La Paz Turns 483!

Candles on the cake are going to be a problem

BY HANNAH G.

Last week, instead of celebrating Cinco de Mayo, La Paz celebrated its 483rd birthday with three days of celebration kicked off with a reenactment of the landing of Hernán Cortés in May 3, 1533. Concerts, fireworks, and even a culinary festival were part of the celebrations. Since the Cortés landing, La Paz has gone through a name change, a pearl rush, and entered statehood. The long history has given the city a distinct flavor and charm with which any Paceño can be proud.

Here is a little history on the city known as the Gateway to the Sea of Cortez.

In 1535, Hernán Cortés was actually searching for a rumored island of women warriors and, of course, gold. He found a desolate beach and no gold, but he did find pearls, so he formed a settlement and called it Santa Cruz. (Fun fact: Fortún Ximénez was actually the first to land in La Paz, two years earlier, but he died during that expedition, so apparently that doesn’t cut it.)

Cortés’ settlement did not survive, but the Spanish continued their conquests and Spanish explorers dropped in on La Paz.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 1

What Kind Of Snake Is That?

Don’t stop to ask, run

BY CINDY RAY

Los Cabos is excellent for hiking and exploring the desert fauna and mountainous views and is full of surprises; blooming cacti, sprawling fig trees; and amazing waterfalls where fresh rain from the mountains behind us flows down to the arroyos. There are also 18 species of venomous snakes quite at home in the desert, and two documented venomous water snakes, so being an informed adventurer is crucial to your safety. Watch where you are stepping and grabbing. Most ranchers wear leather chaps or leggings and leather boots in brush and desert areas. April is the month the snakes start moving around in the Cape area in particular and they are prevalent throughout the summer. Yikes! They’re here now!

There are at least nine varieties of harmless snakes throughout Baja Mexico, so don’t be beating these over the head with a rock. These include: rosy boas; bull snakes; gopher snakes; leaf nosed snakes; gartersnakes; king snakes; coachwhips; baja ratsnakes; and baja sand snakes. All snakes, the good, the bad, and the ugly, aren’t they all ugly? are helpful in curbing the population of rodents which also live in the region. Unfortunately most snakes found
This issue we have a couple articles on local snakes, what to expect, and what to do about any chance encounters. Que my experiences, I’ve had many, including a serious bite. Let’s see, we shall take them in order of occurrence.

I grew up in Oregon where we had a lot of garter snakes. Small, less than a foot long, and harmless. But I never liked them. They were lower on my list of likes than the slugs I had to get out and pour salt on every summer evening, because the damn garters would dart around, not just lie there like, well, slugs.

One day my mom, well aware of my aversion to the little bastards, picked one up and threw it at me. Ha ha. I remember to this day where on me it landed and probably scarred my mental impression on me.

One day I’m in the garage doing the laundry and I hear this cracking noise above me. Dick isn’t home, so who could be upstairs? I glance up. Holy sheet! Balanced maybe not so well on the rafters above me is the biggest damn snake I ever saw. Big White. Fat. Long. All in one glance.

I ran out of the garage and stood at the end of the driveway and waited for Dick to return home to deal with this like men do! He declared he wasn’t going in there, maybe ever again. So we uneasily went upstairs and spent a very fitful night after deciding we would wait for our housekeeper to arrive the next morning to tell us what to do. But when I described it to her, she ran out of the house and wouldn’t come back.

Next, we enlisted the aid of our neighbor who was a bit daffy for the creatures. He pulled out a big book with colored mug shots of snakes and asked me to point to the likely suspect. Very unhelpful. Helpfully, he did go into the garage and tell us the coast was clear. Never liked that garage again.

My next encounter was while playing golf near Palm Springs. Although we’re told they abound on the local golf courses, I only saw one once. Still, we know better than to hunt for lost balls in the tall grass at the edge. One day this rattle-rattle guy was right there on the cart path in our way. My friend, ever the helpful alpha male, pulled out the closest golf club and threw it at him so he would move out of our way. Of course the club was mine. And of course the snake didn’t budge. And of course my alpha male wasn’t about to get close enough to pick up my club. We waited there a very long time. But here’s my worst snake story:

Last summer we went to Nashville Tennessee for the Country Music Awards. It’s a week of shit kicker music which I’m good with for about two days. Five days in, I wanted to go kayaking on the famous Cumberland river. Jake, ever the fanboy, wanted to see more concerts so I took the rental car and went kayaking with a group I found online.

Finished kayaking and walked towards the parking lot through grass about six inches deep. Felt a sting or a bite. Reached the parking lot and sat on a bench and took off my sandal and saw a little bite mark. Well, didn’t look so bad, didn’t feel so good, so I pushed on to the car, got in it and drove off. Minutes later I felt more itchy than I ever felt in my life. Then I felt very, very strange. I kind of recognized it as shock, like when I got thrown about a block when I got clobbered by a speeding car. Same out of body experience here. I barely got off the freeway and pulled into a gas station before I went into convulsions. I got out of the car and fell down, lost consciousness and had a seizure while I was out.

Waking up I don’t know how much later, still on the parking lot ground, I motioned to a man filling up his truck for help. He looked the other way.

Then a woman walked by near me. I asked her for help. She said she was in a hurry to get somewhere and couldn’t stop to help.

Another woman walked by. I held up my phone and asked her to dial 911, (I had tried, and I couldn’t). She said, “Ewe, your phone’s all bloody” and kept walking. Are you feeling the love for Nashville yet?

Finally I regained enough sense to call 911 myself but could not tell them where I was. The CONTINUED ON PAGE 7
Que Pasa in Cabo?

BY DAVID FLORES

This is an event not to be missed, trust us. Tickets are available at the Tecolote bookstore, La Gitana Galeria in Todos Santos, Galeria Pez Gordo in Palmilla San Jose, Café 12:40 in La Paz and the Wine Market in Cabo San Lucas. More information: www.festivalgavrovino.com

See you there! Well, if you go, you will see me there.

Surf’s up! Los Cabos Open of Surf is coming back to our shores, this time washing up on the beach at Costa Azul, in front of the Soleado development. This is a professional surf and music event starting in April.

Soleado Beach & Spa Resort is the host where all the surfers can enjoy Soleados’ areas to relax like the pool and juice bar. Also the local people can lounge at the beach to enjoy great hits of surf and to watch the action.

Date: 11 - 17 June
Los Cabos Open Party at El Merkado: June 15 (tickets now on sale)

Hits starts at: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Finals 8:00 - 2:00 pm

How are we doing? Crime wise? Quite well, actually, From March 1 to 31, 2018, 133 reports of vehicle theft were reported, petty theft against businesses was down 23%, even though that was 19% higher than the national average. Well, maybe we aren’t doing so well. There were 198 injuries due to domestic violence, 1% more than last year. That’s never going to go down, because the police won’t do anything about it when they are called.

There were 24 cases of homicides during March, a 50% decrease compared to the same period of 2017, remaining 5% below the national average. That’s due to our sailors, as the Navy has taken over our security. Atta boys!

Regarding the issue of extortion, there were 10 reported, 3% above the national average, although at the local level this figure has dropped by 54% compared to the same period last year.

Meanwhile, in the narco world there were 44 incidents, which represent a decrease of 58%, compared to 2017, 16% below the national average.

Finally, in the case of home burglaries, there were 172 capers, a decrease of 12%, 11% below the national average, the report said.

Well, it’s nice, but…According to the Daily Express in the United Kingdom, the Rooftop at the Cape, a Thompson Hotel just out of Cabo San Lucas, is among the top ten rooftop bars in the world. We are listed among rooftop bars that are in Thailand, France, Chile, and Spain.

Their reporting reads “The bar is Cabo San Lucas’ only rooftop bar, yet with such a beautiful view overlooking the ocean it is hard to see why more bars haven’t opted for such luxury. The alfresco sky garden hosts sweeping views down towards Cabo San Lucas and El Arco.”

Whoever wrote the report clearly missed the rooftop bar at the El Ganzo hotel in Puerto Los Cabos and The rooftop bar in the Cabo marina, upstairs over La Casa Country restaurant.

The Asians are coming! Victor Carbajal, the director of economic promotion for Los Cabos, dropped by the Embassy of Indonesia in Mexico City, and came back with good news.

Carbajal was invited by Indonesia’s ambassador to Mexico, and was also welcomed by the ambassadors from Thailand, The Philippines and Malaysia.

The idea is to hold the first Asian Cultural and Gastronomy Festival in Los Cabos this year, and share with us their countries’ culture. Carbajal is currently in talks with the Los Cabos Hotel Ass. and the Los Cabos Tourism fund to get support and get it going. Hmmmm…. ‘support’ sounds like ‘dinner’.

Aubrege possibly not Auberge. Or so they say. After a US doctor was assaulted in her room at the Auberge resort, management would do nothing, not call the police and not fire the freak. So she sued them in the United States.

But California-based Auberge Resort, despite claims on its website and marketing materials, doesn’t actually own or operate the ritzy titys Esperanza on the fourlane just outside of Cabo.

The hotel, which has hosted President Obama, Hillary Clinton and Jay-Z, has been using third-party companies to perform the basic functions of vetting, hiring and training employees, her lawyer alleges. Now her suit for justice includes fraud, misrepresentation, and false advertising.

“Aubrege intentionally deceives the public, outsourcing to a series of foreign entities, so it can disclaim any responsibility when a guest is harmed at one of its hotels,” according to the complaint filed in state court in CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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Fake cops. Prosecutors and soldiers raided the offices of a municipal police force in Puebla, turning up more than 100 fake police officers. Turns out 113 of Texmelucan’s 185 police had not been assigned an official identification code nor had they passed or even taken evaluation tests. It was also found that at least four bona fide cops were charging up to US $260 a month to allow their fake counterparts to continue serving on the force. All 185 officers were disarmed and will be investigated for criminal activities. The fake officers will be charged with impersonating police officers. Translation: No jail time.

