Traveling Indigenous Market Stops In Cabo

Hurry down to this Oaxacan charmer, it’s only here a short time

BY CATHY WATKINS

Once a year vendors from the Southern state of Oaxaca come to Cabo for a few weeks. The Oaxacan market is located in the WalMart parking lot just outside of Cabo San Lucas, and runs from January 17th to February 1st from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily. The majority of the vendors have been participating in this fair for about 10 years and there is a wide array of vendors with quality products at reasonable prices.

The stand called Tia Viky sells 12 different kinds of mole such as green, black, red, almond, pumpkin seed, and fruit, along with cheese and bread. Tia Viky means Aunt Vickie and mole, pronounced mole-ay is a complicated sauce with traditions going back hundreds of years.

Senora Victoria and her family have been making artesian mole for over 80 years and it’s a process that takes all day to make one batch. Like we said, it’s complicated, with a good mole using more than 39 ingredients. When asked why she makes mole, she said, “It’s our business. I like to cook and sell mole, and I have been involved in the business since I was little girl.

I purchased the mole pipian (pumpkin seed) which is my favorite, the fruit one to try something different, and a ball of super fresh string cheese. It’s really hard to get good mole here in Cabo, so don’t miss out if you see it on a menu. It’s a sauce. Usually served over chicken but sometimes other meats.

A little further down the aisle

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

Yes, We Have Recycling Here In Los Cabos

Just not a lot. But here is a success story

BY CATHY WATKINS

One family does work relentlessly to conserve the environment in Los Cabos. Recicladora del Pacifico is owned and operated by Paulino Hernandez, an engineer-architect from mainland Mexico where he worked in construction and was involved in building several recycling plants. That’s how he learned about the operation of recycling. He liked the concept so in order to learn more, he attended several courses and conferences, receiving certificates of completion which he proudly hangs in his office. His office, as one can imagine is made from and furnished with recycled items he junk picked in the line of duty. He says this business is a good fit for him because he likes the idea of protecting the environment and he can provide employment for the down andouters.

Recicladora del Pacifico (Pacific Reclamation) collects and compacts all kinds of plastic, aluminum, cardboard, paper, and...
Did you read our Ask A Mexican columnist this week? Go read it and come back. That was quick, too quick, but that’s your loss, I will press on.

The 23 year old gal who writes that column recently inherited the job from her grandma who got too old and sick to continue. (The grandma is dying of smoking induced emphysema, the daughter, also a smoker and who also works for us, is already shuffling around everywhere online in hopes that we click on it. People! Anybody can put their living by getting us to click, no matter how misleading, sordid, or sacrilegious. They will say anything, no offense, to make the clicker click. If we do click, the click baiter gets their money. They will say anything, no offense, to make the clicker click. If we do click, the click baiter gets their money. They will say anything, no offense, to make the clicker click. If we do click, the click baiter gets their money.

But to see that this kind of off the track thinking is thriving in a university environment is very, very scary. I blame Facebook. Well, Facebook the company is harmless. People who get all their friends news online and most of that is chat on their friends’ Facebook page. People! Anybody can put any kind of crap on Facebook. Or anywhere else on the internet. If it has not been verified like the legitimate media does, it’s only rumors. And worse than that, it’s rumors that go farther afield from the truth as it leaps wild fire from page to page. It bounces from Facebooker to Facebooker, and as some nugget of truth pings off unfounded people who were not on the scene of what they are talking about, it careens further from the truth with each posting. This is what’s passing for news with these university students and way too many of us, too. I have never liked Facebook. Not because it’s an incubator for worthless rumors so much as because I’m not interested in what my friends had for breakfast, nor do I want them knowing what I had for breakfast. And I’m certainly not interested in their hair brained opinions they often post. And I’m not a news junkie and I have to get my news online while I’m in Mexico. So I downloaded the apps for USA Today, BBC World and Aljazeera, my three go-to news outlets. I tried BuzzFeed, Huffington Post, and a few others, but those have degenerated into celebrity gossip and an obsession for following “what’s trending.” Those so called news outlets have quit chasing the news and have started chasing what the public believes to be news. Who cares what’s trending? I want to know what’s actually happening in the news, not what some people are, for whatever reason, interested in. Trending stats don’t interest me because they are not an indicator of what is of consequence in the real world.

Of course in following these trends we can’t help but see all the “click bait” on the edge of our screen. It’s always something like “urgent” or “you need to know these three things about this or that,” or “5 plastic surgeries that went horribly wrong.” This is called click bait, as they bait the hook on their couple of square inches of real estate on your screen in hopes that we click on it. If we do click, the click baiter gets money. They will say anything, no matter how misleading, sordid, or silly to get you to click. We click, they hear ca-chink. They make their living by getting us to click, continued on page 18.
**Que Pasa in Cabo?**

**BY DAVID FLORES**

*It's Jazz time again!* We're talking the 4th San Jose Jazz Fest held at Plaza del Pescador, that strip center in the hotel zone across from the Cabo Azul hotel. They close off two lanes of the four lane avenue, deploying tables, chairs and tents to cater to the revelers.

The seven restaurants in the shopping strip set up food booths and cocktails and wine flow freely. The music starts at 5:30 pm and goes on until near midnight.

The program this year goes like this: Friday February 12, ribbon cutting ceremony with local government officials, followed by a 50 minute musical performance by Randy Lynch and his band, The Twins, Tito Rodriguez, Francisco Lelo de Larrea and closing with the Faralae band.

On Saturday 13, the music begins at 5:00 pm, with The Twins kicking off the party, followed by Monique Mendonca, The Grove Machine, Tito Rodriguez, Francisco Lelo de Larrea and the Faralae band closing out the night.

For tickets and more information, call 624 154 8510, or Astrid Castañeda, 624 154 8510 email: eastriddcruz@gmail.com or look up: www.sanjosejazzweekend.com/

**How's the city doing?** In the first 100 days of the new municipal administration, the most common gripes they've received are ground transportation services, (bandit taxistas, crappy bus service,) funeral services, air tickets, fuel, cost of building materials, medicine and food.

**Get out your 2-2 for ballet auditions.** For the New York based Joffrey Ballet is promoting auditions to local dancers interested in obtaining a scholarship. The auditions will take place in San Jose at the Danza Tellera school on Sunday, February 28, for 250 pesos (or $15.00 bucks) per person and type of dance. Types of dance include classic ballet, jazz and contemporary, musical theater, character, tap, hip-hop and Bollywood. Ages are restricted to 12-15 years for both boys and girls. The scholarships are for the Joffrey Ballet summer intensive program. You can learn more about the programs at joffreyballetschool.com/summer-programs.

Make sure you read the fine print on the scholarships (if you win one) as there are other costs involved in the summer program that are not included in the scholarship. To register, go on-line to joffreyballetschool.com/

**Continued on Page 19**

**Combine Your Executive Health Check-Up with 5 Nights Wellness Vacation at the top-rated Golf & Spa Resort in Los Cabos**

By Dr. Dick

Prevention of disease is the key to good health. With early detection most diseases and illnesses can be treated and cured, or completely avoided. Why not start 2016 with a personal health check-up for a detailed assessment of your current health?

If you lead a stressful lifestyle, an Executive Health Check-Up is definitely right for you. Why not combine the health check-up with a rejuvenating VIP Wellness Vacation at the top-rated Golf & Spa Resorts in Los Cabos, to make this a life-enhancing experience.

The VIP Wellness Vacation includes 5 nights at the leading Golf & Spa Resorts at Cabo del Sol Golf Resort, plus an array of soothing and revitalizing spa therapies and skin treatments at the world renowned Somma Wine Spa and Cactus Spa, and daily use of the Gym and hydrotherapy facilities. Also includes recreational activities such as Golf at the Jack Nicklaus Ocean Course at Cabo del Sol, rated #1 in Mexico, or an exciting day of Sport Fishing aboard a charter yacht. You’ll have a private chauffeur/hostess meet you at the airport and coordinate hospital visits and recreational activities, and provide concierge services during your stay in Cabo.

The Executive Health Check-Up and Wellness Vacation offer the busy executive a unique and creative method to enhance their health and well-being, designed to offer you an exciting and memorable vacation in Los Cabos.

The Executive Health Check-Up and Wellness Vacation are performed by skilled doctors at Saint Luke’s Hospital using the latest diagnostic equipment and technology, and include the following tests and evaluations, custom-made for you:

- Detailed medical history and physical examination performed by internal medicine specialist
- Full range of preventive screening tests for early detection of cancer, heart disease, and other serious conditions including full blood tests, cholesterol and lipid profile, urinalysis and blood chemistry to detect diabetes, kidney and liver disease.
- Testosterone testing
- Cardiaco/fitness evaluation, including resting EKG, cardiac stress test, blood pressure readings
- Pulmonary health evaluation
- Chest X-ray
- Bone densitometry to evaluate risk of bone fracture
- HIV testing
- Abdomen ultrasound
- Audiology evaluation
- Eye exam with glaucoma screening
- Dermatology evaluation
- Review of medications, vaccinations and immunizations needed for international travel
- Lifestyle assessment including review of nutrition, stress management, alcohol, tobacco and other indication of disease.
- Exit interview with internal medicine specialist and review of all your tests and full report which you may wish to discuss with your personal doctor when you return home.

Additional Services: CT angiography • Full body MRI scans to identify potential problems and disease • Colonoscopy • Gastroscopy (endoscopy) For more information, contact info@saintlukeshospitals.com or telephone 624 142 5911. You can view these packages on the link: www.saintlukeshospitals.com/check-ups.php

For detailed costs of the Executive Health Check-Up and VIP Wellness package contact info@saintlukeshospitals.com or telephone 624 142 5911. You will receive an online brochure with full particulars about the program and a detailed questionnaire listing all the tests to be performed for your specific needs. Return the completed questionnaire and based on the tests selected, you’ll receive an accurate cost for the package that’s customized for you.

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**Combine your Executive Health Check-Up with 5 Nights Wellness Vacation at top-rated Golf & Spa Resort in Los Cabos**

*Lead a stressful lifestyle? An Executive Health Check-Up is definitely right for you.* The Executive Program Health Check-Up at Saint Luke's Hospital offers a thorough & comprehensive health check-up for busy people, to enhance good health and well-being.

**An Executive Health Check-Up at Saint Luke’s is a Sensible Choice**

Why not combine your Executive Health Check-Up with a VIP Wellness Vacation at top-rated Golf & Spa Resort in Los Cabos. The Wellness Vacation includes 5 night stay at leading Golf & Spa Resort at Cabo del Sol, plus an array of soothing and rejuvenating spa therapies, and skin care at the world-renowned Somma Wine Spa and Cactus Spa. Also golf at Jack Nicklaus Ocean Course, rated #1 in Mexico. Plus chauffeur/hostess to provide full concierge services during vacation.

The Executive Health Check-Up and VIP Wellness Vacation package is truly a life-enhancing experience, for busy people pursuing good health and well-being.

Details and costs info@saintlukeshospitals.com Tel: 624 142 5911

More info read the Dr. Dick article in this publication.
Psst! Need a loan? Just further burden your cousin Jesus in the U.S. to get that for you. Nissan Motor Co. and its Mexican financing branch have announced they will start granting loans to Mexicans who use their family in the U.S. as co-signers and who can show they get remittances on a regular basis.

The move makes credit more readily available in a nation where more than half of residents don’t pay their taxes, making it difficult to prove earnings, which makes the banks loath to lend. Only 39 percent of Mexicans even had bank accounts in 2014, compared with 94 percent in the U.S. In an effort to give Mexicans greater access to bank loans, President Pena Nieto signed into law two years ago sweeping legal changes that included bolstering the nation’s credit reporting bureaus.

In 2014, just through November, remittances, (money earned by Mexicans in the U.S. and sent back home,) totaled $22.6 billion, the most since 2008, according to the central bank. More than 24 million people in the U.S. send money to relatives in Mexico. In Mexico, the average interest rate on car loans from various banks was 12 percent last year. 10% higher than car loans in the States. The remittance-backed loans Nissan is salivating over will carry an annual interest rate of 18 percent. How do you spell usury in Spanish?

What are we, chopped liver?

Last year was a record year for tourism for the Caribbean and for Cancún. Cancun reported that the city, along with nearby Isla Mujeres, Puerto Morelos and Holbox, welcomed more than 5 million tourists, the largest number ever recorded. Hotel occupancy rates were up 1%, even after Cancún added more than 700 new rooms.

The Cancun Hotel Association is crowing that the area was the preferred destination for travelers in Mexico. During 2015, the city’s average occupancy rate was 82%, beating other resort cities such as Los Cabos, with 65%, and Acapulco, which remained below 50%

Cancún was also the most important beach destination for conventions and meetings. In 2015, business tourism increased by 100% and now represents 20% of all arriving visitors. This kind of tourism spends more than tourists, between $3,000 and $5,000 per stay. For online travel agency Expedia, Cancún was also the No. 1 destination for packages, in which travelers book flights and hotel accommodations at the same time, beating cities such as Las Vegas and New York. Tour operators and hoteliers expect 2016 to see 4% growth in overall visitor volume. Factors such as a stronger dollar and the drop in oil prices also contribute to the record occupancy rates: tourists from the United States can purchase more with their money. The only fly in the ointment? Flights are difficult and expensive.

