This Isn’t The Wild And Wooly West, You Know

Well, it is, but there are still a few rules

BY DICK FITZWELL

Last week a Gringo took back ownership of a hotel he sold five years ago. The police eviction of the million dollar 20 room hotel followed a lengthy court battle stretching through several appeals.

The Mexican Revolution of 1910, which resulted in the Constitution of 1917, was largely fought over land distribution. (That and the Mexicans were mightily pissed off at their president). One of the new rules in the new constitution gave citizens wide latitude in property rights.

This part of the Constitution has opened the door for the national sport of squatting, second only to the national sport of soccer.

Although the law was meant to insure the rights of ordinary citizens when they are in conflict with the rights of rich landowners, the law has often been misused and abused by any citizen who wants to take over someone else’s property. This is why you see so much barb wire fences, as people who have bought and paid for land try to fend off “invaders” as Mexicans call squatters. The legal process of eviction is complex because squatters have an amazing array of rights. If someone moves onto a property and are not challenged by the owner, the squatters have increasing rights to it the longer they are there.

This is why you see barb wire around what appears to be abandoned land. No land is abandoned until the taxes are not paid for several years, it just might not be currently in use. But even barb wire is not enough to insure rights to your property; you need to get those squatters off there right now, before any rights kick in. Squatting is also a problem in...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Time Change Coming

While Americans turned their clocks ahead for daylight-saving time on Sunday, March 10, for most of Mexico, daylight saving time does not begin until 2 a.m. local time on Sunday, April 7. So make a note if you’ll be travelling to Yucatan this month – there will be an extra hour difference in time.

Daylight Savings Time (DST) begins in the United States on the second Sunday in March and ends on the first Sunday in November. So on Sunday, March 10 U.S. clocks were set ahead one hour at 2 a.m. local standard time, which becomes 3 a.m. local daylight time.

For most of Mexico, daylight saving time doesn’t begin until the first Sunday of April, and won’t end until the last Sunday of October. It is usually referred to as the Verano (Summer Schedule).

Mexico adopted DST nationwide in 1996, even in its tropical regions, because of its increasing economic ties to the United States. Although the United States changed the schedule for DST beginning in 2007, most of Mexico did not go along with it.

But in 2010, the 10 Mexican municipalities which share a border with the United States started to observe daylight saving time three weeks earlier, on the second Sunday in March and end on the first Sunday in November.

This change in daylight saving time observance was requested by local governments and political leaders to help facilitate commerce with the U.S.
How To Leave Your Job. The head of the water agency in Los Cabos was fired this week, but he left with a flourish. He went on the local radio show and told the whole town that people not getting water in their homes is not his fault, and to expect him to fix such a messed-up system was, well, messed up.

He said Mayor Armida Castro firing him was dumb because needing the tank system, as San Jose's water table is larger and gets filled up from the Miraflores mountainous area just north of there.

Send those thank you notes.

Due to a constant lack of funds in the city coffers, some companies and civil organizations have jumped in and donated pavement, buying one concrete truck at a time. Lately, the women's entrepreneurs group named AMMJE donated one truck. Conkmax construction and Pasa construction donated others.

Bikers alert!

Coming July 18, Los Cabos and particularly Cabo San Lucas and Todos Santos will welcome, (well, some will welcome) hundreds of bikers thanks to an invitation to attend the 15th Annual Baja Bikers convention. Bikers from the U.S. and Mexico's mainland will add to our local bikers and will parade from Cabo to Todos Santos, ending the 3 day celebration with a huge party with live music at the cultural pavilion in Cabo. For more information and to sign up, look up Baja Bikers on Facebook.

Must bring own motorcycle.

Firefighters get U.S. training.

Our very own Cabo San Lucas firefighters had 2 days of intense extrication training from the Puyallup, Washington team at the next guy to take his job isn’t going to do any better, especially since she made the dumb ass decision that we don’t need another desal plant. It was a lively radio program that day.

Just a few days later, Daniel Hernando Ayala Beltran was appointed the new director of the water supply agency.

In related news. At the celebration of World’s Water Day, a report from the National Council of Social Development revealed there are 9.3 million Mexicans who have no access to potable water supply, and that 71 per cent of the population has to buy drinking water.

Of the ones that get water supply, 85 per cent of rural areas get it, while in urban barrios the percentage increases to 97.2 per cent. Only 73 per cent of those connected to water supply pipes gets it every day.

In Cabo San Lucas, residents get water via a rotation system with some getting water once a week, while others only every 2 or 3 weeks, hence the need for those black plastic container tanks that sit atop most homes, while some, those who can afford it, have been able to build a pila, which is a concrete underground water container that sits in their front yards. They need an expensive pump to get it out of the ground since there’s no gravity feed.

San Jose residents hit the lottery jackpot as they get more water, with only some barrios others, and so on.

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Shark Whales Are Here
This is the season to see the gentle giants. They aren’t inquisitive and friendly like whales who enjoy being petted, but they don’t run away, either. And they don’t have teeth, because they are filter feeders. That means they open their very big mouth and let the prey fall in. To see that big mouth, does bring on thoughts of Jonah and the whale, but nobody has fallen in that we know of.
Johan spent three days and nights in a whale’s tummy because he pissed off God, and when he asked forgiveness, God made the whale upchuck him when he asked forgiveness, God caused he pissed off God, and nights in a whale’s tummy be-

And the whale, but nobody has

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Johan spent three days and
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According to the State Commission for the Protection Against Sanitary Risks (COPEPRIS), chastised hotels for not making use of treated gray water on their landscaping.

She also acknowledged there are many stinky sewer spills around Los Cabos and assured us her office is watching these.

“Monitoring? Watching? An-

“We are monitoring everything that has been spilling of sewage, especially those areas where spills are frequent, to have an anticipatory work,” she concluded.

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The tourist assistance center, CATAC, is serving the needs of about 11,000 tourists a year for problems like loss of documents, complaints about a service or product bought, and help with police reports.
The people there speak English, it’s handy right on the marina, there’s plenty of parking to the side, but there is one catch. They only serve tourists, not foreigners who live here. So, get your story straight before going in; you are visiting, not living. Even if you’re reporting a home robbery, this nice state agency can help you, just be sure to say you live most of the time in the United States.

Going to Catac sure beats our almost non existent American consulate or the icky dirty police station where nobody will speak English to you.

CATAC is the nice looking, new orange building on the marina kind of near the Dolphin Center.

Go Back! Go Back! Wrong Way!
A dazed and confused whale entered the Cabo marina this week, just cruising around like it was his own back yard.

At first, we’re watching and thinking, boy, this is a big mistake. Then we’re thinking, why is this a boo boo? Who going to object in the marina? Is somebody going to drop a baited hook? Probably not. But someone might toss him a fish, just like we do with the seals and seagulls. Maybe this big guy wasn’t dazed and confused, maybe he was just smart. But apparently that was not a successful survival strategy because after a few hours he padded back out to sea, just like he knew where he was all the time.

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Teachers’ union goes nuts again. The latest target of the teacher’s union members’ unhappiness with allowing their skills to be evaluated is the lower house of Congress, which they shut down. Camping out on the railroad tracks cost so many people so much money, that tactic proved pretty unpopular. Nobody cares about congress, so now they’re targeting them.

Point well taken. Much of the razor wire the American soldiers have strung along the border wall has been stolen from the wall and has re-appeared in homes in Tijuana. Authorities know it’s the same wire because it is a brand not sold in Mexico. So, it’s necessary to protect one’s home, but not one’s country. Got it now. Not saying we understand it, just saying we got it now.

Stolen border fence. Some new barbed wire placed atop the border wall in Tijuana didn’t stay there long; it is now serving to improve security at several area homes on the southern side of the border. The wire was installed to reinforce the Mexico-U.S. border recently in response to the arrival of thousands of migrants in caravans from Central America. But the barbed wire is there no more, leading to the belief that thieves on the Mexico side removed it and sold it in nearby neighborhoods, giving residents protection from the border jumpers.

“We know about the theft of barbed wire because United States authorities have requested our help,” said Tijuana police chief Marco Antonio Sotomayor Amezqua. Houses near the border are now clearly protected with barbed wire of a similar size and what’s more, a type that is not sold in Mexican stores.

