They’re back! A few early scouts have been seen frolicking in our waters, so we know many of their whale buddies will follow soon. The big guys travel down from the cold northern climes for the winter, just like our precious Canadian visitors.

San Jose Cultural Center Open Again
That’s the building on the plaza that used to have the bright mural

BY CALEB HOOGLAND

For about the last six months, the cultural center in San Jose, located at the north end of the downtown plaza, has been shut down for major renovations. The project cost $243,000 USD, which seems like a lot since there were very few infrastructural changes made to the building.

The biggest change was to the roof, which was completely removed and rebuilt. Officials guaranteed us that water won’t be leaking through this one! Other renovations include the construction of a new stage for the indoor amphitheater, refinishing all of the interior and exterior walls, and installing a new restroom that is handicap friendly.

Most of you probably remember the cultural center as the brightly colored building with large murals on the outside. Well, continued on page 7

It’s A Mexican Holiday Marathon
And you thought getting ready for Christmas was tough

BY ALEJANDRA SARACHAGA

December is a month in which we Mexicans party, a lot. Much more than any other month. We call this season the Guadalupe Reyes Marathon because it starts on December 12th, the Guadalupe Day, and ends on January 6th, what we call Dia de Reyes (Kings Day). And if you manage to survive all of the parties and drinking, then you can say that you were able to complete the marathon.

The Guadalupe Day, December 12, is one of the main holidays in Mexico, probably more important for Mexicans than any other holiday. It celebrates a sighting of the Virgin Mary that occurred in 1531.

On Guadalupe Day, there are huge pilgrimages to the Baslica de Guadalupe.

continued on page 8
New Chedraui opens  A new Chedraui store has opened in Los Cabos. It’s a Chedraui Selecto and it’s at the corner of the Club Campestre and the toll road to the international airport. This is the third Chedraui location in the area, there’s also one in Cabo, one in San Jose, and “soon” to be one in the downtown Puerto Paraiso mall.

The difference between the original Chedraui stores and the Selecto stores is that the Selectos are much smaller. They’re only 10,000 square feet, compared to the 110,000 to 300,000 square feet the regular stores occupy. The smaller Selecto stores let Chedraui build in highly populated neighborhoods where large patches of land aren’t available. But it does look big. And pretty. There are more eating in opportunities, with lunch stands with stools offering different types of food. Opening weekend it was so jammed it was unpleasant, but let’s hope we all get over that and crowds even out. After all, there is a perfectly nice Comer store across the street.

It’s about time  Following up on the many complaints – mostly from foreign tourists – about hospitals’ costs and the fact that patients are practically held hostage by the hospitals unless they pay their outrageous prices, the city government has decided to intervene.

The city is acting under pressure from the U.S. and Canadian consulates, tourist related business organizations and even concerned citizens who see the hospitals’ practices as a threat to tourism. Several complaints about Cabo hospitals have gone viral on social media and were picked up by online and printed newspapers around the world.

The city’s idea is to create a “protocol of medical attention” that would be overseen by the director of CAT/TAC, Cabo’s tourism attention center. CAT/TAC officials will draw up the rules and regulations for hospitals to use with the tourists (and surely these will also be applied to foreign part-time residents).

More Uber news  The arrival of Uber in La Paz caused a protest of some 350 cabs parking outside the state government building. This is surprising because usually the taxi cartels take more extreme (as in violent) action against potential competitors.

The governor’s response to the protesters was, “Uber is not illegal, but it is not regulated. We will have to regulate it.” That was kind of a “C’mon guys, just stop protesting.” And “regulated” likely means they will tax Uber drivers by requiring them to have a permit to operate.

Cabo residents are getting anxious for Uber to arrive. Last week, Los Cabos Mayor Arturo de la Rosa, said “We do not regulate transportation services, the state government does. And what our people want is modern, safe, trustworthy, quality transportation.” Which means, the city government can’t stop Uber from coming to Los Cabos.

Will the powerful taxi cartels allow it? So far, they have forced the government, hotels and tourist transportation companies to create an app that for bids companies like Uber from taking tourists out of the resorts unless their services have been contracted from their point of origin, through their travel agencies. Otherwise, only the local cabs can drive them around. Maybe Uber can build an app to intervene.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9
Gourmet horse meat Some stores in Mexico were caught selling horse meat as beef, and that made big news, as everyone was going tsk tsk over it. But horse meat is actually legally exported to seven countries around the world where it is considered a delicacy. Hong Kong, Egypt, Japan, Vietnam, and Belgium are among the customers lining up for Mr. Ed.

There are 11 slaughterhouses that have legal permission to kill horses for their meat. More than 128,000 unlucky horses were killed and shipped last year.

A study conducted by the National Autonomous found that almost 10% of beef samples taken from meat markets in five cities turned out to be horse meat. Cabo was not one of those cities.

Insult to injury After waiting for two months for government financial aid to come through, in order to start rebuilding their homes, some earthquake victims found their debit bank cards they were given were empty. Their cards had been cloned and the money withdrawn. Most of the victims realized their loss when they tried to use their cards to buy building materials to patch up their homes.

Bansefi, the bank the cards were drawn on, says they can’t imagine how this caper went down.

That didn’t go well A program that tried to save the endangered vaquita, a type of dolphin only found in the Sea of Cortez, has been shut down. Turns out the only two critters were ever caught, and one looked around at its new digs and promptly died. The second looked not so good, and was quickly released to either live or die on its own.

A team of 65 scientists from nine different countries were involved in the failed caper. The goal was to keep the captured vaquitas in floating pens to protect them from gillnets, the biggest threat to their survival. Gillnets used in shrimp and illegal totoaba fishing have posed the biggest threat to the vaquita and nobody has figured out a way to stop the gillnet fishing. Yes, they tried paying the fishermen to not fish. They just took the money and kept on fishing.

That’s a butterfly, not a moth The monarch butterfly is enjoying its day in the sun. There are conservation efforts and festivals in honor of the insect going on right now. Yes, butterflies are officially insects.

Butterfly observation posts are set up to view them as kilograms of the little guys are expected to rest in butterfly sanctuaries as they migrate south.

TJ flushing toilets north Beaches in Tijuana were closed Thursday due to sewer pollution washing up on beaches in both Mexico and the United States. What California beach city officials are particularly pissed off about is Tijuana officials didn’t alert them when the toilets overflowed. Therefore, beaches in California remained open. But the municipality of Tijuana closed all its beaches for at least three days.

Not in our neighborhood Two six-story apartment buildings and one three-story condominium building planned for north of Puerto Vallarta, is being fiercely opposed.

Neighbors say the impact of the Canadian backed development, along with a lack of urban infrastructure make it unfeasible. A scarcity of drinking water, along with lack of a sewer system and garbage collection would place pressure on already failing infrastructure. Huh? It’s called developers fees, and yes, they need to be paid.

Big whoops A Spanish multinational clothing company was caught plagiarizing indigenous Mexican textile designs.
Santa Claus Is Coming To Town
And he's bringing 600 teddy bears with him

BY CATHY WATKINS

Project Bobby Bear is making Christmas a little merrier for the children of Cabo. Project Bobby Bear was started by Annie and Emily Fox several years ago, when they were only six and four years old. Annie's teddy bear Bobby was the inspiration behind the idea, because she's had Bobby since she was born, and says he makes her feel loved, happy, and secure.

The sisters thought it would be nice if they could make other people feel the same way. They decided to launch Project Bobby Bear right here in Cabo in October 2014 just after Hurricane Odile. "We gave a few bears out to people who needed a smile, hug, or extra love," says Annie. A woman in a wheelchair and a street musician were the first people to receive a bear. The smiles exchanged were enough to solidify the idea of giving out bears to make people happy.

Annie and Emily raise the money to buy the bears and get them down to Cabo by selling lemonade, having garage sales and asking for donations instead of birthday presents. Each bear, which measures 12 inches tall (no dinky teddy bears here), costs $1 USD.

For the second year, Project Bobby Bear and several other organizations will provide toys and Christmas gifts for children who live in the poorest neighborhoods in Los Cabos. Project Bobby Bear has pledged 600 bears. One hundred bears are already here, and the others are waiting for a ride from the States. The Rotary Club will donate 1,000 toys, and BCS Yacht Solutions has pledged 100 toys. Even the Bisbee's Black and Blue Tournament got involved this year by asking participants to donate unwrapped toys that don't require batteries.

This year's toy giveaway will take place from 10:00 a.m. to noon on December 10th in the arroyo between the El Caribe and Gastelum neighborhoods. The event is intended for children ages 10 and younger.

Enrique Rivera from Solo-mon's Landing will emcee the event and provide music. A large tent will be set up for Santa Claus, played by Jerry Bopp, and his 20 elves. Santa will make a grand entrance in his red suit and white beard, arriving in his wooden...
A Chat With Cabo’s Delegate To City Hall

The closest San Lucas has to a mayor

BY JIM KEARNS

Francisco Garcia, aka Pancho, is the delegate or representative from Cabo San Lucas to the City Hall in San Jose. He’s the closest we have to a mayor in San Lucas, as the seat of government for all of Los Cabos is in San Jose. Born in El Fuerte, Sinaloa, he has a wife and two children, ages 10 and 14 years. He has lived in Cabo for the last 27 years.

