Look at the vertical on this guy! This is a mobula ray, one of hundreds that congregates in the Sea of Cortez every year. They can “fly” as high as six feet above the water.

The construction and traffic mess in San Jose is about to get even worse. After about nine months of work, the Fonatur project has finally started construction near the Plaza Mijares. Couple this with the fact that the plaza itself is undergoing a major overhaul and we have ourselves a traffic disaster. By now, everyone in San Jose is pretty much used to driving on the wrong side of the road every day.

The project started in November, and is inching its way along Boulevard Mijares (the street that goes from the Hotel Zone to the plaza). Streets have been almost finished from the cemetery to the bridge that leads to the Puerto Los Cabos marina. There is just one small section left to be repaved (directly in front of the cemetery) and a few more curbs that need to be finished up.

From here, the project has already made its way into the Hotel zone, closing a section of the street in front of the cemetery directly across the street from the Grand Mayan. At least we are still able to drive through here, as traffic is redirected to one side of the street. We were informed that the entire Hotel Zone is going to receive new asphalt, end to end.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Keeping Kids Healthy In Todos Santos
Padrino Foundation provides money, clinics and more

BY LACY STORER

Since it was established 15 years ago, the Los Cabos Children’s Foundation has invested $15 million USD in local programs that help improve children’s quality of life, with a focus on health. But unlike most other non-profits, which raise money for their own programs, the LCCF uses the donations it gets to support and strengthen other community programs.

The LCCF recently announced its 26 grantees for 2017-18, and over the next year the Gringo Gazette will be featuring each organization and the work they do. In this issue, we are profiling the Padrino Children’s Foundation in Todos Santos.

The word “padrino” means a compassionate guardian, someone who takes care of his or her loved ones. Since 2016, the Padrino Children’s Foundation has

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Downtown Destruction In San Jose
Fonatur is making its way towards Plaza Mijares

BY CALEB HOOGLAND

The construction and traffic mess in San Jose is about to get even worse. After about nine months of work, the Fonatur project has finally started construction near the Plaza Mijares. Couple this with the fact that the plaza itself is undergoing a major overhaul and we have ourselves a traffic disaster. By now, everyone in San Jose is pretty much used to driving on the wrong side of the road every day.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 5
Cabo plaza getting facelift: At a cost of $1.5 million USD, the state’s tourism department, aided by money from the feds, will remodel the Amelia Wilkes park. That’s the little plaza that has the gazebo and the natural history museum, in downtown Cabo.

More trees and benches will be planted, and better lighting will be installed.

The downtown business association, The Amigos de Cabo San Lucas, also wants to erect a sculpture to commemorate the fact that the highway used to begin there. There even used to be a sign marking the spot as Km. 0 of our transpeninsular highway. There’s an urban legend that the sign was blown away by a hurricane, and a local Gringo picked it up and took it home.

One of the local doctors in the Amigos group has already pledged her commitment to fund the construction of the sculpture. If the Amigos and other people get their way – and the tourism secretary has pledged his support to the plan – the park will hold weekly historic, cultural and musical events with food and wine tastings.

**Cracking down on timeshares**

Officials from several agencies, including the City of Los Cabos, inspectors from the Federal Prosecutor’s Office (Profeco), the Federal Labor Delegation, and even the Federal Police have descended on the industry of timeshare.

No arrests were reported, but officials promised they will continue to carry out the operation to give confidence and transparency to the tourists who buy timeshares.

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**Solar eclipse coming**

Mark your calendars. On Monday, August 21, the sun will be totally eclipsed by the moon. The eclipse will be seen by everyone in North America, and parts of South America, Europe and Africa, although not everyone will be able to see the full eclipse.

Down here, it will be partially seen. It will be best seen in La Paz, our capital city, starting at 11:41 am and ending around 1:00 pm. So, set your alarm, and please, don’t look at it directly without any eye protection, or you’ll fry your retinas. And no, your regular sunglasses aren’t adequate; NASA recommends special pairs of eclipses glasses. Yeah, just run

**Continued on page 7**
English speakers wanted
Mexico’s department of education (SEP) announced a $44.5 million USD “National English Strategy” with the goal of making all high school graduates proficient in English within 20 years. The first step in this plan is to recruit 1,020 English teachers to staff Mexico’s teacher training schools (which, for some reason, are called normal schools here) and train the 127 teachers already at the schools.

It’s required that these teachers must speak English, which seems like a given, until you hear that studies have found that many teachers who are teaching English have limited English-speaking skills. It’s the blind leading the blind!

Mexico’s Education Secretary said this new English strategy will be a large process, given that Mexico’s public education system is one of the five largest in the world, with 34 million students enrolled.

Speaking of the education system... A video made by 5th grade students in Chiapas, one of Mexico’s most southern states, bordering Guatemala, has gone viral. Students in the video are pleading with the federal education secretary and the state governor for better resources and makeshift classrooms (at least one of which leaks when it rains).

“We demand that authorities fulfill their duties so that we can continue with our studies as we are the democratic future of our country,” one student said in the video.

The school principal said there are currently 300 students enrolled, where parents have had to contribute financially to build some classrooms and purchase vital learning materials including whiteboards (which is not uncommon in Mexico).

Despite the school’s shortcomings, the principal says that students had still achieved academic success, including winning first place in an educational “Olympics” competition.

There’s no word on whether the education secretary or the governor had responded to the students’ video. We’re going to head and say they’ll be ignoring that one.

System is “procedural hell”

One year after Mexico’s new criminal justice system went into effect, National Security Commissioner Renato Sales says it has descended into a “procedural hell” that has led to an increase in crime. Well, that’s just great.

Sales alleges that training in the new system was not uniform, noting that police were the last to be trained in the new system despite being the first to have to respond to crime. He says the system needs “essential adjustments,” in order to be fixed.

He loses us, however, with his suggestions as to what these adjustments should be. One of his ideas is introducing automatic preventative custody for people found in possession of firearms, particularly military-style weapons like AK-47s.

The new justice system stipulates that accused individuals cannot be held in preventative prison for more than two years, but Sales questioned why people who are arrested (for any offense) are not promptly charged when they are discovered with firearms, saying it’s obvious what they intend to use the guns for.

“What more evidence from the presumptions of innocence. They say that it infringes on the presumption of innocence. There are no absolute rights,” he said. “These weapons will not be used for hunting rabbits to be mounted on library walls.”

Well, he’s right about the rabbit-hunting part, but we can’t condone arresting someone for a crime before the crime has been committed.

Mexico’s cops keep failing

Almost two-thirds of police officers in Mexico were unable to demonstrate in a written examination review that they are properly qualified, or have the required competencies to protect the public, according to a report by the Federal Auditor’s Office (ASF). The report was aimed at addressing problems associated with the lack of training in police forces and the application of trustworthiness tests. The ASF evaluated 99% of officers on active duty, and found that while 87% had passed integrity tests, only 34.9% provided information regarding their training.

As a result, the ASF said, “It was not possible to validate the competencies of the remaining 65.1% to carry out their duties in order to protect the public.”

Hmm. Not proving that you’re competent is different than actually failing a competency test, so we can’t be certain that these guys don’t know what they’re doing. Let’s hope they had all the training they needed but just forget to fill out the paperwork needed for the ASF’s survey.

In 2016, more than $21.5 million USD was designated for training and evaluation programs for police officers, in an effort to strengthen public security institutions and improve security.

The ASF report showed that training goals were exceeded by more than 15% in 2016. A total of 117,237 officers from all 32 states received initial, ongoing or command training in 948 different courses.

So that’s where the money is going Mexico’s federal agricultural department (Sagarpa) paid out more than $2.6 million USD last year in farm subsidies to ineligible beneficiaries, including people who had died and civil servants, according to another report from the ASF.

Payments were made to people who had passed away before the money was authorized, along with 174 civil servants who were not entitled to the subsidies.

Documents also indicated that just over 25,000 beneficiaries who had received aid totaling almost $4.5 million had failed to show that they should have received it, and had uncovered irregularities in the secretary’s finances. In 2013, the then-agriculture secretary
Palmilla Beach Gets Upgrades

Bathrooms and new palapas are among the additions

BY SANDY SHORE

Palmilla Beach has had some changes made to it recently, and think beachgoers are going to like what’s been done. We visited the beach to check out what was new and spoke with Luis Angel, who’s in charge of the information booth on the beach. He gave us the rundown on the new amenities.

One of the most welcome additions is the new building that houses the bathrooms. They’re on top of the one-story building, along with a large shaded area with picnic tables and benches. It’s a good spot to get out of the sun and enjoy the view of the beach. There’s also a playground for the kids, if they get tired of splashing around in the water.

The showers, which are really just pipes and spigots attached to the wall, are on the bottom level of the building, facing the beach. They’re nothing fancy, but they were clean when we used them and they get the job done.

On the beach, ten new palapas were put up, providing much needed shade for those who don’t have umbrellas. But they’re first-come, first-serve, so if you get there late you might have to endure the sun until someone moves. There’s also a palapa that’s designated for handicapped people, although the wooden ramps and walkways that start at the parking lot don’t reach all the way to that palapa. Guess you’ll have to figure out how to maneuver that wheel chair in the sand.

The bathrooms and the palapas are all you get, as far as amenities at Palmilla Beach. There are no activities sold there, and there are no restaurants or food stands, so bring a fully stocked cooler when you go.

The problem with political jokes is they get elected.

The parking situation at the beach is manageable, with two lots available. The main lot is the one you drive through to get to the beach. It’s a decent size, but it’s also used by hotel employees who take us precious parking spaces. On a recent Friday afternoon, the lot was nearly full even though the beach wasn’t that crowded. Luis told us that parking can be a problem not only because of space, but also because the hotel employees all park at the front of the lot, which makes it look full when it’s not.

A smaller parking lot is on the other side of the bathroom building. The entrance is a bit hidden; you can’t really see the dirt road that leads to it until you’ve entered the main lot and have already started circling around back towards the entrance. Luis warned us that the sand can get soft in this lot, so it’s literally part of the beach, so be careful not to get stuck there.

If you want to go to the taxi route, you won’t have any problem getting a taxi when you’re ready to head home. The taxi parking area sits right before the entrance to the parking lot, and there were at least eight taxis sitting there when we visited.

The fishing pangas still go out from the beach, and you can see them lined up on the shore when they’re not in action. A few of them are in the weeds, which has running water. Average beachgoers don’t really notice these types of things, but trust us, this is a big deal for the guys cleaning the fish. Some stations don’t have water; can you imagine filleting a fish without it?

Several screening tests have been developed to help find colorectal cancer early, when it is more treatable. Medical experts recommend that people over 50 years get screened at regular intervals with one of the following tests:

High-sensitivity FOBT: Polyps and colorectal cancers can bleed, and FOBT checks for tiny amounts of blood in feces (stool) that cannot be seen. With FOBT, stool samples are collected by the patient using a kit, and the samples are returned to the doctor for evaluation. If FOBT is the only type of colorectal cancer screening test performed, yearly testing is recommended.

Standard colonoscopy: In this test, the rectum and entire colon are examined using a colonoscope, a flexible lighted tube with a lens for viewing and a tool for removing tissue. The tube is inserted through the anus into the rectum and the colon as air is pumped into the colon to expand it so the doctor can see the colon lining more clearly. During a colonoscopy, any abnormal growths in the colon and the rectum can be removed. A thorough cleansing of the entire colon is necessary before this test and patients receive some form of sedation during the test. Studies show that colonoscopy reduces deaths from colorectal cancer by about 60 to 70 percent. Colonoscopy is recommended every 10 years for people at average risk as long as their test results are negative.

Virtual colonoscopy: This screening test uses a CT scanner to produce a series of pictures of the colon and the rectum from outside the body. A computer then assembles these pictures into detailed images that can show polyps and other abnormalities. Virtual colonoscopy is a newer method of screening the colon and is less invasive than a standard colonoscopy and does not require sedation. As with standard colonoscopy, a thorough cleansing of the colon is necessary before this test, and air is pumped into the colon to expand it for better viewing of the colon’s lining. The accuracy of virtual colonoscopy is similar to that of standard colonoscopy, and virtual colonoscopy has a lower risk of complications. However, if polyps or other abnormal growths are found during a virtual colonoscopy, a standard colonoscopy is usually performed to remove them. Faster CT scanners with computer software that can produce images equivalent to an endoscope, virtual colonoscopy seems to be a logical choice in the screening for colon cancer.

Saint Luke’s Hospitals have installed the SOMATOM SCOPe, the latest and fastest CT scanner in Los Cabos, which is highly suitable for virtual colonoscopy screening, delivering outstanding image quality, and is able to reduce radiation dose up to 40% while maintaining high levels of quality and diagnosis confidence. The scan time takes approximately 20 seconds, with very low radiation during which time the patient holds his or her breath. After the exam, there are two methods that can be used to deal with a polyp that has been identified by the CT scan. If the patient desires to have a same day standard colonoscopy when a polyp is identified, he or she waits for approximately 45 - 60 minutes in order to confirm if a polyp has been identified. This time is used to carefully examine the colon using computer images. If a polyp is identified, the patient then has a standard colonoscopy performed to remove the polyp. If no polyp is found, the patient goes home.

How To Dial Toll Free #’s

To call an 800 number, change the 800 to 888
to call an 888 number, change the 888 to 881
to call an 877 number, change the 877 to 882
to call an 866 number, change the 866 to 883

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

The problem with political jokes is they get elected.
Looking For Airport Parking?

If you’re doing more than picking up and dropping off, consider these options

BY CALEB HOOGLAND

It’s easy to see how much busier the Los Cabos International Airport is very quickly becoming. And with the increase in foot traffic comes an increase in car traffic. More cars mean it takes longer to come and go, and there’s more trouble with parking, too.