Shot over the bow. Canadian mining companies operating in Mexico should be on notice that the sector is going to face increased scrutiny on its environmental practices and treatment of Indigenous people, according to Mexico’s new ambassador to Canada.

“President Lopez Obrador has been very public about this, that we really want a strong, profitable mining sector— and Canadian mining companies are large investors in Mexico— but we expect them to operate in this country with exactly the same standards as they do in Canada,” Juan Jose Gomez said enforcement of Mexico’s existing laws will be increased under the government of new president Lopez Obrador.

The most pressing task when he gets to Ottawa will be the new United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement on trade, the text of which was completed nearly six months ago but has yet to be ratified by the partners.

No More Tourist Promotion. The private sector will assume responsibility for marketing Mexico as a tourism destination in light of the federal government’s decision to disband the Tourism Promotion Council (CPTM).

“It’s an effort that must be done together to promote Mexico as a country,” said José Manuel Campos. However, Campos didn’t reveal the size of the budget the new organization will have.

The government’s decision to disband the CPTMshortly after President AMLO took office last December has been widely criticized by members of the tourism and business sectors, including union boss Gustavo de Hoyos, who said it “makes you think that tourism has stopped being a priority.”

Well, yeah. Amlo would rather have his bullet train than tourists speeding into Mexico.

Dead turtles! More than 110 sea turtles have been found dead on beaches in Guerrero so far CONTINUED ON PAGE 7
rental units. It's not unusual for people to simply stop paying rent and continue to live there, and it takes a huge expensive effort to get them out.

This is why it has taken Bob Jankovics five years and about $50,000 in legal fees to take back his 20 room hotel he built and sold in the Pedregal. After paying $300,000 down, Roy Rajacic, who is from Long Island New York, never made another payment. Meanwhile, he was renting out the rooms and raking in about $10,000 a month. Jankovics figures Rajacic made about $600,000 on his original investment of $300,000, and he believes that was Rajacic's plan from the beginning.

Rajacic's legal appeals were finally exhausted last week and a court officer, escorted by four policemen, accompanied Jankovics to the property in the lower Pedregal. The court officer demanded the keys from the owner's representative, who was described by Jankovics as the hotel maid. She ran the place, he said, collecting rents and cleaning it. She claimed she would meet with another of the squatter's representatives once a week on a street corner and turn the money over to that woman. Meanwhile, to the best of Jankovic's knowledge, the squatter never came to Mexico.

The 20 rooms were occupied, mostly by Gringos who saw it on vacation rental websites. The renters were not immediately tossed out on their fanny, but they did immediately suffer a loss of water and propane to heat that water. Under those circumstances, they all departed within days. They didn't need to, they could have squatted, too, which would have required another huge court battle, but they didn't.

The property was run down, and it required three dump runs just to haul off the broken down furniture and equipment that was being stored onsite. Of course there are five years of taxes to catch up on, also, and the rooms need to be cleaned and rented again.

Jankovics plans on selling it again, this time for cash only, don't even ask to make payments. He's asking for $950,000 for the property that has a condo regime in place. Condo regime means it can be sold as 20 individual condos, which he will let go for $100,000 each, for a tidy profit of $1 million if all are sold for that price. It's only about six years old, as he is the original builder of the property which has a swimming pool, restaurant facilities, and a great view of the bay. Jankovics just wants to be rid of it, so he's selling it as the total package.

CONVENTIONAL MEANS OF EXIT ARE IMPOSSIBLE OR INADVISABLE. A DELICATE APPROACH IS NEEDED TO MINIMIZE INJURY TO THE VICTIM DURING THE EXTRICATION. THIS OPERATION IS USUALLY ACCOMPLISHED BY USING CHOCKS AND BRACING FOR STABILIZATION AND HYDRAULIC TOOLS, INCLUDING THE JAWS OF LIFE. MAKE YOUR RESERVATION. OR JOT THIS DOWN, IN INK. THIS COMING CINCO DE MAYO, THE VIDASOUL HOTEL AND CROSSROADS RESTAURANT IN VINORAMA, AT THE EAST CAPE, WILL HOLD ITS TRADITIONAL SAND CASTLE CELEBRATION WITH ALL-DAY FUN FOR THE FAMILY WITH LIVE MUSIC, SWIMMING, PINATAS, HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS IN ADDITION TO THEIR REGULAR MENU. THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE DAY WILL BE THE SAND CASTLE COMPETITION, WHICH STARTS AT NOON. FOR RESERVATIONS OR INFORMATION EMAIL INFO@VIDASOUL.COM, JOAN@VIDASOUL.COM OR LOOK UP WWW.VIDASOUL.COM. OK, SURE, THERE WILL BE SOME PROFESSIONAL CASTLE CREATERS THERE, BUT YOU CAN ALSO BUILD, AND THERE WILL BE CONTINUED ON PAGE 7
Pemex Rip Offs

Yikes, those pump jokeys are pretty good at this

BY POBLANO ESCA-BARR

While the news of pipeline gasoline thefts has been in the headlines recently, the practice of scamming customers who are refueling at the gas stations is old news. In a place where the minimum wage is roughly US$5.25 a day, everyday transactions are opportunities for workers to supplement their income. Gas station attendants routinely take advantage of these opportunities and that’s why they are often sporting a big smile when a gringo drives in.

Opportunity knocks loudly when you pull your rental car up to the gas pump and tell the guy to “fill it up.” Although many stations here have implemented “attendant controls” including required smart phone input of pump number, amount to fill and employee code, not all attendants will draw your attention to the pump to show that it has been reset to zero before they start pumping. You may be paying for fuel someone else already paid for and those extra pesos are destined for the attendant’s pocket.

While the gas is pumping attendants will quickly ask to check the oil. Say yes and pop the hood for the next opportunity: after a minute at the front of the car screened by the open hood the attendant holds up an empty oil container to show you the car took a whole litre. You’re feeling good for doing the right thing, but he likely didn’t show you the dipstick beforehand. You didn’t need any oil; he just showed you an empty container he keeps on the side rack and charged you 150 pesos. Too late now, but at least make sure you ask for a receipt in case you get lucky and have a rental car company that reimburses the expense.

Whether you’re in a rental or your own car, paying cash for the gas opens a couple more doors. The number one rip off by far is by “palming.” Palming happens when the gas station attendant sees you pulling US $30’s out of your wallet for your fill up and he pulls a US $20 from his left pocket as he takes your 50 dollar bill in his right hand - all the while chatting you up about your wonderful stay here. He’ll turn quickly to look at the pump to double check the amount and then turn back to you showing you the $20 and apologetically tell you it’s not enough. You immediately think you messed up because you weren’t paying attention (after all green backs are all green) and hand him more. That trick is big money.

Next on the hit list is expecting change from your US dollar payment. You’ve likely noticed that each gas station posts a sign with a single rate on it, for example “CAMBIO 18.60.” That’s the USD/MXN exchange rate – the number of pesos they will give you for each dollar. All pumps ring up in pesos. The attendant sees your US dollars and keys in the 750 peso pump amount on his phone and turns the phone around and shows you $42.61. You hand him $45 with a smile and say keep the change. You might do a quick mental calculation using an easy 20 peso conversion rate to rationalize the amount and figure it’s close enough. Meanwhile the attendant keyed in 17.60 (not 18.60) to calculate the US amount and has now supplemented his pay with your transaction by $2.29 plus the tip. The pay is good today.

Using pesos only? Palming also works with the local currency, by gaming the number of notes you hand over. Pass the attendant two or more notes of the same denomination along with some change and he may fumble and accidentally drop the handful and come up showing you that you came up short by 100 or 200 pesos, then it’s his word against yours. Get out more pesos.

Think paying with a credit card is a better bet? Think again, especially if the attendant takes the card out of sight to process. Always keep the receipts to remind you of the transaction dates and check your credit card statements for unknown transactions.

The gaming is not limited to individual attendants either. Pemex stations are privately owned and the corporation or government isn’t diligent about measuring whether each pump is correctly calibrated to metering out the correct volume of gas for each transaction. It is possible you are getting only 30 oz. of gas when a litre is 35 oz. A few station owners use this tactic, but...
June Smith, Dead At 72

Arriving in Cabo in 1989, June was full of fun, with a throaty voice and hearty laugh, a smoker to the end, who said that she gambled on smoking and lost. She wanted to act as a warning to others.