But the strongest market for tourism in Mexico is still the domestic one. Last year, 80 million Mexicans traveled within the country, representing 80% of tourism-generated dinero. The tourism secretariat is preparing a promotional program to further stimulate the market. Tourism Secretary Enrique de la Madrid said that the program seeks to attract Mexicans to destinations

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21
Building Baja’s Future is a scholarship program that supports young people both financially and by encouraging enthusiasm, those who wouldn’t otherwise be able to go to college.

In almost ten years 220 scholars that have been admitted have completed their studies in 18 different universities in various states of the country and have obtained their degrees in 29 different disciplines, graduating with the highest averages of their generations. Due to great support by BBF, their graduation rate is way above average. BBF currently has 116 Fellows. As of today 57 professionals have graduated and are working with enthusiasm, responsibly and satisfaction, 90% in companies and 10% independently. BBF is committed to helping to educate and train young people who want to be professionals and that are determined to better themselves and to take advantage of the opportunities that BBF provides to allow them to achieve their maximum potential as persons and as leaders of their community. They grant scholarships to those young people who meet pretty stringent standards of the program. They have to be in economic necessity, have high potential, high motivation, social awareness, and a desire to succeed. When accepted into the program, they gain access to additional comprehensive programs to nourish and strengthen their talents. The kids also have to give back by doing community service.

BBF also works on developing their mind, body and spirit in through workshops, classes and seminars which the fellows have to attend such as: English classes, dance and swimming lessons, seminars of values and self-confidence, courses on personal finance, workshops on etiquette and table manners, conferences on emotional intelligence, marketing, sex education, how to write and build a resume, how to prepare and conduct a job interview, sports competitions and a number of other activities such as release of turtles, whale watching, film club, retreats, concerts, celebrations and walks. These kids are all disadvantaged and were never taken anywhere or shown the most basic survival skills most of us take for granted. Part of what Building Baja’s Future does is broaden these young people’s horizons. It’s very fulfilling to see them blossom with knowledge that there is a whole world out there that they didn’t even know existed, says Cecelia Avalos, the dynamo behind these good works.

BBF is an accredited association registered in Mexico and also incorporated in California. Having these international organizations with common purposes, allows them to unite efforts in raising money. And of course they are always needing money.

But here’s the fun part: They’re throwing a party. And not just an ordinary party but a casino night! This year it will be on Saturday, February 27.
So Should We In Mexico Be Worried About The Sea Rising?

Yes

BY ALE BORBOLLA

Some people think Mexico’s most beautiful beaches are going to be goners due to global warming in as little as 45 years. Others, those who saw what Odile and some lesser storms have done to our own Medano Beach, think that beach will be gone in way less time than that.

Several studies have shown that climate changes are very real, potentially devastating, and move faster than we’re even predicting, and so, it’s no surprise that the Baja beaches will be affected. Of course we’re not as bad off as low lying areas of the south Pacific nor Thailand, or even the delta area of New Orleans, but many of our beaches are not so steep as to be free of concern. Could be that bargain property you bought on the up side of the highway will be ocean front.

More seriously threatened though, are the Mexican beaches of the Yucatan peninsula. Think Cancun. That’s a flat area that doesn’t enjoy our sloping geography and they are under serious and immediate threat. The Yucatan Peninsula is very dependent on tourism and the employment it creates, and sea level rise puts this region and its tourist industry at risk, unless people make a plan for the coming higher water levels.

Much of the critical infrastructure for tourism is close to sea level, including hotels, resorts, roads, airports, and piers for cruise ships. Although a modest sea level rise would not permanently inundate a large percentage of land, the real estate...

Some places have already attempted to repair beaches lost to erosion and storm surges, but this can be a very expensive proposition. Record-breaking CONTINUED ON PAGE 23
Tour Artists’ Studios

Here’s your chance to peek inside these Todos Santos art studios and possibly buy some pieces direct from the artist.

BY JUAN PICASSO

The annual Todos Santos Open Studios tour is coming soon. This is a once a year opportunity to visit the artists in their natural environment. This year the 7th annual Open Studios event takes place Saturday and Sunday, February 6th and 7th. The Open Studios Tour is now a two day event where visitors will be able to see more art, more studios and spend more time with the artist at each studio. With a map in hand, showing all of the studios, visitors will get a glimpse of what the life of the artist is like.

After you sign up and pay your fee, you will be using the map to guide you up the back streets of the town, and out in the desert behind the town to find the studios, usually a part of the artist’s home. An added bonus is the tour also guides you through many of the hidden neighborhoods of this magical pueblo.

There will be painters, sculptors, photographers, muralists, plein air painters, encaustic artists, jewelers, printmakers, collage artists, potters, and a wood turner.

This year’s tour will include the following artists: Anne Hebebrand, Arturo Mendoza Flores, Benito Ortega Vargas, Claude Vogel, Daniel Camargo Yhoff, Diane Knight, Donna Billick, Carlos Castro Diaz, Emanuela Gardiner, Erick Ochoa, Erra Katz, Gina Cerda, Gloria Santoyo Rueanzl, Jason Durland, Jill Logan, Jill Mollenhauer, Karla Freeman, Karin Schubert, Marilyn Doran, Marsha Dalquist, Melissa Castaneda, Michael Cope, Nanette Hayles, Pilar Ollo, Peter Holden, Saskia Onvlee, Sofia Vega, Steve Thurston, Susan Doyle, Tori Sepulveda, Victor Vega, Wilson Flohr and Yandi Monardo.

Last year’s 2015 Open Studios Tour with 34 participating artists saw 400 visitors roaming throughout the town in one giant art fest that raised more than $3,000 for the Children’s art programs of the Palapa Society of Todos Santos. This year, all proceeds will benefit this same program.

For further information contact Karin ts.studiotour@gmail.com 612-143-8491 (cellular) Steve galleryysteve@gmail.com 612-145-0001 (land line) and 303-482-2287 (when calling from U.S.). www.artistsoftodos santos.com.

The price of the map and the bracelet you must wear is usually about $15 U. S. A bargain for all that entertainment. Not a bargain if you spend a lot of money on the wonderful art you will be tempted with.

Why Do Those With The Smallest Ass Always Seem To Get The Biggest Part Of The Chair?

Maybe it’s because Dana, who is perched on the edge of her office chair at Dana’s Diner in Todos Santos has the biggest heart.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Spa Cielo Laser Center Earns 2015 tripadvisor Certificate of Excellence Award

Multiple award winning Medical Laser and Weight Loss Center, Spa Cielo, located in San Jose del Cabo, today announced that it has received a “TripAdvisor” Certificate of Excellence award. The accolade, which honors service excellence, is given only to establishments that consistently achieve outstanding traveler reviews on TripAdvisor and is extended to qualifying businesses worldwide. Only the top-performing 10 percent of businesses listed on TripAdvisor receive this prestigious award.

To qualify for a Certificate of Excellence, businesses must maintain an overall rating of four or higher, out of a possible five, as reviewed by travelers on TripAdvisor, and have been listed on TripAdvisor for at least 12 months. Additional criteria include the volume of reviews received within the last 12 months. Spa Cielo carries a five star rating.

“Our team strives to make a positive difference in the lives of our clients and the community in which we live. Spa Cielo was founded on the principles of professionalism, safety and most importantly, client satisfaction. We never-so-carefully unite patient concerns with the most advanced, proven, non-invasive cosmetic technology to achieve the patient’s personal goals. We are committed to enhancing the personal well-being, confidence and self-esteem of our patients in a safe, professional, ethical environment.” This accolade helped over 14,000 clients “Turn Back the Clock” with customized programs for overall health, including diet and nutritional, and skin and body rejuvenation. Whether battling the bulge and cellulite, or acne, rosacea, hyperpigmentation, spider veins, sun damage, unwanted hair, scars, nail fungus or tattoos, or just loose flaccid skin that comes with age, their center will help you overcome your challenges. Their newest cutting edge technologies include HydroFacial™, Total FX® CO2, VelaShape2™, Genesis, Titan™ and Lifestyle Lifts™. They provide free of charge the VI-SIA® Computerized Skin Scan and printed report for you to take home. You can call and schedule an appointment at 624-105-2209 or visit their website at www.spa-club-cabo.com. “TripAdvisor is delighted to celebrate the success of businesses around the globe, from Sydney to Chicago, Sao Paulo to Rome, which are consistently offering TripAdvisor travelers a great customer experience,” said Alison Copus, Vice President of Marketing for TripAdvisor for Business. “The Certificate of Excellence award provides top performing establishments around the world the recognition they deserve, based on feedback from those who matter most – their customers.”

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

Rated with five stars on TripAdvisor
How About Those Disaster Losses?

What? You haven’t declared them yet?

BY ORLANDO GOTAY

When Hurricane Patricia came up, I immediately thought of the many friends and acquaintances that live and own property right along the track of the storm. Luckily Patty turned out to be almost a no show, but there were some material losses. And what about all your losses in Odile? You did claim those on your U.S. taxes didn’t you? For federal income tax purposes, some losses may be claimed as a deduction on your federal return.

For U.S. persons, casualty and theft losses in Mexico are deductible in one’s federal return. IRS Form 4684 and its instructions have more details. For personal (nonbusiness) losses, the deduction is an itemized deduction on schedule A of the federal return.

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For Mexico income tax, however, things are less exciting. Generally speaking, Mexico income tax law does not allow loss or theft deductions if the type property affected was not income producing (originally deductible, usually by being used in a trade or business). In the past, Mexico has issued special decrees easing the rules somewhat with regards to due dates of tax payments and tax compliance, to benefit persons affected by large storms or disasters. As I read previous decrees, I feel they are just temporary measures that do not lead to any permanent tax benefit, unlike the U.S. rules. As of today, no ruling has yet come out on Patricia, although one may be forthcoming.

Bottom line: A tax benefit may be available with regards to losses from casualties and thefts. Begin collecting documentation as soon as the loss occurs! Yes, you’re already late so get cracking.

To be able to claim a deduction, you must have filed claims with your insurance carrier. Annual loss deductions are also limited by one’s adjusted gross income (AGI), and by any value left in the property (salvage value). The annual loss allowance has a “floor” of 10% of AGI. If your AGI was, say, $25,000, then the “AGI floor” is $2,500. Only the loss portion exceeding that amount is deductible. Also, one must subtract $100 from the computation for each loss event. The Internal Revenue Code requires both the “per event” $100 and the “annual” 10% “haircuts” from loss computations.

In the cases of thefts, the rule is similar. You must be able to substantiate the loss (for example, with police reports) and its extent. A good starting point is documents supporting what the item cost you.

Orlando Gotay is a California licensed tax attorney (with a Master of Laws in Taxation) admitted to practice before the IRS, the U.S. Tax Court and other taxing agencies. His love of things Mexican has led him to devote part of his practice to the tax matters of U.S. expats in Mexico. He can be reached at tax@orlandogotay.com.
The Legal Aspects Of Living In A Condominium

Or what to expect when you buy a condominium in Mexico!

The cottage on a tiny individual lot or the mansion built on a grand expanse of land. This type of home ownership has been the dream of many in the Western world where land has been plentiful and where the family lived in ONE home and did not have other properties for vacations, recreation and retirement.

Changing life styles have changed ownership patterns over the past fifty years. Two working parents, single parent families and the rising popularity of multiple family homes have created a great demand for ownership in condominium. In these cases the individual free-standing dwelling on a lot has been exchanged for shared walls, shared entryways, communal recreational facilities and shared maintenance.

When many live closely together rules and regulations become important. In Europe and the East coast of the United States, condominium ownership has been regulated for many years. In the west the first laws were enacted in 1965, in Canada in 1975 and Mexico's first condominium laws were published in 1972, the same year as the bank trust (fideicomiso) law was enacted. In 1985 California's Davis-Stirling Common Interest Development Act became a model for the rest of the western world. In the same year Mexico updated its condominium law and enacted the establishment and operation of common interest developments.

This step was highly important for Mexico City but also for vacations in Acapulco, Cancun, Manzanillo, Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan and Los Cabos. Because of built in maintenance provisions it has become the preferred ownership for vacationers in Mexico who may spend only a few weeks a year at their homes and prefer to spend the time in fun rather than in maintenance duties.

In the common interest development, it may be either commonly owned property or common rights that may be enforced as restrictions against separately owned property.

For example the pool, hallways, gardens and other public areas are commonly owned property. Owners of the individual condominium units acquire a proportional ownership interest in all the recreational facilities, as well as in the service areas, bearing walls and utility features at the project.

In other developments, the developers retained ownership of certain areas destined for recreational use by the condominium owners and common areas are limited to the sidewalks, utilities, ducts and other construction features of the properties.

An example of rights and restrictions against separately owned property would be the building or design codes which are built into the condominium regime which prohibit for sale signs in windows, or drapes and window coverings different from those of the other units.

The presence of either element, rights or commonly owned property, makes the project a common interest development.

In Mexico direct ownership of the common property is the general rule. This means that certain property in the complex is owned in common in undivided interests by the individual homeowners. As an example, 25 condominium units and a common swimming pool and tennis court, in direct ownership each condominium owner owns his private space and a percentage of the the common areas.

SWISS CHEESE: When the owner sells, leases, mortgages his own lot or condominium his or her percentage of the common area must be included. The common property cannot be severed from the individual lot or unit! It is rather like Swiss cheese: The owners own a separate interest in the holes and an undivided interest in common in the cheese itself.

