These mobula rays are in a feeding frenzy for the krill that is attracted to the light the ship Panterra is shining into the water. The light that appears to be coming from beneath the sea is from divers who are watching the show from below. For the entire story on the magical trip up the Sea of Cortez, see inside. To watch a video of these rays circling our snorkelers, go to our Facebook page, gringogazettecabo. They really are in a frenzy.

The Giant Black Moths Are Back
Don’t freak, they’re actually pretty nice guys, just scary to look at

BY JOHN DOLITTLE

Every October you can witness the hovering and darting of the black witch in the night skies, right here in Los Cabos. It swoops down at you in the night like a bat outta hell, scaring many, and bewitching all.

The black witch moth is the largest moth in North America, with a wingspan up to seven inches. They appear each year here in Baja just after heavy tropical rainstorms, hitching a ride in the upper altitudes of the tropical storms and sometimes covering home eaves and patios with their black masses.

No, the black witch is not a native. It is actually a migratory moth, much like the monarch butterfly. Originally from southern mainland Mexico, the moth can now be found as far south as Brazil and Argentina, and flies north annually with the change in seasons to Texas and Florida, as far west as Hawaii and east throughout the Caribbean Islands. Yes, these insects flapped all the way from the mainland, across many miles of open sea.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

What’s Going On At Our Airport?
Plans for airport expansion include more immigration booths, luggage carousels and an expanded terminal

BY CALEB HOOGLAND

It seems like every time we turn around, we’re hearing some new number about how much traffic through the Los Cabos International Airport has increased.

At a recent airport commission meeting, we learned that, from 2015-2016, there was a spike in commercial flights, so the airport is now operating 25% Aerial view of the Cabo San Lucas airport, which sits mostly idle while the San Jose del Cabo airport is overwhelmed with traffic. CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Look inside for explanation of the Katrina figure, prominent at this time of the year.
Did you like my article in this issue on my trip up the Sea of Cortez? I'm not big on boats bobbing around on the sea surface, but this trip was special. I didn't get sea sick, I didn't get cold, and I didn't get bored looking at the horizon. Nor did anyone kill anything in my presence. Those are the four problem areas for me and boats.

Although I have owned a series of river boats, I have never been amused by ocean boats. And forget about sail boats, whoo boy, how boring is that? And don't suggest I busy myself pulling on the damn ropes that make the sails twirl around, that just makes the day more tedious.

Not that I'm not a fan of the ocean, I'm just saying I can enjoy it better looking out from the ocean, I'm just saying I can enjoy it better looking out from the ocean. And forget about sail boats, I've been amused by ocean boats.

I, as the last surviving member of the family, have custody of the black and white pictures of us all dressed in our long pants, jackets, and lots of blankets. When we reached Seaside, I can remember wondering why everyone wasn't at the beach. How can they live here and not go to the beach? All day, every day? Yeah, I never was a rocket scientist, nor apparently very empathetic.

We would headquarter in a cheap hotel about a quarter mile from the beach. Why we didn't drive to the beach, I don't know, but we walked, hauling our shit, mostly blankets, which was heavy for me. Along the way were amazing shops with dried starfish, sea shells, and salt water taffy pulling machines, twisting in the windows. Our mom wouldn't' allow us any taffy because, she said, it would pull the fillings out of our teeth. Truth was, there was no money for salt water taffy. Also probably true, was the fact that it would indeed pull the fillings out of our teeth. We're talking Oregon coast here, where summer time temperatures are hard to discern from winter time temps. And forget about swimming in the ocean, you would need more than a wetsuit, you would need an arctic survival suit. But so what, it was exciting! My brother and I would scout the rocks, plucking cool stuff out of the shallows.

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Bye bye bad cops

Around 300 city and state cops throughout Baja California Sur are getting the axe this month, according to the secretary of state. The cops getting fired are losing their jobs because they flunked the confidence tests, which includes polygraph tests, antidoping and participation in other stupid behavior to determine whether they are honest, trustworthy and don’t have any connection to organized crime.

If the state does not get rid of them, the federal government can stop sending funds for the police academy, uniforms, police vehicles, surveillance cameras and equipment.

So far, 130 cops have been fired; the first to get fired are always the worst in the police corps. Some are getting organized to fight their dismissals in courts.

However, because of the low pay, (about $1000 a month), and the danger involved with the job, they are having a difficult time recruiting more police.

But there’s good news! Mayor Arturo De La Rosa has made a bargain with the secretary of the interior to keep 180 federal gendarmes here until the end of his administration. They were scheduled to leave in December. The more cops the merrier, we say, since we’re having a hard time hiring and maintaining local police.

What’s next for Cabo?

Nearly 900 new hotel rooms are opening this year. That number includes rooms at the already-opened Chileno Bay, Grand Velas and Krystal, and the new Le Blanc and Grand Solmar’s Rancho San Lucas resorts, which will open by the end of the year.

More resorts will open next year, reaching a total of 4,353 new rooms in just two years. Coming soon are: Solaz, located on the fourlane between Cabo and San Jose; Montage, which should open early next year with 122 rooms and suites, plus 52 residences, on Santa Maria beach; Hard Rock Hotel Los Cabos, opening in Dimante with 600 rooms, 6 restaurants, several pools and a 54,000 square foot meeting room; Ritz Zadun, which will be inside Puerto Los Cabos in San Jose, with 115 suites and villas, many with private pools; Garza Blanca, located on the tourist corridor; Four Seasons Los Cabos, with a private marina gouged out of the beach within the Costa Palmas development in La Ribera on the East Cape.

And last but not least, Park Hyatt hotels just announced a project to build a 162-room and villas resort in Los Cabos, at a location they’re keeping secret at this point. They’re keeping secret at this point.

Sea turtles love it here

National Geographic recently listed Los Cabos as one of the nine places where sea turtles love to nest and lay their eggs. Like the article says, “Sea turtles have great tastes in beaches. All seven species need sandy, wide, and warm beaches not for relaxing, but for laying their clutches that typically number one hundred eggs.”

Sea turtles don’t have it easy, though, as they are increasingly being forced to share those beaches with humans. Hilton Los Cabos is one local resort doing what it can to protect the sea turtles. From July through November, the resort staff moves freshly laid eggs to a corral that can hold up to 300 eggs, protecting them from beach traffic and poachers. When the eggs hatch, trained staff gather the babies and release them into the surf to the delight of resort guests. This greatly increases a hatchling’s odds of surviving to adulthood in that big spooky pond out there. There are a lot of predators in the sea looking for a small snack like a baby turtle. And where is mama turtle? Long...
It’s better than nothing With tens of thousands of homes damaged by recent earthquakes throughout Mexico, authorities are turning to some unusual methods to provide temporary housing for people. More than 70,000 homes were damaged across Oaxaca and Chiapas in the 8.2-magnitude earthquake that hit last month, and almost 40,000 of them were left uninhabitable. So they’re building yurts (kind of like teepees), which have anti-seismic properties. The shelter’s frame is built from 100 pieces of PVC tubing held together by waxed cord and steel wire, while tarps and fabric are used to cover it. The total cost of all the materials comes to $356 USD.

And in Morelos, there’s a new project to build temporary housing out of plastic water bottles. Each bottle becomes an “eco-brick” after it is filled with garbage or compressed rubble, giving the structures strength and stability.

Sacks filled with sand or rubble are used for the structure’s foundation, while alternate layers of adobe and bottles are used for the home itself. The bottles are either tied together with raffia fiber or joined using cement mixed with gravel or, given its current availability, rubble. Each dwelling will use an estimated 2,100 bottles and take a team of 10 volunteers between three and five days to build.

Then there’s bamboo houses. Some types of bamboo grow so rapidly that if you make a mark on a wall, and sit and stare at the bamboo, you can actually see it grow. That’s certainly sustainable.

Post quake tourism fears The tourism industry is worried of the more lasting effects of the Mexico City earthquake will be a reversal in the upward trend in tourist numbers seen over the last four years. Short-term cancellations reached nearly 80% as visitors changed their plans to travel to the states affected by the tremor. These cancellations will have a negative impact on the December vacation period, the last high season of the year for the industry. The best-case scenario for industry leaders is that the figures will remain the same as last year, when Mexico welcomed 35 million international travelers who generated revenues of US $19.7 billion.

President Enrique Peña Nieto made a call to Mexicans to visit the tourism destinations affected by the 7.1-magnitude earthquake to aid in reactivating their economies. That’s not water… It was raining fish in southern parts of Tamaulipas state recently. Small fish were seen falling with rain in various parts of the city of Tampico. The phenomenon is rare but not completely out of the ordinary, according to state officials, who explained that the fish are sucked up off the surface of water by tornados, or waterspouts. After they are swept up into a storm cloud they return to Earth with rain. It’s not only small fish that can be drawn up by the waterspouts. It has also been known to rain shrimp and even frogs in some locations. Not for cats and dogs. That’s a fairy tale. Like a (really big) virgin A statue of the Virgin Mary proposed for a hilltop in Guadalupe, Zacatecas, would be the tallest in the world, and is hoped to provide an economic boost to the low-income neighborhood. The 154-foot-high statue would be erected on San Simón hill, drawing tourists to an area where the homes are little more than makeshift huts made of sheet metal or cardboard.

The mayor of Guadalupe says the statue is not a religious project, but an economic one. The area is expected to become a tourist corridor, with the statue at its center as the main attraction. The project also entails the construction of chapels and funerary homes. The estimated cost for the project is $4.3 million USD. But it’s higher than the famous statue of Christ in Rio de Janeiro.

The dolphin cavalry is here! Four trained dolphins have been delivered to the Gulf of California, and they’re possibly the last hope for saving the endangered vaquita porpoise. Andrea, Fathom, Katrina and Splash arrived yesterday in San Felipe, in the northern part of Baja, where they’ll spend the next month helping a team of specialists locate vaquitas so they can be captured.

A team of scientists and veterinarians plans to transport the captured vaquitas to the new Vaquita Care Center, located in San Felipe, with the hope that they will fall in love, have babies, and reverse the decline in their numbers. It was estimated in November that only 30 remained. They keep getting caught as by-catch in gill nets, even though the fishermen have been paid not to. They sneak out anyway. The four bottlenose dolphins are continued on page 21

October 16th, 2017

VILLA VALENTINA

#Fuerza Mexico

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

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Cabo Has A Tourist Center!

It’s not always open, but when it is, lots of help is available.