Speaking of airport parking, prices have started to sneak up on us! It is not as cheap to park or leave your car at the airport as it used to be. We decided to get the scoop on prices and convenience when it comes to parking and car storage around here.

By far, the most convenient option is to park your car in the open lot at the airport. Your car will be as close as can be to the airport. Just park and walk to the terminal. The price per hour is up to about $1.50 USD, which isn’t too bad if you are just there for a short period of time. As you exit the airport drive and enter the terminal. The price per hour is up to about $1.50 USD, which isn’t too bad if you are just there for a short period of time.

For those of us without a garage - or those who prefer the safety of a storage unit - there are numerous options when it comes to self-storage. If convenience is your number one priority, then San Jose Storage is your best bet. It’s located by the airport, as soon as you exit the airport drive and enter the terminal. The price per day is going to cost you $17. After the first day, the rate goes up to about $1.50 USD, which isn’t too bad if you are just there for a short period of time.

The downtown portion of the project looks to be more complex as more than just the pavement is going to be replaced. All current sidewalks and curbs are going to be ripped up and redone. More trees and benches will be put in this area, which is supposed to look similar to the art district, located just a few blocks away.

But, in typical Fonatur fashion, they let everyone know a few months before they were going to start construction. Oh yeah, they also said they needed eight to ten months minimum to complete this project, not just a month or two during construction time, and had started preparing for the financial ramifications of the project when they initially heard about it at the beginning of the year.

Now, Fonatur is extending their minefield of traffic detours down towards the plaza. That’s right, instead of finishing one section before starting another, they decided to split their resources.

For covered parking, Anchor Storage has the better prices for monthly storage. These storage units are located about two blocks from the airport, right at the north end of all the industrial buildings that sit directly in front of the airport. It’s about a five minute walk there from the airport parking lot. They charge $4 per day or $45 monthly for uncovered parking within their secured complex. They also allow you to place your own car cover over your vehicle.

For covered parking, Anchor Storage charges $6 per day or $80 per month. If you would like a garage, the cost is $12 per day or $120 per month.

Before you head out to the Los Cabos International Airport, don’t forget to check the current construction detours. Fonatur appears to be more complex as more than just the pavement is going to be replaced. All current sidewalks and curbs are going to be ripped up and redone. More trees and benches will be put in this area, which is supposed to look similar to the art district, located just a few blocks away.

In addition, utilities are going to be placed underground and brand new sewage and water lines are going to be installed.

By now, everyone is used to seeing this kind of construction destruction in San Jose. The Fonatur project has been going on for about nine months now.
been working to help meet all of the medical and health needs fac-
ing the children in Todos Santos. That includes common health threats, like diabetes, obesity, malnourishment, teen pregnancy, and alcohol and drug use, and larger issues as well.

The Padrino Children’s Foundation also assists with:

**Lack of medical coverage:** In order to receive free medical care for citizens through the Seguro Popular (Mexico’s public health insurance), a child must be registered with the government. But some circumstances, like not having a birth certificate (which is not uncommon here in Mexico) prevent children from being registered. In Todos Santos, 30% of residents are not covered by medical insurance.

The Padrino Children’s Foundation works with many local physicians, as well as physicians from La Paz and Los Cabos, who offer services at a discounted rate. This allows them to be able to evaluate and treat a larger number of children.

**Financial resources:** Even though a consultation at the local public health clinic only costs about $6 USD, families with very low incomes can’t afford this amount, let alone the bus fare to follow up with a specialist in La Paz, emergency ambulance transport, surgical procedures, vision care or dental care. The foundation helps cover the costs of these services.

**Lack of medical access:** With no pediatrician in town, families lack access to routine physical exams that can detect health problems early on. Although more is being done in the way of outreach, there are many children who live on remote ranches and in migrant camps who are virtu-
ally “invisible” to the healthcare system.

**Minimal health education:** Without an understanding of basic health and proper nutrition, children and parents fail to recog-
nize the onset of chronic childhood diseases. For example, Type 2 diabetes is underdiagnosed due to a cultural acceptance of obesity.

The Padrino Children’s Foundation has multiple programs in place to help meet the needs of the children. They provide financial aid for medical services, funding medical consultations, diagnostic studies, medicines, therapies, procedures and, when needed, transportation to spe-
cialized medical centers. The foundation also provides psycho-
logical therapy, family nutritional counseling and medical outreach programs to ranches and migrant camps in the Todos Santos area. Medical, dental and vision clinics are another form of out-
reach the foundation provides. Clinics are performed periodi-
cally in schools and other community locations, and provides screening and treatment. An eye

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10
Stay In School, Fool!

Sometimes it’s not that simple

BY T. CHERR

School is out for the summer, but the staff of Liga MAC, the San Jose non-profit that helps low income families, still has education on the brain. They are busy reviewing the files of the more than 400 recipients of Liga MAC’s ACE scholarship program.

ACE provides tuition fees, mandatory uniforms and school supplies to students in good academic standing who are in jeopardy of leaving school because of financial hardships at home. In Mexico, 42% of high school students drop out before 12th grade.

Of the 400 students in the ACE program, 69 have finished middle school and are moving on to high school. Another 68 have completed high school and seven graduated from college.

To be accepted into the ACE program, students must be recommended by school social workers or administrators. Once accepted, students and their parents must sign an agreement with Liga MAC to provide report cards, participate in Liga MAC’s community service projects and attend lectures, and classes hosted by Liga MAC.

Each year, the student files are reviewed and updated by Liga MAC and school authorities. Students register in July, where files are maintained, by school, for each student. At registration, students are provided with vouchers from local stores for school and sports uniforms, shoes and school supplies. Students’ tuitions are paid as well. The average cost for tuition, school supplies, uniforms and shoes is approximately $425 USD per student per year.

Low income is one of the main reasons students have to drop out of school in Mexico. Way too often kids have to quit to take care of younger siblings so the parents can work. Liga MAC’s commitment to helping students in good standing whose families struggle due to financial restraints is stronger than ever. If you’d like to donate, visit the Liga MAC website at www.ligamac.org, then click on Support Us.

Liga MAC’s ACE program helps more than 400 local students pay for tuition, uniforms and school supplies.

There’s a new museum in town
It’s the Fishing Museum and it’s located on the east side of the marina, right by the Breathless resort. It features several species of fish that can be caught on our side of the world, as well as various fishing rods and photos.

There is also an electronic kiosk where fishermen can get their fishing licenses in two minutes.

Yes, we saw it happen. Local sports fishing promotor Clicerio Mercado tried it in front of all of us at opening day, and it took him 1 minute and 29 seconds to get it. Of course he knows Spanish, and he practiced the night before.

How many are we? The National Population Council just released its census statistics for the first half of this year.

The report says there are 810,000 people living here in Baja California Sur, of which 49.3% are women and 50.7% are men. More than half (429,000) are young people, with 218,000 under 15 and 211,000 between 15 and 29.

Now for the bad (and some good) news. Nearly 24% of residents between 15 and 19 years of age are not attending school, but working in some form instead. However, 99.4% of people between 25 and 29 can read and write, and nearly 60% have a high school or college education.

It’s mango fest time!

If you earlier this year; in this case, of- head quarters. It “officially” opened earlier this year; in this case, of-
Many people ask me “How long does the IRS have to collect taxes?” The answer always is “It depends.” How? Let me begin by saying that collection and assessment aren’t the same. Most people understand collection (they take your hard-earned money). Assessment is how they figure out how much you owe. That’s done when you file a return. They either take your word for it or look into how much you owe. The clock does not start running.

The 10-year collection clock starts when a tax has been assessed, after Uncle Sam opens its big account book and writes “John owes me $XX.XX for tax year 2017.” How does Uncle Sam know what you owe? You tell him on your tax return. If filed in a timely manner, the collection clock starts the day the return was due. Early filers help by providing extra time to assess and collect. File on time, I say. Of course, no return filed means the clock does not start running.

Some people with “foreign stuff” file special information returns with their tax return. If those information returns are not filed with the “regular” return, the clock does not start running. So, your return stays open for assessment for three years after the missing info is provided, and then the collection clock starts.

Then there are clock stoppers. The one 1 like the most is “Taxpayer living outside the U.S.” Yes Bunky, that’s right. The collection clock can be suspended while the taxpayer is outside the United States, if the absence is for a continuous period of at least six months. The clock stops until you come back. If they figure out you are gone, the IRS can program its computer to keep on trying to collect for up to 16 more years, and of course they can add even more time if needed.

In any event, the clock will have at least six months left on it after you return to reside in the US. If you are considered “cooperative” then they will be nice and not recompute your collection clock. Cooperation = being responsive to IRS notices and communications. And I’m pretty sure they won’t accept the “Mexican mail is really slow” excuse.

Enjoying the sunsets here in Mexico does not mean you can outrun the IRS collection clock. Just be aware.

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

Country Music in Cabo…Yes!

Across from the parking structure on Madero street between Hidalgo and Guerrero Cabo San Lucas Ph. 624 686 9618

Open 10:00am to 1:00am.

DOWNTOWN DESTRUCTION...

Local businessman Miguel Aguilar, who owns and operates Gisela Silver in downtown, said that he is just now recovering from Hurricane Odile in 2014 and couldn’t afford to close his shop for a few months while construction is ongoing. He, along with all the other local businesspeople, are hoping that tourists continue to frequent the plaza area, even with all the construction going on. If they can weather the storm, the renovated plaza and Boulevard Mijares should continue to bring lots of business to downtown San Jose. If they can’t weather the storm, well…we really hope that doesn’t happen.
Who’s Pumping Your Gas?

An inside look at the pump jockeys of Los Cabos

BY CATHY WATKINS

Getting gas in Mexico takes you back to the old days in the States when there were full service stations. Sure you can pump your own gas, but it’s certainly nice when it’s blazing hot out or you’re just plumb tuckered out to pull in and let the attendant “fill’ er up.” But while the gas station attendants are busy getting your gas, did you ever wonder what their job is like? No, probably not, but we’re going to tell you anyway.

Pemex stations work their (mostly) guys eight hour shifts each day and have around eight employees working at all times, with one manager on duty. What, they have managers on property? Who knew? The shifts run from 6 am to 2 pm; 7 am to 3 pm; 2 p.m. to 10 pm; and 3 pm to 11 pm. To be hired, employees must, surprisingly, have a high school diploma. Attendants are required to wear a uniform. Pemex employees wear the dark green shirts and pants that have a drab military look. Orsan employees have a trendy style, sporting bright green t-shirts with “Orsan” printed in red letters, and they can wear jeans. Employees are trained to tell you to look at the pump and notice that it’s starting at zero, which proves you aren’t getting ripped off. Back in the day, paying for gas you didn’t get was the norm. You can be sure Nancy will offer to clean your windshield while your gas is pumping. She needs that tip money!

A gas station attendant earns around $70 USD a week (the amount that most Americans pay for their cable) but the employees get to keep the tips they earn. It used to be customary for Mexicans to leave a tip just for the fill up. However, that has changed over the years, and now the attendant has to earn that tip by offering additional service. People usually give 50 cents to a dollar, which can add up throughout the day. Makes you wonder why some of them don’t work harder to earn a tip, doesn’t it? Like, would it kill them to hit the windshield with a dirty "Orsan" windshield while your gas is pumping. She proves you aren’t getting ripped off. Back in the day, paying for gas you didn’t get was the norm.

Who knew? The shifts run from 6 am to 2 pm; 7 am to 3 pm; 2 p.m. to 10 pm; and 3 pm to 11 pm. To be hired, employees must, surprisingly, have a high school diploma. Attendants are required to wear a uniform. Pemex employees wear the dark green shirts and pants that have a drab military look. Orsan employees have a trendy style, sporting bright green t-shirts with “Orsan” printed in red letters, and they can wear jeans. Employees are trained to tell

Continued on page 11

RELIEF FROM JOINT PAIN

BY CATHY WATKINS

New Holiday For Fisherman

Starting next year, May 25 will officially be Sportfishing Day in Baja California Sur.

The date was picked because on May 25, 1972, the Official Federal Gazette designated marlin, dorado, pez vela, sabalo and pez gallo for Sportfishing, which is why the date was chose.

To celebrate this new holiday, five new fishing tournaments will be held in Cabo, San Jose, La Paz, Comondú and Mulege.
Government Rolls Out New Police Program
But they're asking everyone else to pay for it

BY MILES LONG

The federal government has announced yet another plan to shore up policing in tourist cities. Mexico’s tourism department (Sectur) will roll out trial security programs over the next three weeks in Los Cabos, Cancún and Acapulco, all destinations that have been affected by recent upsurges in crime.

But the government will not fund the initiative, they are passing the hat for funding.

In coordination with the interior department, Sectur will deploy new tourist police forces for the program but is passing the sombrero among the business community, as well as the state and municipal governments, and oh yes, anyone else should feel free to toss in some pesos as well. The fed made it crystal clear that the government would not be able to fund the program on its own.

“It’s going to require resources and business owners are going to have to provide them but in exchange for that, governments have to be more open, transparent, inclusive and allow the business world, through already existing citizen councils, to oversee that commitments are met,” officials said.

Translation: We know we’re not going to be able to steal this money, because the business community is full of smart people who are on to our thieving ways.

Finally means there was a ribbon cutting ceremony months before the office actually opened to the public in May.

The building had a big sign on its front wall reading CAPTA, which stands for Center of Tourist Attention.

Since the name didn’t catch on with Gringos (meaning they didn’t know what the heck it meant) it was recently changed to CAT, which, for Spanish speakers stands for Centro de Atencion al Turista. For you Gringos, the name changes to TAC, Tourist Assistance Center.

Along with a new name comes a new logo, kind of tricky to read. It says CaTaC using the “T” for both languages. Yeah, like we said, it’s tricky.

