How’s $100 A Week Sound?
What it’s like for locals looking for work

BY CATHY WATKINS

Every couple of months, the Department of Labor hosts a job fair for the residents of Cabo. The most recent job fair, held in the La Comer grocery store parking lot, focused primarily on jobs for women. More than 30 businesses and organizations looking to fill approximately 600 positions, including La Comer, Megacable and Elektra, had booths at the job fair. Our gum shoe reporter was on the scene.

Most of the jobs were in the tourism sector, as are 75% of the jobs available in this town. Major hotels like the Villa Group, continued on page 7

What’s The Best Way To Get From The Airport?
It depends on how much you want to spend

BY CALEB HOOGGLAND

The Los Cabos International Airport has received attention lately for its recent record numbers of arriving and departing flights. As a result, the taxi and private transportation business is booming. continued on page 7

Do your research and have at least some idea of what you should be paying to get from SJD.
Solmar adds hotels. The Solmar group, one of Cabo’s early pioneers, is expanding on the Pacific side with not one, but two new resorts: the Grand Solmar at Rancho San Lucas and The Residences at Rancho San Lucas. Overall, Rancho San Lucas is an 834-acre oceanfront development that has 1.2 miles of non-swimmable beach and sand dunes.

The Grand Solmar at Rancho is modeled after the Grand Solmar resort near the marina and is expected to open December 20. It will feature a large salt water lagoon and a small marina with slides. The Solmar resort’s new Greg Norman and four bedroom penthouse residences will offer two, three, and four bedroom options. The resort will have three dining venues, as well as a fitness and wellness center, salt-water lagoon, cabanas, a spa, and meeting and event spaces. Looks like lagoons are becoming popular, after being pioneered here by Diamante.

Even more resort news The Four Seasons at La Ribera, about an hour north of San Jose, is currently under development under the new name of Costa Palmas, which is the name of the beach it sits on.

The resort will feature 145 rooms, villas, multiple pools, a spa and gym, as well as a small craft marina. We’re the best! Some of the best, anyway. Conde Nast Traveler listed the 10 best beaches in Mexico, and guess who made it to the list? Cerritos Beach, located on the Pacific side just 35 minutes north of Cabo. Also named on the list is Espiritu Santo Island, located three miles across the sea from Tecolote beach north of La Paz.

Royalty comes to Cabo Well, sort of. British food critic Tom Parker Bowles spent some time in our Southern Baja state, visiting La Paz and Los Cabos and trying out the local eateries. He’s the brother of the Duchess of Cornwall, aka Camilla Parker Bowles, the wife of Prince Charles of England.

Tom Parker Bowles has written five cook books and was awarded the 2010 Guild of Food Writers. He is currently editor of Esquire, Four and the luxury Pomp magazine. We just can’t wait to read his critiques of our eateries. Wonder if he had any street food? Cabo, just a dim moment. What does a Brit know about good eats? They aren’t known for their great culinary skills.

Sick sea lion rescued A young sea lion was found injured in Isla Cedros, in Northern Baja, and was transported all the way to Cabo’s dolphin facility. (That would be the Dolphin Center next to this rag’s worldwide locally famous corporate headquarters.)

Veterinarians and biologists at the center attended the injured sea lion, who has successfully recovered. The critter, which arrived in Cabo weighing only 140 pounds, was returned to his original habitat weighing a much healthier 200 pounds. We have heard they serve good chow over at the Dolphin Center.

Street signs coming! Over $600,000 USD will be invested by the city in installing new street signs, the old ones having been washed out to China by Hurricane Odile three years ago. The signs are supposed to go up just before this year’s hurricane season. Sigh.

Anyway, getting new street signs, street lights, stoplights and the like seems to be a good business for the city, as most of the money comes from the feds and the bidding goes to local vendors. Which means, city officials can enjoy that customary kick back. They can get with equipment bought at a higher price than any civilian pays.

This time, though, the city plans to make bigger changes by coming up with house numbers, something that somebody doesn’t want to print.
We are loved. 35 million people visited Mexico last year, making us the world’s 8th most popular tourist destination, according to the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). The country came in just 600,000 visitors shy of 7th place, which was taken by the United Kingdom. Huh? Who goes there? Cold, damp and dark. Must be a mistake.

Mexico moved up from 9th place in the organization’s World Tourism Barometer after receiving almost 7 million more tourists than Turkey’s 28.3 million. Huh? Who goes there? Buncha gun totting Muslims there, making our drug cartel guys look like choir boys.

Turkey’s security crises last year negatively impacted its tourism industry. Mexico actually did drop to 15th place in 2013 because of security issues, but the industry has been steadily increasing ever since.

In case you were wondering, the top tourism destinations within Mexico were Riviera Maya, Cancún, Puerto Vallarta, and, of course, Los Cabos. Huh? PV and Cancun, who goes there? Well, it is closer for people from the East Coast of the United States, we’ll give ’em that.

Minimum wage increase
Two Mexican politicians have proposed legislation that would gradually raise the minimum wage to the same level as that of the United States. Well, it’s about damn time, we say.

The initiative was presented as part of a campaign called “Raise salaries, not walls” by Senator Armando Ríos Piter and ex-senator Cuauhtémoc Lázaro Cárdenas. They consider the insanely-low Mexican minimum wage (which currently stands at just over $4 USD a day, even after a 10% increase this year) one of the main reasons Mexicans illegally cross the border to the U.S.

Their thinking is that making the Mexican minimum wage competitive with the U.S. minimum wage would not only discourage workers from leaving the country, it would also increase workers’ productivity.

If passed, the National Minimum Wage Commission (Conasami) would begin a seven-year program that would gradually increase the minimum wage by 35% a year. Ja! It will never happen. Mexico keeps wages low to attract industry here. It’s easier than educating their people so they’re worth more in the market place. Call me cynical. Just don’t call me late for the cat chow.

#AdiosStarbucks campaign works
Starbucks in Mexico reported a 9% sales swoon, which one independent analyst has attributed to Mexicans’ protest against Donald Trump’s election as United States president.

There were calls on social media for the boycott of Starbucks and other U.S. brands, including Ford Motor Company, Coca-Cola, McDonald’s and Costco, after Trump took office in January.
More Trouble On Medano Beach
City permits no longer mandatory

BY DICK FITZWELL

The scene is surreal. Tourists cutting up, having a grand time, all of the girls in itsy bitsy teeny weenie bikinis, and all the guys are buff. How does that happen? Because it doesn’t happen to us. Nevertheless, in a parallel universe but still in the very middle of all this celebratory enthusiasm, more than a dozen officials are walking and standing around, all of them in uniform but completely ignored by our precious fun loving tourists. Thankfully, they haven’t a clue of what’s really going on.

The officials were there because of squatting claims against Aleta, the new name for what we all knew and loved as the Baja Cantina Beach Club. Aleta is run by a management group called Cachet, which is in partnership with Chris Erickson, owner of Cabo Villas, a hotel turned timeshare, which is almost directly behind the beach club. “Almost” being the important distinction here.

Sandwiched between the beach club and the timeshare hotel is a somewhat ramshackle two story building owned by the pioneer Sandoval family. The Sandoval family was given a huge tract of land that includes Medano beach and inland thousands of feet. The family owned hundreds of acres at one time, thanks to a government grant given by the president of the Republic more than a hundred years ago.

Over the years, chunks of the land was sold off by various family members until the current matriarch of the family, Ana Sandoval, has only her small building where she lives on the second floor. The rent she gets for the commercial units on the bottom floor is what she lives on.

Enter Chris Erickson, who has grand expansion plans for Cabo Villas. He wants to rip out much of the existing building and build a six-story beach side behemoth. He has tried to buy out Senora Sandoval, but has not met her one criteria: She needs a place to live. She wants a nice condo with the view she has now. Erickson has only offered her a small apartment in the back with no view. The issue now is what could accurately be called a Mexican standoff.

But the current and more urgent fight is over the fact that he has taken some of her land and built a restaurant and kitchen on it. This kitchen is vital to service that restaurant as well as the very lucrative beach club. Remember, the beach club, which is just a bunch of lounges thrown out on the sand, is serviced by the kitchen built on the disputed land and without that kitchen, there can be no beach club.

So Erickson is fighting hard, Sandoval says fighting dirty. While she hired a lawyer and is fighting in the notoriously slow and corrupt courts, he is building and using.

This week it all came to an eruption when Sandoval involved the city administration by telling them they had no permits:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12
Ask a Mexican

This week we asked: Two politicians want to gradually raise the minimum wage in an effort to “increase productivity” and reduce the number of Mexicans going to the U.S. What do you think about this? Do you think a higher minimum wage would increase an individual’s productivity?

Isela Sánchez, 64, retired

I think raising the minimum wage is great, we need it, but increasing productivity is not why it should be raised. It should be raised because now we can not afford the basic food basket. With the minimum wage as it is, people often have to look for a second job to feed their family. Back in my day, minimum wage and food prices were pretty leveled and I could afford to take care of my family, along with my husband, just fine. Now, my kids have to work harder to maintain their families, working extra shifts and sacrificing their health and time. I don’t think it will stop people from emigrating to the United States, after all they are looking for the American dream and it’s not just about the money.

Diana Carrillo, 36, street food cook

It’s a good idea, but how gradually? Would that mean that the overall cost of living will increase too? That’s what usually happens. The government thinks that we can all live on minimum wage but it’s not realistic. With minimum wage, we could barely afford to buy meat. That’s why I started cooking and selling quesadillas on the street, because then I could make more money than the minimum wage I was making at the factory I used to work at. My husband had to go to the United States and I don’t think he will come back even if he earned more money here, because it would never compare to what he actually makes over there.

Alvaro Díaz, 32, office manager

Those politicians must have another reason to want to raise minimum wage. If it’s about fewer immigrants going to the U.S then I don’t think it will work. We can’t

What’s The Deal On All The Auto Plants Here?

It’s not pretty

BY CARRIE DUNCAN

In July 2014, BMW chief executive officer Harald Krüger pledged to spend $1 billion to build a factory in the northern state of San Luis Potosi that will employ 1,500 Mexican workers.

A representative from CTM, the country’s largest union confederation, sets a starting wage of about $1.10 per hour and a top wage of $2.53 for assembly-line workers. The starting rate is about half the $2.04 an hour that is the average at Mexican auto plants, says Alex Covarrubias, a lecturer at the University of Sonora in Hermosillo.

The wage agreement was filed two years before BMW even broke ground on the new plant, which will turn out $45,000 sedans. When workers begin to stream into the factory sometime next year, there’s a good chance most won’t even know they belong to a union.

So-called protection contracts—agreements negotiated between a company and a union that doesn’t legitimately represent workers—are illegal in the U.S. and Germany but they’re standard operating procedure in Mexico, where deals are cut factory by factory rather than collectively across a company or industry.

