladellecturatrotamundos/timeline

At LA CARCIO. Libroteka Reading Club.
From Monday to Friday. 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Books available and circus drama style reading on Thursdays at 7:00 pm. More info with Sara Flores on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/LaCarciro-57789703553733/timeline
What’s That In The Trees?

It might be Jorge, a local palm tree cutter

BY CATHY WATKINS

Jorge Ignacio Valle Arce has been climbing palm trees in Los Cabos since he was eight years old. He started trimming them when he was 12, and it’s how he makes his living now as a grown man.

Jorge has no fear when it comes to scaling the palm trees, which are 30 to 40 feet tall. With so much experience, he’s an expert palm tree climber and very fast. The only equipment he uses is a rope, boot spurs, and a machete.

As he works his way up the tree, you hear the “crunch, crunch” sound of the spurs stabbing into the tree. He holds on to the spikes sticking out of the tree with his bare hands (ouch, that must hurt, but he wears no gloves). In a matter of seconds, he’s shinned his way to the top and anchors himself to the tree with a long rope. He leans back a little and trusts gravity to hold him tight. He takes out his machete, gives several big whacks and before you know it, 15 green and brown palm fronds have fallen to the ground in less than a minute. And then, just as quickly as he shimmied up, Jorge shimmies back down. Only three to four fronds are left on the tree when he’s done, which really opens up the view. It looks a little bare to some people, but those are the cranky people who think palm trees look like utility poles to begin with.

Jorge works with his uncle Jose, his brother Ignacio and his nephew, also named Jorge. The elder Jorge climbs and trims the trees while Jose carries large bundles of leaves over his shoulder to the truck. The bundle is heavy, and he sweats profusely as he works in the hot sun. No doubt he aspires to the more glamorous job of trunk shimmier.

Nothing goes to waste. They use the cut palm leaves to make palapas and pergolas. After the devastation from Hurricane Odile, there was a lot of work for them, and the team worked every day helping with the cleanup and construction of new palapas. They usually build 20 to 30 palapas a year. A roughly 16 foot by 16 foot palapa uses 2,000 leaves and costs around $1,300 USD.

The group often works in the Misiones del Cabo development where Gloria, the secretary for Misiones, calls Jorge “el chango (the monkey)” because he’s a skilled climber and at ease in the trees. Every year, their job at Misiones grows since the palm trees continue to grow taller and the local maintenance crew only trims the shorter ones. Their workload at Misiones has gone from 60 trees to 80 trees, and now they are up to 100 trees. It takes them two to three days to trim and haul off the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17
Mexico’s Newest Industry: Making Fun Of Trump

Come to think of it, that seems to be everyone’s favorite pastime

BY ALE BORBOLLA

“Listen up, Cheeto, your wall ain’t gonna happen.” This is the message three beer making friends are sending United States President Donald Trump. The medium for this message? Beer, the international friend maker. Mexicans Isaac Aroche and Luis Enrique de la Reguera joined American Dave Cole to create Amigous, a double New England India Pale Ale that has a subtle mango taste. The three met at a beer event in Mexico in 2016, while Trump’s campaign was in full force. They clicked immediately, and came up with a beer that was a mix of the best of both countries. From the U.S.
came the beer recipe and Mosaic hops, which is known in Mexico but not very widely used. The Mexican touch comes in the mango taste.
The Amigous label portrays what Trump would look like as a grumpy, gun-slinging mariachi. Maybe the sour look on his face is because he’s visualizing all the bad hombres pouring into America at this very moment. Between the dejected gaze and his outfit, he kind of looks like one of the Three Amigos has been left behind by his compadres. Also, his mariachi pants

The Amigous beer label shows what Donald Trump would look as a “bad hombre.”

are held up by a swastika belt buckle, and the label’s reverse side declares that he belongs “in a mad house, not the White House.” (Well, we agree with them there.)

And yes, the beer creators purposely misspelled amigo for the brew’s name. They’re poking fun at how badly some Americans pronounce the Spanish word for friend.

Amigous was developed in Cru Cru brewery in Mexico City and launched this past May. The initial reaction from customers surprised its creators. The original batch of 1,200 bottles and 400 liters on tap sold out in the very first week.

They’re not the only brewhouse protesting Trump. Cucapá, a Mexican craft brewery in Mexicali, tricked Trump supporters into financing a massive fiesta held south of the border held on October. How? They sold them T-shirts with Trump’s face and the words “I support Trump” written on them. The joke is, when the shirts were exposed to the sun, a clown nose appeared on the Donald’s face, and “I support” was replaced with “el que lo lea,” turning the entire sentence in to “Donald el que lo lea;” a variation of a childish but well-known Mexican saying. The phrase makes little sense if translated into English (it literally means “Donald is the one who reads it”) but Cucapá’s owner says they chose it precisely because it’s an in-joke that only Mexicans and Mexican-Americans will understand.

But it’s not just brewers that are cashing in on the anti-Trump sentiment. As you might have read about in our last issue, a Mexican business man who was offended by Trump’s anti-Mexican remarks is about to release a brand of toilet paper named Trump (although we think they should have gone with the name Donald Dump). The toilet paper’s slogans include “Smoothness without borders,” and “This is the wall we will pay for.”

Trump toilet paper is expected to go on sale later this year, and 30% of the proceeds will be donated to migrant support programs.

The cost of the implant is $495 US and is a 20 minute procedure performed on an outpatient basis. If you’re visiting Cabo why not try this new stem cell therapy currently not available in USA and Canada and the procedure can be done same day. For more information contact the hospital by telephone or email.

The stem cell implant is also used for preventative care and maintenance of good health.

If you’re suffering from joint pain, injury, osteoarthritis, or other degenerative and painful joint conditions, you may be a good candidate for a stem cell implant.

If you have failed other treatment options including rest, medications, injections and physical therapy, you may be reluctant to try invasive surgery that’s risky and can take months of recovery time. But the recent advances in stem cell therapy, and its growing use to treat painful joint conditions, has become a popular alternative to invasive surgery.

People who may benefit from stem cell therapy include those suffering from osteoarthritis or rheumatoid arthritis, spinal injuries, type 1 diabetes, erectile dysfunction, heart disease, stroke, burns and surprisingly, many other conditions.

CryoVida is one of the leading stem cell clinics in Mexico, providing human stem cells for clinical and commercial applications worldwide, and offering the most advanced non-surgical stem cell therapies available.

CryoVida recently developed the stem cell implant which activates the body’s own stem cells to give relief of painful conditions. The implant, containing 39 million stem cells, is injected into the fatty tissue of the abdomen, with a tiny needle that goes just barely under the skin. These stem cells slowly release nutrients to activate the body’s own stem cells.

The release of these stem cells and nutrients stimulate the body’s own stem cells and helps relieve pain caused by conditions such as arthritis of the joints. It also provides an overall feeling of well-being and enhances the healing process.

And, here’s a bonus: This treatment is known to boost libido for many individuals. The stem cell implant is not the complete treatment of arthritic conditions however may provide relief for several months, and when used with physiotherapy can help ease the pain caused by osteoarthritus, fracture or sprain recovery, tendon rupture, low back pain, spinal surgery and joint afflictions.

The implant is also used for preventative care and maintenance of good health.

Relief From Joint Pain

Stem cells! Easy peasy! Don’t have surgery, get a quick, easy stem cell treatment

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Making a pit-stop in Todos Santos along the way

BY CATHY WATKINS

One afternoon at La Esquina restaurant, on the backside of Todos Santos, a young man was spotted sharpening knives behind the bar. He wasn’t a new employee; he was just there to sharpen the restaurant’s knives. The man, who calls himself Truck, is a traveling chef. He carries his own cast iron pans, a few utensils, and his knife-sharpening tools.

Before coming down to Todos Santos, he had been working with the Hupa Nation in California. Within 30 days, he helped them set up a more efficient kitchen and taught them about growing greens and grains. While working with the tribe, he learned more about spirituality, the earth and nature.

Then, he had a calling to go to North Dakota. When he heard this calling? He didn’t have a specific reason, but said adamantly, “I had an extreme feeling that I needed to be in North Dakota.”

In North Dakota, he helped the Native Americans at Standing Rock Reservation protest the then fed with all-purpose flour. It takes about a week to develop a starter for bread. Once the dough is ready, a portion of the starter is set aside for future use so cooks can make bread dough over and over again without having to start over from scratch (hence the name).