BY DICK FITZWELL

Cabo’s Centro de Asistencia Turística/Tourist Assistance Center (CAT/TAC) has had some trouble with consistency during its short run. It “opened” with a lot of fanfare earlier this year, but that was really just an excuse for the local tourism board to take a photo opp with politicians. The building wasn’t actually finished at the time, and it was several more months before it finally opened to the public.

With the exception of a name change (from the Center for the Attention and Protection of Tourists to CAT/TAC) things seem to go smoothly for the center for the next few months. And then Lidia hit, and the center closed for a few days, hurricane shutters nailed up. And for more than a month after the storm, the shutters remained up.

The shutters are now being taken down, so the next time you’re on the marina you can stop by the center to use the bathroom (for free), or for whatever you might need help with. The center was established to help tourists (both foreign and national) with just about anything they need; it’s designed to be a one-stop shop. The services the center (some-times) provides includes everything from giving out free maps and restaurant recommendations to helping angry consumers file complaints against timeshare companies.

Located inside the center are offices for the municipal, state and federal police. If you need to go to them if a tour provider takes your money but never gives you a tour, and they’ll investigate the case. Oscar Manriquez, the CAT/TAC director, says that 80 to 90 percent of the time, the tourists have a legitimate claim. Oscar says the most common complaint from tourists are about traffic tickets, you can do it all right there. Before CAT/TAC was built, you’d have to go all the way out to the edge of town, wait in long lines and hope whoever is helping you speaks English (or take a local with you to help translate). Trust us, this is not an experience you want to have while on vacation. The police services are available 24 hours a day, so if something happens to you in the middle of the night, you can go to the center to report it. (Sometimes).

The center also houses an office for Profeco, Mexico’s consumer protection agency. You can report a crime or get help with a traffic ticket, you can do it all right there. Before CAT/TAC was built, you’d have to go all the way out to the edge of town, wait in long lines and hope whoever is helping you speaks English (or take a local with you to help translate). Trust us, this is not an experience you want to have while on vacation. The police services are available 24 hours a day, so if something happens to you in the middle of the night, you can go to the center to report it. (Sometimes).

Don’t let the scaffolding and hurricane shutters fool you, the tourist center is open.

We Have A Hyperbaric Chamber In San Jose!

NFL athletes, the entire Cubbies team, Michael Phelps, Tiger Woods, and Lance Armstrong all use it to gain an optimum health advantage. Why not you?

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 it into your skin and body rejuvenation. 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 area, 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.
What Exactly Is Day Of The Dead?

It’s not Mexican Halloween. Don’t even call it that.

BY ALEJANDRA SARACHAGA

While Americans prepare to celebrate Halloween at the end of this month, Mexicans are getting ready for Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead).

Both holidays have a pagan origin. Both use the same colors of orange and black (with some purple mixed in). And death plays a part in both as well, although in different ways. Whereas death is something scary and feared on Halloween, it is something that is celebrated on Day of the Dead.

The Day of the Dead is a pre-Hispanic Mexican celebration that honors the dead from November 1 to November 2, coinciding with the Catholic celebrations of All Saints Day and All Souls Day. The origins of Day of the Dead in Mexico predate the arrival of the Spanish. There are records of the ancient Maya, Purepecha and Totonaca tribes celebrating as far back as 3,000 years ago.

The festival that eventually became the Day of the Dead marked the ninth month of the Aztec solar calendar, near the beginning of August, and was celebrated for an entire month. The festivities were presided over by the goddess Mictecacihuatl, known as the “Lady Death,” and Mictlantecuhtli, wife of the god of the land of the dead. The festivities were dedicated to the celebration of children and the lives of deceased relatives.

Nowadays, it is a Day of the Dead tradition to build altars in which people place a picture of their deceased loved one, surrounded by candles, orange flowers and her or his favorite drink and food.

Building altars is one of the biggest Day of the Dead traditions here in Mexico. You’ll see them popping up around town this month.

is celebrated on Day of the Dead.

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Day of the Dead and its traditions are an important part of Mexican culture. One of the main aspects that make up our identity as a nation is the concept we have about life, death and all the traditions and beliefs that revolve around them. Don’t think that just because so many of our citizens go north, that we aren’t very proud of our culture, because we all are.

There are many families who are more inclined to celebrate All Saints Day, as they do in other Catholic countries. Coupled with this is the strong influence of the United States where, at least in border areas, Halloween is celebrated every year more often these days and in a greater number of Mexican households than ever before. That is why there is a concern among some Mexicans who want to preserve the Day of the Dead as part of Mexican culture. But many Mexicans believe that the Day of the Dead is a holiday capable of including non-traditional festivities, like wearing costumes, without diminishing its cultural importance. Here in Cabo, our children know that if they approach Americans, they will be given something. They go around downtown, hold out sacks, and holler out, “Halloween!” Makes our boss crazy that she can’t get them to sing out “trick or treat” They just don’t get the trick and the treat stuff, she sighs.

Here in Cabo, where there are so many foreign tourists and expats, Halloween and Day of the Dead is celebrated.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27
The Story Behind Those Sugar Skulls

Technically candy, they’re a Day of the Dead staple

BY ALEJANDRA BORBOLLA

Sugar skulls are a common sight in Mexico in the weeks leading up to the Day of the Dead. These are what are known as alfeñiques, which are confections that are molded from sugar paste.

According to historical records, back in 1630, Francisco de la Rosa, a common citizen in the city of Toluca (near Mexico City) asked the royal Spanish crown for permission to make the candy his momma used to make back home. (Apparently the crown was very strict about candy making way back then.) He set up a shop, and his recipe is said to have morphed into what alfeñiques are today. Surprisingly, nowhere in this story is there mention of any dentists. In Toluca, there is a whole fair dedicated to these sugar handicrafts, which range from kneaded sugar dough, crystalized sugar syrup, molded chocolate and pumpkin seed candy. Artisans from Oaxaca take pride on their ability to make crosses, skulls and flowers with honey in the middle, while artisans from Puebla are famous for making coffins with almonds, peanuts or pumpkin seeds.

Each artisan has their own alfeñique recipe, but some of the basic ingredients are sugar, egg whites, lime juice and a special plant root called papanque. The coloring and painting of the alfeñiques are also basically the same, with vegetable dye added to the paste or brushed onto the sugar pieces. These piece might come from a clay mold or a wood shaper, depending on the artisans’ preferred technique. Some alfeñiques are as tiny as a quarter, so a lot of patience and a steady hand are required.

Why do sugar skulls have all those squiggly lines and pops of color? Well, around the eyes, flowers are drawn, so your sight will only see beautiful things. On the forehead or top of the skull, another flower is for a blessing. On the cheeks, there used to be more traditional tribal designs, like deer for good luck or plants for health, but these have given way to more modern patterns. I think honestly not everyone could fit these marvelous designs onto the skulls, and they just turned into colorful scribbles.

Also, a big mustache must be drawn if the skull is a macho man!

What’s the whole point of alfeñiques, you might wonder? Well, instead of cooking a deceased person’s favorite foods to place in a Day of the Dead altar, alfeñiques can be used instead. Alfeñiques are made into as many shapes as you can think of, from chicken mole to pears and apples. They are specially made for the “little angels” (children who went to heaven) since they are technically candy.

Mexican sugar skulls often have a name written on the forehead, and there are two versions of why. One says that it’s the name of the deceased, so he or she knows you wish them well. The other says it should be your name, so you have a spot in heaven saved by whoever gave you the sugar skull. I believe whichever one I feel most comfortable with at the moment.

The traditional sugar skulls are what’s known as alfeñiques, which are confections molded from sugar paste.

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The Story Behind Those Sugar Skulls
Technically candy, they’re a Day of the Dead staple

BY ALEJANDRA BORBOLLA

Sugar skulls are a common sight in Mexico in the weeks leading up to the Day of the Dead. These are what are known as alfeñiques, which are confections that are molded from sugar paste.

According to historical records, back in 1630, Francisco de la Rosa, a common citizen in the city of Toluca (near Mexico City) asked the royal Spanish crown for permission to make the candy his momma used to make back home. (Apparently the crown was very strict about candy making way back then.) He set up a shop, and his recipe is said to have morphed into what alfeñiques are today. Surprisingly, nowhere in this story is there mention of any dentists. In Toluca, there is a whole fair dedicated to these sugar handicrafts, which range from kneaded sugar dough, crystalized sugar syrup, molded chocolate and pumpkin seed candy. Artisans from Oaxaca take pride on their ability to make crosses, skulls and flowers with honey in the middle, while artisans from Puebla are famous for making coffins with almonds, peanuts or pumpkin seeds.

Each artisan has their own alfeñique recipe, but some of the basic ingredients are sugar, egg whites, lime juice and a special plant root called papanque. The coloring and painting of the alfeñiques are also basically the same, with vegetable dye added to the paste or brushed onto the sugar pieces. These piece might come from a clay mold or a wood shaper, depending on the artisans’ preferred technique. Some alfeñiques are as tiny as a quarter, so a lot of patience and a steady hand are required.

Why do sugar skulls have all those squiggly lines and pops of color? Well, around the eyes, flowers are drawn, so your sight will only see beautiful things. On the forehead or top of the skull, another flower is for a blessing. On the cheeks, there used to be more traditional tribal designs, like deer for good luck or plants for health, but these have given way to more modern patterns. I think honestly not everyone could fit these marvelous designs onto the skulls, and they just turned into colorful scribbles.

Also, a big mustache must be drawn if the skull is a macho man!

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The traditional sugar skulls are what’s known as alfeñiques, which are confections molded from sugar paste.
Experience A Trip Up The Sea Of Cortez
It’s right here and is one of the wonders of the world

BY CARRIE DUNCAN

It’s best to see the Sea of Cortez from a boat. Even better, a boat that has a smooth professional staff, and with snorkel gear, dive tanks, kayaks and cocktails at the ready.

We chose Panterra, which bills itself as an eco-adventure company and is out of British Columbia. Well, Lela Sankeralli, the honcho of the ecological non-profit, is out of Canada. Her entire crew and, of course, the boat, is local. She leases a beautifully remodeled 110-foot boat called Adventure from Sun Ryder, which has dozens of boats of various sizes in Cabo and La Paz.

Sankeralli tells us that she started by providing sailing trips in Canada, but in 2004 she turned the business into a non-profit organization and concentrated on developing Panterra Expeditions in La Paz. She feels it was her calling to provide week-long trips out of the big ship to small coves.

Most of us went snorkeling for about an hour three times a day. Never saw the same fish twice, pretty sure about that.

