Saturday at the San Jose market kids play knocker ball, trying to knock each other over with their puffed up air suits.

**Battle Of The Markets**

We have lots of choices, each with their own personality

**BY DORIS OPEN**

We have lots of choices in what is kind of incorrectly called farmers or organic markets. They are markets that only pop up one day a week, they sell local produce, yes, but they mainly sell home made goods of every description.

At least one of them is honest about this, calling themselves a pop up market. It pops up every Friday morning at the Palmilla Dunes parking lot. Palmilla Dunes is a residential development on the up side of the fourlane, across the street from the Palmilla strip center. Get off at the Palmilla exit and turn away from the ocean. On your right will be the Friday market at the strip center parking lot, but on your left, after you go through a magical entrance that feels like you're slugging your way through a jungle, will be a pop up market that just started. Patty Soto, who started the strip center market, has moved across the street to the Dunes and is now building that one from scratch.

The Dunes pop up has locally grown produce, yes, but it also has such goodies as sandals made in the south of Mexico. No, not the sandals made from old tires, this is Palmilla and everything is very upscale. There is

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**Foreigners Band Together For Safety**

Forming neighborhood councils

**BY EDGAR GONZALEZ**

Our lives don't always run smoothly in Cabo, but solutions to our problems sometimes do lie within our grasp.

The neighborhood in Cabo San Lucas called El Tezal has for years been a target of burglaries. It seems like everyone has been hit, and many homes are ugled up with burglar bars.

But lately it's been worse, with a wave of home burglaries that have created resolve in the neighborhood: The people are mad as hell and not going to take it anymore.

About two years ago the El Tezal citizens council was created. This council represents the interests of the residents of the area that covers from El Tezal to Rancho Paraiso including Punta Ballena and Santa Carmela. The president is Alan Humphrie.

To get more information on this we talked to Justo Couto, spokesman for this council. He created their a security committee dedicated to assuring better security, as part of the council.

Their first solution was to improve communication by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9
911 Is Your Refrigerator Running? Then you better go catch it! Remember how as kids we would make those stupid calls to strangers and then hang up and burst into laughter? Well, so maybe you were a goody two shoes and you didn’t do that. Bully for you.

Last year a total of 520,545 calls were answered by local 911 operators and of that, no fewer than 38,681 were jokers. 4,264 were to report traffic accidents, and 76% of the whole total were just calls from Chatty Cathies who called to say, well, not much. Candidates for 911 remedial school.

Authorities would like to take this occasion to suggest 911 be used responsibly, to support citizens in urgent situations, and please don’t clog up lines that may be needed for real important stuff.

Like, do you have Prince Albert in the can? Well, let him out! Ha ha ha ha ha! We still think that’s funny.

Well, That Explains A Lot

Public Works has just announced why the patch doesn’t last more than a few days.

Luis Genaro Ruiz Hernández, honcho of this broom brigade, has asked the citizenry to report their favorite pothole at (612) 123 9416, Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Oh, and Genaro acknowledged that patching is not a permanent solution, only an alternative to resurfacing. No kidding.

No olvidar. We have several artsy fartsy events coming this month.

First, two in Todos Santos,
**Artist Studio Tour In Todos Santos**

Not to be confused with studio tour in Los Barriles. Different town, different experience

BY MARLA KING

Can a pueblo numbering a mere 6,500 residents support some 14 plus art galleries and dozens of professional artists? It can...if it’s Todos Santos.

Painters, scultors and all manner of visual artists have been finding inspiration in the tiny town for decades, and 45 of them will be opening their studio to the public to show off what makes the area so special. The 10th annual Todos Santos Open Studio Tour is set for February 8 to 10 this year. It’s in support of The Palapa Society. And the art-to-10 this year. It’s in support of Solo Para Ayudar, a local organization helping seniors in need. Last year, their raffle netted $800 US for the charity.

Thursday Artists (left to right) Roxanne Sparks, Susan Doyle, Penny Robertson, Marsha Dahlquist, Janna Kinkade and Ruth Asercion at their holiday art show with their collaborative painting

Though they create together, the ladies’ styles and mediums are vastly different. Some design surreal images and Mexican iconography in mixed media while others’ works are more representational. Asercion builds intricate glass mosaics. The group recently held their fourth annual holiday show and sale at Mango Gallery and raffled off a collaborative art piece in which each artist contributed a panel. They are creating another such collective work for the Open Studio Tour, with raffle ticket sales going to support Solo Para Ayudar, a local organization helping seniors in need. Last year, their raffle netted

you drive yourself around at your own pace. The $15 gets you access to all of the artists’ studios during the two days of February 9 and 10 from 10 am - 4 pm. For you working stiffs, that’s a Saturday and Sunday.

This year organizers have also added a sneak peak wine and cheese event at the Palapa Learning Center on Friday, February 8 from 6 to 8. Tickets for this event are $10. "All proceeds from ticket sales have always benefited the children’s art programs at The Palapa Society of Todos Santos,” explains participating artist Anne Hebebrand.

The Open Studio Tour was originally organized in 2010 by an informal group of artists and art lovers known as Artists of Todos Santos (ARTS). “We have always been dedicated to the development and support of a vibrant, inclusive arts community,” says Hebebrand. “Among the earliest artists involved were Gloria Santoyo Ruensitz, Diane Knight, Vic Kirby, Michael McAllister, Steve Thurston, Tori Sepulveda, and Roxanne Sparks, most of whom remain actively engaged and thriving in their artistic endeavors in Todos Santos today.”

Now 10 years later, the range of artists participating in the Open Studio Tour include painters, sculptors, photographers, ceramicists, encaustic and cold wax artists, jewelers, printmakers, mixed media artists, woodworkers and more. Their studios are as uniquely different as their type of craft. Some are well-established, others are more improvised or temporary, while some expand into the outdoors or are entirely outside. Emerging artists as well as those who have been working professionally for many years are represented.

“What is truly unique about working on,” says Robertson. “It’s not necessarily about technical support but emotional.”

Thursday Artists (left to right) Roxanne Sparks, Susan Doyle, Penny Robertson, Marsha Dahlquist, Janna Kinkade and Ruth Asercion at their holiday art show with their collaborative painting

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 10
Are we naggers? Sometimes we think we are. As in when someone calls to whine about paying off a policeman. “We told you not to do it!” we shout. But you still do it, because you’re scared, or you’re lazy, or whatever.

But phone extortions are down by a third and officials believe it’s because the public has been warned so much that they don’t fall for that hoax anymore.

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- and many more

In 2017, the modern-day pirates travel on fast boats to the drilling rigs, board them, threaten the workers with guns and knives and then steal objects of value that have included specialized equipment and building materials. Among the pirates’ loot are drilling equipment, measuring instruments, batteries, firefighting and diving suits, wire rope, non-slip aluminum floor plates, hoses, ladders, lighting, gate.

Are we naggers? Sometimes we think we are. As in when someone calls to whine about paying off a policeman. “We told you not to do it!” we shout. But you still do it, because you’re scared, or you’re lazy, or whatever.

But phone extortions are down by a third and officials believe it’s because the public has been warned so much that they don’t fall for that hoax anymore.

These are usually convicts inside a prison who rent the phones by the day and then start randomly dialing for dollars. They threaten they have a loved one tied to a railroad track or some bullshit, and there’s a train coming down the track unless you run down to an Oxxo and put money on their account.

One more time: They will tell you not to hang up. Try to get on another phone and call all the loved ones you think might be laying across that railroad track, that you are a smarty pants who didn’t fall for this.

’s not just fuel thieves. We are also plagued with electricity thieves. The Federal Electricity Commission (CFE) announced that during the first half of 2018, it lost revenue of 25.7 billion pesos (US $1.35 billion) due to electricity theft via illegal connections. The amount of power stolen represents 5.7% of all the electricity it distributed in the six-month period, the CFE said.

But the bad news doesn’t end there.

Luis Bravo, the state-owned company’s director of corporate communications, said that an additional 5.9% of energy – equivalent to 34.25 billion pesos (US $1.8 billion) in monetary terms – was lost in the same period due to technical problems associated with its transmission. Technical problems is corporate communications speak for employees who don’t know what they’re doing.

All told, the CFE saw US $3.15 billion wiped off its bottom line due to “technical and non-technical losses.”

CFE is working on a scheme that could see people on low incomes obtain government subsidies to offset their electricity costs.

Pemex gets looted.

This time, not by their crooked management, not by pipe line tappers, but this time by pirates at their drilling platforms out to sea.

In 2016, there were 48 acts of piracy in the Bay of Campeche and off the coast of Tabasco but last year the number of attacks on Pemex’s offshore platforms soared to 197, a surge of 310%.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10
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Artist Studio Tour
In Los Barriles
No to be confused with the studio tour in Todos Santos. Different town, different experience

BY ART MAJOR

We all love to take a peek into the lives of those we admire, and here is your chance to take a peek at the studios of some of the artists who reside in the Los Barriles area.

Do you see the inspiration in their studio? Can you get a feel for who the artist is by their studio?

Take the opportunity on Wednesday, February 13, from 10am – 4pm to see the studios of 15 different artists who live and work in the Los Barriles area. And to make it even better, many of the homes will showcase the works of more than one artist, giving you the opportunity of seeing the work of up to 30 different artists!

Artists on the tour vary from fabric, jewelry, bead or soft goods medium, oil and water color paintings, ceramic and pottery and wood or rocks.

Artists include Mary Naylor (artist for the poster), Elizabeth Perkins with some one of a kind silver and precious stone jewelry, Victoria's Sunny Dresses with her Baja perfect clothing, Steven King the artist, not the author, Christine Kenck Design and her Mexican folkloric sewn creations, Michele Melehes with her up-cycled indigenous Guatemala style clothing to contemporary, Tessa Nisbet custom knits, Teh-roma Lask art, and José Barchi art – just to name a few. We will have several new stops on the tour with new studios showcasing tile art, nature art, cards and custom candles!

the previous eight years, artist studio tours has become a favorite event for many in the Baja Sur. Friends meet and tour the studios while enjoying drinks or treats at many of the homes. You linger, visit, shop and snack. You can also see many of the artists in action as they work right there. Don't miss this great opportunity to enjoy, view and purchase some great works of art. Being the day before Valentine's Day you can get your shopping done while enjoying the tour. Get gifts for your loved ones, or yourself.