So, what brought Truck to Todos Santos? It’s the usual scenario. Truck met a woman at Standing Rock and she had land down here. She invited him to come to Baja, and he thought, why not? It’s certainly warmer here.

Once in Baja, the bread-making tradition continued. He brought the starter dough with him, along with 100 pounds of dried greens and a few grains such as buckwheat and wheat berries to add to the starter dough. He shared the starter dough with friends he met here.

The traveling chef has moved leaves from 100 palm trees. Their day begins at 8:00 or 9:00 a.m. and finishes by 5:00 p.m. at the latest, and Jorge earns around $200 dollars for the job. Those are pretty good wages for around here.

Jorge’s work clothes are tattered jeans, a short sleeve shirt and a ball cap. He wears a rope tied around his waist, with his machete in its leather holster on his left side. A leather band is wrapped around under his knee, and fastened to this is a piece of metal that goes from the inside of his knee down to his foot, wrapping under the boot and looping back up to the ankle. A triangular boot spur is attached to each side of the metal at the bottom of his boots. This metal contraption eventually cuts through the bottom of his boots, and he has to buy a new pair of boots every three months.

When asked how long he will continue to trim palm trees, Jorge says, “I enjoy the work and will keep on until I can’t haul my ass up there anymore.”

He tells us you should prune about every six months or once a year to keep your palm trees clean and pretty. It’s time to prune when there are brown dead fronds hanging down. Unpruned palm trees can be a safety hazard, as well as unattractive. Pruning also helps to eliminate the debris dropped from the flowers and fruit which can be dirty.

The Valle brothers’ prices are very reasonable, so if you need to build a palapa or have your palm trees trimmed, find a Spanish speaking friend and call Jose at 624-106-7511 for a quote.
So, What’s It Take To Be A Cop Here?

Don’t expect to get rich at it, but here’s how you get there

BY CALEB HOOGLAND

If you’ve visited Los Cabos recently, you’ve probably noticed how many police officers are in town – it’s hard not to notice them and their giant guns. But not all of them are from these parts because a shortage of personnel has forced Los Cabos to bring in outside reinforcements. We’re short because half the force was kicked off because they were found to be corrupt. About 300 federales (federal police) are pinch hitting for us now, helping on a short-term basis while the new local recruits are being hired and trained.

So, what exactly does it take to become a policeman around here? For starters, the potential cadet must be a Mexican citizen by birth who doesn’t have citizenship in any other countries. (Sorry, dual citizens and immigrants, you can’t fulfill your lifelong dream of law enforcement in Mexico). The candidate must also be a high school graduate and have lived in Baja California Sur for at least three years.

Obviously, candidates need to be good citizens. There aren’t many specific guidelines as far as having a good reputation, but criminal backgrounds are checked and must come back clean (no criminal record or charges pending). Gang related tattoos are not allowed and other offensive ink must be covered by the uniform. Just what is an offensive tattoo? Naked ladies! Slogans like “born to steal”? The requirements are pretty vague.

The potential recruit must also be in good health, mentally and physically, and between the ages of 19 and 35. Males must be at least 5 feet 3 three inches tall and females must be 5 feet 1 inch. Obviously there’s no rule against a big belly.

The most important requirements are the series of evaluations that candidates have to pass while in the police academy. The first is a physical evaluation, which is conducted here in Los Cabos. New recruits go through a series of exercises to prove they can handle all the physical requirements of the job.

The second type of evaluation is known as the “confidence test.” This is the toughie. Testing is very extensive and has five different parts to it: social situational, psychological, polygraph, medical and toxicological. The first part is a situational test that helps determine if the recruit makes choices that adhere to department policies and procedures. The test helps verify that the police officer would be able to handle all the job.

The third part is a polygraph test, performed to find out if the candidate tells the truth. The candidates’ responses are very important and can result in disqualification from the program.

Next, the recruits go through a series of exams to verify that they are in good health and not suffering from any hidden sickness or ailment. Finally, the police officers are drug tested to confirm they have not taken any illegal substances.

At this point, new recruits are assigned job positions and find out if they will be a traffic cop or patrol officer. Their training from that point on, based on their positions. Depending on how many cadets are in the academy at once, the training is either conducted locally in Los Cabos, or in La Paz.
Is That Really Necessary?

La Paz officials, in their finite wisdom, are considering bids from 12 companies to remodel our malecon. What’s wrong with it? It’s almost new!

It’s wide enough for walkers, bikers, and skaters, with plenty of benches for sitters. The floor is pretty, with flourishes of colored concrete. It is wildly popular, and used by many people every day.

Until they start reconstruction.

They have not released details of the remodel job, so how are we even going to be able to say we’re not going to like it?

Well, we’re not going to like it. So there.

Celyne Poupart Dies

Marie Celyne Poupart passed away on Saturday June 17 of a brain tumor. She was an amazing and caring person, who was loved by many.

Known by most as Celyne Poupart, she was born on October 5, 1958. She lived in Cabo San Lucas for more than 20 years, where she opened the original Mama’s Royal café on Medano beach, which years later was moved to Hidalgo St. She was also a real estate broker, a property manager, and an art dealer who owned the Cactus Gallery, also on Hidalgo Street for several years.

Celyne was also an activist who was fundamental in the foundation of the Amigos de Cabo San Lucas, which unites some 100 downtown Cabo business owners for the betterment of the entire downtown district.

Along with the member merchants, she spearheaded the group’s campaign to eradicate – and protect – children working as peddlers in the city’s downtown. She was also a big supporter of the Cabo San Lucas Human Society.

Originally from Montreal, Canada, she traveled the world and ended up living in San Diego. But when she traveled to Mexico she fell in love with the country, its people, the culture, the food and especially the music – she loved Mexican and salsa music – and moved here.

Her usually big smile was even bigger when, while dining at one of her favorite restaurants on the Cabo marina, a group of musicians (or even a single one) would come over to her table. She always ordered a few songs and sang along, as she had mastered the Spanish language. Fluent in Quebecoise, French and English, she learned Spanish so well that she was a state certified translator and interpreter.

She will be greatly missed by her two grown children, Max and Luca, and her many friends.

SO, WHAT’S IT TAKE TO BE...
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if there is a large class.

Once a candidate has passed all the requirements, they officially graduate from the police academy and become police officers. You will generally find three types of police officers here. The first is municipal; these are your city/county police (the local guys). They are found anywhere in the Los Cabos area, from Cabo all the way to Los Barriles. The second type of police officer you will find is estatal, which is your state police officer. The last type of policeman is federal, your nationwide policeman.

Along with different types of police officers, there are also four levels of paygrade for officers. The entry level position is the local police officer and they start fresh out of the academy making $600 USD per month. From there, a policeman can move up in rank to Level 1 ($800 per month), Level 2 ($900 per month), Level 3 ($1000 per month), and Level 4 ($1200 per month).

Continued on Page 19
Cabo San Lucas

Striped marlin, along with a handful of blue marlin, dominated the billfish category recently. And while not wide open, there has been a steady increase in the number of larger dorado caught. So don’t use up your limit on those little guys; hold out for the “bigs.”

There are a few yellowfin, mostly the smaller variety with a few larger ones mixed in. There’s been a few wahoo in the count as well.

Inshore jacks and one of the best, larger roosterfish bites in recent memory have taken the spotlight. Another surprise are the sierra, which are usually long gone this time of year. Several were landed recently in the 15-pound class.

The better billfish bite was varied, between the 95 Fathom Spot to the 1150 Fathom Spot. The roosterfish continue to be in the same spot, just a bit north of Chileno Bay and a little south of Palmilla Point.

Cabo Climate: Mostly sunny and warm, with temperatures averaging 76.4 degrees during the day and 69.5 at nights.

Sea Conditions: On the Pacific side, from the Finger Bank to the Jaime Bank, the water temps varied from 66 to 71 degrees. Cabo Falso and around the corner to Los Frailes were all 79 to 81 degrees. Surface breezes came in mostly from the west at an average of 14.1 mph, while the Sea of Cortez side is mostly calm.

Best Bait: Live and rigged baits were best for the billfish. Live bait was best for the inshore roosterfish bite.

Live Bait: A good supply of live caballitos at the rate of $3.00 per bait, paid direct to the bait vendor at time of receipt.

