The Scoop On The Largest New Kid On The Corridor

Of all the new developments going up, this is the big daddy of them all, and with a variety of choices

BY MILES LONG

Solaz is the name of this giant of a development going up on the corridor near Chileno Bay. It means entertainment and rest, and walking from one end of it to the other would be entertaining but not restful. It’s huge. As you drive by it on the fourlane, you probably thought it was several new developments. It’s just south of the Marbella Suites which is closed now, and where the fourlane that’s being moved joins back up to where it has always been.

The company behind it is the same that built Hacienda del Mar which is inside Cabo del Sol. That was the tomato growers’ first effort at developing, and back in those days that’s what they called themselves. Because that’s what they are; they made their money growing tomatoes over on the mainland.

Hacienda del Mar is all timeshare, and they have more than their share of angry owners, mostly about the ever escalating maintenance fees.

But this new development has more than timeshare, there are full time full ownership condos as well as villas, a half a dozen restaurants, gym, spa, tennis courts, shops, a beach club, and hiking/biking trails.

It’s built on the side of a hill, and they’ve added to that incline by pushing dirt up, so each building is sitting higher than the one in front of it. But Solaz has gone a step further by planting grass on the roofs of all the buildings except the continued on page 5

Go Take A Hike

And here’s a good suggestion for a good hike

BY RON LAFFERTY

Have you ever been told to go take a hike? That was Jr. high school speak for go away, but that’s not what this is about. I’m suggesting you take a hike for your health and well being, for fun, and to see the area around you from a different angle.

I want to share with you the reason I have found it meaningful to walk daily when I can. I founded a company in my mid 30’s and owned and managed it for 38 years. I loved the business I was in, I was a workaholic, and I ate and drank all the wrong things. I’m 5 feet 11 and weighed 252 lbs. I loved the food and enjoyed the drinks, but it was time for a change.

With the help and support of my wife Cheryl, we got very serious about me losing this excess weight. I tried several different crash diets, but with no success. So, my eating habits changed, my drinking habits changed, and I started walking.

For 15 months I walked morning and night for 30 minutes and at the end of the 15 months I weighed 196 lbs, a loss of 56 lbs. My weight fluctuates 2 to 4 lbs, but I feel great, and I still do my best to walk everyday for 45 minutes to an hour. Not only does continued on page 18
Did we all watch the Pope’s visit to Mexico last week? Most of you probably watch Shaw, (a shout-out to our Canadian friends), or Dish or Apple TV, or some other illegal method of getting the news from an American perspective. No matter, we aren’t the communications police. The point is, unless we were under a rock, we were all bombarded with images of the Pope as he visited five areas of Mexico in five days.

As a Mexican, I’m angry at the way he cherry picked only our trouble spots. Here’s this part of the diverse city of Mexico City that he visited was the barrio Ecatepec, a slum. C’mon, every city has it’s slums. I’m not asking not to visit them, those people certainly need ministering to, but how about a balanced and accurate view to the city? Of the country? And it’s easy for him to say fix what’s wrong, but you notice he didn’t come up with any concrete ideas, nor even acknowledge that it’s a tough slog. Nor did he acknowledge that we’re trying. It was all criticism. In every single stop he criticized our government corruption and drug violence. He pounded relentlessly on those two issues.

Then he goes up to Juarez, a city that has been ripped apart by the drug wars, as have its people. He stands at the border and shouts over to the U.S. to “tear down this wall”. Like anyone in the United States is listening. So who was listening to the Pope? The people he was trying to retain in the church. The poor, the uneducated, the discontent; the people who feel the deck is stacked against them and that the government isn’t doing enough for them. He was pointing out what a lousy world they live in and that salvation from that misery is the church.

Whoops. I forgot for a moment that actually I’m not a Mexican and sadly can never be one. It took me 14 years of heroic and expensive effort just to get a work permit. Of course that deportation stumble along the way didn’t help my status any. Nor the numerous amparos, (restraining orders against the government), nor trips to immigration to explain certain articles published in this paper. Those little slips didn’t help my reputation nor my quest for citizenship. But I feel so Mexican, I can’t help but get angry at outsiders criticizing us, and in front of the whole world.

Things are changing in Mexico. I see it, I feel it, I live it. There is a peoples’ movement, over on the mainland that is like a tsunami, and it’s aimed at curbing government corruption. Also, we really are trying to fight the war on drugs, even if that’s not going so well. And our last three presidents have given more to the country than they’ve taken. And right here in Los Cabos our new city administration is trying very hard to turn our city around. The changes our new mayor has implemented in a short period of time is amazing, and it shows me what one honest man can do. I believe the number of honest people in Mexico far outweighs the bad.

So, even though I can never be a real Mexican, please allow me to be angry at outsiders criticizing us.
Turtles turning turtle. 322 dead marine turtles found on the Pacific coast of Mexico has forced the environmental agency Propefa to deploy an investigative team to the state of Guerrero. Most of the unlucky turtles were found on a 12 mile stretch of beach in the Costa Grande cities of Tecpan and Petatlán and are male. The sinking of a shrimp trawler nearby has been discarded as the cause of death as inspectors have determined that the vessel’s fuel tanks remain sealed.

The interdisciplinary team tasked with collecting samples of the turtles has been joined by federal officials from the National Protected Areas Commission (Conanp), state Civil Protection staff and academic and research institutions.

Most of the specimens were found in a two week period and most belong to two species: the Galápagos green turtle, also known as prieta. The corpses of the turtles showed no apparent lesions, or the marks of fishing nets or parasites. Several state agencies will be monitoring sea water temperatures and ocean currents, and performing tests on samples taken from the dead animals. Propefa and the Secretariat of the Navy (Semar) will conduct surveillance of coastal waters to detect any unauthorized fishing boats.

Propefa and Conanp have asked that citizens report any sightings of dead or sick turtles immediately, and to avoid handling or having any physical contact with the specimens. And for gods sakes, don’t eat them! Read for life. A new reading campaign promoting reading is an effort to bring qualified trainers and library collections to children throughout Mexico. Books are very expensive in Mexico, and lending libraries tend to not work out, as the books never come back.

So book retailer Libros Gandhi and the Mexican chapter of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), have gone into coffeeshops to raise funds promote reading. IBBY Mexico is a non-profit organization that represents an international network of people who are committed to bringing books and children together. Their job will be preparing the collections from its 250 titles, especially selected for readers between four and 12 years old. In a first stage, the program will go out to children in at least 13 foster homes with the help of 26 qualified trainers who will take library collections with them.

On average, Mexicans read about three books a year. 40% of the Mexican population has never set foot inside a bookstore, and 41% occupy their free time scrolling through their phones daily.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 17**

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**Combine Your Executive Health Check-Up with 3-5 Night 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 3-5 nights at the leading Golf & Spa Resorts in Cabo del Sol, rated #1 in Mexico, or an exciting day of Sport Fishing aboard a luxury 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-Ups 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 PSA testing Cardiovacular/fitness evaluation, including resting EKG, cardiac stress test, blood pressure readings
- Pulmonary health evaluation • Chest X-ray • Bone density measurement 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 CT scans to identify potential problems and disease • Colonoscopy • Gastroscopy (*extra charge)

Consultations and tests are conducted by English speaking doctors at Saint Luke’s Hospitals and certified testing facilities, and completed within 8 hours. Cosmetic surgeons and dermatologists at Saint Luke’s are readily available for patients who also elect to have skin treatments and cosmetic surgery to improve one’s appearance and self-esteem, and the following procedures are available at an extra cost:

- Botox • Cheek Lift • Chemical Peel • Chin Surgery • Dermabrasion
- Eyebrow/Forehead Rejuvenation • Eyelid Surgery • Face Lift • Facial Contouring
- Facial Fillers • Facial Wrinkles • Laser Hair Removal • Laser Resurfacing
- Neck Lift and Neck Liposuction • Otoplasty (Alterations of the Ears)
- Rhinoplasty (Alterations of the Nose) • Wrinkle Treatment
- Skin Problems (Blemishes, Spider Veins, Scar Revisions, Tattoo Removal)

The total price of the Executive Health Check-Up and VIP Wellness Package with 3-5 night accommodations, spa treatments, golf and personal concierge service, is normally less than the cost of having a comparable Executive Health Check-Up in the USA. Your insurance may cover some of the diagnostic tests and the hospital will bill each item separately to help with your claim. The quote pays extra for a complete check-up, however the costs of accommodations and spa treatments are included in the 5 night Wellness Vacation. A Women’s check-up starts at $400 US and details for this and other health check-up packages can be viewed on the link:

www.saintlukeshospitals.com/check-ups.php

For further details about the Health & Wellness Vacation package, check the online link www.saintlukeshospitals.com or email Saint Luke’s at info@saintlukeshospitals.com telephone 624 142 5911 (24/7). You will receive 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.
Que Pasa in Cabo?

By David Flores

Gang wedding. Well, possibly a bad choice of words. Inside the sate jail, Vianey Nuez, wife of the Los Cabos Mayor, acted as witness to the wedding of 10 inmates and their new spouses last week. The civil ceremony took place at the jail in the rural Santa Anita area just north of San Jose. At the same event, a newborn son of one of the inmates was also signed into the civil registry. Collective weddings are promoted by the city mostly to protect children’s and women’s rights. Sometimes as many as several hundred couples crowd into one big room and take wedding vows all together. This program is so men can more easily be compelled to take care of their women and children. Cracks me up when Gringos tell me how they admire the Mexican family traditions here. Yup, and the family is so strong that there are special police women who do nothing but try and restore order when women are beat up. They zoom out in pink cop cars. Are the men even embarrassed that the pink patrol car is in front of their house? Nope.

Don’t get ripped off. Many restaurants have posted their menus in US dollars only, which is illegal in Mexico. They are supposed to post in pesos first, and then in foreign currencies. But with the rate of exchange jumping up and down like a pogo stick, maybe more up than down, some businesses are taking advantage of our precious tourists by showing prices in US dollars only and then using a high rate of exchange. If you are a victim of this practice, you have options. Mexico has a consumer protection agency, known as the least corrupt in the country, called Profeco for its looong name in Spanish. You may also pretend you do not live in Mexico full time and report it here: www.profeco.gob.mx/Servicios/quejas_denun.asp

Let’s all be part of the solution, it’s no fun when a business uses the problems with the exchange rate against us.

Cat traps needed. The Los Cabos Humane Society is in need of traps to catch stray cats. The cost of each one is about 70 bucks. This writer is buying one, as our three cats at home are constantly harassed by about four stray cats that are not really aggressive, but ours are territorially Beside our cats don’t date, they’ve been, you well, you know. But they don’t know that, and obviously these neighborhood Toms don’t know that either.

Care to help? Look up: http://www.loscaboshumanesociety.com/ Or maybe you’d like to become a volunteer? Then call 143-3947, cell; (624)129-8346 / (624)151-6046 / (624)157-8938 or email: info@loscaboshumanesociety.com Foster and adoption information: foster@loscaboshumanesociety.com or Adopt@loscaboshumanesociety.com To Volunteer: Volunteer@loscaboshumanesociety.com

Party time! Gentlemen, start your red cups. The traditional annual Fiestas of San Jose will be held around the weekend of March 19, which is the patron saint’s official birthday; according....
Solaz, a community with plenty of variety in types of residences, is huge, taking over an entire point of seafront land looking out over roof tops. It looks like those up in the bleacher seats won’t even know there are homes in from of them, as it will be a sea of grass before their eye gets to the sea of ocean.

It seems as though every development keeps getting more clever in making the best use of land. Well, unless you’re an ecofreak, in which case you would be likely to believe the best use of land is no use.

This is designed to be a fully self-contained community, no need to leave the premises but for that vital Costco run. It will be run by Starwood.

Prices are not what you would find in the barrio, of course, but some of the front row condos, high enough and close enough for an awesome view to China, start at less than four million dollars for 3,000 square feet, with another 3,000 square feet of terrace on the other side of wall to wall pocket doors/windows.

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At their opening night party they sold a dozen units, all to different buyers, but most were buying on speculation and plan to flip them. That’s a warning to shake a leg, because prices are bound to go up.

Their website is at solazloscabos.com but it’s pretty useless, with only a bunch of pretty pictures, a lot of hyperbole, and no information. Better info can be found at www.snelrealestate.com. They are the sales agents for the residences. They also have an office right across the four lane from it, with a large table top model, pamphlets, a video, and oh yes, live sales agents. Don’t be afraid, Snell people are not selling the timeshare.
Barrio Children Helped By Gringos

10,000 empty tummies a month are filled

BY CATHY WATKINS

Feeding Los Cabos Kids started when Donna Brnjic came for a visit to Los Cabos in 2004 and saw all the hungry children. She took $100 of her own money and bought food which she handed out to those in need, never dreaming of what might happen down the line. Today the Ministry of Cabo Church has grown to feeding about 10,000 meals a month under the direction of Lupe and Tony Hernandez, who have been involved for four years now and are extremely dedicated to the cause.

Feeding Los Cabos Kids is an interdenominational ministry that exists to share God’s love and provide food to hungry children. They partner with local Mexican pastors and their wives to help them oversee and prepare healthy meals for the children in their local neighborhoods. The goal is to feed the children both physically and spiritually and to involve the community, which is done by providing meals, teaching, nurturing, encouraging, and loving these children in the name of Jesus Christ.

Hurricane Odile wiped out many of the kitchens. Chairs and tables were strewn about the neighborhood. Tony proudly states that the community rounded them up and returned them instead of stealing them. All that was left of the pavilion was a cement slab, but Feeding Los Cabos Kids continued. Sandwiches were made at the church and brought to the children. After the hurricane, President Pena Nieto helped these Colonias, neighborhoods, get access to water and electricity. They had ceased operating without city services of water and electricity because they are located in river beds, and it’s illegal to be there, let alone encourage this squatting by providing services. The church pays for the utilities and actually receives a bill now since they are legal. With the help of church and community volunteers, the kitchens have been rebuilt and upgraded.