Good news for La Paz. Three new hotels are planned in the next three years, according to permits in progress. This represents about 350 new rooms. They are all five star operations but everyone gets happy with the stars, so who knows? The president of Empomat La Paz official Eduardo Hererra welcomed the arrival of new hotels which he anticipates will bring more international air routes to the state capital. "The reason the airlines have not opened these routes to foreign destinations is because of the lack of hotel rooms on offer," he says. "What the airlines want to see is hotel rooms but hoteliers don't want to build until they see plenty of flights."

More La Paz news. Following the arrival of Uber La Paz at least seven taxi drivers have jumped ship and joined Uber. A Uber worker - who asked us to conceal his identity - revealed that he has been working with Uber since one week after it began operating in the capital. One taxista turned Uberista who was too weenie to give his name, said that at the beginning, Uber only had about six vehicles, but now they have approximately 350 operating in the city. But he said as the number of cars grew, so did the number of customers. This is the future of the ride hailing businesses: people, even poor people, will be more mobile.

When questioned about whether there is a tension between the taxi drivers and Uber drivers, he said sometimes taxi drivers "get very aggressive" and even shout "bad things" at them. Finally, he mentioned that "he has done very well" working for Uber, and that, according to experiences he has heard from his colleagues, they are also satisfied. "It's time to renew," he concluded. "Well, here's the problem. The State Commission for Human Rights (CEDH) received only about 14 complaints last year, against the city water stumble bums, (Oomsapas). If we don't complain, why would they bust their ass to deliver water to us on a more regular schedule? So..."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10
Snake Survival Guide For Dogs

Ford Wilson and his wife Wendy lived in Mexico, at least five months a year, for 30 years. He now lives in Washington state and raises chickens. Here is his snake story.

We have quite a snake history since we lived near Los Barracacas, out in the valleys between Cabo Pulmo and La Ribera for so many years. We had a few near misses, one of them when we returned home and turned on the lights. Lying in the middle of the living room was a 4 ft long rattler! I grabbed a shovel and dispatched it.

This was the first rattler we killed and we decided that if the snake was on our property and around an area that our dog walked thru, well, sorry but the death penalty would have to be applied. If we encountered a rattlesnake on the road or anywhere else like a hike, we avoided the snake and in some cases would protect it from being run over on the road.

We would never walk in the dark without a good flashlight to illuminate where we would step. When hiking we would always watch where we were going and especially where we put our hands. You just can’t relax when you are in snake country.

In 2010 we got a new puppy. On our migration to Baja in October, we stopped in Bermuda Dunes, California to meet up with a guy who trained dogs to avoid rattlesnakes.

The trainer and an assistant had an ice chest with snakes in it. The snakes had surgical tape around their mouths to render them harmless. Raven was fitted with an electric shock collar, with the strength set for her size and hooked up to a long leash.

First the trainer put a snake in the middle of the clearing and walked Raven around and towards the snake. As Raven noticed the snake and started to investigate it, she got a mild zapping which caused her to back away. This continued in other scenarios, like putting a snake under a bucket and letting Raven sniff the bucket and, again, getting zapped. Another snake was put in the open area and was agitated enough for it to rattle, again letting Raven get close enough to get a zapping.

The theory is that when seeing a snake, smelling it, and by hearing the rattle and getting zapped for getting close, a dog would avoid snakes in the future. (I wonder if that works for quitting cigarettes? Wear a shock collar for a couple weeks, maybe?)

The final exam was to put a snake in the clearing, have us stand on one side and the trainer and Raven on the other side. He let Raven off the leash as we called her. If she ran straight toward us and close to the snake, well, that was a fail. If she took a great big circle route to avoid the snake on the way to us, that was a pass. She passed.

One year later we did another session to re-enforce the avoidance training. The cost of this training was around $100 per session. There is also the option of anti-venom injections for protecting dogs, although this is more controversial and something we decided not to do.

For the five winters that Raven spent in Las Barracacas there was never an encounter with a rattlesnake that we were aware of. Additionally we never saw a rattlesnake on the beach but seeing them on the roads was common.

We consider rattlesnakes a manageable risk if you follow some common sense rules.

WHAT KIND OF SNAKE IS...

in the Southern Baja region are venomous and need to be avoided at all cost.

Most of the toxic snakes in Baja are vipers because of the heat sensing pit organ between the eye and the nostril on either side of the head. This tends to give the head a triangular shape. The organs help the snake locate their prey as they are mostly blind. And most are nocturnal, but the water vipers hunt during the day, so you’re never safe. The nocturnal snakes tend to have slanted eyes with slits for pupils while the diurnal snakes have rounded eyes with larger pupils. Their version of night vision goggles.

There are two documented water snakes that are poisonous: the cottonmouth (also known as water moccasin); and the yellow belled sea snake. The cottonmouth ranges from black to green and has a white stripe along the side of its head. When threatened it unhangs its mouth to display a wide white (cotton like) colored mouth. It is reported to hiss as a warning; and is also more likely to stand its ground rather than flee. In addition this snake is semi-aquatic which allows it to travel in water and on land which is rare. It prefers swamps; however, has been documented in Baja. The second of the water snakes is the yellow belled sea snake so named for the yellow underside. The top portion is usually black or dark brown to camouflage itself in the ocean waters where it lies in wait for prey. It out numbers all other species of snake in the world, and it is one of the most toxic as well. It is very non aggressive to humans; and not of the viper category. It can appear to be a stick; which is how it deceives its next meal. Divers have documented bumping up into them with no issue except perhaps a near heart attack.

The rest of the 16 species of venomous snakes are saltwater snakes. They can be found in Baja California and many of the offshore islands. Some are speckled; San Lucan speckled; southwestern speckled; western; southern pacific; red diamond (all rattlesnakes). Most of us are familiar with the fact that the name rattlesnake refers to the tail which has round “buttons” which make a distinctive rattling sound in warning. This exception to the trait is the Isla Catalina Rattlesnake, a sneaky bastard which is a rattleless rattlesnake. (Chrysocephalosn a snake I guess.) Thankfully the Isla Catalina viper is only found on the Isla Catalina off the shore of Loreto.

The most prevalent in the Cape area is the Baja California variety which has a slightly smaller head and has scaly mounds over the eyes. The largest and therefore the most deadly is the Western Diamondback Rattlesnake (referring to the diamond pattern on its back). This species is mainly found in the canyons and in the northern Sierra. Most of the species are light or dark gray with darker speckles or spots.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11
Concerts, workshops, and art expositions seem to be going on all around us all the time in La Paz. The Foundation Festivities just celebrated the capital city’s 483rd birthday with famous singers and a reenactment of Cortes’ landing. Fireworks boomed, ballerinas danced, and at the culinary festival, new flavors mixed with old favorites.

This is possible in part, because of the Center of Arts, Traditions, and Popular Cultures of Baja California Sur. The center is housed in the Old Government House in La Paz, called the Antigua Casa de Gobierno in Spanish. Located on the Plaza de la Constitución on Calle Francisco Madero, across from the Catedral de Nuestra Señora, the building’s function has changed throughout the years. General José María Rangel, the political chief of the Southern Territory at the time, laid the first stone back in 1880. The architect blended elements of Neoclassicism with the style of the 18th and 19th century missions that dot the peninsula. Bold angular moldings on the central tower give the building character that makes it stand out next to the other building around the plaza. Construction of the new Government House took just one year and there were plenty of people ready to move in.

The territory’s Political Chief setup offices and so did the territorial deputation. There were offices for the treasury too. As the main government building in town, a small jail opened and there was even room for the horse stables.

The building functioned in that capacity for a long time, until Bonifacio Salinas Leal became the governor of the Southern Territory of Baja California in 1959 and served until 1965. During that time, he tore down the Government House and constructed, of all things, a movie theater. The site functioned in one capacity or another until 1981, when the new governor ordered the Government House to be rebuilt according to the original designs.

The Southern California Youth Institute moved into the building and the Californians Library took over a portion of the site. Both institutions used the Government House as a center until 2010. That same year, the site was inaugurated as the Center of Arts, Traditions, and Popular Cultures of Baja California Sur. The historic building reflects the ideals of the Center by remembering the region’s past while looking forward to the future. For more information on the Center and its good works, you can visit them at cultura.bcs.gob.mx/recinto/1.

The old government house where so many of our cultural events are born and nurtured

The Epicenter Of Cultural Events In La Paz

BY HANNAH G.

The next century brought several unsuccessful settlements. Harsh conditions, clashes with the natives, the Pericú Guaycura, and a continuous need to fight off pirates led the Spanish Crown to cut back on the money spent for settling the peninsula. Dutch pirates and the Spanish confronted each other so often in the early 17th century the Spanish referred to the pirates as Pichilingues, mispronouncing the name of a Dutch city, and giving name to the port just north of La Paz. As the Spanish crown focused on other areas in the Americas, the Jesuits moved in on the peninsula. They established the Misión de Nuestra Señora del Pilar de La Paz Airapí, but it also failed. After continued conflicts, the Great Rebellion of 1734, and abandoned settlements, the Spanish became exasperated and expelled the Jesuits in 1768. It would take another 43 years before a permanent settlement took hold in La Paz—José Espinoza searching for pearls.

If anything kept the Spanish returning to La Paz is was the dark pearls found in the bay. Hues of purple, blue, and green and the large size of the pearls enticed the early explorers. They were used in Europe as a status symbol in Baroque style art, as jewelry, and in Cathedrals. But continued exploitation led to several periods with no oysters and no pearls.

In 1821, Mexico gained independence from Spain and continued on page 1.
we went to the pharmacy to fill Ubered downtown to Jake, he and was in some suburb of Nashville fanny and an explanation that I tossed me out the hospital emerged they agreed to pay them $39,000 they on the website where I signed up than the last. And not mentioned one, each creepier and scarier stories. It seemed everyone had me up, and everyone in the emergen-

dy glassy, my broken nose, and sort of cleaned They stitched up my face, set my vessel in my brain when I did see if I had popped open a blood x-rays or MRIs or something to

next nine hours. They also took stuff into me for the pumped into me for the next nine hours. They also took X-rays or MRIs or something to see if I had popped open a blood vessel in my brain when I did my faceplant on the pavement. They stitched up my face, set my broken nose, and then cleaned me up, so everyone in the emergency room told water mocassin stories. It seemed everyone had one, each creepier and scarier than the last. And not mentioned on the website where I signed up for this trip.

