Tropical Storm Lidia Has Her Way With Us

We got bounced around pretty good, but came out the other end on our feet

BY CARRIE DUNCAN

The 14th tropical cyclone and 12th named storm of the 2017 Pacific hurricane season impacted us here in Los Cabos as it made landfall with maximum winds of 65 MPH.

Lidia came ashore in Baja Sur, then weakened while struggling over the spine of the peninsula, before emerging over the Pacific Ocean on September, a mere shadow of its former self.

The official word is there were 12 inches of measurable rain, however that was very spotty, with some areas reporting more, and many reporting less. Nearly all the damage was due to water, not wind, which is why it was never called a hurricane: It was wet, not so much windy.

The storm caused damage as far away as Mexico City.

Locally, Lidia has been blamed for seven confirmed deaths, including two from electrocution and two from drowning. In a particularly tragic accident, a woman crossing rushing water lost her grip on her two-year-old,

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Todos Santos Residents Take Protest To La Paz

They're trying to stop the construction of an illegal cell tower

BY JUSTIN CASE

Residents of the Las Brisas neighborhood in Todos Santos descended on La Paz recently. It was standing room only as the group, calling themselves the Concerned Citizens of Todos Santos, carried a petition to the office of municipal president Martinez Vega.

The petition contained the names of Todos Santos residents who want to stop the construction of a cell phone tower, one they say is illegal at the federal level because of its proximity to coastal eco systems.

This isn’t the first time residents of Todos Santos have protested against a cell phone tower going up. But this newest conflict is more heated than the last, partially because of when the construction started. Neighbors were upset construction of the tower began in August and September, when many local expats left for the summer and weren’t aware of what was happening. Construction was met with strong opposition from remaining people.

The owner of the land where the cell tower is being constructed has had several heated exchanges

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Geeze, Louise, did you watch any of the city guys bulldoze sand around? There was lots to practice on that after the big storm, and it did look like they were just practicing.

I walked out to the bottleneck on the fourlane just outside of Cabo, where the arroyo whooshed the sand down the hill, clogging up the highway. Back and forth, and to and fro, they went all day Saturday and all day Sunday with no appreciable progress: it was still a one lane passageway each way on Sunday night.

I climbed over sand piles and continued on to the road that leads into the RIU, that giant all inclusive resort. The road into the property, about five city blocks long, was completely clogged with sand, but three big bulldozers were already frantically clearing two very wide paths. They were pushing sand up against the sides and scraping the bottom right down to the pavement. I jumped and dodged my way into the resort, looked around, took pictures, interviewed people, and walked on the debris field that was the beach for about three hours. Then I walked back out on the same road to the highway. Wow! It was completely open! There were now two very wide lanes, big enough for buses and ready to evacuate RIU guests.

Then I walked back to town on the fourlane. Where the arroyo crossed the highway I struggled through the piles of sand, and it seemed like they had made no progress clearing it at all. I checked on them over the next two days and they were still pushing the same sand to and fro. (What does that even mean? To and fro? And how can we be sure it was the same sand? Doesn’t all sand look alike?)

Which brings me to my bulldozer story I have prepared for you, my precious readers, for this issue. I begin:

I bought a house in Palm Springs that was built in 1938. It was the first house in the neighborhood and needed a lot of rehab. It also needed a big pond with a waterfall in the backyard. My dream.

I rented a bulldozer called a bobcat. A cute little thing. I went down to the rental yard never dreaming that they were foolish enough to give it to me to drive all by myself. But yes, that was their plan, and after I slapped my credit card down on the counter, they promised to deliver it out to my house the very next day. I didn't even have to lie about my bulldozer driving experience.

Next day, sure enough, the folks just backed it off the trailer in front of my house and fled. Hey, I can drive an airplane, how hard could a bulldozer be? The difference, of course, is I took airplane driving lessons and got a license, which I neglected to do with this cute little bulldozer. I tired the sucker up.

There were only a few knobs and things, and I just kind of pulled and pushed until I got the thing into the backyard, narrowly missing the side of my house. I was taking some stabs at digging a hole for my pond when my friend showed up. I think just to laugh at me. He pushed me out of my new ride, and showed me how he would do it. Wow, what a difference. Yes, I was kinda getting a bit of a hole dug, and I was kinda getting a pile of dirt stacked up, but when Gerry was behind the wheel every scoop of the bucket was full, not half full, and every scoop went into a very tidy pile. I learned from the difference in knowing how to drive a bulldozer and simply moving half scoops of sand from pile to pile. I learned you have to have a plan: a place you're going to put the scooped dirt, and from which angles at which depth you're going to attack your project. The RIU guys did just that, our city guys did not.

OK, so, back to my backyard project. I eagerly pushed Gerry out of the bobcat, and took over the controls. He jogged along beside me and told me which levers to pull when. But he didn't know I didn’t have a plan for the buried cables.

Soon enough, I snagged an electric cable that went to the guest house. Bam! No more electricity in the guest house. Well, OK, what's done is done, moving right along, back to scooping and being cool and in control in my 'dozer.

Bam! I snagged the irrigation! Geeze, Louise, who knew that backyard was so busy with shit under the dirt? Now I had white plastic pipes jutting out in every direction! Gerry suggested we halt operations and call in the professionals, but I am not a quitter. I pushed on, now with my mentor lounging out on the back porch drinking beer and no doubt fearing the worst.

Bam! I snagged a gas line! Gerry recognized the blue color right away, sprang off the porch, and dropped a dime to the gas company. Boy, they came out like a fire truck and they were not amused. They shut off the gas to my house and to the guest house. Bam! No more electricity in the guest house. Well, OK, what's done is done, moving right along, back to scooping and being cool and in control in my 'dozer.

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Estuary gets cleaned up
City workers from the natural resources and wildlife agency, along with dozens of volunteers, picked up more than 1,300 pounds of plastic material, nearly 900 pounds of combustible material, and about 600 dead fish after tropical storm Lydia blew through San Jose.

It will take months, if not years, for the estuary to recover from the damage caused by the storm, officials say. Dudes from the wildlife agency are in the process of scratching together a declaration of natural disaster which could help us get more resources for the estuary’s rehab.

More flights coming to Cabo
Southwest will add 23 nonstop flights per week from Sacramento to Los Cabos, which means they’re in Spanish, Bunky. Yeah, good luck with that. In Cabo, the movies will be shown starting at 8:00 pm at the Plaza Leon Kota, next to the government delegation and the Red Cross building. In San Jose, they’ll be shown at the soccer field in the El Zacatal. But why do you care?

New gas station
There is a new gas station in Todos Santos, named SmartGas, and it’s gaining popularity as it has slightly lower prices than Pe-mex and Orsan.

And there’s even better news. Cheveron has announced the opening of several gas stations in the Baja Peninsula, with one coming to La Paz soon. Well, we will believe its good news when we see their prices. Screw the name, show us the prices.

Mark your calendars
The Padrino Children’s Foundation of Todos Santos will hold its first ever fundraiser on Thursday, December 14. The Padrino Foundation helps disadvantaged children in T.S. and the surrounding rural areas, focusing on medical care.

The fundraiser will start at 5:30 at the home of Steve and Sheila Jagenteufl. The evening includes dinner, drinks, a silent auction and music. 100 tickets selling for $100 USD per person will be available starting October 15. To reserve a ticket now, email Nancy at nnaigle@att.net. For more information on the Padrino Foundation, visit www.padrinofoundation.org/en or call 612-178-0040.

“Park(ing) Day” La Paz is taking part in Park(ing) Day, an international event where citizens, artists and activists collaborate to temporarily transform parking spaces into temporary public places. The mission of park(ing) Day is, among other things, to call attention to the need for more urban open space.

“Parque(ando)” (as it’s called in Spanish) will take place on Wednesday, September 20, from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm in the Zaragoza alley between Arreola and 16 de Septiembre.

If you are interested in participating as an artist (you can do everything from music, theater, dance, yoga, photography, painting and more) or a volunteer, email the organizers at urbaneriamx@gmail.com or find the event on Facebook at www.facebook.com/events/267478360430340

Swimming for a cause
The 9th annual “Strokes for Cancer Prevention” swim will take place on Saturday, October 28 in La Paz Bay. More than 250 athletes and amateurs from Mexico and other countries will swim 20.5 miles to raise cancer awareness. Holy moley! Who can swim 20 miles? Maybe Mike Phelps, just maybe and he looks exhausted after about 60 yards.

The fundraiser will benefit the Southern California association against children’s cancer. There are 31 teams signed up for relay races and three individual swimmers that will go solo. For additional information, visit golapaz.com. Oh. Ok, relays Yeah, sign us up for 100 yards. We can do that.
Severe Storm Damage Closes Estuary

The city is working to remove all the dead fish and contaminated water

BY CALEB HOGLAND

Like many parts of Los Cabos, the estuary in San Jose has undergone some drastic changes caused by tropical storm Lidia. Looking down from the Puerto Los Cabos bridge, the estuary looks nearly unrecognizable. This is not the first time the estuary has suffered considerable damage from a storm. It has been subject to natural disasters numerous times over the years, including Hurricane Odile in 2014 and again last year with Hurricane Newton (which hit almost one year to the date). And we can’t forget about those recent occasions when parts of the estuary caught on fire. However, none of these events took as hard a toll on the estuary as Lidia. At one point during the storm, the arroyo had grown so wide that water was flowing in a stream so wide, the entire length of the bridge had water flowing under it. Today, there is still a steady stream of water flowing, but it has pretty much been reduced to one or two small sections. And, thank God for big gifts, the bridge held.

Preliminary reports from the city’s ecology and environment department give us a grim short-term outlook. They estimate that 30 acres of palm trees were lost. A large part of the bird sanctuary was also affected by the massive amounts of water that ran down the arroyo and through the estuary. That happens every few years depending on rainfall, but the excess water caused a larger loss than is typical. The fish that died were trapped when the water went out to the ocean.

Currently, the local and state governments have organized a temporary clean up group of 60 people to work on the restoration of the estuary. They are removing the fish carcasses and any foliage that could be a fire hazard to the estuary.

For now, it is advised to avoid the estuary. Due to the dead fish, bacteria and contaminated water which present a major health risk. The beach at the mouth of the estuary is also considered hazardous. The city estimates that it should take about two months before it is safe to visit. Until then, steer clear.

A HEART SCAN THAT CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

Quickly detects calcium-containing plaque in the arteries

By Dr. Dick

Coronary heart disease is the main cause of death for men and women in the United States. Every year millions of people die of heart disease, a disease that can often be treated if detected early. A heart scan can detect heart disease and find problems early when chances for treatment and cure are better. Early detection may indicate the need for medication and lifestyle changes to reduce the risk of heart attack or other heart problems.

