We Are Loved
Tourist numbers still strong, despite travel warning from U.S. government

BY KENNY DEWITT

Despite the travel warning issued by the U.S. State Department in August of last year, which listed Los Cabos as a destination to avoid, tourism numbers continued to rise through the end of 2017. In October, two months after the travel warning, visitor arrivals were up 8.8%. Rodrigo Esponda, managing director of the Los Cabos Tourism Board, tells us extra safety measures are being taken in order to ensure that growth continues.

Q: What’s your forecast for total visitor growth for 2017?
A: From January to October, we have had 17% more tourists to the destination, and we predict that that’s going to be the trend to finish the year: We’re going to close 2017 with an increase of 17%, around that number.

Southwest added 350,000 more seats into Los Cabos this year. That’s an incredible number. Other airlines have also had increases. For example, United and American have been increasing their lift, Delta has been adding some flights and Air Canada capacity has grown 120% this year.

What we are aiming for is

Major Remodeling At Mercado Municipal
That’s the local market in San Jose

BY CALEB HOOGLAND

The local market in San Jose, known as the Mercado Municipal, is undergoing a significant remodel and has been under construction since July. It was so-called guaranteed to be done in less than four months. Well, it’s almost been six months and the city told us last month that they are only two-thirds of the way finished.

They also told us they had hoped the market would ready by December 20. Ha! That was never going to happen because all of the city workers take most of December off for Christmas (which means that basically nothing gets done for at least a month). The market remains open for business during the remodel. The

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The food court at the Mercado Municipal in San Jose is closed while the market is undergoing renovations, but you can still stop by and pick up some souvenirs.
New plan for new tax. Bending to push back from cruise ship lines, airlines and the local hotel association, the governor has postponed charging international tourists a $20 USD tax when coming to visit Los Cabos. Nobody wants to collect it for the government.

The cruise ship passengers got a quick exemption when the Florida-based cruise ship association stated in an open letter to our governor that, if we attempted to charge an additional tax, they would abandon Cabo. Ha ha. (They might not have said ha ha part.)

Ha ha. (They might not have said tax, they would abandon Cabo.)

In order to get new permits, the city is demanding that vendors show proof they live here. This will limit the number of vendors dramatically, as many are brought in from poor areas of southern Mexico, housed in terrible conditions, and dropped off at the beach every day. The city is trying to stop this.

And while we’re at it, have you noticed the decrease in child vendors downtown? That is also due to the city and the merchants working together.

Speaking of vendors The Cabo marina has 148 vendors who are approved to sell tourist activities. Like boat rides and such. They all must wear brown pants and white shirts with the API logo (API is the marina management company), and their credentials hang from their necks. They are supposed to stay inside their booths, but many walk out and stand on the malecon yelling their offers and services, which is against the law.

They get fined all the time, but they make so much money that they can afford to pay it. On top of those 148 approved vendors, there are about 100 more peddlers without permits, wandering the marina when the cruise ship passengers come down to shop, drink and eat. They are allowed on the marina because they have bought “amarapos,” or legal injunctions, that temporarily prevent them from being detained or fined.

In Mexico, the Constitution states that everyone has the right to do business. Local legislation states that OK, OK, you can do that, but you have to get a business permit, even if you are ambulatory, and pay a fixed tax. But there’s a gap in there. The Constitution is above any other law, and it does not specify that you have to get permits and get a license. So there. ‘That’s a gray area just wide enough for those 100 marauding sellers of all sorts of stuff to squeeze through’

We need more cops There have been changes at the helm of the Los Cabos police corps, which is now headed by the Mexican Navy captain Jose Zamora-Carlos. The Navy sailors have been added to our police force because many of the old cops couldn’t pass the polygraph tests.

According to Capt. Zamorano, we only have 509 cops in all five areas of Los Cabos (San Jose, Cabo San Lucas, Migrino, Santiago, Miraflores and La Ribera), and we need more good cops. Oh, and out of those 509, 140 are traffic police officers, which leaves us with only 369 cops for an estimated population of 350,000.

But, don’t despair! 200 new cops will be arriving early this year, all trained in Mexico City and at Navy installations, all with clean records and who have passed all the tests. In addition, we have over 200 military, navy and federal police officers in the state, assisting the city and state governments in increasing our safety. When you see men with “marine” on their shirt, they are not like our marines, they are what we would call sailors. And that’s Mr. Sailor to you, as they are in charge of protecting us.

The Colonel is back! Colonel Sanders, that is. Kentucky Fried Chicken is staging a comeback, this time in a mall in La Paz. Many years ago we had a KFC in downtown Cabo, in the Plaza No Gloria, now called Tesoro, next coming.

VILLA VALENTINA

The hotel association opposed the tax from the beginning, and the airlines said they would not allow it to be charged. The hotel association opposed the tax from the beginning, and the airlines said they would not allow it to be charged.

Nobody wants to collect it for the national tourists a $20 USD tax when coming to visit Los Cabos.

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Nobody wants to collect it for the national tourists a $20 USD tax when coming to visit Los Cabos.
Newspaper talk

We like newspaper talk, we’re newsies. The federal government’s huge spending on advertising in newspapers has been criticized by people who believe the use of the public’s money limits freedom of the media. This clout is capable of suppressing investigative articles, directing front pages and intimidating newsrooms that challenge it. The government’s lavish spending is made with a simple proviso: “I do not pay you to criticize me.”

The director of the magazine Etcétera conceded this practice is not right, but argued that if the government advertising revenue dried up, there would be no media in Mexico at all. “We are all complicit in this,” Marco Levario said.

However, the president’s office said that its spending did not affect free speech in any way, arguing that the purpose of its advertising is to inform and educate the public about the government’s work and that it is backed legally by the constitution. Well, maybe that’s the problem, it’s legal. But is it right? We could argue that it’s not right that this paper doesn’t get our share, but then we’re passed up because our readers don’t vote.

Only once has a government agency tried to buy us off, and that was Fonatur. We were so naïve back in those days we didn’t get it, we thought they just wanted an ad. Duh. And then when the crisis was over, the pendejos didn’t even pay us! We learned two lessons, one about Mexican journalism and one about Fonatur.

Tough competition for Cabo

A new all-inclusive hotel with 900 suites, 10 restaurants and eight bars has opened just south of Cancun. (It has to be all inclusive, because it’s out in the tulles.) It will eventually have 6,000 rooms, a 12,000 seat stadium, a convention center and even a shopping center. Cancun has way more problems with the druggies than we do, and they’re still thriving, so maybe we can expect the same here.

Cruise ship for Mexicans

Aww, that’s nice. Right now, all the cruise ships that ply the so-called Mexican Riviera originate in L.A, a bridge too far for many Mexicans. Why should they fly up there and back, only to cruise down here and back?

The Magellan ship will cruise the Mexican Riviera this winter, launching a new brand for the Mexican domestic market: Marítimos Vacacionales. Maritime vacations.

Home ports will be both

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19
The Sports Club That Wouldn’t Quit
Punto Azul is slowly recovering after Lidia

BY MADELINE GROVE

Like many businesses, the Punto Azul sports center found itself flooded by Tropical Storm Lidia.

The sports facility (which used to be called La Huerta) is located on Camino Viejo in San Jose, along the outskirts of the estuary, near the organic market. The multifaceted complex, complete with tennis courts, very large lap pool, soccer field and indoor rooms for lessons and activities, was flooded with six to nine inches of water in various areas. The sports center is popular with middle class and wealthy Mexicans, and all the programs are in Spanish.

The large pool was completely filled up with mud, and dammed trees were knocked down and plants were lost. The electricity and plumbing at the facility were wrecked.

Punto Azul has been working to get the club back into shape ever since. The first order of business was to remove all the muck and trash, which included about 70 tires, sheets, doors, refrigerators, grocery bags and styrofoam that was washed down from the hills. Once all that junk was cleared away, the cleaning and renovation efforts could begin.

Tennis classes, which had been moved to the new courts at Palmilla, resumed at Punto Azul in late October, even though the courts were not in tip top shape. Swimming lessons resumed after they fixed the pool in early November, but, the soccer team has yet to come back. The soccer team is playing on public fields for now.

The restaurant, which was completely trashed during the storm, hasn’t been in working condition since. Jonathan Laur Hernández Aranda, the club administrator, said there is a big cafeteria project underway. The outdoor cafe space will be turned into an indoor restaurant, which will offer a broader menu, including meat and seafood.

Although the club isn’t 100% patched up yet, plans for new programs and expansions are already in place. Starting this year, the club will offer basic English classes and homework tutoring. Handball will be one of the club’s new athletic options, and one of the four tennis courts has been turned into a pickleball court. Pickleball is a fairly new sport down here in Baja California Sur, but is quickly gaining popularity. In fact the pickleball courts at the club are the only part of this sports complex that is popular with the foreign community. They pay rent to play there, and that’s a big boost to the complex.

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 Pelican Theatre Kicks Off Fifth Season

Performances start January 16

BY BILL SHAKESPEARE

The Pelican Theatre of La Paz is celebrating its fifth season with a production of “Heaven and Earth,” a collection of three short comedic plays. The show runs from January 16th to 20th.

The three plays included in “Heaven and Earth” are “Do-overs” by Larry Hamm, “Ferris Wheel” by John Augustine. Performances start a bit early because most of the audience members are older and appreciate an early evening. Tickets are $7.50 and are available at Alliance Books at 518 Calle Independencia. There will be wine and cheese following each night’s show.