After my insurance company agreed to pay them $39,000 they tossed me out the hospital emergency door with a pat on the fanny and an explanation that I was in some suburb of Nashville Tennessee. Thank God for Uber. I Ubered downtown to Jake, he and I Ubered to the rental car, then we went to the pharmacy to get the five prescriptions I had been given. Finally Jake drove us back to the hotel where I spent several hours bent over the sink while he worked the dried blood out of my hair. My face was really a mess, but I've had enough road rash in my life to know it doesn't scar, so I wasn't worried about anything as petty as my appearance, and felt pretty good to be alive.

And those are my snake stories. I hope you liked them.

Bob Jankovics Services Section

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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 ronandumbert@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. Líga MAC's used bookstore and thrift shop. El Chamizal (Paseo de Los Marinios Street, almost on the corner of Calle Goleta) In San Jose. Runs through until April.

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

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

Every Wednesday. 7:30 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: marinardelmar@gmail.com, facebook.com/taesquintas.

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

Every Wednesday. 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Art Day. Art, paintings, books, live music. At El Merkado, in the Koral Center in Cerro 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 Ponia-towska. At Los Adobes restaurant in Todos Santos.

First Friday. 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 Ildasonfo Green. In Cabo San Lucas at the parking lot of the baseball stadium. Email info@yoreciclo.org.mx for more information.

Every Thursday. 8:00 am. Rotary Club breakfast. At the Playa Grande Resort, above the Sports Bar, Cabo San Lucas.

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

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

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

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

Every Friday. 5:00 to 10:00 pm. Los Jos Cabos Products. Sale of products made in Los Cabos by residents from the rural areas. Fresh produce, jams, sweets, arts and crafts and furniture. At the main plaza in downtown Cabo on Hidalgo street, two blocks up from the Tesoro hotel.

Every Friday. 6:00 pm. Trivia Night. Todos Santos Brewing. English and Spanish with short rounds and prizes available each round. Alvaro Obregón (between Militar & Rangel). Facebook @TodosSantosBrewing. Ph 612 1452023 or email info@todosantosbrewing.mx.

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

Every Friday. 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Arts and crafts market "El Colibri." Original handmade jewelry, homemade food, arts, crafts and original live music. Nothing made in China here. Amelia Wilkes Plaza in downtown Cabo. For more info, or if you are a vendor, please contact Max at 624-108-2250 (Spanish), email tomymos@gmail.com (English).

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

Every Friday. 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Farmer’s market at The Shoppes at Palmilla. Information: 624-144-6999, www.cheshoppe-satpalmita.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 Cerro Colorado.

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

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

Every Saturday. All day. The grandaddy of all markets. In addition to organic produce, there are handicrafts, books, critics that adopt, food to eat and who knows what. Behind the town of San Jose. Go to their website and study the map: www.sanjomo.com.

Every Saturday. 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Children’s library open. Story tellers at 10:30 and 12:30. Looking for gently used books. theranchkids@yahoo.com.

Every Saturday. 5:00 pm to midnight. Cultural Circuit. Arts and crafts exhibit along the Cabo marina, in front of Solomon’s
### Community Reading Lounges

**At AMELIA WILKES PLAZA** Main plaza downtown CSL.

- **Every Saturday** from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Herman Ita de Ysabel. Reading Club has a different book to read and comment. Saturdays starting April 9. Spanish mostly. Book donations are welcome. More info and special activities with Nixania email: todossomoselotro@gmail.com. Free.

- **May 25.** Wednesday. 7:00 pm. **Vagabond 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.

### Calendar of Performing Arts

- **At LA CIRCO** Paseo del Emperador, next to the H+ Hospital. Kilometer 24.5 on the fourlane to San Jose.

- **May 23.** Wednesday. 7:00 pm. **Song Writers at the Plaza.** San Dieguito at the Plaza el Pescador. Food and wine sampling.


- **May 20.** Sunday. 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm. **Monster Fantastic Show-Musical.** Cabo San Lucas’ Cultural pavilion, downtown next to the Dolphin Center.

- **May 22.** Tuesday. 7:00 pm. **Cultural Fair.** Food sampling and wine tasting at KORAL Center’s Pavilion. Free.

### New Art Exhibitions

- **May 31.** Thursday. 7:00 pm. **Photography Show.** Cultural identity of Baja California with Spanish subtitles. Free. Alfredo Green Cultural House Downtown San Jose.

- **Every Thursday. 7:00 pm.** **Vagabond Movie Club.** A different movie in the original languages with Spanish subtitles. Short films and art videos before the movie. La Rana Vagana. Plaza Migrillo 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 playing together, sometimes a real battle of the bands. All audience. Spanish sometimes with English subtitles. Free. Cabo San Lucas’ Cultural pavilion, downtown next to the marina.

### Upcoming Events

- **At AMELIA WILKES PLAZA** Main plaza downtown CSL.

- **From Monday to Friday.** 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. La Maroma Reading Club. Books available. More info and special activities on Facebook: facebook.com/Sala-de-leitura-La-Mar%C3%A9na-Kinesia-Fabuladanza-6913979763803/timeline.

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

- **From Monday to Friday.** 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. La Maroma Reading Club. Books available. More info and special activities on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/salalecturatrotamundos/timeline.

- **At LA CIRCO** Libroteca Reading Club.

- **From Monday to Friday.** 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Books available and circus drama style reading on Thursdays at 7:00 pm. More info with Sara Flores on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/LaCirco.5778970355375/timeline.
Sinko de Mayo!

Yeah, we know it’s one issue too late, but a classic like this just can’t go uncelebrated, and we screwed up last week.

BY GALE STORM

The people of Mexico, who are crazy about mayonnaise, were inconsolable at their loss. Their anguish was so great, that they declared a national day of mourning on May 5th, which they still observe to this day, and it is known, of course as Sinko de Mayo.

Go out on this day, grab a couple of slices of Bimbo bread and a jar of Hellman’s mayonnaise, and declare a party! And, no, contrary to many foreigner’s misconception, this is not Mexico’s independence day. You will have to wait until September 16 for that. That gives us time to cook up another good urban legend.

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far this year, a total of three complaints have been filed against the agency. These related to the water cuts, as well as the treatment received by the staff. Staff can get snarly when you call them up and ask for water more than twice a week. Course we callers are often pretty snarly too.

Lizeth Collins explained that the Commission has competence in this area, “taking into account that the right to access to drinking water is a human right,” pointing out that, in many cases, these complaints can lead to conciliations. What’s to conciliate? Either you send water to our taps or you don’t.

Thirsty people can go to the Human Rights office from Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., or call 12 314 04 and 123 23 32., I don’t know where the damn office is. I’m only a cat. Look it up. My bowl is always filled with fresh water which my mom pours out of a big jug. Although she does get pretty snarly too.

People! Grow up! Two different drivers attempted to beat trains to crossings today, and both lost the race.

There are a few hundred such accidents every year. Jalisco led the way last year with 85 accidents involving cars and trains, and 95% were estimated to have been caused by drivers racing to beat a train. The state of Guanajuato saw 82 such accidents last year and Chihuahua 58.

The end of January this year was shaping up to be another bad one for Jalisco kamikaze drivers. There were seven collissions during the month, one of which claimed the lives of five people. Are they trying to say that not one of those five passengers spoke up about this racing a train thing not being such a good idea? Couldn’t one of them say, stop the car, this is where I get off?

Don’t worry about a thing. Oomapas’ got this. That’s the city water department. They are acknowledging a deficit of 61 gallons of water per second, said
are harder to spot and have no warning buttons yet. They are also more deadly than the adult vipers because their venom is as lethal and have no control over the amount they spit out. The mature snakes often only bite without ejecting venom, just a warning to scare off predators. They usually save the venom for hunting. However, if you or someone is bitten be sure to get to a doctor as soon as possible.

Elementary protocol for a snake bite according to Dr. Spencer Greene, Director of Medical Toxicology and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, the following is a toxicology and Assistant Professor of Medicine, the following is a

WHAT KIND OF SNAKE IS...

May 14th, 2018
infusionartcaffe@hotmail.com

Rattlesnakes are more concerned with their survival than sending you down the mountain in a panic, or worse in a basket. They are not aggressive unless cornered or surprised, and sense you through temperature and vibration. They will coil themselves when threatened. If the warning rattle will not scare off predators, they can leap as far as two thirds their length from the coiled position to strike.

The number of “rattle buttons” on the tail should roughly indicate the age of the specimen. The length and breadth is also a good indicator. The little baby snakes, (don’t expect cute, here,) you are hiking or where you are putting your hands. Make sure you can see under around or over rocks and bushes before stepping or touching them. Wear protective clothing if possible while hiking through the desert rocks and brush and be mindful of sounds (such as a warning rattle or hiss). Watch out for snakes around fresh water supplies and anything swimming in the water. At home make certain not to create an inviting environment for snakes. Remember most snakes will avoid confrontation with you, but you can’t count on it. Keep your eyes open and be aware.

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Staying calm is probably one of the most important items. I had a cousin, (a 10 year old boy), who was picking through a firewood pile and bitten by a rattlesnake. He ran all the way home and unfortunately had pumped it through to his heart and he could not be saved. The less exertion the better. Another important item is to either take a photo of the snake if possible or try to write a description down for the emergency medical team.

So with the woodpile in mind something to note is to keep any piles of metal lumber or debris up from the ground level in the yard. If you offer snakes water and shelter; they can make themselves at home, so you may want to bring any pet water and food inside at night as well; remember rattlesnakes are mainly nocturnal. The other important item is to get rid of mice or rats; these are what snakes primarily eat. You don’t have to be a big fan of cats to prefer them to snakes, so get one.