Walking distance of each other. You can pre-purchase your tickets at Baja Beach Boutique in Plaza de Pueblo in Los Barriles (across from the fountain) or purchase your tickets the day of the show at our new drive through ticket booth across from Plaza de Pueblo and right next to the fountain as you come into town. You enter right by the fountain and exit next to OXXO, simple! Tickets are sold from 9:30 am to 1pm, closing at 1pm to ensure that you have plenty of time to get to all the homes on the tour. The ticket booth will be well marked. Tickets are just $5 USD or $100 pesos. The deal is, you buy your ticket, get a map of the homes and studios, and drive yourself around, going at your own pace.

The Studio Tour is one of the major fundraisers of the Asociación de Artes del Mar Cortez an official Mexican non-profit that provides art and school supplies, art programs, Saturday art and financially supports sports program at Easter and Cursos de Verano for East Cape children.

For more information contact eastcapearts@gmail.com or check out their website at www.eastcapearts.com.
Cabo’s Park Rehabilitated
The 8 month project is nearly finished. You can walk around now.

BY FERNANDO RODRIGUEZ

The Amelia Wilkes park in downtown Cabo San Lucas has been undergoing face-lift renovations dating from last July. They’re spending just over a million dollars. The park is the main square of Cabo San Lucas, which is such a new town they have never had an official center with plaza and all the trimmings. It’s located at kilometer 0 on the Baja peninsula, which local merchants are waking up to and commercializing. There is now a T shirt shop across the street from the park, with km. 0 shirts, hats, and anything else they think they can hawk.

The new park is designed for old and handicapped people with full access to wheel chairs. Of course the sidewalks are still an obstacle course, so uneven and broken, with huge steps up the hillside, that no wheel chairs nor handicappers are likely to get to the park.

"Public spaces are for everyone," said Governor Mendoza at the start of the project. "Hence the rehabilitation of parks and squares in the state. We are aware that Plaza Amelia Wilkes is of great historical and cultural value for the Cabo San Lucas community and we are going to highlight these attributes."

The façade of the natural history museum will be restored, as well as 33 street lamps, and they’ve taken delivery of 52 benches, 3 bicycle racks, and 19 trash bins. Various plants that surround the small but cozy plaza were transplanted to an area that was set up as a nursery, and once the reconstruction work is finished, they will be brought back and replanted in the plaza. It will look better when it’s bushed up. The big shade trees were not yanked up, the construction crew worked around them.

"We are still missing pieces of the newly added stone floor that have not arrived and until then, I have no way to specify the exact date of renovated grand opening," said Roberto Cuatara, the man in charge of the reconstruction process. "For the moment it is all that I can report." He could have just said the tiles will be here on Mexican time. Or, as often happens, the project is over budget, has run out of money, and the thing will never be finished. That’s pretty much what happened at the cultural center which could not be finished because about $3 million went missing.

The Governor also emphasized the importance the renovation represents to 40 laborers, benefiting 60 families belonging to the construction crew. ‘The temporary inconveniences the work has caused has not affected the surrounding business,’ he said.

Small plaza was named after and dedicated to Amelia Wilkes Ceseña in 1976. Ms. Wilkes was born in Southern Baja California in 1907 and taught school from 1923 to 1966. Her legacy also included her volunteer work in Cabo San Lucas as a nurse practitioner and her management of public works, such as the introduction of the fresh water services and her administration of the small fishing village’s electric system. Wilkes, known locally as La Profesora, collected money from the townspeople to buy heating oil for the generator that powered the town’s electricity. the 1930’s, She would buy the oil and keep it in barrels at her wooden home. Yup, you know...
Recycle!
And this is how it’s done here

BY CLARA MILLS-ROMINES

Most of us came down to Baja for the same reason: To live a stress-free life far from the distractions back home. What’s not to love about these endless warm days, sipping on frozen drinks, eating fish tacos, and watching amazing sunsets! Unfortunately, this seasonal increase in population puts a stress on local towns. Specifically, the garbage system. Most communities struggle to get regular garbage pickup, let alone, a proper landfill. Sorry to kill your buzz. Have another margarita, but continue reading.

The small seaside community of La Ventana-El Sargento has created the No Mas Basura campaign as a way to decrease the amount of trash on the local beaches during Semana Santa (Easter vacation), and the La Ventana wind surfing classic. The non-profit group is changing the minds of those who spend time here. Director, Javier Ponce is the heart of this program. Javier told me, “I am trying to continue my program and has big plans for the future.”

The No Mas Basura campaign includes guided field trips with local scientists and marine biologists where students learn about their native flora, fauna, and marine life. Other workshops include gardening and composting. Volunteer Pam Parenty has taught the younger students how to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. “These are stepping stones needed to protect our environment,” says Pam.

The No Mas Basura recycling program is such a success that most weeks they run out of room on their trailers to accept recyclable products. Glass is divided by color and crushed, as well as tetra packs (juice boxes) and Styrofoam which are reduced and reused for construction supplies and even concrete countertops. Plastic bottles, aluminum, and metal cans are collected and sold, giving jobs to locals. Cardboard is used by a ranch for composting. None of this would be feasible without the help of hard-working volunteers and generous donations by the community.

The No Mas Basura campaign has big plans for the future and are betting on the next generation to make the future of this peninsula cleaner than the last. Find more information about No Mas Basura and other ways you can help at www.nomasasura.info/surfolk Facebook page.

Interested in making a difference in your town? Follow these steps to create less trash in your community:

- Ditch the plastic water bottles. Buy a glass or stainless steel reusable bottle.
- Keep reusable bags in the front seat of your car so you remember to bring them into the store with you. Have any extra reusable bags? Take them to your local market and ask for them to be dispensed to their customers.
- Pack a few glass or metal kitchen containers in your car for leftovers after eating out versus the plastic-to-go boxes.

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

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Spa Cielo a Laser Medical Spa

These days everybody wants to look beautiful. As 78 million “baby boomers” approach retirement, age is beginning to show. But with the fast pace of today’s aging society, people now want that fresh look without spending weeks of painful recovery. A solution? Spa Cielo Laser, Wellness and Weight Loss Center named “2009 Best Medical Spa”, is located in San Jose del Cabo, and has built their business over the past 10 years to be a leader in Los Cabos to meet those vacationer desires. “People want to look better, but they don’t want to give up any time from their daily lives or vacation” said Cathy Dammann, Medical Aesthetics Practitioner and Owner of Spa Cielo Laser, Wellness and Weight Loss Center. “The public is demanding transformation with little pain or downtime”.

Fortunately, Spa Cielo, which specializes in the latest light and laser treatments, offers a variety of treatments to make a bride the day before her wedding or someone who wants to go home looking five years younger.

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

On the other end of the spectrum, Spa Cielo offers fractional CO2 laser treatments, named “#1 in Anti-aging Skin Rejuvenation” by WebMD, which offers a superior solution for rejuvenating and resurfacing the skin. The fractional laser can be used effectively to treat fine lines, wrinkles, acne, stretch marks, and burn scars, skin pigmentation, discoloration, sun-damaged skin, pre-cancerous as well as benign lesions and uneven skin texture.

This is the only laser treatment at Spa Cielo that requires any downtime, typically less than 5 days.

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

RATED WITH FIVE STARS ON

Cathy Dammann is a Medical Aesthetics Practitioner and has certifications in Aesthetics, and Light and Laser Therapies. She is a member of the International Association for Physicians in Aesthetic Medicine and the recent recipient of the 2012 “Successful Women of the Baja” by Baja Traveler Magazine. She has made numerous appearances on talk shows including Oprah. Spa Cielo’s physicians and staff are trained and certified in United States and Mexico and are bilingual. Spa Cielo Laser and Wellness Center holds a five star rating and received the “2013-2017 Award of Excellence” from Trip Advisor and has the experience you look for in a laser medical spa, with 10 years in Los Cabos area, 14,000 patients and over 70,000 procedures performed. Spa Cielo is your answer to skin and body rejuvenation.

Rated with five stars on

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RATED WITH FIVE STARS ON
FOREIGNERS BAND TOGETHER... continued from page 1

creating a “Whatsapp” group called Whaspeando por tu seguridad” or “Whatspupper for your security”.

Also, a chat was created for the security teams of each development to be in constant communication all the time.

But more was needed. So, the next step was to buy their own patrol car because the police claimed they didn’t have a vehicle to patrol.

council went straight to Co-mandante Zamorano, who is in charge of the Navy which is currently in charge of all security in Southern Baja, directing all the police.

El Tezal neighbors passed the sombrero and came up with enough money to buy a Nissan pickup. This program is called “Patrullaton”, translated as “Patrolling”. The books are open to all people in pith helmets that the developer admits are more like greeters/doormen placed near the entrance to give the foreigners the appearance of security. There are some cameras, but nobody is monitoring them.

Some condo owners have retained the services of a lawyer and are just now passing the sombrero to hire him to force the Home Owners Ass. To call an assembly and to hire real guards.

HOA dues average about $450 a month, there are about 50 units sold, so the income should be about $22,000 a month. For no security, no promised pool, and are just now passing the proceeds, as it might be a good approach.

In another neighborhood hit by robberies, the owners are just now getting organized, but the developer, the Puerto Paraiso Residences, (on top of the mall), is making it difficult, refusing to provide a master list of owners.

There is no security Puerto Paraiso Residences, only smiling people in pith helmets that the developer admits are more like greeters/doormen placed near the entrance to give the foreigners the appearance of security. There are some cameras, but nobody is monitoring them.