Panterra blossomed, growing from mainly school groups to include adult natural history expeditions, dive trips and the development of research and conservation programs. The money that would be profit, now goes into charitable involvements in and around Baja.

“We are not just an adventure travel company,” Sankeralli tells us, “we are a dedicated group of professionals sharing our passion and love of the Baja as well as touching the lives of our guests in a very meaningful way!”

We spent a week on the mother ship, the largest at 110 feet long, island hopping, swimming, snorkeling, kayaking, hiking, and some of us were diving. The boat drags behind it two covered pangas for trips out from the big ship to small coves.

The Adventure is extremely comfortable without being luxurious, and can hold 18 passengers and what seemed like a slew of crew. We passengers were pretty snug in the cabins, with four to a room, and a large clean bathroom down the hall. They cleaned the bathroom three times a day, not that they needed it.

Food was basic Mexican, not gourmet, but tasty enough. They set out snacks between each meal, consisting mostly of chips and fruit. If anyone was hungry for more, it would be gladly provided. Nobody went hungry.

Alcohol was plentiful and included, no less than three beer taps going 24/7 and anything else you wanted to drink. We all called the cook Cookie, which of course he didn’t understand. Nearly all the crew spoke English, some very well. There was a college educated marine biologist onboard who seemed to be personally acquainted with every flotsam, jetsam, flora and fauna. Fish and birds, too. You couldn’t stump this guy, and he was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27
The Giant Black Moths... continued from page 1

a day or two of resting up, while hiding from the heat under eaves and covered patios, they will continue their flight northward, covering many miles in a single night.

Their night time activities classify them as nocturnal, and a member of the largest families of insects, the noctuidae family. Even though they appear to be black, the moths are actually a very dark brown, which becomes evident when you photograph them with a flash. The males are larger and sport an azure blue zigzag stripe, while the smaller females have a white stripe. Both have an “eye” marking on each wing.

Although migratory, the black witch differs from the monarch butterfly in many ways. Not the least of which is that the black witch reproduces all year round, unlike the monarch that migrates for reproduction. The black witch appears to migrate for preferable weather conditions. It also flies high in the atmosphere, while the monarch butterfly prefers the low altitudes. The black witch is very unique, two winged phenomenon just in time for Halloween!

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WHAT’S GOING ON AT OUR... continued from page 1

more flights than before 2056. And passengers? We saw a 13% increase there, too. For every 100 people in line for customs, you can add another 13 people. That adds up quick.

The airport is estimating that 5 million passengers will have gone through our airport by the end of 2017, which would top the previous high by almost 800,000 passengers.

With airport records being broken annually for arrivals and departures, our “new” airport (which was almost entirely rebuilt after Hurricane Odile in 2014) just isn’t big enough for all the demand. Just ask anyone who flew in on March 25 of this year, when the time from landing to making it through immigration-balloon to over four hours. The fact of the matter is that our airport is pretty small and we don’t have nearly enough immigration stations to get us through the line fast enough. You will notice that immigration officials are trying their best, with every station manned, (or womanned), they just need more stations. And, continued on page 28
YOUR PACIFIC BEACHFRONT SANCTUARY...
COMING SOON TO LOS CABOS, MEXICO.

NORMAN ESTATES
AT RANCHO SAN LUCAS

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Developed by Solmar
Providing Special Care For Special Kids
Local non-profit helps area children with autism

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.

Over the next year, the Gringo Gazette will be featuring the 26 LCCF grantees for 2017-18, profiling each organization and the work they do. In this issue, we are profiling Red Autismo, which provides services for kids on the autism spectrum.

Red Autismo is a non-profit organization that aims to provide specialized care to children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The goal is to improve their developmental skills as far as they can go. (Before we go any further, we need to offer a brief explanation about the name. It's not red like the color; in Spanish, red means "network." So, this is the autism network of Los Cabos.)

For those unfamiliar with ASD, it is a neurobiological developmental disorder that includes autism and Asperger’s syndrome. ASD shows itself early on in life (within the first three years), with some babies with more severe cases showing characteristics of ASD before they’re even a year old.

The severity and effects vary widely; some children might just have mild impairments while others face bigger obstacles. Every child on the autism spectrum has problems, at least to some degree, with communicating verbally and non-verbally, relating to others, thinking and behaving flexibly.

There are different (and sometimes controversial) opinions among doctors, parents, and experts about what causes autism and how best to treat it. The one thing everyone agrees on is that early and intensive intervention helps. For children at risk and children who show early signs, it can make all the difference.

Red Autismo was started by two local mothers who had children with autism and were frustrated by the lack of services available in Los Cabos for children with developmental disorders. It officially began as a non-profit organization in June of 2008, with the goal of providing alternative treatment options that were accessible to area families.

In 2010, they opened the Red Autismo therapy center in San Jose. Red Autismo’s current facility includes a sensory gym, one-on-one therapy rooms, three INEVI classrooms, along with a yard, kitchen, office and waiting room.

Red Autismo has three main areas of focus: Workshops, treatment therapies and education. Through their parents’ workshops, school counseling and training courses, they work to improve awareness about autism within the families and schools. The therapies offered by Red Autismo include evaluations, occupational therapy, sensory integration, speech and communication therapy, and cognitive and learning skills therapy. They also offer ongoing training for the therapists, to make sure the children receive the best and most up-to-date treatments.

In January of 2015, Red Autismo started its educational pilot program, Inclusive Educational with an Integral Approach (INEVI). The objective of the program is to promote a personalized academic program based on an evaluation of the child’s development, which helps identify the students’ strengths and weaknesses. INEVI provides the necessary tools and skills so, later on, the kids can be included in regular schools, and also in society as a whole (hence the inclusive part of the program’s name).

INEVI started with one program, but the results were so encouraging that Red Autismo started two more INEVI groups for the 2015-2016 school year. The program now includes two pre-school groups and an elementary school group, with a total of 75 children enrolled.

Red Autismo doesn’t receive government funding, and relies on donations it gets to support and strengthen other community programs. 

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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The Residences at Solar 103

DSC00856.jpg
The hotel's staff paid for the transmitter by collecting and selling recyclable materials, arts and crafts created by themselves and some raffles. The adult Olive Ridley sea turtle was named Ziva, which means “brilliant/radiant.”

Usually, sea turtles born in Los Cabos travel all the way to Japan, and then come back when it’s time to lay their eggs. You can follow Ziva's travels here: http://www.seaturtle.org/stacking?tag_id=166440

No visas needed? For some people, Mexico’s lower chamber of congress approved changes to the country’s immigration laws and will now allow tourists on “medical tourism” trips to enter the country without a visa.

A medical certificate will be the only thing they need. The bill still needs approval by the senate, but is expected to go through. Medical tourism generates an estimated $100 billion USD in revenue and is growing at a pace of 25% a year, according to the bill’s promoter. More than one million foreigners, mostly from the U.S., traveled to Mexico to have some kind of medical procedure done.

Good luck getting this break however. Your airline collects the money in your ticket and if you try to get it back, most airline personnel don’t even know what you’re talking about. They don’t understand the money is buried in your ticket. You will need to go high up the food chain, while waiting on hold for a long time. The money you’re fighting tooth and nail for is about $20.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

Calendar of Performing Arts

CABO SAN LUCAS

CULTURAL PAVILION
October 1 to 22. 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. Rural Interaction Exhibition. In the Pavilion’s cinema room. Spanish with help in English. Free.

October 17. 8:00 pm. Changó Spasiuk and his group from Argentina, winners of the World Music Awards of the BBC of London. Tickets are $8 USD, $3 for students with an ID, available at the Pavilion’s offices.

October 19. 6:00 pm. Luna Izel in Concert. Mexican music written and sung by Luna Izel. Guest artists in attendance. Spanish with some help in English.

October 21 and 22. Saturday, 6:00 pm and 8:30 pm. Sunday, 1:00 pm and 6:00 pm. The Beauty and The Beast – The Musical. By Henry Lopez Studio. Spanish. More info and tickets at the Pavilion office.

October 25. 9:30 am. We Are Los Cabos. Presentation of a video/song original adaptation of Michael Jackson’s “We Are The World.” The video will be presented at the Pavilion for all audience and distributed on Facebook and YouTube at the same time. Spanish and English. Free.

October 27. 8:00 pm. Carmelo Torres and his Saba-nera Cumbia, traditional music from Colombia. Spanish with help in English. Tickets are $8 USD, $3 for students with an ID, available at the Pavilion’s offices, and at Macondo Book Store (upstairs from La Europea in San Lucas Plaza).

November 8 to 12. 6th annual Los Cabos International Film Festival. Opening gala with international nominees’ movies will be there with international recognized personalities.

Every Thursday. 7:00 pm. Pavilion’s Movie Club. A different movie every Thursday. Sometimes in English, sometime other languages with Spanish subtitles. October is the Italian movies month. English or Italian with Spanish subtitles. Free.

October 19. 7:00 pm. Mediterranean (1991). In WWII, an Italian Army unit of misfits occupies an isolated Greek island, but soon realize the island’s citizens have merely gone into hiding after believing they were under German attack.

October 26. 7:00 pm. Cinema Paradiso (1988). This Italian comedy drama is based on the life and times of screenwriter/director Giuseppe Tornatore.

October 27. 8:00 pm. Vagabond Movie Club. Every week a different movie, sometimes in English, sometimes in different languages always with Spanish subtitles. Always free.

LEON COTA PLAZA Next to Red Cross and Delegation buildings.

December 1. 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.

Every Sunday. 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Every two weeks, four hours of PlazArte workshops with live music, dance, and different guest artists. Spanish. Free.

Every Wednesday. 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm. DanzonAfternoons. Traditional Mexican romantic dance. Everyone is invited to dance. Spanish. Free.

MACONDO Upstairs from La Europea at the Walmart plaza.

Every Thursday. 5:30 pm. Kids Movie Club. A different movie for children in Spanish.

BALDOR CULTURAL INSTITUTE Behind Home Depot, Km 7.7 on the Transpeninsular Hwy.

October 24. 7:30 pm. Music concert. Siberian 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

LUXURY AVENUE Puerto Paraiso Mall

October 19th. 11:00 am to 9:00 pm. Art exhibition opening. Presenting the new painting collection created by the artist Yandi Monardo. English. Free.

CABO MARINA

Starting October 28. Every Saturday. 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Arts exhibits, live music, children’s workshops. Free entrance. At the Cabo marina, next to Solomon’s Land-ing restaurant. Spanish with some help in English. Free.