The common interest in the building normally will incude: the foundation, roof, exterior walls, bearing walls even if located within the unit, common hallways, chimneys, exterior doors, windows and all utilities and the pipes, ducts and wiring for same.

The individual owner’s unit will generally include all interior fixtures, improvements and personal property which is located within the three dimensional block of airspace. This will include built-in cabinets, plumbing fixtures, lighting fixtures and interior doors.

THE CONDOMINIUM REGIME:

This is the legal document which must be completed before an individual title can be granted out of the development. It must be made before a Mexican Notary Public and registered in the Property Tax office and Public Registry of Property.

By law it will contain the Descriptive Memory of the project. This means the measurements and description of the land, of the common property. Continued on page 11.
Property Taxes In Mexico

BY ALICIA PARRA

Just as in any other country, Mexico depends upon income from the annual tax on property to keep local governments functioning and provide important local services for the region.

The good part is that the annual tax assessed on Mexico property is often less than it might be for property in many other countries! And, if the tax is paid in full during the first two months of the year, a discount is available in the first two months of the year, if the tax is paid in full during if the tax is paid in full during

Just as in other parts of the world, property taxes in Mexico must be current prior to transfer or sale of a property. A certificate from the Property Tax department is a prerequisite for the preparation of a deed (escritura). It makes sense to pay taxes on time. The penalties can be high for late payment, up to 3% per month for past due taxes. In the event property taxes are not paid for several years, a tax lien is placed on the property and fees and penalties for removal of the lien can triple the normal tax amount very quickly.

Unfortunately, property tax departments throughout Mexico do NOT send out annual tax bills. Thus the foreign property owner will either go to the property tax office with a previous tax bill, or have someone else do it. It is essential that the owner have the Property Tax Number (Clave Catastral) for the property. The billings are filed by number, not by name.

One of the inevitable duties of property ownership in any country is the payment of taxes. Better to do it right and avoid headaches and penalties later!

This article was written by Alicia Parra, Executive Closing Officer for the settlement company the FIRST company in Mexico dedicated to processing the closings and registrations of Mexican real estate for foreign buyers and sellers. It handles closings and transfers on properties located throughout Mexico and can provide title search and title insurance on many properties throughout the country. It also provides a service for payment of property taxes and bank fees....

The Settlement Company*: E-mail info@settlement-co.com.
Avoid Emotion When Selling A Home

BY WENDY KNAPP

Selling a house can be tough. It can be even tougher if you’re forced to sell your home for financial reasons and don’t have much money to make pre-sale fixes or upgrades. Don’t take it personal by Buyer’s critiques, a Seller’s intense emotional response has the potential to torpedo a sale.

Selling a house can be an emotional roller coaster, you need to manage those emotions and face facts or you’ll only end up hurting yourself.

SEEK OUT A SYMPATHETIC LISTING AGENT, by choosing a listing agent with compassion, you will most likely find a healthy acknowledgement to your feelings which can help you move forward.

RELAY ON OBJECTIVE OPINIONS ON YOUR HOME'S VALUE, don’t start collecting advice from friends and neighbors, this can be very dangerous as these opinions are often not based on fact and can be unreliable and erroneous.

AVOID TAKING YOUR LISTING AGENT’S SUGGESTIONS, a bid that comes in low. Most Buyer’s expect a counter to their offer, don’t be installed. By Wendy Knapp, Broker of Rionda de Knapp. Contact Wendy for more information at (624) 118-1395, wendy@rionda-knapp.com or http://www.rionda-knapp.com.

THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF...
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each and every private unit and a description of the common property for the entire project. It also must include the Condominium Rules and Regulations.

This part outlines the rights and obligations of the condominium owners, it defines the type of administration to be in place and contains the necessary rules and regulations to promote the well-being of the community. Article 27 of the law provides for a annual meeting of homeowners. Homeowners are to be notified of the time and date of the meetings through registered mail ten days prior to the date of the meeting. This notification should also be published in a local newspaper and posted in a prominent place in the condominium project. If 90% of the homeowners are not present, subsequent meetings can be called for the same day and decisions can be made on important issues by those present which will affect every owner in the complex.

Articles 27 of the Law of the Condominium Regime also provides for voting in proportion to the percentage of common property held by each owner. Voting must be direct and personal unless otherwise provided in the Regime of the individual project. In other words, no proxies are permitted unless specifically stated in the law.

A surveillance committee consisting of one to three parties must be elected at an annual meeting and is composed of owners who oversee the work of the administrators.

A reserve fund must be established with funds invested in securities and readily available for required long – term repairs. Maintenance fees must be paid for all common areas (swiss cheese) and failure to pay can result in loss of the unit. The law provides that legal action may be taken against homeowners who fail to make THREE payments of monthly maintenance fees. Repeated failure to pay fees can result in putting the unit up for auction. Even if the homeowner is not happy with the administration of the complex, monthly maintenance fees must be paid.

Continued on Page 14

San Jose del Cabo
Laguna Vista Condos

Central located in the heart of San Jose Del Cabo. This beautifully maintained complex is in an ideal location. Walk to town, beach, shopping and restaurants. This complex has ocean, golf, city and mountain views with one and two bedroom models available. Meticulously maintained grounds with spectacular pool and common areas. Pool is heated during the winter months. 24/7 on property security. Units facing the ocean boast incredible views of the Sea of Cortez, Estuary and East Cape. Come discover San Jose’s best kept secret.

For more information about Laguna Vista please contact Jason Pryde REmexico Real Estate 5 services. Jason@caboreal Estate.com 624-137-7322.

Agent Profile

Jonny Hansen

"THE REALTOR FOR THOSE WHO DON’T LIKE REALTORS"

With over 10 years of experience in Los Cabos real estate sales, Jonny gains the trust of his clients through his passion for matching each one with the right property, his no-pressure approach and his commitment to client satisfaction.

Born in Canada, the son of a Canadian Air Force pilot and a Dietician, Jonny is inspired by nature and healthy living. He spends his free time enjoying the Los Cabos lifestyle by surfing, golfing, and deep-sea fishing.

Jonny focuses on the importance of honesty and integrity in all aspects of life and these qualities are what drive him in business. “The knowledge and experience I’ve gained over the past decade has helped shape my business.

Real Estate Agents Needed

We have a number of home buyer leads coming in and we need additional agents. If you are an experienced Real estate agent, and would like to assist clients in buying or selling property, we would love to sit down with you about coming on board! We are only looking to bring on 1 to 2 additional agents at this time. We are a brokerage that focuses on cutting edge online marketing and social media presence. If you are ready to be successful in real estate, we are prepared to get you there! Call or email for private interview. Good commission split depending on experience.

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Truth about Fideicomisos

BY PACIFIC CLOSING COMPANY

With an ever growing interest in Baja California Sur, steady appreciation of the land and continued investment from national and international companies, whether to live in it or as an investment, buying real estate is a smart move.

While the buying process is straightforward, there is still much speculation about how foreigners can own property in Mexico, particularly in the South of Baja. While we will go into details, we would ask that you keep in mind the caliber of homes found in the Southern Baja area. Representing over 5 Billion dollars in declared value (nearly all owned and debt free), you can take comfort in the fact that there is already an established industry to help you; with professional standards equal to, or higher than those you are accustomed to.

While much has been said and ventured about whether or not the Fideicomiso will continue to exist, it is still the best way for foreigners to own land in Mexico, and from an estate-planning standpoint, the best manner for many Mexicans to hold title to land. Let’s discuss why.

By law, foreign citizens who wish to buy property within 50 kilometers / 31 miles from the coastline, or 100 km / 62 miles from the Mexican border; and all throughout the Baja California Peninsula, are required to do so through a “Fideicomiso.” These function similarly to a Living Trust in the USA. The ‘owner/buyer’ of the property is designated as beneficiary of the trust and holds the title through a bank. The bank acts as trustee and carries out instructions from the beneficiary. Throughout the term of the Fideicomiso, the beneficiary can rent, remodel, live in and enjoy the property; it can also be succeeded or bequeathed to a family member by naming them as substitute beneficiaries, if the need should arise, eliminating the need for probate.

Although the Trustee Bank has a statutory responsibility towards the beneficiary, it is important to point out that a Fideicomiso is not a lease, concession nor right to use, but simply allows the Trustee Bank to hold title for the beneficiary and act on behalf of the owner of the property.

Each Fideicomiso is valid for 50 years, and when it expires the trust permit needs to be renewed. Thousands of Fideicomisos have been renewed already and continue to be renewed yearly. It’s a simple process. But what if you wish to sell your property before the expiration date? You can either transfer the rights of the Fideicomiso to the new owner or you can terminate it and have the buyer open up a new one.

Setting up a Fideicomiso is a simple administrative process that can be done directly with the Trustee bank or a Closing Company, some real estate agencies have in-house closing departments, but you are free to choose, as the buyer you closing method and agency.

By Pacific Closing Company, affiliated with Coldwell Banker Riveras. igalindo@criveras.com

We take pride in having meticulous and attentive personnel that can assist you from beginning to end, answering all of your questions; and can help you go over your options to see which is the best way for you to enjoy your investment. Contact them at Ph (624) 143.0202 US/CAN 866.805.4938 for more information.

THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF...

continued from page 11

Absentee owners with property in a foreign country should spend a few minutes to review the financial reports for their complex on a regular basis. When staying in the unit, they should open their eyes and review the condition of the complex. Is it well maintained? Or is maintenance being deferred? This will affect the value of the complex, and the value of the unit. More and more, absentee owners are selecting professional management companies to perform all administration and maintenance services rather than having these services performed by the Homeowner Association or its Board of Directors. This makes sense especially when properties represent a second or third home for the owners who are busy and wish to spend their limited time at the unit enjoying it…not managing it!

This article was provided by

The Settlement Company®. It is the first escrow company in Mexico and is dedicated to processing the trusts and title transfers of Mexican real estate for foreign buyers and sellers for properties located ANYWHERE in Mexico. The company frequently sponsors seminars on the various aspects of real estate ownership in Mexico and holds membership in AMPI, NAR and FIABCI and received PROFECO Certificate 00063/96.
Every January I create this report for my clients and post it on my blog. This year our MLS-BCS organization has asked me to share it here.

This year was something of a shocker to me; at least when I started examining the data. Actually, I had thought it was a pretty good year, all things considered. Granted the halt in hotel revenue and old light house. 26,909 sqft No HOA’s MLS# 15-2549 USD$200,000. (624) 151- 5400 marco@piscesgroupcabo.com

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a shocker to me; at least when I started examining the data. Actually, I had thought it was a pretty good year, all things considered. Granted the hotel rooms were back online and condos are back online and condos are back online and condos were inching up in some categories and billions were being invested in new developments. One very prominent developer on the Cabo Corridor even raised prices across the board about 30%. Almost all hotel rooms are back online and consumer confidence in the US is high. Although the weak peso won’t help on the actual sales price of real estate here it does reduce closing costs significantly and will offer buyers a significant advantage on future capital gains tax. All in all, it looks like 2016 is going to be a good year. A very good year indeed.

Carol Billups is Broker/Owner of Cabo Realty Pros, a full service real estate agency in Cabo San Lucas. Their website is www.caborealtypros.com. She can also be reached at carolbillups@hotmail.com or by phone at 044-624-147-7541 or (760) 481-7694 from the US or Canada.

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Auntie Vickie womans her store from the southern state of Oaxaca. It is located up in the barrio, specifically in the colony called Tierra y Libertad, in the industrial zone. It’s easy to find: turn right off the highway.

Enrique Santos from Puebla sells modern looking paper wall hangings called papel amate made from tree bark. It is a craft of the indigenous Otomi (Aztec) and is hundreds of years old.

Chatarra Convertida sells metal sculptures made from recycled junk including lots of screws, bolts, and nuts. Those items are transformed into cars and statues such as a DJ, golfer, dentist, doctor, violinist, or soccer player.

Carolina Soto specializes in angelology which uses angels to provide guidance in your life. In case your life is in need of such guidance. For $150 pesos she will conduct a reading in four areas: health, work, love, and mission in life. During the reading, she will provide insight and suggestions. She will also tell you what angels are present in your life. That way you can call on them daily for help and support.

The leather shoe stand has modern styles with bright colors this year for children, women, and men. There are stylish hand woven plastic purses and bags, jewelry, and lots of embroidered cotton clothes for women and men.

You can also find straw hats, colorful metal mirrors, black pottery, and onyx pieces at this market. The health and wellness stand sells natural health drops made from medicinal plants for all your ailments from A to Z. All it takes is five drops daily applied under the tongue. Others sell aromatherapy oils and honey products. If you are hungry, try some gorditas, tortas (sandwiches), churros, homemade ice cream, or candy. The Regiones de Oaxaca Restaurant serves a variety of dishes, and they are all good.

So go to the indigenous market, it’s a bit of old Mexico right there in the new fangled WallMart parking lot. Maybe if you squint, you can squint the big box store away and pretend you’re in the real Mexico. Sure, that’s going to take some serious squinting, but this charming market and its wonderful gentle people can help you pull it off. The market is here only until February 1, so shake a leg.