So a short recap of snake awareness: Be mindful of where

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 Diamonds on the body. The red diamondback is very common in the desert areas of the Cape areas displaying a maroon diamond along it’s back.

Though usually not in beach areas, rattlesnakes have been spotted in sand dune areas. The snakes or reptiles in general are regulated by environmental temperatures. Since they are cold blooded, (they cannot regulate their temperature, so their body temperature is regulated by their environment), they tend to hide when they encounter extreme temperatures. Being a slave to the climate, they need to move around at all times of the day or night and need water. So be mindful when hiking near fresh water supplies in the bluffs or arroyos.

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in 1839 an American adventurer, William Walker, captured La Paz, and declared the town the capital of the Baja Territory to move to La Paz. As the capital, the town was able to grow. Fishing, pearl mining, and mining were the main industries. Then, in 1853 an American adventurer, William Walker, captured La Paz, and declared the town the capital of the Baja Territory. The town was able to grow.

Econonic growth.
The late 19th and early 20th century meant oyster cultivation and a new pearl rush. But by the time the American author John Steinbeck ventured to La Paz on a collecting expedition in 1940, the pearls had all but disappeared. Steinbeck visited La Paz twice on his journey; which he detailed in his statue stands on the Malecón and the island to the south bears his name. As the population grew, the territory’s status was about to change.

Baja California Sur earned statehood in 1974, one year after the paving of the transpeninsular highway. As a result of the road, tourism increased, and along with fishing and mining, economic prosperity arrived. Today, La Paz is making gains as a world ecotourism destination and enjoys one of the highest standards of living in all of Mexico, and yet still holds onto a small-town charm. Events, big and small, like the Foundation Festivities happen year round with locals coming together, with maybe a few expats as well, to support the city they call home. Happy Birthday, La Paz! So far, it has been a wild ride.
A Crash Course in Mexican Taxes
Read this so you don’t crash

BY RAOUl RODRIGUEZ

Raoul Rodriguez a professional, who specializes in Mexican tax implications for residents from the three NAFTA countries, has written a document outlining obligations under Mexican tax law. Below is a list of areas covered. To see the full article go to www.pinnacleadvisoryinternational.com. You will see news and the article, ‘A Crash Course In Mexican Taxes.” Here is an excerpt from the article.

Mexican tax residents are subject to report and pay Mexican income tax on worldwide income. Paying income tax to your host country is no different than what U.S. residents (or residents from most countries of the world) are expected to do in the country where they live. Though dealing with a new tax system is definitely complex, with proper planning you might find that you actually save on taxes.

What Taxes?
Here’s a brief description of the types of income subject to Mexican income tax laws as they apply to tax residents. Non-tax residents are covered under separate provisions and are not discussed here.

Mexican Tax Rates
Mexican income taxes are applied on a marginal basis and for natural persons can reach as high as 35%.

Mexican Capital Gains Taxes
Capital gains are not a preference item and are taxed at regular tax rates. There are two major exceptions: gains for the sale of Mexican registered securities and the sale of a principal residence.

Mexican Rental Income
Rental income is subject to Mexican income taxes. A blind deduction of up to 35% or certain actual deductions are allowed. The taxpayer can take the higher of those two numbers while the remainder is taxed at regular income tax rates.


Mexican Interest Income
Interest income is generally subject to regular income tax rates.

Mexican Dividends
Dividends were historically exempt from income tax if the corporation making the payment had paid income tax on that income to the Mexican tax authorities.

Mexican Estate Taxes
Mexico has no estate or inheritance tax applied to tax residents (non-residents that receive property). Here’s a brief description of the types of income subject to transfer taxes (Traslado de Dominio): varies by state.

Automobile Tax (Tenencia): varies by state.
About the author:
Raoul has worked as a Wealth Manager for over 20 years, including 18 years at his own firm, Mexico Advisor. He has completed many consultations with The Settlement Company and its clients. Raoul joined Pinnacle Advisory Group in 2016, bringing with him significant experience in planning and investment management, along with expertise in the complex issues of cross-border financial planning. In addition to being a CFP, he has obtained a master’s degree in financial planning and is an Enrolled Agent authorized to practice before the Internal Revenue Service. Born in Mexico City, he is a graduate of a U.S. University and resides in Portland, Oregon.

REAL ESTATE

SECTION

THE MULTI-LISTING SERVICE
OF BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR

San Jose Featured Property
La Mansion Condos

La Mansion condominiums was developed in 1993 by two successful businessmen Mr. Fernando Rivera and his partner Gamboa, with the project designed by architect Cauduro.

These are one of the biggest floor plans in all of San Jose Golf Course area. 20 units about 1,400 sq. ft. 2 bedroom 2 bathroom with a separated lock-out entrance, so it can be rented separately.

The Project was designed for 60 units total and at the beginning they built the pool and a big salon for parties. But the Mexican crisis in 1994, stopped the development. Today, there are only 2 buildings of the total 6 projected, so the common areas are very large.

2 years ago, the pool was refurbished with nice Pebbletech finish and solar heating system. The HOA is well organized and the buildings have a new security system and fencing – making a lovely entrance.

This is a friendly home, with foreigners and locals living in combined harmony. A unique living environment – that is La Mansion!

This property has a golf course view and is located on the popular hotel zone, just a few steps from the landscaped beach access. It is within walking distance to restaurants, plazas, the historic downtown, Mega grocery store, and the estuary.

The location is a guarantee for value and makes for a great small development.

Contact Marco Klein, Broker of M&R Marketing & Real Estate in San José del Cabo, Office Phone -(624) 123-4184, Celular - (624) 147-0242, marco@myrmexico.com, http://www.myrmexico.com
What is going on with HSBC Trust Department?

It’s not a pretty sight

BY RAUL LEON

If you are planning to sell or buy any property which is held in an HSBC bank trust (Fideicomiso), either as owner, broker or closer, this article is tailor made for you.

Everyone in the industry knows that HSBC trust department is worse than ever; that transactions involving property held in trust by HSBC move very, very slowly, if they actually move at all, and that every day new requirements, forms, policies and process changes are asked for. Very often their employees who were once assigned to your file can no longer be found. It is also hard to obtain any response, either by e-mail or by phone (although I must say this is improving a little bit lately). So facing any type of transaction with HSBC has become a nightmare. But why?

What is going on?

HSBC worldwide is not in the trust business, per se, but when they acquired Bital, a Mexican bank, who held the second largest number of trust holders and was the most widespread bank, (and a bank with more branches nationwide than any other bank), in Mexico at the time, they also inherited Bital’s Trust Department. HSBC immediately wanted to get rid of the trust department.

The bank’s headquarters do not comprehend this business nor its ramifications, nor did they care to understand. Things only got worse when government money laundering regulations and policies (that every day get more and more restrictive to all banks), came into play. With the lack of appropriate controls, the bad integration of files, and the increase in money laundering policies, HSBC made a decision to close their entire trust department. With this, trusts were about to suffer the worst part of this process: Delays, inordinate requirements, and general confusion.

The main offices of HSBC in England sent an executive from Scotland, with the idea of bringing the trust department under control and eventually to close it. Unfortunately, the decisions that have been made until now have deeply affected their customers, as they have made very radical changes in policies and procedures, and have transferred the burden of the correct integration of the files to the customers, when in truth this is an obligation of the bank, and for which they are being paid the annual bank trust fee by the property owner.

There is also another factor playing in this situation, which is the lack of compliance of the trust department with the FATCA regulation of USA. (Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act, a new piece of legislation to help counter tax evasion in the US.) This has led to problems with US authorities, and also problems with the Mexican banking authorities, who had found the lack of the necessary documents in their files.

The first step to get in compliance was given without any prior notice to their customers, which was to close all branches which previously provided services to the fideicomiso trusts nationwide. This actually occurred overnight. In doing so, all transactions are now concentrated in Mexico City, in the hands of very few, who have phone numbers that no one ever answers, and email addresses that no one ever responds to. Customers no
Top Fractional Ownership Opportunities In Los Cabos

BY SANDRA MORGAN

Deeded title fractional ownership is not timeshare and has the same options, closing services and closing costs as full ownership. In fact the only fractional ownership listings allowed on the multiple listings service must have a fee disclaimer and title and ownership can not be limited in duration. This week we are going to explore the top fractional ownership options in Los Cabos.

The New Normal

Investors worldwide have embraced the idea of sharing the costs and benefits that fractional ownership allows. Whether you are buying into a fractional yacht, jet or vacation property, the amount of time you desire ownership allows. Whether embraced the idea of sharing the costs and benefits that fractional ownership is.

First up is El Encanto de la Laguna.

This project is just east of Puerto Los Cabos marina and is considered the beginning of the East Cape. While only a short drive from San Jose, El Encanto feels like it’s a world away. Your purchase is in two week increments and the time and unit is fixed. Starting at only $30,000 plus closing costs this is by far the most affordable fractional option. These two and three bedroom condos are within the gated community and have access to pools, beach club, restaurant and all the amenities of this well respected beach front community. The top end of the price range is a top floor three bedroom unit priced at $116,500 for the second half of November. The east Cape lifestyle is infectious with swimmable beaches, surfing, fishing, ATVs, turtle releases, horseback riding and a relaxed beachfront view of living.

Second on our list is Villa la Estancia.

Right on Medano Beach, the current listings are from 1/8 to 1/4 share options. Starting with a 2 bedroom 6 week program priced at $129,000. This 2100 sq ft condo is in the heart of Cabo San Lucas. Owners share the unit and have a rotating calendar.

The larger 3 bedroom 1/4 share units have huge decks, sweeping lands end views and range in price from $320,000 to $843,000. This is a true resort style option with plenty of amenities. Enjoy the fitness center, world class spa, casual outdoor dining, fine dining, marketplace, huge pools and hot tubs with a view.

Next up is Esperanza at Punta Allen.