Puerto Los Cabos

The best area is Iman and San Luis Banks, north to Vinoroma, where the water is clean and blue, with lots of baitfish schools present.

The best chance at hooking into a 40 to 60 pound yellowfin was the San Luis Bank, with the bait of choice of either caballito or bolito and while drift fishing or slow trolling. Some smaller tuna, in the 10 to 25 pound range, were randomly striking trolled Rapalas, hoochies, yo-yo jigs, etc., though the better grade were striking mainly on the larger live baitfish.

Inshore action is now dominated by roosterfish in the 20 to 60 pound class released, as well as a handful of even larger fish being reported. Also mixed in are some jack crevalle, coming in at over 25 pounds, as well as some late season sierra, with a few nice-sized fish close to ten pounds.

The highlight of the week is the dorado action. After seeing very few of these popular gamefish for months, this week we finally saw more significant numbers around the same San Luis and Iman Bank areas.

Wahoo too, with many fish cutting mono leaders used for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

Your New Best Friends

RAQUEL

Clearly, I am beautiful enough to live up to the name Raquel - just check out my hypnotic almond eyes. Young, petite, athletic and eager to please, I even posed for my photo shoot like a super model. Speaking of which, I know what it’s like to be deprived of food and I vow to be a model pooch to avoid ever returning to that lifestyle. Why not come to the shelter and drink in the eye candy, I’d love to pose for you now and fur-ever!

BIANCA

I just can’t help thinking there is something more to life than vying for kibble and litter box turns with dozens of homeless or flatulent felines. Sometimes I have cat naps where I dream of having a deliciously full belly, stretched out on a very large bed with a human who is comforted by my purrs and cuddles. Is it just me, or do you dream about the same thing? If so, come rescue me and take me away to my dream life!

We need volunteers

No one can do everything, but everyone can do

www.LosCabosHumaneSociety.com
I am always happy and grateful when my readers and friends ask me to write about something special, or they share information with me about new cooking trends. It is always helpful because it lets me to know what are they interested in reading about.

Recently, a friend sent me an email about a new food trend in the States that they are calling “Cali-Mex.” Hmm, that sounds interesting, I thought. However, after doing some online research, I didn’t really see a difference between Tex-Mex and Cali-Mex food, which I’ve already written about, and Cali-Mex food.

Cali-Mex offers some different styles of Mexican dishes, like enchiladas and fish tacos, using new ingredients. I’m not against this because, as I always say, cooking is about creativity and imagination. Just don’t call it authentic Mexican food.

For this column, I decided to write about fish tacos. They’re very popular in Baja California and Americans love them, and it was here in the Baja that fish tacos were created.

This dish emerged between 1960 and 1961, in a casual and curious way in the city of Ensenada. It was created by a fisherman named Mario, known mostly by his nickname, “Bachihualato.” The name means “dry cornfield” and was also the name of the neighborhood Mario grew up in.

In the beginning, he used to sell carne asada tacos at a site known as the “Black Market,” because species like abalone, halibut and shrimp were sold there even though they only were licensed for sale to certain fishing cooperatives.

Over time, Mario’s customers, almost all of them fishermen, started asking him to fry the whole fish they caught, mostly spine fish like corvina, halibut, bass, barracuda and rockfish. Knowing that cutting fillets from these fish was difficult, and it would be hard to remove the spines, he started to cook “angel,” instead. Angel was a type of shark that was abundant in the bay, but the fisherman couldn’t sell them because people had a mixture of fear and loathing for this type of fish. The sharks got tangled in the fisherman’s nets and were tossed onto the beach because nobody wanted them.

Shark meat didn’t have a good reputation back then, but tacos were well received by tourists who came from the United States and Tijuana just to taste the unusual, boneless fish tacos. Most people didn’t know that the angel was a shark, and Bachihualato’s culinary creation enjoyed a certain amount of fame.

Eventually, Mario realized he needed a way to keep the fish fillets from sticking to the bottom of the pan, so he started experimenting with blending, sprinkling a little flour on the fillets. Soon, his customers, fishermen and tourists alike, were requesting the breaded fish for their tacos.

The creation of fish tacos is without doubt an 100% Ensenada tradition. Their creator never imagined his dish would become such an important contribution to the Mexican, and international, food culture.

When you’re serving these tacos, be sure to include a mixture of half sour cream, half mayonnaise. This can be either spread on the tortillas or used for dipping the fish pieces in. Fish tacos are also typically topped with shredded cabbage (purple or white) and served with two types of salsas, pico de gallo or green salsa.

Ingredients

- 2 lbs of fish fillets (white fish is much better) or shrimp
- 2 cloves garlic, cut in half
- 2 tsp olive oil

Instructions

1. Cut the fish fillets into small rectangular pieces. If you are using shrimp, don’t cut them, just remove the head and shell. Season with salt and pepper, and marinate in water with garlic for two hours.

2. While the fish is marinating, mix the rest of the ingredients to create a batter. It should be about the same consistency as pancake batter.

3. Heat the oil until it’s hot enough to fry. The amount of oil you need will depend on how much fish you’re cooking, but it has to be deep enough to cover the fish pieces. And if you’re not sure if the oil is hot enough, drop a little batter into the oil; if it starts to bubble and the batter turns golden brown and floats within a minute, it’s ready. This is a very important step. If the oil is not hot enough, the mixture won’t stick to the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33
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 Cabo. You’ll find a larger town, Todos Santos, filled with residential areas, the best swimming and surfing beach on the south Pacific side of the peninsula.

Todos Santos is charming and authentic with a traditional plaza, dozens of art galleries, and small hotels. Visit the Fashioned Way of Mexico. Tucked on a side road the mask museum, called Faces, with some great Mexican cooking. What you won’t find are big chain stores, or fast food joints.ings taller than three floors, but the beach is not run with them. Take a surfing lesson or rent a machine would be faster, but they’re too big for the field’s narrow rows. Besides, Bula is a pretty good coworker, except when she’s hungry and stops to eat the basil. Then she gets the muzzle.

Plowing the Old Fashioned Way

We just had to pull the car over and snap a pic when we saw this guy and his donkey in a field outside of Todos Santos. The farmer was plowing a basil field the old fashioned way, with a hand-held plow that was pulled by his donkey, whose name is Bula. He said a machine would be faster, but they’re too big for the field’s narrow rows. Besides, Bula is a pretty good coworker, except when she’s hungry and stops to eat the basil. Then she gets the muzzle.

ışıng 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 the town connecting Cabo San Lucas to Todos Santos, then goes north to LaPaz. For a truly unique experience book a room at the Arriba de la Roca, (which means “top of the cliff”) a high-end boutique hotel specializing in personalized service and is perched on top of a cliff. You’ll experience 360 degree views not matched anywhere else in Baja.

Off the main street in Pescadero is a tiny backyard restaurant called La Pasidita that has, I 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 first sleeping 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 than that.

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. You’ll experience 360 degree views not matched anywhere else in Baja.

We just had to pull the car over and snap a pic when we saw this guy and his donkey in a field outside of Todos Santos. The farmer was plowing a basil field the old fashioned way, with a hand-held plow that was pulled by his donkey, whose name is Bula. He said a machine would be faster, but they’re too big for the field’s narrow rows. Besides, Bula is a pretty good coworker, except when she’s hungry and stops to eat the basil. Then she gets the muzzle.
How To Dial Toll Free #’s

Mexico blocks toll free calls to the United States, which is frustrating to us, as most of our banks, credit card companies, and large businesses only provide us with toll free numbers. But we have a work around. Just dial 001 and then substitute these numbers:
to call an 800 number, change the 800 to 880
to call an 888 number, change the 888 to 881
to call an 877 number, change the 877 to 882
to call an 866 number, change the 866 to 883

Best to talk fast because these numbers are not toll free. And yeah, we know any business that deals in toll frees doesn’t have a live person answering the phone, so good luck with making it a speedy call.

Finding even more adventures in Baja. Read this book, Graham’s first, and then read his follow up books and see why you should take him up on his offer. He went back to England,quit his job, broke his engagement and made his plans, figuring he could do the trip in about two or three months (it actually lasted about two years), on about $25 a day. He figured out that winter is the best time to wander around the Baja, and that with the many varieties of rattlesnakes here, he probably should also take along a snakebite kit or two. Then he began making other serious plans, trying to line up supplies and backers.