Some condo owners have retained the services of a lawyer and are just now passing the sombrero to hire him to force the Home Owners Ass. To call an assembly and to hire real guards.

Also, a chat was created for the security teams of each development to be in constant communication all the time.

In a country where the police are slow to react, we need to all pull together, cooperating with our neighbors.

BATTLE OF THE MARKETS... continued from page 1

also a scarf vendor with very exotic and creative scarves. There’s always a little bit of jewelry at any kind of market, but not so much here, the Dunes has merchandise that’s often a challenge to find.

Most people hit both markets on Friday mornings, as they have very different merchandise from each other. A good way to do this is start at the Dunes, the smaller more exotic market, and finish at the strip center, where you can eat lunch at the California Ranch Market, a grocery store/deli that only carries American favorites that are hard to find down here.

If you still want more market, Saturday has two offerings, one small one at the foot of the Pedregal, at the back entrance, across from the school. It is small, but has an outside supply of real farmers’ produce, and it’s handy for Cabo people. There is an outdoor restaurant right there, which is very peaceful.

The San Jose market is the granddaddy of them all, but parking is a challenge, and don’t wash your car before going, as it’s on a dirt road. No, it’s not as civilized as the first three, but it is big and diversified. It also has eating options with some food booths. It’s a bit tough to find the first time, best to look at their map at san-jomo.com.
the tour is the opportunity to visit the artist’s working studio, which is a completely different experience from viewing their work in a formal gallery setting,” Jamie Sechrist, this year’s organizer explains. “You get to connect with the artist, see the tools of the trade to learn about their working process, and ask questions.”

When asked why so many artists flock to the Todos Santos region, Hebebrand has an explanation. “So many have been influenced by many or all of the elements of the setting - the Sonoran desert landscape, the vast and dynamic ocean, the majestic Sierra de La Laguna, the distinctive quality of light and air and clouds. And essential to the tour is the opportunity to visit the artist’s working studio, which is a completely different experience from viewing their work in a formal gallery setting.”

According to Pemex, some attacks have been carried out by large numbers of pirates who arrive at their oil rigs in a flotilla rather than a single vessel. Maybe they need more boats to carry their loot. Last year, thieves got away with a large portion of a fuel theft. Attacks have been carried out from drilling platforms.

President López Obrador asserted this week that criminals are also stealing crude oil directly from drilling platforms.

While narcocorridos glorifies drug traffickers, so why can’t fuel thieves have their moment? Often, the fuel thieves are not acting out of malice but necessity, a Robin Hood.

“I’m from the Red Triangle, 100% poblano, they call me the sucker and with that I agree because I suck the pipes to help my people,” sings the front man of a group from Puebla. Another goes: “I’m here to sing to all the people who have a great time fu**ing over ourselves. The truth is that fuel thieves. The truth is that like the devil, everyone knows that a fuel thief, the song continues.”

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BATTLE OF THE MARKETS...
continued from page 9

Cape. Details and where to buy tickets at www.eastcapearts.com

More jazz. Saxophonist Warren Hill is behind a new event in Los Cabos. Hill is owner/headliner of Music Getaways. It will take place at the Hard Rock hotel in Cabo San Lucas’ Pacific side this April 25 to 28. This will all go down a week before the hotel opens to the public, so for sure there will be no b大幅 bugs.

“Travel music destinations have proven to be a massive success so far, and we look forward to delivering more fantastic experiences to our guests in yet another beautiful vacation destination,” gushed Warren Hill.

An additional festival hotel is right next door. The Nobu Hotel is co-owned by Robert de Niro, who just might be wandering the halls late at night in his bathrobe. But probably not. Lined up so far are jazz musicians Boney James, Jeffrey Osborne, Jonathan Butler, Damien Escobar, West Coast Jam, Sax to the Max, and Warren Hill. www.loscabosjazz.com.

Another jazz festival. This November 7 to 11, last year’s Quivira jazz festival will be at a new venue. Last year it was held at the Quivira resort inside the Pueblo Bonito Sunset beach development, and this year it will move to the new Nobu hotel, owned by celebrity chef Nobu Matsuhisa and Robert DeNiro. But we just told you about that hotel. Are we as redundant at these jazz festivals are becoming? The hotel includes a beachfront Nobu restaurant and is a blend of Mexico and Japan. Oh good, whale tacos. Japanese eat whales and we eat tacos. This will work.

We have been promised a line-up of acts that doesn’t showcase the same artists who appear regularly from festival to festival, and with entertaining and enlightening seminars to boot.

Here we go again. Our chief of police announced that “very soon”, Los Cabos will have a bilingual tourist police force deployed. They will be patrolling downtown Cabo and in San Jose in the hotel zone.

At this point, several new officers who already graduated from the police academy and have passed all exams are taking English lessons and learning protocols of how to act or react to tourists’ needs.

These brand new cops will also wear distinctive uniforms from those of the regular police force.

We appreciate the intent, but the last time this was tried, they had to disband them because they couldn’t stop them from robbing the tourists. But that was then, and this is now, so let’s all hope for the best and give them a nice smiley welcome.

It’s Biker Week. About 600 bikers, (and their bikes), are expected to arrive in Los Cabos for the 4th annual Biker Week Los Cabos 2019. They’re coming from the U.S., mainland Mexico and even South America, said the spokes guy for the Moto Club Baja Riders.

The biker dudes, (and detectives), will be roaring through our streets in La Paz, Todos Santos and Los Cabos for 3 days starting on Valentine’s Day. Some of them will arrive on the ferry from the mainland. Their first stop will be to the historic downtown of San Jose and will continue to Cabo San Lucas for a noisy welcome party.

On Saturday the group, without their precious bikes, will go on a whale watching tour. That evening they will hold their traditional Rock Fest from 2:00 pm to 2:00 am at the Walmart Plaza, where the City Club used to be. This event, they think, will attract some 1,500 people. Well, that’s a good idea. Always before they clogged up the downtown. Walmart plaza is better for everyone.

There goes the neighborhood! Starting November 1st, two direct TUI airlines flights from London will arrive at the San Jose international airport, delivering hundreds of Limey tourists.

The flight will arrive – and leave – twice a week, from the Gatwick airport in London. TUI is promoting our tourist destination with 7, 10, 11 and 14 night packages. TUI is a Dutch airline.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

CABO'S PARK REHABILITATED...
continued from page 7

where this is going.

One night in 1939, her clumsy sister accidentally knocked over a kerosene lamp and the house caught on fire. As fast as they could, so their home wouldn’t explode, the two Wilkes women rolled the barrels of oil out of the home, and while the flames consumed their house, Wilkes ran back inside and grabbed the cash savings given to her by the schoolchildren. She rescued nothing of hers and lost everything.

The following year, Wilkes and her sister were given a new wooden home by the Governor, and it was at this 1940 humble abode that Amelia received and welcomed Pulitzer prize winning author John Steinbeck, a little after he penned, Grapes of Wrath.

She was also the Cabo delegate to the city administration headquartered in San Jose.

Small murals, which highlight The Lands End Arch, Cabo San Lucas beaches and the fishing history of this town, have been added to the exterior of The Natural History Museum which first opened in 2006.

Upon completion, (remember those missing tiles), the Friday night art and music event will return to the plaza.

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or kills a hard-working reporter. Hey! What about the slacker journalists? We have loved ones too, you know!

Employment opportunity: 2,000 drivers are sought to drive the new tanker trucks bought to alleviate the fuel shortages. Train strike. At least 26 trains have been halted by teacher blockades that went up earlier this week in Michoacán. The teachers laid down across the tracks, set up BBQs, and deployed various accoutrements of a comfortable camp-out. They’re demanding money they were not paid while on strike against such items as teacher competency testing an end to buying their jobs. The blocked trains now sitting idle have 2,288 rail cars, 96 carrying tankers of gasoline intended for distribution to relieve fuel shortages. Just wait till they find their Coca Cola won’t get through. In previous strikes they’ve stolen so many Coke trucks, the soft drink maker pulled out of the region. Does it seem like we’re picking on Mexico this week? It does to us, too. It’s heartbreaking to see that with a GDP approaching $1.15 trillion, Mexico’s economy is now the 15th largest in the world, but its per-capita income of about $9,000 ranks just 70th. According to the GINI scale of income inequality, Mexico is the world’s 19th most unequal country – more so than even Nicaragua, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, and Chad. A shocking 43.6% of Mexicans are considered poor.

That destitution is the root cause of many of Mexico’s other ills. Drug trafficking, violence, corruption, impunity, migration – all are outgrowths of the country’s low wages, poor schools, inadequate healthcare, and we’re going to say it again, corruption. It all goes back to corruption and impunity from the consequences. These conditions seem more maddening in a country so blessed with resources, including fertile farmland, vast oil reserves, deep-water ports, a temperate climate, stunning beaches, and a population that the OECD ranks the most hard-working of the 37 nations surveyed. We’re frustrated.

is off-leash, always carry one with you, as well as poop bags. He suggests a 6-foot leather leash is the best tool for any dog owner. If you have the unfortunate experience of dogs engaging in a fight, you can loop the leash around one of the dogs to pull it away. Never try to grab one of the dogs by the collar, as this is a great way to get bitten. If you are carrying a water bottle, another tactic is to splash the dogs. This will usually startle them out of attack mode. Or lift one of them by their back legs and pull backwards. Better yet, if you think there is even a remote chance your dog might bite, use a cage muzzle. A cage muzzle doesn’t hurt the dog and is 100% humane. It is the sign of a responsible dog owner. I can personally attest to Divjak’s skill as a dog, or rather, human trainer. While our Coco, rescued here two years ago, is typically very mild-mannered, she developed the bad habit of barking incessantly at every passerby of our home. During an hour-long private training session, Divjak gave us very practical tools to regain control of our dog’s annoying behaviour. His fee for a one-on-one lesson is $32, a pittance compared to obedience classes in the US and Canada. Contact David at dog-trainerdavid@gmail.com and visit his Facebook page under Todos Los Perros Dog Training.

