Ride Hailing Service
As Good As Uber

Here’s how to use it, and how it went for us

BY AMANDA BRUNO

For those of you who’ve not yet heard, the rideshare gods have finally answered our prayers and delivered an “Uber-like” app to Los Cabos called Andale Cabo. Anyone familiar with the US-based Lyft and Uber apps will find Andale Cabo convenient and easy to use. With essentially the same interface as Uber, I found Andale Cabo to be incredibly easy to navigate.

I downloaded Andale via the app store on my smart phone. The first time I used it, I was prompted to enter my credit card information, as this is their billing method, and to select a default percentage for a tip. (Pro Tip #1: If storing your credit card number on an app you’ve never used before is unsettling to you, a prepaid debit card from Oxxo will also do the trick!) I entered my information, set my pickup location, and waited for my ride.

I am based in a San Jose colo-nia, and I noticed right away that all of the drivers were in the hotel zone. I was fine with waiting, but I appreciated that my driver called me within minutes of accepting.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Gas Prices Keep Rising
Here’s why

BY BEN DOVER

In the U.S., gasoline prices fallen 33 percent over the past six years, while in Mexico, they’ve gone up 64 percent. This has become a big campaign issue in Mexico. Presidential elections care coming up in July.

Mexicans are very unhappy with the run-up in gas prices, a major reason for popular support of the gangs who are tapping into cross country gas lines and making off with Pemex gas by the barrel.
Que Pasa in Cabo?

By David Flores

Tourists Told To Suck It Up.

Well, we paraphrase. But that's essentially what Sun Country Airlines told their return ticket holders trying to leave Cabo.

The flight to Minneapolis/ST Paul was cancelled due to bad weather there. That one day's delay caused what would have been the next flight to be cancelled until next high season. Turns out the plane was needed for the start of Sun Country's summer routes.

What, they didn't have an extra plane to send for their own passengers? Seems like not, because they were given that portion of their money back and told to find another way home. People had to buy a last minute "pop up" flight and in most cases, it cost more than the original two-way ticket.

When contacted, their spokes chick said she knew it was a naughty thing to do, but it would help kids from low income families who suffer from a disease called strabismus, a cross eyed condition.

Toll Road Alert! The federal government has started charging again for using their nice road to the airport. It is the custom to give a free pass following a natural disaster, so we've been whizzing along for free ever since Lidia struck us last September. The toll booths have been closed so long now that we started thinking the feds forgot us, but alas, that is not the case. Or if they did forget us, we suddenly popped up on their radar. Very suddenly, as in one day it's free, and the next day bam! There they are with their hand outstretched, just like all governments everywhere.

Kudos to us! This year's the New York Times' 52 best places to visit includes Los Cabos in the number 11 position. Moreover, we are the only Mexican resort destination that made it on the list, and way above another six destinations located in Latin America. Take that Cancun and Puerto Vallarta!

Chefs deliver big donation.

A check for nearly 14 Grand was delivered to the Rotary Club by the organizers of the Chefs for Los Cabos foodie event that was held two weeks ago on Medano beach.

This year, 19 chefs cheffed and served 400 diners who paid $48 bucks each to try an array of food and wine. The money raised will help kids from low income families who suffer from a disease called strabismus, a cross eyed condition.

Tat up, everybody! Don't worry about that pesky upcoming job interview. The first Tattoo festival will take place on October 20 & 21 this year. It was announced as an art exhibition as well as conferences on tattoo culture, health and education, along with a food exhibit and DJ music.

A few famous names have confirmed their attendance, such as Billie Harris, Rick Clark and from Mazatlan, Pacho Gonzalez.
We’re doing swell. For the first three months of this year Baja California Sur (our state, Bunky), remained first place in the nation in creation of jobs. We also had the highest salary, although salaries are still pathetic. These hotels and restaurants charge American prices and pay their employees in Mexican wages. As in $700 for semi skilled work. Professionals earn about $900 a month.

Compared to the first quarter last year, we added 7.5% formal jobs. Formal jobs means tax paying jobs, not itinerant vendors working under the table.

In real numbers we’re talking 12,027 new jobs. This year over last. Do we have new schools? Hospitals? New roads? New housing? Not so much.

Governor Mendoza said it was important to keep track of these figures because they are a tool for planning public policies in training. Infrasture to support this growth wasn’t mentioned.

AMLO, a pernial runner for president, may just make it this time. People are pretty fed up with the corruption of the party in power. And he’s got goodies to make the people pretty fed up and devolve into a mob mentality.

The president of the city electoral council of a town on the mainland was accused of stealing a motorcycle and was killed by a mob of about 100 people.

Two other lynching incidents have been reported in Puebla during the past week. First, a mob in Yehualtepec set fire to a thief, to let him go after a few hours. The thief promptly went to police headquarters before kidnaping a police officer, then burned the building and lynching four alleged thieves they were holding.

Three days later, four men were accused of trying to rob a propane delivery truck. They had better luck; despite a mob demanding their heads, they were kept alive within police headquarters.

Here in Cabo it is common for police, if they ever do catch a thief, to let him go after a few days. There are various reasons for this, none of them very good. These visitors don’t just fall from the sky. Mexico recently hosted an International travel show in Matatlan with delegates from no fewer than 54 countries.
World Mosquito Program In La Paz

Who doesn’t want justice against these little buggers?

BY HANNAH GORSKI

Dengue fever caused by mosquitoes is a threat for nearly one-half of the world’s population. In 2013 and 2014, the viral infection ripped through the capital of our state, Baja California Sur, with almost 4,500 confirmed cases, the highest in Mexico during that period. All stats and figures taken from WHO or WMP.

But this year a new defense against the dengue virus is coming to La Paz. The World Mosquito Program (WMP), formerly known as Eliminate Dengue, is teaming up with Baja California Sur health officials to try to decrease the number of cases. Dengue is a viral infection that, according to the World Health Organization, causes flu-like symptoms such as high fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, swollen glands, body aches, and pain behind the eyes. There is no treatment for dengue and some cases can be deadly. Mosquitoes can be more than just an itchy nuisance.

WMP is a non-profit initiative established by Monash University in Australia. Several non-profits support WMP, including The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Wellcome Trust, and the governments of countries such as the UK, Australia, and Brazil.

The WMP is in the process of developing a plan for large urban cities and aims to implement their method to eliminate dengue for a cost of just 1 U.S. dollar per person. With successes in Queensland, Australia and Bello, Colombia, the WMP is working on 12 other sites around the world.

This is how it works and will work in our state: They don’t use chemicals, sprays, or genetically modified mosquitoes. Vaccines aren’t used and volunteers don’t run around the city dumping all the standing water. They use the Wolbachia method. It’s not as ominous as it sounds. Wolbachia is a naturally occurring bacteria present in 60% of insects, like butterflies, moths, and you guessed it, mosquitoes. Experts infect mosquitos with the bacteria that, in a sense, strangels the virus, which makes it nearly impossible for Dengue to transfer to other mosquitos or humans. Wolbachia does not transmit to humans and it is not harmful to animals that have these insects on their dinner menu.

The method is extra effective also because Wolbachia is inherited by the next generation of mosquitos. So, if only the female, or if both parents have the bacteria, then Wolbachia is passed on to the eggs. However, if a female without Wolbachia mates with a mosquito with the bacteria, then the eggs do not develop. So, either eggs don’t develop, or the bacteria spreads exponentially, constriciting the dengue virus. WMP does not want to destroy mosquito CONTINUED ON PAGE 12
my ride request to let me know he was about 10 minutes away and to see if that was okay with me. He arrived promptly and took me to my destination without any hiccups. (Pro Tip #2: If you’re not feeling too good about a stranger coming to your house to pick you up, set your pickup location up the on a street corner or somewhere else nearby and wait for them there.)

Once I got to where I was going, my driver and I parted ways. I was alerted via the Andale app that my ride was complete, and asked to give my driver a rating. Unlike Uber and Lyft, there isn’t a 5-star system. Andale makes it as simple as possible—thumbs up, or thumbs down? I was at my drop-off location for about two hours, and then requested a second ride to get home. Coincidentally, I ended up with the same driver who dropped me off, and my ride home was just as smooth as my ride there. (Pro Tip #3: Andale Cabo asks you to select a default percentage to tip your driver. You cannot retrospectively adjust your tip once a ride is complete, so if you want to tip your driver more, do with cash.)

My trip was about 4.5 km (2.8 miles) each way, and costing me around 160 pesos each way, including my 15% tip, making the fare is quite comparable to what I have paid Uber and Lyft in the US. Andale has some extra features, though, that I really like. You have the ability to reserve a ride in advance, which would be ideal for an airport pickup/drop-off, a medical appointment, or any other time-sensitive occasion. There is also the option of setting a return trip and having the same driver who dropped you off pick you up after a predetermined amount of time.

When it comes to charges, Andale has a strict cancellation policy. If you cancel after 5 minutes of requesting your ride, you will be charged a nonrefundable cancellation fee. It also charges users 100% of the costs of any material damage imposed on the vehicle by the user, as reported by the driver.

Overall, I had a great experience with this service and plan to use it again in the future. Since I have first used it, I have recommended it to everyone I know. As it’s still a pretty new service (the company was started in 2016, but has only recently gotten some traction), I’ve found that people are pleasantly surprised to hear about it. I imagine it will also make transportation easy and convenient for vacationers who weren’t planning to rent a car during their stay, although taxi-drivers might be less than thrilled about it.

On the other side of the Andale experience, drivers are free to set their own schedules and drive whenever they want. They must have their own vehicles less than 5 years old, a license, registration, and proof of insurance. Signing up to drive looks pretty simple, but I’ve not tried it myself, so if you want more details on that head over to andalacabo.com and check it out. Andale Cabo is compatible with both Apple and Android devices, and may be downloaded via the app store or Google play for use in Los Cabos. (Pro Tip #4: Andale is like Uber and Lyft in that it is ultimately up to the drivers to decide if they want to accept and complete a ride. If you want to go a considerable distance, let the driver know ahead of time and make sure it’s okay with them. If it’s not, your best bet might be to rent a car or utilize a shuttle service.)
This Is A Crowd

Everyone! When you adopt from the Los Cabos Humane Society, you gain a furry friend, giving an unwanted animal a new lease on life.

Los Cabos continues to benefit from a much-needed public facility that provides low-cost spay & neuter services, veterinary care, and pet education for school children. It provides a safe shelter where abandoned, lost, sick and injured animals receive medical treatment, vaccinations are given, and animals are spayed/neutered and cared for while they await adoption. LCHS advocates for animal rights with government institutions. All of this with no funding apart from donations.

Can’t adopt now? Please donate or become a much-needed volunteer! Visit loscaboshumanesociety.com for hours and contact info. Drive up the Todos Santos highway (19) past Plaza Sendero and turn right at the new Gasso station, and the Love Hotel. You will see LCHS about four blocks down on your right. Even if you can’t adopt, come out and walk a dog or pet a cat!