An Auberge property that has hotel, fractional and full ownership options. This gated community is a world class resort and the amenities are amazing. Starting at $105,000 for a two week increment in a two bedroom ocean view condo. These units are tastefully furnished with granite and marble, stainless appliances, generous outdoor living space and is managed like a 5 diamond resort. At the top end of the fractional option is a large 4 bedroom condo, 1/8th fraction for 6 weeks. Priced at $310,000 for 4500 square feet of Cabo ownership.

Our final option for fractional ownership is The Resort at Pedregal.

Located on the southern most beach on the Baja, the grand entrance to this resort is through a 1000 foot chandelier lit tunnel that has been blasted through the mountain. The stunning feel of your arrival is eclipsed only by the feeling of serenity and opulence that the resort achieves. Fractional ownership here is in 6 week increments and range from $390,000 for a 3 bedroom unit to $440,000 for the four bedroom. All have commanding views. Owners are subject to rotating planned weeks and pay quarterly dues.

Enjoy unprecedented 5 diamond amenities at one of the top resort residences in the world.

The 3 bedroom 3.5 bath oceanfront villa is approx. 2800 sq ft of luxury living. The 4 bedroom 4.5 bath comes in at approx. 4,000 sq ft. Both have exceptional attention to detail and generous outdoor living space. The Resort at Pedregal has been voted the #1 resort in Mexico by Condé Nast and for good reason. Owners enjoy pre-arrival shopping, airport shuttle, 24 hr concierge and personal butlers with a legacy of sophistication and five diamond services.

All four of these amazing fractional ownership options offer Third Home as an exchange program. Members get access to over 9000 million dollar vacation properties in over 90 countries. So you don’t have to compromise with just one second home. Travel like a billionaire for a small fraction of the price.

By Sandra Morgan, Broker of Cabos Finest Real Estate, www.CabosFinest.com. Contact Sandra at 624-624-150-5901 or bajamexicana@gmail.com. 3 bedroom house with pool and garage in upper La Jolla. $549,900.00 USD

On the brochure, Casa Estelar, Casa La Laguna, MLS 17-2191, $ 395,000 USD. Contact IVETTE at 6241515350 or DIANA at 624-151-6345. A LOVELY SINGLE LEVEL HOME 3 BD EXTERIOR STUDIO CAN BE USED AS A GYM OR OFFICE. GREAT OUTDOOR TERRACE WITH POOL.

On the brochure, Casa Maguire, Calle La Laguna, MLS 18-915. Contact Steven at 624 150 5901 or bajamexicana@gmail.com. 3 bedroom house with pool and garage in upper La Jolla. $549,900.00 USD

On the brochure, CASA AMBAR, Calle La Laguna, MLS 18-814, $ 760,000 USD. Contact DIANA at 624-151-6345 or DANIEL at 624-135-8725. BRAND NEW 2 LEVEL HOME, CONTEMPORARY DESIGN WITH MAIDS QRT. ENJOY FAMILY MEALS ON ITS SPACIOUS TERRACE, BBQ AREA AND POOL.

On the brochure, Casa Zelda, Located in Costa Azul just before the Costa Azul Bridge turn right Calle Maria Alta, MLS # 18-951, $495,000.00. Contact Margaux at margaux@remaxcaborealestate.com or cell 624 176 3788. Gorgeous contemporary unique house. Great Views to Costa Azul most popular beach in town.

SOLD

Beachfront Lots, Todos Santos MLS 16-2185,6, 17-1760 and 17-2509. Fabulous beachfront land with services and miles of sandy beaches. $465,000 USD C. Miller/ Baja Realty and Investment.
Major Real Estate Events Coming

May is a big month for the industry, so stay tuned

BY JOHN K. GLAAB

The National Association of Realtors® (NAR) with 1.2 million members is the largest trade association in the U.S. The association meets twice a year. One meeting is in Washington, D.C. and the other rotates in various cities.

The Realtors Legislative Meetings and Expo will be staged in Washington from May 14 to May 19.

Among the sessions will be:


The CIPS Networking and Pinning Ceremony will bring together representatives from NAR’s 89 affiliated real estate associations. New CIPS Designees from around the globe will receive their pins and certificates with a line of CIPS instructors greeting them.

The General Session will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act.

Mediation Of Legal Disputes

A good deal for all parties

BY DON D. NELSON

If you want to dramatically cut costs and waiting time for a legal resolution, consider using mediation.

Mediation is an informal process where an impartial third party, the mediator, helps the disputing parties find a mutually satisfying solution to their issue. The mediator guides the parties toward a mutually agreeable settlement by helping them clarify their underlying interests and concerns, and encouraging compromise and trade-off based on the relative importance of each item to each party.

Mediators cannot impose a resolution upon the parties since they are not able to make legally binding decisions. Any settlement reached, if in fact one is reached, is simply an agreement signed by the parties just like any other contract. The settlement does not have the same legal force as an award which results from arbitration.

Mediation is usually well-suited to disputing parties who still have a somewhat amicable relationship, who are still able to negotiate. Statistically mediation has historically been successful somewhere between 40 to 50 percent of the time.

So put a written arbitration and mediation clause into all contracts you enter into in Mexico. It will save you many years in Mexican courts and untold legal fees.

Note: The Settlement Company has an arbitration clause in all of its contracts.

About the author: Don D. Nelson is a specialist at Arbitration and Mediation of Business Real Estate. He is an international tax expert.

Real Estate Classifieds

EXPERIENCED AGENTS WANTED: Looking for experienced real estate agents that like to work independently... generous commission splits and flexible hours.

For an interview contact Stephanie Pepper, Broker of Coastal Properties of Cabo at steph@coastalpropertiesofcabo.com

Agent Profile

Janet Jensen

Janet, as partner of The Agency Los Cabos, Janet brings over 23 years of real estate experience – five as a licensed REALTOR® in Vancouver, British Columbia and 18 years in Los Cabos where she says life is a dream come true. This, in addition to her local knowledge of 21 years, makes her a natural choice for a top real estate agent in Los Cabos.

She has broad market knowledge, from oceanfront homes and land to luxury resorts; which includes Palmilla, Cabo del Sol, Punta Ballena, Hacienda Beach Club & Residences and Puerto Los Cabos. Keeping abreast of new resorts such as Maravilla, Montage Residences, Solaz and Chileno Bay helps her to be a great fit for all types of buyers or sellers.

Janet enjoys, live music, dining, cooking, environmental concerns, local charities and great friends are just some of the things important in her everyday Cabo life. Janet sits on the Local AMPI board (Mexico's Professional Real Estate association) and is an active member of the Los Cabos MLS. Credentials include CIPS – (Certified International Property Specialist) and ABR (Accredited Buyers Representative).

‘Living is a thing you do now or never - which do you do?’ - Piet Hein

Contact Janet at - janet@theagencyloscabos.com or call her at (624) 141-6726.
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 (AMPF), 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@mlsbsc.com.mx.

WHAT IS GOING ON WITH...

continued from page 14

longer were able to do anything, not even pay their annual trust fees. This led to several customer complaints, complaints filed by the AMPF main office, by some local attorneys, notaries and developers, none of which provoked any response from HSBC. The crisis became worse.

The lack of a sensible response to customers, and all the claims mixed with the constant change of employees within the trust department, finally became so bad that employees of HSBC started to do a slowdown. Finally something was done, and now things are moving, but very, very slowly.

HSBC designated a local law firm as their receiving office, with no authority to make any decision.

This law firm does try to help a lot and are pushing to make HSBC more sensitive and flexible. This law firm is Rufen Tezonoconco with Javier Troncoso, to whom I truly thank for his involvement. Follow up is finally something possible as phone calls to Mexico City and emails are finally being answered, not in a very timely manner, but at least an answer can be provided.

HSBC still puts all the burden of the file integration on the shoulders of the customer, so for any transaction, the customer has to provide them all the history and documents, as if HSBC had no file at all. They request everything from the original trust to all ID’s or parties involved even when such parties no longer participate on the trust. They require letters of instructions to be notarized signatures must be exactly the same as in the passports on all the forms that need to be signed, (not similar, exactly the same), and utility bills must be no older than 3 months. Since all transactions at HSBC take a lot longer than 3 months, all of the historical parties must be prepared to send new utility bills several times.

The list of requests they make goes on and on. It seems that every solution they have a problem, but that is the reality and it does not look like it will improve in the near future.

So let me provide you some counseling on this:

a) If you are planning to sell or buy any property held in trust (Fideicomiso) by HSBC, either as owner, broker or closer, don’t try to make a transfer of right, this means, don’t transfer the rights of an existing trust, this would be very slow and a nightmare as they have to verify the identity of the new customer, and that takes forever. Do not try to instruct to cancel the existing trust and create a new one as they will also have to verify the identity of the new client who acquires the property, just request as trustee substitution and transfer the trust to another bank, there, you can do whatever you want.

For trustee substitutions HSBC requests all the legal documentation of the new trustee, ignoring that, according to the applicable money laundering regulations, Mexican banks, having already been registered with the financial authorities, have a “simplify regime”, which means they should only have to provide the powers of attorney of their legal representative and its ID. But with HSBC, without any legal basis at all, they request everything as if no “simplify regime” applies. But still this is easier than any other process.

b) If it is a master trust that has the property, then chances are it is “frozen” which means nothing will move. Not all master trusts are frozen but many are and those cases are very hard to obtain any response from HSBC, at all. A claim to the banking customer protection agency (CONDUSEF) may be a path, but litigation may be the only solution for such cases unless the developer gets involved and goes to Mexico City to try to sort this out directly.

c) If you are under a current transaction, make sure everyone involved understands that there is no estimate time for closing, that things will happen very slowly and that people will be asked to send more and more documents, sign new forms, send utility bills, and fulfill other requirements that may change at any time without notice. All parties involved must be very patient and acknowledge the problem as there is no agent, attorney, notary or broker that can do much about this problems in HSBC.