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

SAN JOSE

ALFREDO GREEN CULTURAL HOUSE Downtown San Jose.

October 19. 7:00 pm; October 1 and 15. 7:30 pm. Tarzan Is Not In A Hurry. Children’s play by Mascaras Theater Company. A tender history of a little girl and her cat. They are separated after her parents’ divorce. Spanish.


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

Every Wednesday. 5:00 to 9:00 pm. Art Day. Art, paintings, books, live music. Spanish and English. Free.

LA DOLCE VILLA Behind the Mega super-market in San Jose.

October 21. 6:00 pm. Danzon Afternoons. Traditional Mexican romantic dance. Everyone is invited to dance. Spanish. Free.

EL ZACATAL At the Soccer Field 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 Ysabela Reading club has a different book to read and comment. Saturdays starting April 29. Book donations are welcome. More info and special activities with Nixania email: todossomoselotro@gmail.com Free.

At PLAZA COTA.

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

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

Every Tuesday from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. Trotamundos Reading Club. Spanish mostly. More info and special activities on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ saladelecturatrotamundos/timeline

At KINESIS GYM. El Caminal barrio near the Convention Center.

From Monday to Friday. 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Los Maroma Reading club. Books available. More info and special activities on Facebook: facebook.com/Sala-de-lectura-La-Mar%C3%Bama-Kinesis-Fabuladanza-691039797630803/timeline.

At LA CIRCO. Libroteka Reading Club.

From Monday to Friday. From 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Books available and circus drama style reading on Thursdays at 7:00 pm. More info with Sara Flores on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/LaCirco-577890735537333/timeline
Want To Open A Peso Account In Mexico?

There are lots of choices!

If you are planning to spend more than a few months each year in Mexico or have a remodeling project taking place, having a local bank account can make your life a lot easier.

THE PROS of opening an account:
1. Banks in Mexico make it very easy to transfer money to other banks in Mexico. If a fee is charged, it’s usually less than 1 US dollar. It makes paying people and bills extremely easy.
2. Avoid high international ATM fees

THE CONS of opening an account:
1. Banks require a minimum balance of roughly $2500 to $4000 pesos or a fee will be charged monthly.
2. American citizens are required to formally declare their foreign bank account on their taxes through the FBAR form.

We recently visited 5 of the most popular banks in Los Cabos among the Expat community. The following is an overview of their Peso checking account requirements and features as of September 2017. It’s important to note that requirements can vary between different areas of Mexico.

DOCUMENTS TO BRING TO THE BANK WHEN YOU OPEN THE ACCOUNT

**HSBC / SCOTIABANK / BANCOMER**
- Current passport
- Current Immigration Visa
- Recent utility bill in your name. Accepted are water, CFE, Telmex. If you are renting, and the bill is in the owner’s name, bring along the original rental contract.

**SANTANDER**
- Current passport
- Recent utility bill in your name. Accepted ones are Water, CFE, Telmex. It does NOT need to be in your name.

In most instances, you’ll be able to open the account on the spot. Expect to wait up to an hour to meet with an executive and up to another hour for all the paperwork to be completed. You may not be able to get it all done on the first visit if:
- If the format of your name on the utility bill doesn’t match up with the format of your name on your current Passport.

Scotiabank has a disclaimer that new accounts can take up to 48 hours to be approved.

With all these banks, you’ll receive a debit card right when you open the account. You may even receive a starter check book. For personalized debit cards and checks, expect to wait 5 to 15 business days, depending on the bank, for it to be sent to the branch. Only you will be able to pick it up. Make sure to bring along at least your current passport, but your Immigration visa may be requested as well.

**TIP:** If this is a joint account with your spouse, pay attention to whom they put as the “TITULAR,” or account owner, as only that person will be approved for most of the activity on the account.

MINIMUM AMOUNT REQUIRED TO OPEN ACCOUNT

**SANTANDER / SCOTIABANK / BANCOMER**
These 3 banks require $4000 pesos to open the account and to maintain as your minimum monthly balance. If the account drops below $4000 pesos, they each charge a fee currently ranging from $139 pesos to $180 pesos + IVA, depending on the bank.

**HSBC** offers 2 types of peso accounts. One is a basic checking account, and the other is a checking account that comes with a debit card.

**Basic Checking:** $3500 pesos to open the account. If the account drops below $3000 pesos, they each charge a fee currently ranging from $139 pesos to $180 pesos + IVA, depending on the bank.

San Jose Del Cabo Featured Property

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Viva is located in the Hotel Zone of San Jose del Cabo, with an abundance of fine restaurants, several spas, shopping, fitness center, nearby transportation and supermarket within walking distance, plus our famous Costa Azul surf spot, making this the perfect location to spend your vacation or own a piece of paradise!

For more information contact Deborah Reubens, Deborah Reubens, 2Seas Christie’s International Real Estate, Office Phone - (209) 779-3484, Mobile - +52(624) 137-3980, deborah@2seasloscabos.com.
count falls below an average daily balance of $2500 pesos, you will be charged $35 pesos + IVA. You can withdraw cash from this account by writing yourself a check at the bank window.

Checking + Debit Card: $2500 pesos to open the account. If the account falls below an average daily balance of $2500 pesos, you will be charged $35 pesos + IVA.

ONLINE BANKING
HSBC / SANTANDER / BANCOMER
These 3 banks do not charge an additional fee for online banking access or transfers to other banks in Mexico. Bank transfers are an easy way to pay utility bills which can be either set up to automatically deduct from your account each cycle or be handled on an as needed basis. Depending on the bank, you can also pay for things like insurance, cell phone bills, cable bills, directly through the bank’s website.

SCOTIABANK
Scotiabank charges $7 pesos + IVA per movement/transfer within Mexico. The only bills you can pay through their site are: CFE, Telmex, SKY and Telcel.

ATM WITHDRAWALS
HSBC up to $7000 pesos daily
BANCOMER up to $8000 pesos daily
SCOTIABANK up to $8000

Agent Profile
Cornell Mulder

Cornell was born and raised in Saskatoon, Canada and in the 80’s decided to move to British Columbia where he started a family of his own. He resided there with his Wife Brenda and 3 daughters.

After many years in construction and development Cornell took the next step and began selling real estate for Royal Lepage in 1996. When the kids were old enough, he and his wife traded in the Canadian winters for some Cabo Sunshine. Having spent the last 10 winters in San Jose Del Cabo, it has really become a second home to him. He enjoys exploring all this beautiful place has to offer and looks forward to helping you find your little slice of paradise.

Cornell works for Remax Cabo Sanctuary His Cel is 624-159-7669 or his Canadian 250-545-2306 email cornell@remaxcabo-realestate.com

pesos daily
BANCOMER up to $8000 pesos daily
SANTANDER up to $7700 pesos daily

HSBC BONUS!!!
HSBC has two ATM machines in Los Cabos where you can withdraw US dollars up to the equivalent of $7000 pesos per day depending on the exchange rate.

San Jose – the ATM machine in the HSBC branch in Plaza Las Velas (behind La Comer) Cabo – the ATM at Walmart

SANTANDER BONUS!!!
Santander allows you to withdraw up to $50,000 pesos from your account at a different bank by simply presenting your current Passport and debit card.

WITHDRAWALS AT THE BRANCH
You can withdraw large amounts of pesos at the bank window inside the branch. Bring both your current Passport and your debit card.

HSBC: up to $70,000 pesos a day. Also bring your Immigration Visa along with your Passport & debit card.**

SCOTIABANK: up to $100,000 pesos a day. If more is needed, the bank will require 2 days’ notice.

BANCOMER: up to $200,000

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15
La Paz Municipio 2018 Property Taxes
This is for La Paz, Not Los Cabos

BY CHERYL T. MILLER

Property Taxes in municipality of La Paz County can be paid as soon as October of the previous year. For your 2018 property taxes, you can pay now, and there are some great advantages to do so!

Start with 30% off your property tax bill.
Also, in October, November and December you can have any late fees and interest reduced as much as by one half. So if you are late in paying back taxes, grab this great discount.

Remember too that if you are over 60 years old and have an INAPAM (Senior Citizen Card) you can take a 50% discount on your property taxes. INAPAM cards are available in the main offices of the delegation in La Paz. There is also an office in San Jose del Cabo!

In years past, the online payment system of La Paz County has left a lot to be desired. But it does exist. Here is the web address. http://servicios.lapaz.gob.mx/predial.php

The Head of Catastro stated to FIRST check out their website at www.lapaz.gob.mx go to “Tramites”, then “Impuestos Prediales” and input your data. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE between Urban, Suburban and Rustic Land. Be sure to click on the correct type of property type. AND be sure and REGISTER first as indicated on those pages.

If you still have problems, call Rosalia Sanchez at 612-123-7900 ext 2490 or email subdir.recaudacion@lapaz.gob.mx Rosalia can give you the amount of taxes owed on your property and an instruction how to transfer money to the property government account.

Of course, if you have a friend or a property manager, they can also go to the main office of the property taxes, located at H. XV AYUNTAMIENTO LA PAZ, Boulevard Luis Donaldo Colosio, entre Calle Carabineros y Avenida de los Deportistas, La Paz. Phone 01 612 123 7900. This is where you need to go if you need to challenge your taxes or negotiate the penalties. You cannot do this in satellite offices such as in Todos Santos.

FYI: Los Cabos County property taxes cannot be paid until about January 7th of the current tax year. But, do put this date on your calendar, as discounts in January apply here too.

By Cheryl T. Miller, Broker, Baja Realty and Investment, 624-122-2690 or info@forsaleinbaja.com

& BANCOMER offer online wire transfers right when you open your account. Their fees range from $35 to $40 USD to for outgoing wires. A separate fee is applied to receive a wire. HSBC offers this feature after a 6 month waiting period for $40 USD.

SCOTIABANK only allows international wire transfers to be handled directly at the bank’s branch.

What Properties Are Available In Los Cabos

You name it, the MLS has it

BY TERRY GRAY CURTIS

Currently our MLS has around 1,050 homes and condominiums listed for sale from the East Cape to Todos Santos, with San Jose and Cabo in between. With this amount of inventory available you would be hard pressed to not find the perfect property for you. By far the majority of properties available are in the $200K to $500K price range with around 450 listed. The reason for this is most of the developers designed properties around the most common buyers. Therefore if you are in this category you have the largest choice of excellent properties available. You also have great buying power to negotiate your best deal with your preferred, professional real estate agent. Obviously there are still many budget deals under $200K out there for sale and many of these are a real bargain if you have a limited budget.