At present Cabo Church has 10 kitchens in different high need areas of Cabo. But they are more than just a kitchen; they are also a gathering place. A typical kitchen has a pavilion, bathroom (outhouse style), storage room, tables, chairs, an enclosed kitchen with reusable plastic cups and plates, a stove and refrigerator, and running water. Now that water is available, they are able to reduce their dependence on throw away cups and plates and help to conserve the environment.

The kitchens operate on a half day schedule. Breakfast is served to those who study in the afternoon, and lunch is served to those who study in the morning. (The schools are so crowded, they operate on split shifts). Breakfast may consist of pancakes, oatmeal, or eggs with fruit and juice. Lunch is a sandwich with fruit and juice.

Not all the kitchens are functioning at full capacity. Some feed only four days a week and others serve only one meal per day. Each kitchen has a pastor...
Once And For All

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Show Of African-Mexican Art
Stone sculpture and collage-paintings with an African flavor

BY ANAHI TALBOT

Local artist Tanya Talamante continues to stretch her wings as a master of textured supra-reality constructs. Her current series is an intervention with the Shona tribe stone sculptors of Zimbabwe whose work is inspired by traditional Shona culture including the mythology, folklore, rituals, and beliefs in ancestral spirits that remain strong in urban Zimbabwe.

For the Shona, women are a significant source of inspiration: the nude torso, the dancing girl, mother, and child are depicted in many ways. The natural world and man's relationship with nature is another important theme that reflects the country's deep rural roots.

Talamante finds resonance with the Shona in their representations of Shona women and the tribe's strong ties to family and nature. Her latest intervention art, the Afro-Mexican fusion series, is on exhibit starting March third at the Muvezi gallery in the Gallery District of San Jose. The pieces are the artist's blending of contemporary Mexican art merged with Zimbabwean expression creating unique pieces of universal art that go beyond an African-Latin language.

Talamante's art works with a previously existing artwork. In this series she works with stone sculpture and collage-paintings. Muvezi has provided Talamante with unfinished Shona sculptures which she has used to paint the stone sculptures in traditional Mexican colors.

Her paintings include iconic Shona women where she incorporates multiple layers of paper, paint, and resin. Each work is meticulously constructed. The collage assemblages explore our cultural fascination with physical perfection. The blueprints of women serve as icons of timeless beauty, even as they subvert the ideal figure through deconstructed silhouettes. With vibrant color and bold pattern, Talamante grapples with the idea of unattainable beauty and the pressure women feel to become idealized forms.

Talamante's work creates intricate work in which paint blossoms and pools like water, deep and strong one instant and barely there in the next painting. Her compositions seem to grow organically, without a center or direction but with one color building upon another. The artist creates specific, grounded evocations with shape and color.

Originally from the Baja, Talamante studied art at the National School of Art in San Miguel de Allende. She opened her first gallery in the downtown art district of Scottsdale, Arizona, and returned to Mexico in 2010 when she founded Studio TT art school and gallery at Villa Valentina here in San Jose.

Since 2013 she's been giving curatorial guidance and coordinates the artist-in-residence program at Palmilla, along with designing and directing custom workshops for the hotel's guests.

San Jose is home to Muvezi Gallery which features and provides employment to 200 Shona stone sculptors from Zimbabwe. The gallery's collection of more than 3,000 sculptures is the largest collection of Shona art in the world. Sculptures are for sale through galleries in Mexico and Canada, and online at www.muvezi.com.

Opening night is at 6:00 pm, March 3, at Muvezi Gallery, on Alvaro Obregon St. Happily, this is also Thursday Night Art Walk in the Gallery District in San Jose. Preview at www.muvezi.com.
Budgeting for Baja
A checklist for planning your escape to Baja:
Part II

BY PAM

Here you’ll find more important things to consider when budgeting for your life in beautiful Baja.

Property Taxes. While lower than in the US, property taxes are on the rise here. When you purchase your property, it will be appraised by the government and your tax rate adjusted… up, of course. The rate and payment options will depend on the municipality your property is in. The division between the Los Cabos and La Paz municipalities is in the town of Buena Vista. Both municipalities offer great discounts if you pay your taxes before they are due each January.

Fideicomiso Fees. If your title is held in a Fideicomiso (a requirement for most expat purchases in Baja) you will owe the bank about $500 each year in service fees around the anniversary of your signing date. If you have a special type of fideicomiso or have multiple properties in one fideicomiso your rate can be higher. Mark your calendar; one fideicomiso your rate can go up, or have multiple properties in one and your tax rate adjusted… up, of course. The rate and payment options will depend on the municipality your property is in. The division between the Los Cabos and La Paz municipalities is in the town of Buena Vista. Both municipalities offer great discounts if you pay your taxes before they are due each January.

If your property is in one fideicomiso your rate can be higher. Mark your calendar; one fideicomiso your rate can go up, or have multiple properties in one and your tax rate adjusted… up, of course. The rate and payment options will depend on the municipality your property is in. The division between the Los Cabos and La Paz municipalities is in the town of Buena Vista. Both municipalities offer great discounts if you pay your taxes before they are due each January.

Yard Maintenance. This expense can vary widely. When planning your landscaping, keep in mind the amount of upkeep that it will require and don’t overestimate your DIY contribution. Even an automated drip system will need regular attention as the drippers tend to clog and power outages may reset your timers. If you have a pool, include an allowance for maintenance and the cost of replacement filters and chemicals.

Property Management. If you intend to rent your home when you are away, a good property manager is a must. In addition to making your guests feel welcome and making sure the house is well maintained, they can help you navigate the tax implications of renting your property.

Housekeeping. I have found regular house cleaning to be an affordable luxury here. My housekeeper also helps me practice my Spanish and keeps me up to date on local happenings. The size of the house will impact the cost, as well as what you want done. Most housekeepers here have no trouble doing windows and even laundry. Don’t be afraid to ask for everything you want, but please pay fairly for the services.

Home Owner’s Association Fees (HOA Fees). Be sure to ask your Realtor® if your desired property is governed by a Home Owner’s Association. If so, you will want to see a history of those fees and recent assessments in order to estimate your potential costs.

Home Owner’s Insurance. While many of us “Self Insure” (i.e. set a little aside each month in case something bad happens) new types of policies are becoming available that make the cost of homeowner’s insurance pencil out. When shopping for insurance be sure to get a copy of the policy in English. If the agent cannot provide this, it is worth the cost to have the Spanish version translated before you sign up.

Maintenance. A well built home here will cause you little trouble. We have very little mold for example and the concrete block or foam construction methods produce sturdy homes when done right. You need to budget for things like annual maintenance of your air conditioning, re-sealing of flat roofs every 5-7 years, painting metal details, etc. Fortunately, labor is still a bargain here and the quality of materials available at your local construction supply store are better all the time.

Fumigation. There is not much for pests to eat in the desert, so make sure your home does not become their buffet. Have it treated regularly - at least twice a year.

Vehicle Registration/Insurance. If you are going to keep a car here, you should bite the bullet and get it imported. Alternatively, you can register it in South Dakota using an online process. If you register it in Baja, the annual fees for keeping it up-to-date are minimal and insurance is also quite reasonable.

Health Insurance. Many people have good coverage in their home country and simply need to be able to get there if they have a serious health issue. Air evacuation insurance is available from multiple vendors for just this purpose. If you are not insured back home, international policies can be a good option.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15
Foreign Investment Commitment For Properties Over 2000m²

What restrictions apply for the constitution of a Restricted Zone trust?

BY RAUL LEON

There are only two restrictions to have in mind:

If the real estate property is subject to an “ejido” (a Mexican special type of communal ownership originally established for farming communities), such property must pass through the legal process of Derecho Al Tanto or it may not be legally transferred and may be subject to nullification of the transaction. Make sure you have a Derecho Al Tanto before you purchase!

If the total land surface of the real estate property is more than 2000 square meters, a foreigner who wants to purchase more than 2000m2 is obligated to subscribe and grant to the Foreign Affairs Ministry a Promise of Investment, through which he legally obligates himself to invest certain amount of money into the property in a certain time frame according to the following table:

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<th>SURFACE</th>
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Increasing successively each 1,000 M2 or fraction.

Other requirements for a foreigner purchasing property in Mexico includes, but is not limited to an SRE permit.

What is the SRE permit?

(Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores)

It’s a permit granted by the Foreign Affairs Ministry prior to the constitution of the Trust in the Restricted Zone, and such a permit authorizes the trustee to create a trust to hold the property and ownership of a property, on behalf of one or more specifically designated foreigners, for a period of 50 years renewable. There is one major condition to the granting of the permit: The foreigner, in all affairs referred to the real estate property, shall consider themselves as Mexican nationals and obligate themselves not to invoke the protection of his own country government in case of any controversy. Should the foreigner fail to abide by this condition, they will lose the property in favor of Mexican Nation. (This makes sense, you cannot sue a person in the United States in Mexico for property in the United States!) CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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Wednesday February 24th, 2016 from 1pm to 4pm
Cresta del Mar:
Casa Kari Cresta del Mar Lot #50, Best Ocean and Arch view homes. ONE STORY 3BR, 3.5 BA Villa plus office., MLS#16-221 $975,000 Linda (624)141 6674.
Casa Laguna 3BR/3.5BA OPEN FLOOR PLAN, PRICE REDUCTION TO SELL TODAY!!! SINGLE LEVEL LIVING & SEA OF CORTEZ VIEWS!!! FINANCING. MLS#15-814 $598,900 Rocky (624)141 6442.
Villa del Puente Cresta del Mar Lot #36. SELLER FINANCING!!! 6BR/6.5BA, sweeping Sea of Cortez, MLS# 16-232 $1,199,000 Agent: Jonatan (624) 355 1232.
Tamar 202 SPECTACULAR views of the arch and bay area 2BR/2BA. Fully furnished - turnkey MLS#16-262 $160,000 Geraldine (624)1211263.

Thursday February 25th. 2016 from 2pm to 5pm.
Ventanas Phase I & II:
Casa Maria Ventanas #15 Phase 1. Hacienda Del Mar model. 3 bedrooms , 2.5 baths with a private pool! MLS #15-1492 $279,000 Joli (624)168 3715
VentanasPhase #43 Las Gaviotas. Land's End Arch views from your large rooftop terrace. One level, 2BR/2.5BA home MLS #15-1896 $179,000 Joli (624)168 3715
Casa Tranquility Ventanas del Mar #87. Charming 3BR/ 2.5 BA home and a detached "maid’s” quarters with full bath. Million dollars views Cortez. MLS #16-247 $349,900
Ventanas Condo # 313 Isla del Cortes. THE ONLY 2 BEDROOM CONDO FOR SALE IN VENTANAS PHASE 2!!! MLS # 15-2138 $255,000 Kathya (624)129 6121

Wednesday March 2nd, 2016 from 1pm to 5pm
Misiones del Cabo:
Casa Silva Misiones Condominiums #3104 SELLER FINANCING - Custom remodeled 2BR/2BA w/stunning Sea of Cortez views. MLS#15-2347 $498,900 Linda (624) 141 6674
Misiones Condo #101 Remodeled, 2BR/2BA, spacious Roof terrace w/view of the ocean. Fully furnished. PRICED TO SELL!!!!!! MLS # 15-1768 $255,000 Cheri (624) 156 7430
Casa Vista del Mar Misiones #5204 Spacious, cozy 1BR/1BA offers great open living space 2 balconies. Beautiful sunsets and whales frolic in the Sea of Cortez. MLS #16-19 $249,900 Joli (624)168 3715

February 25th(Thursday) 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Casa Tita 5 min. to CSL marina with 3 BR. 3200 sq. ft. Located off Via de Lerry on Calle Don Alberto #1917. Follow signs Offered at $549,000/-USD MLS#15-1761 Roberto 624-157-0052 and Sigrun 624-157-1938

February 26th (Friday) 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. Las Palmas Ocean View home Villa 5 Casa Mexicana Located off of hwy KM. 6.5 above Santa Carmela Store Follow signs Offered at $279,000/-USD MLS#16-280 Roberto 624-157-0052 and Sigrun 624-157-1938

SOLDS:
Marina Sol a 209, 2 bedrooms/ 2 bathrooms fully furnished. N. Fong, and E. Romeike /Los Cabos Agent, MLS # 15-2464, $250,000 USD.
Lot 1884 Los Cerritos, 1575 m2 CORNER commercial lot, steps from the beach club. C. Miller/ Baja Realty and Investment, W. Scott/Baja Smart $79,000 USD
Lot 1885 Los Cerritos 2000m2 view lot adjacent to lot 1884 developer lot, C. Miller/ Baja Realty and Investment, W. Scott/Baja Smart $79,000 USD
A Mexican and International Real Estate Icon

The year 2016 will mark Linda Neil’s 42nd year in Mexican real estate. It will also mark the 25th Anniversary of the Settlement Company which she founded in May of 1991.

She has been in real estate for all her adult life and become a Mexican and International legend. Her first job was conducting real estate bus tours in the Sierra foothills in California. She met her husband Peter Neil and they developed property in the Sierras. In 1972, she came to live in Mexico. She and Peter opened the first real estate company in the state of Michoacan. She was also co-founder of ROMALL, a music school for children. Following Peter’s death she took her two daughters born in Urupan, Michoacan, to study English. Linda set up an independent Brokerage. Alas her heart remained in Mexico and she returned.

