New Youth Center Going Up In San Jose

Building will house three different programs for kids. And yes, of course they need money

BY ANITA MANN

Construction has started on a new project in San Jose that will have a major impact on the area’s youth. The corner stone has now been laid for the Los Cabos Youth Center, which will bring together multiple organizations with the common goals of improving children’s quality of life and giving them more opportunities.

Once finished, the youth center will house Gente Joven, Mobilize Mankind and the Boys & Girls Club of Los Cabos. The center will be a two-level building covering 80,000 square feet. Along with offices for each organization, it will have a multi-purpose room, common areas to be used for meetings and classes, and an administration area. There will also be a com-

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School Supplies Or Groceries?

For some families, paying for supplies means cutting back on essentials

BY STEPHANIE MCGLASHAN

While back to school time brings many new, exciting things – friendships, learning, activities, growing and community – it also comes with things that bring stress and anxiety for students and parents. One of the biggest stressors for parents: The cost of sending their kids to school.

Supplies, uniforms (which students in both public and private schools in Mexico wear), transportation quickly. Though Cabo is one of the more affluent areas of Mexico, there is still a significant amount of poverty in the region and many families struggle to support their children going back to school.

Mexico decentralized the basic education system in 1992, with the intention of giving individual states more control over their education budgets and policies, and to improve overall administrative efficiency. The majority of schools are financially supported by the Secretary of Public Education (SEP); however, many states raise their own funds to invest in new teachers

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Oh Lordy, Lordy, Lordy what have I done? I am in hour seven of a return flight from Europe, and I’m starting to lose my mind. There’s only so much I can read at one sitting, and I forgot to load a couple of movies on my tablet last night. I also forgot to take my anti jet lag pills I sent away for. Saw them in the back of a magazine. Guaranteed to work, the ad said. But expecting them to work while I’m in the cargo hold might be a bit too much to hope for. I get terrible jet lag lasting about a week, during which time I feel like I’ve been unfairly visited by a terrible hangover.

I was in Russia, and I don’t speak Russian. I can’t speak Estonian either. But it was more than just not speaking the language, it was not being able to read the local papers to understand what their concerns are. The local papers are a great reflection of what’s going on around us, but we were oblivious to that, not because I don’t care, but because I didn’t have a way of learning.

I have often said coming to Baja without speaking the language is like watching television with the sound turned off. You see, but you don’t understand. Well, I saw lots of Europe, but I understand nothing new. I saw buildings, which I can see in books. I saw highways, parks, farmland, all things I can see in pictures. I do not understand anything more than before I left.

I did make friends with a Muslim man from Saudi Arabia, and I did have dinner with a Russian family in their apartment in St Petersburgh, and those were tremendously learning experiences, the highlight of the entire month, and I hope to you, and it was not being able to read the local papers to understand what their papers to understand what their
More help for tourists The new CATAC building, located on the Cabo marina between the ugly cultural pavilion and the dolphin center (and next to this rag’s worldwide corporate headquarters), is now open 24 hours.

Tourists, as well as local foreigners, can go there to file police reports, work at canceling timeshare purchases and get help and information from the reps of various local, state and federal government agencies.

You can also go there to use the bathrooms, which is handy since there are no public bathrooms on the marina apart from those at the API building (by the dock where the cruise shippers dock), and a couple by the parking lot next to the TACTA building, which charges about 50 cents per whiz.

The center has several phone lines, with English speakers available (these are Mexican numbers, so if you’re calling from a US cell, remember to dial 011 52 1 before the numbers): (624) 105-1532, (624) 105-0551, (624) 105-0442 and (624) 143-7237.

Got grapes? Baja California Sur has become one of the leading grape producers in the country, with the first shipment of 16 metric tons of locally grown grapes sent on its way to Australia last week. These are table grapes, not wine grapes.

Mexico produces 283,000 metric tons (about 623 million pounds) of grapes a year, but we only consume about 3.31 pounds per person each year. That means we have a lot of grapes left over. Thanks for your purchase, Aussie friends!

Calling all duffers. The 10th Annual Los Cabos Pro-Am will take place in Cabo January 15-19, 2018, at Sheraton Hacienda del Mar.

The 54 hole pro-am tournament will see golf professionals teamed up with groups of four amateur duffers. For more information or to request a printed invitation you can contact Barry Fleming at barry@proamevents.com, call (943) 384-5342 or visit www.proamevents.com/los-cabos-mx.

Querencia changes hands Querencia, a private golf club and community in San Jose, is now owned by an entity controlled by longtime Querencia CEO Jorge Carrera, as well as Querencia resident Willy Jordan and Bonnie and Tom McCluskey of Aspen, Colorado.

The new principals acquired the development from Charles Morgan, Rodger Kline and James Womble, and are already forging ahead with ambitious growth plans. The previous owners pursued Querencia in 2004 with the goal of creating what they liked to call, “the private side of Los Cabos” exclusive to residents and members.

The new owners’ plans include substantial investments to enhance Querencia’s real estate offerings, the new Q Ocean Club (which will debut later this year), and major renovations to the Tom Fazio-designed golf course and clubhouse.

ME Cabo turns 10 The hotel itself opened its doors in 1989 as the Melia Cabo San Lucas, but it was 10 years ago that it was re-modeled and converted to the young crowd resort that it is today, under the name of ME by Melia. ME will not let this go un-celebrated. They will hold a series of parties, a fashion show and photo exhibitions to celebrate the big 10, all scheduled for the weekend of September 8-10. The fea-tured event is a performance by DJ Paul Oakenfold, who’s known by some as the “house” music genre popular in the 1980’s. Oakenfold will play on Saturday night, followed by a Sunday morning “wake up party” at 7:00 am with a yoga boot camp on the beach. Count us out.

Rescued sea lion comes to San Jose A baby sea lion was found abandoned inside a cardboard box a few weeks ago over on the mainland, in the city of Morelia. How the sea lion made it to a city that’s several hours from the coast, we don’t know, and he’s not talking.

The 6-month old critter was released the little fellow back into the ocean at the appropriate time, release the little fellow back into the ocean. Awe, that’s sweet.

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Me Cabo in the spotlight The Los Cabos Open tennis tournament, hosted by the Association of Tennis Professionals earlier this month, brought more than 12,000 people to our shores. Media coverage of the tournament increased by 50% this year, with 60 local, national and international reporters on site, including ESPN, all transmitting the event to 60 countries. Yeah, we were there.

Where’s the light? The light poles that were installed almost three years after the originals were washed away by hurricane Odile in 2014, still aren’t fully working. Not all of them, anyway. There are looong gaps of darkness along the fourlane between Cabo San Lucas and San Jose.

The hotel association is putting pressure on the SCT, the communications and transport authority responsible for the job. At press time, the SCT rep in our state has gone mum. Perhaps they’re waiting for the hurricane season to end in November? Anyhow, if you’re afraid of the dark, what are you doing out at night? You have headlights, don’t you? Well use them and stop whining about a few popped light bulbs. Toughen up!

The new Merkado. Everybody singing by the Merkado, that big warehouse like building on the fourlane next to the Pemex station is...
Helping Kids Be Kids
And making cancer treatments suck a little less

BY PHIL GOODE

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 these organizations, explaining the work they do. In this issue, we are profiling Fundación Mark, which raises money to build play rooms in hospitals for children undergoing cancer treatments.

Fundación Mark provides some much-needed entertainment and distraction for kids undergoing cancer treatment.

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 grants for 2017-18, and over the next year the Gringo Gazette will be featuring each of these needs can get ignored. That’s where Fundación Mark comes in. “These kids spend a lot of time in the hospital, and they need places where they can play and relax and just be kids,” says Sonia Zuani, the organization’s president and founder.

Fundación Mark has three objectives. To reduce the negative emotional consequences children might experience from the cancer and its treatment; to give them something productive they can do during their hospital stay; and to encourage family and social integration. That last part is especially important, since kids often have to stay in the hospital for so long or so often that they can’t go to school, see their friends, or spend much time with their siblings.

Fundación Mark raises money so hospitals can build brightly colored playrooms full of toys, books, and computers, where kids can play, make crafts and watch movies with their families and other kids going through cancer treatment. Fundación Mark also organizes daily activities for the children, including reading, music and art workshops, and has celebrations for their birthdays, Christmas and Children’s Day (which is a big holiday here in Mexico).

And for kids who have to go through more extreme treatment that requires sterile isolations, like a bone marrow transplant, Fundación Mark volunteers bring them baskets of goodies that they can use to entertain themselves, like games, books and toys.

Fundación Mark is more than just a job to Zuani; it’s her mission and her son’s legacy: The organization is named after her son, Mark, who was diagnosed with leukemia when he was six. He went through two years of treatments, both in private and government hospitals here in Mexico before going to the U.S. for further treatment. When Mark was eight, he asked Sonia to start the foundation, so he could work for it when he was older. He wanted to help other kids like him.

Fundación Mark was officially established in 2006, on the same day that Mark passed away.

Fundación Mark is based in Mexico City, and they have already established nine play areas in different hospitals on the mainland. Now, they’re hoping to expand the operation to Baja and install a play area in the Salvatierra Hospital in La Paz. The problem, Sonia says, is that BCS is so far from Mexico City that they’re having a hard time getting their regular donors emotionally connected to this project. She hopes that by partnering with the LCCF, she can spread the word around Baja and get some local donors.

The plaque inside the arteries of your heart can build up and eventually obstruct the flow of oxygen-rich blood to the muscles of the heart. Measurement of calcified plaque with a heart scan may enable your doctor to identify possible coronary artery disease long before you have any signs and symptoms. Coronary artery disease (CAD) results in damage to the arteries which are primarily due to plaque and inflammation. Plaque deposit in and on the walls of coronary arteries can restrict the blood to the muscles of the heart. Plaque also may rupture, triggering a blood clot that can cause a heart attack or stroke. Plaque deposits develop gradually over a period of time, long before there are any signs or symptoms of a disease. The imaging test provides an early look at calcium levels. If there is calcium, then there is already some stiffening and narrowing of the artery (atherosclerosis).

A heart scan uses a specialized X-ray technology called a multi-slice computerized tomography (CT), which creates 3D images of the calcium deposits in the coronary arteries. The amount of detected coronary calcium deposits provides a measure of how much plaque has accumulated, and data from the scan can be used to calculate a score. When combined with other health information, your doctor may use the test score to refine a treatment plan for reducing your risk. The result of the test usually is called a cardiac calcium score. The score represents a combination of information that reflects the total area of calcium deposits and the density of the calcium. A score of zero means no calcium is present in the heart and suggests a low likelihood of a heart attack or other heart disease in the future. When calcium is present, the higher the score, the greater the risk of attacks in the long term. A score of 100 to 400 is associated with a relatively higher risk of heart attack or other heart diseases during the next three to five years. A score greater than 400 indicates very high risk of severe disease and heart attack risk.