DOG WHISPERER TRAINS... continued from page 11
Condo Curveballs
Why Didn’t Anyone Tell Me!

BY WILLY WISE

So you bought your condo in Paradise, tossed the snow shovel, checked your budget, and headed to Mexico for the winter – happy days are here again!

My wife and I did just that after our first visit to Cabo. Not having owned a condo before, we soon learned that communal living was not always what we had imagined. The insomniac living below us blaring the TV, short term renters partying until the wee morning hours, screaming kids at the pool, dogs left alone in units barking for hours... was there no solitude to be had?

Don't get me wrong, condos are a great option for the convenience of locking the door and coming back to the same when you return. With the right bunch of like minded people you will have good neighbors and at best a fun social group. Doing your homework on the front end is the key to avoiding unpleasant surprises to your serenity and your budget.

Let’s start at the beginning when you find a place you think you like.

Rule #1 location, location, location: don’t be writing an offer until you scope out the place with all of your senses. Go there at different times of the day and listen to the sounds. Roosters and barking dogs in the early morning, squealing kids at the pool in the afternoon or rush hour road noise just when you’d be sitting down for a cocktail; what do you hear? Talk to people about the complex and listen to them. Real estate agents have the facts but owners, neighbours, property managers and on-site condo administrators have the stories.

Rule #2, Rules & Regulations: Los Cabos basic condo administrative guidelines are governed by Decree #1695, the 2007 Baja California Sur (BCS) state legislated rules. The Homeowners Association (HOA) for each condo complex needs to be structured and operated in accordance with these rules. HOAs formed after 2007 will likely use these rules but older complexes may not. Regardless, don’t assume the rules are as stringent as they are north of the border – they aren’t. Ask for a copy of meeting minutes and the financial statements. The minutes will tell you about any issues you didn’t hear about from others.

Rule #3 Look for curve balls (the unexpected): Pay attention to mention of the dreaded “cash call”. Don’t be fooled by low dues when comparing one complex to the next; this is one of the biggest and costliest mistakes. The dues are what you pay monthly but the HOA board has the ability to make a call for extra cash from all owners whenever they see fit to make up budget shortfalls or for capital projects such as repairs after big storms. They can be hefty so think about your ability to cough up USD $5,000 or more on short notice. It can be tougher in smaller complexes as larger complexes have more wallets to meet the call. Ask how many “calls” there have been in the past five years and how many owners didn’t pay it.

To be held February 17 at 10:00 am at Misiones Del Cabo unit 4202 if not sold before then.

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Continued on page 18
How To Deal With HSBC

The trust dept is a little finicky, so listen up

BY CONNIE BEZEREDI

| HSBC Fiduciario contact for matters relating to selling, inheriting, designating new beneficiaries or moving your property trust to another bank: Mariana.Romo@hsbc.com.mx Andr.Sachariew@hsbc.com.mx |
| Contact details for matters relating to HSBC Fiduciario trust fees (including how much you owe, when your payment is due, what your personal trust reference number is or about invoices): mexico_honofid@hsbc.com.mx Once the client has gotten in touch to obtain their personal trust reference number and the amount due these are currently different ways to pay: |
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Condo Meetings In Mexico

Stay on your toes, you have an investment here

BY HARRIET MURRAY, CIPS

Understanding how condominium ownership works should begin with the things you should know about condo meetings in Mexico. First, knowing how homeowner meetings for condos in Mexico work is an important responsibility for owners. The homeowner meetings are the top authority for the running of the building. Meetings are both ordinary and extraordinary. There will be at least one ordinary meeting a year, held within the first three months of every year. The general meeting agenda includes:

1. Reports from the administrator and the executive committee.
2. Election of the executive committee.
3. Election of the administrator.
4. Approval of the budget for the coming year.

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Aaron Wesselink

Agent Profile

Aaron Wesselink has been living in Los Cabos full time since 2006. Now married with three small children, Aaron considers Cabo his permanent home and truly has a passion for all that Los Cabos. Prior to living in Los Cabos, Aaron was a real estate agent in San Diego specializing in beach properties and had been involved in some small development projects. Over the years, Aaron’s primary focus in Los Cabos has been on the management and development of the beachfront luxury community El Encanto de La Laguna. The development team Aaron has built and manages consist of a construction and architectural design team, HOA management team, legal, vacation rental business, as well as a sales and marketing division. The management and development of the community and his teams have given Aaron a unique experience that he combines with his passion for real estate. With the specialized teams we have and the knowledge from years of developing, we enjoy helping clients take what we have learned to make the right real estate decisions here in Los Cabos.

Contact Aaron Wesselink, Broker of Laguna Realty at MX office Line: 011 52 624.105.8850 or US Toll free: (866) 556-1386, aaron@elenantoloscabos.net

Local Real Estate Could Add To Your Retirement Fund

It’s a lot more steady, Eddy

BY NICK FONG

With a fluctuating stock market and faltering money market returns, many Americans have discovered an innovative method to move their retirement account investment money to a place where is can do some good.

Specifically, Cabo real estate! Real property can be either purchased cold or for your benefit using your qualified retirement plan and/or IRA funds. When purchased, these properties become assets of your plan or account.

Another plus to this type of investment is that the restrictions are relatively few. They are:

The IRS code does not specify which types are permitted, however, typically you can purchase investment property such as single or multi-family dwellings, apartments, condos, commercial buildings, raw land, vacation property, mobile homes etc.

You can also lend money against these types of properties.

You cannot buy a property, or invest in a secured loan that involves yourself, a son, a daughter, parent, or other disqualified party - such as a fiduciary or your sole proprietorship. However, this rule does not apply to siblings or any third party. You can buy a house and rent it to your sister or brother, or an unrelated third party. If you rent the property to any qualified party, all income and expenses must first flow back to your IRA. If you decide to use some of the income produced, such distributions will always be subject to taxes, and possible penalties (if they are received prior to age 59 1/2).

You may not personally own property which you intend to purchase with plan funds and you must ensure that your intended purchase is not a prohibited transaction.

It must be for investment purposes only.

Neither you, your spouse, nor your family members (other than siblings) may have owned the property prior to its purchase by your plan.

Neither you nor your family members (other than siblings) may live in or lease the property while it’s in your plan.

Your business may not lease or be located in or on any part of the property.

If you are tired of losing money in the stock market or of watching your IRA account’s value increase by only a modest yearly fraction, this could work well for you. Maybe now is the time to explore potentially higher yielding Cabo real estate investments that you self direct and can control.

By Nick Fong of Los Cabos Agent “Someone You Can Trust”, info@loscabosagent.com, www.loscabosagent.com, 312-725-3666 (US), 624-157-3170 (Cabo)

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2. Tesoro Condo 56 2bd 2bth over 2,000 sq ft, large terrace $150,000
3. Casa Angela Great starter home on 17,000 sq ft commercial lot $135,000
4. Casa del Sol One of a kind penthouse unit. 3 bd, Lots of amenities $249,500
5. Casa Andre 4 bd house in gated community, El Tezal, Cabo Corridor $329,000
6. Casa Monique Ex lg duplex w/pool, private compound, Cabo Corridor $675,000
7. Casa Miraflores Pedregal Steal - Home w/pool, views and extra lot inc. $689,000
8. Casa Shadrer Million dollar views, lrg 4 bed home, Cresta del Mar $1,000,000

Commercial/Business
1. GG Edificio Over 9,000 sq ft of commercial/office/restaurant space includes parking lot and separate private managers residence. Turn Key. Open tomorrow, possible owner financing. $999,000
2. Landmark restaurant/bar - a bit of Cabo history. Turnkey operation includes property and additional land. $1,600,000
3. RV Park - 22 spaces, main house, pool, secure, money maker in sought after Pescadero/Cerritos area. Turnkey operation. $1,350,000
4. Cabo Kitchens - perfect live work opportunity. Fully operational business and private residence. $299,000
5. Donnie’s place 1,700 sq ft commercial building, seller financing CSL $59,500

Pacific Side
1. Casa Keene 3/4 acre beachfront, 3 bd private estate. San Cristobal Developer lot $3,999,999
2. Rancho Tracy 4,000 sq ft private, walled estate on 2,500 m2 lot- unobstructed ocean views. $549,000
3. Pescadero Paradise - 3 bd 3 bt ig home or duplex, immaculate, fully upgraded/furnished 1,500 sq mt lot $299,000
4. Hacienda del Sol - 3bd 5 bt, over 3,500 sq ft- private, gated community. Ocean views, steps to secluded beach. $425,000
5. Casa Here and Now - 3 bd, 2 bth, Pescadero Heights, Views of forever, mountains/ocean. $149,000
6. Cerritos/Pescadero homesites - lots starting at $50,000 USD up to 2,000 m2
7. Elia Calles homesites - lots starting at $39,000 for 10,000 m2- amazing ocean views.

East Cape
1. Sunset Villas Condos - Los Barriles Studio and 1 bd condos, one block to beach, walking distance to everything starting at $89,000
2. Casa Sierra y Mar - La Ventana - brand new construction. 3 bd, 3 bth, Large sunset deck, views of everything. $285,000
3. Beachfront - Buena Vista - 1,841 m2 located on the pristine Buena Vista beach, close to town $450,000.
4. Lighthouse Point lots - from $39,500 third row to $180,000 beachfront. Clubhouse and pool.

Developer parcels
1. El Tule - Love it Ranch - 12 hectares, CFE, water, blue water views $499,000
2. Cerritos - Beachfront, 50 meters of beachfront, over 5,900 m2, all enviro permits complete. $795,000 USD
3. Cerritos - Rancho del Mar - 12 hectares, level parcel nestled in the foothills, 5 mins to beach, 5 mins to mountains, 3 minutes to highway. Legal well. Easy access. $1,200,000
4. Elia Calles - Ponchos 29 hectares, adjacent to waterfalls, easy access, 5 minutes off the highway. Incredible views $580,000
5. Just now released - pre construction prices!
6. Cerritos Surf Residences - Cerritos Beach brand new 2 bd, 2 bth condos, full amenities, simply elegant interiors. Starting at $239,000. Hurry, going fast!