This led to another first for Linda, establishing the first Title and Escrow Company in Baja California Sur. This was partially the result of the community not having a neutral third party depository for Buyer and Seller documents and funds. She said, “In those days, sales contracts were literally being written on the backs of cocktail napkins.” The company, using Yardi software from Santa Barbara, California, introduced the MLS concept to the Baja peninsula and to Mexico. Listings were available online and a monthly hard copy MLS book was produced and distributed. Michael Schaible, president of the now 400 member MLS-BCS recalls, “It is truly amazing where we have come from the original xerox photo copy booklet of available properties to the now 3000 listings on-line. Linda Neil truly was and remains a visionary in our community.”

Linda has been a pioneer in real estate education in Mexico. In the early years of her company, she delivered three Seminars each year. In 2016, Linda will mark 25 years with the Settlement Company. She has served as NAR’s President of MLS-BCS since then she has served three two year terms on AMPI’s National Advisory Board, headed its International Commission and did a three year stint as NAR’s Presidential Liaison to Mexico. In 2012 she worked through agreements with NAR Global to declare every AMPI Associate member also a REALTOR® through the NAR International Realtor® program.

More recently, she along with three other Mexican realtors dedicated to education, has founded Global Mexico Real Estate Institute. It is a Mexican civil association with a focus on international education. Thanking Linda for her many contributions to the Mexican real estate community and congratulations on the 25th anniversary of the Settlement Company. Michael Schaible Broker/Owner Linda properties President of MLS-BCS.

Low density condo development, 36 units w/ a low HOA in a very high end exclusive community. A close few minute walk to many restaurants & the SIZZLE of downtown Cabo. Enjoy the peace & serenity that Cabo offers with a variety of views and short/long term vacation rental income to offset costs or to be cash flow positive! Access, the Pedregal Tennis Club, Spa/Workout facilities & the lovely Pacific Beach without vendors & the exclusivity of being part of a much sought out community address. From $210K USD & some units offering seller financing.

Brandon James Byrne

Cabo San Lucas
Portofino, Pedregal

The whales, marine life, people, and tropical desert, combined with opulent lifestyle makes Los Cabos the perfect place to call home.

Contact Luis, Sotheby’s Int’l Realty at (624) 157-0248.

The Perfect Home on a Perfect Location.

We would highly recommend Gerardo Pineda at Baja Properties as your Realtor. He spent endless hours with us looking at property and has been with us from the start and well beyond the settlement of our condo. If you are hunting a hard time finding property to buy in Cabo, please give him a call…..he’s finding for you!

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This private gated retreat is located less than 10 minutes away from downtown Cabo San Lucas. Enjoy access to the latest Jack Nicklaus Signature course, Quivira Golf Club, already considered as the best in the world. Invest in gated communities designed with you and your family’s comfort and safety in mind. Make the exclusive amenities like Wine and Yacht clubs part of your experience at Quivira Los Cabos.

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This advertisement is intended for informational purposes only and is not an offer to sell or solicitation of offers to buy a home. All information is subject to change without notice and may be altered without notice.
What is a Notario and ISR (Capital Gains)?

BY: FELIX E. ORTEGA GARCÍA, NOTARIO 5 BCS.

Notarial functions go beyond the certainty and legal security as previously mentioned, inasmuch as, the Notario’s involvement allows the instruments or documents, on which any action has been taken, authority to finalize and settle, resulting in an operation that binds all the parties. The documents also can be submitted to the Public Registry in the city/county in which the property is located and where the operation occurred.

How can a foreigner, who sells or secedes the rights to an asset located in national territory, receive the benefits that the “Law of Taxes Over Rent (Capital Gains)” gives registered foreigners in Mexico, regarding the exemption of the Capital Gains when selling the residential property?

A foreigner can enjoy the same benefits as Mexican nationals from the Tax on Rents (ISR) Law with regard to tax exemption when they sell real estate for residential purposes, if they can irreputably prove their residence in Mexico for tax purposes.

The 2015 Tax Program, into effect from January 1st to December 31st 2015*, states that: (“The Tax Code changes yearly.”)

“The condition for foreign nationals selling a residential property to prove residence in Mexico for tax effects:

3.11.16. For the effect of article 93, fraction XIX, section a) of the ISR Law and 9 fraction 1, section a) of the Federal Fiscal Code (CFF), it will be presumed, if not demonstrated otherwise, that foreign nationals selling a residential property, are residents in Mexico when the following requisites are satisfied:

- They declare under oath that:
  - They have Mexican resident condition for tax effects, as established in article 9th, fraction 1 of the CFF or, given the case, on the treaties signed by Mexico to avoid double taxation.
  - Fiscal address, or simply a mailing address. In no case, the appointed mailing address could be located at the property being sold.
  - They must have an RFC (Taxpayer Code) or CURP (Population Registry Code).

The affidavit this section is referred to, must registered in the corresponding public instrument. In addition to all of the above mentioned items, Resident condition must be credited. For this case, proof of Mexican resident condition for tax effects or Fiscal ID (RFC), as referred to in rules a) and b) should be sufficient.

How is the Tax on Rent (ISR) (Capital Gains) for residential properties calculated?

Tax calculation, as stated in article 126 of the ISR Law, is performed by applying the corresponding tax rate (which increases progressively in percentage as the gain increase), which is a result of the division between the number of years since acquisition to being sold, such period cannot exceed 20 years. The result must be multiplied by the that period of time. In other words, it is the result of applying the correspondent tax rate to the calculated profit subtracting the sales value to the verified acquisition cost., as well as all the deductions to which the party may be entitled.

It is very important to mention that for all those cases in which the selling residential property was acquired before March 21st 2014, public title should be enough or acquisition verification purposes; however, in accordance to 2015 Tax Program rule 1.2.7.1.25, a digital tax invoice with its complement issued by a Notary Public will be required for the cost of acquisition verification purposes if the transaction was performed later than January 2015.

Which deductions are you entitled to by the Law entities?

In accordance to article 121 of the ISR Law, physical persons obtaining income from selling residential properties can apply deductions as follows: i) the value of investment in construction, improvement or expansion, ii) expenses on notarial issues, taxes or rights, acquisition and alienation titles, and payment for real estate valuation, and iii) payments on commissions or...
The 44th Annual AMPI Conference

BY JOHN K. GLAAB, CIPS

The annual conference of the Mexican Association of Real Estate professionals (AMPI) is held in a different city each year. This year it was in Zacatecas, Zac (Last year in Tijuana, B.C.)

The “silver city” was founded on June 20, 1548 by silver prospector Juan de Tolosa along with Diego de Ibara, Cristobal de Onate and Baltasar Tamino. It has been dubbed the “Silver City” due to the many veins that were mined in the area, especially in the 19th Century.

AMPI members come together to hold their Annual General Meeting attend social and education functions, elect new members of the National Advisory Board and decide on the location of the Conference for the following year.

This year saw a talented array of speakers including Chris Polychron, President of the National Association of Realtors* (NAR). In addition to Chris, Past President Steve Brown attended along with staff members Janet Branton and Bethsys Sachs... Ten new members of the National Advisory Board were elected. They represent a cross section of the Republic. Beatriz Gamboa Lago was elected AMPI’s new Vice President President. In 2017, she will become only the second female to hold the title of President in the fifty-nine year history of the organization.

AMPI’s 2016 Conference will be held in Puebla, Puebla.

About the author: John Glaab is a founding member of AMPI Los Cabos. A Certified International Property Specialist, he was named Realtor Member of the Year by NAR in 2012. Information: john.glaab@settlement-co.com.

This list does not include one-time fees like closing costs, building, or adding a water purification system but those are often lower here than in the states, further making your Total Cost of Ownership a bargain in sunny Baja. Factor in the Happiness Quotient and you will surely find that that your Baja home is a great investment. Read the full article on Pam’s blog at www.homesandlandofbaja.com. Pam has lived and worked in Los Barriles for 12 years. She holds the CIPS and ABR designations. Reach her at Pam@HomeandLandOfBaja.com or visit the Homes and Land Tourist Information Center on your next trip to Los Barriles.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT...

continued from page 10

This event has never happened in the history of the Restricted Zone Trust, but, the reason it exists is historically because of the French invasion in 1838 and the North American invasion and loss of Texas in 1848.

Additionally to the permit, once the trust is executed, it has to be registered in the Foreign Investment Registry and in the Public Property and Commerce Registry.

It’s important to notice that the Foreign Affairs Ministry grants a permit in behalf of any Foreigner EXCEPT in the case of any citizen of the countries that figure in the Non-Cooperating Countries list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) because of international trades subscribed by Mexico.

Which are the costs involved in a closing?

The costs of a closing are the same as in a direct purchase with nationals except for the following concepts:

SRE Permit Fee. The permit fee is fixed, but the processing cost that its variable depending on the company or person hired for the obtaining of the permit.

Foreign Investment Registry Fee is fixed, but the processing cost that its variable depending on the company or person hired to obtain the inscription.

Constitution of the Restricted Zone Trust: This is a very variable cost and changes from place to place, trustee to trustee, but regularly it is a fixed fee that has no relation with the cost of the property and is more or less standard in every location.

Annual administration

continued on page 16
**Real Estate Classifieds**

**VISTA FARO VIEJO LOT**, Cabo San Lucas. Pacific Views, overlooking Nicklaus Quivira Golf course and old light house. 26,909 sqft No HOA’s MLS# 15-2949 USD$200,000. (624) 151-5400 marco@piscesgroup-cabo.com

**NEED HELP PAYING PROPERTY** taxes or your Bank Trust fees? info@settlement-co.com (TF)

**BEST BUY. REDUCED** $50,500. NOW $174,500. BEST BUY . REDUCED 1 Bedroom, 1 Bathroom, Condominiums #4208, 3 Misiones del Cabo Resort

**Lot 3613 sq/ft** Selling price $1,100,000
Lot 3613 sq/ft of terrace 326 sq/ft of terrace Premier Ocean and Golf view

**FOR SALE IN COPALA LOS CABOS**
Home 4 Bedroom, 4 and half bathroom. 2,771 sq/ft of A/C 326 sq/ft of terrace

**WHAT IS A NOTARIO AND...** continued from page 14
arbirtations made by the alienating party, for acquisition or alienating purposes. Note: These expenses need to be verified by faturas, official tax receipts.

**FOREIGN INVESTMENT...** continued from page 15
fee: This is also a very variable cost and changes from place to place, trustee to trustee, but regularly it is a fixed fee that has no relation with the cost of the property and is more or less standard in every location. By Raúl León, Attorney At Law, Expert in Mexican Trust (Fideicomiso), Commerce & Real Estate Attorney. For more information, contact Lic. Raúl Lleon at US: Cel. 011 521 624-151-6332, Local Cel: (624) 151-6332, e-Mail: posaideon@prodigy.net.mx posaideon@gmail.com.

**Making Life Simpler!**

Mexican newspapers are full of headlines about the growing problem of foreigners who are renting their homes or condominiums and failing to pay Mexican taxes. Not only is this a violation of the terms of most bank trusts (fideicomisos), but also it is a violation of Mexican tax law and reprisals are severe.

**FOREIGNERS ARE OBLIGATED TO PAY TAXES ON INCOME GENERATED IN MEXICO.** Mexico’s tax law is patterned after those of the United States and Canada (world rental system) which states in the First Article: Article One: Physical persons (individuals) and legal persons (companies) are obligated to pay an income tax in the following cases:

I. Residents of Mexico, must report and pay on all income no matter where the source is located;

II. Those with residence in a foreign country with a permanent establishment in Mexico must report and pay on all income generated from the permanent establishment in Mexico.

III. Those with residence in a foreign country, must report and pay on the income produced by property located in the national territory, when there is no permanent establishment in the country or, even if there is, but not covered by the situations outlined in I and II above.

If you own a property in Mexico and rent it often or only occasionally. ENJOY your rental income and SLEEP EASILY WHEN YOU HAVE COMPLIED WITH TAX LAWS!

The Settlement Company* with many years of experience in the transfer of titles and resolution of problems related to title, is now able to assist you in receiving your funds in an escrow account, complying with your fiscal obligations in Mexico, and providing you with the overlap and the documents you require in your country of residence to avoid double taxation!

Additionally, as part of its service, if requested, they your annual property taxes and, if your property is in trust (fideicomiso) bank trustee fees! They can also pay other property related expenses, at your request!

For further information, please contact; info@settlement-co.com.

**LIMITED NEW LISTINGS ON CHILENO BAY**

New listings released at VieVage Los Cabos, a contemporary resort community featuring residential villas and world-class amenities along one of Cabo’s most coveted stretches of coastline.

**Call to arrange a private guided tour - complimentary transportation available.**

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watching television; only 12% read.

Prison riot. 49 people died in a prison riot over on the mainland, but four of them were neither inmates nor staff. Authorities have admitted they don’t know who they are or how they got there. The riot, apparently triggered by rivalry between two leaders of the Los Zetas cartel fighting for control within the jail, was quelled within two hours but not before 49 inmates were killed and 12 injured.

The fighting began when Juan Pedro Saldívar Farías, mobilized a group of prisoners to attack rival Zeta leader César Hernández but they failed to reach his cell. As the riot began at about 11:30 pm Wednesday, the intended target was lounging out on his king size bed with a woman. Charges have been made that prisoners have been required to pay a quota of 1,500 pesos (US $79) a week to prevent being tortured by criminal gang members who controlled the prison. Well, that might be a step better than what goes on in the Los Cabos city jail where it’s the police who torture prisoners, including water boarding. And yes, they have water boarded at least one American that we know of. Behave yourself.

Not the Best Health Insurance

Say you get clobbered on the fourlane and say the meat wagon comes to pick up your smooshed body. Don’t say you want to go to the local Social Security hospital.

The new head of the countrywide system has just been appointed and his goal is to reduce wait times. As a for instance, he pointed out they were successful in cutting wait time for a person having a heart attack from about an hour to less than 30 minutes. Really? Say, you’re having a heart attack and you stagger into the ER. There’s a line for that? And the new honcho beamed as he bragged about this program, saying it cut fatalities by 50% in a trial run in Mexico City. No kidding. How about cutting fatalities further with a no time wait for heart attack victims?