Saint Luke’s Hospital is one of the leading medical providers in Los Cabos, with a team of skilled doctors that specialize in preventive medicine, using state-of-the-art equipment and technology to detect many diseases before they start. As part of their diagnostic testing program, the hospital has installed the Somatom Scope, the latest and fastest CT scanner in Los Cabos. It delivers outstanding image quality, reduces radiation dose by 40%, with the highest levels of quality and imagery, and can accurately measure the build-up of calcium deposits in the coronary arteries. The doctors and radiologists at Saint Luke’s are highly experienced in supervising and interpreting radiology examinations and will analyze the images and discuss the results with you, and prepare an official report for your primary care physician to review.

No special preparation is necessary in advance for your heart scan at Saint Luke’s Hospital, and you should continue to take your usual medications, but avoid smoking and caffeine for four hours before the test. However, if your heart rate is above 65 beats a minute you must take medication 2 days before your test to slow your heart rate to ensure a clear image. Before the actual scan begins, the technician will attach sensors to your chest. These are connected to an electrocardiogram, to record your heart activity during the test and coordinate the timing of X-ray images between heartbeats, when the heart muscles are more relaxed. After the scan, the doctor will review the results and discuss the best treatment plan for you. The entire procedure should take about 30 minutes, and afterward, you should be able to drive yourself home and continue normal daily activities.

No is a good time to get a heart scan to determine your calcium score and your risk for heart attacks in the future. The total cost for the heart scan is $525. Contact the hospital today for more information and to make your appointment. Saint Luke’s also offers a range of other screening tests for colon cancer, prostate cancer, mammography and whole body executive check-ups using the latest treatment technology and medical imaging. Contact the specialists at Saint Luke’s for more information about the screening tests performed at the hospital.

If you’d like to make a donation to Mark’s Foundation, visit their website's donation page at www.fundacionmark.org/aporta/donacion.html (the website is in Spanish, so click on Donar). To learn more about the work of the Los Cabos Childrens Foundation, visit their website at www.loscaboschildren.org.
The U.S. Tax Grab
Dodge it by staying here longer

BY ORLANDO GOTAY

The Seattle city council recently approved a city income tax. This is a very noteworthy development in a state that has no income tax. It might be tied in litigation soon, but for now it's a fact.

Roughly speaking, it's a 2% tax on the total income of a Seattle "resident taxpayer" who's income level is above $250,000. That means a lot of deductions and subtractions are not taken into account, and will make many people eligible for this new tax. That will be 2% of a much larger pie.

To be a resident taxpayer one has to either have a domicile for the entire tax year or, failing that, have a "permanent place of abode" in Seattle and spend more than 184 days of the year in Seattle.

Why should you care? If you are one of my Seattle readers who lives part time in Mexico, you should definitely pay attention to this. Even if you are not a Seattle person, I recommend you pay almost as much attention. Because I am afraid this is a development we will see more of in the future. Facing budget shortfalls, local jurisdictions will attempt to impose additional taxes, and liability for many of these taxes could hinge on their definition of residency. You can either conform your behavior so as to not make yourself liable for the new tax, or document that you are not liable. Who knew that staying a few extra days south could pay off so well?

The Seattle income tax uses as a starting number the "total income" off one's federal return. The good news is that that number allows for the subtraction of the federal Foreign Earned Income Exclusion, if entitled. That could make someone fall below the $250,000 Seattle threshold—for now.

Many other local jurisdictions have income taxes already on the books. New York City and Philadelphia come to mind. Your time away from those places might help make a difference. In fact, the savings could pay for more than a few margaritas down here.

I always recommend you keep a journal with some narrative or evidence of where you spend your time, and that is good advice for both the Mexico part timer and for the year-round dweller. The journal may help with the IRS, a state tax authority, and soon to come, the SeaStaches of the world.

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.
potential of getting a better paying job,” he says. We think participate in the program means going to classes there. Why can’t people just tell it like it is? is “going to school” that scary?

An eventual additional use for the youth center will be to house San Jose’s first food bank. Garcia says the food bank is still in the planning stages, and they are talking with several nonprofits about the project. But rather than having people donate canned good and non-perishable food, the hope is that they can snag some of the unused food from the many hotels and restaurants in Los Cabos.

The youth center is the result of numerous collaborations. Inspire Mexico, a U.S. non-profit but you get it.

One of the main drivers behind the center was the Boys & Girls Club, which had already planned to open a location in Los Cabos and had done a lot of looking around at potential locations. This is the first time, according to Garcia, that the organization has ever partnered with other groups like this, sharing space and resources.

“This is kind of a pilot program for the Boys and Girls Club,” he says. “It’s a model that we hope will get replicated throughout Mexico, especially with programs like these that are aimed at children and youths.”

The goal of having all of the programs together, rather than them being isolated in their own

that works with non-government organizations here in Los Cabos, is overseeing the fundraising. Il- luminame, its Mexican counterpart, will be in charge of managing the youth center. And Garcia says the idea for a shared center really started with the groups that will be housed there; it’s something they had been talking about for years, before Inspire Mexico and Iluminame came on board.

“It’s a teamwork oriented project, working together to look after the children of the community,” Garcia says. He didn’t actually say, “It takes a village”

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It’s not much to look at now, but within a year this piece of land in San Jose will be the sight of the new Los Cabos Youth Center.

munity garden, a playground and an adult learning center which for some reason is called a hospitality school.

Isaac Garcia, the program director for the Inspire Mexico Foundation (one of the main players in establishing the center) says the hospitality school will be for the parents of the children participating in the program.

“They can participate in the school in order to increase their

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August 21st, 2017

NEW YOUTH CENTER GOING...
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Some are issued the same day here.
Running for tortillas No one was making mad dashes to stock up on tortillas. 160 women ran almost three miles, carrying up to 22 pounds of tortillas on their backs, as part of an annual celebration of their traditional occupation: the preparation, distribution and sale of handmade tortillas.

Women and girls from the community of Santa María Coapan, either barefoot or in sandals, ran to the city of Tepicacán, Puebla, for the Race of the Tortilla, following the route they walk every day to sell their tortillas door to door. The youngest competitor was three years old, while the oldest was 68.

It was the 25th year for the race, held by the women of Coapan to keep their traditions alive for younger generations. An estimated 70% of the town’s women are employed making tortillas by hand.

Free hugs... from cops 20 municipal police officers in Ensenada, up in Baja California Norte, participated in an initiative to bridge the gap between officers and the people they serve.

Carrying signs that read “Free hugs” officers also surveyed citizens about their perception of the city’s police force. It was not reported how many hugs were given away. We’re going to assume not many, because how many people want to hug a fat, donut loving cop? And right now up there, the police are being a problem, robbing people.

According to one police instructor, a hug is a tool that “allows us to break down psychological barriers that exist between the citizens and the police.” You know what else does that? Not being corrupt.

Meanwhile, the sailors are flash mobbing Under a banner that declared, “We are Navy, we are culture, we are music, we are made in Mexico,” the sailors in Veracruz gave one of two flash mob performances recently. The other flash mob was in Boca del Río where the Navy Mariachi band played a medley of Mexican tunes.

The Marine flash mob went off in the city’s historic 1857 Plaza de la Constitución. It started with a lone musician, dressed in a white uniform, passing through the zócalo and playing the opening strains of Cielito Lindo, the iconic Mexican “Ay, ay, ay ay song.”

More and then more musicians began to appear, and gradually bystanders were watching a full-blown orchestra, the Symphonic Band of the Mexican Navy, perform. Man, what do we have to do to get the Navy guys in Cabo to do something cool like that?

Mexicans happy with their health care Satisfaction with medical services offered by the Social Security Institute, IMSS, has reached a record high, according to a recent survey. 83% of users responded that they were satisfied with medical services provided by the health service, which is a 7% increase from the last survey in 2002.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Don’t Let These Guys Strike Out LUPILLO I have to admit, I am one of the more unusual cases the shelter has ever seen. I won’t go into the details, but my sister and I suffered some trauma that has made us very shy. We’re afraid to go for walks, and I had to be carried outside for my photo; I was too scared to even stand for it. I am slowly coming around, and am now responding to soft stroking and gentle speech, and I accept food when placed immediately in front of me. I am not aggressive, and I very much want to trust people again, it will just take some time and patience. Is your heart big enough to give me a new chance at a real life?

HUMBERTO The shelter has recently been flooded with so many cats, they are now near bursting with 70 fabulous felines. Given this fact, it’s not likely I will get noticed in the crowd. I do have a rather formal and important sounding name and an exceptionally cute face, especially the black smudge on my little clown nose. You might consider taking me (which will be easy, I’m adorbs) and maybe an older cat as well to be my mentor and kitty sitter when you aren’t around. You could choose a complimentary or contrasting color, every make and model are available at the shelter these days!

www.loscaboshumanesociety.com WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! No one can do everything, but EVERYONE can do something!
Ultimate Waterman’s Challenge Debuting In Cabo

Event will feature surfing, SUP and spearfishing competitions

BY JOY RIDER

Los Cabos has its fair share of surfing and watersports competitions. But the newest one, debuting this weekend, isn’t just a sporting event, it’s a lifestyle event too. (Or so claim its organizers).

The Ultimate Waterman’s Challenge starts this Friday, August 24, and runs through Sunday. Sponsored by former pro surfer Tim Curran and his new adventure travel company Mansa Vida, the UWC will feature sporting exhibitions in several different watersports categories: surfing, stand up paddle boarding, and spearfishing.

Other highlights of the event will include a surf competition that pits Mexico against the U.S., a junior surfing competition, and aerial surf shows. If you’re wondering what aerial surfing is (we had to look it up), it’s when surfers do a bunch of fancy tricks and flips in the air, get it?

Event organizers are heavily promoting its “celebrity” participants (they’re only celebrities if you’re big into surfing; otherwise you probably haven’t heard of them). For those in the know, those celebrities include Rob Machado, world surf champion Damien Hobgood, Mexican pro surfer Diego Cadena, world champion standup paddleboard racer and spearfishing master Fernando Stalla, spearfishing and freediver pro Sarah Ruth, and surf rider for Quiksilver and Baja local Emiliano Cabello.

That covers the sporting portion of the event, and now here comes the lifestyle part. UWC organizers are billing it as a “first-of-its-kind sporting, music, and eco festival.” The music part consists of two performances, one acoustical and one DJ set, that will take place at the rooftop bar at The Cape hotel in La Playita.

The eco festival component can be seen throughout the UWC. One of the festival’s main objectives is to show how large-scale events can be 100% sustainable. All trash accumulated during the festival will be recycled or composted. The majority of marketing materials created for UWC were digital, and the printed marketing materials were made out of recycled paper.

They’re also organizing a beach clean up event, although no details are available on that yet.

But perhaps the coolest green effort happening at the UWC is the Pedal Power initiative, which consists of bikes that generate energy. Event goers can hop on a bike and start pedaling, generating electricity that will help run the event. Sounds pretty cool to us. Get some exercise, reduce our carbon footprint; it’s a win-win, although a small generator of electricity.

We tried it once and struggled to power a blender enough to build some smoothies. But perhaps the pedal power people could power our whole city.

In addition to taking care of the environment, the UWC will also be doing its part to help others. A portion of the proceeds from event sponsors will go to support the local Cabo DIF, which is a government program that helps needy women and children.