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YES, WE HAVE RECYCLING... continued from page 1

He began the business eight years ago when his job as construction superintendent here ended. Out of work and wanting to remain here in Cabo like so many of us, it dawned on him that he had the knowledge and skills to operate a recycling plant. He knew about the process, the machines, and the different types of plastic. His only obstacle was money, he had

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25
not by bringing us the news. Who’s to blame for losing site of the news? We are: We are not clicking on legitimate news sources, we are clicking on the titillating stuff. It’s human nature. I do the click thing too, they are very good at tempting me, loading my pages with items of interest to me. If I lingered on in-
formation on a new tech gadget, vio
tal. Next day that gadget shows up on my screen as click bait: “See how close we are to releasing the new virtual reality equipment for retail sale”. And I can’t resist anything like, “Lower your golf score with this gadget”. Then I’m off to the races, far afield from any news, and onto a page selling me golf equipment.
I know we are not demanding news, because if we were, it would be presented to us. These market-
ers are smart and getting smarter all the time, due to what computer
ers are good at: Analytics. People who present these websites to us get statistical reports that are re-
ined right down to Nat’s ass. They can see what click bait worked and what didn’t. They know how to lead us off the path of news to how to shave a stroke off our golf game. We fall for it.
Maybe in the old days of paper news, when the presenters could not track our eyeballs on a page, they were kidding themselves that we were interested in the news at all. Now that our level of interest is trackable online, presenters have changed course and they are following what’s trending. They want to give us, not what we need to be informed citizens, but what to give us that will keep us on their page the longest. And sadly, it’s often not the news.
Instead of getting out in front and leading the news industry is now following behind. You want to join the conversation that El Chapo wasn’t really captured? Many sources will fuel that inter-
est with conjecture and specula-
tion for you.
Maybe I’m kidding myself that you all are a cut above that, but I really do believe our pre-
cious readers want to hear about Baja. Don’t you? Huh? Are you still there? Or have you put the paper down and you’re now checking your Facebook page? Sigh.
international-auditions. Danza Tellez is located in Plaza Caracol in San Jose, across from the Mega, towards the ocean. Upstairs.

**So you think Cabo is expensive?** You’re right. It’s the most expensive city in Mexico, followed by Cancún, Monterrey, Mexico City and Cuernavaca.

The stats are the result of the National Cost of Life study by Canada-based Mercer Consulting, who studied variables like housing, food, public transportation, education, entertainment, clothing, personal care, household goods and health care during 2014 and 2015.

As in preceding years, housing is the category where Cabo residents out spend others to the tune of between 35 and 57.8 percent. The average, 44.29%, includes rent/mortgage, utilities, telephone and maids. The rest goes to education (20.33%), food (12.62%) and entertainment (9.3%), among others.

The study takes as the base Mexico City, with a hundred points. Cabo reached 107, followed by Cancun (106) and Monterrey (103).

Maybe you’re Canadian and need to practice thrift. The least expensive cities in Mexico are Tlaxcala, Zacatecas, Tepic, Guanajuato and Tuxtla Gutiérrez in Chiapas. Yeah, like, whoever heard of those, let alone want to live there. Sorry, Canadians, we shouldn’t laugh, we really do feel your pain. You don’t deserve these hard times due to the strong dollar. Hey, we Mexicans are suffering too. Maybe the Kanucks and us should band together against the damn Gringos. I have actually seen some of them gloat.

Theater to get funding for repairs. Alan Castro, the Los Cabos director of culture, announced with great fanfare that Mayor Arturo de la Rosa was able to obtain nearly $600,000 in federal funding to repair the dilapidated City Theater in San Jose. The old theater is named after some guy named Miguel Lomelin Ceseña. Anyhow, this guy’s theater is on Zaragoza St., the down street that was badly messed up by hurricane Odile. The theater got hit hard and then the damage was neglected by the former director of culture to the point that the place was looted as no one cared to seal off the entrance, which lost its doors to the hurricane. It will take a lot more money now to fix it up, then it would have a year...
This week we asked the question, what do you think about the recapture of El Chapo Guzmán, the biggest drug lord in the world who escaped from prison seven months ago. But we asked only people we found on a college campus. We were disturbed to see that everyone followed the party line, sharing the view of the teacher. When the teacher holds such an extreme view, that the press has faked the biggest news story of the year, fake photos and all, his students believe it. Then of course they put this nonsense on their Facebook page, and it spreads to everyone in the community. It’s really angry about all of it is that the government thinks we’re stupid enough to believe it. In the video they show “grenades” that should have torn a whole wall down or at least burned it, but there was only a small mark left. This is what happens when we watch too many telenovelas. (TV soap operas)

1. Efrain Franco, 54 years old, teacher. I don’t believe a single word the media says about President Peña Nieto being so smart and catching him. There’s so many irregularities in the pictures, his face looks so calm, almost like he just knows exactly what is happening. And in a coincidence the dollar reached its highest point, and our oil the lowest. What makes me really angry about all of it is that the government thinks we’re stupid enough to believe it. In the video they show “grenades” that should have torn a whole wall down or at least burned it, but there was only a small mark left. This is what happens when we watch too many telenovelas. (TV soap operas)

2. Olivia Thayer, 23 years old, student. I’m not very knowledgeable about this to be honest, I try to stay focused on more positive things and the news just make everything seem so fake. But I guess it’s a scam. President Peña Nieto felt too much pressure from the USA government and broke the “freedom” treaty we had with them. Whatever it is, I just hope it doesn’t bring even more violence to our country, that really does break my heart; to know that hundreds of innocent people die due to violence for something they have nothing to do with, it’s insane.

3. Julian Perez, 20 years old, student. It’s nothing more than an excuse to say that the government is making a little right for all its wrongs. But it’s totally fake, I can bet on it, because there is no way he could have been captured and everything is this quiet. His people would have taken revenge immediately and President Peña Nieto and his people couldn’t be alive. Chapo is huge and can do whatever he wants. He is most likely sleeping in his jail bed with a smile on his face and laughing at how stupid our people can be.

4. Jose Luis Camarillo, 46 years old, bus driver. I’m happy he’s “captured” but I know it’s a lie. I really wish they took him to the United States and he gets what he deserves, but I know he’s too powerful for that. And now with the Kate del Castillo scandal he’s getting more powerful; more famous and we are all starting to like him because he is becoming real and more human than our president. I almost feel sorry that he tried to hit on Kate and she put him down, and he is so big that I can’t believe he didn’t hear when the government arrived at the city of Mochis to capture him.

5. Brenda Garcia, 24 years old, spa owner. I am so disappointed in the way that they made it so obvious it was staged. From the videos, the photos, his reaction, the announcement. The fact that the president is still alive and his security people...
during the low seasons with attractive package deals, focusing on destinations with the most potential, like Huatulco in Oaxaca, Loreto in Baja California Sur, and Ixtapa in Guerrero. Also in Guerrero, a re-launching project is planned for the port of Acapulco. De la Madrid said that the Tourism Secretariat is working with hotels, airlines and bus lines in order to offer the best possible packages with the intention of keeping seats and rooms full during the low season. The secretary discounted violence as an issue, saying that most destinations are safe and able to receive both nationals and foreigners, including drug war zone Acapulco, which reported occupancy rates of 95% during the Christmas season.

Love these press releases. If you would like to help the dogs and cats of Todos Santos and Pescadero live a happier and healthier life, you are asked to sign up to be a volunteer in the next spay/neuter campaign. We are told it’s lots of fun and no experience is required. First of all, how is no sex life going to a happy life? Secondly, just what part of this operation is going to go well assisted by someone with no experience? Ouch.

Continued from page 4
Fish Report

BY GARY GRAHAM

If you’ve ever had a desire to have your own Moby Dick experience now is your chance. In addition to our patented Cabo weather, and along with some good catches on the sport fishing front, the waters off of Cabo are filled with lots of whales — young ones, old ones — some small and some huge! They are all a sight to behold as they cavort close to shore; sometimes they are close enough you can see them from the beach. Good luck and good hunting! Gary Graham, gary@gc.Comm

San Cristobal to San Jose at 77 to 78 degrees. From just above the Gorda Banks to Los Frailes and beyond fell to about 75 degrees.

San Jose. There has been no particular hot spot recently; every day certain areas produced a mix of species in limited numbers. Very few dorado or wahoo reported; though free-swimming wahoo were sighted on several occasions, not many were actually hooked and landed. .same with dorado, they seemed to be taking time off. Yellowfin tuna were holding around the “Twenty-Five Spot” off of La Fortuna, but with often rapid sweeping drifts created by winds, this spot was not always easy to fish. There was an ongoing problem with nuisance sea lions, mostly by commercial fishermen — pangeros, fishing the late twilight hours, who reported that the yellowfin (up to over 100 pounds) would start feeding as the sun was just about setting. It makes for a late day, fighting fish into the darkness and arriving back to the dock in the pitch black of the often moonless evening.

Billfish action was also scattered, with the most common catch being smaller-sized striped marlin as there were no larger concentrations of offshore baitfish to attract major feeding frenzies. All of the normal fish migration patterns seem to be abnormal this year, and we are expecting later than usual arrival of sardina and mackerel. It’s hard to predict when this will happen; it’s time now.

Bottom action has been showing encouraging signs recently with more red snapper, amberjack and cabrilla beginning to appear; then stronger currents have slowed down this action. Winds have been more consistent than normal through this past fall and now into our winter season; this should be the time that we begin to have calmer days and this should help open up more bottom fishing opportunities. Very little inshore action with sporty action on smaller-sized roosterfish and no sierra to speak of without the preferred sardina bait source.

East Cape. The East Cape has been very windy, making it difficult to get out and fish most days. This has been great for the wind-surfers competition — “Lord of the Wind” — that draws more international attention every year. On the nice days, there have been some dorado and billfish along with some yellowtail that are starting to show off La Ribera. Along the beach and inside there are sierra very early in the mornings as well as some small rooster fish and jacks, but the forecast is looking like the wind is here to stay for awhile.

La Paz. What’s going on? For the last three months the fishing has been so spotty because of strong winds that it’s been hard to get out to fish. Fishing has basically been a non-factor in anyone’s vacations!

New Ocean Front Luxury 2 Bedroom Penthouse for Sale

A very special 2-story unit for vacationing or as a rental property, located inside the Casa del Mar Resort near San Jose.

Tastefully decorated. Wake up to sunrise in a master suite with a king size bed on the second floor that walks out onto a large patio overlooking the Sea of Cortez. Huge master bath is huge with a walk in closet, walk in Spa-like shower and an oversized tub.

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Full report continues on page 30
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laying down under the
rescue truck close to
him and talking to him.
Finally a little petting
was allowed, and then
a daring lunge, and our
intrepid rescuers were
able to drag him out
from under the car. In his
panic he bit his rescuer’s
leg. But all was forgiven
and after 2 weeks of intensive care and 3 months of good food little Trump was out of the woods and ready for a real home.
He is waiting for his forever home at Baja Safe.
Miraculously, he has healed his heart and his head along with
his body, and is a loving dog who has put his somewhat spotty
past behind him.
www.bajasafe.com

ASK A MEXICAN...
continued from page 20

SHOULD WE IN MEXICO BE...
continued from page 6

Hurricane Wilma hit the Riviera Maya in Mexico, including Cancun, Isla Mujeres, and Cozumel in 2005. The storm damaged a large percentage of the hotels in Cancun and washed away the beach completely, leaving water lapsing at hotel foundations.

Mexico tried a quick fix of the beaches in 2006, but waves washed away the new sand relatively quickly. Next Mexico launched a $70 million project to restore about 7 miles of beach, at a cost of $10 million per mile. However, the ocean has already swept away as much as 8 percent of the new sand—even without any major storms. And sea level rise that has already occurred is making average storm waves riding in on high tide more erosive than the waves of 30 years ago. And as sea level rises, storm surges from hurricanes will be higher. For example, the average storm surge during a hurricane in the Caribbean is now 3 to 4 feet above sea level. If sea level were to rise by 4 feet because of global warming, as scientists predict could happen, a storm surge from a hurricane would be that much higher, and could flood and damage homes, resorts, and other businesses farther inland.

The Mexican government is on this. Blanca Mendoza, a scientist from UNAM’s Institute of Geophysics in Mexico City, points out the level of the sea has risen nearly eight inches in the last 115 years, and in this century, could rise up to three feet. Antonina Boncheva, a teacher and researcher from the UABCS university, stated that climate change could do worse things than drown the beaches. Drought and rain can both increase, causing corn, rice and wheat production to fall between five and ten percent. Think tacos and beans and rice here. Muy importante.

Then there’s the local fauna, and let’s not forget about our fragile coral, rich and complex ecosystems located in tropical oceans with high salinity where they thrive on good sun and currents that drag plankton, which has moved farther north seeking better weather conditions; thus making it harder for coral to survive. Cabo Pulmo is a good
CONTINUED ON PAGE 30
CHILENO BAY IS AN EXCLUSIVE SEASIDE SANCTUARY OF AUTHENTICALLY INSPIRED RESIDENCES AND ENDLESS LEISURE PURSUITS ALONG CABO’S MOST CELEBRATED COAST. ANCHORED BY A PREMIER MEMBERS-ONLY BEACH CLUB AND A TOM FAZIO DESIGNED GOLF COURSE, CHILENO BAY CELEBRATES FAMILY, COMMUNITY, ADVENTURE AND ESCAPE. BEGIN YOUR LEGACY HERE

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none. So he roamed the streets of Los Cabos, and collecting cans, on foot, long hours. Working tedious hours afoot, he was able to collect just under two pounds a day. It took him five months he had the $2,000 it took to buy a truck. Paulino was on the move!