A CT heart scan is a non-invasive heart imaging test to determine if you have a build-up of calcium deposits in the coronary arteries. The heart scan, also known as a coronary calcium scan, is a specialized CT scan that provides pictures of your heart that can enable your doctor to identify and measure calcium-containing plaque in the arteries.

The plaque inside the arteries of your heart can build up and eventually obstruct the flow of oxygen-rich blood to the muscles of the heart. Measurement of calcified plaque with a heart scan may enable your doctor to identify possible coronary artery disease long before you have any signs and symptoms. Coronary artery disease (CAD) results in damage to the arteries which are primarily due to plaque and inflammation. Plaque deposits in and on the walls of coronary arteries can restrict the blood to the muscles of the heart. This also may rupture, triggering a blood clot that can cause a heart attack or stroke.

Plaque deposits develop gradually over a period of time, long before there are any signs or symptoms of a disease. The imaging test provides an early look at calcium levels. If there is calcium, then there is already some stiffening and narrowing of the artery (atherosclerosis).

Saint Luke’s is one of the leading medical providers in Los Cabos, with a team of skilled doctors that specialize in preventive medicine, using state-of-the-art equipment and technology to detect many diseases before they start. As part of their diagnostic testing program, the hospital has installed the Somatom Scope, the latest and fastest CT scanner in Los Cabos. It delivers outstanding image quality, reduces radiation dose by 40%, with the highest levels of quality and imagery, and can accurately measure calcium deposits in the coronary arteries. The doctors and radiologists at Saint Luke’s are highly experienced supervising and interpreting radiology examinations and will analyze the images and discuss the results with you, and prepare an official report for your primary care physician to review.

No special preparation is necessary in advance for your heart scan at Saint Luke’s Hospital, and you should continue to take your usual medications, but avoid smoking and caffeine for four hours before the test. However, for Early Detection above 65 years of age you must take medication 2 days before your test to slow your heart rate to ensure clear images. Before the actual scan begins, the technician will attach sensors to your chest. These are connected to an electrocardiogram, to record your heart activity during the test and coordinate the timing of X-ray images between heartbeats when the heart muscles are more relaxed. After the scan, the doctor will review the results and discuss the best treatment plan for you. The entire procedure should take about 30 minutes, and afterward, you should be able to drive yourself home and continue normal daily activities.

Now is a good time to get a heart scan to determine your calcium score and your risk for heart attacks in the future. The total cost for the heart scan is $525 US. Contact the hospital today for more information and to make your appointment. Saint Luke’s also offers a range of other screening tests for colon cancer, prostate cancer, mammography and whole body executive check-ups using the latest treatment technology and medical imaging. Contact the specialists at Saint Luke’s for more information about the screening tests performed at the hospital.

So I know first hand that this earth moving stuff is not as easy as it looks.

But why are our city guys such amateurs? And why can’t we get professional knob pullers like the guys clearing the RIU road? Because the guys clearing our highway are civil servants, that’s why. Bureaucratic civil servants seem to be the same incompetents in every country.

And that’s why you had to slow down to a crawl to sneak through one open lane each way for nearly a week, as our ‘dozer guys pushed to and fro, to and fro. (What does that even mean?)
Can We Stand Another Med Evac Jet?

Yes, since this one is home ported here, a huge advantage

BY WILL RACE

There is a new medical evacuation company joining the several we already have. By several, we’re being deliberately vague, because they come and go, they are all simply contracted when needed, and nowadays even our local hospitals are claiming they have jets to whisk you to Canadian or American health care in time of dire need.

Sure, they have a jet; they can drop a dime to a jet rental company, and that’s what most Gringos down here ride home. A hired jet. Which can be OK, but keep in mind your hospital administrator is going to get a piece of your money. And, often times they are only going to call that jet when you are out of money for more medical treatment. And often times jet evac insurance can be reluctant to fly down to fetch you home because, well, insurance companies are not crazy about paying off.

Dealing with these challenges is the same for all the companies, but one of them, new to the neighborhood, is CareJet, which at least has a company owned jet and is based here.

The advantage is time and availability. If you’re badly injured or terribly sick, you want to get home now, you don’t want to wait for a plane to arrive from the United States, which is going to take a minimum of three to four hours, by the time they get it staffed and launched and fly the length of the Baja.

CareJet’s Westwind 11 is hangered at the local Cabo San Lucas airport, (not to be confused with the big San Jose airport).

It’s staffed by local doctors who are undergoing additional training right now. Subjects studied are like, how to dial in the standard equipment when you’re at various altitudes. You want that plane to go as fast as possible, and that means higher, and they only pressurize it to a certain altitude, which varies with the terrain and patient’s needs. All of the docs speak English.

The Westwind is a work horse, not a glamour puss. It has found a niche in the medical market because of its low door, which facilitates easy patient loading, and spacious cabin, and because of its price and range: They are also easily fitted, as this one is, with auxiliary fuel tanks that can boost range to 2,900 nautical miles. That makes the Westwind the only light jet that can cross the Atlantic or the continental U.S. without refueling.

Read: You Canadians can hurry home without stopping to re-fuel.

CareJet in Cabo is run by Terry Habeck, who has moved here from the South Pacific where the company has been doing business since 2006. They started in Guam, expanded into the Northern Mariana Islands, and then into the Philippines. “We’re not strangers to a challenging business environment,” says Habeck somewhat ruefully. We leave that alone. But he seems to know just what a political minefield the local medevac industry is, and seems to be qualified to handle it.

For more information, you can call Terry Habeck at 624-205-4429. thabeck@carejet.com. Yes, they have a website, but it’s pretty useless.

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Country Club Changes Plans After Lidia

While some parts were relatively untouched by the storm, others are now buried in sand

BY LACEY STORER

When talking about the damage Tropical Storm Lidia did to the Cabo San Lucas Country Club, perhaps it’s easier to start by listing what wasn’t affected. Basically, everything west of the main drive was mostly untouched, although the first floor of the hotel, and the residences immediately adjacent to the hotel, suffered some flooding but it’s nothing that can’t be cleaned up.

The golf holes that sit west of the main drive, (with the exception of number 16) and the homes further up on the club’s property were untouched by the water. The same goes for the clubhouse, driving range, Viva! restaurant and pro shop. In many parts of the country club, there’s no sign that there was ever a storm and everything is as green and manicured as it was before.

Country club director Alfonso Terrazas says they hope to re-open that part of the club by the beginning of October.

But that’s not the case on the east side of the property, starting at the main drive. Light poles are down, pipes are exposed, a lot of the property is covered in sand. That includes the old entry way and the drive, which are now filled in with several feet of sand. Crews are working on establishing a provisional entry for guests.

Five holes on the golf course were damaged, and are at least partially buried under sand. They’re strewn with broken branches and downed cacti, trash and other remnants of the water’s path. The holes affected were holes number 10, 12, 13, 14 and 15, and Alfonso says it’s unlikely these holes will be opening any time soon. Hole 16 also sustained some damage, with water eroding it along the sides, but it wasn’t severe.

Alfonso says he’ll be bringing in a golf course designer “soon” to figure out a plan for rebuilding the course. The goal is to have 18 holes of golf, although the damaged holes will likely be shorter and more of an executive style. The holes that didn’t have any damage from the storm will remain as they are, and Alfonso is confident those will be open again by the beginning of Oc-

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Mother Nature strikes again
As Los Cabos was still cleaning up from Tropical Storm Lidia, people on the mainland were dealing with a huge earthquake. It had an 8.5 magnitude, and struck the country’s southern Pacific coast, with the state of Oaxaca feeling the brunt of the earthquake’s force. In the town of Juchitán, the governor estimated that half of the municipality’s 14,000 houses were damaged.

65 people are now reported dead across three states, and more than 250 people have been reported injured by the massive quake. It was Mexico’s largest earthquake in at least a century.

More than 1,000 schools sustained structural damage and close to 2 million people were left without power, although the majority of them have had power restored, according to the Federal Electricity Commission.

Starbucks celebrates 15 years
The first Mexican Starbucks opened in front of Mexico City’s Angel of Independence monument in September 2002. After the recent opening of a store in Tlaxcala, the coffee mega-chain can now be found in every state in Mexico.

Not only that, but it’s one of the most profitable chains in Mexico. It dominated the café market last year, taking home 39% of the profits in that industry, which translates to $582 million USD.

Despite facing some anti-US backlash after the election of Donald Trump, Starbucks is mostly loved here in Mexico. The company has been praised for its support of local coffee growers, and for the number of jobs it’s created; about 7,000 across the country.

Another one for the record books
This time it’s for the largest bowl of guacamole ever made. Avocado growers from Jalisco organized the preparation of a giant batch of guacamole, which totaled three tons. Hmm… did they also set a record for the largest amount of tortillas chips eaten in one day?

More than 600 student chefs from 13 schools and 400 residents prepared the guacamole feast, with thousands of people on hand to watch. It took a massive amount of ingredients to make such a large batch of guac, including 25,200 avocados, 3,500 tomatoes, 3,000 limes, 750 onions and almost 200 pounds of cilantro.

That’s not good
The results from Mexico’s 2017 national survey aren’t very good for the governors of Mexico.

76% of people surveyed answered “no” when responding to the question, “If the governor of your state was your neighbor and you had to go away for a few days, would you trust him/her with your keys?” Baja North’s own governor, Francisco Vega, was among the worst ranked.

The survey also found that almost 70% of people believed their governor was not in control of their state, while half the respondents said that they wouldn’t recommend living in their state because of a poor economy, few opportunities and high levels of insecurity.

That last part doesn’t seem to apply to Baja Sur, though, as it was ranked as of the states that people would most recommend to live in. Sure, we’re a glamour puss.

Illegal farms raided
Yeaaa, they were growing the green stuff, but it’s not what you’re thinking. 1,100 state and federal agents made raids on farms that were illegally growing avocados, not pot. Yeah, that’s right, avocados are so valuable right now that people are starting covert operations to produce more of them.

What made these avocado farms illegal was the fact that they were located on protected land.

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Watching Over Los Cabos’ Kids
Program provides pre-school and afterschool programs for needy children

BY PHIL GOODE

Since it was established 15 years ago, the Los Cabos Children’s Foundation has invested $15 million USD in local programs that help improve children’s quality of life, with a focus on health. But unlike most other non-profits, which raise money for their own programs, the LCCF uses the donations it gets to support and strengthen other community programs.

The LCCF recently announced its 26 grantees for 2017-18, and over the next year the Gringo Gazette will be featuring each organization and the work they do. In this issue, we are profiling Los Niños del Capitan (The Captain’s Children), a day care program that was created with the purpose of providing single parents a safe place to leave their children while they work.