She grew up in Calgary Alberta Canada, was divorced, and is survived by two daughters, Ardene Mattos and Lori Smith.

She worked for Century 21 in Cabo San Lucas most of the time she was here.

June was well respected by her colleagues, her clients, and her competitors as well.

Her dear friend Cathie Smith would like to tell our readers. “If there is a tagline on this obituary, tell people if they still smoke, please remember all the people who love them and will miss them terribly when they are gone, and even though cancer can strike anyone, do what you can to lessen your risk.”

WHAT’S GOING ON IN THIS...
continued from page 4

this month, causing widespread alarm. But a marine biologist says it’s a natural phenomenon that salpa, a zooplankton, sometimes carry high levels of toxins which, when they come in contact with the turtles, paralyzes and kills them.

In 2009 between 500 and 600 dead turtles were found and a similar number perished in the same way in 2016.

The biologist added that illegal fishing techniques, especially using nets in which turtles get trapped, have also been responsible for many deaths.

So far, dead sea turtles have been found in Coyuca de Benítez, San Jerónimo, Tecpan de Galeana, Acapulco and the Costa Chica region in Guerrero, all on the mainland.

Are You Outta Your Mind??

The government of Spain has “vigorously” rejected a request from Mexican President López Obrador that Spain apologize for its conquest of Mexico that occurred about 500 years ago. López Obrador wants an apology for the indignities suffered by the native peoples during the period of the Spanish conquest.

2021 will be known as the Year of Historic Reconciliation when Mexico celebrates 200 years of independence and 500 years since the taking of the Aztec city of Tenochtitlan. It appears Spain will not be part of the festivities.

QUE PASA IN CABO?...
continued from page 5

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There is a brand new treasury office where you can pay your property taxes in Cabo San Lucas. No more trucking up to San Jose, the seat of government, and standing in long lines.

This new small white trailer type building is conveniently located in the parking lot of the downtown Cabo cultural center. You may have noticed the new sign on the cement wall facing the street that says “H.Xiii Ayuntamiento, Tesoreria General Municipal, Recaudacion De Rentas”. Well, maybe you didn’t notice it, as it’s one more Spanish sign you don’t understand and never will. In English this means, General Municipal Treasury, Revenue Collection. Recaudacion de rentas is in red letters, and that part lights up at night.

“There are lots of places to safely park here unlike the other location where you have to find a space somewhere on the street. The building is in the front of the parking lot near the street. The door you see from the parking lot is actually the back door which is for employees only. The front entrance faces the sidewalk. It seems backwards at first, but it’s all about entering from the sidewalk.

The design inside is organized and functional. At the front door, a gentleman greets you, and you get a number. Lots of padded chairs are lined up in rows, so you don’t have to stand while you wait. There is even a small clean bathroom. Two mini-split air conditioners keep it nice and cool inside. There are three lines to pay and three additional service lines, one for vacant land, the other for businesses, and one for handicapped or older people. A computer is available for the public to look up their property tax information; however, it was not working the day we were there.

Not too many people know about this location yet, so you get in and out quickly which is a miracle. Fearing the worst, we arrived promptly at 8 a.m. just as the employees were unlocking the back door. We were told to go around to the front entrance. To our surprise, we were the only ones there. The three of us paid our property taxes and were out with a receipt in hand in less than 20 minutes. You can’t beat that.

It’s recommended to pay in person in the office even though it’s possible to pay on-line. One of our friends paid online last year, and it was a disaster. It did not seem to matter that she had a copy of her on-line payment. They claimed they could find no record and she had to pay again. Until the kinks are worked out, my advice is to go around to the front entrance. It’s up to you to keep up with your property taxes. Unlike the States, the government will not send you a notice with the amount that you owe. The mail system here is very unreliable anyway. WhatsApp your predial at 624-315-1516 or go to www.eloscabos.gob.mx to consult your predial. The term “predial” refers to the amount of property tax that you owe. In order to find out how much you owe, you must enter your “clave cadastre” (cadastre code, 18 digits) on the website www.eloscabos.gob.mx. Your clave cadastre can be found on your closing statement papers. Be sure to include the hyphen before the last six digits. Print out the page with the amount that you owe and take it with you to pay. If you don’t print it out, be sure to have your clave cadastre written down, so the clerk can look you up.

Your property taxes can be paid with cash, a credit card or a debit card. The office is open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. However, you need to be there before 3 p.m. since they will not accept any payments after 3 p.m. even if you have a number.


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March is the deadline to pay your property taxes on time. If you are reading this, you better shake a leg. There’s no excuse now to dread paying your property taxes with this new office. And anyway, it’s so cheap, why not pony it up?
Semana Santa’s Coming

Here’s the real deal, not the fun and games

BY EDGAR GONZALEZ

This time of the year for Americans is related to the spring break with all its holiday activities like college kid drunkenness or just a fairly sane beach vacation. But in Mexico for most people this time of the year means we are in cuaresma which is the preamble for the “Semana Santa” or holy week. This is time for celebrating the most important events in the last days of Christ. As you might know Mexico is a Catholic country by tradition, though not by law, so a lot of vernacular Mexican costumes and celebrations have deep relations with Catholicism’s important dates.

The first important event most Mexicans celebrate on this date is the cuaresma known in English as lent. This is the time for spiritual preparation for Easter. The cuaresma is a 40 day event that starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on holy Thursday just before Good Friday. These 40 days represent the 40 days Jesus spent on the Judea desert praying and fasting prior to his final mission. You and I during Cuaresma season Fridays, they offer special versions of their dishes that do not contain red meat. Fish is allowed and in the last century the church included chicken in the allowed meats.

On Ash Wednesday people go to the church to get a cross of ash drawn on their foreheads by a priest while he pronounces the words “You are dust, and dust you will return to” a custom that is credited to Peter Gregory I who apparently just made that up. The ash comes from the burning of the holy palms that were used the previous year on Palm Sunday. The use of ash in Catholicism is a custom that goes all the way back to the first century. It is a symbol of repentance and worthiness. Carnaval in Latin means “goodbye to meat” so just before all the Semana Santa doings, and maybe to nix things up for the last time, people have the great party that is Carnaval, not unlike the bachelor party before marriage. This is a custom that goes all the way back to the Romans where huge banquets were offered and all kinds of excesses were allowed.

As the Cuaresma ends, the Semana Santa begins. This Holy week is also a national holiday for the Mexicans regardless of religion. Mexico is now a secular country, so religious holidays are not official, but most schools in Mexico have at least a week of vacation for, oh let’s call it spring break. Some allow two weeks. The Mexican labor calendar lists three days as obligatory paid vacation from what you would call, for reasons I can’t fathom, Good Friday to Easter Sunday. This day Cuaresma ends and Easter begins. This is the day Judas conspired to sell out Jesus. On Maundy Thursday he had the last supper and at the end of that night he was arrested. On Friday he is nailed up and killed and on Holy Saturday he is mourned. The celebration comes to a crescendo on Sunday, which is the day Christ comes back to life.
Fact 1: There is a shortage of fresh water in Los Cabos, and it will not get better.
Fact 2: We have plenty of salt water.
Fact 3: Los Cabos gets about 6 inches of rain annually.
Fact 4: Average consumption of water per person is up to 50 gallons daily in Los Cabos.
Fact 5: The uses of water in Baja California as a state are as follows: 78% is used for farming, 15% for population use, 3% for industry and 1% to generate electricity.
Fact 6: 89 percent of treated water is used in farming, 13.5% is used on golf courses, landscaping, and tourist zones, and 0.16% is used in public city landscaping.
Fact 7: Any contamination in our water is mostly because due to water poured without treatment directly into our water sources.
Fact 8: A number of hotels and developments lack desalination and proper sewage water systems. How many? No one knows, because they are doing this illegally.
Fact 9: Most of our water in Cabo comes from the La Paz aquifer as well as the Santa Anita Aquifer.
Fact 10: The La Paz aquifer is the biggest one and is being over drawn.
Fact 11: We have a deficit in water services of about 50 gallons per second. The proposed new desal plant will be built to deliver about 50 gallons a second. Coinkydink!
Fact 12: The Santa Anita aquifer, one of the largest, is almost empty and 35 percent of the Los Cabos area aquifers are over-exploited.
Fact 13: 12% of the state’s population lack piped water services.
Fact 14: Many Cabo San Lucas homes only get water a few times a week. People must buy water off a truck and it is expensive.
Fact 15: 2019 Best Medical Spa is located in San Jose del Cabo, and has built its business over the past 10 years in Los Cabos to meet those vacationer desires.
Fact 16: The public is demanding transformation with little pain of downtime.
Fact 17: The Cape San Lucas desalination plant has been plagued by a number of technical failures over the years, and is often inoperable. It was built by a Spanish company.
Fact 18: We expect to have a new desalination plant in Cabo San Lucas by 2020.
Fact 19: The Cape San Lucas rain water is not exploited. 70% percent of pluvial flow, (rain, Bunky), ends up in the sea.
Fact 20: The local College of engineers has proposed building dams for the San Lucas stream and the Salto Seco stream, as well as two more for San Jose.
Fact 21: We have a new water treatment facility in Cabo San Lucas. What, your didn’t smell it?
Fact 22: In 2007 the richy rich Pedregal residents, fed up with the time to calculate your USD exchange on your own phone.