There’s no cost to watch any of the sporting events, which will take place on Monuments Beach in front of The Cape hotel. The rooftop musical performances at The Cape have a $10 USD “donation” fee. For full event information, visit the UWC website at www.uwchallenge.com or find them on Facebook at facebook.com/UWChallenge.

The Cape hotel is in La Playita, across the long bridge from San Jose.

NEW YOUTH CENTER GOING...

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by the municipality of Los Cabos. Garcia says getting the land was, thankfully, relatively easy. “The whole process took less than 10 months, which is something you don’t see often here in Mexico,” he says. Hopefully the center’s construction goes as smoothly and quickly.

While the land for the youth center was donated by the municipality, the money for construction of the center is coming entirely from donors (private and corporate). A March fundraiser at Flora Farms raised about $1.5 million USD for the center, and the hope is that the next event, scheduled for February of next year, will raise the rest. Garcia says they’re estimating the cost for the youth center will be $2.5 million.

To learn more about plans for the youth center, or to make a donation, visit www.imfdn.org/iluminame.
How Does Schooling Work In Mexico?

A brief rundown of the educational system

BY AL EINSTEIN

If you’re thinking about moving to Los Cabos with your family, you likely have some questions about the schools here. What are the academic possibilities? How does education work in Mexico? What kinds of schools are available? Here’s a basic rundown.

In Mexico, basic education is typically divided in three levels: primary school (primaria), comprising grades 1-6; junior high school (secundaria), comprising grades 7-9; and high school (preparatoria), comprising grades 10-12. Depending on the school, bilingual schooling might be provided from the beginning, where half of the day’s instruction is in Spanish, and the rest is in a second language: English or French, for example.

In Spanish, the general term for school is “escuela,” but in Mexico it is common to use escuela for state-owned schools, which are the majority. The term “colegio” is used for private schools, which usually charge higher tuition fees.

The term “preparatoria” is most frequently used for institutions that provide a three-year program, one that prepares the student to continue their education at a university. In contrast, the term “bachillerato” is most often used for institutions that provide vocational training, in two or three years, so the graduate student can get a job as a skilled worker, for example, an assistant accountant, a bilingual secretary or an electronics technician.

Preparatoria customarily consists of three years of schooling, divided into six semesters, with the first semesters having a typical curriculum, and the latter ones making it possible for some degree of specialization, either in physical sciences (electricity, chemistry, biology, and so on.) or social sciences (commerce, philosophy, law, etc.).

Most Gringos prefer to put their kids in private school, because they are better than public schools, if not up to private school standards you would find in the States. At least they are cheaper: You can send your child to private school for $400 to $600 a month.

So what should you do? Well, we know a Canadian who sent both her kids to public school, tutoring them only in English grammar and American History, and they both scooted right into San Diego State University where they thrived.

In a heart breaking aside here, the girl, Luka, was in a serious relationship with a local boy who of course did not have the opportunity to go to the United States. The relationship survived through all the school breaks when Luka would return to her boyfriend who was studying to become a chef. But the inevitable happened. Luka outgrew Fernando and drifted away. Today Luka is in grad school and Fernando is toiling away in a restaurant kitchen. Luka still returns for school holidays with her family here but says she now has very little in common with Fernando. They live in two different worlds.

The environment in Los Cabos is not the environment a child will probably end up in. Some kids will thrive in that, and some won’t.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES OR...

continued from page 1

Along with supplies for their kids, many schools in Mexico ask parents to buy things the school can’t afford, like printer paper for the school office.

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So what should you do? Well, we know a Canadian who sent both her kids to public school, tutoring them only in English grammar and American History, and they both scooted right into San Diego State University where they thrived.

In a heart breaking aside here, the girl, Luka, was in a serious relationship with a local boy who of course did not have the opportunity to go to the United States. The relationship survived through all the school breaks when Luka would return to her boyfriend who was studying to become a chef. But the inevitable happened. Luka outgrew Fernando and drifted away. Today Luka is in grad school and Fernando is toiling away in a restaurant kitchen. Luka still returns for school holidays with her family here but says she now has very little in common with Fernando. They live in two different worlds.

The environment in Los Cabos is not the environment a child will probably end up in. Some kids will thrive in that, and some won’t.

Along with supplies for their kids, many schools in Mexico ask parents to buy things the school can’t afford, like printer paper for the school office.

For schools that are on a very tight budget, additional supplies are added to students’ school supplies lists that are actually materials the schools themselves cannot afford. Things like printer paper and or cleaning supplies. In general, this is an accepted norm, but some parents see this as an injustice. In the case that parents do not abide by this demand for extra supplies, the students typically suffer as the school does not make up for the loss. Instead, they use what little they have or skip certain planned activities and

continued on page 14
Santa Rita Is A Good Place To Relax

Hot Springs! Pool after pool of them

BY STEPHANIE MCGLASHAN

Whether you are new to Cabo or have been here for a while, it’s easy to see that this is a place with an abundance of natural luxuries, one of which is the Santa Rita Hot Springs.

Nestled just around the corner from the village of San Jorge, which is about an hour and 15 minutes north of San Jose off Highway 1, this place is a natural paradise. The drive itself is worth the trip, giving you the chance to view Baja’s extreme opposites of dry desert and luscious green oases. As you drive, you’ll see roadrunners, wild pigs, darting squirrels, giant cacti, mountain ranges, and of course, watch out for oncoming cow traffic.

Upon arriving to the springs, you will be greeted by a member of the local ejido (which are communal farms) who will collect your small entrance fee (the hot springs are part of the protected Sierra de Laguna Biosphere reserve). Once you park your car, it’s just a short walk to the hot, relaxing waters. This is where the fun begins.

Hot springs are not only a relaxing experience, they are also believed to have therapeutic and healing properties. Ancient civilizations considered these hot baths to be sacred because of the benefits they reaped from them. Those benefits include increased blood circulation and oxygenation, boosted metabolism, curing skin diseases such as psoriasis and dermatitis, and helping to heal wounds and injuries. Yup,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14
Chase And Race Through Cabo
These activities offer different, and fun ways to explore the city

BY KATE NEAL

The adventurous vacationer looking for something unusual to do while visiting Cabo doesn’t need to look far. As an alternative to beach days and loud clubs, several quasi-competitive pastimes are available within the downtown area, day or night.

Wicked Pizza is a mainstay in Cabo, known for its tasty pies. But Wicked serves up more than just a good slice late into the night; they help to create off-the-chart memories, with the documentation of those memories being the end-game of the Wicked Wild Goose Chase.

Want to explore Cabo in a fun way? The Wicked Wild Goose Chase is a photo scavenger hunt that takes you through downtown, with different challenges along the way.

The Chase is a photo scavenger hunt. Teams of six members (the recommended size) are sent off with a list of 30 challenges to chronicle, each worth a different amount of points based on how difficult they are to achieve. Team photos of fun, silly tasks - such as the whole team wearing sombreros - are as fun to be a part of as those taken in hard to reach places, say, on a boat, typically found behind a locked gate at the dock. And with some of the crazier challenges, like finding a bald man and giving him a kiss on his head, there’s a lot of opportunities for laughs.

While the Wicked Wild Goose Chase is family friendly for all ages, they do offer a slightly more wicked version for adult groups. Discounts are available for private events with more than 15 people, and the chase can be customized to the occasion, incorporating names or dates into the game.

After two hours of on-the-go entertainment, the event is rounded out with a beer and a slice of Wicked pizza. And each competitor gets photos from the event emailed to them at no extra charge. Check out pricing and further details at www.wicked-cabo.com/activities.html

For those brave souls ready to take on a more immersive experience, the A-Maze-In Cabo Race might be for you. Listed as one of the top Cabo activities by USA Today’s 10best.com, the event is for people of all ages and is filled with timed challenges.

The game begins at a set location where teams of up to five (with time penalties for larger groups) kick off their adventure with a clue that they must solve in order to find their next destination. Each locale offers up a slice of Cabo, guiding racers to obscure landmarks or out-of-the-way spots that may not be on the typical tourist route (although they’re all located in the downtown area). At each location, there’s an interactive challenge, with team members performing outlandish stunts to get ahead to their next clue. From plunging into a small pool to retrieve a clued rubber duckie, to using the subtle art of body movement to launch balls from inside a Kleenex box attached to your rear end (psst: It’s not done so subtly), the benchmarks are sure to keep participants laughing as they go.

The event wraps up after 3 to 4 hours of playtime with two drinks at the final location, a slide show of players in action throughout the day, and an awards ceremony announcing the winning team. Photos are available for purchase at the end of the contest. For pricing, as well as information about how to save $20, check out their website at www.amazincaborace.com/

The Amazing Cabo Bar Crawl is presented by the same company that offers the A-Maze-In Cabo Race. It’s a similar concept, but with a distinct difference: alcohol. Meant for participants ages 18 and up, teams engage in both puzzle-solving and drinking games to compete and crawl their way through more than 12 local bars and hot spots. The fun is offered either as a day drink-

If each day is a gift, then I would like to know where I can return Mondays.
CABO SAN LUCAS

CULTURAL PAVILION

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

August 25. Friday. 7:00 pm. The Pavilion Movie club presents North by Northwest. (1959). A hapless advertising executive is mistaken for a government agent by a group of foreign spies, and is chased across the country. English with Spanish subtitles. Free.


August 28. Monday. 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Masha and the Bear. Kids Play based on the TV Show. Spanish. Tickets $100 and $250 Mexican pesos. More info with Christian Del Rosario Cell. 612 105 0482.

September 4. Monday. 7:00 pm and 9:30 pm. The Consecration of Spring, Modern dance with The Nuevo Leon Autonomous University Dance Company. Music from Igor Stravinsky. Tickets available at the Pavilion Office.

September 9. Saturday. 5:00 pm. Piano concert. A classical music recital with Lynette Partida. Spanish. Free. October 1 to 22. 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. Rural Interaction Exhibition. At the Pavilions cinema lobby: Spanish with help in English. Free.

October 6. Friday. 8:00 pm. Opera Arias. Opera recital with Sarah Vardy, soprano from the Vienna Opera as special guest, Daniel Silva, Tenor, Paola Torner, Mezzosoprano, Nahum Aquino pianist and the Studio del Angel Ballet of Luciano Gomez. Tickets $300 Mexican pesos at the Pavilion office. Spanish with some help in English. Free.

October 6. Friday. 8:00 pm. Opera Concert. Directed by Daniel Silva and Sarah Vardy, a soprano from the Vienna Opera. With the Studio del Angel Ballet as special guests. Spanish. Tickets available at the Pavilion office. Free.

October 19. Thursday. 6:00 pm. Luna Itzel in Concert. Mexican music written and sung by Luna Itzel. Guest artists in attendance. Spanish with some help in English.

LA RANA VEGANA Playa Migriño St. up from Miguel A. Herrera St. Turn right 2 blocks before the gas station (Pueblo Bonito Sunset area) along Thursday. 7:30 pm. Vagabond Movie Club. Every week a different movie, sometimes in English, sometimes in different languages always with Spanish subtitles.