The building houses several federal, state and city government offices that are there to assist our precious pilgrims and, why not, local ex-pats too.

You can walk in to ask for information about Baja, file a police report, cancel a timeshare acquisition and more. A group of college students studying tourism is helping as interns and are trained to guide you to the proper agency. They said that with the new name and sign, more Gringos are walking in, even if some only want to use their bathrooms. Well it’s a start.

New mall planned
Do we really need another mall? Well, maybe, if you live in the tourist corridor and not in San Jose or Cabo. On the mountain side of the Twin Dolphin resort, a new mall and restaurant center will be built, adjacent to the Fred Couples signature golf course. Stay tuned for more information.

It’s the best in Mexico The resort at Pedregal has been named Best Resort Hotel in Mexico in the 2017 Travel + Leisure World’s Best Awards readers’ survey.

The resort was also awarded the No. 28 spot in the 100 Best Hotels in the World ranking. This is the second time the resort has been awarded this accolade, having been named No. 1 in Mexico in 2014. Now let’s see if Grand Velas will up the ante by paying more for a better award. They usually

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11
What justifies a tip in the customer’s mind? Should the attendant get a tip just because he did his job and filled up your tank? Or does he need to go beyond the call of duty to earn that tip? When tourists were asked about tipping, they responded that they tip because they performed the service of filling your tank. But most of the Gringos who live here said they tip if the attendant offers additional service, like checking tire pressure and oil levels and cleaning the windshield.

Now that you know more about how they do their job, we’re going to tell about some of the people who are pumping your gas.

Humberto Luna has worked at Pemex for four years, and he’s a native Cabeno (born in Los Cabos). He’s in his late twenties and married with two daughters. Humberto has a high school diploma and would like to get a bachelor’s degree, but he doesn’t quite know in what. Tips are his main source of income. He works for tips by offering to clean windshields and check the water and oil levels, or tire pressure. On a good day, he can earn up to $20 USD in tips, which is essential given the mediocre salary. Even though he’s outside in the heat all day, Humberto enjoys his job because of his freedom to move around.

Nancy Jijon works for Orsan and is new to the area. She’s from Guerrero, has a high school diploma and had only been on the job seven days when we interviewed her. Nancy has family here and came to Cabo to find work thinking that life would be better here. However, she’s come to realize that Cabo is expensive and living costs more here than on the mainland. She’s single and doesn’t mind working in a mostly male environment, saying that the attendants get along well. Nancy works from 12:30 to 10:30 p.m. (Orsan shifts are 10 hours) and has one day off a week. On a typical day, she services 150 to 200 cars. She makes sure to point out that the pump is on zero before filling up your car, and the most important thing to do to earn a tip is to clean the windshield, she said.

Big news: Our tiendita just added many items for a picnic lunch, imported cheeses and sandwich meats, olives, hummus, salsas to go. In addition to sodas, coco waters, beer, water, chips, fresh vegetables, anything we have available in the restaurant is for sale. We offer lots of hotel packages, date night, weekend getaways, romantic candlelit dinners, dive packages, surf, etc. Bring a group and get better deals. Look for us at www.vidasoul.com. Read our reviews in TripAdvisor. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. Local numbers 624 142-1165 (Spanish and English) 624 154-6966 English and US 1-626-840-0485 English and Spanish.

The East Cape offers all kinds of Summer fun for the entire family. At Vidasoul we offer “Kids stay free” packages and a special kids’ menu. Pet friendly vacations too, A/C and free internet.

It’s surf season on the East Cape and we are located next to surf breaks Punta Perfecta and up the road from 9 Palms. We rent surf and SUP boards, kayaks and mountain bikes.

Day Passes available for $25.00 includes pool access, a towel, a lounge and $15 of food and beverage credit. Enjoy our poolside service. Happy Hour from 2:00-5:00, special menu, buckets of beer and 2:1 drinks. We have a volleyball net waiting for you, horse shoes and bocce ball too.

The East Cape’s Fun Center

Crossroads Country Club

The East Cape’s Fun Center

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Vidasoul and The Crossroads Country Club

The East Cape’s Fun Center

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Vidasoul and The Crossroads Country Club

The East Cape’s Fun Center
Ask a Mexican

The Mexican federal government has been accused of using spyware to spy on 88 journalists, anti-corruption activists and human rights workers. President Enrique Peña Nieto denied it at first, but then later admitted the government bought the spyware to catch criminals. Now, the government is calling for an independent investigation into the espionage, calling in the United Nations and even considering the help of the U.S. FBI.

This week we asked: What do you think about the spying? Do you think the Mexican government should be investigated for spying on their own people, and should the U.S. be called in to help?

Daniela Juaristi, 22, receptionist
I think Mexico is pretty desperate to fix things, but unfortunately the government does not have the capacity to spy on its people to be honest. The government should not look into whatever its people are doing, it would be violation to our rights, and even if they found something worth stopping, the system is so slow and corrupt that they wouldn’t even be able to do anything right. Nowadays, the people are taking justice into their own hands and it’s exactly what the government deserves after everything Peña Nieto has done.

Tania Acevedo, 24, assistant
I think that the Mexican government, just like any other government, has to look for ways to control its people. And after so many rumors of riots, I do think it’s necessary to take action. In my opinion, those measures should include the people's acceptance with real actions, not shutting the journalists and activists down. As far asking for help, as long as sovereignty is not compromised, I think it’s fine to have help.

Patricia Guzman, 41, sales agent
Find which criminals exactly? All of the criminals have the government grabbed by the balls. They only did it to look good before the people, so they could pretend they are looking for criminals. The government is the real criminal here, why play dumb with us? And if the U.S helps us, we are only going to increase our debt to them and be at their mercy.

Daniel Quiján, 27, web technician
There's always a way around their "spyware"; the Mexican government is so behind in technology, it's ridiculous. If they want to spy, all they are going to find are jokes anyway, is their plan to turn into Korea or something? If the UN helped it would be fine, but the government will not follow whatever the UN tells them.

Saul Medina, 58, accountant
Spying is a stupid attempt to catch criminals. The real good ones have way more advanced technology, and all the other ones have paid off the government. With all the killings that have been happening among journalists, things are just going to get worse. I hope the UN does intervene but in other manners as well. The United States will only help if there is something in it for them, which is not very convenient for Mexico.

Gabriel Lopez, 19, student
I think every government now has spyware on its citizens, it's just that Mexico was the only stupid one to get caught. What are they hoping to do? We could end up like Venezuela at this rate, we are just going to hell.

Earth Goes Gourmet

More than 29 culinary proposals for breakfast, lunch or dinner

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Hurricane Season Is Here
A number of storms are forecasted, but who knows what kind of weather they’ll bring

By Gail Forswinds

We’re already two months into the official hurricane season (which runs until November 30), and so far all we’ve seen some rain and clouds from Tropical Storm Dora. Another storm, Eugene, was quickly downgraded from hurricane to tropical storm and passed by without any noticeable effects. But, that doesn’t mean the worst still isn’t yet to come.

There are 16 named tropical cyclones are planned for the Northeast Pacific Ocean basin and 11 for the Atlantic Ocean (remember, we’re in both), which gives us a total of 37 forecasted storms. Well, 35 now that Dora and Eugene have already gone by.

In the Northeast Pacific Ocean basin, of the 16 named cyclones, six are forecasted to be tropical storms, four strong hurricanes (category one or two), and six intense hurricanes (categories three, four, or five). For the Atlantic basin, of the 11 named tropical cyclones, it’s predicted that seven of them will be tropical storms, two strong hurricanes and two intense hurricanes.

The city has been working to make sure everyone and everything is as prepared for a big storm as can be. In June, Los Cabos Mayor Arturo de la Rosa spoke at the inauguration of the Municipal Council of Civil Protection, which will work to prepare and protect residents during a storm.

“Our commitment is to preserve the lives, health and integrity of local citizens and tourists, so we must be prepared, organized, coordinated and aware of the great responsibility involved in dealing with any type of contingency,” he said.

There are plans to have 50 temporary shelters in Los Cabos. The city has also identified areas of risk, as well as families living in dangerous areas that might need to be evacuated.

Cabo’s Integral Port Administration (API) partnered earlier this year with the Mexican Navy in the Civil Protection Committee. The committee is responsible for determining what resources – material, human and fiscal – the maritime community has when a hurricane is imminent.

“We must be very organized in the matter of communication, equipment, material, everything concerning facing a phenomenon like the one that happened to us like Hurricane Odile,” said Héctor Montaño, director of API.

The Navy and API have also partnered to form a supply committee, which will keep track of the supplies on hand and make sure they’re organized and well stocked in advance, rather than waiting until a storm hits and then discovering there’s nothing there.

Montaño said every storm season brings lessons as to what needs to improve, in regards to the infrastructure of the Navy and new strategies needed to improve security and communication during a storm.

Speaking of communications, Conagua (the national water commission) and the National Meteorological Service urged the population to be constantly informed when there is a storm. You can keep up to date on weather alerts at www.gob.mx/conagua.

And if you need help decoding what each color of the early warning system means, here’s the breakdown. There are five colors in the alert system: blue, green, yellow, orange and red. Blue is the lowest alert, and is activated when there is a storm that warrants attention but has a minimal threat of danger. Green is also low risk, but at

37 storms have been predicted for this hurricane season. Here’s hoping they all blow over before they reach the Baja. At Blue Medical Net Hospital in downtown La Paz.

Injuries
Chronic
• Acute &

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the water levels, close doors and windows, and cut off the water and gas supply.

And when the big one is coming, the red alert is activated. That’s when you take cover, away from the windows, and stay put until the storm is over and authorities have given the all clear to come out. We’re tempted to make that joke about putting your head between your knees and kissing your butt goodbye, but we’ll refrain. We’re a serious newspaper, after all.
Calendar of Performing Arts

CABO SAN LUCAS

CULTURAL PAVILION
Every Friday. 7:00 pm. Pavilion Movie Club. A different movie every Friday. Sometimes in English, sometimes other languages with Spanish subtitles. August is Alfred Hitchcock month. Free.

August 4. Friday. 7:00 pm. The Pavilion Movie Club presents Cuates de Australia. (Drought) (2011). Documentary. Residents from an ejido (communal land) in northeastern Mexico prepare for a mass exodus every year in search of water during the dry season. Spanish with some help in English. Free.

August 11. Friday. 7:00 pm. The Pavilion Movie club presents Psycho. (1960). A secretary embroils $40,000 from her employer's client, goes on the run, and checks into a remote motel run by a young man under the domination of his mother. English with Spanish subtitles. Free.

August 18. Friday. 7:00 pm. The Pavilion Movie Club presents Vertigo. (1958). A San Francisco detective suffering from acrophobia investigates the strange activities of an old friend's wife, all the while becoming dangerously involved. English, with Spanish subtitles. Free.

August 25. Friday. 7:00 pm. The Pavilion Movie Club presents The Birds. (1963). A wealthy socialite pursues a potential boyfriend to a small California town that slowly takes a turn for the bizarre when birds suddenly begin to attack people. English with Spanish subtitles. Free.

Every Thursday. 5:30 pm. Kids Movie Club. A different movie for children in Spanish.

EDUSITER At Angel Herrera and Libertad streets July 17 to August 11. 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Bilingual Arts Summer Camp. For 4 to 8 years old children. The summer camp includes arts, cooking, yoga, plays and fun activities. Free. Book donations are welcome. More info and special activities on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/LaCirco-577897035553733/timeline. Kinesis-Fabuladanza-691039797630803/timeline. facebook.com/Sala-de-lectura-La-Mar%C3%B8ma-timeline. Nixania email: todossomoselotro@gmail.com Free.

Every Sunday. 6:00 to 10:00 pm. PlazArte. Four hours of arts workshops, music, dance show and family fun. Spanish. Free.

MCANDO Upstairs from La Europea at the Walmart plaza. Every Thursday. 5:30 pm. Kids Movie Club. A different movie for children in Spanish.

KORAL CENTER/EL MERCADO Kilometer 24.5 East Cape Road round-about July 24 to August 11. Monday through Friday. 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Summer courses for kids from 6 to 12 years old. Basic courses in painting, music, dance, etc. For more info call 143-0779 from 8 am to 8 pm, Monday through Friday, or visit the Culture House office during the same hours. Spanish.

LEON COTA PLAZA Next to Red Cruz and Delegation buildings. Every Sunday. 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Every two weeks, four hours of PlazArte workshops with live music, dance, and different guest artists. Spanish. Free.

Every Wednesday. 6:00 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.

CABO MARINA
Every Saturday. 5:00 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.

MACONDO Upstairs from La Europea at the Walmart plaza. Every Thursday. 5:30 pm. Kids Movie Club. A different movie for children in Spanish.

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Community Reading Lounges

At AMELIA WILKES PLAZA Main plaza downtown CSL, Every Saturday from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Herman Ita de Ysabela Reading club has a different book to read and comment. Saturdays starting April 9. Spanish mostly. Book donations are welcome. More info and special activities on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/LaCirco-577897035553733/timeline. Kinesis-Fabuladanza-691039797630803/timeline. At KINESIS GYM. El Chamilal barrio near the Convention Center. Every Tuesday from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. Trotamundos Reading Club. Spanish mostly. More info and special activities on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/saladecturartrotamundos/timeline. At KINESIS GYM. El Chamilal barrio near the Convention Center. From Monday to Friday. From 7:00 am to 9:00 pm. La Manora Reading club. Books available to all. Free.

