New President Reveals Plans For Our Beloved CFE
That would be our much maligned federal electricity utility

By Reddy Kilowat

The incoming director of the Federal Electricity Commission (CFE) plans to review prices but will not seek to dismantle the 2013 energy reforms.

“Why are we going to respect the law as it is; what we're going to try to get the commission to really compete, if we don't let it compete, electricity rates will go up. If CFE just buys electricity and doesn't generate power, how is it going to compete?” Manuel Bartlett told reporters.

He explained that the new López Obrador-led government would also seek to introduce "social rates" that could allow people with low incomes obtain government subsidies to offset their electricity costs. Uh oh. Continued on Page 5

Are We Loved Or Not?
Sometimes it's hard to tell from the stats, so here's a closer look

By Penny Wise

While Mexico's international tourism continues to grow, some US based airlines are reducing the number of their flights to Mexico, citing decreased demand.

United, Delta, American and Spirit have or will consider reducing flights from the United States. We know this because executives for the airlines recently discussed their decisions during quarterly earnings conference calls with financial analysts. And we discussed this with the financial analysts.

The reductions among these carriers however, come as our tourism industry continues to grow and other airlines are increasing flights. Mexico is currently the sixth most visited country in the world, hosting 39.3 million international visitors last year and about 20 million of those arrivals were Americans. Just five years ago, Mexico was ranked 15th most visited in the world. Continued on Page 5.

A shark with a bloody nose? Who would give a shark a bloody nose? Maybe this isn’t a shark, what do we look like, an ichthyologist?
Rocky does Cabo. Movie star Sylvester Stallone was here last weekend, staying at the Montage in Santa Maria Bay and strolling the beach with wife Jennifer Flavin. Several people approached him asking for a photo or autograph but he refused, retreating to a beach bed covered with curtains, which was immediately guarded by a couple of resort security agents. Hey! We bought tickets to your movies! You owe us! Just kidding.

Thankew, thankew. Washington firefighters are donating rescue equipment to firefighters in Cabo. South King Fire and Rescue filled a truck full of gear in Cabo. South King Fire and Rescue equipment to firefighters in Washington are donating equipment to firefighters in Cabo. Just kidding.

Mexico’s statistics and geography institute, INEGI, the Baja Sur economy grew 21.4 percent during the first quarter of the year, compared to the same period of 2017. Or growth is more than double the highest growth states in Mexico, which increased their economy by a still decent 8.9 percent. Ha! (We don't really feel that way, we just couldn't help ourselves there for a minute.) We wish everyone could experience healthy growth. Also, we wish our infrastructure could experience healthy growth. We wish everyone could experience healthy growth. Also, we wish our infrastructure could experience healthy growth.

Canada, the U.S., but mostly Mexico, along with one or two second tier movie stars and lots of directors, producers and new actors and actresses, as it is devoted to promoting new talent and getting them in touch with A-list producers and distributors. Those would be the A-listers who won't be here, sigh.

This year, the festival will also welcome young talent from the Los Cabos area. One local film director, David Liles, participated in last year's Cannes festival. The event also includes workshops, such as "Movie Critic's" and "Movie Appreciation," which are also open to locals. This year, the festival wants to reach out to larger audiences, using several venues. The main one is still the Cultural Pavilion in the Cabo marina, and the Cinemex movie theaters in Cabo and San Jose, but there will be also open-air movie screenings on Medano beach in front of the Casa Dorada resort. Stay tuned for the movie schedule, which we will bring you but will not guarantee it will be adhered to.

We’re growing. And, in all areas. Mexico has been ranked # 2 in obesity by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Sigh. Then our Southern Baja state was ranked # 2 in obesity in the entire country. Bigger sigh.

A more positive area of growth is our state's economy. According to Mexico's statistics, the Baja Sur economy grew 21.4 percent during the first quarter of the year, compared to the...
Massive rafts of Sargassum—a brown seaweed that lives in the open ocean—has washed up on beaches across the Caribbean, trapping sea turtles and filling the air with the stench of rotting eggs. It is piling up as much as three feet thick in places. It affects all of the Caribbean as well as Cancun and the Mexican beaches south of there. The Caribbean is bracing for what could be the mother of all seaweed invasions coming up, with satellite observations warning of record-setting Sargassum and seaweed already swapping across the shore is preferable to gathering it on the beach, he said.

Before 2011, open-ocean Sargassum was mostly found in the Sargasso Sea, so at first scientists assumed that it had drifted south from there. But satellite imagery and data on ocean currents told a different story.

Officials with Fisheries and Oceans Canada looked for spots on the ocean’s surface that reflected unusual amounts of near-infrared light, a part of the spectrum that plants don’t harvest. Data showed a huge patch of floating plants, presumably Sargassum, off the coast of Brazil—far to the south of its normal habitat. By September, it stretched from the Caribbean all the way to the coast of Africa and covered about 1,000 square miles.

To confirm that the Sargassum was fouling Caribbean beaches came from the tropical Atlantic east of Brazil, Ocean Canada traced the likely path of seaweed masses backward through time. First, they compiled records of locations where Sargassum came ashore. Then, using information about surface currents, they calculated its likely source. Invariably, in all of those instances, it tracked back to the tropical region. None of it ever tracked northward into the Sargasso Sea.

Since 2011, tropical Sargassum have recurrent nearly every year, satellite imagery showed. The new source region is encircled by currents running clockwise from South America to Africa and back again. But from January to May, that loop breaks toward the Caribbean. All along the way, the Sargassum kept blooming and growing.

Yet in satellite data prior to 2011, the region is largely free of seaweed. That deepens the mystery of the sudden proliferation, and nobody has a definite answer. Nutrients from the Amazon River, which discharges into the ocean around where blooms were first spotted, then traveled across the Sargassum. But other factors, including changes in ocean currents and increased iron deposits from airborne dust, are equally plausible. In other words, we can track it but nobody knows why it’s turning up.

The Mexican federal Environment Secretariat (Semarnat) has acquired special machinery to remove the icky stinky seaweed but it won’t be delivered until November. Environment Secretary Rafael Pacheco said his department had reached out to other countries around the Caribbean to see what they’re doing, but the reality is that the technology to fight this is limited. The few vessels that can be used to clean up the seaweed before it hits the beaches are very expensive and their capacity is limited, he said, making the process a slow one. But collecting it before it lands on the shore is preferable to gathering it with heavy machinery on the beach, he said.

Other options that have been explored by Semarnat are diverting the weed while it is still in the water and analyzing its possible use for food, pharmaceutical or energy purposes, hoping they can sell it to defray expenses.

The federal government has allocated US$3.7 million to address the Sargassum problem and a project to divert it on the open sea is already under way. Installing containment booms, similar to those deployed to contain oil spills, is set to begin this week by the state of Quintana Roo with federal authorization. The booms consist of plastic barriers nearly two feet deep hanging from buoys. With the help of wind and ocean currents, the plastic fence will divert the seaweed away from the beaches and then will be gathered for disposal on dry land. Well, that’s the plan. The first barrier is being installed as a pilot project at Punta Nizuc, near Cancún. Further barriers will be placed at strategic locations at Tulum, Playa del Carmen, Mahahual and Puerto Morelos.

"It won't totally solve the problem because the boom is the mercy of the currents and the wind," said state Environment Secretary Alfredo Arellano Guillermo, "but hopefully it can..."

Please refer to the continuation on page 7.
**CFE makes a plan.** That's the much hated electric utility. The incoming director of CFE plans to review their charges. The incoming administration will seek “social rates” that could see people with low incomes get government subsidies. No, Bunky, that will not be you. I don't care if you are on a diet of rice and beans, you’re not going to look poor to a Mexican utility, that would be political suicide to give a foreigner a break.

A price review would focus particularly on states with hotter climates where people complain most about high electricity prices and, in some cases, refuse to pay. Yes, some people are refusing to pay. If you try that, be sure you stock up on candles first.

The incoming director said CFE — Mexico's second most powerful state-owned company after Pemex — a priority will be to pay. If you try that, be sure you stock up on candles first.

**Fracking, not so bueno in Mexico.** Fracking, a relatively new way of getting natural gas out of the ground, has made the United States energy independent but Mexico's new administration plans on turning its back on this new technology, believing it's not good for the environment. Incoming President Lopez Obrador said the Energy Secretariat will have to analyze signed contracts and obligations to determine whether they can be halted.

**needs NAFTA?** Trade between Mexico and the United States reached record highs in both directions in the first six months of this year. Mexico's exports to the United States increased by 9.1% and imports increased by 10.2%. Mexican products worth just over US $169.3 billion went north while almost US $131.3 billion products came into Mexico, and that's what pisses of Trump, leading to his reorganizing NAFTA. But he United States also recorded defi-
That's not going to be you, Bunky, Gringos, no matter how poverty stricken you think you are, do not qualify for low income programs.

Bartlett said that lower rates would also be extended to the industrial sector and that a price review would focus particularly on states with hotter climates in some cases, re-

fuse to pay. That would be us here in Cabo.

López Obrador said earlier this week that his government would cancel debts owed to the CFE by customers in “civil resistance” against the public utility.

In an interview with the newspaper El Universal, Bartlett responded to criticism about his appointment to head the CFE, which has included a plea from the Mexican Employers Federation (Coparmex) to the president-elect to reconsider his choice and a comment from López Obrador’s own campaign manager that there were better people for the job.

“They say that I don’t have the right profile, that [he head of the CFE should be an electrician, a technician, but if you look at who the directors of big companies are, it’s the other way around,” he said. “The heads of big electric companies are not electricians, they are private businessmen who lead them.”

He pointed out that he didn’t appoint himself but was appoint-
ed by López Obrador. Asked whether he would consider re-

linguishing the appointment, the 82-year-old former governor of Puebla and federal interior secretary said that such a move would only serve to satisfy the union and his other critics be-

fore deriding the idea as illogical. “Ja ja ja, I’m not quitting,” he said. But we paraphrase. Bartlett said the first thing to do at CFE — Mexico’s second most powerful state-owned company after Pemex — will be to establish “why it lost US $2.1 bil-

lion in six months, why it has a growing debt, why it doesn’t generate ele-

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Specifically, the agreement allowed for increased market access for passenger and cargo airlines to fly between any city in Mexico and any city in the United States. Immediately after the agreement, airlines such as Southwest, Delta, and American announced they would begin new flights. Not to be left out, American Airlines started new daily flights from LAX to Can-

cun and Puerto Vallarta. Before the frenzy was over, about 400 new routes between the two countries had been established. We’re seeing a correction to that frenzy now.

“Before the bilateral agree-

ment, there were only two Ameri-
can and two Mexican carriers allowed to fly each route, but as soon as the new deal was signed everybody jumped into the market and there was a big jump in the number of seats,” said Esponda. That there is now some review and scaling back is only logical, Esponda added.