The Mexican Social Security hospital program is funded by mandatory payroll deductions of the people, (about 47% of those working) who pay their taxes. (The rest of the population works under the table.)

The IMSS system serves 62 million people and on any given day the institute provides 500,000 medical consultations, attends 1,200 births and 60,000 medical emergencies, and cares for 204,000 children in its day-care facilities. The Social Security Institute employs 430,000 people in its 20,000 medical facilities spread throughout the country.

This one’s for you, Donald Trump. 2,000 jobs to be lost in the U.S. as Carrier air conditioning company moves manufacturing to Monterrey. The maker of heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration systems, will move its Indianapolis manufacturing operations to Monterrey, Nuevo León, over a three-year period starting in 2017. Company executives said the move will address the migration of suppliers and competitors to Mexico and cost and pricing pressures. Carrier is the world’s largest manufacturer of air conditioning equipment. The firm is owned by United
GO TAKE A HIKE... continued from page 1

it help maintain the weight I’m comfortable at, it rejuvenates my mind, my body and even my soul.

What is the difference between walking or hiking? If you would ask six different people you probably get six different answers. I Goggled it, and didn’t get a clear explanation of the difference. Both hiking and walking are all about putting one foot in front of the other many, many times. Whether you want to call it hiking or walking, it really makes no difference. As Nike says, just do it.

Here’s a good local hike/walk that I enjoy very much. It’s level, not a real big physical challenge, and there are plenty of rest stops along the way. Only problem is, there are also plenty of eating/drinking stops also. Be careful, be strong.

The Cabo marina is one of my favorite walks in the early morning. The reason you want to start by 7 or 7:30 is the marina is just beginning to come alive. You are not pestered by the damn vendors. I don’t want to have to fend these guys off because this is my time and my zone.

You will be among many other walkers and joggers enjoying this morning time as well. As you walk around the marina on the concrete boardwalk called the melecon in Spanish, you can check out the restaurants that are just waking up, you can choose one to go back to for a coffee or breakfast when you’re finished - wait until you’re finished, I want at least a half an hour out of you! I start at the south end of the marina, near the new Breathless building that just opened. That’s the kind of boring part, since they haven’t rented any of their retail spaces yet, and they are all boarded up. Good opportunity to turn your head the other way and look at the boats.

Following the malecon around the marina, you will pass the grand entrance to the mall, and can enjoy the fountains and lagoon. Steady here, don’t give in to Johnny Rocket’s hamburgers and milkshakes.

Next you will pass the offices of the marina, a couple more restaurants/bars, and then the boat ramp. Have to detach around Continued On Page 25
and his wife along with a kitchen leader. The objective is to involve the mothers to take on the duties to run the kitchen effectively.

We visited a kitchen located in the Colonia Tierra y Libertad. Consuelo is the lead mother in charge of this kitchen. She has 19 mothers under her who form six teams, and each team cooks one day a week. She has to create the schedule, communicate with the mothers, assure there is ample food, supervise and lock up. The lead mothers are paid by the church with food and clothes. Consuelo stated that she enjoys working with the mothers to help the kids and will be involved here until she no longer can. Her kitchen feeds around 100 to 150 per day. On that day, eggs and sausage sandwiches, watermelon and juice were served for lunch to around 70 kids and a few mothers. Before serving the food, Lupe lead the children in a few games, sang Christian songs, and read a passage from the bible. Yolanda, a mother with a newborn baby and a three year old, commented that she is thankful that the Americans help to provide food, and she now has new insights about life in general. Dolores, another mother, stated that she has learned about being a Christian and attends on Fridays because she is on the schedule to cook, but her five kids come every day.

A record is kept of everyone the kitchen feeds. To be on the list, you must have a federal I.D. number or CURP, and sign in when you attend. If you are under 12 a fingerprint is accepted. As a result the church has helped register many children, so they can obtain their CURP. The records are then sent to the governmental agency SEDESOL, Secretary of Social Development. This agency doesn’t like for the records to show too many needy children, preferring that list be around 120. Many times there are 200 or more children on the list.

Working with such a needy population, Tony and Lupe understand that they can’t do everything. They try to stay focused on feeding the kids, educating the mothers through workshops, and supporting the education of the children. The church supports education by providing school uniforms, backpacks, notebooks, and tuition.

If you would like to visit a kitchen in action firsthand, contact: flick@cabochurch.org.

When Cabo Church visitors go to the barrios to see a food kitchen in action, many visitors donate monetarily, or purchase food for these kitchens. The Cabo Church is thankful for those who make financial commitments to this ministry. It takes around $10,000 a year to supply food to one kitchen. Donations are U.S. tax exempt and go directly to the ministry of Feeding Los Cabos Kids. Yes, that’s right, U.S. tax exempt. Donations can be mailed to: US (Flat) Mail: Cabo Church, 303 Magnolia Drive, Laguna Beach, CA 92651. USA IRS 501c (3) EIN: 20-3743267  
For more information follow them on Facebook: Feeding Los Cabos Kids or call USA Von-age phone: 949.226.7088 Local Mexican: 624.143.4288.

A CRITICAL ILLNESS OR INJURY CAN HAPPEN IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE

While there’s no preventing an unexpected medical emergency, there is a way you can prepare for it.

Medical air transport from Los Cabos to your hospital in the USA or Canada can cost you hundreds of thousands of dollars. Why not let SkyMed pay the bill?

“When the SkyMed representative answered the phone and asked if this was a medical emergency, all of the necessary arrangements were set into motion and went off like clockwork.

The representatives at SkyMed stayed in constant contact with the hospital as to the status of my husband’s condition and when he would be stable enough to transfer, as well as the on-going arrangements that were being made. When the doctors at the Amerimed Hospital in San Jose del Cabo gave their okay, we were on our way home within hours.

The coordination between SkyMed, the hospital and the medical air ambulance service was seamless. I don’t think this could have been possible without their professional, quality staff. From the time I first contacted SkyMed until we were on our way to Minneapolis, Minnesota, was less than 24 hours.

It was a pleasant surprise to find that all of the SkyMed’s policy statements were true. The high standard of service exceeded my expectations.”

Gail and David Dingeman
San Jose del Cabo, Mexico, BCS

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Sign-up is quick and easy. No medical exam required. Fast approval. Global coverage.

Take comfort knowing you have a local representative who knows medical air evacuation. I’m a former Firefighter/EMT and served in Viet Nam as a US Marine in a helicopter squadron.

John Villegas  624 154.4919 Mexico  909 340.4114 USA


SINCE 1989 OVER 350,000 MEMBERS HAVE PLACED THEIR TRUST IN SKYMED  WE HAVE RESCUED MEMBERS FROM THE FURTHEST REACHES OF THE GLOBE
1. Brandon Corral, 19, student.
I think it's a good thing for the people who believe, they need that right now, with our country in the condition it is. But for the rest of us is just a waste of taxes, which could be used for education or infrastructure. Mexico should see more after its real needs, not religious needs, we don't eat from church, and the streets will be crowded all weekend, and next week. The people who live in Mexico City will have a hard time getting to their jobs and will probably be penalized in their salary.

The Pope is kind of cool, I like the way he doesn't play by the rules like Benedict did, and he is closer to the people, but there have been so many inconsistencies with the Catholic religion that it makes it hard for me to believe it's good to have him in Mexico City, and I'm pretty sure he's never going to see them, unless he gets down from his PopeMobile and takes the subway.

It's so stupid for Mexicans to think that he is blankets and live in the rural areas. Or the Catholic church should pay for everything. My family isn't Catholic so, why should our money go towards something so useless?

I believe it's pretty cool he's coming. We all need to believe in something, but we are so used to materialism that we need to see it. Him coming means he is brave, because he is going to Juarez, a very dangerous place, and despite all the security being put around him he could still be killed by any crazy atheist or fan. The only thing I would change is the cities he is visiting, its only five days and I don't think it's enough for the need of the country.

5. Ricardo Sanchez, 53, beggar.
We are blessed by his holiness. I cannot go see him because of the money, but the fact that he is in our land and in this Lent time, where we are supposed to give up our sins is specially symbolizing. My daughter has cancer, I ask for money for her treatment and I wish I could take her to see him so she heals. I always go to church and think he should talk to all the priests and teach them how to give mass and treat people, some of them are really mean.

6. Axel Salgado, 19, student.
I don't care about the Pope or the church, but I do know that our country cannot take the luxury of paying so much money for the visit. The church has made popes too important, and he is not the exception. He says he's humble but he still drinks out of a solid gold cup which could easily feed eight families for a month in Mexico, even double.
Technologies, which also owns United Technologies Electronic Controls, a manufacturer of microprocessor-based controls for heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration. It, too, is heading south. The firm said its customers and competitors are also moving to Mexico.

The average wage for union members at the Carrier factory is about US $23 an hour, about four times what that labor will cost in Mexico.

Taking legislation to the streets. The Mexican legislature is not going to tackle corruption: They make too much money off it. So, empowered by political reform that was approved in 2014, a collection of Mexico’s top civil society groups, academics and activists went in together to present a bill that would establish clear penalties for acts of corruption.

This is a citizen’s initiative, and could hit Congress as early as this spring, if its backers can gather the 120,000 signatures required to get it on the agenda.

120,000 signatures may very well be collected. Students, citizens and business communities are all on board. Public and private university deans have offered their tacit support. The hashtag #Yoafirmé (I signed) has inundated the web, and one of its members to sign the bill. Farmacias Similares, a chain of pharmacies throughout Mexico, has granted permission for their locations to accept the required hard copy signatures of those supporting the initiative. Even El Sopitas, a radio star, is actively promoting signing the bill through his pop music radio program.

Apart from its grass roots character, there are many features that make the citizens’ initiative unique. It would be the first law in Mexico to properly define 10 types of corruption, following United Nations best practices. It creates protections for whistle blowers and incen-

and to prove they pay taxes. **The Pope Is Pissed.** Pope Frances, (often called Papa Paco here), spent five days in Mexico, mostly whining about the Mexican government. And the American government. He stood at the U.S. border and shouted over to the United States a plea to let more Mexicans into the country.

His impassioned plea for the plight of immigrants, a sure crowd stopper with the ranks of those running for the Republican presidential nomination, will be a balanced counter punch to how he’s already pissed off many Mexican officials by pointing out some of Mexico’s faults before he even arrived. Even before the pope set foot on Mexican soil, government officials were incensed by his

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 30**
Fish Report

BY GARY GRAHAM

While the billfish numbers are a little slim, there are a few February surprises including a 350-pound black marlin and a Volkswagen-sized tuna weighing 287 pounds that were caught recently lending credence to the notion that any day any boat can produce your “catch of lifetime”. Like they say, “be there or be square!” You can’t catch ‘em by lying by the pool — just sayin’ . . . Good luck, Gary Graham, gary@garycgraham.com

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Cabo San Lucas

The fishing and catching has slowed up considerably for no apparent reason. Billfish are still being caught in scattered locations but those on the surface are not being cooperative for the anglers. Most of the billfish are being caught on the drift in deep water, in an area between Pedregal and Cabo Falso and about a half-mile or a little farther off shore.

Football-sized yellowfin tuna seem to be everywhere with an occasional big bruiser showing up to turn a fun day into a work day. Scarcer are the golden ones aka the dorado that always are sure to please a crowd.

Inshore, the roosterfish have fishing weather for the anglers.

Sea Conditions: Sea temperatures were up on both sides of the peninsula and have remained considerably better. Ranging from the Golden Gate Bank and beyond, down to the Thousand Fathom Curve and beyond, around the corner from Cabo San Lucas to about 10 miles north of the Gorda Banks, was all about 75 to 76 degrees.

San Jose

The all-around fishing action remains scattered; a lot of variety in the area now, but no particular species is overly abundant. Clear blue water is being found within a few miles of shore, though there are greener conditions found towards the north near Los Frailes. Schools of striped marlin off of La Playita landed a 350-pound black marlin off of the Gordo.

February surprises including a couple of dorados (20-25 lbs) with Captain Julio and Mate Abraham aboard 31-foot Tracy Ann, Pisces Fleet.

A sign that anything could happen on any given day was confirmed when local pangero legend, Hugo Pino, from La Playita landed a 350-pound black marlin off of the Gorda Banks. Hugo was trolling a Volkswagen-sized tuna weighing 287 pounds that were caught recently lending credence to the notion that any day any boat can produce your “catch of lifetime”. Like they say, “be there or be square!” You can’t catch ‘em by lying by the pool — just sayin’ . . . Good luck, Gary Graham, gary@garycgraham.com

Cory and Iana from Minot, North Dakota caught these two beautiful dorados (20-25 lbs) with Captain Julio and Mate Abraham aboard 31-foot Tracy Ann, Pisces Fleet.

Bay of sports fishing — fishing weather for the anglers. On these same grounds there have been yellowfin tuna — some of which are well over the hundred-pound mark — although many have been seen of all sizes — feeding on what

Fish Killers of the Week

Cory and Iana from Minot, North Dakota caught these two beautiful dorados (20-25 lbs) with Captain Julio and Mate Abraham aboard 31-foot Tracy Ann, Pisces Fleet.

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Adventures In Sailing Around The World
Starting in Mexico

BY GINA HARRIS

Gina, 29, worked in tech marketing, and Jose, 27, in tech sales, in San Francisco where they met at work. He grew up sailing the Mediterranean with his grandfather near his home in Spain. Gina is a California girl. Gina has hobby regularly. Enamored with the thrill of crashing waves and a passion for the outdoors, being on the water made us feel alive.

As with every post-sail conversation, our reminiscent discussion took a turn. “That was amazing but what if the water was bluer? And warmer?! And we could actually see the stars?!”