Founded in 1999, Los Niños del Capitan was started by the late Herminia de Losada Robles, who recognized the problems that single parents and low-income families face when it comes to childcare. She saw how young children in Los Cabos were left in the care of their siblings, neighbors or family members, which often lead to a higher likelihood that they would be victims of abuse, accidents and malnutrition.

Wanting to help, Herminia put up a sign in her restaurant, asking clients and members of the community to join her cause. The first children they helped were seven siblings who had been abandoned by their mother; they used a house that had been lent to them by another Los Cabos foundation, Amigos de Los Niños. Later that year, Captain Alberto Vargas Aguiñaga joined Herminia’s efforts.

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TROPICAL STORM LIDIA HAS... continued from page 1

and he fell into the water and was washed away.
Flooding, of course, was the worst of the damage, but also posing hardship was fast moving sand. Sand came rushing down from the hills behind us, pushing through the homes in the barrios behind town, on its way, (terror?) to the sea. At least it wasn't so much mud, it was mostly fairly clean sand.

The walls of sand came so fast, and so strong, that most personal possessions were swept along with it. The arroyos, which had once again accumulated discarded junk, were conduits for the seasonal debris from the first of the storms to make the journey through town to the Sea of Cortez.

Since our towns are built along the coast, each arroyo that crosses the fourlane running between San Jose and Cabo San Lucas clogged up the highway. Miraculously, the two bridges at El Tule held up, which was a real break for us. The other, smaller, arroyos most of which were dips in the road rather than bridges, were plugged with sand and bulldozers were out early the following day pushing sand to and fro, pretending to make quick work of the clogs.

Friday, the day of the storm, nearly all businesses in both towns were shuttered, but by Saturday an amazing number of them had re-opened, mostly

The most damaging arroyo was the one just outside of Cabo, the one that runs through the Cabo San Lucas Country Club, and the one that was recently re-worked to minimize impact on the Country Club. In the past, two holes were usually washed off the surface of the golf course during each storm, but after this most recent stab to tame the arroyo, the Country Club still suffered severe damage and now so did everything downstream. The Country Club is blaming the national water agency and is contemplating a lawsuit against them.

Also in that same arroyo was Vagabundos trailer park, which was wiped out this time, as was Vagabundos restaurant in front of it. The swimming pool in front of the restaurant was completely filled with sand. So much so, that it was unrecognizable that any pool ever existed there. The Chevrolet dealer on the other side of the arroyo lost every car, as they were pushed further downstream, most jammed up against a tree, a house, a trailer, or finally coming to rest buried in sand.

The airport was not damaged, but it did shut down partially for one day, not completely opening for business again for two days. Flights were canceled by the airlines who said they couldn't get enough staff to show up to work. It was difficult to get to the airport, as the last arroyo on the route to the facility was arguably the second worst of the arroyos, with bulldozers doing their too and fro movements well into the third day, and traffic barely creeping along in one lane, bumping over mounds of sand that remained.

Friday, the day of the storm, nearly all businesses in both towns were shuttered, but by Saturday an amazing number of them had re-opened, mostly

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

You know the storm warnings are dire when the cash-o-la machine is taped up in a garbage bag.
with nearby residents, according to the citizens group (whose members asked to be quoted anonymously because they are a bunch of weenies). The owner of the property, a Mexican woman, even put up a banner that said, “Don’t trust the Gringos, this is the future of Todos Santos.”

But the group that delivered the petition to La Paz wasn’t just Gringos; it was a combination of roughly 60 percent expatriates and 40 percent Mexicans. One Mexican resident spoke out against the perception that the cell phone tower is just a Gringo problem. “We need to get our neighbors to stand up,” she said. “I’m a Mexican, but most of us don’t have enough power.”

“They’re (the property owners) are getting paid by TelMex to put up a tower at our expense,” said another member of the group.

The contractor, Tower Partners, has already completed the base for the 130-foot, palm tree style cell tower and began pre-fabricating sections of the tower on site. A fence was constructed around the adjacent property and construction materials were placed underneath tarpaulin behind a fence. A black screen woven into the fence prevents anyone from seeing inside the lot.

Construction of the TelMex tower started despite the refusal to issue a building permit by the Todos Santos’ building inspector, and earlier rulings that the site is zoned commercial and would not be legal for a cell tower’s use, which is industrial. But the construction continued to progress, until residents realized federal law also prohibits the construction due to its proximity to a coastal ecosystem.

Local police have attempted on several occasions to enforce the rulings, but they routinely arrived to find the construction site sealed up. Residents say they have witnessed construction activities, but when the authorities go out to the site, the woman hides construction workers in her home.

And so, the Concerned Citizens of Todos Santos made the trip to La Paz to present the petition in person, looking to get written acknowledgment that the cell phone tower is illegal. A representative from the municipal president’s office reviewed the petition and reaffirmed a written order that the tower is indeed illegal.

The group’s attorney, environmental lawyer Manuel Barajas, also provided evidence that the cell tower violates coastal ecosystem law. Barajas’ chief concern is heavy radio frequency traffic. “The towers are not silent. They make noise. They emit radiation,” he says.

The reaffirmed order makes further construction of the tower a federal offense punishable with a prison sentence. Ongoing inspections will take place to assure no further construction of the tower occurs.

This is the second Todos Santos cell tower to be overruled for zoning violations this year, the first was in the suburb called Las Tunas. A petition was also circulated against that tower, and construction was shut down. However, the citizens group says there are already third and fourth backup locations in the works. Whether those locations will be accepted by residents of Todos Santos remains to be seen.
The farms covered more than 600 acres of what was once forest land. Authorities seized the land cut down close to 93,000 avocado trees. Sob!

Agents also dismantled electrical and water infrastructure, both in operation without the necessary permits, and seized farm vehicles and equipment. They did this to protect the environment from losing more trees to avocado orchards.

**COUNTRY CLUB CHANGES...**

continued from page 6

Alfonso says, putting people's lives, and the integrity of their properties and their buildings, at risk.

The country club is organizing residents and business owners who've been affected by the storm, with plans to file a class action lawsuit to get the channel built. We'll be following that story, so stay tuned for further details and updates.

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**La Paz Malecon Torn Up**

Although the La Paz government has been announcing with great fanfare the remodeling of its already beautiful malecon - at a cost of nearly $10 million USD - just for the first phase - the contractor began tearing up the streets on the opposite side of the ocean without any advance notice, which pissed off drivers and impacted business owners.

Lorena Hinojosa, president of the local restaurant ass., immediately demanded better communication from the government, as the work took them by surprise. Hinojosa said that all restaurants have their refrigerators and shelves stocked for an expected number of clients, which will most likely be reduced by the destruction of sidewalks. Hinojosa says there needs to be a meeting with the office of urban planning and all agencies involved in the remodeling. Yes, we do have an urban planning office. It's just that nobody pays much attention to it.

This first phase will last 4 to 5 months, ending, hopefully, in December but don't take that promise to the bank. The final cost of the remodeling will be over $33 million and will include artificial beaches, bicycle and pedestrian paths, and recreational areas for families.

It looks like a good, although elaborate, plan. So why the opposition? La Paz residents feel there are other, more important things the city could be fixing with that $33 million. More schools, improvement of state hospitals, more and better cops, and the list goes on.

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**Cabo San Lucas Fire Department Stores**

**T-Shirts, Baseball Caps and more!**

Proceeds go to maintain the fire department operation, as the funding they receive from the government is meager.

**Each purchase helps save lives!**

**Locations:**

- **Downtown:** Beside McDonald's
  - Open Mon-Eth 9am – 9pm, Sat. 10am – 6 pm, Sun. 10am – 4pm. Ph. 624-105-1636
- **Puerto Paraiso Mall** with Paloma Flores, Concierge, main entrance, 9am – 1pm & 3-7pm
- **Marina Cabo San Lucas, next to the Dolphin Center**
- **Cabo San Lucas Office restaurant**

**Credit Cards Welcome**

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**Are Stem Cells Right For You?**

Join us for an informative seminar to discuss new generation stem cell therapies and blood platelet (PRP) procedures from cryoVida, one of the leading Stem Cell Banks in Mexico.

Meet our doctors who will explain the latest development with stem cells and PRP in the treatment of diabetes, chronic degenerative diseases, facial rejuvenation, joint injury or degenerative conditions such as osteoarthritis, and more.

Join us poolside

**Misiones del Cabo Resort**

5th October at 7 p.m.

Km 5.5 Transpeninsular Hwy, Cabo San Lucas

RSVP email: stencelcabo@gmail.com


Seminar is free and refreshments served.

Presentation in English

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**Nostalgia isn’t what it used to be.**

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**dogs come from heaven, but recently 30 trained sniffers came from the United States. They are trained to sniff out cash, drugs, and guns. The dogs and their American trained handlers were spread around the country, but our state didn’t get any. Cats rule!**

**Indian givers!** Mexico sent 30 Red Cross aid workers to Houston to help the hurricane Harvey cleanup, but after its own devastating earthquake and hurricane Katia, they have recalled them to work in Mexico. How about the US sends some helpful hands to Mexico now? We owe them, they were very generous with their help and concern.
**How About Those Disaster Losses?**

File your claims, itemize your returns.

**BY ORLANDO GOTAY**

It's hard to see all of the coverage of Hurricane Harvey in Houston and the ongoing floodings, as well as the damage caused by Tropical Storm Lidia. My heart goes out to those whose homes and property have been damaged or destroyed.

If you've been a victim of a natural disaster like this, it's important to know that, for federal income tax purposes, some losses may be claimed as a deduction on your federal return — even if you live overseas.

To be able to claim a deduction, you must have first filed any applicable insurance claims. For tax purposes, the amount of the loss is then reduced by insurance reimbursements you receive or expect to receive. Annual loss deductions are also limited by a person's adjusted gross income and by any value left in the property (the salvage value).

The annual loss allowance has a “floor” of 10% of your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). If your AGI was, say, $25,000, then the “AGI floor” is $2,500. Only the loss portion exceeding that amount is deductible. Also, one must subtract $100 from the computation for each loss event.

In the case of thefts, the rule is similar. You must be able to substantiate the loss (for example, with police reports) and its extent (a good starting point is documents supporting what the item cost you). For U.S. citizens, casualty and theft losses in Mexico are deductible.

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**Calendar of Performing Arts**

**COBRO SAN LUCAS**

**CULTURAL PAVILION**

Every Thursday. 7:00 pm. Pavilion's Movie Club. A different movie every Thursday. Sometimes in English, sometimes other languages with Spanish subtitles. September 14th is David Lynch month. Free.

**September 14. Thursday. 7:00 pm. Eraserhead.** (1977). Henry Spencer, a depressive man, tries to survive his industrial environment, his angry girlfriend, and the unbearable screams of his newly born mutant child. English with Spanish subtitles. Free.