Experts say this is a primary reason that wages in the auto sector have stagnated in recent years, despite a fresh wave of investments by foreign carmakers, most recently by German and Japanese manufacturers.

Mexico’s union bosses and politicians are more interested in keeping corporations happy than in raising the living standards of workers, Covarrubias argues. “Protection contracts are a way to keep wages artificially low,” he says.

Mexican workers are among the cheapest in the world. Mexican assembly line workers earn about one-tenth of what their U.S. counterparts make. Adjusted for productivity, base wages for workers in plants that make cars rose 20 percent in Mexico between 2006 and 2016. In China, they climbed 157 percent over the same period.

On the campaign trail, Donald Trump vowed to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement, to keep American carmakers and other manufacturers from shifting production to Mexico. Yet tweaking tariffs and rejiggering local-content rules may not do much to stop the sucking sounds of auto jobs moving to Mexico. “Protection contracts are at the heart of the pressure on factory wages in the U.S. and beyond,” says Harley Shaiken, a labor professor at the University of California at Berkeley.

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Who Would Steal A Cross?

That’s a quick trip to hell for sure

BY LACEY STORER

Look up at the top of the Mount Solmar (that’d be the mountain that leads to Lover’s Beach, for our readers who never knew the name), and you might notice something missing. The white, 7-foot-tall cross that stood on the peak of the mountain is no longer there. It tumbled down to the bottom of the mountain. That trip must have been a hell of a site!

According to Enrique, the guy who’s in charge of watching over the land on the side of the mountain that’s privately owned – yes, part of the mountain is privately owned, we’ll get to that in a minute – the cross was knocked down a few weeks ago. He thinks it was an accident, snapped off its concrete base by some over zealous spring break hikers who were hanging off it while taking their summit pictures. We can’t blame them, as we’ve done the same thing ourselves (and you know you have, too, that’s one of the main reasons to hike up to the cross, to hang on it, which is possibly another quick route to hell.)

The land the cross sat atop is privately owned by the Bando family, who used to own the cannery in Cabo (if you visit the locals’ beach just off the marina, you can still see some of the cannery’s crumbling old buildings). They put the cross up so the guy who’s in charge of watching over the land on the side of the mountain that’s privately owned – yes, part of the mountain is privately owned, we’ll get to that in a minute – the cross was knocked down a few weeks ago. He thinks it was an accident, snapped off its concrete base by some over zealous spring break hikers who were hanging off it while taking their summit pictures. We can’t blame them, as we’ve done the same thing ourselves (and you know you have, too, that’s one of the main reasons to hike up to the cross, to hang on it, which is possibly another quick route to hell.)

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What Running Your DNA Can Do For You

The short answer: Plenty

Spa Cielo has for all of its 12 years in San Jose, been forward thinking in cutting edge preservation of youth and good looks.

But now owner/manager Cathy Dammann is branching into the use of recent developments in DNA technology to guide us into being as healthy and feeling as good as she has made us look.

She can guide you into how to run your DNA, and the doctor who heads her program, Dr. Joseph Dib, reviews your entire DNA report with you, interpreting it for you so you know what you’ve got cooking in your genes.

But the value in knowing your DNA is, oftentimes the doctor can get into a gene that has run amuck compensate for it. It is a little scary to peek into the future and see your potentially gravely ill self, but wouldn’t it be worth that fright if it can be fixed? Or even if it can’t be fixed today, to know that technology is coming at us so fast, that it will probably be fixable in a few years, and that you will work for that development? You owe it to yourself to run your DNA now. Your future self, and your loved ones, will thank you.

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 and Wellness Center holds a five star rating and received the 2013 Award of Excellence” from Trip-Advisor and has the experience you look for in a laser medical spa, with 10 years in Los Cabos area, 14,000 patients and over 70,000 procedures performed, Spa Cielo is your answer to skin and body rejuvenation.

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Rated with five stars on tripadvisor

GETTING TO THE AIRPORT

Getting from the airport to your resort is not as simple as it seems, especially since many taxi drivers overcharge Gringos because they assume you won’t know any different. Uber anyone? (Ha! We wish. It’s not possible here, the politically connected taxi cartel will not allow it.) We did a bit of investigative journalism to find out the best transportation options that won’t cost you an arm and a leg.

Taxis (large white cars with driver in side or back) are the most traditional transportation method. Depending on the taxi and how gullible you look, the typical rate is around $60 USD to Cabo and $40 to San Jose. If you are a large group they are usually open to negotiation.

As with any taxi, don’t get in without agreeing on the price beforehand, otherwise you will be stuck paying however many arms and legs they want to take from you.

Taxis picking up arrivals from the airport will charge you more than a taxi taking you to the airport for a departing flight because of license and permit issues. To pick up passengers

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WHAT’S THE BEST WAY TO...

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Hotel California Sued By The Eagles

The song is not about the hotel

BY KARRIE OAKIE

Maybe it was just a matter of time, but the Eagles have finally filed a lawsuit against the popular Hotel California in Todos Santos, accusing the owners of marketing the name Hotel California, as the band’s 1977 Grammy winning song, without permission.

The hotel was named Hotel California when it first opened in 1950. (Get this: the original owner was a Chinese man by the name of Wong who changed his name to Don Antonio Tabasco in an attempt to fit in.) It went through a series of name changes before the mission bell “do conjure up images of driving from Cabo to Todos Santos.

Hotel California when it was first built in 1950, and as it appears today.

One former guest left a review on Trip Advisor saying, “The Hotel California in Todos Santos is the original named in the 1970’s song by the Eagles. It has put this otherwise sleepy little Baja town on the map for tourism.” And another reviewer added “It’s been the ‘Hotel California’ since before the Eagles wrote the song… This is the original and genuine article and they tend to downplay the relationship.” (On the flip side, however, there are about as many guests who left reviews saying that the hotel was definitely not associated with the song.)

According to the lawsuit: “Defendants lead U.S. consumers to believe that the Todos Santos Hotel is associated with the Eagles and, among other things, served as the inspiration for the lyrics in ‘Hotel California,’ which is false.” However, on the Hotel California website, there’s a section about the hotel’s history that says: One rumor, fabricated in the 1990’s by someone with no connection to any owners of the hotel, states that the Eagles once owned it. This is unequivocally false. Although the present owners of the hotel do not have any affiliation with the Eagles, nor do they promote any association, many visitors are mesmerized by the “coincidences” between the lyrics of the hit song and the physicality of the hotel and its surroundings.

In a previous interview with CBS News, Eagles lead singer Don Henley said the song is about “a journey from innocence to experience. It’s not really about California; it’s about America.” But, if you listen to the song’s lyrics, it’s hard not to hear references to BCS. Phrases like “on a dark desert highway” and “I heard the mission bell” do conjure up images of driving from Cabo to

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Unequal wages for La Paz police

The Los Cabos police force earns, on average, 20% more than their La Paz counterparts and the La Paz guys are whining about it. The issue is now being addressed by the state government, which plans to correct the wage inequality. No reason was given for the disparity of wages, but the La Paz police force should receive comparable wages once the State finishes its long process of reforming the municipal and state police agencies. Increasing wages for police officers is an important part of the reform, and many officers feel the dangers they face on the job justify a wage increase. While the police reform is working to address salary inequality, it hasn’t had much impact yet on reducing the spikes in gang-related crime that have affected many parts of the country. According to research by Mexico’s national statistics agency (INEGI), the majority of Mexicans now feel less safe in their cities. However, for most visitors and ex-pats in Los Cabos, La Paz, and almost everywhere else in Southern Baja, BCS continues to be a place where they feel safe and, for the most part, there are no more missing pieces, large cracks, or uneven surface along the bay easy and enjoyable. The pier and sea wall at the main plaza have also been rehabilitated. Finally, After being closed off from the public for a long time because of seriously deteriorated conditions and municipal budget problems, people are now using the pier again. A long line of new lamplights has also been installed along the sea wall around the plaza and the area is now well-lit in the evenings, making it easier for the families, skateboarders and cyclists who use the plaza to see what they’re doing.

Dreamer claims innocence

The first “dreamer” arrested in the US under the Trump administration and recently released from jail claims to be a La Paz native. In February, 24-year-old Daniel Ramirez was arrested during a raid and subject to deportation from the state of Washington in a controversial case that made headlines in Mexico and the U.S. Ramirez was freed on $15,000 bail and his case is ongoing. He was seven years old when his family took him to the U.S. He is registered in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, established in 2012 under an executive order by the Obama administration to protect children brought into the country illegally from being deported. More than 750,000 young immigrants are registered in the DACA program, which allows them to work, drive, study, and otherwise go about their business normally. However, being a dreamer is not a free pass to do what they please and quite a few of them have been deported because of their actions, which includes associating with known gang members.

At the time of his arrest, Ramirez was living with his father, who was the original target of the raid, and had a valid green card. According to authorities, Ramirez’s father is a previously-deported felon, an issue that complicates his son’s legal troubles. Ramirez, however, had no criminal record prior to being arrested. According to reports, the younger Ramirez is accused by ICE agents of having ties to a gang because of an alleged confession he made during questioning.

Villa Valentina San Jose
An Experience You Can’t Miss!

This wonderful, awe-inspiring complex has everything you need to see:

- Villa Valentina, an icon of interior design
- Lugareño Cocina, an open air patio to taste the wonderful flavors of Mexico accompanied by Mexican wines
- The Suites, a small, 3-suite Bed & Breakfast
- JT Collection, the owner’s array of personally designed clothing and accessories

All surrounded by art, sculptures, wonderful architectural design and an intimate atmosphere.

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Look it up at www.villavalentina.mx
Ph. (624-142-6611) US (858) 869 1714

www.decoramericainteriors.com Ph. 143-0575 / US. 310-862-4950 Lamoyne VanSickle / Cell. 624 129 8501
May 15th, 2017

Que pasa in Cabo?...
continued from page 2

too. Currently, most of the homes and commercial buildings' addresses are "street such and such," or "no address." When you see after a street "S/N" it means sin numero, or no number, because there is no sequential numbering to each property. Is getting street addresses the next step towards getting mail down here? Ha! We wish. Makes you wonder how the heck the pizza ever gets delivered.

Speaking of civilized streets
The city is repairing or installing an average of 50 street lights a day. The old ones were also washed away to China by Hurricane Odile.

Workers are starting in downtown Cabo and San Jose and then moving to the various neighborhoods that house workers. The project is costing approximately $3 million USD.

Albino baby whale undead
No, we didn't come up with fake news, the scientists did. Remember how we reported the death of an albino baby gray whale a few weeks ago? Well, not really, really gray, this gray is all white. A whale specialist in the Vizcaino natural reserve said the albino baby whale, named Costalito de Sal (Little Sack of Salt), was not the one that was found dead in the Ojo de Liebre lagoon in March after all.

