Historic Elections

Featuring all new faces, clean sweep of the winning party, and highest turnout ever

Elections went off without a hitch last week, with most incumbents kicked out of office amid a huge turnout of more than 60% that saw Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (AMLO in the popular press), become president on this, his third try. His Moreno party, which he cobbled together in a coalition of several, swept nearly everyone running on that ticket into power, including our first female mayor. She got 31.90% of the votes, which was still 8 percentage points more than her closest opponent, Labor Party (PT), Ernesto Ibarra.

The current mayor of Los Cabos, Arturo de la Rosa ran a distant third, fighting great discontent in the barrios over home robberies, chronic water shortages, and corruption.

Ruben Munoz, also of the Moreno party, became mayor of La Paz.

Nationwide the vote was perceived as a referendum on corruption. The people seem to be pretty sick of it and see it as the root of most of Mexico’s problems.

For more on elections, see article inside.

What’s In Your Water?

Waterkeeper Alliance is watching that for us

BY PAIGE TURNER

The heat of the summer is upon us, and for many that means heading to the beach. Grab the umbrella, the chairs, the reef-safe lotion, and some snacks. A great beach day consists of all these things, but it also consists of something many don’t consider: water quality.

The quality of oceans, lakes, and rivers are a growing concern across the planet. Luckily, the Waterkeeper Alliance is here to help. Starting in 1966 some fishermen in New York took action when they saw industrial pollutants destroy their fisheries on the Hudson River. They became Waterkeepers, people who monitor the quality of the water, and started the process of cleaning the river. Waterkeepers began to pop up everywhere, and today over 300 Waterkeepers around the world form the non-profit Waterkeeper Alliance.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Armida Castro, the new mayor of Los Cabos takes office December 1
Now, What's Going On? Our city fathers, in their finite wisdom, have decided to spend our pothole money to make the downtown plaza prettier. Officially it’s called Amelia Wilkes park and is our anchor town square. Well, the park is not a glamour puss, we’ll grant that, but this major overhaul is going to be a major pain in the ass for drivers for at least six months. What, you think a one block square park can be spruced up in a week? They think a one block square park can be spruced up in a week? They expect this to take at least six months, and that’s six Mexican months, so hunker down.

Two years ago when the city re-paved and re-piped the down-town streets, taking about three months, so hunker down. You could roll your window down and curse the workers, but why? Santa Maria beach The Montage resort has begun limiting access to the beach in front of their fancy hotel. They put up a fence of sticks and ropes last week, causing an uproar in the local social media and newspapers. The beach is not private. Beaches in Mexico are property of the nation but can be leased to home owners and developers, to a point. Nobody can prevent the public from being within 20 yards of the water line, but from 20 yards up, a hotel or homeowner, or anyone, can keep people off the beach.

Santa Maria beach, one of the locals’ favorites, is a deep one, with lots of nice sand between the water line and the hotel, but that is not to be enjoyed by the people anymore because the Montage has leased it from the feds and in turn, they say they will keep it clean, with public bathrooms, trash cans and make it handicap friendly. But locals stay on that skinny part that they have to provide by law.

Such an arrangement is not making locals happy and they’ve taken to social media. That has caused Montage to take down the fence, for now. Iconic store closes. The Tropica Calipso swimwear store in Puerto Paraiso mall is closing for good at the end of this month. Founded by longtime Cabo resident Margarita Partridge, it follows in the steps of the original Cotton Club store next to the Aramburo supermarket in down-town Cabo.

It was the first clothing store at that location back in 1989. Margarita later opened Tropica Calipso at Plaza del Sol, also known as Flintstone Village on Cabo’s main road, and then merged both stores at their current location in Puerto Paraiso. Increasing rent and constant leaks during the rainy season were part of Margarita’s decision to shut it down. We’re not losing her entirely, as she is a valued member of the Los Cabos Humane Society and treasurer of the Amigos de Cabo San Lucas, the downtown business association. If you haven’t been to her store, go now. Everything is for sale at 50% discount, including racks and other store fixtures.

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Such an arrangement is not making locals happy, but so far they just whine on Facebook and have made no public protest. That would fix this problem in a big hurry. People with picket signs demanding to use their own beach would not sit well with the hoity toity people who stay at the Montage.

Road work. Finally. The detour at Km. 75 on the road from Cabo to Todos Santos, will be repaired “soon.” Last week, the SCV, Mexico’s communications and transport ministry, finally chose a contractor to get the job done. We have suffered that detour since tropical storm Lidia caused a major landslide last summer. There have been numerous accidents, as the detour is as curvy and skinny as a Victoria Secret’s model. Well curvier.

The problem with the mountain is that it keeps on crumbling. It seems that Lidia, the storm, washed away a protective layer that was holding back mostly smaller rocks and sand that just keep on sliding. Hopefully it will not take years to fix, but the short detour is going to be more difficult that one would at first think.

What’s happening to the hump? That would be the elevated road, often called the Bordo, that runs from the old bull ring to the road to Todos Santos. In the past, the dike like road was built up like that to create an open-air sewage lagoon. Yup, the one where the Office Depot is built.

San Agustin beach The Montage is not to be enjoyed by the people anymore because the Montage has leased it from the feds and in turn, they say they will keep it clean, with public bathrooms, trash cans and make it handicap friendly. But locals stay on that skinny part that they have to provide by law.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 11
World Tennis Tournament Here

Get your tickets and a front row seat

BY CATHY WATKINS

The tennis world will focus on Cabo when we host the third edition of the ATP World Tour 250 Tournament. The Los Cabos Mexican Open will be held from July 30th to August 4th at Cabo del Mar, a residence, school, and sports facility.

Grupo Pegaso has experience in promoting ATP world tennis tournaments. For 25 years it has successfully promoted the Acapulco tournament which has an attendance of over 50,000 and an attendance of over 50,000 and in 2016. It took 14 years for the tournament in Acapulco to accomplish this type of participation. In order to accommodate such a large number of people in one week, extra flights will be added from Mexico City, Guadalajara, Tijuana, Culliacan, and Monterrey. The event is also being promoted in Texas and California and a large number of fans from these states are expected to attend. The official 2018 hotel headquarters is the Solaz Resort on the fourlane. The Marriot has a $800,000 purse. Jose Antonio Cabos which includes spectators to draw 20,000 visitors to Los Cabos as well. Several renowned players representing countries from around the world have already been confirmed. There will be 28 singles players and 16 players for doubles matches. Here are some of the top players with their ATP ranking.

Juan Martin Del Potro
Ranked 4 - Argentina

Sam Querrey
Ranked 13 - United States

Jack Sock
Ranked 14 - United States

Fabio Fognini
Ranked 15 - Italy

Filip Krajinovic
Ranked 37 - Spain

Ryan Harrison
Ranked 58 - United States

Taylor Fritz
Ranked 69 - United States

Thanasi Kokkinakis
Ranked 157 Australia

Tickets are reasonably priced to encourage access for everyone. Prices range from $20 to $88 dollars for a one-day ticket. Tickets are available at the Koral concierge located in the Hampton Inn, in San Jose del Cabo and at the courts in Cabo Del Mar in Cabo San Lucas as well as Ticketmaster. The Koral is open from Monday to Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (52-624-104-0127). Tickets can be purchased at the courts in Cabo Del Mar behind the Cabo San Lucas Country Club. (52-624-688-4526). On-line go to TicketMaster Mexico, http://www.ticketmaster.com.mx.

Players from Mexico will have a chance to attend the tournament as spectators. During the month of June, tournaments are played in eight cities in Mexico. The final round will be played in Cabo just before the ATP 250. These players are from 10 to 21 years old, and the lucky winners from each state in the age group 14 will get to go to Cabo to experience this event firsthand. Perhaps inspiring the next world champion. Also, Grupo Pegaso will continue to support Mexican players with wild cards to participate in the ATP 250 Tournament.

This event will take tennis to the international level for Los Cabos. Only 31 countries out of 154 in the world can say they have the privilege to host an ATP tournament. This sporting event will be broadcast around the world for 361 hours of transmission through 76 means of communication which includes 54 TV stations reaching 152.6 million people on five continents. ESPN2 will broadcast live for 27 hours all week and radio coverage will be by Grupo Imagen. Arturo de La Rosa, former mayor of Los Cabos, has stated Cabo is already known as an international destination for fishing and golf, and now tennis can be added to the list. The Los Cabos Mexican Open will place the municipality of Los Cabos in the eyes of the world this August and for many years to come.

August is definitely hot in Cabo, and this was taken into account when planning the schedule, as the games will be played later in the day. Monday through Thursday the games start at 5:00 p.m. and on Friday and Saturday at 7:00 p.m. The promoters will also create spaces for families to gather and shaded areas.

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There is a line. And prison officials have crossed it raising the price of potato chips. Imprisoned drug lords are among inmates who are complaining of the high price of chips in federal penitentiaries. 130 prisoners in two federal penitentiaries have written to complain to the head of the consumer protection agency, Profeco. Signatories include former drug cartel bosses such as Vicente Carrillo Fuentes, who led the Juárez Cartel; Sidronio Casarrubias, former leader of the Guerreros Unidos; and José Noé Barajas, drug chief in Michoacan.

The inmates complain that prices of their canteen, including junk food, toiletries and stationery rose by an average of 20%. “We’re forced to buy (junk food), because adequate nourishment is not provided”, they said in a letter.

The inmates requested that realistic prices be charged in the penitentiaries and punishment for those who carry out what they called abuse, “because they can’t sell us things at whatever prices they decide just because we’re bad guys,” OK, we made up the bad guys part.

The protesters backed up their complaints with quotes from the Mexican constitution and general law on transparency, and the American convention on human rights. The relatives of inmates in a federal penitentiary in Michoacan filed a similar complaint before Profeco, asserting that “we make an effort to give [the inmates] money because they’re all thin for having been given too little to eat and they gorge on junk food because they’re hungry.

Breaking the curse. Literally. Mexico’s national soccer team endured draconian $10,000 fines levied by soccer officials in Russia for yelling out their favorite chant, “Eh, puto!” during the World Cup.

The team took to, what else, social media, telling their fans to give it up already, do not support us with this shout. Also imploring fans was one of their biggest stars, saying, “Let’s not risk another fine.”

It’s not the first time that players on the team have appealed to fans to stop the chants, but this time it worked. Puto means faggot or male prostitute.

The chant gained international notice the 2014 World Cup but FIFA took no action at the time. However, it sanctioned the Mexican Football Federation (FMF) 12 times for fans’ homophobic chanting during the recent World Cup qualifying rounds. The 13th time seems to have done it.

Next up, Mexico, the United States and Canada will jointly host the 2026 World Cup, announced FIFA, soccer’s international governing body. The three North American countries’ joint bid — known as United 2026— beat Morocco’s bid to be host by a margin of 69 votes, 134 to 65.

Well, let’s just hope the United States’ team doesn’t blow it again like they did this year, not even making the cut. How can the US co-host the most watched sport-
Tennis Tournament Draws Top Players

Coming July 30

BY CATHY WATKINS

We get the third edition of the Abierto de Tenis Mifel sponsored by Cinemex from July 30 to August 4. This tournament will have a total purse of nearly $800,000 dollars, ranking it as the highest in its category (ATP 250) in the Americas Region. The Los Cabos Open is a professional men’s tennis tournament played on outdoor hard courts. It is part of the ATP World Tour 250 series of the Association of Tennis Professionals World Tour. You should see our stadium, it’s kind of behind the Country Club and it’s pretty nice.