**October 19. Thursday. 7:00 pm. Elephant Man.** (1980). John Merrick, treated as a sideshow freak, is assumed to be retarded as well as misshapen because of his inability to speak coherently. English with Spanish subtitles. Free.

**October 24. Tuesday. 7:30 pm. Music concert. Siberean group ALASH are masters of Tuvan throat singing, a technique for singing multiple pitches at the same time. Tickets are $15 USD. More info: call 104-3700 during the day or email: colegio_balador@hotmail.com**

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**SAN JOSE**

**KORAL CENTER/EL MERCADO**

**Kilor Carretera Buena.** 24.5 on highway 1.

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

**LA DOLCE VILLA**

Behind the Mega supermarket in La Americas. 7:00 pm. Traditional Mexican romantic dance. Everyone is invited to dance. Spanish. Free.

**WIRIKUTA GARDENS**

At the East Cape Road roundabout.

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.

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**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. Free.

**MAIN PLAZA**

The Plaza Arte Program will continue during renovations. Just beside the remodeling area. Los Cabos International Film Festival free movies. Mexican actors and actresses will be present for a meet and greet with the local press. Spanish. Free.

**EL ZACATAL**

At the Soccer Field

October 7 and December 2. Saturday. 8:00 pm. Los Cabos International Film Festival free movies. Mexican actors and actresses will be present for a meet and greet and interviews with the local press. Spanish.

**Community Reading Lounges**

**At AMELIA WILKES PLAZA** Main plaza downtown CSL. Every Saturday from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Herman Ita de Ysabel 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: todossomosestelo@gmail.com Free.

**At PLAZA COTA**

From Monday to Friday. From 7:00 am to 9:00 pm. Reading club. Books available to all. Jobo Cardenas one block from the main park in Cabo San Lucas. Spanish and some in English. Free.

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

**At KINESIS GYM.** El Chamizal barrio near the Convention Center.

**At AMELIA WILKES PLAZA.**

From Monday to Friday. From 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Book available and circus drama style reading on Thursdays at 7:00 pm. More info with Sara Flores on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/LaCirco-577897035537373/timeline

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**September 18th, 2017**

GRINGO.com
What’s Going On With Our Favorite Restaurants?

The storm was pretty tough on them

BY CHUCK WAGGON

Rebuilding after Lidia Two popular Los Cabos restaurants were victims of Tropical Storm Lidia. Cabagundos Trailer Park, just outside of Cabo on the four-lane, ended up mostly buried in sand with at least one car rammed inside the restaurant. And Misiones de Kino, which sits just across from Mar de Cortez on Vicente Guerrero, caught on fire right during the storm. How does that even happen during a rain storm? While parts of the exterior structure remained intact, the interior is gutted. Both restaurants are asking their patrons to donate money.

Vagabundo’s is trying to raise money so they can pay their staff for a couple of weeks. It’s looking unlikely that they will be able to reopen in the trailer park, and will have to find a new location. You can send money directly to Peter, a parner, via PayPal. His PayPal email address is pcashmore@gmail.com.

A Go Fund Me account has been set up for Misiones de Keno. They’re hoping to raise $150,000 USD to rebuild the restaurant. You can donate by visiting gofundme.com/help-misiones-dekino-cabo.

Another way to help is to buy their food and drink during this time, if you’re able to. The health department placed a temporary ban on these restaurants, as well as mobile food carts and vendors. Having clean water was also a concern for some places.

The ban was lifted after a week, but that’s a long time for these restaurants to be closed and not bringing in any money. And it was a long haul for all those servers to go without tips. Lidia still had an effect on some restaurants that were able to open right after the storm, with business being slower.
those which had electricity. All power was restored within a couple of days.

We’re shoveling sand, we’re drying out, and we’re cleaning up. We are nothing if not resilient. After all, we survived Hurricane Odile. Although this was a hardship for many of us, an economic disaster for some of us, and a heart ache for seven families, all in all, this was a stroll on the debris strewn beach in comparison to what we went through with Odile.

Panterra’s Journey to the Sea of Cortez Expeditions offers adventure cruises with educational, cultural & wildlife conservation highlights.

Join us on-board our 110’ motor yacht, the “MV Adventure”, as we embark on a journey to the Sea of Cortez.

For more information contact us:
www.panterra.com  •  lela@panterra.com  •  Canada Ph. (250) 655-1915

LAST MINUTE SALE: FALL EXPEDITIONS
SALE PRICE: $995 USD • REGULAR PRICES: $1,595 TO $1,795 USD

We have a few spots available for our fall trips. This is a great opportunity to go on an eco-expedition to the Baja.

Choose to dive the Sea of Cortez (Sept. 22 - 26)

Whale Shark Research and Adventure (Oct. 19 - 23)

Or join a Wine and Culinary Seafood Extravaganza Cruise (Oct. 28 - Nov. 1)

For more information contact us:
www.panterra.com  •  lela@panterra.com  •  Canada Ph. (250) 655-1915

TROPICAL STORM LIDIA HAS... continued from page 9

Watching Over Los Cabos... continued from page 8

Provide a social and educational foundation that will help the children to become productive, self-assured individuals; and to help parents develop a sense of responsibility and respect for their children. Boy, does that sound like a hi falutin mission statement or what? Yeah, so we stole it, so what?

Los Niños del Capitan serves

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

Panterra’s Journey to the Sea of Cortez Expeditions offers adventure cruises with educational, cultural & wildlife conservation highlights.

Join us on-board our 110’ motor yacht, the “MV Adventure”, as we embark on a journey to the Sea of Cortez.”

People came together to transfer emergency supplies to isolated hamlets.

An RIU guest washes her suitcase and all her clothes in the fouled swimming pool of the resort after a wall of mud overtook her in the lobby.

Come hell or high water, mama turtle’s gotta come ashore to lay those eggs.

This is the bridge we all worried about, at El Tule, but it held up.
The Notary Public in Mexico, The Corredor Publico and The Apostille

What's the difference?

BY LINDA NEILL

In Mexico, the ONLY authority permitted to draft a deed transferring real property or an interest in real property (such as the fideicomiso) is the Mexican Notary Public. This person is different from a Notary Public in the United States where a simple exam, bond, and a rubber stamp can make a Notary Public out of most people. Nor is it similar to Canada’s Notary Public who must meet a few more stringent requirements to qualify. Not so many, however, as the Mexican Notary.

The Notary Public in Mexico must be an attorney, must have a minimum of five years of practical experience in the profession, must pass a highly technical examination AND then be appointed as a Notary Public by the Governor of the state in which he or she is working.

The number of Notaries Public depends upon the number of people in the state. A new Notary Public is appointed only as the population grows above a certain size. And what is a “legalized” or “authenticated” document?

No matter what the document, it must be signed before a Notary Public in the place of residence; California, Arizona, Calgary, Vancouver...or wherever. Once signed before the Notary Public in the place of residence it must be “legalized” or “authenticated” in order to be considered as valid in Mexico.

This means that a designated public official performs a government act and certifies to the genuineness of the signature and the seal, and the position of the official who has executed, issued or certified a copy of a document.

In 1981 the Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents entered into force in the United States. Under the Convention, (signed in the Hague, Holland), signatory countries, including both the United States and Mexico, but not Canada, agreed to mutually recognize each other’s “public documents” so long as such documents are authenticated by an apostille, a form of internationally recognized notarization. The apostille ensures that public documents issued in one signatory country will be recognized as valid in another signatory country.

Thus, if the document required for a Mexican transaction has been notarized in the United States it must then be sent to the nearest office of the Secretary of State and an “Apostille” obtained. A search under state government in the yellow pages should reveal the telephone and location of the closest office of the Secretary of State. The document to be authenticated through an Apostille can probably be sent through the mail and should not cost more than $25.00 U.S. dils. It is important to allow for extra time to accomplish this step.

Other countries that are signatories to the Hague Convention are, to name a few; Germany, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Spain, Israel, France, Greece and Norway.

All countries which are not signatories to the Hague Convention, such as Canada, must authenticate documents to be used in Mexico by obtaining a “legalization” or ratification of their document from the nearest Mexican Consulate.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18
With Rights Come Responsibility

It was Spiderman who said that, but it is so true

BY CHERYL MILLER

Purchasing a property anywhere in the world is an exciting prospect, but along with the joy and the rights that are derived from ownership are also responsibilities.

In Mexico, under a fideicomiso, or in your home country, no matter if you pay cash or carry a mortgage, there are responsibilities.

A fideicomiso, commonly called a “Bank Trust” is first and foremost a registered commercial contract, in which the parties, including the bank and yourself promise to do something in order to keep the contract alive and functioning.

In fact, it is actually called in Spanish El Contrato de Fideicomiso Translativo de Dominio or The Contract of Trust for the Transition of Ownership in English.

In these Trusts, for the most part, the bank promises to hold the property for your use and enjoyment and to maintain this legal standing on your behalf for the term of 50 years, in return for you doing your part which is detailed in your fideicomiso contract.

The parts of the contract that fall on your shoulders as the beneficiary of a fideicomiso, if ignored, are legal reasons to declare a “Breach of Contract” and cancel the trust, and in which case, you lose your investment entirely. And there is no legal recourse. Your promises in this contract are clearly spelled out and are your loss in case of your default. Frankly, despite dealing with many clients being in breach, I have yet to see this happen an actual cancelation of a trust, and I have found the banks pretty forgiving. For example, a client who inherited his father’s property upon his death. He never changed the trust into his name nor paid the trust fees for 15 years …yet the bank cooperated and allowed him to catch up, pay the arrears with penalty and interest, without losing the property and for another fee, changed the property into his name. 15 years folks! That is pretty forgiving!

But, the fact remains that under your fideicomiso contract, YOU do have responsibilities. Failure to comply, can jeopardize your standing in the contract.

As a contract, I highly suggest you spend the money to have your contract fully translated. And hold onto that translation. It is your roadmap of what is expected of you. Most Buyers in Mexico are investing a great deal of money, and without the translation, and if you don’t speak, read and write Spanish, you are relying on the fast verbal translation given to you at the closing table, which I find severely lacking. Frankly, that is not good enough to operate from.

And I also suggest keeping this translation and giving a copy to your secondary beneficiaries in case of your death. As well as, discussing with your secondary beneficiaries what they need to do should you pass away with regard to your Mexican properties. It is very important.

Most fideicomisos are structured very similar, with the particulars of the parties and the property changed, the price, the noted history of the property changing for each, but, the banks also spell out for you what is expected of you. This may include any and all of the following:

1. Notify them in case of any change to the beneficiaries or secondary beneficiaries:
   (Some of these items may require a formal change to the fideicomiso incurring costs)
   Husband and wife entered into the fideicomiso, but later divorced? Name change?
   This requires notification.
   One of the spouse dies? Both?
   This requires notification.
2. Want to change the secondary beneficiary? This requires notification.
3. Want to add another primary beneficiary or secondary beneficiary? This requires notification.
4. Any of these changes may also require notification to SRE as well.