At HOLLYDANCE CAFÉ. Leona Vicario St. And 12 de Octubre St, 2° Floor, downtown Cabo. From Monday to Friday. From 7:00 am to 9:00 pm. La Manora Reading club. Books available to all. More info and special activities on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/saladecturartrotamundos/timeline. Kinesis-Fabuladanza-691039797630803/timeline. At KINESIS GYM. El Chamilal barrio near the Convention Center. From Monday to Friday. From 7:00 am to 9:00 pm. La Manora Reading club. Books available to all. More info and special activities on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/saladecturartrotamundos/timeline. Kinesis-Fabuladanza-691039797630803/timeline.

At LA CIRCO. Libroteka Reading Club. From Monday to Friday. From 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Books available and circus drama style reading on Thursdays at 7:00 pm. More info with Sara Flores on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/LaCirco-577897035553733/timeline.
Because Every Dog Needs A Poncho
Baja company keeps canines well dressed

BY LACEY STORER

What’s better than a dog wearing a poncho? Not much, if you ask us. And the owners of Baja Ponchos certainly agree. The online company, which started sells ponchos for dogs of all shapes and sizes.

Baja Ponchos is the work of David and Nicole, a young couple who have been living in Baja since 2014. The couple, along with their dog, Zorro, was driving from Baja to California (where they’re both originally from) when the inspiration for Baja Ponchos struck David. All of the ponchos are cut from hand-woven serapes made in Tlaxcala, which is outside of Mexico City. David and Nicole say they appreciate the quality of Mexican craftsmanship and wanted the ponchos to reflect that. The vibrant colors, durability and the versatility were also very appealing to them.

The ponchos, which sell for $21.95 USD, are available in two base colors, pink and blue, although the accent colors that are woven in make every poncho pretty much rainbow colored. Sizes run from XXS (think, chihuahua) to XXL (that'd be your great danes and the like). The ponchos are adjustable, with a velcro straps that go around the dog’s neck and chest. And to complete the look, a dog sombrero is available for $12.99.

And if you’re one of those pet owners who likes to dress like their dogs (hey, no judgement here) Baja Ponchos also sells bags, totes and mini backpacks for humans, made out of the same serape material. Those all sell for $24.99.

But these ponchos don’t just look good on doggies, they DO good for doggies, too. A portion of every poncho sold is donated to Baja California Spay Neuter Foundation in Rosarito, where David and Nicole live. (And yes, we know Rosarito is in Baja California North, but we decided to expand our coverage zone just this once, OK?) The BCSN is a non-profit whose goal is to promote ongoing population control of dogs and cats throughout Baja. They do this by hosting sterilization clinics, sharing knowledge and experiences of efficient spay/neuter techniques, and educating the local families and children of Baja. David and Nicole say that, having lived in Baja for several years now, they’ve noticed fewer stray animals on the streets, which they attribute to the work of BCSN and other local animal organizations.

If it sounds like a Baja Poncho is something your dog needs in its life (and we’re pretty sure it is) visit their website at www.bajaponchos.com. You can also purchase them on Amazon or Etsy. The ponchos are shipped from the States; better to buy one while you’re there and then pack it when you and Fido come down on your next visit. If you want to have a poncho shipped to Cabo, they can do it, will just cost you extra.

We also highly recommend you follow them on Instagram, @bajaponchos, because where else are you going to get your fix of photos of cute dogs wearing ponchos?
Finally, A Country Bar In Cabo

Cabo’s offers a down home atmosphere you usually only find in the States

BY LACEY STORER

Country music isn’t something you’d expect to find in Cabo, and until recently you really couldn’t. Cabo Blue has a country play list during the day, and maybe some.

Belly up to the bar at Caboy’s and enjoy country music, drink specials and fall-off-the-bone barbecue ribs.

of the house bands play a few country covers, but that’s about it. Until now.

Cabo’s, Cabo’s all-country music bar, has opened for business downtown. The playlist includes everything from classic Johnny Cash to the big hits from country music’s heyday in the 90s (think Garth Brooks, Shania Twain, Brooks & Dunn) to songs from newer stars like Chris Stapleton, the Zac Brown Band and Luke Bryan. Don’t be surprised if a sing-along or some two stepping breaks out during dinner (we’re not kidding, that actually happened while we were there).

Cabo’s is the first restaurant/bar for Greg and Jenny Arizpe. The couple, originally from San Diego, moved to Cabo in October after vacationing here for years. Jenny said the idea for Cabo’s came from her love of country music, and the fact that there were no country bars down here.

“Every time I came on vacation, I always wanted to hang at a country bar,” she says. “So we opened one.” The name, she says, came from her and Greg putting their ideas together with Cabo and cowboy becoming Caboy.

Cabo’s has all the atmosphere and charm of a down home, country bar. There’s the requisite country bar decor: rustic-looking wooden tables (along with wood floors, walls and just about everything else is wood), not to mention old license plates on the walls, along with a couple of animal skulls and horseshoes. Cabo’s also has three TVs so you can watch a game, and a shuffleboard table which can help entertain the kids if they get antsy.

For those expats missing their country bars back home in the States, hanging out at Cabo’s might help make you feel a little less homesick. It certainly did for this Kansas-bred reporter.

But even if the country music doesn’t interest you, the food will. The menu is small; so small, in fact, that they don’t have printed menus. The options are written on a chalkboard or you can get the rundown from the waitress. Cabo’s offers barbecue ribs, hot wings, hamburgers, quesadillas, and carne asada tacos.

Jenny says they plan on keeping the menu simple so they can focus on the music and the atmosphere. And, honestly, how many more options do you really need? There’s enough variety to keep everyone in your group happy.

Prices at Cabo’s are very reasonable. We went for dinner on a Wednesday and spent $30 USD on six strawberry margaritas (with a 2X1 special), an order of ribs and an order of wings. Other nightly specials you should take advantage of include three tacos for $5 on Taco Tuesday; two tacos and a beer for $5.50 on F*#$* Friday or $3 Sex On The Beach drinks on Sloppy Saturday. They also have Sunday Funday with $20 bottomless mimosas from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Cabo’s is located downtown Cabo on Francesco Madero Street, between Miguel Hidalgo and Vincente Guerrero, across from the parking garage with the parrots out front. You can also find them on Facebook at facebook.com/caboybarandgrill.

CORRECTION

There was an error in the July 10th edition of the Gringo Gazette, in the article New Hotel is Waaay Out There. The article incorrectly stated that the Hotel San Cristobal had worked with the Palapa Society of Todos Santos.

That a Donald Trump policy stands to benefit Mexico may sound like fake news but it probably isn’t.

If the United States president’s goal of repealing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act — better known as Obamacare — becomes law, it is estimated that approximately 24 million Americans will be left without health care coverage by 2026.

Repealing Obamacare Good For Mexico?

It could mean a big increase in medical tourism

BY DR. FRANK N. FURTER

According to some Mexican tourism organizations, many of those people will look south for medical treatment.

The Mexican Travel Agency Association (AMAV), the Mexican Hotel and Motel Association (CMITM) all agree that the situation represents a significant opportunity for Mexico. They believe that Mexico will be the first choice for those left uncovered and that a third of them will seek medical attention procedures, bariatric, plastic and orthopedic surgeries, IVF treatment and stem cell transplants. He claims that all can be carried out in Mexico to the same standard as the United States or Canada but at a price that is 40 to 60% cheaper.

He believes that Tijuana and Mexicali in Baja California, Reynosa and Nuevo Laredo in Tamaulipas, Ciudad Juarez in Chihuahua and Nogales in Sonora are well placed to attend to medical tourists from the U.S. because they already have developed medical procedures, bariatric, plastic and orthopedic surgeries, IVF treatment and stem cell transplants. He claims that all can be carried out in Mexico to the same standard as the United States or Canada but at a price that is 40 to 60% cheaper.

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Taking It Off Road
You won’t mind getting dirty on this road trip

By Cara Vann

Normally, a road trip where you get dunked with water, covered in dirt and sand, and have to bump over stretches of worse-than-washboard roads wouldn’t be considered much fun. But if you’re driving a Polaris UTV on Cabo Adventures new Off-Road Adventure tour, then it’s a whole different story.

This is the newest tour from Cabo Adventures, which just debuted about a month ago. This excursion features a two-hour cruise on the beach and through a desert canyon in a four-person Polaris UTV.

The UTVs are easy enough to maneuver that all you need to learn how to drive one is a quick lesson. The guide talks about the shifting gears, the switch you flip when you need to go between two-wheel and four-wheel drive, and demonstrates the hand signals the guide uses for stop, slow down and go. (OK, you also need a valid driver’s license before they let you get behind the wheel. Drivers must also be at least 18 years old.)

Unlike some other off-road excursions at other companies, where they don’t seem too concerned about how fast you’re going or if you’re staying on track, there is a big emphasis here on safety and staying in line. The guide emphasizes several times that drivers aren’t to get too crazy or be negligent. It’s not a race, he tells us, and it’s not a competition. If you’re looking to bust loose, go with a looser company. The Polaris can reach about 35 to 40 miles per hour, so it’s not like you’re just putting along, but this off-road adventure is more about navigating different types of terrain rather than seeing how fast you can go.

There are three distinct parts of the tour that stand out, as far as the terrain goes. The first part is driving along the beach. The drivers can get used to working the vehicles while driving along the smooth sand of the beach while their passengers can enjoy watching the waves crash against the shore and feel the cool ocean breeze on their faces.

The next leg of the trip is through the canyon. Along with the expected sand, dirt, cacti and brush, you see a couple of nature lessons, talking about the trees, the rocks, the climate and the topography of the canyon we’re driving in. That canyon is San Bernancio Canyon, which is about 12.5 miles from where the tour started, to give you an idea of how far you go. The tour starts and ends

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 24
The old lighthouse at Cabo Falso (known as El Faro Viejo, or The Old Lighthouse in English) recently celebrated its 112th birthday, and was given a nice little celebration by the Secretary of the Navy and the Mexican Department of National Defense.

According to historical records, Cabo Falso served as a nautical point of reference for sailors for three centuries before the lighthouse was built. It was in 1890 (or 1896, different sources have different dates) that the construction of the lighthouse was ordered by Porfirio Diaz, the Mexican president at the time. An engineer, Joaquin Palacios Gomez, was hired and visited Cabo Falso to determine the lighthouse’s location. He began drawing plans, allocating 42 acres of land for the approximately 30-foot stone lighthouse with an attached, one-story watchkeeper’s house and the surrounding protected area.

In true Mexican fashion, construction on the lighthouse began years later, in 1904, and was completed in early 1905. The Cabo Falso lighthouse was dedicated in a ceremony on May 5 of that year. At that time, the lighting mechanism in the lighthouse was the most advanced equipment in the world.

The old lighthouse has been inactive since 1967. Today, it still looks out over the water, but is closed, and is fenced off.

The civil defense authorities, (yes we have those, and they are pretty active), have gone all over town in recent weeks painting notices of meet-points in the event of a civil disaster, like earthquake or fire. The meet up points are all in open spaces like roads and parking lots. They’re a green square with four white arrows pointing to the middle; take note of which ones are around you, and proceed to the appropriate point in time of emergency.

No, Bunky, don’t stand out there in the middle of a hurricane. Fires and earthquakes only.
Origin Of The Margarita In Dispute
But we have some theories

BY LES MOORE

There are about as many stories about the origin of the margarita cocktail as there are bars that serve them. Some of the most interesting stories to us Gringos here in Baja are, of course, the ones that trace the origin to Baja California.

One account says that, in 1948, Danny Herrera, a renowned Mexican bartender at the Riviera del Pacifico Hotel and Casino in Ensenada, was smitten by Marjorie King, a Ziegfield girl and B actress who couldn’t handle Mexican tequila straight up. Herrera mixed one part tequila, one part Triple Sec and a third part fresh lime juice. Marjorie, who liked to be called Margarita when she was in Mexico, loved it. The cocktail quickly became popular, eventually becoming one of the world’s most famous party drinks.

And version goes like this: Just an hour north, in Tijuana, Enrique Bastate Gutierrez claims to have created the margarita as homage to actress Rita Hayworth, whose real name was Margarita Cansino. As a teenager, Margarita Cansino worked as a dancer at the Foreign Club in Tijuana, where she inspired the bartender’s creativity which resulted in this delicious cocktail. This was obviously before Hayworth adopted her screen name, which dates the origin of the margarita back to mid 1930.

Now to put a bit of confusion into the above claims, I recently heard about an entirely different story about this traditionally Mexican cocktail. Bartender Pancho Morales, working at a bar in Juarez named Tommy’s Place, was asked by a U.S. customer to mix a margarita. (That’s equal parts of bourbon and Cointreau, a dash of sugar syrup and soda water and garnished with a twist of orange peel.) Pancho didn’t remember any of the ingredients other than the Cointreau so he improvised by adding lime juice and tequila and named his new creation after another flower, the margarita.

As with the origin of the margarita cocktail, recipes come in an enormous variation of strength and brand. A good

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

Need A Furry Friend?
ELY (dog)

Did you know most of the animals at the LCHS have been surrendered, not fished off the mean streets? We don’t have these kinds of stats here in Mexico, but according to the ASPCA, 6.5 million companion animals enter shelters each year in the US. The most common reasons: moving, landlord not allowing pet, too many animals in household, cost of pet maintenance, owner having personal problems, owner having no time for pet, etc. Unfortunately, it was a similar situation for me.

I’m a sweet and VERY obedient little gal who is quite confused about my new “living arrangements” and very anxious to have someone to follow and please. I’m part chihuahua, part dachshund and probably part “Cabo dog.” I’m compact, the perfect size to accompany you anywhere (and I promise to always mind my manners when we’re out and about).