Next, he drove out to the Migrino dump and saw that the only thing the junk pickers were picking was aluminum. Hmm, no interest in plastic or cardboard here. With no competition for the product, it was the perfect business plan to recycle them. With the rest of his tin can profits, he bought a compacting machine and has never looked back.

It started as a family business employing his four sons, Emmanuel, Fernando, Omar, and Eric. Today he employs 20 workers of which five are seniors and five are disabled. He explained that he wants to provide opportunities for those who can’t find work easily. Indirectly he employs 70 pepenadores. Dumpster divers who collect plastic bottles and aluminum cans about town. They bring the tossed off stuff to him, and he pays them on the spot.

At first, he was compacting one ton of cardboard and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

This is a tiny portion of the waste we generate. This company processes it here as much as the equipment will allow, and it is trucked out to various recycle and remanufacturing centers around Mexico.

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Noise alert. An estimated 1,200 bikers from the U.S. and Mexico are expected to gather in Los Cabos from March 3 to 5 after partying in La Paz on their way down the Baja. The Baja Riders event takes visiting bikers to various attractions around Los Cabos, ending every night with a party somewhere in town, while the closing party takes place on Medano beach. Vrooom!

Wine and love go well together. Unless we get too much. The Todos Santos bodega – the local wine shop – will hold the VinAmo Love and Wine Festival from February 12 to 14 in well, Todos Santos, about 45 minutes north of Cabo San Lucas. To celebrate Valentine’s Day, the festival start-up will feature the Shimul’s Flying Guitars “Corazones en la Huerta” or Hearts at the Orchard concert on Friday, February 12 from 7:00 to 10:00 pm. The show includes a red wine glass you can take home that you don’t have to steal, two glasses of Shimul wine, country style food at three different food stations, (all you can eat or stuff in your pockets), premium wines on sale by the bottle, and plenty of seating and space for 850 pesos, or about $50 bucks.

On Saturday, February 13 from 6:00 to 10:00 pm, the Shimul Flying Guitars will play at Restaurant Sorstis in La Paz along with a five course pairing of Mexican fusion new cuisine with five premium wines from the Shimul winery from Valle de Guadalupe in northern Baja. Shimul has been the winner three times in a row at the Todos Santos GastroVino Festival. The concert/pairing dinner is limited to 40 seats, with a cost of 1,250 pesos, or about $72 Gringo bucks. For tickets and more information email: labodegadetodossantos@gmail.com or look up www.vinamofest.com.

Happy Hour in Todos Santos! The hard to find but worth the try Chez Laura French restaurant is now offering a different kind of happy hour. A glass of wine and tapas for $3.50 at the current rate of exchange. Once you try the tapas, trust me, you will want to try the entire menu. For information on how to get there, call Laura at (612)145-0847 or cell. 612-139-2148. If you figure out how to find it yourself, they should give you a free glass.

Carnaval La Paz coming! Don’t forget that the La Paz Carnival (Mardi-Gras), will take place from February 4 to 9 along the malecón (concrete boardwalk). This is a do not miss event, as the city closes off several blocks to host the party. There are floats, live shows featuring famous Mexican singers and comedians during the evening, food stalls and beer sales all over the place. Yes, it does get a little wild but, hey, it’s only toooo, toooooo wild for grannies. They also have carny rides and games of chance, and trinket booths from the mainland. They sell different stuff than the same old boring crap our walking around peddlers peddle.

Solar school power. At least that’s what the state government is aiming for. The federal education ministry (SEP) and the power Company (CFE) are working on a project to install solar panels in the state’s schools, and are looking for funding from the Electricity Savings Trust (FIDE), based in Mexicali, which is in Northern Baja. There should be large savings in the long run, for sure, but the buy in is expensive. Hey, why don’t we all toss some solar panels on our roof?

Dead whales found. Bummer.
Every Monday, 8:30am
Pickleball in San Jose. Contact rondumbarton@gmail.com

Every Tuesday at 8 a.m.
Rotary Club at the Sheraton Hacienda del Mar resort. In the Chapel. RSVP: 172-0009 y 172-0010

Every Wednesday 9am-12pm.

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

First Thursday. Yo Reciclo sets up tents to receive plastic, aluminum, cardboard, computers, printers, cell phones, green, clear glass but no Batteries, please. In San Jose, Plaza Dorada at the roundabout near the Penex. 8 am to 2 pm. info@yoreciclo.org.mx

Every Thursday, 8:00 am.
Rotary Club breakfast. At the Playa Grande Resort, Restaurant Brigantine, Cabo San Lucas.

Every Thursday. From 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Every Thursday from 6pm to 9pm.
Art Walk. Historic downtown, San Jose.

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

February 3rd thru 6th 7pm.
Las Estrellas de Todos Santos presents The Cemetery Club, a play by Ivan Menchell in the Galeria at Hotel Casa Tota in Todos Santos. $20 USD includes a Wine & Nibble Mingle with the actors after the show. Will Call: lasestrellasdetodossantos@gmail.com www.facebook.com/LasEstrellasDeTodosSantos

February 6 and 7, Saturday and Sunday, February 6th and 7th 10am-4pm.
Open Artists Studio tour in Todos Santos. A once a year opportunity to visit the Todos Santos artists in their natural environment. Now a two day event where visitors will be able to see more art, more studios and spend more time with the artist at each studio. With a map in hand, showing all of the studios, visitors will get a glimpse of who the artist's life is like. There will be painters, sculptors, photographers, muralists, plein air painters, encaustic artists, jewelers, printmakers, collage artists, potters, and a wood turner.

Last year's tour with 34 participating artists saw 400 visitors roaming throughout the town in one giant art fest that raised more than $3000 for the Children's Art Programs of The Palapa Society of Todos Santos. Info at ts.studiotour@gmail.com, 612-145-8491 (cellular). Steve gallery@steve@gmail.com, 612-145-0001. 2 day ticket 200 pesos.

February 12 to 14.
VinAmo Love and Wine Festival. To celebrate Valentine’s Day. 3 Day event starts Friday February 12, Shimul’s Flying Guitars. Concert by Corazones en la Huerta from 7:00 to 10:00 pm. T and plenty of seating and space for 850 pesos, or about $50 bucks gets you 1 emblematic red wine glass, 2 glasses of Shimul wine, country style food at 3 different food stations (all you can eat), Premium wines will be sold by the bottle.

February 13 from 6:00 to 10:00 pm.
The Shimul Flying Guitars will play at Sorstis restaurant in La Paz along with a 5 course pairing of Mexican fusion cuisine. Wines from the Shimul winery from Valle de Guadalupe in southern Baja. Shimul has been the winner 3 times in a row at the Todos Santos GastroVino Festival. The concert / pairing dinner is limited to 40 seats. Cost $72 bucks.

Sunday, February 14 from 6:00 to 10:00 pm. Music fusion concert by Los Valentinos at Tre Galline restaurant. Rest is same as above.
labodegadetodossantos@gmail.com or look up: www.vinafest.com.

February 28, Sunday, 2016
Historic Home Tour Of Todos Santos. An opportunity to view a piece of Todos Santos history. These magnificent homes will be open for one only day to tell the story of a past era rich in cultural and social graces. These homes will draw you back to a time of pride and prosperity in a humble mission town and give you insight into the lifestyle people enjoyed in the past century. Supports the Palapa Society and its many charitable causes. Paul Bumann, paul@boominenterprises.com, Ph. 612-178-0062.

March 3 to 5.
Los Cabos Baja Biker Week. An estimated 1,200 bikers will be visiting La Paz, Todos Santos and Los Cabos. Information: http://www.bajaridersmc.com/

March 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19 - Baja Shakespeare’s 16th Season at Buena Vista Beach Resort in Spa Buenavista’s Convention Center. All shows at 7:00 pm except March 13, a matinee at 1:30 pm. Tickets $20 USD or 300 pesos. For show details go to www.facebook.com/pages/Baja Shakespeare/220397878011557. More info closer to show dates.

March 20, Sunday.
23rd Arts Festival at Los Barriles, East Cape. Art works from around Southern Baja, arts and crafts exhibits and sale, food and booze and live music. More information as they figure it out.

July 16, Saturday.

October 29, Saturday.
Tuna Shoot Out fishing tournament. At Palmas de Cortez resort, Los Barriles, East Cape. Approximately $35,000 prize based on 100 teams. Raffle prizes of tackle, lures and return trips to Van Wormer Resorts. $500 entry fee. Information: www.eastcapeshootout.com

To get your event listed here, email the details to david@gringogazette.com. There is no charge.
So You’re Thinking Of Getting A Mexican Quickie Divorce

Think again

BY ORLANDO GOTAY

Google “divorcios rápidos Tijuana” and you will get over 200,000 hits. That’s because Mexican divorces are a growth industry. They may be rápido but they may come with surprising, unintended consequences—especially division of marital assets, deferred compensation and pension plans. Worse, the decree (or key parts) could be deemed invalid or unenforceable by U.S. courts or have a really, really bad tax result.

Is anyone out there reading this domiciled in Mexico? Domicile is a key driver in recognition of foreign divorces. For instance, California will not recognize an out of state divorce if both persons were domiciled in California at the time the divorce proceeding were started. Domicile is different than residency. It requires more than the physical residency itself, it requires the intent to stay there. So, (in our example) California domiciled couples can’t go to Mexico, divorce and come back with a valid divorce. At least one has to be domiciled where the divorce action is pursued. This is where that FMM Visitor Visa may be inconvenient. It’s hard to establish ‘domicile’ from a state court perspective, if the first thing one does is label oneself as a “visitor” in Mexico—or worse, living with no documentation at all.

The dissolution of the marital estate is often the key financial ingredient of divorce. A Mexican court may adjudicate asset division according to Mexican law. It may be very likely that Mexican courts are not well versed in the intricacies of U.S. tax deferred compensation, such as pensions or stock options. Spouses, former spouses and others may have rights under these deferred compensation plans. Simply saying “everything by half” may not be proper or correct when it comes to stateside pensions. And when it comes to division of employee benefit, pension and deferred compensation plans, a Qualified Domestic Relations Order, a “QDRO” (pronounced “quad-roe”) is a critical document.

As a general rule, all distributions from a pension or employee benefit plan, no matter who receives them, are considered taxable income to the plan participant unless pursuant to a valid QDRO. Federal law says that QDROs must be issued “pursuant to state domestic relations laws.” Guess what—your Mexican divorce may not count as a QDRO because it may not have been issued “pursuant to a state domestic relations law.” Don’t mess with this. You should go to a state court to get a QDRO.

If you are intent on divorcing in Mexico - or if you have no choice - domestication of foreign divorce decree is imperative if there are U.S. assets. The U.S. court may then issue orders based (or not!) on what happened in Mexico. This is the perfect time to ask the stateside court for a QDRO for each pension plan to be divided.

Is your spouse a non-resident alien? Generally, the transfer of property to a spouse (or former spouse) during marriage, or after marriage, incident to a divorce, is not subject to tax. Did you know that the general rule does not apply if the person receiving the property is a non-resident alien? There may be U.S. withholding obligations towards the former spouse.

Surprises abound in the world of divorce taxation. Proper prior planning is essential so that you do not get stuck with an unexpected tax bill.

Orlando Gotay is a California licensed tax attorney (with a Master of Laws in Taxation) admitted to practice before the IRS, the U.S. Tax Court and other taxing agencies. His love of things Mexican has led him to devote part of his practice to the tax matters of U.S. expats in Mexico. He can be reached at tax@orlandogotay.com.
January 25th, 2016

**CASINO NIGHT... continued from page 5**

and it's a rather formal affair, which includes food, drink and some casino chips. Where else can you have so much fun and write it off your taxes? It's at Casa Belisima in the Pedregal.

The people behind this program are Cecilia and Jacinto Avalos, so each year they lean on one of their friends in the Pedregal, each one of whom has a large, fancy home. There will be well over a hundred people at this party, as it's usually sold out. Cost is $100 U.S. For more information go to www.buildingbajasfuture.org. Actually, that's not a very helpful website, it tends to be only about the program and its website, which includes their bank accounts and the possibility of online giving. I've been told it's very helpful by those who can access it. There is no one who can access it online.

Other organizations that frequently took to the streets of the capital were the electricity union the National Torch Movement, an antipoverty group; student groups; an Association of Retired Workers of the Federal District of Public Security. Lastly were the parents of the 43 missing Ayotzinapa students who are long dead, and it's time for them to come to terms with that and try to pick up their shattered lives.

There were 3,370 protest marches in total during the period, 63% of which were fueled by a beef with the federal government. The remainder were protests against local authorities.

**It's a Ford my lord.**

A new Ford Motor Co. assembly plant is expected to be the biggest single investment in the Mexican automotive sector this year. This investment will represent a big chunk of the $2.5 billion expected in foreign direct investment in the industry 2016. The remainder of that amount will be invested in automotive parts manufacturing. The new Ford plant will be located in the state of San Luis Potosi and produce 350,000 vehicles a year.

The industry as a whole chalked up record output last year. Production of cars and light trucks was up 5.6% to 3.4 million units. A big jump was seen in domestic new car sales; they soared 19% to 1.3 million vehicles, also a record.

Total direct foreign investment in Mexico this year is expected to be $30 billion, up from about $28.5 billion last year, according to figures compiled by the Economy Secretariat.