Now, if you are an owner who have your property under a trust, and are planning to sell in the near future, maybe you should consider the possibility of requesting a trust bank substitution now. (Find another bank to hold your trust). It will be expensive as you will have to pay notary fees, public registry recording fees, HSBC cancellation fee, new trustee incorporation fee and first annual fee of new bank. There will also be a no lien fee, no debt certificate fee, and legal fees but this will be the only way to make sure your sale goes smoothly and in a predictable way. Many real estate sales have slipped away because HSBC can’t get their act together. Some buyers won’t even consider your property. Many Realtors are refusing to list a property with a fideicomiso held by HSBC. They don’t want to work hard to put a deal together and then watch in horror as HSBC kills it with their delays.

By Raúl León. Attorney At Law. For more information, contact him at: Cel. 011 521 624-151-633, Or his Local Cel: (624) 151-6332, O email him at posaidoon@gmail.com.

A CRASH COURSE IN...

continued from page 16

Learn more about rental taxes in Mexico and how to pay them at www.rentaltaxmexico.com. Email us for more information on rental taxes: ddnelson@gmail.com info@settlement-co.com

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Hurricane Hunter Lands In La Paz

BY DICK FITZWELL

A Hércules Lockheed WC-130J belonging to the US Air Force, landed in La Paz and showed off to some lucky looky loos.

The special plane is equipped as a hurricane hunter and it couldn’t be in a better place to find hurricanes than here.

The crew includes the pilot, a copilot, a navigator, a meteorologist, and half a dozen air reconnaissance staff who monitor half a dozen consoles telling them in real time what’s going on outside the plane. This data is streamed to meteorologists on the ground, eventually making its way to your weather girl on TV.

Every year, in preparation for hurricane season, a Hurricane Hunter visits us and other cities along the Pacific. This time the aircraft, which is part of the 53rd Meteorological Squadron of the USAF, was welcomed by government officials and a group of elementary school students, who were excited to go onboard and learn how the crew gathers accurate data on a hurricane.

The Hercules flew to Manzanillo next and most likely this very plane will be the one to come back when a hurricane approaches our state.

Manned flights into hurricanes began in 1943 when, on a bet, Colonel Joseph Duckworth flew a single-engine plane into a category 1 storm near Galveston, Texas. Since then, six military weather reconnaissance planes have gone down, at a cost of 53 lives.

Before satellites were used to first detect storms, military aircraft flew routine weather reconnaissance to find them. Today, satellites have improved weather forecasters’ ability to detect signs of such storms when they’re still little baby storms, but they cannot determine the interior barometric pressure nor provide accurate wind speed information—data needed to accurately predict hurricane development and direction of movement.

The Lockheed plane is a heavily instrumented flying laboratory with a half dozen technicians monitoring the storm they’re flying through.
Sunday In The Park With George

It’s a reunion of every dog that’s been adopted out of the Cabo San Lucas Humane Society. If your best friend is a graduate of the shelter we would love to hear from you about how the relationship has worked out. And maybe your dog will remember some of his old kennel mates, wouldn’t that be fun.

Sunday, June 17th, 10 am until 4 pm at Cabo Dog Resort, (www.cabok9corral.com.)

There will be people games and dog games, lots of dog talk, and food booths. Bring your bathing suit and snap your pet on a leash. The park is leash-free, however, so we just know you’ve taught your furry friend to play nice with others.


CONTINUED ON PAGE 28
Watch That Next Step!

Dangerous sidewalks abound in Mexico but it seems like Los Cabos takes that tradition to new lows.

The Amigos of downtown, which now wants to be known as Empresarios del Centro, (Downtown businesses), is demanding the city government do something about the holes in the sidewalks some big enough to lose a Buick in.

Several agencies are to blame, but the worst of these holes are owned by the department we love to hate, Oom-sapas. The water department. Following the remodeling of downtown Cabo, they covered their access points with plastic lids that break under a person's weight. Now you’ve got a hole about 18 inches by about 12 inches, a very sneaky sized hole. A government official promised last week that they will replace at least 100 of those cheapo plastic lids this week.

Sure the lids are a constant problem, but it’s mostly tourists who fall into them, as we locals watch where we’re going. We know we can’t count on safe footsteps like you people seem to think is a birth right.

Second at fault are the outdated, half destroyed TelMex telephone booths. Who needs a telephone booth these days? They are blocking pedestrian traffic and some are trash deposits.

Third culprit is our sidewalks that undulate up and down with each new store front, something that our stumble bum tourists are not used to in their world. Some sidewalks have several sets of steps to negotiate in a single block. That’s because the streets and sidewalks were built to follow the geography, or even the whim of a shop owner who wanted a different kind of front entrance. This was before urban planning existed. OK, it still doesn’t exist. It exists, it’s just that nobody pays any attention to it because nobody enforces it.

Let’s keep our eyes open out there, your next step could be a misstep that will change your vacation.
Tascalate is ancient history in a cup. The word comes from the Nahuatl work tlacaxcalatl, which means tortilla water. It’s made from corn, cocoa, achiote (a Mexican spice), pine nuts and cinnamon, and is traditional in the state of Chiapas. Its consumption dates back from before the Spaniards conquest.

In 1566 the bishop Diego de Landa described it as a “beverage made from toasted corn and flavored with chiles and chocolate”, and he stated that it was very popular in the south of the country.

The beverage is a reddish color, that can be prepared with either water or milk, served cold and can be sometimes sweetened with sugar. The indigenous people of Chiapas called it the beverage of love - because of its reddish color and intense flavor - and drank it at parties.

Lately, the government of Chiapas has accomplished making Tascalate a staple product from Chiapas, with a certificate of origin which has helped micro-entrepreneurs register their own mix of the ingredients and sell them in little 20-ounce pouches.

Tascalate is an ancient heritage of the indigenous people of Chiapas. It is not easy to find, and nowadays only a small number of people know about it. It is usually prepared starting with a reddish powder bought already prepared, but it can be easily made at home, according to one’s taste. Using milk gives it a more intense flavor and more consistency, while water results in a more refreshing drink. It is the perfect drink on a hot day. Because the corn powder does not dissolve completely in the liquid, it might form a little deposit: honestly the best part is to scoop it out at the end with a spoon, sort of licking the batter spoon clean.

The two main ingredients here are ancient Mexican, cacao and achiote. Cacao, of Mexican origin, and since ancient times has been a fruit of great value (and flavor) for the Aztec and Maya civilizations. It was used by the Maya as currency, being a key element in the commercial exchange between peoples. Imagine carrying cacao beans in your hand and being able to buy food and other merchandise with them! Before the world was as we know it today, cacao (or chocolate) was already among us under the protection of the Maya god Ek Chuah.

Being a product of great importance, cacao had the protection of the god Ek Chuah (“black scorpion”) who also symbolized acts of war and provided protection to merchants. Let us take a moment to remember the duality of many Maya deities: this god could be represented with black tones, like the color of war, with a spear in his hand and in full combat action; or, with a bundle of merchandise on his back, like the image of someone on the street, constantly trading and traveling.

Its consumption used to be reserved for the upper classes and its energizing and stimulating properties were known, either through the seed or prepared in liquid form, so it was greatly appreciated. There are many versions of how its use and production expanded in Mexico; what is certain is that with the Spanish conquest the seed was taken to Europe and from there a whole chocolate tradition was born in countries like Belgium and Switzerland.

Achiote, the other main ingredient of Tascalate, is an orange-red condiment and food coloring derived from the seeds of the achiote tree. It is often used to impart a yellow or orange color to foods, but sometimes also for its flavor and aroma. Its scent is described as ‘slightly peppery with a hint of nutmeg’ and flavor as ‘slightly nutty, sweet and peppery’.

The color of Achiote comes from various carotenoid pigments, mainly bixin and nor-bixin, found in the reddish waxy coating of the seeds. The condiment is typically prepared by grinding the seeds to a powder or paste. Similar effects can be obtained by extracting some of the color and flavor principles from the seeds with hot water, oil, or lard, which are then added to the food.

Achiote also called Annatto, and its extracts are now widely used in an artisanal or industrial scale as a coloring agent in many processed food products, such as cheeses, dairy spreads, butter and margarine, custards, cakes and ice creams, and in the production of chocolate and chocolate milk.
Would The Last Dog In Loreto Please Turn Out The Lights?

We’re almost down to our last dog

BY KRISTEN WINN

Segunda Chansa (Second Chance) Oregon Animal Rescue has been partnering with shelters in Loreto to expand adoption opportunities for abandoned dogs. Loreto is a great little town about four hour’s drive north of here.

To date, they have sent no less than 229 dogs from Loreto to Portland, where they have all been successfully adopted. Last year, more than 7,000 animals were transferred to the Oregon Humane Society, including pets who lost their homes during the Santa Barbara California wildfires and Hurricane Harvey in Texas.

In all, the Oregon Humane Society sucks up about 11,000 animals each year -- meaning most of the animals adopted from the Portland shelter didn’t originate there. About 98 percent of the animals do ultimately find homes. Two percent that are determined to be too aggressive or too sick -- and untreatable -- are euthanized, according to the organization.

Their partners in Loreto who sent them 229 dogs are Segunda Chansa, a private dog rescue, and Animalandia, a spay and neuter clinic (www.animalandialbc.org).

Their shelter partners in Portland are Friends of Shelter Animals (www.ofosa.org), Pixie Project (www.pixieproject.org), and Family Dogs New Life (www.familydogsnnewlife.org). Their transport partner is Rescue Express from Eugene, Oregon (www.rescueexpress.org).

SOAR is also involved. (Stray & Orphaned Animal Rescue) and is funded 100% by donations and managed by volunteers. Supporters foster dogs, provide car and air transport, and donate food and money for such needs as spaying, neutering, immunizations, and medical care.

As a “muchas gracias” to their Oregon partners, SOAR donates $50 per dog to Rescue Express for the bus trip and $100 per dog to the receiving shelter.

Let’s follow one of the Loreto dogs as she goes from Loreto to Portland:

Meet Susie Q.

Susie Q., a seven year old female Chihuahua was literally dumped at Animalandia the spay and neuter clinic in the town of Loreto. Families who can no longer care for a dog often toss the animals over the fence during the night.