DANNY (cat)

I’m trying to imagine what the humans will come up with for an inventive bio about me. That I am an extremely rare miniature tiger? That I can walk around on my hind legs, sporting a jacket and hat like those dogs in China? Maybe they’ll say I am a “super rescue” cat, able to locate, retrieve and deliver lost and sick cats to the shelter. Here’s what I’d like them to say: I am a nice little cat. I politely accept whatever kibble is dished out, keep my privates clean and never miss the litter box. I’m pretty young, so I will be nice to kids and cleaning ladies. Not quite as exciting as being a tiger or rescue cat, but who wants the pressure of having a celebrity cat diva in the house anyways?

LOS CABOS Humane Society

We need volunteers
No one can do everything, but everyone can do
www.LosCabosHumaneSociety.com
Cabo San Lucas
Fishing still seems to be sputtering along. There's an occasional slow day followed by a few days when the boats return with flags flying. Some yellowfin tuna in the mid 200-pound class certainly brightened the day for some anglers recently.

The usual array of summer species are beginning to filter into the area. A Pacific shortbill spearfish was taken recently, confirming that their rarity in these waters is a myth. However, seldom are there more than two or three caught in an entire year.

As the sea temps begin to climb into summer, confirmed by the arrival of sailfish offshore,确认ing that their rarity in these waters is a myth. However, seldom are there more than two or three caught in an entire year.

The Pacific side has been mostly rough and bumpy, with surface breezes blowing in from the westerly directions. From the Finger Bank and southerly to the 1000 fathom curve, down across the Golden Gate Bank and the Jaime Bank, water temps have all been around 78 to 81 degrees. Cabo Falso and out to the inner-Gordo Bank averaged 73 degrees. The 95 Fathom Spot and the 1150 Fathom Spot and on up to Las Frailes, was all at 78 degrees.

Best Fishing Area: Golden Gate Bank and the 1150 Fathom Spot produced equal numbers of billfish. The Herradura produced the most dorado, and the yellowfin tuna were scattered on both sides of the peninsula.

Best Bait/Lure: The billfish were continuously being stubborn and those that were caught were primarily on live bait.

Live Bait Supply: A very good bait supply was/is available at the $3.00 per bait rate, paid direct to the bait vendor at time of receipt.

Puerto Los Cabos
Inshore fishing action has slowed with the higher surf conditions; there was just a scattering of roosterfish and jack crevalle. Most fleets are working the grounds from Iman to the San Luis Banks; this is where the most productive all-around action was encountered.

With the warming currents, the fast action for huachinango has slowed down, though there were still some to be caught. They were all caught on yo-yo jigs, off of Iman and San Luis Banks, along with a mix of Eastern Pacific bonito coming in at up to 10 pounds. These were the same grounds where good sized yellowfin tuna were schooling, not in huge numbers, but tuna in the 30 to 80-pound range were being hooked into on a daily basis.

These yellowfin were also striking the yo-yo jigs well this past week, not something they commonly do. Usually they prefer various whole or cut baits. Besides striking on yo-yo jigs, these tuna were also hitting while drift fishing or slow-trolling baits.

Most charters were having chances at least for one or two tuna. Others landed as many as three or four. Many fish were lost as well, because these yellowfin were a bit line shy; most anglers were using 40 to 50-pound leaders in order to have better chances.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

No Fly Fishing Guide? No Problem
This book claims it’s (almost) as good as being in the water


First things first: I am writing this book review without any personal experience in fly fishing. And so, I will trust the experts on the back cover, who claim that Ken Hanley is the most experienced and knowledgeable instructor and guide available, and that reading this book is (almost) as good as being in the water with him! He has taught saltwater fly fishing clinics for 30 years, and has written previous books and guides on the subject. He has also been published in various fly fishing magazines.

The author believes 10% of fishermen catch 90% of the fish, and that those who are most successful are so because they utilize two kinds of skills. They are good observers and they are also competent technicians who know how best to use their equipment. The book has five parts (they’re not called chapters). Those don’t include the introduction, which contains two and a half pages of descriptions of some of the skills and knowledge needed to be successful, (i.e. being keen observers and naturalists, and also having imaginative skills in the ways of using their equipment).

One part is titled “Fly Fishing the Pacific Inshore,” and it helped me to understand the influence of tides, which has always been a kind of mystery to me. Hanley says that understanding is needed to be a successful fly fisherman. There is also a definition and detailed description of tides. The

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31
Cooking Like a Mexican
BY ALEJANDRA BORBOLLA

Hello, precious readers. As you read in the last issue, I will be taking over the Cooking Like A Mexican column from now on. I’d like to, first, thank my mother for trusting me with such a popular section of the paper, and make a promise to not let you down.

Second, I’d like to introduce myself to you guys. I am a twenty-something, self-proclaimed foodie. I am not a gourmand, because my love for food does not equal expensive tastes; I am just a food lover no matter the cost. I am a very adventurous eater, and am in love with my country’s cuisine.

I come from a matriarchy that my grandmother started. (Many of you might know her as Sparky.) She is THE cook of the family, and she makes some killer black beans, which I will write about another time.

One of my fondest memories of my mom (besides her mom smell, which hasn’t changed my entire life) is her cooking. She always says that there’s nothing special to it, but she has that touch that makes any dish she cooks a thousand times better than if I had made it. I am pretty sure it happens to all of us. There is a special connection in our family with food: recipes are handed down from generation to generation; from the moment the preparation of a dish starts, down to that “sobremesa” after a meal. There is no English translation for sobremesa, but it’s the conversation people have after eating, usually with coffee, dessert or digestives.

Our life revolves around food. Love is born in the kitchen, and so are conversations.

Now, on to the food! Serrano chiles are one of the most used ingredients in Mexican cooking. All chiles are heavily used, really, but today we’re going to focus on this special variety. Its name comes from the word “sierra” which means “mountain range.” This chile comes from the mountain ranges that cover Mexico’s landscape. The serrano chile is a tiny, cylindrical pepper that is often pointy. It is considered a six out of ten on the spice scale, and ranges between 10,000 to 25,000 on the Scoville scale (that’s the scale used to measure heat units in food). Most of the time, this chile is consumed in its infancy, when it is a beautiful lime green color, but it can also be eaten when it starts to mature into a red color.

My recipe for this issue is the traditional aguachile. It’s a great hangover cure, as well as the perfect companion to an ice-cold beer, which makes it very popular for gatherings of family and friends. The traditional recipe comes from the state of Sinaloa, a very hot place where the shrimp are top quality. The origins of aguachile are not very clear, but its name comes from “agua” (water) and “chile” (pepper).

Aguachile is a very simple dish with three key ingredients: shrimp, chilies and lime. It is served with cucumber and red onions. What is different about this dish, something you Gringos might not be used to, is that the shrimp isn’t cooked with heat, but with the lime juice. The acid in the lime juice breaks down the raw meat. The scientific term for this is “denaturation,” which is the process in which protein loses its structure from the application of a strong acid, base, salt, alcohol or heat. A long time ago, this cooking method was used to rehydrate dried meat, and then later seafood.

Before we get started with the recipe, there are several important things you have to keep in mind when making an aguachile:
- The time between making the dish and serving it must be no longer than ten minutes. I know some people might get a little nervous about lime “cooked” shrimp, but it’s the same as cooking it with heat. Once the shrimp are pink and no longer translucent, you’re good to go. But don’t overcook the shrimp either; the longer it sits in lime juice, the tougher it will be.
- It must be a little spicy. I know you Gringos don’t have the blessing of being able to take heat like us Mexicans can, but there’s no point in making a bland, cold shrimp pile. Take a little risk, worst that can happen is a little flame coming out of your bum, ha! And here’s pro tip for handling the serrano chiles: If you don’t want your aguachile to make you spit flames, soak them for a couple of hours in iced salt water.
- Shrimp must be FRESH. No frozen nonsense. You live near the ocean, come on! And I recommend using medium-sized shrimp, completely cleaned.

The aguachile sauce has to be balanced. The flavors must be in harmony, with the lime flavor as perceptible as the chile flavor. There are different kinds of aguachile, varying in colors and ingredients. Some are made with other seafoods, but this time I am going to stick to the traditional recipe. Yeah, I know, aguachile means water and chile, but there are a few more ingredients needed to make magic happen. Ingredients:
- 1 lb. shrimp
Sierra Schools Gets SEP Accreditation

The Sierra School of Todos Santos recently received full SEP accreditation for the 2017-18 school year. The entire Sierra School team is very proud of the SEP’s assurance of the school’s quality and commitment to excellence in educating leaders for a sustainable global future.

Classes will commence for its accredited secondary (7th-9th grade) program on 21st August 2017. The Sierra School offers a highly rigorous, bilingual, college-preparatory education following the International Baccalaureate model.

The school is currently accepting student applications. Students do not need to be bilingual to apply. The Sierra School makes an effort to offer financial aid support to motivated students in need.

Contact Molly Lou Freeman at mollyloufreeman@gmail.com for student applications.

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 Eagles’s song, despite their best efforts to promote that with T-shirts), browse shops full of handcrafted treasures, and enjoy some great Mexican cooking.

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 a rental car.

Cerritos is perfect for swimming and sunning for a day or a week. Take a surfing lesson or rent a boogie board. There are several restaurants but the beach is not over run with them.

El Pescadero is a small town on the way to Todos Santos. It has a rich history of agriculture, ranching and fishing. The lush poblano chili fields are everywhere, as well as strawberry, tomato and basil fields. The town is between the ocean to the west and the Sierra Laguna mountain range to the east. A modern four lane highway runs right through the town connecting Cabo San Lucas to Todos Santos, then goes north to LaPaz.

Stop at one of the many taco stands along the highway, or buy veggies or fruit along the road. In the afternoon when the fishermen come in with the day’s catch you can buy fresh fish off the boat at Punta Lobos. For a small propina (tip) they’ll filet it for you, too.

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

Off the main street in Pescadero is a tiny backyard restaurant called La Pasidita that has, I kid you not, the best burgers on the planet. Drive around the baseball stadium, and turn at the first dirt road on the left, past the first sleeping policeman, (speed bump)

La Pasidita is a locals place, though, and is only open after 6 p.m. Maybe 7 pm, sometimes a little later than that.

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

Just 1 mile south from the Cerritos Beach Club is the Cerritos Beach Inn, 10 suites with full service bar and restaurant with ocean front dining.

Todos Santos Restaurant Guide

MIGUEL’S Restaurant. Best Chiles Rellenos in the Baja. Traditional Mexican Dishes. Seafood. Drinks. Free Wi-Fi. At the corner across from the Pemex station. Open 8:00 am – 10:00 pm. Phone: (612)145-0814 $.

RUMI GARDEN. Thai & Chinese Cuisine. Vegetarian, Vegan & Organic Friendly. Daily Lunch Specials. WiFi. At the entrance to Todos Santos on your right. Open 12 to 9 pm. Closed Tuesdays. (612) 145-1088 www.rumigarden.com ($$)

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Book Report

BY JEANNINE PEREZ

Oasis of Stone: Visions of Baja California Sur. Text by Bruce Berger, photographs by Miguel Angel de la Cueva. 2006. $49.95.

I cannot believe I have not done a book report yet on this book! I apologize! This book is wonderful and a must have for anyone interested in Baja California Sur landscape.

The text for this book was done by Bruce Berger, also a nature lover, and a hard-working environmentalist. He has authored other books, including “Almost an Island” and “Sierra, Sea, and Desert,” which won the Western States Book Award. Berger has also written for the New York Times, Orion, Sierra, and other publications. Berger’s books show his great passion for nature in Baja, and his descriptions are both colorful and poetic.

While other books about Baja tend to focus mainly on our coastlines and marine landscape, the author of this book writes about the rocks. The towering skyscrapers, the deep and dark clefts, dead and living volcanoes, and the weird rock towers that are wrinkled, misshapen, and eroded by nature. I can always see faces and sometimes figures, in the Baja rocks and stones that have been sculpted and eroded by powerful nature’s forces, and colored tan, gold, and red by wind and sun.

There are four sections to this book: Rock That Flows, A Stroll Through the Thorns, Creatures of Mirage, and The Newcomer. I find these headings to be very thought provoking, and they also divide the history of the Baja into three sections.

The first section tells us about Baja’s geological history. The second section invites us to walk, observing the deep silence, the lush beauty and growth immediately after a rainshower, along with the inventive shapes we see in various cacti. These photos are magnificent! Creatures of Mirage, the third section, documents the animals thriving in our hostile environment, one of the few books I have seen to do so.

The last section on newcomers gives information about the little we know about the first humans here, and the changes arriving with European settlers at the end of the seventeenth century. The few survivors of European diseases became the first mountain ranchers, and their cows and goats also became some of the first changes in the ecosystem of Baja.

It is thought that the first humans came here about 12,000 years ago. They were wandering hunters and gatherers, with no cities, permanent dwellings, or agriculture. These first humans had little impact on the environment. That is not the case now, and the book highlights our unique, often disruptive and sometimes destructive, impact on the ecosystem of Baja Sur.

“Because of its exposure, the desert must wait, centuries if necessary, to heal from its wounds. Man inflicted those wounds and must start the healing process,” the book tells us. The photos that go along with this are very powerful and moving.

You can find copies of Oasis of Stone at El Caballo Blanco, my little bookstore in Loreto. It’s $49.95, and a treasure for any nature lover, and a hard-working person. If you’ve read this book, email me at betojeannine@gmail.com and tell me what you think!

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REPEALING OBAMACARE...
continued from page 16

tourism infrastructure.

However, other destinations farther from the border, including right here in Los Cabos, Cancún, and Puerto Vallarta, could also benefit.

Medical tourists spend $3,000 to $60,000 USD per trip, which means they should be considered part of the luxury market, Arceo says.

AMAV president Julio Castañeda argues that the medical tourism industry is currently underdeveloped, and there is a need to develop more medical tourism packages and further promote the industry in the United States in order for it to grow.