Q. What has been done recently to improve San Lucas?

A. First, let me talk about our roads. The main road through Cabo, along the marina, has been owned and maintained by Fonatur since 1974. In 2014, a new contract was signed with Fonatur, turning the ownership of the road, from the stop light on the road to San Jose all the way to the end by the Navy base on the marina, over to the city. In this contract, Fonatur guarantees to maintain the road to San Jose, as the seat of government for all of Los Cabos is in San Jose.

The federal agency has recently turned over the road that runs from the power station on the way to Todos Santos down to the Pemex station by Chedraui off to private developers.

The federal government has recently turned over the road that runs from the power station on the way to Todos Santos down to the Pemex station by Chedraui has one of the highest accidents rates in Cabo. The first new stop light was installed in November of this year.

We are also putting in new street lights on Leona Vicario near the Cabo San Lucas airport. (No, not the airport you flew into, the other one. The airport and that area are getting busier every day with new flights, which will make for a safer trip to the airport. Not that there is a lot of airport traffic, but there is a lot of retail that’s sprung up on that road.)

We are also installing 5,000 new street lights in the neighborhoods of Bahia del Cabo, Cabo Cerro and El Caribe, along with repairing hundreds of malfunctioning lights throughout Cabo.

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City officials and 18 business owners, (including the Gringo Gazette), who make up the Amigos de Cabo San Lucas team, is in charge of finding and fixing everyday Cabo problems. The team walks the streets of downtown Cabo every day looking for problems, such as trash in the streets, broken water lines, septic leaks, security problems, and poles, signs and obstructions that are no longer needed and must be removed. (Editors note: This organization holds city officials’ feet to the fire to get things done.)

The city officials spend an entire day every three months walking the streets and photographing problems. They look for things like missing and broken water meter covers, electrical covers, CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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Tourism Board Fights Against Travel Warning
A five-point plan to increase security is in the works

BY HOLLY DAY

When Los Cabos was named in the U.S. State Department’s travel warning last month as a no go area, local authorities and merchants, as well as the state’s tourism department, launched a PR campaign to counter the possible negative effects on tourism.

Yes, the murder rate in our state rose significantly over last year, but only a handful of those crimes occurred in tourist areas (one on Palmilla Beach and two others in downtown San Jose), and not one foreigner was killed, one foreigner was slightly injured.

“It’s important to put the travel alert in context,” says Rodrigo Esponda, managing director of the Los Cabos Tourism Board. “Even though the murder rate has increased, it hasn’t been part of the tourism community. Most incidents haven’t happened that close; they’re on the outskirts of both Cabo San Lucas and San José del Cabo, and they’re not impacting tourists.”

However, they are impacting tourists’ plans. The Los Cabos Hotel Ass. recently reported 35,000 hotel room cancellations for the upcoming holiday season. These cancellations represent a loss of just over $11 million USD to our hotel sector.

The tourism board swung into action and has shared some details about its newly launched security action plan, which consists of five main points:

1. Creating a “Rapid Response Network,” consisting of real-time communications among hoteliers, business owners and law enforcement to share information about suspicious activity or reported incidents, and to ensure the authorities and law-enforcement officers know about the activity.

2. Accelerating the expansion of a security surveillance system, with the goal of installing more than 200 new cameras, especially in high-traffic tourist areas. These cameras are currently in place; the goal is to have 250.

3. Building a new Navy base, which will significantly increase the presence of the Mexican Navy, who will manage the expanded surveillance system and beef up the law-enforcement presence. The base is scheduled to open in the second quarter of next year.

4. Organizing a hotel security committee, which will work with the hotel association and meet biweekly to address concerns, share best practices and update security protocols.

5. Setting new training and security practices for local hotels and businesses, using standards developed by the Overseas Security Advisory Council.

International tourist arrivals are up by 20 percent year over year in Los Cabos, and for the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23
Our Mexican Tourist Auto Insurance policies are Underwritten by Qualitas, the Largest insurer of Vehicles in Mexico and include:

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Guadalupe in Mexico City, which is the greatest religious center in Mexico. Annually, about 20 million pilgrims visit the shrine, nine million of which are in the days leading up to December 12. After Guadalupe Day comes a mini marathon of Christmas celebrations. Starting nine days before Christmas are the posadas, parties that take place every night leading up to December 24th. Then we have our big Christmas dinner on Christmas Eve and the “reca- we have our big Christmas dinner leading up to December 24th. Then parties that take place every night a mini marathon of Christmas leading up to December 12. million of which are in the days pilgrims visit the shrine, nine annually, about 20 million... Mexico. Annually, about 20 million pilgrims visit the shrine, nine million of which are in the days leading up to December 12. After Guadalupe Day comes a mini marathon of Christmas celebrations. Starting nine days before Christmas are the posadas, parties that take place every night leading up to December 24th. Then we have our big Christmas dinner on Christmas Eve and the “reca-

For example, there are nine posa-
das, which represent the journey of
Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. Sometimes, especially in the Mexican barrios and in almost all schools, these posadas include a pastorela, which is a nativity play. Everybody decorates their houses with a nativity scene and there is a posada in a different house every night. Every neighbor brings a different dish to share, like tam-a-

tes, buñuelos (fritters), salads, tostadas, etc. But what can’t be left out of a posada is a piñata and the ponche.

You might be surprised to learn that the piñata has a special meaning too. It is decorated with seven cones, representing the seven deadly sins. The kids have to be blindfolded, representing that faith is blind, and they have to break the piñata with a stick, which represents the power of faith.

During the party, people are drinking ponche, a hot drink made with fruit, sugar, water, and sometimes red wine. The kids drink the ponche as it is, while some adults add a “piquitex,” a shot of tequila to it. Nothing else will keep you warmer that day.

After New Year’s Eve, the parties aren’t over yet. A new year is just beginning, and in Mexico we have a holiday or a good excuse to celebrate something almost every month. In January, we celebrate the arrival of the three kings in Bethlehem. Mexican children look forward to Dia de Reyes on January 6th because the tradition is that the kings bring the children toys and sweets. That is why you see a lot of kids riding their brand new bike or roller skates or skateboards on that day.

A traditional food served on Kings Day is “Rosca de Reyes,” a kind of fruit cake (you might know it as a Kings Cake). Each January 6th, Mexican families gather to enjoy this sweet bread with a good cup of chocolate. A baby Jesus figure is baked inside the cake, and whoever gets the baby in their piece is responsible for buying tamales for everybody, and for placing the figure in the nativity scene, which will not be removed from the house until February 2. That’s Candelmas and we celebrate it with yet another party.

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Why not join us at a free seminar on 29th November at 7 p.m. at the Barcelo Beach Resort in San Jose del Cabo and learn more about latest advances in stem cell therapy.

The seminar is free and presentation in English. Why not bring your friends and loved ones who may be suffering from a chronic disease or illness. You could be doing them a big favor.

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More information: www.prmedica-inc.com
All treatments are performed at Saint Luke’s Hospitals which has a permit from the Federal Health Authorities in Mexico for the application of stem cell procedures in Los Cabos.
Wow! Is That The Same Dog?

This is Bogart. He and his buddy were tossed out on the streets when their owners left town. They survived for a few months before being rescued, but poor Bogart was on the brink of death.

Maria, who fostered Bogart and his buddy, nourished him back to health and a great looking dog like he is today.

Bogart is now ready for adoption and we are taking applications. If you want to visit him, please email us at ct.safe@hotmail.com.

Asphalt dumper fined

Re -member that big pile of asphalt that got dumped in the arroyo, right after the stop light as you’re leaving town, when they were repaving the four lane back in Oc-tober? You don’t remember that? Pay attention! A local resident reported this to our rag, who in turn filed a formal report with the city’s ecology department.

Profepa, the federal envi-ronmental protection agency, ended up fining the contractor, Construcciones Viales Cor-poration, nearly 10 grand for dumping the asphalt there. Hope-fully this makes them think twice about dumping just anywhere they want to.

Convention center almost ready

Key word being “almost.” According to the state’s secretary of tourism, the Los Cabos Con-vention Center will open in late April of next year. It was built in 2012 to host the G20 summit, and was badly damaged two years later by Hurricane Odile.

The center has been closed since, waiting for funding for repairs, and then there was the bidding for which company would operate it. Two compa-nies have been hired to run it. One, from Spain, will promote it internationally. A second one, from Mexico City, will make sure everything works and is in place for the different conventions, meetings and conference that will surely jump to book the center once it opens. Ha. We really need Uber here before it opens, or no-body will be able to move.

New desalination plant coming

Finally. Mayor Arturo de la Rosa announced that an agree-ment to fund the construction of a second desal plant for Cabo was made with Banobras, the federal...
YOUR PACIFIC BEACHFRONT SANCTUARY...
COMING SOON TO LOS CABOS, MEXICO.