GAS PRICES KEEP RISING...

continued from page 1

domestic market followed, with, Exxon Mobil, Shell and Total service stations now popping up around the country.

All this has coincided with a rise in gasoline prices, so of course many Mexicans are unhappy they “lost” their monopoly. But that’s not responsible for the current price pickle we’re in. In the same six years Mexican oil production declined, while domestic fuel consumption shot up.

The biggest oil field is drying up, and Pemex doesn’t have the money nor technical expertise to go for the deep water oil in the Gulf of Mexico. They probably should have privatized Pemex end product. And don’t expect the new foreign gas stations to save us, because the Mexican government is still controlling the price at all the pumps. They say that will come to an end. In a Mexican moment.

My bathing suit told me to go to the gym, but my sweatpants told me, “Nah, you’re good.”

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QUE PASA IN CABO?...

Que PASA IN CABO?... continued from page 2
toll road between Cabo and San José. Those three multi story white buildings under construction are to house our additional Navy personnel, as they are currently sleeping in cots and mattresses on the floor at the Navy base on the Cabo marina. Looks like they’re here to stay, we might as well make them comfy.

Do we really need more hotels? According to Mexico’s minister of tourism Enrique de la Madrid, Marriott, Hilton & Hyatt have all told him of plans to build at least 80 more hotels all over Mexico, in luxury, business and small boutique hotel categories, and Los Cabos is in their scope.

“Large hotel companies see Mexico as a great market, and are optimistically investing here,” added de la Madrid, saying that he had met with said companies at the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) in Argentina a week ago. New airlines, like Emirates, are also interested in flying to Mexico.

Annual music fest announced. As has occurred for the past nine years, June will be the occasion to hold the annual Los Cabos Music Fest in conjunction with the World Music Day celebration. It is devoted to music in all its forms and the impact it’s had on the world and the human spirit.

The event is also known as Fête de la Musique and originated in France in 1982. Since then the idea has spread across the globe with each venue holding to the same simple set of principles: that the day is held on the summer solstice and that all concerts and events are free. It is currently being celebrated in more than 450 cities of 120 countries.

The Los Cabos’ 10th edition will take place on Saturday June 23rd in the historic downtown of San José from 6:00 pm until 2:00 am. Past events have seen dozens of stages on various street corners, totaling up to 100 bands

Continued on page 12
It’s Good To Have Fans

Marty Meeker popped this shot of Carol at Petra, Jordan on their five-month world cruise. Carol is standing in front of the Treasury which, you may recall, was a shooting location for the Indiana Jones movie “The Last Crusaders”. In 100 BC the town had a population of about 35,000 people. If Carol looks a little frazzled, it’s because the temperature was in the low 100’s and they walked about five miles during this excursion from their fancy pants boat.

The Meekers, apparently desperate for fame and fortune, tried to take a picture holding up the GG at the Taj Mahal in India but the paper was taken away from them by security. Luckily, they always travel with extra copies.

Cancún in September 2016 but pulled out in December “as a gesture of goodwill.” As in other Mexican cities, Cancún taxi drivers protested the arrival of Uber, seeing it as a threat to their livelihood. Ugly physical clashes broke out preceding this “goodwill gesture.”

Since the legislature doesn’t have the balls to allow Uber, we’ll see if the voters do. During the Easter period 19,000 people tried to access Uber on their phones to no avail. But those are mostly visitors to the area, we shall see if the locals will vote for it. They probably would have liked in Cabo because the taxi drivers are even more rude to the locals than to the foreigners, refusing to carry them at all. Locals are perceived as bad tippers and refusing to be ripped off with bogus charges.

WHAT’S GOING ON IN THIS...

continued from page 3


American License Plates

for EVERYONE

ANY NATIONALITY.

(Canada, Europe, South & Central America, Asia, you name it!)
April 30th, 2018

**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 ronalddbarton@gmail.com.

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

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

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

**Every Tuesday**: 6:00 pm. Music Mexico Tuesday. Downtown San Jose. Live music, mariachi band, and artisans.

**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**: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. At La Esquina in Todos Santos. Organic eggs, honey, locally made jewelry and beauty products, traditional baskets and more! Info: marinmarledmar@gmail.com, facebook.com/laesquinats.

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

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

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

**Every Wednesday**: 5:00 to 6:00 pm. “Vino Con Elena,” a weekly book club featuring the works of author Elena Poniatowska. At Los Adobes restaurant in Todos Santos.

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

**Every Thursday**: 8:00 am. Rotary Club breakfast. At the Playa Grande Resort, above the Sports Bar, 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 Cerrito Colorado.

**Every Saturday**: 7:00 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**: 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. The Organic Market at the shops at Palmilla. Information: 624-144-6999, www.theshopsatpalmilla.com. Runs through April.

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

**Every Thursday**: 5:00 to 11:00 pm. Farmer’s market at the Shoppe at Palmilla. Information: 624-144-6999, www.theshopsatpalmilla.com. Runs through April.

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

**Every Saturday**: 7:00 to 11:00 am. Children’s library open. Story time at the historical downtown of San Jose. Information: www.sanjomo.com. Go to their website and study the map: www.sanjomo.com. Each week a different activity, like spinning, aerobics, zumba lessons. Email clubcactusbike@gmail.com for more information.

**Every Saturday**: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Dog walk. We have a safe location to enjoy your dog off leash. Visit www.cabok9corral.com for information.

**May 19-20**: Gastrovino Festival. Todos Santos. Two days of dining and wining with Baja wines and Todos Santos’ top restaurants food. More info: gastrovino.mx/fest/ July 23, Saturday: Annual World Music Day. 6:00 pm until 2:00 am. At the historic downtown of San Jose. Several stages on various streets with up to 100 music bands and soloists, and up to 25000 attendees. Information and tickets: www.fiestadelamusica-cabosn.com July 31 – Aug 4 Los Cabos Open of Tennis. Del Mar Sports facilities, El Tezal, Cabo San Lucas. Tickets available. Call 624-104-0127.

**October 20-21**: Tattoo Festival. Corporal art exhibition, conferences on tattoo culture, health and education, food and DJ music. At the Cultural Pavilion, Cabo San Lucas. Information in Facebook: loscabostattoofest.

**November 1 to 4**: Life Luxe Jazz Concert Series. At Pueblo Bonito Pacifica resort, Cabo San Lucas. A weekend of smooth jazz concerts on the beach featuring top smooth jazz artists. Information and tickets: www.lifeluxejazz.com

To get your event listed here, email the details to david@gringo-gazette.com. There is no charge. And, if an event we list here does not go off when stated, please don’t shoot the messenger, this is Mexico, and every event is, well, fluid.
Everyday. 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Live music. Spanish with some help in English. At Macondo bookstore, Cabo San Lucas, Hidalgo St., half a block up from the Tesoro hotel. The building with a ship's bow coming out of it.

Every Tuesday. 5:00 pm. Literature reading sometimes with the author, sometimes with special guests. Spanish with some help in English. At Macondo bookstore, Cabo San Lucas, Hidalgo St., half a block up from the Tesoro hotel. The building with a ship's bow coming out of it.

Every Tuesday. 8:00 pm. Documentary Movie Club. A different documentary every week. In the original language with Spanish subtitles. More info with Sara Flores on Thursdays at 7:00 pm. More info with Sara Flores on Thursdays at 7:00 pm. https://www.facebook.com/LaCirco.5778970555733/timeline.

Every Thursday. 8:00 pm. Trova and Bohemian Latin-American music. Spanish with some help in English. At Macondo bookstore, Cabo San Lucas, Hidalgo St., half a block up from the Tesoro hotel. The building with a ship's bow coming out of it.

Every Thursday. 7:00 pm. Pavilion's Movie Club. A different movie every week. Sometimes in English, sometimes other languages with Spanish subtitles. Free. April features films from Spain. Cabo San Lucas' Cultural pavilion, downtown next to the marina.

Every Thursday. 8:30 pm. Vagabond Movie Club. A different movie in the original languages with Spanish subtitles. Short films and art videos before the movie. Free. La Rana Vegana. Playa Migrino St. up from Miguel A. Herrera St. Turn right 2 blocks before the gas station (Pueblo Bonito Sunset area).

Every Friday. 7:30 pm. Rock Bands Encounter. Different rock groups play together, sometimes a real battle of the bands. Spanish with some help in English. At Macondo bookstore, Cabo San Lucas, Hidalgo St., half a block up from the Tesoro hotel. The building with a ship's bow coming out of it.

Every Friday. 8:00 pm. Theater night, by the GestoNoEsTeatro company. Directed by Emmanuel Novelo. Spanish with some help in English. At Macondo bookstore, Cabo San Lucas, Hidalgo St., half a block up from the Tesoro hotel. The building with a ship's bow coming out of it.

Every Saturday. 8:00 pm. Jazz Night. Spanish with some help in English. At Macondo bookstore, Cabo San Lucas, Hidalgo St., half a block up from the Tesoro hotel. The building with a ship's bow coming out of it.

Every Saturday. 6:00 to 10:00 pm. PlazaArte. Four hours of arts workshops, music, dance show and family fun. Spanish. Main square in downtown San Jose.

Every Sunday. 6:00 to 10:00 pm. Danzon Afternoons. Traditional Mexican romantic dance. Everyone is invited to dance. Spanish. Main square in downtown San Jose.

Every Sunday. Vagabond Movie Club presents a different art movie in the original languages with Spanish subtitles. More info: 624-156-8522. Casa Roots. Corner of Mayas and Cuitaluach in the 4th of Marzo neighborhood, Cabo San Lucas. (Only for adventurous people.)

Every Sunday. 1:00 pm. Movies for kids, storyteller, table games and more. Spanish with some help in English. At Macondo bookstore, Cabo San Lucas, Hidalgo St., half a block up from the Tesoro hotel. The building with a ship's bow coming out of it.

Every other Sunday. 10:00 to 10:30 pm. Every two weeks, four hours of PlazaArte workshops with live music, dance, and different artists. Spanish. Free. Leon Cota Plaza next to the Red Cross building.

May 1. Tuesday. 8:00 pm. The voice of the Seed. Poetry Anthology. Book presentation by Raul Cota with poetry by Mercedes Reynoso and 4 more authors. Spanish. Free. At Macondo bookstore, Cabo San Lucas, Hidalgo St., half a block up from the Tesoro hotel. The building with a ship's bow coming out of it. Trust us, you can't miss it.


May 4 and 18. Friday. 8:00 pm. Chained Words. Play by GestoNoEsTeatro, directed by Emanuel Novelo. The intricate history of a couple unchained by a word game. $200 pesos cooperation - includes a beverage. Spanish. Adults only: At Macondo bookstore, Cabo San Lucas, Hidalgo St., half a block up from the Tesoro hotel. The building with a ship's bow coming out of it. You can't miss it.