2. Moved? Contact Info changed? This requires notification.
3. The Clavo Clause: You must not seek the protection of your foreign government regarding the property and promise to consider yourself a Mexican National with respect to the laws and requirements governing the property. Should you seek outside international protection, the contract is breached and the property will be returned to the Mexican government.
4. You must notify SRE 90 days before the expiration of the term of the contract. And YOU must seek its renewal at the end of the 50 year term. The bank is NOT responsible to do this.
5. Your fideicomiso is for residential use only. Unless permitted in your existing contract, any change of use must be approved by the bank, including renting the property. If your fideicomiso allows you to rent, you are responsible to meet all government requirements of rentals, including paying income tax to Mexico.
6. You cannot use the property as collateral for loans or commitments without permission of the bank. You cannot terms of the mortgage contract outlined in the Guaranty Trust or lose your rights (and all money paid towards the property).
7. If you add on or build, you must have a permit and follow all laws. After the termination of the construction, you must notify the bank and have the m2 of the construction changed in your fideicomiso, as well as the new value.
8. If you make changes to the trust, or want to cancel the trust, or require signatures from the Trustee, you must pay a fee to the Trustee Bank.
9. Changes must be made with a Notario.
10. You must pay the yearly fees to the bank. In addition, there are community responsibilities, just like where you are from, that also can breach the contract, such as paying your property taxes or applying for and receiving building permits when you want to add on or build. Failure to do so, and remedial actions taken by the government with regards to the lack of proper permitting can result in the loss of your contractual rights.

So, in summary…would you enter into or have a contract for which you are not fully aware of its’ contents where you are from? Probably not. So spend a little more money and have your fideicomiso properly translated…And let your heirs know of its contents and responsibilities as well. It will save you and your loved ones a lot of surprise.
REAL ESTATE SECTION

VIEW LOT PEDREGAL! CABO. Incredible Ocean & Mountain Views! Near the top of Pedregal Mountain, this lot has expansive views of the bay, mountains and city lights. Bargain Price! $127,000 USD, MLS#17-1427, Beatriz Calderon /+52 (624) 172-6555 office, +52 (624) 172-6555. www.loscabosproperties.com

FOR SALE IN ZACATITOS

0% SELLER FINANCING 2nd ROW BEACHFRONT. Single Level house features 5 bdr/5.5 baths, granite kitchen and fireplace. Spacious outdoor terrace w/prime pool and 5-1 bdrm apts. $690,000 USD, MLS# 17-31/2 BA, gazebo, $349,000 USD, MLS# 17-355, Ph 624 157-3583.

SAN JOSE DEL CABO. Charmingly 3 bdr home in Magisterial. Minutes from downtown San Jose, Golf & Beaches. Private and secure with a front and garden back patio. Casa Lira, $323,000 USD, call 142-0988, MLS# 14-1131, mls@bajaproperties.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

$8,000,000 USD, private retreat in an idyllic setting nestled on the shore of the Sea of Cortez. MLS# 17-1341. Beautiful 2 story condo, with views, community pool, gymnasium, conference room, 5-1 bdrm apts, 1 bdrm apt, Chapel, children’s playground, 15,871 sf of construction. $2,495,000 USD 17-1611. Cheryl 624-122-2690

FOR SALE IN ZACATITOS

San Jose del Cabo. 3 Bed 4.5 Bath, gated community, 5 BD/5 baths, $122,000, MLS#17-661, “Gun@View/Breezes, Move-In Ready, $220,000, MLS#16-2036, Brian Westerlund 612-140-2650

PEDREGAL PENTHOUSE CONDO. 2 Level Penthouse featuring 3brd/3baths, traver- time marble floors, granite kitch en countertops, 2 car garage, large terraces. Magnificent views. Easy walk to Downtown, Marina, restaurants and bars. CSL, $459,995k, MLS#16-2330, Ph 624 157-3170

FOR SALE IN ZACATITOS


FOR SALE IN ZACATITOS

FOR SALE IN CABO SAN LUCAS

AMAZING 2ND ROW BEACHFRONT HOME. 2 Story Home features 3br/3.5 baths, ample dining and living area, amazing views of the Sea of Cortez from outdoor terrace, private pool and 1 car garage. This property comes fully furnished and ready to move into! San Jose del Cabo, $79k, MLS# 17-78, Ph 624 157-3370

AMAZING 2ND ROW BEACHFRONT HOME. 2 Story Home features 3br/3.5 baths, ample dining and living area, amazing views of the Sea of Cortez from outdoor terrace, private pool and 1 car garage. This property comes fully furnished and ready to move into! San Jose del Cabo, $79k, MLS# 17-78, Ph 624 157-3370

OCEAN VIEW HOME 335K 3B, 3.5BR, terrace, private pool, furnished, security 24/7, MLS#16-1812.Brian Westerlund 612-140-2650

FOR SALE IN ZACATITOS

VILLA KUGA, RANCHO MIGRINO. A great Villa Property, or Band B or a corporate retreat w/ main 3 bedroom home, indoor pool, dumb waiter, full kitchen and walk in pantry, craft room, children’s play gym, meeting rooms, 5-1 bdrm apts. 1 bdrm apt, Chapel, children’s playground, 15,871 sf of construction. $2,495,000 USD 17-1611. Cheryl 624-122-2690

FOR SALE IN CABO SAN LUCAS

$2,999,000 US. Call Cheryl 624-122-2690.

FOR SALE IN CABO SAN LUCAS

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OCEAN VIEW HOME 335K 3B, 3.5BR, terrace, private pool, furnished, security 24/7, MLS#16-1812. Brian Westerlund 612-140-2650

FOR SALE IN CABO SAN LUCAS

FOR SALE IN CABO SAN LUCAS

BOUTIQUE STYLE CABO PEDREGAL HOTEL in world famous Pedregal. 45 rooms overlooking a lovely courtyard & sparkling swimming pool/ spa. Rooftop terrace w/ kitchen. Walking distance to Cabo Marina, beach, shopping & dining. $3,999,000, MLS#16-1334. Call Beth 624-157-2968, borgman@andrelrealstate.com

CASA, MOLLY #51A. CABO. Spectacular villa in prestigious Santa Carmela, minutes away from Cabo on the tourist corridor. Fully furnished, 3 BDR, 5 BA. Pool with swim-sizer is featured, with Jacuzzi type spa. USD Bank financing available! $690,000 USD. MLS#15-1976, 044624-122-3104


FOR SALE IN CABO SAN LUCAS

STUNNING OCEAN VIEW Mansion Pedregal Casa 440. Cabo. Many unique artistic features, 4 Bd, 4 Ba, pool, fire pit, decks, fountain, wheel chair accessible! $999,000 USD MLS#16-289 044-624-147-7541

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FOR SALE IN ZACATITOS

More Reasons to Live in Cabo

No Really!

BY TERRY GRAY CURTIS

If you live in the good ole US of A or have recently then you are accustomed to having the government involved in most aspects of your life to some degree on a daily basis. Most everyone is just so used to it, that they don’t even notice it and if they do they think; well this is how it is. Now maybe our local, state or federal government would be more involved if they could but the resources to do so, do not exist to the same degree as in the USA.

What does this mean to us who live here? Well, some problems, you either learn to live with it or you fix yourself. This is the structure of our community, and helping each other solve problems together instead of relying on big brother to do it for us is normal. This standard also brings the local community and the foreign community closer.

Kind of reminds me of earlier times, a simpler time in the USA as a kid in the 60’s where camaraderie and group efforts to help other people or groups were normal. This is present here in Los Cabos with the different organizations we have from helping lost animals to the underprivileged and the elderly.

Another sense that has deteriorated over the years north of the border is the “family”. Between electronics, both parents having to work these days to make ends meet and the media, family values have been reduced. Here in Mexico the Cabo family comes first, just look around the next time you are here to see how many generations are running a family business. And yes maybe the 17 year old daughter is serving your Margarita, less government remember! Grandpa is in the kitchen and if one of the kids has to go to the hospital, the family business may open late that day. These are the inherent values of the culture for the most part. Again reminding us of nicer and kinder times we live with, in Los Cabos.

I share a perfect example with you. While driving a couple from Oklahoma to see properties on the East Cape one day we came upon a car with the hood up, we were on the coast dirt road. I stopped to see if the two women needed help and after finding a loose battery terminal they were re-started and on their way. My clients indicated that they wouldn’t have stopped, which I didn’t understand as there was no one around to help them. Their comment was, “well we would have been afraid of someone hiding off the side of the road that could have ambushed us”, much to my surprise. I told them that thought never even crossed my mind. Maybe I am naive but I have been in several countries in North Africa where that should be a genuine concern but quite honestly I feel safer in Los Cabos because of the culture and kindness you will find is the norm.

If you long for the sense of community, respect and family you recall growing up, you’ll find lots to appreciate and enjoy about life today in Los Cabos.

By Terry Curtis, Century 21 Paradise Properties, Cabo Resort Properties. USA/Canada +1 (310) 272-9500, Local Cell 011-521 (624) 151-5330, caboresortproperties.com

La Paz Featured Property
Torres Cantera Condominiums

La Paz’s newest development is all about affordability / views and the amenities. Ask anyone, it’s tough to beat the incredible La Paz bay sunset views, and these new Torres Cantera condominiums give you the best seats in the house. From the pools to the penthouses enjoy sunsets 365 days a year, ocean bay views, city lights at night, fireworks lighting up the city on the holidays and incredible lightning storms in the summer. These views have it all - truly breathtaking. With 5 star amenities including 2 pools, a gym, a private cinema, game rooms, restaurant and BBQ areas all enjoying these views, you will quickly see why many people call La Paz home for its more laid back lifestyle and affordable luxury.

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Title Search In Mexico

It’s vital to get this

BY SARA GORASAVE

The performance of title searches in México is fairly recent, since the real estate industry in Baja California Sur started using them as a sales tool around the 1990’s.

A title search report traces the history of a property - who was the original owner and how it has been conveyed in title throughout the years before reaching present seller - what is called ‘chain of title’.

A title search is conducted to discover whether there are any defects in the ownership of a particular tract of land and current legal status of ownership, by performing close examinations of public and agrarian records, tracing titles back to First Grants issued by the Mexican government.

A title search includes any mortgage’s, judgments or liens therein attached, easements and other encumbrances. Also it may determine ownership controversies and claims that may arise, and defects of title. Thus it can be established if the property subject matter is unencumbered and has a clear marketable title.