**Points for creativity.** Earlier this week smugglers were caught hiding marijuana in fake carrots as they were hauled over the U.S. border. Then a couple days later it was fake coconuts. A tractor-trailer was seized in northern Sonora after authorities received a tip from a private citizen that some of the coconuts in the truck’s cargo were not filled with coconut milk. The tip they had received was correct. Inside the trailer were 999 plastic coconuts with 1,998 packets of marijuana hidden inside. Total weight of the drug was given as 500 kilograms. Both hauls together were worth a little more than a million dollars.

**WHAT’S GOING ON IN THIS... continued from page 21**

literally not far outside Bahia de los Muertos and close to shore. As one angler said, “I’ve never seen so much bait in the Bay this time of year!” Another angler said he was trolling some Rapalas and they got 7 wahoo before 11 a.m. that morning and added yellowtail to the box as well.

**PUEBLO BONITO BLANCO**

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**La Paz**

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**San Jose**

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**Cabo San Lucas**

- Cindy Kirkwood, www.eastcapetackle.com
- Larry Edwards, www.coritzcharters.com
- Gordo Bank Pangas, www.gordobanks.com
- Rancho Leonero Hotel, www.rancholeonero.com
- Jen Wren Sportfishing, www.thejenwren.com
- Cabo San Lucas
- East Cape Tackle Cindy Kirkwood, www.eastcapetackle.com

Should we in Mexico be... continued from page 23

example of this: some say it has deteriorated in the past years, although that could be from a number of things, such as fish poaching.

We all have a lot to lose with this climate change stuff, so let’s not think that living in Mexico insulates us from the reality of our responsibility. Who wants to sit at Mango Deck with our feet in the water? Well, actually, that part wouldn’t be so hard to take.

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Sorry, Canadians, we just could not reliably get them to you so we’re not mailing to Canada anymore.
A new old restaurant as opened. Well, it's not really new and it's not really old, either. And it's called C.J.'s New York Deli and it's not in New York either. It's in San Jose and it's just changed hands from Christine to George but the name won't change. Christine is going back to Alaska and her name will live on her marque forever.

George is a Canadian and a professional chef who has cooked since he was about 12 years old. He has had some interesting jobs, responsible for feeding workers and tourists at hotels up in the Arctic Circle. (Who tourists in the Arctic Circle? Polar bears, maybe.) He's a Red Seal Chef with 40 years experience who washed up on a restaurant he's (Who tourists in the Arctic Circle? Polar bears, maybe.) He's a Red Seal Chef with 40 years experience who washed up on a restaurant he's never heard of before. He's never heard of before. He's never heard of before.

Start with their breakfasts, which are all very generous. This reviewer's favorite is the corned beef and hash with eggs and toast for $9. There are all the regular breakfast foods including French toast, hot cakes, and eggs benny.

Lunch is where the deli part becomes apparent. There is a genuine Reuben sandwich for $12, as is the Philly cheese steak, and something called a grilled squirrel for a bargain 10 Gringo bucks. See, same as always.

What new is the dinners, which include fried chicken, meatloaf, and ravioli, at about $12. Certain nights there are certain bargains, and you can still get the lunch sandwiches for dinner and appetizers which are generous to fill most people. Every night now C.J.'s offers a different dinner special in addition to a dozen menu items like meatloaf. There is prime rib Sundays for $23, and beef strokinoff dinner plate on Fridays for $13. If you catch the nightly specials, George pays the tax which is a 15% savings right there.

C.J.'s is a little hard to find the first time, so listen up. It’s in San Jose, just off the Paseo Malacate, which is how four lane street all the hotels are on. Across from the Mega and the dolphin center is a street that loops. In the front is a plaza called Plaza Caracal, and Cynthia’s restaurant is in the front. She's got her carrot and Cynthia’s restaurant is in the front. She's got her carrot

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www.mexicosecurity.com.mx
Cerritos, Pescadero & Todos Santos: A good way to spend a day

For those ready to escape the non-stop excitement of Cabo, consider a more relaxing pace, less than an hour’s drive north of downtown Cabo San Lucas. You’ll find an artist’s colony, an authentic Mexican town, laid back residential areas, and the best swimming and surfing beach on the south Pacific side of the peninsula.

Todos Santos offers a charming, authentic environment, with the traditional central plaza, dozens of art galleries, and its neighboring beach, San Pedrito, both world-class surf spots. There are a couple of ways to get to the beach, either the old dirt road at km 65, or the new dirt road at km 67. Either way, it’s a bumpy road, but where the town of Pescadero is old Mexico, Cerritos has that new dirt road at km 67. Either way, it’s a bump, but what the hell, you’re in a rental car.

Cerritos is perfect for swimming and enjoying the sand and sun for a day, or a week. Take a surfing lesson or rent a boogie board. Kick back with your favorite refreshment and watch the surfers. There’s a beach club there with tables and beach umbrellas out on the sand, so you don’t even have to pack a lunch if you don’t want to.

El Pescadero is a small town on the way to Todos Santos. It has a rich history of agriculture, ranching and fishing. The lush poblano chili fields are everywhere, as well as tomato, tomato and basil fields. The town is between the ocean to the west and the Sierra Laguna mountain range to the east. A modern four-lane highway runs right through it connecting Cabo San Lucas to Todos Santos, then goes north to LaPaz. Stop at one of the many taco stands along the highway, or buy veggies or fruit along the road. In the afternoon when the fishermen come in with the day’s catch you can buy fresh fish off the boat at Punta Lobos. For a small propina (tip) they’ll filet it for you, too.

Turn off the dirt road just before the Pemex in Pescadero, left toward the ocean, to discover Hierbabuena, a huge vegetable garden with an open-air restaurant smack in the middle of it. They serve fresh organics from the garden, and a nice selection of wines. Stop by the little bakery on the road in and buy a pan dulce, a Mexican version of a doughnut. Ducks into some of the little local shops, but be aware, there is no English spoken here.

Off the main street in Pescadero is a tiny backyard restaurant called La Pasidita that has, I kid you not, the best burgers anywhere else in Baja.

Pescadero is a tiny backyard restaurant called La Pasidita that has, I kid you not, the best burgers anywhere else in Baja. La Pasidita is a locals place, though, and is only open after 6 p.m. Maybe 7 p.m., sometimes a little later.

For a truly unique experience book a room at the Arriba de la Roca, which means “top of the rock”) a high-end boutique hotel that specializes in personalized service and is perched on top of a cliff. For adults only (it’s on a cliff, after all). You’ll experience 360 degree views not matched anywhere else in Baja.

Visitors interested in hiking, horseback riding, surfing, charter fishing on a traditional panga, a Mexican fishing boat, adventure tours, or just experiencing Mexican village life, should head to Pescadero, Cerritos and Todos Santos. They are less than an hour’s drive north along the Pacific.

Best Beach Club!

Enjoy the warmth and feeling of old Baja with great food and service. Only 30 minutes north of Cabo, at Km. 65 on the highway to Todos Santos. Great surf point & safe swimming for the entire family.

- Live Sports on Giant TVs
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- Rent Surfboards, Longboards, Softboards, Bodyboards, Skimboards, Horseback riding
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Live Music Sat. & Sun. with John Cash (Sat) and Jazz, with Doline Jones & Diego Ramirez (Sun) from 2:00pm
Ph. 624-129-6315 or 612-130-3358
info@cerritosbcs.com Map at www.cerritosbcs.com

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www.ranchoseapidero.com
Cooking Like A Mexican

BY ALEJANDRA SARACHAGA

Tamales usually play a part in any Mexican celebration but there is one day in which they are a must, because that is what the tradition marks. No other food can be served in La Calendaria day on February 2nd. The origins of the Día de la Candelaria have a religious meaning; it is the day of the presentation of Christ to the temple. Jewish law said that babies had to be taken to the temple after 40 days because women were considered to be unclean until this period had passed since giving birth. So on 2nd February (40 days after Christmas), Mary took Jesus to the temple along with candles or Candelas hence the name Candelaria, and it is the day of the purification of the Virgin and the presentation of the Lord. Even though this is a Catholic festivity, Mexico is the only religious country celebrating it by taking images of baby Jesus to the temples. And by eating tamales. And did you know tamale is not correct? It’s either one tamal or multiple tamales. Tamales is plural.

A tamal from Nahuatl: tamalli is a traditional Mexican dish made of a starchy corn based dough which we call masa, which is steamed or boiled in a leaf wrapper. The wrapping is discarded before eating. We Mexicans love to see rookies try to eat the banana leaf it’s wrapped in.

Tamales were one of the staples found by the Spanish Conquistadors when they first arrived in Mexico and were soon widely spread throughout their other colonies. Tamales are said to have been as ubiquitous and varied as the sandwich is today. Makes sense, because they didn’t have bread to hold their fixins together.

Tamales originated as early as 8000 to 5000 BC. Aztec and Maya civilizations as well as the Olmeca and Tolteca before them used tamales as a portable food, often to support their armies but also for hunters and travelers who were on the go. There have also been reports of tamales used in the Inca empire long before the Spanish visited the new world. Tamales made their way to Europe and became one of the first samples of the culture that the Spanish conquistadors took back to Spain as proof of civilization.

Because this of this diversity of cultures, this ancient dish has a large variety in flavors, ingredients, and presentation while still being a tamal. Almost every region and state in the country has its own kind of tamal. It is said that there are between 500 and 1000 different types of tamales all around the country. Some experts estimate the annual consumption in hundreds of millions every year.

Tamales can be further filled with meats, cheese, vegetables, chilies or any preparation, and both the filling and the cooking liquid may be seasoned and are generally wrapped in corn husks or plantain leaves before cooking, depending on the region from which they come. They usually have a sweet or savory filling and are typically steamed until firm.

Tamales are a favorite comfort food in Mexico, eaten as both breakfast and dinner, and often accompanied by hot atole or champurrado, that are maize-based beverages also of indigenous origin. Street vendors can be seen serving them from huge, steaming, covered pots. In Mexico City, the tamal is often placed inside a wheat bread roll to form a torta de tamal (also called guajolota), substantial enough to keep a person satiated until Mexico’s traditional late lunch hour. (2 pm for lunch, requires a big breakfast).

The most common fillings are pork and chicken, in either red or green salsa or mole, but another very traditional variation is to add pink colored sugar to the corn

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Letters To The Editor

Dear Gringo Gazette:

I subscribe to your paper and love keeping up with Cabo news. Cabo is my husband’s and my favorite place on Earth. We have been coming down for 16 years. We own 2 timeshares and this year we were down for 4 weeks.

Regarding the article on all-inclusives: we take advantage of the all-inclusive at one of our hotels because taxi fares round trip are over $30, often more than the cost of dinner. Car rental agencies gouge U.S. citizens on insurance and are dishonest about their prices.

We have many favorite restaurants in Cabo. The Office, Savatore, Alcazars, Mama’s, Romeo and Juliet, Soloman’s Landing, Patagonia - you get my drift. We wouldn’t resort to all-inclusives if it weren’t so damn expensive to get to all of Cabo’s wonderful restaurants.

Thanks for listening.
Carole Cline
Via email

Que Pasa in Cabo?...

Seven grey whales were found dead at Ojo de Liebre lagoon, washed up on shore on the Northwest most point of our Southern Baja state, near Guerrero Negro and the border with Northern Baja. The lagoon is a traditional stop off point for whales migrating during the winter from the icy cold waters of Alaska, to pop out their baby whales here.

Profepa (Mexico’s environmental watchdog), officials said that the six adult and one juvenile whales seemed to have died of natural causes. Possibly tired of swimming? Geeze, no hate mail please, from all you whale huggers, it was just a joke. The dead whales represent, at press time, 1.19% of the whale population at the lagoon and well, whales die, nobody lives forever. Yeah, we had to get one more shot in, we just couldn’t let it go.

What To Do With That Pesky Christmas Tree

No, you can’t just toss it out in the street in front of your house. Yes, we know it’s Mexico, but still, don’t lose your civility and don’t trash your neighborhood. And we’re pretty tired of hearing, “what the hell, it’s Mexico”. Take it to a collection center. Throughout the month of January there will be collection locations. So, cram the thing into your car and haul it to the delegation building in Cabo San Lucas, which is on the road to Todos Santos, next to the Red Cross HQ. Hours are 8 am to 3 pm, but, what the heck it’s Mexico, if you got there after hours just toss it on their porch. In San Jose they’re collecting at the City Hall. That ought to make for a nice presentation for the municipal square. Well, what the hell, it’s Mexico. See! Don’t say that!
his trucks are clearly marked with the business name and phone number and have license plates and the company has all the legal permits to operate, but there seems to be no justice on the highways. This extortion is hurting his business, and he doesn’t know what he’s going to do about it at this point.

Paulino is willing to send a truck to pick up anything, large or small. He will come by your house or work with your development. Misiones del Cabo just met with him and they are going to coordinate their residents to recycle plastic and cardboard for pick up. If you think that your development would like to help conserve the environment, just give him a call. (624-132-5109)

Paulino would like to move to the next level and start manufacturing new products with the plastic he scrounges. His goal is to buy a machine which can recycle plastic to make bags, bottles or chairs. The only thing stopping him at the moment of course is money. Given his amazing track record, we’re betting he will figure it out.

If you would like to help conserve this beautiful Baja environment, contact Paulino Hernandez at 624-132-5109 or reciclamientoheya@hotmail.com. If you don’t speak Spanish, send an email.

The 3 Wise Guys Swing By The Barrio

Gringos are kind hearted people. They like to bring Christmas cheer to the local kids, collecting presents, wrapping and delivering them. And the kids of course are glad to accept them, even if they are a bit bewildered by the delivery date and one more time, who is this fat guy in the red suit?