"I had never been particularly good at anything except catering to my own comfort and safety." - Graham Mckintosh, in the first line of "Into A Desert Place.

Graham readily admits that he had never done anything comparable in his life. His accomplishments in England included teaching English and being a couch potato who would rather sit and have a beer than walk anywhere. He also had no training, no money, and no camping equipment. Before his decision to walk along the Baja, he had always been the most "unadventurous person in the world." Yet, he followed his dream, walking 3,000 miles across unforgiving desert in searing heat, down rocky coastlines and across untamed mountains, carrying what supplies he had gathered together in a borrowed backpack, eating what and when he could, and painstakingly distilling just enough water each day to drink. The miracle is that he lives to tell and write about it. Graham admits that he believes he had an angel riding his shoulder. I don’t think just one could quite manage this job; I’ve decided that he must have many more than just one angel surrounding him!

Describing what he researched, what he guessed, and what actually happened (including the scorpion that found its way into his shorts, his encounters with snakes, and one especially harrowing meeting with a wild burro with rabies), this book -- and his others -- makes a great life tale. Graham also talks about his total lack of previous experience in desert survival, and his accounts of what he learns from his mistakes and unexpected experiences help readers experience these journeys with him from the safety and comfort of their homes. You can find this book (now out of print), and his three other books at El Caballo Blanco bookstore in Loreto. That would be my store. That would be my bookstore, come by and say hi. Or drop me a line at betojeanine@gmail.com.

SO, WHAT’S IT TAKE TO BE... continued from page 19

targeting tuna. Some wahoo, weighing up to 30 pounds, were landed on caballito, as well as trolled Rapalas. Many more were actually missed than were caught.

The main concentration of striped marlin was found around the 1150 Spot farther offshore.

East Cape

It’s been clear and flat all week, with sea temps at 81-82 degrees and Easterly midday breezes. Amazingly, it’s still cool for this time of year. Highs remain in the 80s and it’s very pleasant.

was another big week of epic fishing, and virtually all of the normal blue water game fish are abundant.

There were quite a few 50 to 80 pound class roosterfish released. It was a very consistent bite. All anglers targeting roosterfish were releasing at least one 50-plus pounder a day.

Almost all the marlin released this week were caught mixed in with tuna within a mile of the beach. Every other boat released at least one daily.

Most boats have been fishing the tuna from the lighthouse to the north edge of Pulmo Park, no more than a mile off. Fifty pounders are common, 70 to 80 are not unusual. They love the tube mackerel.

Fly-fishers, fair warning: take your best shot now!

La Paz

There are more and bigger dorado than have been seen in a long time at Las Arenas. Not tons, but anything is an improvement over the last two years, when fish averaged about 12 inches long! The dorado this week were nicer, mostly 8 to 20 pounders with a few in the 25 to 35 pound range. CONTINUED ON PAGE 33
Craft Beers Come To Todos Santos

New brewery offers handmade, artisanal ales

BY LACEY STORER

Ted and Liz Mitchell never intended to put down roots in Todos Santos, let alone start a business there. The pair has been coming to Todos Santos for the past seven years for their summer vacation (well, winter vacation really, since they’re from Australia and the seasons are opposite of ours). Last summer, they planned to spend only a month in Todos Santos before moving on to South America. But one month turned into three months, and it was around that time that they went out one night in search of a place to live and relax and enjoy a nice craft beer. Problem was, that place didn’t exist in Todos Santos.

Their solution was to stay in Todos Santos and open a craft brewery of their own, so they opened Todos Santos Brewing earlier this month, featuring a lineup of artisanal beers brewed by Ted himself.

Once they decided to start their own brewery, it took the Mitchells a few months to find just the right spot. Liz says they were mindful of wanting a place where they could have both an indoor and outdoor seating area, a space for Ted to make the beer, and where they could have both an indoor and outdoor seating area, a space for Ted to make the beer, and a menu of cocktails and food for their thirsty customers. The spot they finally found used to be the El Conchalito mini mart and tortilla shop.

After another few months of lease negotiations, renovations finally began in February, with the Mitchells doing most of the work themselves. Inside is the bar, kitchen, and booths for seating. Outside is the beer garden, with small clusters of chairs arranged throughout the space. Sit out there and you’ll likely make friends with the Mitchells’ dog, Hopsy.

While some businesses close down for the summer slow season, Liz says that was one of the reasons they wanted to open now, so there would be something else for the full-time Todos Santos residents to do. It also gives them a chance to work out all the kinks before the high season starts up and the customers flood in.

As far as the beer goes, however, that part is already running smoothly. Ted has been brewing beer for the last few years, and before that he worked for a brewing company in Australia. For the brewery’s beer lineup, he says he tailored the beers to the hot weather of Baja California Sur. The majority of the beers are lighter and will taste refreshing on a hot summer day.

And take it from this (very) occasional craft beer drinker who has trouble finding beers that are light enough, Ted has done a great job of creating a variety of beers and flavors that aren’t too bitter or overpowering. Even if all you ever drink back home is Bud Light (which some would argue is just beer-flavored water), you’ll be able to find a Todos Santos Brewing beer light enough for you. But be warned: A lot of the beers have a higher alcohol content than the Modelos and Pacificos we Gringos typically drink. A great deal of Ted’s beer is Hopsy, who just don’t like craft beer, or beer in general. For those who are passionate about beer, Ted and Liz recognize that there are those people who just don’t like craft beer, or beer in general. For those customers, they’ve created a menu of cocktails and craft sodas. There are four types of soda: nitro espresso (which is so strong it’s served as a four ounce shot), sparkling limonada, ginger “beer” and jamaica fizz. The sodas are used in several of the cocktails as well, like the Dark and Stormy made with the ginger beer and the Paloma margarita made with the jamaica fizz.

Prices at the brewery are reasonable, with a pint running $4.50 USD (remember, this is handmade craft beer, so it will cost more than a regular, mass-produced beer). You can also get a 10 ounce middy glass for $3.50. And if you’re new to craft beer and not sure what kind of flavors you like, we recommend you try the sampler, featuring six...
Another Way To Ride The Waves

If surfing isn’t your thing, you might want to give skimboarding a try

BY LACEY STORER

Los Cabos gets a lot of love for being a great place to surf, but did you know it’s also one of the best places in the world to skimboard?

Skimboarding is a combination of surfing, skating and wakeboarding. A skimboard is much smaller than a surfboard and doesn’t have fins, the board is used to glide across the water’s edge. You can ride the waves too, but you’re much closer to shore than surfing.

According to Andres Bost, one of about five professional skimboarders here in Cabo, the first step in skimboarding is learning how to get on the board without falling. This is harder than it sounds, because you have to run, toss the board in front of you and then hop onto it as it hits the water. It takes a combination of coordination and good timing. The next step is seeing how far you can go as you glide along in the water. Once you’re able to get a good distance, then you can start learning how to ride the waves. And that’s when skimboarding gets really fun, Andres says.

Juan Carlos Nazario, another Cabo skimboarding pro, says the sport is good for people who don’t know how to swim or are scared of the water, because you’re not really out in the water. Skimboarders can still get some pretty big waves if they want, like on Divorce Beach, or they can just go to Medano and skim their way down the beach and do a few small tricks.

Speaking of tricks, you can do a lot more on a skimboard than you can on a surfboard. This is where the similarity to skateboarding can be seen. Skimboarders can do spins, jumps, alley-oops and something called a shove-it which, as best as we can determine, is when the skimboarder turns his board 180 degrees without letting the front of the board (or back, if they’re doing a back side shove-it) touch the water.

Andres says surfing is more popular than skimboarding because it’s easier. In skimboarding, you can fall a lot and because you’re right on the shore, you’re more likely to fall on the hard sand. That’s not an issue in surfing. Skimboarders can also get hurt by getting hit with the board or landing a trick poorly. They break their ankles or wrists, and hurt their knees or shoulders. Andres has snapped both of his tendons at the same time while skimboarding. Sound fun yet?

So now that you have a better understanding of what skimboarding is, what is it that makes Cabo such a good place for the sport? For starters, the waves are really good here, especially on the Pacific side.

“They say once you skimboard on Divorce Beach, you can skimboard anywhere,” Andres says. He says people have come from all over the world, including Spain, Portugal, Brazil, Venezuela, Japan, Hawaii and Africa to skimboard on this beach.