NORMAN ESTATES
AT RANCHO SAN LUCAS

“HAVING TRAVELED AND LIVED ALL OVER THE GLOBE, I CAN SAY WITH CONVICTION THAT NORMAN ESTATES AT RANCHO SAN LUCAS IS UNLIKE ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD AND I INVITE YOU TO COME DISCOVER WHAT MAKES IT SO SPECIAL.”

— Greg Norman

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Indigenous artisans have also been stealing indigenous designs. "We found the designs on the internet and thought they were fair game."

The accusation was the designers’ "ignoring that these were artistic representations made by indigenous communities," was the charge.

The company said so sorry, "we found the designs on the internet and thought they were fair game."

### Internet Speeds in Mexico

One surprising finding from the report was that Mexico's 4G speeds are some of the fastest in Latin America, and are actually faster than the U.S. Huh. Well, maybe the internet is faster down there right beside it, it’s a pretty city in the crapper, and his party's reputation for state corruption in there right beside it, it’s a pretty good bet we will have a new party in power after the next general election on July 1.

We are telling you this now because the locals are just so happy this administration is "almost" over.

The current president can’t run for re-election anyway, he will have served his only six-year term allowed. Also at stake are the jobs of 500 members of the chamber of deputies, and 128 of the 866,593 deputies expected to gather the 866,593 members of the senate.

There are nine registered political parties so far, but more interesting is the multitude of candidates now running without a party. This has just become legal and people are flocking to take advantage of the new rule. Many see this rule as a positive development, as politicians are often accused of representing their party over their country. And that may be true, as the party contributes a lot of money to the race, and so expect to get something in return. Political parties are seen as particularly corrupt, even worse than the police, which are themselves viewed as pretty much lower than a snake's belly. So to speak.

A woman who calls herself the Mexican Hillary, a 50-year-old former first lady of Mexico, has joined a mind-boggling 85 other independent candidates quixotically pursuing the presidency. However, most are not expected to gather the 866,593 signatures required to make it onto the ballot. Since Mexico does not have runoff elections, the next president could be elected with as little as 30 percent of the vote, posing real questions of legitimacy about the next leader in the eyes of an increasingly jaded population.

### Telcel vs. AT&T

 suck up on download speeds. Telcel’s average 4G download speed was 23.48 megabytes per second and AT&T’s was 22.76.

### Political Parties

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A CHAT WITH CABO’S...
continued from page 5

phone access covers, drainage covers and other repairs needed on our walkways. All of these are then put on a list for immediate repairs. (Well, Mexican immediate repairs. (Well, Mexican immediate...)

November 30. Thursday. 7:00 pm. The Secret in Their Eyes. (2009). Ray, a retired legal counselor, writes a novel hoping to find closure for one of his past unresolved homicide cases. Thirteen years later, he finally uncovers a new lead that he can certainly solve the case. Spanish with English subtitles.

December 1. Friday 7:00 pm. Atitapan Orchestra Los Cabos Tour. Christmas carols, Mexican and rock music performed by the Polyphonic Choir of Los Cabos, South Californian Independent Orchestra and Branshala Orchestra from Atitapan. Spanish. Free.

December 2. Saturday. 4:30 pm and 7:30 pm. The Nutcracker. Performed by Petipa Ballet Studio with 100 dancers on stage. Tickets $8 USD at Studio del Angel (at Walmart plaza). More info with Patricia, cell 143-3606.

December 3. Sunday. 7:00 pm. The Swans. An original adaptation from the Swan Lake Ballet. Presented by Izzare Dance Workshop. Spanish. $50 peso donation at the entrance.

December 7. Thursday. 7:00 pm. 3rd Man. (1949). Pulp novelist Holly Martins travels to shadowy, postwar Vienna to paint the lines of a road. As they work they learn the lines between good and evil, laughter and despair, life and death. Free.

December 8. Friday. 6:00 pm. Vagabond Movie Club. Pan-American Machinery. (2016) While it seems like a regular Friday workday at Pan-American Machinery Inc., an unexpected finding breaks the monotony when the employees discover the dead body of their boss, who suffered a sudden heart attack. Spanish with English subtitles. Free.

December 8. Friday. 7:30 pm. Vagabond Movie Club. The Thin Yellow Line. (2015). Five men are hired to paint the lines of a road. As they work they learn the lines between good and evil, laughter and despair, life and death. Free.

December 9. Saturday. 4:30 pm and 7:30 pm. The ART DISTRICT Downtown San Jose. December 6. Wednesday. 7:30 pm. Vagabond Movie Club. Third Call. (2013). A neurotic theater director has six weeks to put together a production of a play, but his cast and crew seem far too addled to get the job done. Spanish. Free.

December 13. Wednesday. 7:30 pm. Vagabond Movie Club Pan-American Machinery. (2016) While it seems like a regular Friday workday at Pan-American Machinery Inc., an unexpected finding breaks the monotony when the employees discover the dead body of their boss, who suffered a sudden heart attack. Spanish with English subtitles. Free.

December 14. Thursday. 7:00 pm. Citizen Kane. (1941). Following the death of a publishing tycoon, news reporters scramble to discover the meaning of his final utterance. English with Spanish subtitles.


December 27. Monday. 4:00 pm. The KORAL CENTER/EL MERKADO Kilometer 24.5. LA DOLCE VILLA Behind the Mega supermarket in San Jose. December 6. Wednesday. 7:30 pm. Vagabond Movie Club.

December 28. Tuesday. 7:30 pm. The Art District Downtown. San Jose. The Secret in Their Eyes. (2009). Ray, a retired legal counselor, writes a novel hoping to find closure for one of his past unresolved homicide cases. Thirteen years later, he finally uncovers a new lead that he can certainly solve the case. Spanish with English subtitles.


December 30. Thursday. 7:30 pm. Vagabond Movie Club. Los Cabos Tour. Christmas carols, Mexican and rock music performed by the Polyphonic Choir of Los Cabos, South Californian Independent Orchestra and Branshala Orchestra from Atitapan. Spanish. Free.

December 31. Saturday. 4:30 pm and 7:30 pm. The Art District Downtown. San Jose. One by One We Are Helped. (2004). A portrait of Michael Alig’s life and career as a performance artist, from his days as a subway performer to his current position as a manager and advisor to the New York underground scene. English. Free.
Great Time To Build In Baja
Use the strong dollar to your advantage

BY CHERYL T. MILLER

The Strength of the dollar makes this the best time to build that dream home in Mexico!

Over the years between 2003 and most of 2008, the US dollar and the Mexican peso enjoyed a stable exchange rate between 10.0 and 11.0 pesos per dollar. Sometime in December 2008, the exchange rate, based on several economic factors including the worldwide crisis, dramatically changed with the dollar slipping to 9.0 pesos per dollar, only to rise to a record 15.20 pesos per dollar in a very short period in 2008 and 2009. The exchange rate now has experienced a fast climb due to the strong dollar again and the oil imbalance in Mexico. The current rate of exchange has risen to a record 21.1 around the beginning of the year, and now in October 2017, it is about 18.7:1.

Construction starts in 2017 are now on the rise again, but there is still an opportunity for low priced bids. The crews working the new hotels and the new developer projects are many times brought here from the mainland or need to be vetted and indoctrinated into the developers programs, which also includes paying the workers at below market rates here in Los Cabos. Los Cabos still looking for work. So you still have an opportunity to get lower bids. (A little word on labor prices in Los Cabos. Los Cabos is a more expensive place to live than the mainland. (One of the reasons the big developers pay for workers to come here for their jobs- they still pay mainland labor rates!) But for resident workers from Los Cabos, costs are higher for food, rent, transportation, child care, utilities, etc. So, as a result, workers here get paid more than they do on the mainland. However, in comparison to the labor costs of the United States and Canada, it is still a bargain here on the peninsula!

Material supply houses, contractors, architects and engineers are also part of the equation for potential bargains on materials and their services. Add to the equation the many lots that now being price adjusted downward or that have already been adjusted downward after the worldwide crisis, it is a homebuilder’s market NOW!

In 2017, the new starts of condominium projects and hotels potentially marks the beginning of the close of this window, so don’t wait too long. Land prices are at an all-time low, as well. Want to build your dream home in paradise? Now is the time!

What Does It Mean To Sell Furnished Or Turn Key?

There are important distinctions

By Carla Di Bernardo

I am finding that as a listing agent this has become an interesting issue. Selling your home and it’s contents can be an emotional issue. After all, there are wonderful memories attached to having lived in paradise! Those fancy margarita pitcher and glasses were the first items you bought for you new home or you may have brought down an inherited piece of furniture that reminds you of that certain family member. Perhaps you have decorated with one of a kind custom made items that you do not think could be recovered in the listed price of your home. You even may want to sell those privately outside of the sale of your home.

I am not the emotional type. I am more a dollar and cents type of person and I don’t become attached too much by way of personal items, furnishings but I am starting to see the emotional ties that people have and aim to do a better job of really getting down to those issues at the time of the listing. The goal in any real estate transaction is to have happy customers on both ends and for the experience to be positive. Kind of the old “win-win” mentality.