David Coxwell, artistic director of the Pelican Theater, says it’s known as a “theater of intimacy,” where the audience and the actors are in close proximity with minimal technical requirements. Performances are in close proximity with Revolution and Serdan streets. The shows start a bit early because most of the audience members are older and appreciate an early evening.

We have a committee that is focused and dedicated to safety and security, and that committee meets twice a month to review various elements and various practices. We have always had that focus on safety, but we’ve made it even more of a priority given the challenges we are facing.

Q: How are you delivering on that safety reassurance without drawing attention to tourists?

A: For example, at the Navy base there’s going to be an intelligence-monitoring center. (The Navy is now in charge of all security in Southern Baja, over the city state and federal police). They have thousands of cameras trained on the city. They will be monitoring and collecting intelligence on what is actually happening in real time. That is better than having 2,000 Navy personnel on the streets, because we don’t want to interfere with the experience of the guest, but we want to make sure that everything is fine. Accomplishing that with intelligence and communication is much better than heavy patrolling.

Q: Given some of the setbacks for the nation as a whole this year - natural disasters, drug violence, the reports of tourists - are you in touch with other destinations in Cancun - are you in touch with other destinations within Mexico?

A: We speak a lot with my colleagues in other destinations. We share experiences, we share practices and we share strategies.

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We Are Loved...

continued from page 1

to have 70% occupancy at an average of $300 USD, that’s the average daily rate in Los Cabos. Even though this year we have probably 2,000 more rooms than a year ago, we are keeping the 70% goal. We don’t want to be a destination with a 95% occupancy rate at $100 per person.

Q: What happened following the State Department warning?

A: We had an advisory board meeting with our top 15 partners, and we were very clear, and we have been very clear since the beginning: Safety and security has always been a priority for Los Cabos. It’s not just because of the travel warning, but it’s always been a destination that is very united, and we care about the experience.

We have a committee that is focused and dedicated to safety and security, and that committee meets twice a month to review various elements and various practices. We have always had that focus on safety, but we’ve made it even more of a priority given the challenges we are facing.

Cathy Dammann is a Medical Aesthetics Practitioner and has certifications in Aesthetic, and Light and Laser Therapies. She is a member of the International Association for Physicians in Aesthetic Medicine and the recent recipient of the 2012 “Successful Women of the Baja” by Baja Traveler Magazine. She has made numerous appearances on talk shows including Oprah. Spa Cielo’s physicians and staff are trained and certified in United States and Mexico and are bilingual. Spa Cielo Laser and Wellness Center holds a five star rating and received the “2013 Award of Excellence” from Trip Advisor and has the experience you look for in a laser medical spa, with 10 years in Los Cabo area, 14,000 patients and over 70,000 procedures performed. Spa Cielo is your answer to all security in Southern Baja, over the city state and federal police). They have thousands of cameras trained on the city. They will be monitoring and collecting intelligence on what is actually happening in real time. That is better than having 2,000 Navy personnel on the streets, because we don’t want to interfere with the experience of the guest, but we want to make sure that everything is fine. Accomplishing that with intelligence and communication is much better than heavy patrolling.

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

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

But the value in knowing your DNA is, oftentimes the doctor can get into a gene that has run amuck compensate for it.

It is a little scary to peek into the future and see your potentially gravely ill self, but wouldn’t it be worth that fright if it can be fixed? Or even if it can’t be fixed today, to know that technology is coming at us so fast, that it will probably be fixable in a few years, and that you will watch for that development?

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

Cathy Dammann is a Medical Aesthetics Practitioner and has certifications in Aesthetics, and Light and Laser Therapies. She is a member of the International Association for Physicians in Aesthetic Medicine and the recent recipient of the 2012 “Successful Women of the Baja” by Baja Traveler Magazine. She has made numerous appearances on talk shows including Oprah. Spa Cielo’s physicians and staff are bilingual. Spa Cielo Laser and Wellness Center holds a five star rating and received the “2013 Award of Excellence” from Trip Advisor and has star rating and received the “2013 Award of Excellence” from Trip Advisor and has

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Flying Thru The Air With The Greatest Of Ease
It could be you, at Cabo’s new trapeze school

BY ALEJANDRA BORBOLLA

Cabo’s newest attraction is one that will have you flying through the air with the greatest of ease. That’s right, we now have our very own trapeze school! You can find it on Constituyentes, the street you cross as you head out of Cabo on the fourlane, across from the soccer field. It’s in front of the Cascadas hotel.

Flying Trapeze Cabo is run by Jesus Ayala, who has been flying through the air for 14 years. The trapeze is something that everyone, locals and tourists, young and old (their youngest flier was four, the oldest was 85), can enjoy. The only physical limit is that you have to be able to hold your own weight in your hands and have no back, neck or joint injuries. OK, so that pretty much eliminates most of our creaky old readers, but continue on.

Jesus has flung all types of kids and adults, including people who were blind, deaf or mute, had Down syndrome, autism or some type of affliction. That should tell you how easy it is to get started on the trapeze.

First, the instructor takes you to a trapeze that is low enough to the ground that you can reach it easily by standing on a few foam mats. There, you are taught how to grab the bar, how far apart your arms should be, how to get your knees hooked in the trapeze and the ideal position for swinging.

The bar is brought to you, you grab on and then it’s show time. The instructor yells out “Ready,” not to confirm your readiness but as a signal to bend your knees. At the sound of “hup,” off you go! The thrill of swinging through the air is hard to describe, but it’s very empowering, freeing really.

The next move you learn is to hook your knees around the bar. It is very important to follow the instructions; when the instructor tells you to, you have to use your momentum to hook your knees onto the bar. Once you do it, you feel like a pro trapeze artist.

After that, you learn how to let go of the bar and keep your knees hooked while arching your back and extending your arms. The instructors tell you how and when to let go of the bar, which is quite nerve wracking even when you know there is a net underneath to catch you. You have to get this move just right before a.

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Let’s All Go To Loreto!

Great! I’ll beat you to the car!

BY ANITA BREAK

We’ve always liked Loreto, a small town of about 15,000 souls six hours up the Sea of Cortez from Cabo. It’s another town that federal agency Fonatur created to jump start tourist towns. Fonatur buys up large chunks of land, installs all the infrastructure like electricity, water, sewer, and roads, and then sells off smaller chunks to developers.

There are about eight of these tourist spots that were created by Fonatur, including Cancun, Loreto and, oh yes, Los Cabos.

Fonatur considers Loreto as their only failure, with their top guy saying several years ago that Loreto never took off because it’s too close to Cabo.

As much as we like Loreto, we have to admit it’s very hot in the summer, very cold in the winter, and very windy in the shoulder seasons. Their beaches are kinda rocky, there are very few flights into the city, and their fishing fleet is mostly little pangas. Gosh, what’s to like?

Plenty. The little town center is very picturesque, having been one of the first settlements on the peninsula. Its mission is the first, dating back three centuries. The cobblestone roads, always a pain in the neck to traverse, are too cute to criticize. And the town is right on the Sea of Cortez, facing several fairly close islands. This makes the late afternoons and early evenings along the waterfront a spectacular display of sunlight on ocean and islands. It enhances the ambiance, making it magical. Many bars and restaurants are clustered on this strip of malecon, facilitating the experience.

Here are just a few of the various waterfront experiences waiting for you:

The Oasis Hotel is right on the sand, has decent food, and you get to lounge under the palm trees. There is a nice pool, too. The rooms are rather broken down, however, as it is old and needs a complete upgrade. But they are clean and not very expensive.

On the other end of the malecon (the sea front), is Missiones, a slick new place, elevator, total A/C, the first class works, more expensive, but not overly. Augie’s bar and bait shop is not to be missed. Augie, from San Diego, is kidding about the bait part, it’s a popular Gringo bar and restaurant. It’s on the cheap side, as are the customers

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Need To Get Married?
Your taxes will be impacted if you marry a Mexican

BY ORLANDO GOTAY

Some expats integrate into Mexico when they move here; they marry a local. Most are eager to just get to know in-laws and new relatives, and not too many pay attention to the tax consequences of marrying a non-US citizen. But you should. First, consider the likely change in your filing status. Filing status determines your tax rate, personal exemption, standard deduction and other factors that determine your tax; this is a huge thing. As you can see, marrying “foreign” can have meaningful tax consequences to you. How you structure your household under these rules can bring joy or despair.

Do you like your mother and/or father in law enough to have them live with you for more than half the year? How about your brother in law? Daughter in law? Or McDonald’s?

Should you bring your new spouse into the US tax system? A “nonresident alien” normally has no US tax obligations or requirements, which means bringing them in is optional. If you do decide to do that, you can file jointly and might find it advantageous.

Remember, each spouse’s worldwide income must be reported and tax paid to the United States, so consider your new spouse’s future earnings. If your Mexican spouse has foreign retirement accounts, like AFORE, bringing them into the US tax system can become quite the headache, as those investments are not - I repeat, not - suited to US persons. Your spouse must get a tax ID number, which is no small feat if done from outside the U.S.

Married filing separately (MFS) is another option. Your spouse’s income does not come in to the computation, so there’s no ID number needed. Many, however, find MFS oppressive and pay far more under this status. Some tax credits are not allowed for MFS filers, but there might be an alternative.

Head of Household might be available if married to a “non-resident alien.” Your spouse doesn’t qualify as the HOH, someone else must be the “qualifying person.” Rules are complex and hinge mostly on who lives with you and who is paying for more than half the cost of keeping your home. “New” relatives acquired by marriage can qualify you as HOH and might get you extra exemptions (besides your spouse’s).