May 10. Thursday. 7:00 pm. The Forgotten Ones (Los Olvidados). (1950). Drama. A group of young delinquents live a violent and crime-filled life in the festering slums of Mexico City, and the morals of young Pedro are gradually corrupted by others whose sole redeeming quality is their devotion to one another. Directed by Luis Bunuel. At the Pavilion's Movie Club. Spanish sometimes with English subtitles. Free. Cabo San Lucas' Cultural pavilion, downtown next to the marina.

May 10. Thursday. 8:00 pm. Singing recital by Daniel Silva, tenor. Romantic music to celebrate Mexican Moth- er's Day. $200 pesos. Info and reservations with Angel CcI.624 150 0216. Spanish with some help in English. At Macondo bookstore, Cabo San Lucas, Hidalgo St., half a block up from the Tesoro hotel. The building with a ship's bow coming out of it.

May 12. Saturday. 9:00 pm. A tribute to Creedence Clearwater Revival. By Brian Flynn and his band. 100 peso donation. Spanish and English. At Macondo bookstore, Cabo San Lucas, Hidalgo St., half a block up from the Tesoro hotel. The building with a ship's bow coming out of it.

May 12. From 5:00 to 10:00 pm. Chaski Fest. A festival of harmony and peace with concerts, meditation and yoga classes, conferences and vegan food. Spanish with some help in English. Free. Cabo San Lucas' Cultural pavilion, downtown next to the marina.


May 26. Saturday. 9:00 pm. Fito Paez Tribute - Vol 2. Trova Music. $100 pesos donation. Spanish with some help in English. At Macondo bookstore, Cabo San Lucas, Hidalgo St., half a block up from the Tesoro hotel. The building with a ship's bow coming out of it. We're telling you, you can't miss that building.

May 31. Thursday. 7:00 pm. This Strange Passion (Tormen). (1953). Comedy, Drama, Romance. When a man who has remained chaste through his entire life becomes hopelessly enamored of a woman he sees in church, he woos her away from her lover and marries her. Torn between an obsessive passion for her and a logic-obliterating jealousy of everyone he sees, he destroys the relationship. He retreats to a monastery, where he is visited years later by his ex-wife and her child. Directed by Luis Bunuel. Pavilion's Movie Club. Spanish sometimes

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

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**Community Reading Lounges**

At AMELIA WILKES PLAZA Main plaza downtown CSL.

Every Saturday from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Herman Ita de Yasbela Reading Club has a different book to read and comment. Saturdays starting April 9. Spanish mostly. Book donations are welcome. More info and special activities with Nixania email: todossomos@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 pm to 6:00 pm. Trotamundos Reading Club. Spanish mostly. More info and special activities on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ salademocutrotatomundos/timeline.

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

From Monday to Friday. From 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. La Maroma Reading club. Books available. More info and special activities on Facebook: facebook.com/Sala-de-leccion-La-Mar%C3%A1n-Kinesias-Fabuladanza-69103979763083/timeline.

At LA CIRCO. Libroteca 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.5778970555733/timeline.
Historic Tour Of San Jose

Free! Well, don’t forget to tip

BY MADDE GROVE

Have you ever wondered about the history of San Jose? Do you want to know how it came to be like it is now? Luckily for us, there is someone who knows all about it. Kristin Sand is enthusiasti-
cally happy to share his knowledge with anyone who wants to listen. He gives free tours on Thursdays in downtown San Jose. The meeting place is right in front of an ice cream shop called 3R, very near to the art walk, on Obregon Street. There is a sombrero hanging from the wall which has written on it ‘free tour Cabo. Thursdays 6pm. Meet here’. However, starting in May, the tours will begin at 7pm instead of 6pm.

What makes this guy qualify for the others she had been on, she exclaimed that ‘it seems like the tour guide just knew so much history, and because of his family being so many generations here, he has such a personal connection’. (Other tours are marketed to tourists through the hotels and cruise lines).

This man’s knowledge about his hometown is vast and no tour is the same as the week before. Kristin attempts to slightly personal- ize the tours depending on the people he’s got tagging along with him this week. If you’re more interested in the architecture, he’ll elaborate on that. If you want to know about the culinary part of history, he’ll talk about that too. If you just want to know how Cabo came to be what it is now, he can explain that, and he makes it interesting.

This is a walking tour. Kristin walks and talks while you follow along like ducklings.

Anyone can join the tours, whether they are locals, foreign-
ers, children, people in wheel-
chairs, pets, etc.. He speaks
fied, you might ask. Well, he was born here 30 years ago and has lived here almost his entire life and has very close personal bonds with the area. His family owns most of what is now known as the art walk.

Marilyn Hansen, who has gone on the tour said, “it was very educational, and I learned so much.” She mentioned that “it was the best tour I’ve been on so far”. When asked to compare this story is quite colorful to the others she had been on, she exclaimed that ‘it seems like the tour guide just knew so much history, and because of his family being so many generations here, he has such a personal connection’.

Beat The Electric Utility

To be smart about solar you need to hire a professional who can engineer the entire project, integrat- ing the panels with the inverter and hooking up with the electric utility, and batteries if you wish to have as well back up in case of a power outage. New Batteries are guaran-
teed for fifteen years, and will last around 21 years if you choose the Lithium Ion batteries Innovacion Solar provides.

Francisco Vargas, COO of Innovacion Solar, has degrees in me-
chanical and electrical engineering, but many of the people in the solar business just fell into it because they want to live here and try to make a living. Several “companies” have come and gone since Innovacion Solar started, and since 2009 Innovacion Solar has been installing and maintaining professional grade solar in Los Cabos. The entire system is guaranteed for five years, installation, equipment, and labor, although each component has its own warranty policy example the panels are all guaranteed for 25 years Innovacion Solar will honor the warranty for the long run and even cover associated costs with warranty claims for you. You can expect a return on in-
vestment, (ROI) of about five years. If you can tie to the grid, you can sell your excess sunshine to CFE, the electric utility. For now it’s very doable and improves your ROI. But we won’t always be able to do that because we are running out of storage capacity in La Paz. Nobody can tell us when that limit will be reached because big players are coming into the market, builders of so called “solar farms”, vast arrays of solar panels. They will be required to send that sunshine to CFE, which will mark it up and sell it to us, the consumer who always seems to take it in the shorts.

Innovacion Solar follows the guidelines of the National Electric Code, and it’s best to use a com-
pany that’s a member. Francisco also suggests you use a company that builds to U.S. standards. Most important, he advises you get some personal testimonials from satisfied customers.

Innovacion Solar can bring up numerous charts and graphs on all their customers, right on to their smart phones and computers, checking on the efficiency of your system, as well as the general health of your solar, and how much you are getting, how much you have banked with CFE, and how much you can expect to get back tonight. They can send a certified technician out to your house before you even know you have a problem. This is great if the homeowner is not here full time. That homeowner can also tap into the health report of his solar system on his own phone or computer.

“If you’re saving dollars on engineering, you’re doomed to fail” says Francisco. And you must use a company that knows how to smooth the way with CFE so you can bank power with them for night time. Most local solar com-
panies don’t know how to get those permits in place and locked before CFE stops us little guys from tying to their grid.

So, if you’ve been thinking of going solar, don’t screw around, do it now. Innovacion Solar. www.innovacionesolar.mx. 624 105 9478. 

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Our Convention Center Rises From The Ashes

Literally

BY BILL DING

Our convention center was built for us by our federal government back in 2002 in order to host the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC). It was clear our city fathers didn’t know what to do with it, so they let it go to seed. Literally. The outside walls were beautifully planted in a vertical garden which of course went to hell. Then bad electrical connections to the solar panels on the roof pooled up in flames, damaging the roof and destroying a large portion of the façade in one corner. This could be seen from the highway, as the building sits up on a hill overlooking the toll road to the airport. It was ugly and embarrassing so we disregarded it and losing tourist dollars conventions could have brought in. Even the hotel ass. didn’t know what to do either.

The lobby of the convention center in San Jose. That green wall is alive. It’s a vertical garden. Even more years in advance.

About five years ago our city became semi-conscious and did not put out bids to leasing companies, but then cancelled that. Then it was back to sleep.

Lately the building has been looking better, repairs have been made, and we’re going to try this again.

This facility can compete on the world stage. There are soundproofed conference rooms broken up into flexible spaces for large and small events, food preparation facilities, good audio and video technology, (well, 16 year old technology now). Good signage to avoid confusions or conference overlaps, and it’s all very ecologically sound. The living wall is even showing signs of regrowth.

The ground floor is even more years in advance.

The company that promotes events, and with IFEMA, a company in Spain that boasts of more than 30 years as a trade fair organizer, from fairs organized by third parties, to conventions, congresses and any other type of meeting or event advertise themselves as experienced “…with generating wealth and development for Madrid and promoting and projecting the image of Madrid within and beyond our borders…”

We’re getting there. Just don’t expect the next Mary Kay convention or any other kind of event that would be good candidates for this new facility. It’s a pretty place, and if you call it Montana’s corner you can really get away from it all.

We were chosen because we are so isolated here that we could cut off the usual protestor who were expected to caravan down the peninsula. But it was a last minute decision and the building was erected by mostly imported employees, and in record time.

After this, a specially prepared Bio-Filler of concentrated platelets with added hyaluronic acid is strategically placed in the smile lines, crow’s feet, chin, cheeks, forehead, and corners of the mouth using a very tiny needle. The platelets contain numerous growth factors that stimulate the fibroblasts and stem cells to achieve total facial rejuvenation. It adds volume and smooths out the deep creases and wrinkles in the face. This is a single session treatment and the results will be long-lasting, depending on how the patient cares for their skin.

The procedure is performed by cosmetic surgeon Dr. Hector Cantu at the clinic in San Jose del Cabo and takes about 60 minutes and the effects are immediate. Why not schedule a free consultation with the doctors to discuss Dermblast Plus, the most effective non-surgical facelift treatment on the market.

We are now part of the world one of a handful of professional event space sales companies would have been hired years before the ground was even broken. Large companies that would be good candidates book their conventions five and world one of a handful of professional event space sales companies would have been hired years before the ground was even broken. Large companies that would be good candidates book their conventions five and...
In Case You just Don’t Like The Buggers

Mosquito Trap

1. Remove cap and clipped
2. Pour into bottom half of bottle
3. Dissolve 60 ml Brown Sugar
4. Cut in half
5. Add 1 ml Yeast
6. Wrap in a black cloth
7. In 200 ml Hot water

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Call for a Free Estimate

WORLD MOSQUITO PROGRAM... continued from page 4

populations, but aims to provide a sustainable solution for areas at risk for dengue.

The program acknowledges the method may become less effective over a long period. For example, the virus could build
mosquitoes in La Paz later this year. A release of male and female mosquitoes will start with a small number of insects, and then WMP repeats the process over a number of weeks. These mosquitoes mate with others in the area, increasing the number of mosquitoes with the bacteria.