Several well-known players representing countries from around the world have already been confirmed. There will be 28 singles players and 16 players for doubles matches. Here are some of the top players with their ATP ranking:

Juan Martin Del Potro
Ranked 4 - Argentina

Sam Querrey
Ranked 13 - United States

Jack Sock
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Fabio Fognini
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Filip Krajnovic
Ranked - 30 France

Feliciano Lopez
Ranked 37 - Spain

Ryan Harrison
Ranked 58 - United States

Taylor Fritz
Ranked 69 - United States

Thanasi Kokkinakis
Ranked 157 Australia

Juan Martin Del Potro from Argentina is now ranked 4. Del Potro was able to return to the Top 10 by winning two important titles in March. He won the Acapulco Title (his first ATP 500 in five years), but his claim to fame is he beat Roger Federer in the BNP Paribas in Indian Wells to clinch his first ATP Masters 1000. Del Potro concluded the first semester of 2018 with a strong performance in Roland Garros by making it to the semifinals that took him to fourth place. Potro has come back from four wrist surgeries in his career, and he is definitely a force to be reckoned with this season.

Sam Querrey from the United States is ranked 13, and he’s returning to Cabo for the third year. Querrey is the champion of last year’s tournament here in Cabo. Also, in 2017, Sam won the ATP 500 tournament in Acapulco when he upset the number two seed Rafael Nadal. Querrey became the first American to win the title in the tournament’s history. Querrey is also the first to ever win Acapulco and Los Cabos in the same year. Then, he went on to reach the semi-finals in Wimbeldon. Last month, in the midst of all the tennis tournaments he got married in Florida on June 9th, after flying in from France where he participated in the French Open at the end of May. He started off well when he beat Frances Tiafoe, but he bet on himself losing as the last day of the French Open was his wedding day.

Jack Sock is also from the United States and is ranked 14. Sock won the Masters 1,000 in Paris-Bercy at the end of the year in 2017. However, Sock has now lost three consecutive first round matches at majors this season.

Feliciano Lopez from Spain is ranked 37, and it’s his third year to return to Cabo. The last two years Feliciano made it to the finals in Cabo.

Just because Kokkinakis from Australia is ranked 157 doesn’t mean he can be counted out. Thanasi just celebrated the biggest win of his career at the Miami Open in March when he upset number one ranked Roger Federer.

Don’t delay. Get your tickets now to see the exciting lineup. Tickets are available at the Koral concierge located in the Hampton Inn on the four lane and at the courts in Cabo Del Mar in Cabo San Lucas as well as Ticketmaster. The Koral is open from Monday to Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (52-624-104-0127). The contact number for Cabo Del Mar is (52-624-688-4526). To purchase tickets on-line go to: http://www.ticketmaster.com.mx.

The grade school and sports facility at Cabo del Mar behind the Country Club is large and complex.
Elections Are Over
And they left a lot scars

BY SANTIAGO VERDUGO

Mexico’s nine month election season finally climaxed in an orgy of payoffs, assassinations, fake news posted on social media, and harsh charges hurled back and forth.

Last Sunday voters elected a new president, 128 senators for a six year term, and 500 members of the Chamber of Deputies for a period of three years. This was the biggest election in Mexico’s history, with more than 3,000 seats up for contention, more than ever, and most of those were cities.

Here are just a few ways this election is different than what we’re used to:

One candidate has never been seen and won’t say where he is. Luis Avellaneda ran his entire campaign for mayor of Pungarabato, Guerrero over the internet. He does admit he’s out of state and says his ghost act is in fear of being assassinated. How he’s going to govern from hiding has not been discussed.

None of the presidential candidates took in a single peso from any of the 90 million registered voters. This brings up the problem of possibly funding their campaigns with dark money. In their mandatory financial filings the three front runners said they may not have held up their end of the bargain once they stepped into the voting booth.

The poll also broke down vote-buying by political party: 21.5% responded that “all the parties” had made offers, while 5.9% identified the governing Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) and its coalition allies as the buyer. Another 5.5% said the

Latest Advances in Stem Cell Therapy

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PRMEDICA are leaders in regenerative medicine and provide advanced stem cell and blood platelet treatments for people with painful knee, shoulder, hip, and back conditions, torn or strained tendons and ligaments, arthritis, and other degenerative joint conditions. These treatments increase function, decrease pain and offer a viable alternative for patients who may be considering surgery.

To treat painful arthritis of the joints we may give an injection of 25 to 50 million mesenchymal stem cells combined with platelet-rich plasma into the affected joint. If you also suffer other degenerative joint conditions, we may give an IV infusion of 100 to 175 million stem cells, based on the severity of your condition. Costs from $1900 US

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Why not schedule a free consultation with our doctors to review your condition. Visit www.prmedica-inc.com for more info about the stem cell procedures available at PRMEDICA

132 political murders since September compared to just nine six years ago. And think, we were appalled at nine. Now we accept 132.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 19
By holding governments and industry accountable, they ensure access to clean water for fishing, swimming, and drinking. On six continents, Waterkeepers are patrolling and protecting 2.5 million square miles of ocean, lakes, and rivers. The Waterkeeper Alliance is a very highly rated charity by Charity Watch and Charity Navigator. In Mexico, there are several groups helping to protect our waters who work in conjunction with the Waterkeeper Alliance.

The entire Baja Peninsula has 11 Waterkeepers, with eight in Baja Sur alone: Cabo Pulmo Coast Waterkeeper, ROC La Paz Waterkeeper, Loreto Coastkeeper, Los Cabos Coastkeeper, Magdalena Baykeeper, Punta Abreojos Coastkeeper, Santa Rosalia Coast Waterkeeper, and Todos Santos Waterkeeper.

The greatest threat to our local waters is a combination of agriculture runoff, unregulated development, mining, and untreated waste water. Over 75 sites in Baja Sur alone are tested each month. However, it’s not only water quality these groups are monitoring. They also patrol waters, report illegal fishing, clean beaches and mangroves, and educate locals on the importance of our waterways and oceans. Each group also takes local advice into consideration.

ROC – La Paz Waterkeeper recently responded to a request to test for heavy metals in the La Paz Bay dredging zone. Their tests concluded that the metals in the water were below the maximum allowed amount. The La Paz Waterkeeper also organizes beach and mangrove cleanups throughout the year.

There are several ways for you to get involved. The Waterkeeper Alliance provides the opportunity for anyone to become a waterkeeper, however, the Baja Peninsula seems pretty much covered at this point. Nevertheless, the Alliance accepts donations as a way for supporters to help. Other ways to get involved include signing up for the Alliance’s newsletter, attending an event (although at this moment there are no local events), and accessing the Waterkeeper Alliance’s marketplace, where a portion of the profits help the organization. The waterkeeper/coastkeeper in La Paz and Los Cabos also have Facebook pages so supporters can stay up to date on activities and events.

So, if you’re headed to the beach this summer, an easy way to find out if the water is safe is to check the Waterkeeper Alliance’s website. Another useful tool is the Swim Guide phone app and website. Swim Guide, created by a Waterkeeper in Lake Ontario known as Swim Drink Fish Canada, is an app that shows water quality for over 7,000 beaches, lakes, and rivers around the world. Results from the Waterkeepers in La Paz, Cabo Pulmo, Cabo San Lucas, Magdalena Bay, and Loreto are uploaded to the Swim Guide monthly. However, at the time of writing this article, only the beaches in La Paz, Magdalena Bay, and Loreto are up to date.

For more information on the Waterkeeper near you, visit waterkeeperalliance.org and select “Waterkeepers.” These hard working locals make sure the beautiful waters of Baja stay suitable for fishing or swimming.
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 Cuahtemoc inside the San Diego Feed Store.

Every Monday. 8:30 am. Pick- lemon in San Jose. Contact ton- dumbarton@comcast.net.

Every Tuesday. 8:00 am. Ro- tary Club at the Sheraton Hacien- da del Mar resort in the Chapel. RSVP: 172-0009 or 172-0010.

Every Tuesday. 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Liga MAC’s used book- store and thrift shop. El Chamizal in San Jose. Runs through until April.

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

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

Every Wednesday. 7:00 am to 12:30 pm. The Organic Market at Pedregal. Fresh, organic produce, coffee, fish, seafood, eggs, whole lambas (Little Bo Pep!), pigs (Porky? Is that you?) handcrafts, 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: marinadelmarl@gmail.com, facebook.com/laes- quisquats.

Every Wednesday. 7:30 to 8:30 pm. Bike ride in San Jose. Free if you bring your own bike, or rent from Sportiva 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@sportiva.mx for information.

Every Wednesday. 5:00 to 10:00 pm. Art Day. Art, paintings, books, live music. At El Merkado, in the Koral Center in 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 up and 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 Thursday. 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. YoReciclo sets up tents to receive clear glass bottles, metals, plastics (except Styro- foam), thick cardboard, computer equip- ment (except monitors), small home appliances (except TV’s of all kinds), cellphones and accessories, edible vegetable oil, ink cartridges and toners of HP, Samsung and Xerox only, please. In San Jose at Centenario corner with Ildefonso Green. In Cabo San Lucas at the parking lot of the baseball stadium. Email info@yoreciclo.org.mx for more information.

Every Thursday. 8:00 am. Ro- tary Club breakfast at the Playa Grande Resort, above the Sports Bar, Cabo San Lucas.

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

Every Thursday. 5:00 to 11:00 pm. After Office. Live music and special promotions. At El Merkado, the Koral Center in 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 To- nite Music Night in the old city. Women who aspire to be a tomato are welcome. Email loscaboloto- nite@gmail.com for more information.

Every Friday. 5:00 to 10:00 pm. Los 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 612 145-2023 or email info@todos- santosbrewing.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. 5:00 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), or email tomyrosa@gmail.com (English).

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

Every Friday. 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Farmer’s market at the Shop- pes at Palmilla. Information: 624-144-6999, www.theshopping- satepalmilla.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 lambas, (Little Bo Peeper) pigs, (Porky? Is that you?) handcrafts, plus breakfast and lunch at Penny Lane’s Café.

Every Saturday and Sunday 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 ad- dition to organic produce, there are handcrafts, books, critters and crafts and furniture. At the main plaza in downtown Cabo on Hidalgo street, two blocks up from the Tesoro hotel.

Every Saturday. 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Children’s library open. Don’t tell them it’s just for kids. Looking for gently used books. theranchkidz@yahoo.com, To- dos Santos. Spanish.

Every Saturday. 5:00 pm to midnight. Cultural Circuit. Arts and crafts exhibit along the Cabo marina, in front of Solomon’s Landing and the cultural pavil- ion. Live music, dancers and art workshops for children. Free.

Every Saturday. 6:00 pm. Sun- day Sessions Live Music. To- dos Santos Brewing. Enjoy the beautiful star filled Baja sky, live acoustic music, fabulous hand- made craft beers and delicious food. Álvaro Obregón street (be- tween Militar & Rangel). Facebook @TodosSantosBrewing for more information, 612-145-2023 or email info@todos santosbrewing.mx.

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

Every Sunday. 12:00 to 4:00 pm. Sunday in the park. Secured and fenced park. Located at the East Cape Dorado Shoot. Providing a safe location to enjoy your dog off leash. Visit www. cabo9korral.com for information.

Next week: Expect to see the East Cape Dorado Shoot and the fishing tournament scheduled for the weekend.

For more information on any of the above events, please visit the individual event pages on the East Cape Dorado Shoot website at www.eastcapedoradoshoot.com or contact the organizers directly at email info@eastcapedoradoshoot.com.