A clear and marketable title means the seller should be genuine and the actual owner of the property. Further, the property should not be under any dispute or litigation. The title search report acts as a security for the purchase of a property and gives comfort to purchase that the title of the property is good and will not encounter problems or land disputes or controversies at a later date, due to pre-existing charges, encumbrances or legal disputes.

The task of performing a title search in Mexico is done mostly by physically reviewing public records and files at the Public Registry offices. There is no such thing as getting a Report on line and with a click of a key, the computer prints it out. The municipality of Los Cabos does not have yet the necessary data base to get it from. As such, a process of physically examining official municipal records is needed to determine ownership rights.

Land at the municipality of Los Cabos is basically described as rustic, Ejido, rbban and developed/tourist areas.

With the exception of the performance of title searches on properties situated on Ejido, urban and developed areas, the task of performing title searches is rather daunting since rustic areas were and/or are original owned by local ranchers who did not have access to lawyers and notaries, and thus land was conveyed by means of private agreements, many of which were never placed of record. As such, tracing the chain of title on said areas is rather complicated for the lack of documents.

In respect to Ejido land, (communal land, kind of like American Indian reservations), is still pending to be resolved.

Most Ejido Committee officials or offices, have not kept very well records of compliance of its members with Agrarian Law, thus find information is rather complicated.

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TITLE INSURANCE CONSULTING, with its vast knowledge of all the land registrations in Baja, searches each link that takes place for any potential problem, and determines the various rights and interests that make up each link in the chain as it has passed from one owner to another.

TITLE INSURANCE CONSULTING provides full and comprehensive title search reports in order to detect, prevent and eliminate risks and losses caused by title problems which have their source in past events, in limited circumstances.

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Contact SARAH LILIA GORASAVE, REALTOR, at TITLE INSURANCE CONSULTING, located in San Jose del Cabo, Phone: 011-52-624-35-33292. www.mlginbajasur.com

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We call ourselves BCS MLS, 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.

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Agent Profile, Baja Properties

Justin Dow

Justin Dow has been specializing in high-end real estate for more than 20 years, and in Los Cabos since 2010. With sales in developments such as Capella Pedregal, Chileno Bay, Pedregal, Palmilla, Esperanza, and more, he is very well acquainted with the luxury market. He also owns a luxury real estate company, Cabo Luxury (www.caboluxury.com) which gives him a very unique insight into the broad spectrum of value considerations that buyers should consider when becoming Cabo home owners.

Justin began traveling to Los Cabos in 1998 on a surf trip and fell in love. After 10 years of making frequent trips, he and his wife decided to leave St. Simons Island, GA and make Cabo their permanent home in 2010. With their first child on the way, they are excited to be in Cabo for many years to come as they raise their children to know the loving and happy way of life enjoyed here on the Baja.


Baja Properties

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Rancho Las Niñas

$25,000,000 USD

JUST LISTED! Magnificent development land just 4 kilometers North of the new Costa Palmas’ marina. Flat and easy to build with more than 900 m of beachfront along swimable waters of the Sea of Cortes. 68 hectares (169 acres) ideal for a big resort.

Call today!
We’re Going To Be Connected To The Mainland

What, you mean we aren’t already? Well, why the heck not, this is 2017!

BY CALEB HOOGLAND

A new $1 billion USD project has just been approved for Baja California Sur. CFE, the electric company here in Mexico, announced that we will be connected to mainland Mexico and will receive our fair share of clean energy, just like the rest of the country. This clean energy will be delivered via an underwater pipeline that will measure just under 55 miles long and will stretch across the entire Sea of Cortez. Well it wouldn’t do us much good if it only went part way; would it now?

Currently, BCS, (that’s our state, Bunky), is responsible for producing its own energy and does so using 10 different power plants that generate energy using fuel oil and diesel. Since these plants are only used locally (in-state) they tend to be less efficient than those on mainland Mexico that are used nationally. In addition, carbon emissions are very high here (BCS is the sixth largest consumer of energy in Mexico), which takes its toll on our local environment. And anyhow, La Paz people are sick and tired of living with the soot generated there to make electricity for Los Cabos.

The new energy we’ll be getting will come mainly from the mainland is cheaper than that, which we produce in BCS so you can expect a cheaper electric bill as well. Yeah, expect away. We will see.

The underwater connection will also help ensure that a hurricane or storm won’t knock out our power, since the electricity will be coming from an environment not as susceptible to natural disaster. Unless of course, your line outside your house goes into the wind.

In addition to electricity, the underwater pipeline will include a fiber optic connection which will bring us better telecommunications, internet, telephone, cable, etc. That’s something we can really get excited about! The new underwater pipeline will splash into the sea just north of the Baja California North/BCS border at a little town called El Infiernito and will come out in Bahia Kino in Sonora, 55 miles away. It will be almost a half mile deep. From the connection point in El Infiernito, power will be distributed down the Sea of Cortez, ending here in Los Cabos, which is the end of the line.

Don’t get too excited though, this project is going to take a while. Work is expected to start in 2021, and we will have to wait a few years after that before the juice starts flowing. Why? Because this is Mexico.

Adorable Adoptables

WENDY

Meet one of America’s canine aristocrats! I’m a Coonhound, whose bloodlines hark back to the mountain people of the Ozarks and the Smoky Mountains. Apart from the obvious hunting skills and corresponding athletic ability, we’re are, playful, and gentle, fond of children and other dogs. We might look intimidating because of our size, but rest assured that we don’t want to harm or bite anyone, even as watchdogs. Our Dolby-level volume will do the job on that one! Our tastes run more to creature comforts, like large snoozes and sofas.

TUNA

Yes, I’ve been fishing in this tub. Now you’ve figured out that tuna is my favorite thing on earth and namesake. Can I tell you how hard it is to live in Cabo, a tuna mecca, dreaming of fish but being stuck on “the inside.” Can you help undo this tangled world?

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A hyperbaric chamber is a cocoon-like apparatus that you crawl into and get comfy cozy for an hour or two. Under pressure, it cranks up the oxygen concentration in the chamber, and pushes that concentrated oxygen throughout your body. This concentrated oxygen, (100% oxygen), goes into any organs that may need a little pick me up, and even into your brain. The normal concentration of oxygen in your system is only about 20%.

The director of Spa Cielo, Cathy Dammann, a registered nurse back in the real world, allows this very expensive piece of equipment to be used by local autistic children for no charge, as hyperbaric concentration of oxygen has been proven to be very beneficial for these kids. She has pictures of brain scans before and after treatment that shows parts of the brain actually normalizing, and more than that, the improvement in these kids’ behavior is dramatic. So why can’t we get plenty of benefit from it as well? We can.

The increased concentration of oxygen in our blood, our organs, and our brain has been proven to result in better health, better feeling of well-being and probably better longevity.

Cathy Dammann is a Medical Aesthetics Practitioner and has certifications in Aesthetics, and Light and Laser Therapies. She is a member of the International Association for Physicians in Aesthetic Medicine and the recent recipient of the 2012 “Successful Women of the Baja” by Baja Traveler Magazine. She has made numerous appearances on talk shows including Oprah. Spa Cielo’s physicians and staff are trained and certified in United States and Mexico and are bilingual. Spa Cielo Laser and Wellness Center holds a five star rating and received the “2013 Award of Excellence” from Trip Advisor and has the experience you look for in a laser medical spa, with 10 years in Los Cabos areas, 14,000 patients and over 70,000 procedures performed, Spa Cielo is your answer to skin and body rejuvenation.

So, if you would like a complimentary session in the hyperbaric chamber, call Cathy Dammann at Spa Cielo in San Jose. 624 105 2209. Go to www.spa-cielo-cabo.com.

Rated with five stars on TripAdvisor

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Rated with five stars on TripAdvisor
Pescadero Citizens Lobby For Help
They have their heart set on getting a sleeping policeman installed across the road

BY DUSTY RHODES

The small Pueblo of El Pescadero held its first community meeting on August 14th to kick off the Slow Down Pescadero campaign. The locals are serious about this, which was evidenced by the large turnout of Mexicans, Americans and Canadians all in agreement it is time to make some noise. Citizens and merchants have united to battle the issue of drivers zooming through the town at excessively dangerous speeds. Pescadero is located just north of Cerritos beach and south of Todos Santos. The pueblo is bisected by Federal Highway 19 which is now a four lane speedway.

Pescadero is an interesting area. We’re calling it an area, even though it actually is a town, because it sprawls inland from the sea, flinging itself across the fourlane highway and culminating up the hill, where the original town was built. That is still the “downtown”, and it’s still wholly on the mountain side of the highway, but there is now plenty of business sprawl between the mostly Gringo ocean side of the highway and the mostly Mexican mountain side of the highway.

Today we’re talking about the dozens of businesses that have popped up along that highway. They are mostly Mexican restaurants with palapa roofs, and plastic chairs and tables flung out on the front yard abutting the highway. This mile long strip is anchored by a Pemex/Oxxo and the American owned Oasis bar and restaurant. Oasis is a step up from the plastic chairs in the front yard, as owner Cyndi Williams has spread her chairs in the neatly groomed back yard, among the fire pit and horseshoe game.

Say you’re barreling down the speedway known formally as Highway 19, you just blew past Cerritos Beach a few miles back, and you’re either on your way to Todos Santos or La Paz, when suddenly you’re flanked on either side by this new stretch of businesses. What do you do? Scream and apply your brakes to take a look? Naw, you’ve seen palapa restaurants and Oxxos before, you keep the pedal to the metal. And this is a problem for the local merchants, who have come together for their first meeting to cook up a way to slow down traffic.

“Cars, delivery trucks and even trucks with double trailers race through town at speeds well over 80 miles per hour creating life threatening situations for pedestrians and passenger vehicles frequenting local businesses,” says Cyndi Williams in her opening statement at the merchants’ meeting. “Even cars trying to enter or exit the highway from the many access roads are in peril” she adds, careful not to exclude anyone who may be inclined to join her group of protestors.

There was a pretty good turnout for the first meeting, about 15 Mexicans, Americans, and Canadians, including a local government rep. For the next meeting, on a date yet to be determined, several more government officials have promised to attend.

But, really, what is the issue here, and how can it be solved? For starters, it’s a federal highway and the feds are a thousand miles from here and not paying driving through Pescadero? Stop Here
Three places we recommend when you’re hungry and thirsty

BY BROCK LEE

While there are a variety of good taco stands along the stretch of Highway 19, there are only three spots that will stand out to Gringos.

The first one you encounter coming from Cabo is the Jungle Bar. Originally built by Seth Vazquez, who also owns the Jungle Bar in Cabo, as well as a new bar in Plaza Pioneer in Cabo, it never really took off. Seth was paying more attention to his townie bars, and wasn’t watching his bar out in the sticks 45 minutes away. Then it got washed away by Hurricane Odile. Then it sat there for several years deteriorating. Now Kimberly and Carlos Gutierrez

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27
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 rancher’s 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 rondonbarton@gmail.com.