LEON COTA PLAZA Next to Red Cross and Delegation building.

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

Every Sunday. 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.

August 24. Thursday. 8:00 pm. Allende in His Lifetime. (2014) The last 7 hours of former President of Chile Salvador Allende and his closest collaborators inside the La Moneda Palace, during the brutal military coup d’etat on September 11, 1973, the day democracy in Chile ended. Based on true events. Spanish. Free.

August 31. Saturday. 8:00 pm. Only Daughter. (2016) Delphi lives in New York, but goes to a coastal city in the province of Buenos Aires to visit the tomb of a woman who was identical to her. From this, she begins to recall memories from the past and reflect about it. Spanish. Free.

SAN JOSE

KORAL CENTER/EL MERKADO Kilometer 24.5 on Highway 1

Every Wednesday. 5:00 to 10:00 pm. Art, paintings, books, live music. Spanish and English. Free.

LA DOLCE VILLA Behind the mega supermarket in San Jose

Every Sunday. 5:30 pm. Kids Movie Club. Different movies for the rug rats. Spanish without subtitles.

Every Thursday. 7:30 pm. Vagabond Movie Club. Every week a different movie, sometimes in English, sometimes in different languages always with Spanish subtitles.

WIRIKUTA GARDENS At the East Cape Road round-about

CABO MARINA


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

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 discuss every Thursday of the month. Book donations are welcome. More info and special activities with Nixania email: todosmoseselotollo@gmail.com Free.

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

AT HOLLYDANCE CAFÉ Leona Vicario St. And 12 de Octubre St, 2nd Floor, downtown Cabo. Every Tuesday from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm. Trovatumbos Reading Club. Spanish mostly. More info and special activities on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/saladelecturatrotamundos/timeline

AT KINKinS GYM El Chamizal barrio near the Convention Center. From Monday to Friday. 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. La Maroma Reading club. Books available. More info and special activities on Facebook: facebook.com/Sala-de-lectura-La-Mar%C3%B8ma-KinKin/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-57789703553733/timeline
Letters To The Editor

Rental agents and home owners beware! Los Cabos has become a ripe target for squatters. The worst offenders seem to be timeshare salesmen, although they are by no means the only squatters today. The con jobs are well orchestrated by people who apparently have a lot of experience, often using Craigslist, un professional "Realtors", and false information. Unfortunately, in Mexico, the renter seems to have more rights than the owner, as the squatter lives rent-free until a court throws him/her out, which can take years.

The system is as follows: The renter needs a place "urgently" for any number of supposed reasons. He (or she) pays for the first month plus a one month deposit. The second month, the renter has excuses for late payments, which might never come. The renter then claims his/her "renters' rights" to stay, even bringing in other family members or using any false excuse. Then, when the owner or agent demands payment, the squatter refuses communication or entry to the premises, and refers further negotiation to a lawyer. If the owner or agent pursues payment, the squatter might find a lawyer who uses legal delays or attempts to extort a payment for the squatter to leave the premises. In the event a judgement is obtained against the owner, appeals may come next.

How to protect the owner? Use a MSL real estate agent. Get honest prior residence references and check them out. Have a lawyer review the rental contract (very important). Take photos of the contents prior to renting, and do not assume that a person's employment will guarantee character. Reputable timeshares like Villa Del Palmar, Villas Del Arco and Diamante all have employee who have attempted to scam owners.

Adrienne Kenlan
Via email

WHAT'S GOING ON IN THIS...

The survey also showed that there was a considerable reduction in the time it takes for a hospital bed to be occupied again after it is vacated. A bed management initiative decreased turnover time from 22 hours to fewer than eight, while appointments with specialists are now confirmed within 30 minutes compared with up to a week previously. A week to get your appointment confirmed, can you imagine? And why does it take eight hours to change the sheets on a bed? Hey, if the customer is 83% happy with that, God bless them.

Modest improvements were also reported in other areas surveyed including cleanliness, emergency services, satisfaction with surgery and the number of unrelated patients.

Despite the good news, the IMSS admits that it still needs to improve wait times — specifically in emergency — increase cleanliness in its facilities (um, yes, please) and reduce the time it takes to complete administrative procedures.

Goodbye horse drawn carriages! In an effort to curb animal abuse, Guadalajara is putting an end to its traditional horse drawn carriages. The current fleet of carriages will be replaced with new electric carriages, the first 10 of which will arrive in the next four months. Another 45 will soon join them. The decision to replace the horse drawn carriages followed a year of discussions with local animal rights advocacy groups.
Ask a Mexican

This week we asked: How do you handle the heat during the summer? What do you do to stay cool?

Juan Lopez, 23, designer
The heat gets the better of me, because I have to move around the city a lot. I usually skateboard but when it’s too hot I just go home as soon as I can, and stay there hiding from the heat. I try to wear lighter clothes and hats because my skin burns so easily with the sun. Andres Lopez, 27, student
I drink beer. People say that you must drink a lot of fluids to stay hydrated, right? There’s nothing like an ice-cold beer on a sizzling day, but not too many because hangovers are even worse with the heat. I think it also has something to do with the fact that the flavor is not sweet. Is a Rangel, 42, financial consultant
I hate the heat, and I used to live in Colima, a very hot place. I try to wear shorts and light shirts, stay hydrated and I look forward to the end of summer. Alberto Hernandez, 28, engineer
I wear long sleeved cotton shirts and denim pants, because it makes me sweat a lot and at first, it’s really hot but once you start sweating it helps you cool off. That’s why Middle Easterners wear turbans and stuff, because they live in a very hot place and it’s the sweating principle.

I get naked! Being nude is the only way to truly regulate your body’s temperature. Plus, I exercise, because sweating helps too, and it gets me tired enough to sleep at night even when the heat is unbearable. I also saw a DIY tutorial on how to make an air conditioner, but I haven’t gotten around to making it.

Valentina Vallejo, 42, shoe designer
I suffer, literally. I have started drinking hot coffee. It might sound crazy, but it regulates your internal temperature and helps your body get used to the heat. Also, if I start sweating I try not to wipe it off, because that is the only way that my body can cope with the heat.

David Goldman, 42, financial consultant
I need water-based ice cream, like chocolate milkshakes. People say that even though they suffer, they don’t lose weight, but I think it also has something to do with the heat.

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New State Laws For Real Estate Professionals

The times are changing

BY JORGE M. CONDE, ESQ.

If you are entering the real estate market, the first thing you will encounter while trying to find help for buying, selling or renting a property is a Real Estate Professional; yet only 17 out of the 32 states in Mexico regulate the services of Real Estate Professionals.

Fortunately, the state of Baja California Sur has recently joined the list. On June 23rd, 2017 the local Congress approved the “Law to Regulate Real Estate Professionals in Baja California Sur”, which requires all Real Estate Professionals to earn a license and register before the local Registry of Real Estate Professionals.

The law does not define the minimum education requirements to obtain a license. Also, it’s up to the local government to establish the training standards. That will be up to a new, upcoming Real Estate Board that will have both government officials and real estate professionals. The local government will make the necessary agreements with training institutions and/or organizations to provide bilingual real estate courses. The key word here is bilingual. It has been feared that the agents who don’t speak Spanish, (most of them), would not be able to pass a test, and this is why so many of them fought so hard against this law.

A new Registry of Real Estate Professionals has been established to allow clients to verify the name, address, license number and sanctions imposed on Real Estate Professionals, if any, which will be available online.

The license will be valid for 3 renewable years. Foreign Real Estate Professionals with a license and registration must have the relevant work permit from the Mexican Immigration Department to provide brokerage services.

The Law prescribes that the local government together with the upcoming Real Estate Board will establish the “Code of Ethics for Real Estate Professionals”, which will be a set of principles, values and guidelines to be followed by Real Estate Professionals in their practice.

The local government shall be able to carry out inspection visits to Real Estate Professionals to verify compliance with the law and its regulations. Legal entities and/or individuals providing brokerage services to the public or claiming to be Real Estate Professionals and have no license will be subject to a fine equivalent to $75,490.00 pesos, (about $4000 US), without prejudice of civil and criminal liabilities. Additionally, the local government will establish and operate a system to allow clients to submit relevant complaints against Real Estate Professionals.

The new Law is a major step against informality. However, its provisions will not enter into force until next year (January 1st, 2018), to allow the local government to perform the necessary adjustments and receive a suitable budget to comply with the Law.

Finally, the license and registration will be mandatory for Real Estate Professionals as of July 2018.

In Praise of Older Houses
There are many advantages to buying them

BY CAROL S. BILLUPS

So much of the real estate news here is about all the exciting brand new housing options coming to Cabo. And while that’s great, it’s also important not to overlook the older homes. In the “pre-construction versus pre-owned” debate one rarely hears about the advantages of purchasing an older existing home, but I believe those advantages are very real and worth any buyer’s consideration. Some of the more important things to keep in mind when you are deciding which option is best for you are:

Breathing room. Let’s face it: we’re a boom town at the end of a peninsula. Land is a precious commodity and today’s developers are maximizing the number of units in each of their projects. If you want a garden, a little space for adding on or just some distance between you and your neighbors your best bet will be buying a home built before Cabo became such a hot destination.

Quality Construction. Houses built a few decades ago were all hand crafted custom homes. The builders may not have had the resources we now enjoy (more about that later) but they built for the ages. Some of the design features were adaptations to our climate – one reason some homes stay cooler in the summer and have fewer flooding problems than their newly built alternatives. The architects who built back then typically did extensive studies of the terrain and worked with it in situ and designing the structure.

Better Financing. Developer financing is a one-size-fits-all proposition. While it may perfectly suit your needs, if you want or need something different it is very rare for a developer to allow any personalization of the plan. On the other hand, an individual selling their own home is more likely to be open to customizing the payment plan to accommodate everyone’s interests.

Personality Plus. For better or worse (and sometimes worse would be a kind description) our older homes incorporated individual features that gave each a unique personality. It’s not uncommon to find older homes where the contractor built around a giant boulder, making it a design feature instead of fighting nature. Arches, deep doorframes, whimsical custom wrought iron gates, fountains and sculptures are touches you rarely find in newer construction, and they may appeal to you once you see them in person.

Established Neighborhood. With new construction and especially with pre-construction it’s hard to imagine what the neighborhood will look like upon completion. Yes, there are generally architect’s renderings of the PLAN, but with an older home the community is already in place – what you see is what you get. In general the home-owners association is in place, you know what the dues are, what they cover, and how well the community functions based on history, not planning.

Location. Want a spacious condo in a low density development close to the beach for a price under three million US? There are only a few developments that fit the description, and they are all among the very first offered in the area several decades ago.

The here and now. Forgive me for being obvious, but one of the key advantages to buying an existing home is that you can use it (or begin renting it) from the minute your transaction closes. Pre-construction homes come with a target delivery date – which, after all, is subject to change.

