My, what big teeth you have! With spearfishing, you can get up close and personal with your catch. Read our story on page 7.

Why Was Tropical Storm Lidia So Destructive?
After all, it wasn’t even a hurricane

BY DONNY BROOKE

There is a lot of finger pointing as to why Tropical Storm Lidia did so much damage in the two arroyos just outside of Cabo. The destruction was more than you would normally expect from that much rain. There are competing theories of why this happened, but nearly everyone who suffered damage is suing Conagua, the federal water agency.

The part of this story that is not in dispute is that the new owners of the Cabo San Lucas Country Club built a new retaining wall to protect their property which is very near one of the two adjacent arroyos, and that wall catastrophically failed.

When it failed, a wall of water, debris and sand rushed down the arroyo, inundating Vagabundos restaurant, the Vagabundos trailer park and the Chevrolet Downtown Destruction Continues in San Jose

The merchant class is not amused

BY CALEB HOOGLAND

Take a trip to downtown San Jose and you’ll see what we full time residents have become accustomed to: traffic jams due to construction. At this point, we’re wondering if it will ever end and the answer seems to be, no. For now, anyway. Fonatur is taking their sweet time and has shown no intentions of speeding things up.

Fonatur is repaving and redesigning Boulevard Mijares, the street that leads directly to the plaza from the hotel zone. So far, the entire street has been repaved and the curbs redone. The only section remaining is the last two-block stretch from the bridge that goes to Puerto Los Cabos to the downtown plaza (which is also being torn up and redone).

Currently, the right side of the street is closed due to construction and has been for almost three months. Everything was already leveled, with utilities in place, when Tropical Storm Lidia churned through and made a mess, turning the dirt into mud. It took almost two weeks to clean everything up, and workers have

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Did you feel that? While not nearly as massive as the quakes in Oaxaca and Mexico City, Los Cabos was shaken by a series of earthquakes of much smaller magnitude several weeks ago. The first was a 5.1 that shook the ocean 72 miles northeast off the coast of San Jose. Shortly after that, there were two smaller quakes, both offshore as well, and registering less than 5 on the Richter scale. Chances are that you didn’t feel any of them since they occurred so far out to sea. They were likely part of the aftershocks caused by the 7.1 magnitude earthquake in Mexico City.

Celebrate Saint Luke Cabo celebrates its patron saint every year, around Saint Luke’s day (October 18), as Cabo was named after him by its founding missionaries. The city will celebrate for almost an entire week, from October 17 to 22, with carnival games, food and beer booths and live music every night.

All the events will take place at the empty lot near Walmart. Come mingle with the locals, try our regional food, take pics, dance and more!

Tournament season is here
The first big fishing tournament of the season is the Los Cabos Billfish Tournament, which will take place October 15 to 19. Then comes the Bisbee’s Offshore, from October 19 to 22, followed by “The Big One,” as the Bisbee’s Black and Blue tournament has been dubbed. That takes place from October 24 to 28.

Last year’s Bisbee’s offshore had 109 participating boats and a total prize of $700,000 USD, while the Black and Blue had 121 participating boats that competed for a combined prize of $2.5 million. The start of the fishing tournaments also marks the start of high season in Los Cabos. The estimated revenue these tourneys bring to the area is $12 million.

Bike path coming to San Jose Fonatur (the federal tourism development agency) has announced plans for a new bicycle path. The path will be 2.35 miles long and will run alongside the hotel zone, where the taxis are currently parked (they will be relocated). The cost of the new path is estimated at half a million dollars and work will begin before the end of this year.

Get ready for the Ironman
We’re telling you early, because the Ironman closes down the main streets and part of the four-lane, causing traffic headaches for everyone. The event begins at 6:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 12, with the swimming competition at Palmilla Beach. Then comes the cycling and running legs of the race, going from Palmilla towards San Jose, ending at Las Palmas park behind the La Comer store.

Nearly 1,400 competitors from Mexico and several other countries are expected. You take part as a competitor, volunteer or spectator, or choose to stay home and avoid the traffic jams. Take a guess as to which one we’ll be doing.

Also in November
Along with the Ironman, two more big events are coming up in November. The first is the Los Cabos International Film Festival, which happens November 8 to 12. And then there’s the grand finale of the Extreme Sailing Series (the first time the race has come to Cabo) will take place from November 30 to December 3.

Let there be light!
The city is working as fast as possible to light up our streets. Ten barrios in San Jose are getting lights, along with five in Cabo San Lucas. And nearly $3 million has been added to the budget to buy more street lights.

A total of 5,000 street lights that Hurricane Odile knocked down weaaaay back in 2014 will be replaced by the end of this year. About damn time, we say.

Property taxes going up
By 4% starting January 1st next year. The tax increase was approved by the majority of Los Cabos’ city council, with only one councilman voting against.

His reasons for voting against the tax were: We’ve already had a 3% increase this year, and that now is not the time to hurt the population more (referring to damage caused by Tropical Storm Lidia.)

Speaking of taxes…
Baja California Sur will be the first state in Mexico to introduce a tourist tax, which will take effect next year.

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Haven’t we had enough already? First it was Lidia and the 8.2-magnitude earthquake in Oaxaca that killed 90 people. Then it was Hurricane Max, a Category 1 storm that hit the state of Guerrero (think Acapulco). An estimated 3,500 families were affected and homes, highways, farmlands and water and electrical service have all sustained damages. Authorities are still evaluating the extent of the damage, and aren’t sure when reconstruction will start. And as if those three weren’t bad enough, another earthquake hit Mexico City and the surrounding area. This had a 7.1 magnitude and hit on the 32nd anniversary of another massive earthquake that killed thousands of people in Mexico City in 1985.

So far, the death toll from this most recent earthquake is at 291, and an estimated 600 people are still missing. At least 44 buildings collapsed and almost 5 million people were left without power immediately after the quake.

Ok, Mother Nature, we give! We’ve had enough, please take some pity on us!

Locals lends a hand
A group of firefighters and a rescue team was sent from Cabo to Mexico City to help search for earthquake survivors. Among them was one very special team member. Ludoviko, a Jack Russell Terrier trained as a rescue dog, made the journey to help assist clearing collapsed buildings.

Although the most common breed of dog used for these jobs are Labradors, Ludoviko did just fine while working in the area of Mexico City known as the Coyocan, and gained support on social media. It’s good to know our canine friends here in Los Cabos were working hand in hand (paw in hand is more like it) to help following the tragedy in Mexico City. Us cats would help out too, but we’re much more suited for providing comfort after a traumatic event. A purring kitty curled on your lap is a great stress reliever.

In happier news… Plans are being made for an $840-million USD Mayan-themed park that will be built near Playa del Carmen.

The amusement park is going to be called “Amikoo”—which means friend in Mayan — and will boast 24 attractions spread over almost 300 acres.

Attractions are the park will include an archaeology and anthropology museum, a 320-room hotel, a panoramic flight simulator called “Fly over Mexico” and another simulator where passengers can take a virtual submarine journey. There are also plans for a convention center, shopping area, restaurants, concert hall and wave pool, all of which are expected to be completed by November of next year.

At a ceremony announcing the park, Mexico’s President Enrique Peña Nieto said the park is expected to attract between 4 and 4.5 million visitors annually.

Amazon expanding in Mexico
Just two years after the retail supersite launched in Mexico, Amazon has announced that it will open a mega-warehouse (1 million square feet) warehouse outside of Mexico City.

The new warehouse will triple the size of the company’s current distribution space. It will be able to store about 15 million products including bulky items such as furniture. One million deliveries a day could be made and it would likely employ 2,000 to 3,000 people, according to Amazon execs.

Despite being so new to Mexico, Amazon is now the third largest online retailer in the country, recording sales of US $253 million last year.

Now this is something we could use
School students over on the mainland have developed a household generator that’s powered by… a bicycle! And you, of course. Someone has to pedal the thing.

The teens combined old bicycles and discarded auto parts together, then rigged them up with a brand new Volkswagen alternator. The result is a pedal-powered generator that can create eight hours of electricity with just two hours of pedaling. So not only will this save people money, but it’ll help them get their exercise in too.

Assuming people already have an old bike, the cost of a new solar pool heater

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The 330-Day Itch
To get this exemption, you have to spend the majority of your time in Mexico

BY ORLANDO GOTAY

I hear it all the time: If you spend 330 days of the year outside the United States, then you have a tax exemption. This refers to the federal Foreign Earned Income Exclusion (FEIE). But in tax law, generalizations can be dangerous. Oftentimes they can lead to misunderstandings and less-than-desired outcomes; audits, assessment of tax, penalties and interest.

Today I will explain one of the tests to be eligible for FEIE. First, some preliminaries: The exclusion part of the FEIE refers to foreign-earned income. That means income that is from foreign sources, using rules that determine the source of the income. Hinges like wages and self-employment income are sourced where the work is actually done. If your income is realized in a foreign country, then voilà—it is foreign sourced. FEIE income must also be earned. Pensions, royalties, interest and dividends are classified as unearned. If you can sit in the couch all day and the income arrives anyway, it is probably unearned and doesn’t count.

The 330 days need not be consecutive but must be full 24-hour days spent in a foreign country or countries. Also, you could be in the foreign country for any reason, even vacation. Your 12-month period does not need to be the same in subsequent years. In fact, your 12-month period does not have to be the first day of a month. 12-month selections can overlap. This allows flexibility in travel to the U.S. But, documentation needs to be kept to prove the day computation.

How much is this hassle worth? For 2017 the maximum FEIE amount is $102,100 of excludable income. Other details: If applicable, you would still be on the hook for Self Employment tax. States may not care about FEIE. Requiring you to add it back to their own tax computations. Claiming FEIE makes you ineligible for child tax credits. IRS Publication 54 has all the details.

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 or Facebook: GotayTaxLawyer.

HAIDALGO and GUERRERO
CABO SAN LUCAS
PH. 624 688 9618

CABO WABO

Rated with five stars on

tripadvisor
Cell Tower Drama Continues In Todos Santos

Despite police visits, construction on illegal tower goes on

BY JUSTIN CASE

Despite being denied a building permit and multiple clausurados (meaning it’s been shut down by the government), construction keeps progressing on an illegal cell phone tower in Todos Santos. Police have now visited the site five times since last month.

The Todos Santos delegate, who represents residents’ interests at city hall up in La Paz, joined police on one visit as they posted a new clausurado across an entrance gate to the site, warning workers that any further construction on the tower was punishable with a prison term.

Police have the authority to confiscate materials if trucks enter or leave the property. Charges were also filed against the company responsible for violating the original clausurado, which forbids continued construction on the tower without proper permits.