To get your event listed, please email the details to david@gringogazette.com. There is no charge. And, if an event we list does not go off when stated, please don’t shoot the messenger, this is Mexico, and every event is, well, fluid.
Until July 27. From 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Art and Gymnastic summer camp at Kinesis. Dance, Gymnastic, Theater, Circus, History teller, and more. Spanish, but isn't it time your child got this language handled? 624 122 3208. Near the Conventions Center.

Until July 27. From Monday to Friday. From 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Art Summer Camp for kids. Choose between theater, music, painting and sculpture, and chess. Spanish. More info 624 150 0216. At Macondo bookstore, Cabo San Lucas, Hidalgo St., half a block up from Tesoro hotel. The building with a ship's bow coming out of it.

Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 8 p.m. On permanent display. Man, Nature and Culture. A permanent photography show of cultural identity of Baja California Sur. Video also. Text in English and Spanish. Free. ODEX Peninsula salon at The Centro Cultural La Paz. The old city hall on 16 de Septiembre at the corner of Belisario Domínguez, across from the Sears store. Downtown La Paz.

Everyday. 5:00 to 8:00 pm Live music. Spanish with some help in English. At Macondo bookstore, Cabo San Lucas, Hidalgo St., half a block up from the Tesoro hotel. The building with a ship's bow coming out of it.

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

Every Tuesday from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Garden of the Arts. More than forty local artists show and sell their works, including paintings, scultures, photography and engravings. Open area. Spanish with some English. Mijares Main Plaza in downtown San Jose. More info on Facebook: Jardín del Arte Los Cabos.

Community
Reading Lounges

At AMELIA WILKES PLAZA Main plaza downtown CSL.

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

At PLAZA COTA

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

At HOLLIDANCE CAFE. Leona Vicario St. And 12 de Octubre St., 2nd Floor, downtown Cabo.

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

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

From Monday to Friday. From 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. La Maroma Reading club. Books available. More info and special activities on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Sala-de-lectura-La-Mar%C3%A1mil-Kfnas-Fabuladanza-96193979638083/timeline

At LA CIRCO. Libroteka Reading Club.

From Monday to Friday. From 4:00 pm to 7:00 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.57789703555373/timeline

Every Tuesday. 8:00 pm. Documentary Movie Club. A different documentary every week. In the original language with Spanish subtitles. Free. León Cota Plaza next to the Red Cross. Cabo San Lucas.

Every Tuesday. 8:00 pm. Movie Club. Every month a different theme. In the original language with Spanish subtitles. Free. León Cota Plaza next to the Red Cross. Cabo San Lucas.

Every Wednesday. 8:00 pm. Movie Club. Every month a different theme. In the original language with Spanish subtitles. More info: 612-145-1056. Free. Todos Santos, at La Posta Del Oasis. Zaragoza St And Rangel Streets

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

Every Thursday. 7:00 pm. 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.

Every Thursday. 8:30 pm. Vagabond Movie Club. A different movie in the original languages with Spanish subtitles. Short films and art videos before the movie. Free. Rana Vegan Plaza in Pulín 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. Spanish with some help in English. At Macondo bookstore, Cabo San Lucas, Hidalgo St., half a block up from the Tesoro hotel. The building with a ship's bow coming out of it.

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

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

Every Saturday. 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Reading lounge Hermanita de sabela. At Cafe Cabo inside Plaza Cota. Lazaro Cardenas Blvd. Downtown Cabo. next to Bancomer bank.

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

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


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

Every other Sunday. 6:00 to 10:00 pm. Every two weeks, four hours of PlazArte workshops with live music, dance, and different artists. Spanish. Free. Leon Cota Plaza next to the Red Cross building.

All June. All day. All June Macondo Bookstore and Cultural Center will celebrate their third anniversary with music, theater, wine, discounts, and surprises. Cabo San Lucas, Hidalgo St., half a block up from the Tesoro hotel. It's the building with a ship's bow coming out of it.

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 a charity. 100 peso donation. Spanish with some help in English. At Macondo bookstore, Cabo San Lucas, Hidalgo St., half a block up from the Tesoro hotel. The building with a ship's bow coming out of it.

July 12. Thursday. 7:00 pm. The 400 Blow (1959). A young boy, left without attention, delves into a life of petty crime. French or English, with Spanish subtitles. Free. Casa Roots. Main square in downtown San Jose.

July 18. Wednesday. 6:00 pm. Book reading by the author. This time is for a local award-winning writer Keith Ross. You can have a coffee and enjoy a story from him. By Facebook Live too if you will be far away from Cabo. Organized by Hermanita de Ysabela Reading lounge. Cafe Cabo at Plaza Cota. Lazaro Cardenas Blvd. Downtown Cabo. Spanish. Free.

July 19. Thursday. 7:00 pm. The Diving Bell and the Butterfly (2007). French or English with Spanish subtitles. Cabo San Lucas cultural pavilion, downtown next to the marina.

July 23. Saturday. 4:00 pm. Theater workshop for teens. Organized by Richard Pinzon as part of the AIA y Raices cultural program. Spanish. Free. More info 624 168 5077. Las Palmas Plaza, where the old movie theaters used to be in San Jose.

From July 23 until August 3. From Monday to Friday. From 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Summer art camp for kids. Art activities for kids from 6 to 12 years old. With painting, contemporary dance, theater, etc. Spanish. Free. Cerrito del Timbre Cultural House. Behind Aramburo's supermarket in downtown Cabo San Lucas. For more info and registrations go to the Cultural House's office from Monday to Friday, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Cabo San Lucas.

October 7. Saturday. 10:00 am. Tattoo Festival. Corporal art exhibition, conferences on tattoo culture, health and education, food and DJ music. At the Cultural Pavilion, Cabo San Lucas. Information in Facebook: Isocabastattoo fest.

There’s An Art To Giving

Don’t screw this up, you could be hurting good causes

BY DEWEY GOODER

Most North Americans want to help. They want to help the locals get ahead, get good health care, a good education, in short they want everything for the Mexicans that they are gifted with themselves. That includes being kind to the country in the form of the preservation of Mexico’s abundant natural resources as well as their number one resource: The people. But what should you do? The needs seem overwhelming. And where do you physically put any aid? In the hand of your gardener, your housekeeper, or even your waiter? Some people begin and end there because that’s all they know. Others of us don’t try this at home, they give to the professionals who vet the recipients. There is an amazing number of organizations who spend full time directing aid to the best places, insuring charity donations stretch far.

The biggest and most professional of these is the International Community Foundation, (icfdn.org), which acts as an umbrella organization for other, smaller, and very worthy efforts. The ICF is run out of San Diego with offices in La Paz. ICF seeks to increase health, education and environmental grantmaking to local organizations to strengthen society and create sustainable communities. The International Community Foundation is a 501(C) (3) Nonprofit registered in the US under EIN: 33-0457858. All donations are tax deductible. They create lasting improvements in education, health, and the environment in Mexico, as well as better managed marine and terrestrial ecosystems. They take the donor’s intent seriously and take care of what you give to them. They have the tools to make good decisions based on their local expertise, and they can usually do this way better than the caring person with the donation. Also, they share these resources and knowledge with smaller, often less experienced local charities.

So if you want to say, support the environment, the International Community Foundation has a partner that works toward that goal. The Baja California Waterkeeper Fund supports ten individuals (waterkeepers) working throughout the Baja peninsula who organize efforts around clean water and healthy communities. These Baja Waterkeepers monitor more than 75 watersheds and coastal areas of the Baja Peninsula. In addition to publishing these results, they also build resilience in their communities by leading workshops, beach cleanups, youth leadership and surveillance efforts to help protect the beauty of Baja. Your program officer for environment is marisa@icfdn.org / 619-773-2120.

One of the most important roles the Waterkeepers play in

If you were born an American, you have won the lottery of life. You might want to share that lucky win with others

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19
The (Foreign) Gift That Keeps on Giving

Some gifts are not so fun

BY ORLANDO GOTAY

The IRS gets very antsy when it comes to things foreign. I am going to hereby coin “Orlando’s General Rule of Suspiciochidad” (that last word is made up, it’s meant to be “suspicousness”). If it’s foreign, there’s likely a special IRS rule nearby. And what would you know, today’s topic, foreign gifts, does indeed have one. That estate is foreign. It’s reportable if over the amount. Gifts from foreign corporations and trusts are reportable at much lower thresholds, $15,797. If a real person is related to the corporation gifts may also be taxable to you as regular income…what a gift that is. Told you there are traps. These gifts and bequests are reported on Form 3520, Annual Return to Report Transactions with Foreign Trusts and Receipt of Certain Foreign Gifts. Gift away! ¡Gracias!

Orlando Gotay is a California licensed tax attorney (with a Master of Laws in Taxation) admitted to practice before the IRS, the U.S. Tax Court and other taxing agencies. His love of things Mexican has led him to devote part of his practice to the federal and state tax matters of U.S. expats in Mexico. He can be reached at tax@orlandogotay.com or Facebook: GotayTaxLawyer. This is just a most general outline, and is of course, informational only and not meant as legal advice.

(continuation)

leads to my Second General Rule: Where there’s a rule, there’s the trap for the unwary!

We all like gifts. But there is something special about gifts (and bequests) that come from foreign persons. Did you know, a bequest is a gift that comes from the afterlife! (Actually, from the estate of the dearly departed).

If you receive a gift from a foreign person and it is over a certain (for example, by ownership) any gifts from them count toward the corporation thresholds. Generally speaking, “gifts” from foreign corporations and trusts are a bad idea. Lastly, you can have a “gift” even if it did not come wrapped with a bow. If the corporation allowed you to use property it owns, without paying, guess what—that is a gift, to the extent of the fair market value of that use. Worse, some of those...

path, nice landscaping, children’s climbing stuff, and sports areas.

IG models do Cabo. What’s a IG model? We’ll tell you in a Mexican minute. NBA Cleveland Cavaliers star Klay Thompson was in town last week, to celebrate his third ring in four years playing with the Golden State Warriors. Thompson hired a private jet, rented a private home and hired a bunch of IG models to join the party with his close friends. IG models stands for Instagram models.

Nat Geo does Cabo. National Geographic is bringing their 50 cabin cruise ship named Venture to our Sea of Cortez. Their 12 day inaugural trip starts on Pearl Harbor day this year. Guests will explore the region’s food and wine, including a private lunch at a boutique vineyard in the Valle de Guadalupe, as well as snorkel in the Cabo Pulmo National Marine Park.

If you drive from the main drag towards the toll road, across the street from Office Depot, is an area that will become a new, long and skinny park with bicycle...
Chimney or Smokestack?

A chimney is a structure that provides ventilation for hot flue gases from a boiler, stove, furnace, or fireplace, or other small sources within residential properties, restaurants, hotels, or other public buildings.

When the flue gases are exhausted from stoves, ovens, fireplaces, or other small sources, they are referred to as chimneys.

Chimney or Smokestack? There is no place in Cabo or
San Jose as inviting, tranquil, and enjoyable as the Vidasoul Hotel and Crossroads Country Club on the East Cape. Me and my better half keep going back because just driving to Vinoramas is like taking a ride on the wild side of the peninsula. Unlike Cabo San Lucas, La Ramona eventually closed down, the smokestack is now a settlement with an official name, the historic smokestack was built in 1890 by El Progreso Mining Company during a time of great natural beauty and history. La Ramona was an icon in the town of El Triunfo with mining operations going full speed in this region until the early part of the 20th century. After decades of restricted resource extraction the industry began to decline and La Ramona eventually closed down and after nearly a century of neglect the 155 foot tall chimney has suffered significant structural damage due to its age, lightning strikes and hurricanes.