That is why I think it is a great idea to make an inventory list of your home right down to the nitty gritty of what you can and can’t part with. By taking stock in your possessions as “furnished” and/or “fully equipped” and what you are not willing to part with. By doing an inventory will enable your agent to exclude those items in the sale of the home and will keep a clear and accurate representation as to what is being left for the new owners. By taking stock of this beforehand, it will aliviate a lot of misunderstandings. It also gives you the time to emotionally detach, if you decide to leave items behind. Kind of giving you closure.

Agent Profile

Michael Fidler

With over 35 years of experience as a real estate agent and broker, Michael has been involved with well over 5,000 successful real estate transactions! In addition, Michael has been personally responsible for the construction and sale of numerous single family homes, that has earned him many prestigious sales and marketing awards in California, his home state. Michael and Thea, his wife and co-agent of over 35 years, relocated to Cabo in 2003 and brought their own dream home. Their love of Cabo and knowledge of the business quickly made them a powerhouse team to be reckoned with. This dynamic duo looks forward to helping you accomplish your real estate dreams, whether you’re looking to buy or sell.

Contact Michael, now with Cab4Sale at bajamichael@cabosale.com, cell: 624-161-5199, toll free from US & Canada: 888-738-8882.

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By Carla Di Bernardo, Agent

This may not seem like much to some in the end, I am seeing it more often than not. Cabo San Lucas is a magical place to call home. The emotional attachment is there even if you say “nah that isn’t me” or “darn, I have to go back”. So take my advice when selling, make that list and digest your decision before you list to make the selling process just as exciting as the buying process was years ago for you.

By Carla Di Bernardo, Agent with Cabo Linda Real Estate. Contact Carla at 624-157-3987 or 619-906-1381. Email: carla@cabolinda.net.
Can Tourism Support An Entire Economy?
Short answer is yes

BY NICK FONG

According to the World Bank DATA (WBD), tourism in 2015 generated over 1.4 trillion dollars in revenue worldwide. In 2016, Mexico was number eight on the top 10 vacation destinations list that was published by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). The UNWTO reported that in 2016, Mexico and its popular tourist destinations shared 35 million visitors between them. This is up 8.9% over the previous year. The question proposed is this; Can Tourism support an entire economy?

The 18.7 billion dollars generated in 2015 according to a WBT report was divided throughout Mexico’s most favorable regions. The more popular destinations like Mexico City, Puerto Vallarta, The Riviera Maya, and Cabo San Lucas just mention a few – with the exception of Mexico City, heavily depend on tourism dollars to survive. There are limited economic provisions for these cities to fall back on, so tourism is by far their number one revenue producer. When tourist arrive they spend their money on accommodations, food & drink, and in the local shops and markets. With all the revenue coming into the system – local economy, it has a trickledown effect. Business owners pay their employees and servicing vendors. In turn, the suppliers are able to pay their staff as well. The government collects its fair share to pay the city employees to perform their assigned jobs, keep the street lights on, and support the local law enforcement who keep the city safe. Everyone ends up with money in their pockets.

One of Mexico’s most prized resort destinations is Cabo San Lucas. This vacation mecca depends a lot on tourism. With that in mind, it also brings foreign investment to the area. Cabo San Lucas’s real estate market is one of the hottest in the region. Investors from around the world come to purchase second homes, rental property, and even look for permanent residences as well. Some of the reasons why are due to lower cost of living, the fabulous weather and relaxed lifestyle. These are only a few of the reasons why tourism is alive and well in Cabo San Lucas.

With the good, can come the bad. There are some negative factors that do affect tourism and a sustained economy. As of late, several world news media sources can disrupt a seemingly safe environment with pretentious rumors and suggested cautions when traveling to certain cities or even regions. This is not to say that being cautious is a bad thing and should always be practiced no matter where you are. However, there is no need to worry when visiting or thinking about investing in Cabo San Lucas and its growing corridor. Cabo is considered to be one of the safest destinations in Mexico.

So going back to the original question and that is, Can Tourism support an economy? In my opinion it most certainly can. Destinations that provide an atmosphere that includes a desirable environment, a chance to spend time away from daily routines, and enjoy activities normally not done will always attract tourist from all over the world. When people are truly having fun, they spend money. Remember the trickle down affect? Everyone benefits no matter what end of the spectrum they are on.

By: Nick Fong, Broker of Los Cabos Agent. For questions or comments please contact Nick at 624-157-3170 or nick@loscabosagent.com.
Expatriates And The Republican Proposed Tax Bill

It might not be so bueno for you

BY DON D. NELSON

All US expatriates are concerned what effect the pending Republican tax plan might have on their taxes while abroad. The good news is that the foreign earned income exclusion which is $120,100 for 2017 so far has not been mentioned in the bill and therefore if currently likely to remain the same for 2017 and perhaps beyond. This means if you are living and working abroad, you can earn (either as self-employed or as an employee) up to this amount and not be liable for any US tax on that income. Remember that the exclusion is not automatic. You must file a timely tax return to claim it. If you file your return 18 months after its due date the IRS can disallow the exclusion.

Some items that if passed (in the bill as of 11/17) will affect your US return are:

- Increase the standard deduction (if you do not itemize) to $24,000.
- Deletion of dependent exemption which is currently $4,050 for yourself and your dependents.
- Eliminate the possibility to deduct state income taxes.
- Eliminates the deduction for casualty losses (such as those incurred from hurricanes and floods).
- Decreases the deduction for home mortgage interest that incurred on a $500,000 loan (previously $1,100,000 loan interest)
- Require that you live in your primary residence for 5 out of past 8 years to get the $500,000 gain exclusion.
- Many more deductions which primarily benefit the middle class are scheduled to be eliminated.
- The entire pending bill if taken as is at www.taxmeless.com.
- Note that everything mentioned above is subject to change from the President.
- All US expatriates are concerned what effect the pending tax bill as of 11/5/17 will affect on their taxes while abroad.
- If you file your return 18 months after its due date the IRS must file a timely tax return to claim it. If you file your return 18 months after its due date the IRS can disallow the exclusion.
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FOR SALE IN LA VENTANA

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FOR SALE IN LOS BARRILES

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FOR SALE IN LOS BARRILES

FOR SALE IN LOS BARRILES
The Mexican closing process is a very intricate set of steps that must be performed from A to Z without exception. No one step can be performed before the other step is completed. This outline is a standard time frame for a cash purchase transaction where both buyer and seller documents are all in order at the beginning of the closing time line. There are many variables that can occur because we are dealing with buyers and sellers who are typically not in Mexico and we have many third parties who are involved in the process such as Public Notaries, home owners associations, buyer and seller closing agents, Foreign Affairs Minister for the buyer Fideicomiso Permit, fideicomiso Trust Banks, Property Tax Office Officials, etc. Consider that if your closing time frame includes a Mexican National Holiday or the December Christmas season and that can also cause a delay.

You should also know that the closing time line in Mexico is “estimated”. It is not set in stone like in the USA or Canada where “come hell or high water it gets closed on the closing date”. The time frame you and your buyer or seller agree on is recommended as an estimated date. The real closing date will be determined by the notary public, once all of the closing documentation has been completed and is ready for the final signature transferring the property to the buyer. It is typically in the last two weeks of the closing process that the final date can be determined. Often, neither the buyers or the sellers can travel to Mexico for the close date, but instead closing may occur with a limited power of attorney given to a trusted person in Mexico for the purpose of signing the deed transfer only. All other documents must be executed by all parties during the closing process.

You can be certain that you and your investment will be protected throughout the entire process. Have a little patience, relax and it will all come to fruition.

Standard cash closing 60 days estimated

Closing with Mexican financing involved 120 to 180 days estimated

Closing with seller HSBC fideicomiso 210 days estimated WHEN YOUR OFFER IS ACCEPTED:

Both buyer and seller agree to price and terms of the contract. Escrow documents are prepared along with ID from both parties involved. With the anti money laundering law in place KYC (know your client) and privacy forms are completed by both parties.

Due diligence period

Buyer makes the initial deposit and escrow fee per the contract. Confirmation of deposits are made with the escrow company. The Realtors work to complete Inventory lists and approvals, Home Inspections, etc and any other conditions or contingencies so not to delay the earnest money deposit / or return time frames specified in your offer contract. Once completed and the buyer will be moving forward to any letters of acceptance of due diligence items that are prepared and signed. Should the buyer determine not to move forward based on the results of the due diligence reports, then the initial deposit is refunded less escrow fee.

Earnest money deposit and end of due diligence

Escrow documents are executed and the earnest money deposit is made and confirmed. Buyer retains a closing agency / attorney and funds for the closing costs by making a partial deposit with the balance due at closing. Transfer of the title to the property

The seller’s broker and the buyer’s broker provide all necessary documentation to the closing agency / attorney. Once completed it will be forwarded to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19
Baja Living
And how sweet it is

By Terry Gray Curtis

Living in the Baja can be interpreted to mean; anywhere from Tijuana in Baja Norte to living in Los Cabos in Baja Sur and everywhere in between. Tijuana has always been on the map with proximity to San Diego. Historically, it was a getaway for US military personnel to enjoy some R & R when off duty and or a great place to take your car to get it painted or upholstered. Anyone who has been around the Baja long enough most certainly has a TJ story and or a border crossing story, either direction.

