More Renovations In Downtown San Jose
Plaza Miljares is getting a whole new look

BY CALEB HOOGLAND

The main plaza in San Jose will be getting a makeover soon. (Seems like most of San Jose is being renovated these days.)

The plaza renovation will cover an area of roughly 100,000 square feet (basically, the entire plaza) and represents an investment of almost $1.8 million USD. The ground breaking ceremony was held last month, meaning we can expect to see work happening any day now. Or not. The project is scheduled to be finished in six months, but let's be honest, it won't likely be done on time (this is Mexico after all).

The first stage of construction is demolition. Some things to watch for are the removal of several existing features, like the giant fountain that never has water in it, along with the corresponding drainage system.

Most of the upgrades to the plaza will include replacing the stone and concrete grounds. Although a final version of the renovated plaza design hasn't been chosen yet. (How can you start renovations if you don't have a plan? Well, no matter,

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Campaign Gives Kids Heart Surgery
Hospital H+ is raising money for a second round of operations

BY ALEJANDRA SARACHAGA

Through an extensive fundraising campaign, 14 children from families with limited resources received heart surgery that saved their lives. These surgeries were part of the Heart of a Child campaign that was launched last December by Hospital H+ in cahoots with the International Community Foundation (ICF). This ambitious program was a large team effort between these organizations, the doctors, specialist nurses, laboratories and medical supply companies.

The program is open to any children who need it, whether they are Mexicans or foreigners. The 14 kids who received the surgeries are now healthy and strong, but there are still others who need similar procedures.

The Ayuda a Corazón de Niño, AC (Child's
No olvidar. That’s Mexi speak for “don’t forget”. On Sunday, June 25, the 4th Annual Dog Surf Contest will take place at Cerritos Beach, located some 40 minutes from Cabo on the road to Todos Santos. The event proceeds will benefit local dog rescue in Pescadero, a nearby oceanside town. The competition starts at 9:30 am and it’s a fun, great photo opp. Keep turning the pages to read our story on the event!

We have a winner! Well, actually we have two. The state’s tourism honcho, Genaro Ruiz, announced that two companies have been selected to operate and promote the Los Cabos Convention center, as well as the La Paz convention center.

One is Ilema, the institution of fairs in Madrid, Spain, and the other is Actidea from Mexico City. Ilema has 30 years of experience and is considered the top event organizer in Spain and one of the best in Europe, while Actidea has 20 years of experience in organizing large, high-level events.

Now that the two companies have been selected, the next step is to get the contract signed and proceed with the repairs and equipment installation on both centers.

Uh, not to be a wet blanket, but just what are they going to organize? We need someone who can call on mostly American companies and sell our convention space to them for their conventions. Sigh.

And are winners! Los Cabos was selected to host the 5th Annual Destination Wedding Planners Convention, which will be in April of next year.

This is the world’s largest business-to-business convention for the destination wedding industry, and will bring together over 600 wedding professionals from more than 65 countries.

350,000 couples around the world tie the knot overseas every year, and according to recent stats, 9% of these were hosted in Mexico. In the last five years’ destination weddings have increased by 50% in Mexico.

Second things first. Our state tourism honcho, Genaro Ruiz, actually we have two. The state’s legislators decided last November that they will take an additional 350 pesos, about 20 Gringo bucks, from foreign visitors. They just haven’t figured out what means they will employ to get it be doled out for the care of crime victims and in the health sector. Support will also be provided for employment, sport and agriculture. Oh, and let’s not forget...
A sign of things to come? Mexico City signed an agreement with Airbnb that will charge travelers who book through the site a 3% occupancy tax.

The agreement is in response to complaints from hotels about Airbnb not having the same regulations as they do. Oh come on, they’re just scared that Airbnb is going to take away their business.

And they should be scared. Airbnb has 5,500 hosts registered in Mexico City, and helped 143,000 guests find places to stay, a 174% increase over the previous year.

Airbnb says it intends to expand the tax throughout the region, which is now its fastest-growing market. Cabo Airbnbers, you’ve been warned.

Why not name it Donald Dump? A Mexican businessman who was offended by the insults from Donald Trump directed at Mexicans is taking advantage of a boo boo Trump made in registering his trademark.

Trump registered his name in Mexico in various sectors such as construction, tourism, hotels, real estate and financial services but forgot about toilet paper. So now, lawyer Antonio Battaglia is about to release a brand of toilet paper called Trump, which advertises with slogans such as “Smoothness without borders” and “This is the way to go.”

Battaglia’s application to brand his toilet paper was approved by the Mexican government. The paper is expected to go on sale later this year and 30% of the proceeds will be donated to migrant support programs.

But Battaglia says he respects the Mexican laws protecting Trump’s trademark but there is no direct link between his t.p. and Donald Trump or his image.

Mexico wins! Mexican filmmaker Michel Franco won his third award at this year’s Cannes Film Festival, which just wrapped up. Bravo!

His film, Las Hijas de Abril (April’s Daughters), won the top prize in the Uncertain Regard category, which is for films that tell their stories in non-traditional ways.

April’s Daughter is a drama about a 17 year old girl who has got herself in a family way, as they used to say. Living in Puerto Vallarta with her half-sister, the wayward girl has not wanted her long-absent mother, April, to find out about her, ahem, indiscretion.

Mexico wins again! An 18-year-old Mexican surfer earned the country its first individual medal at the World Surfing Games.

Jhony Corzo was crowned the men’s world champion surfer at the tournament, which was held recently in France. It was the first-ever individual medal for Team Mexico, and propelled the team itself to its first-ever medal, winning copper for fourth place overall.

Not too bad, considering it was Corzo’s first trip to the International Surfing Association World Surfing Games. The kid’s been surfing for most of his life, starting at the young age of five.

Immigrants aren’t a large proportion of Mexico’s population, but their numbers are growing at a surprisingly high rate. Well, we’re surprised.

Just to compare, Canada’s foreign population increased by 42% during the same period, rising 5.5 million. The number of foreigners in the United States increased from 34.8 million to 46.6 million, a 34% hike.

Mexico’s migrants come from Central America, which is seeing a lot of gang activity lately. Beach parks coming to Cabo. Did you know that all of the beaches in Mexico are public? The problem is, big hotels and resorts that are built right on the beach try to privatize them by cutting off access to anyone who’s not a guest. But now, the federal tourism authorities are trying to turn the tables by creating public beach parks so everyone, especially Mexican residents who can’t afford hotel stays, can enjoy their own beaches.

Cabo was the first city to build a public beach park, which opened in December. The park cost $750,000 USD and has averaged 200 to 300 visitors a day with an average of 600 visitors a day on weekends.

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Get Your Bids Down
Online auction for new learning center ends June 13

The Palapa Society of Todos Santos is continually looking for ways to raise money for its new Palapa Learning Center, a three-building complex that will house the society’s community library, English classes and middle/high school. The Palapa Society is mostly foreigners helping the locals, its latest fundraising effort is an online auction.