We’re Everywhere!

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CONDO CURVEBALLS...
continued from page 15

Rule #4 Show me the money!
The financials will also tell you how your HOA dues budget might be affected. Not good with numbers? Here’s a few tips on what to look for:

Look at the income statement and calculate the percentage of specific expense categories to the total expenses (even better if you have multiple years to see trends). This is how your HOA dues are spent; what are the biggest categories of expense? Lots of repairs? – not necessarily the biggest categories of expense? What are the trends). This is how your HOA might be affected. Not good with numbers? Here’s a few tips on what to look for:

Look at the balance sheet for a large accounts receivable number – a.k.a. the delinquent owners list. Every complex has deadbeat owners who won’t pay their dues or cash calls. The HOA can’t cover expenses from recorded income if it’s not collected income. More recently the Mexican legal system became sympathetic to HOAs vs the delinquent owner but it’s a minimum two year legal fight by the HOA to recover outstanding dues from a forced sale of the unit. HOAs may have to increase dues or make cash calls to cover the deadbeats who don’t pay.

Look at both the income statement for insurance expense and the balance sheet equity category for reserves which will help the HOA weather a catastrophic event. You didn’t have to be here to experience Hurricane Odile’s financial impact.

The BCS rules require each complex to set aside 5% of annual income for refurbishment reserves but these reserves are not restricted to catastrophic events and can be used for various purposes if the majority of owners agree. Reserve funds can be used for planned capital improvements or covering the insurance deductible for unpredictable events. Most HOAs buy hurricane and earthquake insurance but it’s not cheap. This can be the largest US dollar expense in the income statement but well worth it in my opinion. Insurance policies here are “co-” insurance with a deductible and coverage for 80% of the loss which means both the deductible and 20% of the loss is the owners’ obligation.

Some complexes choose to “self insure” meaning instead of buying insurance they set aside a special reserve to accumulate the equivalent of the premium expense, meaning that the reserve will be enough to cover the costs when the unexpected happens. In addition to bigger storms, this place is shaking all the time and you never know when a big one is coming. Just for fun go to www.quakebulletin.com and look at the 100 largest earthquakes near Baja California Sur. A lot of complexes in Cabo are built on packed sand versus bedrock meaning a big shake could crack foundations and result in a condemned building and you risk losing everything.

This isn’t everything you need to know about condo ownership but the moral of the story is the importance of making an informed decision so you can enjoy your time in Mexico for years to come.

Because the notices to the individual owners for both types of meetings, a copy should be posted in visible places within the condominium. An owner can also require that the administrator notify him/her by certified mail. The notice must include the date, time and place of the meeting, the type of meeting and the agenda. An important point to know is that items OFF the agenda cannot be binding unless 100 percent of the homeowners are present to make the decision. This is a critical point to understand when voting on issues of importance.

If you have a disagreement to a disputed charge for products or services, this can be followed. Civil code and Jalisco code will be followed. Other conflicts, such as a dispute with a utility authority or a disputed charge for products or services, will be decided by the city judicial legal system. The administrator also can take to court homeowners or their guests who fail to fulfill their obligations or follow the condominium bylaws. The condominium can ask the judge to force the homeowner to sell his condominium ownership. This is a strong position that the owners in general can take to remove an owner who disturbs or destroys the right of enjoyable use by the majority of owners. A tenant can be required to vacate a unit and the condominium can sue the owner, if they oppose such an action.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

REAL ESTATE SECTION

February 4th, 2019

CONDO MEETINGS IN MEXICO...
continued from page 16

Besides the notices to the individual owners for both types of meetings, a copy should be posted in visible places within the condominium. An owner can also require that the administrator notify him/her by certified mail. The notice must include the date, time and place of the meeting, the type of meeting and the agenda. An important point to know is that items OFF the agenda cannot be binding unless 100 percent of the homeowners are present to make the decision. This is a critical point to understand when voting on issues of importance.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

CASA GOODMAN MAGISTERIAL

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Grand Luxxe Los Cabos that will open phase by phase as it is a large resort with allegedly the world’s largest pool and artificial reefs. (Reves?) The Hard Rock is on the Pacific side inside Diamante, Grand Luxxe is on the East Cape and is part of the Cryin’ Mayan chain of very aggressive time-share properties. The way those people operate, they will have that sold out in about a week. And the place is so far out, you can even get up and walk back to town.

Next in line is the Four Seasons Resort at Costa Palmas in La Ribera, with a pretty forlorn half finished marina and a beach club. Next is Nobu hotel, co-owned by actor Robert de Niro and chef Bonu Matsushima. Actually, de Niro was recently spotted enjoying a cold one at a quaint restaurant in Cabo Pulmo. He was not spotted wandering the halls of his new hotel in his bathrobe, that’s just a rumor we’re hoping to get started.

Last to be mentioned here is the Villa Valencia located on the corridor between Cabo and San Jose, with 260 suites and villas. This property is part of the Villa group that includes three hotels in Los Cabos, the Villa del Palmar, Villa La Estancia and Villa del Arco and the Villa del Palmar between Loreto and La Paz.

Cool! A sunken ship! It’s still not a well known attraction, but we have several scuttled ships around Los Cabos and La Paz. Near the Espiritu Santo island off the coast of La Paz are the Fao Ming, the Salvatierra and La Paz 03 boats that were sunk in 1999 to create artificial reefs.

On Magdalena island there’s a US Navy submarine under water, while in Cabo’s Pacific side the Lundenberg cargo ship was found in 2014 when hurricane Odile took away much of the beach sand and the ship suddenly appeared on the beach, only to sink from sight again when the ocean snatched it back. The waves give and the waves take away... Airbnb will be taxed. Our Southern Baja governor announced that his administration and Airbnb have come to an agreement, so the internet lodging giant will pay 3 percent tax to our state on each and every booking.

To the coast will obviously add this to the rental fee, with the renter paying for it in the end. There are more than 6,000 rooms, condos and homes listed on Airbnb in our state and between January and July last year, 100,000 tourists used the app, which mightily pissed off the hotels.

Governor Mendoza stated that all the revenue from Airbnb rentals will be devoted to improve our tourists areas’ infrastructure. Hey! That’s the bed tax! It should go to promotion, not filling potholes. Well, filled up potholes improves our appearance to tourists. But it’s not promoting us.

Airport news. The San Jose international airport received 5 million passengers last year, and it’s now expanding to accommodate an expected 9 million in the coming years, as nearly 6,000 hotel rooms are under construction as you read this.

Of all the tourists and visitors.
Burger with a Side of Gems
Palapa bar/restaurant/gallery/swim up bar in the pool

BY MARLA KING

Cerritos’ newest pub and grill, Shaka’s Delicious Wood Cantina, has recently added a galleria of jewelry and Mexican handicrafts. Where else can you enjoy a cold beverage, great food and company, and shop for handmade gemstone baubles and leather goods all on one property? Oh, and go for a swim. Soon. We have been promised a swimming pool will be added to this eclectic place.

Shaka’s, named after the Hawaiian hand gesture for ‘hang loose’, opened just last April and has already given the neighborhood a bit of a shake up.

“Some thought we were crazy starting up at the end of tour season,” laughs co-founder Brando Strawn. “But there are now enough year-round residents in the area, and when other places closed for the low season, people were saying thank you to us for being here.”

This is the culmination of a decade-plus long dream. Strawn bought the property in 2007 and in 21 trailer loads of desert scrub, cleared the land. He recognized the potential of the area as a year-round surfing destination and a more rural Baja experience than Cabo.

“I used to enjoy Cabo, but saw what was happening there, and the handwriting was on the wall about what was going to happen in Cerritos,” he said.

It took over a decade for Cerritos and El Pescadero to grow to the point that Strawn saw a viable business opportunity. During that time, he worked in Texas as a locomotive engineer and visited Baja a couple of times a year.

During one of those early visits, he met Edgar Mendoza-Arellano at his gallery in Cabo San Lucas.

Edgar was running a jewelry gallery, selling his own designs plus items he’d brought from Europe’s antique markets. A trained silversmith from Taxco with a diploma in jewelry-making, Edgar travelled the globe purchasing precious gems, learning techniques and advancing his skills.

“Years ago we had this idea to do something together,” explains Edgar. “At first I didn’t believe it would happen, but Brando kept getting more serious and finally said, ‘let’s do this’.

Looking at a tray of his rings, you see influences from traditional Mexican and Indian motifs to contemporary designs, incorporating Mexican jade and rainbow obsidian as well as Baltic amber and other European gemstones. Prices range from a few US dollars to the sky’s the limit. Edgar also sells loose gemstones. Prices range from a few US dollars to the sky’s the limit. Edgar also sells loose gemstones.

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If there are traditions tied to food in any country, Mexico is the one with the most variety. Not only that, but also Mexico has a tradition from another culture, and both involve food. I’m talking about the rosca which is shared on January 6th when the three wise men showed up late to deliver gifts for the baby Jesus. Now, that is celebrated by whoever finds a small plastic (a real choking hazard) of cake will have to make or buy tamales for February 2nd, I know, it seems like Christmas never ends.

90 percent of Mexicans celebrate February fourth with tamales, the Candelaria. Originally believed to be associated with corn, as so many celebrations are, it is pretty much unknown where and how this tradition was started but most importantly; why tamales on this day? Why not any other Mexican dish? Many historians attribute this to how practical, easy, cheap and satisfying tamales are, some others believe it was a marketing solution for corn growers.