In reaction to the warnings, the property owner of the site and the contractor, Tower Partners, went to the Jurisdiction department in La Paz to request building permits but were denied. They were reminded the site is closed that continued construction of the tower could result in both of them going to prison.

Despite those September 23rd warnings, construction began again the next day during off hours.

Members of the Concerned Citizens of Todos Santos group, who last month delivered a petition against the tower to the municipal president in La Paz, are getting daily emails reminding them to keep an eye on the cell tower site and to raise an alarm when they see construction taking place.

This drama is far from over, so stay tuned.

This is the base of the cell phone tower that’s causing so much controversy in Todos Santos.

DOWNTOWN DESTRUCTION...

continued from page 1

Now started on the street. The street is going to be made of pavers, similar to the streets of the downtown art district. The goal is to have the whole downtown area look the same. Cobblestone by cobblestone.

The sidewalks on the right side of the street are torn up as well, and trying to navigate them on foot is a disaster, as there is not always a clearly marked path free of construction debris. Planters have been ripped up, as they are being redesigned.

While all this construction is going on, downtown has seen nearly all of its tourism disappear. Many tourists are staying away because of the construction, and locals are also avoiding the area because they don’t want to deal with traffic, parking, and weaving their way through tripping hazards on the sorry pathway that was left for foot traffic.

Many business owners on the construction side of the street closed their shops while sidewalks were torn up to be replaced. Fonatur asked the businesses to give them one week to tear up the sidewalk and lay foundation so they could get a decent pathway opened up for pedestrian traffic. But, although the sidewalks were torn up on time, they have yet to drive to completion.
Diving With Disabilities
Organization uses scuba diving as a way to improve people’s quality of life

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 unlike most other non-profits, which raise money for their own programs, the LCCF uses the donations it gets to support and strengthen other community programs.

The LCCF recently announced its 26 grantees for 2017-18, and over the next year the Gringo Gazette will be featuring each organization and the work they do. In this issue, we are profiling Busceo sin Barreras (Diving without Borders), a non-profit organization that offers scuba diving instruction to people with disabilities.

Busceo sin Barreras (Diving without Borders) is one of the new organizations the LCCF is benefitting this year. The program is open to everyone, although its focus is helping those with disabilities. Using specialized equipment and, when necessary, an instructor acting as a diving buddy, disabled adults and children are able to enjoy the benefits scuba diving can give them.

Started in Argentina in 2009, Busceo sin Barreras has a network of both volunteer and professional divers who have been trained to teach people with disabilities. The program, which also operates in Colombia and Uruguay, offers various training programs and community activities. They include: an introduction to diving class, where new divers learn the basics of scuba diving in a controlled environment (a swimming pool); diving training, which teaches people at all levels of diving, including professional level training, which places an emphasis on teaching people with disabilities; and training on the accessibility guidelines, in accordance with the International Convention On The Rights Of Persons With Disabilities.

According to Busceo sin Barreras, scuba diving is a highly therapeutic, rehabilitative and integrative activity that helps improve people’s quality of life. Scuba diving is a great sport for people with disabilities because the water is a great equalizer. What you can do on land doesn’t matter much when you’re in the water, and one of the key diving skills, buoyancy control, can be mastered by people with a whole range of disabilities. Scuba diving allows for an excellent cardiovascular workout that isn’t overly challenging, and that provides a good workout that doesn’t place any stress on the joints.

Since scuba diving requires a certain level of physical fitness, people who have a strong desire to dive find that they are able to push themselves to new levels they didn’t think were possible before. And with the elimination of gravity under water, muscle coordination and flexibility are noticeably increased.

Diving is not only good for the body, it can work wonders on the mind. To date, the organization has successfully taught over 100 people with disabilities how to scuba dive. The program has been so successful that it has expanded to other countries, and now operates in Argentina, Colombia, and Uruguay.

With the help of special equipment and instructors acting as diving buddies, people with disabilities are able to scuba dive like the rest of us.
Like Shooting Fish In A Barrel?
Well, there’s a gun, but spearfishing is a lot more involved

BY CAPTAIN NEMO

Everyone knows that Los Cabos is a mecca for sportfishing, with professionals, hardcore hobbyists and even the vacation amateurs able to reel in the big fish. But if you want to take your fishing to the next level (as is, doing more than sitting on a boat while waiting for a bite), then it’s time you try spearfishing.

Spearfishing is a more active sport. You’re the hunter, spear gun in hand, swimming through the open water and the reef to find your prey.

“It’s more demanding,” says Niko Bolduc. “It’s a lot of problem solving.”

Niko is the owner of Spearfishing Baja. It’s one of the very few companies in Los Cabos that offers spearfishing excursions and, Niko says, the only company that is licensed in Baja to do so.

If you’re not familiar with the sport, a big part of spearfishing is learning the basics of freediving, which means you’re diving underwater without a scuba tank. You’ll use a snorkel mask and tube, but you also have to learn how to control your breathing. It’s more demanding,” says Niko Bolduc. “It’s a lot of problem solving.”

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Spearfishing is basically underwater hunting, and it’s available here in Cabo from Spearfishing Baja.

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Community Rallies To Help Locals Hit By Lidia

A month after the storm, many in the arroyos are still trying to rebuild

BY KATE NEAL

Tropical Storm Lidia came through Cabo like a wrecking ball on August 31st delivering a one-two sucker punch as high rains caused massive mudslides. With 12 inches of rain (more or less; some areas got a lot more, some got less) descending on the area within a 24-hour period, we saw more of the wet stuff in that time frame than we’d seen in 84 years.

The downtown area was cleaned up quickly, with business owners out the very next day sweeping and restoring everything for those who drive our economy: the tourists. Getting the highway ship shape took a little longer, but it was still less than 10 days before things were mostly back to normal.

But those areas taking the hardest hit from the storm have taken much longer to pick up and dust off. The many barrios located on the outskirts of town have seen some of the most heart breaking losses, with cars, thousands of homes, and even people swept away by the water.

The barrios are communities built on sand in the dry river beds of the arroyos are cheap landscape for families, some of whom earn as little as $17 USD a day. It was no surprise that these areas would be affected, as they’re designed to provide drainage for the seasonal rains. The surprise was the amount of rainfall, and the pounding the arroyos took as a result.

While some schools in both San Jose and Cabo sheltered some displaced people during this time frame, many of the families were left to fend for themselves. The community came together to help these families, providing meals, clothing, and other necessities.

Continued on Page 21
starting in December. Before you get all riled up, the tax will come to approximately $20 USD, so it’s hardly going to affect your vacation. And that money will be put to good use.

Around 95% of the revenue collected will go towards infrastructure projects. Los Cabos alone could bring in almost $40 million USD from the tax!

Despite the potential revenue, the tax has been controversial since it was proposed. Those against it believe that tourists already contribute enough to the economy, and worry that the tax will keep away future visitors.

Cruise passengers will be exempt, as they are in Cabo less than 24 hours. And it’s not clear if the tax will be levied on national tourists or just international tourists.

Help the needy in Pescadero
The Sacred Heart Food Bank in Pescadero, which is about 40 minutes north of Cabo on the road to Todos Santos, provides clothing and medication to those in need, and is currently feeding some 60 families with the meals-on-wheels program. Like every charity, the food bank is always in need of donations, including cash, non-perishable food items, clean and laundered clothing and shoes in any condition. If you are interested in helping, email Larry Phoenix at phnix52@gmail.com. And look for our full story on the food bank in an upcoming issue.

Someone had a baaaad day
An adult bighorn sheep was found trapped in mud in the Chametla neighborhood of La Paz. Worried residents reported it to the authorities and officials from Propepa, Mexico’s environmental protection agency, came to its rescue. They pulled him out of the mud and he was transported to their medical offices.

The sheep was tired and dehydrated, and tests show that he had eaten mud. The poor guy! Even though he was obviously not used to human contact, he allowed the vets to care for him.

Bighorn sheep can be found 30 miles outside of La Paz, which led authorities to believe that this guy had been caught and transported illegally to Chametla or a nearby barrio. An investigation has been launched.

Avocados with just one click
Thanks to a partnership between ProMexico, a federal agency that promotes international trade and investment, and e-commerce giant Alibaba Group, guacamole lovers in China can now buy fresh avocados online.

The avocados became available last month through Alibaba’s business-to-consumer fresh produce platform, Tmall Fresh. To kick off the Alibaba-ProMexico collaboration, Tmall ran an avocado sale, selling 500,000 avocados, or 80 tons, in just two days.

Avocado consumption in China has been growing at an annual rate of more than 200%. According to ProMéxico, three-quarters of consumers are women, who like the Mexico’s “green gold” because of its nutritional and skin-care properties.

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

altor runs about $340 USD. Pretty good deal, considering one of these bicycle generators can last for up to two years.

Avocados with just one click

DOWNTOWN DESTRUCTION...
continued from page 5

been a month and the majority of the businesses remain closed, with only a handful of shops open.

The suddenness of the construction, coupled with the delays due to Lidia and Fonatur, have created a financial difficulty that many of the local businesses were not expecting. Not only do they have to keep paying rent, utilities, and other expenses, they also have to battle with the decrease in tourism and foot traffic during the day. One coffee shop, Café Dona Nena, has seen sales go down 85% due to all the construction havoc.

Fonatur originally promised to have each side of the street done within months (the right side by September and the left side by November). They missed the September goal and it’s looking like they’re not going to make the November deadline either. They have already gone a month over on their original projection, CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

Diana Lyn McClintock Dies

She died on a rainy Sept. 26. Diana Lyn McClintock was born Sept. 15, 1961. She was very self-reliant from an early age, and after graduating from high school in southern California she joined the U.S. Army and became a gunnery sergeant in Germany.

She had two children, Christine and Michael, whom she loved very much. Diana also left behind three fantastic grandchildren, Zachary, Tyler and Alissa, who live in Newport Beach, California.

The world was simply a better, brighter place when Diana was around. Diana put herself through nursing school as a single mother. She was an amazing mom and would use her sewing machine to make her kids’ clothes. There are many stories about the kind gestures that she used her skills for, especially here in Cabo.

Diana lived in Cabo for over 25 years. Most recently, her star blazed bright working at the timeshare Grand Solmar in sales.
Hey You! Stop Driving Over Turtles!

ATVs can wreak havoc on sea turtle nests and the drivers don’t even know it

BY DOUG A. HOLE

Tearing around on the beach and kicking up sand on an ATV is a popular activity for Los Cabos tourists. But all the fun you’re having on your ATV tour can come at a price for the local wildlife, particularly the baby sea turtles.