Above the $500K to $1M price range, properties and locations vary widely. This is about where the custom homes/condos begin to come into the market. In this price range square footage, quality of finishes, views and lot sizes for homes become substantial and similar to USA expectations.

The homes for sale here above the $1M mark are generally works of art as we have some fantastic custom home builders and architects in the area. Some of the lots these expensive homes are built on create serious challenges due to geography.

At the end of the day, I am sure we have more than seventy properties that would fit just about everyone. Do your research on-line before you head down south. Try to hook up with a qualified, professional realtor, ask a lot of questions and provide information to help narrow down the search. It is always good to have your properties lined up to see before you arrive, a good agent will do all the homework in advance to save time.

If by chance you are not a cash buyer, there are options for you to become an owner here still. The best option if possible is for you to pull cash out of the equity in your current residence in the USA or Canada since money is fairly inexpensive there. There are a few loan options that exist here in this area however they are not usually attractive with the terms and interest offered. The current most common option is for the seller to finance the buyer. This negotiation would be handled by your agent for you and a deal is usually agreed on more so than not.

By Terry Gray Curtis is a veteran Century 21 Paradise Properties agent and Property Manager, he operates www.caboresortproperties.com & www.caboscrets.com & a blog at http://blog.caboresortproperties.com. Drop him a note to receive his very informative, bi-weekly Newsletter. His e-marketing program can give you incredible exposure if you are a Seller. Terry can be reached at terry@c21cabo.com or USA Tel 624-157-3170. (Cabo)

OPEN HOUSE

1. Thursday, October 10-19, 11 to 2 pm, Tuesday, October 10-31, 1 to 4 pm, Saturday October 11-13, 3 to 5 pm. Casa Luna Azul. Custom built home in Pedregal. 4 full suites. 2 car garage. Clean modern lines. $899,000. Kristin Bloomquist 624 191 7634. MLS #17-1953.

2. Friday, October 16, 2017 9am-2pm and Friday, October 23, 2017 2pm -7pm. Cabo Del Mar MLS #17-1573 $152,000 Brand New Condos, T/h's & Houses - El Tezal. Natalie - 624 217 9562 info@NatalieEvaniw.com

3. Friday, October 18, 2017 11am-4pm. Soleado on Zippers Beach SJD Corridor MLS # 17-1518 $545K - Beach Front, Brand New 3 bdrm Condos-$545K Natalie - 624 217 9562 info@NatalieEvaniw.com

4. Friday October 20, 2017, 9am-2pm and Friday, October 28, 2017 2pm-7pm – Ventanas MLS #17-1921 $142,700 – Brand New Condos & Houses – El Tezal. Natalie - 624 217 9562 info@NatalieEvaniw.com

5. Friday, October 28, 2017 2pm-7pm – Ventanas MLS #17-1921 $142,700 – Brand New Condos & Houses – El Tezal. Natalie - 624 217 9562 info@NatalieEvaniw.com

6. Tuesday, October 17, 11am - 2pm; Wednesday, October 25, 3pm - 5pm and Friday, November 3, 3pm - 5pm. Cabo Pedregal Hotel, a charming 45 room boutique-style hotel overlooking Pedregal Plaza. Fantastlc location. Kristin Bloomquist 624 191 7634.

7. Wednesday, October 18, 3pm - 5pm; Wednesday, November 1, 11am-2pm and Wednesday, November 15, 3pm - 5pm. Casa Anita in Rancho Paraiso Estates, MLS 16-1282. BIG PRICE REDUCTION from $2,399,000 to $1,699,000. A MUST SEE. Kristin Bloomquist 624 191 7634

SOLDS

- Laguna Vista 36, San Jose del Cabo, Sept 27, 2017, MLS #17-1175 $100,000.00; D. Reubens, 2Seas|Christie’s Intl and J. Pryde / RE Mexico
- Lot 562 Los Cerritos, 869 m2, Unobstructed views of the ocean, quiet area…a gem of a lot. Full price $29,000 USD. MLS 17-1409. C. Miller/Baja Realty and Investment
- Espiritu Club Casita 10, Espiritu del Mar, $3,850,000USD, MLS #16-2083, reflects a fresh take on luxury. Designed with a fashionable style, gorgeous fabrics, impeccable finishes and relaxed comfort. J. Swanzy- Engel & Volkers Snell RE / VRuban- Engel & Volkers Snell RE
- Copala 4502, Copala Community MLS #16- 159, Amazing Resale Condo, 2bed/2ba, Incredible Ocean Views from terrace, Unfurnished$350,00 USD. E. Romeike and N. Fong Los Cabos Agent.
- Copala 3104, Copala Community MLS #17- 887, Brand New Ground Level Resale Condo, 2bed/2ba, Unfurnished! Great community amenities and clubhouse! $300,00 USD. N.Fong/ Los Cabos Agent and A.Pola / Century 21.
PEDREGAL PENTHOUSE CONDO 2 Level Penthouse featuring 3bdr/3baths, travertine marble, open space kitchen, new counters, 2 car garage, 2 large terraces. Magnificent Views. Easy walk to Downtown, Marina, restaurants and bars. CSL, $459,995 k, MLS#16-2330, Ph 624 157-3170

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CABO CORRIDOR 2 STORY HOME Turnkey and located in a prestigious gated community. 3 bdr/2.5 baths, high end finishes. Private pool, jacuzzi and expansive outdoor terrace w/ firepit built-in seating, two cars garage. CSL, $575k, MLS#171070

CONDO AZUL PENTHOUSE, Costa Azul. 2 bdrm/2 bba with jaw dropping views of the coast from Palmilla to Punta Gorda. Low HOA fees, Great rental potential. Ph 624 136-893, Call Marlene 624 147-0433


CABO DEL MAR, SAN JOSE 2BR+2 BA condo. Excellent location, ocean views and swimming pool from the common area. Walking distance to the beach. MLS#17-1864 $233,000USD T 624-1913843

FOR SALE IN LA PAZ
CASA VISTA AZUL, LA PAZ. 4 BR+5.5 BA. Contemporary Mexican style, smart home, mini golf and BBQ. MLS#17-1813 $2,800,000USD T 624-147734


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

FOR SALE IN CABO SAN LUCAS

FOR SALE IN ZACATITOS
ZACATITOS: FULL ACRE, 2BDR/1BATH OCEAN VIEWS, Landscaped and Fully Furnished, Move-In Ready. $220,000, MLS#16-2036. Steph@CoastalPropertiesOfCabo.com or call MX 624-147-4352.

FOR SALE IN CABO SAN LUCAS
CABO SAN LUCAS LUCAS - Reduced to $633,999USD. MLS# 17-155. $2,900,000USD T 624-1431359 Jiménez@cbiveras.com

FOR SALE IN ZACATITOS
CASA DESCANSO, PEDREGAL. MLS# 8,700 sqft, 9BR+10.5BA. Spanish Colonial architecture blends the best traditional Mexican and modern styles, including soft neutral tones brightened by a blend of classic paintings, local art and carvings. Pacific Ocean views. MLS#17-155. $2,900,000USD T 624-1431359 Jiménez@cbiveras.com

FOR SALE IN CABO SAN LUCAS
CASA ROCHER, CABO SAN LUCAS - Reduced to $399,000 USD. MLS# 17-572. Great opportunity for a 3 BR, 3.5 BA starter home in Miramar, with a large backyard. 10 minutes to the Marina. 624-136-7103 arqca33@gmail.com.

JUST REDUCED 20K!! Bright & spacious 2BR / 2BA Marina Sol condo. Great rental potential in the heart of Cabo! MLS# 17-584 Now only $299k Contact Justine Schock, 624-168-9268 Justine@caboRealEstate.com

BRAND NEW LAND LISTING! Killer view, Huge lot, Motivated seller $149,900. MLS# 17-1844 Los Barriles. Additional lot available next door $56,000 MLS 17-1841. Call Christine Rogers Baja Properties 624-141-0075

NOHOA FEESLOTS@PRIVADAS DEV. Offers “beach break” ocean views 1 block to beach. Flat ready to build in between la jolla and campestre. $195,000 USD MLS#17-1093 joe@cabocribs.com.

FOR SALE IN SAN JOSE
FOR SALE IN CABO SAN LUCAS

PAUSA BUENA VISTA 3BR/2BA home w/ private courtyard and garage steps from the beautiful safe beach. Charming, safe community. <1 hour from airport. Only $260k. MLS #16-2139 Contact: Pam@HomeAndLandOfBaja.com Cell 624-177-1358

FOR SALE IN ****************************************************************************************************************************
Closing Costs in Mexico Explained

BY CONNIE MEYERHOFF

Closing Costs in Mexico are very different than what a US or Canadian Citizen would be used to paying when purchasing property in their home country. In Mexico, the closings costs associated with purchasing property are assessed to the buyer. They are not a shared cost between buyer and seller and the fees are not negotiable.

In the example below where purchaser is obtaining a NEW Trust Deed on the $2,000,000 purchase closing costs average 4.3%, while the $100,000 purchase the closing costs average 9.2%. This is because some of the fees are a flat fee or a fee based on the purchase price.

There are fees that apply when the buyer is obtaining a new 50 year Trust Deed / Fideicomiso such as the Application and Permit Fee and the Foreign Investment Registration. If the seller has a Trust Deed in place already and beneficial rights are being transferred from seller to buyer the Application, Permit Fee and Foreign Investment Registration would not apply. If the buyer is taking title in an Escritura (the Mexican National’s Deed) then no trust fee’s apply as there is no trust bank involved for the buyer. However if the seller in that case has a Trust Deed / Fideicomiso then there will be a cancellation fee of the Trust Deed assessed to the seller.

CLOSING COST EXAMPLE: A $2,000,000 property purchase with a new 50 YEAR TRUST DEED

Application & Permit Fee: $1,200.00
Foreign Investment Registration: $700.00
Appraisal Fee: $550.00
Title Insurance: $14,000.00 (this fee is optional)
Notary Fee: $20,000.00
Acquisition Tax: $40,000.00
Public Registration: $6,500.00
Certificate - No Lien: $35.00

Certificate - Property Tax: $10.00
Fiduciary Acceptance Fee: $440.00 (may depend on the trust bank)
Fiduciary First Annual Fee: $440.00 (may depend on the trust bank)
Closing Company Fees: $1,800.00 (to $2500 this fee varies depending on the closing company chosen by the buyer)
IVA Tax: $198.00
Telephones, Courier, Misc: $700.00
Total Cost: $2,086,023.00 (property purchase and buyer closing fees)

Continued on Page 19

BY CONNIE MEYERHOFF

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Property Taxes
In Mexico

BY NICK FONG

Are you about ready to retire? Or maybe you are looking for a winter escape from the snowy cold winters in the United States and Canada. If so, Mexico is surely a place you are considering. Besides the great weather, Mexico is still just a few hours away from loved ones left behind.