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 Marinos Street, boost 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, market. Organic eggs, honey, 12:00 pm. Organic and artisans store and thrift shop. El Chamizal da del Mar resort. In the Chapel.

every Wednesday:
Starting November 1st. 5:00 to 6:00 pm. Art classes at the Palapa Society campus in Todos Santos. Every Wednesday: Classes are free to children ages 6 and up, class size is limited to 16 students.

First Thursday:
8:00 am to 2:00 pm. YoReciclo sets up tents to receive clear glass bottles, metals, plastics (except Styrofoam), thick cardboard, computer equipment (except monitors), small home appliances (except TV’s of all kinds), cellphones and accessories, edible vegetable oil, ink cartridges and toners of HP, Samsung and Xerox only, please. In San Jose at Centenario corner with Ildefonso Green. In Cabo San Lucas at the parking lot of the baseball stadium. Email info@yoreciclo.org.mx for more information.

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

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

Every Thursday:
5:00 to 11:00 pm. After Office. Live music and special promotions. At El Mercado, the Koral Center in Cerro Colorado.

Every Saturday:
7:00 am to 12:00 pm. Bike ride in San Jose. Free if you bring your own bike, or rent from Sportia bike store. Form up at Plaza del Pescador in San Jose across from the Royal Solaris hotel at 7:15 pm. Call (624)130-7159 or email info@sportia.mx for information.

Every Wednesday:
5:00 to 10:00 pm. Art Day. Art, paintings, books, music. At El Mercado, in 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 ballenadelsanco@yahoo.com.mx or visit www.facebook.com/laesquinats. Runs through April.

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Book Report

BY JEANNINE PEREZ


Daniel Cartamil, the author/photographer of this book, is an environmental consultant who also enjoys mountain biking, playing Afro-Cuban percussion and photography, particularly the photos he has taken on Baja’s Pacific Coast. This beautiful book of photos and descriptions of a land still unknown to many tourists is the result of Daniel’s interest in Baja, his 10 years of experience photographing the wild side of Baja, and his desire to protect that “wild side” forever.

Daniel has a PhD, has authored scientific journal articles, conducts research in conservation and marine biology, once worked in a fishery, and has had many Baja experiences that have made him an expert in these areas, including shark biology and ecology. He also leads adventure photography tours in Baja. It seems like there’s not much that he doesn’t do.

A forward written by Baja’s own Graham Mackintosh, an author I’ve written about several times, gave me even more incentive to read this book and enjoy the photography. The book offers breathtaking glimpses of Baja’s spectacular sunrises and sunsets, cave paintings and rock art, seascapes, along with the author’s unexpected photos of ordinary places, sights, and happenings that are usually overlooked in photo collections (a favorite for me is the photo of a Boojum tree arched to the ground). Daniel’s photos tug at our deepest emotions, and also help us realize how very fragile the ecology of this region is.

Photographs in “Baja’s Wild Side” include dawn and dusk scenes of the blending of land, sky, and sea, photos of shark skulls and shark fisherman, roadside shrines, whale skeletons, gray whales, yuccas, ospreys, and so much more! These photos record Baja’s unique natural beauty. We also see long ago human art, ghost towns, dwellings, ruins, and cemeteries in Baja’s spectacular natural settings.

There are four chapters in this book, each relating to a specific region in Baja. A map and preface by the author reads us for our next trip through Baja.

The first chapter takes us into the Vizcaino valley, a desert place that has always seemed magical to me. Named for a Spanish explorer, this desert contains many plants and trees unique to the area, huge unexpected boulder piles, and few residents. The first photo in this section is a mystical one of yucca trees on a foggy morning, surely a common sight... CONTINUED ON PAGE 29
Cabo San Lucas

Tropical Storm Lidia definitely drenched all of the Los Cabos areas, creating serious devastation on many of the beachfront properties. After the storm, while the conditions were unsettled, the smallish dorado, along with a few larger keepers and some football-sized tuna, bit well on the days that the port remained open. There was also the occasional wahoo caught by a few lucky anglers.

The billfish, however, were a bit skittish, even as the seas began to settle down. Mostly stripers, there were only a few blues and sailfish to balance out the catch.

Climate: Daytime temps averaged 85.2 and nights averaged 77.4 degrees. The humidity ratio averaged 79.4%. It was cloudy, and rain showers continued for an area that really didn’t need additional rain. However, this is the wet and rainy season so it should have been expected.

Sea Conditions: From the Finger Bank over the Golden Gate Bank and down across the Jaime Bank, the temperature was at 81 to 84 degrees. At Cristobal Ridge and around the corner to Los Frailes, it was at 83 to 84 degrees.

Best Fishing Area: Although all of the regular “hot spots” were fished, the 1150 and the 95 Spots, along with the Herradura and Cabo Falso areas, were the better areas.

Best Bait/Lures: Live bait, rigged trolling bait and a variety of lures were working well.

Puerto Los Cabos

The most consistent action found was for yellowfin tuna in the 10 to 15 pound class near Iman Bank. Drift fishing with strips of squid is what the tuna were striking on. There was one monster yellowfin tuna landed from a super panga while fishing on the Gordo Banks. The fish hit in the late morning on a strip of squid and weighed in at a whopping 314 pounds, making it the first official super-cow landed this season for the local panga fleet out of La Playita.

Other action on these same grounds produced a handful of wahoo and marlin strikes. The big tuna are definitely in the area. They had been late to show up this summer, but are lurking on these banks now.

Dorado have been found mainly by trolling medium sized lures; once the schools were found they readily hit bait. Sizes varied, up to 20 pounds, though the majority of the fish were smaller in size.

Bait supplies: Bait options were more limited; no sardina. Bait vendors remain local, with not enough action for them to travel long distances to scout out new resources of sardina, and few charter boats going out.

Local charters relied mainly on slabs of squid for bait which seemed to work for the yellowfin action. Trolling lures produced dorado and scattered wahoo.

Sea conditions: Water clarity was stirred up with lots of current moving around as well, but it has been clearing up.

East Cape

As usual after a big storm that opens the washes and puts a lot of flotsam in the Cortez, the dorado fishing really goes off! This last storm was no exception! The dorado bite is wide open with all the anglers limiting on than normal.

The tuna bite is still good with some big fish taken recently. Plenty of big huachinango (snapper) caught as well and all the way down on Iman Bank the wahoo have been biting. There was very light fishing pressure on the billfish with a few released and very little inshore fishing because of the dirty water inside.

Climate: Cooler, with some midweek rains. The highs are in the mid 80s, and it’s actually cool and pleasant for this time of year.

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Tomatillos, or Mexican husk tomatoes, as some people call them, are another food that is 100% Mexican. You’ve likely seen tomatillos before, although you might not have realized what they were. These are the small, green tomato-like fruits that are covered in a papery husk.

In Nahuatl, the language of the Aztecs, the original name for these “berries” (the bushes they grow on look very similar to berry bushes) is tomatl. When the Spanish arrived in America, they gave both red and green tomatoes the same name, so the exact history of the tomatillo is a little fuzzy. But one thing is for sure: the natives had a specific name for each kind of tomatillo, like “sand tomatillo,” “field tomatillo,” and “hidalgo’s butler was in charge” tomatillo. There are at least 100 species, and 73 of them can only be found in Mexico.

Although tomatillos were a staple food for the Aztecs, they were not very well received when they were introduced in Europe. They were not very well received when they were introduced in Europe. However, they were introduced in Europe and became staples in many dishes. In this column, I have a funny story for you, followed by a delicious recipe. You know the enchiladas you Gringos typically get with the green salsa and white melted cheese? Well, those are a mix between two recipes: green enchiladas and Swiss enchiladas (you might see them listed as enchiladas Swiss in some restaurants).

How did Swiss enchilada become a Mexican dish? Read on…

THE WHOLE ENCHILADA

Our story begins at the end of the 19th century, when Emperor Maximilian was in power. Maximilian's butler was in charge of the emperor's diet. When the empire fell, the butler had to run away with his family to his home state of Coahuila, taking with them a trunk full of recipes from the imperial castle. During the Mexican revolution, the butler and his family had to flee again, this time to Mexico City. Needing to make a living and having nothing but a trunk full of recipes, he and his family set up a restaurant called the Imperial Café, where Swiss enchiladas were born.

There are a couple stories as to how the dish got its name. One of the most common is that the Sanborn brothers, who founded what is now one of the largest store chains in Mexico, bought the Imperial Café and subsequently made the dish famous. The story goes that when Walter Sanborn ate the dish, he said that the melted cheese reminded him of the snow on Swiss Alps. The important thing is that, thanks to these two men, we now have an exquisite authentic Mexican dish that is often copied but never really duplicated!

For Mexico income tax, however, things seem to be even less generous. I understand that Mexico income tax law does not allow loss or theft deductions if the type of property affected was not income producing (originally deductible, usually by being used in a trade or business). In large storms or disasters, Mexico has issued special decrees easing the rules somewhat with regards to due dates of tax payments and tax compliance, to benefit affected persons.

Bottom line: A tax benefit might be available with regards to losses from casualties and thefts. Begin collecting documentation as soon as the loss occurs. The IRS publication 547, Casualties, Disasters, and Thefts, has all the details!

Orlando Gotay is a California licensed tax attorney (with a Master of Laws in Taxation) admitted to practice before the IRS, the U.S. Tax Court and other taxing agencies. His latest book, published last year, was Walking Home Together: Spiritual Guidance and Practical Advice. All of his titles are available on Amazon. Mike will be missed. Rest in peace.

Mike Mercer Dies

Todos Santos writer Mike Mercer passed away early on September 2 in a hospital in La Paz. Mercer was born in Berkeley, CA, in 1957. Also a technology pundit, he graduated from the University of California, Berkeley.

Mercer's books included Mexicoland, Stories from Todos Santos and Bandidos. His work was also included in Todos Santos and Other Poems, a publication from the Todos Santos writers group that included him, Paul Alejandro, Douglas Backeberg, Bob Luckey and Michael Cope.

His latest book, published last year, was Walking Home Together: Spiritual Guidance and Practical Advice. All of his titles are available on Amazon.

Mike will be missed. Rest in peace.
Malecon has taken its toll on C.J.'s business, which is in the plaza Caracol, part of the Hotel Zone. Sales have dropped and owner George Adams has announced that he is no longer able to make the rent. He has until September 30 to come up with roughly $1,400 USD. C'mon, everyone pitch in, his food is so plentiful, so good, but so cheap it's going to be a heavy lift to get that much scratched together. His Reuben sandwiches alone are worth it.