Does this help with their sting and the itchy result of that? No, and downsides and up to 25,000 attendees.

Local businesses and individuals are also invited to participate as sponsors, stage donors, and volunteers. For information on how to participate, look up:

QUE PASA IN CABO?... continued from page 6

When your knee joint is hurting you, and your mobility is limited, and can’t enjoy your daily activities, it’s time to do something about it. Up until recently, the only treatment was invasive knee surgery that takes months of recovery time.

However, knee replacement should be considered only after non-surgical treatments have been studied because of the numerous risks and significant recovery period involved. Before deciding on knee surgery, you should consider the benefits of stem cell therapy. It can fix your knee, is cheaper, easier, and much less painful. With the recent advances in stem cell therapy, and its growing use to treat joint pain, this is becoming one of the most popular knee replacement alternatives to surgery.

Stem cells are the foundation cells for every organ and tissue in our bodies. It is the name given to a category of cells which can divide indefinitely without losing their properties and can produce specialized cells. Stem cell therapy uses stem cells that are derived from the patient’s fatty tissue and bone marrow, or from the placenta of a donor, and injected into the damaged area. These cells naturally supplement the body’s stem cells and help the injury heal.

Stem cell therapy is an non-invasive procedure with none of the risks and complications encountered with knee surgery, and eliminate months of recovery time of knee surgery. Adult stem cells are found throughout the body, inside different types of tissue such as the bone marrow, brain, blood vessels, skeletal muscles, skin, and the liver. They remain in a dormant or non-dividing state for years until activated by disease or tissue injury.

These soldier stem cells can be guided into becoming specific cells used to repair diseased or damaged tissues. Stem cell therapy can be of particular benefit for people who suffer from degenerative joint disease such as osteoarthritis.

The stem cell procedure for knee treatment is a simple and non-surgical outpatient procedure and takes about 50 minutes to start and finish. The doctor injects the stem cells into the knee joint under ultrasound guidance which allows the doctor to pinpoint with absolute precision the exact location of the injection, as well as the dispersion of the cells into the tissues. Up to 50 million stem cells are injected into the knee joint, depending on the severity of the patient’s condition.

Platelet-rich plasma (PRP), which is produced from the patient’s blood, is mixed with the stem cells and injected into the affected area to keep the stem cells activated and promote additional healing.

Combining PRP with stem cells will stimulate the movement of cells towards the joint and make those stem cells worker harder to heal damaged tissues.

Immediately after the procedure, you can use the joint normally, and the rate of improvement depends on the patient’s previous condition, in general improvement is documented between 30 to 90%. You may be a suitable candidate for stem cell therapy and owe it to yourself to find out about stem cell treatment for your knee, shoulder, back and other painful joint conditions. Why not schedule a free doctor consultation at PRMedica to review your condition to see if you’re suitable for stem cell therapy. The doctors are English speaking and specialize in stem cell therapy and medical tourism.

For more information contact:

www.fiestadelamusicaloscabos.net

This even is always short of money, so if you’re a busines try about ponying up.

Federal road work. The federal ministry of communications and transport (SCT) has announced a major investment to maintain the fourlane between Cabo and San José in better condition. Well, they could start with screwing in more light bulbs, as a lot of them have twinkled out. It’s pretty dark out there.

Money will also be spent on repairs at the Santa Rosa arroyo in San José and on the road to Todos Santos at kilometer 75 where a major landslide bombarded the newish fourlane highway last September during tropical storm Lidia. That’s where the detour onto the old road is. SCT officials are saying that hill is still unstable and is going to take some major shoring up. Workers and heavy equipment will soon create a man-made landslide and then build a protection wall. Oofa. Those stone retaining walls take a long time to erect stone by stone. Good thing we have a fairly painless detour, because it will be around for a while.

Neotech to their fuel, which increases the life of the engines, they claim. No, prices are still regulated, don’t look for a break from Pemex prices.

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Stem Cells: An Alternative to Knee Replacement?

By Dr. Dick

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Property Costs in Los Cabos
Favorable, all things considered

BY BOB VAN PATTERN

Most everyone I meet as a real estate agent in Cabo San Lucas asks me how our housing prices compare to the United States or Canada. A recent article by Christie’s International listed square foot prices for several major US cities:

- Manhattan, NY $1,940
- Los Angeles, CA $1,068
- San Francisco, CA $1,028
- Santa Barbara, CA $819

In averaging homes currently for sale in the Cabo San Lucas community of Pedregal, one of our premier neighborhoods with spectacular ocean or Sea of Cortez views, the average square foot price is $380. That price includes land as well as high quality finishes throughout the home. So when comparing that price to the major markets listed above, Los Cabos is the perfect place to buy an investment property or part time residence to escape the harsh weather in most US and Canadian cities.

I have lived in the Midwest all my life and there the average price is $200 sq. ft. but does not come with ocean views or mild temperatures year around which is why I have relocated here on a full time basis.

There was an article that appeared in a prior edition of the Gringo Gazette and authored by a leading builder in Cabo San Lucas that answered many questions about building in Los Cabos versus buying an existing property and I would just like to summarize some of that information to help explain the low cost of $380 mentioned above:

What is the construction price per square foot?
The cost ranges from $140 to $280 depending on finishes and special details. Retaining walls are not included, if required.

What is included in the cost of construction?
Foundation, structure, masonry finishes including travertine floors, smooth gypsum plastered walls and ceilings, cement sand smooth finishes on exterior walls, interior and exterior painting, 10,00 liter water cistern, electrical, plumbing, air conditioning, interior and exterior doors, vanities, aluminum window framing, handrail ironworks and basic landscaping.

How much is it to add a pool?
The cost of adding a pool depends on size, finishes and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Red Flag Alert!
Items that can cause U.S. expatriate tax returns to be audited by IRS

BY DON D. NELSON

a. Ownership of a foreign mutual fund and failure to file the special forms required for foreign passive investment companies.

b. Ownership of foreign partnerships and foreign corporations in which you own the majority interest. (If you own 10% or more of a Mexican corporation you must file form 5471)

c. Large. Inheritances or gifts received from nonresident donors when you fail to file form 3520 to report those gifts or inheritances. Even if the property an assets are located abroad you must report them to the IRS. The penalties are huge for not reporting foreign inheritances, but there is no tax on foreign inheritances if you file this form in a timely manner.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Solaria

The new development of Solaria in Cabo San Lucas is an extraordinary place for the most discerning buyer. This development of 96 condominiums offers 2 bedroom 2 bath & 3 bedroom 3 bath condos, large balconies, and unending views of the Sea of Cortez starting at $259,000 USD. Located in one of the most exclusive areas of Cabo, it is minutes from beaches, convenient shopping and downtown. It will be home to an expansive green area, BBQ’s, picnic areas, clubhouse, two pools, gym and spa. Penthouses offer a rooftop deck and dipping pool and ground floor units have the option to build a pool. There is also an underground parking and bodega. Financing is available. For additional information or tour call 624-143-1688 or email info@solariacabo.com.

Cabo San Lucas Featured Property

Solaria

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Suspension Of Fiscal Authority And Administrative Seizure

BY DANIEL RUIZ

Given the increase of tax collecting approved in the Revenue Act of 2018 compared to the same bill from 2017 for the quantity of 43.291 billion pesos, the Tributary Administration Service (Servicio de Administración Tributaria (SAT)) will proceed to carry out more aggressive audit campaigns and, naturally, the seizure of assets, including taxpayer bank accounts.

Nevertheless, it is important to mention that SAT is not the only administrative authority with the powers to seize or secure bank accounts of those governed, given that the Unit of Financial Intelligence (Unidad de Inteligencia Financiera) can block bank accounts when they are conducting an investigation dealing with money laundering or terrorism.

In this way taxpayers, trying to access funds, may be surprised that they are unable to withdraw funds due to a blocking or seizure of said deposits ordered by a fiscal or administrative authority. Because of this, it is necessary to identify, guided by an attorney with expertise in fiscal and administrative law, the type of seizure, blocking or securing that the accounts of the client may have, to plan a legal strategy to reverse said seizure and nullify, in its case, the fiscal credit for which the seizure was made.

Suspension of seizure of fiscal credits

A fiscal credit seizure or an administrative debt can be derived from a determination by the fiscal authority or administrative debts that have not been covered in the legal time to do it (30 days after the fiscal determination), for which there exists a means of defense with which said debts can be fought and, derived from the same, a suspension can be requested so that the seizure does not continue or even free the taxpayer bank accounts from the seizure, depending on the particular needs of the taxpayer.

Such is the case of the appeal brought before the Deconcentrated Legal Administration (Administración Desconcentrada Jurídica del SAT), with which upon being lodged, the seizure can be ordered without need of granting a fiscal interest guarantee, with the continuance of the suspension of the power of the authority to exercise the seizure until the appeal for revocation is resolved.

Nevertheless, in case it is decided to lodge a traditional administrative lawsuit before the Federal Tribunal for Administrative Justice (Tribunal Federal de Justicia Administrativa (Court)), the seizure of the bank accounts can be suspended provided that the fiscal interest is guaranteed.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16
Which Side to Buy

Yes, this peninsula has two sides. It’s a peninsula

BY TERRY GRAY CURTIS

As you most likely know by now the southernmost tip of Baja does resemble a three sided island in many ways, with several very different communities and climates that vary extensively. In fact there are 4 mini-climates just between the Pacific side and Chileno Bay on the same day and at the same time.

In this article, I will inform you of some details to consider when choosing your perfect location for your new property here in Baja California Sur. We will start with La Paz, then head to Todos Santos, the Pacific side, Cabo San Lucas, the Corridor, San Jose, the Beach Community from La Playita to Cabo Pulmo and on to the East Cape from Lighthouse Point to Punta Pescadero.

La Paz has a real winter and a real summer, both more extreme that Los Cabos by far. There is not a very large expat community here, but, it does exist. Most expats who do live here are retired as living expenses are generally lower than Los Cabos for the most part. Therefore, so are home, lot prices and values. Just about every service is available you would need including major department stores with all products and consumables.

Next we have Todos Santos, this village is quite interesting and offers a very laid back lifestyle. There is a definite hippie and artsy vibe going on here accompanied by a dedicated surfer community. You will enjoy a few culinary delights and microbrewing/distilling of fine beverages and, of course, the Hotel California is not to be missed. Some people find this area to be boring, however, if you dig deeper you will find there is a lot going on behind the scenes. It is just that things are low key here. Between retreats, yoga &

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

SOLD

Brisas del Pacifico Lot Rubi- 801 m2 gentle slope lot closet to everything, MLS 17-1630, $45,000 USD, C. Miller/Baja Realty and Investment and C. Tinoco/Pinal & Assoc.

Condo Phyllis #4306 Misiones Del Cabo MLS#17-2606 $197,000 USD 1BR- 1BA gorgeous views of the coast all the way to Punta Ballena. M. Posch/Windemer Los Cabos, L. Miller/Cabo Linda.