A perfect example of this can be seen on Las Margaritas Beach, which is on the Pacific side of the peninsula towards Todos Santos, next to Migrino Beach. A handmade wooden fence (big sticks that have been driven into the sand) divides the beach in two. On one side of the fence, the sand is smooth and hardly disturbed. On the other side of the fence, tire tracks and ruts from ATVs cover almost the entire beach.

Members of local ecological group EcoPlan have made it their mission to protect the sea turtles, and educate tourists, tour providers and local residents about the importance of taking care of Cabo’s environment.

“A lot of times people, especially tourists, they don’t have any idea of what’s there under them,” says Liz Breton, a marine biologist who works for EcoPlan. “I am convinced that no one who knows the damage they cause does it deliberately.”

The ATVs are hazardous to the sea turtle nests and the baby turtles in several ways. First, the ATV tracks obliterate the tracks left from the mama sea turtle as she drags herself from the ocean to her nesting spot, which makes it nearly impossible for volunteers to find the nests so they can mark them. And if an ATV drives over a nest, they pack down the sand over the eggs, which can smash them. The compressed sand also leaves less room for air in the nest, and is harder for the baby turtles to crawl up through once they’ve hatched.

Even if ATVs have carefully driven around the nests, they still present a hazard to the baby sea turtles. The ruts left in the sand from the ATV tires can be several inches deep, which provides a big obstacle for the tiny baby turtles, which are just a couple inches long themselves, to climb over.

Often, the turtles don’t climb over the ruts, but follow them and crawl parallel to the ocean rather than straight to it. If the babies do try to climb over the steep (for them) tire tracks, they can easily flip onto their backs, (turn turtle, get it?) and are left stranded there tummies up, and

EcoPlan volunteer Kevin DeLange examines ATV tire tracks circling a sea turtle nest on Las Margaritas Beach. Even if they ATVs don’t run over the next, driving so close to them is still hazardous; the baby sea turtles have to try and climb over those sand ruts to get to the ocean.

ATVs aren’t the only danger to the sea turtles, according to EcoPlan volunteer Kevin DeLange, horses can often do more damage to the nests, because the horse hoofs can actually step into the nests and destroy the eggs, but there are not as many horseback riding tours as there are ATV tours.

Fisherman who drive on the beach and over the nests are also a problem, but again, they’re not as prevalent as the ATVs (at least on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26
It’s Sea Turtle Season

Go out to a turtle toss and help the little guys make it to water

BY JOHN DOLITTLE

It’s that time of the year again, time to toss the baby sea turtles out to sea and wish them well on their journey. Ok, we’re kidding about the tossing part, you don’t actually do that. But if you go to a turtle release out at the Asupmatoma camp in Rancho San Cristobal, off Highway 1 on the way to Todos Santos, you can help baby sea turtles get safely to the ocean.

Asupmatoma is a non-profit organization that has been around for more than for two decades. Their approach to sea turtle conservation is three pronged:

- They do research, provide environmental education to student groups, and monitor sea turtles and their nests.
- Right now, there are about 300 nests being monitored at Rancho San Cristobal and another 400 at their Susprio Beach site. They’ll have a total of around 1,000 nests by the end of the season. Each nest holds an average of 100 eggs.
- We’ll do the math for you, that’s roughly 100,000 turtle eggs that Asupmatoma is monitoring and caring for.

The marine biologists and the volunteers that work at San Cristobal patrol the beaches every night, from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., from July to October. They look for mama sea turtles who are laying eggs, so they can safely transport the eggs to another nest in their enclosed hatchery. The patrollers are on a time crunch, since eggs can only be transported within four hours of being lain.

From September to December is when all those nests start hatching. With baby sea turtles fighting their way through the sand to get to the surface. That’s where the biologists, volunteers and you guys come in.

You can go out and help dig up the nests, clearing the way so the baby turtles don’t have to expend so much energy before making their way to the water.

The staff encourages you to get right in there, on your knees in the sand, scooping out sand with yours hands. We know you’ll be excited, but don’t dig too furiously. You don’t want to poke a baby sea turtle in the eye.

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University of Guadalajara, the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Pan-American University.

More than 200 students met in the University of Guadalajara workshop to cut, bend, solder and vulcanize canvas to make stretchers, cots and baby cribs, made in just two days by students, teachers and graduates from the University of Guadalajara, the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Pan-American University.

Go, Lucky, go! He’s just one of the thousands of baby sea turtles released every season at the Asupmatoma camp in Los Cabos.

You might also encounter some unpleasant surprises while you dig. Those include baby sea turtles who didn’t make it, as well as turtle egg shells and sand crawling with maggots. Don’t let it deter you from going out there and experiencing a turtle release, it’s still a very cool experience.

Just be prepared; and if you plan on taking the kids with you, it’s a very good opportunity to talk about the circle of life.

Remember, this is nature and it’s not always pretty. Abilene Colin, the program director, says that while it’d be ideal for every nest to be full of live, healthy baby turtles, that’s just not the way it works. Sometimes you get a happy nest, sometimes you get a sad nest, she says. On our dig, we definitely got a sad nest, with just one lone little turtle in there.

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Diving with Disabilities... (continued from page 6)

the mind as well. The sense of independence and freedom offered by underwater weightlessness can help people with disabilities develop a more positive and optimistic attitude. Imagine, if you were stuck in a wheelchair all day every day; how great would it feel to be able to move your body underwater in ways that you normally couldn't?

Diving also demands a high level of focus, which can help to alleviate the stresses and anxieties experienced in everyday life. One of the main problems many disabled people experience is social isolation. Diving is a highly social activity, with participants meeting a variety of other people from all walks of life. Diving is a sport that also encourages teamwork, respect for nature and their fellow divers, and self-care.

Buscoco sin Barreras hosted two events in Los Cabos over the summer and has another one planned for this month. For more information on this organization, visit their website at www.buscocosinbarreras.org (it's in Spanish, so have Google Translate ready). To learn more about the work of the Los Cabos Children's Foundation, visit their website at www.loscaboschilfunden.org.

CABO SAN LUCAS

CULTURAL PAVILION
October 1 to 22, 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. Rural Interaction Exhibition. In the Pavilion’s cinema room. Spanish with help in English. Free.

Every Thursday, 7:00 pm. Pavilion’s Movie Club. A different movie every Thursday. Sometimes in English, sometime other languages with Spanish subtitles. October is the Italian movies month. English or Italian with Spanish subtitles. Free.

October 5. Thursday. 7:00 pm. Bicycle Thief (1946). In post-war Italy, a working-class man’s bicycle is stolen. He and his son set out to find it, learning valuable lessons along the way.

October 12. Thursday. 7:00 pm. A Special Day (1977). A resigned housewife living in 1930s fascist Italy (Sophia Loren) strikes up a friendship with her homosexual neighbor, a persecuted journalist (Mastroianni).

October 19. Thursday. 7:00 pm. Mediterranea (1991). In WWII, an Italian Army unit of misfits occupies an isolated Greek island, but soon realize the island’s citizens have merely gone into hiding after believing they were under German attack.

October 26. Thursday. 7:00 pm. Cinema Paradiso (1988). This Italian comedy drama is based on the life and times of screenwriter/director Giuseppe Tornatore.

October 6. Friday. 8:00 pm. Opera Concert with Sarah Vardy, soprano from the Vienna Opera as special guests, Daniel Silva, Tenor; Paola Torner, Mezzo-Soprano; Nahum Aquino, Pianist. With the Studio Del Angel Ballet. Spanish. Tickets $17 USD at the Pavilion office.

Every Sunday, 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Art exhibits, live music, children’s workshops. Free entrance. At the Cabo marina, next to Solomon’s Landing restaurant. Spanish with some help in English. Free.

October 21 and 22. Saturday. 6:00 pm and 8:30 pm. Sunday. 1:00 pm and 6:00 pm. The Beauty and The Beast – The Musical. By Henry Lopez Studio. Spanish. More info and tickets at the Pavilion office.

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

LA RANA VEGANA Playa Migrino St, up from Miguel A. Herrera St. Turn right 4 blocks before the gas station (Pueblo Bonito Sunset area)

Every Thursday. 8:00 pm. Vagabond Movie Club. Every week a different movie, sometimes in English, sometimes in different languages always with Spanish subtitles.

October 28. Saturday. 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Arts exhibits, live music, children’s workshops. Free entrance. At the Cabo marina, next to Solomon’s Landing restaurant. Spanish with some help in English. Free.

LEON COTA PLAZA Next to Red Cross and Delegación buildings.

Every Sunday. 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Every two weeks, four hours of PlazArte workshops with live music, dance, and different guest artists. Spanish. Free.

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

October 6 and December 1. Friday. 8:00 pm.

Los Cabos International Film Festival free movies. Mexican actors and actresses will be present for a meet and greet and interviews with the local press. Spanish.

MACONDO Upstairs from La Europea at the Walmart plaza

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

BALDO, CULTURAL INSTITUTE Behind Home Depot, Km 7.7 on the Transpeninsular Hwy.

October 24. Tuesday. 7:30 pm. Music concert. Siberian group ALASH are masters of Tuvan throat singing, a technique for singing multiple pitches at the same time. Tickets are $15 USD. More info: call 104-3700 during the day or email: colegio_baldor@hotmail.com

LUXURY AVENUE Puerto Paraiso Mall October 19th, Thursday. 11:00 am to 9:00 pm. Art exhibition opening. Presenting the new painting collection created by the artist Yandi Monardo. English. Free.

CABO MARINA
October 28. Every Saturday. 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Arts exhibits, live music, children’s workshops. Free entrance. At the Cabo marina, next to Solomon’s Landing restaurant. Spanish with some help in English. Free.

SAN JOSE

KORAL CENTER/EL MERCADO Kilometer 24.5 on Highway 1

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

LA DOLCE VILLA Behind the Mega supermarket in San Jose


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 roundabout

Every Wednesday. 7:00 to 10:00 pm. Wirikuta, the story of the ancient Huichol tribe told through modern dance, acrobatics, music and audiovisual effects. Includes dinner buffet and open bar. In English and Spanish. For tickets: www.wirikutagarden.com.

PLAZA EL PESCACTOR

PLAZA EL PESCACTOR

Every Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. 6:00 to 10:00 pm. Art Fair. Food sampling and wine tasting at the restaurants and shops in the mall. Live music and local artists showcasing their work. Across from the Cabo Azul resort in the hotel zone. Free.

MAIN PLAZA

The PlazArte Program will continue during renovations, just beside the remodeling area.

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

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

EL ZACATAL At the Soccer Field

October 7 and December 2. Saturday. 8:00 pm. Los Cabos International Film Festival free movies. Mexican actors and actresses will be present for a meet and greet and interviews with the local press. Spanish.