Ensenada and Rosarito for that matter were quite primitive back in the 80's when I first began visiting those areas. The hot spot was Ortegas where you could get a huge Lobster dinner for two, with a margarita for about $15. Heading on down south you pass through rows of vineyards and what has turned into many fabulous wineries, over the years. San Quintin is seasonably agricultural and known for fishing and blue crabs. This area has flourished with tourism as people became more daring to venture further south of Ensenada.

Guerrero Negro, where the world's largest salt plant owned by the Japanese is now on the map with a multitude of whale watching tours during the winter months. Loreto, is one of the most interesting, historic cities in the Baja. Their fore-fathers have fought the development of mega tourism for decades now, and have done a fine job of it. Their seasonal weather has helped with this battle as they vow not to become another Los Cabos. La Paz, the capital of BCS is a real city, comparatively speaking. There exist a deep water port with ferries and supplies coming from mainland Mexico. A lot of these products end up on your table or in your house here in Los Cabos.

Then there is Los Cabos, ah yes, “home sweet home”. We have first class medical care, simple international banking, large box stores that provide products from north of the border and a healthy lifestyle available that is second to none. Most tourists who fly down for the week or pass through on a cruise ship are not aware of what it is like to live in Baja. The fact of the matter is it is not just a geographical location, it is a lifestyle, one that is hard to describe much less understand until you have experienced it. Those of us who are lucky enough to enjoy a full or part time residency in Los Cabos are truly blessed. There is a sense of freedom here that cannot be experienced in the USA or Canada. There is so much to do and see, way more than meets the eyes but you have to live it to take it in.

If you have ever considered buying or living in Los Cabos, come on down, look around. A lot of people come and rent a place for a month while their realtor shows them properties, very common, sort of like a “test drive”. Either way, fly-n-buy or test drive, there are many highly qualified realtors here, at your service to show you the way.

It is truly a paradise. Come join us!

By Terry Gray Curtis is a veteran Century 21 Paradise Properties agent, he operates www.caboresortproperties.com & www.caboresortsecrets.com & a blog at http://blog.caboresortproperties.com Drop him a note to receive his very informative, bi-weekly Newsletter. His e-marketing program can give you incredible exposure if you are a Seller. Terry can be reached at terry@21cabo.com or USA Tel 624.151.5530 & Mexican Cell (011-521) 624.151.5530.

Understanding the Mexican... continued from page 18

the notary and the fideicomiso trust bank department. The capital gains tax calculation is provided to the seller. (Often this is now done in the beginning of the process even at the offer acceptance stage since the calculation is done in pesos not in US dollars to help the seller determine what his/her net will be on the accepted offer price). A Capital Gains calculation done before the actual transaction is an estimate, as it legally has to be based on what the pesos amount of the sale on the day of closing. The letter of instruction to the trust bank is prepared and signed by buyer and seller. This letter notifies the bank holding the trust that the property is being sold. This letter needs to be authenticated per Mexican Law at a Secretary of State for US Citizens or at a Mexican Consulate for Canadian Citizens when signed outside of Mexico. When executed and returned the SRE...
Buying Or Selling Real Estate In Baja California Sur?

We’ve got you covered.

When buying or selling real estate in Baja California Sur, look for the MLS symbol & enlist an MLS agent.

Buying real estate in a foreign country is unlike any experience you may have had in your home country or state in Mexico. There are simply different laws, procedures and safe guards here in Baja California Sur.

Did you know that over 300 real estate professionals have organized in Baja California Sur to insure your success in dealing with Mexican real estate? We started in 1991.

We now call ourselves MLS BCS, and we operate a Multiple Listing Service statewide in Baja California Sur with over 3000 available properties. We cover Los Cabos, Los Barriles, Todos Santos, La Paz and Loreto. Any affiliate Broker or Agent can help you locate available inventory anywhere in the state, and can quickly connect you with the properties and agents in the area of interest.

WHY USE AN MLS BCS AGENT?

Our MLS BCS agents and brokers subscribe to the strictest set of local Operating Policies and Procedures in the Country. These OPPs are the result of hammering out 41 years of dealings with foreign investment on the Anvil of Experience. Each member also agrees to follow the Code of Ethics of the Mexican Association of Real Estate Professionals (AMPI), and subscribes to the Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics of the National Association of Realtors in the USA.

In order to assure a safe and secure investment in Baja California Sur please be sure to work exclusively with an MLS agent. If for any reason you are not fully satisfied with their service you may inform the MLS at admin@mlsbcsmex.com.mx.

UNDERSTANDING THE MEXICAN...

continued from page 19

Permit from the Minister of Foreign Affairs is requested. If there is an existing trust in place then its rights may be assigned to the buyer. If a Mexican is purchasing the property the trust will be cancelled and documents for Mexican Escritura are prepared.

The notary prepares the Trust Deed / Fideicomiso for the Trust Banks review. Upon acceptance by the Trust Bank as well as any other additional information or closing documentation the Notary is then advised to execute the Trust Deed with the buyer and seller or their Proxy’s (POA: Power of Attorney).

Closing Day And Settlement Of The Property

The Notary receives the Letter of Instruction from the Trust Bank and authorization to close. The buyer is notified and receives 5 days to fund the escrow account with balance of purchase price of the property. Settlement Statements are provided to buyer and seller for signatures. Disbursement Instructions are prepared and authorized by buyer and seller and forwarded to the escrow company. Wire transfers are made to the escrow and closing company. Confirmations of receipt of funds is provided.

The notary completes all documentation and then obtains signature from the trust bank, buyer, seller and or proxies. The notary submits the following documents to the escrow company. Executed trust deed, certificate of no liens, preventative notice of the sale in favor of the buyer registered at the public registry office, a letter of confirmation that the trust deed / title to the property has been duly executed according to Mexican law. The escrow company verifies the documents received from the notary and the conditions of the escrow agreement and funds are typically released with 24 hours depending on what time of day the documents are received or if a weekend is involved in the time frame.

Your transaction has now been executed and officially closed!! It’s safe and it’s easy. Let me help you find your piece of paradise.

By Connie Meyerhoff, Agent of Engers Volker Senll Real Estate. Contact Connie for questions or comments at 480-393-0639 or c.meyerhoff@snellrealestate.com.
Can You Run, Walk Or Crawl 3 Miles?
Then do it for charity

The annual 5K Carrera is coming up December 30. This year’s event will be a 5K Run/Walk/Crawl through the streets of Todos Santos and the Otro Lado. The race will begin and end in the town Plaza. All proceeds benefit the programs of the Palapa Society of Todos Santos. Early signup begins on Friday, December 29th from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in front of Café Lado. All entrants must register for the race in the Plaza from 7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 30 to receive a race bib and timing chip. Entry fee is 200 pesos for adults and 150 pesos for students. Race time begins promptly at 9:00 a.m., and you don’t want to be late for a race.

Accurate race timing equipment will be used again this year which includes bibs and an electronic chip system. This chip may or may not report your time if you take a short cut, want to try it?

Immediately following the race, awards will be presented to overall 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place men and women along with medals for men’s and women’s age group winners. Souvenir bibs will be given to all participants and souvenir race t-shirts will be available in the Plaza for 200 pesos purchase.

This event is a great way to bring the community together for a fun, healthy day, and a great cause. For more information on the Palapa Society of Todos Santos, the Carrera, or to donate, visit their website at http://palapasociety.org or contact info@palapasociety.org. This organization administers an amazing array of programs for the local Mexican community.

BY ANITA REST

Directory of Services
Monday to Saturday.

8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Rancher’s market in Todos Santos. Featur- ing homemade products from rural areas. Artisanal cheeses, organic chicken and eggs, liqueurs and vir- gin honey, as well as handicrafts such as furni- ture made with regional woods, leather goods and clay pottery all made by ranchers’ hands. The Mercado (market). Todos Santos on Calle Morelos between Rangel and Cuauhtemoc inside the San Diego Feed Store.

Every Monday. 8:30 am. Pick- leball in San Jose. Contact ron- dumbarton@gmail.com.

Every Tuesday. 8:00 am. Ro- tary Club at the Sheraton Hacienda del Mar resort. In the Chapel. RSVP: 172-0099 or 172-0010

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

Every Tuesday and Saturday.

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

Every Tuesday. 6:00 pm. Mu- sic Mexico Tuesdays. Downtown San Jose. Live music, mariachi band, and artisians.

Every Wednesday. 7:00 am to 12:30 pm. The Organic Market at Pedregal. Fresh, organic produce, coffee, fish, seafood, eggs, whole lambs (Little Bo Peep!), pigs (Porky? Is that you?) handicrafts, plus breakfast and lunch at Penny Lane’s Café.

Every Wednesday. 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. At La Esquina in Todos Santos. Featur- ing works of author Elena Ponia- toska. At Los Adobes restaurant in Todos Santos.