Going gluten free? When you're asking for gluten free restaurant recommendations here in Cabo, the name that gets tossed out most often is Mint Jungle and Amber’s Market. They’re in Pioneer Plaza, and market themselves as being 100% certified gluten free. They also get a lot of love from people who are just looking for healthier restaurant options, gluten free or not.

Amber’s Market is the small market/bakery that offers a variety of gluten free cookies, muffins and brownies. They also sell organic coffee, jamaica and chia seeds. Mint Jungle is the open-air bar and café that sits just outside the market, in the courtyard of the plaza. Their gluten free offerings range from omelets and salads to sandwiches and pizza. If you go for brunch, be sure to try the French toast; it’s one of their best dishes.

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WHAT’S GOING ON WITH OUR...
continued from page 13

than usual for this time of year.
So, take the money you normally spend on groceries and put it towards eating out a few times. These restaurants need our support.

And while you’re at it... Make a point to go grab a bite at the C.J.’s New York Deli in San Jose. The seemingly never-ending construction along the Paseo Malecon has taken its toll on C.J.’s business, which is in the plaza Caracol, part of the Hotel Zone. Sales have dropped and owner George Adams has announced that he is no longer able to make the rent. He has until September 30 to come up with roughly $1,400 USD. C'mon, everyone pitch in, his food is so plentiful, so good, but so cheap it's going to be a heavy lift to get that much scratched together. His Reuben sandwiches alone are worth it.

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children between ages one to 10 in several different programs. Children ages one to three are part of the nursery program, which places an emphasis on independence, freedom and early stimulation. The children in the nursery are potty trained, shown hygiene and oral care, and participate in activities that enhance creativity.

For children ages three to five, there is a certified preschool that received accreditation in 2005. Children are taught how to read and write, and are offered additional classes like English, arts and crafts and more. At three? Geeze, at 53 we cant even learn a foreign language, how is that going to work?

For school age children (five to 10 years old) there is the elementary school support program. Children are dropped off at the center at 7 a.m. and fed breakfast. They are dropped off and picked up from school by the center, have lunch and get help with their homework, take computer and self esteem classes, partake of organized activities and have a light dinner. Parents pick up their children at 6:30 p.m., after they get done with work.

In addition to programs that directly benefit the children, Los Niños del Capitan has offered counseling and educational workshops for the parents since 2004. Workshops cover topics like child abuse prevention and detection, sex ed, nutrition, a sewing class and workshops on other manual skills that parents can use to earn some additional income.

The LCCF supports Los Niños del Capitan with the operating and equipment costs of its dental and medical clinics, both of which are onsite, and with the free physiotherapy room for the children at the day care. The dental clinic provides the children with preventive and corrective dental treatments. Children also learn about oral hygiene, (tooth brushing, why can't we just say it?) and their parents are given workshops on hygiene and nutrition as well. The dental clinic facility is also used by other foundations to provide dental and medical care to other children in other programs.

Do you suppose they have that big giant toothbrush and fake set of choppers they used to teach us about “oral hygiene” back in the day? No, probably not. Too bad, they were fun.

There are multiple ways you can get involved and help support the Los Niños del Capitan. You can volunteer at their events, teach a class, sponsor a child on a special outing (like whale watching or turtle releases), or by giving monetary donations. For more information, visit www.losninosdelcapitan.com/Get-Involved.html. To learn more about the work of the Los Cabos Children’s Foundation, visit their website at www.loscabochildren.org.

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Looking For A Good Read?

You can finally find one in Cabo, at the new Bookworm book store.

BY ALEJANDRA SARACHAGA

If you’re a book lover who’s living or staying in Cabo for an extended period of time, you’ve likely lamented the fact that there are no good bookstores here in Cabo. Or, really, bookstores period. Sure, you can download all the books you want on your tablet or Kindle, but some of us are old-school and want the feel of an actual book in our hands.

Well, book worms rejoice, because we finally have a real book store in Cabo. Drive out to Plaza Carretera on the fourlane, where Cabo Fitness Club and Infusion Café are, and you’ll find Bookworm.

Bookworm is rather tiny, but cozy, with a couple of easy chairs, and a coffee table. The owner also owns the coffee shop next door, so it’s OK, to bring your cup over and browse.

The Bookworm fills a void for Cabo book lovers.

The Bookworm offers a wide range of books in both English and Spanish. It has a large and diverse selection, including fiction, nonfiction, culture and art, philosophy, sports books, and there’s even a children’s section. I loved seeing the gorgeous books lined up along the shelves, and spent a few hours there browsing the shelves. I found so many interesting books that I had to write down all the titles of the ones I wanted to read!

This is something that we really needed in Cabo San Lucas. It’s an ideal place to visit for the book buyer who never knows what they want until they arrive at the store. (Although, if you’re like me, you’ll have the urge to buy every book in the store!) And they have a very friendly staff who is always helpful and can find books in whatever new interest I might have. And if for any reason they don’t have what I’m looking for, they will do whatever it takes to get it down here for me. For us book lovers, could it get any better?

DRIVING THROUGH PESCADERO...

DRIVING THROUGH PESCADERO...

continued from page 21

The third place you might want to visit in Pescadero is Oasis, formerly known as Dana’s Diner. Cyndi Williams and Tom Trinkunus changed the name when they bought it about a year ago. Tom died shortly after, as a result of falling from a ladder while changing a light bulb, and now Cyndi is trying to make a go of it herself. She will, because her food is excellent and she’s a great hostess.

Continued on page 29
to frequent Baja travelers. Chapter two guides us through 140 miles of wild coastline with few human occupants. Old fishing boats, beaches, sandstone cliffs, pelicans and a foggy sea dominate this chapter. Dawn’s pastel hues and spectacular sunsets give us hope that the beauty here will never be diminished.

Chapter three takes us to another setting, the Valley of the Boojums, with its boulder fields, cholla, cardon, and ocotillos. And there are the trees that look like skinny carrots, growing upside down; the whimsically-named Boojum trees. Like the ones found in Dr. Seuss books, they bow, twist, and seem to have almost human qualities. The landscape here is unlike any other on our planet. We also see more examples of rock art in this chapter.

The last chapter adds to the mood with more photographs of the Gold Coast and High Sierra. Don’t miss the portrait of two California condors, found on pages 78 and 79. (One looks a little like an uncle of mine.) Condors soaring over foothills are found on the next page, and the photo shows the condors as “oddly charismatic” and beautiful. Bobcats, chapels, vineyards, statues, boats, and boat wrecks provide still more glimpses into Baja.

In his epilogue, Daniel wonders what all of these wild places will look like in 100 years, or even in 20 years. Can we preserve the wild side of Baja? Only time will tell. The photographs in this book make many statements, and each page and photo shows the love for our Baja felt by the author/photographer.

You can purchase this beautiful coffee table book at El Caballo Blanco, my book store in Loreto. And once you’ve finished taking in the stunning photos, drop me a line at betojeannine@gmail.com.
Ask a Mexican
This week we asked: How were you, your family and friends affected by Tropical Storm Lidia?

Juan Rodriguez, 47, waiter
My family and I didn’t have a lot of damage to our home, but I have a lot of friends who live in a needy area, and they lost their homes. About 60 percent of my friends lost everything they have. They kept their lives, which is good, but now they’re having to start over again. I’m disappointed by the government and the politicians. We haven’t seen a lot of support from them, which is sad because a lot of people need help.

Maira Lopez, 49, cleaning lady
The water came through my house. It didn’t destroy it, but everything got wet. We lost our power and water, and still don’t have it back. We don’t know when we will get it back, we have not gotten any information. One of my neighbors lost his home. They are still on the land, but they only have some boards that they put up for shelter.

Victor Cruz, 21, waiter
The water was up to my knees, and we had a big puddle of water inside the house. A lot of the cars in the neighborhood were washed away. After the storm, there was a lot of trash, a lot of water. You couldn’t get into some of the neighborhoods because the roads were so bad. The motorcycles could go around, but not the cars.

Mario Tagle, 32, tour operator
I got a little bit of water in my house, and a little bit of damage to my yard because of the wind. I lost power and water, and still don’t have water back yet. For now, we are buying water from the water trucks and filling our tanks, which will last for about 15 days. I heard we will have water this weekend. Business has been slow, and I think people are waiting until things get cleaned up to come, or at least until the rain stops.

Adrian Beltran, 20, salesclerk
There was no damage to my home, and we only lost power for about one hour. All is good. In the store, there was just some water on the floor. The store was closed for three days, and now that it is open again, business is very slow.

Juan Pablo Becerra, 37, manager at Tequila Town
We didn’t have a lot of damage at the store, just some drywall fell off. And in front of the store, there was a lot of dust and mud. But the next day, all of the businesses, we got together to help clean everything. It took us three days, and there’s still a lot of dust. I live five minutes from downtown, so my house wasn’t damaged. I have a friend, he lives in the colonias, and he lost everything. Right now, he’s living with his sister here in downtown. And the government isn’t helping at all, it’s just the local people helping. We took food, water, medicine to them.

FISH REPORT...continued from page 24

La Paz
North of La Paz, the dorado kept on like the tropical storm had only been a little bump. Not only is there sargasso weed floating out there, but now there’s all kinds of floating debris lining up, holding dorado and billfish plus some tuna! It took a little longer for the waters to clear, but some of the best dorado fishing has actually been in the colder, dirtier water. Go figure. The big trick has been finding the right spot. Once you found it, you could load up the rods and fish boxes with one-stop shopping, and wild dorado action of fish weighing between 5 and 20 pounds. Most of the dinks were getting tossed back because you could hit a spot and it would be a baby nursery of dinks. Or, all the firecracker fish would jump your baits and not give the big boys time to get in on the feed. But it’s a good problem to have with great action. Everyone was really worried about this area so soon after such a big storm. However, literally the first day after the storm, the Los CONTINUED ON PAGE 31
Dear Gringo Gazette:

Get A Clue!

Letters To The Editor

Editor,

Did the local chamber of commerce pay you to write your recent article on the State Department’s travel warning (issued in August) regarding violence and safety in Cabo? I’ve been in Cabo for a while now, and the violence, while it does involve druggies killing other druggies, is different this time, because it is not confined to the barrios. Can you imagine what it would have been like to be a tourist at Palmilla beach when assault rifles were being fired and 4 or 5 bodies on the ground? Or, how about the murdered guy laying in the underground parking entrance to the Peninsula shopping center? How the hell would I know who was being targeted when the shots were being fired? Do the bullets know where not to go? I go to Palmilla beach and use the underground parking at Peninsula parking center. I don’t ever want to be somewhere where shots are being fired, regardless of target. Articles like yours enable the local government’s complacency. If necessary, Cabo needs to take an economic hit so that the powers that be will get off their asses and do something. This time it is frightening.

Eric Ranney

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