Some things I know for sure are that they’re a social dish; there’s no way one can make a single tamal, and they are most likely not made by only one person. Also, tamales are the best designed food, ever. The wrapping becomes the dish, and sometimes even napkin, there’s virtually no need to use anything besides pots and vessels (thinking in a prehispanic point of view), they can be eaten with no cutlery and the only waste is organic and compostable. And tamales, are as versatile as versatile can go. Varying the main four ingredients; leaf, masa, stuffing and salsas, there is at least one tamal recipe per state in the country, so at least 33 -but five thousand registered recipes really-. Without counting the sweet variety.

Tamales are the perfect blend of European and prehispanic traditions. Tamalli, the original name coming from Nahualt were not made from pork lard; as they are today. Pork meat, chicken and cheeses were not used either, and nowadays there’s no way we could imagine tamales without these.

Another fun fact about prehispanic cooking, is that clay pots and vessels were all native Mexican used to cook with, comales (the flat disk were tortillas are heated) came thousands of years later. This late to the party feature of cooking equipment also resulted in the caracteristic way tamales are cooked; steamed.

Historical evidence shows that Mexican cultures took corn to other regions and cultures, along with plates, dishes and forms of cooking the ingredients, mostly corn. Tamales being an easy thing to cook were widespread to south America and a little farther.

Tamales were proven to be a part of the everyday life of most Mexican cultures before the Spaniards arrived, also appearing in religious rituals, offerings and tombs. For example, with the Mayans, there are paintings from the 250 DC showing tamales in different settings, and archeological findings have placed the dish in several different contexts through history, most importantly, tamales were present in the richest houses as well as the poorest. Nowadays, hundreds of millions of tamales are consumed across the country.

Ingredients: 2 pounds of tortilla masa powder 2 cups of the water where the stuffing meat was cooked 14 oz of pork lard 1 ½ teaspoons of baking powder 1 tablespoon of salt

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26
Mountain Biking Down the Baja

BY MALIA DURBANO

Mountain biking trails weave throughout Baja California from the U.S. border to Land’s End on a trail called the Baja Divide. Visitors and locals who love riding will find hundreds of miles of trails to explore. They are supported with repairs, guided tours and bike rentals by stores in La Paz, Cabo, Los Barilles and in many small towns along the way.

The most recent addition to the string of stores is in Todos Santos, an hour north of Cabo. Over the Edge Baja is equipped to support local riders, tourists and seasonal residents.

Dave Thompson and his wife, Ann Patsy, opened Over the Edge Baja bike shop in Todos Santos after selling Flat Tire Bike Shop in Cave Creek, Arizona which they ran for 12 years.

They had visited southern Baja numerous times and picked Todos Santos since it is a growing hub for adventure seekers who come to surf, fish, whale watch and scuba dive. “Mountain biking is something the whole family can enjoy together. The local trails accommodate all riders from beginners to advanced,” Dave explained.

The sport originated in California on Marin County’s Mount Tamalpais. It was not until the late 1970s and early 1980s that road bicycle companies started to manufacture mountain bikes using high-tech lightweight materials for the frames, front forks with shocks, and fatter tires to accommodate the rugged terrain.

Mountain biking has steadily grown over the years since then, and is now a multi-billion-dollar industry with millions of riders worldwide. “The modified frame and suspension design allow riders to take on different types of terrain more efficiently,” Dave shared. “Soil on the single track can be loose and sandy or rocky and hard-packed with big drops.”

“Cycling enthusiasts are choosing mountain biking over road biking because it feels safer. “Mountain bikers like being out on trails in nature, and avoiding traffic and breathing exhaust fumes.” While exercising, riders can enjoy the beautiful natural surroundings, serene atmosphere and clean air. He says, “Putting butts on bikes is my passion and riding affects people’s lives in many ways.”

The couple also chose Todos Santos as another logical stop along the route of the established Baja Divide route. Baja Divide is the 1,000 mile trail traversing along the route of the established trails, Santiago and La Ventana, already established in Los Barilles, Santiago and La Ventana, along Highway 1, the growing Todos Santos was ripe for the picking.

“A bike store is a lifestyle business. We want to show people a good time,” says Dave. “When they get out and enjoy nature, it translates to other areas of their lives. They eat a healthier diet, they love being out in nature, and are more likely to recycle and care for the environment.” The bulk of their customers and biggest segment of recreational riders are pre- retired empty nesters ages about 45-55 who want to get back in shape.

Mountain biking is challenging and demands complete attention. “Riders enjoy it because it becomes almost meditative, as you are not able to think about

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26
Fish Report
BY GARY GRAHAM

Cabo San Lucas
Numbers at a glance: Billfish 56%, tuna 31%, dorado 3%, other species 12%.

If you’re looking for big tuna, you should be here now! For over a month, we have caught yellowfin tuna weighing over 150 pounds every Sunday! This week was no different. Anglers Dan and Kurt from Los Angeles, California landed a 187 pound yellowfin.

Marlin action is still on with multiple releases at the Finger Bank and up to four striped marlin released per boat closer to Cabo, between the Old Lighthouse and Golden Gate. Smaller game included sierra, skipjack, grouper, needlefish and amberjack.

Inshore fishing has continued to produce nice catches of smaller dorado and schools of skipjack, with sierras showing in good numbers from Solmar to El Arco. Roosterfish are occasionally showing in the surf from Solmar around the point at the Lighthouse and also in the Palmilla area.

We should note that the 34-foot Tuna Time of the Fish Cabo fleet is back in the water after several months of rehab with newly rebuilt engines and transmission; they wasted no time in producing 6 striped marlin and 14 large yellowfin in 3 days of fishing.

Cabo Climate: January weather has been very pleasant with a mix of mostly sunny-to-partly cloudy skies. The future outlook has average daytime temps in the upper 70s and evenings in the low to mid 60s. The good news is the forecast is for mostly sunny-to-partly cloudy skies with zero chance of rain forecast into early February. Winds are expected in the gentle 8- to 10-mph range through early February, mostly out of the SW, shifting to the WSW at month’s end. Humidity is expected to run in the low- to mid-60s into early February.

Sea Conditions: Seas have been relatively calm in the mornings throughout the area with some swells and chop showing up in the afternoons as breezes increase. The past week reported a single day of seas in the 4- to 5-foot range. Forecast is for more of the same with winds in the 8- to 10-mph range from the SW and WSW. Sea temps have cooled but stabilized and are running from 72 to 75-degrees (Pacific) and into the 73- to 75-degree range on the inside around the Gordo.

Best Fishing Areas: The marlin hot spots have remained to the west and north. The Lighthouse area was clearly the hot spot again. Most of the fish are being found from 1 to 8 miles out from shore. There were also very positive reports from the Golden Gate area. The yellowfin are being found 25 to 30 miles out to the South and SW near the 110, 120 or 180 Spots. Good counts of quality yellowfin were also coming off the Golden Gate area and some yellowfin up to the 100-pound mark were reported around the Gordo Banks. For those willing to make the longer 50-mile run, the Finger Bank has continued producing double-digit striped marlin counts with a few boats reporting over 20 fish per day. Traffic is light up there competing for the large numbers of migrating striped marlin. As the yellowfin have moved in, so have the commercial tuna boats; Captain Roberto Marquez reported the appearance of several commercial tuna boats with helicopters, so there is concern the yellowfin fishing will hold up strong again in the coming few weeks.

Favorite Baits: Trolled blue/green smoke trail lures along with live mackerel or live caballito were the favorite for the marlin. Soaking live bait around the Finger Bank produced successful multiple stripper counts. Drifting live bait around the Lighthouse was also very productive. Everything seemed to work for the dorado from trolled lures to drifted bait. Hoochies were by far the preferred and most productive lures for the sierra mackerel (live and dead-weighted), feathers, cedar plugs, hoochis, brujitas.

Bait Supply: Live bait is available at the $3.00 per bait upon exit from the harbor. Mackerel, when available, is popular with the captains.

Puerto Los Cabos
Bait options were for caballito, slabs of squid, chihuil, ballyhoo and mackerel. There have been no sardina and no one is quite sure where they are. Last year we did have a steady supply.

The majority of local charters were fishing grounds from Red Hill to Iman and La Fortuna, as well as the Gordo Banks. No hot spot, very scattered action from day to day.

The Gordo Banks was producing a quality grade of yellowfin tuna, a few fish brought in weighed nearly 100 pounds. The problem being that there were very few of these fish being landed; on a normal day we were just seeing a handful of these yellowfin brought to the fillet tables. The offshore action for the tuna associated with porpoise faded some out and was out of range of most boats, being 30 to 40 miles offshore.

With the passing of the recent full moon, the billfish action also became scattered - still being found, but not in any frenzy like past months. Despite cooler waters, there were even a couple of sailfish hooked into, though the striped marlin averaging 60 to 100 pounds have been the most common.

There have been a few wahoo landed from the La Fortuna area with squid and chihuil being the main bait used. Only an occasional dorado was seen in the mix.

Bottom fishing was limited with lack of charters and the swift currents and choppy and windy conditions did not make for ideal conditions. More triggerfish and small snapper were seen, but only an occasional cabrilla or amberjack. One day the commercial fleet imported some red crab and had good catches of red snapper (huachinango). Just an occasional smaller-sized roosterfish, sierra, or miscellaneous snapper were being found close to shore, and there was also a chance at finding a stray dorado close to shore.

East Cape
Marlin, dorado, tuna, and...
**Todos Santos**

February 4th, 2019

**Todos Santos**

**Todos Santos** is a town known for its art, music, and culture. It is a popular destination for tourists and locals alike. Here are some of the events happening this week:

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

- **Every Tuesday and Saturday**
  Los Cabos Writers Group resumes. Marina Sol clubhouse. 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.

- **Every Wednesday**
  From 3:00 to 5:00 pm at Marina Sol. Los Cabos Writers Group resumes. Marina Sol clubhouse. Cabo San Lucas. Writers, poets or dreamers, all welcome. Call Adriana 624-108-2095

- **Every Wednesday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.** At La Esquina in Todos Santos. Organic eggs, honey, locally made jewelry and beauty products, traditional baskets and more! Info: info@todossantosbrewing.com. February 4th, 2019

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

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

- **Every Thursday, November 1st to June 30th.** San Jose Art Walk.