### April Fools' Day 2019

You’ll never know which ones are and which ones aren’t unless you’re on empty and fill right up. If your tank holds 50 litres and gas is priced 20 pesos per litre and the pump total shows 1,300 pesos then the math doesn’t add up and you are being taken, again.

So to sum it all up, you’ll unknowingly donate to the local economy just by driving a vehicle. Who knew? One valid piece of advice is to get those US greenbacks converted to pesos and pay attention to what you are doing. Get out of the car, look at the dipstick, watch the oil level get added, count out your bills as you pass them over and take the time to calculate your USD exchange on your own phone.

And just before you turn the ignition key and drive off, count your change. Last time I did, I was charged for a car wash and the attendant tried to short me 100 pesos thinking I wouldn’t notice. When I called him out on it I guess what he did? - he gave me that great big Pedem smile and handed me the extra 100 pesos. The best part of a good scam is you never knew it happened! Just keep smiling.
The Day I met the Great White Shark

Actually, it was on dry land

BY DAVID FLORES

Last week, I had the chance to meet legendary golf player Greg Norman, known as “The Great White Shark” since 1981, which he earned after his play at the 1981 San Lucas development on the Pacific side. The private beach-front gated enclave is part of the Rancho San Lucas 834 acre master planned community, offering luxury residences, deluxe resorts, restaurants, a Mexican village with shopping and dining options, tennis facility with a sports complex and the golf course, all set amidst a 1.2 mile stretch of pristine beach.

Norman celebrated the official launch of his first foray into real estate in Mexico, with the grand opening of a spectacular model home on the Pacific. Norman has so far designed 105 golf courses around the world, plus 17 currently under construction and 44 under contract. The Rancho San Lucas course is supposed to open this fall.

38 percent of Norman Estates’ phase one single-family homes have sold to Solmar time share holders before the properties hit the general market. The homes along the golf course are priced from $1 million in the cheap seats to $7 million. Norman is married to interior designer Kirsten Norman, so of course she got the contract for the interiors.

The event included the announcement of the first ocean-front four story high-rise residences at Norman Estates. These are priced from $1.5 million to $4.3 million.

Every Bar Needs A Gimick

This is a person with a serious drinking/lazy habit. Or maybe just someone who wants to go into the Coke and Tequila business without too much effort.
Hackers Pull Off $20 Million Heist
Here’s how the caper went down

BY DICK FITZWELL

Somebody made off with $20 million and while the attacks likely required extensive expertise and planning over months, or even years, to execute, they were enabled by sloppy and insecure network architecture within the Mexican financial system.

Last year a group of hackers, now thought to be working for the North Korean state-sponsored group Lazarus, attempted to steal $110 million from the Mexican commercial bank Bancomext. That effort failed but just a few months later, a smaller yet still elaborate series of attacks allowed hackers to siphon off 300 to 400 million pesos, or roughly $15 to $20 million from Mexican banks. Here’s how they did it.

Penetration tester and security advisor Josu Loza, who was an incident responder in the wake of the April attacks, presented findings on how hackers executed the heists both digitally and on the ground around Mexico. The hackers’ affiliation remains publicly unknown. Mexico’s domestic money transfer platform run by central bank Banco de México, also known as Banxico are at least partially to blame.

Thanks to security holes in the targeted bank systems, attackers could have accessed internal servers from the public internet or launched phishing attacks to compromise executives—or even low level employees—to gain a foothold. Many networks didn’t have strong access controls, so hackers could get a lot of mileage out of compromised employee credentials. The networks also weren’t well segmented, meaning intruders could use that initial access to penetrate deep into banks’ connections to SPEI and, eventually, SPEI’s transaction servers, or even its underlying code base.

To make matters worse, transaction data within internal bank networks wasn’t always adequately protected, meaning attackers who had burrowed in could potentially track and manipulate data. And while communication channels between individual users and their banks were encrypted, Loza also suggests that the SPEI app itself had bugs and lacked adequate validation checks, making it possible to slip bogus transactions through. The app may have even been directly compromised in a supply chain attack, to facilitate malicious transactions as they moved through the system.

All of these vulnerabilities collectively made it possible for hackers to lay extensive groundwork, eventually establishing the infrastructure they needed to begin carrying out actual cash grabs. Once that was in place, the attacks moved quickly.

The hackers would exploit flaws in how SPEI validated sender accounts to initiate a wire transfer from a nonexistent source like “Joe Smith, Account Number: 12345678.” They would then direct the phantom funds to a real, but pseudonymous account under their control and send a so-called cash mule to withdraw the money before the bank realized what had happened. Each malicious transaction was relatively small, in the range of tens or hundreds of thousands of pesos. “SPEI sends and receives millions and millions of pesos daily, this would have been a very little percentage of that operation,” Loza says.

Attackers would have potentially needed to work with hundreds of mules to make all of those withdrawals possible over time. Loza says that recruiting and training that network could continue on page 19.

Vidasoul Hotel and The Crossroads Restaurant
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April 6 El Javi and Jordy at long last. On tour in the United States for several years, Javi plays an incredible flamenco style guitar accompanied by Jordy on drums. This is acoustic and quiet and good for dinner conversation.

APRIL 12 CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC PRIVATE EVENT
April 13 Stamina back by popular demand always a great show. Paulee on lights.

April 20 Brian Flynn and Mike Kelly from Canada. Saturday May 4 Double header weekend with The Tim Lang and Ashbolt Stewart a very talented drummer from US and Oregon. Ashbolt will be a fun edition to Tim’s band.

Sunday May 5 Cinco de Mayo Sand Castle Competition Celebration. Competition starts at 12:00 PM all day fun for the family. Swimming, and pinatas, food and music by The Black and White Band, a fun and very versatile band with Latin favorites, of course Santana and Rock n Roll, good dance music.

Keep checking for more events in the future.

For reservations or information about events, weddings, re-treats or photo shoots contact us at info@vidasoul.com, joan@vidasoul.com, www.vidasoul.com. By phone local 624 154-6966 for English or office 624 142-1165 for Spanish. US numbers 626-840-0485 or SKYPE 415 670-9068 or What’s App.

There’s also a fun and versatile band with Latin favorites, of course Santana and Rock n Roll, good dance music.

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Caring For A Mexican Home

How to weather proof your Mexican home or condo

March is the perfect month to plan the maintenance schedule on your home or condo in Mexico because weather proofing your home before the hurricane season is way smarter than waiting until we are getting blown away. As a property owner in Mexico, we know that hurricane season starts as early as May and tends to affect our coastlines until the end of the year with tropical storms on radar as late as November of each year.

We also want to think about the extreme heat that Mexico brings onto the structures we own. By taking the proper steps over the next few months to protect our most valuable asset in Mexico, we can help mitigate normal wear & tear that our structures endure in our tropical climate.

Here are a couple of questions to ask yourself:

When was the last time I weather proofed my home?

When was the last time I sealed the roof of my home and checked for any leaks?