After examining the photos, he said the dead whale was much larger than Little Sack of Salt and looked to be nearly an adult. Hopefully, Little Sack of Salt is about 17,000 miles north of us by now, having fun and flirting in Alaska. We want to see her back next winter, with her mate and all knocked up. It will be interesting to see what color her baby is, polka dot? Striped? Or a true gray.

In related whale news At last count, 1,700 whales dropped by to visit BCS this year, which is a decrease from 2016, when 2,700 whales came to visit. The good news is that 4,000 workers (and their money) flocked to the area, expecting to see, touch and even scratch a few barnacles off the whales’ backs.

Ghostly union dispute
There were reports of a clash of two unions jockeying for representing hotel workers at the Posada Real in San Jose’s Hotel Zone on a recent Friday afternoon, but the entire caper went down without the workers even knowing about it, which is par for the course. After all, in Mexico, unions don’t really represent the best interests of workers.

By the time our ace reporter dashed down there, it was all quiet and the extra beefed up security denied, denied, denied.

Since it is the smallest hotel in the Hotel Zone, the entrance is usually unguarded with only the occasional car arriving or departing. However, on that day there were three security guards posted at the driveway with numerous traffic cones and a clipboard; they appeared to be checking every car that wanted to enter.

There were an additional two security guards at the entrance to the hotel lobby. We were informed that the additional security was because the hotel was at maximum occupancy. Interestingly, considering that the hotel was as empty as a ghost town; only the extra beefed up security denied, denied, denied.

CHEF WANTED

Name: Chef Robert
Job Title: Independent Chef
Location: San Jose and Cabo San Lucas

Robert James has been working in the hospitality industry since 1982, Culinary school in 1984, worked at Four seasons hotels and private chef in L.A. 30-years of culinary experience; Executive Chef from Holland America, Chef with Four Seasons hotels and private chef in L.A. are just a few of the places where Chef Robert has worked. He can:

• Plan a custom menu for your approval.
• Hand-pick the finest quality, seasonal ingredients for your meals.
• Neatly package, label and store your meals for your convenience.
• Provide you with a menu and detailed reheating and serving instructions.
• Clean-up your kitchen as found, or better.
• Leave you with a fridge full of freshly prepared, high-quality, custom meals.

Recurring and one-time weekly services start at $400.00 per week, groceries included. Each service includes your choice of 3-5 entrees and portion sizes are tailored to meet your culinary needs.

Interested? Try a sample service! Chef Robert offers a special reduced rate for a sample service of $375.00, including groceries.

Servicing San Jose and Cabo San Lucas.
Robert James has been working in the industry since 1982, Culinary school in 1984, worked at Four seasons Vancouver and was awarded Red Seal in 1988. Other references:
Delta Hotel Whistler, Palmilla Hotel, Owner of a brewery in La Jolla, California.

Cell, (626) 240-1083
Home, (624)-690-1248
chefrobertjames@gmail.com.

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WHAT’S GOING ON IN THIS... continued from page 3

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The company acknowledged the fallout in an email, but downplayed it as being just a temporary decline. “For a few days we saw an impact on Starbucks’ sales in Mexico due to the context,” said spokesman Mario Paez. “It was quickly offset by the company providing information on the link it has to our country, its relationship with Alsea, which is a 100% Mexican-owned company, and its connection to the community.”

Highways getting worse and worse Budgetary constraints are the main reason the condition of one-third of Mexico’s highways has declined from good or satisfactory to bad to pretty crappy, a situation that, no surprise, is not expected to improve any time soon.

The highway maintenance division at the federal Communications and Transportation Secretariat (SCT) says weather has adversely affected highways along coastal regions (like the Baja) but the principal factor is the lack of dinero for upkeep.

The last time the SCT’s highway budget allocation was increased was in 2013 and 2014 when it zoomed up by almost 15% with an allocation of roughly $3.3 billion USD. Since then the budget has dropped by over 39%, to just $2 billion in the 2017 budget.

In the last four years, the SCT said, $2.7 billion has been taken out of maintenance and development spending, which includes technical studies that allow for the construction of new highways.

We’re all gonna die! Mexico had eight cities on the top 50 most murderous cities list but the United States had four. And, none of Mexico’s chaotic cities were in Baja Sur. Do you live in a dangerous city in the US?

Acapulco was the Mexican city with the highest homicide rate in Mexico. Ciudad Victoria was Mexico’s second-most murderous city. Then came Tijuana, then Culiacan, followed by Mazatlan, Juarez, Chihuahua City, and Obregon.

The cities in the U.S. that are on the list of the top 50 are St. Louis, Baltimore, New Orleans, and Detroit.

New rules They’re moving the goal posts again for importing used vehicles. The intention is not to limit the number of imported vehicles, but to ensure they comply with all the requirements, that their emissions tests are valid and that their documents genuine. No stolen cars, please.

In order to prevent screwing around with emission test results, Mexican Customs will obtain those directly from verification centers in the United States.

Customs offices where vehicles can be imported — which will be limited to Juárez, Piedras Negras, Reynosa, Matamoros, Mexicali, Nogales, Nuevo Laredo, Veracruz and Tijuana — will be extended by two hours, operating from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.

We are pretty There were 900,000 aesthetic procedures performed in Mexico in 2015 and over half of those required surgery, a figure that represents 5% of the worldwide total. The five most popular procedures were liposuction, boob jobs, eye lifts, nose jobs and tummy tucks.

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No health certificate, no liquor license, no permit to even operate. These city documents by law are to be posted publicly. When the publisher of this paper tried to enter the restaurant to verify the public documents were in their proper place, she was physically assaulted by restaurant staff. Erickson has hired thugs to guard property since they began taking it over, before even building their restaurant. Keeping Carrie Duncan out of the restaurant is, of course, illegal, since it is a public place, the law says they cannot bar anyone from entering. The proper authorities have been alerted to her being refused legal access to.

Sandoval explains, “At first de la Rosa was helpful, even putting that important clausurado sticker on their refrigerator. Not nearly enough, but I thought it was a start. Then politics entered into it and his helpfulness shifted to Aleto and my rights were ignored.”

When asked if she thought he was paid money to allow the illegal business to continue, all she would say is, “I have no way of knowing. All I know is the restaurant is on my family’s property and the law says another person cannot get a permit to operate a business on someone else’s property.”

Panettas’ Journey to the Sea of Cortez Expeditions offers adventure cruises with educational, cultural & wildlife conservation highlights.

**Summer Expedition**
- Summer Cruise for Teachers and Travel Agents - July 23 - 29
  - 7 day expedition (cruise, land and hotel)
  - Subsidized by Panterra to introduce our expeditions to educators and travel agents
  - $395.00 USD

**Fall Expeditions**
- Wine and Culinary - Oct. 28 - Nov. 2
  - 6 day expedition (cruise)
  - Guest chef will introduce three regional Baja seafood dishes. “Everything Baja - A Seafood Extravaganza”.
  - $1595.00 USD
  - $1395.00 USD
  - (members of the Cabo Wine Club receive $100.00 off)
- Journey to the Sea of Cortez & Whale Sharks - Nov. 5 - 9
  - 5 day expedition (cruise)
  - Whale shark research under the direction of Dr. Deni Ramirez Macias and natural history of the area
  - $1595.00 USD
  - $1295.00 USD

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22
Your Mexico Dream

BY TERRY GRAY CURTIS

Canada and the USA. The other major reason is to improve or maintain a (safer) higher quality of life than that of back home.

Here are a few Fun Facts:
1) Cabo rush hour 7:30 am to 9am, takes almost 15 minutes to get across town.
2) Trip to a beach, 15 minutes or less from anywhere here.
3) Costco hot dog and drink, $1.90 with view of the arch from your seat in the “restaurant”.
4) Happy hour, pretty much all day in most cantinas.
5) Two tickets to see the movie Kong, $30 in English, $6 for 2.
6) Home phone including high speed internet, unlimited international, national, cellular calls and cable TV, $30 per month.
7) Fresh shrimp tacos (3) lunch with drink, under $5.

Now enter the new crowd. It seems that we have younger people coming to Los Cabos to reside and make a living. A lot of them have been in some sort of profession back home and are qualified to have one here. Most of this newer crowd seems to be business people or entrepreneurs looking to help other residents, filling needs that have not historically been filled. We welcome you to help make Los Cabos an even better community to live in, for everyone. It truly is an evolution we are going through these days. The Mexican Dream is alive and well here in Los Cabos. Come live yours, be it retired part time living, full time retired relocation or the beginning of a new life making a living. You might be surprised by how much Freedom exists in any of these lifestyles in Los Cabos.

Terry Gray Curtis is a veteran Century 21 Paradise Properties agent and Property Manager, he operates www.caboresortproperties.com & www.cabosecrets.com & a blog at http://blog.caboresortproperties.com Drop him a note to receive his very informative, bi-weekly Newsletter. His e-marketing program can give you incredible exposure if you are a Seller. Contact him today: terry@21cabos.com or USA Tel. 310.272.9500 or Mexico (011-521) 624.151.35.

HSBC Trust Dept. Closes its Doors in Los Cabos
How this affects you, or not

BY CHERYL MILLER

As of Friday April 28, 2017, the local offices of the HSBC TRUST DIVISION of Los Cabos closed its doors for the final time.

All trust matters previously handled in this local office are being transferred to offices in either Guadalajara or Mexico City, and as of that Friday afternoon, no one knows what file is going where.

Now, for those of you with an HSBC Trust and you are not in a real estate transaction or soliciting a change of beneficiary or reporting a death of a beneficiary, most this will not affect you except for that perhaps the convenience of paying your annual trust fees locally may be affected. So, no worries.

But for those of you in the midst of a transaction or change of your trust...hold onto your hats, it’s going to be a bumpy ride!

A few years ago, HSBC decided it did not want to be in the trust business any longer and stopped accepting new trusts or renewing old trusts. They assigned a small staff here in Los Cabos to handle the other actions that may take place on a trust, such as cancelling a trust, change of beneficiaries, or handling deaths of the primary beneficiaries. However, since HSBC’s decision, these “other actions” have been a source of delays and stress for property owners, potential buyers, closing agents and real estate agents. Delays have been the norm with HSBC, and it was not uncommon that such action would take 4 months to a year to accomplish, which resulted in delaying sales for an equal amount of time, causing the demise of some sales and an incalculable amount of stress for everyone involved.

Now that HSBC has closed this office it may be weeks or months before each file is reasigned, and weeks or months continued on page 14

Don’t be fooled by imposters!