These are just a few of benefits of older homes, and that’s without factoring in that many of them are being offered for sale at prices less than replacement value. But, there are also bound to be a few quirks. When I take clients to older homes I like to remind them not to make judgments about the seller’s taste. Even as recently as 15 or so years ago you built with what was available. When we moved here half a lifetime ago we found that our little vacation home was a bit cramped for full time residence and decided to add on. Eighteen months into the project we found the architect had neglected to order tile. We took the calculation of area to the local sources and found that there was only one store that had enough in stock to finish the work. We were offered two choices of design and selected the least heinous. So it is with the tile, appliances and lighting in many older homes, but then those are quick and affordable fixes when you balance them against the many other advantages the property might offer. When all is said and done you may find that you, too, can find a lot to love in an older home.

Carol Billups is Broker/Owner of Cabo Realty Pros in Cabo San Lucas. She can be reached at cell 044-624-147-7541 or via email at carolbillups@hotmail.com. You can search the entire MLS on her website www.caborealtypros.com.
FOR SALE IN CABO SAN LUCAS

588 SQM LOT. Oceanfront lot located in Playa del Rey. MLS# 16-1759, $875,000 USD. 624 117-4932

VILLA SERENA, enjoy tropical evenings around the limestone fire pit. 5Beds, 5.5Baths. San Jose Corridor. #17-544, Janet Jensen; (624) 141-6726; janet@theagencyloscabos.com

NEWLY REMODELED DESIGNER Pedregal Home. 3 Bdr, 4 Ba, gourmet kitchen. Large lot, pool, hot tub, fruit trees, party deck. Beautifully furnished. Casa 40 Camino Grande. Cabo $469,900 USD MLS# 16-1726 044-1-177-7343

COBA SAN LUCAS DUPLEX, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, rooftop deck, 2 car garage and locked side storage. Listed at $495,000. MLS 17-223, Call 624-143-1688.

PEDREGAL PENTHOUSE CONDO, 2 Level Penthouse featuring 3bd/3baths, travertine marble floors, granite kitchen, countertops, 2 car garage, 2 large terraces. Magnificent Views. Easy walk to Downtown, Marina, restaurants and bars. MLS# $475K, MLS# 16-2330. Ph 624 157-3170

AFFORDABLE RURAL LOT at Sierra de la Laguna base near Miraflores. 32 he great for solar farming or ranch. Have a peaceful and quiet life. $175,000 USD, call 142-9988, MLS# 16-1845, mls@bajaproperties.com

FOR SALE IN SAN JOSE

PUERTA DEL SOL 305A, 2 bedrooms 2 full bathrooms, fully furnished luxury condominium. MLS # 13-1801. Asking price $599,000 USD. Viviana Diaz Mobile 624 147 5120

CASABARROYAZUL Luxury Home $ 1,750,000. MLS # 17-5 4bd/4.5ba, 4,196 sq ft interior. East SJD Hidden Gem - 3 Miles from SJD Marina. Boutique Beachfront Community. El Encanto de la Laguna. Open house every day 10 to 5pm. 624-105-8858/ info@elencantoloscabos.net

BOULDER COVE, PUERTO MEXIA, La Paz, $14,000,000 USD, private retreat in an idyllic setting nestled on the shore of the Sea of Cortez. MLS# 17-1427, Beatriz Calderon / +52 (624) 172-6555 office, +52 (624) 157-3170

MISIONES DEL CABO CONDO #4102. 1 BR 1 BA Ground Floor. Spacious Living Area, Near Cabo San Lucas on the East Point. Surfing and Fishing bay. Restaurants, Tropical Landscaping, Swimming Pools. 24 Hour Security. $159K USD MLS# 16-1475. Call 624-129-3667; greddeman@hotmail.com

FOR SALE IN SAN LUCAS

CENTRAL CONDO, 2 Level Penthouse featuring 3bd/3baths, travertine marble floors, granite kitchen, countertops, 2 car garage, 2 large terraces. Magnificent Views. Easy walk to Downtown, Marina, restaurants and bars. MLS# $475K, MLS# 16-2330. Ph 624 157-3170

CONDO TESORO, Great Location! BR 2 BA Investment. Just steps to Marina CSL. $225K USD MLS#16-141. 624-117-1077 martynochoa@gmail.com

COMMERCIAL LOT FOR SALE. Bulevard Forjadores 9 @ San Jose del Cabo. Attention developers. 9,050 M2 to build 20,000 SQ M2 in 6 level. 115 lineal m. commercial front. $1100 USD MLZ M2, Marco Klein marco@mymexico.com T (624) 1234 184 M (624) 1470242 www. mymexico.com

FOR SALE IN CABO SAN LUCAS

CONDO OBS OLAS 102. Stunning 2bd/2ba $595,000 MLS# 16-1092. 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. 624-105-8858/ info@elencantoloscabos.net

5BR/3.5BATH Mansions Pedregal Many unique artistic features, 4 Bd, 4 Ba, pool, fire pit, decks, fountain, wheelchair accessible! Casa 440 Cabo, $1,450,000 USD. Call: 624 157 4932, Pam, 3 bd, 3 ba. 2 Story. Roof-top, Mavila at Quivira. The best Golf Course, Pool and Jacuzzi. SJD.
8 Steps to Purchasing Property In Mexico

Here are a few steps that can make the process easier.

BY NICK FONG

Step 1: Make an Offer
This is usually done in the form of an “offer to purchase agreement” (oferta) or a “promissory agreement” (contrato de promesa), which your attorney or the real estate agent you’re working with draws up. Most real estate agents will have a standard form they use for this purpose. (When your offer has been accepted, you should ask your real estate agent and the notary to estimate the closing costs for you.)

Step 2: Set Aside 10% as Earnest Money in Escrow
Once your offer is accepted in writing, you’ll need to put a certain amount (usually 10%) of the purchase price aside as earnest money (depositos condiciones) in escrow with a third party. Whatever you do, don’t give this money to the seller. One typical arrangement is for the agent to hold the deposit in dollars in the United States. When the deal nears closing, the agent transfers the money to his own Mexican bank at the current rate of exchange.

Step 3: Inquire About Title Insurance
We suggest you call about title insurance for your property. Though a notary will investigate a property’s title to be sure it is free from immediate encumbrances and that the taxes are paid, that research may not extend back through the entire chain of ownership. A title insurance company, however, will dig to be sure that there are no surprises lurking. If the title is not clear, don’t buy the property.

Step 4: Wait While the Notary Investigates the Title, Gets an Appraisal, and Puts the Closing Papers in Order
You need to have a purchase agreement (contrato de compraventa) drawn up at this point. Normally, you’ll have your attorney do this. But if you are working with a real estate agent, then his office may be able to take care of this for you. It should be in English for you and in Spanish for the Mexican authorities... he’ll get the papers in order to register your purchase with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In the meantime, your title insurer and the notary will verify the property’s title. In doing so, they will request a copy of the lien certificate (certificado de libertad de gravamen) from the land registry, which will show the name of the owner of record as well as the

Step 5: Close on the Property
Once you have assurances from your attorney, notary, and title insurer that the property’s title is good, and the purchase of sales agreement is ready for you to sign, you’ll meet with the notary, the seller, and your attorney or broker for the closing.

Step 6: The Notario Registers Your Ownership
Though you’ll have a copy of all the paperwork associated with the property, the transaction isn’t really complete until the notary registers your deed with the land registry office...

Step 7: Have Your Attorney Draw up a Mexican Will For You
While your Mexican property will in Spanish that disposes of your Mexican possessions and property. It will simplify matters immensely.

Step 8: Don’t Forget the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
No matter how you plan to buy property in Mexico, you’ll need to alert the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that you intend to make a purchase. As we mentioned before, it is usually your attorney or the notary who applies for the permit on your behalf before the closing.

San Jose Featured Property
Las Misiones de San José

Nestled between the Mayan Golf Course and the Sea of Cortez and conveniently located within walking distance to La Comer supermarket, shopping and restaurants. Las Misiones de San Jose contains 92 private residences of one and two bedrooms and is a condominium complex that has two beautiful large and heated swimming pools, one tennis court, two palapas and BBQ facilities. It also has beautifully maintained gardens & grounds. WiFi is available at both swimming pools and the complex is a gated community with 24/7 on site security. It is the perfect place for your second home! For more information contact Jorge Diaz Serralde of ReMax Cabo Sanctuary on his cell (624) 108-0851, or write him at misionesdesanjose@gmail. com.

By Nick Fong, Broker of Los Cabos Agent, www.loscabosagent.com, 312-725-3664 (US Office) 624-157-3170 (Cabo Cell)
How and When To Pay Annual Trust Fees

It’s the property owner’s responsibility to stay on top of this

BY CONNIE MAYERHOFF

It is important for foreign nationals who own a Mexican property in the Restricted Zone (50 kilometers from the coastline or 100 kilometers from the border) to remember to pay their annual trust fees in addition to their annual property tax. Unlike paying the property tax at the start of the calendar year, the annual trust fee is due on the anniversary of the property owner’s closing date, which is found at the top of page one of the deed (escritura OR Fideicomiso).

Keep in mind; your trust account number generated by the bank is not the same as your deed (escritura) number. You need to obtain your trust account number from your trustee bank, so you can get proper credit when you make your annual trust fee payments.

Even though one might expect to be notified by the trust bank of upcoming trust payment, it is not a guarantee. It is the property owner’s responsibility to remember to pay all fees corresponding to their property. As such, you should make a note of the due date in your calendar so as not to forget and consequently risk having late charges/interest for not paying on time.

Most banks nowadays accept payments via check or wire transfers, or ask your property manager to make the payment for you. You can also make the payment yourself in person at any branch of your trust bank in Mexico as long as you have your Trust Number. Make sure you receive a copy of the payment receipt for your records. Keep any receipts, bank statements, checks as proof of payment. Trust Banks often do not mail payment receipts. Trust Banks often do not mail checks as proof of your payment. You will have to call the bank of upcoming trust payment and request a copy of the payment receipt. You will not receive a copy of the payment receipt unless you request it.

If you are paying your HSBC trust as of January 1, you could expect to be notified by the trust department to remember to pay your annual fees paid. Below is the most current information for paying your HSBC trust as of August 2017.

- Make check payable to: HSBC MEXICO S.A. DIV. FIDUCIARIA / FSO PUT IN YOUR TRUST NUMBER HERE to the following addresses, depending on the freight company you will use to send your check.
  - Via USPS (Regular mail): HSBC MEXICO S.A. DIVISION FIDUCIARIA DEPT CH 16427 PALATINE, IL 60065-6427
  - Via FedEx, UPS, Airborne or DHL: HSBC MEXICO S.A. DIVISION FIDUCIARIA 16427 5505 N. Cambridge Ave. Suite #307, Chicago, IL 60656-1471

By Connie Mayerhoff, Engel Volkers Snell Real Estate. From the US or Canada: 480-393-0639, or reach Connie at c.mayerhoff@snellrealestate.com.

Agent Profile, Baja Properties

Eva-Marie Abelson-Poué

Hailing from upstate New York & Los Angeles, Eva-Marie has been a blissful resident of Los Cabos for more than 26 years. She was employed her first few years as crew, on private motor yachts.