When was the last time I had any cracks patched or filled on any of my structures that could result in water infiltration in heavy rains?

**Tip 1 – Seal up any gaps in doors, windows & pipes**

Windows remain one of the most common sources of leaks in our homes. Time and weather can cause the caulking that seals in your door jams and windows to expand and contract. Over time, this causes caulk to crack, crumble or wear out, which leaves your home vulnerable to damage due to rain water that filters toward the foundation. Damaged, non-functional filters toward the foundation, of flooding and long-lasting damage to your home or condo over time. Reducing the risk of flooding and long-lasting damage to your home or condo in Mexico should be an annual task. Damaged, non-functional gutters may lead to foundation damage due to rain water that remains near the home and filters toward the foundation.

**How do my gutters and drainage respond to heavy rains at my home or condo in Mexico?**

This question should be examined and tested to avoid water accumulation and standing water. Water accumulation is no bueno for many reasons. The #1 reason is the threat of mold and still water and of course degradation to structures and walls over time. Reducing the risk of flooding and long-lasting damage to your home or condo in Mexico should be an annual task. Damaged, non-functional gutters may lead to foundation damage due to rain water that remains near the home and filters toward the foundation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17
Monday, April 1st, 11am to 2pm. Casa Schrader - Cresta Del Mar - Cabo Corridor. **MOTIVATED!!** 4 Bdrm, 4.5 ba, 2G, Pool/Spa/Outdoor kitchen, 3400+ a/c SF 6047 ttl SF. Unblockable, Panoramic, Ocean, Lands End Views & City! Cabo Premiere Real Estate. Call me if running late or to set up an appointment. Lara, 624-129-8997

Tuesday, April 2nd, 3 pm – 6 pm. CASA FUEGO Y AGUA, Caleta Loma, Palmilla, great views. MLS #19-310, $1,650,000 USD. Janet Jensen +52 624 141 6726 & Martin Posch +52 624 147 5857

Wednesday, April 3rd, 3 to 6 pm. CASA GIANA, Palmilla Estates – San Jose Corridor. 4bd/ 4.5 baths/ 5,543 AC Sq Ft $5,900,000. Janet Jensen, +52 624 141 6726 & Lisa Torres, +52 624 147 0514

Thursday, April 4th, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm. Casa Valhalla, Paloma Palmilla. 4 Bedrooms / 4.5 Bathrooms/ 19,450 Total Sq Ft / 5,543 AC Sq Ft. $5,900,000. MLS #18-2197. Janet Jensen, 624-141-6726. The Agency Los Cabos

Tuesday, April 9th, 10:30am to 1pm. Casa Schrader - Cresta Del Mar - Cabo Corridor. **MOTIVATED!!** 4 Bdrm, 4.5 ba, 2G, Pool/Spa/Outdoor kitchen, 3400+ a/c SF 6047 ttl SF. Unblockable, Panoramic, Ocean, Lands End Views & City! Cabo Premiere Real Estate. Call me if running late or to set up an appointment. Lara, 624-129-8997

Wednesday, April 10, from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm. Villas Neptune #31, Cabo Corridor MLS #19-112. Great Location, Ground Floor Condo, sold equipped, unfurnished 38d / 3.5ba. Price $209,900. **Nick Fong** Los Cabos Agent info@loscabsagent.com 619.831.2000 (US & WhatsApp) 624.227.5766 (MX) *The calendar may change. Please visit facebook.com/cabohouses for updates*

Wednesday, April 11, from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm Casa Besos, Cabo Corridor MLS #18-1568. Exquisite Contemporary; bright and open single story home located in the pristine community of Hermitage. 3bd / 4ba. Price $799,000. **Nick Fong** Los Cabos Agent info@loscabsagent.com 619.831.2000 (US & WhatsApp) 624.227.5766 (MX) *The calendar may change. Please visit facebook.com/cabohouses for updates*

Thursday, April 11th, 1pm to 4pm. Casa Schrader - Cresta Del Mar - Cabo Corridor. **MOTIVATED!!** 4 Bdrm, 4.5 ba, 2G, Pool/Spa/Outdoor kitchen, 3400+ a/c SF 6047 ttl SF. Unblockable, Panoramic, Ocean, Lands End Views & City! Cabo Premiere Real Estate. Call me if running late or to set up an appointment. Lara, 624-129-8997

Saturday, April 13th, 10:30am to 1pm. Casa Schrader - Cresta Del Mar - Cabo Corridor. **MOTIVATED!!** 4 Bdrm, 4.5 ba, 2G, Pool/Spa/Outdoor kitchen, 3400+ a/c SF 6047 ttl SF. Unblockable, Panoramic, Ocean, Lands End Views & City! Cabo Premiere Real Estate. Call me if running late or to set up an appointment. Lara, 624-129-8997

Wednesday, April 16, 2019 from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm, Puerta Cabos Village, CSL 307, MLS#19-534. Beautiful Ocean View Condo off Medano Beach, Comes Fully Furnished and Move-In Ready!! 2bd / 2ba. Price $365,000. **Nick Fong** Los Cabos Agent info@loscabsagent.com 619.831.2000 (US & WhatsApp) 624.227.5766 (MX) *The calendar may change. Please visit facebook.com/cabohouses for updates*

Thursday, April 18, 2019 from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm, Margarita Villa, MLS# 18-2757. Captivating New Home with stunning Ocean and Golf Course Views. CSL 4bd/ 4.5ba. Price $999,000. **Nick Fong** Los Cabos Agent info@loscabsagent.com 619.831.2000 (US & WhatsApp) 624.227.5766 (MX) *The calendar may change. Please visit facebook.com/cabohouses for updates*

Tuesday, April 23, 2019 from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm. Ocean View Copala 2203 MLS#18-2738. Impeccable and Turn-Key Condo. 2bd / 2ba. Price $389,000. **Nick Fong** Los Cabos Agent info@loscabsagent.com 619.831.2000 (US & WhatsApp) 624.227.5766 (MX) *The calendar may change. Please visit facebook.com/cabohouses for updates*

Wednesday, April 24, 2019 from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm, Casa Grande Ventanas 35 Phase 3 MLS# 16-1895. THE ONLY CASA GRANDE VENTANAS RESALE IN PH 3. Outdoor-Recently Upgraded! 3bd / 3.5ba. Price $625,000. **Nick Fong** Los Cabos Agent info@loscabsagent.com 619.831.2000 (US & WhatsApp) 624.227.5766 (MX) *The calendar may change. Please visit facebook.com/cabohouses for updates*

Thursday, April 25, 2019 from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm, Casa Besos, Cabo Corridor MLS #18-1568. Exquisite Contemporary; bright and open single story home located in the pristine community of Hermitage. 3bd / 4ba. Price $799,000. **Nick Fong** Los Cabos Agent info@loscabsagent.com 619.831.2000 (US & WhatsApp) 624.227.5766 (MX) *The calendar may change. Please visit facebook.com/cabohouses for updates*
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CASA LOURDES 2 bedroom 1 bathroom single level home 400 m2 corner lot on the main access to Quivira Beach & Golf Resort. $290,000 USD. No home owners association dues. Contact Rosy Holmos. Cell 612-152-6039 Office 624-143-1588 Cabo San Lucas. eMail: holmos@loscabos.com. loscabos Sirius.

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CONDO GOOCH, Club La Costa, SD, 1 BR-1 BA. Vaulted ceiling with 'space to build loft'. MLS #19-391. Steve Yip, US (250) 483-4218. Local: (624) 156-5981. Steve@loscabosrealestateinvestment.com

CASA C-37, CABO BELLO. This home is all about the views. Arch views from each room of this 3 bedroom home. $365,000 USD. Email me at suzanne@bajaproperties.com 624-155-3056

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ZACATITOS Unique, artistic “Oto Dome”, separate studio & gallery on 1 acre. Hilltop location w/ views to sea, mountains. 3 BD/2 BA. List Price: $550,000. Contact: gunbush@cabodreamhomes.com 949/2128210

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After this water accumulates around the foundation, it will soak into the concrete. A proactive approach is key when owning a home in Mexico, particularly when it comes to gutter cleaning and proper drainage of water.