“We thought, let’s see if this could be another interesting way for people to help raise funds,” says Kathy Warnert, a Palapa Society member and auction honcho.

The society, which was the major benefactor of the GastroVino silent auction in May, received a large painting from local artist Ezra Katz for that event. They wanted to do something special with that piece, so they put it on an online auction site. After GastroVino, several more people approached the Palapa Society wanting to donate items, and an online auction was born.

The items up for bid include three paintings from local artists, a necklace made of hand carved bone and coral, a two-night stay for two at Flora del Mar and a whale watching tour for two to Magdalena Bay with Todos Santos Ecos Adventures. The bidding opened on May 13.

Continued on Page 23

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We’re told to expect new walkways, more shade, and other improvements to the downtown plaza in San Jose.

Huh? This picture doesn’t even make sense. Where is City Hall and the clock tower? And where is the big open area that is where the green trees are now? The area here is not even the same shape. This is not starting out well. Did we pay someone for this picture? Stop the check!
Ask a Mexican

This week we asked: It was recently reported that Starbucks sales in Mexico declined 9% due to boycotts of the chain after Trump became the U.S. president (Starbucks says the decline was temporary). What do you think about Mexicans boycotting American brands? Do you think it makes a difference?

Liliana Diaz, 26, nutritionist
I think Mexicans can't boycott American brands even if we tried. Nowadays, almost everything we buy has some sort of degree of American brand in it. From the place we buy it to the brand, even some traditional Mexican brands are not even Mexican anymore. I do think it would make a difference if we could represent a little more than a 9 percent decline, so Americans realize how important Mexican consumers are, and could open their minds. I think Starbucks, for example, turned to marketing to raise sales and make people forget about the boycott, with the unicorn Frappuccino, the mermaid latte and now the pink drink. They are smart!

Diego Rosas, 38, politician
I think 9 percent is too little to represent all Mexico. Sure, Mexicans were offended by Trump but that only lasted five minutes. To really make a difference, we should buy more local produce and shop at small stores instead of big chains. However, that represents another problem, because even those American companies are fueled by Mexicans. From investors to workers, down to tertiary producers, the economy would go insane if we all shopped smaller.

Judith Reyes, 31, accountant
I don't think we should boycott anyone. After all, we've come very far as a country to have American investors in it. If we really did boycott, our own economy would be compromised because it's like a chain. Let's imagine Starbucks closed in the whole country; all of its employees would become unemployed, all the milk producers would be affected because they would lose a big client, people who sell the plastic cups and all of the consumables would also lose production. It's just not possible to completely boycott such businesses, we would be boycotting ourselves too.

Maria Rodriguez, 30, secretary
I wish we had continued with the boycott, it would have shown Americans a lesson. I know that they are not all bad like Trump is, but they should have realized they are dependent on other people, too. There would be a temporary mayhem with the boycott, but we Mexicans would see the opportunity in it. If Mexico could have gone through with the boycott and represented more than 9 percent, then Starbucks and all other companies would have been forced to make a new strategy and that could have been good for Mexico.

Javier Solis, 23, student
I don't think we would have made a difference. Companies like Starbucks are global, and they don't need a country like ours to stay afloat. What I do think we as a country should do is to make an effort to support local, organic merchandise. The problem with that is that we are used to American quality, and have degraded our own products because we don't think they are good enough, when in reality, Mexicans are proud people who do things the way they should be done.

Saul Vidal, 56, carpenter
There is a strong link between Mexicans, their pride and beliefs. That pride is not always shown, but once it shows, decisions are made in a rush. Proof of that is the way Mexicans reacted to Trump's offenses, but he was kind of right because of the way we act. The same people who try to boycott American companies are the ones who have the funds to do it, and still dress with American brands. The truth is Mexico doesn't win, because such companies do not bring their own labor, meaning that the people who work there are locals. That translates to us boycotting ourselves.
Did You Know Dogs Can Surf?

Maybe better than you

BY LACEY STORER

Have you ever seen a dog on a surfboard? How about multiple dogs on multiple surfboards? If the answer is no, you’ll get your chance at the fourth annual Dog Surf Competition, coming up on Sunday, July 25 on Cerritos Beach.

The tournament, which will run from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., is a fundraiser for the dog rescue organization in Pescadero, Pescado Dogs. Pescado Dogs provides shelter, medical care and love for injured and homeless dogs in the Pescadero area (which is about 45 minutes north of Cabo, on the way to Todos Santos).

Competition is stiff for this year’s tournament, with several first and second place winners from previous tournaments on the roster. They include Cala, a six year old pooch who’s been surfing since she was two months old. She’s the waves in Cerritos, Todos Santos and San Jose and won first place last year. She’s seen as a top contender for this year’s event.

Another top contender is Koa, who lives and surfs in San Jose. Koa has a competitive edge, as his owner is a surf instructor. Rounding out the top flight is Pirate, who at 11 years is one of the older competitors, but don’t let her age fool you. She’s a determined surfer who’s a pro at snagging the good waves. She came in second place in the 2015 tournament and took home the award for best wave last year.

If you think your dog could be a contender, there’s still time to enter him or her in the competition. If your pooch is new to surfing, no worries: you can sign up with professional dog surf trainer Perry Abedor to get your dog ready for the waves.

To enter your pet, sign up for surfing lessons, or to become an event sponsor, email info@dogsurfcompcerritos.com. You can also find them on Facebook at Dog Surf Comp Cerritos, or visit their website, www.dogsurfcompcerritos.com. If you’d like to make a donation directly to Pescado Dogs, there’s a donation link on the competition website.

Have you ever seen a dog on a surfboard? How about multiple dogs on multiple surfboards? If the answer is no, you’ll get your chance at the fourth annual Dog Surf Competition, coming up on Sunday, July 25 on Cerritos Beach.

If you have a dog who loves the water, sign them up for the Dog Surf Competition on Cerrito’s Beach.

Que PASA in CABO...

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Que PASA in CABO...

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Colon Cancer Awareness Month in Mexico

Getting screened could save your life

BY DR. DICK

Colon Cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among men and women in the US, and is estimated over half of all cancer deaths could be prevented, if people got tested regularly. June is Colon Cancer Awareness Month in Mexico which is a great time to learn the facts about colon cancer and get tested. Getting screened could save your life.

If you are 50 or older, you should speak with your doctor about colon cancer screening. Screening can find colon cancer before symptoms develop when it’s easier to treat and survival rates are better. Screening can help find growths called polyps that can be removed before they turn into cancer. The good news is that fewer people have been dying from colon cancer over the past few decades. That’s due to improvements in screening. However, more than 50,000 deaths from colon cancer are expected in the US this year, accounting for 9% of all cancer deaths.