Well acquainted with the tip of the peninsula, she has fervent beliefs in the value of its real estate and exhibits a strong commitment to service. An avid (high-handicapper) golfer and former boat enthusiast, she has an abundance of local knowledge from which you can benefit.

She can often be found at her husband’s San José restaurant, the Sardina Cantina, where she lends a hand and her cheeky countenance, much to the patrons delight. She loves the East Cape as much as San Jose and has property in both areas, where she lives and plays. An experienced professional who can help you find your dream home in our world class tourist destination.

Contact Eva-Marie Abelson-Poué, Baja Properties, 044-624-151-5073 or 011-52-1-624-151-5073.
Take A Flight, Save A Life
Pet escorts help rescue animals get to their new homes

BY JOHN DOLITTLE

It’s no secret that there are hundreds, if not thousands, of animals here in Los Cabos that are living in shelters and looking to find a good home. But what many people don’t realize is that there is a way they can help those animals get into new homes, without having to adopt the animals themselves. All they have to do is volunteer to be a pet escort.

Many shelters here in Los Cabos work with other shelters and rescue groups in the U.S. and Canada to find homes for animals. And while it can be easy to find people who are willing to adopt these animals, the problem is getting them from Mexico to their new home country. That’s where the pet escorts come in; if someone is flying out of Los Cabos and happens to be going to a destination where an adoptive family lives, they can take an animal with them and get them to their new home.

Suzanne Hein, who’s been working with the Los Cabos Humane Society for about three and a half years and recently joined the board of directors, started her own animal rescue group in Portland, Oregon, in order to help coordinate pet transports. She says pet escorts play a big part in getting the animals adopted, because each animal has to have a human escort. The dogs can’t just be shipped. And while her rescue group, Rescue Faerie, does make trips down specifically to pick up pets, having escorts who are already flying back from Cabo is a big help.

“It saves us so much money if somebody is on vacation and just wants to fly back and do something good for the world,” she says.

While the process might vary slightly, depending on which animal rescue you’re working with (for example, some groups will make the animal’s airline reservation for you), others require that you do it) the overall procedure is the same. Basically, the rescue group handles most of the work, and all you need to do is show up on time, check the animal in for the flight, take them through Customs once you’re back in the States (and if you have a layover, you have to recheck the animals), and then hand the animal over to the volunteer that’s waiting for you at the airport.

“We take the load and the weight and the worry off the escort,” says local animal lover and pet escort coordinator John Villegas, “because we want to make it easy for them.” Suzanne says that once people do their first animal transport, and realize how easy it is, they’re usually willing to do it again.

The majority of the time, there is no cost for the pet escort, although Isabelle Tiberghien, president of Baja SAFE, says that she has seen a few cases where the escort has to pay an entry fee of $35 USD upon arrival, but that fee is reimbursed to them immediately.

Showing up to the airport on time is a key part in being a pet escort. Animals have to be checked in at least two hours before their flights, so if you’re the type of traveler who likes to wait until the last minute to get to the airport, then pet escorting probably isn’t for you.

And, of course, showing up on time is a must. If someone volunteers to be a pet escort but then changes their minds at the last minute, misses their flight or, in one instance that Suzanne has seen, shows up early, checks in and goes through security before the animal has even gotten to the airport, then all of the work that went into coordinating the transport is wasted. And that could also mean the difference between the dog getting transported and getting adopted versus staying here in Mexico, where the chances of getting adopted are gloomy.

Suzanne and her husband have transported as many as eight dogs at a time. With volunteer pet escorts, though, it’s up to them how many they feel comfortable taking. For most people, that’s one or two dogs. Suzanne says many people feel bad they can’t take more, but what they don’t realize is that for every dog they escort, they’re clearing a spot in a home for another dog back here in Mexico.

“When they’re taking one dog, they’re actually saving two dogs, because they just made space for another dog to come into the shelter,” she says.

Isabelle echoes that sentiment. “It is an important part of the whole process, from rescuing the animals in the streets to getting them to their final destination for adoption.”

Currently, Suzanne, John

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Skip the middle-men, and buy palms direct from the grower. Come for a tour – we have many thousands of palms and cycads. We have everything from several hundred massive field-grown Royal Palms to Bismarks (and many others) in 65 gallon grow-bags, to all kinds in 1 gallon, 5 gallon, and 20 gallon cultivation pots. There are worst things to do than to tour a beautiful Palm Plantation in Todos Santos. Go to our website, palms.mx, and click on the Contact & Finding Us button for concise directions to our plantation. See you soon. Developers with big projects, give us a call – they could see the potential! Realm has been training and certifying in United States and Mexico and are bilingual. Spa Cielo Laser and Wellness Center holds a five star rating and received the “2013 Award of Excellence” from Trip Advisor and has the experience you look for in a laser medical spa, with 10 years in Los Cabos areas, 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 tripadvisor!
Tips For Unloading Your Timeshare
First tip: Don’t buy it as an investment

BY BILL FOLDS

A timeshare is not an investment. Investments are designed to appreciate in value, generate income, or do both but a timeshare is unlikely to do either, despite what the salesperson tells you. For one thing, the huge volume of used timeshares that are on the market at any given time shows what a challenge you will have selling your used timeshare at all, let alone at a profit.

So if a timeshare is not an investment, what is it? It’s a vacation. You are buying a repeatable vacation. Just as spending $3,000 on a trip to an exotic beach is not an investment; neither is spending $10,000 plus maintenance fees on a timeshare.

The maintenance fees are the reason most people want, and even need, to dump their timeshare. No timeshare company writes into the contract that they won’t up the fees, and up the fees they do, to the point of real pain. Getting out from under these fees, which soon become more than the annual vacation should cost, is the number one reason people want out, no matter what timeshare salespeople tell you.

So, before we give you the Big Tip on selling your timeshare, let us share with you the possibility of just slipping out of it. Let’s face it, if you’re reading this, you already feel like your timeshare is like chewing gum on your shoe: You can’t easily and elegantly scrape it off. After all, you only bought it because your salesman was beating you over the head while you were staring out at the beautiful ocean. You can’t do that to a potential buyer, so you’re at a disadvantage from the get-go.

Just slip out the back, Jack.

They are usually lying when they threaten to ruin your credit if you stop paying their annual extortion, which they refer to as a maintenance fee. We know of at least half a dozen people who walked away from their timeshares without suffering even a blip on their credit report. In fact, some timeshare companies want you to walk away, because they will simply sell it again. Our timeshare market is mature, meaning all the rooms are sold out. They only way they can keep selling is if you walk away from yours. Or, they sell “points” instead. The points system was dreamed up because there was no more real estate to sell us. We are now buying nothing, not even a little box in the sky to use for a week. Points have nothing real, nothing tangible, backing them up.

OK, back to a more elegant way of getting the gum off your shoe. List it on some of the hundreds of sites on the internet, but here is the part you pay us the big bucks for: Do not pay anyone up front. Do not believe anyone who tells you they can dump your timeshare if you will only buy this shiny new timeshare. Do not put any “earnest money” up front for any reason. These people prey on you because they know you bought a timeshare in the first place, so you must be, ahem, a little challenged in financial management. They will pass all sorts of cockeyed schemes in front of you. There are even guys on the streets of Los Cabos who will stop you and sell you a timeshare you can’t even see, if only you will pay...
whole lambs, (Little Bo Peep!) pigs, (Porky? Is that you?) handicrafts, plus breakfast and lunch at Penny Lane’s Café.

**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 shop. 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, the Koral Center in Cerro Colorado.

**Every Wednesday.** 7:30 to 8:30 pm. Organic eggs, honey, locally made jewelry and beauty products, traditional baskets and more! At La Esquina in Todos Santos. Email Paula at ballenatimothy@earthlink.net 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 merlosj@earthlink.net or call (612) 134-8728 for more information.

**Every Friday.** 5:00 to 9:00 pm. Marina Fiesta hotel. After Office. Live music and special promotions. At El Merkado, the Koral Center in Cerro Colorado.

**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 Saturday.** 7:00 to 11:00 pm. Live music aboard the Cabo Mar catamaran. Tickets are $75 (limited to 140 people). For more information contact Margarita at tropimargarita@prodigy.net.mx.

**November 14-18** The 50th Annual RAJA 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/

**December 8.** Sunday to 11:00 pm. Annual Dressed to the K9s party organized by the Los Cabos Humane Society. A “Christmas In White Party” at the Sheraton Grand Los Cabos. Includes a silent auction, raffle, cocktail reception, live music aboard the Cabo Mar catamaran and live music. All proceeds to benefit the Los Cabos Humane Society. Tickets are $100 USD. Contact Margarita at email: tropimargarita@prodigy.net.mx or Barbara at cabocoop@gmail.com.

**January 15-19.** 10th Annual Los Cabos Pro-Am. At the Sheraton Hacienda del Mar Golf & Spa Resort. For more information or to request a printed invitation please contact: Barry Fleming at barry@proamevents.com, (843) 384-5342 or visit proamevents.com/los-cabos-mx/

**January 27 – February 3.** Todos Santos Writers Workshop. Seven days of workshops, seminars and fiesta for writers at all levels. More info: www.todos santowritersworkshop.com.

To get your event listed here, email the details to david@gringogazette.com. There is no charge. And, if an event we list here does not go off when stated, please don’t shoot the messenger, this is Mexico, and every event is, well, fluid.
BY JEANNINE PEREZ

1491, by Charles C. Mann. Published in 2011. 553 pages. $17.00.

Have you ever wondered about the ordinary daily lives, philosophies and beliefs of Mexico’s first inhabitants? If so, this thick book, chock full of historical facts, maps, photos, and interesting but conflicting theories, should certainly be on your reading list. Reading it might add to or change your perspective about the very first human populations here in the Americas prior to 1491 (before Christopher Columbus arrived).

This book is a combination of science, history, and archeology; subjects that fascinate me. But I must confess, for this report, I read only the sections about Mesoamerica, although the book also gives detailed descriptions of North and South American indigenous populations and their cultures. I will read them later, but it’s research on Mexican history that interests me now.

Unfortunately, no descriptions or histories of the earliest Baja populations are included in this book. Our narrow strip of land called Baja was unknown to Europeans for many centuries, and then once rumored to be an island ruled by strong and beautiful women clothed only in ornate jewelry made of gold.

This book explores the idea that Indians (the author explains that he uses that term because it is the term that natives use to describe themselves) arrived many millennia before Columbus. We do not often hear that those Indians who then populated the Americas had already developed advanced cultures long before the advent of Europeans. The cultures we now know something about - like the Olmec, believed to be the first complex culture (about 180 BC), the Toltec, and other early cultures - developed advanced knowledge of math, science, and farming methods. The Maya added complex calendars and the first knowledge of zero, and later the wealthy Aztec cultures had running water, clean streets, and cities with great populations that were more advanced than comparable cities in the countries of Europe of that time.

According to this book’s information, Columbus and other European explorers certainly did NOT discover a New World that was an empty wilderness peopled only with scattered primitive villages of savages. For whatever reason, historians of that era certainly did not understand or give credit to cultural differences, and later described the Indians they found here in one of two ways, as “vicious barbarians, or noble savages!”