MIRAFLORES
BESIDES THE MOTHER’S MONUMENT.
October 6, Thursday. 7:00 pm. Rural Full Moon Nights. The Municipal Culture Institute brings you a Bohemian arts night with paintings, hand crafts, traditional dances, local history, regional music and food. Spanish, with help in English.

Community Reading Lounges

At AMELIA WILKES PLAZA Main plaza downtown CSL, Every Saturday from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Herman Ita de Ysabela Reading club has a different book to read and comment. Saturday starting April 1. Free. Book donations are welcome. More info and special activities with Nixania email: todossomoselotro@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 to the main park in Cabo San Lucas. Spanish and some in English. Free.

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

At KINESIS GYM. El Chamilzal 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%B8sima-Kinesis-Fabuladanza-6910397979630803/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.  

LIKE SHOOTING FISH IN A... (continued from page 7)

Type of fish you're going to be shooting. There are different guns for fishing the reef and blue water. The guns they use for the reef are between 3.2 and 3.6 feet, and blue water guns are between 4.3 and 4.6 feet. The staff will help you select the best gun for your adventure because, as Niko says, you don't want to get in the water over-gunned or it takes away the challenge.

In case you're wondering how a gun works underwater, Ricardo says that a spear-fishing gun is like a crossbow. You have an arrow (in this case, the spear) and a bow string (a band of rubber) that gives the weapon its power. The difference is that the spear is either attached to the gun, or connected directly to a float line and a buoy. This is for continued on page 27.
BREAKING THE COMMUNITY GARDEN STEREOTYPE

Raíz de Fondo does more than just get people digging in the dirt.

By Ivanna Hoe

Set foot onto one of their garden sites, visit their local storefront or attend one of their events, and you’ll realize that Raíz de Fondo doesn’t follow the typical community garden model.

Raíz de Fondo, a non-profit organization based in La Paz, has two garden plots (the Legasy garden and the Guamuchil garden) that are tended to by volunteers and the few employees they have on staff. Like many community gardens, parcels are available for “adoption,” giving those without sufficient yard space a chance at growing their own food. Volunteers are available to help guide those that weren’t necessarily born with a green thumb (and thank goodness for that).

Raíz de Fondo hosts a variety of workshops designed for people with all levels of gardening experience, addressing issues specific to La Paz like poor soil quality and water shortages. Their last workshop taught attendees how to make their own biofertilizer from a variety of natural minerals and natural fertilizers (yes, this includes cow poop). But Raíz de Fondo’s focus goes beyond community gardens. Its goal is to get people to think about their food beyond the table it’s served on. The organization works to provide the tools and knowledge necessary for the community to have access to healthy foods. If you’re looking to understand how to get more nutritional benefits from your food or incorporate more vegetables into your diet, you can attend one of their cooking and nutrition classes. They typically host two sessions of the same class in one week to open it up for more attendees.

Their most recent cooking class featured bread recipes that included vegetables and fruits, while omitting yeast – making it easier for the novice bread maker. Other classes have featured dishes from various countries along the Mediterranean, including Italy and Greece.

Teachers can bring their students to the garden for an educational visit. They’ll get introduced to the ideas of food gardens, nutrition, and their relationship with the environment, while having a little bit of fun getting their hands dirty. The students also get seeds of their own that they can plant at home.

If you’re looking to relax more than work, yoga sessions are hosted at the Legasy garden site. And informal workshops held on topics related to food and gardening are also a great opportunity for learning and community building in the garden.

These talks often feature guest speakers who have expertise in specific areas. To learn more about Raíz de Fondo and any of their gardens, classes or events, you can visit their website at www.raizedfon- do.org/en/ or email general inquiries to Raizedfondo@gmail.com. You can also find them on Facebook at facebook.com/RaiDeFondo.
Wrap It Up

The rebozo is a traditional Mexican garment with many uses

BY ALEJANDRA BORBOLLA

The rebozo is a long, flat garment that is a powerful symbol of Mexican culture and identity. It's worn mainly by Mexican women, usually folded or wrapped around the shoulders and/or head. You would possibly call it a shawl.

The origin of the rebozo is not known, but it likely had its beginnings among the lower, mestizo classes in the early colonial period. The most traditional rebozos show colors and designs from the colonial period, and mestizo women (who could not afford expensive Spanish items) likely wore them to distinguish themselves from indigenous women.

But by the 1800s, the popularity of the rebozo had grown so that all women, regardless of their ethnicity or social class, wore them. The Mexican Revolution of 1910 brought the rebozo notoriety, as it was the garment of choice for the 'Adelitas' - rebel women who assisted the male soldiers and who used it to smuggle guns and other weapons past government checkpoints.

Today, a cotton or rayon rebozo is worn in daily life by women in rural areas of Mexico. It is used as a carrier for babies and toddlers, and is used to carry produce. It is worn in holy places, during mourning, and as shelter from the sun and rain. It is part of the national costume. The silk rebozo is worn as a decorative garment for social occasions. The wool rebozo is worn for warmth in the highlands, where they are produced.

Mexico is the main producer and exporter of rebozos. The average time to make a traditionally woven rebozo is 30 to 60 days, with anywhere from 15 to 200 different steps in the process, depending on how complicated the design is and the type of fiber used. For example, rebozos made of real silk take longer to weave.

The dying process is done before weaving, with the most common technique the ikat method, sometimes called "amarrado". In the most traditional work, thread is dyed with natural dyes, in colors like black, blue, red, purple and green, but synthetic dyes are now often used.

The patterns of the garment are determined by a sequence of colors dyed into the thread, with color changes made that are similar to tie-dying. Groups of threads are tied together tightly at intervals so that the dye cannot enter some areas. After dying, the knots are cut off. The weaving begins by cutting the threads to the length of the final product. The number of threads determines the width. They are woven on both backstrap looms and European style looms.

The groups of threads are then placed on the loom in order to work out the design that the CONTINUED ON PAGE 28
Disaster Readiness In Los Cabos and La Paz

BY CHERYL T. MILLER

Many of us are veterans of Baja California Sur and have been through one or more storms, and we may know many ways to protect our property, lives and our comfort after the storm, (and we learn from each storm that occurs), but, many new home owners are not familiar with hurricanes and tropical storms. In this crazy season of 2017, we have seen here and in many parts of the world, extreme climates that have caused damage and destruction, cost lives, and has caused discomfort and distress.

So, it is an apt subject to let our new home owner’s and potential buyers to know what to do to prepare for a storm in the future. If you are ready, you will be fine!

Although most of the past damages here in Baja California Sur have been from hurricanes, as we just saw, a strong tropical storm like Lidia can bring with it a new set of challenges and damage with water and mud. But, what is to our advantage is that storms and hurricanes are something we have time to prepare for, unlike an earthquake, where there is no warning.

So here are a few tips:
Never underestimate a storm or hurricane. As with Odile of 2014, the hurricane looked like it would miss us, and then within the last 6 hours or so, headed straight for us leaving many residents unprepared. Storms are fickle and vary, so be prepared. A few hours of work can save you thousands of dollars in damages and maybe your life.

NEVER buy a property in a flood zone or a low lying area next to a flood zone. A good real estate agent who has experience here in Los Cabos and La Paz knows those areas prone to inundation. Heed their knowledge. When these forces occur, there is nothing humanly possible to thwart them. If your real estate agent is a newbie, you can also check with the government, who has maps of known areas of flood and inundation and that can be added to your offer as a contingency. Either you or a paid consult can check those maps and secure more information about the area where you want to buy.

If you are not here year round, arrange with a property manager, neighbor, friend or worker to be on call to “hurricane proof” your property in your absence. To do so, in advance of any event, procure hurricane protections, bring in or strap down any item that is “loose” on your property, such as patio furniture, BBQs, potted plants or awnings. During a hurricane, literally anything that is “loose” on your property, will fly away or be moved from its original position. I once saw a 600 pound steel cabinet move 5 feet from its original position during a hurricane…something that took 4 men to move! If you have delicate trees, consider installing wooden poles and strapping them against the wind.

Another word or two about strapping and hurricane protections: Most of the failures I have witnessed of these systems were not the systems themselves, but failure of their connections to the building. Any bolts or connections installed into the building should be installed with an epoxy resinous compound in addition to the “pressure” from the lag bolt itself. This will insure that the lag bolts will not “pop out” from their holes in the block or concrete.

Hurricane protections: There are several systems on the market. Some come from the U.S. and carry a Dade County, Florida rating. Others do not. You can also build your own systems, as I did, from plywood and wood. Again, securing the connections with epoxy is paramount for any system to be fully secure. I store these in a place, numbered and identified as to where they need to go so it is fast to install when the time comes. Costs a little more, but well worth it!

Pre-planning: During the early summer have the roof and walls of your home inspected.

Cabo San Lucas Featured Property

Tramonti Condos

The uniquely designed residences of Tramonti offer a new experience in Cabo-style living. Besides elegance Tramonti gives its owners fabulous amenities and a spectacular view of the Sea of Cortés and to the world known Arch of Cabo San Lucas, its location is unique.

With large spaces that range from 160 to 204 square meters, Tramonti residences have panoramic views with large and unique terraces that are new to the real estate market.

Tramonti has a star design of 7 residential luxury 3 or 4 story buildings with spectacular ocean views and extensive gardens on steep grounds resulting in an amazing scenario.

Amenities: Club house, pool, linear park, BBQ area, Gym, event areas, jacuzzi, deli, 24 hours security.

Why Retire In Los Cabos?

BY SANDRA MORGAN

As we dream of finding that warm climate place to retire, an overwhelming number of international buyers are picking Los Cabos. For those of you that have already been smitten over the years with the occasional visit the reasons are obvious. For the unfortunates that have yet to visit, you owe it to yourselves to come take a better look. While you are here just ask any one of the thousands of expats that make Cabo a permanent or half year residence. We are all more than happy to share our experiences. Some fit in right away while others long for their native home and leave but not because they didn’t absolutely love living here. One of the top destinations for the wealthy, celebrity and pro athletes that can afford the ultra-luxury oceanfront communities but that is not what we came for. You don’t have to be rich to own an incredible villa or condo. While it may not be ocean front it will be ocean view and typically walk to range. In our condo community alone there is a wide mix of culture from the USA, Canada, France, Spain, Britain and all parts of Mexico. Some came to work others to retire.

The list of reasons is long so let’s get started and focus on the main concerns.

Sense of Community- Los Cabos is a melting pot of North Americans and most everyone has located here rather recently.