First Thursday. 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. YoReciclo sets up tents to receive clear glass bottles, metals, plastics (except Styro- foam), thick cardboard, comput- er equipment (except monitors), small home appliances (except TV’s of all kinds), cellphones and accessories, edible vegetable oil, ink cartridges and toners of HP, Samsung and Xerox only, please. In San Jose at Centenario corner with Ildefonso Green. In Cabo San Lucas at the parking lot of the baseball stadium. Email info@yoreciclo.org.mx for more information.

Every Thursday. 8:00 am. Ro- tary Club breakfast. At the Plaza Grande Resort, above the Sports Bar, Cabo San Lucas.

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

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

Every Thursday. 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Art Walk. Visit different gal- leries; many serve free wine. Art district in downtown San Jose.

Every other Thursday. You guess which one. Los Cabos To- matoes, ladies’ social group. All women who aspire to be a tomato are welcome. Email loscabostomatoes@gmail.com for more information.

Every Friday. 6:00 pm. Trivia Night. Todos Santos Brewing. English and Spanish with short rounds and prizes available each round. Álvaro Obregón (between Militar & Rangel). Facebook @ TodosSantosBrewing. Ph 612-1452023 or email info@todos santosbrewing.mx

Every Friday. 5:00 to 9:00 pm. Todos Santos Farmers Mar- ket. Music and fun stuff. At The Distillery (but it moves around, so check where it is this week). Email James Black at merlot4u@ earthlink.net or call (62) 134-8728 for more information.

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

Every Friday. 11:00 a.m. Al- anon Family Group. Next to Cal- vary Chapel Corner of Degollado and Tijuana. Call 624-165-4818 for more information.

Every Friday. 5:00 to 9:00 pm. Farmer’s market at the Shoppes at Palmilla. Information: 624- 144-6999, www.theshoppesatpal miilla.com. Runs through April.

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

Every Saturday. 7:00 am to 12:30 pm. The Organic Market at Pedregal. Fresh, organic produce, coffee, fish, seafood, eggs, whole lambs, (Little Bo Peep!) pigs, (Porky? Is that you?) handicrafts, plus breakfast and lunch at Penny Lane’s Café.

Every Saturday and Sunday.

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

Every Saturday. All day. The grandaddy of all markets. In addition to organic produce, there are handicrafts, books, critters 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

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

Every Sunday. 12:00 to 8:00 pm. Sun- day Sessions Live Music. To- dos Santos Brewing. Enjoy the beautiful star filled Baja sky, live acoustic music, fabulous handmade craft beers and delicious food. Álvaro Obregón street (be- tween Militar & Rangel). Face- book @TodosSantosBrewing for more information, 612-145-2023 or email info@todos santosbrewing.mx

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

Every Sunday. 12:00 to 4:00 pm. Sunday in the park. Secured dog park. Open to the public. Providing a safe location to enjoy your dog off leash. Visit www.cabocritters@gmail.com or email the details to ba- jakitties@yahoo.com

December 14, Thursday. 5:30 pm. The Padrino Children’s Foundation fundraiser. At the Los Cabos Hilton. Contact Sheila lagen- tend. Todos Santos. Padrino pro- vides medical care for disadvan- taged children in Todos Santos, and the surrounding rural areas. Includes dinner, drinks, silent auction, and entertainment. 100 tickets at $100 USD per person will be available on October 15. Email nanaile@att.net.


January 18-27. 10th Annual Los Cabos Pro-Am. At the Sher- aton Grand Los Cabos. Information: 624-948-3451.

January 27-February 3. To- dos Santos Writers Workshop. Seven days of workshops, semi- nars and fights for writers at all levels. Email laurajones@todos santoswritersworkshop.com.

To get your event listed here, email the details to david@ grinogazette.com. There is no charge. And, if an event we list here does not go off when stated, please don’t shoot the messenger, this is Mexico, and every event is, well. fluid.
Like It Never Even Happened

The sand that washed into Vagabundos Trailer Park was about five feet deep in most places. On the right of the picture with the machinery, is the swimming pool, which was completely filled in, like it never even existed. We were standing on it to take pictures and it seemed like it simply vanished. It has now been cleared of sand and is ready for water. Not so ready is the Vagabundos restaurant. It has only been partially cleared and is still closed for business.

To date in 2017, the public and private sectors have invested more than $47 million USD to increase security personnel, equipment and infrastructure. Hotel developers have not been scared away by the warning. “They are confident in the future of Los Cabos,” noted Esponda. More than 20 hotel projects are in the pipeline, representing 16 international and national brands, including Ritz-Carlton, Nobu, Montage, Hard Rock, Four Seasons and St. Regis.

Tourism Board Fights... continued from page 6

first half of the year, more than 20 percent growth was reported each month, but there is concern for this high season coming up. Local officials, hotel staff and business owners recognize the importance of heading off any uncertainty that could result from the travel warning, as about 90 percent of the people who live in Los Cabos work directly or indirectly in tourism. 

Hotel developers have not been scared away by the warning. “They are confident in the future of Los Cabos,” noted Esponda. More than 20 hotel projects are in the pipeline, representing 16 international and national brands, including Ritz-Carlton, Nobu, Montage, Hard Rock, Four Seasons and St. Regis.

VISIT YOUR LOCAL STORE

San José del Cabo
- “The Shoppes at Palmilla” Carretera Transpeninsular KM 27.5 - Local A-109 y A-110

Cabo San Lucas:
- Malecón across the Cultural Pavilion Downtown

Holidays Must-Haves

STOCK UP ON THE ESSENTIALS & LET THE FEAST BEGIN:

Organic Whole Turkeys, Fresh Cranberries & Sweet, Potatoes, Daily Baked Artisan Breads, Gourmet Cheeses, Dried Fruit & Nuts, International Wines & Spirits

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info@californiaranchmarket.com

San José del Cabo:
MON - SAT 8:00 - 21:00 / SUNDAY 8:00 - 16:00
TEL.: (624) 104 0154
info@californiaranchmarket.com

CaliforniaRanchMarket
Cabo San Lucas

There has been some terrific fishing and catching from Cabo recently. Unquestionably, the bite was on for most of the anglers as well as for most of the species. The billfish action included blue marlin, black marlin, stripers and sailfish. In the hook-to-table category, the dorado, yellowfin tuna and wahoo were the most popular.

For just plain fun, there were ample skipjack, jack crevalle and roosterfish to put a bend in the fishing rods. There has also been a consistent bite of the “go to” bottom dwellers when the surface action slowed. There was an excellent bite for most of the anglers, one that spanned a wide area, although the better bite was south of Cabo Falso at about 14 or 15 miles.

Cabo Climate: temperatures averaged 85.2 degrees with nights at 83 degrees, inshore temps from Todos Santos to Cristobal and out about two or three miles are all at 83 degrees. Falso and around to Los Frailes are all at 82 or 83 degrees.

Best Fishing Area: Cabo Falso, in the 14 to 15 mile zone, the Herradura, Jaime Banks and Migrino were the most focused spots, but fish were caught all over the area.

Best Bait/Lures: Hot ticket for the billfish and the dorado, with a few billfish taken on lures as well as some of the dorado, the rigged trolling bait were the hottest bait overall.

Bait Supply: A good bait supply of caballito at the $3.00 per bait rate, paid direct to the bait vendor.

Puerto Los Cabos

There have been several cow sized tuna landed, but targeting the larger sized tuna requires lots of patience and stockpiling larger quantities of bait. Sardina, squid and chunks of skipjack were all used. The majority of the largest tuna were hooked on either chunks of skipjack or strips of squid. There were also nice-sized tuna over 100 pounds landed while fishing the San Luis Bank, though that was tough through much of the time due to north winds.

There were no big numbers of these larger fish, but some anglers did account for one, two and even three in one morning. Most common sized tuna being caught were more in the seven to 15 pound class. These hit mostly on the sardina, with Iman Bank and Palmilla Point being the hot spots on particular days.

Dorado have been much more limited numbers of these fish scattered than the tuna, with limited numbers of these fish accounted for. There have been more juvenile-sized with an occasional fish up to 15 pounds.

However, for anglers specifically targeting dorado, they were having multiple chances and landed as many as four per boat. There were wahoo around as well, although most felt fortunate having one wahoo in the fish box. They were hitting on both trolled lures, such as Rapalas, and on trap hooked bait, caballito and chihuil.

East Cape

On the days when it’s calm and clear and very sunny days with only an occasional passing cloud.

Sea Condition: temperatures are holding up very well. Finger Bank to the Gorda Bank are all at 80.5 degrees. Southerly across the 1000 Fathom Curve have all been at 81 to 82 degrees. Inshore temps from Todos Santos to Cristobal and out about two or three miles are all at 83 degrees. Falso and around to Los Frailes are all at 82 or 83 degrees.

Best Fishing Area: CABO FALSO, in the 14 to 15 mile zone, the Herradura, Jaime Banks and Migrino were the most focused spots, but fish were caught all over the area.

Best Bait/Lures: Hot ticket for the billfish and the dorado, with a few billfish taken on lures as well as some of the dorado, the rigged trolling bait were the hottest bait overall.