Chaque Lot #44 MLS# 17-1874, $67,000 USD 854.28 M2 low density area of El Tezal L. Torres/Cabo Linda, L. Jarvis/Cabo Crips.

Misiones #4109 MLS#18-303 $340,000 USD 2BR- 2BA Ground floor. Beach access from property, Great vacation unit. G. Gritton/ Cabo Linda, Rocky Z./Cabo Linda.

El Encanto de la Laguna, Phase 2, Penthouse Las Olas 301 with Garage, MLS# 17-1211. 3 Bed, 3.5 Bath, $1,200,000 USD, D. Fleming/ Oceanside Real Estate.

Puerta Cabos Village #408

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Wednesday, May 9th, 1:00pm-4:00pm Misiones del Cabo #4201. 2BD – 2BA SELLER FINANCING!! Elevator access, totally remodeled $449,000 USD. MLS#17-1886, Rocky Z. (624)141 6442

Tuesday, May 1st, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Casa Mariposa MLS #17-1794. 4 BD 3BA swimming pool, marina and city views. Seller financing $779,000 USD Mario L. 624122 3928 or Olga N. 52 477 350 6942

SOLD
d. Unusually large income from outside the US with unusually large deductions offsetting most of that income so little tax is paid. This might not cause an audit if you paid substantial foreign income taxes abroad and you are claiming a foreign tax credit to offset your US tax on that income.

e. Claiming the foreign earned income exclusion when you spend a lot of time in the USA but are claiming you earned all wages or earning in Mexico.

f. Failure to file FBAR form 114 when required. All of the banks in Mexico are reporting accounts owner by Gringos to the IRS each year. If you have not filed form 114, the IRS will charge you a penalty of $10,000.

The IRS Offshore Voluntary Disclosure Program is ending this coming September. If you have not been filing time is running out to enter this program and avoid extremely high penalties and criminal penalties for failure to report your foreign and Mexican income to the USA.

Remember the IRS can audit your return up to three years after it is filed and up to six years if you omit 25% of your income. The statute of limitations never runs out if you should have filed a US tax return but failed to. Dual Citizenship has no bearing on the requirement that you file a US tax return each year. If you want to avoid IRS audits or need representation when the IRS does audit your expat or international tax return email us at ; ddnelson@gmail.com. Our website is at www.taxmeless.com. Our US phone number is at 949-480-1235. In Mexico call 624-131-5228.

PROPERTY COSTS IN LOS... continued from page 13

complexity of design but it is safe to budget between $30,000 to $50,000 which includes construction and equipment.

What is the cost to build a two car garage?
An addition for an enclosed 2 car garage is $25,000 to $35,000 again depending on finishes.

Whether you are buying a condo, home or building your own dream home, the costs in Los Cabos are very reasonable. And did I mention they come with a great view which in my estimation is priceless.

By Bob Van Patten, agent for Baja International Realty. Contact Bob at 624-127-6012 or Robertvanpatten2@gmail.com.

SUSPENSION OF FISCAL... continued from page 14

and even the seizure of the bank accounts can be substituted by a bond or with real estate or even intangible property.

Filing an administrative lawsuit can be opted for in the exclusive background modality before the Specialized Chamber of the Court in Mexico, in which case no guarantee will be necessary to suspend the seizure. It should be mentioned that this modality of litigation can only be lodged when the amount of the fiscal credit exceeds the amount of 200 times the Units of Measurement and Updates annualized that to date the litigation would have to amount to 5,882,800.00 pesos.

Blocking and securing of accounts without fiscal credit
Not in all the cases in which bank accounts are blocked or secured, are because the authority seized due to a fiscal credit, since it can be supposed that the Unit of Financial Intelligence (Unidad de Inteligencia Financiera) is conducting a money laundering investigation, and, for that reason, ordered the blocking of the bank accounts, in which case an indirect Action for Protection (amparo) may be filed asking for the suspension due to the constitutionality of said block, obtaining success in freeing the resource if it is detected in time.

In the same way, bank accounts may be secured because the taxpayer impeded the exercise of a competence of inspection by that he/she did not receive the fiscal authority or because he/she has not been found at their address for some reason, in which case an administrative lawsuit must be filed so that the act be declared illegal.

From this it can be seen that if an authority seizes, secures, or blocks bank accounts, there need to be a tailor-made legal strategy, filing the corresponding means of defense and making use of suspensions or corresponding precautionary measures to protect the taxpayer's assets guided by an expert administrative and fiscal attorney.

If you have any question or comment, our firm is at your service to help.

REAL ESTATE

WHICH SIDE TO BUY...

continued from page 15

meditation classes, art classes, surf lessons and tours, there really is a lot to do, if you want to stay out of the bright lights that we have further south. Living here you will find the weather much like that of Southern California, cooler and lower humidity than Cabo. Let me rephrase that, the weather here in TS is different as night and day from Cabo. It is way milder and more comfortable for those who can’t take the heat. The summers do warm up some, which can crowd the world renowned surf spots with fly-ins. This area does have many expats living full and part time with more services becoming available, you will still need to get to La Paz or Cabo with some regularity for certain consumables and or products. Home prices vary widely and there are many available on or near the beaches, most all are custom and some off the charts with design and finishes. Normally, they have municipal electricity but not all, as solar is common. There are a lot of residential lots available in this area with very reasonable prices; some of the prices will shock you for the views and sizes available. Todos Santos is almost in the middle of La Paz and Cabo, 45 minutes either way on a spectacular 4 lane road, thank you very much.

That is going to be it for Part 1. Thank you for tuning in and this will be continued next issue. By Terry Gray Cartis, who is a veteran Century 21 Paradise Properties agent and Property Manager, he operates www.caboislandsproperties.com & www.caboscirealestate.com & e-a blog at http://www.caboislandsproperties.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 310.272.9500 Mex Cel (011-52) 1 624-118-1395.  

Agent Profile

Chuck Lohrman

Chuck is a 31 year resident of Los Cabos. Originally from the beaches of southern California, Cabo has proven to be the perfect place for himself and his family to live.

His real estate career started on the empty beach of San Jose del Cabo where he sold condominiums at the La Jolla resort from chalk lines on the beach.

For 23 years he’s been assisting families in achieving their dreams of vacation ownership within the Palmilla Resort; 9 years with the original resort developers, the Koll Company, and the past 14 years with Engel & Völkers Snell Real Estate.

“Los Cabos is proven to have the best weather in the world, wonderfully clear air, a vibrant clean ocean and an airport where daily, one can fly anywhere in the world. The Mexican people, culture and hospitality make Los Cabos a very enjoyable place to vacation and live! It continues to be fun!!”

Contact Chuck at Engel & Völkers Snell Real Estate at: 624 141 6533. E-mail: c.lohrman@snellrealestate.com

Acronyms Explained

There are many of them in Mexican real estate

Just like in your own home country, Mexico has various acronyms that have become part of the language, but, stand for longer names or phrases. Whether you live here, own property or are just visiting, some, if not all will be part of your experience here. Here are a few, demystified:

IVA - Impuesto Sobre el Valor Agregado. For foreigners, think: Value Added Tax or Sales Tax. Currently in all of Mexico the amount is 16% of all goods and services.

SAT - Servicio de Administración Tributaria. Also "affectionately" called "The Hacienda," SAT is the Mexican version of the IRS in the United States or the Canadian Revenue Agency in Canada.

ISR - Impuestos sobre la Renta. A tax on income gained. It could be either a straight income tax on money earned in Mexico or Capital Gains, say, from a real estate transaction.

ISABI - Impuesto Sobre Adquisicion de Bienes Inmuebles. Literally, an acquisition tax on the purchase of or transaction involving real estate. Here in Baja Sur, initial transactions are at 2% of the sales price. Elsewhere in Mexico, it may be as high as 4.5%, like in Mexico City.

IMPRESTO PREDIAL - No acronym, but sometimes just called "Predial". This is your property tax.

RFC - Registro Federal de Contribuyentes. This is your tax ID number. For U.S. Citizens, think of your Social Security Number when used for tax purposes. It is required for all permanent residents and nationals. And it is a good idea to obtain if you own property here.

CURP - Clave Única de Registro de Población. This is a unique number/letter code issued to each citizen or foreign resident in Mexico. Think of it like a registry.
Buying or Selling Real Estate in Baja California Sur?
We’ve got you covered.

When buying or selling real estate in Baja California Sur, look for the MLS symbol & enlist an MLS agent. Buying real estate in a foreign country is unlike any experience you may have had in your home country or state in Mexico. There are simply different laws, procedures and safe guards here in Baja California Sur.

Did you know that over 300 real estate professionals have organized in Baja California Sur to insure your success in dealing with Mexican real estate? We started in 1991. We now call ourselves MLS BCS, and we operate a Multiple Listing Service statewide in Baja California Sur with over 3000 available properties. We cover Los Cabos, Los Barriles, Todos Santos, La Paz and Loreto. Any affiliate Broker or Agent can help you locate available inventory anywhere in the state, and can quickly connect you with the properties and agents in the area of interest.

WHY USE AN MLS BCS AGENT?
Our MLS BCS agents and brokers subscribe to the strictest set of local Operating Policies and Procedures in the Country. These OPP’s are the result of hammering out 41 years of dealings with foreign investment on the Anvil of Experience. Each member also agrees to follow the Code of Ethics of the Mexican Association of Real Estate Professionals (AMPI), and subscribes to the Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics of the National Association of Realtors in the USA.

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

HSBC Trust Fee Payment Information

Here is email contact information of HSBC representatives who will respond to your request for how much to pay. You must have your Fideicomiso #
Luisa Lopez Luisa.LOPEZ@hsbc.com.mx
Cc: Tomas Sanchez tomas.sanchez@hsbc.com.mx
Claire Reynolds claire.reynolds@hsbc.com.mx
Hugo Chavez hugo.chavez@hsbc.com.mx

There are three ways of making payment:

a) Mail check payable to: HSBC MEXICO S.A. DIV FIDUCIARIA / FSO #______ (you must write trust # in here) to the following addresses, depending on the freight company you will use to send your check:

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HSBC MEXICO SA DIVISION FIDUCIARIA
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HSBC MEXICO SA DIVISION FIDUCIARIA
16427 5505 N Cumberland Ave. Suite #307
Chicago, IL 60656-1471

b) Wire transfer balance to:
Account number: 000-170755
Beneficiary: HSBC Mexico, S.A. Division Fiduciaria
Bank name: HSBC Bank USA
CHIPS ABA: 0108
FedWire Routing Code: 021001088
SWIFT Address: MRMDUS33
Comments: Trust #________

Please add a $23.00 usd for the wire transfer fee to the total amount of your annual fee payment and send us copy of your wire transfer receipt once it has been sent to us.

c) Come directly to the bank here in Mexico to be paid in pesos and cash, or with Mexican bank check or wire transfer from Mexican bank.