Climate- We have been called ‘Scottsdale on the Beach’ but that is telling only part of the story. With an average temperature of 75 degrees F and low humidity there is very few deserts in the Tropics with such consistency of Blue Skies and cool breezes.

Modern Conveniences- Great Airports, highways, public transportation, schools, charitable organizations, retail chains, restaurants, nightlife and all the conveniences of home.

Affordability- This is a matter of perspective as you can spend

huge on a $50 million mansion or find a comfortable $150,000 condo. Same goes for dining, nightlife and activities where there are bargains but also great luxuries. One just needs to see the variety of water craft in the Cabo Marina to see the variance.

Taxes- You can simply keep more of your money and spend less without giving up your quality of life. Property taxes are super low currently at about .01%. Sales Tax is high at 16% but goods are low. Everyone has their own special tax experience and need to check with their personal accountant.

Healthcare- A longtime friend of mine that moved here in the 1980’s summed it up best- “I was always planning to head back once I needed more health care but now great high-quality- healthcare is all over Los Cabos.’ It is true there are many current, newly opened and large modern hospitals, dentists and health care providers are opening up and down the Corridor. Health insurance costs are drastically lower as well as the US is dealing with excessive increases. The burden of 10,000 Americans turning 65 daily will accelerate this trend.

Safety- We have lived here since 2004 and I can honestly say I feel very safe and secure. The Mexican culture is wonderful and accommodating to Americans. Even though the US has been a less than friendly neighbor, local Mexicans genuinely like us, go figure. Unless you decide to get in the illicit drug business you are going to be safe and love your new home.

To sum it up, the quality of life is high, housing costs are low. Weather is ideal and the sense of community is wonderful. If you like four season weather, you are in for a disappointment. Sometimes we get a little bored with the blue sky and can go 6-9 months without consulting with the Weather Channel. Sure projects sometimes take more time and we do live in a ‘manana’ country. But within a Mexican Minute you will be sipping your cool beverage under a palapa on the beach. Who knows you may have to fly down the grand chilled beach. Who knows you may take a better look. While you are here just ask any one of the thousands of expats that make Cabo a permanent or half year residence. We are all more than happy to share our experiences. Some fit in right away while others long for their native home and leave but not because they didn’t absolutely love living here. One of the top destinations for the wealthy, celebrity and pro athletes that can afford the ultra-luxury oceanfront communities but that is not what we came for. You don’t have to be rich to own an incredible villa or condo. While it may not be ocean front it will be ocean view and typically walk to range. In our condo community alone there is a wide mix of culture from the USA, Canada, France, Spain, Britain and all parts of Mexico. Some came to work others to retire.

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**Real Estate Classifieds**

**FOR SALE IN SAN JOSÉ**

- **AMAZING 2ND FLOOR BEACHFRONT HOME**
  - 2 Story Home features 3 bdr/3.5 baths, ample kitchen and fireplace. Spacious floor plans, gated with security, alarm system, landscaped yard. MLS #17-1285.

- **EL MAR LOT #20 LAS TINAS**

- **NEW DEVELOPMENT**

- **EL MIRADOR CONDO**

- **FULL ACRE, 1BD/1BATH**
  - SFD Home featured in 3rd Floor. Expansive outdoor terrace w/ firepit built-in seating, two cars garage. MLS #17-1394.

- **BEACHFRONT CONDO**
  - 340K. 1B, 1BR, ground floor, pool, furnished. security24/7. MLS #17-1394. Annie Espanola; (612) 100 8830.

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Sellers Fee's
When you decide to sell your Real Estate investment in Los Cabos

BY CONNIE MEYERHOFF

It’s important for sellers to know up front before entering into a Real Estate listing contract what the fees will be that will affect the net of the sale that you are going to put into your pocket. Don’t wait until you receive a buyer’s contract or get surprised at the closing table when you receive your sellers statement.

Just like when you purchase your property the buyer will be paying the closing costs and transfer fees for transferring your title into their name.

As the seller you will be responsible to have your Mexican Property Taxes, Home Owners / Strata Dues paid to the date of close. You can request to have your utilities pro-rated if they have been pre-paid or have your electricity and water meters read on the date of close so that from that date it becomes the responsibility of the buyer. Your annual trust fee for your title is one fee that cannot be pro-rated. If your annual trust fee is due in October and close your sale in December you will still be responsible to pay the annual fee for one year regardless. The buyer will also be paying one year of trust fees up front in their closing costs.

Capital Gains tax also applies in Mexico. It will be calculated on any gain you make on the sale of your property. It will be calculated in pesos at the exchange rate of the day when you purchased your property and at the exchange rate of the day when you sell your property. There are deductions that can be calculated to bring the gain down. Such as your Real Estate Commission, you also will receive an inflationary credit for each year of ownership of your property, original Facturas for improvements can also be submitted for consideration. It may be possible to have a tax strategy prepared in Mexico to further reduce your tax obligation. After you close your sale talk to your accountant North of the Border for your US or Canadian Income Taxes. US Citizens receive a tax credit for Capital Gains Tax paid in Mexico.

Lastly you will be paying the Real Estate commission that you agree to in the listing contract with your Realtor and Broker in Mexico plus IVA Tax.

The closing time frame once you have an accepted sales contract typically is averaging 60 days. Throw in some Mexican Financing on the part of the buyer and the time frame may average 120 days. If your title is held by a trust bank such as HSBC or ScotiaBank your closing time frame may average 7 months or so. Good to know when you can expect your Diner!

By Connie Meyerhoff, Agent, Engel & Volkers Snell RE. For more information call 480-393-0639, or write to Connie at c.meyerhoff@snellrealestate.com.

DISASTER READINESS IN… continued from page 15

Even though most waterproofing applications are guaranteed for 3-10 years, I choose to have a coat applied yearly. The intense sun and heat can cause cracking and drying out of these liquid membranes and cause leaks. Check the surface and corners for any cracks, lifting or peeling. Repair these areas first. Apply sealant to all downspout joints and openings in the roof. And always wrap the waterproofing system up the wall at least 4 inches. Do NOT wait until the rainy season to do this maintenance. First, waterproofing systems should not be applied in moist conditions. Second, it seems to be human nature to procrastinate until the last minute and then all of the installers are busy. Check for loose or cracked tile. Repair these potential projectiles during a hurricane.

Check your drainage systems for clogging. If you have received water run-off in the past from neighboring properties or streets, consider installing a retaining or diversion wall. When it rains, inspect your yard for any place during a heavy storm, that may cause flooding to the interior of your home, and rectify the situation BEFORE it becomes a problem. Changing the grade of your yard, a diversion wall. When it rains, inspect your yard for any place during a heavy storm, that may cause flooding to the interior of your home, and rectify the situation BEFORE it becomes a problem. Changing the grade of your yard, creating additional supply of water for a period of time! Batteries. Store them in the refrigerator for longer life.

Agent Profile
Carmen Gorraez

Through an invitation in 1983 she was given the opportunity to learn about another part of her country, the one that is called “The Other Mexico”. This other part of Mexico is the Peninsula of Baja California and a small little town known as Loreto. She came to discover that her best part of her life was yet to come for she found the great value of solitude and the beauty of enjoying it. Along with the enjoyment of Baja life, she accepted a great job working for Fonatur.

Fonatur (National Trust Fund for Tourism Development) is a government agency created to promote certain areas of the country where tourism could be developed.

She worked with Fonatur in Loreto and Los Cabos for 26 years as a sales person and sales manager giving her the opportunity of seeing the growth of Los Cabos along with private investments. She retired from Fonatur in 2008.

Now a sales associate at 2-Seas Christie’s she keeps busy assisting real estate clients, assuring that this has been the best years of her life.

Contact Carmen, 2 Seas Christie’s Office Phone - +52(624) 172-6555, Mobile - +52 1(624) 355-4814 or write her at carmen@2seasloscabos.com.
Check your lanterns, radios and other battery operated devices for the size, and have at least 2 sets on hand in your crisper or margarine compartment. Because of the salt air, regularly check these battery devices for corrosion at the battery poles and the batteries themselves.

**Having a small generator is advisable.** This can run your refrigerator/freezer for your fresh food supply. Run it a few hours every 8-12 hours, and that should keep your food edible for some time. Have a supply of fuel always on hand. After a hurricane, electricity may be shut off for as much as 3 weeks, fuel deliveries halted for an extended period of time. Be prepared.

**Obtain extra cash.** After a hurricane the banks may be closed for extended periods of time. You will not be able to withdraw cash from the ATM...So place an emergency cash source in a safe place in your home and keep it for such emergencies. DO NOT depend on getting cash hours before the storm hits. The ATM's supply often run out in a matter of hours.

**Canned or dried foods.** Always have on hand sufficient non-perishable food sufficient for at least 1 week. And remember your pets too!

**Fill your washing machine with ice before the storm.** This will give you about 2 days of cold capacity to store perishable foods, if you do not have a generator.

**Fill your car’s gas tank before the storm.** Don’t wait until the last minute, your precious preparation time may be expended in a gas line for several hours!

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Sounds Of Sinatra In Cabo
When the CD version just won’t do, here’s a live option

BY AL DENTE

If you go out for a nice Italian dinner at Salvatore’s, or at Galluzzo’s, its sister restaurant just a few doors up the block, you’ll likely hear the sounds of Frank Sinatra crooning while you eat. But that music isn’t coming from some Rat Pack CD playing on loop; it’s being sung by Willie Hoffee, a recent Cabo transplant who’s hoping to make a name for himself in the local restaurant entertainment scene.

You can find Willie singing tunes at either restaurant pretty much any night of the week. Dressed in a short-sleeve button up, skinny tie and a fedora, he dresses the part of a Rat Packer (although his long gray ponytail gives him away).

Willie had originally hoped to make his performance more of a dinner show, but Salvatore’s owner Tim Galluzzo nixed that idea, saying his patrons want to be able to have conversations while they’re eating. And we can understand that, is there anything more annoying than that feeling like you have to yell over the music to be heard?

But, Tim says it’s a possibility that in the future they’ll have a “Willie night” where they have Godfather movies playing on the televisions and Willie singing front and center. And Willie says he hopes to make his singing an experience, the type of thing people recommend to others visiting Cabo.

And really, it’s not totally fair to call Willie background music. Yes, some diners do pay more attention to their food and their conversations than they do to him, but others are happy to be a part of Willie’s show. They’ll sing along, joining in on the course of Dean Martin’s “That’s Amore.” Or, couples will hear “their song” and get up and start dancing. And Willie does his best to get an uninterested crowd involved; moving around the room and encouraging diners to join in.

He’s even stood in the doorway of the restaurant and sung to people walking outside, hoping to draw them into the restaurant. And it’s working.