To be completely honest, we hadn’t even heard of it. We struggled to understand how the tequila infused Mexican vacations of our college years could be the raw, environmentally vibrant place we were searching for. In the end, the weather (and our savings plan), dictated when we could leave San Francisco and where we could go. We would be spending the first winter season in Mexico.

As with any life-altering plan, the day-to-day preparations for our trip took up so much mental space, we didn’t even think too much about what we would do or see when we actually got to Mexico.

We joined the Baja Haha, a fleet of a hundred or so boats that make their way down the Baja California coast each fall, and figured we’d get tips along the way. Tips we did get. Every person we met had so much to say about Baja! They told us about their favorite beaches, local restaurants to try and promised

U.S. Gov’t At Work For Gringos

Bill Ostick, who is with the U.S. consulate in Tijuana, visited Los Cabos last week and met with city officials to talk about security for the foreign community. He met with, first from left, Daniel Uribe, director of tourism, third is Luis Alberto González, secretary general of the city, and on the right, Sergio Sánchez, public relations honcho for the city. I think we can all figure out who the Gringo is.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34
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that, but maybe you will get to watch as all the Jet Ski companies back their huge trailers into the water and the 12 or so Jet Skis are pushed off the trailer and driven around to Medano beach, there to wait for people to rent them. Then you must walk the through Restaurant Row. It will be a pleasure at this time of the day but later it will be painful to run the gauntlet of rude and pushy restaurant barkers trying to get you in to their “very special” restaurant. Without them there you can actually look at the restaurants instead of hurrying by, afraid to show the slightest flicker of interest in any of them. Then you turn the corner, as you glance out on the main street of Cabo and check out the taxi vans that are always lurking at that corner. That’s a taxi stand for one of the companies. They all have different lurking areas defined by different colors of their vans.

Now you’re walking along beside Plaza El Ghoasto, that multi story gray hulk of an unfinished building. It was caught in the peso devaluation back in the 90’s, went broke, became bank owned, and all these years the bank and the union representing the construction guys who were not paid have been fighting in court over it. Finally the union gained control, and it’s for sale. We might see something happening there in a Mexican soon, as people are kicking tires on it.

Next you go by a bunch of restaurants, mostly pretty successful and with no barkers here. I wonder why this side of the marina is so much more civilized? At the corner you will see the statue of the whale. Or is it a shark? A dolphin? Some kind of fish, and it’s big. Look to your right, look up to the second floor, over the top of Capt. Tony’s restaurant and you will see the Gringo Gazette’s world wide locally famous company offices. Is that the publisher on her terrace flying her drone over the marina? Probably not, 7:30 is not her finest hour. Expect that to start happening about 10.

Next you will be passing a few stands, thankfully empty at this time, that sell all kinds of...
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Liga MAC Throws A Dance Party
Replacing their successful Jazz Festival with something new and fresh

BY ANITA SONG

Liga Mac, the charity founded by Mexican, American, and Canadian ladies, (MAC, get it?), has for many years produced a jazz festival as their biggest annual fundraiser. It was a lot, a lot, of work for the volunteer ladies, requiring a lot of logistics getting the pretty big name talent to Mexico and planning for the venue.

This year they’ve come up with a new, fresh idea, that they hope will be of interest to the jazz aficionados who might be getting tired of that, and it will also be cheaper to produce, as they will be using local talent.

Executive director Elva Haro explains that they came up with a sort of sock hop theme, presenting the best dance music from the 60’s, 70’s and 80’s. Well, maybe sock hops were 50’s and those years don’t seem to be represented here. So the Mac ladies are calling this a retro fest, not a sock hop.

It will be held at the Hilton and will include a cocktail hour, a surf and turf seated dinner, a live auction, and music by the local band Kilometro. Also Cabo DJ will be spinning records. Cost is $350.00 U.S. per person. Suck it up, Bunky, did we mention this was for charity? No whining about the cost, you’ll sound cheap. They’re selling a block of 10 tickets for a table of, let’s see, 10 people, for $3500.00 U.S. No discount here, we repeat, this is for charity.

But wait! There’s more! Valet parking is included! This sock hop will be around the swimming pool at the Hilton. And you want to get there right on time to get your money’s worth, as it all kicks off with a cocktail from 5 to 6 pm with a performance by electric violinist Luciano Pavan. A violin that

This will make you sorry you whined about the cost

This is a recap of what Liga Mac has done for the community in just this past year alone. ACE Scholarship Program. In Summer 2015, they graduated 46 students from high-school and 12 from universities. In addition, they granted 451 scholarships for the school year 2015-2006. The roster of grantees is: 197 in middle school, distributed in nine public schools of San Jose; 204 in high-school, distributed over five schools; and 50 in university, most of them at Instituto Tecnologico de Los Cabos (ITES, for its initials in Spanish).

In addition, they carried out five free-of-charge workshops with the ACE students: ESL; Wings, a workshop for teen females with the purpose to try to prevent drop-out and teen pregnancy; they launched the first edition of Eagles, a workshop for male adolescents with the purpose to try to calm violence; the second edition took place in Fall, 2015. They also implemented the workshop named

Continued on page 35

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Continued on page 35
Every Monday, 8:30 am
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, 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 clear glass bottles, metals, plastics (except Styrofoam), thick cardboard, computer equipment (except monitors), small home appliances (except TV’s of all kinds), cellphones and accessories, edible vegetable oil, ink cartridges and toners of HP, Samsung and Xerox only. Please. In San Jose at Centenario corner with Ildefonso Green. In Cabo San Lucas at the parking lot off the baseball stadium. 8 am to 2 pm. info@yoreciclo.org.mx

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

Every Thursday. From 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Organic market. Historic downtown activities program. Postal Park, Constitucion and Madero streets. La Paz. Free.

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

Every Thursday from 6pm to 9pm. Art Walk. Historic downtown, San Jose. Visit galleries, many serve wine, they close down the street.

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

Every Friday Palmilla Farmers Market Every Friday 9 am to 1 pm in the parking lot of the Palmilla strip center

Every Friday Todos Santos Farmers Market. Music and fun stuff. James Black, merlot14@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/Todos Santos-Farmers-Market- 937899742952014/?ref=hl, (612) 134-8728, Todos Santos. It moves around, so check where it is this week.

Every Friday night from 5:00 - 9:00 pm at the Amelia Wilkes Plaza in downtown Cabo. The Artisan Market. Nothing made in China here.

Every Friday 11:00 a.m. Al Aron Family Group. Next to Calvary Chapel Corner of Degollado and Margarita Maza de Juarez in San Jose. Info: Cell 624-127-1892

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

Every Saturday. 9am to 3pm. The San Jose organic market behind downtown San Jose, off of Centenario St.

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

February 26, Friday. 6:30 pm. Blind wine tasting dinner. At La Patrona restaurant. 2 whites and 2 reds. Plaza Paulina, interior courtyard. Corner of Morelos and Comonfort, gallery district, San Jose. Reservations a must. 624-142-1552 & 624-121-7476

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 only one 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@boominterprises.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, 16, 17, 18 & 19 – Baja Shakespeare presents its 16th Season, The Lost Barrels of Pleasure Island. All shows at 7:00pm except Sunday matinee on the 13th at 1:30pm. In Convention Center at Hotel Buenavista Beach Resort in Spa, offering special room rates and pre-show dinners, call directly: 624-142-0099 or info@hotelbuenavista.com. Ticket price is $20USD or 350 pesos, purchase at Homes & Land of Baja and Galeria Los Angeles or Will Call, nanatembden@gmail.com, 624-141-0314. More details at: www.facebook.com/BajaShakespeare/

Friday, March 11th. Hilton. Liga Mac Retro Fest - Music from the 60’s, 70’s, and 80’s. Replaces their traditional annual jazz festival. Dancing and raising money. Tickets and info retrofest@ligamac.org or 624.227.1852

March 12, Saturday. 3:00 pm. La Paz “Under the Moonlight” triathlon. Starts and ends at the malecon (concrete boardwalk) at the band stand. Information: http://www.asdeporte.com then go to the menu on top and click on Triathlon, and the La Paz event is on the right hand side. Sign up before March 11 as participation is limited to 1,000 athletes. Might be a good idea to make a couple practice jogs around the neighborhood first.

March 15-20. San Jose annual fiestas. Some of the streets in the historic downtown of San Jose will be closed to vehicle traffic to hold some of the partying, with food and beer stands set up along 3 blocks, while live bands will perform at night at the baseball stadium.

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.
Los Cabos Restaurant Scene

BY CHUCK WAGON

There is a trio of restaurants, all in one plaza and all in a row, all in San Jose, all very different from each other. But all share a common outdoor eating area. And that area is pretty neat, overcoming their neighborhood, which is overlooking a parking lot. But they’ve done a great job with it, building a deep (and three restaurant wide) wooden terrace, with pull down shades that block out the parking lot. This is a great place to go if you can’t decide what you want to eat or if your party can’t all agree on what kind of food they want collectively. One is an organic burger joint, one is Belgium food, and the third is sushi.

Left to right, first we’ll talk about the burgers. It’s owned by a Mexican who doesn’t live here, so his mom and dad actually run it. Everything but the beer is made on the promises, even the ketchup and mustard. Well, it’s not like the cows for the beef are raised in the backyard, but you get the idea. I had never thought about homemade ketchup and mustard and mayo, but they have somewhat pulled it off. It doesn’t taste like the condiments as we know them, but they are very good.

And the beef is good, the buns nice and smooshy, not hard, and they have some other items as well, such as salads and some soups and other types of sandwiches. They are very gluten aware, and it’s a good place for vegetarians.

Right next to that is the Belgium place, Bistro d’Anvers, but you can call it Antwerp Bistro. We are told that because Belgium has been conquered and colonized by so many countries over the centuries, Belgium food is a mish mash of a lot of cultures. Still, it’s hard to believe that they were occupied by Thailand people, although this place has Thai food. They also have pasta, steak like New York strip, and fish. No burgers, go next door for that.

Their Thai food can be spicy or no, your choice, with soup, fish prepared with Thai seasoning, and of course that standby, Thai chicken salad.

We didn’t see anything that we would characterize as Belgium, but all we know about that subject is their waffles. Nope, no waffles, just good dinner food, since they don’t open until 4 pm. Everything is priced fairly, the priciest item on the menu, the filet of prime beef, is only about $22 US. Most entrees, which are quite generous, are about $10 to $12.

Next to the Belgium restaurant is the sushi bar, called Kanzen. The menu is a cross between Japanese and Spanish, with the description lines in Spanish, so it all might be a little bit of a mystery to you if you’re not very familiar with sushi, Japanese, or Spanish. The help doesn’t speak English, so that’s a little bit of a challenge, but they are very smiley and very accommodating. The chef does speak some English and is glad to come out and explain everything to you, but you need to ask for him.

Our friend is a sushi man so he ordered there and came over to sit with us, pronouncing the food good to great. The first item he ordered was fine, a bit bland, but the second was pronounced fabulous by our sushi reviewer. They have four different kinds of sashimi, nine different kinds of rolls, some curry offerings, and a full bar from hard liquor to beer, to lemonade. Of course there continued on page 36
comment.

“The Mexico of violence, the Mexico of corruption, the Mexico of drug trafficking, the Mexico of cartels, is not the Mexico that our mother [the Virgin Mary] wants,” Papa Paco said in a message sent before his arrival. “I, of course, will not cover any of that up. To the contrary, I want to exhort you to fight every day against corruption, against trafficking, against war, disorder, organized crime.”

Mexico has a checkered history with the Catholic church. Following the 1910 revolution, the government confiscated church property and prohibited priests from wearing their collars and robes in public.

That trend has been reversed; diplomatic ties with the Holy See were established in 1994, and many clerics today tend to be supportive of the government of the moment, having learned their lesson. The Catholic church backed the wrong party in the revolution, which is what created the backlash against the church. Despite losses among their flock, and a strong secular strain, Mexico remains more than 80% Catholic.

Nope. Los Cabos was not on the itinerary. He passed us up like a dirty shirt.

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Cathy Dammann is a Medical Aesthetics Practitioner and has certifications in Aesthetics, and Light and Laser Therapies. She is a member of the International Association for Physicians in Aesthetic Medicine and the recent recipient of the 2012 “Successful Women of the Baja” by Baja Traveler Magazine. She has made numerous appearances on talk shows including Oprah. Spa Cielo’s physicians and staff are trained and certified in United States and Mexico and are bilingual. Spa Cielo Laser and Wellness Center holds a five star rating and received the “2013 Award of Excellence” from Tripadvisor 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.

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sun damage, precancerous and even skin texture. This is the only laser treatment at Spa Cielo that requires any downtime, typically less than 5 days.

FISH REPORT... continued from page 22

some roosterfish and a few sierra found, the few roosterfish were to 20 pounds, good-sized for this time of year.

East Cape

With what many locals are calling the worst North Winds in several years, it is tough to get a handle on the current conditions. Striped marlin have been prevailing even though it is really off-season. On the calmer days, there is a good bite just a few miles offshore in front of the channel entrance at La Riviera Marina. Throw in a couple of wahoo and an occasional dolphinfish and you have a bonanza! Even the tin boat is grumbling about the lack of sierra mackerel, though there are a few being caught off the beach along with a few jack crevalle.

La Paz

It’s been like this all winter. Just too windy to get out with double-digit winds every single day – all from the north. Fortunately, being winter, there’s not many folks asking to go fish or nor are there even many fishermen around. We had one day where the forecast said it would...
New Hotel Opens On Marina Front

Under construction for years, a new company finally took it over and completed it.