Tip 3 – Weather Proof My Roof

Homes in Mexico for the most part have concrete roofs, or they have Spanish tile over concrete. When we think concrete, we think fortress, unbreakable, strong. The reality is that water will find its way into your home if there is a crack or an opening in the roof. Even if your home is newly constructed, meaning recently built in the last five years, it’s time to have your roof inspected.

A proper inspection must take place first and foremost. A simple visual inspection is not enough as the tiles must be examined up close and tested. The inspection and repair process is best when the entire roof is examined and tested to know the full extent of any damage; this will let you know how many replacement tiles are required. Testing can consist of running water over your roof to find leaks.

Tip 4 – Don’t forget the easy stuff

Simple maintenance upkeep like bringing in your outdoor furniture and securing your outdoor BBQ grill can make a world of difference when high winds approach. These tasks safeguard your personal belongings from being picked up in high winds and crashing against your home, or your neighbor’s home. Also, don’t forget about the palm trees on your property that require trimming. Keeping your home free of flying debris is very important. Visualize what could easily be picked up in high winds and secure, trim or remove them.

Tip 5 – HVHZ (high velocity hurricane zone) storm shutters

Weather proofing your windows with sealant is the first step to making sure water does not seep inside your home in a strong tropical storm or hurricane in Mexico. The best solution is securing the openings of your home with HVHZ storm shutters. Installing HVHZ storm shutters can minimize the impact of high winds and debris that are whipped up during a hurricane that push against your home or condo. HVHZ stands for high velocity hurricane zone. Not all storm shutters are graded to sustain category 4 or higher type wind impact. Insurance carriers in Mexico also provide discounts for installing HVHZ storm shutters on all the openings. As we have seen in recent years, hurricanes are getting stronger and are making landfall more often. The devastation a hurricane brings can reach billions of dollars in repair and damage. Here in Cabo the question is not if a hurricane will affect this region of Mexico, it is when.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19
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The New Frontier Of Anti-Aging Medicine

Mesenchymal Stem Cell Exosomes

About Aging
After 40, we gradually experience the telling signs of old age: poor concentration, memory loss, fatigue, aches and pains, mood swings, hair loss, wrinkles, age spots, reduced sex drive, insomnia, and frailty. A significant amount of these changes happens due to a depletion of the cells responsible for repairing our organism and maintaining us.

When aging, our body’s repair cells dwindle after being used over time. This process, however, can be reversed by replenishing aging stem cells with young stem cells that will regenerate tissues that have been lost or damaged because of aging.

PRMEDICA’s Anti-Aging Treatment
Scientists have recently developed an advanced bio-cellular and nanoparticle approach to reverse aging that exponentsiate the revitalizing effects of stem cells with exosomes. Exosomes are micro-vesicles harvested from the membranes of stem cells and the key for cell interaction. Due to their minute size, they pass through the blood brain barrier and deliver growth factors and the anti-inflammatory bio-molecules of stem cells directly into the brain. Inside the brain, exosomes promote communication among brain cells and start protective mechanisms that translate in better cognitive and motor skills. In the rest of the body, exosomes stimulate the repair of multiple tissues and modulate abnormal inflammatory responses.

The new anti-aging protocol developed by PRMEDICA replenishes the body’s stem cells with placental mesenchymal stem cells from carefully selected donors. A patient receives 75 to 150 million stem cells by IV infusion plus 5 ml. of exosomes (each ml. contains over 1 billion exosomes). An additional 5ml of exosomes is administered 2 to 4 weeks later.

The treatment includes TA65®, a telomerase activator supplement to lengthen telomers and extend chromosome replication: a stem cell booster implant: ozone therapy: supercharged IV vitamins: antioxidants: and chelation therapy.

This comprehensive plan will repopulate your stem cell supply, restore memory, regenerate degraded tissue, reduce swelling, boost energy levels, adjust sleeping patterns, increase sex drive, improve moods and cleanse the blood stream. As a result, your body becomes rejuvenated. You will also notice overall aesthetic improvements such as better skin and stronger hair. The anti-aging protocol offers the latest breakthrough in bio-cellular technologies for neurological conditions such as Alzheimer’s Disease, Parkinson’s Disease, and Autism to improve brain function and quality of life.

PRMEDICA is a leader in preventive and bio-cellular regenerative medicine in Mexico, and specialize in stem cell and exosome therapy. We welcome clients every week from abroad for treatment at our clinics in Los Cabos, and have special 3-5 day wellness packages that include accommodations, local transportation and fun activities at affordable prices.

Contact PRMEDICA for more information about the anti-aging treatment or check our website www.prmedica-inc.com and videos to learn about the benefits of exosomes and other stem cell treatments. Call us for a free consultation with one of our specialists.

Enchiladas potatoes
I have just been to San Luis Potosi, a city located in North-Central Mexico. It is bordered by no less than eight other Mexican states, making it the state with the most borders with other neighboring states. While I was there, I knew I had to eat enchiladas Potosinas from a local place, preferably a traditional Mexican market. I have had them before, but usually the frozen kind that friends and family had brought for me from their travels.

I have always been amazed at how many enchilada recipes there are, and pretty much every city, region or state has their own. Some are similar, some are extremely unique. These that I had are more of the unique kind in flavor, but look quite regular. The story of this dish goes back to the 1900’s with a lady called Cristina Jalomo who was born in Soledad, a small town in the outskirts of San Luis Potosi. Mrs Jalomo went to her regular tortilla joint, to get her masa since she liked “slapping” her own tortillas (slapping means making them by hand or in a tortilla press and “slapping” them on to the comal). The masa she got was a little orange because the mill had just ground some chiles. Cristina took it home anyway, not realizing she would be the author of one of the most popular dishes in Mexican cuisine.

When Mrs. Jalomo made the first tortillas with her accidentally orange masa, her family was fascinated: the tortillas tasted like Soledad’s cascabel chiles, a clear, strong taste and not too spicy. From then on, she always asked her masa to be ground with some of cascabel peppers. Cristina started experimenting with her bomb tortillas, making quesadillas, but not the ones you’re probably thinking: the kind of quesadillas that are made of masa, sealed with cheese in them and fried, topped with sour cream and crumbled queso fresco.

The enchiladas were so successful, Cristina Jalomo started selling them from her home and eventually from a little cart on the main plaza in Soledad on Sundays and festive days. Nowa-
Similar fraud using the international money transfer system Swift cropped up around the world, including notorious incidents in Ecuador, Bangladesh, and Chile. But SPEI is owned and operated by Banxico, and only used within Mexico. In the aftermath of the April attacks, the bank tightened policies and controls around fund transfers, to establish minimum cybersecurity standards for Mexican banks that link their systems to SPEI.

“Mexican people need to start to work together. All the institutions need to cooperate more,” Loza says. “The main problem on cybersecurity is that we don’t share knowledge and information or talk about attacks enough. People don’t want to make details about incidents public.”

These types of heists have been so successful around the world, though, that they won’t be easy to stop. And while they take effort for attackers to set up, they can still net tens of millions of dollars. And all without having to crack a safe.

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HACKERS PULL OFF $20 MILL... continued from page 12
be resource-intensive, but that it wouldn’t cost much to incentivize them. Perhaps 5,000 pesos per person—less than $260—would be enough. You know somebody among those mules is going to gab to friends, the feds will swoop down, and they will sing like a canary. But mostly likely a canary that’s doesn’t know anything.

“Many Mexican home and condo insurance policies require HVHZ storm shutters on all openings. If your Mexico insurance policy requires HVHZ storm shutters, it is very important that you have a current Notice of Acceptance from Miami Dade Florida stating that the storm shutter system on your home meets the HVHZ standards. Florida laws are the gold standard in hurricane protection. This certification will be required by your adjuster when they are assessing the damage sustained to your home and if your storm shutters in fact meet the requirements of the policy.

Keeping an updated maintenance evaluation on your roof & home is also important for insurance claims when filed in Mexico. When your home has been inspected and properly maintained this will help mitigate potential damage that can be caused to your home. Also having the proof of a recent maintenance report will be helpful to show your claims adjuster in the event you file a claim.