As you can see, marrying “foreign” can have meaningful tax consequences to you. How you structure your household under these rules can bring joy or despair.
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Developed by Solmar
In Defense of Timeshare
Sort of

BY JOE KING

One of my first memories after relocating full-time to Los Cabos in the 'aughts', was seeing a t-shirt in a now defunct shop with the logo – ‘My parents think I’m a crack addicted prostitute…..’Please don’t tell them I sell Timeshares!’

Over the years, I’ve generally had a conflicted opinion of Timeshare. On the one hand, there’s no doubt that much of the growth of Los Cabos, including many of the amenities I enjoy such as big box retailers, wouldn’t exist without the Timeshare industry, which brought more people to town.

On the other hand, the stories of exaggerated program benefits, high pressure sales tactics (If they ain’t cryin’, you ain’t tryin’), outright fraud (Pssst…..wanna sell your Timeshare?) are legion. Coupled with the general derision of the Timeshare industry by any financial planner, and indeed, the general public, and it seemed like a purchase was a non-starter for anyone of sound financial mind.

Last summer in Cabo working as a ‘Liner’. As I discovered, a Liner is the tour guide who shares a meal with the customer, shows them the property, and then hands the customer, and a completed information card, over to the sales team.

Before giving my stamp of approval (and alternatively encouraging my daughter to find more honorable work as an escort), I determined that I would invest a few hours trying to understand the industry.

To begin with, I talked to a few acquaintances that actually owned a Timeshare. Shockingly, some had bought into multiple programs. (Fool me once, shame on you. Y ou should be aging your daughter to find more information card, over to the customer, and a completed validation (and alternatively encourage) with the tour guide who shares a meal with the customer, shows them the property, and then hands the customer, and a completed information card, over to the sales team. By any financial planner, and indeed, the general public, and it seemed like a purchase was a non-starter for anyone of sound financial mind. (If they ain’t cryin’, you ain’t tryin’) and outright fraud (Pssst…..wanna sell your Timeshare?) are legion. Coupled with the general derision of the Timeshare industry by any financial planner, and indeed, the general public, and it seemed like a purchase was a non-starter for anyone of sound financial mind.

Muddying the waters further have been folks I’ve met who are in the industry, or came, you need to count your fingers after you shake hands, and with others, I’d happily pay a dowry to have my daughter marry into their family.

Therefore, I was filled with generally negative emotions when my daughter announced she was planning to spend the summer in Cabo working as a ‘Liner’. As I discovered, a Liner is the tour guide who shares a meal with the customer, shows them the property, and then hands the customer, and a completed information card, over to the sales team.

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In a nice but cheap hotel and walk to the beach. Put that extra money in your kids’ college fund. As well, if you’re perfectly content to spend $100/night at a Holiday Inn (as I am), Timeshare is not for you. However, if you’ve already seen the world on the cheap, if you don’t balk at spending $300+ a night for a hotel room and if you’ve got a member of your family that needs to be somewhat pampered, then perhaps a Timeshare might be appropriate.

So, why might a Timeshare make sense?

In a nutshell, including the initial payment plus the annual ‘maintenance fees’, when one buys a Timeshare, they are actually pre-purchasing high-end hotel accommodation for 25-30% of the retail price.

However, just like when flying Spirit Airlines, if you know what you’re doing, you will save handsomely. On the flip side, if you’re uninformed or unprepared, it can be an expensive nightmare.

Here are the things to look for...
January 8th, 2018

Calendar of Performing Arts

CABO SAN LUCAS

CULTURAL PAVILION
Every Thursday. 7:00 pm. Pavilion’s Movie Club. A different movie every Thursday. Sometimes in English, sometimes in other languages with Spanish subtitles. Free.


January 18. Thursday. 7:00 pm. Pavilion’s Movie Club. Mexican Short Films Collection. Some of them in Spanish, some others without sound or words. Free.

January 25. Thursday. 7:00 pm. Pavilion’s Movie Club. Special movie presentation with an actor on site. Film to be announced. Spanish. Free.


LEON COTA PLAZA Next to Red Cross and Delegation buildings.

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

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

LA RANA VEGANA Playa Migriño St. up from Miguel A. Herrera St. Turn right 2 blocks before the gas station (Pueblo Bonito Sunset area).

Every Wednesday. 8:30 pm. Vagabond Movie Club presents a different Artys movie in the original languages with Spanish subtitles. Short films and art videos before the movie. Free.

CABO MARINA
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.

MACONDO BOOKSTORE AND CULTURAL CENTER New Location at Hidalgo St. and Blvd Marina, left side of the street. The building with a ship's bow coming out of the wall.

Every day from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm Happy hour (beers $20 pesos) with live music. Spanish with some help in English.

Every Tuesday. 5:00 pm. Literature reading sometimes with the author, sometimes with special guests. Spanish with some help in English. Free.

Every Wednesday. 8:00 pm. Movie Club with selected movies. Every month a different theme. In the original language with Spanish subtitles. Free.

Every Thursday. 8:00 pm. Trova and Bohemian Latin-American music. Spanish with some help in English. Free.

Every Friday. 7:30 pm. Rock Bands encounter. Different rock groups playing together, sometimes a real battle of the bands. Spanish with some help in English. Free.

Every Saturday. 8:00 pm. Jazz Night. Spanish with some help in English. Free.

CERRITO DEL TIMBRE. Behind Las Guacamayas in downtown Cabo.

January 31. Wednesday. 7:00 pm. Full Moon Night. A bohemian night with art performances, music, dances, folk art, poetry reading, and much more. Come and share your talent every full moon at the Cultural House of Cabo San Lucas. For all audience. Spanish with some help in English. Free.

SAN JOSE

KORAL CENTER/EL MERKADO 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.

PLAZA EL PESCADOR
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.

PLAZA MIJARES Main plaza downtown.

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

ALFREDO GREEN CULTURAL HOUSE. Downtown San Jose.

Every Tuesday. 8:00 pm. Documentary Movie Club. Every Tuesday a different documentary about science, the environment, mankind, art, music, etc. In the original language with Spanish subtitles. Free.

TODOS SANTOS

CASA TOTA HOTEL
January 11 to 21. Thursday through Sunday. Tropic of Cancer Concert Series. Featuring La Santa Cecilia, Bostich + Fussible of Nortec Collective, Joan Osborne, Denise Carlos of Las Cafeteras, La Victoria, The Autumn Defense and more, performing at multiple venues throughout town. Proceeds to benefit the local firemen. VIP tickets are available, including reserved tables, at tropicalcancercertseries.mx.

February 6 to 10. 7:00 pm. Kitchen Witches by Caroline Smith, presented by Las Estrellas de Todos, Tickets $15 USD. English.

More info: facebook.com/LasEstrellasDeTodosSantos/
March 7 to 11. Festival De Cine Todos Santos need volunteers. Film lovers, designers, computer and video geniuses, musicians, artists, choreographers, and more. Kick off of the Volunteer Event will be December 18, but if you like to be part of the Quincenaería edition as a Volunteer ask Edith Salvatierra, edith.salvatierra98@gmail.com, 612-198-1826, The FCTS is a community art work. English and Spanish.

March 9 to 11 & 14 to 17, 7:00 p.m. Matinee is 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 11th. The Baja Shake Up, a spoof on Woody Allen's comedy Bullets Over Broadway. All shows at the Hotel Buena Vista Beach Resort's Convention Center. Tickets are $20 at Baja Homes & Land or Galería Los Angeles. Will call, 624-141-0314 or email nanatembden@gmail.com. For all details, facebook.com/pages/Baja-Shakespeare/220397878011557.

CIUDAD DE LOS NIÑOS. 5 Febrero and Revolución streets.

January 16 to 20. 7:00 pm. Heaven and Earth. Three short comedies presented by the Pelican Theatre of La Paz. Tickets are $150 pesos, available at Allende Book son Calle Independencia. 612-125-9114.Wine and cheese following each performance. English.

SANTIAGO, MIRAFLORES, LA RIBERA
February 11th. 7:00 p.m. Rural Full Moon Nights. A bohemian night with music, art crafts, dance, reading poetry and local food and products for sale. For all audiences, Spanish with some help in English. Free.

Community Reading Lounges

At AMELIA WILKES PLAZA Main plaza downtown CSL, Every Saturday from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Herman Ita de Yasbela Reading club has a different book to read and comment. Saturdays starting April 9. Spanish mostly. Book donations are welcome. More info and special activities with Nixania email: todossomoslotro@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, 2nd Floor, downtown Cabo. Every Tuesday from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm. Trotamundos Reading Club. Spanish mostly. More info and special activities on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/saladelecturatrotamundos/timeline
At KINESIS GYM. El Chamizal barrio near the Convention Center. From Monday to Friday. 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Books available to all. More info and special activities on Facebook: facebook.com/Sala-de-lectura-La-Mar%C3%B3n-Kinesis-Fabulandia-691039779630803/timeline
At LA CIRCO. Libroteka Reading Club. From Monday to Friday. From 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Books available and circus drama style reading on Thursdays at 7:00 pm. More info with Sara Flores on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/LaCirco-577897035553733/timeline

LA PAZ
Owning In Los Cabos: How It’s Done
It’s a little bit different, but it’s doable

BY CAROL BILLUPS

Foreigners are forbidden direct ownership in the ‘restricted zone’ which consists of any land within 50 kilometers of the ocean or 100 kilometers of the international borders. Obviously, Los Cabos is within the restricted zone. However, the constitution provides for foreign ownership in the restricted zone as long as the foreigner holds the property in a special trust with a Mexican bank called a Fideicomiso (pronounced fee-DAY-koh-me-so). This trust is very similar to a land trust in the US or a living trust but with one critical difference. This trust is set up by permission of Congress to grant the foreigner all the rights, privileges and benefits of a Mexican citizen as pertaining to owning the piece of property in Mexico. Now two very important points about the Fideicomiso:

1. The constitution assures that you will be equal in the eyes of the law. Equal, not above. Many Americans and Canadians take the attitude of what can they do to me? They can do anything they’d do to a Mexican. I mentioned using your property for drug trafficking but more likely the foreigner is breaking the law by evading taxes. If you are renting out your place you need to pay taxes on your income. Historically SAT (our version of the IRS or CRA) has looked the other way but as usual a few bad apples have spoiled it for everyone. Some folks are making vacation rental a commercial enterprise and reaping millions. SAT has already been calling on homeowner’s associations and I believe it’s only a matter of time before they take action.