When we visited Galluzzo’s, Willie had only been singing there for three weeks, but he’d already had people coming in and asking if he was performing.

WENDY
Meet one of America’s canine aristocrats! I’m a Coonhound, whose bloodlines hark back to the mountain people of the Ozarks and the Smoky Mountains. Apart from the obvious hunting skills and corresponding athletic ability, we’re are, playful, and gentle, fond of children and other dogs. We might look intimidating because of our size, but rest assured that we don’t want to harm or bite anyone, even as watchdogs. Our Dolby-level volume will do the job on that one! Our tastes run more to creature comforts, like large snoozes and sofas.

TUNA
Yes, I’ve been fishing in this tub. By now you’ve figured out that tuna is my favorite thing on earth. Can I tell you how hard it is to live in Cabo, a tuna and namesake. Can I tell you how tuna is my favorite thing on earth.

Feel like hearing some Sinatra? You can catch Willie crooning his tunes just about every night, at Salvatore’s or Galluzzo’s.

The reasons he’s resonated with people is because Frank Sinatra is not something you hear much of in Cabo.

“Everybody does Elvis,” he says, “but nobody does Frank.” Willie first came to Cabo a year ago September, and fell in love with the place (as many of us do). On that trip, he went on a sunset cruise on the Cabo Rey and watched the guys in the cover band play. Having a long history of playing in cover bands himself, Willie thought, “I could do that, too.” Willie came back to Cabo this past April and scored a gig at the country club, playing rock music at their Tuesday Drinking & Driving nights at the driving range. That same month he auditioned for the Salvatore’s gig, also playing rock music. Tim wasn’t too interested in that, but asked if Willie could do Sinatra and, it turned out, he could. Willie went back home to Yakima, Washington and spent a few months practicing before moving down to Cabo in August.

Willie sings mostly Sinatra, because his vocal range is very similar to Frank’s so it’s not too much of a stretch for him. And we have to admit, he does sound like “Ol’ Blue Eyes.” Willie says that by trade he’s a “crooner,” which is defined as a male who sings sentimental songs in a low, soft voice. At first he didn’t like having that term applied to him, but now he’s embracing it.

Along with Sinatra, Willie also throws in some Dean Martin & Driving nights at the driving range. That same month he auditioned for the Salvatore’s gig, also
Go Glamping in La Paz
As in, glamorous camping. It’s not just a tent on the beach.

BY AL FRESCO

For most people, sleeping in a tent on the beach isn’t how they want to experience Los Cabos. Oh sure, it sounds good to young backpackers and hippies who love being out in nature, but tourists usually want more in the way of comfort and amenities when they’re here on vacation.

But at Camp Cecil, located on the tiny island of Espirito Santo up in La Paz, guests can enjoy a camping on the beach experience without feeling like they’re roughing it. That’s because Camp Cecil, which is operated by Todos Santos Eco Adventures, specializes in luxury camping, also known as “glamping” (glamorous camping).

The accommodations at Camp Cecil are eight large canvas safari tents (six measure 12 by 14 feet and the other two are 14 by 16 feet) that come with furnishings that are better than what we’ve seen at some of the cheaper hotels here in Los Cabos. Seriously, these tents look like they belong in a Pottery Barn catalog. Inside each tent is a real bed with Egyptian cotton sheets, two end tables, rug, a wicker chair, luggage racks and a small shelf where you can stash your stuff (although who really unpacks when you’re just staying for a few days?).

The tents are situated right on the beach, and outside of each tent guests have their own little sitting area with a large porch mat, lawn chairs and lanterns, so guests can comfortably sit and enjoy the beach view.

Also part of Camp Cecil’s glamping experience is the on-site gourmet chef who prepares meals daily. Meals include dishes like fresh ceviche, quinoa salad, meatball soup and tacos. Guests eat together at the communal table in the dining tent (nicknamed Espiritu Xantus Café), which has a real table and chairs, tablecloths and a rustic chandelier hanging from the tent ceiling.

And yes, they have booze too. There’s a nightly happy hour where you can drink everything from Pacifico to tequila-grapefruit cocktails.

Oh, and we have to mention that going to the bathroom at Camp Cecil doesn’t mean digging a hole and squatting in the sand. There are two compost toilet cabins (think eco-friendly port-a-potties) and two sun showers as well.

Staying at Camp Cecil is an unplugged experience; obviously, since we don’t know of any tents that are equipped with electrical outlets. The only reason you’ll need your phone is to take picture after picture of the stunning scenery on Espirito Santo (you can post them on Facebook and Instagram when you’re at the airport and trying to delay facing the real world again). But even without the constant presence of your phone/social media/apps/games, you won’t be bored. Camp Cecil offers plenty activities, like hiking, kayaking, snorkeling, stand up paddleboarding and swimming with sea lions (once they lift the temporary sealion ban, which should be any time). You can also go explore the island (which is a protected national marine park and part of a UNESCO World Site) and have one of the camp guides take you to the see cave art and hidden lagoons. And of course, let’s not forget the pleasure of simple activities like watching the waves, reading, napping, star gazing and just relaxing without any outside distractions.

Camp Cecil is accessible only by boat ride (and along the way you’ll get to swim with the whale sharks). The boat departs from La Paz at 9:00 am on the morning of your reservation, so guests need to arrive in La Paz the day before and get a hotel room for that night. Camp Cecil will arrange for transportation to and from your hotel, which is included in the price of your stay (all activities are included as well).

And they better be, for what you’re going to pay. Just because you’re staying in a tent, that doesn’t mean this is a budget-friendly stay. It’s $275 USD per night for adults and $250 for kids. Camp Cecil is closed in September and October, but you can go ahead and make your reservations for November and beyond by visiting www.tosea.net/glamping-adventures.

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Every Tuesday. 8:00 am. Liga MAC's used to vehicle traffic. Great opportunity to exercise and mingle with local families. Each week a different activity: stretching, aerobics, zumba lessons. Email clubactusbike@gmail.com for information.

Every Thursday. 11:00 a.m. Al-Anon Family Group. Next to Calvary Chapel Corner of Degollado and Margarita Maza de Juarez in San Jose. Call 624-108-2250 (Spanish), or email tomyrosa@gmail.com (English).

Every Friday. 5:00 to 9:00 pm. Arts and crafts market “El Colibiri.” Original handmade jewelry, homemade food, arts, crafts and original live music. Nothing made in China here. Amelia Wilkes Plaza in downtown Cabo. For more info, or if you are a vendor, please contact Max at 624-108-2250 (Spanish), or email tomyrosa@gmail.com (English).

Every Saturday. 11:00 a.m. Al-Anon Family Group. Next to Calvary Chapel Corner of Degollado and Margarita Maza de Juarez in San Jose. Call 624-165-3333 for more information.

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

Crawlers to adopt, food to eat and who knows what. Behind the town of San Jose. Go to their website and study the map: www.sanjomo.com. Information: www.fisipalapa.org.mx

November 14-18. The 50th Annual RBA 1000 racing competition. For more information: www.roverevents.com. Also need to phone Margarita at: fisipalapa@prodigy.net.mx.

November 1-4. The 10th Annual Baja 1000 racing competition. For more information: www.baja1000.com.

November 4. 5:00 to 7:30 pm. Los Cabos Human Society’s Dressed to the Nines. Tickets are $75 (limited to 140 people). For more information contact Margarita at: fisipalapa@prodigy.net.mx.

November 14-18. The 5th Annual RBA 1000 racing competition. For more information: www.roverevents.com. Also need to phone Margarita at: fisipalapa@prodigy.net.mx.
Book Report

BY JEANNINE PEREZ


Watching birds is a soothing pastime for me. The more I watch them, the more I want to know about each species and their habits. I have three bird books and a laminated chart in my bookstore, El Caballo Blanco. All of them are good, and each is formatted differently. For me (no expert), the National Geographic guide has been the easiest to use.

The book includes every species west of and including the Rockies, has a full color visual index, and thumb tabs for quick access. It also has full color pictures of more than 750 birds and range maps. Although too large and heavy to carry around in most pockets, it is a resource that is compressive, easy to use, and has a quick reference that novices and experts alike will appreciate.

Baja birds include scavengers, desert birds, sea birds, coastal California birds, and we also have a few tropical birds. Loreto claims to have endemic birds that are found only in those mountains. I know so little, and there is so much to learn!

It is wise to read the book’s introduction first. (I often don’t, and am usually sorry afterwards.) Doing this will help you use the guide more quickly and efficiently. Begin with pages 6 and 7, which explain bird families, giving their scientific names and subspecies. The next two pages offer basic tips on identifying birds. Turn to pages 10 and 11 for line-drawing illustrations showing the parts of a bird. Pages 12 and 13 adds to the basic information, including tips on how to be a better birder.

I am much more of an observer/admirer than an accurate observer/identifier of birds. But I would love to have a bit more expertise and confidence in identifying (correctly) the birds I see here in my Loreto garden, as well as the sea birds I watch when I walk on the malecon. The time I’ve spent researching and writing this report really has helped me, but I also realize how ignorant I still am about birds of Baja, and how very much more there is to learn. Perhaps with more research and observation, I can someday be an observer/admirer who can also accurately identify local birds!

Being no expert now, I decided to see if it was easy for someone like me to find information on the one bird I am CERTAIN I identify correctly. I was more than a little excited, years ago, when on our first trip to Coronado Island, I saw and identified a bluefooted booby. And yes, it was by his blue feet. I decided to research that bird for this book report, turning to the index of the guide for help. I found information fairly easily, including a detailed description, and notes about variations that... CONTINUED ON PAGE 29
Fish Killers Of The Week

Cabo San Lucas

The potential Hurricane Norma did little more than sit offshore from Cabo while threatening to make landfall across the tip of the peninsula, keeping the port closed for three straight days, followed by a fourth day of no anglers or boats venturing out.

She created a week of lost revenue for the fishing fleets of Cabo, but when they were finally allowed to leave the marina, their clients were rewarded with blue marlin, striped marlin and sailfish as well as dorado, yellowfin tuna offshore and inshore skipjack, jacks, plus roosterfish.

Cabo Climate: Since Norma never fully developed into a hurricane and didn’t touch land, she barely dropped enough rain on Cabo to get the ground wet before moving slowly out to the northwest, fizzling to nothing more than a tropical storm. Day-time temps averaged 86 degrees and nights reached 73.6 degrees. The humidity ratio averaged 69.6%.

Sea Conditions: A few days of rough and windy weather caused by Norma on the Pacific side of the peninsula did little more than keep the port closed. Sea temperatures, from the Finger Bank southerly to the Jaime Bank, were all at 83 to 84 degrees. Cabo Falso to Gorda Banks stayed at 85 degrees and from Gorda Banks to Los Frailes varied from 83 to 85 degrees.