BY MAX POWER

Last April Trip Advisor lit up with the buzz about a new resort scheduled to open in Cabo San Lucas the following November. The name was Breathless and was to be another resort by AMResorts, the folks who also manage Secrets and Dreams. The theories flew like wild fire, like, “There is no way they can build a new hotel in just a few months so they have to be replacing an existing hotel, but where?” “Will it replace ME?” “Are they taking over the Gray Ghost?”

Come July the cat was finally out of the bag. The structure between the marina and Medano Beach, begun in 2112 but where construction had ground to a halt, was taken over by AMResorts in 2015. The complex is comprised of two buildings: a six-story rectangular cube of a gray building which hosts the hotel rooms, restaurant, and pool, and then there’s the smaller building where there’s a party pool, restaurants, and soon to be open spa and night club.

The bottom floor of both buildings will have retail shops run by Puerto Paraiso, but so far they’re all empty. The hotel has 169 suites, each with private terraces and marina views. Meeting and convention rooms are available to guests and locals for parties, weddings, and other gatherings. We’re betting not booze fuel Quinceañeras and bodas.

A grand opening party limited to travel agents and tour operators and by invitation only was held on November 19th and the hotel officially opened on December 17th. But some guests arrived before the 17th and were shifted to the Secrets resort. At this time there are still some hotel rooms under construction and so is the nightclub called Purple. They are also currently building a walkway for guests and tourists to get from the marina, around the hotel, to Medano Beach.

Breathless is a new AMResorts brand, their first in Mexico. The first two Breathless properties are in the Dominican Republic and Jamaica. It’s an “adult only resort for singles, couples, and friends.” Marketed as a modern, chic and luxury hotel, the advertisements, the entertainment offerings including evening lingerie catwalks in March, and the techno music pumped through the buildings from dawn till dusk are meant to entice a younger crowd, but the current guests skew to a more mature age.

Whatever the age, Breathless is definitely catering to Americans and Canadians with special events like a super bowl party, humberger month, and Oktoberfest. Breathless is promoted as a vacation club, (not time share), with a host of different packages including the Unlimited-Luxury and xhale club packages. Unlimited-Luxury is their fancy word for all inclusive including full breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks, as well as 24 hour room service. This also includes unlimited booze, a mini bar, daytime activities, nightly entertainment, and use of the gym. The xhale upgrade is personal and used, but that means it is impossible for locals to get inside. Security is extremely tight. Don’t even think about wandering in. How are they going to get townies in for their events, or even to go to their purple night club is a mystery. It can be hard to find the entrance and once you do, if you are not on the list, you will not make it any further.

From Italian to seafood to burgers, there are seven dining options at Breathless including buffets, a la carte grills and a cafe, plus 24 hour complimentary room service. The booze is poured at five bars and lounges with top shelf liquors. They don’t take dinner reservations, every restaurant is first come first served.

One restaurant is not included in the package. La Biblioteca del Tequila (the Library of Tequila) will serve a range of dishes including sushi, wok dishes, small plates, tacos, and salads. Biblioteca’s chef is Richard Sandoval, a Mexico City native who has 40 concept not make it any further.
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 small hotels. Some of the streets are torn up right now for utility upgrades, but the jewelry stores, galleries, cafes and restaurants are all still open and inviting. Visit the Hotel California (no connection to the Eagles' song, despite their best efforts to promote that with T-shirts), browse shops full of handcrafted treasures, and enjoy some great Mexican cooking. And don't forget the non-stop excitement of Cabo, just an hour away.

What you won't find are buildings taller than three floors, chain stores, or fast food joints. Speaking of food, Todos Santos has a full range of temptations. Try Alma & Manny's or the Todos Santos Inn for breakfast, Bob Marlin or Hotel Casa Tota for lunch; Los Adobes, or the Santa Fe for dinner. South of town, near the Pemex, is Dana's Diner, which has 13 TVs and 13 channel feeds for sports. The gourmet French restaurant Chez Laura is a bit difficult to find, but wow, it is amazing. You step off a dusty dirt road into another world. For fabulous chill rellenos try Miguel's across from the Pemex. Next to the Pemex is the very sophisticated La Casita.

Want off beat? Go to the mask museum, called Faces of Mexico. Tucked on a side road in Todos Santos, the proprietor provides an enthusiastic tour of authentic masks from the various eras of Mexican history.

The cultural museum on Juarez Ave. also has interesting historic displays. Todos Santos is home to the annual music festival every January, an artist's open studio tour in February, and the ever-popular GastroVino in April.

Many visitors extend their Cabo vacation and get to know the real Mexico by staying a few days in either Todos Santos or the nearby beach areas. Cerritos Beach is part of El Pescadero, but where the town of Pescadero is old Mexico, Cerritos has that vibrant beach vibe. Cerritos and its neighboring beach, San Pedrito, are 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 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 strawberry, tomato and basil. 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, through Pescadero to La Paz. 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. Duck 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, 1 kid you not, the best burgers anywhere in Baja. Drive around the baseball stadium, and turn at the first dirt road on the left past the first sleeping policeman, (speed bump).

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 visit a room at the Arribes 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.
In Mexico, a type of ice cream flavored with fresh fruit is called “nieve” (snow), and it is usually made with fresh fruit juice, water-based, opposed to the traditional ice cream, which is based on cream or milk. Nieve is more similar to a sorbet. And if my editor sticks in sno cone here, it’s not me writing. I have never seen a sno cone and don’t trust her food knowledge, it barely extends past waffles and pop tarts.

Nieves in Mexico date back to pre-Hispanic times. We can find various cultures like Teotihuacán, (first to introduce this delicacy), where it had a close relationship with the religious sphere as in religious ceremonies held to ask the gods for a good crop year, or praise for the day of the equinox. These things required preparing many delicacies. Among these was the nieve made from water, honey, and seasonal fruits. Only the priests and great lords could eat this. In other parts like in Tlatelolco; the main Mexican market, noble warriors, lords and maidens, came to get varied, strange and exotic products; within these products was the nieve which cost as much as 20 cacao (chocolate) beans.

But how snow or ice for processing was achieved? This is an incredible way, because the snow was brought from the Popocatepetl and Ixtaccihuatl volcanoes, that were around two days by walking. From the volcanoes the snow was carried to its final destination in the valley of Mexico and this was achieved with a task that required a lot of effort and fitness. Special runners who climb to different parts of the volcano and then run back non stop two days to deliver their precious cargo. And how the snow was preserved to come to the valley? They used a rustic conservation method. These guys wrapped the snow in a piece of leather or fur cured with salt in a bulk form and leaving a gap for storing, then, they wrap this with a second leather piece, and sewed it up with maguey needles. After all this they carried it on the shoulders of each runner.

Arriving at their destination, this snow was received by a select group of priests chosen by the gods, and they were in charge of transforming it all into a prodigious delicacy with natural honey. The first one was to offer it to the gods, and then it was served to the kings or great lords that were invited to the celebrations.

King Moctezuma liked his sweetened with honey and decorated with colorful flowers. This dessert is of pre-Hispanic origin in Mexico and its development was favored by the variety of fruits endemic to this country.

During the times of the Spaniards’ conquer, the nieve was consumed more often in the hot season and especially during Lent, especially on Holy Thursday and Good Friday.

The most popular flavors are: lime, guava, coconut, mango, and strawberry. Nowadays these are some of the most important exports Mexico has. Mexico is practically the only foreign supplier of fresh strawberries in the US market, with a share of 99.6% of total imports from that country. So is with raspberries, blackberries and blueberries, with a portion of 26.9 percent.

There are places in this country where the nieves production represents a culinary taste appeal, and held important gastronomic fairs and exhibitions. Among the most prominent locations is Tepotzotlán (in the state of Mexico), where nieves of the most diverse flavors, such as lime, guava, coconut, mango, and strawberry are enjoyed.

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US Income Taxes Prepared in Mexico

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Tips to improve your Urological Health.

The term urologic diseases involve congenital or acquired dysfunctions of the urinary system. These diseases can affect men, women and children of all ages to very specific parts of the body. In females, they involve the urinary tract and in males, it affects the urinary tract or the reproductive organs.

The new Urology Department in BlueNet Hospitals led by Dr. Juan Carlos Morales is trained in the full range of diagnostic techniques, surgical and noninvasive procedures to treat urologic conditions.

The following are some of the diseases identified as common by the American Urological Association Foundation (AUAF):

Benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) is an enlarged prostate. It is an increase in the size of the prostate gland. BPH is very common in older men. It is not directly connected to prostate cancer. The symptoms of BPH are caused by the pressure that a larger prostate can place on the urethra.

Men with BPH may experience a frequent urge to urinate. They may also have a weak stream of urine when they do go and a feeling that the bladder is not empty after urination. Your doctor may choose to just monitor this condition or prescribe medications such as alpha-blockers for treatment. Severe cases can be treated with surgery.

Urinary incontinence is a loss of bladder control. It results in the unwanted leakage of urine. This condition can be inconvenient and embarrassing, but it is far from uncommon. According to the AUAF, more than 15 million people in the United States have incontinence.

In some cases, lifestyle changes such as controlling fluid intake can be enough to address the problem. If these approaches prove ineffective, your doctor may suggest surgery to correct the underlying cause.

Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs) are the result of pathogenic bacteria or viruses that invade the urinary tract and cause infection. They are much more common in women. A burning sensation during urination is one of the symptoms of a UTI. Others include a frequent urge to urinate and the feeling that the bladder is not completely empty after urinating. Antibiotics can usually clear up most UTIs within five to seven days.

Kidney and Ureteral Stones. Stones develop in the kidneys when there are crystals in the urine and small particles surround and collect on these crystals. Ureteral stones are ones that move from the kidney into the ureter (the tubes that carry urine from the kidneys to the bladder).

These stones can block urine flow and cause a considerable amount of pain. Many people end up expelling small stones from the body without medical help, but larger stones may result in blockage, which is problematic. Medical or surgical procedures may be needed in some instances, to remove large stones.

You are the best guardian for your own urological health. Schedule regular checkups with your doctor and make sure to always report any concerning symptoms you develop. Dr. Juan Carlos Morales

BlueNet Hospitals

BlueNet Hospitals

Tips to improve your Urological Health.

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You are the best guardian for your own urological health. Schedule regular checkups with your doctor and make sure to always report any concerning symptoms you develop. Dr. Juan Carlos Morales

BlueNet Hospitals

BlueNet Hospitals


They had a special case this year, a 25-year-old woman who suffered a terrible car accident in 2014 and needed an extremely complicated surgery to save her life. After several surgeries performed in the national health care system, the young woman had no hope for this last vital surgery to reconstruct her internal organs. Thanks to a collaborative effort along with H+ hospital, Los Cabos Childrens Foundation, and the patient’s family, she got the surgery and was given a second chance for life. LIGA MAC’s contribution was $6,000 USD.

**Adult Education**

They closed the year with 50 active registered students in the local government’s Adult Program (INEA). 60% are clients referred from LIGA MAC’s Basic Needs Program. 16 adults have learned to read, 22 reached elementary level, and 12 are finishing middle education. In summer 2015, one student obtained his elementary school diploma, and three more finished middle school; two of them were able to continue high-school in the regular school system.

Now, aren’t you sorry you whined about donating a measly $300 to go to the sock hop?
are the “Los Teriyakis, and Los Especiales”. The mix of Japanese and Spanish is really a hoot. The prices are very fair, there’s nothing more than about $10.

All three restaurants have pretty short hours, not opening until late afternoon, and closed on Monday.

They are all in Plaza Cardon in San Jose, you can see them from the fourlane as you drive north from the traffic circle. Plaza Cardon is the first horseshoe-shaped strip center between Mega and Walmart, and since it’s in a small shopping center, there is plenty of parking.

None of them liked us calling it a food court, so we won’t, but you can order from any restaurant you want and sit in front of any restaurant you want. That’s a food court, no?

be single-digit winds and we had some clients who only had that one day to fish. However, when tried to send them out, the winds were so strong, they never even got off the beach and we had to drive them back to La Paz from Muertos Bay.

The formula is basically this: If there are storms north of Mexico, there will probably be windy days south of the border. Simple! With El Nino, there has been a big procession of storms in the U.S. — which is much needed, I get that. This is all part of a natural cycle that’s been going on for eons so there’s not much to be done about it. It is what it is.

It is beginning to look much more promising according to the forecasts so hopefully, the winds will lie down. When the winds did lie down recently, we’ve gotten yellowtail, wahoo, sailfish, marlin, pargo, cabrilla and sierra.

Cabo San Lucas

Tracy Ehrenberg  www.pi-cessportfishing.com
Larry Edwards  www.cor-tezcharters.com
San Jose del Cabo Gordo Bank Pangas www. gordobanks.com
East Cape Rancho Leonero Hotel www. rancholeonero.com
Jen Wren Sportfishing www. thejenwren.com
East Cape Tackle Cindy Kirkwood, www.eastcapetackle.com
La Paz Jonathan Roldan’s Tailhunter International www.tailhunter-international.com

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La Paz Jonathan Roldan’s Tailhunter International www.tailhunter-international.com

La Paz
Crossroads Church
Abasolo St, Corner of Sonora & Sinaloa
Mon. & Friday 9:30 AM
Frank 612-154-1050 (cell)
or Leo - 612-129-3293 (land)

Gricelda’s Smokehouse
Gricelda cleans, vacuum packs and freezes your catch for easy transport back home.
Her secret marinade and smoking process assures your catch is the best smoked fish south or north of the border! And filleting is no extra charge!

Cabo Marina, by the Baja Cantina,(01 521) 1437266. VHF Ch. 71.
www.dreammakercharter.com dale@dreammakercharter.com

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Restaurant and Bar Seeking Proposal

The Marina Sol Homeowners Association (MSHOA) is looking for proposals from parties interested in taking over food/beverage services at Marina Sol Condominiums in Cabo San Lucas.

The facility consists of a Palapa Restaurant Bar located poolside. We are seeking to sign a Three years contract for an operation from 6:00 AM to 11:00 PM seven days a week.