Divorce Beach is where the annual Cabo Clasico skimboarding tournament takes place. Both Andres and Juan have been competing in the tournament for years. Andres got second place in his first and second Clasico appearances as an amateur, in 2012 and 2013, and after that, tournament organizers said he needed to move up to the professional level. He was only 19, but had been skimboarding for 6 years at that point.

Juan has a similar story. He started skimboarding when he was 12 or 13 and turned pro at the age of 15. He won the 2015 Cabo Clasico and took second in this year’s tournament, which was held last month.

Both he and Andres plan on competing in Brazil later this year, as part of the United Skim Tour. JuanCarlos says that outside of Cabo, Brazil is his favorite place to skimboard. Not only is it beautiful and have good waves, but the skimboarders are really friendly there, he says. That’s not always the case; in California, for example, the skimboarders are very territorial and won’t let non-locals go out on the water.

And although the professional skimboarding community in Cabo is a small one, it’s not competitive. There’s no drama, according to Andres.

“We’re competitive in a friendly way,” he says.

If skimboarding sounds like something you’d like to try, you can rent the boards from Costa Azul Surf Shop, which is on the fourlane just outside of San Jose. And if you need a good instructor, you can find Juan Carlos on Medano Beach most days. When he’s not working at Mango Deck, he might be out skimming a few waves. He’ll be the skimboarder wearing the apron.
REAL ESTATE SECTION
THE MULTI-LISTING SERVICE OF BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR

What is That New Building in the Marina?
It’s an oasis of help for the visitor

BY CHERYL T. MILLER

Located right next to the Cultural Center with its main doors facing the Marina Malecon, a new white/grey and orange trimmed building is scheduled to be inaugurated and opened for business very soon.

CAPTA. Hmmmm. What is that? CAPTA, standing for Centro de Atencion y Proteccion Touristica en Los Cabos (SPANISH), or Center for Tourist Attention and Protection in Los Cabos, in English is a multi-level, multi service organization aimed at aiding tourists here in Los Cabos, both foreign and national. (The services are not available to residents from this center, only visitors.)

This one building houses branches of the government from the Federal, State and Municipal levels, Ministry of Tourism, Immigration, Public Security, Fiscal Inspection, and a doctor on staff; all aimed solely to guide, aid and assist foreign and national visitors. It also will have representatives from all levels of government, from Municipal President, State Governor to Federal police. And it contains meeting rooms for the Municipal President, State Governor or Federal levels to meet with the public to solve extreme issues.

In addition, the building was designed and built to withstand Category 5 Hurricane forces, and will house Cabo San Lucas’ emergency service agencies and will function as the location for the entire area’s emergency control center. A location that will be buzzing with activity during hurricanes, floods, or other disasters and thankfully quiet in normal times.

CAPTA also is developing a 911 emergency call center and command center, whose bilingual staff will stay on the line with non-Spanish speaking persons to assist them through their entire emergency.

The director of CAPTA, Oscar Manriquez Palacios, states that CAPTA will also act as ombudsmen, taking complaints from tourists who feel they have been wronged and CAPTA will coordinate immediate resolutions, through arbitration or filing of civil or criminal charges against those few in our community who have wronged our precious visitors. Complaints can be as small as overcharging on your dinner bill to fraud or assault. CAPTA will not get involved in contractual disputes, such as hiring a contractor or a real estate transaction; that is the domain of the Mexican courts, but, they will take complaints against offers of time share or property ownership on the basis of fraud, where a vendor says he represents a product, but does not; or if the product doesn’t exist.

Lastly, if you get hurt, sick or have a member of your party die while in Los Cabos? CAPTA has services to assist you and is in direct communication with the U.S. and Canadian consulates here.

CAPTA is meant to be a one-stop help center for all tourists. Good Job Los Cabos! (The name CAPTA, MAY change in the next few months, but the services offered will remain the same.)

For visitors to Los Cabos, you can reach CAPTA at these telephone numbers: 624-105-1532, 624-105-0551, 624-105-0442 or 624-143-7327. An email address and website are still being developed. Look for its Grand opening Soon.

By Cheryl T. Miller, Broker of Baja Realty and Investment, A full service real Estate Office with a combined total of decades of experience here in the Baja! Contact Cheryl at 011-521-624-122-2690 or info@forsaleinbaja.com, www.forsaleinbaja.com.

www.cabohomesandinvestments.com
El Cardonál
A sleepy fishing village worth a visit

BY PAM GRAY

Just about 16 miles north of the town of Los Barriles on the beautiful East Cape of Baja California Sur, the intrepid traveler will find the charming community of El Cardonál. With a population of about 500, this sleepy fishing village is reminiscent of the good ol’ days in Baja but with amenities that make living here less challenging than way back then.

My husband and I stayed at the El Cardonál “Hide-a-Way” over 20 years ago and while it does not appear to be open now, a lovely boutique hotel, Las Terrazas Del Cortes, has sprung up and is getting good reviews. There have been some other changes since we first visited. The school has been expanded and remodeled, some of the small tiendas now offer fruits and vegetables alongside the ubiquitous beer and Sabritas, there are a couple nice restaurants and the main street is paved!

Sounds pretty spiffy, doesn’t it? Don’t worry, other than the fishermen putting their pangas in and out, the beaches are still practically deserted and most nights everyone is in bed by 9:00pm (“Baja Midnight”).

While the locals are benefiting from a small influx of ex-pats who bring construction projects and home maintenance work, many of them still commute to Los Barriles daily for their jobs. The paved road from Los Barriles has recently been repaired so the trip to and from town is quicker and safer than in the past. This road is often referred to as “The Road To Nowhere” as it remained unfinished for many years. Now, around mile 16, it turns abruptly to the right and drops you off at the north end of El Cardonál.

You can also reach El Cardonál via the old road that follows the beach. That road is wash boarded and sometimes soft sand but a fun option for a jeep or quad.

If you take the beach road, you will pass the Hotel Punta Pescadero; an old charmer with its own airstrip, pool, restaurant and bar. The beach there offers some of the best snorkeling on the East Cape! As you continue north, you will also pass through some other small communities including Las Tinás and Algodones.

The ex-pats who have settled in El Cardonál enjoy the peaceful atmosphere away from big tourist destinations. The town attracts a wide variety of people from self-proclaimed “hermits” who live in modest homes or trailers off the grid, to large families who enjoy expansive beachfront homes with pools. There are many great lots to choose from in addition to a selection of homes. Beachfront lots are less expensive here than in larger towns, large parcels that stretch back from the beach are available, small remote lots, and even lots in gated subdivisions. It is important to work with a reputable Realtor® when buying in this area as not every vacant lot has a clear title.

I hope you’ll make time to visit this little town and get a feel for the charming community that maintains its Mexican fishing village flavor. Swing by one of the little tiendas to put cold beer and snacks in your cooler then take any of the several roads down to the beach and relax. When it’s time for dinner, enjoy fresh fish at one of the affordable local restaurants (some are only open on weekends). Consider staying overnight so you can enjoy a late night swim in the ocean. With so little “light pollution” the star-gazing is superb.

By Pam Gray who has lived and worked in Los Barriles for over 14 years. You can reach her at pam@homesandlandofbaja.com Office 624-124-8083 US line 310-494-5700

Solds
Casa Linda Vista, Rancho Paraiso Community, Fabulous 2 Story Resale House in Rancho Paraiso. Incredible Ocean Arch, panoramic views of the biking and hiking, rare Resale House in Las Tinas, $1,250,000 USD MLS #17-109, B. McGonagle / Agua Clara; J. Diamond / Baja Smart

Lote Holowaty – Zacatitos, 2132 sq. mtrs., $47,000 USD MLS #16-1523, B. McGonagle / Agua Clara, S. Pepper / Coastal Properties

Lot #45 - Bahia Terranova, 1419 sq. mtrs., $55,000 USD MLS #13-968, K. Wittman / Agua Clara

Casa Sagittari, Gringo & Lito Hills, $590,000 USD MLS #16-1789, Ocean view, Brand New, “preconstruction price” K. Klein/M&R Marketing & Real Estate; C.Buchanan/Snell Real Estate.