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East Cape

It is November, and the weather continues to change rapidly. With the arrival of a few days of north winds, anglers have braved the conditions and been rewarded with a mixed bag of fish. The water temps are still very conducive to good fishing, hovering in the low 80s pretty much all over.

Sailfish have been the predominant catch in the billfish department. They were all taken on the troll off La Ribera. Tuna were plentiful south of Los Frailes but were quite difficult to hook-up. Tuna were often boiling on the surface, but were reluctant biters. The catch was mostly smaller fish up to 20 pounds. Sardina were the best bait.

Good-sized dorado in the 30 pound range were available throughout the East Cape, mostly
If Michoacan is "the soul of Mexico," as it has often been called, then its food is Mexico's soul food. Few other places in the country can claim such a profound and long-lasting indigenous influence on their regional cuisine. This western state, part of the Bajío region located north and west of Mexico City, has retained its culinary roots for over a millennium.

To understand how this happened is to realize the strength and unity of the Purépecha people that inhabit a large portion of the state. An astounding 38 different indigenous languages are spoken in Michoacan, and the oldest continuous civilization there is that of the Purépecha, dating back 3,000 years.

The dish I write about today is called atapakua, which was often served at funerals; it was said that this dish would warm the soul. There is no meat needed, unless it's for a celebration. In the Purepechan language, atapakua means "nutritious and spicy stew that sustains life." This salsa requiresthere are many steps.

**Ingredients**
- 4 ancho peppers
- 3 guajillo peppers
- 3 tomatoes
- 1 serrano pepper
- 1/2 onion
- 2 garlic cloves with skin
- 2 coriander sprigs
- 1.7 oz maize dough (you can buy this at the tortilla store)

**Preparation:**

1. In a saucepan over medium heat, toast the maize dough and add to the blender. Remove all the seeds.
2. While the peppers are soaking, roast one serrano pepper, the onion and garlic for about two minutes, until all their sides are roasted, turning regularly with the transfer everything but the garlic cloves to a blender. Remove garlic cloves, let cool and peel. Add to blender and blend everything until smooth. Set aside.
3. Check that the soaked chiles have softened. Once they are soft, remove them from the bowl and remove all the seeds.
4. In the blender, combine the softened peppers, coriander, spearmint and one cup of chicken stock. Blend until smooth and reserve. In a bowl, combine the maize dough and one cup of hot water. Stir until the dough has then set aside.
5. To cook the salsa, heat the vegetable oil in a saucepan over medium heat. Add in the first mixture that was blended and bring to a heat. Reduce to low heat for about five minutes, stirring occasionally.
6. Strain the maize dough and add to the saucepan, along with two cups chicken and 1/2 tablespoon salt. Add in the second mixture that was blended and stir together. Cook the atapakua for about 20 minutes, until it little acquires intense red color; stir occasionally.

To serve, have some pre-cooked vegetables, like zucchini, mushrooms, green beans and corn on the husk, in a bowl with a little bit of the water they were cooked in. Spoon in the atapakua, and enjoy.

**Atapakua.** It's a veggie dish that's hard to pronounce, but not so hard to make.

---

**Calendar Of Cuties**

To order your calendar, you can email Baja Safe at et.safe@hotmail.com. If you'd just like to make a donation to the shelter improvement fund, you can email Baja Safe or send them money via Pay Pal to the same email address (be sure to specify what you want the money to go towards). If you are making a larger donation and want it to be tax deductible, you can donate through the International Community Foundation (ICF) by visiting www.donate.icfdn.org/ and typing in Baja SAFE.

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**Baja Safe**

On sale now, the 2018 Baja SAFE critter calendar! That's right, you'll get 12 months of adorable animals who have been rescued here in Los Cabos.

The cost of each calendar is a $30 USD donation, which will go towards Baja Safe, which essentially acts as San Jose’s humane society. The local animal group not only rescues and rehabilitates strays, but also provides spaying and neutering, and gives education to local families on the importance of spaying and neutering.

Baja SAFE is in the process of doing some major fundraising so it can make some big changes to its shelter space, which will allow it to house more animals. Baja SAFE president Isabelle Tiberghien estimates they need about $150,000 for the project.
November 27th, 2017

Need A Furry Roommate?

CAMILLA
Some say there is no higher level of happiness than “yellow lab happy.” I am a poster child for this condition, and my tail wags madly at the thought of being anyone’s fur-ever friend. I once had a real home, but my owners determined they didn’t have enough space for tail twirls and love leaps. If you give me the chance, you will discover I am a “mellow yellow” once I’ve had a brisk walk. Then, I will devote my all heart energy to you!

LEONARDO DI CAPRIO
You probably didn’t know there was more than one Leonardo DiCaprio. I would be the lesser known of the two of us. The other one includes: Polynesian, folklore, offered at the center. The full list back to the cultural center. All operations have been moved date, on time by local standards), original estimated completion (included with the main course). The best part is, 49% of the funding will be a gift from the feds. Well, a gift paid with our bank that funds infrastructure projects all around Mexico.

QUE PASA IN CABO?
continued from page 9

We Mexican have a joke about these new stoplights. It goes something like this: We have feistiest of them have survived. Stoplights almost ready. More than three years after Hurricane Odile washed our precious city lights out to China, we’re getting them back. All of the lights are supposed to be installed by November 29, according to the mayor. Oh, that was yesterday! And it’s not like China sent them back, we had to buy new ones.

CAMILLA
No one can do everything, but EVERYONE can do something!

Los Cabos Humane Society

San Jose Cultural Center
continued from page 7
Those operations include 16 different workshops currently offered at the center. The full list includes: Polynesian, folklore, ballet, hip hop, jazz, salsa and belly dance classes, as well as rhythmic gymnastics, painting and art classes. In addition, singing, guitar, theater, writing, taekwondo and barre fitness classes are offered.

The workshops are offered either free or at low cost to participants. All workshops are geared towards people of all ages, however, the majority of attendees are kids and teens. About 250 local kids attend the workshops regularly.

Tropicana Hotel & Restaurant

One FREE BIG MARGARITA per person (included with the main course).

Located in the Historical San José’s Down Town. One of the most frequented restaurants by tourists and locals has become the place to enjoy delicious food & great live music entertainments.

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No charge for estimates and up to 12 months to pay without interest on approved credit

Our styles range from traditional curtains, blackout materials, solar screens, galleries, cornices, curtains, panel glide, sliding and Roman blinds, even hurricane shutters, all easy to use, with designs and cutting-edge technologies.

We even have anti-stain and liquid repellent fabrics, ideal for offices, clinics and hospitals. We have a wide variety of styles in blinds and curtains, from the basics to the eclectic, as well as ultra-elegant and sophisticated looks to fit your own personal style. Yes, we have the highest quality but we are still competitively priced!

Dr Roberto Leon
San Jose Al-Anon Family Group
Meeting Fridays 11:00 a.m. Next to Calvary Chapel
Comer of Degollado and Margarita Maza de Juarez
Info: Cell 624-355-3101

San Jose Facial Rejuvenation

Dr. Roberto Leon
Appointments in Cabo & San Jose: 624-1051402
www.cabofacialrejuvenation.com

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PIKOFF

Check out the wonderful samples at the kiosk at the WalMart in San Lucas, but for English you will need to call cell, 624 178 2330, or go to their main location on the frozline, at the gray 2 story L shaped strip mall, just past the Country Club.

FACIAL AESTHETICS

San Jose Facial Rejuvenation
Appointments in Cabo & San Jose: 624-1051402
www.cabofacialrejuvenation.com
Pescadero Food Bank Needed More Since Lidia
The good news is that donations have also increased

BY ANDREW STACK

In the nearly two months since Tropical Storm Lidia hit, Larry Phoenix has been scrambling to help people living in the barrios around Pescadero.

“They were devastated,” he says. “The roads to the barrios were impassable. We had to wait about a week before we could get in to deliver food.”

Larry and Padre Alonzo Chozas are the backbone of the Sacred Heart Food Bank in Pescadero. “The Padre loads up food in his car and off into the hills he goes,” says Larry. Padre Alonzo delivers bags of groceries, and often cooks meals for those who are in the most need.

“Many people who we help are very old and sick, in bed,” he says.

Larry is the food bank’s primary backer, but he’s only one of a dozen people working to keep it going. He started it with the intent of helping the school children of Pescadero. A former green beret who served in Vietnam, he’s seen a lot of suffering, but says he sees no need for it to continue in a community that has so much to offer.

Whether delivering food, clothing or meals on wheels, the food bank is a godsend for many residents. The food bank serves anyone in need, not just parishioners of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, which it’s based out of. The food bank started with one family and now regularly serves 60 families a month (although after Lidia, that number has gone up to 80 families).

The good news is that donations have also increased. We had to wait about a week to get to Pescadero. "The roads to the barrios were impassable. We had to wait about a week before we could get in to deliver food."

Larry Phoenix is one of the main supporters of the Pescadero Food Bank, which delivers groceries to 60 families each month.

Pescadero Food Bank Needed More Since Lidia
The good news is that donations have also increased

BY ANDREW STACK

In the nearly two months since Tropical Storm Lidia hit, Larry Phoenix has been scrambling to help people living in the barrios around Pescadero.