The ONLY places to look are the OFFICIAL websites of the MLS

SEARCH ALL THE PROPERTIES FOR SALE HERE IN BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR!
When searching for your property here in paradise, make sure you are finding ALL available properties...... Use the OFFICIAL websites for the MLS BCS ONLY.

www.mlsbcs.com.mx
OR
www.mlsinbasur.com

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See MLS BCS Section for full details.
What Nobody Says About Realtors
But should

BY CRIZOL RAMIREZ

When it comes to buying or selling a property, the logical option is to use a professional that dominates the business, is familiar with the terms, and is experienced enough to pull it off successfully. Here are five points that are rarely discussed and often taken for granted about your Realtor.

1. Trust. Building a relationship with your Realtor is based on the basic and reciprocal foundations of respect and honesty. Trust them, you can be sure that they will look for the best option centered around your needs.

2. Exclusivity. Whoever said that monogamy is from the last century hasn’t experienced the headache that comes with dealing with more than one realtor. When a client has more than two agents working for him not only does it detract from the value and importance of their work, it also leads to confusion, delays, misunderstandings and unpleasant situations. This puts a damper on the mood, as well as

experience and support of a specialized team to advise you on mortgages, legal situations, paperwork and even maintenance, construction and/or decoration details for your property.

4. They’re human, not magicians. Your agent will definitely use the resources at his/her disposal to successfully accomplish your objective. It is important that you take into account that their compensation once you have successfully bought or sold your property. Meanwhile various expenses (phone, internet, gas, etc.) are all at their expense.

5. Payment. At the moment I cannot think of any other profession in which no salary / fees are paid until the moment of having successfully completed the work. Doctors, lawyers, plumbers, gardeners, teachers etc... all of them receive wages or payment in advance. Your Realtor only receives

HSBC TRUST DEPT CLOSES...
continued from page 13

before any action is taken on these files.

So, you ask, “If HSBC does not want to be in the TRUST business why don’t they sell their packet of Trusts to another Bank who is interested in being in the trust business?” Well, over the years, this exact strategy has come up with different interests, banks (HSBC is not the only slow bank) have regulations and time limits to perform tasks? That is a GREAT question. But, there are no time commitments written into trusts (fideicomisos) nor are there any laws regarding performance of the bank with regard to particular actions needed vis a vis time limits. In short, a Trust bank will not become one of the stop-plugs in the system.)

If you are selling, and you are

responding and servicing their customers in a professional and timely manner. (But, please note, some of the very banks that are currently slow, were once stellar examples and pinnacles of customer service. There is no guarantee that in 10 years your

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Building In Baja 101

Handy Reference

BY FERNANDO FELIX

Building or remodeling a home is the perfect opportunity to create the dream home that exactly fits your family's needs. Here are some answers to the most frequently asked questions a prospective builder in Baja always seem to have.

What is the construction price per square foot?

It is not easy to fix a price without a specific project or design. Based on several cost and estimate exercises, the cost per square foot may range from $140 USD to $280 USD, depending on finishes and special details. Dramatic retaining walls are not included and should be quoted separately.

What is included in the construction cost per square foot?

Foundation, structure, ma¬sory finishes including: Mexican travertine floors, smooth gypsum plastered walls & ceilings and cement-sand smooth finishes on exterior walls, interior and exterior painting, 10,000 liter capacity water cistern, electrical, hydraulic, plumbing and air conditioning installations, carpentry (main and interior doors, vanities and closets), aluminum window framing, handrail ironworks, basic landscaping and standard size pool & equipment.

How difficult is it to build on a steep lot?

Building on a steep lot is always a challenge since the physical inclination of the natural ground and the construction maneuvers are more complicated than on a flat Lot. However, the final result and views that can be achieved are breathtaking and invaluable.

Is the architect the builder?

Not necessarily. The designer architect and the builder can be two different people or companies. In some cases, the architect is from mainland or abroad and the builder uses his local experience and adapts the project to be built using regional materials.

How do I get money to the builder for construction works and costs?

Typically, a bank account in the owner’s name is opened. This account is managed by the builder and controlled by the owner depositing money by wire transfers over a previously estab¬lished construction contract.

Do I need to be living nearby during the construction process?

Not necessarily; however, periodic on-site visits need to be scheduled for the owner to understand the process, review results and to make decisions on certain items that require to be checked on site.

How much does it cost to add a pool?

Based on past experiences, the cost of adding a pool depends on the size, finishes and complexity of the pool structure, it is safe to budget a standard size pool between $30,000 and $50,000 USD, which will include construction and equipment.

What space should I spend most money on?

A suggestion would be those areas where you spend most of the time: such as a great room (living area, dining, kitchen) and always the master bedrooms and bathrooms.

How much will it be to replace floor tiles to travertine?

Existing flooring removal and 24”X24” travertine tile generally will cost $8.00 USD per square foot.

How much would it be to add an elevator?

Based on our previous ex¬periences, you should consider paying about $80,000 USD to add an elevator on a two-floor-plan house, including rough construc¬tion, finishes, installation and equipment.

What is the cost of building a 2 car Garage?

An addition for an enclosed 2 car garage could be built for $25,000 – $35,000 USD depend¬ing on the complexity of the project and finishes.

It is important to note that each area and region varies on topography, services and costs. The above is a standard guide and serves as an idea for what you could expect. At Riversa Building by MCA we have experience in designing and building all types of properties around BCS and are happy to put our expertise at your service.

For more information send me an email to ffelix@riveras-building.com, visit www.riveras-building.com or call me to the office 624-143-0202.
Secretary Of
Foreign Affairs
What You Should Know.

BY CHERYL T. MILLER

The “Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores” (SRE), or translated – The “Secretary of Foreign Affairs”, is an agency within the Mexican government that handles literally, everything related to foreign affairs.

Some of their duties include:
- establishing, running and the maintenance for all Mexican Embassies, of which there are currently 80 formal embassies worldwide;
- 33 consulates generals, 35 consulates, 1 representative office in Ramallah, a trade office in Taiwan, 2 representatives at the UN and 144 honorary consulates around the world. They also support, organize or attend trade missions and observer missions all over the world as well.
- This agency, handles everything related to trade and foreign relations; political and financial.

In addition, any passport action for Mexican citizens too. Mexican passports are issued or denied from the SRE. Naturalization of foreign citizens choosing to and that are qualified to legally adopt Mexico as their new country, apply to SRE for naturalized citizenship.

SRE is charged with promoting Mexico and protecting Mexico’s name and best interests overseas. As such, they have ambassadors, and trade agents working and overseeing international legislation and treaties in various entities such as the United Nations or Trade Associations such as the Latin American Trade Commission.

They also are charged with overseeing signatures on treaties and all kinds of diplomatic actions. And through the Attorney General of Mexico, they can extradite or intervene in an extradition and prosecute before the competent judicial authorities in Mexico any wrongdoing according to Mexican law by Mexican citizens living abroad, or foreign citizens or entities within Mexico.

But the arena that most foreigners will come in contact with is through the legal interpreter and director of the biggest condominium developments of San Jose, I look forward to assisting you with your real estate needs. As a property owner, I understand the importance and the devotion that it takes in order to find that special investment. My clients come first in everything and deserve the most reliable and professional services that I can offer as their agent.

Los Cabos is an amazing place with so much to offer: fishing, golf, beautiful pristine beaches, amazing weather and quiet getaways. I am proud to be able to reside here and to have the opportunity to help you enjoy that same sense of pride.”

Contact Sergio of Dream Homes of Cabo at cell (624) 125-6085, sergio@dreamhomesofcabo.com, www.realestatecabosanlucas.com.

Agent Profile
Sergio Gutierrez Diaz

Originally from Jalisco Mexico, graduating from college in San Diego, Sergio moved to Los Cabos 17 years ago. After managing the concierge department of a seven-star hotel for five years and being the director of the biggest community management company in the world, he reevaluated his options and decided to pursue a real estate career. After 13 years in the business, he can still say that this is his true passion, presenting you with a little piece of paradise in Los Cabos.

“As a real estate advisor, legal interpreter and director of the biggest condominium development of San Jose, I look forward to assisting you with your real estate needs. As a property owner, I understand the importance and the devotion that it takes in order to find that special investment. My clients come first in everything and deserve the most reliable and professional services that I can offer as their agent.

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HSBC TRUST DEPT CLOSES...

continued from page 14

and start it right away. Not every buyer is willing to wait an additional 4 months to a year to take possession of your property. You may lose a sale or two. But, that is a personal decision. Consult your real estate agent, Notario and tax consultant first. Some real estate offices have made it company policy NOT to list properties in HSBC trusts. Why? Believe it or not, the amount of coordination when dealing with an HSBC is exponentially higher than other more responsive banks. And, if your real estate agent brings you an accepted offer that subsequently is cancelled due to unknown and unreasonable delays, miles from ANY border), before you receive or take over a fideicomiso, one of the requisites steps is to “PERMISO OTORGADO POR LA SECRETARIA DE RE-LACIONES EXTERIORES” or translated, “A Foreign Relations Permit” which allows you, as a foreigner to hold the property in a trust. It is a required part of the process and said permit is listed in your deed. Your closing agent or Notario will apply for this permit. Be aware that no Notario will ratify the trust without it being in place. So, you have nothing to do or worry about! It is part of the process!

Not so with a foreign owned corporation, or a foreigner buying fee simple in the Non-Restricted area of Mexico. EVERY FOREIGNER OR FOREIGN OWNED MEXICAN CORPORATION must advise SRE of your purchase not held in a fideicomiso. The SRE is in charge of keeping an account of every foreign owned property. Even if 1% of your corporation is foreign held, you are obligated to advise SRE. The format is called, “Aviso de Adquisición”. The law states that within 90 days of the purchase, the foreigner or foreign owned Mexican entity MUST advise SRE of its purchase. This holds true, as well, for fee simple escrituras held by foreigners in mainland Mexico, not within the Restricted Zone. The process of advising SRE is pretty simple and costs between $985 to $1280 pesos. However, if late, there is a fine of 5% pesos automatically, with interest and penalties accruing annually. It can get quite costly. The process, when done on time and in full, is about 30 days in our area, as the paperwork is processed in Mexico City. If done late, it can be as much as 90 days. Didn’t know this? Better check your documents. Check with your accountant. Have him check with SRE for any records of your Aviso.