Los Cabos has remained largely immune to declining numbers in flights. In fact, over the coming months, even more direct flights are being planned Esponda said.

For instance, as of next Janu-

ary, Vacation Express will start flying direct to Los Cabos from Cincinnati. Also, in January, Apple Leisure Group will begin offering direct flights to Los Ca-

bos from both Milwaukee and St. Louis, Missouri. All told, officials are projecting six percent growth in airline seats to Los Cabos. They are just not the legacy car-

riers. Which is generally good for prices.

“We have been communicat-
ing with airlines,” added Esponda. “We have not seen any decrease in terms of what we are projecting into the end of 2018.” Los Cabos is a luxury destination made up of one-third all-inclusive resorts, one-third time share properties and one-third European plan ho-

tels. “Because of that composition we are less exposed to change. A small change can affect bigger destinations that are primarily all-inclusive resorts,” Esponda said. “But Los Cabos is a very different destination because of our product. We are focused on the luxury market, we don’t have big properties, we’re not a mass market.”

As for Mexico as a whole, it continues focusing on the win-

ning proposition it offers travel-

ers: access to beaches, vibrant cities and magical towns, gushed the Mexio Tourism Board. Tour-

ist boards gush.

In addition to all those at-

tactions, officials are working
Capital Gains Reboot

Well, at this point it’s still a proposal but get ready

BY ORLANDO GOTAY

Just when I was staring at the dreaded blinking cursor wondering what to write about, in comes news of the proposal to make adjustments to the Mexican capital gains rules. What is causing the latest uproar? The administration proposes to take into account inflation, when the time comes to figure the gain (and thus the tax) on the sale of a capital asset. Capital asset 101: It can be stock, a home, a lawn mower, or anything that is not inventory. When you sell one of these “widgets”, your gain is generally the difference between what you sell it for and what it cost. If you bought an item for $50 and sell it for $99, your gain is $49 as indexing, that $50 may be adjusted somehow for inflation. Instead of $50 it could be $55 or $60... who knows. It is true this affects mostly those in upper brackets, and it may not be enacted at all, but how modern of them. Did you know? Mexico indexes the cost of a home for inflation at the time of a later sale and for figuring tax.

Another item that caught my eye is an article on Bloomberg (“U.S. Expats Face Hammering from New Tax Rules”) that says the new tax law actually hurts American business owners overseas. That may be just partly true and those alarmist headlines may be reminiscent of yellow press. If you are a U.S. person, if you own enough shares in a foreign corporation, and if that foreign corporation had profits left over at the end of the year, and the corporation became a sort of piggy bank, then you are on the hook for all kinds of new taxes. That’s true, but it’s a far stretch from suggesting all expats are in for it. Say what? You have a foreign corporation you forgot to tell the IRS about? Then you could be in big trouble, even before the new tax law changes—and even before owing a single penny in federal tax.

Meanwhile, states keep trying to pull you in. Do you blame them? Minnesota just tried—and lost—in an effort to say “once you are mine, you are always mine”... like a bad lover. The details are technical, but the message is the same to us all. Pay attention to whatever contacts you have north of the border. The nice thing is that most of these factors and contacts can be managed. Forewarned, forarmed.

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 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. It is informational only and not meant as legal advice.

What To Do If You’re Stopped By The Police

The Police are poised to step up their efforts to shake down foreigners now that our federal gendarmes sent to protect us from them are being recalled. People! Do not feed these thieves, you only make it worse for yourself and for everyone else. If nobody gives them money, they will stop asking.

If you are stopped, and you have actually made a boot, ask for a ticket and go down to the police station later on or the next day, or even the next week, and pay it. They will take your driver’s license to insinuate that you show up, and that’s OK. They do not want your license, and there is noting they can do with it. You will get it back.

If you have not broken any law, just keep asking for a ticket. “Dar may un teeket por favore”. Be polite but be firm. If they threaten you or get nasty, write down their name, or if they are not wearing their name badge, (mandatory, but still it’s common for them to stick it in their pocket), then haul out your phone and take their picture. That’s like holding a mirror up to a vampire, and they will jump in their car and scurry away like cockroaches when you turn on the light. They will let you go with some face saving mumble like, “just a warning this time”. It’s extremely rare for them to write a ticket, and for sure they will not cite you when you haven’t done anything wrong. And, if you have broken a law, the ticket is ridiculously small. Man up and go down and pay it, don’t take the cowardly/lazy way out and throw money at the officer.

OK, once more now, altogether, “dar may un teeket”. This police extortion would stop in a week if everyone would grow a back bone and stand up to them. If it doesn’t stop, then it’s your own fault.
US $16.2 million of state money will be allocated to Sargassum removal in the next 15 days. That’s on top of the $4 million the state has already spent and the $4 million the federal government has pledged. This is a disaster for Cancun and all Caribbean resort beaches.

The Mexican Employers’ Federation, or Coparmex, pushed hard in late 2017 for an increase in line with the well-being level set by Coneval, the social development agency, and it is doing so again now. Coparmex honcho Gustavo de Hoyos said he would like to see the wage raised to at least 100 pesos by the end of the year. Well, set your sights low and you won’t be disappointed, we say.

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THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...
continued from page 3
reduce the quantity that arrives on the beaches.”

Federal and state officials are scheduled to meet with academics from the National Autonomous University to look for alternatives for dealing with the seaweed. Burying it on the beach or near the coastline won’t work, because it is feared it could cause ecological damage, turning beaches of sand into a slime-like dirt, leaving the beach looking more like a mangrove swamp. A side problem is more vegetation is appearing on beaches because the weed comes loaded with nitrogen and phosphorous. As it decays it fertilizes that vegetation. Another factor in the Sargassum invasion is that those nutrients are also carried back out to sea, where they fertilize yet more Sargassum.

Quintana Roo Governor Carlos Joaquín González said that one of a town in the state of Guerrero went without running water for almost two months. Service was re-established when fed up picketers shut down traffic on a highway. Water service had been cut off but the municipal water utility continued to charge for it. Turns out the city hadn’t paid their utility bill.

No water, no justice. Or something like that. Residents of the island of Isla Mujeres were so fed up with the situation, they set their sights low and you won’t be disappointed, we say.
Monday to Saturday. 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Rancher’s market in Todos Santos. Featuring homemade products from rural areas. Artisanal cheeses, organic chicken and eggs, liqueurs and virgin honey, as well as handicrafts such as furniture made with regional woods, leather goods and clay pottery all made by ranchers’ hands. The Mercado (market). Todos Santos on Calle Morelos between Rangel and Cuauhtemoc inside the San Diego Feed Store.

**Every Monday.** 8:30 am. Pickleball in San Jose. Contact ron@dumbarton@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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

**Every Wednesday.** 7:00 am to 12:30 pm. The Organic Market at Pedregal. Fresh, organic produce, coffee, fish, seafood, eggs, whole lamb (Little Bo Peep!), pigs (Porky! Is that you?) handicrafts, plus breakfast and lunch at Penny’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 locally made craft beers and delicious food. Alvaro Obregón street (between Militar & Rangel). Facebook @TodosSantosBrewing. Ph 612-1452023 or email info@todosantosbrewing.mx

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

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

**Every Thursday.** 12:00 to 8:00 pm. Artisans Market at 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. A district in downtown San Jose.

**Every other Thursday.** You guess which one. Los Cabos Tomates, ladies’ social group. All women who aspire to be a tomato are welcome. Email loscabo@tomates@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 612-1452023 or email info@todosantosbrewing.mx

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

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

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

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

**Every Saturday.** 5:00 pm to midnight. Cultural Circuit. Arts and crafts exhibit raising the Cabo araina, in front of Solomos’ Landing and the cultural pavilion. Live music, dancers and art workshops for children.

**Every Sunday.** 6:00 pm. Sun. Day Sessions Live Music. Todos Santos Brewing. Enjoy the beautiful star filled Baja sky, live acoustic music, fabulous handmade craft beers and delicious food. Alvaro Obregón street (between Militar & Rangel). Facebook @TodosSantosBrewing. For more information, 612-145-2023 or email info@todosantosbrewing.mx

**Every Sunday.** 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Live music and paella. At El Mirador Restaurant in Todos Santos. Traditional Mexican dishes, stunning ocean views and now featuring jazz pianist Bill Levine. Take Camino al Mirador from Los Cabos-Todos Santos Highway. Information: Facebook @GuaycuraHotelE-mail reservationguaycurahotelph +(52) (612) 175 0800.

**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 traffic. 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 area, away from the public. Providing a safe location to enjoy your dog off leash. Visit www.caboskorral.com for information.

**Every Sunday.** 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Los Cabos Tattoo Fest. At the Cultural Pavilion, Cabo San Lucas. A festival of tattoos, art exhibit, food, music and entertainment. Free entrance.


**November 4.** Sunday. 7:00 am – 5:00 pm. Ironman 70.3 Los Cabos 2018. More information soon, but roads will be closed, best don’t fly in on that day.. Follow: www.ironman.com

**November 7-10.** 20th Annual Los Cabos Tuna Jackpot. Information: www.loscabostunajackpot.com

**November 13-16.** Los Cabos Big Game Charter Boat Classic returns for its-anniversary tournament. This is a free competition for visiting anglers where, in stead of an entry fee, participants book a local fishing charter and the crew provides the expertise, experience and tackle needed to compete. The tournament is designed to be stress-free and requires little preparation from participants.

**December 1st.** Sunday. 13th Annual Dressed to the K9’s “Glitz & Glam” 5:30 to 11:00 pm. At the Sheraton Grande, Cabo San Lucas. To benefit The Los Cabos Humane Society. www.loscaboshumane.society.com

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

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: San, Nature, and Culture. A permanent photography show of cultural identity of Baja California Sur. Video also. Text is in English and Spanish. Free. CODEX Peninsula salon at The Centro Cultural La Paz. The old city hall on 16 de September at the corner of Belisario Dominguez, 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, sculptures, photography, and engravings. Open area. Spanish with some English. Mijares Main Plaza in downtown San Jose. More info on Facebook: Jardin del Arte Los Cabos.

Every Tuesday, 8:00 pm. Documentary Movie Club. A different documentary every week. In the original language with Spanish subtitles. Free. Alfredo Green Cultural House Downtown San Lucas.

Every Wednesday, 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Danzon Afternoons. Traditional Mexican dance classes. Spanish. Free. Leo 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. 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 Wednesday, 5:00 to 10:00 pm. Art Day. Art, paintings, books, live music. Spanish and English. El Merkado at Koral Center, next to the H+ Hospital. Kilometer 24.5 on the fourlane to San Jose.