Casa Linda, Puerto Los Cabos, $2,250,000USD, MLS #15-1243, Casa Linda, like a rare wine, will delight your senses. C.Buchanan/Snell RE & J. Jensen- The Agency.
NO HOA FEES PRIVADAS development offers beach and ocean views on over 1 acre to beach. Flat ready to build in between La Jolla and Campestre lot size 1.09HM. MLS#17-1092 145,000usd Joe@cabosirbs.com

BEACHFRONT PESCADERO. MLS 16-1496. Large 1952m2 lot with utilities in the main street. Exquisite views, excellent price $289,000 USD. Todos Santos Beachfront starting at $99,500 USD. Call Cheryl 624-122-2690

FOR SALE IN CABO
LOT 22 BLOCK 14 - 889,000USD Lot 22 Block 14 PEDREGAL DE CABO SAN LUCAS Quarter of an acre lot within walking distance to Marina, town and Restaurants in the heart of Cabo San Lucas. MLS#16-602. Contact Cabo Cell 044 (624) 157-4932

CASA DE PEDRA. La Ventana Bay. Stunning custom built stone home with Casita, 2 bedrooms, 3 baths. Elegant Mexican decor, impeccable Mexican finishing details. Lush gardens. MLS#16-2063. $529,000 USD. Lana Nixon, 612-114-0445. lana@lavanatabayproperties.com

FIRE SALE! Casa Ana. Lowest ever price seen in Punta Ballena! Amazing house: 3bedroom 4.5bathroom plus maids quarters. Just dropped price to $1.1 million USD. Won’t last! MLS 16-2154. Lynn Gutierrez (624)358 4638

ROLLING HILLS LOTS starting from $41,900 USD. Gated community located just 10 minutes away from Cabo San Lucas. Country Living on Huge sized lots. MLS 17-416. Call Cheryl 624-122-2690

VILLA LA ESTANCIA, Beachfront Quarter Share 4, Villa 1301, Beachfront 3BR BWA. Wow, Wow, Wow. Spectacular opportunity right on Medano Beach in Cabo, panoramic ocean and Land’s End views. Rare opportunity!! Beautifully Upgraded!! $675,000 USD MLS 14-1612 Office: (624)143-8121 y own@villaestacions.com

EL TEZAL MLS 3 BD/3 BATH w/pool, garage and backyard! The full package for $350k usd. Small fixer upper but under market price!! MLS 16-931 Call 624 138 88 92 r.pamanes@snellrealestate.com

SAN CHARBEL CONDO. Spectacular views of the ocean, Cabo marina and mountains, 3BR/3BA. Parking for 2. Only 5 minutes away from the Marina and downtown. A retirement home with a resort Feeling. Low maintenance Cost. $329,000 Mls # 17-969

VILLA LA ESTANCIA, Beachfront Quarter Share 4, Villa 1301, Beachfront 3BR BWA. Wow, Wow, Wow. Spectacular opportunity right on Medano Beach in Cabo, panoramic ocean and Land’s End views. Rare opportunity!! Beautifully Upgraded!! $675,000 USD MLS 14-1612 Office: (624)143-8121 y own@villaestacions.com

CASABLANQUITA, La Ventana B.C.S. Spacious 3 bedroom home with open plan living area, 3 minute walk to gorgeous beach! MLS#16-1597 $279,000 USD Michael Duplessis Cel. 624 171 0051

FOR SALE IN SAN JOSE
SINGLE STORY, HIGH-END Home in Puerto Los Cabos, San Jose del Cabo, Casa Vista Bonita, large ocean, golf & mountain views, 6Bd/6.5Ba, shaded terraces, pool, beach edge pool & Jacuzzi, outdoor BBQ & al-fresco dining, fire pit, $2,950,000 MLS#16-341. Michelle@DreamHomesOfCabo.com 909-267-9188

BEAUTIFUL 3 BDRM/2 BATH home on 1 acre of land. 2 car garage, large outdoor palapa with BBQ. Well maintained, fully furnished, beautifully landscaped. Sunrise and sunset views, short walk to beach. Solar eco home. 24/7 Security throughout Zacatitos. 624 145-2693. brenda@brattinrealtors.com

PUERTO CABO VILLAGE 604, CSL. 2 Story Penthouse featuring 2bd/2baths. Comes turn-key, just few minutes walking to Medano Beach. Open floor plan. Integrated quality kitchen. Full water purification system. Ready to move in! MLS#16-2068 $389,000USD, EVY phone # 624 177-1752.

HACIENDA 301, CONDO Turnkey 3bd/3.5baths. High End Finishings. Granite Kitchen counter tops. Stainless Steel Kitchen Appliances & Marble Bathrooms. 1 car garage and parking space & storage. MLS#16-2172 $1,790,000USD, Consuelo phone # 624 129-7001

CASA COLIBRI LA PAZ. Haciendas Palm Verde. Stunning house oceanview ocean and City views in La Paz area! MLS 17-329 $338,000 USD victor@southbajarealtors.com 612 141 8988 www.southbajarealtors.com

CASA DEL AMANECER, Vinoramas, East Cape. Beachfront Private Compound 1.7 acres, 3 houses w 5 beds 5 full 2 half baths. MLS Number, $1,400,000.00 Dawn Pier, dpier@snellrealestate.com, Mex Cell. 011-521-624-150-1646

MULTI-USE COMMERCIAL / Multi Family Property! ½ mile from PLC in San Jose del Cabo, two 2/2.5 condo units on top of large commercial property w/2 baths below. MLS# 16-2346 624-132-5214, larry@stockcomm.com

EXTRAORDINARY OWNER OPPORTUNITY. the comfort and views of 5bd condo Olas 201 are unrivaled. Privacy and stunning scenery from every room. Open house daily from 10 to 5 pm. MLS #14-975 great price US $595,000 Office number (624) 105-8858.
Investing Long Term in Los Cabos

Sometimes it’s better than the short term

BY MONICA LUJAN-SUEN

No longer just of interest to fishermen and sun-seeking retirees, Los Cabos real estate has become increasingly attractive to investors seeking an alternative to the volatility of today’s stock markets. Over the past 15 years, owners of property in Los Cabos have seen a healthy appreciation on their real estate investments, and many have also earned steady returns generated by renting or leasing their properties.

This historical cash flow and appreciation, coupled with today’s surprisingly affordable purchase prices have many people asking “How can I get in on the action?”.

Most buyers looking for a rental investment in Cabo think only of nightly/weekly rentals, often overlooking the option of long term property rental. While the vacation rental market commands much higher nightly rates, owners must also face higher marketing, management and maintenance expenses, seasonal tourist flow, and increased wear and tear on their rental units. Most vacation rental properties will also cost much more to purchase, as tourists tend to favor rentals with resort style amenities that are either on the beach, or very close to it.

Opting to invest in a long term rental property can offer many advantages over the short term route. Because prospective long term tenants typically live here year-round, owners have less reliance on the Los Cabos “high season”. Ongoing expenses are significantly lower and easier to forecast, as tenants are usually responsible for paying all utility bills during the course of their lease. In addition, long term rental properties incur less marketing, management and maintenance expenses overall, making it easier to see why this is becoming such an attractive investment option! Below are a few tips to consider when looking for your first Cabo rental property:

1. Do Your Homework - The more research you do, the less risk you’ll face. Ask which developments are popular with long term tenants and get an overview of the pros/cons each has to offer. Key points to consider include:
   - Average rental rates vs. monthly HOA dues (and the amenities/services these fees included)
   - HOA rules (specifically related to rentals)
   - Health of the HOA, condition of common areas, possibility of any major assessments in the near future
   - Water, security, or construction issues

2. Be Conservative - Overestimate any necessary renovation/maintenance costs (as well as expenses related to furnishing & equipping the property for rental if applicable), and underestimate rental income. Remember that you’ll need to set aside a portion of your rental income for repairs and maintenance.

3. Choose Wisely - Buy a property that has been well cared for. If buying new, select one built by a reputable builder with a solid reputation. A rental-ready property in a well-maintained community will not only save you frustration & hassle, but will also greatly improve your odds of success.

4. Don’t Forget the Taxman - There are many factors that will affect your taxes payable on rental income. Find a certified Mexican accountant who stays up-to-date with the constantly changing Mexican tax laws, and check with your accountant back home as well so you are covered on both sides of the border.

5. Find & Vet Your Team - Assuming you are not yet “living the dream” as a Los Cabos local, you are going to need some help with your new property after returning home. The property management & rental services market in Cabo now offers property owners everything from basic assistance with utility payments, to full service “worry free” property & tenant care. Just remember that deciding on who to trust with your new investment is JUST AS IMPORTANT as deciding on which property to purchase!