Making any change requires a great deal of thought and planning. When it comes to purchasing a retirement or vacation home one of the first things to think about is what the costs of maintaining the residence are. In general, the cost of living in Mexico is much more economical than north of the border. And this especially pertains to property taxes.

The property tax on Mexican real estate is called predial. Compared with the U.S. the cost of the predial is quite reasonable. It is a local tax and payable yearly. The average is approximately 0.1% of the assessed value of the property at the time of sale.

If you are used to the average rates in the U.S. this is a huge difference. If you live in Hawaii (the lowest rate in the nation) you are paying .28%, in Iowa 1.7% and in Illinois a whopping 2.25%.

January in Mexico is more than pleasant weather. It is the time to pay property taxes to receive a discount. Mexican property taxes are like in most places used to operate local governments. As north of the U.S.-Mexican border there is a discount for paying the entire tax early. In Los Cabos, if we pay in January it is a 20% discount. Pay by the end of February and the discount is 10%. By the end of March the discount is only 5%.

If you are a senior citizen (over 60) and a permanent resident, you qualify for an Inapam card. This is a senior discount card and with that in hand you pay only 50% of the predial tax bill.

This said it is sometimes easier to say than to do to. In Mexico property tax statements are not sent out in the mail. However, they are available online and with just the previous tax bill in hand you are able to pay at the proper office in person.

Now you can pay your Los Cabos Mexico Property taxes online. The website is in Spanish but it’s easy.

Log on to www.loscabe.gob.mx click on Impuesto Predial (property taxes in Spanish).

Enter your Clave Catastral Number (tax ID number). You will find this number on your deed (Escritura if you’re a national or Fideicomiso if you’re a foreigner).

The amount of tax due will be shown in PESOS.

Enter your card payment information and your credit card account will be debited at the exchange rate of the day.

For future reference, pay in January February or March and receive a big discount on your property taxes for early payment. It is now that simple!!!

To sum it all up……….the cost of your property taxes is not something you have to think about budgeting for year round. If you are making a list of the pros and cons of moving to Mexico……. put that item in the plus column.

By: Nick Fong of Los Cabos Agent, info@loscabosagent.com, 624-157-3170(cabo) 312-725-3664(us).

There may also be a reverse capital gain assessed. This happens when the appraiser performs the requisite municipal tax appraisal to determine accurate cost basis of the property from the assessment of both the acquisition tax and the future property tax payments. This is not a commercial appraisal and does not meet or provide a comparative market information or analysis.

What you see in the examples above are the standard fees applied to a cash purchase (no financing involved).
Who’s That Lady In The Hat?
She’s more than just a well-dressed skeleton

BY ALEJANDRA SARACHAGA

The fancy dressed skeleton lady sculptures and statues you see around Mexico has become an iconic image for the Day of the Dead, but her history goes deeper than just one holiday.

Her full names is “La Calavera Catrina” (‘Dapper Skeleton’ or ‘Elegant Skull’). She was first introduced between 1910–1913 by a famous Mexican printmaker, and cartoon illustrator named Guadalupe Posada. The image depicts a female skeleton dressed in an outfit common for an upper class European at the time.

She was offered as a satirical portrait of those Mexican natives who, Posada felt, were aspiring to adopt European aristocratic traditions, encouraged by President Diaz, whose accomplishments in modernizing and bringing financial stability to Mexico pale against his government’s repres- sion, corruption, extravagance and obsession with all things European. Concentration of wealth in the hands of the privileged few bred discontent in the hearts of the many suffering, leading to the 1910 rebellion that toppled Diaz in 1911 and came to be known as the Mexican Revolution.

Porfirio Diaz had a fasci- nation with France. Posada thought that it was ironic that lots of people in Mexico were dressing as if they were wealthy, when the reality was that the people were starving, (hence the skeleton dressed to the nines), because of the eccentricities of Porfirio Diaz, who spent lots and lots of money on things like building theaters, like the Fine Arts Palace, instead of the agriculture, mining and other in- dustries that would have helped the country.

The Catrina also symbolizes the contrasts between the upper and lower classes. The social classes were extremely segmented and the highest class was the most fortunate, enjoying many privileges. In contrast, the lower classes were nearly invis- ible.

The Catrina has also become an icon and the referential im- age for the Mexican Day of the Dead. She is known all around the world, and even Disney tried to trademark her, so they could use her in movies and in merchandising, but the Mexican people and government fought that and won.

Who’s That Lady In The Hat?
She’s more than just a well-dressed skeleton

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were trained by the United States Navy in San Francisco where they successfully located harbor porpoises. Don’t get any ideas about putting me to work. Cats don’t swim. We write columns. Which is pretty tricky considering I don’t even have fingers.

Ja ja ja That’s ha ha ha in Spanish. A prominent Mexican politician and a lawyer proposed a legal claim that would invalidate the treaty with which Mexico sold half its territory to the United States back in 1848. Former Mexico City mayor and three-time presidential candidate Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas and lawyer Guillermo Hamdan argue that the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo fails several tests of validity. The treaty gave the U.S. what is now California, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada and Utah and parts of Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas and Oklahoma.

In the agreement, there is an admission that the U.S. army invaded Mexico. Signing an agreement in that context renders it null, is the claim.

Hamdan conceded it would be impossible for Mexico to recover the lost territory should the legal claim be upheld, but suggested instead the U.S. should pay compensation for the use of the land over the last 168 years. No amount was stated.

It may be noted that Mexico lost the war, but still the U.S. paid Mexico $25 million. And the check was promptly cashed.

We may be on the move Some Mexican want the northern part of Mexico to break off from the southern part. The new name would be the Republic of Northern Mexico.

Proponents say the main reasons for creating a new country from nine of Mexico’s 32 states are the educational lag and poverty in the south, centralism exerted from Mexico City, and the major contribution to Mexico’s Gross Domestic Product by the northern states.

The new republic would consist of Baja California, Baja California Sur, Sonora, Sinaloa, Chihuahua, Durango, Coahuila, Nuevo León and Tamaulipas.

California, Sur, Sonora, Sinaloa, Chihuahua, Durango, Coahuila, Nuevo León and Tamaulipas.
Monday to Saturday. 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Rancher’s market in Todos Santos. Featuring homemade products from rural areas. Artisanal cheeses, organic chicken and eggs, liqueurs and virgin honey, as well as handicrafts such as furniture made with regional woods, leather goods and clay pottery all made by ranchers’ hands. The Mercado (market), Todos Santos on Calle Morelos between Rangel and Cuauhtemoc inside the San Diego Feed Store.

Every Monday. 8:30 am. Pickleball in San Jose. Contact rondumbarton@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 books and bookstore and thrift shop. El Charro for newspapers and magazines. In San Jose. Runs through until April.

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

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

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

Every Wednesday. 5:00 to 10:00 pm. Art Day. Art, painting, books, live music. At El Merkado, 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 ballenatito@yahoo.com.mx or visit www.facebook.com/laquesuqatins. Runs through April.

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, and class size is limited to 16 students.

First Thursday. 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Yofeccllo sets up tents to receive clear glass bottles, metal, 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 Merkado, the Koral Center in Cerro Colorado.

Every Thursday. 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Art Walk. Visit different galleries; many serve free wine. Historic downtown, San Jose.

Every other Thursday. You guess which one. Los Cabos Tomatoes, ladies’ social group. All women who aspire to be a tomato are welcome. Email loscabostomatotes@gmail.com for more information.

Every Friday. 5:00 to 9:00 pm. Todos Santos Farmers Market. Music and fun stuff. At The Distillery (but it moves around, so check where it is this week). Email James Black at merlo4u@earthlink.net or call (612) 134-8728 for more information.

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

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

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

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

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

Every Saturday. All day. The grandaddy of all markets. In addition to organic produce, there are handicrafts, books, critters to adopt, food to eat and who knows what. Behind the town of San Jose. Go to their website and study the map: www.sanjomo.com. Every Saturday. 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Children’s library open. Story tellers at 10:30 and 12:30. Looking for gently used books, the Alcohikids@yokasico.com, Todos Santos, Spanish.

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

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

October 15-19 Los Cabos Billfish Tournament. For more information visit loscabos-tournaments.com/los-cabos-billfish-tournament


October 28. 3:00 pm. Sancho’s 1-year anniversary bash. At Sancho’s on the marina in Cabo. Food, drinks, slot specials, the Cajun Shrimp Boil, anniversary shirts and swag, bands and more. Info: facebook.com/sanchoscab/.

October 28. 9th annual “Strokes for Cancer Prevention” swimming event. La Paz Bay. Over 250 athletes and amateurs from Mexico and other countries will swim 20.5 miles to raise cancer awareness. The fundraiser will benefit the Southern Baja Foundation and Operation Against Children’s Cancer. For additional information, visit golapaz.com

November 4. 5:00 to 7:30 pm. Los Cabos Humane Society’s Cruising for the Critters party. Enjoy an evening cruise with pet lovers, premium wines, cocktails, appetizers, and live music aboard the Cabo Mar catamaran. Tickets are $75 (limited to 140 people). For more information contact Margarita at tropimargarita@prodigy.net.mx.

November 14-18 The 50th Annual RBA 1000 racing competition. For more information: http://score-international.com/raceinfo/2017-baja-1000/


December 8. 5:30 to 11:00 pm. Annual Dressed to the Nines. A Christmas in White party at the Sheraton Grand Los Cabos resort. Includes a silent auction, raffle, cocktail reception, dinner and a dance. Proceeds go to benefit the Los Cabos Human Society. Tickets are $100 USD. Contact Margarita at email: tropimargarita@prodigy.net.mx or Barbara at cabacoop@gmail.com.

December 14. 5:30 pm. The Padrino Children’s Foundation fundraiser. At the home of Steve and Sheila Jagenflot. Todos Santos. Padrino provides medical and educational assistance to disadvantaged children in Todos Santos, and the surrounding rural areas. Includes dinner, drinks, silent auction and music. 100 tickets at $150 each are available on October 15. Email Nancy at nnaigle@att.net.