- **First Thursday.** 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. YoReciclo sets up tents to receive clear glass bottles, metal, plastic, (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 at San Jose at Centenario corner with Ildefonso Green. In Cabo San Lucas at the parking lot of the baseball stadium. Email info@yoreciclo.org.mx for more information.

- **Every Thursday, 8:00 am.** Rotary Club breakfast. At the Playa Grande Resort, above the Playa Grande Resort, above the Playa Grande Resort. In addition to organic produce, there are handicrafts, books, critters to adopt, food to eat and who knows what. Behind the town of San Jose. Go to their website and study the map: www.sanjomo.com.

- **Every Thursday.** 8:00 pm. La Paz organic market. Postal Park, Constitution and Madero streets. Free.

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

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

- **Every Saturday.** Art Day. Art, paintings, books, live music. At El Merkado, in the Koral Center in Cerro Colorado.

- **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 Sunday, 6:00 pm.** Sunday Sessions Live Music. Todos Santos Brewing. Enjoy the beautiful star filled Baja sky, live acoustic music, fabulous handmade craft beers and delicious food. Álvaro Obregón street (between Militar & Rancho). Bethesda at @todosantosbrewing for more information, 612-145-2023 or email info@todosantosbrewing.mx.

- **Every Sunday.** 2.00 pm. 1 acre secured park like setting open to all dogs. Off leash, but be friendly please. Info/map at cabok9corral.com 624-136-2971

- **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, acrobatics or zumba lessons. Email clubbacanuevese@gmail.com for information.

- **Feb 9 & 10.** From 10 am to 4 pm. The 10th Annual Todos Santos Open Studio Tour. All proceeds benefit children’s art programs at The Palapa Society. See working art studios, meet the artists, maybe get some real deals.

- **February 13, 2019.** Artist Studio Tour of Los Barriles area. 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Ticket sales end at 12 noon. Walk through the studios of over 15 artists, with multiple artists at each location. A great day to see a variety of mediums, styles and materials and get to know your artists and neighbors. Funds to support kids’ programs on East Cape. www.eastcapearts.com.

- **February 15 & 16.** 4th Sunday Sessions Live Music. Todos Santos Brewing. At El Tezal. Facebook @TodosSantos-BajaBrewhouse.

- **March 30., Saturday.** Beer Fest. Todos Santos. Information: beerfest.todossantos@gmail.com.

- **June 1 – 4.** The Probemos Mexico (Let’s taste Mexico) national congress of Gastronomy and culture. A food fest with recipes of the 32 states of Mexico, featuring 32 traditional female chefs who will prepare the most iconic meal of their state. The lady chefs will present more than 192 traditional dishes and beverages at the Delmar International school located here in El Tezal. Folk music and 200 exhibitors selling Mexican traditional products, workshops, conferences and shows.

To get your event listed here, email the details to david@gringogazette.com there is no charge.

**CONDO MEETINGS IN MEXICO...**

continued from page 18

Decisions made at legally constituted meetings are legal and binding to all the ownership, whether they are present or not. This applies to third parties or unknown owners as well. Maintenance fees are also a consideration in condo ownership. Condo dues and reserve fund are determined on the percentage of ownership of an individual unit to the whole condo regime. Dues and the reserve fee are paid in advance. If the condominium expenses exceed the income, the homeowners are required to cover the expenses as an extraordinary maintenance fee.

If you own or are considering buying a condominium, it is important to ask about the condominium laws and the condominium regime rules and regulations, wherever you are considering a purchase.

This article is based upon legal opinions, current practices and my personal experiences in the Puerto Vallarta-Bahia de Banderas areas. I recommend that each potential buyer or seller conduct his own due diligence and research.

**Editor’s Note:** While condominium laws are different in each state of Mexico, they have many similarities and the general concepts are valid throughout the country.

This has been brought to you by the Settlement Company. Rentaltaxmexico@settlementco.com.

Wednesday through Monday, From 10 am to 6 pm. The Cultural Pavilion at El Triunfo. Discover the rich mining history and settlement of the Cape Region. Enjoy exciting, interactive exhibits. Explore the complex, the gift shop, and adjacent buildings, and the historic village. Spanish and English. 100 pesos entrance fee. Info: museorientadeplata.com, Ayuntamiento St. (Progreso and Marquez de Leon St), El Triunfo. Closed on Tuesday.

Monday through Friday, 8:00 am. to 8:00 pm. Spanish. Alvaro CasadeCultura/call 624 146 9836

Guitar, and more.facebook.com/nesian dance, folk dance, sing-
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Day Art, paintings, photography, 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). San Lucas.

Every Saturday starting in October. 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. At El Merkado, upstairs. Tourist corridor at Cerro Colorado, San Jose.

Every Saturday, 6:00 pm. Hermansita de Ysabela Reading lounge. At Cultural Pavilion’s Cinema. Lobby, Cabo San Lucas downtown next to the marina.

Every Sunday, Vagabond Movie Club presents a different artsy movie in the original language with Spanish subtitles. Free. 624-156-8512 Casa Roots. Corner of Mayas and Cuitlahuac in the 4th of Marzo neighborhood, Cabo San Lucas. (Only for adventurous people.)


February 13, 2019. Artist Studio Tour of Los Barriles area. 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Ticket sales end at 12 noon. Wander through the studios of up to 15 artists, with multiple artists at each location. A great day to see a variety of mediums, styles and materials and learn about the local art community. Funds to support kids' programs on East Cape.

www.eastcapearts.com


March 5, Tuesday. 10:00 am and 6:00 pm. Ada, The Numbers Enchanter. Monologue with Mauro Spinelli and Claudia Lobo about the Ada Lovelace life and work as a pioneer of the programmatic calculation, borne in 1815, one century before modern computers. Spanish. More info: 612 128 8570, ext. 102. La Paz City Theater, downtown La Paz. March 7, Thursday, 10:00 am and 6:00 pm. Ada, The Numbers Enchanter. Monologue with Mauro Spinelli and Claudia Lobo about the Ada Lovelace life and work as a pioneer of the programmatic calculation, borne in 1815, one century before modern computers. Spanish. More info: 612 128 8570, ext. 102. Farmer’s Theater. Cd. Constitucion, Comondu.

March 8th, 9th & 10th & 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th. Baja Shakespeare's 19th season presents The Sea Princess & The Frijolé at Hotel Buena Vista Beach Resort’s Convention Center in Spa Buenavista. It’s a wacky adaptation of The Princess & The Pea by Hans Christian Andersen. Nothing to do with Shakespeare, they need to rename that thing. All shows at 7:00 pm except March 10th, a matinee at 1:30 pm. Tickets $20 USD or 400 pesos. More info closer to performance dates. For show details go to www.facebook.com/pages/Baja- Shakespeare/220397878011557.

March 17, 2019. Sunday. From 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Festival of Arts at Palmas de Cortez Resort in Los Barriles. Artists selling, traditional music and dancing, lots of food and drink and the biggest St. Patrick’s Party in the Baja Sur, all starting at 10am, is one of the longest running art festivals in the Baja Sur! Details and information at www.eastcapearts.com.

Compiled by Karina Urquiza. If you would like to see your event listed here, email her at ninaur- quyizo@hotmail.com
and shredded
Salt to taste
For the green stuffing: 25 oz of green tomatoes 1/2 cup of chopped cilantro 1 spoonful of pork lard 1 medium onion finely chopped 6 serrano peppers finely chopped 10 oz of pork meat cooked and shredded 3 cloves of garlic Salt to taste Instructions: The masa and the cooking broth are mixed very well together, by hand is better. The pork lard is beaten until fluffy and added to the dough. The masa will ready when a part of the Over the Edge brand. Over the Edge, founded by Troy Rarick, is a cooperative of six stores around the world. Rarick turned the almost defunct town of Fruita, Colorado into a mountain biking mecca in 1996. His successful formula is now used by shops in Hurricane, Utah; Lake Tahoe, California; Melrose, Australia; Sedona, Arizona and now Todos Santos, BCS. The store is involved in creating and building a single track network of trails throughout the desert surrounding Todos Santos. Experienced guides choose a route based on the skill level, fitness and experience of the riders. “We can accommodate novice as well as hard-core technical riders, with exhilarating trails.”

One of the easier, family-friendly trails close to town starts at the Colorado State University campus, near the restaurant Jazmango, and winds through the desert and deposits riders at the beautiful beach at Punta Lobos. The recreational, multi-purpose trail is relatively easy for the average rider. Approximately a half-hour in each direction, the trip toward the beach gently slopes downhill. Of course, then, the ride back is where your heart gets pumping. A few hills require some strong thighs or gear shifting. In places where the sand is deep and loose, stick to the side of the trail, but watch out for the thorns on the cactus! interconnected network of single track was built by hand using picks, rakes and hoes utilizing the natural terrain. Approximately 35 miles of trails are accessible right from the shop that weave throughout the community accessing the raw desert terrain. Tours include: Las Lunas with vistas of Picacho Peak and the distant ocean; the Sierra Madre foothills of rolling desert with giant cardon cactus and elephant trees; and the historic Old Port trail which skirts the ruins of the fisherman’s cannery and ends right at the ocean.