Unfortunately, there Indian cultures faced tragedy once they were discovered by the European explorers. These natives were quite vulnerable to all common European diseases, and the death toll was swift and massive during the first years of contact. Smallpox and the plague seem to have been the greatest causes of death, but a chart in the book lists other causes of death from more common (to us) diseases, like the flu and measles, which also killed great numbers of Indians. The final statistics are both sad and conflicting. It seems no one truly knows how many natives died, but it is clear that original populations of Indians in the ‘New World’ declined rapidly with the coming of Europeans.

In the last century, the most common belief was that the first Indians came through the Bering Straits, walking across land bridges. They probably did so at the end of the last Ice Age, which would have happened about 13,000 years ago. However, in 1997, archeologists found human remains in Chile that are much older, possibly from 20,000 to 30,000 years ago, when the ice pack was smaller. It was also theorized that some of the earliest humans arrived in boats, as many as five waves of settlements, as long ago as 50,000 years before Columbus. Some might have arrived before (or just after) the Neolithic Revolution! There is no certainty or agreement on this, but it’s very interesting to think about.

Ancient Indians had many of their own ideas about their history and origins. Myths and legends have been handed down through the generations, and today, when asked about the identity of the Cave Painters, some say that this was a long-lost race of giants, not their own ancestors.

So, did those ancient tribes walk from Asia, come across in boats, or were they perhaps even a part of the Lost Tribes of Israel? By this time, my head was spinning with questions and too...
Cabo San Lucas
The full moon has taken a bit of a toll on the striped bass recently but the overall fishing and catching remained pretty good for many anglers, especially with the spread of the yellowfin tuna catches throughout the area.

Cabo Climate: Mostly cloudy alternating with spurts of sunshine. Daytime temperatures were at an 88 degree average, and 78 degrees at nights. The humidity ratio averaged 74.4%.

Sea Conditions: The Finger Bank to Cristobal varied from 82 to 85 degrees. Cabo Falso and up to Los Frailes all varied from 85 to 88 degrees. Surface breezes flowed in from the westly direction on Monday through Friday and then turned SSE for Saturday and Sunday. Average wind speed was 14 mph with the exception of Saturday, when it increased to 18 mph.

Best Fishing Area: There was no specific “hot bite area” for the billfish and the only blue marlin was taken at the 95 Fathom Spot. The better striped bass action came from the Herradura area, out to the south of Cabo. The better yellowfin tuna bite came from close to the shoreline at Migrino, directly in toward the beach from the Golden Gate Bank.

Best Bait-Lures: Rigged bait were the best for the billfish, although blue marlin were taken on an artificial. The tuna were mostly blind strikes and taken on a variety of different feathers and lures.

Bait Supply: Bait remained readily available, even through the full moon phase, at the $3.00 per bait rate paid direct to the bait vendor at time of receipt.

Puerto Los Cabos
Recent focus has been on yellowfin tuna from the Gordo Banks to Iman, where schools of fish have been located. Live bait has been limited to some mullet and caballito, and some sardina in limited quantities. Using strips of giant squid is becoming more common. Some chihuil and bo-lito have been jigged up at times on the offshore grounds and are being used for slow trolling.

The yellowfin tuna are ranging from small, football-sized to over 70 pounds. The larger fish have been striking on strips of squid, sardina or trolled whole baits, on the Inner Gordo Banks and north on the Iman Bank. Biting sporadically during the day, overall they proved to be more finicky and line shy; leaders were no heavier than 50 pounds at best. Average catches have ranged from a couple of tuna to 10.

As commonly occurs in August, it can be hard to find much variety besides the yellowfin tuna. There are a few scattered, mostly small dorado, as well as a handful of sailfish and an occasional wahoo. Anglers did land one 35-pound wahoo. There hasn’t been much off the bottom; a strong current has been persistent and this made it difficult to effectively work the bottom. A couple of dogtooth snapper, huachinango, cabrilla, bonito, amberjack and triggerfish rounded out the structure action.

Not many of the fleet are fishing along the shoreline now. There were a few roosterfish being caught and released. Billfish action was limited, though one black marlin weighing about 360 pounds was landed and another couple of big marlin strikes were lost.

More sailfish are moving in with the warmer currents, and of course some striped marlin stragglers are still hanging in the area, while most of the cooler-water marlin have moved towards Northern Baja.

Fish Count: The combined panga fleets launching out of La... CONTINUED ON PAGE 27
In Spanish, the word antojito literally translates to “little craving.” Antojito is a special type of Mexican food, the kind that is sold out on the street. Some of these dishes are sold in the morning, some at night, and others all day long. These dishes are often a little greasy or deep fried, and can feel quite heavy for unexperienced eaters (although not all of them are this way). Antojitos is what Mexicans eat when we want to fill our stomachs with love.

There is a special kind of “diet” here in Mexico called the Vitamin T diet that includes all types of cooking, the whole corn cob is used, from the “hair” (the corn silk) to the husk, but today I will talk about the main component: the grains.

Mexicans are the people of the maize. It is said that neither could exist without the other. As the maize grains, 41 are found in Mexico. Its colors vary from black to white; with blue, purple, yellow, red and orange hues in between. I honestly have no idea how many Mexican dishes come from maize, but I bet the number is in the thousands. However, for this issue, let's talk about tlacoyos, which are originally made from blue maize.

The indigenous name for tlacoyos (pronounced tla-coh-yohs) comes from the Nahua language. Nahua is the language the ancient people from southern Mexico and Central America, including the Aztecs, spoke. Spaniards first tasted this dish in the great Tlatelolco market. Picture a perfectly organized farmer’s market in an open space, south-east of the Templo Mayor, where Mexico City is now located. A market where the main currency was cacao beans. There were special officers making sure the market was organized correctly into different sections. Serpents were sold, as well as deer meat, which was often used in aristocratic banquets. Medieval herbs and powders had their section too, where shamans performed rituals and curations. Ceramics, textiles, pigments, minerals, clothing, precious stones and metals, down to a section where women had their own little restaurants, where they sold Tlacoyos. Damn, my culture is amazing. Just thinking about this makes my heart race.

Tlacoyos were originally prepared the same way as it today, with blue dough, but without some ingredients like cheese. Remember, back in those days the cows were not known in this continent.

Now, on with the recipe. One note before we start: This recipe calls for maize flour, which is sold in supermarkets. Look for maseca. The original recipe calls for blue maize, and blue maize flour can also be found in supermarkets, but I am not sure if we can find it here in Cabo. Regular maseca is fine. Follow the recipe on the package for the dough, but use a ratio of 2 cups of flour for 1 ½ cups of water.

**Ingredients:**
- 2 lbs. of maize dough
- 2 lbs. of cooked black beans
- 5 serrano chiles (Use less for less heat)
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 3 boiled nopales (edible cacti leaves, you can find them in su-

**Preparation:**
1. Grind the beans with the salt and queso fresco. (Use less for less heat)
2. Make 2-inch balls with the masa.
3. Fold the sides in
4. Heat some oil in a pan
5. Add the chiles and pour them in a pan with hot oil. Let it fry, and then dry a little bit until it turns into a paste.
6. Make 2-inch balls with the dough and spoon the paste into the middle. Fold the sides in to cover the paste, making an oval shape. Then, flatten it so to make

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

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**Calling All Denver Readers!**

On Friday September 15, coinciding with Mexico’s celebration of Independence, the Palapa Society of Todos Santos will hold its “Baja Under the Stars” fundraising dinner. The event will take place at the Denver Botanic Gardens in Denver, Colorado.

The event will start with a VIP Champagne cocktail party and dinner, followed by a live performance by Mexican-American band La Santa Cecilia. The group won a Grammy Award for Best Latin Rock, Urban or Alternative Album in 2014.

Proceeds from “Baja Under the Stars” will fund scholarships, teacher salaries, technology, and resources for the Palapa School opening this fall at the new Palapa Learning Center. You may purchase tickets or donate to this event online at www.bit.ly/BajaUnderStars.
The choir is struggling to raise the money themselves, but so far only has enough to send 10 of the choir’s 26 members.

Most people in the area are poor farmers, but they’re looking for ways to raise money such as holding raffles. The Tlaxcala government has offered the free use of a theater in the state capital for a fundraising concert while the Mexican community in Rome has offered accommodation and food for the choir, if they’re able to get there. Well, those 10 who have their tickets are just going to have to sing louder.

More NFL in Mexico? Mexico hopes to top last year’s success with the NFL and is trying to extend its three-year deal to host real league sanctioned games.

In 2016, Oakland and Houston played the first regular-season game in Mexico since 2005. This year, the Raiders will return to Azteca stadium to play Super Bowl champion New England on Nov. 19.

Last year’s game generated $45 million for Mexico City’s economy, so it’s no surprise the government is hoping to keep the NFL games coming.

But they might need to tame the fans in order to make that happen. During last year’s game, a green laser was shown in the eye of Texas quarterback Brock Osweiler. Some fans threw paper planes on the field and there were homophobic chants hurled out during kickoffs, similar to the ones heard at soccer games in Mexico.

Phew! Sewage is being flushed into the ocean from Tijuana and as luck would have it, currents are taking it north. And we all know what's north of TJ.

Up to 40 million gallons of sewage is discharged daily from the Punta Banderas sewage treatment plant in Tijuana and when there are south winds and swells, it washes up on U.S. beaches. Imperial Beach, California gets the worst of it, and the mayor there is talking law suit. That ought to get the problem solved in, oh, about two decades.

“We were told on August 4 by highest level American officials that the Mexican federal government has abandoned its effort to support this issue,” Mayor of Imperial Beach Sergio Dedina said. “The U.S. government has to step up and help us stop this toxic waste and toxic sewage from coming across the border.” That’s more likely to happen. Tijuana officials are not going to spend the money to fix the problem when they know they can out wait U.S. Officials.

and Isabelle are working with Alaska Airlines to fly animals out of Mexico, as they are the only airline that doesn’t have a heat embargo in the summer. They have climate controlled cargo areas in their airplanes, so there’s no concern about the animals getting overheated.

If you’re flying out of Los Cabos on Alaska in the next couple months and want to volunteer to be a pet escort, you can contact Suzanne at rescuefaerie@outlook.com; Isabelle at ETSAFE@hotmail.com; or visit John’s pet escort Facebook page at facebook.com/groups/flyabarescuepet.

TIPS FOR UNLOADING YOUR... continued from page 21

them to get rid of a currently owned timeshare. And people do it! After their check clears the bank, they come to us. Too late, the crooks are gone, on to another market.

We are often asked how can they get away with it, and the answer is hard for Americans and Canadians to understand. They get away with it because there is nobody to enforce the very weak laws that are on the books. There is a timeshare association, but it is supported by the industry, so they’re not going to crack down on their members. One would think they would, just to keep a good name, but sadly, they don’t. The government runs consumer agency Profeco is supposed to watch the industry, but nobody speaks English and they are so slow to respond, the victim has flown home by the time a report is made.

Here are a few more tips. Some resorts do have a formal resale program, so ask them. However, same rule applies, do not get mired in another timeshare and do not pay them up front.