Proposals must be received at the address below or by email at board@marinasolhoa.com no later than 5:00 PM on February 24, 2016

All proposals must include:

1) Proposed monthly rental rates in US dollars.
2) List of all owners/principals/companies who have a 10% or greater ownership interest and have powers to make decisions on behalf of company.
3) Resume for all owner(s)/principal(s) and previous business experience
4) References.

Contact: Ivonne Hyswick, email: generalmanager@marinasolhoa.com or phone 624-143-2154

We are located at Acuario street between Ave. del Pescador and Paseo de la Marina, behind City Club.

BY ORLANDO GOTAY

Uncle Sam Peeking At Your Mexican Account

There’s Nowhere Left To Hide!

By now, you may have heard that under the FATCA law, the US Treasury and the Mexican Tax Service (SAT) have entered into agreements to exchange financial information. The purpose: to discover those who have assets or income in one country, which should have been reported and taxed by the other.

The traded information is by no means equal. Mexico provides the US Treasury much more sophisticated and complex data, but they are already working with what they’ve got.

The Mexican journal El Economista recently reported that SAT is already taking steps to provide the next batch of account information on Americans in September. To that end, it published two amendments to the Mexican tax regulations, instructing banks how to sift through accounts with “indicia” of ownership or control by U.S. persons. This applies to accounts, whether one actually owns the money or just has signature authority over it, for both personal and business accounts. The scope goes far beyond what we know as bank accounts. A wide range of financial instruments and arrangements is also reportable.

Your local Mexican bank may send a letter informing you that for “regulatory purposes” you may have to provide documentation proving that you are a “U.S. person” or not. Failure to reply could cause the bank to close the account or to classify you as a “recalcitrant” account holder.

Pretty soon, U.S. persons who own or have signature authority over foreign financial accounts whose total value exceeded $10,000 USD at any time during 2015 must prepare a Foreign Bank Account Report for the US Treasury. Treasury already issued official rates for the Mexican peso, 17.3620 per dollar.

Assuming only one peso account, if at any time it had a balance of 173,620 pesos, it may be reportable. For multiple accounts, the maximum value of each is added up. Accounts with negative values count as zero.

continued on page 39

Sometimes I laugh so hard tears run down my legs

Why are whales now friendly with whale-watching humans, and how can they forget and forgive us for hundreds of years when whale hunters slaughtered them? (Well, they are whales, that’s how, they’re not elephants. Nobody can hope an elephant forgets and forgives.) Only recently, with many species of whales nearing extinction, have most countries decided it is important and necessary to protect whales.

Growing up in landlocked Illinois, I’m fascinated by the mystique I feel about the gray whales I’ve touched in Baja. I read all of the books and articles I could find; everything available about the whales we see here each winter, but this book is different than most of what I’ve read. The focus is on the author’s theories of why these mammoth creatures have decided to seek communication, and are now befriending the humans who not so many years ago hunted them almost to extinction. We cannot understand their language, and we have no accurate method to gauge their intelligence except by human standards. There are many other mysteries surrounding the world of whales. For most of recorded history, whales have been called “devil fish”, and they’ve been hunted commercially almost to extinction. Why, then, do they seek interactions with us now?

The first person we know to have had a friendly interaction with the gray whales who migrate thousands of miles south to have their babies in Baja lagoons, was Francisco (Pachico) Mayoral, and this historic event first happened in San Ignacio Lagoon in 1972. A gray whale approached several fishing pangas, swam under the boat, and then gently rubbed against Pachico’s boat! Afraid at first, Pachico sat still and watched, and after some time, he gradually felt more curiosity than fear, and began to stroke and pet her head. Interactions between whales and humans changed in Baja from that time on.

The author notes that the panga fishing boats that friendly whales now approach are basically the same size as the whale boats used only 70 years before, and that some of today’s whales must have been alive then, and have memories of when they were hunted. It is estimated that there may have been 20,000 California gray whales in Baja in 1850, and less than 2000 whales only 20 years later. Before whaling, gray whales faced few threats and swam our oceans with killer (orca) whales as their only predator. It went on for thousands of years, until whaling began. Because it’s believed that gray whales live up to 200 years, it is reasonable to think that at least some of them must remember the time when they were hunted relentlessly, and how strange that even so, they now seek closeness to humans. Well, like we mentioned above, we don’t know much about their intelligence.

This book and the DVD on the back cover, offer hope for the future of gray whales as well as other marine mammals and whales, and thus also, hope for all of us. A quote by Jane Goodall, on the cover summarizes the importance of this book, and

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continued on page 40

#whenhemoment

Executive Menu
Menú Ejecutivo

Soup or Salad
Sepa o Ensalada +
Main Dish
Plato Fuerte +

Dessert & Drink
Postre y Agua de Salado

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NEW HOTEL OPENS IN THE...
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restaurants around the world including his Toro Latin Kitchen & Bar at Punta Ballena here in Cabo. La Biblioteca will be opening soon and will be available to the public, but there’s that problem at the door, so good luck with that.

Although it is located on one of the calmest parts of Medano Beach, Breathless does not offer much in the way of beachfront and half of the beach is currently used by Baja Watersports’ rather ramshackle restaurant and activities booth.

Breathless claims the city permits for these establishments expired in December and that the city is “taking care of things,” but a spokesman for Baja Watersports is hogging the best of the land, leaving just a sliver for Breathless, but they have done a nice job of what they have left to them.

The hotel that took about a decade to build is finally open, after changing hands mid-construction.

COOKING LIKE A MEXICAN...
continued from page 33

UNCLE SAM PEEKING...
continued from page 37

ado, I bring you a strawberry nieve recipe:

4 cups of water
3 cups of cut and washed strawberries
2 cups of sugar

Combine the water with the strawberries and heat to a boil. Remove from heat. Strain and make a strawberry puree.

Add the sugar to the water where strawberries are boiled, and mix until the sugar is completely dissolved.

Stir in the strawberry puree and mix well. Put the mixture into a freezer container and freeze for one hour.

After this time, take it out and whisk in a blender and return it to the freezer. Leave for another 2 hours, then beat one more time and freeze again. If necessary repeat again, until you have the desired consistency.

Once ready, serve the nieve in tall glasses and garnish with sliced strawberries or mint leaves.

And now, without further ado, I bring you a strawberry nieve recipe:

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As chewing gum, the flavor of flowers such as rose, and coffee are prepared. Also, in the state of Oaxaca traditional nieves of burnt milk, tequila and mezcal are made and enjoyed.

Other ancient cultures have something similar to this. The Chinese mixed snow from the mountains with fruit and honey and the caliphs of Baghdad, with fruit juice. There, this treat was given the name sharbets, meaning beverage, hence the word sorbet. Marco Polo brought ice cream recipes learned from his trips to Europe.

It is easy to see how this is not an exercise that should be left for the last minute. Consider there are substantial penalties for failing to file accurate FBARs on time. FBAR records should be kept for at least six years. Dual nationals (and so called “accidental Americans”) who ignore the fact that they may have U.S. filing obligations may come in for a less than pleasant surprise.

Looking for something different? Tired of Cabo and the crowds and the all-inclusives? There are treasures awaiting you on the East Cape. Serene, quiet, uninhabited beaches offering SUP, surf, kayak and snorkel activities.

The Hotel Vidasoul offers quiet relaxation with a “come as you are” attitude. Situated on a beautiful private beach, serving outstanding food, breakfast, lunch and dinner. Live entertainment, concerts, Sand Castle competitions and more.

Our upcoming events are:
February 12, Saturday, The Baja Boogie Band starring David Raitt and Ray Barclay starting at 7PM. Outstanding performance by this group several years in a row.
March 26, Saturday, STAMINA Reggae and Rock, great band everyone loves them.
April 2, Saturday 7PM, Legendary California singer and songwriter, Chris Mc Curdy.

April 16, Saturday, out All Day Anniversary Event, still scheduling the bands but have booked Julieta as one of our bands.
May 15, Sunday, Sand Castle Competition, great family funday, gifts for kids and prizes for winners. All day fun and swimming.

We are adding to our events schedule all the time so please check our Facebook page for updates.

We are located on Baja’s East Cape in Vinorama half way between the Puerto Los Cabos Marina and Cabo Pulmo. Keep us in mind for your wedding or private affair, retreat, conference. For more information about our events or specials, find us on Facebook Hotel Vidasoul or our website www.vidasoul.com. Call us at 624 142 1165 or 624 154-6966. US number 626-840-0485 at the hotel (satellite phone) US# 323-431-8225. E-mail to info@vidasoul.com.

The SAT will also be combined through the southbound data, and no doubt it will also try to identify those who should have been reporting in Mexico, but were not. This, just in case someone thought the U.S. could be a fiscal paradise.

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If you’re jammed up, they aren’t very helpful, but they can be better than no help at all.
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For help with all sorts of stuff, most of which you never should have got yourself into in the first place.
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- Movies on DVDs

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San José del Cabo
- From February until July will be temporarily at Centenario Av w/ Ildefonso Green
- On August well return to our same spot; next to the “Dorada” pharmacy, in the new park.

Cabo San Lucas
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BOOK REPORT...
continued from page 38

the importance of whales on man’s very existence and future. The tone and information is different from other educational books on whales, which speak more to the differences between species, their physical data, and some history. Thompson writes of their thinking processes and of the very soul of the whale.
The book has 10 chapters in two parts, part one is about Laguna San Ignacio, which is on the Pacific side of Baja, about 600 miles south of the border. Part two describes the migration and habits of grey whales and the history of whaling. Additionally, the book includes a DVD, two pages of listings of online resources, and directions to the whale watching camps near San Ignacio. The author, Doug Thompson, has led many trips into Baja and mainland Mexico. He is an active marine naturalist and conservatist, who has spent 30 years studying and doing research on cetaceans.

Part two also focuses on gray whales, and gives us a brief history of whale hunting. Whales are protected today, although Japan still ignore the ban on whale hunting. Yet, it has not been long ago that whaling was an admirable and dangerous occupation, for only the bravest, or foolish or desperate of sailors. In 1857, one Yankee whaling captain, named Scammon, became famous, and a hero of his day, by trapping and killing thousands of whales in a lagoon near Guerro Negro, a few hundred miles north of here, which now bears his name. It is said that the water ran red with blood from some of the nursing mothers and baby whales that were slaughtered there.
The author has used his knowledge and experiences as a commercial fisherman (when he was in college), to write and present educational programs with his goal of adult awareness of conservation, (some with Shari Lewis, for young children), and he has led expeditions to San Ignacio Lagoon for whale watching. His web site is www.dolphinworks.com.

Doug Thompson has an exciting theory that the gray whales are trying to share important insights and information with humans, and that we can do so through their closeness and touch. What do you think?
I do believe you will enjoy reading this book, and watching the DVD. The book, Whales, Touching the Mystery, is available at my bookstore named El Caballo Blanco in Loreto. jean-nine1220@yahoo.com.
Geeze, And We Think We Have Problems?
Look at Cancun’s seaweed dilemma

BY SANDY BEECH

Sargassum, a type of seaweed, is piling up at an alarming rate on the beaches of Cancun. A vine like brown seaweed known as sargassum has invaded the Caribbean basin this year with a vengeance. Vast floating mats of the stuff have washed up and buried beaches in it. And, boy does this stuff stink.

The piles of seaweed have grown more than four feet high in some places, forcing some nearby residents to abandon their homes. Did we mention the stink? And the flies, as it decays and dies? The flies are real bad.

Some legislators in the Caribbean have declared a natural disaster as the stench of decomposing seaweed, and the dead fish and turtles caught within it, caused nausea among tourists. Hilary Beckles, the vice chancellor of the University of the West Indies, called it “the greatest single threat to the Caribbean economy I can imagine.”

“It’s been horrendous,” said David Freestone, executive secretary of the Sargasso Sea Commission.

For Mexico, whose Caribbean coastline attracts more than 10 million visitors and generates $8 billion in tourism-related revenue a year, the arrival of sargassum became a cabinet level crisis. When the director general of Cancun’s maritime department received a photo one morning in July from his beach cleaners, he assumed it was a joke. Within days, the country’s tourism and environment ministers were touring Cancun to assess the calamity.

Mexico’s tourism industry is like an aging gladiator, having battled swine flu outbreaks, drug-war violence, and intense storms over the past decade — including Hurricane Patricia, which sent sunbathers fleeing the Pacific coast last week. Now, some local authorities question whether seaweed might strike the fatal blow.

“Beaches are what we sell to the whole world and what we depend on, directly or indirectly, for all our income,” Mariscal said. And hotel guests paying $500 a night do not want to open the shades to find paradise matted down under layers of stinking, fly-infested algae.”