By working with hospitals, medical specialists and the Mexican Tourism Board, he thinks it is possible to exceed the expected 7.2 million patients, and suggests that one way of attracting more people is to promote visits to traditional tourist destinations for both patients and their families as an add-on.

While the medical tourism industry has been growing by approximately 20% annually in recent years, all the tourism organizations agree that it is essential for the government to develop a strategy in order for the industry to continue to grow.

With support from the federal government, they say they will be better able to take advantage of a lucrative opportunity that will benefit the Mexican economy.

The establishment or increase of direct flights to medical tourism continues on page 35.
Mix Business With Pleasure

If you have to work while you’re here, do it at one of these places

BY SAMANTHA METZ

In this day and age of the Internet, you can run a business from anywhere in the world via a virtual office. Because of this, everyone, from employees of big firms to entrepreneurs and small business owners, have the ability to travel the world while still making sure things are going smoothly back at the office.

And while Los Cabos isn’t necessarily a big business travel destination, it is a place where many of its guest have to do business while on vacation. Here are a few local Cabo spots you might want to check out if you need a work space that lets you get the most of your time away from home.

The Koral Center Work Desks

- This is one of the most modern work-space environments in all of Cabo. The spaces (desks) inside make for the perfect virtual office space, whether you are alone or need to set up a meeting with your partners. And if you sign up for a membership there, you even get a free morning coffee upon your arrival each day.

Holiday Inn All Inclusive Resort Los Cabos - Not only do you get free internet, free work spaces and all you can eat/drink daily, but this San Jose resort is right on the beach, giving you that sense of paradise while you work. For an additional cost you can even stay in an oceanfront room with a hammock outside, so you can put your laptop next to you and sway back and forth to the sounds of the ocean while typing up those important emails.

Pueblo Bonito Rosé Resort & Spa - This spot is for those looking for the ultimate luxurious space while also wanting a full vacation. Located on Médano Beach, the resort offers business owners/workers upscale rooms and a full business center inside that includes work spaces with ocean view terraces.

Let’s be honest, nobody wants to work while they’re on vacation. But if you have to, do it in one of these places, with the ocean and beach so close, sure makes it more enjoyable.

OFF-ROAD ADVENTURE... continued from page 17

The great thing about having to work while you’re on vacation in Cabo is that your “office” can look like this.

Cabo Adventures is a fun way to get out of the heat and the kids can enjoy the adventure with you. They have off-road tours, jeep tours, snorkel trips, and more! A great way to see Cabo and have fun too!

Don’t forget to book your next vacation to Cabo with us! We can help make it the best one yet. Contact us at 624-105-2209 or visit www.cabo-adventures.com. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Huerta del Pacífico Palm Tree Growers

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 Todos Santos.  Go to our website, palms.mx, and click on the Contact & Finding Us button for concise directions to Todos Santos.  Go to our website, palms.mx, and click on the Contact & Finding Us button for concise directions to Todos Santos.  Go to our website, palms.mx, and click on the Contact & Finding Us button for concise directions to Todos Santos.  Go to our website, palms.mx, and click on the Contact & Finding Us button for concise directions to Todos Santos.  Go to our website, palms.mx, and click on the Contact & Finding Us button for concise directions to Todos Santos.

Todds Santos

Contact Us

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

So, if you would like a complimentary session in the hyperbaric chamber, call Cathy Dammann at Spa Cielo in San Jose. 624 105 2209. Go to www.spa-cielo-cabo.com.  

Rated with five stars on

Prices range from $199 USD for a single rider to $399 for a four person vehicle. That includes transportation from your hotel to the tour and a light meal. A hyperbaric chamber is a cocoon-like apparatus that you crawl into and get comfy cozy for an hour or two. Under pressure, it cranks up the oxygen concentration in the chamber, and pushes that concentrated oxygen throughout your body. This concentrated oxygen, (100% oxygen), goes into any organs that may need a little pick me up, and even into your brain. The normal concentration of oxygen in your system is only about 20%.

The director of Spa Cielo, Cathy Dammann, a registered nurse back in the real world, allows this very expensive piece of equipment to be used by local autistic children for no charge, as hyperbaric concentration of oxygen has been proven to be very beneficial for these kids. She has pictures of brain scans before after treatment that shows parts of the brain actually normalizing, and more than that, the improvement in these kids’ behavior is dramatic. So why can’t we get plenty of benefit from it as well? We can.

The increased concentration of oxygen in our blood, our organs, and our brain has been proven to result in better health, better feeling of well-being and probably longevity.

Why not you?

A hyperbaric chamber is a cocoon-like apparatus that you crawl into and get comfy cozy for an hour or two. Under pressure, it cranks up the oxygen concentration in the chamber, and pushes that concentrated oxygen throughout your body. This concentrated oxygen, (100% oxygen), goes into any organs that may need a little pick me up, and even into your brain. The normal concentration of oxygen in your system is only about 20%.

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The increased concentration of oxygen in our blood, our organs, and our brain has been proven to result in better health, better feeling of well-being and probably longevity.

Why not you?
What Are Those Things For?

Why we have monuments for the Tropic of Cancer

BY CHRIS COLUMBUS

In case you didn’t know, we have two roadside monuments here in Baja California Sur dedicated to the Tropic of Cancer. The first is a tall white statue that sits along Highway 19, the highway between Cabo and Todos Santos. On the other side of Baja is much larger, more impressive Tropic of Cancer monument, located just outside of Santiago, on Highway 1. That monument has two statues, a plaza and a small chapel.

So, what exactly are these monuments marking? The Tropic of Cancer is one of three of the most significant imaginary lines running across the surface of the Earth, along with the equator and the Tropic of Capricorn. While the equator is the longest line of latitude on the Earth (the line where the Earth is widest in an east-west direction), the tropic lines are both based on the sun’s position in relation to the Earth at two points of the year.

All three lines of latitude are significant in their relationship between the Earth and the sun. The equator is located at zero degrees latitude, and runs through Indonesia, Ecuador, northern Brazil, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Kenya, among other countries. It is 24,901.55 miles long. On the equator, the sun is directly overhead at noon on the two equinoxes - near March 21 and September 21.

The equator divides the planet into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. On the equator, the length of day and night are equal every day of the year - day is always twelve hours long and night is always twelve hours long.

The Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn each lie at 23.5 degrees latitude. The Tropic of Cancer is located at 23.5° north of the equator and runs through Mexico, the Bahamas, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, India, and southern China. The Tropic of Capricorn lies at 23.5° South of the equator and runs through Australia, Chile, southern Brazil (Brazil is the only country that passes through both th equator and a tropic), and northern South Africa.

The tropics are the two lines where the sun is directly overhead at noon on the two solstices - near June 21 and December 21. The sun is directly overhead at noon on the Tropic of Cancer on June 21 (the beginning of summer in the Northern Hemisphere and the beginning of winter in the Southern Hemisphere) and the sun is directly overhead at noon on the Tropic of Capricorn on December 21 (the beginning of winter in the Northern Hemisphere and the beginning of summer in the Southern Hemisphere).

The reason for the location of the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, at 23.5° north and south, respectively, is due to the axial tilt of the Earth. The Earth is tilted 23.5 degrees from the plane of the Earth’s revolution around the sun each year. The area bounded by the Tropic of Cancer on the north and Tropic of Capricorn on the south is known as the "tropics." This area does not experience vast seasonal differences because the sun is always high in the sky. Only higher latitudes, north of the Tropic of Cancer and south of the Tropic of Capricorn, experience significant seasonal variation in climate.

Since ancient times, people have tried to come up with reliable systems with which to measure their location on Earth. For centuries, both Greek and Chinese scientists attempted several different methods but a reliable one did not develop until the ancient Greek geographer, astronomer and mathematician, Ptolemy, created a grid system.

This is one of the statues that marks the Tropic of Cancer at the monument outside of Santiago. If you haven’t seen it, it’s worth taking a little road trip and checking out.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35
Budgeting for Baja
A checklist for planning your escape to Baja: Part I

BY PAM GRAY

One of the best reasons to own a home in Mexico is the low cost of living you’ll enjoy while you are here. You’ll be amazed at how inexpensive many things are compared to the U.S., Canada or the E.U., but a little planning will help you avoid unpleasant surprises. Each property is different, so ask your Realtor® to help you understand how the location and type of property you purchase will impact these costs.

Water. The infrastructure in Baja California Sur has improved substantially since I arrived 12 years ago but there are still some areas where water is “trucked in.” That means you purchase it by the truckload and have it pumped into a storage tank on your property.

Be sure you understand the source and fees for the water before you purchase your property. Whether the supply is municipal, a private well, or a common well you’re likely to find the cost surprisingly reasonable considering we live in a desert.

Increase your estimate if you have a pool or landscaping that requires a lot of water. If you are lucky enough to get your water from a potable supply, you still have to consider the method of transport. Broken or cracked pipes can lead to contamination.

The easiest way to address this is with a whole house filtration system. My husband and I found it well worth the expense to be able to drink from any water source in the house. I don’t even worry when the cats drink out of the toilet!

Food. If you are willing to adopt a diet with lots of fresh veggies, fish and fruit, you can eat like a king here on a very limited budget. You can indulge in things that are expensive in the states like avocados and mangos, but items that are less common (low fat anything, gourmet ingredients, i.e. pancetta, truffles) are going to be pricey. Likewise, you can enjoy dinner at many good Mexican restaurants for under $10/person or opt for the white linen experience for just a little less than you would pay in the states. Remember, minimum wage here is less than $5 US dollars a day, so tip generously for good service.

Electricity. There is one electric company here, CFE. I have been impressed with their level of service and automation, considering they have no competition. The bill can be confusing because the charges are tiered and based on your previous usage. If you run your air conditioners all of July, expect to pay top dollar per kilowatt hour in August.

Things that impact your electricity bill include pool pumps and electric heaters. Your electric bill is due every other month and you are responsible for this whether or not you receive a physical bill. Fortunately, you can auto-pay your CFE bill if you have an account with one of the local banks.

Propane. Most homes use propane powered water heaters and stoves. Some will have a large tank and others use “bottles” (those green tanks you see along side some houses). Both are supplied by trucks that rove around honking their horns or playing a song over a speaker. You can also call them and ask for a delivery. Ever see a sign at the side of the road that says, “GAS?” The arrow points to the house needing a fill or replacement bottle.

Internet/Phone. Recent changes in the law suggest we may have more options in the future, but right now TelMex is your best bet for a landline with DSL. If you just want a phone, a cell phone is a good option. But DSL over a landline is a practical and fairly reliable way to get Internet. This bill can also be paid automatically with your local bank account. If TelMex service is not available at your property find out how the existing owners are connected. Some neighbors may share a connection or you may need to budget for satellite service.

Gasoline. At this writing, regular, unleaded gas was running around $3.25/gallon. Rumors of a large price decrease have proven over-optimistic but new laws allowing for foreign investment in Pemex (THE provider of gasoline in Mexico) mean it’s possible that the price will not continue to rise at the historical pace.

Satellite TV. While cable has become available in a few neighborhoods and streaming shows over the Internet is starting to catch on, most people watching TV are doing so with a Satellite connection. DishTV is the most popular. Packages vary but you can get a good selection for about $100/month. I have limited personal experience with this. We just never got around to installing TV and I must say I’m not sure when I would find time to watch it. Consider all the other wonderful ways you will enjoy passing the time here before you invest in an expensive TV package.

Stay tuned for Part II with more important items to consider when estimating your total cost of living in Baja.

Read the full article on Pam’s blog at www.homesandlandsofbaja.com. Pam Gray is a Realtor® in Los Barilies. She holds the CIPS® and ABR® designations. Reach her at: Pam@HomesAndLandOfBaja.com or visit the Homes and Land Tourist Information Center on your next trip to Los Barilies.
Capital Gains In Mexico

BY JANET JENSEN

Capital Gains Tax
Capital gains tax law in Mexico states that tax is owed on the profit you receive when you sell your home or property. By law, you have two options when it comes to capital gains and you can use whichever is the better of the two options for you:

1. You pay 35 percent* of the net profit. (There are a variety of deductions included in this option.)
2. You pay 25 percent* of the gross sales amount with no deductions.

Although a 35 percent capital gains tax may seem high, Mexico does have several laws and procedures that will assist you in maximizing your cost basis, thereby reducing your capital gains tax. The key is to understand these laws before you buy, not when you decide to sell.

*Percentages reflect the 2013 Revenue Tax Code.

Always record your true Purchase Price at closing.

In the past, some real estate companies have recorded values lower than the actual purchase price in an effort to "save" taxes for their client; they thought they could save money on the two percent acquisition tax. This is a major error. Never record a lower value than what you actually paid for the property. Doing so simply establishes a lower cost basis for the property, which increases your capital gains tax liability. The first step in calculating your capital gains is to subtract the value you have recorded in your trust, or Fideicomiso (fee-day-co-me-so), from the sale price of your property.

This however now is much more complicated as the new money laundering law effective from September 2014, you now need to include in your deed the form of payment and the amount and if not regardless for the tax consequences it may be a crime.

An oversimplified example is:

You wisely purchase a home site (lot) for $1 million, but unbwisely record a value of $500,000. In the eyes of Mexican tax law, your cost basis is now $500,000. If you sell the lot for $1.2 million, you see a profit of $200,000. However, according to your recorded cost basis, Mexico sees a profit of $700,000 and your capital gains tax for Mexico will be 28 percent of $700,000 ($196,000) — a difference of $140,000 in profit. Snell Real Estate's approach to ownership in Mexico, specifically the trust process, has been established to protect you and provide you with the legal means to safeguard your investment. Recording your authentic purchase price with proper documentation is the only way to maximize your potential profits. The bottom line is to always secure your property trust for the true value of your purchase as quickly as possible.