Several screening tests have been developed to help find colorectal cancer early, when it is more treatable. Medical experts recommend that people over 50 years get screened at regular intervals, with one of the following tests: high-sensitivity fecal occult blood tests (FOBT), or stool DNA testing, or standard colonoscopy, or virtual colonoscopy. People at increased risk because of a family history of colorectal cancer or polyps or because they have inflammatory bowel disease, may be advised to start screening before age 50 and/or have more frequent screening.

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

Standard colonoscopy: In this test, the rectum and entire colon are examined using a colonoscope, a flexible lighted tube with a lens for viewing and a tool for removing tissue. The tube is inserted through the anus into the rectum and the colon as air is pumped into the colon to expand it so the doctor can see the colon lining more clearly. During a colonoscopy, any abnormal growths in the colon and the rectum can be removed. A thorough cleansing of the colon is necessary before this test, and air is pumped into the colon to expand it for better viewing of the colon’s lining. The accuracy of virtual colonoscopy is similar to that of standard colonoscopy, and virtual colonoscopy has a lower risk of complications. However, if polyps or other abnormal growths are found, the combination of newer and faster CT scanners with computer software that can produce images equivalent to an endoscopy, virtual colonoscopy seems to be a logical choice in the screening for colon cancer. During the CT scan, the doctors will, if requested, check for the symptoms of prostate cancer at no extra cost.

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

Dr. Luis Enrique Sotelo is the leading gastroenterologist in Los Cabos and resident specialist at Saint Luke’s Hospital. To learn more about colon cancer screening tests, arrange a consultation with Dr. Sotelo, to review your present condition, and discuss the best options for you. The fecal occult blood test (FOBT) normally costs $495 pesos, virtual colonoscopy $9000 pesos (reduced to $6500 pesos during June) and standard colonoscopy $18,000 pesos. Prices include IVA. Contact Saint Luke’s for more details - there’s no better time to learn the facts about colon cancer and get tested: info@saintlukeshospitals.com Tel: 624 142 5911 (24/7) Dr. Dick: (624) 157 1970.
Can A U.S. Corporation Own Mexican Property?

It’s (kinda) like an individual owning property

BY ORLANDO GOTAY

A reader recently asked about what effect, if any, there is on a U.S. corporation that owns real property located predominantly outside the U.S.  And if it is a widget used for revenue purposes, U.S. corporations are just like any U.S. individual. They are subject to federal income tax on their global income, and subject to state tax in the state of incorporation (if it imposes any), plus any other states where it is doing business.

A deduction for depreciation is available when an individual or corporation uses property for income producing purposes. The idea is to “recover” the cost of the investment over its useful life by way of a deduction. You should know that a residential income property located in the U.S. depreciates differently (27 years) outside the U.S. (40 years). That means that comparable properties will be entitled to smaller depreciation deductions, and over a longer period, simply for being located outside the U.S. Owed. A similar thing happens to “personal property” that is part of the business. It takes longer to write it off. And if it is a widget used predominantly outside the U.S., you can’t write it off the year you bought it. Bummer.

Another important point is the “allowed or allowable” depreciation rule. When property is subject to depreciation and then later sold, the depreciation is recaptured (and taxed as ordinary income) at the time of sale. Whether you actually took the depreciation does not matter. It only matters that you could have taken it. If you did not take the deduction, you are leaving money on the table, because Uncle Sam will recapture depreciation that was “allowable.”

Another thing to consider if whether the corporation has foreign bank accounts. Corporations might have to file Foreign Bank Account Reports. And what better (or worse), shareholders and directors of those corporations might also have to file individual FBARs based on their ownership or control of a corporation that has foreign financial accounts. And if the corporation owns specified foreign financial assets, it too might have to report under FATCA.

The U.S. corporation will most likely be considered a permanent establishment and subject to Mexican tax and regulations. If it owns real property within the border or coast zone, it also requires a fideicomiso (a trust). Ah, you thought corps were not required to have fideicomisos? Well, you were wrong.

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

Two weeks ago Cuernavaca, in the state of Morelos, was cut off, and now it’s Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz’s turn.

The municipality has run up a debt of more than $2.7 billion USD with the CFE, and so they have cut the line. As the hot weather arrives, neighborhoods have little or no power. Gasoline is pumped with electricity, so that will soon be a problem. As will pumping water.

The municipal administration filed for an amparo, or injunction, against the CFE’s service cuts, claiming that access to the electrical grid was a human right. The government is also arguing that cutting off power will lead to a rise in kidnapings, extortion, theft and acts of torture. Former governor Javier Duarte was supposed to have fixed some of the problems with an infrastructure project in 2014 but the water lines and wells drilled have proven defective. As Duarte sits in a Guatemala jail awaiting extradition for corruption charges, lines are collapsing and the wells are not functioning.

Let’s not let ourselves get too smug, only a few years ago our capitol city of La Paz was cut off by CFE and City Hall was being run off generators. And when Hurricane Odile hit us several years ago, the Los Cabos municipality had not paid their Pemex bill and many of the emergency vehicles were out of gas.
What Is That Creature?
They’re called alebrijes, handmade sculptures of fantastical animals

BY ALE BORBOLLA

You know those brightly colored sculptures you see in some galleries and shops, the ones shaped like weird looking animals? Well, they might look like kids toys, but they’re actually pieces of high quality art. Alebrijes (pronounced all-eh-brie-haze) are Mexican folk art sculptures of fantastical creatures. Alebrijes originated in Mexico, and were created by an artisan named Pedro Linares.

In the 1930s, Linares became very sick and while he was in bed, he dreamt (or hallucinated, more likely) of a strange place resembling a forest. There, he saw trees, rocks and clouds that suddenly turned into strange animals that he had never seen before.

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

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

Day Passes available for $25.00 includes pool access, a towel, a lounge and $15 of food and beverage credit. We have a volleyball net waiting for you, horse shoes and bocce ball too.

Big news: Our tiendita just added many items for a picnic lunch, imported cheeses and sandwich meats, olives, hummus, salsas to go. In addition to sodas, coco waters, beer, water, chips, fresh vegetables, anything we have available in the restaurant is for sale.

We offer lots of hotel packages, date night, weekend getaways, romantic candlelit dinners, dive packages, surf, etc. Bring a group and get better deals. Look for us at www.vidasoul.com. Read our reviews in TripAdvisor. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. Local numbers 624 142-1165 (Spanish and English) 624 154-6966 English and US 1-626-840-0485 English and Spanish.

He saw a donkey with butterfly wings, a rooster with bull horns, a lion with an eagle head, and all of them were shouting one word: alebrijes.

After Linares recovered, he wanted to show people the animals he had seen, so he took some paper and molded the figures from memory, making papier-mâché forms. Then he painted them as he saw them in his dream.

His work caught the attention of a gallery owner in Cuernavaca, in the south of Mexico and, later, artists like Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo. In the 1980s, British filmmaker Judith Bronowski arranged a roving Mexican art workshop in the U.S. featuring Manuel Jiménez, a sculptor and painter from Oaxaca. It was there that Jiménez learned about the alebrijes.