2. Several years ago Congress briefly considered amending the constitution to allow direct foreign ownership in the restricted zone; the bill did not pass the Senate. While the amendment was still a possibility most real estate attorneys were recommending that, even if it passed, the best course of action was to continue using the trust system. The trust has the benefit of passing to your heirs without the need for probate. Without it the homeowner would need a Mexican will which would have to go through probate or worse, have a foreign will validated in Mexican court. Both options are costly and take forever. For estate planning purposes the Fideicomiso is the better choice.

When you decide to sell your property here in Los Cabos the buyer, if a foreigner, may elect to have you extinguish your trust and put the property into a new trust with a fifty year term, or they may choose to assume the present trust. In the latter case you, the buyer, and the bank may celebrate an Assignment of Rights contract. In addition to the costs to create a new trust, there is an annual fee due to the bank holding the trust. Your real estate professional can provide a detailed estimate of the cost to create the trust, other fees involved with property acquisition, and the subsequent recurring costs. It is wise to have that conversation as early as possible. Using a trust to hold title to your Cabo property is safe and has been tested over time for reliability. Yes, there are costs involved. But a wise buyer simply adds them to the budget. It only makes sense to do things the right way and thereby insure that your investment is a safe one.

Carol Billups is Broker/Owner of Cabo Realty Pros. She has enjoyed working with both buyers and sellers for over fifteen years and still thinks here is the best job on earth. You can read more of her articles on the website blog www.caborealtypros.com. You can reach her from the U.S. or Canada at 1-760-481-7694, or in Cabo at 044-624-147-7541 or at carolbillups@hotmail.com. © 2016 Carol S. Billups, reprinted by permission of the author.
Buying Real Estate In Mexico
Different, but definitely doable

BY JOHN GLABB

Mexico is a wonderful and very beautiful country. If you enjoy your visit you may begin to think about acquiring a bit of our paradise. We have mountains, lakes, rivers, forests, deserts and seashore in Mexico. We also have history, ancient cultures, handcrafts, folklore and many other wonderful things to share.

Buying property in ANY country can be stressful. A property purchase in Mexico can be just as safe and secure as in the U.S. or Canada... IF it is done correctly! Here are some guidelines for success in a real estate acquisition in Mexico:

1. Be sure the agent you select to represent you is a member of recognized real estate association.
   Ask for references, check them out. Be satisfied the person representing you is experienced in Mexican transactions.
2. Insist that the person representing you, represent ONLY you, the buyer, and not also the seller unless you understand, agree to and sign an agency disclosure agreement.
3. Consider only the purchase of PRIVATE property. Ejidal property is often offered at a far lower price but it cannot legally be sold or promised to be sold until it becomes private property.
4. Be certain that you and your agent are dealing ONLY with the owner of record or his or her legitimate power of attorney.
5. Avoid costly and time-consuming litigation, insist upon including a binding arbitration clause in your contracts with the seller and other parties involved.
6. Get a title investigation and buy title insurance for the full amount of your purchase price. While the initial search may seem expensive for some areas, the title insurance company, and minimizes the property, sign a document protecting his interests in the event of your default. Be SURE you know the amount which is declared in your deed and understand the tax implications of same.
7. Use an experienced neutral third party to supervise the transfer of title to you.


Agent Profile
Robert Preece

Robert Preece is a tenured Real Estate Broker who brings with him an award-winning sales, service and business background. Combining his acute business acumen with strong negotiation skills and industry expertise, Robert is able to offer a level of service that ensures his clients make the “right” real estate decision.

Robert’s 17 year sales career is highlighted by a string of awards and successes, along with the well-earned reputation of a Certified Sales Professional (CSP) with the Canadian Professional Sales Association. The CSP designation, and the Code of Ethics it embraces, guarantees the highest level of sales expertise, integrity and professionalism in the industry.

Equally skilled working with buyers or sellers, he brings the same level of passion, energy and excellence to every client’s real estate decisions. Robert is committed to providing the service and attention to detail his clients expect along with the results they deserve.

Email: robert_preece@hotmail.com of ReMax Cabo San Lucas, Phone: (905) 931-8006.
Cabo Resort vs. Home Town Properties
Different, but just as doable

BY TERRY GRAY CURTIS

In my experience, here in Los Cabos there are two very different points of view, the one of the beloved buyer (bb) and the one of the buyer’s agent. This is a subject that is rarely discussed between the two unless the bb asks the right questions. Most agents will not bring it up because it can sometimes lead to another distraction that may cause confusion. The reality is our local transactions, markets, properties and foreign clients are completely different, we will examine each individually.

The Mexican property transaction is different than your home town USA or Canadian transaction because, generally it takes longer here due to when foreigners buy property here a bank trust (fideicomiso) is generally required. I assume you understand what a fideicomiso is by now, if you do not please contact me for details. Closing times are normally 45-90 days from the time the earnest money is normally 45-90 days from the time the earnest money is normally 45-90 days. The actual days from the time the earnest money is normally 45-90 days. The actual days from the time the earnest money is normally 45-90 days.

SOLDS
1) El Zalate 2-203, 2 bed/ 2 bath, with garage, MLS # 16-1957 $480K M. Mackay / Remax and B. Leddy / Callimaya
2) Lomas de la Jolla N302, La Jolla, $1,148,000USD, MLS #16-1702. A Luxurious Town Home with awe inspiring views of the Sea of Cortez. C. Meyerhoff– Engel & Völkers Snell RE / M. Saenz-LastRock Real Estate.
3) Las Ventanas al Paraiso 5401, Las Ventanas al Paraiso, $4,350,000, MLS#16-1794. Designed for total sanctuary, these exceptional Residences seamlessly. Las Ventanas team/A. Lemke- Engel & Völkers Snell RE.

Keep in mind when shopping for and buying property in Los Cabos: you’re not in Kansas anymore.

1. Tuesday January 9 2018, 2 - 7pm
Marina Location Ven- tanas. Booth across from
Dos Mares Restaurant, MLS#17-1573 From $155,350 Brand New Con- dos, Townhomes & Houses - El Tezal. Natalie 624 217 9562 info@NatalieEvaniew.com
2. Wednesday, January 10th 11am - 3pm
Copala #1303, Quivira, Pacific South, MLS 17-2581. If you haven’t seen Copala, don’t miss this condo!!! Furn- nished condo with incredible views and ameni- ties. Jeff Zolton 624-157-1808
3. Friday, January 12, 2018, 2 - 7pm
Ventanas Club House. Phase 2. MLS#17-1922 From $152,700 Brand New Condos and Houses - El Tezal. Natalie 624 217 9562 info@NatalieEvaniew.com
4. Saturday, Jan 13, 2018 11am - 4pm– Soledad.
Zippers Beach MLS# 17-1518 From $449,000 Beach Front 3 bdrm Fully Furnished Brand New Condos. Natalie 624 217 9562 info@NatalieEvaniew.com
5. Friday Jan 19, 2018 10am - 4pm – Cerritos. Cerri- tos Surf Club from $325,000 MLS# 17-2703. Beach Front on Cerritos Beach! 3 bdrms, Brand New Condos. Natalie 624 217 9562 info@NatalieEvaniew.com

FOR SALE IN CABO SAN LUCAS

VENTANAS PHASE 3 PENTHOUSE

January 8th, 2018
How To Get Here Legally
And stay here legally

BY DANIEL RUIZ DE LA PEÑA

According to the Immigration Law, there are 6 ways to enter Mexico as a foreigner, which are as follows:

1.- Tourist Visa: With this visa, the foreigner is authorized to enter Mexico without having any reimbursement activity and permits a stay of no more than 180 days.

2.- Business Visa: With this visa, the foreigner has the authorization to enter Mexico with permission to have a reimbursement activity and permits a stay of no more than 180 days.

3.- Adoption Visa: This visa gives the foreigner authorization to stay in Mexico to complete the adoption process of a child.

4.- Temporary Residence Visa: This visa gives the foreigner authorization to stay in the country for more than 180 days, have a reimbursement activity and must be in Mexico no more than 4 years (This visa is renewed every year).

5.- Student Visa: This visa authorizes a foreign student to stay in Mexico during the course of studies.

6.- Permanent Resident Visa: With this visa, it is authorized to stay in the country with no timeframe, with permission to enter and leave Mexico (multiple entry).

The process normally lasts about 1 or 2 months to resolve, depending on the jurisdiction.