Never allow anyone to convince you to record a lower value than what you have actually paid for your property, or you will assume the Seller's capital gains tax liability and you will be in violation of the anti money laundering law. Recording a lower value today can cost you, should you decide to sell in the coming years. If a Seller can convince a Purchaser to record a lower value, the tax liability is simply passed along, and eventually someone will have to pay. Don't let anyone tell you, "That's how we do it here." Mexico is like everywhere else — if you record a lower capital gains tax is the responsibility of the Seller.

Fact: Recording a property's true value benefits you and establishes your cost basis in the eyes of Mexico.

Fact: Capital gains taxes you pay in Mexico can be credited to your U.S. or Canadian taxes in accordance to the Treaty to avoid double taxation. (Other countries have this same tax treaties, like the European Union and some South American Countries)

How do I know if my value is recorded correctly?

Snell Real Estate's closing officer oversees the creation and completion of your trust. We review the documents with you to make certain everything is in order, and we are present when you sign your trust. You can verify the value you by examining your trust and noting the amount written in text, which is indicated in U.S. dollars or Mexican pesos and includes the exchange rate of that day. (We will provide a certified translation of your Spanish trust.) Simply divide the current exchange rate into the pesos amount and make sure the result reflects the actual dollar amount you have paid. If you would like to review an old trust, simply determine the peso rate for the day and year the trust was executed.

We can assist you in finding the Internet.

What is inflationary credit?
As soon as you pay your percent acquisition tax to receive your trust, you are eligible to receive an inflationary credit from the Mexican government for each year you own the property. This credit is added to your cost basis when you decide to sell your property. The credit is based on consumer index adjustments (inflation) and can be quite significant. In the past when inflation was higher, we have seen credits in excess of 15 percent per year applied to a cost basis when you acquired your property some years ago. On a million-dollar property, this can be as much as $150,000 USD per year added to your cost basis, significantly
“DIRT Cheap” DIRT - Heavily wooded ranchland at $5US per m2. Ocean & Mountain Views. Only 10 minutes N of CSL. Deeded, Gated Community. MLS #14-1630 Cape Realty Associates 624 147-7190 caperealtybroker@gmail.com

FOR SALE IN ZACATITAS

CSL COPALA AT QUIVIRA BEACH/GOLF RESORT. Brand New, Full Ownership Condo, Jack Nicklaus Golf, Sunset Beach. 2088 sqft, 3 BR, 2.5 Ba, 4th Floor. Resort Amenities. IMMEDIATE DELIVERY. At Pre-Construction Pricing, No Wait. $499K USD. Call 624-129-9667, greddeman@hotmail.com

CASA ROCHER, MIRAMAR ONLY $67,000, Great starter home or for commuters to Pueblito Bonito Sunset. Has large back yard that’s ideal for adding on or building a separate rental unit. MLS 17-752 cell 624-136-7103

AMAZING BEACHFRONT LOT. Underground utilities. Beach for swimming, fishing & watersports. Four Seasons golf & marina next door; watch your equity value soar! $185,000 USD, Cell 424-9988, MLS #14-616, ads@bajaproperties.com

BIG HOME IN PUERTO Los Cabos. 7-bedrooms, gym, media room, 3-car garage - great for large families, corporate retreats and fishing groups. Access to Marina, golf and beach amenities. Be a part of the elite community! Email for showing: mishan@dreamhomes cabo.com

CSL MISIONES DEL CABO


FOR SALE IN ZACATITAS

Lote Corazon del Mar at Zacatitots, INVEST. OVERSIZED RARE LOT. Deeded, Gated Community. Only 10 minutes N of CSL. 4 Most Affordable Bedroom Properties Of Cabo” or call: +1-949-212-4210

FOR SALE IN BAJA

INVEST. OVERSIZED RARE BEACHFRONT LOT. Lote Corazon del Mar at Zacatitots, over 3/4 of an acre in size and surrounded by high quality homes. $369,000 USD. MLS 17-1439. Call 624-172-0069 broker@caborealty.com, (+52) 624-161-2618 info@elencantodelalaguna.net

FOR SALE IN CAPO

CASA CONCHACOUS - LOS CERRITOS. Beautiful 3rd row beach house 2 bd/2 ba casita, huge viewing decks, 6 car garage, expansive views, steps to the sand. 4520 sf constr. MLS 17-35, $999K US Cheryl 624-242-3600

MISIONES DEL CABO is an ocean front development. This penthouse residence features one bedroom, one bath and is offered fully furnished. Views of the Sea of Cortez from every window. Cabo Corridor. #17-879. Joni Ross; (624)168-3715; Joni@theagencyloscabos.com

FOR SALE IN EAST CAPE

CASA BOTT, CASTILLO DE ARENA, EAST CAPE SOUTH $175,000 2 Br, 2 Ba, Solar, Gen, 2 A/TVs, furnished. A nice view home located on a lot close, to white sand beaches and in a great community. A good opportunity to purchase your hide away. MLS 16-2104 pc@eastcapehomes.com, (+52)-1624-147-0111

FOR SALE IN EAST CAPE

RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY. 5 room, 3 baths, in Cabo Corridor. Plus 2 bed, 2 bath residential unit, pool, parking area. Needs some TLC. Contact godebbeygabo@gmail.com or 624 165 3336 HOA. $395K

FOR SALE IN SAN JOSE

CASA ARROYO AZUL LUXURY HOME $1,750,000. MLS # 17-54, 4bd/4.5ba 15,224 sq ft East SJD-Hidden Gem- 3 Miles from SJD Marina. Boutique Beachfront Community. El Encanto de la Laguna. Open house every day 10 to 5pm. Ph: 624-105-8858 info@elencantoloscabos.net

LOFT IN CENTER OF PUERTO Los Cabos. 3,800sq ft in SSD. Located just 2 blocks from the marina and famous Hotel El Ganzo, you will have a range of options when it comes to property/landscaping design. MLS # 17-188. 624-132-5214, maria@lastrock.com

FOR SALE IN CABO

CASA MIGUEL, CABO. 4 Most Affordable Bedroom Pedregal! Walk to town, spacious living areas, 4 BDR, 3 1/2 BA, gazeebo. $349,000 USD, MLS#16-663, 044-624-147-7541

FOR SALE IN LOS CERRITOS

CASA MAS CERVEZA, CABO. 2 BD, 2.5 BA HOME. Furnished, common area, pool. MLS# 17-844. $250,000 USAz Call: 624-122-3528.

PEDREGAL CABO SAN LUCAS. 5 BD home. With views of the Marina Bay and Sea of Cortez. Recently remodeled with new appliances, AC, window treatments and has a very private pool area. MLS# 17-91, $869,000 USD. Call: 624-157-4932, rebecca@pedregal.com

FOR SALE IN BAJA

A DEVELOPER’S DREAM! 25-acre farm located in SJD by the famous Flora Farms & Acre Restaurant. MLS# 16-2158, 624-157-8661, leon@lastrock.com

FOR SALE IN SAN JOSE

SPECTACULAR SEA OF CORTEZ & 5th Fairway views of Palmilla’s Ocean Course. Seamless indoor/outdoor living, stone accented water features, excellent rental history. $2,150,000 MLS # 15-96 Call Beth 624-157-2968, bgorman@snellrealestate.com

FOR SALE IN CABO SAN LUCAS

Amaznig view & close to the beach! 3/4 of an acre. Ocean views, walking distance to the beach, gated community. MLS 17-343, $118,599 US Call Cheryl 624-122-3600

FOR SALE IN ZACATITAS

FULL ACRE. 2bd/1bath Mexican Charmers. Peaceful & Quiet Desert. Ocean View/Luxury, Move-In Ready, $250,000, MLS#19-661, Oun@CoastalPropertiesOfCabo or call: +1-949-212-4210

INVEST. AWARD WINNER HOME. Trip Advisor Rental Unit, Ocean/Golf View. 2,300 A/C sq. ft. 3 BED / 3 1/2 baths, $575K USD. MLS #17-8661, Joni Ross; (624)168-3715; Joni@theagencyloscabos.com

FOR SALE IN CABO

CASA AGAVES. This property comes fully furnished. Views include the Marina Bay and Sea of Cortez. Pedregal. $972K. High quality finishes, custom carpentry to the granite and marble slab. East SJD. Beachfront Community. El Encanto de la Laguna. Open house every day 10 to 5PM. Ph: 624-105-8858. info@elencantoloscabos.net

FOR SALE IN SAN JOSE

CONDO B-201 STUNNING 2bd/2.5ba. $699,000 MLS # 17-897. High quality finishes, custom carpentry to the granite and marble slab. East SJD. Beachfront Community. El Encanto de la Laguna. Open house every day 10 to 5PM. Ph: 624-105-8858 / info@elencantoloscabos.net

FOR SALE IN ZACATITAS

HAVE HORSES? WANT SPACE and close to the beach? 3,58 acres, ocean views, walking distance to the beach, gated community. MLS 17-343, $118,599 US Call Cheryl 624-122-3600

FOR SALE IN BAJA

RARE LOT W/NO HOA FEES whatsoever. Privadas development offers beach break ocean views from block to beach. Flat, ready to build between La Jolla and Campestre. Lot size 1,088M. MLS#17-1092 $145,000 USD. joc@cabocrbs.com

FOR SALE IN CABO

CASA BOTT, CASTILLO DE ARENA. East Cape South $175,000. 2 Br, 2 Ba, Solar, Gen, 2 A/TVs, furnished. A nice view home located on a large lot, close to white sand beaches and in a great community. A good opportunity to purchase your hide away. MLS 16-2104 pc@ eastcapehomes.com, (+52) 162-474-0111

FOR SALE IN ZACATITAS

SPOCATALLA TERRACE & 5th Fairway views of Palmilla’s Ocean Course. Seamless indoor/outdoor living, stone accented water features, excellent rental history. $2,150,000 MLS # 15-96 Call Beth 624-157-2968, bgorman@snellrealestate.com

FOR SALE IN CABO

Spacious outdoor terrace w/ private pool and jacuzzi. San Jose del Cabo, $1,299M, MLS# 17-78, Ph 624 157-3170

FOR SALE IN SAN JOSE

A DEVELOPER’S DREAM! 25-acre farm located in SJD by the famous Flora Farms & Acre Restaurant. MLS# 16-2158, 624-157-8661, leon@lastrock.com

FOR SALE IN CABO

HAVE HORSES? WANT SPACE and close to the beach? 3,58 acres, ocean views, walking distance to the beach, gated community. MLS 17-343, $118,599 US Call Cheryl 624-122-3600
FAQ About Trust For Foreigners, With Residential Purposes

Restricted Zone Trust, Part 1

BY RAÚL LEÓN

1.- What is a Fideicomiso?

Think of a Fideicomiso like an adaptation of the American style trust to Mexican legal system. It is a legal instrument subject to mercantile federal law, that can be used in all sort of transactions such as family and living trusts, joint ventures, as a securitization instrument, for real estate developments, in warranty trusts as collateral for loans, administration trusts, in real estate developments, as a securitization instrument, and living trusts, joint ventures, of transactions such as family law, that can be used in all sort of transactions. They were the direct owner.

One of such uses of the trust in Mexico is to allow foreigners to have the use, enjoyment and disposition of real estate property for residential purposes, located in restricted zone as if they were the direct owner.

2.- Why is a Trust needed?

This type of trust is required because, in terms of Mexican Constitution (article 27), there is a prohibition for foreigners to directly hold the domain of real estate properties for residential purposes in the Restricted Zone which was established as a) the 100 kilometers from any borders and 50 kilometers from any coastline. Because of that, the entire Baja Peninsula (north and south) and all real estate property located within the frontiers and coasts are part of such restricted zone. This is not the case for real estate property inland on the mainland, such as San Miguel de Ayende, Chapala, Ajijic, Queretaro, Mexico City and many more.

In the Restricted Zone trust, the Trustor (settlor): Is the party who creates the trust and transfers the trust assets to the trustee, entrusting him to accomplish the trust objectives. I.E. The Seller.

Trustee: In Mexico, a trustee is authorized to act as such according to Mexican law. Currently, only banking institutions can be trustees. The trustee will hold the property of the transferred assets in trust, and is entrusted with accomplishing that trust objectives set forth in the trust. I.E. The Trust Bank-

Beneficiary: It is the person or entity that receives the benefits of the trust objectives and its assets. I.E. The Buyer

In the Restricted Zone trust, the Trustor is the Seller of the real estate property, who transfers to the Trustee (The Trust Bank) the property and the ownership domain of the real estate, entrusting such trustee to hold the property on behalf of the Beneficiary (the foreign Buyer), allowing him use, enjoyment and disposition of the property that the Beneficiary may choose for the property through the trustee, as if the beneficiary was the direct owner, but subject to the rules and restrictions contained in the permit and the trust.

The Trustee is a banking institution chosen by the buyer or his closing agent, but that may be provided by the seller, as well, as in the case of taking over an existing trust. An annual administration fee is charged by the Trustee to hold the property in trust on behalf of the foreigner or Beneficiary.

The Beneficiary is the foreigner Buyer that, as it has been said, can use the property freely, as if it was the direct owner, but, through the trustee and subject to the permit and trust restrictions. The beneficiaries can rent, sell, transfer, will, put a lien or mortgage on the real estate property at their free will but, they must do all through the Trustee, who holds legal title and is the legal owner. In other words, you must inform the Trustee is you plan to move to the property. This is done during the closing process by the closing agent.

3.- How does it work? A Trust is comprised of 3 parties:

The Trustor (settlor) is the foreigner Buyer, who transfers to the Trustee (The Trust Bank) the property and the ownership domain of the real estate, entrusting such trustee to hold the property on behalf of the Beneficiary (the foreign Buyer), allowing him use, enjoyment and disposition of the property that the Beneficiary may choose for the property through the trustee, as if the beneficiary was the direct owner, but subject to the rules and restrictions contained in the permit and the trust.