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Monday to Saturday. 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Ranch market in Todos Santos. Featuring homemade products from rural areas. Artisanal cheeses, organic chicken and eggs, liqueurs and virgin honey, as well as handicrafts such as furniture made with regional woods, leather goods and clay pottery all made by ranch hands. The Mercado (market). Todos Santos on Calle Morelos between Rangel and Cuauhtemoc inside the San Diego Feed Store.

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

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

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: marimardelmar@gmail.com, facebook.com/laesquinas.

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

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

Every Wednesday. 7:00 am to 12:30 pm. The Organic Market at Pedregal. Fresh, organic produce, coffee, fish, seafood, eggs, whole lambs, (Little Bo Peep!) pigs, (Porky? Is that you?) & handicrafts.

Every Thursday. November 1st to June 30th. San Jose Art Walk. First Thursday. 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Volkscello set up tents to receive clear glass bottles, metals, plastics (except Styrofoam), thick cardboard, computer equipment (except monitors), small home appliances (except TVs of all kinds), cellphones and accessories, edible vegetable oil, ink cartridges and toners of HP, Samsung and Xerox only, please. In San Jose at Centenario corner with Ildefonso Green. In Cabo San Lucas at the parking lot of the baseball stadium. Email info@yoreiclo.org.mx for more information.

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

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

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

Every other Thursday. (alternate to the Tomatoes meeting). You guess which one, 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 Friday. 6:00 pm. Trivia Night. Todos Santos Brewing. English and Spanish with short rounds and prizes available each round. Álvaro Obregén (between Militar & Rangel). Facebook @ Todos SantosBrewing. Ph 612-1452023 or email info@todosantosbrewing.mx

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

Every Saturday. 7:00 am to 12:30 pm. The Organic Market at Pedregal. Fresh, organic produce, coffee, fish, seafood, eggs, whole lambs, (Little Bo Peep!) pigs, (Porky? Is that you?) & handicrafts.

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

Every Saturday. All day. The 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. 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 Obregén street (between Militar & Rangel). Facebook @ TodosSantosBrewing for more information. 612-145-2023 or email info@todosantosbrewing.mx

Every Sunday. 12 to 4pm. The Organic Market at Pedregal. Fresh, organic produce, coffee, fish, seafood, eggs, whole lambs, (Little Bo Peep!) pigs, (Porky? Is that you?) & handicrafts.

May 5, Sunday. Cinco de Mayo Sand Castle Competition. 12:00 noon till… the party stops. At the Casa Dorada hotel on Medano beach. Over 20 different local restaurants will be there to compete for “The Best Taco” awards. Live music and lots of tacos. Tickets are $60 pesos (some $3 bucks) per person. Reservations at phone # 624.163.57.64. Ext. 5764. Be there of be square!

November 30, Saturday. Sabor a Cabo food fest. Allegedly the largest food fest in Mexico. Live music, over 30 restaurants showing off their specialties. Stay tuned, look up www.saboracabo.com

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

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

Every Tuesday, 8:00 p.m. Documentary Movie Club. A different documentary every week. In the original language with different documentary every week. English mostly. Tel: 624 108 2905

Every Tuesday, 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Art Day. Art, paintings, books, live music. Spanish and English. El Merkado at Koral and English. Art Day. Art, painting, photography, sculpture, live music and more form national and internationally recognized artists. San Jose.

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

Monday and Wednesday 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Short Film Script Work Shop. For 13 to 18 years old. Spanish. 300 pesos/month. Hierro St. corner with Cobre St., El Dorado neighborhood, La Paz. Tel: 612 128 1612.


Every Thursday 5:00 p.m. Art Walk, at the Art Galleries district in Downtown San Jose. Art, paintings, photography, sculpture, live music and more form national and internationally recognized artists. San Jose.

Monday to Saturday. Different hours. Arts, crafts, and other cultural workshops at San José’s Cultural House. Ballet, Polynesian dance, folk dance, painting, literature, theater, guitar, and more.facebook.com/casadecultura CALL 624 146 9836 in office hours. Spanish. Alvaro Obregon St. Downtown San Jose.

Wednesday to Monday. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Ruta de Plata Museum at El Triunfo. Discover the rich mining history and settlement of the Cape Region. Enjoy exciting, interactive exhibits. Explore the complex, the gift shop, places to wine and dine, and the historic village. Spanish and English. 100 pesos entrance fee. Info: museorudapepola.com, Ayuntamiento St. (Progreso and M’arquez de, eon St.), El Triunfo. Closed on Tuesday.

Every Thursday, 8:00 p.m. *agambon Movie Club. The riginal movie club is back at the Cultural Pavilion, the gray building at the marina. Downtown San Lucas. Every other Friday. 8:30 p.m. *agambon Movie Club. Various movies in their original languages with Spanish subtitles. Short films and art videos before the movie. Free. Playa Migraro St. up from Miguel A. Herrera St. Turn right 2 blocks before the gas station (Pueblo Bonito Sunset area). San Lucas.


May 4. Flute Concerts. Playing works from Vivaldi, Mozart, Debussy, Saint-Saëns, Briccialdi, Tchaikovsky by Emmanuel Agundez Encarnaenc, Flute; Fernanda del Pe& Pachocho on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Piano and Aureos enSple:Spanish with some help in English. Free. Antonio Mijares Plaza. San Jose.


Community Reading Lounges

At AMELIA WILKES PLAZA Main plaza downtown CSL.

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

At PLAZA COTA.

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

At HOLLYDANCE CAFÉ. Leona Vicario St. And 12 de Octubre St, 2nd Floor, downtown Cabo.

Every Tuesday from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm. Trotamundos Reading Club. Spanish mostly. More info and special activities on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/saladecturatrotamundos/timeline

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

From Monday to Friday. 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. La Maroma Reading club. Books available. More info and special activities on Facebook: facebook.com/ Sala-de-lectura-La-Mara%C3%81sima-Kinesis-Fabuladanza-691039797651808/timeline.

At LA CIRCO. Libroteka Reading Club.

From Monday to Friday. From 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Books available and circus drama style reading on Thursdays at 7:00 pm. More info with Sara Flores on Facebook: https://www.facebook. com/LaCirco-577897035553733/timeline

How To Dial Toll Free #’s

Mexico blocks toll free calls to the United States, which is frustrating to us, as most of our banks, credit card companies, and large businesses only provide us with toll free numbers. But we have a work around.

Just dial 001 and then substitute these numbers:
- to call an 800 number, change the 800 to 880
- to call an 888 number, change the 888 to 881
- to call an 877 number, change the 877 to 882
- to call an 866 number, change the 866 to 883

Best to talk fast because these numbers aren’t toll free. And yeah, we know any business that deals in toll free doesn’t have a live person answering the phone, so good luck with making it a speedy call.
Ask a Mexican

This week we asked: Do you know why spring starts on a certain day at a certain time? Is this from astrology? Astronomy? Witchcraft?

Daniel Loarca, 35, carpenter.
Witchcraft? That’s not a thing. I think. I am pretty sure it has something to do with the sun because a “solstice” is what kicks off spring. It’s the same day every year, like Benito Juarez’ birthday, so it makes me want to question the relevancy of the sun, because the earth rotates a little different every year, so not every date is the same! Honestly, I had never thought about it, I am not sure.

Yasmin Gonzalez, 34, assistant.
I believe it shouldn’t fall on the same day because of leap years or something, but it is based on the sun’s rotation. I think it is calculated to when the sun hits the equator. Now, in Mexico I think we don’t really think about the scientific side to it, we just take the same date as ever, and the schools have a spring parade that is the official mark for many of us, once we see kids dressed as chickens, bunnies and flowers, we know spring has come. Oh, and the long weekend, too.

Carmen Fernandez, 61, teacher.
We have a special time and day because of the equinox, because the earth spins in a tilted axis. That is why half of the year the sun hits the north pole, and half of the year it doesn’t, and it also explains why winter days are shorter than summer days. The day of the start of spring we have the same hours of daylight and nighttime. I believe Mayans had this information too, as they built a pyramid that only on the solstice completes the body of the feathered snake.

Javier Marquez, 26, building assistant.
I think it has something to do with the sun as the Aztecs and Mayans had their own definition of the seasons and it wasn’t too far off from what we see today. I think when the Spanish came and saw the tradition, they adapted it to their own beliefs and we got shut down and obligated to follow their model of life.