We have had cases in which the Immigration Office denied the visa and asked the person to leave the country, in which we filed a lawsuit to block said action and obtained the order from the Court to stay in Mexico as long as the trial was in process.

Therefore, even though the Immigration Office denied the visa, there are possibilities to nullify such resolution and stay in Mexico during the process submitted by the Administrative Court.

If you have any doubt or question about this, do not hesitate to contact us.

By Lic. Daniel Ruiz de la Peña Sandoval of Ruiz de la Peña y Asociados, S.C.

Life in Los Cabos
And deciding if you want to buy and stay

BY CARLA DI BERNARDO

When touring prospective buyers I always get asked “What is life like living here?”. “Is there enough here to keep me busy?” is another question I hear which seems to tie into the first question. My initial general answer is that life is what you make it wherever you live. However, I go into more detail about the vast opportunity of a fulfilling life here in Los Cabos and Baja.

There are ample beach days of course, but, there is more to Los Cabos than the beautiful beaches. We have great opportunities to get involved with the community, with our neighborhood. I found at my age, when I moved here, it was way easier to make friends of like mind. You seem to find your own niche. Our neighborhood Facebook page was my first stop. I acquainted myself with people that lived in one of our phases and then I reached out and met them. After three years I have to say I have some of the best friends I have ever had in my life. We even see each other outside of Mexico when the stars align.

After that it bloomed into weekly happy hour meetings at our club, bunco nights, steak nights, continued on page 17

San Jose Del Cabo Featured Property
La Jolla Condos

This well-known beachfront condo complex opens to an expansive, pristine beach. Or, relax around one of the pools offering studio to three bedroom units. The pool is placed in a courtyard setting.

The three story buildings (C-G) are comprised of 119 condos offering studio to two bedroom units. The two pools are placed at opposite ends of complex with a large lounging area placed between them.

For more information contact: Larry Longfellow/Horizon Realty/cel: 624 122 1884. Email: larrylongfellow@hotmail.com.

Life is what you make it wherever you live.
Mexico News
And Mexico Tax Tips

BY DON D. NELSON

US TAX QUESTION ON REAL ESTATE IN MEXICO
If I rent out my property in Mexico do I need to report it on my US tax return?

Yes, unless you want to commit a crime. As a US citizen you report your rental income on property you own everywhere in the world. You can however get a credit for income taxes you pay in Mexico on that rental income which will directly offset your US taxes on that rental income dollar for dollar. Therefore you will not get double taxed. Most of the rules are the same as those for rental properties in the US.

If you are not aware of your obligation to report your foreign rental obligation, it is best to amend past tax returns before the IRS discovers it. The IRS audit procedures tell agents to go easy on those who come forward first to correct prior errors.

Do I need to get a FACTURA (Invoice) to deduct my tax deductible expenses in Mexico on my US return?

Though a FACTURA is required to deduct expenses on a Mexican tax return, they are not required for your US return. Therefore you may often have deductions on your US return you cannot take on your Mexican return. All that is required for US tax purposes is a receipt or a contemporaneous written record (in some cases).

For information on how to pay your taxes in Mexico: info@settlement-co.com. Courtesy of Don D. Nelson.

LIFE IN LOS CABOS...
continued from page 16

boat outings, etc. Honestly, sometimes I have to schedule home nights just to chill. You will find that you will become as active as you want to be.

Then there is the outreach in the community. Fundraisers, volunteering, gyms, classes, art walks. There again you can find a plethora of entities on Facebook which easily unites you to an organization or club. From there again you can be as active as you want to be. Getting involved in the giving side is very rewarding. This year my friend brought down backpacks for children, organized participation in a very enjoyable evening boat ride fundraiser Santa “Sandy” Clause is giving of his time to bring joy to the community children and parents as well. There are ample places to hike, explore and to view nature and the small pueblos throughout our peninsula too.

Again I have to say life is what you make it but being here in this beautiful environment with amazing views and genuinely lovely people makes this place I call home an easy enjoyable and rewarding place to live.

By Carla Di Bernardo, Cabo Linda Real Estate, 619-906-1381, 624-157-3987.
Who Are Our Los Cabos Buyers?
And are you one?

I am often asked about who the Los Cabos area buyers are, where do they come from and what are the patterns of buying?

The Cabo market draws buyers primarily from the USA and Canada. From the East & Western regions as well as central/midwest. With flights having expanded over the years its possible for buyers visit regardless of their geographical location. The Baja weather is the biggest draw with low humidity and 350 days a year of sunshine. Over the years the visitors we have to Los Cabos have become international from many different regions of the world.

98% of Real Estate in Los Cabos is sold through our local MLS agents. Internationally is where the average buyer begins perusing ideas about buying a vacation property. It’s been said that a typical Vacation Property buyer visits an area up to 7 times before making a decision. Vacation patterns for a buyer vary based on finances, age, children’s age, retirement, work commitments. Many choose to rent to find out what the lifestyle is really like outside of a week long vacation at a hotel. Buyers may research to narrow down different area’s of sun destinations based on weather patterns, demographics, travel distance, cost of properties, etc before settling in on choosing a specific area to purchase in. Many vacation in Los Cabos for years before making a decision that it is time to purchase. Other’s have a plan for purchasing & how they will use the property. Research on the rental market is also important to buyers who may be ready to buy and take advantage of market prices but may not be ready to use and enjoy the property themselves.

Most buyers begin by determining what part of Los Cabos best suits their vacation lifestyle. Whether they are a Cabo night lifer, prefer laid back San Jose, like the activity of Medano Beach or perhaps the solitude of the East Cape. They determine if they are a land to build buyer, or if a condo or single family home is more suitable. Some prefer fixer uppers which often can be purchased for less but then it takes time to make it move in ready.

Buying Or Selling Real Estate In Baja California Sur?
We’ve got you covered.

With 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 OPP’s 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@mlsbcscabo.com.
Editor,

Yes, the use of seatbelt’s are essential while driving (as referenced in a recent Gringo Gazette email newsletter), however, it is excessive speed that goes unchecked, tailgating, impatience and disregard for the rules of the road that is the real issue here.

The cops need to setup radar, impound cars, fine culprits and there would be no need for mordida and the police could fill the coffers of the police department. On Thursday, Dec. 28, the traffic going into San Jose took over half hour because drivers were using the shoulder of the road as a third lane, bypassing the regular traffic, then squeezing in when it became impossible to use the shoulder. All along we were of the belief that it was the construction of the waterline near Costa Azul causing this traffic.

But construction had ceased; delay was due to motorist impatience. No police in sight, nada. The four-lane is a race track, the two towns are only 35 kilometers apart, why does everyone need to be in such a hurry?

I agree the water line work needs to be done but that is not the issue here, it is the impatience of drivers trying to get an advantage, driving on the shoulder to get ahead then trying to re-enter the normal flow of traffic. Most drivers know that, by using the Palmilla overpass, they could bypass the long line of traffic waiting as the two lane flow slowly moves forward.

Where are the cops? As a 20-year visitor to Los Cabos I have seen little to no improvement in the traffic situation. I could go on but to what end. It’s like the Botts Dots, useless, never slowed the traffic down, motorists just drove on the shoulders to avoid them. Nobody complains, unbelievable.

Bruce Stroud
Via email

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Bruce Stroud
Via email

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

Acapulco and Manzanillo, and the itinerary will include calls to Manzanillo, Puerto Vallarta and Cabo, plus two days at sea. They’re hoping to attract 12,000 passengers total for the season. What’s wrong with our stumble bums? The Mexico Tourism Board (MTB) reports that its meetings and events sector grew 6.7 percent from January to October, when compared to the same period last year. The sector took in $25 billion, and they did it all without Los Cabos.

The beautiful and modern convention center built for our city by the federal government in 2002, and decreed over to us, is in shambles. It’s never been used, never marketed, not even maintained. It’s just a wreck sitting on the hill overlooking the toll booth in San Jose. Our city and tourism officials can’t get organized enough to hire a company to bring in events.

The rest of Mexico gets 30 million room nights and 266 events in a year. The meetings sector in Mexico is an increasingly important part of the tourism industry and the country’s economy, the MTB said. The meetings and incentive industry generates 1.5 percent of the country’s gross domestic product, creating nearly a million jobs in Mexico. But nooooo… not here. Who likes tasteless tortillas?

Not even Gringos. Tortilla consumption has fallen 40% over the past 30 years because, claims Rafael Mier, a businessman and corn promoter. Corn promoter? Is that a job description? A career? Well, Rafa is certainly on a mission.

“They have lost their flavor and texture,” Mier says, and he is determined to bring back consumption of the national culinary icon.

“In Mexico, there is not a single tortilla; there are hundreds
dealing with any issues related to tainted alcohol in Los Cabos.

Also, one element we have as an advantage is that all the supplies are very concentrated: We are almost an island, so everything has to come through air, through boat, or down one highway, so it’s very easy to control the quality of the products that are coming into the destination.

Q: What have been some takeaways from those discussions with other destinations?
A: I think a big lesson has been the speed of communication, (through social media and the internet). We need to be very fast, communicating accurately and providing the truth with transparency. We need to be fast, clear and direct (with our response to problems).

STRAIGHT FROM THE BOOKS

The trapeze school is open from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., with the last class starting at 4:30 p.m. They can stay open later for private parties, if requested. Classes are $75 USD for adults and $26 for children ages four to 10. There is also a 10-class package offered, which ranges from $156 to $209.