Who is responsible for doing this? Well, after playing the “Who is responsible game” on a property owned by a foreign owned Mexican Corporation with the original purchase Notario, Closing Agent and the Corporate Accountant who did NOT do this Aviso, all of them having said, “Not me, I am not responsible”, it can only be assumed that the Foreign Owned Mexican corporation itself is responsible, the one ultimately held financially responsible as well. Claiming ignorance is not an excuse… sound familiar? Those are the code words of the U.S. IRS too! So knowledge is power…

If you own property in Mexico in a Mexican corporation or outside the Restricted Zone, this is VERY important for you to follow up on, because any Trust bank, should you sell to another foreigner, will REQUIRE the Aviso in order to open their files to start a fideicomiso for your Buyer. Without this properly being handled, it can delay your closing by months and may cause the demise of a sale. If you are in the process of purchasing, arrange for the closing agent or Notario to advise SRE immediately upon receipt of your registered documents. And follow through! Also, be aware that any foreign owned Mexican entity owning property valued in your deed over $100,000,000 pesos is obligated to pay an annual Aviso with SRE.

Learn something new every day!

By Cheryl T. Miller, Broker, Baja Realty and Investment,info@forsaleinbaja.com, 624-122-2690. Cheryl is the broker of Baja Realty and Investment, a 14 year veteran of Mexican Real Estate and an architect. Call her for any of your real estate needs.
lin, or even a lighthouse shaped like a phallic, ala Cabo Wabo’s logo? Personally, we would like to see that giant plastic marlin that’s stuck to the malecon yanked off its moorings and stuck on top of Mount Solmar. We would have a lot of respect for any vandal who could pull that off. Take pictures of the caper and send them to us.

If you haven’t taken a hike up to the cross before, there’s still a good reason to make the trek. The view from the top of the Mount Solmar is spectacular. Other than taking a helicopter tour of Los Cabos (visit www.gringogazette.com and read our article in the April 3 issue to learn how that went), the top of the mountain is the only place you can get a bee’s eye view of both the Pacific side and the bay, as well as Pedregal, and the marina and downtown Cabo, all in one awesome gaze.

But a word of warning: this is not an easy hike. It’s rocky, steep and, unless it’s a completely cloudy day (and how many of those do we ever have in Cabo?), really freakin’ hot. What makes the hike even tougher is the fact that, for much of the way up, there is no trail. Remember, we’re in Mexico, where there’s no park and rec department, and definitely no organized and eager volunteers from hiking/nature groups who devote their time to keeping trails groomed and clearly defined.

If Enrique is there and you ask nicely, he will open the gate (it’s on the right side of the street, not too far before you get to the locals’ beach) for you and let you start from there. (Don’t be afraid of the 55 barking dogs; they belong to Enrique and they just want some petting, but do step gingerly, as picking up dog crap does not appear to be on Enrique’s agenda.) There is a trail here, but it only goes up so far. After that, you’re on your own, forging your own way up and over the boulders, channeling your inner mountain goat as you try to avoid stumbling and grabbing onto a cactus for support. It’s not uncommon to choose the wrong rock to climb and find yourself unable to go any further, having to turn around and find a better path.

On our last hike, about half-way back down we noticed someone had tied pink and yellow polka dot ribbon to bushes, successfully marking a relatively easy trail for us to follow. So be on the lookout for those the next time you go. Sorry we can’t tell you where the ribbon trail starts, but at least you know what to look for. Look for polka dot ribbons and dog crap. 

from the airport, the company must have a federal permit since the airport is federal land. Also, since these taxis have exclusive rights to snatch bodies at the airport, the company must, among other things, get a permit for the transportation. Otherwise, you will have to hire a private car with driver. For the same jurisdiction and permit reasons that dictate the taxis, private cars must be booked in advance; usually 24 hour’s notice is required. Most likely you will get a large luxury vehicle like a Cadillac Escalade or Chevy Suburban. They charge per car and the going rate is between $50 to $180 one way depending on vehicle size, passengers, etc. The nice thing about private transport is that the driver will be waiting for you with a sign with your name on it, and they might even throw in a drink or two for the car ride. Book as Donald Trump, it’s always fun for the driver to hold that sign up.

If you don’t mind sharing a vehicle with people you don’t know, then go the shuttle route. There are two main types of shuttles: hotel and shared. Check beforehand if your hotel offers transportation. Otherwise, you can find a shuttle bus location.

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Next Deadline is Tuesday, May 30th
Big Lay Offs Coming to Puerto San Carlos

Both the cannery and packing plant are downsizing

BY JAMES BELL

The small town of Puerto San Carlos, located a few hours north of La Paz on the Pacific coast, is known for being one of the best places for whale watching in Southern Baja. Along with tourism, a fish packing plant provides the main source of non-public income to its locals. Unfortunately, the big news in town is that the packing plant is in dire financial straits and will lay off, or terminate employee contracts of, as many as 350 to 400 local employees.

While an attempt to save the company through a financial restructuring of sorts is in the works, residents are still concerned about the company going bust. Even with a restructuring or partial financial bailout (if the company manages to get one) most of the employees would be able to keep their jobs. A representative of the company said there are no plans to close the plant, but at this point, only 50 to 75 employees would be retained or rehired under the restructuring.

It’s been reported that the plant’s sardine sales have dropped due to the effects of El Niño, which severely reduced their numbers. Even so, the El Niño effect is not the only problem; the company has been struggling in recent years because of an overdependence on sardine sales, according to sources outside of the company. Not being able to secure government permits for an additional fishing vessel and not offering a wider range of commercial products has led to plummeting sales.

The downsizing of the company and the massive lay-offs at the Conservera San Carlos canning plant, a 45-year-old fixture of the community of only 5,000 or so residents, will have a big impact on the local economy. For many San Carlos residents, the possible closing of the packing plant and layoffs at the canning plant might necessitate a relocation to La Paz or other areas of the state.

Tough times are expected for the little town that doesn’t have a single bank and relies on only one ATM machine, which reportedly does not always work and will now have much less money to dispense to local families.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

HOTEL CALIFORNIA SUED...
continued from page 8

United States. That was a bridge too far for the Eagles, and the lawsuit seeks a variety of damages and a halt to any infringement (meaning, stop using the name Hotel California to market the place, dammit!) The Hotel California name and logo is trademarked with the IMPI, Mexico’s institute of intellectual property, but we’re guessing that didn’t put it on the Eagles’ radar like registering for as U.S trademark did.

We have to wonder if The Eagles will file lawsuits against other hotels using the name Hotel California. According to Trip Advisor, there are six others, spanning the globe from Palm Springs to Paris to Bangladesh. Maybe only if the other Hotel Californias are ballsy enough to sell T-shirts that cozy up to the Eagles’ image.

WHAT ABOUT LA PAZ?
continued from page 9

between Ramirez and authorities over a tattoo on his forearms with reads “La Paz, BCS.” Ramirez contends that immigration officials read reference to an organized gang that operates mostly in southern California called Southern United Raza (SUR) also known as the Sureños; the mistake being that sur simply means south, as in Baja California South, which is why he’s claiming La Paz roots. Authorities say that when Ramirez was questioned, he said he “used to hang out with the Sureños in California.” Ramirez denies saying that he was currently or had been previously associated with gang members.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25
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 Cabo. You’ll find an artist’s colony in an authentic Mexican town. You’ll find laid back residential areas, and the best swimming and surfing beach on the south Pacific side of the peninsula.

Todos Santos is charming and authentic with a traditional central plaza, dozens of art galleries, and small hotels. Visit the Hotel California (no connection to the Eagle’s song, despite their best efforts to promote that with T-shirts), browse shops full of handcrafted treasures, and enjoy some great Mexican cooking. What you won’t find are buildings taller than three floors, chain stores, or fast food joints. But there are many delightful and sophisticated restaurants.

Looking for 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.

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...
Los Cabos Open Of Surf Competition Coming In June

The event is the largest surf and music festival in Mexico

BY CATHY WATKINS

Hopefully the surf will be up, as surfers from all over the world are headed to Los Cabos again for the fifth annual Los Cabos Open of Surf 2017 competition. The Open of Surf will take place June 6-11 at Zippers Beach in San Jose. Zippers is known for its perfect four to 10 foot waves, which are at their best in June and will make for optimal surfing during the tournament.

The Open of Surf is one of the most prestigious surf competitions, not only for men but now also for women too. The Association of Professional Surfing added the women’s 6-star qualification series (QS 6000) in 2014, making it the first of its kind to be held in Mexico. In 2015, the World Surfing League added the WSL men’s and women’s pro junior event for ages 18 and under. This competition is important in the surfing world for several reasons, so listen up. For one, it allows surfers a chance to accumulate points towards their ranking. Surfers also have an opportunity to compete for a ticket to the world championship and win cash prizes. The tournament will award approximately $200,000 in cash prizes.

The event is expected to attract top international surfers. This year’s competition will feature some of the world’s best female surfers like Alana Blanchard, who will compete in the QS 6000. It also features up-and-coming pro juniors vying for points in the North American region, and gives young Latin American surfers a chance to compete with international surfers and establish themselves on a global level.

The 5th annual Los Cabos Open of Surf will bring some of the top surfers to Zippers Beach.

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Marina Cabo San Lucas, next to the Dolphin Center
Medano Beach at The Office restaurant
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Living costs. How do those people think workers will be able to pay for electricity, water, rent, and food, among other expenses like clothes, schooling, etc.? Because honestly, with minimum wage, there is no way the workers can afford their own house, and they typically have more than two kids.

Lucía Luevano, 42, secretary

I hope the gradual part is not too slow, because with minimum wage we can barely make it. Thankfully, I have never thought about leaving my country, because then I would be too far from my family and I am afraid of not being able to give my kids a good life in a foreign country. But I know people who do have to emigrate and they make a better living money wise, but they are treated like slaves. I do think it would increase productivity, because then they would be getting paid fairly.

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Los Cabos Open Of Surf Competition Coming In June

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Chicks Fish!

Registration is now open for the first annual Señoritas Blue Water Classic, which will be held July 20-22. This is a women-only team tournament that will take place in Buena Vista, near Los Barriles.

Here’s a chance for the little lady to show what she can do when hubby isn’t there to snatch away the rod as soon as she’s got a live one on the line. Darlin’s, you are going to have to haul that big ole stinking fish in all by yourself!

There’s no down time with this tournament, it’s go go go. Registration begins on Thursday night followed by a cocktail party and dinner that very night, with precious little time for the little ladies to wash the fish ickies off their darling angler outfits.

More fishing and more weigh-ins are on Friday and Saturday. Yes, fishing can be tiresome, but be strong my sweeties, because trophies and cash prizes will be presented at the awards dinner on the beach Saturday night, at the Hotel Buena Vista Beach Resort. Look smart, ladies, the press is sure to be there.

There will be tournament goodie bags and raffle prizes, as well as cash pay-out for the biggest marlin, as well as daily jackpots for marlin, tuna, dorado, wahoo and catch and release. (If they’re cute, let ‘em go, am I right?)

For tournament information and registration, go to www.bajafishingadv.com and click on the Señoritas BWC tab.