Please email HSBC and tell us what form of payment you will be using and send a copy via email. Courtesy of Connie Meyerhoff. Contact her at 480-393-0639, c.meyerhoff@snellrealestate.com.
How Do These Folks Learn English?

By studying, which you have not done with Spanish

BY MADDIE GROVE

English is the most widely spoken language in the world after Mandarin. To get ahead internationally, learning English will certainly help you. The Mexican education system is now requiring that students study English, but most local public schools only teach the most basic English, if that. They can’t find teachers who speak it. After all, people who speak English are making the big bucks waiting on tables or working in hotels.

That’s where English programs such as ESL (English as a Second Language) sponsored by Liga Mac, come in. Liga Mac, a family centered non-profit in San Jose, provides scholarships to deserving kids to stay at school, with emphasis from junior high through high school and into college. They intervene to give students who are enthusiastic to learn this language a chance to get it mastered.

“It’s really important (for children to learn English), in Los Cabos, especially if they want to work in tourism,” explains Dr. Nancy Wayne, a psychologist and the current organizer of ESL at Liga Mac.

The classes are two hours long every Saturday for 10 weeks between the months of January through March at the Liga Mac clubhouse in San Jose.

Dr. Wayne stated, “The goals of the program are certainly to improve their [Mexican children's] English, but more importantly to develop confidence that they can do it. That they believe they can learn English. Because in the schools, they are feeling defeated and helpless that they just can’t get this language and so for this short period of time they realize that maybe there is a possibility.” Helpless and defeated in English? Does that sound familiar to Spanish learners?

Some of the students we talked to say it’s easy and fun, others struggle. For sure, the earlier the better, as young children have a natural ability with language, which tends to leave them around the early teen years.

Most of those we talked to tell us the hardest part for them to learn is the verb tenses and pronunciation. Well, they can’t go home and hear it, so how do they get the pronunciation? And have they ever heard of the Spanish book called 501 Verb Tenses? Learning Spanish is no day at the beach either.

All interviewees said after taking the 10-week course that they feel a lot more confident while talking in a different language in
Book Report
BY JEANNINE PEREZ

Cabo Mood
www.cajadeimagenes.com
Zapopan, Jalisco, Mexico

"I sail through the blue-green waters of the divine sea." (a quote on the double pages in front).

This book is huge, heavy, and my copy is in Spanish. But that's not so important because the full double-pages of colored photos show the best and most beautiful scenes of our beautiful Baja, and the book's focus on landscapes and seascapes could also make stunning framed pictures for a wall display, showing the very best of Cabo and the Baja.

There are many great photos, usually with quotes in both Spanish and English. The double pages of blues sky, sea, and shadowed rocks in the front of the book has this quote, "How to describe the sound of a wave crashing? Impossible: just listen." Well, duh, that's hard to do with a book, even with pretty pictures. The photo in all shades of blues, is one of the most tranquil I've ever seen. The next set of double pages in color are of a pool, In shades of turquoise and Prussian blue.

Still more pages show scenes at dusk, many interiors of beautiful homes, a golf course, day and night time patio and garden scenes, and they all seem to be great advertisements for Cabo and the relaxed lifestyle that's possible in Baja. There is an index in the back that contains names of builders, designers, landscapers, and golf club communities. It somehow, truly captures the magic that my husband and I felt, on our very first trip to Baja, and Cabo, so many years ago. That combination of sea, sun, great food, and fun, still has a magical quality to me.

I enjoyed browsing through this book on many levels. I loved the outdoor scenes that are so unique to Cabo, and Land's End. Homes are interesting. I always get ideas from any interior and landscape photos that I can use on my own low budget, rather crazy, adaptations.

So what are the negatives to this beautiful book? Size and weight! The book is approximately 12x18 inches, unwieldy, and so heavy that I wouldn't care to drag it in carry-on luggage (if that were even possible). I don't have a scale, but the book is HEAVY!

It is also unpriced, but most books similar to this are at least $40-$60. It's a great coffee table book, and a wonderful gift, as long as you don't have to carry it.

You can find copies of this large and beautiful book at El Caballo Blanco bookstore in Loreto, B.C.S. Betojeannine@gmail.com.
Tacos Dorados!
So, there's this hate from Mexicans towards TexMex food—not all of us hate it but it might be a little offensive for some—which comes from the fact that some restaurants take advantage of the description TexMex and imply it's Mexican food. Well, it's not. But if we acknowledge TexMex as a whole different type of cuisine, it's all good.

Not too long ago, a friend of mine (hey, Billy!) publicly confessed his love for hard shell tacos, which got me thinking, why not publicly confess his love for hard shell tacos, (hey, Billy!) and share this recipe with you? It's his favorite—granola friends, I'm sharing this recipe with you?

Share this recipe with you? It's his favorite—his love for hard shell tacos, (hey, Billy!) which got me thinking, why not publicly confess his love for hard shell tacos, (hey, Billy!) and share this recipe with you?

Now, recently a friend of mine—a resort chef—has publicly confessed his love for hard shell tacos, (hey, Billy!) and shared this recipe with you?

So, yes, you can call flautas txacitos and txacitos flautas. Just know that if you're eating a long, thin, rolled-up tortilla that's distinctly flute-shaped, it's definitely a flauta.

A brief history of tacos:
- Prehispanic times: Moctezuma, (ninth Aztec emperor), used tortillas to hold his food, forming something like a taco. Fun fact: tortillas are often called Moctezuma's spoon.
- Spanish conquest: The first taco event was a banquet organized in Hernan Cortes's honor.
- 1908: double tortilla tacos stuffed with rice, hard boiled egg and bathed in salsa were born in Morelos.
- 1950: canasta tacos are born in Tlaxcala. (Basket tacos are soft, warm and steamed.)
- 1966: a restaurant in Mexico City adapts Arab shawarma and pastor tacos are born.
- 2017: the $25,000 dollar taco event was a big banquet organized in Hernan Cortez's honor.

For taste purposes, here's a brief history of tacos:
- Prehispanic times: Moctezuma, (ninth Aztec emperor), used tortillas to hold his food, forming something like a taco. Fun fact: tortillas are often called Moctezuma's spoon.
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- 2017: the $25,000 dollar taco event was a big banquet organized in Hernan Cortez's honor.

The fillings are often similar, and they're even served with similar condiments and toppings.

For sure exactly where they were originated, but it is strongly believed to be the state of Sinaloa. Flautas are basic corn tortilla stuffed with shredded beef, pork, chicken and sometimes potato and cheese. They must be made from fresh tortillas, so they can be rolled without breaking and fried until crispy. Here's where I'm pretty sure your TexMex sweet spot will be satisfied: they're typically topped off with lettuce, avocado, sour cream, queso fresco and salsa!! They are eaten with no cutlery, typically for lunch or early dinner. They can also be eaten for breakfast, though. It's a staple food in Mexican households, since it's cheap, can be made very easily and in large quantities, and flautas are served in small street food joints and high-end restaurants alike!

Without further ado, here you go.

Ingredients:
- 1 pound corn tortillas (best if warm from the tortilleria)
- 1 large chicken breast (cooked and shredded)
- ½ piece of your choice of lettuce. I like romaine, since it's not as watery (previously disinfected and sliced in julienne)
- 8 oz sour cream
- 8 oz shredded queso fresco (Cotija, panela, even feta work)
- 1 avocado sliced
- Red or Green salsa to taste (I prefer green, recipe included!)
- Toothpicks for assembly

Instructions:
- Warm up tortillas if needed, but it's best to use them fresh off the tortilla machine. Here's a tip: stick the tortillas in a thin plastic baggie, kind of like the ones you put produce in at the supermarket. Don't tie them but fold the bag under the tortillas and wrap the whole thing in a cloth towel. Microwave for 20 seconds at a time, making sure you don't over warm them or they'll peel.

Stuff with the shredded chicken (you can also use pork or beef)
Adios to the OVDP Disclosure Program

Listen up, Bunky, this relates to your foreign assets

BY ORLANDO GOTAY

The IRS just announced the end, in six month’s time, of the Offshore Voluntary Disclosure Program. OVDP was specifically designed for taxpayers with exposure to potential criminal liability or substantial civil penalties, due to willful failure to report foreign financial assets. You did know that as a U.S. person, one is required to tell the IRS about many types of foreign financial assets, right? Thousands of taxpayers (over 50,000) became compliant through OVDP’s lifespan, netting the IRS billions in “found money”. Well, your loss is their find.

OVDP was designed to provide protection from criminal liability and a way forward to permanently resolving civil tax and penalty obligations. It will be gone as of Sept. 28, 2018, mostly because the number of participants has dropped extensively as of late. The IRS sees that as evidence of how successful their program is. They think they got all of us.

So, OVDP is gone….what’s left?

In these things, the world is divided between “willful” and “non willful”. “Streamlined” filing procedures are an alternative for those who have less exposure because of their failure to disclose foreign accounts, file foreign bank account reports or other mandatory information returns. Those meeting “streamlined” criteria will be subject to lower (or no) penalties depending on the individual cases.

A very quick overview of that: One must be able to certify one’s “non willful” status with respect to undiscovered assets, and not be under audit or criminal investigation. Details get thicker as there are different paths for those deemed “resident” in the U.S. versus those who aren’t.

There are other initiatives for folks who were just delinquent in not filing FBARs or information returns. Those procedures, as far as we know, will remain in place, just like streamlined. That’s for now, I would say, as they can be terminated on no notice.

If you think that reducing the number of “come back to the fold” programs means a reduction in enforcement activities, think again. Stopping offshore tax noncompliance and evasion remain top priorities of the IRS. The new IRS Commissioner, a tax attorney, has significant experience in representing these types of clients. I’m sure he understands where the agency can improve procedures to detect recalcitrant taxpayers and raise more revenue. If anything, I would expect these activities to continue.

I suspect that some type of OVDP replacement program may appear after September to deal with folks who don’t meet streamlined criteria. Those among us who are “willful” need a way to rest at night, too.

Orlando Gotay is a California

No, it’s City Hall. No, It’s A Museum

The interior of the former City Hall in downtown La Paz will be remodeled to convert it into an art museum. That’s the old cantera stone and wood building on 16 de Septiembre street, just two blocks up from the malecon, across from the Sears store.

The façade will get a face lift but will not be transformed, in a nod to its historic look. It was built in 1910 as a military barracks and later used as a prison, and in 1970 became City Hall for a time.

The museum is currently open Tuesday to Sunday from 10 am to 8 pm and has been housing several art exhibits; it is also the home of a government-run library, where visitors can find good literature, even some in English, and some beautiful photography books on the history of Southern Baja, as well as old timey pictures of beaches and mountains.
with English subtitles. Free. Cabo San Lucas’ Cultural pavilion, downtown next to the marina.