If you’ve always fantasized about running away to join the circus, here’s your chance. Go to www.flyingtrapeze.com to book a class and fly.
What’s New With Cabo Restaurants?

The old bus stop is a must-try

BY CHUCK WAGGON

Restaurants?
January 8th, 2018

Remember the old bus stop? Here’s a place many of our readers are familiar with, but this place has a new twist. It’s what many of us call the old bus stop because in its former life it was, well, a bus stop. The restaurant was a little shack roof erected on the pavement. Your feet were on asphalt. It has now been transformed into a very pleasant full service, enclosed place with a new twist. It’s what many of our readers are familiar with, but this place has a new twist. It’s what many of us call the old bus stop because in its former life it was, well, a bus stop. The restaurant was a little shack roof erected on the pavement. Your feet were on asphalt. It has now been transformed into a very pleasant full service, enclosed place with a new twist. It’s what many of us call the old bus stop because in its former life it was, well, a bus stop. The restaurant was a little shack roof erected on the pavement. Your feet were on asphalt. It has now been transformed into a very pleasant full service, enclosed place with a new twist.

I like the steak; bar none, the best in Los Cabos. They never over cook it and I don’t need a steak knife to cut it. They have long lunch hours to accommodate the early foreigners, and the late Mexicans who customarily don’t eat their lunch until about 2 pm.

It’s close to downtown Cabo but hard to explain because we don’t pay attention to the street names. Well, you’re just going to have to because it’s on Zaragoza, which goes into the main drag about behind Squid Roe. But Zaragoza is one way, coming down into downtown. The cross street is Green. They have a website with a map, www.alcaravegourmetcaboyyz. Yeah, we don’t get the .xyz either but it works. Easy parking, too.

Fancy place, cheap food. If you’re looking for a nice place to have breakfast on the beach, we suggest heading over to the Pacific side and eat at the Quivira clubhouse. Great atmosphere, good food and, most surprising, dishes that cost under $10.50. That’s the cost of the most expensive breakfast item, steak and eggs. The next most expensive item is chicken and eggs. The next most expensive item is chicken and eggs. The next most expensive item is chicken and eggs. The next most expensive item is chicken and eggs. The next most expensive item is chicken and eggs. The next most expensive item is chicken and eggs. The next most expensive item is chicken and eggs.

To this it’s the Quivira clubhouse. Great atmosphere, good food and, most surprising, dishes that cost under $10.50.

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Most dishes, like omelets, huevos rancheros and breakfast burritos, are in the $8 to $9 range. Just one warning: While the food is reasonably priced, the drinks are not. We enjoyed four mimosas (two each) for just $20.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26
**Monday to Saturday.** 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Rancher’s market in Todos Santos. Featuring homemade products from rural areas. Artisanal cheeses, organic chicken and eggs, liqueurs and virgin honey, as well as handicrafts such as furniture made with regional woods, leather goods and clay pottery all made by ranchers’ hands. The Mercado (market). Todos Santos on Calle Moroles between Rangel and Cuauhtemoc inside the San Diego Feed Store.

Every Monday. 8:30 am. Pickleball in San Jose. Contact rondumbarton@gmail.com.

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

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

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

Every Tuesday. 6:00 pm. Music Mexico Tuesdays. Downtown San Jose. Live music, mariachi band, and artisans.

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 the Plaza Grande Resort, above the Sports Bar, Cabo San Lucas. The Mercado. Todos Santos on Calle Morelos between Rangel and Cuauhtemoc inside the San Diego Feed Store.

Every Wednesday. 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 galleries; many serve free wine. Art district in downtown San Jose.

**Every Other Thursday.** You guess which one. Los Cabos Trotatoes, ladies’ social group. All women who aspire to be a tomato are welcome. Email loscabostrotatoes@gmail.com for more information.

**Every Thursday.** 6:00 pm. Trivia Night. Todos Santos Brewing. English and Spanish with short rounds and prizes available each round. Alvaro 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 Market. Music and fun stuff. At The Distillery (but it moves around, so check where it is this week). Email James Black at merlo4u@earthlink.net or call (612) 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 downtown Cabo. For more info, or if you are a vendor, please contact Max at 624-108-2250 (Spanish), or email tommyrosa@gmail.com (English).

**Every Friday.** 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 Friday.** 5:00 to 9:00 pm. Farmer’s market at the Shoppes at Palmilla. Information: 624-144-6999, www.theshoppesatpalmilla.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 Tuesday.** 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. La Paz organic market. Postal Park, Constitution 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.sanjomoyo.com

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

**Every Sunday.** 6:00 pm. Sunday Sessions Live Music. Todos Santos Brewing. Enjoy the beautiful star filled Baja sky, live acoustic music, fabulous handmade craft beers and delicious food. Alvaro Obregón street (between Militar & Rangel). Facebook @TodosSantosBrewing for more information, 624-145-2023 or email info@todossantosbrewing.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 traffic. Great opportunity to exercise and mingle with local families. Each week a different activity, like spinning, aerobics, zumba lessons. Email clubcactusbike@gmail.com for 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.cabok@corral.com for information.

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

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

**February 6-10.** 7:00 p.m. Las Estrellas and Hotel Casa Tota present Kitchen Witches, a play by Caroline Smith. Tickets $15 USD. Visit facebook.com/LasEstrellasDeTodosSantos for details.

**February 8-13.** La Paz Carnival celebration. Location TRA. There will be food and beer booths as well, as well as music every night.

**March 9-11 & 14-17.** 7:00 p.m. Matinee is 1:30 p.m. on Sunday. Dec. 11. The Bake Up is a musical spoof on Woody Allen’s comedy Bullets Over Broadway. All shows at the Hotel Blue Vista Beach Resort’s Convention Center. Tickets are $20 at Baja Homes & Land or Galeria Las Angeles. Will call, 624-141-0314 or email nanatembden@gmail.com. For all details, facebook.com/pages/Baja-Shakespeare/220397878011557

To get your event listed here, email the details to david@gringozagette.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.
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who pour out of there, like water rushing down an arroyo, once Augie’s daily free kettle of food runs out, about 6 pm. He serves dinners, too, and they are reasonable and well-priced. He has an upstairs outdoor patio dining area and, of course, he is right on the waterfront.

On the upscale side is Mediterraneo, a very good restaurant with excellent food. It’s not cheap, but not over priced for the quality. It’s outside, and is a perfect spot to watch the sunset on the islands. That is a magical experience.

About ten miles south of downtown is an entirely different experience. There’s a brand new mega resort community of packed-in homes attached to each other, most on the ocean side or the side of the Fonatur-built golf course. The rumor is place around to eat, although, there is a nice little grocery/dry goods store and most rooms have kitchens.

There are three restaurants, five swimming pools, tennis courts, and a 39,000-square-foot luxury spa, along with a large, airy gym with good views of the mountains. Add in the miles of hiking trails that wind around the hill and overlook the water, the kayaks, SUP boards, and beach-side palapa where your margaritas are prepared, and you might even forget that sport fishing is available. Those boats can’t come in to shore, though, as you can wade out 300 yards before the water even comes up to your waist. Sand has been brought in to cover the uncomfortable black rocks and they have even removed them from the ocean floor, so you can wade out in your bare feet. They don’t have a problem with you dragging your lounge chair into the water to keep your butt moist.

And then there is the golf course. Official opening is Pearl Harbor Day. (If you don’t know what day that is, shame on you, go back to school, fool. It’s December 7.)

The Rees Jones designed course takes full advantage of the spectacular terrain that goes up into box canyons, surrounded

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27
Cabo San Lucas

The fleet enjoyed good striped marlin for the boats targeting billfish. There was also a strong dorado bite, though many were on the smallish side, dictating a ‘release and wait’ for the larger one to come along.

There were also a few wahoo for the patient anglers who busied themselves with a steady yellow-fin tuna bite while they waited. Rounding out the catch were sierra with a steady yellow-fin tuna bite while they waited. Los Frailes and above is cooling off rapidly and is now at 74 to 75 degrees.

Best Fishing Areas: The Golden Gate Bank was the hottest spot for the billfish. There were good reports of lots of feeders on the bank chasing the green mackerel. The Herradura, Pozo Cota and Los Arcos were all reporting a few billfish too, but not nearly as good as the Golden Gate Bank area.

Best Bait/Lures: While lots of fish were at the Golden Gate Bank, the marlin were very finicky biters and even changing to lighter leaders and mackerel for bait. It was still a stubborn bite with short biters that fell off quickly.

Live Bait Supply: Good caballito supply for the anglers at the $3.00 per bait rate. Plenty of bait available on top of the Golden Gate Bank that worked best for the billfish there on the high spot.

Puerto Los Cabos

The most productive fishing grounds ranged from Palmilla, Punta Gorda and La Fortuna. Yellowfin tuna and dorado were the most common catches, though the wahoo action also rebounded. Despite the winds not being as strong, there was still a swift current running, and this made it harder to do much bottom fishing. For the anglers who did try to drift fishing over shallower rocky reefs, they had some success for a variety of quality eating species, including leopard grouper, yellow snapper, triggerfish, barred pargo, island jack and others.

The action for the larger grade of yellowfin tuna on the Gordo Banks again has faded out and now the better bite for tuna is either off Palmilla or at La Fortuna, with Palmilla being a hot spot one day and maybe not so good the next. Also, there are tons of black skipjack to deal with, which are mixed in with the yellowfin. There were decent-sized tuna in the 15 to 40 pound class found on La Fortuna, though there were a lot of aggressive and hungry sharks that were grabbing any hooked tuna that they could get a hold of, so more fish were being lost than landed.