With apologies to the Giggling Marlin, who we stole this graphic from.

Continued from page 18...
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Loose Horses In San Jose
Take an extra carrot or apple with you next time you go there

BY CHUCK WAGGON

A trio of horses has been roaming free in the Monte Real neighborhood of San Jose for the past two months. And, this being Mexico and all, there’s no organized animal control department that people can call to come out and round ‘em up. It’s either the humane society, which is pretty much limited to dogs and cats, or PROFEPa, which handles wild animals. Since the horses are neither, nobody has made a move.

The horses are branded, so somebody owns them, but attempts to locate the owners have been unsuccessful. One local woman, Herlinda Castro, has gone to the civil protection agency, the city’s ecology department and SAGARPA (the department of agriculture, livestock and rural development) to see if anyone has a record of the brand and the owner, but hasn’t had any luck so far. It seems pretty obvious to us that the owner doesn’t miss the horses, so it’d be nice if someone with a big ranch would adopt the critters so they can live out in the country, not in the streets.

In the meantime, Herlinda has made it her mission to make sure the horses are taken care of, giving them water and feeding them buckets of alfalfa and carrots so they don’t starve (and so they don’t rummage through the trash or eat the grass and piss off the whole neighborhood).

It used to be much more common to see livestock wandering around, but when the San Jose airport was built, the federal government required ranch land to be fenced off (can’t have a smashed animal on the runway holding up flights). Now the horses are branded, so it’d be nice if someone looks up the brand in their brand book, and pay a call to the owner/rancher.

Free to a good home! Just kidding, but we wish the owner of these three would come and claim his horses already.

Rancho got no control over where their animals go, so the horses and cows don’t roam free like they once did.

And, while we’re on the subject of branding, if you smack into livestock on the highway, the owner of the animal is financially responsible for damage to your car. The authorities are supposed to look up the brand in their brand book, and pay a call to the farmer/rancher.

WHAT ABOUT LA PAZ?...continued from page 20

So, it’s a lot of finger pointing and not much is known for sure. However, we do know that Ramirez was arrested and deported and that has a lot of La Paz locals upset. What, they don’t want a possible gang banger in their town, or they don’t want their possible home mistreated?

Deportees coming to BCS In the first quarter of this year, 42 of the illegal immigrants in the US deported to Mexico came to Baja California Sur (BCS), which is the lowest number of all 31 states. That number reflects the low population in the state (just under 800,000 inhabitants) and the fact that BCS is considered one of the economically stronger Mexican states, with generally low unemployment rates. BCS has historically been one of the states with a relatively low rate of illegal emigration from Mexico to the U.S. or Canada.

According to Mexico’s federal office for migration policies (Segob), during the first three months of this year, 38,451 Mexicans were deported from the U.S. The state of Michoacán received the highest number of returned deportees with 3,666; followed by Guerrero (3,487), and Oaxaca (3,206).

In fact, Southern Baja has continuously—although at a moderate rate—expanded its population over the years with the arrival of Mexican nationals who seek tourist related employment, construction jobs and improved business opportunities. Many workers moving to BCS in recent decades include residents of Sinaloa, Jalisco, and other interior states.

The population of BCS expands on a seasonal basis every year as well, with the arrival of
Los Cabos’ Newest Residents

This owl family has taken up residence in a low rent district, in a cave, on a cliff wall, in an arroyo in San Jose. They were born at the end of March and is the second family Lisa Bell has watched the parents raise. Papa owl is definitely in the picture. He scouts for yummy rodents and crawly critters and flies them home, feeding them to mama while she was sitting on the eggs. Now that the babies have hatched, papa is going to have to pick up the pace, as he’s got two more mouths to feed. Within six weeks of hatching, the owlets will be walking around. In another three weeks, the young owls will have learned to fly and mama a and papa owl will have an empty nest, so to speak.

For those nights when you’re feeling too lazy to cook, let alone leave the house in search of food, we have something for you. cabo eats, also known as postovon cabo delivery, is a home delivery service where you can order food from restaurants online or through an app.

Postovon is currently only serving cabo, but they have plans to expand to san jose. The restaurants participating in cabo include: big kahuna’s hawaiian bbq, señor sweets bistro, comicx, bajo la luna, gyaros – authentic gyros, penny lane café, koi sushi, namaste india, bajo brewing, dos mares marina grill & bar, and taco loco.

For those of you in san jose, here are the restaurants you have to look forward to ordering from in the future: bistro d’anvers – belgian & thai cuisine, gyaros gourmet, il forno di gio, koi sushi, bajo brewing, habanero’s gastro grill, retro burger bar and district.

Want to try it out? Head on over to their website, www.postovon.com, or download the free app. The website is easy to navigate and use; simply click on the restaurant name, select the menu items you want to order, and then click the shopping cart icon to enter your location and complete your order. You’ll get an order confirmation on the website and via email, and your order will be delivered within the hour. Payments are cash are delivery, and all but one restaurant has a minimum order total of about $14 usd. bajo la luna has no minimum order.

Gyaros gourmet is one local restaurant using the delivery service. Gyaros has two locations in los cabos, one in cabo in the puerto paraíso shopping mall and the second in san jose in el merkado. They are currently only using the delivery service at their cabo location, but are looking to get the service going in san jose in the near future.

Operational Manager Gustavo Gasca says he is incredibly satisfied with the service. He says using it has allowed them to increase their sales and reach a whole different population who can’t access the physical restaurant location for various reasons, ranging from not knowing the area very well to just generally being lazy and not wanting to leave their houses.

Of course, the big question is: Why would a business choose this delivery service over organizing their own? For Gustavo, this is a no brainer. The main points he raised included convenience and cost effectiveness. The cost of this service versus the amount of work that goes into managing your own delivery service is huge. The only upfront cost for businesses using postoven is the price of the tablet they need to operate it, whereas operating your own delivery service involves expenses like delivery motorcycles, and the maintenance, gas and insurance associated with these.

Gustavo mentioned that there is a similar delivery service that operates in san jose, however he sees postoven as a much better service. For one, Postoven does not require the customer to speak to the cashier. This is beneficial for his business because there are often language barriers that cause a significant amount of misunderstandings and, consequently, order mistakes. The majority of the Gyaros clientele are native English speakers but not all of the Gyaros employees are fully bilingual. Using the delivery service has avoided this issue. Postoven also gives customers the opportunity to leave comments and special requests without speaking directly with the restaurant.

Avoid arguments with the females about lifting the toilet seat by using the sink.

Owl mama and two little owl babies. You have to squint, they’re shy, and they wouldn’t pop up.
Cultural Pavilion

Pavilion Movie Club. A different movie every Friday. May is Stanley Kubrick month. Sometimes in English, sometime in other languages with Spanish subtitles. Free.

**May 19. Friday. 7:00 pm.** Full Metal Jacket (1987). Drama about the Vietnam war. Starring Matthew Modine, R. Lee Ermey, Vincent D’Onofrio.


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**LEON COTA PLAZA**

**May 17. Wednesday. 7:30 pm.** Vagabond Movie Club. Every Wednesday. 6:00 to 10:00 pm. Art, paintings, sculptures, photography, live music, dancing. On the marina, in front of the cultural center. Spanish with some help in English. Free.

**May 18. Thursday. 7:30 pm.** LA RANA VEGANA Playa Migriño St. up from Miguel A. Herrera St. Turn right 2 blocks before the gas station (Pueblo Bonito Sunset area).

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**SAN JOSE**

**COSTA AZUL BEACH**

**July 1. Saturday. 8:00 pm.** Music concert on the beach. The Los Cabos Youth Orchestra Concert celebrates its 9th anniversary playing themes of famous movies on a beautiful setting. Bring your favorite beach chair or blanket and enjoy the music. Spanish. Free.

**July 2. Sunday. 8:00 pm.** Los Cabos Youth Orchestra Concert celebrates its 9th anniversary playing themes of famous movies. Spanish. Tickets will be available for free at the Pavilion office.

**August 7 to 12.** Various hours. Theatrical Professional Illumination Workshop by The Arts Professional Creators System from Mexico’s Fine Arts National Institute. This workshop is geared towards arts directors and theatrical experts. Spanish, free. More information: 624-191-4858.

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**The Chamizal Barrio near the Convention Center.**

**From Monday to Friday.** 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Dances starring English and Spanish mostly. Book donations are welcome. More info and special activities with Nixania email: todososmoselorto@gmail.com Free.

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**CERRITO DEL TIMBRE CULTURAL HOUSE**

**May 19. Friday. 7:30 pm.** Fashion Show to benefit the Casa Hogar shelter for boys and girls in San Jose. Organized by DIF Los Cabos. More info: 142-6692 or Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pg/DIFLosCABOS.

**LEON COTA PLAZA** Next to Red Cross and Delegation buildings.

**Every Sunday. 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm.** Danzon Afternoons. Traditional Mexican romantic dance. Everyone is invited to dance. Spanish. Free.

**SAN LUCAS MAIN PLAZA** Beside Red Cruz and Delegation Buildings.

**Every Sunday. 5:00 to 9:00 pm.** PlazArte. Four hours of arts workshop, music, dance show and family fun. Spanish. Free.
Music, Dancing And Art, Oh My!

Calle Morales is the place to be on Tuesday night in San Jose

The excitement on Calle Morelos is in its historic art district in San Jose is the best kept secret of Los Cabos, but it’s a secret that’s getting harder to keep. Every Tuesday from 4:00 to 10:00 p.m., the street is closed to traffic so visitors can fully experience Mexico Music Tuesday.

Mexico Music Tuesday is when the spirit of Mexico comes alive. Meet locals and practice your Spanish while sipping free tequila brought to you by the artists, business owners, restaurants, galleryists, and jewelers who are all waiting to share San Jose with you.

Follow the mariachis as they lead you from Plaza Mijares through the town to Calle Morelos. Watch local folkloric dancers enthusiastically stomp their jibaros through the town to Calle Morelos. Watch local folkloric dancers enthusiastically stomp after each other in this charming street.

Don’t miss Jardin del Arte at Plaza Mijares, with over 60 local artists expressing their soul through their work. Or slip into Galerie del Arte and meet local artists expressing their creations in the finest art-decorated spaces as they display their works.

Morelos has it all.

Skip the middle-men, and buy palms direct from the grower. Come for a tour – we have many thousands of palms and cycads. We have everything from several hundred massive field-grown Royal Palms to Bismarks (and many others) in 65 gallon grow-bags, to all kinds in 1 gallon, 5 gallon, and 20 gallon cultivation pots. There are worst things to do than to tour a beautiful Palm Plantation in Todos Santos. Go to our website, palms.mx, and click on the Contact & Finding Us button for concise directions to our plantation. See you soon. Developers with big projects, give us a call – let’s move some palms with no middle-men in the way. Crane services also available. Call Dean McQuillen – 612.133.0311 or email: todossantos1@hotmail.com
The Many Beaches Of La Paz
You can’t go wrong with any of them

BY JAMES BELL

Anyone who travels to La Paz to spend some time enjoying the calm waters will find a variety of beaches along the bay. If you’re not sure which beach is right for you, we’ve put together a handy list to help you decide.