Best Fishing Area: The Herra dura was the better area for almost everything in the mixed-catch category.

Best Bait/Lure: Live bait, artificials and rigged bait were all working well in most of the areas. A blue marlin estimated to weigh 300 pounds was taken (and released) on an artificial.

Live Bait Supply: There was plenty of live bait available at the $3.00 per bait rate.

Puerto Los Cabos

Fishing action has mainly been centered on the Gordo Banks north to Iman Bank. Water clarity was greenish near Iman and the better action was found on the Gordo Banks. The most common catches were yellowfin tuna in the 50 to 100 pound class, drift fishing with strips of sardina.

No big numbers of tuna were landed, though at times lots of yellowfin could be seen breaching the surface. They were very finicky in striking the bait that had hooks in them. Anglers were doing well to land one or two of these quality tuna.

Off the beach stretches farther to the north, with the water cleaning up on the Iman Bank, the medium-sized tuna in the 5 to 30 pound range bit well, along with dorado up to 10 pounds in the mix.

Some days the yellowfin tuna were more active early in the day, especially on the Gordo Banks, but then things switched around and more action on these grounds happened later in the day. A tuna weighing 170 pounds, and another coming in at close to 300 pounds, were caught by groups of local anglers. They were specifically targeting larger tuna, putting in long extra hours and bringing ample supplies of slabs of squid to continue chumming throughout the day.

Anglers using yo-yo style jigs had mixed success on various red snapper, pargo and amberjack. No big numbers, but a handful of nice yellowfin were also hooked on these jigs.

East Cape

It’s been the best fishing the East Cape has seen for many years, with all anglers easily limiting on tuna and dorado.

Not many boats were chasing billfish with all the tuna and dorado action available. The only

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It’s fall, which in the U.S. means you Gringos (at least the women) are going crazy for pumpkin spice flavored everything. Well, in this column I’m going to be talking about pumpkins, and I’m focusing on the seeds.

Component of the basic diet, with the most used part being the “pepitas” or seeds, Pepitas were extremely popular because they were easily stored, abundant and extremely popular because they did not go bad as easily as other ingredients. Pepitas were eaten the chicken or pork, mix into a paste. Reserve.

For the sauce:
Place the pepitas in a pan over medium heat. Roast them for about a minute until slightly Brown, moving regularly. Make sure you don’t burn them or they turn bitter.

Once roasted, put them in a blender and roughly grind, do not turn them to powder. This mole is known for its special texture, which comes from the pepitas.

Transfer the ground pepitas to a bowl. Add ½ of a cup of chicken broth and mix into a paste. Reserve.

Blend until smooth and reserve.
In a pan, melt the lard or heat the oil. Cook the pepita mixture for about 5 minutes until well cooked, stirring regularly.

Add the liquefied mixture, the rest of the chicken stock and salt. Cook for about 20 minutes, until the color turns more intense and the consistency thickens, stirring occasionally.

Serve over cooked chicken or pork, and enjoy with a side of white rice and some tortillas.

Pro tip: If you have remaining mole on your dish after you’ve eaten the chicken or pork, mix it with the white rice. This is not very “proper” per se, but it is absolutely delicious and, as my grandfather used to say, if you’re at your house, eat under your own rules.

This particular variety of green mole is defined by Michoacán’s original ingredients. Green mole from Michoacán is usually served with chicken or pork, white rice and corn tortillas.

Before I give you this recipe, I want to say that this is a complex and elaborate recipe, but I ingredients:
- 8 lettuce leaves
- 5 chard leaves
- 5 chard leaves
- 4 green tomatoes (called tomatillos here)
- 2 poblano peppers
- 2 serrano chiles
- 1 ½ cups sesame seeds
- 1/2 cup of pepitas
- 3 cloves
- 2 cloves of allspice
- 3 sprigs of cilantro
- 3 sprigs of parsley
- 2 cloves of garlic
- 6 cups of chicken stock
- 5 ounces spoonfuls of pork lard or vegetable or olive oil
- 3 whole peppercorns
Salt to taste
Preparation

Green mole with pumpkin seeds is a complicated dish, but trust us, it’s worth the effort!

Devein and remove the seeds of the poblano chiles, liquefy in a blender and reserve.

Roast the sesame seeds for about a minute and a half, the same way you roasted the pepitas, until golden brown and moving regularly.

Place the sesame seeds in a blender, along with the lettuce, chard, green tomatoes, serrano chiles, garlic cloves, cloves, allspice, cilantro, parsley, a cup of the chicken broth, and pepper-cor.
They Call It Puppy Love

These two sweeties were rescued by Baja SAFE after Lidia, found in an arroyo in San Jose. Both were very skinny and scared, but are doing much better now. They are males, four months old, have been neutered and had their shots. They get along well with other dogs, large and small. Bomber is the yellowish Brindle puppy and Beaver is the brown Labrador mix. Why not go ahead and adopt them both, and get double the puppy love? If you're interested, contact Baja SAFE by calling 310-728-6954.

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Hey You! Stop Driving...
continued from page 10

Las Margaritas. A lot of them are even willing to park by the fence and then walk down to the water. EcoPlan has been working for the last four years to protect the turtle nests and help the baby turtles get to the ocean, but they’ve hit a major roadblock that’s caused them to pause their operations for this all important nesting/hatching season. The group feels they were purposely blocked from getting the permits they need to patrol the beach, and that other ecological groups are responsible for blocking them because they want the permits for themselves, and the money they can potentially make by charging hordes of tourists to go out and help release the sea turtles.

Plaids to Propepa, the federal agency that enforces Mexico’s environmental laws, accusing EcoPlan of being the ones who were harming the turtles. EcoPlan was forced to spend a lot of time and almost all their money going back and forth with Propepa, trying to prove their innocence, even getting letters from Semanart, Mexico’s environmental ministry, stating that their operation was legitimate, but to no avail. They weren’t able to get their permits this year and without a permit, EcoPlan volunteers can’t legally handle the turtle eggs or the baby turtles. This is why all of you big-hearted turtle huggers who went on turtle hatching tours with them last year don’t see them anymore.

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IT'S SEA TURTLE SEASON... continued from page 11

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LIKE SHOOTING FISH IN A... continued from page 12

when you're hunting bigger fish; you can shoot them and the buoys will help you locate the fish until you can retrieve it. Just like fishing from a boat, you give the fish some line, then reel it in, then repeat the process over again. You still have to fight for you fish, even with the "advantage" of having a gun. "This is what makes it a beautiful sport," Niko says. "It's very selective." Spearfishing Baja offers three packages, with tours departing from both Cabo and San Jose. The first is the semi-private reef charter, which is for first timers and those wanted to brush up on their spearfishing skills. This half-day tour runs $350 USD for two divers. Then there's the private charter, which gives divers a more personalized experience. With this five-hour tour, you can target a specific trophy fish and explore reefs further out in the ocean. This runs $600 for two divers.

And then there's the blue water spearfishing charter, a full-day tour that takes intermediate to advanced spearfishers (or "spearos," as they're called in the sport) out into the open water. On this tour you'll target tuna, marlin, wahoo and dorado. It costs $750 for two divers.

And spearfishing isn't just for adults – the kids are welcome to try it, too! Although Spearfishing Baja prefers children be at least 10 years old, they have taken kids (who had previous spearfishing experience) as young as eight out on tours. For tours with children, they recommend that you book a private charter, so the team can focus more attention on the little ones. For more information or to book a tour, visit Spearfishing Baja's website at www.spearfishingbaja.mx. Or, go visit their shop, located under Tesoro on the marina.
body of the cloth will have. After weaving, the last rows of the weft are finger woven to secure them, which is complicated and meticulous work, often done by women specialized in this. In some areas, after they are finished, rebozos are “smoked” with rosemary branches or are stored with apples in order to make them smell good.

The survival of traditional rebozos is threatened because there are fewer specialist weavers. Machine manufacture are not the same in either quality or detail. It is taking over, but hand-made rebozos are now very chic and fashionable, and some women specialized in this. In meticulous work, often done by artisans or traditional patterns or imitations, they smell good.

There are as many patterns and ways of making rebozos as there are communities in Mexico, each made with endemic materials or traditional patterns or images. It would be impossible to describe each pattern, but I can tell you these pieces of clothing are now very chic and fashionable, and some women even have collections of rebozos, acquiring different garments from different regions.

SOUNDS OF SINATRA IN CABO...
continued from page 20

and Nat King Cole in the mix, and one night we even heard a surprisingly upbeat version of the 90s grunge rock hit “Black Hole Sun.” And he’s learning more songs, based on what people are requesting. Even though he’s personally not a big fan of Sinatra’s “My Way,” he started practicing it and has now added it to his repertoire because everybody asks him for it.

Currently, Willie is performing just about every night at either the Salvador’s or Galluzzo’s, both of which are on Emiliano Zapata, between Miguel Hidalgo and Vincente Guerrero in downtown Cabo. He does one show a night, starting at 7:00 p.m. and lasting about an hour and 15 minutes. During high season, he says, he’ll do two shows a night, with the first starting at 5:00 p.m. and the second starting at 9:00 p.m. So if you can’t make the first dinner show, you can go to the later one and have drinks while you listen to Willie sing. Maybe you’ll even feel inspired to join in.

COMMUNITY RALLIES TO...
continued from page 21

Lids cooked up enough food in their own kitchens to feed several hundred people a day. Wicked Pies and more pies, as ongoing trips to the edges of town were organized. Sissy Plemmons, the owner of Bajo La Luna, offered up the restaurant’s kitchen for volunteers to prepare meals to deliver.

Lines of cars paraded through the designated neighborhoods, each filled with items to hand out. The neighborhoods came alive as the cars passed, with barefoot children and skinny dogs chasing the dust kicked up by the meals on wheels. Lines were formed, food and water served, and even the dogs were fed. And, as hard as it might be to believe, laughter was heard all around.

That last part is what’s amazing, giving these people’s circumstances. Most are living in slapped together, makeshift homes made of cinderblocks and found materials like corrugated metal or whatever wood they can find. (A lot of pallets are pressed into service). This is as it was before the storm, and many of these shacks were washed away with the rain. The people are rebuilding the same homes in the same spaces, knowing full well that there are likely more storms ahead.

The daily supply excursions to the barrios have reignited discussion about a long-term solution to the problem in the barrios, with communal kitchens and donation centers the ideas most talked about as the keys to change. Some have criticized handing out free food as a permanent fix, concerned that constantly giving could result in a handout mentality among the barrio residents. But, in this case, the objective of temporary assistance is working, with fewer people lining up for handouts as the weeks have passed.