Mexican children get their gifts on January 6, the Day of the Kings, from the wise men.

Turns out the three wise men were late getting to the manger, something about following the wrong damn star. Or was it because they are men and real men don’t ask directions?

Whatever, they finally showed up with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the Christ child on January 6 so that is when Mexican children receive their gifts, here, bicycles, from three men dressed up as pretty ugly wise men. This picture shows a presentation from DIF, a Mexican family centered charity.
COOKING LIKE A MEXICAN...
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mix and fill it with raisins or other dried fruit to make a sweet tamal. Instead of corn husks or plantain leaves, banana leaves are used in tropical parts of the country such as Oaxaca, Chiapas, Veracruz, and the Yucatán Peninsula. These tamales are rather square in shape, often very large—15 inches or more—and thick.

The cooking of tamales is traditionally done in batches of tens if not hundreds, and the ratio of filling to dough (and the coarseness of the filling) is a matter of personal taste.

How many recipes for tamales exist? Well, right now I have 54 in front of me, and this is only in a thin cook book that I have, and maybe there are many more.

Recipe
There are two ways to do this. You can start them from scratch, or if you do want to work so much you can buy corn dough in any place where they sell tortillas we call it masa and it is sold by the kilo. One kilo is 2.2 lbs.

Starting from scratch.
For the dough:
1 cup of lard
2 cups of Corn flour (the most common brand is "Maseca") and it right there where the wheat flour is in the supermarket aisle)
1 cup of chicken broth or water warm
1 tablespoon of salt
1 tablespoon of baking powder.

For the filling:
1 1/2 lb of pork meat (the same kind that you buy for pork roast)
2 pieces of chile guajillo
3 cloves of garlic
½ onion
Salt to taste

rolling the tamales
30 pieces of corn husk (they sell them in a bag too, in any gro-

cery store)

Preparation step by step, pay attention, Gringo
Soak the corn husk for 1 ½ hours in warm water to get them soft and manageable. Then drain off.

Boil the pork meat with 1 clove of garlic and ¼ onion. Once it is cooked, shred it and reserve. Cut the chile tips, open them, and remove seeds and veins from the inside. Put them to boil with water for 20 minutes. Blend them with 2 garlic cloves, ½ onion and a little bit of salt.

In a pan, put a little bit of oil, add the shredded pork meat and pour in the chile sauce, cook it all together for around 10 minutes. Reserve.

Start blending the lard to a buttery consistence, add the corn flour, salt and baking powder, little by little add chicken broth, keep on blending, the idea is to get some air into the dough, continue until you have a smooth consistence, which is soft enough to be able to spread it on the corn husk. You will know that the mix is perfect when you take a small amount of it and put it in water. If it floats, it means that is ready.

If you decide to go from the

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Cool Camel Ride On Pacific Side Beach

No bites, no spits, and no stinks. Pretty good day

BY CARRIE DUNCAN

Cabo Adventures, which brings us two of our three local dolphin centers, has also got camels for our amusement. There are about 15 camels that live in a corral on 2,000 acres of leased land about a 20 minute bus ride out of town on the road to Todos Santos.

When we arrive at the ranch they kick us off the nice comfy bus and hoist us up into a World War ll vintage troop transport shined up and painted a very fun bumble bee yellow. We have overhead straps to hang on to but we’re sitting, so we’re good. A cooler in the middle of the floor looks promising, but nope, there’s only bottles of water in it. First the camel ride, then we’re allowed at the beer.

The guides do a good job of making this light, fun, friendly, and informative. All of Cabo Adventure’s people are extremely well trained, speaking great English and obviously are well coached. They are better than guides with other companies and worlds better than any waiter in Baja. I felt bad that we were in a truck full of Canadians who didn’t tip. The guys didn’t deserve that.

It’s a four hour deal, but you’re only on the camel for about 20 minutes. If we had known that schedule, we might have bailed, but good thing we didn’t, because we had a lot of fun just petting the camels, taking kisses from them, and learning about them. Actually, we only interacted so intimately with one, Luis, who was no doubt trained as intensively as the guides, and meticulously groomed. Luis was wearing a festive bridle, and he smelled like he had just stepped out of port shined up and painted a very fun bumble bee yellow. We have overhead straps to hang on to but we’re sitting, so we’re good. A cooler in the middle of the floor looks promising, but nope, there’s only bottles of water in it. First the camel ride, then we’re allowed at the beer.

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No More Cabo Police
Don’t get excited, we will disolve the police structure in all Mexican cities

BY DAVID FLORES

Former president Felipe Calderon, who at one point recognized that his mistake in launching the war against drugs, was to not clean up the police forces first. He finally figured out, after 70,000 deaths in those drug wars that he started, that the war was unwinnable without having an honest police force. Our current president also is realizing that he's trying to do something about it.

City police, including our own, are usually pretty corrupt. Although the feds who patrol our federal fourlane highway and the airport are even more corrupt, and certainly more vicious, than our city bums, so we're not quite sure if this is going to work out all right.

And as far as turning our cops over to state control, geeze, our state guys are thieves, too, and smart, vicious thieves at that. Honestly, if you are taken advantage of by our city police you should be ashamed because they are the least vicious/aggressive.smart/powerful. But in other municipalities, they are very vicious/aggressive/smart/powerful, and this new configuration of our police force that we will be going through for the next 90 days is mandatory for about 2500 cities in 32 states, so let's suck it up and go along.

Mando Unico, or One Command in English, is the name of the new program passed by the Mexican congress last year. The Mando Unico transfers all city police departments to state control, who in turn will have to report to the federal government on security issues.

To get ready, the federal government has been encouraging the cities to spring honestly exams on the local police in an effort to weed out the worst of the crooks before they're offered jobs under the control of the various governors.

Many of them have failed the test and many have been fired, while others kept their jobs because local and state govern-
ments don't have enough money to pony up their severance pay.

Several mayors and governors across the country opposed the change, as they feel it over steps their constitutional sovereignty. But the federal government insisted, and lobbied hard, proving many times over that very often the local police were in bed with the bad guys, from petty neighborhood criminals all the way up to organized crime.

Finally, at the end of last year, all governors agreed to the change – some had implemented the new structure several months ago – and even decided to ask congress to make this change a constitutional mandate.

They finally gave in because the federal government disburses the nation's funds to each state and threatened to cut off the spigot if they did not agree to the Mando Unico. In addition, it has been widely reported that the funds for public safety are not used solely for public safety by governors, who used them at their discretion instead, even embezzeing some. Stay tuned, as we shall see if this is a buen idea.
dough already done, buy only 1 lb. Just add chicken broth and lard enough to get the same consistency. (Lard first, chicken broth, little by little)

Now, and here is where the fun part comes.

Grab a corn husk on your hand, and spread the corn dough, more or less 1 inch thick. At the center, put one spoon of the cooked pork meat, roll it and fold the tip. If you notice that the meat or the sauce comes out, try a little bit more. Repeat the same thing with as many tamales you will like to cook, but at least 25 so it will be worth the effort. Put them inside a steamer vertically. Like little soldiers standing on their tippy toes. Once all your tamales are in place, cover with some other corn husks on top, a plastic bag, or foil. Steam for 1 ½ hours and voila! You will know that the tamales are ready when the wrapping comes off easily. If you made lots, don't worry, you can freeze them, don't remove the husk, and then microwave to heat them up.

Alejandra Sarachaga

COOKING LIKE A MEXICAN...
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SOME PRETTY STRANGE...
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pass under the body.

Camels’ mouths have a thick leathery lining allowing them to chew thorny desert plants without getting hurt. Long eyelashes and ear hairs, together with nostrils that can close, form a barrier against sand. If sand does get lodged in their eyes, they can dislodge it using their transparent third eyelid! The camels’ gait and really wide feet help them move without sinking into the sand.

The kidneys and intestines of a camel are very efficient at reabsorbing water, and they have no less than three stomachs, and they toss their food from tummy to tummy. Camel urine comes out as a thick syrup, and camel poop is so dry it doesn’t require drying when the Bedouins use them to fuel their fires.

Now, regarding this urine that comes out as a thick syrup: Camel jockeys drink it because Muhammad said it was good.

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New guard houses manned by municipal police are springing up out in the barrios and crime is going down as much as 50%. The four little miniature police stations are manned 24 hours a day. Other barrios, which don't have these, are experiencing a sharp rise in crime, as the bad guys stay one jump ahead.

The police are responding by moving as quickly as they can to build more little police stations.

We saw none of the famous anti-social behavior of biting, spitting, or stinking we've heard of. I feel like I now have a good friend in the camel world. Maybe camels have a bad rap or maybe Luis is the best of the breed, but the camels we later rode were also docile and well behaved. That made it fun.

Camels have been called the ships of the desert for the way they bob and weave down the sand with their distinctive gait, but we were very comfortable with the saddle provided. We boarded from a high platform because the vet that takes care of them doesn't think it advisable to ask them to continually get up and down from their knees the way they did for Omar Sharif in the movies.

There's another fun part of this adventure: The guides dress up in Middle Eastern clothes, minus the suicide bomb vests, and we are given flowing Arab style towels to put on our heads. That was actually a clever way of getting helmets on us, as a hard plastic helmet was hidden in the gear. But we all loved our stuff and of course made stupid jokes about being mad bombers. It was part of the fun. Yeah, we made rude remarks about Muslims, so what?

After the ride we went into the mess hall for lunch. OK, it was a palapa with picnic tables and benches like in Shakey's Pizza joints, but the kitchen and food was very authentic. We had some of the best Mexican food we've had in Cabo. We were told the difference between this mess hall and restaurants is here two little old ladies were cooking just like they do at home, instead of fancy pants chefs who are always pushing boundaries trying to come up with something new and different. Our Gringo Gazette cooking column lady was along, and even she pronounced the food authentic and she's very snooty about authenticity of Mexican cuisine.

Then we got to the tequila tasting. Again, well done: informative and still fun. We learned what makes some tequila clear and some colored.

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You can stick a flag in their hands, but that doesn’t make them want to swing it.

Assistant Secretary for American Consular Affairs, Michele Thoren Bond made a hurried up five day visit to Monterrey, Merida, Cancun, and Mexico City and the highlight of her trip was leading the U.S. delegation in the bilateral consular dialogue with the government of Mexico. Representatives from U.S. Customs and Border Protection also participated. Hot topics included sharing best practices for crisis management, fraud prevention, and coordinated assistance for dual citizens.

During her visit to the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, assistant secretary Bond attended an outreach event which the Embassy to document U.S. born children living in Mexico. Bond told the children they represented the growing culture of bi-nationalism that brings our countries even closer together.

Looks like they’re hanging on her every word - not. These kids are caught between two cultures: they are legal and welcome in the United States, while most of their parents are not.
Todo Santos Cultural Center
Benito Juarez St. todosantoswritertworkshop.com
Writers Workshops: January 25, Monday. 3:00 to 5:00 PM. This World Is Yours open seminar

January 26, Tuesday. 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The Forgotten Language open seminar

January 27, Wednesday, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Collecting The World. Open seminar

January 28, Thursday. From 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Literary Agents Roundtable. Todos Santos Writers Workshop

January 29, Friday. From 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Earth Needs Writers! Open seminar. January 30, Saturday. 7:00 PM. This World Is Yours seminar

GALLERY HOTEL CASA TOTA Alvaro Obregon St. Downtown Todos Santos
February 3, 4, and 5. 6:00-7:00 pm. The Cemetery Club. Play by Ivan Menchell. $20 USD. Wine & nibble mingle after each performance. Special pre-show dinners and overnight rates. 624 145 0590 for reservations. English. More info with Roxanne Rosenblatt: lasestrellasdetodossantos@gmail.com.

February 11. Thursday. 5:00 pm. Black-Plus Art Show. Michael Cope will be the Meet The Artists guest presenter. oscarnort@gmail.com.

LOS COLIBRIS HOTEL. In the La Pozo neighborhood.
February 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. From Thursday thru Monday. From 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Mosaic Art Workshop. Create mosaic art murals for permanent installation led by Tami Macalla of Santa Barbara School of Mosaic Art. $750 USD per person includes all materials and gourmet lunch by chef Iker Algorri of Cafe Brown fame. English.

Los Colibris Hotel: more info contact Tami Macalla, tami@gallerydulagoods.com, http://santabarbaraschoolofmosaicart.com; US: 805-703-4291.
Local 624 145 0189

Todos Santos Cultural Center Downtown Todos Santos

ARTIST OPEN STUDIO TOUR Starts at Cafe Felix on the main drag
February 6 and 7. Saturday and Sunday. From 10 am to 4:00 pm. Artists Open Studio Tour. To benefit the children’s art program of The Palapa Society. More than 30 artists are participating. Their work ranges from jewelry, ceramic sculpture and woodworking to painting, photography and mixed media. A two-day ticket is $200 pesos. Tickets one week before the event at Tecolote book store.

Both days of Steve Thurston gallerysteve@gmail.com, 612 145-0001, www.artistsinfotodosantos.com

Cabo San Lucas
WALMART PLAZA, Cabo Uptown La Europa.
Macondo Bookstore cafe showing every wednesday. 7:30 pm. Movie club. Some English. Free. https://www.facebook.com/macondo.co/

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM Open Monday to Sunday. From 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Donations welcome.