La Paz Featured Property

Club Cerralvo

A paradise 45 minutes away from the city of La Paz, La Ventana is one of the leading destinations for kite-boarding and windsurfing in with incredible beaches for swimming, snorkeling and fishing, and is also home to Club Cerralvo Hotel & Residences.

Club Cerralvo Hotel & Residences in La Ventana features a total of 48 units, with 40 condos and 8 villas. Full ownership condominiums with incredible hotel amenities never offered in this area before including: hotel style property management and reception for all guests and owners, restaurant, pool bar with room service, gym and yoga studio, spa, 24 hour security, secure parking, as well as stunning jacuzzi and fire pit feature. Fre use of bikes and kayaks for guests. An excellent investment property with low HOA monthly fees.

The project has been very successful with only 3 three bedroom developer units remaining from a total of 48. There are also a few excellent resale units available.

For more information contact Theo Gardener of Baja Smart at his cell - 612-157-8617 or write him at theo@bajasmart.com.

• Be Conservative
• Overestimate any necessary renovation/maintenance costs
• Buy a property that has been well cared for.
• Find & Vet Your Team - Assuming you are not yet “living the dream” as a Los Cabos local, you are going to need some help with your new property after returning home.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31
Why You Need A Real Estate Professional
It’s more complicated than you may think

BY KATIA CAO

Selling your home is a significant decision and you should hire a professional, knowledgeable real estate agent to handle it.

Most of the time we don’t think about the amount of time and effort a Real Estate agent invests in preparing, marketing, and successfully selling property. It seems easy, but it isn’t! A Professional Real estate agent will help you to set a realistic competitive price for your property, we know the market, and understand how important is to set the right price from the beginning. We will be able to provide you with a CMA (Comparative Market Analysis) showing recent sales of comparable homes and competing listings in your neighborhood. We will prepare a listing contract and help you with the required paperwork to start marketing your property.

Your agent will also provide you with a comprehensive marketing plan, including recommendations for home improvements and home staging, writing property descriptions, taking and editing photographs, creating advertising materials, placing ads, handling digital marketing, sending out information to potentially interested buyers, networking, holding open houses, coordinating effective home showings, answering questions, following up on prospective buyers and keep you informed of how things are progressing and what’s being done to market your home.

A professional Real Estate agent uses tools like the multiple listing service (MLS), a database used by real estate brokers consolidating and sharing information about their listed properties, providing exposure to thousands of potential buyers and their agents.

Your agent understands the step-by-step process of selling property and will guide you through the complexities of home selling in Mexico, making sure all necessary documentation is completed. He/she will negotiate and resolve any buyer concerns, coordinate with the buyer’s agent, the Escrow Company, home inspectors, appraisers, notaries, closing coordinator and will also make sure you’re doing your part to close the deal.

Sound like a lot? Indeed, it is a full-time job! If you’re thinking of selling property, contact a Real estate professional in your marketplace and see what they have to offer.

And if you want to know what your home is worth in today’s market, contact me for a no-obligation consultation!

By Katia Cao, Agent at Coldwell Banker Riveras, Contact Katia at Katiac@cbriveras.com or Office: 624-1425544.

Call Zach: 624-154-2218 or John 624-355-1232
Canada: 403-855-4014 • US: 619-955-6598
condominiosalttus@gmail.com

Baja Sur Foreign Tourist’s Fee

BY DANIEL RUIZ DE LA PEÑA

On November 30, 2016, a decree was published in the Official Gazette of Baja California Sur, in which it announced the addition of Article 129-Bis of the State Tax Law of Baja California Sur. This bill established a fee of $350 pesos to be charged to all foreign tourists who enter Baja California Sur and remain here longer than 24 hours. The bill also established that the State Finance and Administration Secretariat was obliged to issue the rules for the utilization of it 180 calendar days from that date. That would be May 2017.

On May 30, 2017, a decree was published in the Official Gazette of the State of Baja California Sur, in which Article 129-Ter of the State Tax Law of Baja California Sur was added, providing that the income received from the foreign tourist’s fee will be allocated as follows:

1. 95% of the fee will be applied to a trust to support the State infrastructure, and
2. 5% will cover costs of the administration of this fee.

Likewise, in the decree of May 30th, it was ordered that 90 additional days be granted to the 180 already given so that the Secretary of Finance and Administration issues the rules that will regulate the application of the foreign tourist’s fee.

Translation: They haven’t a clue how to collect this fee, so it goes uncollected.

By Lic. Daniel Ruiz de la Peña Sandoval, Ruiz de la Peña y Asociados, S.C., daniel@ruizdela pena.com, www.ruizdelapena.com, +52 (664) 6 84 02 87, +52 1 (664) 3 09 62 09.

Call Lic. Daniel Ruiz de la Peña Sandoval, Ruiz de la Peña y Asociados, S.C., daniel@ruizdela pena.com, www.ruizdelapena.com, +52 (664) 6 84 02 87, +52 1 (664) 3 09 62 09.

Agent Profile

George Sabourin

George was born in Fort William Ontario Canada which is now called Thunder Bay and grew up there in Northwestern Ontario on the shores of Lake Superior.

He completed High School and went on to College and Worked for CN Rail Canada. Upon meeting his better half he transferred to Winnipeg Manitoba and worked there for 8 years. He and his wife transferred to Edmonton Alberta and obtained George obtained his real estate license at the University of Alberta.

He worked in the real estate department at CN Rail and for Block Bros as well. After 1991, George and his wife traveled in winter months, and upon seeing Los Cabos, they fell in love with it and purchased a condo.

In 2008 they moved to San Jose permanently and George started his next career here in real estate. He worked under several brokerages over the years until finding his current home with Remax Cabo Sanctuary.

Contact George Sabourin, Remax Cabo Sanctuary, Office - (624) 142-3545, Mobile - (624) 174-8649, george@remaxcaboralestate.com
What Nobody Says About Realtors

They toil for you, but you can help them help you

BY CRIZOL RAMIREZ

When it comes to buying or selling a property, the logical option is to use a professional who dominates the business, is familiar with the terms and is experienced to do it successfully. Here are five points that are rarely discussed and often taken for granted about your Realtor.

1. Trust. Building a relationship with your Realtor is based on the basic and reciprocal foundations of respect and honesty. Trust them, you can be sure that they will look for the best option centered around your needs.

2. Exclusivity. Whoever said that monogamy is from the last century hasn’t experienced the headache that comes with dealing with more than one Realtor. When a client has more than two agents working for him not only does it detract from the value and importance of their work, it also leads to confusion, delays, misunderstandings and unpleasant situations. This puts a damper on the mood, as well as the final result: a stressful and difficult purchase/sale for the client.

3. Versatility. Your Realtor is more than a tour guide showing you properties and answering your questions about them. They also offer you their knowledge, experience and support of a specialized team to advise you on mortgages, legal situations, paperwork and even maintenance, construction and/or decoration details for your property.

4. You’re human, not magicians. Your agent will definitely use the resources at his/her disposal to successfully accomplish your objective. It is important that you take into account that there are factors (the current market, global economy, supply and demand) that can have an influence on the outcome. It is important that both of you evaluate each situation realistically and that you listen to his/her advice so you make the right decision.

5. Payment. At the moment I cannot think of any other profession in which no salary/fees are paid until the moment of having successfully completed the work. Doctors, lawyers, plumbers, gardeners, teachers etc… all of them receive wages or payment in advance. Your realtor only receives retribution to their work once you have successfully bought or sold your property. Meanwhile variable expenses (phone, internet, gas, etc.) are all at their expense.

Don’t shy away from requesting (and actually checking) the references of any potential property manager or rental agent. Ask about past experience with marketing and managing rental properties and request specifics on what services will be included and how your property will be marketed.

The recent surge of investment and development in Los Cabos is building momentum, and continues to attract a growing number of professionals to our local community. This influx has caused demand for long term rental properties to soar over the past 12 months, and there are no signs of it slowing in the near future. While few can justify the dream of owning in paradise simply for leisure’s sake, more people are realizing that Cabo’s fast growing rental market can help combine practical investment goals with lofty retirement dreams.

By Monica Lujan-Suen is a property rental expert and property manager with 10 years of experiences in the Los Cabos rental market. Contact Monica at 624-129-9589 or write her at monica@investloscabos.com.