At that time, El Triunfo was a settlement with an official population of over 4,000 inhabitants. Now its population might be a few hundreds. The cute but destitute town is trying for a comeback not through mining, but tourism. The impressive looking smokestack that towers over the town and defines the entire region with its historical and cultural significance can be a big part of this economic rebirth.

The plan is for the smokestack to become a place where both tourists and residents can learn about the history of the region and can understand about the inherent tension between economic development and the conservation of the region’s natural resources.

The scaffolding has come down, the smokestack is now sound, but still to come is site cleanup and improvements to the surrounding areas. And, oh yes, fund raising. The tower fix was done on borrowed funds and now they need to repay that loan. Acknowledging the thing could topple over at any moment, the International Community Foundation (“ICF”) stepped up and negotiated a loan to restore the monument before this year’s hurricane season.

But in charge of the work was the nonprofit called Corredor Histórico CAREM (“CAREM”), which was created to protect, restore, and raise public awareness about the cultural heritage and history of the Baja California Peninsula. This is the first project led by CAREM in Baja, although for many years they have managed projects in the northern state of Baja California included.

"And to me the men in Mexico are like trees, forests that the white men felled in their coming. But the roots of the trees are deep and alive and forever sending up new roots," D.H. Lawrence: Mornings in Mexico. 1927.

This quote in the front of this book is a perfect introduction to the information found in the chapters that follow it. There’s detailed preparation for the astute reader, with a pronunciation guide, a list of indigenous words, and a two page map of Mexico that follows the quote. My only problem with the book’s map in the front pages of this book, is that our Baja is portrayed as just an empty peninsula, with only La Paz noted, as a small identified dot. (Of course, I was offended, believing our Baja peninsula also has quite a fascinating history that needs to be told, perhaps with some good information in a future book report.)

Six chapters and an epilogue covers mainland Mexico well. The first chapter, "Urban Leviathan”, gives us a bird’s eye view of Mexico City, with detailed descriptions, and a brief history. Sharing a 2000 mile border with the U.S. has been said to be like “...a mouse sharing a bed with an elephant...every time the elephant sneezed, the mouse got blown out of the room.” (Page 5). Mexico, a large country in its own right, once was almost twice its present size, before losing California, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and parts of Utah, Nevada, and Colorado, in 1848. (Mexico still considers some of this land as a true part of Mexico).

On pages 54-58, I read the legend of Guadalupe, in an account much fuller than anything I’ve read on her before. If you do not know the tale of Juan Diego and the appearance of the Virgin to him, this is an excellent account of Guadalupe, Mexico’s patron saint who cares for Mexico’s downtrodden, all native Indians, and the mestizos. This book narrates her full story, and also tells us why she is so important to Mexico.

To give others equal time, pages 201 and 202, give us information about Dona Marina, known now as La Malinche, the mistress and interpreter for Cortez and the conquistadors. The author says that Marina, a slave, was given to Cortez, and supported Cortez as a rebellion against the cruelty of the Aztecs, but of course, history has also rewritten her role, and made her the “ultimate national whore” (Page 202).

The vast contrast between the life stories of these two very different historical personalities, has gradually become a part of the Mexican “cult of machismo!” Page 202 ends with a common (?) according to this book, Mexican saying...”...a woman’s place is in the home...with a broken leg!” Reading even further, I realize again and again, how large and powerful this colorful country of Mexico is, and how many cultures, mestizos (mixed blood), descendants of Spanish, French, and English explorers, (and of course, the diverse cultures and characteristics of the original indigenous peoples) have helped shape and enrich Mexican history. I have only touched on basic information briefly here, writing of the historical facts and stories CONTINUED ON PAGE 20
What’s The Deal With Those Mountains Behind Us?
They’re called the Sierra de la Laguna, and you can hike up there where it’s cool

BY KT MORGAN

This impressive mountain range is part of the peninsula range that extends north from here for over 930 miles. The Sierra de la Laguna part of this mountain range at the southern end of the Baja California Peninsula. The highest peak is Mount San Jacinta in Southern California at 10,834 feet, and the highest peak in the Sierra de la Laguna part of this mountain range runs from La Paz to Cabo San Lucas. The name Sierra de la Laguna is in reference to the dry ancient lake beds that can be reached on an extended hike to the peak. From there the views are breath taking. The Sierra de la Laguna range is the dominate landmark in the area but once you climb up there you find trickles that form beautiful water falls, hot springs and a wide variety of flora and fauna including oasiss of palms. Above 2600 ft the dry gives way to pine oak and black oak forest. Above 5200 ft you find Mexican Pino, Pines.

The variety of ecosystems and endemic species and sub species make this range worth protecting. There are estimated to be 694 species of plants with 85 being endemic. The Mexican government designated the range as a Biosphere Reserve in 1994. UNESCO later called it ‘a highly important and contrasted ecosystem’ that is an important source of water to the surrounding communities.

and is approximately 400 square miles total. The forests up there are exploited commercially for timber, and cattle-raising, but mostly is dotted with small subsistence ranchos.

Down here at the base we have a beautiful desert and dry arroyos for most of the year, of Todos Santos, Los Barriles, Santiago, Miraflores, San Antonio, Pescadero, Las Cuevas and Buena Vista.

The annual rainfall up there is about 25 inches that mostly comes from summer storms and the occasional winter rains. The majority of these communities raise cattle and farm, making the case that we should continue with the reserve status and not bow to mining interests which are always trying to encroach. These wealthy mining companies have unsuccessfully tried again and again to gain license to strip mine these glorious mountains for gold, silver and precious metals. If approved they would bring jobs but beware of the vast open pit that would become of this enterprise. They would use arsenic to separate the precious metals and contaminate the water supply that is in such short supply in our desert and semi arid environment. Mines in Mexico have a strong history of wrecking the environment with impunity.

The next time you fly into Los Cabos be sure to get a window seat. The eye is drawn to the incredible coastlines down both the Pacific and Gulf Coasts. Do not forget to gaze over our amazing mountain range that we love to explore, climb and discover. Also, the next time you drive to La Paz from Cabo.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

WE GUARANTEE THE BEST PRICES
HEALTH INSURANCE with AAA+ Insurance Companies
You Can’t Afford to Miss This.
Hundreds of Policies Written Everyday.
Can be purchased instantly. Any Nationality.
Call us for a Quote – Takes 2 Minutes!

MED EVAC & INSURANCE any number of days @ Best Prices

Auto Insurance Available for Americans, Canadians and Mexican Dual-Citizens
We are a AAA Rated Carrier
Licensed in the U.S., Mexico and 160 Countries

American License Plates for EVERYONE
ANY NATIONALITY.
(Canada, Europe, South & Central America, Asia, you name it!)
What Is Fractional Ownership?

And what isn’t it?

BY JOHN VERING

If you visit a real estate office nowadays, you’re bound to hear the phrase “fractional ownership” bandied about.

It’s the hottest trend in the industry, after all, with particular traction in high-end resort areas like Los Cabos.

But what does it really mean?

The easiest way to describe fractional ownership is “shared ownership of a deeded property, with usage rights based on time.” What that means, in simplest terms, is that multiple owners share the title, but only one may be in residence at any given time.

This concept was introduced to great success with private jets and luxury yachts, because it allowed people to share an asset they couldn’t otherwise afford to purchase or maintain. Since the early 1990s, fractional ownership has been gaining in popularity in the real estate industry for exactly the same reason.

Fractional ownership is an excellent option, for example, for those interested in vacation homes or secondary residences. Owners can spend a few weeks each season enjoying their beautiful tropical hideaway, but without worrying about full-time maintenance or upkeep.

A management company takes care of all the details if you’d prefer not to be hands-on. Most fractional management companies also operate their own concierge services.

Shares of fractional properties, meanwhile, are usually divided into quarters or eighths. With the former, owners enjoy sole use of their property for 13 weeks each year, including five weeks during the winter “high season” (Nov. – Feb.), four weeks in spring (Mar. – Jun.), and the final four during the summer and autumn (Jul. – Oct.). In the case of eighth shares, owners are entitled to six weeks per year of residence use (including at least one week during each season), with an additional week available in alternating years.

What is fractional ownership?

There are many benefits to fractional ownership, but here are the three most frequently cited by buyers:

Affordable Luxury

Would you rather buy a beach house for $200,000 or $1,600,000? The answer may depend on the house, or on your net worth, but there’s no question that fractional ownership has opened up the luxury market to an entirely new segment of the population.

Just as Net Jets made the use of private jets possible to a demographic which formerly could not afford them, fractional ownership has allowed people who aren’t actually wealthy to live as if they are, with vacation homes in some of the most spectacular places on earth. Like Los Cabos, for instance, which has traditionally been a getaway destination for Hollywood A-listers and other captains of industry.

Ease and Worry-Free Perks

Imagine arriving at your vacation home for a seasonal visit and finding every floor and counter surface spotless, the refrigerator stocked with fresh food, and all your clothes hung neatly in the closets.

If you’re a fractional owner, you don’t have to imagine: that’s par for the course. Management companies often offer a variety of services, from daily cleaning and repairs to handling bookings, individualized home prepping, and making payments on taxes, insurance and utilities.

For owners, it all translates to a relaxing stress-free vacation.

Investment Potential

There’s no doubt fractional ownership, like all real estate purchases, can be a great investment, one that will almost certainly increase in value over time. Most fractional management companies also operate their own rental programs, meaning they’ll take care of all the details if you’d like to forgo one of your seasonal visits in favor of renting out the property. Theoretically, you could even rent out all your yearly usage rights, recouping the initial investment while building equity in the process.

Ready to learn more? View all the current Fractional Listings today throughout Los Cabos and contact us for more information!
How Much Money Do I Need to Retire in Mexico?
A lot depends on your choice of lifestyle

BY LEEROY JARVIS

Although the Mexican border has been taking heat for the large migration of undocumented immigrants entering the United States, there has been a large migration of Americans relocating and retiring in Mexico. The reason for this is the good weather, new experiences, and relaxed lifestyles that they will find as they head south into Mexican territory. These expats also enjoy access to affordable and quality healthcare and a lower cost of living. Mexico is a popular destination because it offers all this – plus its close proximity to the US makes it easily accessible and cheap to travel between to visit family and friends.

One of the first things to consider when deciding to live abroad is the cost of living in a country. Below, we take a look at how much money you might possibly need to retire comfortably in Mexico.

Lifestyle Determines the Amount of Money You Will Need

No matter where you retire, the way you retire greatly affects the amount of money you will need to do it. It is completely possible to retire on a fraction of a salary of what you would receive in the United States. For instance, if you are willing to live modestly in a small apartment, eat at home, and sacrifice some of the comforts you may be used to back home you could save tons of money. Contrastingly, you could easily spend $15,000+ a month living in an exclusive beachside community while participating in expensive leisure activities, fine dining, and travel.

Most people who retire abroad fall somewhere in the middle between lavish living and budget consciousness. In order to achieve this in Mexico, a retired couple might be looking at the following monthly costs. Keep in mind that this level of budget in Mexico permits renting a house with three-times-a-week maid service and a weekly gardener.

These numbers are based on estimates on the website www.internationalliving.com.

For about $2,175 a month, or about $26,100 per year, a couple could retire comfortably in Mexico. With the peso hitting record lows, Americans can take advantage and stretch their retirement budget even further. Take for instance that the average monthly benefit for retired workers is $1,341. For a couple receiving that amount, this adds up to $32,184 each year – just enough to cover this budget.