The Oaxaca valley area already had a history of carving animal and other figures from wood, so Jiménez adapted Linares’ papier-mâché sculptures into wooden forms. He carved the figures from copal, a local wood that’s said to have magical properties, rather than using paper. This version of the craft spread throughout Oaxaca and surrounding areas, and is what we know alebrijes as today.

To make an alebrije come to life, the first step is to find a piece of wood with just the right shape. The carving starts when the artisan “reads” the piece of wood. These funky pieces are called alebrijes. You can find cheap, mass-produced figures, but the high-quality pieces are carved and painted by hand. Photo: Jorge A. Lopez Mendicuti.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18
Our Wines Are Winners!

Mexican wineries submitted 18 wines to the Brussels World Wine Competition and bagged 18 medals, six of them gold. This year’s Concours Mondial de Bruxelles attracted 9,080 entries from 50 countries competing for grand gold, gold and silver medals. A panel of 320 international judges — journalists, buyers, sommeliers and various winos — gave Spanish wines the highest number of medals, followed by France, Italy, Portugal and Chile. China, which doubled its medal count this year, was in the top 10.

The gold medal-winning Mexican wines were:
- Casa Grande Chardonnay 2016, Parras Valley, Coahuila;
- Casa Madero Chardonnay 2016, Parras Valley, Coahuila;
- Casta Tinta Syrah 2014, Valle de Guadalupe, Baja California;
- Dueño 2011 (Santo Tomás), Baja California;
- Hilo Negro ZiggZag 2014, Valle de Guadalupe, Baja California;
- Solera Blanco (Santo Tomás), Valle de Santo Tomás, Baja California.

Mexico’s silver medal winners:
- Cardón 2014, Valle de Guadalupe, Baja California;
- Casa Grande Shiraz 2013, Parras Valley, Coahuila;
- Cuna De Tierra Nebbiolo 2014, Guanajuato;
- Cuna De Tierra Nebbiolo 2014, Guanajuato;
- Casta Negra 2013, Valle de Guadalupe, Baja California;
- Casa Madero Chardonnay 2016, Parras Valley, Coahuila;
- Casa Grande Chardonnay 2015, Baja California;
- Casa Grande Shiraz 2013, Parras Valley, Coahuila;
- Cuna De Tierra 2014, Guanajuato;
- Cuna De Tierra Nebbiolo Uno 2014, Guanajuato;
- L.A. Cetto Cabernet Sauvignon Reserva Privada 2013, Baja California;
- L.A. Cetto Nebbiolo Reserva Privada 2013, Baja California;
- L.A. Cetto Petite Syrah 2015, Baja California;
- L.A. Cetto Sauvignon Blanc 2016, Baja California;
- Monte Xanic Sauvignon Blanc Viña Kristel 2016, Valle de Guadalupe, Baja California;
- Tierra Adentro Syrah Merlot Tempranillo 2013, Valle de Guadalupe, Baja California.

So, where are these Baja winners? All in northern Baja. We have five vineyards in southern Baja, but they’re new and will take some time to produce good wine. And, of course, we will need a winery to stamp and bottle to grapes. We had one, briefly, in Todos Santos but it closed. Anyone want to step up to the plate?

CAMPAIGN GIVES KIDS HEART...

continued from page 4

the doctors, anesthesiologists or intensive care specialists charge for their services. Normally, the costs for these procedures range from $12,500 to $25,000 USD. A second Heart Of A Child campaign is currently underway, and the hospital hopes to raise $50,000 for it. To help raise these funds, Hospital H+ and ICF have started the Give + Campaign, an initiative for US donors to be able to help improve the quality of life for residents of Southern Baja. Contributions to the Give + Campaign cover all medical expenses. Give + provides support for complex medical cases for low income households in BCS community who don’t have either the financial resources or alternative healthcare options. Each case is evaluated individually. Hospital H+, ICF and other local partner organizations are working together to identify individuals from the most vulnerable communities in the region who lack access to needed medical services.

H+ Hospital provides a one-to-one match on all donations. Donations are tax deductible, and can be as little as a $1 USD. Donations can be made online at either www.hmasloscabos.mx//donate.icfdn.org/#npo/give.

Dining discounts coming. The Los Cabos restaurant association announced the “Cabo Come Asi” (Cabo Eats Like This) pro-

QUE PASA IN CABO?

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which had to house and transport future cops from all corners of the state to La Paz, our capital city. The state cop corp has issued an open invitation for recruits, as well as to needy families in the Leonardo Gastelum barrio, near the Cabo airport, were snatched back by the city because they were abandoned. The city will now give them to other needy families. Lupita Saldaña, a state congress woman, said there is a need for 1,000 more lots. The Los Cabos government is negotiating with ejido land owners to acquire 500 acres of land from them. Ejido land is common land that’s owned by multiple owners, much like the Indian reservations in the U.S. It looks like there’s a lot of land in southern Baja to build homes on, but that isn’t. That land is all owned by Ejidos or individuals who own vast tracts and won’t sell. They want big bucks but developers of Mexican housing can’t pay big bucks for the land because their buyers are in the service industry and don’t earn big bucks.

Dining discounts coming. The Los Cabos restaurant association announced the “Cabo Come Asi” (Cabo Eats Like This) pro-

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Give Money While Saving Money

New discount program makes it easy to donate to local charities

BY LACEY STORER

Everyone loves saving money. But you know what's even better than that? Saving money and being able to donate to charity at the same time. A new discount program called TogetherMex lets members save money on meals, activities, services and more, and then gives a portion of the total proceeds to one of several local charities.

TogetherMex is the brainchild of Steve Zasio - a Southern California man who’s been visiting La Paz since he was 15 and has lived there for the last five years - although he credits his wife with giving him the push to make the move. While they were in the hospital having their new baby a year and a half ago, Zasio saw a lot of people in unfortunate situations. He commented on this to his wife who responded, “We, you should do something.”

So, he came up with an idea that makes giving to charity as easy as using your cell phone, while making money for Zasio and his family.

TogetherMex is a membership-based program. Unlike the Cabo Passport, where you pay a flat fee, TogetherMex has two payment options. You can choose the vacation membership, where you pay a one-time fee of $29 and can use the program for three months. Or you can get a local membership, where you pay a recurring fee of $29 every three months (which comes out to $116 a year). There’s no physical discount card to carry around; TogetherMex uses the Member Planet app, which downloads an e-card that you can pull up on your cell phone to use for discounts. (We should note that there’s one caveat to the app: It currently doesn’t list the participating businesses or the available discounts, though Zasio says he plans on added that feature later on. He suggests having the TogetherMex website page that lists the discounts bookmarked on your phone’s web browser.)