Every Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. 6:00 to 10:00 pm. Art Fair. Food sampling and wine tasting at the restaurants and shops in the mall. Live music and local artists showcasing their work. Plaza el Pescador across from Cabo Azul resort in the hotel zone. San Jose.


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. The Pavilion's Movie Club. A different movie every week. Sometimes in English, sometimes other languages with Spanish subtitles. Free. September features films from Italy. 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 Vegana. Playa Migrino St. up from Miguel A. Herrera St. Turn right 2 blocks before the gas station (Pueblo Bonito Sunset area).

Every Friday, 7:30 pm. Rock Bands Encounter. Different rock groups 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 Ge- stoNoExTeatro 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, 8:00 pm. Reading lounge Hermanita de Ysabel. At Café Cabo inside Plaza Cota. Lazo Cardenas Blvd. Downtown Cabo, next to Bancomer bank.

Every Saturday, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Reading lounge Hermanita de Ysabe- la. At Café Cabo inside Plaza Cota. Lazo Cardenas Blvd. Downtown Cabo, next to Bancomer bank.

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


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

August 22, Wednesday. 8:00 pm. Art exhibition opening with paintings and drawings from Ricardo Viscaino. C'mon you don't need Spanish to look at the pictures. Free. La Paz's City Theater, Navarro St and Heroes de Independencia St. downtown (612) 125 0486/ (612) 125 0207.

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 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. 624 150 0216.


September 28. Thursday, 7:00 pm. The Pavilion's Movie Club presents Devil’s Freedom. (2017). Documentary. A documentary about the violence in Mexico told from the word of those who have suffered the pain and those who caused the pain. The documentary won Best Documentary in Mexico. With the presence of their director Everardo Gonzalez winner this year as the best Mexican Documentarist. Spanish with some help in English. Free. Cabo San Lucas' Cultural Pavilion, downtown next to the marina.


Turtle Savers Get New ATV
Doubling their sphere of influence

BY SANDY BEACH

Organización SyCOMA (Organization for sustainability and conservation of the environment), has announced that Destinations in Paradise (https://destinationsinparadise.com) and its owners, Howard Appel and David Cohen, have donated a new ATV and a satellite transmitter to support sea turtle conservation. The Program for Protect Sea Turtles currently has one ATV to patrol, monitor and protect known migration patterns. The beaches of Baja California Sur are home to five of the seven species of marine turtles that exist worldwide, all of which are threatened and in danger of extinction. The five species reported in the region are: Golfinia (Olive Ridley), Prieta (Green), Laúd (Leatherback), Carey (Hawksbill) and Caguama (Loggerhead).

The Turtle Protection Program was established in 2000 by the municipal government to monitor and protect the turtle nesting beaches in Los Cabos where arriving mama turtles search for their original place of hatching on the beach to dig their own nest and lay eggs. Most of the program’s support comes from local government, foreign non-profits and some hotels. We hope that more beach front property owners like Howard and David and tourists will support the efforts of SyCOMA to protect the endangered species. Their donation will help further our effort and protect the least terns as well as the turtle nests so that as many hatchlings as possible can be released into the ocean.

Turtle protection volunteers are all smiles over their donation

The Olive Ridley, Green, and Leatherback turtles that call the beaches and ocean of Los Cabos home, are constantly threatened by poachers. Also by predators such as dogs, coyotes, and cats. Human tourist activity such as vehicles on the beach destroy nests or makes it impossible for the baby sea turtles to reach the sea. It is estimated that only one in every thousand baby sea turtles will become adults. “SyCOMA team do an amazing job protecting these turtles and least terns, and they do so with little fanfare and limited funding,” said Appel. “We hope others take notice that it really doesn’t take much to make a difference.”

“Understanding the migratory habits of the turtles and making this information available in real time to researchers will aid conservation efforts everywhere. This technology CONTINUED ON PAGE 14
Book Report

BY JEANNINE PEREZ

Today you get two Baja nature guide reviews for the price of one!


I had many animal visitors on my patio last week. It’s about time I learn more about our local amphibians and reptiles. Have you ever wondered whether we actually have earless lizards in Baja? Or why they are called earless? And are they deaf?

My research in these two field guides was done by looking up in each, answers to the same questions about the reptiles and amphibians we can find here in Baja. Doing so has also been the most confusing (and interesting) book report research I’ve done yet. (This is true, even though snakes are certainly not my own favorite species in nature.) My goals were to report on which I found to be the most informative resource, and, which guide was the easiest to use. I soon discovered that the two above field guides contain different kinds of information, and they are also formatted much differently. To learn the most about Baja reptiles and amphibians, I would recommend you have both books in your library.

On page 235, of the Peterson Field Guide, I read an explanation for my hard work in comparing and researching this subject. “Poor road access (has) made it difficult to (adequately) study the plants and animals of Baja California until after 1974, when Highway 1...was paved.” I find it intriguing to realize how much more there is yet to research and learn about Baja. And how can these so called researchers beg off their job by saying there was no road? What do they do, research by drive-by?

These books are both great guides, but are arranged very differently. “Peterson Field Guides. Western Reptiles and Amphibians.” by Robert C. Stebbins has information about 244 Species, plus 260 Subspecies, with descriptions, and contains the key features needed to identify them. There are 600 illustrations, 200 range maps, and field marks of all the species in western North America, including Baja California.

The “National Audubon Society Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians. North America,” by John L. Behler contains 657 color photos, organized by species, range maps, silhouette drawings of features, silhouettes of body shapes, white on black, and Range maps. Full descriptions are of both native and introduced reptiles and amphibians found in North America north of Mexico. The scope though, is not quite as wide.

For me, the Peterson Field Guide was the easiest to use, and I could find answers to specific questions more quickly, but the National Audubon Society Field Guide has colored photographs that were more helpful than Peterson’s colored illustrations. Those photographs, plus the thumb tabs that preceded them in the front of the book, would make it quite easy and fast to actually identify reptiles and amphibians. Audubon’s Guide is a bit heavier, and “...fully describes all the native and introduced reptiles and amphibians found in North America. Peterson’s Field Guide is more easily carried, and is meant to be taken with you.
Whale Museum Closes its Doors

Popular attraction victim of rent increase

BY PAIGE TURNER

El Museo de la Ballena y Ciencias del Mar, known to Gringos simply as the Whale Museum, is closing its doors after just over two years at its current location. It is, was, on the Malecón in La Paz until August 20th. The well-known tourist attraction is now considering a move to another location, but it is unknown whether the museum will stay in La Paz or move to another city.

A news conference on July 28th revealed that the owner of the location recently increased rent from 1,400 pesos a month to 200,000 pesos a month or 11,000 US dollars. The museum’s director, Francisco Gómez, has been open to news outlets about the increase in rent as the reason behind the closing of the museum. Nevertheless, he seems optimistic about the collection’s future.

As news of the closing spread, an outpouring of support on social media revealed the appreciation locals have for the museum. One user wrote how much her son loves the museum, another expressed how the museum was a favorite during a recent trip to La Paz, while others questioned the reason behind the move.

A final fiesta took place on August 11th as members of the public were welcome to visit the museum free of charge. Games, contests, and art auctions filled the evening.

With more than 50 whale skeletons, the museum has one of the largest collections of its kind. Complete skeletons of sperm whales, sea lions, and sea turtles along with scale models of sea creatures educated countless visitors. Informative placards were on display in Spanish and English while guided tours in both languages added extra information. It was a key attraction for any nature-loving tourist. The museum also offered tours in the Bay of La Paz as a way to bring the classroom of the museum to a classroom in nature.

After the August 20th closing, part of the collection will be shown in a temporary exhibit, which starts on September 6th, in Mexico City’s Museo Universum in association with the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico. Additionally, there are plans in the works for exhibits at other museums in Mexico City.

Textbook Gives Hand One Finger Too Many

Education Secretariat called it a ‘marginal error’

How many fingers on the human hand? Authors of a mathematics textbook appear to be confused. A new textbook issued by the Secretariat of Public Education (SEP) for second grade primary school students features a human hand with an extra finger. No, not that finger.

The department has acknowledged the error, attributing it to a misprint, but not before social media users went to town on the mistake. Even the teachers had a day with it. “The new education model now considers that the new generation [of students] will evolve and mutate until they have six fingers,” teacher Fátima Loaiza Baltazar wrote on Facebook.

“It’s inclusive of people with six fingers on their hands,” one person commented, a thought echoed by another who wrote that “people with extra fingers have been made to feel invisible until now.”

In a statement that recognized the mistake in the image, the SEP also said that “there is no conceptual or didactic error” in the activity it accompanies, an exercise whose aim is to make students think about different ways to make measurements by using objects—or body parts—that are part of their everyday lives.

“These types of marginal errors tend to show up, four to five times in any copy of any kind of book and in almost every language,” the statement said. Rather defensively.

Still, when you see the graphic it is hard to imagine how this one slipped by. Maybe the graphic artist was bored at his job, felt overlooked, and wanted to see if anyone was paying attention? Maybe he’s the one who alerted social media? Maybe he’s now out looking for a job?
Baja Safe Trolls
The Barrio
Looking for dogs in distress, patching them up, and finding homes

BY IVAN ODER

Dogs in Mexico have a different lifestyle from dogs in the United States or Canada. Vaccinations, sterilizations, or simple flea treatments tend not to happen here. But Baja S.A.F.E. is trying to change that through education and finding forever homes for stray dogs and cats from the streets of Los Cabos. Baja Safe volunteers drive the barrios picking up dogs that are obviously in distress. No, the city does not do that. The city doesn’t even pick up people who are in distress.

The acronym S.A.F.E. stands for “Salud de los Animales y Familias con Educacion,” translated as “health of the animals and families with education”. Baja S.A.F.E. is a registered humane society in Baja California Sur and is included in the International Community Foundation’s Giving Guide for 2018. The International Community Foundation (ICF) is a non-profit that works with programs in Northwest Mexico. If they give a nod to a charity, then they’ve investigated it and the organization falls within the norms of a well-run effort.

Founded in 2007 by Isabelle Ann Tiberghien, Baja S.A.F.E. focuses on spaying and neutering pets they rescue as well as educating locals on how to care for and take on the responsibility of a pet. An estimated 10,000 street dogs live in Baja California Sur, and that problem persists throughout the rest of the country.