CABO MARINA FRONT
Every Saturday. From 12:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Art exhibition by local artists, workshops, paint, sculpture, photography, food tasting, theater, live music and dance. Spanish. Free.

CASA CARACOL UNA RANA
Every Saturday. 7:00pm to 11:30pm. Cultural tanguis (market), Live music, poetry, painting, books, arts & crafts, sculpture, movies, vegetarian food. Hidalgo and Revolucion Sts, downtown Cabo. Cel. 624 117 0663. Free.

CERRITO DEL TIMBRE CULTURAL HOUSE behind Aramburo supermarket and Guacamayas taco restaurant, downtown Cabo. CULTURAL PAVILION
February 3. Wednesday. 7:00 pm and 9:30 pm. Why Men Love Bitches. Play based on the Sherry Argyro’s book. Tickets 400 and 500 pesos. Call 624 159 0353. Spanish.

LA PAZ
BELLATERRA GALLERY (formerly Galerias Paz) at 1250 Guillermo Prieto, between Cinco de Mayo St. and Constitucion St. Until January 30. Three Artists. Three Ways to Art. Three Baja artists showcase their talents. Paintings, constructions and glass sculptures. Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm or by appointment. Nasch at 612 141 1004.

TEATRO DE LA CIUDAD On Navarro St. and Héroes de Independencia St. Downtown La Paz. January 21, 22, 26, 27, 28. 7:00 pm. Love, Loss and What I Wore, by Nora and Delta Ephron. N.Y. comedy hit presented by The Pelican Theatre of La Paz’ 3rd. season. Play celebrates as well as re-defines the expression, “wardrobe malfunction.” Tickets 150 Pesos; wine served. Ticket sales, Atende Books in La Paz and Tecolote Bookstore in Todos Santos.
January 30: Saturday. 8:00 pm. The Baja California Sur Philharmonic Orchestra presents a concert. For information, call 612 109-4898.

ALIANZA FRANCESA
Every Tuesday. 6:00 pm. Different French film each week. Alianza Francesa cultural center at 525 Gomez Farias St between Republica St and Guadalupe St. Downtown. facebook.com/alianzanaranjasalapaz. Spanish, French, English and other languages. Free.

CENTRO CULTURAL LA PAZ From Monday to Friday. 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. On permanent display, permanent photography collective exhibition that highlights the cultural identity of Baja California Sur. In the Codex Peninsula of the Centro Cultural La Paz, on 16 de Septiembre at the corner of Benito Juarez and Dominiguez Sts. Text is in English and Spanish. Free.

TONANTZIN GALLERY 320 Construcion St between Aquiles Serdan and Revolucion St. The same block as the post office.
January 23. Saturday. 8:00 pm. Music concert with Roz from La Paz on the harmonica, along with some musical friends at the gallery courtyard. English. Free.

TEATRO JUAREZ Belisario Dominguez St between 16 de Septiembre and Independencia Sts.
January 30, Saturday. 8:00 pm. The Lesson (La Leccion) a one-act play by Eugene Ionesco, directed by Alafia Teatro company. Recommended for teens and adults only. Spanish. Ticket is 60 pesos. (students two-for-one).

CENTRO DE ARTES Y CULTURAS POPULARES From April 20 on. Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. Oaxaca pottery exhibition. Information in English/Spanish, On Madero St. Between 5 de Mayo and Independencia, across the street from Velasco garden. Free.

San Jose
CIRCOTECA-Angela Cesefa St between the fourlane and Barlovento St.
PLAZA DEL PESCADOR At the hotel zone across from the Cabo Azul hotel.
February 12 and 13. Friday and Saturday. 5:00 pm. 4th San Jose Jazz Fest. 5:00 pm to late. The mall closes off one side of the 4 lane avenue, displaying tables, chairs and tents to cater to the attendees. The mall restaurants set up food booths, with plenty of varied food to choose from. Cocktails and wine are also available for sale. For more information, Call (624) 154 8510, or email Astrid Castaneda: eastridcruiz@gmail.com. www.sanjosejazzweekend.com

DANZA TELLES STUDIO Plaza Caracal, upstairs, San Jose, across from the MEGA.
February 28, Sunday. Noon to 4:30 pm. Auditions for Joffrey Ballet School summer intensive courses. Auditions for ballet, jazz, and contemporary. $15 USD to audition for each discipline. Pre-registration on line: www.giftsforballetschool.com/international-auditions. More info and requirements for the auditions with Laura Alfaro Cel. 624 191 3506.

Every Thursday. 7:00 pm. Reading club for kids. Actors dressed up, read and act a short story for the kids. More info about reading lounges: todososmoselotro@gmail.com, AT Angela Cesefa St. between Fourlane St and Barlovento St., San Jose, Spanish. Free.

BUENA VISTA
MAIN PLAZA SAN JOSE
March 3. Thursday. 9:00 pm. Introspectionism. International art exhibition with works of artists from different countries. The beginning of the display showing introspective art with a common philosophy or style on the streets and urban areas of the main government buildings in San Jose. More info with Alfredo Sosa Facebook/artalfredososa Spanish and English. Free.

March 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, and 19 - Baja Shakespeare’s 16th Season at Buena Vista Beach Resort in Spa Buena Vista’s Convention Center. All shows at 7:00 pm except March 13, a matinee at 1:30pm. Tickets $20 or 300 pesos, facebook.com/pages/1/Baja-Shakespeare€2039787911557?

To list your event at no cost, email details to david@gringogazette.com. All events subject to change without warning, and we’re not kidding about this. It happens frequently, so go with great expectations of a wonderful evening, but have a backup plan.
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP In English (La Paz) Crossroads Christian Fellowship. Sharing the living water of Jesus with thirsty people. 3124 Absolvo between Sonora and Sinaloa. (Up the alley under the Crossroads sign) Call Milton Sand- ers at 6121375767 or 6121491832. www.crossroadslapaz.org (tf)

BEACH FRONT EL ZALATE 1 bdrm condo, sleeps 4. Beachfront. $349,000 US. 624-122-2690. (tf)

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GOLDEN CACTUS GALLERY is excited to now be in Plaza Casa Blanca on the highway to Todos Santos. Across from the motel La Roca near the animal shelter. There is a stop light there so make a U-turn and voila! (It’s just 3 miles from the marina.) Mon - Sat 12-6 PM. Cell 624-147-5287 (tf)

OFFICIAL TRANSLATOR Spanish- English, licensed by the Supreme Court of Justice of the State of Baja California Sur. Celyne Poupart, cell 624-147-5287 (tf)

DENNIS RAYMOND SMITH. Pay your outstanding debt on the duplex you purchased in 2002 in Cabo on the corner of Camino del Colegio and Miguel Herrera. Gloria Shaw. (tf)

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FOR SALE. 2002 CENTURY. Walk around cuddly cabin, twin four stroke outboards. Tuna tower, generator, air conditioned. Includes triple axle aluminum trailer. This is a perfect Baja fishing boat and over nighter. Two beds, Full head, auto pilot and too much to list. For pics

details go to http://www.maggel- lanychats.mobi/ Currently in dry storage building at San Jose marina. $65,000.00 OBO. Call for questions 714-713-1008. Email rob@robas@yahoo.com (tf)

LIQUOR LICENSE FOR SALE. Cell 624-155-1049 (tf)

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER Available www.cabophotog- raphy.com (21-10)

BIG LOT FOR SALE. At the entrance of Puerto Los Cabos. 65,000 sq. feet. Motivated seller, accepting offers. Zoned for anything, soldo- rado@me.com 624-147-0507 (tf)

LIQUOR LICENSE FOR SALE. Call Rosalinda 624-155-1049 (tf)

GRINGO HALFW PRICE SPECIAL 2 1/2 bedroom 2 1/2 bath condo near Cabo Marina available for short term rental. $125 per night plus cleaning. More information at FishTalkRadio.com. Go to bottom of any page and click on Cabo condo. Contact John at 805-207-3522 or John@FishTalkRadio.com. (tf)

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PARTNERS WANTED FOR FISH- ING boat, 34’ with captain, to share expenses. Current partners all have boats with 24/7 security. Located on the Cabo Pulmo 500 ft from the Sea. $239,000. Cash. Income prop. http://www.viviiun.com/AD-224027/cheriaspen@gmail.com 858-568-1257 (tf)

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SOME PRETTY STRANGE...

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stuff for Muslims. Not only do they drink it, but they wash their hair in camel pee. Camel urine is sold as traditional medicine in shops in Saudi Arabia. Muslim scholar Muhammad Al-Munajid recommends camel urine as beneficial to curing certain diseases. And nowadays King Abdulaziz University researcher Dr. Fatem Abdel-Rajman Khorshid believes cancer and other diseases could be treated with camel urine as recommended by the Prophet Muhammad. (Who died about 1400 years ago. Did they have cancer back in those days?)

Camel urine is the only urine which is permitted to be drunk according to the teachings of Sunni Islam. However the World Health Organization believes the consumption of camel urine may be a factor in the spread of the MERS virus in Saudi Arabia. Party poops.

Arab American University Professor Bashar Saad believes dandruff, scalp ailments sores, and wounds should be treated with camel urine because this practice is approved of and promoted by Islam since it was recommended by the prophet Muhammad. Yeah, the guy who died in 632 AD. He must have been a scientist in addition to being a prophet.

But wait! There's more! Camel urine is believed by Muslims to help treat hair loss, insect bites, asthma, infections, and of course, everyone's favorite, camel urine can boost Abdul's libido. Seems like a failing libido might also be improved if only Fatima would lose the burka.

COOL CAMEL RIDE ON...

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to watch for in buying and in consuming. We learned how to drink it without looking like a rookie, and why the tradition of the lime and salt and even how to do that properly. We learned it's important to breathe correctly while downing shots, and we even learned where it all comes from. We learned why all tequila is made in Mexico or if not, Mexico has legal recourse to shut down the operation of fake tequila. And, we learned only certain mezcals, usually from the state of Oaxaca, are ever sold con gusano (with worm). They are added as a marketing gimmick and are not traditional. Well, the marketing works on us, because we like the little worms. We're pretty sure the alcohol kills the germs on any worm poop left behind.

And that's about it. We are given a chance to buy pictures of ourselves on the camels and in our cool Arab dress up clothes but they are far from pushy about it. It's then back on the bus, Gus, and back to Cabo and the serious beach time. There's a website but it's not very helpful. www.cabo-adventures.com. They make it difficult to get prices, but you can get a decent overview of all their adventures including the zip line, the whale watching, snorkeling, diving, sailing, flyboarding, and mountain biking. Oh, and the dolphin thing, that's what they're most known for and they do that well, we know because when we're not camel hugging we're dolphin hugging. For any of these adventures they will pick you up at your hotel.

Their main HQ is downtown Cabo, marina front. Swing by, get the whole scoop and eat lunch there under the palm trees and in the sand. You can watch the dolphins swim by without paying for the whole experience. Or call them. Geeze, they don't even have a local phone number on their website. Needs an overhaul, guys! Get a new webmaster! Outback & Camel Safari costs duals 12 years and up $109 U.S. Kids 5 to 11 years $79, leave the babies at home. Locals get 50% off. Email info@cabo-adventures.com. Cell 624 157 0260.  

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Thinking Of Marrying A Mexican?

The tax man is lying in wait for you

By Orlando Gotay

If you are a U.S. citizen expat in Mexico, and you’re thinking you’ve become lucky and are considering marrying a Mexican national, ¡Orale! as they say.

But it is important to understand there will be U.S. tax consequences and important choices to be made in connection with marriage to a non-U.S. citizen, when both of you reside outside the United States.

If you marry a “non-resident alien” and do nothing else, you will be required to file returns at the married filing separate rates, which are usually very inconvenient. Generally speaking — and there are exceptions — one will end up paying more tax this way.

Both spouses can elect to have the non-resident alien treated as a resident alien for U.S. income tax purposes. That way, the married filing joint status is available.

But with the IRS, nothing comes for free. The joint return would have to include the other spouse’s worldwide income as well, just like the U.S. citizen spouse. For those who marry often, beware — this can only be done once. It can be revoked, but once taken, neither spouse can take it again. And of course, the non-U.S. citizen spouse has to get an Individual Tax Identification Number, or ITIN — always a fun endeavor outside the U.S.

Of course, that person’s income and possible deductions, now and in the future, (in addition to those of the U.S. citizen spouse), are key to deciding if this is a worthwhile decision to make. It is also important to know this action forgoes any U.S.-Mexico tax treaty benefits that may be otherwise available as a resident of Mexico.

Some marriages bring additional people into the picture. Parents and preexisting children come to mind. Instead of the election, or the married filing separate status discussed above, the more favorable head of household status may be available if support tests are met. In some cases, the relatives have to live in one’s household, but not in others.

Lastly, timing is everything. It is important to know that filing status is determined as of the end of the tax year, usually December 31. Depending on individual circumstances, it may be advantageous to marry in either one year, or the next. I always tell people to run their numbers.

Marriage is of course, a major milestone, and it brings about significant tax consequences, only magnified in the case of marriage to what the IRS calls a non-resident alien.

Orlando Gotay is a California licensed tax attorney with a Master of Laws in Taxation admitted to practice before the IRS, the U.S. Tax Court and other taxing agencies. His love of things Mexican has led him to devote part of his practice to the tax matters of U.S. expats in Mexico. He can be reached at tax@orlandogotay.com.
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*Artist renderings, subject to change.