TogetherMex members receive discounts on things like activities, hotel stays and, of course, meals. Restaurants are most of the businesses participating in TogetherMex, because along with getting discounts, everyone likes to eat. The list of restaurants participating in Cabo is a long one and includes some of the most popular places: Romeo & Julieto, Lorentzillo’s, InVita, Salvatoré, Los Barriles, Agua Salada, Arts & Sushi, Ruth’s Chris, DaVinci’s, Villa Serena, Bar Esquina and Puerto Vieja. Discounts range from 10 to 20 percent off your meal to a free round of drinks to half off entrees.

“Our goal is that, if you’re a member, it pays for itself every month and you’re saving money every month,” Zasio says. But, at the same time, “Discounts are a means by which we collect money to give to certain causes.

The TogetherMex program lets members use an app on their phones to access discounts.

Speaking of charities, TogetherMex members vote on their favorite charity on the 15th of each month (they’re sent a reminder from the app) at the end of each quarter the votes are tallied. Here in Los Cabos, there are three charities you...
Treat Your Rental Property as Business

BY WENDY KNAPP

In a perfect world, buying, selling, and/or renting property, everyone treats a rental property simply as a business process. However, as everyone knows, the world is far from an ideal place. Personal attachments, maintenance problems, and tenants’ difficulties can turn an investment into an emotional morass. It is important to develop an objective attitude that will help you cope with the more stressful aspects of “owning.” Did you make a conscious decision to purchase investment property? If so, be realistic about rentals and projected expenses when doing projection on any potential investment. Inflated figures will not help if the economic market does not cooperate. It is important to expect a reasonable vacancy factor.

When owning a rental property, remember, that in most cases the property is a long-term investment and that the expenses are tax deductible, increasing the bottom line or return on investment (ROI). Did you become a landlord because you must rent your home rather than sell because of a poor economic market? This can make it more difficult to view your personal home as a business investment. Make a special effort to think of your home now as a “rental property” and view it from the perspective of a potential tenant. Even while you were living in the property, it required maintenance and repairs. Review these ten good practices for all property owners.

1. Treat the property as a long-term investment even if you do not plan to keep it long-term—you never know what will transpire.
2. Be aware of legislation and legal practices that affect your rental property—ignoring them can mean losses to your bottom line.
3. Always be realistic about the current market and rental prices—this can reduce vacancy time.
4. Practice preventative maintenance—this can reduce or eliminate major repairs and maintenance.
5. Plan for long-term maintenance—properties have life expectancies on all major components of the property, such as roof, paint, heating and air units, plumbing and more. Eventually these systems will fail and/or deteriorate.
6. Be prepared for all types of emergencies—tenant problems, maintenance, or natural disasters.
7. Do not rent the property “just” to generate income.
8. Remember that even the best of tenants can have problems that can interrupt the payment of rent. It is important to remain objective and fair instead of reacting emotionally.
9. Use professional services when necessary—maintenance, accounting, legal and more. This expense can reduce liability, aggravation, and unnecessary expenses.
10. Consult with your property management company regularly and discuss any concerns you have regarding your investment. Take the time to develop a “business” plan for your investment. Review long-term expenditures and plan when and how you will handle them over the period of ownership. This should include good insurance coverage, a savings plan for maintenance/emergencies, and professional services when necessary. This preparation can help maintain a business attitude when any stressful event occurs. Your management company should assist you with realistic rental prices, maintenance expenditures, professional services, tenant problems, legal issues and any other services required. Their support will help you maintain a “business” attitude for your investment.

By Wendy Knapp, Broker of Rionda & Knapp in San Jose del Cabo, contact her at: +52(624) 118-1395, Office - (624) 118-1395, wendy@rionda-knapp.com or visit her website at http://www.rionda-knapp.com.
What is AMPI?

BY JOHN K. GLAAB

AMPI is an acronym for The Mexican Association of Real Estate Professionals AMPI National was founded in 1956, when a group of visionaries realized the need for gathering and organizing themselves to help raise the standards of those individual working in the Real Estate industry. At that time, it was known as “Unión Mexicana de Corredores y Administradores de Inmuebles A.C.” In the 70’s, the name changed to AMPI. The association now has more than 70 Sections from Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, to Los Cabos. In our state of Baja California Sur, there are Sections, both in La Paz and Los Cabos. AMPI has several strategic alliances with government groups such as INEGI (The Mexican Institute for Geography and Statistics.) It also is affiliated with FONATUR (The arm of Mexico’s Department of Tourism.) and CONAVI (National Commission of Housing). On the international level the association has kept up its bi-lateral affiliation with the National Association of Realtors® (NAR) first signed in 1985. NAR with 2,400,000 members is the largest trade association in the U.S. NAR members belong to one or more of some 1,200 local associations/boards and 54 state and territory associations of REALTORS®, or to one of 87 cooperating associations in 66 countries. They are pledged to a strict Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice.

AMPI has a Code of Ethics. It is patterned after NAR’s. Each AMPI Section has a Commission of Honor and justice to deal with disputes or violation of good practices and regulations...

Beatriz Camboza Lago is the 2017 AMPI President. She is from Puebla, Puebla. Each year AMPI has a National Conference. (Congress). This year it will be held in Villahermosa, Tabasco in October. In addition to other business elections will be held for the National Advisory Board and President.

About the author:
John Glaab is Vice President of International Marketing at Mexico’s, The Settlement Company®, A Certified International Property Specialist, he was named International Member of the year in 2012 by NAR. In 2016 he was accepted as a member of the small, but prestigious by invitation only group, Associated Realty of the Americas.

AMPI has a Code of Ethics. It is patterned after the one the National Association of Realtors uses.
VILLA KUGLI IN RANCHO MIGRINO. Commanding views. True Villa with 3 bd House - 1 bdrm apt., 1-2 bd apt., chapel, pool, lecture hall, workshop & so much more. 15,225 sf of constr., 5.74 acres land. Absolutely exquisite. MLS 17-346, $1,900,000 USD Call Cheryl 624-122-2690

BEACHFRONT HOME CASA SURFEADOR 3 bd/3 ba. 5616 sf. Enormous views on the sand, built to best standards. Polished plaster walls, QUALITY solar AND city electricity too, embossed polished conc. floors, huge rooms, terrazas w/ 180 degrees sun/water views, garage MLS 16-2268, Call Cheryl 624-122-2690, $1,199,000 USD

LOS CERRITOS BEACH HOME - 3rd row 3 bd/3.5 ba home - unique and quality 4200 sf constr., 5.24 acres land. Walk to beach in seconds. 6 car garage, MLS 17-35, $799,000 USD. Call Cheryl 624-122-2699

CASA MAS CERVEZA. CABO. 4 Most Affordable Bedroom Pedregal! Walk to town, spacious living areas, 4 BDR, 1/2 BA, ga- zebos. $399,000 USD, MLS#16-663, 044-624-174-751