Dogs who have made the journey from Loreto to Portland, Oregon venture off the bus and out of their crates dazed and confused, in the Pet Smart Parking lot. The Portland shelter finds 11,000 homes a year for dogs from all over the United States and Mexico.

Every morning, volunteers arrive at the clinic to see what’s been pitched at them the night before, and to feed the resident dogs and cats. The new overnight arrivals are isolated and given immunizations, as well as flea, tick and worm treatments. Gradually, they become part of the pack as the search begins for a new home.

Susie Q. was spayed by volunteer vets from the U.S. and fostered by a volunteer at Animalandia.

The owner of the local shelter took Susie Q. under his wings on the car trip to the border, when he packed her and five other dogs into his car. (That must be quite a sight at the rest stops, and where do you find a hotel with a family like that?) Rescue Express picked up Susie Q. and the other dogs one morning in San Fernando, just north of Los Angeles. She was loaded in a crate with her handmade donated blanket and a non tip over water bowl and she rode non-stop to her drop-off location in Portland, Oregon 15 hours north. Volunteers met the bus in the pre-dawn hours at the PetSmart parking lot.

That same morning, Susie Q. and her five bus-mates were dropped off at Family Dogs New.
Shop Reps Indigenous Women In Fair Trade
Selling very upmarket merchandise, not trinkets

BY ANITA JOB

We’re going to tell you about a Mexican craft shop, not a trinket shop. They sell leather bags, leather shoes in up to the minute styles, leather hats, and various textile clothing.

Maria del Mar is the drive behind this project. She began in México City, where she started with the first store located in the hip area of La Condesa, calling it Toco Madera. “This is a 100% project in which Maria serves as the deal maker who approaches Mexican remote communities in search of activities and values that reflect the lifestyle of the people,” she explains.

Now Maria has opened another store in Cabo San Lucas, in a unit on the bottom floor of the hotel Breathless, right on the marina front, also called Toco Madera. Loosely translated, it means knock on wood. It is actually touch wood, but the intention behind the name is knock on wood.

In her real life Maria used to work in the marketing department of Cabo Adventures, (the dolphin people). Now she works in her real life in marketing at the development El Encanto de la Laguna. This Toco Madera store is a labor of love, and she passes on the result of sales to the women who make the products.

For the textile part of the store merchandise, the women employ back strap weaving, a technique frequently used in Oaxaca. It is a tradition among Mexican tribes such as Zapotec and Mixtec. It’s a simple loom that looks complicated because there are so many sticks going across the piece. It’s called back strap because instead of working on a loom, the piece is attached at one end to a stationary object like a door or a wall, and at the other end to the weaver, always a woman. A strap goes around her back, or more accurately, her hips. This back strap keeps tension on the piece. The reason for the contraption is it’s portable and inexpensive. But it must be a knee killer.

One would think that such an arrangement would produce crude weaving, but no, exquisite works of art are produced this way.

Only women do this, and when they start a piece, they have to finish it; if not, it’s considered bad luck. All these communities are matriarchal, and the women are in charge of leading the projects, they have their own parties, they dance with each other (other women) and have social/financial control. When you buy Mexican artisan design piece of Toco Madera you are actually helping those women to sustain themselves.

An example of the exquisite work of the indigenous people of Mexico. It doesn’t have to be all tourist trinkets. You can buy these and more at Toco Madera on the Cabo marina.
 Classified Ads Easy Sign Up

NEXT DEADLINE IS TUESDAY, MAY 24TH

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$200 pesos cooperation at the entrance. Cabo San Lucas’ Cultural pavilion, downtown next to the marina.

Jun 2 and 30, July 28, August 25, September 29, October 27 and November 24. Saturday. 9:00 pm. Jaime Martinez in Concert. Trova and Mexican Music with guest musicians, always to benefit some charity. $100 pesos donation. Angel cell 624 150 0216. Spanish with some help in English. At Mactondo 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 not going to tell you again, you can’t miss it. We just did. Ha ha.


June 12. Tuesday. 6:00 and 8:00 pm. Passion. Dance and Theater show. By Euredice Dance Center students. Spanish with some help in English. Tickets 200 pesos 1 function, 300 pesos 2 functions. Spanish with some help in English. 624 166 2975. Cabo San Lucas’ Cultural pavilion, downtown next to the marina.

Pené Núñez, honcho and head stumble bum of the department.

He’s trying to distract us from us only getting water a few times a week, by claiming about 40% of the water is lost through leakage in the pipes. (It’s not our fault, we stick water in the pipes, if it doesn’t come out the other end, what are we to do?) Well, fix the pipes, you are the water department! You could use some of that money you got for the sweetheart deal you made for the Spanish desal plant. That would be the desal plant that’s usually down waiting for parts.

Finally, the honcho of Oomsapas wanted to remind us a new desalination plant is coming, so hang in there. The contract was awarded to the same crappy Spanish company that can’t keep the original plant running.

The problem is the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act enacted by Jimmy “Give away the Panama Canal” Carter makes it a felony to pay off any foreign government or individual to get a contract. That eliminates the United States in any Latin country’s bidding process for anything as nobody gets a bid without a payoff. Thanks to the FCPA the US simply cannot compete on a playing field that uneven.

**Que Pasa in Cabo?**

continued from page 12

Palace) and Hyatt Vacation. The transaction is in process, said their spokeschick, and includes The Westin Lagunamar Ocean Resort Villas & Spa in the Mayan Rivera, the Westin Resort & Spa Cancún, and The Westin Resort & Spa Puerto Vallarta.

**New luxury resort opens.**

Aren’t they all luxury these days? This May 30, the Montage Los Cabos, on Santa Maria Bay on the fourlane between Cabo San Lucas and San Jose, will hold its ribbon cutting ceremony. Oh, you didn’t get an invite? We are sorry for you, but we got ours.

Montage is on the site where the legendary Twin Dolphin hotel operated many years ago. The 39 acre area is now dubbed “the master-planned Twin Dolphin community”. Featuring 122 rooms, suites and large homes.

See you there. Ooops! You didn’t get an invite! So sorry. Stay tuned for our review, if we survive the cocktails.

**Caesars does Cabo.**

Not the Emperor and not the Caesars’ salad, but the hotel. With no gambling, sigh. A 500-room hotel will be part of the 2,000-acre Puerto Los Cabos development, just north of San Jose.

It is expected to open next year, with a 40,000 square foot convention center, (who needs our Los Cabos International Convention Center? It’s old news now), a 25,000 square foot spa, three restaurants and poolside cabanas. Guests will have access to two nearby golf courses, which is currently one, but they have plans.

The developer is Grupo Questro, Los Cabos’ biggest developer, whose other Los Cabos resorts include Secrets Puerto Los Cabos, Dreams Los Cabos, Cabo Real, Casa Dorada, the ME by Melia and Casa Del Mar Suites Golf & Spa Resort.

It will be built by Grupo Questro and then Caesars Entertainment will manage the $200 million property, under a licensing and management fee. It is set to break ground early next year.
Fish Killer Of The Week

Cabo San Lucas

Numbers at a glance: Billfish 10%, tuna 79%, dorado 36%, other 12%.

Weather in Cabo has improved this week, with winds dying down and only a bit of swell appearing just after midweek. With 39 out of 41 boats catching fish, it’s been the most successful week fishing this month. Tuna was undoubtedly the most caught fish for the fleet. Variety improved with more dorado and wahoo. Smaller game fish were only caught by those who decided to stay close to shore.

Cabo Climate: The April weather turned to mostly sunny skies in May with average daytime temps in the 80s and evening temps in the upper 60s to low 70s. The outlook for the next few weeks is a bit cooler with daytime temps in the upper 70s and evenings in the mid-60s; no precipitation for the next few weeks but winds are still expected to blow in the 10- to 14-mph range through first few weeks of May. Humidity is expected to run in the 70% range over the next few weeks as well.

Sea Conditions: Relatively calm seas throughout the area with some surface chop occasion-ally stirred up by surface breezes at 10- to 14-mph mostly out of the SSW. Forecast is for more of the same with winds in the same range out of the West. Sea temps around the Golden Gate and Jamie Banks are running in the 68- to 70-degree range. Water around Cabo Falso east to the Gordo Banks is warmer in the 71- to 72-degree range.

Best Fishing Areas: The San Jamie was the hot spot for yellowfin. The Herradura area produced marlin and the Migrino area seemed to be the hot spot for sierra.

Best Bait & Lures: Feathers and cedar plugs were the favorite for the yellowfin with Hoochies being the hot ticket for sierra.

From San Diego, Rebecca Coxsey fished in La Paz for the first time with Tailhunter Sportfishing and got her first dorado; she had fun with lots of bonito and pargo as well. She thought it was pretty funny that it matched her bikini. The fish was caught just outside of Bahia de Los Muertos.

Bait Supply: Plenty of bait is available at the $3.00 per bait rate upon exit from the harbor.

Puerto Los Cabos

Recently the ocean conditions have been great and the yellowfin tuna action on the Iman Bank was very good; many quality fish in the 40- to 70-pound class were landed, with some even reaching the 100-pound mark.

The Iman Bank also produced a couple of yellowtail over 30 pounds. Though, the North Wind kicked up and stirred up conditions.

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Deserving Of Your Love

TEAL
Female medium size 5 year old mix Shepherd and Labrador. She was simply abandoned when her family left town and has been shuttled between homes since that time, with barely enough time anywhere to even unpack.

WALDEN
Male medium size 3-4 year old Shepherd mix. Walden has been very sick for 5 months and we did not know if he was going to make it, but now he’s back to life and wants to live it to the fullest. He has not been able to find a home or even anyone interested in him, maybe because he is black. We all know that black dogs and black cats have a tough time in this world.