June 1. Friday. 8:00 pm. Lion King - The Musical tribute. By Henry Lopez Studio students. Spanish. $200 pesos donation. Cabo San Lucas’ Cultural pavilion, downtown next to the marina.

June 2. Thursday. 6:00 pm and 8:30 pm. Lion King - The musical tribute. By Henry Lopez Studio students. Spanish. $200 pesos cooperation at the entrance. Cabo San Lucas’ Cultural pavilion, downtown next to the marina.

English and Spanish fluently because his mother was born in the United Sates and when she was six or seven years old, she came to live in Mexico. She was an English teacher and made sure that her children knew the language as well. This project started in November, so it’s fairly new. For now, only Kristin is leading the tours. But, he seeks to expand and maybe even add more days. He’s had up to 16 people join his tour, the number varies each week.

If you don’t want a public tour, or maybe Thursdays don’t work for you, he’s open to giving personal tours for $35 dollars a person. However, on Thursdays, the tour is free, as he makes his money on tips. This has become a thing all over the world right now, with mostly young people hustling up a living off free tours oriented around tips. Most of them are energetic young locals with good language skills and they do pretty well financially.

Tips On Being Insured In Mexico

First, have your insurance policy handy. As in any country, anything can happen and you don’t want your proof of insurance back in your room buried in your suitcase. What insurance would that be? We’re going to tell you.

Many local doctors and hospitals will take your U.S. insurance, or you can buy health insurance here.

U.S. insurance: Know the rights it conveys to you. Know exactly what is covered. Most of the difficulties experienced by patients occur when they arrive at the hospital thinking that presenting their insurance card is all they have to do and now they’re just going to lie down and get well. Big mistake!

Coverage is subject to many restrictions, so before the insurance company makes a decision it will pay out, sometimes even several days pass. Some insurance companies do not even make direct payments to hospitals, and here are the reasons for that.

You’re hospitalized for less than 24 hours. You, your doctor or hospital did not send in the right documentation.

You are getting care outside your medical network. (Hope you bought the international travel option.)

Now let’s talk about outright coverage denial. It most frequently happens when:

You have pre-existing conditions. Nice try, but the docs figured it out.

You’re ahead of your waiting time. Many insurers have waiting period specified in the contract. What, you didn’t read that fine print? Take a look.

Abuse of alcohol or drugs. When dealing with accidents insurers request toxicology conditions. Nice try, but the docs figured it out.

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You can mail it to 2215 Paseo de Las Americas Suite M143, San Diego, CA, 92154

** Email In **

You can email it to carrie@gringogazette.com along with your cc # and expire date.

How easy are those choices? Hint: Very easy. Cost is still only 80 cents a word, and that includes posting your ad in our online version as well as the printed edition.

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

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Share my condo, king size bed, lux amenities, private bathroom, separate entrance, computer, wifi, your own international and telmex phone number, daytime use of car, three pools, maid and laundry service, exercise equipment, ocean view 200 meters from beach, walk to five star restaurants and minutes to town. 10,000 Pesos per month to month with security deposit.

624 178 0413

** LOOKING FOR ANYONE PLANNING to drive up the Baja first week in May, would like to take Hwy 5 towards Mexicali border but still may be cross at Tecate, speak fluent Spanish, traveling with 2 dogs, would like to caravan with others. Sylvia, I live in Los Barries, travel@tropic.com, 624 14-10332

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Obstacles To Living Off The Grid

We’ve done it and survived, here’s a list to think about

BY CINDY RAY

We live out on the East Cape on a dirt road and without any tentacles of civilization reaching us. Some things to plan for are power, water, sewage, and garbage disposal.

Water is a huge item; considering that Los Cabos area is pretty much a desert. All the water is pumped out of a well somewhere near town and brought out via water truck, then pumped into a pila (holding tank) which stores the water. Our community shares one large pila which is metered to each homes’ personal tinaco (individual tank with a float). The challenge is getting the water truck to come out. The further you live from other homes or communities, the larger the challenge. Our water usage costs about $20 to $30 USD monthly; however, our landscaping contains mostly natural desert trees and cacti. Our neighbors that water often generally use the gray water from sink/shower drainage and the clothes washer. If you buy a home you may want how old the water pump is. They generally last 15 to 20 years and could run you roughly $200 USD or more to replace.

Another huge consideration is that this water may not be trustworthy to drink or even brush your teeth with. Most people bring five gallon bottles of purified water to use for drinking, making ice etc. We opted for a purification system. It has a three stage process consisting of particular, carbon filters and UV light. It purifies all the water used throughout the house. There are a few major companies which cater to single family home usage. The Pelican we selected has a lifetime warranty. The cost was $1500 USD with the necessary filters. The UV light is changed annually. To me it was well worth the money for purified water.

For the disposal of the privy waste probably most of you are familiar with a septic tank system. They do the job very well usually.

The gray water from sinks and shower are usually spread out under the ground into the dirt and sometimes landscaping. The challenge here is knowing what was used and how large the pipes are. Often roots can clog the pipes. If you buy a house it is wise not to plant trees over the leach lines so knowing where they are is important.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26
Just the basics will do: baño, agua, basura, casa, cerveza, is good enough. And just maybe you will learn some Spanish. www.ligamac.org.

Cooking Like a Mexican...

continued from page 21

My favorite salsa for tacos dorados EVER:

“Raw” Green tomato salsa.

8 green tomatoes, about the size of a ping pong ball, at the biggest.

¼ white onion

1 clove garlic – very important

Salt to taste

Put a paper towel in a metal strainer and place the fried flauta diagonally so all the excess oil drains out while it cooks. Just cool enough to the touch.

Serve on a platter, layer lettuce, avocado, tomato, queso fresco and sour cream on top. Each person puts the salsa on top!

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Adios to the OVDP...

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Obstacles to Living Off...

continued from page 25

The other important water item is to make sure the vents are connected and working properly (air vents sometimes on the roof or around the base of the house) if they do not, the drains won’t work as well. Some of the houses in the area do run the gray water out into the landscaping for watering purposes. And there are capture systems you can use to spot water your yard.

Garbage can be a real issue out in the rough. There are no garbage collection trucks except in some of the larger towns. There are dumps in most of the small towns (San José del Cabo; La Ribera) and they do not charge you got delivering your garbage. However; depending on where you live it may not be very convenient to load up your garbage and take it to the dump. For the most part the Mexican residents burn their garbage, continued on page 29

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Taking care of you... is our priority
Fish Report
BY GARY GRAHAM

Cabo San Lucas
Numbers at a glance: Billfish 19%, tuna 58%, dorado 6%, other species 31%.
Fishing in Cabo has been, simply put: fun! With our main catch, yellowfin tuna, found quite far out -- at distances upwards of 20 miles offshore on some days, it has made for a true offshore fishing experience for anglers. And it has all been well worth it, as the tuna have been abounding! Averages of 25 tuna per boat have not been unusual. Marlin have slowed considerably, but the few persistent marlin hunters have still been able to find them. Small game such as sierra, roosterfish, and grouper or triggerfish have also been great fun for those looking to stay closer inshore.

Cabo Climate: The April weather has returned to mostly sunny skies with average daytime temps in the mid-80s, with evenings in the upper-60s to low-70s. More great weather is expected through the end of April with daytime temperatures in the lower 80s and no precipitation predicted over the next few weeks. Daytime temperatures in early May are expected to dip a bit into the upper 70s. Winds are expected in the 10- to 12-mph range through the first of the month. Humidity has been relatively low but expect an increase into the upper 60% to 70% range by early May.

Sea Conditions: There have been relatively calm seas throughout the area with some surface chop occasionally stirred up by surface breezes at 10- to 12-mph mostly out of the SSW. Forecast is for more of the same with winds in the 8- to 12-mph range out of the West and WSW. Sea temps around the Golden Gate and Jamie Banks are steadily cooling into the 68- to 70-degree range. Water around Cabo Falso east to the Gordo Banks is warmer in the 71- to 73-degree range.

Best Fishing Areas: The Herradura was clearly the hot spot with solid catches of yellowfin. The El Faro area produced marlin, and yellowfin appeared there as well.

Best Bait & Lures: Live bait tossed to surface fish seemed to be the ticket for the marlin. Feathers and cedar plugs were the ticket for the yellowfin.

From Palm Desert, California, Gama Flores has been making one to two trips to La Paz every year for over a decade. He and Ray Salanga from Carson, California were slow-trolling Rapalas over the shallow rocks trying to get some small pargo and cabrilla when this big boy dog-tooth snapper (cubera) slammed. They were able to keep it out of the rocks and back to the beach. Photo courtesy Jonathan Roldan’s Tailhunter International.
FISH REPORT...
continued from page 27
available at the $3.00 per bait upon exit from the harbor.
Puerto Los Cabos
Lighter crowds continued, as well as unpredictable and rapidly changing weather patterns. Ocean conditions, which had turned over, are now rebounding. Cleaner currents are pushing back in and the water temperatures have warmed back up into the 71- to 73-degree range.
There has been no surface action going on, and the only action being found has been off the bottom for a variety of species, but it has been hit or miss from spot to spot. The highlight was yellowtail to 30-pounds, a few grouper up to 40 pounds, and amberjack to 50 pounds. They were using various bait and some yo-yo style jigs. Some days the wind made it tougher to reach the more productive areas.

On Thursday, conditions started to improve, with a handful of over 40-pound yellowfin tuna caught; they were found between San Luis and north of Vinorama. Using sardina, which was available most days, was the best deal. On Friday the tuna bite was even better on the best spot, which was near San Luis Bank. The yellowfin were in the 20- to 40-pound class, and most of the anglers who targeted tuna were landing at least a few and some had as many as ten.


Deserving Of Your Love
We have 2 dogs for adoptions this week. (Actually, we have about 35, but these are the lucky picture kids for this week.)

GOOFY
Approximately 2 years old. Retriever mix who was left on the streets almost a year ago.

He was badly injured, probably hit by a car, but he was so traumatized, he’s not talking about it. He was also all mangy. Goofy turned out to be a great looking dog and enjoys life now at the shelter, getting along with everyone. But really, he needs out soon. We don’t want him to become institutionalized. Goofy is waiting for his forever home.

ROSE
Small puppy female about 6 Months old was rescued as a tiny tiny puppy by Perla who volunteers for Baja Safe.

Rose went through a lot, losing two of her companions who were whisked away to a nice home. What, you think Rose doesn’t know where they went while she went nowhere? She’s quite hurt and is waiting her turn for a real home. Rose is very calm but still a puppy. You know what that means: It will be fun but challenging to teach her doggy manners.

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East Cape
Water – Around 73- to 74-de-
CONTINUED ON PAGE 31
April 30th, 2018

**OBSTACLES TO LIVING OFF... continued from page 26**

plastic and all (it sets up quite a stink). Most of the glass the dumps recycle; but the plastic normally they do not. Often there are enterprises local which make some revenue by taking people’s garbage to the dump for them. They charge about 100 pesos a bag (large bag) and usually have plenty of eager takers. The other option is to network with the neighbors and take turns traveling to the dump.