CAMPESTRE LOT 16 SAN JOSE Del Tezal 3 bd, 3.5 ba, Home, needs a little to finish! 4000 sf plus huge terrace. $519,000 Cape MLS# 16-341. Michelle@DreamHomesOfCabo.com 908-267-9188

BEACHFRONT HOME CASA SAN LUCAS | 3 BR. 2.5 BA home in lovely seaside Santa Carmela. Gated yard w/ room for private pool. Amenities included a seaside pool and club pavilion | MLS #16-1427 | paul@bajaviews.com | 310.873.8768

FABULOUS HOME IN CABO SAN LUCAS | 3 BR. 2.5 BA home in lovely seaside Santa Carmela. Gated yard w/ room for private pool. Amenities included a seaside pool and club pavilion | MLS #16-1427 | paul@bajaviews.com | 310.873.8768

PRICED TO SELL QUICK at only $909,000 USD. Top floor 2 bd, 2 ba Condo, Ocean/ Cabo Views, frequently, recently remodeled, parking, 24 hr security. Easy walk to downtown Cabo. MLS#17-923 P5. 624-172-0069 broker@cabos4sale.com

AMAZING 2ND ROW BEACHFRONT CONDO W/ FINANCING, on San Jose Beach in El Zalate. 2bd/2ba. + Garage, Pool, beach club. "SOLD" MLS#16-2278. Michelle@bajaproperties.com

BEACHFRONT PENTHOUSE AT TORTUGA BAY. Beautifully decorated, 2 bd/4 1/2 BA floor plan. Over 7,000 sq ft with private elevator opens to great room. Sliding pocket doors glide you out to the patio. $5,5 MM, call 142-0988, MLS# 15-939, ads@bajaproperties.com

BEACHFRONT CONDO W/ FINANCING, on San Jose Beach in El Zalate. 2bd/2ba. + Garage. Pool, beach club. $4.5 MM, call 142-0988, MLS# 15-939, ads@bajaproperties.com

BEACHFRONT CORRIDOR CASA CARL. Cabo Real Golf Villa - 3 bedrooms, 3.5 bath Hacienda-style with private pool, spa and awesome roof deck. Very close to beach and half between CSL and San Jose. Very quiet and private $849,000 MLS#16-891 Cape Realty Associates 624 147-7190 dedechristensen@gmail.com

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Impeccable Newly Remodeled 4 Level Residence! Cresta del Mar #2, a beautiful customized gem blending traditional Mexican architecture with contemporary touches and modern amenities. Spectacular views of Land’s End and breathtaking sunsets from rooftop deck. Abril Pola 624-129-9660 MLS#16-1892

REGENCY PARK PLACE. 10 Bdrm/10 Bath Home, 2 Levels, 1st Level 4900 sq. ft. 2nd Level 2100 sq. ft. Total 7000 sq. ft. High end Construction. Pool, Jacuzzi, BBQ, w/spectacular views of the Sea of Cortez and the mountains. Located in community with pool, park, and walking path. MLS# 17-701, Michelle@DreamHomesOfCabo.com 908-267-9188

PLANTATION HOME IN EL CERRITO. Unique and Quality 4200 sf constr. Built to the best standards. Polished polished concrete floors, 122-2568 or michael@baja views.com MLS#16-1887

GOLF VILLA IN PUERTO LOS CABOS Located on the 9th hole of the Norman course, this 3 bdrm, 3 bath condo has views to Palmilla Pt. 2000 sq. ft. a/c living, 624-172-0069. MLS# 14-17196. Call 624-122-2568 or michael@baja views.com MLS#16-1887

FABULOUS HOME IN CABO SAN LUCAS | 3 BR. 2.5 BA home in lovely seaside Santa Carmela. Gated yard w/ room for private pool. Amenities included a seaside pool and club pavilion | MLS #16-1427 | paul@bajaviews.com | 310.873.8768

BEACHFRONT CONDO W/ FINANCING, on San Jose Beach in El Zalate. 2bd/2ba. + Garage, Pool, beach club. "SOLD" MLS#16-2278. Michelle@bajaproperties.com

CONTACT MICHAEL BAYLOR TO OWN A boutique hotel and shop, one block from la Paz, overlooking the sea. Located on the 9th hole of the Norman course, this 3 bdrm, 3 bath condo has views to Palmilla Pt. 2000 sq. ft. a/c living, 624-172-0069. MLS# 14-17196. Call 624-122-2568 or michael@baja views.com MLS#16-1887

PUERTO LOS CABOS Brand new MCA built luxury 7 bdrm, 8 baths, with 6800 sq. ft. of a/c living. Great style Hacienda floor plan with upper and lower level living areas. Contact Michael at Baja Views, 624-122-2568 or michael@baja views.com MLS#15-1689

Estate Sale - La Jolla Residential 3 bed, 3 bath needs remodel. High view to beach. Private tennis courts 2 blocks from house. $299,000 Cape Realty Associates 624 147-7190 youragent@loscabosmex.com MLS#7-915

Palmailla 2 Bdr Condo Lowest Oceanside Residence price- Awesome view of bay. Short walk to beach cove. 2000 sf plus huge terrace. $519,000 Cape Realty 624 147-5516 doug@ow ingloscabos.com MLS# 15-2133

Cabo Corridor Single Level Home. Turnkey and located in a prestigious gated community. 3bd/ 3 baths, high end finishes. Private pool, jacuzzi and expansive outdoor terrace w/ firepit built-in seating, two cars garage, large terraces. Magnificent Views. Easy walk to Downtown, Marina, restaurants and bars. MLS# 16-2330, Ph 624 157-3170

Cabo Corridor Single Level Home. Turnkey and located in a prestigious gated community. 3bd/ 3 baths, high end finishes. Private pool, jacuzzi and expansive outdoor terrace w/ firepit built-in seating, two cars garage, large terraces. Magnificent Views. Easy walk to Downtown, Marina, restaurants and bars. MLS# 16-2330, Ph 624 157-3170

Hotel & Restaurant for sale, San Jose del Cabo. MLS# 18-2298 Contact Marco@ Klein.net (624) 157-3170

Hotel for sale on San Jose main boulevard one block from the beach, take the opportunity to own a boutique hotel and mini-market. Next to Plaza Pesca dor. 990,000 USD, call 142-0988, MLS# 15-1674, ads@baja properties.com

Cabo Corridor Single Level Home. Turnkey and located in a prestigious gated community. 3bd/ 3 baths, high end finishes. Private pool, jacuzzi and expansive outdoor terrace w/ firepit built-in seating, two cars garage, large terraces. Magnificent Views. Easy walk to Downtown, Marina, restaurants and bars. MLS# 16-2330, Ph 624 157-3170

Amazing 2nd Row Beachfront Home. 2 Story Home features 3 bd/3.5 baths, ample dining and living areas, amazing views of the Sea of Cortez from outdoor terrace, private pool and 1 car garage. This property could be fully furnished and ready to move in! San Jose del Cabo, $749K, MLS# 17-78, Ph 624 157-3170

FOR SALE IN CABO

THE COOL PACIFIC: View lots and equestrian aeras from 400-10,000 square meters. Accessible prices from $30-50K. Get there first, buy, wait! Cape Realty 624 147-5516 doug@owingloscabos.com MLS# 17-1140
So You Want to Sell Your Property?