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

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Cooking Like a Mexican... continued from page 21

and other baked goods, potatoes, snack foods, breakfast cereals, smoked fish, sausages, and more. In these uses, Achiot is a natural alternative to synthetic food coloring compounds and is of particular commercial value in the United States because the Food and Drug Administration considers colorants derived from it to be “exempt of certification”. Tascalate is from the coast of Chiapas, Chiapa de Corzo, Suchiapa are the biggest places where it’s consumed. It is mostly consumed during the summer for its refreshing properties, and there has been a spike in Tascalate sales since more tourists and curious foodies have heard about its deliciousness and high protein.

Ingredients:
- 2 pounds of tortillas
- 8 ounces of toasted cocoa seeds
- 2 teaspoons of ground cinnamon
- 1 oz of achiot (1/4 of a 100gr bar from any supermarket)
- 1 piece of piloncillo
- 2 cups of milk or water, to taste.

Grate the piloncillo and set aside. Toast tortillas in a comal over medium heat and break in pieces (this is a great way to use leftover tortillas, once they have become a little tough after heating, make sure you are toasted to the point where they break, if they are still a little flexible you need to toast them a bit more). Dry blend tortillas, the toasted cacao seeds, the ground cinnamon, achiot and a teaspoon of the piloncillo, until you have a uniform powder. Eight spoonfuls of Tascalate powder are enough for two cups of liquid, make sure you stir well and make a little foam (you can use a traditional chocolate beater, the wooden ones).

Serve over ice and enjoy! You can add more piloncillo to taste.

Spa Cielo a Laser Medical Spa

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 Acupulse™ Fractional CO2 Laser. With the recent addition of the award winning HydraFacial™, Vista Best Non-Laser, Non-Surgical Skin Rejuvenation 2012, Spa Cielo has now something for everyone, whether it is 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 the past 10 years here in Los Cabos to meet those vacationer desires. “People want to look better, but they don’t want to give up any time from their daily lives or vacation” said Cathy Dammann, Medical Aesthetics Practitioner and Owner of Spa Cielo Laser, Wellness and Weight Loss Center. “The public is demanding transformation with little pain or downtime” states Dammann. Spa Cielo, which specializes in the latest light and laser treatments, offers a variety of treatments 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 “hot test 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” by WebMD, which offers a superior solution for rejuvenating and resurfacing the skin. The fractional laser can be used effectively to treat 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.

All of the other laser treatments at Spa Cielo, including TITAN™, the non-surgical facelift, recipient of the Aesthetic Medicine Award for “Best Customer Experience and Satisfaction” can be performed the day before a media or public relations event. LiftStyle Lift Now Available at Spa Cielo. Spa Cielo offers a complimentary VISIA™ computerized complexion analysis, which allows a customized treatment program for efficient rejuvenation in shortest amount of time. Make your time here rejuvenation vacation. Call 624-105-2209 to schedule your complimentary VISIA™.

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

WOULD THE LAST DOG IN... continued from page 22

Saint Luke’s Hospital

Are Stem Cells Right For You?

Stem Cell Therapy.

Stem cell therapy is a treatment where stem cells that are derived from the patient’s fat cells and bone marrow, or from a donor, are injected into the damaged area. These cells naturally supplement the body’s stem cells to increase the body’s potential to regenerate and repair diseased or damaged tissue and help the injury heal much faster. People who may benefit from stem cell therapy include those suffering from osteoarthritis and other degenerative diseases of the joints, spinal cord injuries, diabetes, Parkinson’s disease, Alzheimer’s disease, facial rejuvenation and anti-aging, erectile dysfunction and many other conditions. Saint Luke’s Hospital has researched and developed many procedures where they can apply stem cell therapy with significant results and have received numerous testimonials of excellence.

Degenerative Diseases of the Joints.

If you suffer advanced arthritis of one of your joints, chances are you may develop arthritis in other joints of your body. Depending on the severity of the condition, and if you are seeking a long-term or permanent treatment, we recommend the following procedure for treatment of degenerative diseases of the joints: 1 to 2 doses of 16 million stem cells combined with platelet-rich plasma injected into the affected joint, and 4 to 6 doses of 16 million stem cells given intravenously to provide relief of pain and to treat arthritic joints of the body.

Contact Now! Saint Luke’s Hospital today and book your appointment speak to an English speaking patient co-ordinator who will answer your questions.

Saint Luke’s Hospital

Cabo San Lucas

At the medical corridor behind Soriana next to Pemex.

Tels. 143. 0911

www.saintlukeshospitals.com

May 14th, 2018
Ask a Mexican

This week we asked: If you were elected president, what would you do to improve the country? What would you take from the current candidates?

Josue Ceseña, 19, student.
I would do a huge green revolution and add taxes to whatever contaminates the most, like old cars, factories, industrial processing, et cetera. I don't think I would take any of the current candidate's proposals as they are not really helpful with what we currently need as a country. I do think that the most important subjects are also energy, gasoline, and costs. Gasoline is becoming so expensive it's ridiculous.

Lucia Lopez, 49, secretary.
I really think we need to raise production in our country. I think I would put more importance in growing vegetables than exporting them, so we can raise the internal economy before trying to work in an international market. Also, I think the petroleum industry is not really developed in our country, it has been neglected and taken by very corrupt people. We should unite as a country and take the gasoline industry back, because that could help us grow so much.

Hilario Gonzalez, 53, farm owner.
I believe we need to put more investment in the agricultural sector, both with crops and cattle. Almost everything the industry uses is imported, and therefore more expensive. Mexicans do not realize the power there is in such humble industry. And I like the Moreno party's proposal about chopping robbers' hands off, but I don't think we should do it literally, we should just veto them from having good jobs and charge more taxes so they pay society back.

Mario Pedraza, 46, maintenance chief.
We should work with education, since all basic education is all free now, we need to make it good, there is no real progress if it is still bad. If I could, I would mix in some entrepreneurship courses for high school kids, since most of them cannot afford college, at least they could set up their own businesses or learn some administration so when they leave their parents' house they know how to take on things like rent, food, and services.

Lupé Corral, 72, retired.
The current candidates are all wrong. If I were president, I would start by looking at where all tax money is going and remove all the big salaries the public administrators receive, to make sure those governing the country are really doing it because they want to, not because they want money. I would also raise teachers' salaries since they are the ones shaping the kids' minds, and kids are the future. Police should also get an update, we should pay them more but also be stricter so they wouldn't give in to any temptation and stop being corrupt.

Diana Lopez, 36, office manager.
I think I would like to stop crime, but I am pretty sure it's too late for that. I would seriously consider legalizing marijuana so the cartels have less of an excuse to kill innocent people in their fights, and I would definitely.
lots and lots of picky eaters. lighthouse and on the Iman Bank. geting tuna, so no one is going inside for roosters. foreseeable future. A few boats of it. No wind predicted in the that should be the last we see picked up, then went away, and where. The dreaded North Wind is for a warm summer. for a good start, while the air has keeps the climate very comfort- un-common to have this type of action will improve. It is not will rebound and the all-around front moves through, conditions do expect that after this weather roosterfish and jack crevalle. We along with a handful of small a few smaller-sized sierra found, a bit more productive.

Close to shore, there were just a few smaller-sized sierra found, along with a handful of small roosterfish and jack crevallle. We do expect that after this weather front moves through, conditions will rebound and the all-around action will improve. It is not uncommon to have this type of pattern during this time frame. It keeps the climate very comfortable, but does not help the fishing stay on track.

East Cape

Recently, it’s been all about yellowfin tuna and small roosters-hish. They make a great combo for a fun day on the water. The water is warming up, 79 or 80 degrees for a good start, while the air has been around 70 degrees in the early mornings. The predication is for a warm summer.

It has been gangbusters on tuna and inshore fishing every-where. The dreaded North Wind picked up, then went away, and that should be the last we see of it. No wind predicted in the foreseeable future. A few boats ventured out, but most stayed inside for roosters.

Lots of striped marlin this time of year, but anglers are target-ing tuna, so no one is going after them.

Local hotel boats found nice yellowfin tuna and wahoo off the lighthouse and on the Iman Bank. Lots and lots of picky eaters.

Small roosterfish, skipjack, ladyfish and jack crevallle as well as sierra are keeping all of our fly-fishers happy. Nothing smaller than a 9-weight rod unless you want to turn a 4-piece into a 6-piece.

Small, aggressive roosterfish are everywhere. Good, large sar-dina and caballito bait continues to be available.

La Paz

Some slugger 15 to 30 pound yellowfin tuna showed up for Las Puerto Bay Flies. boss. For many, it was their first experience on yellowfin and we lost some fish after some rough battles. Also, we got wahoo bit and we also got our first marlin as well plus amberjack and a big dog-tooth snapper out of the rocks. The biggest thing was find-ing bait and waiting for winds to abate, time for the flyfishers.

The La Paz Fleet fared a bit better. Good action in the rocks for snapper, pargo, big cabrilla and lots of big triggerfish plus a smattering of dorado and lots of huge bonito. Then, bigger dorado in the 10- to 30-pound class showed up and decided to chew! Way fun, especially for a lot of first-timers to see these big Mahi-Mahi through the water and hit the baits! There were schools of boiling tuna, but all were moving too fast to jump on them.

Cabo San Lucas

Tracy Ehrenberg www.pi-cesportfishing.com Larry Edwards www.cor-tezcharters.com

San Jose del Cabo

Gordo Bank Pangas www. gordinbanks.com

East Cape

Rancho Leonerlito Hotel www. rancholeonero.com

Jen Wren Sportfishing www. thejenwren.com

East Cape Tackle Cindy Kirk- wood, www.eastcapetackle.com

La Paz

Jonathan Roldan’s Tailhunter International www.tailhunter- international.com

Woud the last dog in...

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For animals that have not re- ceived a lot of love or care, it is a new beginning, with plenty of food, toys, a soft place to sleep, and plenty of walks. The rain and the snow? They take it better than most of you would. That’s just a nice indoor nap day for them.

For more information on SOAR and/or to make a donation to continue their very successful efforts, you can contact Kristen Winn (kristenwinn@comcast.net).
Rare Opportunity
Casa del Caballo de Mar, Loreto, Baja California Sur, México

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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