Often the animals are in poor health when Baja S.A.F.E. finds them, and so rehabilitation begins. A group of dedicated volunteers helps the dogs and cats regain their health, and the effects are clear in a section of the group’s website entitled “Before & After”. Some of them are chilling, as photographs show the sad state of the animals while they are on the street as well as an updated photo, showing a happy and healthy pet after the rescue and arduous rehab. Many pet shelters would put these animals down.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

Baja Safe is primarily a dog rescue organization but occasionally they get confused. Can you imagine how confused Nito is, decked out in a dog outfit and living in a kennel of constantly barking dogs? Somebody rescue him while he still has a shred of dignity left.
to create new experiences to bring more visitors to Mexico, such as the Viajemos Todos Por Mexico campaign, which invites Mexican-American residents in the U.S. to reconnect with their culture. This market is huge in northern Baja, where Mexican Americans drive to Ensenada, Rosarito Beach, Rocky Point, and San Felipe from LA and San Diego.

The national tourist board is working for Mexico, hosting world-class events through the end of the year including the hugely popular Day of the Dead parade in Mexico City, the Formula 1 race, the Los Cabos Film Festival and the Extreme Sailing Series. “We remain optimistic about Mexico’s growth in 2018, including from the U.S. market.”

Here in southern Baja our local tourism board is promoting events such as the triathlon, various other foot races, the ATP tennis tournament, at least half a dozen fishing tournaments, and a couple of golf tournaments.

As to who is going to fill all those new rooms under construction on the Corridor, don’t think there isn’t work underway right now to stuff them with people. Alliances are being made to brand some of them with major names and reservation systems overseas, and many of them have

Bob Jankovics Services Section

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Mexico Resort Real Estate Update

Record number of tourists visited Mexico in first quarter

BY THE SETTLEMENT COMPANY®

International visitors totaled 10.6 million in first three months
A record number of international tourists visited Mexico in the first quarter of 2018, the federal Tourism Secretariat (Sectur) has announced.

Sectur said in a statement that 10.6 million people came to the country in the first three months of the year, 12.6% more than the 9.4 million tourists who visited in the same period last year.

The amount of money those tourists spent while they were here increased by 7.2% in the first quarter to US $56.2 billion compared to just over US $58.8 billion in the same period of 2017.

However, the average expenditure per tourist dropped by 4.4% to US $533.40 compared to US $558 last year.

March was a particularly good month for tourism, with four million international visitors, 14.6% more than the same month last year, and their spending was up more than in the previous two months.

They spent US $2.36 billion in March, 13.8% more than the US $2.07 billion spent in March 2017. Average spending was also up but only by the slimmest of margins, increasing by US $0.20 or 0.04% to US $539.60.

Tourism Secretary Enrique de la Madrid said last week that Mexico is now the sixth most visited country in the world and explained that an upsurge in violent crime had not had an impact on visitor numbers.

He also said that international tourism is growing at 12% annually compared to 7% in the rest of the world and that the tourism industry contributes to 8.8% of gross domestic product (GDP).

Just over 39 million international visitors came to Mexico last year but if the number of visitors recorded in the first quarter is maintained, this year will see the 40-million barrier broken for the first time.

De la Madrid said in February that the number of international tourists visiting Mexico annually could reach 50 million by 2021, which would likely make the country the world’s fifth most visited.

Despite the strong growth, one challenge that the government continues to face despite efforts to overcome is diversification of the tourism sector.

Sectur data showed that 92.1% of all international tourist arrivals by air in January were at just seven airports.

Source: El Financiero (sp)

For More Information: Contact John Glaab at the Settlement Company:
info@settlement-co.com or www.settlement-co.com.

Los Cabos Featured Property
Blue Sea
A hidden gem on the golden corridor

One of the best kept secret communities of Los Cabos on the famed Golden Corridor is Blue Sea. A private and gated community of just nine homes offers ideal access to everything Los Cabos has to offer, perfectly located between Cabo San Lucas and San Jose del Cabo. Intentionally designed with a contemporary flair, this boutique neighborhood offers direct beach access, has high rental demand, and while centrally located, feels like a slice of paradise shared by a select few. I invite you to discover Blue Sea, Los Cabos.

For more information contact Andrew Lenke of ENGEL & VOLKERS | Snell Real Estate at US: +1 (310) 922-1818, MX: +52 1 (624) 122-5658 or a.lenke@snellrealestate.com.

Uh, Oh Low Season

Now what?

BY CHERYL T. MILLER

15 years ago, when I first moved here, the difference between high season and low season for real estate sales was truly distinctive. There was no question that after June the market would grind to a crawl and revival itself by the end of October. Then, if you hadn’t sold your property by June, you just knew that you probably would be waiting until November before any more potential buyers were to come your way.

With the passing of time and the expansion of our market (now not only servicing the western part of the United States and Canada, but now reaching both coasts, Europe, all of Mexico and Latin America); the “low season” seems to be getting shorter and shorter every year. In fact, last year, I was so busy during the summer I almost did not get away last September, the hottest and slowest month of the year in Los Cabos.

Percentage wise though, the market is slower in the summer, but make no mistake, it is no longer “dead”.

So, if you are interested in selling, and your timing happens to fall in the summer, don’t despair.

Even if you choose to wait until late October or early November to put your property on the market, the summertime can be your “friend” in the listing process.

Part of the process of listing a property in Baja is the gathering up and the review of your property documents. To list in the MLS BCS, a copy of your property documents must be given to your realtor. Their company will review the documents for completeness and any potential issues. Should you have an issue, such as no manifestation of your construction (recording new construction with the assessor’s office) or the death of one of the trust beneficiaries, or back taxes, or a lien, etc., the summertime can be your time to clean up your documents and get in compliance with the requirements to legally sell in “high season”.

In addition, low season in real estate also represents low season for construction workers too, so if you have some home repairs you need to get done, do it in the summer, when the laborers are most available and prices can be negotiated further.

I highly suggest that you get a Pre-Home Inspection report. This report is done by a construction expert and can identify any potential issues with your property that WILL come up when an offer is presented later and when the buyer does his own report as a contingency of the sale. In fact, a “bad report” or faulty item can be the source for further negotiations, expenses from your pocket and or the demise of a transaction. So, why not get ahead of that threat and fix that roof now? Or that faulty outlet? Or that leaking faucet in the “low season”? Sprucing up and De-Cluttering, i.e. staging, is the right strategy for presenting your property on the public market. It is definitely an approach that can make the difference between months on the market vs. years on the market. The summertime can be your time to get this done as well! Talk to your realtor. Talk to an interior designer. Talk to brutally honest friends. See what they suggest. You may need to re-paint, or re-distribute… it all depends on the contents.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17
Palmilla... Then and Now

BY NICK FONG

To understand more with regards to Palmilla, then and now, one should look back to Las Cruces. Overlooking the vacation resort, are restored crosses that signify the spot that is most likely was the landing site of Hernan Corez in 1538. The rural location had been picked by ex-U.S. pilot Rodriguez, son of President Abelardo Rodriguez. Rodriguez bought La Paz in 1947 to retire and served in WWII and had come to Palmilla, just a few miles south of the town of San Jose Del Cabo. The resort itself was built as a 15-room luxury hideaway accessible only by yacht or private plane, it, again, attracted Hollywood celebrities like John Wayne, Bing Crosby, Lucille Ball, and former United States President Dwight D. Eisenhower. All were lured in by the extreme privacy and the not quite then World Famous deep-sea fishing.

Following the construction of the Transpeninsular Highway in 1970, the resorts popularity increased and grew to 50 rooms by 1984. In 1991, the Palmilla Golf Club opened, and in 1996, the resort was again expanded to 115 rooms. The glamorous flavor and ambiance of the original resort were carefully preserved in One&Only Palmilla, which opened in February 2004 following a $90 million refurbishment. Exclusivity and location set this remarkable resort and neighborhood apart. One such neighborhood in Palmilla is Caleta Loma. Located within the elite gate-guarded La Caleta neighborhood, it is defined by its many cove beaches on the Sea of Cortes. Available lots feature unobstructed views along with a few resale home opportunities.

The gated, oceanfront community, La Caleta is distinguished by its exclusivity. This prime collection of estate-sized home sites is poised on a cliff-side overlooking an immaculate white-sand beach and the translucent waters of the Sea of Cortes.

Palmilla, at the northernmost tip of Palmilla, is a gated community overlooking the Palmilla Golf Club. It features a lush desert landscape rolling hills and breathtaking views of the Sea of Cortés. Available lots feature unobstructed views along with a few resale home opportunities.

Located on the fifth fairway of Palmilla Golf Club’s Ocean Nine is a rare assemblage of custom home sites known as Oceano Alta and Oceano Baja. Within walking distance of the exclusive One&Only Palmilla, these centrally located neighborhoods offer a secluded, white-sand swimming beach nearby and luxurious fairway views.

In Palmilla Canyon a limited collection of custom home sites overlooks the second hole of Palmilla Golf Club’s Ocean Nine. These custom home sites offer spectacular views of the natural arroyo and ocean scene.

Mere steps to the beach and near to One&Only Palmilla, Palmilla Cove is one of the most exclusive communities offered in the Palmilla enclave.

The Palmilla Estates offers two-story building alternatives, preserving the remarkable fairway, ocean, mountain and sunset views.

Palmilla Fairways comprises an assortment of twelve single family homes and home sites. Palmilla Fairways prides itself on the breathtaking views of the Sea of Cortez combined with a natural arroyo and an easy stroll to the Palmilla Tennis Club and Las Tiendas shopping center.

Villas Del Mar, lies along a two mile stretch of pristine ocean front property. Villas Del Mar offers the finest collection of elegantly appointed beachfront and ocean-view resort homes in Los Cabos and a limited number of expansive hillside home sites. Ownership here gets you access to the Private Beach club of Club 96 and also the state of the art fitness facility of Espiritu del Mar.

Villas de Oro is a collection of luxury condominiums and town homes along the Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course offers the least expensive Housing options in Ultra-Exclusive community of Palmilla. Units here start at just under $300K for a 2-bedroom condo and go up over $500k for larger 3-bedroom options.

This is where exhilaration and serenity thrive in blissful harmony. Welcome to Palmilla!

Agent Profile

Ian Gengos

Originally from Australia, Ian lived and worked throughout Canada and the Caribbean for years before choosing to call Los Cabos home. He has seen tremendous change and growth in Los Cabos over his 14 years here in the luxury property market, and is just as excited about the future for his clients as he was for his own family years ago. Ian brings a positivity and readiness to Engel & Völker Snell Real Estate, the number one brokerage in the Baja California Sur. His thorough experience and knowledge of the Baja California Sur area will guide you in making the right purchase decision. Whether you are looking for full-time living, a vacation home, or simply an investment.

“I have travelled the world and seen amazing places, met incredible people, and shared unique experiences, but to call Los Cabos home is truly a blessed thing. I look forward to sharing this life with you.” To contact Ian of Engel & Völker Snell Real Estate: (624) 157-6323; i.gengos@snellrealestate.com

BY NICK FONG

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How do we read these real estate abbreviations?