Of course, retirement costs vary depending on each person, and your costs could be lower or higher than the estimates stated depending on your situation and lifestyle choices. Also remember these estimates don’t include expenses such as traveling to/from your retirement destination, moving costs, taxes, or emergencies.

More Ways to Save

Another way to save is through Mexico’s retirement benefits program. You are eligible for the Mexico’s Personas Adultas Mayores benefits program if you are 60 or older and have a Mexico resident visa. This program provides discounts of 10% to 50% off full price for a variety of services, including healthcare, cultural activities, transportation, and hotels.

Another important way to control costs is to shop at the local food market and learn where you can buy things at the “local” rate instead of the “tourist” rate. It is easy to forget that you’re not in the United States.

It’s an exciting place, a fast-growing area with some of the most spectacular properties – and views! – in the world.

Ultimately, though, the decision to buy real estate comes down to two main questions: How much do you love this property? Can you afford it?

Fractional ownership, more than any other option, makes the second question a lot easier to answer.

BY John R. Vering, Owner Broker, Windermere Real Estate Los Cabos, Mexico Office (624) 131-3330, Mexico Cell 52 6062, Leeroys mobile# - (624) 164-2607, leeroys@cabocribs.com, http://WWW.CABOCRIBS.COM

WHAT IS FRACTIONAL OWNERSHIP...
continued from page 15
Pay Taxes on Mexican Rental Property

Whether you like it or not

BY DON NELSON

As with other countries the Mexican government expects nationals and foreigners alike to pay taxes on income they obtain in the country. Failure to do so can and has led to substantial actions and penalties. Even if the funds are received outside the country, like sent to you direct, they are still subject to taxes here because the income was generated in this country.

Below are two key questions with answers:

How can I pay these taxes as a nonresident of Mexico on my income from my Mexican real property?

If you are a tax resident of Mexico you can use your resident tax ID number and you have your Mexican accountant use your taxpayer identification number (RFC) to file and pay these taxes. However, if you are a nonresident of Mexico it is necessary to contact a Mexican professional or organization (such as the Settlement Company) to file and pay these taxes. The Settlement Company has developed a legal method where these taxes can be paid by nonresidents.

How are these taxes treated on my US tax return?

You must report your rental income and expenses on your US tax return Schedule E (if you are an individual taxpayer). A Mexican rental is treated the same as US rental in most respects. You can as a rental expense deduct the IVA tax and local lodging taxes. You can claim the Mexican income tax paid on your rental income as credit directly offsetting your US tax on the same rental income dollar for dollar. This is because Mexico has tax treaties with more than 30 countries, including the U.S.A. and Canada. You do not get double taxed on your US or Canadian tax return.


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info@settlement-co.com, Rentaltaxmexico@settlement-co.com, www.settlement-co.com.
You Can’t Do That
Even in Mexico

BY BARRY CADE

Four of the pumps were closed due to fuel leaks (you might not want to light a cigarette while refueling) while the fifth was shut down because of “clear defects,” the agency said. Hours later, Profeco shut down all 20 pumps at a station, also in that city. At that station, the agency said, none of the pumps was displaying valid calibration certification.

Federal officers shut down a British Petroleum gas station because they wouldn’t let Profeco perform their semi-annual calibration of the pumps. Think they’re hiding something? Federal officers shut down a British Petroleum gas station because they wouldn’t let Profeco perform their semi-annual calibration of the pumps. Think they’re hiding something? Federal officers shut down a British Petroleum gas station because they wouldn’t let Profeco perform their semi-annual calibration of the pumps. Think they’re hiding something? Federal officers shut down a British Petroleum gas station because they wouldn’t let Profeco perform their semi-annual calibration of the pumps. Think they’re hiding something?

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That stunt has been pulled here in Los Cabos, too, but here the Profeco guys tuck their tail between their legs and slink away. In Puebla, the federal gendarmerie were called and with their assistance and their automatic rifles, the station was shut down.

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Federal officers shut down a British Petroleum gas station because they wouldn’t let Profeco perform their semi-annual calibration of the pumps. Think they’re hiding something?

FOOTBALL. Well, maybe not. A foosball tournament with 1100 contestants has given Mexico another Guinness World Record. Foosball is a table top soccer game popular in bars. The winner got a trip to Russia to see the World Cup final, all expenses paid. Juan Presa Paulino, 55, of Toluca in the state of México defeated everyone, proving once again that old age and cunning will beat youth and inexperience.

The Guinness record was awarded for the most people playing foosball simultaneously. Separate sources. It was, in other words, a piece of fake news. Fake news.

In the waning days of Mexico’s biggest election ever, identifying fake news is pretty important and not an easy task. Mexicans have long distrusted the press and for good reason. For decades, the national news media here consisted of two television networks and a handful of newspapers, all propped up financially by the controlling PRI political party.

“When the government wanted to announce something, it came out over Televisa,” says Esteban Illades, editor of the Mexican magazine Nexos author of the recent book Fake News: A New Reality.

Government publicity continues to be an important part of media companies’ budgets. The government spent $1.88 billion between January 2013 and June 2017 on media advertising, and many outlets still report the “official” version of events without further investigation. A recent poll showed more Mexicans trust the army and the Catholic church than the media. Yikes.

The American style of fake news is also becoming a factor here, with silly stories about the candidates bursting onto social media. So it seems, everywhere you look, fake news is becoming a bigger issue in the world today.

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ELECTIONS ARE OVER... continued from page 6

left-right For Mexico In Front coalition (Anaya), had tried to buy their vote. Almost, (final tally isn’t in yet), 140 candidates were assassinated, which freaked out just over 1000 candidates who threw down their lawn signs and fled. Well, Mexicans don’t actually have lawn signs, but those can- didates withdrew. 10 days before the election the federal govern- ment stepped in declaring every candidate would have federal body guards? They didn’t were assassinated. Where were their body guards? They didn’t get any, we all know journalists are expendable.

Meanwhile, eight journalists were assassinated. Where were those bodies? They didn’t get any, we all know journalists are expendable.

Do we need another Hyatt? With two existing hotels in San Jose, Hyatt Place at the entrance to San Jose’s hotel zone and the Hyatt Ziva on the beach, the company announced they will add a luxury hotel, this one closer to Cabo San Lucas.

Park Hyatt Los Cabos will be located in a 26 acre site within Cabo del Sol, a master-planned golf resort community that stretches along two miles of pristine beach in Los Cabos. Expected to open in late 2020, the hotel will feature 162 guestrooms and 28 Park Hyatt Residences.

City Hall continues to meet the acute need of low-income families. Through their efforts the public school system no longer expels pregnant teens, and the state congress now classifies domes- tic violence and sexual harass- ment as crimes. 95% of their operating budget goes directly to programs. directors of this program are Mónica Jasis, MD, MPH, Ph.D. and Teresa Shields, Phone 612 12 23342. Website is www.proac.org.

So, now that you know about the International Community Foundation and just two of their dozens of programs, why would you ever drive out to the barrio and try to be a good guy? Let these professionals help you be a better good guy.

THERE’S AN ART TO GIVING... continued from page 10

giving efforts to Centro Mujeres who’s mission is to advocate for the human rights of women, youth and seasonal migrants in this state. They provide women’s health care and work to em- power women. Centro Mujeres works through community pro- grams, direct services, research, and advocacy, including sexually transmitted disease prevention through condom distribution and teen clinics, and the rehab of children who have been sexually abused.

Centro Mujeresfounded in La Paz 1994. In its first two years, Centro Mujeres offered counseling in family planning, AIDS education and reproductive rights education. But they have expanded to meet the acute needs of a growing community. Through their efforts the public school system no longer expels pregnant teens, and the state congress now classifies domestic violence and sexual harassment as crimes. 95% of their operating budget goes directly to programs. directors of this program are Mónica Jasis, MD, MPH, Ph.D. and Teresa Shields, Phone 612 12 23342. Website is www.proac.org.

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Francisco Vargas, COO of In- novacion Solar, has degrees in me- chanical and electrical engineering, but many of the people in the solar business just fell into it because they want to live here and try to make a living. Several “companies” have come and gone since Innovation Solar started, and since 2009 In- novacion Solar has been installing and maintaining professional grade solar in Los Cabos. The entire system is guaranteed for five years, installation, equipment, and labor, although each component has its own warranty policy example the panels are all guaranteed for 25 years Innovation Solar will honor the warranty for the long run and even cover associated costs with warranty claims for you.

You can expect a return on in- vestment, (ROI) of about five years. If you can tie to the grid, you can sell your excess sunshine to CFE, the electric utility. For now it’s very double and improves your ROI. But we won’t always be able to do that because we are running out of storage capacity in La Paz. Nobody can tell us when that limit will be reached because big players are coming into the market, builders of so called “solar farms”, vast arrays of solar panels. They will be required to sell that sunshine to CFE, which will mark it up and sell it to us, the consumer who always seems to take it in the shorts.

Innovacion Solar follows the guidelines of the National Electric Code, and it’s best to use a company that’s a member. Francisco also suggests you use a company that sells to US standards. It’s important, he advises you get some personal testimonials from satisfied customers.

Innovacion Solar can bring up numerous charts and graphs on all their customers, right on to their smart phones and computers, checking on the efficiency of your system, as well as the general health of your solar, and how much you are getting, how much you have banked, and how much you can expect to get back tonight. They can send a certified technician out to your house before you even know you have a problem. This is great if the homeowner is not here full time. That homeowner can also tap into the health report of his solar system on his own phone or computer. “If you’re saving dollars on engineering, you’re doomed to fail” says Francisco. And you must use a company that knows how to smooth the way with CFE so you can bank power with them for night time. Most local solar com- panies don’t know how to get those permits in place and locked before CFE stops us little guys from tying to their grid. So, if you’ve been thinking of going solar, don’t screw around, do it now. Innovacion Solar. www.innovacionsolarmx. 624 105 9478.

Que PASA IN CABO?... continued from page 11

Yikes, those two places are 1000 miles apart, they’re going to be mired in all the hassle, and you know those two places are 1000 miles apart, they’re going to be mired in all the hassle, and you know that will serve guests with “per- sonalized service and a profound reverence for luxury accommo- dations in a spectacular setting.” Geeze, who writes these press releases and could they back off a little bit on the flowery stuff?

New resort in La Paz. With the attendance of the state govern- nor himself, the AltaVista group broke ground on the $37 million Chablé Resort & Spa within the Puerta Cortes (formerly Costa Baja) resort, just outside of La Paz on the road to Balandra and Tecolote beaches. The 45 private villas, deemed

Continued on Page 25

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EL TRIUNFO SMOKESTACK... continued from page 12

ing the Community Museum in Tecate, and the restoration of various missions and other historic buildings. Chimney enthusiasts’ contact there is James Honey, representative of Corredor Histórico CAREM. Cel: +52-1-612 157 7305 or jameslthoney@gmail.com (email)

To repay the loan, ICF launched an adopt-a-brick campaign (https://donate.icfdn.org/npo/la-ramona-carem-subfund). Anne McEnany, President / CEO of ICF noted, “Dozens of individuals and businesses have already joined the campaign and we hope to bring in many more over the coming months. When you adopt a brick or donate, you are supporting our non-profit effort to respond to a community need of sustainable development.” So, how does this work? You adopt a brick but you don’t take it home because it’s holding up the whole shabang.