If you’re traveling by car, all these beaches are within a half hour or so of the city; some only ten minutes away, and the road is scenic and in good shape. It wasn’t many years ago when the old road to the beaches, with its sharp turns around steep cliff sides, had no guardrails at all. Evidence of vehicles flying over the edges of the cliffs was never cleaned up and served as cautionary warnings to slow down. Thankfully, things have changed and the road is safe now, with ample “Curves Ahead” warning signs and guardrails everywhere. The nanny state has arrived in Mexico.

Travelling north along the malecon, you will go over the first big hill just a couple of miles outside of the downtown area. At the top of the hill you will see Playa Coromuel, the beach with a pier sticking out and blue waterslides (don’t get too excited, they haven’t worked for years). As you go down the hill, stay in the left lane and take the U-turn back toward town. Go back up to the top of the hill, where you will enter the beach on the right.

This is the first (and only) beach in La Paz with a Blue Flag designation, which is a recognition of a beach’s adherence to certain government standards. Like trash cans, handicap access, stuff like that. At Coromuel beach you will find restrooms, palapas and food and drinks, including beer and hamburgers, available in the shade on the beach. This area was completely transformed and modernized several years ago, with handicap access and full time security on the grounds. There is not enough parking here on weekends people park willy nilly all over the curb, gingerly walk along the side of the road to the beach. Good luck with that.

If you want to try another beach not too far away, go back to the U-turn loop. Here, you’ll see the La Concha hotel; there’s a small, quaint public beach next to it. To get to this beach on foot, look for the acceso público (public access) signs on the south side of the hotel. Or park in the hotel parking lot, nobody cares. If you’d like a drink or a nice lunch by the pool, wander over to La Concha and enjoy the relaxed environment. You don’t have to be a hotel guest to enjoy the bar or restaurant. Warning: On weekends there will be a chingo of little kids pissing and screaming in the pool, as this is a hotel very popular with the Mexicans.

Another nearby beach, just beyond the U-turn and again on your immediate left, is Playa Caimancitos, which is next door to the...
Adopting Us Helps Others

SAINT. Muy guapo, (handsome), right? And I’ve got a good personality, too! And it’s a good thing that I’m neutered now; because if I were not, me and one of my many girl friends would be creating 67,000 puppies in only six years! And you thought bunnies were creative. I don’t have the money to support all those puppies, not that as a dog-about-town I give a rat’s ass.

Adopting me will help support the LCHS Spay/Neuter program, which has drastically cleaned up the streets of Los Cabos in the past 10 years. The LCHS performed 4,458 of these drastic procedures in 2016 alone.

My ridiculously good looking fluffy feline self is yours for the taking. And BTW, I can beat Saint’s stats, since two cats going at it for nine years will generate a whopping 606,077 kittens! But that’s ok, because the world needs more cats than dogs, cats being way more simpatico than dogs and all.

Since the government here offers no support, the cost of keeping me alive and healthy and for running these animal programs is all accomplished only through your support (ie, the money you’ll pay to adopt me and take me home to the life I would like to become accustomed to).

So go to www.loscaboshumanesociety.com and send buckets of money! I prefer the Fancy Feast in the can, but all we get here for chow is Whiskas dry food. I deserve better.

SHARPAI. I am really just trying to look out for the bunnies and the cats and the dogs, and I am not in it for the money. I am here to help everyone. And I am here to help the environment. I am here to help the world. And I am here to help me. And I am here to help you.

Adopting me is a good thing for everyone. And everyone can do it. And everyone can do it. And everyone can do it. And everyone can do it.
Cabo San Lucas

Billfish action continues to be somewhat sporadic, with the best action being on the Sea of Cortez side. A few wahoo close to shore in the early mornings are the best bet. Karla Cope, our Fish Killer of the Week, was fishing aboard the Gaviota XI with Captain Alberto Garcia on Cinco de Mayo and nailed one of the larger wahoo of the year, which tipped the scale at 110-pounds. They were fishing in front of Gray Rock about a mile outside the harbor channel.

Dorado and yellowfin tuna have been in short supply, although there has been some banter inshore action for trophy-sized roosterfish, along with some jacks and even some snapper. All of them have been well in view of the hotels on the Pacific side, just north of Land's End.

The roosterfish, along with some jacks and snapper, have been in short supply, along with some snapper. All of them have been well in view of the hotels on the Pacific side, just north of Land's End.

Cabo Climate: The weather has been fairly comfortable fishing on the Sea of Cortez side.

Best Fishing Area: The two billfish came from the 95 Fathom Spot.

Best Bay-Lure: Rigged baits working best for the billfish.

Bait Supply: The live bait supply remained plentiful at the $3.00 per bait rate.

Puerto Los Cabos

Supplies of sardina off of the north side of the marina jetty are starting to thin out. Higher surf also made it trickier for the netters. It will soon be replaced by moonfish, mullet and caballito, and bolito and more skipjack will begin appearing on the offshore fishing grounds.

Exciting new action has developed recently for roosterfish: fish up to 30 pounds were schooling off local beach stretches and striking slowly at trolled baitfish. This was during a time when it was a bit windy out of the south, making offshore opportunities tough, so it was good timing.

Of course, many people, and even charter operators themselves, are killing way too many of these roosterfish, instead of practicing catch and release. This species is not known for their eating qualities, but instead for their beauty and fighting stamina, so please remember to release them unharmed when you have the opportunity.

Offshore billfish remained spotty, though a few striped marlin are being found. There are also a handful of stories circulating about blue marlin strikes being lost. This is the month when we normally see wide open action for striped marlin, so we are anticipating the bite will improve soon. A few stray wahoo were hooked into offshore on the marlin grounds, plus we saw at least one dorado landed.

The yellowfin tuna action once again rebounded off the northern grounds near Vinorama, within a mile or two of shore. Drift fishing with sardina was the most productive method, although we did hear of fish being taken on strips of squid. The bite was not off the charts, with some boats catching only a couple and others up to 10 fish per morning. The sizes ranged from smaller footballs to over 40 pounds. The problem was finding enough live sardina to supply the entire fleet.

Bottom action produced a mix of snapper, pargo, bonito, cabrilla and amberjack to 30 pounds, using both bait and yo-yo or butterfly-type jigs. These aren't huge but they are still nice.

Two Beauties, No Beasts

ANGIE

Can you believe that in the three years I've been alive, I've spent two of them at the shelter waiting for my fur-ever family to adopt me? I mean, come on, I'm gorgeous! And obviously good at snuggling, as you can see from the picture. So, come spring me free, I want to celebrate my next birthday in a real home.

BAMBOO

Just look at my face and you can tell them I'm a happy boy who gets along great with other dogs (and even the cats). I'm a two-year-old labrador-shepherd mix, or so they think. I have short legs, but they do a good job of supporting my 60-pound body! I'm ready to run and chase balls on the beach, I just need you to adopt me first!

All animals at Baja SAFE are fully vetted, tested and sterilized. Contact Baja SAFE to fill out an adoption form if you are interested, www.bajasafe.com.
I love my country, I love being Mexican and I love Mexican people. Mexico is a great country! I don't care if we are not number one in politics, the economy or science, we are beyond that. We are happy, kind and very creative. We have a lot of great and ancient culture, and that is what makes Mexico so magical and fascinating. That is why tourists love Mexico so much.

We have a lot of great and ancient culture, and that is what makes Mexico so magical and fascinating. That is why tourists love Mexico so much.

I am telling you, where ever there is a Mexican, there is a chef inside. This inner chef comes from our ancient roots, our history and our easy going character. Nothing is too complicated for us to cook.

The dish I am writing about today is one that has over 300 versions (but I know I haven't written about this 300 times). That dish is enchiladas, and the version I am sharing with you today is one that I am almost certain you haven't tried before. But before we get to that, a which literally means to "season (or decorate) with chili."

Enchiladas originated in Mexico, and the practice of wrapping tortillas around other foods dates back to the Mayan times. The people living in the lake region of the Valley of Mexico traditionally ate corn tortillas folded or rolled around small fish. During the time of the Spanish conquerors, Bernal Díaz del Castillo documented a feast hosted by Hernán Cortés that included foods served in corn tortillas. (Note that the native Nahuatl word for the flat corn bread was tlaxcalli; the Spanish give it the same name tortilla. The Nahuatl word for enchilada is chilipalake, which is formed from the Nahuatl words for chili and flute.

In the 19th century, enchiladas were mentioned in the first Mexican cookbook, El Cocinero Mexicano (The Mexican Chef), published in 1831, and then again in Mariano Galvan Rivera's Diccionario de Cocina (Dictionary of Food), published in 1845. An early English mention of enchiladas was found in a 1914 recipe found in the California Mexican-Spanish Cookbook by Bertha Haffner Ginger.

In their original form, enchiladas were simply corn tortillas dipped in chili sauce and eaten without fillings. There are now many varieties, which are distinguished primarily by their sauces, fillings and, in one instance, by their form. Various adjectives are used to describe the recipe's content or origin, e.g. "enchilada tapatía" would be a recipe from Jalisco. (People born in that part of the country are called tapatios.)

Enchiladas are commonly topped or garnished with cheese, sour cream, lettuce, olives, chopped onions, chili peppers, salsa, or fresh cilantro.

Now, as I said at the beginning, you are going to be surprised by this recipe. I honestly have no idea who created it, but a friend found it and sent it to me. Readers, let me tell you, I was so surprised at the delicious flavor this unusual combination has.

Hibiscus Enchiladas

Ingredients:
12 corn tortillas
2 cups cooked and shredded chicken breast
2 guajillo chilies, deveined and soaked
1 chipotle chile from a can
1 cup soaked hibiscus flowers
2 tomatoes
½ onion
1 clove of garlic
2 tablespoons sugar
½ cinnamon stick
1 pinch of cumin

Preparation:
1. Blend pepper with tomato, onion, garlic, hibiscus flower, and soaked pepper.
2. Lightly fry tortillas, then soak them in the sauce. Stuff with shredded chicken, top with more sauce and serve.

Yes, we Mexicans eat this flower. Read the recipe, Gringo, and see what you're missing.