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For additional information: rentaltaxmexico@settlement-co.com or info@settlement-co.com

Agent Profile

Natalie Evaniew

Natalie was born and raised in White Rock, BC, Canada; a small city located 30 km outside of Vancouver, BC. She gained years of experience & knowledge in business, then decided to become a licensed Realtor, joining the ranks of the self-employed. Natalie has been in the real estate industry in Canada since 2004 and here in Cabo San Lucas; working in new home developments and resale since 2015. She is a year-round, full-time resident of Cabo San Lucas who owns & loves her home here in Paradise! Let Natalie show you how you can fulfill your dream of owning your own piece of paradise! Whether you are buying or selling, choose Natalie at Remax; a name you can trust.

Contact Natalie at (624) 217-9562, info@natalievianiew.com or check out her website at http://www.natalievianiew.com.

SOLD

1) Miravista #9, MLS# 16-1022, One Bedroom, Located in Costa Azul Beach, $235,000. S. Lehman / Engel & Volkers Snell Real Estate and C. Galindo / Los Cabos Agent.

2) Palmilla 3 Bedroom Furnished Condo Villas de Oro 202, MLS # 17-1879 San Jose Corridor, $450,000 M. Nicol / Cabo 4 Sale, E. Romeike / Los Cabos Agent.

3) Ventanas #50, MLS# 16-1916, One Level Fully Furnished, Ventanas Phase 1, Cabo Corridor, $225,000.00, S. Dale / Baja Properties, C. Galindo / Los Cabos Agent.

1) Miravista #9, MLS# 16-1022, One Bedroom, Located in Costa Azul Beach, $235,000. S. Lehman / Engel & Volkers Snell Real Estate and C. Galindo / Los Cabos Agent.

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How do we read these real estate abbreviations?

BY ALLISON ARRAUT

So the other day I spent a week trying to figure out some health insurance billing and if you have not looked at those recently, everything is abbreviated. I thought to myself, how am I supposed to understand this stuff, I am not a doctor nor do I specialize in insurance. It then dawned on me that we do similar things in real estate. We know what we are talking about, but I bet there are people out there that don’t so I thought I would come up with a “cheat sheet” so that your eyes won’t glaze over again the next time you are speaking to or reading something from a realtor….

CMA = comparable market analysis
HOA= Home Owners Association
POA= power of attorney
DOM= days on market
LOI= letter of intent
TD= termite/dry rot
FSBO= for sale by owner
REO= real estate owned
JV= joint venture
NOI= net operating income
PTT= principal, interest and taxes
IRR= internal rate of return
APR= annual percentage rate
LTV= Loan to Value
POF= proof of funds
R= realtor (pronounced real, NOT real a ter)

Here are some abbreviations that you will see on a listing detail sheet

MBR= master bedroom
LR= living room
BR= bedroom
BA= baths
DR= dining room
OV= ocean view
OO= owner occupied
LA= listing agent
LO= listing office
SO= selling office
SA= selling agent
DW= dishwasher
R/O= range oven
MW= micro wave
WD= washer dryer
AC= air conditioning
3/4 bath has a shower stall
1/2 bath is sink and toilet
CFE is our electric company

(Mision Federal de Electricidad)

Our titles here are called Fideicomiso when owned by a foreigner and Escritura when owned by a National

Muni is our city (Municipio – Municipal)

PTW, there are many, many more, we just got you started

(continued from page 15)

and condition or your property. Remember, what we see when we walk into our homes is quite different than what the buying public sees. We forget about that half dozen shampoo bottles in the shower. We cease to see the pile of papers on the kitchen table. We love that green wall and it brings up memories how we painted that with our uncle before he died. The 100 framed photos on the wall delights us every day. The dozen or so appliances on the countertop make our lives so easy. But a potential buyer does not have your memories, or your “blinders” to the clutter. Their first impression, like those we have for people, lasts. It is rare indeed for a person to walk through the door and see past all of our personal treasures packed tightly into our spaces or the crack in the ceiling. They do see the clutter. They do see the flaws. They see too much furniture making the room seem small. They see our personal tastes, and more often than not, that does not translate to their tastes.

The idea is to appeal to the widest sector of the buying public, with taste and just enough charm to hook them. If you want the highest dollar for your property, or the shortest possible time on the market, it is well worth it to look at your property with fresh eyes, and to “wash that car” before you try and sell it.

So, why not use the summertime to get ready for the show? De-clutter. Rearrange, and donate or throw out the extras. If you can’t part with your treasures, hire a storage locker and save them for later. But, during your time on the market be as appealing to as many tastes as you can. Tone down that wall color. Organize, throw out and store what is not essential. Decorate for a wide appeal. And your realtor, interior designer or honest friends can help!

While you are at it, check the yard too. Does it need pruning, pruning up? Older plants that are leggy and less attractive, take them out and replace them with newer plants. Trim the palm, the tree, maximize your views while keeping the shade.

Property sales require as much romancing, as does the sale of apparel or the sale of a resort stay. Use the summer months to get ready for show time in the fall! You are in competition with other properties in your area and price point. So your summertime efforts will pay off in the fall.

By Cheryl T. Miller, Broker of Baja Realty and Investment, Architect. Contact Cheryl at 011.521-624-122-2690 or writing at info@forsaleinbaja.com. Check out their website at www.forsaleinbaja.com.

Agent Profile

Natalie Evaniew

Natalie was born and raised in White Rock, BC, Canada; a small city located 30 km outside of Vancouver, BC. She gained years of experience & knowledge in business, then decided to become a licensed Real- altor, joining the ranks of the self-employed. Natalie has been in the real estate industry in Canada since 2004 and here in Cabo San Lucas; working in new home developments and resale since 2015.

She is a year-round, full-time resident of Cabo San Lucas who owns & loves her home here in Paradise! Let Natalie show you how you can fulfill your dream of owning your own piece of paradise! Whether you are buying or selling, choose Natalie at Remax; a name you can trust.

Contact Natalie at (624) 217-9562, info@natalievianiew.com or check out her website at http://www.natalievianiew.com.

UV, OH LOW SEASON...

UH, OH LOW SEASON...

By Allison Arraut, GRI, CRS, Windermere Realty, Mex cell (624) 122-5890, US cell (619) 396-3122, allisonarraut@mac.com.

We love this space, it is a completed 1/2 bath has a shower stall.

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Don’t Have A Swimming Pool, Bunky?
A Summer Strategy for that

BY I. M. BORED

For most Gringos, the goal of a summer in Baja is simply to reach November without regressing into toddler-like tantrums and with all primary relationships still intact. Sure the parking is easier and your favorite coffee joint has a shorter line, but the heat waves, hurricanes, blood-thirsty mosquitoes, and the inevitable arrival of bobos requires a beefed up survival strategy. First, you need to know that Todos Santos is generally cooler than its larger sister cities of La Paz and Cabo. Second, it offers a plethora of pool options and I’ve gone ahead and taken care of this, the Day Pass piece of your summer strategy. Here in order of preference are the best pool day passes Todos Santos has to offer. Try at least one, or maybe all of them for a cool, cool summer.

Hotel San Cristobal
1,000 pesos + 16% tax
This idyllic swimming pool is open to hotel guests and a limited number of day pass holders.

These lucky few can enjoy easy access to the pool, hot tubs and the long beach at Punta Lobos which, on calm days, is actually quite swimmable. On Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday non-hotel guests can also enjoy a solid yoga class with an epic view reaching at least to La Pastora surf break on a clear day. Yoga class will cost you an additional $150 pesos—a small price to pay for peace of mind and guilt-free, pool-side indulgences from the hotel’s world class Benno Restaurant. All told, it seems St. Christopher, the patron Saint of travelers for whom this hotel is named, is doing an excellent job of blessing this truly beautiful traveler’s paradise. Call the front desk to reserve your day pass in advance. Dialing from the U.S.: 1-855-227-1535. Dialing from Mexico: 01-800-990-0272

El Faro Beach Club
$299 pesos for adults; $199. Kids over 6

Within eyeshot and yet a world (of vibes) away from the Hotel San Cristobal, you will find this classic Todos Santos beach club. More Bojo Baja and less hipster from Austin, there’s no need to reserve this solar powered spot but you may want to email ahead of time to make sure there isn’t a private event. (Weddings are big here.) Still, most days you can simply show up and enjoy the epic views of Punta Lobos to the South and La Posa hill to the north. Towels, lockers and shower room facilities are included and you can also opt to add on to your day pass with selections from their classic Mexican seafood menu or the rustic but high quality day spa services. Their ceviches and octopus in love tostadas will rank high (possibly highest) among the best meals of your summer. Their shrimp burger is also a favorite beach day meal. Also, the swinging beach beds are a bit of Baja siesta heaven. And every summer is better with someone consistently offering you pool side limonadas. Reservations:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

I always wondered what the job application is like at Hooters. Do they just give you a bra and say, "Here, fill this out?"

Own Cabo’s Leading English language Newspaper
To find out more about this exciting acquisition opportunity contact:

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What Happens When Timeshare People Arrive Early?

Lots, if they're creative

BY VALERIE LLOYD

If you are like me, you like to arrive a day or two before the weeklong time share kicks in. I find it a lot of fun to stay downtown on these nights to experience the local flavor of Cabo. Downtown places I have stayed at, The Cabo Inn, Norman Diego's The Mexican Inn, and to car traffic and here you will see other tourists together with locals taking a morning stroll or bike ride. Please do donate to the local pet charity that is set up on the sidewalk, as they really need all the help they can get. There could also be music, food, dance and it sure is fun walking thru on the same people each time I come and they take care of me.

I must admit I love any my drinks, (mojito, margarita, mimosa) while on the beach but here the real pleasure is ordering a bottle of their champagne and have them bring you the juices. Mimosas wine hands down here. There is nothing quite like the fresh orange and pear juices that they prepare and pour for you. Let them take care of you. You know if you smile, speak some Spanish and tip reasonably, you will be treated like royalty. Order any food you like, it will be good. My recommendation is the Chilaquiles with egg or chicken. My travel partner likes the lobster omelet. Make a dinner reservation for Thursday night if you haven't already done so. Although there seems to be some type of music every night, the Mexican Fiesta is my favorite with a funny MC who works the crowd between dances.

Next you are off to soak up some rays and have more cocktails so I suggest you waddle down to The Sand Bar where, if you plan it right, you can enjoy one of their umbrellas and loungers. Since you have just eaten, tell the waitstaff you plan on drinking heavily and using the massage service upstairs, which I highly recommend. This way you may be able to eliminate the upcharge they want to add on to the bill for using their lounge and shade. Can’t blame them, they only have so much space. The massages are to die for and very reasonable. My favorite time is right before dusk to enjoy the sun going down, the breeze and lovely music. Plan on multiple massages that are far better than in the US.