A number of improvements are planned for this summer if they can get the money, including a general clean up and removal of debris, installing fences, benches and tables, and educational signage. A ribbon cutting party is planned for Saturday, October 27. The hope is that in coming years the site around La Ramona functions as a focal point to understand the history, culture, and natural beauty of the entire area. Hey, Mexico is not just a pretty beach, you know.

El Triunfo is on highway 1, which goes through Los Cabos, up the East Cape, and winds through some beautiful hills, eventually meeting up with highway 19 that goes through La Paz. It would take you about an hour and a half to get there from Cabo. There are two nice, rather large, and sophisticated restaurants there, so go hungry.

I concentrated on a few chapters that intrigue me. Read the other chapters, each with a description of another possible Mainland Mexico vacation destination, and also with stories of historical personages: San Miguel de Allende, the Chiapas, Lake Tzcuaro, Huichol Country, and finally, there is the “Epilogue on Mexican Miracles”, with another quote, “All miracles are magical mirrors; never can we see our faces in them.” (page 309).

I do love reading the inconsistencies in different accounts of history, “I did not arrive at my understanding of the fundamental laws of the universe through my rational mind.” Albert Einstein.

You can find this travel book and other books telling more of Mexico’s colorful geography and history at my book store, El Caballo Blanco in Loreto. betojeannine@gmail.com. Come by and see me.

BOOK REPORT... continued from page 13

found within a few chapters in this book. There are many more interesting historical stories. Page 203 tells us of Comandante Ramona, and the Zapatistas, and on page 257, we visit Huichol country. There are many different stories to be found in the book.

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Avocados have gotten a huge deal of press lately, being a superfood and loved by social media in pretty breakfast pics, but did you know it is one of Mexico’s native crops? The trees are a big, leafy subtropical species that flower year-round. Avocados are actually fruit, more specifically berries with only one seed, known as a pit. The green, juicy, creamy flesh is loaded with nutrients; omega 3, protein, and antioxidants, and it helps reduce cholesterol and restore liver activity. Yes, avocados are a fruit and a berry.

Michoacán is the biggest avocado producer in the world, and almost 80% of the production is exported to the united states and Europe, making it also a big source of income for the state. 8 out of 10 avocados consumed in Mexico are grown there. Michoacán, Mexico is in the middle of Mexico between Guadalajara and Mexico City. It is Mexico’s heartland, a great agricultural region as well of centers of indigenous crafts. This state has many climate and cultural variations and is known as “El Alma de Mexico”; The soul of Mexico. "Michoacán" means "place of the fishmen" due to its lakes. The native Purepecha population still retains their unusual language and many ancient customs. Some little towns have not changed for hundreds of years. Michoacán has it all: mountains, deserts, beaches and avocados.

The Hass variety, which is the most common, the one with the rugged outer skin, has the highest content of fiber of all the avocado varieties there are. Mexican food, unlike other cuisines around the world, is the one that is most true to its roots, having many prehistoric ingredients in current recipes and carrying old recipes through the years. It is estimated that Mexican cuisine is about 7,000 years old, and the first ingredients used were maize, chile and avocado. According to investigators, however, the oldest remains of avocado were found in an ancient cave in Coxcatlán, in the state of Puebla, dated from around the year 8,000 and 7,000 B.C. - the Olmecs, one of the first civilizations in Mexico, developed around 2500 or 2000 B.C. and were the first to use avocado in their food.

Avocado in Spanish, comes from a Nahuatl word: ahuacatl; meaning… you’ll never guess -testicle- probably because it is believed to be an aphrodisiac and many ancient cultures thought of the way it looks when it’s hanging on the branch that is often still left on the tree. Nahuatl is a language that is still spoken by just a few people in Mexico, but back in the day it was spoken by many tribes in pre-Columbian Mexico, mostly around the Toluca valley, near Mexico city.

The ancient registry of the domestication of crops signals that maize, pumpkin, yucca, avocado, sweet potato ad agave were the main ingredients to be incorporated into Mexican food thousands and thousand of years ago. Most of them had their own gerogliphic sign, and avocado was pictured as a tree with teeth!

When the Spanish arrived, the quality of fruits described in their chronicles was a portrayal of the amazing way prehispanic people did genetical engineering in a natural way by cross-breeding crops according to the different climates they had to adapt to. Avocado was not only used in the ancient Mexican cuisine, as you might have guessed, the whole fruit was used. The oil from the pit was used to treat rashes, the leaves of the tree to wash their clothes, and you know how if you poke the pit it turns pink? Well, that was used for pigment! Nowadays, we use the inside of the husk to exfoliate our faces, the pulp to make great hair or face masks, and the pit to massage cellulite away! If you’ve seen avocados in the market in the united states or Canada you may cringe at how we can use it for masks, but it’s because we get it for so much cheaper.

Let’s fast forward to the 50’s, when hass avocados where in full bloom and planted through Mexico in commercial fields. Before that all production was small and local, and after that they started growing in the united states.

Avocados grow on the tree, but they are actually matured once they are cut! It can take from a couple of days to a couple of weeks for the avocado to completely mature at room temperature, and once mature they can last up to seven days in refrigeration. But if rozen, the pulp can burst while defrosting and it’s no good anymore.

Do you know how to pick avocados? My grandma used to tell me to squeeze them lengthwise, if they felt tender and had a little bouncy to them, they were perfect, but if they were too mushy they were no good anymore. Another trick is to remove the “bellybutton” or the small part of the branch that is often still left on the fruit. If it’s green is immature, if its brown is over mature but if it is yellowish it’s just perfect! Also, if the husk is black-brownish it will not be mature, and black-blueish is just right, but that may be a little confusing. I personally buy three at a time, one for the same day that I buy, one for tomorrow and one a little harder for a couple of days. If you don’t eat the whole thing, a little harder for a couple of days. If you don’t eat the whole thing, a little harder for a couple of days. If you don’t eat the whole thing, a little harder for a couple of days. If you don’t eat the whole thing, a little harder for a couple of days.
Become A Hero At Cabo Pulmo
No, you don’t get a cape (cabo), but you’ll help preserve Mexico’s only national marine park

BY JACK CROUTON

Cabo Pulmo is the most successful reef restoration in the Western Hemisphere. In the 1960s and 70s, the area was almost completely fished out. Some of the locals saw the destruction that fishing had had on the area and petitioned the government to make it a national park, and in 1995 they succeeded. Since then no fishing or anchoring has been allowed within the 27 square miles of the park.

Within two decades, the reef sprang back to life! Fish returned, spawned, and grew to maturity in huge numbers, along with turtles, dolphins, and sea lions. According to Octavio Aburto, a marine biologist at the site, the sea life has grown by 460%. This is the largest growth rate ever recorded in any protected marine environment worldwide. The reef is now alive with activity. Coral and sea life have become incredibly abundant. Fish swirl in large schools around snorkelers and divers alike. There is great variety in these shallow depths.

In 2005, the park was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

While this sounds like a finished story with a happy ending, it is still a work in progress. In 2009, nine years after the area was given natural protected area (NPA) status, an official management plan for the park was put in place. The plan focuses on two major aspects: planning and zoning. Planning refers to the administrative side of the whole operation--planning the conservation, restoration, and protection of the area. The zoning piece of the plan names the different zones in the park and identifies those that are to be protected, many of which are beaches and areas with a lot of corals. These areas are protected against construction, anchoring, and fishing. This plan is to be followed by everyone, even the tourism companies.

The establishment of Cabo Pulmo as an NPA and the implementation of a clear management plan must be considered a major win. It is telling, though, that a management plan is required within one year of achieving NPA status and here it took nine. The region still faces challenges that stem from a lack of a budget, and a lack of political will between governing bodies. The plan would be easily enforceable with investment in more employees and equipment.

Visitors to Cabo Pulmo can contribute to the ongoing conservation efforts of this incredible area by making a donation to the Hero fund. This can be done at the welcome center, which is actually a museum that you can visit on your way into the park. If you donate, you’ll get to flaunt a blue wristband that says you’re a hero—what’s cooler than that (okay, a lot of things, but it’s something). As tourism in the area continues to grow, the effort to preserve the reef must grow as well.

The Hero fundraiser is part of a group of four non-profits, all under the umbrella of Paralelo 28. (Parallel 28) They work all along the Baja Peninsula, working to increase surveillance in the Sea of Cortez and to enforce compliance with existing laws, which our government is not good at. Some of their efforts are at Cabo Pulmo, Loreto, and the Bay of La Paz. Funds donated to any of the four Paralelo 28 organizations will go directly to providing additional surveillance and security to the marine life in northwest Mexico’s NPAs.

Storm Watch

A good predictor of a storm coming is when the Cashola people go around to all their robber ATMs and bag them up. They’re trying to keep all that loot dry?

For Cabo Pulmo, the successful restoration of the once fished-out area is due entirely to the collaboration of the community. Without the teamwork and trust for one another, it would not have been possible. Cabo Pulmo has about 110 residents, all of whom are dedicated to the preservation of the beautiful reef in their backyards.

To learn more or to make a donation, visit their website at www.paralelo28.org.

Your Camera: Don’t Leave Home Without it. We Don’t

This is an up close look at the Chevrolet dealership building they’re currently rebuilding. It was completely destroyed in Lydia. And no wonder. The cinder blocks were just a bluff and Lydia called that bluff.

No proper detour sign? No problem.

The entire Baja is blooming in green after tropical storm Bud dropped a day’s worth of rain on us. No, we don’t know how many inches/centimeters, it was not recorded in the States, and local stats are totally unreliable.
Mexican Moms Are Different
They are, every one of them, very creative

BY CAMILLA FORD

When I first moved here, I was blind to the art being created in Baja. I was looking for locally produced ornate pottery, Day of the Dead nichos and professional Mexican folk dancing. The little art I did find here originated from the mainland. I mistakenly came to the conclusion that people here just weren’t creative. This limited perspective changed when my then four-year-old daughter entered the jardin de ninos (kindergarten) in Los Barriles. On the first day of school I was driving our beat up pick-up truck, while at the same time scrambling to wipe mango juice off Heidi’s hands and chin and run a brush through her hair. When I got there, I saw that all the other boys and girls were dressed immaculately. The girls were clean, coiffed Picasso portraits. Their hairstyles were works of art with colorful ribbons and bows and straight parts with silky braids. The boys were dapper with gelled short haircuts. How did this happen? The moms. As school progressed, I saw amazing costumes and art homework assignments for events like Dia de los Muertos, and Dia del la Revolucion. I saw paper skeletons dressed like brides and mariachis, using jewelry, cloth buttons, and colorful tissue paper, obviously not done with a four-year-olds’ motor skills. They were made by artistic moms whose canvases are their kids.

Think about the preparation that goes into the numerous fiestas, birthdays, baby showers, weddings, baptisms, and quinceaneras (when girls turn 15). Envision the delicious food, the decorations and innovative games. At one baby shower we had to sit on a balloon until it popped. We then had to do what the paper inside said like, “pretend you are giving birth” or “pretend you are a baby taking his first steps.” What is Broadway compared to that?! People here are incredibly creative, especially the moms. They express it through their lives, mainly their children. They are not famous or rich. Their art

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

Here’s A Twofer

ASH
Male kitty cat approximately 3 Months old.
Ash was found among lots of other cats and he was the only one who stayed around for the pleasure of our company so we figured he likes people. Or maybe he’s a littlesmarty pants and knows which side his kibble is buttered on. Regardless, he’s a catch if you’re looking for a warm hearted companion.