Hilda Baron, 33, secretary.
I know it does have a scientific explanation that I studied in elementary school but I can’t remember, it’s not as important to me as other things. I guess it does have an explanation with the moon too, as the fullest and most beautiful moons are in October and March.
Fish Report

BY CARY GRAHAM
THAT BAJA GUY

Cabo San Lucas
The dorado counts were particularly affected this past week, but the inshore fishing showed no slowdown. The yellowfin tuna counts were “hit and miss,” but there were some reports of quality fish up to the 75 pounds. As one captain remarked, “When you report that the marlin fishing has slowed to one fish per boat – how bad is that?” We have been spoiled the past four months with outstanding billfishing.

The striped marlin fishing on the Pacific side continues just a few miles off the Lighthouse and out to the Golden Gate and the Gordo Banks. Overall, the fleets reported fewer striped marlin with most boats still averaging one to two fish per day. The yellowfin, when found, were in the 25- to 35-mile range to the south of Cabo. Strippers have been found off Palmilla and Punta Gorda and around the Gordo Banks. Overall, the fleets from Solmar around the point at the Lighthouse and up toward Migrino. Small to medium-sized yellowtail are also showing up in the most recent counts. Some

Fish Killer Of The Week

Skip Coomber, Erika and Caroline Coomber, who were on spring break from San Diego, found some calm water on the back side of Cerralvo Island with Captain Victor from the Tailhunter Fleet in La Paz. They landed several yellowtail between 20 and 25 pounds on live bait as well as jack crevalle.

Puerto Los Cabos
Weather patterns have been on a cooling trend, and now winds have laid down and days are warming up to near the 80-degree mark. Ocean conditions had turned over to be cold and green, but this condition has begun to fade; it can be a slow process, however. Water is averaging 71 to 73 degrees.

Mackerel, when available, are popular with the captains.

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Mackerel, when available, are popular with the captains.

Los Cabos Rotary Club
Meetings at the Sports Bar at Sheraton Grand Hacienda del Mar
Every Tuesday at 8:00 am

Mackerel, when available, are popular with the captains.

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Mackerel, when available, are popular with the captains.
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Meetings Daily

At ACE hardware store, Second floor, on the old road to San Jose. That is, kitty corner to McDonald’s. Daily at 6:00 p.m. and M-F at 4:30 p.m.
seeded.
3 cloves of garlic, whole.
3 pounds of fresh masa. (can be store bought or made from maseca, but I recommend the one from a tortilleria).
Salt to taste
For the enchilada stuffing:
Half a cup of finely chopped onion.
2 cups of pork lard (can be substituted by vegetable oil)
Sour cream.
Crumbled queso fresco.
Avocado.
Preparation for the masa:
Soak the chiles for twenty minutes and save the water after draining them.
In a blender, puree the chiles with the garlic, salt and a little bit of the chile water. The consistency should be of a paste but not runny.
Knead the masa with the chile paste, until uniform.
Make golf ball sized balls and let rest covered by a plastic, while you make the stuffing.
Preparation for the stuffing:
Boil the water and add the green tomatoes, garlic, serrano peppers and onion, cook for 25 minutes.
Drain the water and keep aside.
In a blender, puree the tomatoes, garlic, peppers and onions that you cooked, until a thick salsa is formed.
In a saucepan, lightly fry the salsa, until it reaches the boiling point and becomes a little thicker.
Add the crumbled cheese and remove from heat.
Mix until uniform.
To make the enchiladas:
The masa balls that were resting are flattened into tortillas, about 2 or 3 mm thick so they don’t break.
The tortillas are cooked in a comal only for a few seconds, and then a spoonful of studding is placed in the middle, pinching the edges so it doesn’t come out.
In a sauce pan, place the lard or oil and bring to enough temperature for frying. Test by dropping a small ball of masa. It should bubble instantly.
Fry the enchiladas keeping an eye on them so they don’t burn.
Drain and serve.
Decorate with sour cream, crumbled cheese and avocado slices.
These can be served with refried beans.

33 oz of water
10 green tomatoes, peeled.
Serrano peppers to taste.
2 cups of añejo cheese. (aged queso fresco)
½ cup of finely chopped cilantro.
2 tablespoons of vegetable oil.
DO NOT ADD SALT, unless you have tasted it and feel it needs more flavor, as queso añejo is very salty.
For the enchiladas:
Salt to taste
Inshore there were good numbers of small-sized roosterfish off the Hotel Zone. Trolling live bait is what these fish want, but without sardina, the other choices would be caballito or possibly mullet. Only a handful of sierra are being caught -- a few up to five pounds.

East Cape
Very few boats are out fishing now. Lots of Spanish mackerel are in the bay. Most boats are fishing the bottom with the Mac’s. Big yellowtail, mixed with cabrilla and groupers, are being taken close inshore on the drop-offs. Lots of small to medium-sized dorado were caught very close inshore. Two were around five pounds and were taken from the beach on top water lures right in front of the hotel.

Air temperature is very comfortable. Now just getting a breeze and conditions have been fishable. Water is 70- to 71-degrees and clear.

There are dorado, wahoo, and marlin being seen every day. However, seeing and catching are two different things as it has been mostly “show-but-no-go.” Good news is the bait is here. It’s just a matter of time before they get hungry and rods start to bend. Locals are betting that in a week or two, the season will get underway in a big way.

La Paz
Better fishing happened to coincide with better weather finally as spring arrived with some surprising catches.

Waters settled down nicely and, some nice-quality yellowtail came to chew. They seemed to pop up in several places. These 20- to 30-pound fish were hitting live bait, jigs and dead bait on the back side of Cerralvo Island, just outside of Bahia Muertos (Suenos), Punta Perico, and Espirito Santo Island. Quite a few fish, both small and large, were lost in the rocks. Many of these fish were biting in shallow water either right off the rocks or over shallow structure and reefs. The same areas produced jacks, crevalle, small roosterfish, bonito, pargo, and cabrilla!

The surprising catches were right in the Bay of La Paz – pretty much right out in front of the hotels and Malecon waterfront. Fun! To 15-pound schools of dorado showed up just a few hundred yards out in shallow water. It might have something to do with the patches of floating Sargasso weed that moved in. We usually don’t see the Sargasso until about May or so when waters warm. It draws baitfish which hide in the weeds, as well as flying fish that lay eggs in the floating paddies which draws the dorado in search of food – a good sign of an early season! Fingers crossed!

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U.S. Tax Clock Stops While In Mexico

But your interests and penalties keep barreling down the highway

BY ORLANDO GOTAY

The IRS is going through tough times. In recent years, Congress “punished” the agency by providing it a super lean budget. The shutdown also left it with millions of unopened letters and mail. The IRS Ombudsman estimates it will take a year to get back to normal.

One of the things Congress did to the IRS was to require that inactive collection accounts be turned over to Private Collection Agencies. Those were old accounts the IRS felt had little collection potential. Off to work PCAs went, and we have some results. They are not very good at collecting. And when they were able to reach the taxpayer and the taxpayer wanted to set up a payment plan, somehow it fell through. I’ll add— it was tried before, and this time around it seems like yet another fiasco.

Why, you would say, do I take time to write about this? Well, for any of my readers that may have outstanding IRS debt, it is always important to know a few things. Generally, once the tax liability is assessed (imagine the entry in the government’s ledger “Joe owes us X dollars”) the government has ten years from that date to collect. So it’s easy to say “why can’t I just wait this out if the debt is old?”

You should know the 10-year collection clock comes with that “exceptions apply” language we often see in ads. One you should know about: if a taxpayer is outside the U.S., the collection clock stops until the taxpayer returns to the U.S., then it restarts six months thereafter. Otherwise, it stops forever. If, in the course of your conversation with one of these folks, they learn that you like real margaritas and tacos, instead of their north-of-the-border facsimiles, your collection file will be coded such that the debt will not expire.

The other consequence is that those debts continue accumulating penalties and interest. It’s not difficult to see how old tax debt can balloon up to the magic debt level that would make you eligible for passport non-renewal or cancellation. You see, they have all kinds of persuasive methods.

Another way in which this

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sense. He can be reached at tax@orlandogotay.com or Facebook: GotayTaxLawyer. This is just a most general outline. It is informational only and not meant as legal advice.

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