January 15-19. 10th Annual Los Cabos Pro-Am. At the Sheraton Hacienda del Mar Golf & Spa Resort. For more information or to request a printed invitation please contact: Barry Fleming at barry@proamevents.com, (843) 384-5342 or visit proamevents.com/los-cabos-pro-am.

January 27-February 3. Todos Santos Writers Workshop. Seven days of workshops, seminars and fiesta for writers at all levels. Email invites: www.todos-santoswritersworkshop.com.

To get your event listed here, email the details to david@gringogazette.com. There is no charge. And, if an event we list here does not go off as stated when stated, please don’t shoot the messenger, this is Mexico, and every event is, well, fluid.
Book Report

BY JEANNINE PEREZ

The Origin and Legacy of Mexican Art, by Katherine Tyler Burchwood. 1971. 159 pages. $12.95.

This book was a discovery. I am always fascinated by writings about art and how it evolves in different countries and cultures. The book traces the history of Mexican art through time, from the Olmec stone heads and Pre-Columbian sculptures, to the works of twentieth century artists.

The 128 photos (with a few color plates) are helpful, and the three sections on the famous muralists (Diego Rivera, Jose Clemente Orozco, and David Afaró Siqueiros) towards the back of the book are excellent, giving many examples and much commentary on the unique individual styles of each of these artists. The author also offers glimpses of the culture and political climate, and tells us what was happening in Mexico at the time the art was done.

Examples of the origin of Mexican art, given by the author, also include photos and descriptions of Mexico’s dramatic architecture; the many ornate churches (particularly in Pueblo and Cholula), monasteries, mansions (like ‘the house of tiles’), temples, pyramids, and ancient ruins. These examples all reflect the beauty and mystery that is so much a part of Mexico’s history and traditions. She also shares ways that Mexico’s love of nature, art, and beauty has helped its people cope with the country’s history of, invasions, and hardships.

The pages on the very early art of the ancient civilizations include the Oltecs, Olmecs, Zapotecs, Mixtec, Toltec, and Aztec; history that always interests me. And then, of course, we must read about the conquest, and how Mexican art began to change and reflect the influences of both cultures; Spanish and the Native cultures. Later, even French, African, and American influences were added.

Parts of this book also seemed to me to echo traditional Mexican women’s roles, which were still present even in the 1970s. Almost all of the artists showcased in this book are men. Even the examples of early head sculptures were not only done by men, they are also sculptures of men. Only at the very back of this book (chapter 12, Modern Art, pages 128-141), are women even mentioned as artists - and even then it is on only a page and a half of shared space text - with scant information about Maria Izquierdo and Frida Kahlo, and examples of their self portraits. There were other great twentieth century women artists who were ignored, like Remedios Varo, a surrealist, and Julia Lopez, with her 1958 painting of ‘The Creation of Birds.’ These artists are not included or even mentioned at all.

I think of our strong artist’s groups here in Baja (with both sexes included), and decided that times have really changed in Mexico for the girls and women who love art.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29
Best Fishing Area: The Herradura and Pozo de Cota produced two blue marlin recently but El Faro (aka Cabo Falso) was a busy catch area, too.

Best Bait/Lures: The blue marlin bit best on the artificials, but the stripers bit best on rigged bait. Dorado and the yellowfin tuna bit on a variety of different colored tuna feathers and diving-type lures.

Bait Supply: The live bait supply is very good and still remains at the $3.00 per bait rate.

Puerto Los Cabos
The Baja landscape has definitely transformed to lush green foliage. We are now seeing growing numbers of visiting anglers arriving in Los Cabos, as the fall foliage has definitely transformed to lush green foliage. The best fishing recently has been for yellowfin tuna, and drift fishing with various bait was the main technique. Average size yellowfin was in the 6 to 15 pound class, though these same grounds have produced larger tuna in the 30 to 100 pound range. There weren’t big numbers of the larger grade tuna, just a few mixed in with the smaller fish, though there is definitely a chance at hooking into a bigger fish. Overall, the numbers of fish caught has increased recently.

Dorado has continued to be scarce; most fish were smaller, under 10 pounds, with only an occasional larger one in the mix. A few more wahoo are starting to be seen. Most of these are from the San Luis Bank area and are striking on Rapalas. Sizes range from 20 to 35 pounds.

Minimal bottom action is going on, with an occasional red snapper, pargo, amberjack, leopard grouper or triggerfish taken. There’s not a lot of billfish action, however, there were a few black marlin landed recently. Other blues and blacks were seen chasing hooked tuna, so even though these billfish are not being seen in big numbers, they are definitely in the area.

Sea Conditions: Water temperatures are in the 82 to 85 degree range.

Best Fishing Area: The majority of the fleets based out of Puerto Los Cabos Marina are now fishing on the grounds from the Gordo Banks to Iman, San Luis and Vinorama.

Best Bait: Bait options remain sardina, caballito and slabs of squid.

East Cape
It’s hard to imagine that the fishing could be any better. Countless guests have remarked that this has been their best trip ever. One day we’ll look back on 2017 as “the good of days.”

The nights have finally begun to cool down, but the days are still hot. On the whole, great conditions for both inshore and offshore fishing.

John Holma, from Wisconsin, was a real fish killer aboard the “Fish Killer.” Photo: Gordo Bank Pangas.
Jewish people have challah bread on Hanukkah, Norwegians and the Danish have julekake on Christmas, and we Mexicans have pan de muertos (dead bread) for Day of the Dead and All Saints’ Day.

One of the best and biggest seasons for Mexican food is around Day of the Dead and All Saints’ Day, which are November 1st and 2nd, respectively. Rather, Mexicans celebrate and carry death with joy and respect as the circle of life is completed. This kind of love also influences our cuisine. Since I haven’t shared a lot of sweet recipes with you, my lovely readers, here are two short and sweet ones: pan de muertos and traditional spicy hot chocolate.

Pan de muertos has many variations depending on the region where it's baked. Around Mexico City, pulque (occasionally referred to as agave wine) is often added. It’s an alcoholic beverage made from the fermented sap of the agave plant. It has the color of milk, a somewhat viscous consistency and a sour, yeast-like taste. Oaxaca, where most pan de muertos is produced and consumed in the country, has the biggest variation of shapes, ranging from flowers and hearts to horses, burros and crocodiles.

The round shape of the bread symbolizes the circle of life. A small dough ball sits on top, representing the skull, and four lines of dough radiating from the ball represent bones and tears shed for those who are no longer with us. These lines also symbolize the four cardinal points, blessed by four solar gods: Quetzalcóatl, Tláloc, Xipe Tucutec and Tezcatlipoca. In ancient times, the dead were buried with their belongings, and a special kind of bread made from amaranth, as offerings from the deceased to the god’s pass through to eternal life.

It is also said that this bread was made for assimilation purposes: Spaniards needed a bread for Eucharist, to ease indigenous Mexicans into Catholicism by disguising it as celebration of their own gods.

Ingredients:
- 3 1/2 cups regular flour
- 8 ounces of butter
- 3 eggs
- 7 egg yolks
- 1 1/4 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup water
- 2 tablespoons orange zest
- 0.7 ounces yeast
- Pinch of salt
- 1 tablespoon of azahar water (This can usually be found in markets, but can also be substituted with 2 tablespoons of very strong star anise tea.)

Preparation:
1. In a bowl, mix yeast, 1/2 cup of sugar and lukewarm water. (Make sure the water isn’t too hot, so the yeast will activate.) Bubbles will start to form, which means that the yeast is “alive.” If no bubbles form, repeat the process.
2. On a table or in a mixer with a proper breadmaking attachment, slowly knead together flour, 3/4 of cup of sugar, orange zest, salt, butter, azahar water of star anise tea.
3. Add two eggs and the seven egg yolks gradually, and the yeast mixture.
4. Knead, knead, knead. The dough may have a funny runny texture at first, but knead until it’s manageable and separating from the kneading table or the sides of the mixer’s bowl. It may take some time, so be patient.
5. Once the dough is manageable, let it rest in a warm place for an hour, in a warm place so it warms up and infuses the liquid with its flavor.
6. After it has doubled its size, punch the dough down and knead again. Separate 1/6th of the dough to make the decorations. With the rest of the dough, knead buns about half of the size you would want your piece of bread to be, as they double the size while baking. Here, you can get creative making small ones for personal portions, or bigger ones to share.
7. Place the buns on a pregreased cookie sheet, making sure to leave enough space between them.
8. Make little balls to place on top and the bone-like lines to place on the sides.
9. Let the finished buns rest for an hour, in a warm place around the kitchen so they double their size again.
10. Preheat the oven at 392 degrees Fahrenheit, pop them in the oven for 15 minutes, then, drop the temperature to 356 degrees and bake without opening the oven for 20 more minutes approximately, or until golden. Let them cool before taking them out. Once they’re cooled, brush some water on them and sprinkle sugar on top.

For the spicy hot chocolate:
- 3 cups of milk
- 1 cup of water
- 1 vanilla pod
- 1/2 tablespoon ancho chiles, toasted
- 10 ounces of dark chocolate
- 1 cinnamon stick

Preparation:
1. Blend together chocolate and chiles in a food processor.
2. In a pot, warm milk and water mixture and pop the vanilla pod in there so it warms up and infuses the liquid with its flavor.
3. Place the chocolate-chile ground mixture, and mix until melted.
4. Add the cinnamon stick and keep mixing until milk or water are hot, careful because milk spills very easily when hot.

Pan de Muertos (dead bread) might have a morbid name, but it’s a tasty treat meant to celebrate the circle of life.
Fans Sleep On The Street For Sammy Hagar

As they do every October, but this year we interview some of the crazies

BY CATHY WATKINS

Every year in October, people from all over the world camp out on the sidewalks outside of Cabo Wabo Cantina for a couple of days. They are diehard Sammy Hagar fans, and they make the trek to attend Sammy’s Birthday Bash at Cabo Wabo (which Sammy founded, if you don’t know your Red Rocket history).

Sammy’s first birthday bash was in 1991, and it has continued every year since then. Being the true rocker that Sammy is, this epic party will last for four evenings, with the Red Rocker rocking the nights away on stage, usually with a couple of famous friends making guest appearances. This year the event was held on October 9, 11, 13, and 14 and was extra special since it was the Sammy’s 70th birthday on October 13.

People can get tickets to Sammy’s Birthday Bash, if they are lucky, through a lottery that’s held in July. Tickets to the Birthday Bash dinner are only sold in person at Cabo Wabo immediately before the event. The line for tickets for that starts on the sidewalk at the main entrance to Cabo Wabo, which is at the corner of Lazaro Cardenas and Vicente Guerrero. Fans start to line up as early as two nights before ticket sales to be assured entrance.