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East Cape Featured Property

Punta Perfecta

From a cattle ranch in the early 1800’s to a surf community today. Just 45 minutes east of San Jose del Cabo, lies the fascinating Punta Perfecta Beach, an outdoor living paradise.

Punta Perfecta offers 59 homesites, to build your beach house, or 16 condo units to start living the eastcape lifestyle.

Explore the Baja hike, bike or trek the mountain and watch the colorful sunsets. Walk down the sandy beach and experience SUP, kite surfing, windsurfing, free dive and kayaking. Don’t forget the surf, that’s why we called it Punta Perfecta.

The Sunrises and sets to the east cape lifestyle.

BY RAÚL LEÓN

Restricted Zone Trust, Part 1
CAPITAL GAINS IN MEXICO...  
continued from page 27

reducing your capital gains tax should you decide to sell in the coming years.

Fact: You are not eligible to receive the inflationary credit unless you have paid your two percent acquisition tax.

What about the primary residence capital gains exclusion?

Mexico, as well as the U.S., provides its residents a capital gains tax incentive for their primary home. The tax incentive in Mexico states that if you sell your “primary residence,” you pay no capital gains. This law is in place for “residents” (Mexican nationals or foreigners) of Mexico only, and there are several items required to establish residency status. In order to claim your home as your primary residence in Mexico, you must be able to prove that it really was your primary residence, as there are not several agreements between the US and Mexico there is exchange of information.

Fact: You cannot have two primary residences at the same time. Therefore, if you claim the home in Mexico as your primary residence, you give up your primary residency status in the U.S. as there not with several agreements signed between the US and Mexico there is exchange of information.

Fact: The capital gains tax exclusion is intended for residents of Mexico, not for persons owning second homes or vacation homes. Please be aware that Resident does not imply National, implies being a tax resident.

Just as there are no short cuts or legal ways around taxes in the U.S. or Canada, there are no short cuts around taxes in Mexico. Your home is a sizable investment and following proper legal steps will ensure a safe and enjoyable experience in Mexico. If someone says, “This is Mexico, and that’s the way we do it here,” then beware. Seek another agent or Broker. If you plan on building a home or doing a major remodel at an existing home, please read our brochure, “Manifesting You Construction,” to make certain all your expenses are added to your cost basis. If you are considering a real estate purchase in Baja, make certain everything is done right. Allow Snell Real Estate to put our knowledge and experience to work for you. We are an independent brokerage, assuring our only interest is representing you in a safe, solid and secure real estate transaction.

Helpful Hint: When you sign your new trust, ask the Notary to jot down the exchange rate on the document itself. This will be useful in the future. Or ask the Notario to include that rate in the fideicomiso.

By Janet Jensen, Broker, The Agency. TEL: 624-141-6726


FAQ ABOUT TRUST FOR...

continued from page 29

trusts are valid for 50 years, renewable for another 50 years, after which the beneficiary can make a new trust on his behalf. It is not subject to a foreclosure or any lawsuit that leads to the loss of the Trustee’s assets. The trusts are protected by law. A judge is obligated to take all assets held in trust and designate a new trustee. There is no risk for the Beneficiary.

Also, when the acquisition is done through a trust, there is no purchase contract, the property title is held through the trust and is recorded in Public Registry.

A Three Part Series. See Part 2, next issue.

By Raúl León, Attorney At Law, Expert in Mexican Trust (Fideicomiso), Commerce & Real Estate Attorney. From US: Cel. 011 52 624-151-6332, Local Cel. (624) 151-6332, e-Mail: psaideon@gmail.com  

Agent Profile

Barb McKinnon

Barb is from beautiful B.C., Canada. Prior to moving to Mexico. Barb was successfully employed in accounting, sales and then on to be a general manager.

Barb moved to Mexico, 22 years ago, drawn by the wonderful happy, Mexican people, palm trees and sunshine.

Focusing on sales, of condos, homes and land, in Los Cabos, San Jose and the up East Cape, rustic properties Zacatitos, Yorora, Lighthouse Point Estates.

The Mexican people have been so gracious in allowing us as foreigners to work here, and enjoy their beautiful country. It is a pleasure and an honor to help clients follow their dreams, as one of the early agents who focuses on listening ability to understand the customers wants and needs. Look forward to helping clients find their dream, and enjoy this fabulous lifestyle.

Cabo Gold Realty has been her home for the past few years, and she is here to assist clients.

Contact Barb at Mx Cell: 044(624) 122-1076, U.S. Phone: 604-229-8977, e-mail: bajabarbar@hotmail.com.
We don’t really care where the margarita was created. We’re just happy that someone thought to mix tequila, lime juice and Cointreau together.

We don’t really care where the margarita was created, we’re just happy that someone thought to mix tequila, lime juice and Cointreau together.

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July 24th, 2017

**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 and eggs, liqueurs and virgin honey, as well as handicrafts such as furniture made with regional woods, leather goods and clay pottery all made by ranchers' hands. The Mercado (market). Todos Santos on Calle Morelos between Rangel and Cuauhtemoc inside the San Diego Feed Store.

**Every Monday**
8:30 am. Pickleball in San Jose. Contact ron.dumbarton@gmail.com

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

**Every Tuesday**
9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Liga MAC's used book-store and thrift shop. At El Chamizal (Paseo de Los Marines Street, almost on the corner of Calle Goleta) in San Jose. Runs through until April.

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

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

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

**Every Wednesday**
9:00 am to 12:30 pm. Organic and artisans market. Organic eggs, honey, locally made jewelry and beauty products, traditional baskets and more! At La Esquina in Todos Santos. Email Paula at ballenati-moore@yaho.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 Idefonso 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 4:00 pm. YouReciclo. Fresh, organic produce, coffee, fish, seafood, eggs, whole lambs (Little Bo Peep!), pigs (Porky? Is that you?) handicrafts, plus breakfast and lunch at Penny Lane’s Café.

**Every Thursday**
5:00 to 11:00 pm. After Office. Live music and special promotions. At El Merkado, 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 loscabostomatoes@gmail.com for more information.

**Every Friday**
5:00 to 9:00 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 merlot4@gmail.com or call (612) 134-8728 for more information.

**Every Friday**
5:00 to 9:00 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 merlot4@gmail.com or call (612) 134-8728 for more information.

**Every Friday**
5:00 to 9:00 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 merlot4@gmail.com or call (612) 134-8728 for more information.

**Every Saturday**
9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Luis Santos Farmers Market at Maco Raspado (Vegetarian restaurant). On the road to the Hacienda Beach Resort (behind the Puerto Paraíso mall), across from the Marina Fiesta hotel.

**Every Saturday**
5:00 to 11:00 pm. Every Tuesday and Tuesday.

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

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

**Every Saturday**
10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Children’s library open. Story tellers at 10:30 and 12:30. Looking for gently used books. theranchkidz@yahoo.com, Todos Santos. Spanish.

**Every Sunday**
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 weekend a different activity, like spinning, aerobics, zumba lessons. Email clubcactusbike@gmail.com for 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.

**July 31- August 5.** ATP Los Cabos Open Tennis Tournament.
If you’re into tennis, why not go watch some of the high ranking players of the world play? And be sure to look pretty for the international sports news media that will be here covering the event. For more info: http://www.atptourworldtour.com/en/tournaments/los-cabos/7480/overview

**August 1-5.** Bisbee’s East Cape Offshore fishing tournament. Information: www.bisbees.com

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

**October 20-22.** Bisbee’s Los Cabos Offshore fishing tournament. For more information, visit www.bisbees.com.

**October 24-28.** Bisbee’s Black & Blue fishing tournament. For more information, visit www.bisbees.com.

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

**November 14-18** The 50th Annual BAJA 1000 racing competition. For more information: http://score-international.com/ raceinfo/2017-baja-1000/

**November 30-December 3.** Extreme Sailing Series. Land’s End, Cabo. For more information, visit www.extremesailing-series.com/events/2017.

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.
Towel Folding Is A Marketable Job Skill In Mexico

Admit it, you love it when your hotel provides those cute little critters

BY TUCK ENFOLD

There is no better way to start your vacation than in a hotel. It is wonderful to nestle into your cozy room after the excitement of arriving at your destination. A beautiful view of the ocean, fresh ocean air; a clean, bright space gives you a sense of peace and relaxation.

And, it is the friendly touches and details, like the figures made with towels, that truly make you feel welcome and special. The ancestor of towel folding is the ancient Japanese art of origami, or folding paper.

The exact originator of towel origami is unknown, but the popularity of these twisted animals is often attributed to Carnival Cruise Lines. Towel animals are perhaps the descendants of hand-knitted characters. Carnival, Norwegian Cruise Lines, Disney Cruise Line, Royal Caribbean, Disney Hotels and Holland America Line cruises will often place towel animals on a guest’s bed as part of their nightly turndown service.

We spoke to one young hotel maid, Emilia, who has been working in hotels for seven years, about her towel-folding skills. Not all hotels train their personnel to create these handmade courtesy touches for their guests. It was her towel folding that helped her get hired at one of the resorts; it was not easy to get the job without a recommendation from a hotel employee and she didn’t know anybody who worked there. But once they saw how she could fold a towel, they were sold.

Her boss encourages her to create her towel art especially for yacht deliveries. Tony, 44, $624 182 4462 tonydelmar@hotmail.com (tf)

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2003 DODGE RAM pickup 3500, White. Excellent condition. 4 doors, PWD, 104,000 miles, Rhino liner with locks. Aluminum cargo carrier, $15,000 U.S. Plated truck. Recent death forces sale. Please call Tony 624 165 3092 or 971 285 2695 or Israel 624 129 7406 or Sharon 624 178 4851 (TF)

Who wouldn’t be happy to find one of these cuties in their hotel room?

TV BOX EVERY MOVIE/ TV show ever made with All international channels, no monthly. $400 USD. Call 624-178-0413 (tf)

42’ UNIFLITE SPORTFISHING Yacht for sale berthed at PLC marina P-01, $60K OBO. Contact US (210) 551-9140. (# 24)

TELEVISION BOX EVERY MOVIE/ TV show ever made with All international channels, no monthly. $400 USD. Call 624-178-0413 (tf)

COOKING LIKE A MEXICAN...

continued from page 21

1 large cucumber
3 serrano chiles, chopped (If you want less heat, remove all the seeds. Leave them in for more heat.)
5 sprigs cilantro, chopped
1 cup lime juice
2 splashes of Maggi sauce

(That’s the brand name, you’ll find it in any supermarket.)
¼ a red onion
Salt and pepper to taste

Preparation:
1. Slice about a third of the cucumber and onions in 1/3-inch moons for presentation.
2. Clean the shrimp thoroughly, since they will be cooked in lime juice and not heat, then slice them lengthwise.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35
For Sale/Rent

Nightclub/hotel/offices
$1.2 million or lease for $6,000 a month.
We will listen to all offers.
Cabo San Lucas

Ready For Occupancy

$1.2 million or lease for $6,000/mo
We will listen to all offers.
Call today and retire to a sunny and warm beach town by next week. Contact
David Flores
david@gringogazette.com
Cell (624) 121-1214
Our Water Department At Work For You

Here’s a heartwarming press release from our water department. They have bought a new computer outreach system and are training customer service reps on them. This is an effort to be more user friendly and responsive to their subscribers. That would be the subscribers who expect water to fall out of their tap every day. Of course in Cabo that doesn’t happen, and no amount of nice-nice on the phone is going to make up for having no water.

Have you noticed those black tanks on every house in the barrio? They are there because most people only get water several times a week, and then often for only a few hours. So everyone scrambles to fill up their tanks when water does flow. The family that can’t manage to live within the meager water budget must buy water off the truck, and that is very expensive.

So, buy a system to explain why there is no water, rather than fix the poor infrastructure and poor management.

Show of hands, who would like to apply for the job of answering those phones when a neighborhood has been without water for three days in a row?  

Grill and Beers

Cabo’s best prime cuts! Come join us from 3 pm - 11 pm everyday!

The Puerto Paraiso mall is on the move, adding a $12 million edition for more shop space. That will buy 64,000 square feet. One third of the new space will be dedicated to restaurants, 20% to clothing.

Work will begin this September and finished October of 2019, with the theme “Latin Space” so expect more yummy Mexican food, and forward fashion.

Last month the mall’s garage caught on fire, destroying or damaging 150 cars. State officials were in charge of shifting the ashes to find the cause, but if they have figured that out, they have not shared it with the public. They are now requiring sprinklers to be installed.

-covered completely in the lime juice. Let them party in there for ten minutes, then season with salt and pepper.

3. In a bowl, cover the shrimp with 3/4 of a cup of the lime juice; the shrimp must be covered completely in the lime juice. Let them party in there for ten minutes, then season with salt and pepper.

4. Take your remaining cucumber, onion, serrano chiles and cilantro and puree with the removing ¼ cup of lime juice. The consistency should be pretty runny; add water if needed.

5. To serve, put some of the cucumber slices around the plate, as if you were making a big flower. Toss the onion and the shrimp together and put them in the middle of the plate. Then, splash some Maggi sauce over it followed by the chile sauce.

I am one of those avocado-loving Mexicans, so I also put some slices of “green gold” on top. Serve it along with some tostadas, and that’s it! Let me know what you think. My email is ale.borbolla@gringogazette.com, and suggestions are always welcome!
IN THE MOST EXCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES
THE RESIDENCES AT SOLAZ, A LUXURY COLLECTION RESORT, LOS CABOS
PALMILLA · QUERENCIA · PEDREGAL · PUERTO LOS CABOS · VILLAS DEL MAR · CABO DEL SOL · PUNTA BALLENA · CABO REAL
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