Dr. Phillip Rice
Ph. (624) 105-9666 • Cell (624) 122-2718 • Cell (624) 108-5070
ecocleancabo@gmail.com

The Playa de La Paz residential complex. (Or it would be next door if beaches had doors.) Caimancitos is a small and pleasant beach with a parking lot very close by. The sand is soft and the water is calm and very swimmable. For some stupid reason, however, this beach now closes early—at 7 p.m., before sunset—so keep that in mind if you head there later in the afternoon. The beach in front of the La Playa complex, right next door, is also available to the public.

Further down the road, you'll come to Playa Tesoro, or Treasure Beach, just up the hill past the mangroves (a quick left exit on the hill). This is another shallow beach that has one restaurant and sundry rentals. This beach is popular and can get crowded on the weekends, but it's a fun and safe area for kids.

Continuing up the road, you'll see the colorful waters of Pichilingue come into view. This beach offers kayak rentals and has two restaurants on the beach. Beyond Pichilingue, you'll notice the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35
Monday to Saturday. 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Rancher's market in Todos Santos. Featuring homemade products from rural areas. Artisanal cheeses, organic chicken eggs, licores and virgin honey, as well as handicrafts such as furniture made with regional woods, leather goods and clay pottery all made by rancher's hands. The Mercado (market). Todos Santos. Saturday under the Mango tree. Los Cabos. Looking for gently used books. Email loscabostomates@gmail.com for more information.

Every Saturday. 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Todos Santos Farmers Market. Music and fun stuff. At The Distillery (but it moves around, so check where it is this week). Email James Black at mero4u@earthlink.net or call (612) 134-8728 for more information.

Every Friday. 5:00 to 9:00 pm. Products and crafts market “EL Colibrí.” Original handmade jewelry, homemade food, arts, crafts and original live music. Nothing made in China here. At Calle Esquinia in Todos Santos. Email Paula at bal-lenanito@yahoo.com.mx or visit www.facebook.com/laesquinats. Runs through April.

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

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

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

Every Thursday. 5:00 to 11:00 pm. After Office. Live music and special promotions. At El Mercado, the Koral Center in Cerro Colorado.

Every Thursday. 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Art Walk. Visit different galleries; many serve free wine. Historic downtown, San Jose.

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

Every Sunday. 7:00 to 11:00 am. Bicycle, walk, skate or drag your pet around downtown Cabo. The main drag in Cabo San Lucas closes to vehicle traffic. Great opportunity to exercise and mingle with local families. Each week a different activity, like spinning, aerobics, zumba lessons. Email clubcactusbike@gmail.com for more information.

Every Sunday. 12:00 to 4:00 pm Sunday in the park. Secured dog park. Open to the public. Providing a safe location to enjoy your dog off leash. Visit www.cabok9corral.com for information.

May 26. Friday. 8:00 pm. Benefit concert featuring soprano Marcela Chacón and pianist Sergio Vázquez, to aid children being treated for cancer at Salavatnierra Hospital in La Paz. Poolside at the Playa de La Paz residential development. Donation is 1000 pesos. For ticket information, call 612-140-0361.


July 31–August 5. ATP Los Cabos Open Tennis Tournament. For more information, visit www.loscabosopen.com


To get your event listed here, email the details to david@gringogazette.com. There is no charge. And, if an event we list here does not go off when stated, please don’t shoot the messenger, this is Mexico, and every event is, well, fluid. 7:00 pm. Children’s library open. Story tellers at 10:30 and 12:30. Looking for gently used books. thorenchikidz@yahoo.com, Todos Santos. Spanish.

ranchopescadero.com


July 15. Saturday. 13th annual East Cape Dorado Shoot Out. The entry fee is $500 per team and the winning team will walk away with a brand new, fully loaded, 4x4 pickup truck. The tournament also offers optional side jackpots of $200, $300, $500 and $1,000. At Hotel Palmas De Cortez. Los Barriles on the East Cape. Visit www.vanworrmerre-sorts.com for more information and to sign up.

August 1-5. Bissbee’s East Cape Offshore fishing tournament. Information: www.bisbee.com

August 26. Saturday. East Cape Gold Cup Wahoo tournament. Los Barriles. For more information, visit http://vanworrmerre-sorts.com/tournaments/page/130/gold-cup-wahoo-jackpot


October 28. Saturday. Tuna Shoot Out. Los Barriles, East Cape. For more information, visit http://www.vanworrmerre-sorts.com/

Pelagic Summer Slam. Fishing for Dorado, Tuna, Wahoo and Marlin. For info: www.facebook.com/sspportfishing

July 31–August 5. ATP Los Cabos Open Tennis Tournament. For more information, visit www.loscabosopen.com


To get your event listed here, email the details to david@gringogazette.com. There is no charge. And, if an event we list here does not go off when stated, please don’t shoot the messenger, this is Mexico, and every event is, well, fluid. 7:00 pm. Children’s library open. Story tellers at 10:30 and 12:30. Looking for gently used books. thorenchikidz@yahoo.com, Todos Santos. Spanish.
Skipjack are all over the place. These great fighters have been entertaining anglers all season.

Several anglers hooked into a wahoo on the way to the tuna hole and, as always, the run south covers some great wahoo water.

There was also some good amberjack, pargo and pompano biting around the reefs.

Boats spending time inshore were able to pull on some good rooster’s weighing 30 to 40 pounds. As usual, there were fish around the marina jetties and lighthouse beaches.

La Paz

The weather is warming, but lingering winds make fishing difficult in some areas during various parts of the day.

Lake was the best bet for fishing. With the winds back up, it was easier to send folks where fishing was closer to shore. There was variety and action (especially with so many one-time fishermen) and there was more protection from the winds. They had some shots at yellowtail and some tuna boils, but none of the bigger game fish showed up. But, since quite a few folks were just fishing either for the first time or they just had one day, it was important to take them where they could have some fun and action rather than

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35
small mountains become more pronounced with their bold rock faces and high cliffs. Then, the mangroves appear along Balandra Bay and you must make a decision at the fork of the road: go left to Balandra or stay to the right for another mile to Tecolote beach. Either way, you can’t go wrong. Both places offer pearl-colored beaches with sand so soft it feels like a foot massage, and the crystal clear water is heavenly. Balandra, which was rated by USA Today’s 2016 Readers’ Choice as Mexico’s best beach, might be more visually impressive of the two, with its shallow waters that reflect the blue of the sky, the surrounding mountains, a new row of palapas and many areas to explore by kayak or on foot. You can climb to the top of the hill near the parking lot where you will find an expansive, birds-eye view of the surrounding mangroves, the mushroom rock and a view of the bay islands. Beach lovers are rarely disappointed here. There is one concession stand (and, on busy weekends, maybe some ladies selling homemade food), as well as kayak, umbrella and chair rentals. Don’t even try to beat the rental guy down on his price, he will go into a rant. Go early on the weekends, as the parking lot fills up fast.

Balandra is beautiful, but there are no restaurants or facilities. If you want lunch or a cerveza, check out Tecolote, which is only a mile down the road. (Double back to the fork, psy attention!) It’s another great beach that was named the 10th best Mexican beach in the same USA Today survey. This long strip of beach is dotted with rustic restaurants and water sports rentals, including jet skis, and is generally a more festive beach for the younger, local crowd. Trips can also be arranged to Isla Espíritu Santo, roughly about three miles from shore. If you’re traveling to any of these beaches with small children, you’re in luck. Unlike the Pacific side of the peninsula, with its big waves and strong currents, La Paz beaches are safe and secure places for swimmers, especially the little ones. Instead of the powerful waves that surfers love, you’ll find the waters are perfect for snorkeling, kayaking or paddle boarding. Many of the local beaches also have very shallow waters, which are ideal for wading, floating or swimming way out. Better yet, take a couple of those ubiquitous white plastic chairs, and drag them out a couple hundred yards and sit in the water up to your ass, there to while away the day and drink your beer. And because of their shallow depths, these beaches often warm up enough for a comfortable dip in the afternoon, while the Pacific waters are still usually cool, if not downright cold, this time of the year.

If you’re reading this from Cabo, jump in a rental car and cruise up Highway 1 to La Paz. It’s an easy fourlane 2.5 hour drive. You can day trip it.

**For Sale/Rent**

Nightclub/hotel/offices

$1.2 million or lease for $9,000 a month. We will listen to all offers.

Cabo San Lucas

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Oh, this is funny. This rock at Balandra Bay is called Mushroom Rock, and La Paz people are so proud of this landmark (it’s like their midgety little arch), that when it broke a couple of years ago, the city snuck out there and glued it back together. Like it never even happened. You suppose that guy on top of the rock knows he’s only in the air thanks to some dabs of Gorilla Glue? At the fork of the road; go left to Balandra or stay to the right for another mile to Tecolote beach. Either way, you can’t go wrong. Both places offer pearl-colored beaches with sand so soft it feels like a foot massage, and the crystal clear water is heavenly. Balandra, which was rated by USA Today’s 2016 Readers’ Choice as Mexico’s best beach, might be more visually impressive of the two, with its shallow waters that reflect the blue of the sky, the surrounding mountains, a new row of palapas and many areas to explore by kayak or on foot. You can climb to the top of the hill near the parking lot where you will find an expansive, birds-eye view of the surrounding mangroves, the mushroom rock and a view of the bay islands. Beach lovers are rarely disappointed here. There is one concession stand (and, on busy weekends, maybe some ladies selling homemade food), as well as kayak, umbrella and chair rentals. Don’t even try to beat the rental guy down on his price, he will go into a rant. Go early on the weekends, as the parking lot fills up fast.

Balandra is beautiful, but there are no restaurants or facilities. If you want lunch or a cerveza, check out Tecolote, which is only a mile down the road. (Double back to the fork, psy attention!) It’s another great beach that was named the 10th best Mexican beach in the same USA Today survey. This long strip of beach is dotted with rustic restaurants and water sports rentals, including jet skis, and is generally a more festive beach for the younger, local crowd. Trips can also be arranged to Isla Espíritu Santo, roughly about three miles from shore. If you’re traveling to any of these beaches with small children, you’re in luck. Unlike the Pacific side of the peninsula, with its big waves and strong currents, La Paz beaches are safe and secure places for swimmers, especially the little ones. Instead of the powerful waves that surfers love, you’ll find the waters are perfect for snorkeling, kayaking or paddle boarding. Many of the local beaches also have very shallow waters, which are ideal for wading, floating or swimming way out. Better yet, take a couple of those ubiquitous white plastic chairs, and drag them out a couple hundred yards and sit in the water up to your ass, there to while away the day and drink your beer. And because of their shallow depths, these beaches often warm up enough for a comfortable dip in the afternoon, while the Pacific waters are still usually cool, if not downright cold, this time of the year.

If you’re reading this from Cabo, jump in a rental car and cruise up Highway 1 to La Paz. It’s an easy fourlane 2.5 hour drive. You can day trip it.

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