By 11:00 a.m. on the Saturday before the first night of the Birthday Bash, groups of fans were already lined up on the sidewalk with chairs, blow up beds, coolers, and blankets, ready to spend the night. People came all the way from Australia, Germany, Brazil, Canada, California, Missouri, Texas, Pennsylvania, Washington, Oregon, and Colorado. Some of them have lined up like this, days ahead of time, for many years now; they know each other and a comradery exists on the sidewalk.

Debbie Erickson has been attending the Birthday Bash for 11 years or so. A friend turned her on to the event. “If you go once, you get addicted,” she said. Sure she’s here for the party, but she’s also here because you meet great people and make friends from all over. Debbie always wears a striking hat to the bash, which Sammy usually puts on at some point. This year she had a fedora that was painted black with red feathers around the brim. She pulled out a large blanket that she had made. The blanket was white with square color pictures of Sammy, the parties, and him wearing some of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31
the Dead have started to become intermingled. Perhaps this is a good thing; two holidays that can bring us all together to celebrate.

In our office we have the boss’s silly paper Halloween decorations, (which scare no one), dangling among our full size metal Catrina sculpture that she paid way too much for. (Boy, did they see that foreigner coming.) Anyway, our office is a mixture of both cultures. Pretty cool, as she would say. 

also a certified diver. These trips show us a side of Mexico that few people ever see. The intricate balance of the ecosystem makes us appreciate the world in a different way, and Panterra makes it really fun as well. Sankeralli goes out of her way to assure everyone knows their fellow passengers, which makes for great comradery and more fun. Meals were taken all together in the air conditioned main salon. The only other part of the ship which was air conditioned were the cabins. The big ship was mostly on the move, going as far north as San Diego island, just south of Loreto. They usually go further, but we had a tropical storm watch going and we were still somewhat young at this time of the year, and they were shown all on a big 60 inch screen, and were playing it safe.

The issue of safety was big on the boat, maybe a little more than this one liked, but it was for the good of everyone, as not everyone was so comfortable in the water. There was always a dive master snorkeling with a handful of people, and he had a float for anyone to grab on to if they tired. He also herded us together somewhat in a group and showed us what his eyes picked up what ours didn’t. It was like Beto had eyes in the back of his head, he knew where everyone was at all times. We had the opportunity if we wanted to, to go out snorkeling in a different place three times a day, and why wouldn’t we?

The water was so clear, sometimes a turquoise, sometimes a green color, with visibility of like, forever. The water was so clear, sometimes a turquoise, sometimes a green color, with visibility of like, forever. We saw exotic looking fish so up close, so personal, one wondered like Beto had eyes in the back of his head, he knew where everyone was at all times. We had the opportunity if we wanted to, to go out snorkeling in a different place three times a day, and why wouldn’t we?

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

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You can mail it to 2215 Paseo de las Americas Suite 25-M143, San Diego, CA, 92154.

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WHAT EXACTLY IS DAY OF...

continued from page 6

EXPERIENCE A TRIP UP THE...

continued from page 8


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Continued from page 31
those immigration officials can only move us through as fast as their computers will respond to their inputs. To combat this problem, GAP (the group that operates the airport, not the clothing chain) has announced several changes, including: better use of the runway (which isn't yet at full capacity), more ramp positions for planes, more stations for immigration, and expanding the baggage carousels. Actually, the problem is in immigration, not customs, they mostly just wave us through there. Sometimes we wonder if the red light works at all.

Right now, the ramp area where the planes line up has already been redone and is in full use with as many as eight to 10 planes lined up. And where else do you see so many planes lined up with no gates, and no jetways? At least airport workers are very efficient at directing us to the correct airplane and to our terminal. They are very efficient at directing us to the correct airplane and to our jetways? At least airport workers lined up with no gates, and no jetways, and we should eventually be zippered in lines. And what about better use of the snazzy new and improved Cabo San Lucas airport just behind downtown? The owners, a conglomerate of local business owners, would love to get more use out of their mostly idle facility and that would really help us all, but GAP, the owners of the San Jose airport, have the most political pull, and it's all about politics.

Providing special care... continued from page 11

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Que pasa in cabo?

US. Consider this possible new law for show only, and for most people useless.

Was it a lovers spat? People called 911 to alert authorities to a man, apparently in distress, who was asking for help from atop the hill that's across the street from the Costa Azul vista point. When the firemen showed up to rescue the guy, they saw that he was completely naked.

Using a basket, ropes and a towel to cover his private parts, the firemen were able to bring him down from the hill. The man walked away from the incident unharmed (except for his wounded pride). At least now he has a new towel to show off when he brags about his “incident.”

The man said he lived on the hill, but didn't give any additional details as to how he ended up there in the first place. Maybe a girlfriend... continued on page 31
Mark Your Calendars!

We’re telling you this ahead of time so you can be prepared. Daylight Saving Time is over at the end of the month. But not for you Gringos up in the U.S. and Canada, only down here in Mexico. And not in all of Mexico, just parts of it.

Confused? We’ll break it down for you.

In most of Mexico, including Los Cabos, Daylight Saving Time ends on the last Sunday in October, which is the 29th this year. That means we roll our clocks back one hour (remember the old saying, “spring forward and fall back”).

However, the Mexican states of Sonora and Quintana Roo (think Cancun) don’t observe Daylight Saving Time. And in 2010, ten Mexico municipalities that share a border with the United States started rolling the clocks back on the last Sunday in October, which is three weeks later (November 5th this year). This includes Mexicali and Tijuana up in Baja California Norte.

There will be a quiz on this. Especially if you blow through your T sociaIt is a little scary to peek into the future and see your potenially gravely ill self, but wouldn’t it be worth that fright if it can be fixed? Or even if it can’t be fixed today, to know that technology is coming at us so fast, that it will probably be fixable in a few years, and that you will watch for that development?

You owe it to yourself to run your DNA now. Your future self, and your loved ones, will thank you.

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 area, 14,000 patients and over 70,000 procedures performed, Spa Cielo is your answer to skin and body rejuvenation.

Call Cathy Dammann at Spa Cielo in San Jose. 624 105 2209. Go to www.spa-cielo-cabo.com

Rated with five stars on Trip Advisor

It’s a shame
Daylight Savings
is over, but
that was the only
savings I had left.

FISH REPORT... continued from page 24

lighthouse and fly anglers are also nailing some nice Jack crevalle off these same beaches. Sea Conditions: Water temps are averaging 82.5 to 84.5 degree. East Cape Climate: Temperatures are averaging 88.5 degrees daytime and nights at 77.7 degrees. La Paz

At Las Arenas, there appears to be a full line of tuna that came up out of the trenches several weeks ago and, so far (fingers crossed) they show no sign of abatement. The tuna are biting at both the north and south ends of Cerralvo Island, plus close to shore from the Arenas Lighthouse as well as south 2 to 3 miles to Boca de Alano. Some of the fish are right inside of Bahia de los Muertos, and many times are well within a stone’s throw of the beach in shallow water.

Limits of tuna between 10 and 30 pounds have been the norm rather than the exception, as the fish chase the abundant sardina schools that haven’t been seen in two to four years. Many anglers are limiting by mid-morning, then using the rest of the time to target dorado, pargo, cabrilla, wahoo and roosterfish.

The big roosters are still around, and those caught and released in recent weeks were all big, thick 40 to 80 pound fish. They were caught either just off the rocks or the sandy areas near the Arenas Lighthouse. And for the first time in a while, anglers have locked into some 30 to 40 pound wahoo.

Out of La Paz, the dorado bite that has settled into the area just kept on going. Not much to say except it’s often all the action you could want. Dorado aren’t big, with 7 to 20 pound fish being the most common, and limits have been pretty easy to make. The anglers are saying they’re releasing several more dozen fish after that! Cabo San Lucas

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Omar, 29, activities coordinator
Well, as an activities coordinator, I spend the majority of my time at work on the beach playing different activities and sports with the hotel guests. So technically I am there every day! But on my own time, to relax and enjoy myself, I would say I get to the beach about four times every six months. I honestly love the beach, but not to swim. I am afraid of swimming in the ocean because of an accident I witnessed.

Aaron, 25, chemist
When I arrived in Baja with my family, we went to beach almost 20 times a month. I guess we got bored of the beach over time and then started going a bit less frequently, but much more often than most of my friends and other family members. After two years of living here, we go about four times a month. We don't go always to swim, but with my three kids, things are always difficult to drag out of the house.

Valentina, 13, student
I am dragged to the beach about once every two months with my family. I really don't like going, to be honest. The sand bothers me a lot. I hate the flavor of salt in my mouth, and just everything kind of annoys me. When I go to the beach I get mad and don't feel like actually going and have the mentality that I am not going to enjoy myself. Once I'm there, I loosen up a little and try to enjoy myself because I know I will be there all day. My brother, sister, mom and dad all love the beach so it is hard to fight them on not going.

Valentina, 13, student
Honestly, I try to go every weekend. I go more often in the summer, as I work around the school calendar. I absolutely love the beach. My wife is always busy work or getting bored of the beach, but we just don't go quite as often anymore. I find the beaches of San Jose a bit disappointing compared to the ones in Cabo because they have more activities and services available.

Gabby, 42, school director
I go about one or twice every two months. I love the beach but with my three kids, things get complicated. I am sometimes jealous of my friends and families who go to the beach much more often. My youngest loves the beach but the two older kids are always difficult to drag out of the house.

Ariel, 24, architect and photographer
I go to the beach about 10 to 15 times every six months. I love the beach and honestly, any sort of place that allows you to interact with nature. There are so many activities you can do at the beach. Things like volleyball, swimming, yoga, and so many more. I love the beach the way it is, but I also think something a lot of beaches here lack are things that would increase the appeal and accessibility of an outdoor public space. Things like bathrooms, spaces for shade, and other things that would allow the public to enjoy and take advantage of these beautiful spaces.
Polo in Cabo

October 21 and 22, first puck tossed out at noon.

Either pay to sit under a tent and eat prepared food, or tailgate for free, eating your own food and drinking your own beer.

The polo field is about six miles north of town, on the road to Todos Santos. Look for the sign, and be prepared to go another 10 minutes or so on a very good dirt road.

October 16th, 2017

[Image]
Selling in the Most Exclusive Communities

The Residences at Las Ventanas al Paraiso - Palmilla - Querencia - Pedregal
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