The multi-platform bike shop carries street and mountain bikes, offers service and parts as well as guided tours or rents bikes for self-guided tours. Trino and Alejandro, local Todos Santos guides and mechanics love to ride and chat about local trails. All bikes are custom fitted, always in excellent working condition and top of the line. The shop which is on the corner of Obregon and Juarez offers a full-range of hard-tail or full suspension carbon bikes. Those choosing self-guided tours are given a map of the trail system. Full-day rentals - price varies slightly with exchange rate - $70 - $50 Trek Aluminum Full Suspension - Pivot Carbon Full Suspension - $85 Guide for the whole group - $20

COOKING LIKE A MEXICAN... continued from page 21
50 corn husks, washed, soaked and dried
For red stuffing: 5 oz of ancho chiles soaked in hot water, with the insides removed 3 cloves of garlic 1 spoonful of pork lard 10 oz of pork meat, cooked small ball floats on a cup of cold water. Beating is the secret. Add baking powder and salt and mix again. Spread a spoonful of masa on a corn husk, evenly about 1 cm thick. Add a spoonful of stuffing. Prepare a big pot with a bed of husks and water. For the red stuffing: In a blender, place garlic, chiles and the soaking water. Fry the salsa in the lard until it changes color, season with salt and add the shredded meat. Let it simmer for five more minutes. For the green stuffing: Cook the green tomatoes with half a cup of water until soft. Let cool for a little bit and blend with cilantro and chiles. Fry the onion in the lard, add the salsa and meat, season with salt and let simmer for four more minutes. MOUNTAIN BIKING DOWN THE... continued from page 22

GringoMagazine.com
February 4th, 2019

Elmer Sawatzky e.mail. desa99@icloud.com
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Elmer Sawatzky e.mail. desa99@icloud.com
Four Seasons Goes Into Cahoots With Costa Palmas

All in the tiny town of La Ribera

BY BILL DING

Anyone who has been to or through La Ribera on the East Cape could not imagine a luxury resort built on its shores. Well, you won't have gone through it, only to it, as it's a town on a dead end. The town is small, and certainly not fancy.

What's Not To Love?

FLASH
Large female mix Shepard found in Zacatal a few weeks ago. Very thin and sick. Baja SAFE took over and now Flash is up and going and 100% ready for her new home. Love is everything. Well, that and good nutrition and a little help from a vet.

Please contact us on our website to get your adoption request form.

AUSTIN
Very small male mix pug who was found on the side of the road near Los Cerritos. He was smacked by a car and left to die.
Maria, a volunteer at Baja SAFE Humane Society, drove all the way from San to Todos Santos to rescue this little guy who we named Austin.

Austin had 3 different fractures and underwent heavy surgery a few days after his arrival and is now recovering slowly. He will never walk normal due to his broken bones but he is SAFE and was able to keep his legs. All four of them. And he does scoot around pretty good and isn't in any pain. He just needs a caring family. We're not asking you to adopt the entire city of Austin, just one little dog who doesn't ask for mucho.

Where does the water come from to keep all that grass happy? The original plan was to sell lots of condos in the Four Seasons and hope that they drank a lot and flushed a lot. But there are nowhere near enough residents to water the golf course, and the townspeople are really getting snippy about the lack of water.

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Ask a Mexican

This week we asked: How much do you plan on spending on gifts this Christmas? What are you buying for your family? Your kids?

At the very beginning of the year, a gasoline shortage descended on many parts of mainland Mexico. The President, (AMLO), announced he was fighting the gasoline pipeline thieves popularly called huachicoleros. Nobody really knows what that word means, by the way.

Many people said there was no way Pemex was working illegally but some people say a pipe can't be tapped unless an inside engineer lowers the pressure first. Some fuel thieves claim they can do it without arranging an inside job. The shortage is a combination of thieves taking so much fuel and the President shutting some pipes down to save the gasoline from being stolen.

The current president blames previous presidents: Peña Nieto, Calderón, Fox and Cedillo because it was the people they placed in Pemex who are milking the company. AMLO decided to take Pemex into his own hands, and so far, three people were removed from their jobs and put straight into jail. According to his calculations, in three years Mexico could save enough money not snatched by the Pemex officials to pay for another refinery, making the overall price for the precious liquid lower than it has ever been.

AMLO has teamed up with over a dozen organizations to help him fight huachicoleos. However, so far this whole plan has only made life uncomfortable for Mexicans. As soon as his actions were announced, people started to panic fill. Three days later, shortages were reported. Cars were left abandoned on the side of roads and streets. Some people camped out for days to get gas.

We asked six random Mexicans, do you agree with AMLO, that he should close down the pipelines and create gasoline shortages as a way to stop the stealing of gasoline? Here is what they said.

1. Daniel Ortega, 29, accountant.
   No, I don't agree with him. Our entire workforce runs on gasoline and he is punishing everyone for actions of a few. I think there should be an easier a smarter way to end the problem, because we are all suffering. Maybe if he turned to our neighboring countries and asked them, because no other country has had a problem like this. I understand that the problem is us as the people, because the huachicoleros has been doing it for a very long time but only the amateurs have been involved in the explosions. I'm not saying it's right but at least we could be smarter about it.

2. Oscar Reynoso, 42, driver.
   I agree one hundred percent with him, and he is the president for a reason. This situation has been so bad for such a long time that it's going to be extra difficult to fight. We could take advantage of this; we are one of the countries with the highest obesity numbers, and a little exercise could help. We could use more public transportation and walk a little more too. If we were solidary with him, we would understand and fight along with him because I am sure we all have heard about the illegal pipe taps from someone.

   I do not agree with him one bit. These problems should be fought directly, not in such a way that the population is being affected like this. He as a president I am sure that is stealing from some other place, but he is being discreet. Things worked fine the way they were, and there is no way he will lower gasoline prices, not after so many years of gasoline increasing the way it has. He is neurotic and way too old to do this.

   I am one hundred percent on board with ending the illegal acts with gasoline, but I don't think AMLO is doing things right. And if this were to be the only way, I think it would only be fair to make a better planning with bicycles and public transportation. Gasoline in other countries is very cheap, and there are not as many cars as the Mexican families are used to have. In Canada and the United states there are carpool lanes, in Mexico those lanes would be always used for anyone who was not carpooling. I think education is key and should be part of his plan.


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FISH REPORT... continued from page 23

other gamefish are here but the weather has made getting to them a problem. It’s still a “wait and see” what the North Wind does daily.

The few boats that do go out when the wind is down are finding a few fish that make the trip worthwhile.

The “Tin Boat Fleet” fishing closer to shore have been finding small roosterfish, jacks and some nice-sized sierra. La Paz

Not a whole lot happening recently to be honest. It was a bit cold and chilly and not a lot of folks on the water as we hit that lull after the holidays. It’s hard to get a true assessment of fishing if there’s not that many folks getting out, but then again, there aren’t many visitors and vacationers in the city to begin with. However, there were a few out on the water who found some fun inshore action, especially on lighter tackle. Efforts produced a wide range of species that included a few dorado and even some small roosterfish that were all released.

Over the reefs and rocky areas, cabrilla and yellow snapper put the bend on the rods. It was a bit cold and chilly and not a lot of folks on the water as we hit that lull after the holidays. It’s hard to get a true assessment of fishing if there’s not that many folks getting out, but then again, there aren’t many visitors and vacationers in the city to begin with. However, there were a few out on the water who found some fun inshore action, especially on lighter tackle. Efforts produced a wide range of species that included a few dorado and even some small roosterfish that were all released.

Over the reefs and rocky areas, cabrilla and yellow snapper put the bend on the rods, plus bonito, sierra, jack crevalle and some smaller firecracker yellowtail and smaller amberjack -- enough to keep folks happy and give them some good action.

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FOUR SEASONS GOES INTO...
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coming out of their taps. They say they never had problems before this huge development started pumping out of their underground wells.

The Four Seasons has all of the amenities one would expect, including 141 accommodations with 23 suites, all on two pristine miles of beach. The clutch of buildings are low slung three story, no high rise of beach.

Rooms, all on two pristine miles pools, a spa with 10 treatment view. There are four swimming with 23 suites, all with ocean including 141 accommodations the amenities one would expect, underground wells.

started pumping out of their before this huge development coming out of their taps. They are seemingly floating on the waterway. The master plan includes: the Four Seasons Hotel & Residences; the Amanvari Resort & Residences; and a SoHo Hotel Resort. All would be under the Four Season branding and most offer rental services when not in use by the owners. The private villa I viewed had very aesthetic locking storage built in for that reason. For sure these are rentals. The previous developer of the master development went broke.

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Los Cabos Humane Society

CARMEN (cat)

We Calicos are not just cats with screwy coats, as we are ever so much more than that. Tortoishells, kind of the cat version of brindle, are a mixture of red/ ginger, white and black. We can come in various dilutions, and are always seen in females, such as yours truly. Now that you know how special I am, come and take me for a test drive, Here I am in my box, ready to travel.

SIMONA (dog)

Simona is a cute five-year-old who's sleek brindle coat and athletic body all add up to health and easy care. Why spend your time at the dog groomers' every few weeks taking care of those hot, thick coats that harbor every manner of ticks and fleas! Simona is also sweet and obedient and will be most cooperative in helping you with your New Year's fitness resolutions.

Leftovers No More

and there was a previous developer to that one who also went broke. Third time is a charm I suppose, but possibly not since there has been no movement out there for several years now. It's a big idea, dredging keys out of the ocean, building homes on those keys, and slips in front of each home. So far it's a bit of an eye sore easily seen from the Four Seasons corner because it's just dirt dredged out of the sea, with two jetties trying to hold the sea back. Maybe the Four Seasons has lost the faith that this is ever going to happen because now they're saying they want to build their own marina.

The golf course is slated for ready this year and the master developer marina will be completed someday probably, and will have a yacht club; and a polo club. The concept is a family vacation with amenities to keep the children entertained as well. (Spoiler alert: kids screaming and pissing in the pool).

For now, the Four Seasons is advancing more rapidly than the homes on the keys.

CULINARY EQUIPMENT

6. Angelica Vega, 72, retired. If this nightmare is going to help us in the future, then I’m all for it. If gasoline prices are dropping and we all get to enjoy crime free transportation, then fine. But of this fight is only going to end up being too hard or fine. But of this fight is only going to end up being too hard or

I don't care much for whatever he said but I have seen struggle with all this craziness. I have never owned a car anyways. A friend of mine has not been able to deliver her products because of the shortage and members of my family have been penalized for getting late to work, as they were used to getting there by car and have not calculated their commute times properly.

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