Dorado were found throughout the inshore areas, most of them caught on sardina or caballito; sizes ranged up to 20 pounds.

Wahoo action came back to life off of Punta Gorda and Palmilla. The word now travels more quickly, and these elusive gamefish can become very spooky with the added pressure, increasingly so with so many spear fishers swimming around on the same fishing grounds. Best bet for hooking into the wahoo was by slow-trolling rigged bait such as chihuil or caballito; sizes ranged to over 40 pounds.

Besides finding a variety of sport fish, there were increased sightings of whales, and other sea life, including, turtles, manta rays, and sea lions.

Climate: There was a mix of cloud cover and still plenty of warm sunshine, with temperatures up to 80 degrees. Winds have been far lighter recently, and ocean water temperatures ranged from 74 to 77 degrees.

East Cape

This is the time of year that, depending on the weather, the twin boats will outnumber cruisers and pangas from the local hotels heading out to fish on calm days. Most of the action is close to shore with roosterfish, jacks and sierra being prime targets. There are a few dorado now, but as the water gets cooler they will hightail it, following the warmer currents southward toward the mainland.

When the cruisers do go out, they are still finding a few billfish along with yellowfin tuna being another possibility. Then there are the days that the North wind howls and the fisher folk become spectators as the wind surfers cavort across the wind-driven waves.

Climate: Winter has been settling in as air temperatures bounce between a low of 59 and high of 70 degrees, along with

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Cuachala is a staple dish from Jalisco, Colima and Nayarit, western Mexico states that are all nestled together near the Pacific Ocean. This dish is a variation of “chileatole,” a pre-Hispanic recipe for a hearty stew that fills up the belly and warms the heart.

Fun fact: Pre-Hispanic Mexico did not have chickens, so this dish was made with wild duck.

The base of this dish are the chiles, specifically cascabel chilies. They’re also known as the rattle chili, a nickname that comes from the loose seeds rattling around inside a dried cascabel when it’s shaken. These chilies are small and have the shape and size of a cherry when they’re fresh. As they dry, they become a little rugged and their color deepens into a brownish red. They are not very spicy.

Side note: The importance of the chili in Mexican cooking dates back to the Mesoamerican period, when it was considered as much a staple as beans and corn. During the 16th century, Bartolome de las Casas, a Spanish historian and the first resident bishop of Chiapas, wrote that without chilies, the indigenous people did not think they were eating. It is for this reason that many Mexican people believe their national identity would be lost without the chili.

Not all of us have a tolerance for spice, though. Most Mexican dishes contain chilies but they’re not as hot and spicy as you’d think. And chilies aren’t just about heat; the flavor of the pepper is also of great importance. Many dishes call for very specific chiles because those are the ones that “go” with other ingredients to make the dish what it is.

Ingredients:
- For the meats:
  - 2 pounds of pork shank
  - 2 pounds of chicken
  - 1 onion
  - 2 tomatoes
  - 3 bay leaves
  - 6 pepper corns
  - 10 sprigs of fresh oregano
- Salt and pepper to taste

Preparation:
Cook the chicken with the oregano, half the onion and a tomato (cut in quarters) for an hour in a pot with enough water to cover. In a separate pot, cook the pork with the other half of the onion, bay leaves, pepper and salt. Once the meats are fully cooked and tender, shred them and set aside. Reserve the stock for the sauce.

For the sauce:
- 2 pounds of green tomatoes, washed
- 3 cloves of garlic
- 1 bundle of cilantro, washed
- 7 cascabel chilies
- ½ cup uncooked rice
- 7 ounces tortilla dough
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- Powdered chicken bouillon to taste
- Salt and pepper to taste

Soak the chiles in the leftover stock, remove seeds and blend with the green tomatoes, garlic and cilantro. Reserve some sprigs of cilantro to add while cooking. Strain the sauce and cook in a pan with the oil. To thicken the sauce and give it the right consistency, soak the rice in hot water for a couple of minutes, then add the tortilla dough, blend and strain. Slowly add the rice mix to the sauce over medium heat, stirring until a thick consistency is achieved.

Once the sauce is nice and thick, taste it before seasoning.

This hearty stew will warm you up on those “cold” winter nights in Cabo.

If you feel like the sauce is too tart, add a little sugar. Then, season with powdered chicken bouillon first, simmer for five minutes, then add salt if needed. If the sauce is too thick, stir in a little stock to thin it out (but remember the consistency is quite important). Add the shredded meats and the remaining cilantro springs and stir until mixed.

Buen provecho! 🌶️

IN DEFENSE OF TIMESHARE...
continued from page 11

Stay tuned for when assessing if a Timeshare deal might work for you:

Maintenance Fees. Two key points: A) Make sure that no one can use your Timeshare in a given year, that you can skip your annual ‘Maintenance Fee’ payments for that year, and B) Make sure that there is maximum cap on the annual fee that is roughly tied to inflation. Without a cap, an unscrupulous program can jack the rates so high, that it would make more sense to abandon your Timeshare and book normally on Expedia, and most local Timeshares do jack it up to the point of pain.

Location. Is your ‘home resort’ a desirable location that someone would want to trade for? Most Los Cabos resorts are in the high-demand category, compared to, say, Las Vegas. Beach front never gets old. Many programs have an exchange.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

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IN DEFENSE OF TIMESHARE...
continued from page 11

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

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It was so easy and rewarding... - Magra Ceja de Buser

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GRINGO Gazettle.com
When was the last time you saw a traditional tortilla? A store front where they are made by a half dozen senoras, who feed the hand pressed paste into clankety, rickety machinery.

Mier says if Mexico is to reverse the declining trend here, “People need to elevate what many see as a humble staple to a product of near sacred significance”. Well, that might be a bit much, but we would like to see improvement in the local tortilla recipes.

A few more pesos here, please! State police are not only woefully underpaid, but many don’t even receive all the benefits required by law.

Officers in 13 of the 32 states are paid less than the national average wage and none of the states pays all the basic benefits in full.

According to one report, the average monthly wage of a state police officer in Mexico is just over $500 USD.

The report also said none of the states pays its police departments the six benefits mandated by law. These include their housing credits, life insurance, a medical plan, a retirement savings fund, financial support for the families of officers who have been killed in the line of duty and scholarships for their children.

Well, now we’re a little more understanding of their extortion tactics on us. Their families are hungry and they’re angry, wouldn’t you be too?

WHAT’S GOING ON IN THIS...

continued from page 19

of tortillas as there are hundreds of varieties of corn,” he said. However, a trend towards homogenization of the tortilla and the use of inferior corn flours are to blame for their declining quality, he believes.

He says the culprit is low grade corn, preservatives and additives. Well, we have to say, we’ve been amazed at how many bad tortillas there are around here. We’re thinking they’re bought by the carton at Costco.
Walk It In
You can bring them into our office which is on the marina in Cabo San Lucas, second floor in front of the Cultural Center over Captain Tony’s. Office hours: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Mon-Fri.

Mail It In
You can mail it to 2215 Paseo de Las Americas Suite 25-M143, San Diego, CA, 92154

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Total Amount Owed

LET'S ALL GO TO LORETO...
continued from page 23

with near vertical green and red walls, and then juts out into the sea on narrow strips of land with sheer walls going straight down into the water. Bring extra golf balls for that hole.

It's officially called Danzante Bay Golf Course. Currently, there is no club house, but that's in the works. For now, you will be taking a cart down the hill and into the hotel for your 19th hole reward. If you're a golfer, this course is worth the drive all by itself.

So, if this has not infected you with an urge to go to Loreto, then you should investigate if you are somehow glued to your beach blanket. Get up! Look around somehow.

FISH REPORT...
continued from page 24

about the same 70+ degree sea temperature. La Paz

Town was getting busier as folks were bustling around for the holidays. It was pretty festive, but not a lot of fishing going on.

Reports from the water were mostly from the Las Arenas/Muertos Bay area, and fishing at the north and south ends of Cerralvo Island (wind and waves permitting) and closer to shore near Punta Perico and the old hotel Las Arenas.

From the island, some wahoo are still around, but some yellowtail are starting to poke up their heads on live bait when you get it, or on the same Rapalas that we're using to slow-troll for the wahoo.

There was an unconfirmed report from commercial pangeros that there were still some tuna just off Cerralvo Island (wind and waves permitting) and closer to shore near Punta Perico and the old hotel Las Arenas.

Along the rocks, the pargo, bonito, and into the water. Bring extra golf balls for that hole.

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Why Dump When We Can Recycle?

Several businesses in La Paz are making it easier to be environmentally friendly

BY KELLY KAY

Walking on the malecon in La Paz, you can see trash cans labeled “organico” and “inorganico,” but there’s nothing separating the non-recyclables from the recyclables. With the abundance of plastics used for drinking water and glass bottles for Coca-Colas and beers, you would think they would have the recycling thing down. Despite the city-wide trash pickup that occurs twice a week, La Paz does not have a curbside recycling program. And, as it turns out, La Paz does not have a centralized location for processing recyclable materials.

One big problem is we don’t have the very expensive equipment it takes to recycle many products. It’s common see 18 wheelers going north, full of materials to recycle. They are driven to Tijuana and processed there, but that adds a lot of cost to recycling. Several independent businesses along with a few of the segunda thrift stores have taken it upon themselves to redirect recyclables from the dump. Taking this extra step to drop your recyclables at these businesses will not only make the environment happy, you can make some money off it too!