Make sure you wander down to Omega’s and plan all your water sports activities right then and there. Ivan will be sure to take good care of you. Be sure to order for their coconut shrimp with mango sauce, among many other goodies they offer. Great drinks too! A very reasonable, quaint spot that is much smaller and usually with less craziness and blasting music. My all time favorite place to stay in Cabo is Pueblo Bonito Los Cabos Resort, which is conveniently located steps away from Omega’s so I am a regular here.

After a few hours in the sun and surf, make the hike back to the hotel to hang by the pool. Enjoy happy hour prices and chat with your fellow tourists. I have had many hysterial times by the pool due to the fun people I have met there. Really, how can you be unhappy when you’re in paradise?

For my Sunday dinner I usually end up at Mi Casa just a few blocks away. Again, I suggest a prior reservation but Sundays have not been too busy, in my experience. Mi Casa is more an experience than just a meal. Don’t take me wrong, the food is

 CONTINUED ON PAGE 26
Our Desert Is Alive With Critters
You just have to look for the more exotic animals we share our space with

BY GAIL COLLINS

The bars and the beaches, the sunsets and the cervezas, the restaurants and the ring-tailed cats. Did you say ring-tailed cats? Yeah, the Baja Peninsula is more than just a place to let the good times flow - it’s full of furry, feathery and fantastical gifts from Mother Nature. Did you know that more than 100 different mammals have been recorded living on the peninsula with more than a quarter of them native to the area and that doesn’t include the few elusive ones that are yet to be seen!

Although a lot of this wildlife seek a quieter existence outside the main towns, downtown you are likely to see iguanas sunbathing still as statues until disturbed (if you come across one just sit back and watch for a bit and you’ll enjoy passers-by squealing and jumping back as they suddenly realize they are there – it’s a bit like a lizard “impractical jokers”). If you’re strolling home late at night having indulged in one Margarita too many, don’t worry about those scrabbles and bumps you hear. It’s not your imagination – it’s probably a family of ring-tailed cats (also known as civet cat) off on one of their nocturnal forages for food.

Smaller than the average house cat and with pointed faces, long whiskers and spectacular long fluffy black and white ringed tails they are, despite their name - members of the racoon family that like to nest in the hollows of trees or any abandoned wooden structure they stumble across. Look out for chipmunks – cheekier and more well-known due to film stardom in the form of Disney’s “Chip and Dale” or the more recent “Alvin”, these pocket-sized rodents are the smallest members of the squirrel family. They look very cute with big eyes, bushy tails, stripy backs and chubby cheeks. Their preferred home is a burrow with tunnels stretching as much as 30 feet in length. They spend a considerable amount of time scavenging for food and will readily accept nuts or fruit if offered, as easy pickings are always welcome and if you’ve put a bird feeder out in your garden you may well have already seen their thieving ways!

Look skywards for flashes of black and orange as little hooded orioles flit among the palm trees. They “sew” their nests to the underside of palm fronds and even when out of sight give themselves away with their constant chattering. If you live in the area you can attract them into your garden with slices of orange or sugar water (1 part sugar to 4 parts water).

Further afield, wild donkeys, (burros), can be found roaming around the desert and can be seen if you’re on a road trip through the interior. Their coloring often matches the underside of palm fronds and even when out of sight give themselves away with their constant chattering. If you live in the area you can attract them into your garden with slices of orange or sugar water (1 part sugar to 4 parts water).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26
Enchiladas dulces estilo colima or in English: Sweet enchiladas Colima style.

Colima is a small state in Western Mexico on the central Pacific coast, including the Revillagigedo Islands. Mainland Colima shares borders with the states of Jalisco and Michoacán. Colima is the fourth smallest state in Mexico and has the smallest population, and incredibly one of Mexico’s highest standards of living and lowest unemployment.

The name of the state is most likely derived from a Nahuaatl phrase “coliman,” but the original meaning is in doubt with two most accepted versions. One interpretation means “place in the hands of the grandfather” with “grandfather” possibly referring to the volcano. The other interpretation is “place in the hands of the ancestors.” Like most words that come from an ancient dialect, it makes a reference to the particular geography that the people thought more significant of the place.

The Fuego Volcano, which is currently going through a period of intense activity, was first inhabited by a group of Olmec people, it was also home to Nahuaat, Toltec and Chichimec cultures before being dominated by Tarascans, the principal culture when the Spaniards arrived during Cortes’ Pacific campaign, beginning in 1522. The shaft tombs and artistically crafted pottery, known as Colima ceramics, are evidence of a rich and flourishing culture. The famous “perros cebados”, the ancient, round little clay dogs which were discovered in abundance in the area, are said by some to have been a food source. Whether or not that is true, there is certainly enough variety of regional food in Colima that these puppies are not missed at meal time.

That’s your geography lesson for the day, now let’s get on to your cooking class.

Colima has many special main dishes, some more famous than others and sweet enchiladas are one of the lesser known but equally delicious dishes. This recipe is actually one of my dear friend’s family recipes. Bianca, a super stylish twenty something year old who can pull off any outfit, shared this with me last week, after she heard my participation in a radio show.

Oh, I didn’t just casually drop that, I was featured in cork and fork, a Santa Monica based radio show, to talk about a recipe I featured here, thanks, John! While we were on air, John asked about mole, (pronounced molay), to which I gave him a saying I’ve heard all over the country and from many different people: Mexico has as many types of mole as types of people. And just to clarify as I did on air: not all mole has chocolate. Typically, the mole from Oaxaca does, but remember we are talking about Colima this time.

Mole is not a specific dish, or even a family of dishes, with traditional lists of ingredients that should not be modified. Mexican cuisine depends so much on local ingredients, so varied based on not just region but individual town, that the very few items that are truly eaten nationwide are required to be extremely versatile. Mole is really more a concept than a dish. The word mole comes from the Nahuaat word molli, which historians says means “to grind,” or “ground.” Also, mole is not about the protein, the protein is about the mole. In this special recipe the mole is a compliment to the enchiladas.

Now, enchiladas are a whole topic that this time I will only skim through. The process of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28
BY MAX POWER

How many types of Mexican spirits can you name? tequila and mezcal are as far as most of us go. But now there’s sotol.

The key ingredient to sotol can be found scattered across the asparagus family. Asparagus? Another Glass Of

Sotol grows best in arid conditions and at high altitudes, and relies on cross-pollination from the wind to reproduce rather than the reproduction by cloning inherent to cultivated agave. Despite this difference, the method of distillation is similar to that of mezcal.

“Piñas are cooked in ovens and distilled in copper or stainless steel columns,” explains Ivan Vasquez, referring to the small starchy hearts of the plant. At his two Los Angeles-based restaurants, Vasquez features some of the city’s widest assortment of Mexican spirits. “The two brands of sotol we carry are cooked underground for 72 hours, giving them a smoky flavor.”

The primary point of distinction between sotol and its mezcal cousin is one of terroir. “It’s a taste of north Mexico,” notes Vasquez. “The soil is dry and poor for other agricultural purposes.” Meaning it has to struggle to survive, resulting in a robust, earthy minerality that won’t appeal to everyone. Bottled at about 80 proof or above, this certainly isn’t a spirit for shooting. In fact, Vasquez prefers to enjoy his straight, as one. Bottled at about 80 proof or above, this certainly isn’t a spirit for shooting. In fact, Vasquez prefers to enjoy his straight, as he feels its characteristics can be wasted in a cocktail.

But that certainly doesn’t mean you can’t enjoy it in a mixed drink. Fabriquero— one of only two brands produced in the Mexican state of Durango -- has developed a refreshing recipe to emphasize the distinctive terroir of the spirit. The Verde Malverdea combination is of 2 oz. of sotol, 1 oz. of fresh lime juice, .5 oz of simple syrup, and .25 oz of elder flower liqueur. Muddle in mint, cucumber and a splash of soda water and you have an imminently approachable entrance into the category. It’s also a perfect summertime sipper. A bottle retails for around $64 in the US.

Despite its recent surge in popularity, sotol is nothing new. "The soil is dry and poor for other agricultural purposes." Mean-

...
animals. Clinics occur at various times of the year, with one usually occurring in February for Annual World Spay Day.

Not everybody can volunteer or adopt a pet, so for those unable to participate in that way, there are fundraising opportunities throughout the year. Also, each year the organization releases a calendar featuring adorable pictures of rescued animals. The calendar for 2019 is now available for a small donation by contacting Baja S.A.F.E.

Baja S.A.F.E. is funded solely on public donations. The organization, located in Cabo San Lucas, has a relationship with Cabo Kennels in San Jose and Rancho Coastal Humane Society. For more information on Baja S.A.F.E., to donate or to adopt a pet, you can visit their website at www.bajasafe.com or their Facebook page. Additional information on giving can be found at the International Community Foundation’s website at https://icfdn.org/.

DON'T HAVE A SWIMMING POOL...continued from page 18

reservations@guaycura.com / 612 175 0800
CalyCanto Casitas 400 pesos

including tax

This brand new 50 foot pool guarantees privacy and peaceful ocean views. Located just a half mile from the La Pastora surf break, for which Todos Santos achieved international fame with surfers, this is a perfect spot to spend a peaceful day with the family especially if mom or dad want to sneak out for a few waves. Your pass gives you access to the pool, hot tub, full outdoor kitchen and changing room facilities. With only four passes available per day the idea here is peaceful retreat. In addition to the four daily day pass holders, this giant pool with an equally giant graded “beach area” is shared only with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30
Executive Summary

1. **New RV/Trailer Park**
   - Contact: PescaderoRV@gmail.com, http://www.pescaderorv.com/
   - Phone: 624-122-2690.

2. **New Home For Sale**
   - Overview: NEW SPECTACULAR VIEW Estate 4400+ sq.ft. Only $750K. palmillaview.com
   - Phone: 624-161-0421.

3. **Fossils For Sale**
   - Contact: 624-178-0413.

4. **Comedians and Comedy Writers**
   - Phone: 624-211-4913.

5. **Real Estate Professional Photography**
   - Services: If Your Competition is Doing it, Why Aren’t You? Real Estate Professional Photography
   - Benefits: Dollhouse, Floorplan and more on 3D and walk through.
   - Contact: karina@karinaurquizo.com, http://www.karinaurquizo.com
   - Phone: 624-141-9194.

6. **Comedy Night**
   - Details: COMEDIANS AND COMEDIC WRITERS needed. 624-211-4913.

7. **Meeting Notice**
   - Meetings: Todos Santos AA Meetings
   - Schedule: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 5:00 pm. Wednesday and Saturday 11:00 am. At the town’s main church, downtown.