Many of the homes have a compost out back which is a large aired bin with a lid to fill with degradable waste such as produce; food scraps; and egg shells. It is a good way to dispose of the waste and make rich fresh soil for the garden and planting. A good composter varies in price and quality from $50 upwards $500. The down side is the unit will attract scorpions that love the dark cool hiding spot. Hey, living out here is not for sissies!

Let’s discuss power. All the homes in the outlying areas are solar powered. If you are buying a home already built, the age of the batteries and solar panels are a huge item. Most of the systems are 24 volt to power a home. The panels glean the solar power which charge the batteries. The

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Derivation Systems

the skin. The fractional laser can be used effectively to treat fine lines, wrinkles, acne, stretch marks, acne and burn scars, skin pigmentation, discoloration, sun damage, precancerous as well as benign lesions and uneven skin texture. This is the only laser treatment at Spa Cielo that requires any downtime, typically less than 5 days.

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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 “2013-2017 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.

Rated with five stars on

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These days everybody wants to look beautiful. As 78 million “baby boomers” approach retirement, age is beginning to show. But with the fast pace of today’s aging society, people now want that fresh look without spending weeks of painful recovery. A from LED and Photo-facials, to TITAN™, Skin Tightening and Lumenis Acapulc™ Fractional CO2 Laser. With the recent addition of the award winning HydraFacial™, VISIA® Non-Laser, Non-Surgical Skin Rejuvenation 2012, Spa Cielo now has something for everyone, whether it is a bride the day before her wedding or someone who wants to go home looking five years younger.

The HydraFacial™ is the first step in skin rejuvenation for someone in their 30’s or 40’s who doesn’t really need laser or for someone who is looking to maintain their skin in their 50’s and 60’s. HydraFacial™ were even featured in InStyle magazine in 2009 as the “hottest celebrity pre-bridal facial”. All the notoriety is with good reason. The HydraFacial is the only system to vacuum extract; wet- microderm and vortex infuse scrubs, following a computerized customized treatment plan based on the individual’s skin type and needs, “It is truly amazing!” exclaims Cathy.

On the other end of the spectrum, Spa Cielo offers fractional CO2 laser treatments, named “#1 in Anti-aging Skin Rejuvenation vacation is the solution. Spa Cielo Laser, Wellness and Weight Loss Center named “2009 Best Medical Spa”, is located in San Jose del Cabo, and has built their business over 14,000 patients and over 70,000 procedures performed, Spa Cielo is your answer to skin and body rejuvenation.

One of the homes in our community has a small windmill to supplement the power for the grid. The solar panels last 20 years and are very expensive to replace. The cost is anywhere from $3000 to $11,000 each depending on the size. Most homes have at minimum three or four. The batteries are well only rated for about the same; and could run $500 each. We have four of these.

Most if not all homes also have propane tanks to run their oven/stoves and water heaters. CONCLUDED
Ask a Mexican

Water taps in Cabo often come up empty and the price to buy water off the trucks can range from $30 to $50 to fill a 211 gallon water tank. Since more than seven years ago, “tandeos” were implemented to manage the water shortages in Los Cabos. Tandeos are rolling water-outs. Lately, these periods of no water delivered to the taps have been getting longer and less water has been reaching some of the communities. The tandeos depend on the nearest water plant of the three in Cabo San Lucas: downtown, Lomas del Sol and the often broken down desalination plant.

Some people believe the water trucks are in cahoots with the water department to intentionally starve us for water in order to enrich the truck companies. And help themselves to free water. And often when it becomes your turn for water delivery, you can tell it's coming because water bubbles up from underground as the water bursts through the pipes on its way to your home. Large reservoirs in the mountains and efficient pipe infrastructure would go a long way here.

Are we short of water here in the desert? Yes, of course, but it should be manageable with the frequent rain in the mountains behind us, and the desal plants. Resorts are required to build their own desal plants and all but one golf course is on recycled water. The pipes are so mismanaged, many homes tap into the pipes behind us, and the desal plants. The problem is a combination of mismanagement and corruption. The pipes are so mismanaged, many homes tap into the pipes and help themselves to free water. And often when it becomes your turn for water delivery, you can tell it’s coming because water bubbles up from underground as the water bursts through the pipes on its way to your home. Large reservoirs in the mountains and efficient pipe infrastructure would go a long way here.

This week we asked: Water shortages are an increasing concern across Mexico. Do you ever have to go without water? If so, how often and for how long?

1 Adrian Lopez 44, mechanic.

I am fortunate that I live in a neighborhood that has 24/7 water supply, however I am one of the few who can say this. Some of the people I work with have a hard time because water only flows in their area very early in the morning and about 6:30 so there is not a lot they can do because the pressure is not enough, their water tanks don't fill up to more than a quarter. I believe the over population of the hotels and the massive amount of new resorts are to blame, since government keeps on prioritizing them over the local population, and I really would like to see a change in that.

2 Julian Romero 43, construction worker.

Tandeos are a huge lie. They say there will be water one day, and there's not a single drop for two weeks. Back in September someone organized a big strike in front of Oomsapas, (the municipal water department), I didn't go and I heard no one else did, but the town celebration was full of people who apparently forgot they had no water to shower with. I guess governor thinks we have enough money like him to buy new clothes instead of washing them and that we pee in the backyard and shower with wet wipes, because he knows for a fact we don't have water, or he plays stupid.

3 Maximiliano Esparza 35, security guard.

In my neighborhood we have gone the longest for four days without water, but most of us have a cistern, or underground tank, because it’s one of the oldest neighborhoods in Los Cabos. And when a neighbor goes without water we have all stepped in and shared our water so they can get by. But let’s think about Palmilla golf course and how green and lush it is, or how many tourists shower twice a day and have no problem flushing their resort’s toilets, right? What happens here is that the people who run Los Cabos only care for

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 31
FISH REPORT... continued from page 28

greens, clear and flat, but windy. The mornings have been cool with clear skies, and highs in the low 80s.

Good fishing, and as usual this time of the year, striped marlin are abundant. Slow-trolled ballyhoo have been working best for anglers targeting billfish.

The white cliffs south of Frailes have been producing limits of nice yellowfin, and most are being taken under the porpoise. Yellowfin were running to 60-pounds. Live sardina and chunk squid seemed to be the best bet in the bait department.

A few keeper dorado a day are hitting the cleaning table.

Skipjack have been everywhere, and inshore and bottom fishing has been good to excellent. Lots and lots of hungry little gallos have the marina jetty entrance literally covered. Barred pargo, dog toothed snapper, cabrilla and some nice amberjack have been coming off the bottom. Squid and chunked skipjack continue to be the bait of choice.

La Paz

The wind has dropped off providing a bit of a break after several weeks of strong breezes. The drop in intensity produced a decent mix of fish that ran the gamut from inshore species to bluewater breakers. Not a lot of any one type of fish, but the mix is typical this time of year when cooler water species like yellowtail, sierra and amberjack are moving out, but lingering. Warmer water species like dorado and wahoo, may have never left from last year, but have been getting more active and are following the bait and warmer currents.

Inshore species tallied up quite a nice bite on snapper and pargo including barred pargo and dog-tooth as well as a few mullet snapper (pargo liso). There were also more of those tasty white bonito, jack crevalla and a few pompano.

Bluewater species that showed up included some 10- to 20-pound yellowfin tuna and some free-swimming dorado. Although not really schooling up, they seem to be hitting solo or in small groups. Bait works best.

Cabo San Lucas

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OBSTACLES TO LIVING OFF... continued from page 29

There are a few homes with propane refrigerators. Propane is very pricey not to mention getting the propane truck out to fill you up. There again living in a communal area area is advantageous for getting service. To fill the average tank is roughly $500 to $600 USD (80 gallon tank) and a “propina” for the driver. (You want to incentify them to come out when you need them!)

There are a couple more things to check into. One is that many of the homes are outfitted with storm shutters of all types. If you see your neighbors putting up shutters it is a sure sign it is coming. (Unless your neighbor is just a fool. Check on that.) Again, there are enterprising individuals who make a living by caring for people’s storm shutters and landscaping needs. The closest neighbors are your best resource.

The cost varies depending on window and sizes.

Secluded home spots are cozy but expect to be there all the time or pay someone to stay there while you are gone. The reason for building/buying in a community is that there are enough permanent residents to keep a watchful eye on things for you. When we leave for a few months we lock all the doors and give a caretaker a set of keys just in case. The resident nationals that supply us with water are very good about reporting any suspicious activities as well.

Off the grid living is truly liberating. However, do your homework first if you are considering it as an option. If you are considering building a home off the grid, that is an entirely new challenge and not an easy one, with supervision and an ethical contractor two big concerns.

There is not going to be a government building inspector coming out with every phase of the completion. And check on some of the large items mentioned: power; water; sewage; garbage.

Hopefully your living off the grid will be the best experience rather than the most challenging! 

ASK A MEXICAN... continued from page 30

4 Rosario Garcia 56, housekeeper.

We used to get water every 3 days last year, but now we get it every week if we’re lucky. When I went to complain at Oomsapas, the lady told me the desalinization plant had broken down and they were fixing it. I do hope they fix it soon because it is very unhygienic to go so long without water and very dangerous too. My son told me the other day that Oomsapas says the plant broke every vacation season because the golf course he works at gets water every day to keep it green, so maybe he is right and they are just lying to us to keep us kind of happy.

5 Daniela Ugarte 27, administrator.

Shortages are a joke and everyone knows it. I have a cistern or underground tank and I don’t suffer from them but everyone else on my block does. We went a whole month with no water flow and the little we had was full of air and very little water, and the receipts came super high, higher than regular.

The thing is that there is now so many people in Cabo, we don’t have enough water. And also, there are water leaks around the illegal colonies (squatter camps), where the people have made their own water connections and they burst and waste so much water it’s crazy.

6 Alondra Juarez, 43, nanny.

Right now, I have no water and had to call a water truck which charged me $18. to fill my small tank, which will only last a week if I am lucky. The problem here is that the water goes first to the hotels, then to the rich people and they leave the rest of us dry. Also, the water trucks are too expensive and I really believe they are owned by the government, how come there is enough water for the trucks but not for the tanks?
Loreto. Charmingly magical. Go back in time to Cabo 30 years ago to a quaint, quiet, traditional Mexican fishing town, complete with a central plaza, several wonderful restaurants, golf, many outdoor activities and the cleanest ocean water in Mexico. Rare opportunity to own the finest oceanfront estate in Loreto, B.C.S. Casa del Caballo de Mar is only a 15 minute beach walk to town center. From the moment you enter the beautiful and private garden courtyard, you feel like you are at a Mediterranean spa. Whether entertaining family, friends or hosting a large event, no detail has been left out designing this magnificent estate.

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