Buying or Selling REAL ESTATE in Baja California Sur?

We’ve got you covered.

When buying or selling real estate in Baja California Sur, look for the MLS symbol & enlist an MLS agent.

Buying real estate in a foreign country is unlike any experience you may have had in your home country or state in Mexico. There are simply different laws, procedures and safe guards here in Baja California Sur.

Did you know that over 300 real estate professionals have organized in Baja California Sur to insure your success in dealing with Mexican real estate? We started in 1991.

We now call ourselves MLS BCS, and we operate a Multiple Listing Service statewide in Baja California Sur with over 3000 available properties. We cover Los Cabos, Los Barriles, Todos Santos, La Paz and Loreto. Any affiliate Broker or Agent can help you locate available inventory anywhere in the state, and can quickly connect you with the properties and agents in the area of interest.

WHY USE AN MLS BCS AGENT?

Our MLS BCS agents and brokers subscribe to the strictest set of local Operating Policies and Procedures in the Country. These OPP’s are the result of hammering out 41 years of dealings with foreign invest...
Monday to Saturday. 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Rancher’s market in Todos Santos. Featuring homemade products from rural areas. Artisanal cheeses, organic chicken and eggs, liqueurs and virgin honey, as well as handicrafts such as furniture made with regional woods, leather goods and clay pottery all made by ranchers’ hands. The Mercado (market), Todos Santos on Calle Morelos between Rangel and Cuauhtemoc inside the San Diego Feed Store.

Every Monday. 8:30 am. Pickleball in San Jose. Contact rondonbarto@gmail.com

Every Monday. 4:30 pm. Paint Party at Pez Gordo gallery with painting lessons and other art-focused activities. Fee includes all materials and guided instruction. Visit www.paintcabo.com for more information.

Every Tuesday. 8:00 am. Rotary Club at the Sheraton Hacienda del Mar resort. In the Chapel. RSVP: 172-0009 or 172-0010

Every Tuesday. 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Liga MAC’s used bookstore and thrift shop. El Chamizal (Paseo de Los Marininos Street, almost on the corner of Calle Goleta) in San Jose. Runs through until April.

Every Tuesday and Saturday. 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. La Paz organic market. Postal Park, Constitution and Madero streets. Free.

Every Wednesday. 7:00 am to 12:30 pm. The Organic Market at Pedregal. Fresh, organic produce, coffee, fish, seafood, eggs, whole lambs (Little Bo Peep!), pigs (Porky? Is that you?) handicrafts, plus breakfast and lunch at Penny Lane’s Café.

Every Wednesday. 5:00 to 10:00 pm. Art Day. Art, paintings, books, live music. At El Merkado, the Koral Center in Cerro Colorado.

Every Wednesday. 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Organic and artisans market. Organic eggs, honey, locally made jewelry and beauty products, traditional baskets and more! At La Esquina in Todos Santos. Email Paula at ballenati-moates@gmail.com for more information.

Every Friday. 5:00 to 9:00 pm. Todos Santos Farmers Market. Music and fun stuff. At The Distillery (but it moves around, so check where it is this week). Email James Black at merlot@earthlink.net or call (612) 134-8728 for more information.

Every Friday. 5:00 to 9:00 pm. Arts and crafts market “El Colibrí.” Original handmade jewelry, homemade food, arts, crafts and original live music. Nothing made in China here. Amelia Wilkes Plaza in downtown Cabo. For more info, or if you are a vendor, please contact Max at 624-108-2250 (Spanish), or email tomyrosa@gmail.com (English).

Every Friday. 11:00 am. Al Anon Family Group. Next to Calvary Chapel Corner of Degollado and Margarita Maza de Juarez in San Jose. Call 624-165-3333 for more information.

Every Friday. 5:00 to 11:00 pm. Mexican Friday Live music and special promotions. At El Merkado, the Koral Center in Cerro Colorado.

Every Saturday. 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Liga MAC’s used bookstore and thrift shop. At El Chamizal (Paseo de Los Marininos St. almost on the corner of Calle Goleta) in San Jose. Runs through April. Also, MAC lady books at the San Jose Organic Market.

Every Saturday. 7:00 to 11:00 am. Bicycle, walk, skate or drag your pet around downtown Cabo. The main drag in Cabo San Lucas closes to vehicle traffic. Great opportunity to exercise and mingle with local families. Each week a different activity, like spinning, aerobics, zumba lessons. Email clubcactusbike@gmail.com for information.

Every Sunday. 12:00 to 4:00 pm. Sunday in the park. Secured dog park. Open to the public. Providing a safe location to enjoy your dog off leash. Visit www.cabok9corral.com for more information.

July 31-August 5. ATP Los Cabos Open Tennis Tournament. If you’re into tennis, why not go watch some of the high ranking players of the world play? And be sure to look pretty for the international sports news media that will be here covering the event. For more info: http://www.atptworldtour.com/en/tournaments/los-cabos/7480/overview

Any excess oil.

**Salsa Ingredients**
- Pico de gallo
- 1 diced tomato
- ½ finely diced onion
- A few stalks of cilantro, chopped
- Green salsa
- 1 avocado, mashed
- 1 small bunch of cilantro, chopped
- 2 serrano chiles, diced
- Salt to taste
- A little bit of water or beer for consistency

For both salsas, all you need to do is to mix everything together in a bowl.

Warm the tortillas and spread on the mayonnaise and sour cream mixture. Add the fish strips, pour on as much of the sour cream mixture. Add the spread on the mayonnaise and together in a bowl. To do is to mix everything to get the consistency.

For both salsas, all you need to do is to mix everything together in a bowl. To do is to mix everything to get the consistency.
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We’re The Best In The World!!

Nominees have been announced for the 24th annual World Travel Awards, and we’re happy to report Los Cabos made the list!

Los Cabos is nominated in the overall Leading Destination category, although we were left out of the Leading Beach Destination category. Come on, are Cancun and Tulum really better than us? Pfft. We were also surprised to see that Cabo wasn’t nominated as one of the top cruise destinations, considering it’s one of the most popular cruise ship ports in Mexico.

The Los Cabos Tourism Board is also nominated for the Leading City Tourist Board category, and a handful of resorts, including Las Ventanas, Palmilla and The Cape, are up for awards as well.

Voting is open to the public, and even better if you work in the travel industry, as your vote will have more weight. Head to www.worldtravelawards.com/nominees/2017/mexico-and-central-america to vote (FYI, you’ll have to create an account first). The voting closes on July 19, and the winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in Rivera Maya this September.

Leading City Tourist Board
Los Cabos Tourism Board

Leading Destination
Los Cabos, Mexico

Leading Beach Resort
Casa Dorada
JW Marriott Los Cabos
One & Only Palmilla
The Cape - A Thompson Hotel

Leading Family Resort
One & Only Palmilla

Leading New Hotel
Paradisus

Leading Resort
Las Ventanas al Paraíso
ME Cabo
Villa del Palmar at the Islands of Loreto

Most Romantic Resort
The Cape - A Thompson Hotel
One & Only Palmilla

Are You An Expat Or An Immigrant?

We’re throwing you a trick question

BY RAY GUNN

What is an expat? And who is an expat? According to Wikipedia, “an expatriate is a person temporarily or permanently residing in a country other than where the person grew up. The word comes from the Latin terms ex (meaning ‘out of’) and patria (‘country, fatherland’).”

Defined that way, you would expect that any person going to work outside of his or her country for a period of time would be an expat, regardless of his skin color or country. But that is not the case; expat is actually a term reserved exclusively for Western white people going abroad. Africans are immigrants. Arabs are immigrants. Asians are immigrants. Europeans are expats. Why is that?

The Wall Street Journal has a blog dedicated to the life of expats and recently they featured a story titled, ‘Who is an expat, anyway?’ They concluded that it depends on social class, country of origin and economic status. Which means that some people in Hong Kong are described as expats, but not others. Filipino domestic helpers are just guests, even if they’ve been there for decades. Mandarin-speaking mainland Chinese are rarely regarded as expats.

The reality is the same in Africa and Europe. Top African professionals going to work in Europe are not considered expats. They are immigrants. Period.

So, now that has been pointed out, what are you, dear whitey reader from a foreign country? Are you still comfortable being called an expat or are you willing to be called an immigrant like everyone else who has changed countries?
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