8. **Classified Ads Easy Sign Up**
   - Cost: Total Words \* 80 Cents = Total Amount Owed
   - Contact: Carrie@gringogazette.com.

9. **License Needed**
   - Contact: WANTED. MEXICAN LICENSED INSURANCE AGENT. Please contact Bob Jankovics. (TF)

10. **Help Wanted**
    - Contact: HELP WANTED Writers, work for the Gringo Gazette, get paid, work your own hours, and have fun doing it. carrie@gringogazette.com

11. **Used Cars**
    - Contact: FOR SALE BY OWNER: 2004 MITSUBISHI ENDEAVOR LTD. Sport utility 4D. V6, 13.8L 2WD, AWD Drivetrain. Mileage 90,000. California plates. Contact Kendrick @ 624-229-2645

12. **Real Estate For Sale**
    - Contact: FOR SALE BY OWNER: San Jose Del Cabo, Single Story 1850 Sq Ft Home on a 6,458 Sq. Ft. Lot. 3 Bdrm, 2 ½ Bath. UV Water Disinfection System Throughout The House, 10,000 Litre Pila, Hurricane Shutters, Pool, Grid Tie Solar, Large Work Shop, Large Outside Patio/Kitchen, And Much More. Asking $369,000 USD. Call Ted: Mexico Cell: 624-165-0222, US: 253-235-2546, Canada: 403-180-1449 (TF)

13. **Local Event**
    - Details: Hey Event Planner
    - Contact: TESORO CONVENTION CENTER
    - Phone: 01 624 173 9300 ext. 1402

14. **For Business Use**
    - Contact: #TesoroSalonesDeEventos caboeventos@tesororesorts.com

15. ** Luxurious Home**
    - Contact: CLASSIC LUXURY. 94 NISAN INFINITI Q-45, black with camel leather interior, low mi. rebuilt trans. Michelin’s, cold air. Imported, Reduced, $4,195.00, Ph. (624) 161-0421. (001)
How To Vote In the U.S. Midterms

Absent but accounted for

BY MARSHAL LAW

The 2018 United States midterm elections will be held on Tuesday, November 6. They’re called midterms because the elections will take place in the middle of Republican President Donald Trump’s term. All 435 seats in the House of Representatives and 35 of the 100 seats in the United States Senate will be up for grabs.

If you don’t feel this is important, just note that the incumbent tends to lose ground in midterm elections, so if you want to prevent that or if you want to help in that, there is only one way to do it: Vote. From here. It’s really pretty painless, because we expats ride along on the highway established for military personnel to vote. The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) works to ensure service members, their eligible family members and overseas citizens are aware of their right to vote and have the tools to do so - from anywhere in the world. The Director of FVAP administers this on behalf of the Secretary of Defense.

FVAP assists voters through association with the Military Services, Department of State, Department of Justice and election officials from all 50 States, U.S. territories and the District of Columbia. So, now that you know how many agencies have ganged up to assist you in voting, maybe you are shamed into doing it? Here are some tips.

FVAP encourages the use of the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to start the absentee voting process as it is standardized for use across all states and will extend your eligibility to receive a ballot for all federal elections for at least one year. This post card acts as both a registration and absentee ballot request form. It’s best for overseas voters to submit a new FPCA every year and when you move. Overseas citizen voters face a specific set of voting challenges but FVAP provides you the information and resources so you can successfully vote absentee. They are online and are pretty organized.

Snow is the time to start the process with FVAP. You are in plenty of time now but don’t mess around.

Many States allow you to submit your FPCA post card electronically and all States allow for at least one form of electronic transmission of your blank ballot. Mail delivery times will vary based on how you get it to your last state of residence. Mail your materials early enough to account for the mail delivery time. Using electronic options can help reduce the ballot transit time for your election materials.

The FPCA can be completed by using the FPCA online assistant, filling out the PDF, picking up a hard copy version from your nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. In our case our consulate is in pitiful condition, so don’t count on them. We haven’t had a consular official in several years. They used to pretend to be looking but now when we contact them, not so much. The consulate in Tijuana has responsibility for us and does sweep through here every couple of weeks, but is clueless about local issues and doesn’t seem to care. In between visits a pretty heads up Mexican government continued on page 30
Our Desert is Alive With... continued from page 20

environment, so they camouflage themselves well, but beware as they do wander onto the roads. They are easy to tame and sometimes used by the locals as work animals. They are renowned for their incredible loyalty if well-cared for.

Coyotes are also prevalent in the interior desert areas and whilst harder to spot due to their natural shyness around humans you may well hear their soulful howls. They tend to travel in pairs and have occasionally been seen during the day. They can run up to speeds of 43mph and are thought by locals to have magical properties. Interestingly the word “coyote” is also used as a Mexican colloquialism for smugglers of illegal immigrants.

Unique to the Baja Peninsula is the unusual rattle-less rattlesnake. They can be found all year round on a visit to Santa Catalina Island, (best route is from Loreta located on Eastern Baja California, Sur by boat). They live primarily off the Santa Catalina deer mouse and are thought to have evolved without a rattle because they have no natural predators on the island and can use silent stealth to catch their prey. They can be recognized by their light brown skin with darker shaped diamond markings and less commonly ash grey with darker grey markings. But just because they’re not giving you a warning rattle – they are still venomous!

A trip to the Sierra de San Pedro Martir National Park in the municipality of Ensenada will reveal plenty of wildlife but look out particularly for the Californian condors – the largest North American land bird - which back in the 1950’s disappeared from...
August 20th, 2018

GRINGO.com

Fish Report
BY GARY GRAHAM

Cabo San Lucas

The Cabo fishing was as hot as the summer until Hurricane John affected the seas and the fleets lost a few days to the weather.

Offshore fishing continued to be productive with strong catches of dorado and yellowfin sandwiched around striped marlin, sailfish, and blue marlin with a few black marlin showing up. The yellowfin are averaging in the 10- to 20-pound range; however, there are some 100- to 300-pounds showing up. The fleets are showing success with both school dorado as well as the more singular big bulls that are running in the 40- to 50-pound range. Most of the blue marlin are from 200- to 300-pounds with more blacks showing up on the East Cape than in the Cabo area at present.

Inshore fishing has continued to produce nice catches of pez gallos (roosterfish) in the Palmilla area.

Cabo Climate: The July weather finished with mostly sunny to partly cloudy skies and average daytime temps in the upper- to mid-80s; evenings in the mid-70s. Winds are expected to range from 10- to 13 mph through the third week of August. Humidity is expected to run in the 70s% to 75% range through August.

Sea Conditions: Seas have been relatively calm in the mornings throughout the area with some surface chop showing up in the afternoons. Forecast is for more of the same with winds in the 10- to 14-mph range out of the WSW. Sea temps are running from 79°F (Pacific) to 83°F around the inside corner to the Gordas.

Best Fishing Areas: The 95 and 1150 Spots were both productive for the marlin and tuna with Cabo Falso also producing some marlin and dorado. The Herradura area also produced tuna.

Best Bait & Lures: Feathers and cedar plugs were the favorite for tuna with trolled smoke trail lures being the favorite for marlin. Live bait tossed to tailing marlin was also successful.

Bait Supply: Live bait is available at the $3.00 per bait on net from the harbor.

Puerto Los Cabos

Schools of sardina, plentiful throughout most of the summer season, were now scattered and for the most part unobtainable. Local fleets are using slabs of squid, chunk bait of skipjack, some caballito and ballyhoo. This is the normal bait for this latter part of the season. Ocean water temperature is in the 80 to 84 degree range.

The main fishing activity has been around the Iman Bank. The highlight has been yellowfin tuna, drift fishing with strips of squid, or sardina, which produced a quality grade of yellowfin tuna up to 80 pounds; some lucky anglers had as many as four or five tuna, while others were fortunate to land one. These are strong fish and the best chance of enticing a strike was on lighter leaders, and while the storm path didn’t have John barreling directly into the area, it was going to glance off the southern tip of Baja and bounce out hard.

The billfish bite has been a little slower with striped marlin, sails, blues and blacks all being released. Mostly taken on trolled balao, off the La Ribera bank best.

Lots of big roosterfish in the 20- to 60-pound range are being released daily. As usual for this time of year, very good fishing.

Inshore - Big pargo, jacks and pompano are all biting consistently on the bottom. Very good fishing inside.

East Cape

Water - 85 inside, 86-89 outside. Clear, flat, clean water.
Air - Warm, highs in the 90s, some morning rain.

Good fishing with mostly quality yellowfin and roosterfish biting. Big tuna from 25- to 80-pounds were the best action. The dorado bite was slower than usual, and the billfish fishing was on and off. Lots of good bait available, sardina, caballito, squid and ballyhoo.

A couple of big yellowfin per boat per day. Nice fish from 25- to 80-pounds. Lots of hour-long fights with a lot of breakoffs. Almost all taken on sardina and squid, drift fishing off Rincon 1 to 3 miles off the beach.

The billfish bite has been a little slower with striped marlin, sails, blues and blacks all being released. Mostly taken on trolled balao, off the La Ribera bank best.

Lots of big roosterfish in the 20- to 60-pound range are being released daily. As usual for this time of year, very good fishing.

The billfish bite has been a little slower with striped marlin, sails, blues and blacks all being released. Mostly taken on trolled balao, off the La Ribera bank best.

Billfish action was spread out -- a couple of sailfish, striped marlin and blue marlin -- with better action towards Cabo San Lucas and out around the 1150 Spot.

Inshore there’s not much action; a chance at jack crevalle or a late season roosterfish if you can obtain the preferred mullet baits.

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Fish Killer Of The Week

Anglerette Lauren Hodges reeled in this massive 250-pound yellowfin tuna about 20 miles out at the 120 spot on a flying fish lure. The anglers aboard were Ralph Yanik and Ryan Hodges, from South Carolina.

Photo credit Pisces Sportfishing
making enchiladas varies significantly from region to region, generally a constant is lightly fired tortillas, stuffed with something delicious, submerged in some kind of amazing sauce and topped off with some compliment that will brighten its flavor. Sweet enchiladas from Co-lima have the best of both worlds: while they are still an enchilada, mole is a big part but does not take away from the stuffing. I must confess the process requires patience, but the outcome is worth every minute.

For the stuffing:
2 lb. of ground meat with salt and pepper to taste (half beef, half pork is recommended but optional)
4 carrots, diced
3 potatoes, diced
15 chopped almonds
3 oz raisins
2 tablespoons of vegetable oil
For the sweet mole sauce:
6 dried guajillo chiles (these are dried chiles, and must be softened in boiling water for a couple of minutes)
2 pasilla chiles (same process as guajillo)
3 cups of water
2 spoonfuls of cornstarch
3 oz raisins, cook for another five minutes and remove from heat.