BY TERRY GRAY CURTIS

The basics for selling your property here in Baja are very similar to what you may find in the USA or Canada with a few caveats. The first step is to find the right professional real estate agent, one who is a member of our local MLS BCS. Good seasoned agents are busy and know a lot of people, a referred agent from a friend or neighbor is usually a great place to start. Another great option is to consider an agent from a recognized international franchise. These offices are not only governed by the local MLS but also by corporate set of standards that they are required to follow from the franchisor itself. (Although non-franchised companies here who are members of the MLS BCS, also operate under rules and regulations from the MLS BCS, NAR and AMPI. Some of whom are amongst the most successful agencies in BCS.)

Interview your potential listing agents, consider it a job interview and you as the owner/seller are the boss with the right to ask as many questions possible, such as:
• How long has the agent lived in the Los Cabos area and been in the real estate business? This question is probably the most important one. Selling real estate in a foreign resort area such as ours is quite different than in a city the agent may have grown up in or has lived in north of the border. Knowing the area, the culture and style of doing business and the market are key criteria when choosing your agent.
• You should also ask the candidates about their marketing program. Do they have proprietary web sites, use social media, generate and publish a newsletter consistently; basically are they a busy agent or waiting in an office for someone to walk in?

Once you have found your rock star real estate agent, there are decisions you now have to make, asking price, commission and length of listing agreement.

Let’s start with asking price; a good agent will present you with a current market analysis. A comparison of your property with what is for sale now and what has recently sold in your particular area. Since you pre-qualified your agent, you can trust his/her judgment on asking price based on the CMA provided. Keep in mind that a smart and busy agent may possibly decline listing your property if they believe your asking price is too high. Don’t be offended, a great agent will not list a property they feel they cannot sell. Sales commissions are not set in stone here by the MLS BCS. But, there are guidelines and suggestions as well as the normal and customary commission levels paid in Baja California Sur. Be prepared to pay more than you would pay in the USA or Canada. This market is very different because of the fact we are in Mexico and it is a resort area. It is more work for agents to sell properties here for various reasons I won’t get into in this article but, you can be sure successful agents here earn every dime of their commissions. Generally properties listed over $1M USD have around a 6% and under $1M usd 8%-10%, with lots normally at 10%. It is our MLS BCS policy that listing contracts be for a minimum of 6 months, however, many are for 12 months because of our somewhat seasonal market, especially for land and commercial properties.

Sometimes owners are not current on property taxes, trust fees or home owner’s association fees. This does not prevent you from listing your property to sell provided this information is disclosed. Most times the back fees can be paid at closing from proceeds earmarked for the seller. Other important information, such as building defects or zoning issues, in short, anything affecting your property and its sale, also needs to be disclosed.

Have a game plan for when your listing agent calls to schedule a showing. Normally your agent will contact you in advance so you have adequate time to prepare your property for a showing; however this is not the always case. Consider keeping your home or condo as “buff” as possible on a regular basis so it can be shown on short notice. Because of the nature of our tourist buyers, it does happen and you do not need to worry about it.

Now let’s talk about the importance of marketing. Marketing is not just advertising. It is a process that needs to be understood, a strategy that needs to be executed correctly to sell your property.

A paradise 45 minutes away from the city of La Paz, La Ventana is one of the leading destinations for kite-boarding and windsurfing in with incredible beach for swimming, snorkeling and fishing, and is also home to Club Cerralvo Hotel & Residences.

Club Cerralvo Hotel & Residences in La Ventana features a total of 48 units, with 40 condos and 8 villas. Full ownership condominiums with incredible hotel amenities never offered in this area before including: hotel style property management and reception for all guests and owners, restaurant, pool bar with room service, gym and yoga studio, spa, 24 hour security, secure parking, as well as stunning jacuzzi and fire pit feature. Free use of bikes and kayaks for guests. An excellent investment property with low HOA monthly fees.

The project has been very successful with only 3 three bedroom developer units remaining from a total of 48. There are also a few excellent resale units available.

For more information contact Theo Gardener of Baja Smart at his cell - 612-157-8617 or write him at theo@bajasmart.com.

La Paz Featured Property

Club Cerralvo

A paradise 45 minutes away from the city of La Paz, La Ventana is one of the leading destinations for kite-boarding and windsurfing in with incredible beaches for swimming, snorkeling and fishing, and is also home to Club Cerralvo Hotel & Residences.

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Realtor News

BY JOHN GLAAB

Editor's Note: Many of the MLS BCS members are also members of AMPI and international members of NAR (National Association of Realtors from the United States). As members, our local MLS BCS Members have access to international programs, education and networking with the largest real estate association in the world: NAR. Your BCS local real estate agent are among the best educated and regulated in all of Mexico.

REALTORS’ Congregate in Washington D.C.

The National Association of Realtors* (NAR) stages two major events each year. Each November the larger one, called, “Conference and Expo,” is held in various cities such as Anaheim, New Orleans and Orlando. In 2017 it will be in Chicago. In May REALTORS form the U.S. Canada and other parts of the globe assembled in Washington D.C. That session is called, “REALTORS’ Legislative Meetings and Expo.”

The words, “… Legislative Meetings…” are key. For Many years the May gathering in Washington was called, “The Mid- Year Meetings.” Under the new scheme more emphasis has been placed on “Visits to the Hill.” Individual REALTORS® and association representatives meet with members of the Congress and Senate, to lobby for such items as property rights and tax deductions for mortgage payments as well as changes need to lending practices on Wall Street... For example the Florida Association met with Senator Marco Rubio. State associations “caucus” and some hold elections during the week.

Below are listed some of the major events that were held:

- CIPS Advisory Board - The main point of discussion was a move to eliminate exams in order to become a Certified International Specialist. (CIPS). The move was overwhelmingly rejected. As one member said, “It would lower the prestige for the CIPS Designation.” Another commented, “What if an Attorney did not have to pass an examination to be called to the bar?” Another discussion was about the “shrinkage” of membership in this group.
- Global Business and Alliance Committee - It is always a pleasure to attend this meeting and see the back drop of the flags of the 80 countries that are affiliated with NAR.
- This year more than 120 “International Members” from 19 countries participated. Two new countries (Belarus and Guatemala) signed a “Bi-lateral agreement.” Mexico renewed its agreement. The country has had the agreement since 1982.
- Presentations were made on the listing system realtor.org, on “The Anatomy of a Trade Mission”. And one by NAR’s Chief Economist, Dr, Lawrence Yun, PhD. He presented a paper, “The Impact of Immigration on the U.S. Housing Market.”
- Scott Turlock, Executive Director for China and Mongolia at the U.S. Department of Commerce delivered a paper, “China and U.S. trade.”