“They were devastated,” he says. “The roads to the barrios were impassable. We had to wait about a week before we could get in to deliver food.”

Larry and Padre Alonzo Chozas are the backbone of the Sacred Heart Food Bank in Pescadero. “The Padre loads up food in his car and off into the hills he goes,” says Larry. Padre Alonzo delivers bags of groceries, and often cooks meals for those who are in the most need.

“Many people who we help are very old and sick, in bed,” he says.

Larry is the food bank’s primary backer, but he’s only one of a dozen people working to keep it going. He started it with the intent of helping the school children of Pescadero. A former green beret who served in Vietnam, he’s seen a lot of suffering, but says he sees no need for it to continue in a community that has so much to offer.

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Laurie is one of the main supporters of the Pescadero Food Bank, which delivers groceries to 60 families each month.

tomato sauce, canned tuna, toothpaste and laundry soap. Baby food and dog food are also given to families who need it.

Groceries are organized and continued on page 30.
No New Taxes
Proposed tourism tax got opposition from all sides

BY ANITA BUCK

The state government announced earlier this year that it planned to tax each tourist who visits Cabo for the privilege of enjoying our sunny, warm weather and gorgeous views and oceans. The hotel owners were the first to oppose the tax, then the cruise ship association sent a letter saying, “No, we will not charge our passengers extra,” even threatening to leave Cabo off the list of their ports of call.

The governor reacted by agreeing not to tax people who spend less than 24 hours on our turf (essentially, the cruise ship passengers).

The opposition from hoteliers continued. Questions were asked. Where will that tax money go? Infrastructure, said the government. Schools, paved streets, hospitals, sewage, etc.

Who will make sure no money is stolen? We will create a committee, where members of the business groups will participate, said the government.

Who will collect this tax from tourists? The airlines, the governor said. The airline association sent a letter saying, “Hell no, we won’t.” Well, we paraphrase.

Ooofa. The governor was now getting passy about their lack of support. Then, a couple of weeks ago, he said that Hacienda (the Mexican equivalent of the IRS) would collect directly at the airport. What, all tourists get in line and pay the tax or you won’t be allowed to enter? Ha!

Hacienda officials came back the next day and said, hell no, they would not collect the tax.

The governor kept pressing on, saying the money is badly needed. A week later, he said that the hoteliers had agreed to collect the tax. The hoteliers have not refuted this. Yet. We’re still waiting for their official response. They can’t type right now, their arms are twisted.

The tax is only $20 USD, which won’t hurt our wealthy (and even the not-so-wealthy) tourists. And with two million of them arriving in Los Cabos this year, that would be at least an extra $40 million bucks going into the state coffers. We hope they get this collection stuff straightened out, because Los Cabos could use that money.

Last year, the event was in the marina next to the Christmas tree in front of the Puerto Paraiso entrance. Santa rode down the marina in his scooter to his waiting sleigh. Along the way, he spotted a mariachi group, and he invited them to come along. The mariachis followed behind the scooter playing Christmas music. Children and their parents lined up to meet Santa, give him their Christmas lists written in Spanish and receive a toy. “Playing Santa last year was one of the most fulfilling things I have ever done,” Jerry says.

Last year’s event was a big success, but Jerry and the Foxes want more. They have received permission to have a larger event this year.

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

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

Call Cathy Dammann at Spa Cielo in San Jose. 624 105 2209. Go to www.spa-cielo-cabo.com

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No More Free Parking!

It was one of the last places around the city where you could park for free instead of illegally parking on the street. People would park in the City Club parking lot even though they weren’t going into the store. Well, not anymore. City Club is fed up with that shit and installed a ticket booth.

Members get two hours of free parking with a receipt of purchase, all others are S.O. L. If a member stays longer, it’s only about 50 cents per hour. That’s also the rate for those who want to use the lot without shopping at City Club.

Let’s hope this is going to be like the city owned lot on the marina by the dolphin center. Most of those attendants are, ahem, “flexible” for cash. But then, why not just pay the 50 cents, it’s not that much. Seems fair.

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A CHAT WITH CABO’S... continued from page 12

Q. Do you have any major construction projects ongoing in Cabo San Lucas?
A. Yes, we do. We have a new Olympic swimming complex being built near Cangrejos. It will include an Olympic size main pool, diving area and a smaller pool. The complex will hold up to 1,000 people, and will have a paved parking lot. The complex is now under construction and it will be finished by end of November 2018.

(Editor’s note: This has been paid for by developers fees from Chileno Bay Resort and Residences, not the city).

We also have just built a new soccer field with artificial turf, new volleyball courts and new basketball courts behind the delegation building.

Q. What can the citizens for Cabo do to help you in your efforts?
A. I will be grateful if people will keep the front of their homes and businesses clean and make sure all trash goes into a trash can.

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FISH REPORT... continued from page 24

sizes. However, with the cooler waters, we’ve been seeing more

cooler water species like sierra, snapper, pargo, cabrilla, and amberjack.
The bite is also directly related to having live bait. It’s rough, it’s hard to get live bait and even the bait sellers aren’t out there, knowing it’s futile. Anglers are left to use dead bait, cut bait or find/catch their own bait.

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La Paz
Once contact is made, the ladies of the church go to work to make sure the request is legitimate. Since many have lost their homes, the women visit families in person, wherever they may be living. They also cook meals to deliver to them. For their part, the ladies of Sacred Heart, Lupita Salvatiera and Marilena Espinoza, say they love working for their community and couldn’t imagine doing anything else. “This is God’s work,” they say.

If you’d like to make a donation to the food bank, you can drop off non-perishable food or clothing in person at Sacred Heart Catholic Church to the community center behind the church. Sacred Heart is known as the church on the hill. If you’d prefer to donate money, you can email Larry at phnix52@gmail.com. Or email him to ask precisely which hill is the church on.
Ask a Mexican

This week we asked: What do you think the future holds for U.S.-Mexico relations? What do you think could be done to improve them?

Diana Carrillo, 26, receptionist

I think with Trump as president, things are going to hell. Now is the time when Mexicans are the unhappiest with the government since the revolution, and that man is not making things easier. I sincerely hope he does build that wall so we can open our eyes and stop thinking the United States is so much better than us and start taking our country more seriously.

Andres Sepulveda, 26, bartender

I don’t think things will change much. It’s not like Trump is working by himself and there are some things even he will not be able to change. If we wanted to improve the relationship, we should make Mexico great again and stop people from wanting to emigrate to the U.S so badly, so Americans will stop complaining about immigrants.

Francisco Juarez, 21, self-employed

I think the relationship will only get worse. If we want to improve, we should do it in the agricultural aspect. Mexico should get paid more fairly for its produce, because after all it is our hands that are feeding Gringos. And they hate us so much, we should step up and make them conscious of the fact that this needs to be a fair relationship.

Paulina Zepeda, 31, therapist

I don’t see how things can change, honestly. Our president has no balls to change things for the better in our country, why would he suddenly do it now? To make the relationship stronger both countries should get new presidents and start over, things are too damaged now.

Josue Gutierrez, 27, sales man

I don’t know what the future holds, but we shouldn’t try to make the relationship between Mexico and the U.S. better. I would rather make relationships with other countries that have way more to offer stronger than make things better with a neighbor who hates most of us and who is not conscious of how much they really do need us.

Diego Hurtado, 39, unemployed

If Mexico and the United States worked on the drug cartel problems together, that would not only make the relationship better, but also stronger. If we could work like Germany does, crime would stop and it would help both economies.

Santa Claus is Coming to... continued from page 28
Every year Who’s Who in Luxury Real Estate™ honors members for their success and dedication with the Luxury Real Estate Awards. These prestigious awards recognize companies and individuals for excellence in their category and overall dedication to the industry. Engel & Völkers Snell Real Estate were nominated in five impressive categories, and last week took home the award for Best Lifestyle/Branding Video.

Unveiled in Toronto at the Fairmont Royal York, Vanessa Fukunaga, Owner, President | CEO from Engel & Völkers Snell Real Estate accepted this esteemed award and was honored to be selected among the best in the international luxury real estate industry.

“Presenting a lifestyle/branding video that offers insight into all that Los Cabos, Mexico has to offer in terms of community, music, culture, climate, natural wonders, and unique experiences builds a pathway for us as a brokerage to share this way of life,” states Vanessa Fukunaga.

The winning video only further supports the destination of Los Cabos as a top worldwide enchanting location to vacation, invest, and retire. Marketing and promoting some of the most exquisite real estate listings in the world, Engel and Völkers Snell Real Estate are dedicated to marketing excellence and continue to raise the bar each and every time for top leadership and service in the luxury real estate industry.

ABOUT WHO'S WHO IN LUXURY REAL ESTATE

In 2015, Engel & Völkers Snell Real Estate was exclusively selected to join Who's Who in Luxury Real Estate™ as a Member on the Board of Regents based on their leadership and long-standing success in the Baja California Sur, Mexico market. A worldwide collection of top brokers representing the finest luxury properties across the globe, Who's Who in Luxury Real Estate has been leading the real estate industry since 1986.