Procedure for the stuffing:
In an oiled pan, sauté the potatoes and carrots for about five minutes, until slightly cooked, but not all the way through, we could say al dente. Then, add the ground meat and brown. Once it is cooked, add the almonds and raisins, cook for another five minutes and remove from heat. Coat the tortilla with the sauce, before they start turning crispy.

For the enchiladas:
In a saucepan, place a spoonful of oil and pour the sauce through a strainer. Cook the sauce until it boils and starts to thicken, at this point, you can add a little sugar until you find the balance that you personally like.

For the enchiladas:
In a saucepan, heat enough oil to slightly fry the tortillas, the trick here is to fry them before they start turning crispy. Coat the tortilla with the sauce, on both sides immediately after. Place the tortilla on a plate where you can stuff it and roll it to place on the final plate.

Sprinkle with chopped lettuce and onion, and crumbled cotija cheese on top.

Procedure for the mole sauce:
In the blender, place all ingredients until smooth. In a saucepan, place a spoonful of oil and pour the sauce through a strainer. Cook the sauce until it boils and starts to thicken, at this point, you can add a little sugar until you find the balance that you personally like.

For the enchiladas:
In a saucepan, heat enough oil to slightly fry the tortillas, the trick here is to fry them before they start turning crispy. Coat the tortilla with the sauce, on both sides immediately after. Place the tortilla on a plate where you can stuff it and roll it to place on the final plate.

Sprinkle with chopped lettuce and onion, and crumbled cotija cheese on top.

Some pro tips:
Tortillas should be as fresh as you can get them, and if they have a thin skin separation thingy, its best to remove it, since that can easily tear off and make a mess in the sauce or while frying. Take your time and use a spatula for the frying, maybe two, this can become tricky and please, for the love of god don't even think about pinching anything with your fingers, oil gets hot, so don't be an amateur.

You can use absolutely use no oil in this recipe, it's not necessary for anything if you have good nonstick pans, and for the tortillas, you can warm them up to make them flexible and easy to roll.

Cover your stove in aluminum foil for the frying, it will get messy.

COOKING LIKE A MEXICAN...continued from page 21

Every Monday and Wednesday the Los Cabos Humane Society performs free spay and neuter. Plus regular mobile clinics in the community which are also free. But this does cost money. So if you believe in the concept of spay and neuter, you can help by giving a donation. Every little bit helps. LCSHS is a private organization funded solely by donations. Help us spay and neuter.

We need volunteers
No one can do everything, but everyone can do something.

www.LosCabosHumaneSociety.com
This week we asked: What do you think about all the garbage that comes up when storms arrive? Do you do anything to stop it? If you do, what?

Daniel Larios, 32, entrepreneur.
I know it is our problem as a society, because we don’t have a recycling education in our country, but it is also the fault of the garbage collectors. Sometimes we trust they will come and pick up our garbage bags at the curb, and then they don’t come, and stray dogs and cats open the bags and scatter the garbage around. I like to think I do my part, but I have never really looked into what happens with my waste and where it goes or if it is being disposed of correctly.

Julia Rodríguez, 22, student.
I recently saw a video of an entire island made of garbage. Plastic waste, bottles, bags, tires, pretty much anything we can think of. And it not only made me sad, but it also got me thinking how long has garbage been drifting there to make an entire island? And what are we really doing about it? Every time it rains, roads overflow with water that should be clean since it comes from the sky, but it’s filthy because the streets are gross. Not only that, the sewage is so clogged, the water has nowhere to go, and the houses start getting flooded. What I try to do is recycle, but it is very hard to do by myself, and I have to go really far to recycle my stuff.

Oscar Ruz, 34, gardener.
I think the government should take better care of our waste. If we had an efficient system, including recycling and sorting, we could not only reduce the consequences, but we could also make new materials and make some plastic processes cheaper. I think we already do recycle PET plastic, but it’s only a very small percentage. I take out the trash early in the morning and tip the collectors, so I know they will take all my garbage. Last storm I really saw the consequences, I saw how all the garbage bags on my street were carried by the water and realized that they would end up eventually in a river.

Mario Gutierrez, 39, teacher.
It’s a shame that in a country where we have so much natural beauty, we should really be smarter about our garbage. When storms hit the shorelines, garbage is on the beaches the next day and not many people have the consciousness to pick it up. We should make an effort as a society, because no government will ever be good enough if the citizens don’t do their part. I do as much as I can, I even set up a compost in my neighborhood, and I go around every three days to collect the organic waste from my neighbors. Some of them even help me now and move the compost around and recycle.

Yandra Julian, 29, assistant.
What can we really do if everyone else is throwing their trash where they please? How many public garbage cans do we see that are full and over flowing and stay that way? That is what ends up caught in the storms. I do what I have to, but I don’t honestly go any further. If I see recycling bins, I use them, but I don’t go looking for them. I throw my garbage out but there is no point in separating it if they dispose it all together. We really need the government to invest more in waste solutions because we are one step away from turning the whole country in a big landfill.

Mario Paz, 38, restaurant owner.
My restaurant has very strict recycling rules, and I involve all my workers in it. We have a special system, and I take the recycling to the center once a month and spend the money they give me in beer and snacks and we have one small get together a month. Sometimes they even bring cans and plastic containers from their homes! It all started from my son’s school doing a similar activity and the whole restaurant helped him and his classroom. Too bad it was only a temporary thing, and I think that is the overall problem. Mexicans are lazy to make habits, but we need to start acting on this environmental problem, or we are going to regret it very soon.
The spirit was produced and refined for centuries until its very existence was plunged into peril during the prohibition era. Considered a spirit suited for the peasant class, the Mexican government implemented a major crackdown on production throughout the mid-20th century, destroying distilleries and jailing their owners while the tequila industry was left untouched. Despite their efforts, the spirit survived and is produced to this day, further strengthened by the Regulatory Council of Sotol, an organization formed to preserve the cultural heritage of sotol within the states of Chihuahua, Durango, and Coahuila.

DON'T HAVE A SWIMMING POOL... continued from page 23

guests of the three on-site casitas. You can also schedule a custom pool-side massage with one of Baja's most legendary massage therapists for an additional fee. Reserve your day pass in advance by emailing info@lafacundo.com

La Bohemia Baja Hotel Pequeño $150 pesos

This hip downtown hotel boasts a carefully curated boutique, homemade breakfasts and a plunge pool. (That's resort speak for very tiny.) Kids of all ages are welcome but this pool isn't for you if you're looking to swim laps. This option is more of an awesome bar with extensive outdoor beds, hammocks and a pool adorned with a clever bull skull water spout. Bring your own towel and get your special welcome drink from their exceptional bar menu. Located on Ran- gel street (#108) between Hidalgo and Obregon not too far from the Panaderia. Phone 612-145-0759.

Cerritos Beach Inn. Free. This small hotel is right on the beach just south of the main Cerritos beach, and you can just 'hang' right in for the day; you will be welcomed. They serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner and of course drinks all day. Food ranges from just OK to very good. Their patio, Lounge chairs and Jacuzzi sit on the bluff overlooking the empty beach and out to sea. It's very quiet, very homey, with great service. Strangely, the medium sized swimming pool is behind the hotel, in a lush garden out with no beach view. This is a great place to toggle back and forth to an interesting bar with American sports always on the TV, to the quiet of the ocean front. Phone 612 183 1077 not for reservations, but for directions. It's not that easy to find, which might be why it feels so quiet and secluded.

OPPs

This brings us to our last selection which is my boss's favorite weekend pastime. She just bares into any resort like she owns the joint. She spreads out her brought from home towel and orders drinks. When she requests her room number she just mutters something about elective and that seems to satisfy them. (Electivo means cash.) She does warn that it doesn't work at the all-inclusive resorts. They have become wise to this and slap bracelets on their paid guests. She goes for the hotels and timeshare properties. OPP is her mantra, which stands for Other Peoples' Pools.

HOW TO VOTE IN THE US... continued from page 25

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

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

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

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

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

The FPCA allows you to request an absentee ballot for all federal elections in the calendar year, so don’t keep hitting repeat if you want to vote a lot in a lot of local elections, it won’t help. Depending on your state, you may receive a ballot with local or state offices and initiatives as well (e.g., governor, city council, state initiatives if you live in the King of Initiative state of California). We recommend that you send in a new FPCA every January and each time you move.

So are you going to vote? Many politicians are easy to dislike. Their flaws are often aired publicly for the entire world to see, and many people generally

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

Costco Gasolinera

Costco opened its first gas station in the state of Guanajuato this week, its fourth in Mexico. Nope, we have not been blessed with one in Los Cabos yet.

The US $3.3 million station includes a convenience store. A Costco? That’s Mex for Little Costco

They’re selling Costco’s Kirkland Signature gasoline brand, but don’t get excited, the Mexican government still controls the retail cost of gas. However, not that anyone asked, Costco felt the need to do so. Y our intent to return to that State is uncertain. (Or not until hell freezes over).

Caution: Voting in an election for federal office may not be used as the sole basis of determining residency for collecting state and local taxes, but be aware you may be waking a sleeping giant. But, if you are a tax scofflaw, you’re probably also a voting scofflaw, so maybe that’s not an issue. You can vote for federal offices without a change to your tax status, but voting for non-federal offices may result in State and local taxation.

If you cannot remember the address where you last physically resided, FVAP recommends you check old tax records, passports or family correspondence. We recommend you back off a bit on the Margaritas. Along this lines remember that your voting address listed on the FPCA must be an address in the United States. Placing an overseas address in 2 of the form may result in your form being rejected. As in for sure it may.

Visionary 3D Photos provides a complete representation of a space which allows you to "walk" through the space and experience it first hand. Money Back Guarantee.
The park is also an important habitat for the native bighorn sheep, amongst the largest species of sheep in the world. When you come across them you’ll be able to see their ranking as the bigger the horns the more important they are (hmm now where I have heard something like that before!). Why not combine the trip with a visit to the Valle de Guadalupe – Mexico’s own wine country but may I suggest you go to the park before sampling the vino! 

20-pounders showed up right off Punta Arenas not far from the lighthouse. Also, decent dorado up to about 25-pounds rounded things out and surprisingly the catch was pompano and nice big pargo liso snapper usually caught in the springtime. Several rooster-fish were also hooked and released in the 30- to 50-pound category. 

In La Paz, dorado were centerstage again. Most of the fish were 5- to 20-pounders, but if you found the right spot, it could be crazy, frenzied fishing. Most days, the boats got limits or near limits although some days the bite didn’t take off until late in the day.

So, overall, not too bad given the weather. It could have been a lot worse!

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