If you visit the dump, you’ll see a crowd of people rummaging through the trash for goods that are salvageable, or sellable, because they know these recyclables are worth a few pesos. So, if you’re too lazy to take the extra step to deliver your recyclables to the proper businesses yourself, at least do the rummagers a favor by keeping recyclables sorted. That way, you can at least increase the likelihood that your recyclables will be found and not simply destroyed and/or buried under all the mucky garbage being sent to the landfill.

Our garbage doesn’t simply disappear, and if you need a reminder of that, just take a look at the photo accompanying this story. And remember, everything except for glass, cardboard, and aluminum is shipped out of La Paz for processing, creating a major carbon footprint. So reduce before you use, and recycle if you do. And here’s a list of where you can take your recyclables.

**Glass:**
Ecology Project International
Guillermo Prieto 1038
Tel: 52 612 165 6561
Hours: Tue. & Thur. 9am-12pm
Web: facebook.com/ponguinguiola.ac

**Plastic/Paper/Aluminum:**
Centro de Acopio Ponguinguiola
Calle Nayarit, Inalámbrica
Hours: M-F 8am-5pm
Web: facebook.com/ponguinguiola

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**Send Your Dinero To The Gringo Gazette**

January 8th, 2018

Although the title of this book seemed a little daunting at first, it is interesting, quite readable and full of Baja information. It also has beautiful color photos taken by Deborah Small, along with easy to follow maps and native designs.

Ethnobotany is the study of a region’s plants and their practical uses through the traditional knowledge of the local culture and people. In this case, the people are the Kumeyaay tribe, natives of Northern Baja and part of Southern California. Detailed plant descriptions focus on 47 native plants, with information about their ancient and modern cultural uses. These photos and comments can be helpful to scientists and botanists, and are also an excellent research tool for non experts, like tourists, hikers, walkers, and nature lovers.

You can use this section to identify plants and learn more about the history of Northern Baja.

We can read the long ago accounts of the area, as recorded in diaries, notes and correspondence left by the first European missionaries and explorers (some as early as the 1700s), and then see them contrasted with native accounts of that time and, now, in accounts by modern researchers. To me, the book highlights an exciting comparison and connection between present ecology and ways and wisdoms of the past.

The first chapter gives us information about the prehistoric landscapes of the Kumeyaay region, and information about prehistoric weather. The first explorers writing about this area discovered that the climate was changing from late Ice Age ‘cool and moist’ to a more arid, desert climate. Findings from those ancient times, and knowledge of the native lifestyle in that area, are pretty much limited to observation of pottery shards, small projectile points and remnants of basket making. Although there had been contact for many years between the natives of the Californias and the Europeans, the first sustained contact between them began in 1780.

The book is well organized, with nine chapters, references for further research, an appendix and an index. It is printed on slick paper with colored photos, and each description and photo adds additional facts to the reader’s knowledge about the historical and modern value of native plants found in Baja, their uses throughout history and their present day uses.

There is, of course, also a disclaimer, stating that this book is not meant to be a medicinal plant guide, but rather an account of which plants the natives of that area have historically used for food and medicine. The book ends with pages of references for those who wish to research this subject further. I believe this book is a great addition to any area library.

Copies of Kumeyaay Ethnobotany can be purchased at my bookstore, El Caballo Blanco, in Loreto. Email me at betojeanne nine@gmail.com. If you’re interested in adopting, contact Baja Safe at et.safe@hotmail.com.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

IN DEFENSE OF TIMESHARE...

component where you can trade your annual week with a similar in-demand resort.

Availability. Are there guarantees on availability? Some resorts have been around for decades, and by selling ‘points’ instead of 1/52 of a room, there is no limit to how many times they can sell the same room. After all, that’s why they changed to selling points. Simple math dictates that sooner or later, a program should sell out, but that doesn’t necessarily stop some companies from still selling. The result? Extreme difficulty in booking the time that you want, even when trying years in advance. Have them demonstrate, in real time, a live online booking for numerous different weeks of the year.

Retail price vs. Timeshare purchase price and

price comparison. As an exercise, pick a typical week that would represent when you would like to stay at your Timeshare. Get a quote from Expedia for that week. Make sure it’s an apple to apples comparison (the package you want to buy is exactly the same room offered by Expedia). Multiply the Expedia price by 30 (to simulate the 30-year life of the program). Then, take the initial Timeshare purchase price and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

Disappointed because none of your presents were of the barking/pooping variety? Then you’re in luck, because these two sweeties, although a bit camera shy, would love to be a beloved Christmas gift for you! Byron (the black puppy) and Kendra (the tan puppy) were both found abandoned in the barrios.

They were skin and bones, so we’ve been working hard to put some weight on them. They’re living in a loving foster home for now, and will be ready for adoption in a couple months.

If you’re interested in adopting, contact Baja Safe at et.safe@hotmail.com.

Didn’t Get A Puppy For Christmas?
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VISIT YOUR LOCAL STORE

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HOW TO DIAL TOLL FREE #’S

Mexico blocks toll free calls to the United States, which is frustrating to us, as most of our banks, credit card companies, and large businesses only provide us with toll free numbers. But we have a work around.

Just dial 001 and then substitute these numbers:

- To call an 800 number, change the 800 to 880
- To call an 888 number, change the 888 to 881
- To call an 877 number, change the 877 to 882
- To call an 866 number, change the 866 to 883

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

IN DEFENSE OF TIMESHARE...
continued from page 29

add the annual maintenance fee (times thirty). If the total price of the Timeshare (initial price + 30 years of annual fees) does not exceed 30% of the Expedia price (times thirty), then you might have a Timeshare price that makes sense (Remember, to ensure your annual fees do not exceed the price of inflation).

As with every major financial decision in life, due diligence is critical. However, if luxury vacations are your thing, and with the correct program with the appropriate safeguards, a time share purchase just might add to your enjoyment of life.

In the end, I decided not to disown my daughter.

About $8 and are big enough for two people to split, or for one person to get two lunches out of one. Unfortunately, the store’s Cabo location has no such deli or grab-and-go section, but they do have fruit, snacks and all the makings for a sandwich, so you can still put together a little picnic spread if you want to work that hard.

California Ranch Market always has its regular items in stock, unlike Costco and Walmart, where it’s a crapshoot if the salad dressing you love and bought there last week will be on the shelves this week. The smaller version of the store is downtown Cabo, main drag, just past the traffic circle.

And why can Freddie consistently get the goods to us? Because he owns refrigerated trucks, he’s a wholesale importer to restaurants, that’s why. He also brings this newspaper down in his refer trucks: they arrive cold. Pretty neat.

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Ask a Mexican

A new report found that, among 20 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Mexico was the worst when it came to bribery for access to basic public services (school, healthcare, utilities).

This week we asked: Are you surprised by this? Have you ever been asked to pay a bribe for something?

José Ramirez, 25, cook
No, I’m not surprised. It’s a problem with deep roots in our country, and has happened for generations before us. Police, government and citizens are all involved, we are all part of the problem. I have changed my way of thinking about bribes, but the hassle of paying is too much for a simple ticket and it takes a long time to sort out, so I take the easy way out and bribe.

Daisy Santos, 36, human resource manager
I am not surprised at all. This is our everyday life in Mexico. Things are getting worse, violence is growing exponentially, the government is selling itself to the highest bidder, people do whatever they want. Transit police have asked me for money, and I’m not going to either confirm or deny giving it but I’d much rather do things right.

Ignacio Rodríguez, 30, balloon artist
I’m not surprised. Unfortunately, in Mexico corruption is what rules. My ethics do not let me give in to corruption, I’d rather work and do things right.

Gabino Flores, 18, steward
Not really, I have seen corruption since I was born. I know policeman take advantage of you when they see you walking around drunk. My friends have told me they were asked for money to avoid jail. They usually take whatever they see in your wallet.

Zeire Pacheco, 22, promotions girl
I’m not at all surprised. We all make Mexico what it is, and we have been taught since we were little that bribes are normal. When we grow up we realize it’s easier to give 10 dollars to a police man instead of going to pay a small fine at the station. I have not given money, but as a pretty girl, I have charmed my way out of getting tickets.

Carlos Murillo, 30, general manager
Corruption is Mexico’s reality, so I am not surprised. I have been asked to give a bribe by transit police, and the amount is usually negotiated; the choice is to go to the transit office and pay a 50 dollar fine versus buy dinner for an officer. Sometimes it’s pretty obvious what we should choose.

Missing Parts Animals

EDITH
I must confess I still feel embarrassed about having lost my tail - the feline equivalent of a Jedi lightsaber. I can feel my “phantom” tail snap smartly at the uppity cats as they saunter past me, all snickers and whispers. I wish there was someone out there who could see beyond my glaring deficiency and into my lonely, outcast heart. Get me out of here and stop the bullying for me!

TOTORO
It’s hard to imagine that I was hit by a car and injured so severely that they had to amputate my front leg just weeks ago! But that didn’t stop me, I can already outrun most of the dogs here. I’m so grateful to the Los Cabos Humane Society and the dedicated veterinarians on staff who are always ready to save creatures others would be unable to help. The Los Cabos Humane Society is the only organization here equipped to do all the gritty, hard work that is needed, and only able to operate thanks to your support and donations. And, if you take me home, I promise to shower you with constant companionship and affection.

We need volunteers
No one can do everything, but everyone can do
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