ET
Smaller and younger kitty also male about 2 Months old.
He was going to be lunch by a mean dog that already got two of his friends so ET was lucky to escape a sure death. Both Ash and ET should be adopted together as they are best buddies now even though they were not rescued together.
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up highway 19 along the Pacific coast be sure to come back the other side of the loop down Highway 1 and the Sea of Cortez side. It takes a little longer but the loop takes you completely around the Sierra de la Laguna. You might just fall in love with the inland part of our paradise. KT Morgan brings this article to you from Cabos Finest, bringing you the best of Los Cabos real estate, restaurants, activities, and travel blogs. For your Insider’s Guide to Los Cabos, visit www.cabosfinest.com, call 624-115-2703 or email kt@cabosfinest.com. 

WHAT’S THE DEAL WITH... continued from page 14
WHAT’S GOING ON IN THIS...
continued from page 18
media in the last days of campaigning.

Corruption. Francisco Abundis, the director of the polling firm Parametría, argues that anger over corruption looms larger than every other campaign issue. “The perception is that something has been taken from you,” he said. “You don’t know how, or how much, but you feel it.”

That leads to the suspicion that anyone who has climbed up the ladder may have benefited from questionable help during the ascent.

lawmakers have joined with columnists, television commentators and other pundits in denouncing a direct threat to democracy with all the killings of office seekers. Still, Mexico’s leaders seem powerless to halt the killings, which have targeted candidates from all major political parties.

The slayings have widely been seen as the work of criminal gangs that hold a grip on large swathes of territory and demand compliance from local governments to aid drug trafficking and other enterprises.

“These are not small islands of violence, but a vast archipelago of barbarism,” wrote columnist Jesús Silva-Herzog Marquez in Mexico’s Reforma newspaper. “The mafias don’t need to assault the federal palace directly. They do not look to exercise power directly. They want power at their service, and to ensure this they send their messages of death.”

What about the girls? Boys are narco, but what about the girls? It’s easy to recruit young men living in extreme poverty into the drug trade, but the girls are left behind, their labor in this industry not so valued. One of those young women left behind is Yenizeth Peña from the Chihuahua town of Témoris. She grew up in extreme poverty, but went on to University. Now 22, she was helped through school by government grants, an uncle in the United States, and her own will. Peña is planning to go back home to Témoris where she wants to share her experience with young people and encourage them to get an education and show them there is an alternative to the drug career.

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Cooking Like a Mexican...
continued from page 21

but I think it affects the flavor.
Another tip I have heard of is to keep it in an airtight container along with a quarter or a half of an onion you have left, this tip I haven’t tried but it might work!
This issue’s recipe is perfect for a hot day, and a great new dish that is a little away from what you may think is typical food, but I assure you it is. It’s a cold avocado soup that is a summer favorite in Uruapan, a town in Michoacán.

Ingredients:
1 big avocado, mature.
1 cup of sour cream.
1 cup of chicken stock.
2 serrano peppers (can be left out if you don’t care much for spice)
A couple of sprigs of cilantro
1 cup of ice
Salt to taste

For decoration:
Bite size pieces of avocado
Fried tortilla strips

Preparation:
Peel and pit the avocado carefully, and place in a blender with the cold chicken stock, ice, sour cream, cilantro, chiles, and salt. I recommend making this soup just a minute before serving, to avoid it turning black. Serve in a bowl with some avocado chunks and fried tortilla strips on top!

This is what’s on the other side of those rectangular midget manhole covers. They are water shut off valves, which seems a little superfluous since we don’t get enough water to ever need to shut it off.
Some government official decided to buy plastic lids and of course one by one, as people stepped on them, they cracked and broke or went kitty whampus in the sidewalk. There are about 300 of them in downtown Cabo and little by little they are being replaced with metal covers.
Can you imagine any city in the US using plastic covers? No, because people stepping in the holes would sue the socks off the city. Here, no.

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Travelling Gringo Gazette
Cathy Watkins, from Arlington Texas, travelled to the Netherlands and took her Gringo Gazette with her.

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Fish Report

BY GARY GRAHAM

Cabo San Lucas

Numbers at a glance: Billfish 65%, tuna 20%, dorado 3%, other species 9%. Recent tournament anglers found extraordinary double-digit releases for striped marlin along with an occasional sailfish. There were also plenty of smaller yellowfin tuna on the banks both on the Pacific side and up into the Sea of Cortez. Unfortunately, most of the tuna were smaller fish with only a few reaching the 40-pound class size. Inshore, bucket list sized roosterfish were also a popular choice along with some of the tough-fighting jack crevalle that topped 30 pounds. There were a few wahoo and dorado taken as well, which rounded out the surface action. Pinnacles off the lighthouse at Cabo Falso were consistent billfish bite; BIG striped marlin action is continuing outside of Iman and towards Desteladera. Even though some days are better than others, there isn’t a large concentration of marlin. Trolling lures, bait, and casting to tailing fish or drift-fishing bait down deeper have all produced marlin strikes. Only a few smaller-sized dorado have been seen recently. The yellowfin tuna action was found from 15- to 30-miles offshore and was associated with fast-traveling porpoise. However, it was spotty action it has dictated searching for tuna averaging from 12 to 18 pounds.

Puerto Los Cabos

Weather conditions: Mostly sunny, 80 degrees, and light winds.

Average water temp: Water temps to 76°F.

Best lures: Cedar plugs and marlin lures as well as live caballito, sardina, and mackerel.

WEATHER CONDITIONS: There have been sporadic baitfish schooling. Somedays there are plenty to be found and some days not as much. Anglers using yo-yo jigs have found fishing for red snapper (huachinango) from good to excellent. Other shallow-water structure fishing has been producing various species of grouper, yellow snapper, pompano, and bonito along with a few amberjack. Along the shore, roosterfish and jack crevalle have been the most common fish caught with a few late season sierra in the mix. The majority of roost-erfish found were in the 10- to 20-pound class though farther north near San Luis, where the water clarity was better, a few fish up to 40 to 50 pounds were caught. Still there has been no action for dogtooth; this is the time of year where these brutes are found patrolling the inshore rocky reefs and we are hoping for a late season flurry of these largest of all snapper.

The striped marlin action is continuing outside of Iman and towards Desteladera. Even though some days are better than others, there isn’t a large concentration of marlin. Trolling lures, bait, and casting to tailing fish or drift-fishing bait down deeper have all produced marlin strikes. Only a few smaller-sized dorado have been seen recently. The yellowfin tuna action was found from 15- to 30-miles offshore and was associated with fast-traveling porpoise. However, it was spotty action it has dictated searching for tuna averaging from 12 to 18 pounds.

East Cape

Water- Clear, flat, from 79 to 83 degrees with lots of temperature breaks. Air- Warming with highs in the 90s along with clear skies and dry. There has been excellent fishing with lots of good-sized yellowfin, a consistent billfish bite; BIG roosterfish are almost guar-anteed; for anglers who target them, there are some big wahoo and there is definitely improved dorado fishing and there has been some unbelievable bot-tom fishing for big pargo and amberjack. There’s lots of bait with caballito and plenty of big sardina available daily.

Yellowfin tuna are spread out, with loads of nice-sized 20- to 50-pound fish close inside from the lighthouse south; most are found within a half-mile from the beach on live sardina and caballito. Tuna are also out- side under the porpoise taking hoochies and cedar plugs. Some big tuna to 85 pounds are being taken north off Pescadero. Lots of sails mixed with stripers are around along with some blues showing up off La Ribera. A couple of nice-sized wahoo to 65 pounds were taken recently with more hitting the cleaning tables daily. The dorado bite is improving with some nice bulls along with many smaller dorado taken recently. The roosterfish are much larger now and are found off the lighthouse and all the beaches!! Anglers are releasing at least one over 40 pounds daily. Big pargo are everywhere recently with three caught that weighed over 30-pounds -- big amberjack as well weighing up to 55-pounds and almost all anglers fishing the bottom are scor- ing both species! La Paz Some highlights or lowlights, and not much in between. There were big fish and there were assorted smaller fish (for fun) and then… well, not much in that middle area. You either caught fish...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

From Carmel California, Bill Mitchell fishes with the Tailhunter Fleet at least once a year. On a quick get-away with his flyrod fished La Paz and got this nice roosterfish just off the rocks as well as several others plus jack crevalle and bonito.

Jonathan Roldan’s Tailhunter International

Fish Killer Of The Week

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Early Cabo Pioneers
Part, oh about 4 now

BY KT MORGAN

We have been bringing you stories about the original hotels, some of them torn down now, others remodeled, but none surviving in their original form. Here are a couple of downtown Cabo properties.

The Finisterra 1972
Originally built in 1972 and renamed and redesigned Sandos Finisterra 2014 it is now an all inclusive resort.

Luis Copolla and Luis Bulnes partnered up to build this first hotel on the Pacific, it's one of the original oceanfront hotels that's still standing to this day, although it's changed a lot over the years. Imagine climbing this promontory and thinking, this would make an excellent location for a hotel. What was an engineering marvel at the time with its cliff side location and views of the bay to the south and expansive Pacific views to the north also made the project quite the challenge.

You can see whales spouting off from your balcony, and all the fishing boats leaving in the morning, returning past your windows midafternoon. Just don’t try swimming here on a rough day as the Pacific drops off quickly to thousands of feet. The huge palapa restaurant by the pool has withstood a few storms, as have the multitude of turtles that have hatched over the millennia and call this beach home.

Mar de Cortez 1972
The original building of the Hotel Mar de Cortez was opened in downtown Cabo San Lucas in 1972 by Simon Yee and Carlos Ungson. Carlos Ungson is the son of Benjamin Ungson who arrived in Mexico by way of his native China is 1935. Bud Parr convinced young Carlos that his future was in Cabo and drafted him to help run the Hotel Cabo San Lucas and later manage the Palmilla and Twin Dolphins.

He made enough money to buy up what was cheap land all over Los Cabos, and he’s one to buy and hold. Today Ungson owns dozens of chunks of land, hosting as landlord some pieces, with some as yet undeveloped. Opening Mar de Cortez was a stroke of genius as there were no affordable options to the celebrity laden resort properties along the beaches and bays. Mar de Cortez has watched the town build up and surround it from what was once a desolate location. It is still a value priced hotel that is still very much unchanged 45 years later. Many old timers who live here now first stayed at the Mardy as it’s affectionately called. He no longer has a stake in it but does own the beautiful and cozy Cabo Bella boutique hotel on Hidalgo across from the park.

Hotel Solmar 1974
At the southern-most tip of this amazing peninsula is the Hotel Solmar. At the time you could in theory have built even further south but nowadays the craggy mountainous land south of the Solmar is a national park donated to the federal government by the original Sandoval family headed by Ana Sandoval who saved Lands End from development by her brother.

If you drive down Federal Highway 1 from California you continued on page 31

Adopt A Pig
Would anyone like to adopt a pig? Too bad, because the Humane Society doesn’t have one, this one is only a marketing ploy

“We’ll be Friends Forever, won’t we, Pooh?” asked Piglet. “Even longer,” Pooh answered. - A. A. Milne

MIZUKI
Now that we have your attention with an adorable kitten, we are inserting a plug for mature cats.

Kittens are cute to watch and lots of fun, and therefore adopted much more frequently than mature cats. The thing is, mature cats have had a chance to refine their behavior and are unlikely to tear things up or pee in your plants, climb your curtains, or scar down the butter on the kitchen counter. They also crave comfort and familiarity and are usually quick to adapt to a new home situation. Why not enjoy kitten antics by watching all the funny YouTube videos, and save the life of an older cat who may not otherwise have a chance?