Read your contract to determine our rights are, and if you can even sell the thing without huge transfer fees. Don’t spin your wheels finding a buyer only to see that buyer melt away...
...continued from page 23

many maybes!

Each theory pushing farther and farther back in time, all of them fascinating, and also re-}
ally conflicting and confusing. I decided that this all remains a mystery, and there is much we still do not know.

This book has many maps that were helpful in understanding some of the author’s theories. The three maps of “humanized” landscapes before 1492 show differ-}
ent areas cleared by fire, agro-}
forestry, irrigation, terracing, and earthworks. Views from above (modern aerial photos) were also
helpful in getting glimpses of the “big picture” of the Americas before European explorations.

The author has written four other books, many periodicals and won the National Academ-}
ic Communications Award for this book (I believe that those interested in history, and theories about the first humans populating these continents, will want to add this book to their library. You can find copies at Barnes and Noble and also on Amazon.)

When do you think humans first reached and colonized Mex-
ico? Email me your thoughts at betojennine@gmail.com, or come visit my bookstore El Ca-
ballo Blanco bookstore in Loreto, and let’s chat about it!

East Cape

The good fishing on the East Cape continues week after week. Stable conditions have kept the bite consistent. Good bait, includ-
ing squid, sardina, caballito and mackerel, continue to be avail-
able.

Blue marlin are being caught daily, with the best area remaining between La Ribera and the lighthouse. Bob Watson from San Diego brought his grandson down to Rancho Leonero for his first marlin and they boated two nice blues. Most fish were taken on lures. Striped marlin and sail-
fish are also around.

Medium-sized dorado are being picked off all over the East Cape waters this month. Rancho skippers and old timers envision dorado fishing continuing into late October or early November.

Roosters and jacks are plentiful along all the beaches. A lineup of fly-fishers is spread along the water. Anglers are hitting the bait with double, triple and quadruple hook-ups. Some boats got limits; they caught and released others and made it back to La Paz in time for shrimp and beer for early lunch. Limits were more the rule than the exception. This holds them now for the rest of the season!

Cabo San Lucas

San Jose del Cabo

East Cape

...continued from page 24

Playita and Puerto Los Cabos Marina sent out approximately 88 charters recently, with anglers reporting a fish count of: 1 black marlin, 3 striped marlin, 4 sail-
fish, 16 dorado, 1 wahoo, 3 am-
berjack, 3 dogtooth snapper, 12 bonito, 8 yellow snapper, 238 yel-
lofin tuna, 11 leopard grouper, 2 pinto caballa, 18 huachinango, 9 roosterfish and 38 triggerfish. Each theory pushing farther and farther back in time, all of them fascinating, and also re-
What’s Up With These Electricity Charges?

Study this cheat sheet, you have more control of your bill than you might think

BY RED E. KILOWATT

CFE, the local electric company, sends out their bills to private residences every two months. Businesses are sent their bills more often because the bill is usually bigger. We hear so many complaints about the cost of electricity, but oftentimes it’s not really that high, it’s usually a misunderstanding of the bill.

Today, we’re using as an example a bill from a GG staffer who lives with her daughter in a three bedroom house. As you can see, she pays only $53 USD a month.

but the price of this month’s kilowatts is determined by how much you used last month. If you hogged a lot of electricity last month, this month you will be paying more for each kilowatt. A close examination of your bill will show you how, as you increase your usage, your subsidy goes down.

1. Your name or the name of the person who made the original contract, most likely the owner of the property
2. Total amount you need to pay this period, (usually a billing cycle is every two months).
3. Usage type. (Domestic or Commercial)
4. Rate that you are under. This is the tricky part that most foreigners don’t understand and that creates the most confusion. Your rate that you will be paying depends on how much electricity you used on the last two-month period. If you used a lot last period, you are penalized on this one, because you have been pushed into a different tier. There are two tiers. Tier 1C which is where you want to be. If you got too piggy last period with the electricity, you will be pushed into the tier called DAC
5. Hilos is designating if you have 110 or 220. The number 1 means 110, 2 means you also have 220
6. Your account number. It remains constant, of course.
7. The date you must pay this bill.
8. Another account number, which also remains constant. Nobody seemed to know why or be too concerned over having two different account numbers.
9. Your drop dead due date, actually the day they will shut you off. Notice that it’s just one day after your due date. They drop in here a little sentence on how you’re doing with your consumption; whether you have overspent this period, or you get a little pat on the back if you show you haven’t used much. Sometimes they warn you your usage is too much and that the government subsidy may be less in the next bill.
10. Your meter number. Be sure to check that the meter reader is reading the correct meter, and not your neighbor’s.
11. Actual reading.
12. Days contained in this period, usually two months.
13. Daily average consumption cost in pesos
14. Last billing period’s reading
15. Multiplier. (Constant by which you have to multiply the difference between readings to get the consumption of energy, generally it is 1, so not a concern)
16. Consumption in kilowatts
17. Daily average of consumption

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29
Make Bars, Not Walls

A Scottish brewery has plans to build a bar that straddles the Mexico/United States border. BrewDog co-owner James Watt, says the bar will be constructed right smack dab on the border until someone tells them to move it. Well, that falls right in line with the well worn Mexican saying and practice, “Don’t ask permission, just ask forgiveness.”

The precise location of the Bar on the Edge, as it will be called, remains a big secret but the brewery spokesman let it slip that one half will be in the Mexican state of Chihuahua and the other half in Texas.

The border itself will be represented by a dotted line across the center of the bar and along the outdoor seating area. They will serve Mexican beer on the Mexican side and U.S. beer on the Mexican side as a sort of cultural exchange.

The borderless bar is heavily subsidized by the government, and you are not paying the full price of what it truly costs. The subsidy. This box is where they show you what the full price of what it truly costs. But the value in knowing your DNA is, oftentimes the doctor can get into a gene that has run amuck compensate for it. It is a little scary to peek into the future and see your potentially gravely ill self, but wouldn’t it be worth that fright if it can be fixed? Or even if it can’t be fixed today, to know that technology is coming at us so fast, that it will probably be fixable in a few years, and that you will watch for that development.

You owe it to yourself to run your DNA now. Your future self, and your loved ones, will thank you.

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


RATED WITH FIVE STARS ON TRIPADVISOR

What Running Your DNA Can Do For You

The short answer: Plenty

Spa Cielo has for all of its 12 years in San Jose, been forward thinking in cutting edge preservation of youth and good looks. But now owner/manager Cathy Dannman is branching into the use of recent developments in DNA technology to guide us into being as healthy and feeling as good as she has made us look.

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

One more word of caution:

Be sure what site you are on.

One more word of caution: After you choose a site to sell your timeshare on, you may get phone calls suggesting you rent your week to cover your maintenance fee. Look out! Look out! They are going to want some money upfront.

Repeat after me: Don’t pay anything upfront. You are so done with being scammed. You are strong, you are smart.

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What's The Difference Between Tequila And Mescal?

The short answer: plenty

BY ALEJANDRA SARACHAGA

Because of its worldwide reputation and its popularity, many people have the misconception that tequila is Mexico's only national drink. But we have another national drink, which is starting to create its own buzz in the world: mescal. Unfortunately, mescal often falls in the shadow of its more famous relative, and does not get the praise it deserves, even though some mescal is higher quality than tequila.

So, what's the difference between the two? Basically, tequila is a variety of mescal. Tequila is made using industrial processes that produce high volume quantities. It contains 49% carbohydrates in the ingredients. Mescal is made from traditional processes and is 100% agave, free of chemical additives. (Agave is a plant native to Mexico and the southwest United States. Common names include maguey, or century plant, because of the long time it takes to flower.)

Tequila comes from Jalisco while mescal is from Oaxaca. Both drinks are made from agave, but different types. Tequila only uses the tequilana weber variety of agave while mescal has an extraordinary diversity. At least 30 varieties are used to make it. So, each drink has special flavors and aromas. Sometimes mescals are made from a combination of several varieties of agave. The industrial process involved in making tequila lessens the aromas and flavors offered naturally by the agave plants. Mescal production standards are stricter. Mescal preserves the ancient techniques for processing, ensuring a high quality natural product.

For processing both drinks, the agave pulp leaves are cut from the heart and then grated and squeezed. The juice is mixed with sugarcane juice, corn and yeast. For tequila, it is then fermented for days in steel tanks where twice-distilled water is added. Finally, it is aged in wooden barrels or tanks for two months to seven years. During this period it gets its characteristic color. Sales prices are based on the aging time.

Because certified mescal is 100% agave, mescal is less likely to cause a hangover. To differentiate mescal and tequila by taste, mescal has a strong aromatic flavor and tequila tastes neutral. By appearance, you can recognize the mescal by the worm in the bottle.

In Mexico, mescal is generally drank straight up, not mixed in a cocktail. There are a couple of rituals associated with it. One is saying “Arriba, abajo, al centro y pa’ adentro,” (Up, down, center and in) while toasting the first shot. The other involves spilling a small portion on the ground as an offering to Mayahuel, the goddess of maguey and the fertility of the earth. While mescal is generally not mixed with any other liquids, some add salt, or eat orange or lime slices with it.

The most traditional Oaxacan way to drink mescal is as a shot, with a plate of fried larvae that’s been ground with chili peppers, salt and lime. You take a pinch of the larvae mixture and place it on your tongue, then immediately being to sip the shot slowly. For first-timers, the flavor can be disagreeable, harsh and even make you cough. It’s an acquired taste.

Mescal has not become as popular as tequila because of its smoky flavor. However, in recent years, mescal has had more sales outside of Mexico than within. A number of bartenders in the U.S., especially on the West Coast, have been introducing more mescal cocktails into their drink menus, but the smoky flavor makes it a challenge. So, for now; mescal does not have a signature drink, the way tequila has the margarita. But that doesn’t mean you shouldn’t give it a try!
It’s Getting Crowded Here

Low season is no longer a thing in Cabo

BY HOLLY DAY

Have you noticed how quiet it’s been in Cabo this summer? Yeah, neither have we. That’s because, unlike previous years, the blistering summer heat has failed to keep away tourists.

Cabo’s mayor, Arturo de la Rosa, recently announced that there is no more low season, as the demand for flights and hotel reservations has remained consistent all year. He also said the number of tourists visiting Los Cabos has doubled in just a few years; in 2015, we had 1.5 million visitors and this 2017 number is expected to exceed 3 million visitors.

That’s a lot of people. They better get all those new resorts built quickly, otherwise people will have to camp out on the beach.

And according to the Los Cabos Hotel Ass., hotel occupancy has been at 77% this summer, increasing to 90-100% during some weekends. Those are Spring Break numbers right there! And things are only going to get busier. Reservations for the fall and winter, which is one of the busiest times of the year here and the start of high season, are up 6% from last year.

And Cabo isn’t the only area seeing an increase in tourism. The La Paz director of tourism reported high summer occupancy numbers, ranging between 80-84%. He also said that, based on the number of reservations being made, that figure could increase to 90% in the coming months.

Definitely doesn’t look like low-season.
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In Los Cabos (624) 105-8100 | Toll Free 1-866-650-5845
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