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Since the July invasion, Mexico has launched a herculean cleanup effort. Along the coast of the state of Quintana Roo, the government hired 5,000 day laborers in four-hour shifts to rake seaweed from more than 100 miles of beaches. From one popular stretch of...
CALENDAR OF PERFORMING ARTS

CABO SAN LUCAS
Cerrito del Timbre Cultural House behind Arambaro supermarket and Guacamayas taco joint downtown Cabo.
February 22, Monday. 7:00 pm. Full moon nights. Reading poetry, literature, live music, contemporary dance, night sky viewing with telescope with Los Cabos Astronomical Society. Opened by the city department of culture. All audiences. Spanish. Free.
MACONDO BOOK STORE Above La Europa at Walmart
February 25, Thursday. 7:30 pm. Paradise Love. (2012) Comedy-drama-art-house. The opener in the trilogy about three women in one family who take separate vocations: the first one as a sex tourist, the second one as a Catholic missionary, and the third one at a diet camp for teenagers. Three films, three women, three stories of the longing to find happiness in contemporary society. All three films were written by Mr. Seid and his wife Veronica Franz, and photographed by cinematographer Ed Lachman. English with Spanish subtitles. Free.
LEON COTA PLAZA next to the Red Cross meat wagon bar.
February 28. Sunday. 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Itibla Tepocate folk dance company 10th Anniversary. Celebrating with folk dance and live music by Oaxaca and Sinaloa folk dance companies and the Philharmonic children’s orchestra and youth Xoxocotlan Oaxaca band. All audiences. Spanish. Free.
CULTURAL PAVILION
February 28, Sunday. 6:00 pm. Haza. Play by the City Theater Workshop directed by Francisco Barragan to benefit Casa Hogar San Jose. Tickets 50 pesos. Spanish. Info cell: 624 191 4858.
March 4 and 5, Friday and Saturday. From 10:00 am to 8:00 pm. Book fair. A cultural event with various artists, writers, storytellers, children’s activities, workshops, live music and more. Organized by Sutacalifornia Cultural Institute, Municipal Culture, and Todos Somos el Otro reading lounges. All audiences. Spanish. Free.
AMELIA WILKES PLAZA downtown Cabo main plaza on Hidalgo. Every Friday from 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Handcraft market by the local craftsmen.
CASA DE LA DANZA
February 26, March 4 and 11. Friday. 8:00 pm. Autumn women. Dance company 10th Anniversary. Celebrating with folk dance and live music by Oaxaca and Sinaloa folk dance companies and the Philharmonic children’s orchestra and youth Xoxocotlan Oaxaca band. All audiences. Spanish. Free.
CABO MAZATAN
February 28. Sunday. 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Polyphonic chorus of Los Cabos auditions open auditions for new singers. Ages 15 and older and children from 8-14. Experience not necessary. Just go one of the two days and sing a song that shows the best qualities of your voice. The singers can be accompanied by a musical instrument, a musical track or a capella. Cel 624 129 7921. CABO SAN LUCAS
MACONDO BOOK STORE Above La Europa at Walmart
Every Saturday. 8:30 pm. Live music by different guest artists. Cafe showing every wednesday. 7:30 pm. Movie club. Some English. Free.
https://www.facebook.com/macondo.cs
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, pale, sculpture, photography, food tasting, theater, live music and dance. Spanish. Free.
SAN JOSE
SAN JOSE CULTURAL HOUSE. Downtown San Jose
February 27, Saturday. 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Polyphonic chorus of Los Cabos auditions new singers. 15 years old and older and children from 8-14. Experience not necessary. Just go one of the two days and sing a song that shows the best qualities of the voice. Singers can be accompanied by a musical instrument, a musical track or a capella. Cel 624 129 7921.
MAIN PLAZA Right downtown
February 27. Saturday. From 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Itibla Tepocate folk dance company 10th Anniversary. Celebrating with folk dance and live music by Oaxaca and Sinaloa folk dance companies and Philharmonic children and youth Xoxocotlan Oaxaca Band. All audience. Spanish. Free.
DANZA TELLEZ STUDIO Plaza Caracol, upstairs, San Jose, across from the MEGA.
February 26, 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 class. Pre-registration on line: www.joffreymballschool.com/international-auditions. More info and requirements for the auditions with Laura Affaro Cell: 624 191 3566.
CIRCOTEKA Angela Cesefia St. between the fourlane and Barlovento St. 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: todosnosmoseloto@gmail.com. At Angela Cesefia St. between Fourlane Street and Barlovento St., San Jose. Spanish. Free.
MAIN PLAZA SAN JOSE
March 3. Thursday. 9:00 am. 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/artalfredo.sosa Spanish and English. Free.
TODOS SANTOS
LUNA AZUL THEATER On The Other Side at Todos Santos. (Las Tunas).
February 26 and 27. Friday and Saturday. March 3, 4 and 5. Thursday to Saturday. 7 pm
Alice, Down the Rabbit Hole. Original musical play, has Alice, an aspiring Rock n Roll singer, on a wild ride to Wonderland. Directed by Blue Moon theater group. Tickets at Tecolote Bookstore. English. More www.labiolunaazul.com
LA PAZ
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 Guerrero St. Estero town, La Paz. facebook.com/alianzafrancesalapaz. Spanish, French, English and other languages. Free.
Every Friday. 6:00 pm. International films movie club.
CENTRO CULTURAL LA PAZ
From Monday to Friday. 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. Permanent display, permanent photography collective exhibition that highlights the cultural identity of Baja California Sur. In the Codex Península of the Centro Cultural La Paz, on 16 de Septiembre at the corner of Belsario Dominguez. Text in English and Spanish. Free.
February 13, 20 and 27. Saturday. 7:00 pm.
March 3, 10, 17, 18, 19 - Baja Shakespeare’s 16th Season
LOS BARRILES
March 11, 12, 13, 18, 19 - Baja Shakespeare’s 16th Season at Buenavista Beach Resort in Spu Buenavista’s Convention Center. All shows at 7:00 pm except March 13, at a maline at 1:30pm. Tickets 620 usd or 300 pesos. facebook.com/pages/Baja-Shakespeare/233397878011557. More info closer to show dates.
March 20, Sunday. 33rd 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. This event is for the programs we support in the East Cape area. We appreciate the support from the local residents—full and part time—and the visitors. More information contact E mail at edesign@baja.com or visit the website: http://www.eastcapearts.com/
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 around about this. It happens frequently, so go, with great expectations of a wonderful evening, but have a backup plan.
to paved roads. Yes, the crap runs down the roads. You don't want to live at the bottom of a hill in Los Cabos.

Nunez promises that his task group will travel out to inspect every single report of sewage spills that Oomapas receives, fixing those responsible, as well as repairing damages or fixing faulty installations.

Dorms up in smoke. Poof! The rural school and the dorms in Miraflores, about 20 minutes north of San Jose, caught on fire in Miraflores, about 20 minutes south of San Jose. The dorms and schools are fueled by the state government, but there is always need for more blankets, toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet paper, towels and the like.

After the fire, Gabriela Velazquez, the state governor's wife and president of the government-run DIF charity, showed up with personal hygiene kits, school materials, bunkbeds, mattresses, linen, blankets and paint to renovate the damaged areas. Triathlon next month. Might be time to start training. Or next week. La Paz "Under the Moonlight" triathlon, (it will begin at 3:00 pm and end at Sunset), will be held on Saturday, March 12, and will start and finish from the malecon, (concrete boardwalk), at the band stand.

There will be two categories, the sprint, with a 750 yard swim, 20 Km bike and 5km race, and the Olympic Triathlon (1.5 km swim, 54 km biking and 10 km race). Winners of both categories will be eligible to participate in the world triathlon to be held in Cozumel, in the Mexican Caribbean.

For more information look up: http://www.asdeporte.com then go to the menu on top and click on Triathlon, and the La Paz event is on the right hand side. Sign up before March 11 as participation is limited to 1,000 athletes.

Good-by stadium. The Ar-turo C. Nahl baseball stadium in La Paz is headed for the wrecking ball, as well as the Guaycura soccer stadium, as part of the modernization of that area, said the city director of sports.

The plan, Stan, is to build a brand new, modern baseball stadium to house the La Paz team which will participate in the national Pacific league. The new stadium would seat 15,000 people. Although the stadium was refurbished in 2013, hurricane Odile mauled it again just a year later.

Can't swing a cat. Without clobbering a whale. Almost 2,000 gray whales, (Eschrichtius robustus), have been sighted at Ojo de Liebre lagoon, on the northern part of our state on the Pacific side, a number that had not been seen in the last 20 years. A total of 1,392 whales, 817 of them baby newborns, have been counted. In case you're new to planet Earth, the gray whale migrates between feeding and breeding grounds yearly. They reach a length of 49 ft, a weight of 36 tons, and live between 55 and 70 years. The common name of the whale comes from the gray patches and white mottling on its dark skin.

They travel each year during the breeding season by the whale comes from the gray patches and white mottling on its dark skin.
It’s Not Too Late To Find A Valentine

RENATA

I asked the universe “Why am I here in this place at this time?” The universe answered “You are in Cabo because it’s a paradise and full of kindly Gringos who want to adopt beautiful, sun loving kitties like you.” Need I say more? You are not going to dissapoint the universe, are you? Not when you can be an agent of the universe.

COOKIE

Everyone knows two of the best things in the world are puppies and chocolate. I am a long legged, tail wagging, chocolate lab puppy just waiting to sweeten your life!

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

No one can do everything, but everyone can do something!

www.LosCabosHumaneSociety.com

LOS CABOS Humane Society

CANCÚN

Workers hauled off more than 1,000 truckloads. Cancún gave local boozers the chance to leave the town drunk tank early if they put in time on the seaweed chain gang. The federal government has budgeted $9 million so far to remove the stinky mess, and hotels are expected to pay millions of dollars more per month for further maintenance.

The Mexican navy has deployed its oceanographers to track the seaweed and launched research voyages to study what provoked this arrival. There are proposals to buy boats and floating barriers to block the seaweed before it reaches the beaches, and the navy is currently testing a hydraulic sump pump that has been used in the Dominican Republic. “The best way to collect sargassum is in the sea, before it sinks up the beach,” said Angli, the navy’s director general for oceanography. “We are working on this very hard.”

This type of algae is not new to these parts. Christopher Columbus noted its abundance, and it is how the Sargasso Sea, in the north Atlantic, got its name. In the past, it wasn’t seen as much of a nuisance, as it provides a floating habitat for turtles, fish and birds.

But spikes in the growth of sargassum were recorded starting about five years ago, and now that tourism is big, it’s a big problem.

This year’s bountiful bloom has baffled seaweed scientists.

Chuanmin Hu, a professor of optical oceanography at the University of South Florida, who tracks the sargassum by satellite, said the summer of 2015 showed the largest coverage in history. He calculated that there were 12,300 square miles of sargassum this July, about the size of Maryland, compared with 2,300 square miles four years earlier. “It’s in the entire tropical Atlantic,” Hu said. “It’s amazing.”

Scientists have offered different theories to explain the anomaly, from climate change that has shifted ocean currents to increased runoff from farms in the Amazon into the ocean. “What caused this?” Hu asked. “That is still a mystery.”

Along the most popular Cancún tourist beaches, authorities have now fought the sargassum to a draw, particularly as the amount washing up has eased up in recent weeks. But farther south, visitors have now fought the sargassum to a draw, particularly as the amount washing up has eased up in recent weeks. But farther south, visitors who come for Mayan ruins and beachfront hotels are expected to pay millions of dollars more per month for further maintenance.

“It’s not a big deal, I don’t think. That’s through it, and you get over it. It’s hurt you or anything; it doesn’t cause this?” Hu asked. “That is still a mystery.”

Along the most popular Cancún tourist beaches, authorities have now fought the sargassum to a draw, particularly as the amount washing up has eased up in recent weeks. But farther south, visitors who come for Mayan ruins and tropical beaches still have to deal with festering piles of seaweed.

“I don’t mind it so much,” Stefano Bilosi, a 29-year-old Italian honeymooner in Akumal, sunbathing next to a musky thatch of seaweed, was saying when his new wife, Federica Brentaro, interrupted. “I don’t like the stuff,” she said. “She didn’t swim,” he admitted. “No,” she said.

Down the beach, Simone Backhausen, a 25-year-old Australian veterinary nurse, took a more holistic view. “I enjoy it. It’s part of the ocean. It doesn’t hurt you or anything; it doesn’t sting you,” she said. “You just get through it, and you get over it. It’s not a big deal, I don’t think. That’s continued on page 47
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$1.2 million or lease for $9,000 a month.
We will listen to all offers.

Cabo San Lucas

Ready For Occupancy

activities. You will also see the mostly empty parking lot that the marina workers won’t use because the city charges about 80 cents an hour. Instead they park all over downtown, and because they arrive at work at the crack of dawn, they take up all the parking in town. Your city at work for you—not.

Next you will see the big gray building that's supposed to look like a ship. If you squint, you can make it out as a ship. That’s the dolphin center. Later in the day it will be open to the public, and for free you can look through an underwater port hole and see a fish eye’s view of the frolicking dolphin. During the shows, if you’re standing on the malecon, you can see the dolphins leaping. Inside is a wonderful oasis restaurant with quick walk up service, good sandwiches and palm trees grown out of the sand. Take off your shoes and eat. Whoops, no, you will have to come back later in the day.

Turn another corner and you will come to the pier where the cruise ship shuttle boats disgorge their passengers. Security is tight, because the American Homeland Security folks worry that an attack on Americans while they are overseas would be easy. And let’s face it, we are certainly a target, as we seem to have pissed off nearly everyone.

When you reach the end of the malecon, this boat ramp is where the returning fishermen will be cleaning their fish when they return, starting around 2 pm. It’s a good place to buy the freshest fish available. But it is stinky business, and pushy birds abound. Still, fun to watch.

Now you’re at the end. Turn around and trace your steps back to where you started. Or, get off the marina front and walk back through the town.

My walk statistics:
2.45 miles - 42 minutes - pace of 17:50/mile - burning 269 calories.
coming from a backpacker’s point of view.”

The frantic cleanup has now prompted its own backlash, as environmental groups protest the use of backhoes and bulldozers to move seaweed mountains. The Mexican Center for Environmental Rights said hotels’ reliance on heavy machinery and shoreline netting is causing damage to species that frequent the beach. Alejandra Serrano Pavón, a regional director, has collected photographs of dead sea turtles.

And meanwhile, authorities say that the collected sargassum can be used to fortify sand dunes and can be reprocessed into fertilizers for public parks and gardens. But those silver linings don’t mean much to the average Mexican hotel owner.

“The cruise ships are going to arrive soon, and the tourists are not going to want to set one foot in this town because of the pestilence here,” said Cristobal Aguilar, who runs the Hotel Arenas in Mahahual, farther south along the coast.
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