PIGLET(Actually a dog)

Piglet is a sweet young canine patiently awaiting a human friend. Being a Bull Terrier cross makes him goofy, affectionate, kid-friendly, super-smart, easy to train, and active. Piglet is, in fact, active enough to perform a highly convincing Tigger impersonation.

His short coat is a breeze in the grooming department, so a bonus in the upcoming warmer months. If you value quirky and charming companions, Piglet could easily become your “longer than forever”.
**Ask a Mexican**

This week we asked: Do you agree there is a problem with how many Mexicans are immigrating to the United States?

*Graciela Martinez, 52, merchant.*

I do not think there’s too many of anything in that country. Mexicans who go to the United States are looking for a better life and they end up working in jobs Americans don’t want to get their hands dirty with. I think that we can all make an honest living in whatever country we decide, and I don’t see any Americans living in Mexico having a hard time. Why can the United States do the same? Because they are racist, that’s the answer. If immigration processes were easier for us, less people would look for “the American dream”

1. Angelica Polanco, 21, student.

I don’t think there’s too many, what I think is that too many people are trying to get out of Mexico. If we all went to study and had a career, we wouldn’t need to go to any country as opportunities would open for us here. I think the latest immigration problem is coming from a place of hate against our race and more of those white people who believe in white supremacy are popping up everywhere. The real solution would be to equal opportunities in both countries so that we don’t covet what there is over there.

2. Daniel Pereda, 19, driver.

I do, and I feel very sorry for all the Mexicans who are having a hard time because of a bunch of rotten apples. A lot of people from my family have emigrated and only a couple have had the means to do it legally, but all of them have honest jobs and live by the American rules. I think what is wrong is to judge all of us, because there are some Mexicans who just want to get easy money. Not all of us are rapists, murderers or narcs. Some of us have grown up with a solid value system that allows us to live a good life.


I don’t think the matter is how many Mexicans are living in the U.S, but how many of them are there illegally. If that can even be said, lets remember a big part of the United States was Mexico a long time ago. And the fact that the橙色 president is so ungrateful, makes me sick. After all, we are the ones who have built that country, the workforce is mostly Latina and the country would just collapse if everyone just came back to Mexico. The people who are behind the immigration disaster just want money, because it’s super expensive to get legal papers.

4. Mario Trejo, 54, blacksmith.

I think there are more races (going to the US), than Mexicans. More Chinese, more Indian, more Arab before Mexicans. The problem is that the government is trying to pressure our country into being its puppet (if that is more possible than we already are) and it’s unfair to take innocent people as their victims. The kids who are being held in the border without their parents is an atrocity, like Jews by the Nazis and many of those Jews ran away to the United States. It used to be a country for everyone, a safe place when things in your own country went bad, now it’s just an ugly place with mean people who are using their strength the wrong way.

5. Dulce Cruz, 49, stay at home mom.

I don’t think there are too many immigrants, but I do think

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31
MEXICAN MOMS ARE...
continued from page 23

is nothing that reaches the far corners of the world, nor can it be preserved for the future. It all happens in the now. For fiestas at the kindergarten (posadas, candalaria, Dia de los Reyes, Dia de San Valentin), moms make tamales, and cakes. They play games, sing songs and fill piñatas. One mom even made lovely tear drop shaped violet and pink lollipops tied with delicate bows. When you drive by the kindergarten in Los Barriles, look up and you may see moms painting murals (rosita fresita or strawberry shortcake.) This writer even painted some of the leaves on the flowers. In the States, moms raise money with bake sales and auctions. Here, the last money raiser was a pelea de gallos (cock fight). Moms sold tamales, empanadas, and burritos to make additional money.

The kinder may need computers, a copy machine, swings that don’t break and a roof over the play yard, but the beauty and creativity that is alive here is worth far more than these material so called necessities. The jardin de ninos is a studio for the finest masters in the world: the artists of care, time, confidence, love, humor, patience, acceptance and life.

Well, off to school to pick up

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These days everybody wants to look beautiful. As 78 million “baby boomers” approach retirement, age is beginning to show. But with the fast pace of today’s aging society, people now want that fresh look without spending weeks of painful recovery. A 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 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 from LED and Photo-facials, to TITAN™ Skin Tightening and Lumenis Acupulse™ Fractional CO2 Laser. With the recent addition of the award winning HydroFacial™, Voted Best Non-Laser, Non-Surgical Skin Rejuvenation 2012, Spa Cielo now has something for everyone, whether it is precancerous age, precancerous 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. HydroFacial™ were even featured in InStyle magazine in 2009 as the “hottest celebrity pre-bridal facial”. All the notoriety is with good reason. The HydroFacial is the only system to vacuum extract, wet- microderm and vortex fuse serums, following a computerized customized treatment plan based on the individual’s skin type and needs. It is truly amazing!” explains Cathy.

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or you didn’t! At Las Arenas/ Muertos Bay, the action around Cerralvo Island and Punta Perrico again focused on the bigger grade of tuna that popped up about three weeks ago. And these fish were not pushovers! The tuna were big and grumpy. The smaller fish were 40 pounders. The larger fish (we caught) were 60 pounders. And we lost probably 60- 70% of the fish that were hooked either through inexperience, busted lines or hooks...or simply bad luck because well...that’s fishing! Good fishermen lost big fish. Rookies caught big fish. No rhyme or reason. But either way, heartbreak when you’re on a fish for up to an hour or two and it busts off.

On top of the tuna there, there were also wahoo. The wahoo were chowing on Rapalas for some fish up to 50 pounds. But, again, fish were lost. Add in a lot of pesky feisty bonito, jack crevalle and a few others including a few marlin and there was still some action to be had even if no fish were put in the coolers. For La Paz...again, this was the fish area to fish. Not much in the way of big fish, but there were some school-sized dorado. In the rocks there’s lots of snapper, big pargo and cabrilla and even some hold-over cooler water yellowtail and amberjack. Lots of fish lost in the rocks, but you could easily have 10-30 biters a day even if you lost most of those fish, you still got a nice catch of fish at the end of the day.

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Gordo Bank Panga: www.gordobank.com
East Cape
Rancho Leonero Hotel: www.rancholeonero.com
Jen Wren Sportfishing: www.jenwren.com
East Cape Tackle Cindy Kirkwood: www.eastcaketackle.com
La Paz
Jonathan Roldan’s Tailhunter International: www.tailhunterinternational.com

STOP THE PAIN!
Get Relief without Surgery!

Heidi, my own work of art. I’ll be joined by other Picasso moms... Matisse, Rivera, Kahlo, Van Gogh, or rather, Hilda, Lilianna, Monica, and Carmen.

Do you suffer from
• Knee Pain
• Low Back Pain
• Shoulder Pain
• Joint Pain
• Hip Pain
• Neuropathy
• Neck Pain
• Osteoarthritis
• Tennis Elbow

STEM CELL THERAPY
Gives Relief without Surgery.

If you’ve been diagnosed with arthritis or degenerative joint disease stem cell therapy gives relief without surgery. Find out if stem cell therapy is right for you.

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PRMEDICA Inc.
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www.prmedica-inc.com

RSVP: stemcellcabo@gmail.com 624 688 5497 - 624 157 1970
Carretera Transpeninsular Km 30 Plaza Los Portales - 3rd Floor,
Paseo del Estero, San Jose Del Cabo.

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Other Mexican products will follow: The Ataulfo mango from the state of Chiapas, the Vanilla from Papantla (Veracruz), the Charanda liqueur from Michoacan, the Bacanora and Sochacan, the Bacanora and Sochacan, the Charanda liqueur from Michoacan, the Bacanora and Sochacan, the Bacanora and Sochacan, the Charanda liqueur from Michoacan, the Bacanora and Sochacan, the Bacanora and Sochacan, the Charanda liqueur from Michoacan, the Bacanora and Sochacan, the Bacanora and Sochacan, the Charanda liqueur from Michoacan, the Bacanora and Sochacan, the Bacanora and Sochacan.

The original timeshare members were not all happy when their 25 year lease was up and the old hotel was torn down to make way for the huge 11 story 5 star resort with 6 pools and 5 restaurants, but they seem to be over it now that they’ve been give nice rooms in the new part of the property.

In summary we must all pay a harder thank you to these early achievers and pioneers of Los Cabos. These men and their families achieved greatness through hard work, sweat and unwavering determination that is hard to fully imagine. Their success was a combination of blind luck, vision, and timing. The fact that the celebrities and wealthy started the Cabo tourism trend due to the limited access by private plane or boat was a filter that drove the luxury minded hotels. That trend has continued as we see the latest round of luxury resorts and communities opening everywhere. If you long for the Baja of old don’t despair you will just have to go a few miles north on either coast away from the lights and you will find hundreds of miles of unspoiled beaches, rolling cactus hills and rocky mountains.

**Phone Dialing 201**

We’re skipping right to calling the baby sitter back home to see if the kids are still alive or to report your credit card has been hijacked. For local calls see phone dialing 101

For international long-distance **calls to Mexico**, you first dial 00, then the country code. This is for both the U.S. and Canada, so you would dial 00 52 then 1 then your area code then the 7 digit number of your baby sitter. *(BTW, are you sure you did the right thing leaving your infant with the teenager next door? Her boyfriend looks a little sketchy.)*

Now let’s go through this backwards. The country code for Mexico is 52. When calling a Mexican phone number from the U.S. or Canada, you need to dial 011 plus 52 plus the area code plus the phone number here. Here’s the tricky part: If you’re calling a cell phone here, you’ll need to squeeze in a 1 after the 52 and before the area code. Here’s how that goes: 011 + 52 + 1 + area code + phone number. And how do you know if you’re calling a cell phone here? You don’t. But if a lady comes on the phone and babbles something in Spanish, chances are she’s telling you to try again and this time don’t forget the 1.

Now you are ready to call the United States or Canada:

- first dial 00, then the code which for the U.S. and Canada is 1, so you would dial 00 + 1 + the area code and then your 7 digit number.

Now the tricky part. Say you want to dial a toll free number in the States or Canada. You can’t. Mexico blocks them. But we have a work around.

- Dial 001, which as we told you, is the international code to call the United States. Then there is a magic number for each of your toll free numbers.
- Dial 880 if your toll free number begins with 800.
- Dial 881 if your toll free number begins with 888.
- Dial 882 if your toll free number begins with 877.
- Dial 883 if your toll free number begins with 866 numbers.

Next dial the seven digit telephone number normally. An American operator lady will come on and remind you you’re going to have to pay for this, it’s not toll free from Mexico, but you’re going to be so relieved you finally got through to your bank or your credit card company you won’t even mind paying for the call.

Here are two more numbers to toss into the mix, but good luck with them if you don’t speak Spanish.

- **Dial 911** to get an emergency operator, but it would be a fluke if anyone there speaks English. And where do you think you’re going to direct the police or an ambulance when you can’t even tell Dominos where they’re going to need to deliver that pizza?

- **Directory assistance is 040** but it’s not like what you expect. Again only Spanish, and they don’t really have a directory there with them.

You can often cut a break on inter country calls by making a deal with your US provider. For instance for Verizon you call 611 and tell them you’re going to Mexico for 30 days, please put your plan into Mexico mode, and let it fall off after 30 days. That saves this writer a ton of money.

Also, the minute you cross that border cut off data pushed at you. Only take data when you’re hooked up with Wi-Fi.
Own Your Key to Paradise

The Residences at Las Ventanas al Paraiso
a Rosewood Resort, Ty Warner Property
Los Cabos, México