Fewer people are volunteering as well. Most organized efforts were meant to be temporary or just a one-time thing, but there is still one group that plans to deliver supplies for the foreseeable future. The daily trips are now down to three times a week, with volunteers meeting most Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Tanga Tanga (in front of Tersoro on the main drag) at 4:00 p.m. If you want to help, just show up.

If you’re interested in donating to the ongoing cause for Lidia relief, visit www.gofundme.com/lifeafterlidia.

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BOOK REPORT...
continued from page 23

can be found in juveniles. The next paragraph listed the range, with a small map showing areas where my bird might be found, and a sad statement, (“absent in U.S. most years; formerly occurred somewhat more regularly.”). The book also described and showed pictures of a brown booby and a red-footed booby, neither of which I knew anything about previously.

An interesting section at the back of the book is titled “Rarities from Asia, Mexico, the Pacific Ocean.” There are twenty pages, with color photos of geese, albatrosses, pelicans, owls, warblers, woodpeckers, buntings, hummingbirds, and many more.

The front cover of this guide has a foldout page that’s a visual index for bird families, which has a foldout page that’s a visual index for bird families, which continues on a foldout back cover page. Range maps are easily read with colors and all symbols explained, and the covers are laminated and sturdy. All in all, I found this book quite easy to use, even for me.

Do you think I can actually become a knowledgeable birder when I grow up? This guide will certainly help.

You can find National Geographic’s Field Guide to Western North America (yes, Baja is in North America), at my shop, El Caballo Blanco Bookstore in Loreto, or online. Write me about your birding experiences at betojeanine@gmail.com.

FISH REPORT...
continued from page 24

boat that did landed a blue off Cabo Pulmo. The tuna bite off Pescadero continues to hold aggressive biters, ranging from seabass to 60 pounds. Most boats are coming in early to get their fish in the cooler muy pronto.

Schools of dorado are being found all over. Still a lot of debris from the storm. It’s a case of finding your own school and picking out some keepers. Some good roosters were also taken in clean water around the lighthouse.

FISHERMEN also worked the bottom and inshore this week and were rewarded with pompano, barred pargo, huachinango, cabrilla and amberjack.

Bait: Good bait including sardina and squid.

Weather conditions: Seas have been calm and temperatures right in the zone, mid 80s. Cooler nights with hot, but not oppressive, days. La Paz.

After the storm, thankfully, the dorado were waiting out there north of the city. It wasn’t great fishing because the fish did indeed get their habitats a little stirred up, but if you found the spot, the dorado were there and willing to bite. They varied in size between 5 and 15 pounds, with a few larger thrown in some days. Pangas differed from day to day, but overall it wasn’t bad fishing at all.

The nicest surprise was the fact that we got an incredible number of blue marlin hook-ups! After a season in which we’ve had the pickiest billfish result in many years, we had more marlin hookups in one week than we’ve had all year. There wasn’t a day this week when we didn’t have at least one big billfish hooked, with most of them coming in at 150 to 300-pounds. And most of them were un-intentional bites. Guys would be fishing for dorado or dragging small lures to catch bonito for bait and hook a big blue. We haven’t seen a whole lot of small stripers or sails all year, but this is definitely turning into a blue marlin kind of year.

After the storm passed, we let the Las Arenas/ Muertos Bay Area sit and rest for awhile because this is where the winds hit hardest and waters were turned over quite a bit. It got a little better every day until it was pretty much up to full speed throttle. Football 10 pounders up to 25-pound yellowfin seemed to be in a nice line from the lighthouse at Punta Arenas then south through Muertos Bay and south again to Boca de Alamo, about a 3 mile stretch of fish. Best of all, the fish were literally 100 to 200 yards from the beach.

Later in the week, the sardina schools moved right into Muertos Bay and so did the tuna schools and we were catching both tuna and dorado as well as rooster fish right within sight of the boat ramp.

Pangas were limiting early then chasing other species. On the days when there were fewer limits, it might have been a direct

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30
Ask a Mexican

This week we asked: What do you like most about your country? What do you like the least?

**Chayo Gonzalez, 43, housewife**

What I like the most about my country is many things, but to just pick one I'd have to go for its culture. Mexican culture is so rich, so amazing and powerful. The typical dances, the typical dresses, the different languages, the different cuisines all in the same country. I don't think many countries are as diverse as mine is. What I like the least is the situation my country is going through right now. Narcos and the government are destroying Mexico and taking us with them.

**Adrián Escobar, 33, waiter**

I love the Mexican people. We're always so nice, so funny, so warm and we help each other so much. Part of us, as a race, is the warm and we help each other so much. Part of us, as a race, is the warm and we help each other so much. Part of us, as a race, is the warm and we help each other so much.

**Jose Lopez, 24, dishwasher**

I would have to say that my favorite part about Mexico is the food. It's just so, so good. And there's so many different types of food depending on the area. You could live your life only eating a dish once or twice in your lifetime. I hate that the people are generally so ignorant and lazy, that the government exploits all of us and our nation is going to hell. I also don't like how we ourselves don't appreciate our country and would rather go on vacation to Europe than Oaxaca.

**Fernanda Mestre, 24, receptionist**

There's many things I love about Mexico, like the beaches and that tourist like the places we have. In one country, we have all five types of weather, with amazing views. I also love the folklore that comes with the traditions and dances. I don't like how macho men are here. They think ladies should be locked up in a kitchen or having tons of babies and not look nice or depend solely on their husbands. It has been like that forever, and I have not found a man who will accept gender equality.

**Esperanza Gutierrez, 62, teacher**

I think that Mexico has many things that I like. I could not only choose one. Amazing places, food, species that only live here, people, traditions, etc. It is truly a great country, expect that it has us Mexicans, who don't appreciate it enough. Also, we have a very bad educational system, which only makes matters worse because our youth is not reaching its full potential.

**Josué Esparrza, 29, security**

I love Mexican food, Mexican people, Mexican partying, all of it. I hate how poor our country is, how so many people praise America and don't see how Mexico is so much better. It makes me sick to think that if products say "Made in the USA" people immediately think they're better.

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**FISH REPORT... continued from page 29**

... correlation to the fact that larger fish were hitting that day and more fish lost. Overall, just some really nice fishing.

**Cabo San Lucas**

Tracy Ehrenberg [www.piscesportfishing.com](http://www.piscesportfishing.com)

Larry Edwards [www.cor-tezcharters.com](http://www.cor-tezcharters.com)

**San José del Cabo**

Gordo Bank Pangas [www.gordobanks.com](http://www.gordobanks.com)

**East Cape**

Rancho Leonero Hotel [www.rancholeonero.com](http://www.rancholeonero.com)

Jen Wren Sportfishing [www.thejenwren.com](http://www.thejenwren.com)

East Cape Tackle Cindy Kirkwood [www.eastcapetackle.com](http://www.eastcapetackle.com)

**La Paz**

Jonathan Roldán’s Tailhunter International [www.tailhunter-international.com](http://www.tailhunter-international.com)

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**HEY YOU! STOP DRIVING... continued from page 26**

nouncing any tours this year. All EcoPlan can do this year is mark the nests they find and monitor them to ensure that they haven't been destroyed.

Liz says EcoPlan has talked to some of the ATV tour providers to get them to alert their clients to the turtles. The problem, she says, is that the tour guides don't always tell tourists to avoid the nests, or even that there are nests on the beach. She thinks they either don't care, or are afraid that telling tourists to only drive on certain parts of the beach will result in lower tips.

And, of course, the ATV companies aren't going to just stop their tours; there's too much money to be made there. But Liz says that completely riding the beaches of ATVs isn't their goal. They would be happy if the ATV groups to stick to racing up the beach along the hard sand at the water line, where the turtles can't lay their eggs. The tracks they make there will be washed away with the next tide.

So, to be an ecologically-responsible tourist, do you have to completely avoid ATV tours? Not necessarily. If you book an ATV tour, ask the tour company or your guide what they do to avoid the turtle nests. Obviously, they're not going to tell you if they're stomping over them, but be suspicious if they claim there are no nests on the beach where you'll be riding, or that it's not a nesting beach (they're all nesting beaches here). If they say it's not turtle nesting season, they might be right, depending on the time of year. Nesting season for the olive ridley turtle, which is the most common in Los Cabos, is from July to September. And continued on page 31.
there's a six-week incubation period, so that means the turtles hatch into November.
And if you're riding along the beach and see clusters of sticks poking up from the sand, drive around them. You don't want to be responsible for taking out an entire nest of baby turtles, do you? That would be really bad karma.

Kevin says that while most of the time the ATV riders have been good about avoiding the marked nests, they have seen some nests that have been driven over or clipped by the vehicles. They've also seen a few baby sea turtles that have been turned into beach roadkill.

Another way you can help the baby sea turtles is by donating to EcoPlan, so they'll have the money they need to get their permits for next year and can fully resume their operations and turtle hatching tours. You can do this by visiting their website, www.ecoplanac.org, and clicking on “Donations.”

Salsa. One word with two very different definitions. The first is the salsa you eat with just about every dish here in Mexico. The second is the style of dancing. Both are delightful, and even more so when they're paired together. And, lucky for us, we can find this match made in heaven through a company called The Original Salsa and Salsa.

Salsa and Salsa offers interactive, hands-on classes that combine cooking and dancing. They customize the classes based on the ages and preferences of the group, accommodating all interested people. There is absolutely no dancing or cooking experience required, and all levels of expertise are welcome. The important part is that you show up with an empty belly and legs ready to boogie.

All classes include homemade Mexican food, with a special focus on Mexican salsas. For $69 USD, you will learn how to make six different salsas, two different drinks, and a whole lot of salsa moves. And, if you enjoy authentic Mexican alcoholic beverages, they can customize tours to include “you-can-drink” margaritas. They also offer tours that include a variety of non-alcoholic Mexican beverages (or a mix of both). Students go home with full stomachs, new dance moves, and a recipe sheet so you don’t forget what you learned.

The classes are held at the Villa Serena restaurant, just outside of Cabo on the fourlane. The class schedule is based around the arrival of cruise ships, but tourists and locals are also welcomed to attend. The classes are around three hours long and are hosted all throughout the week (they’ll give you the full schedule when you email them to book a class). If you have a group of 15 or more people, they also offer private classes.

If you are ready for this fun and delicious experience, you can visit their website at www.salsaa-ndsalsa.com/home or email them at salsaaandsalsa@gmail.com to book your class. You can also find them on Facebook at Facebook.com/salsaaandsalsa.

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