America under President Trump: A View from Washington - Chris Wallace, FOX News, Washington D.C. was the speaker and the host of Fox News Sunday Morning. As a journalist, he draws on his experience and uses insights based on years of experience covering laws that have been enacted and responses of citizens. He provided his up to the minute perspectives on the Trump Administration’s first 117 days.

Receptions: It is not all work and no play. Aeta associations, Expo sponsors and NAR all host receptions. One example was the gathering of the mid Atlantic Section of the International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI) They took over a local restaurant to hold their event.

I attended three receptions: The International VIP Reception presented an opportunity to meet and greet colleagues with successful REALTORS® from around the globe. The Global/ CIPS Networking Reception at the Omni Hotel was an occasion to see 319, new CIPS (Certified International Property Specialist) Designees receive their pins and certificates, renew acquaintances with international REALTORS® and make new friends. It was the largest of the three I attended. The Virginia Association of Realtors hosted our Associated Realty of the Americas group.

NAR’s Trademark Advocates Score Global Win

NAR General Counsel Katherine Johnson, left, and Associate Counsel Chloe Hecht The World Trademark Review, an international source of news for trademark professionals, has named the National Association of REALTORS®Legal Affairs department as its not-for-profit legal team of the year.

NAR works extremely hard to protect the REALTOR brand worldwide to ensure that our members both domestic and international, who are members of NAR are viewed as professionals that adhere to a strict Code of Ethics and work for the best interest of their clients and communities.

By John Glaab, Vice President of International Marketing at Mexico’s, The Settlement Company®. A Certified International Property Specialist, he was named International Member of the year in 2012 by NAR. In 2016 he was accepted as a member of the small, but prestigious by invitation only group, Associated Realty of the Americas.

Agent Profile

Cyndi Lee Siegen

Specializing in Luxury Residential Properties

Cyndi’s expertise is the luxury real estate market. She has lived and played in several high-end Cabo resort communities. This experience as a luxury homeowner provides her with specific knowledge and perspective.

She understands what makes a high quality home with strong investment potential.

Her strong interpersonal skills translate into great customer relations, transaction management through close attention to detail, and negotiation expertise. She is persuasive, persistent, honest, and fair. She has built a career on repeat and referral business.

Cyndi also works closely with her husband who is a principal in MarCor Masters, one of Cabo’s premium custom home building companies. This connection adds unprecedented expertise in construction, architecture, interior design, and decorating to her resources. They make a great pair.

In her free time, Cindy enjoys golfing, yoga, Pilates, studying Spanish, and entertaining friends and family. She and her husband typically avoid the September heat by traveling the world.

To reach Cindy of Dream Homes of Cabo: US/Canada (403) 668-0186; Mexican Cell Number +52 1 (624) 355-3180; cindy@dreamhomesofcabo.com.

Call Zach: 624-154-2218 or John 624-355-1232
Canada: 403-855-4014 • US: 619-955-6598
condominiosalttus@gmail.com

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**Pescadero**

A paradise not yet paved!

BY CYNDI WILLIAMS

Some call it paradise others call it our Wild, Wild West. Once a sleepy little fishing village and now one of the main exporters of agriculture and the surf capital of Southern Baja. El Pescadero (the fisherman) is now on the radar of large developers and individuals seeking the more traditional laid back Baja lifestyle. Reminiscent of the old days of Cabo San Lucas, some 30 years ago when locals endured dirt roads, no stop-lights, no traffic and an abundance of free parking. When there were only a handful of “boutique hotels” then just hotels and a couple of swinging hotspots. People rode horses on the beach, drove ATVs and dogs are still allowed on the beach, only a couple of police cars, no stoplights, one gas station and chickens still cross the road because they can. The roads are the “Old Days” and for the 4 lane that runs splits the town, one somewhat paved road that runs through the Pueblo and one paved developer road in Cerritos. The locals love their dirt roads, they love their tranquil swimming beaches, their farms and ranches, the fresh fish, vegetables and meats. They love their ATVs and horses and their laid back Baja life. Developers are coming, it’s inevitable, after all Pescadero is still a true Baja paradise with a perfect climate, year round sun, swim able beaches, world class surf, the majestic Sierra Laguna mountains 5 minutes from town, the 4 lane highway, easy access to the Airport toll road, prime buildable land at reasonable prices and friendly native who welcome visitors with open arms. Only 45 minutes north of Cabo and one of the most beautiful road trips along the Pacific coast through the foothills and desert gets you to the Pescadero paradise of the Pacific side. Come visit soon as we know it won’t last forever. One can only hope it takes a whole 30 more years.

By Cyndi D. Williams, Broker/Owner, Broker of Cabo Premiere Investment & Real Estate, with offices in Cabo San Lucas and Pescadero, 624-138-8650 Mex Cell 624-143-3700 Office, www.cabopremierearealestate.com, Cyndibre@aol.com

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Mango Wine And One Large Vine
How two Los Cabos vineyards got their start

BY IVANNA GLASS

It all began years ago for Rancho El Parralito 10, when Wendy Rudell and her partner Charlie Free purchased a 900-acre ranch one, inspired by a large grapevine that hung over an arbor in front of their house. The vine was 25 inches in diameter, so not little from southern Spain or Italy, which have climates similar to Baja. Remnants of the same vine can be found around the missions that dot the Baja from San Jose to Monterey, California.

Wendy and Charlie were infatuated with the vine. It was very hearty and adapted well to the harsh sun and dry climate here. They couldn't believe the abundance of fruit it produced, and decided to make a batch of wine from it. Neither knew what they were doing, nor did they have any sophisticated equipment or refrigeration, as the ranch at the time ran on minimal solar power. They needed help.

Bob Pudwell from Rancho LaVenta (more about him later) was called on, along with Robert Tournage owner of the Los Cabos Winery restaurant, and Mike from the Roadhouse (Latitude 22). Together they successfully produced the first wine at Rancho El Parralito. After the first sip, and then another just to be sure, they decided it wasn't the greatest wine. But it was previewed at the Sabor A Cabo (Taste of Cabo) food festival and received many compliments, to their surprise.

After that trial run, Wendy and Charles experimented with growing the standard grape varieties, such as cabernet, sauvignon, merlot, zinfandel, grenache, cab franc and more. Then they decided to experiment with grafting, which is essentially crossbreeding grapes. They successfully grafted these other varieties to the original root stock of the mission grape and made wine from the crossbred grapes, but again were disappointed with the taste. Nothing was as good as their first attempt, which they didn't even consider to be stellar.

To their good fortune, Roy Stock of the Distillery and Harold Osborn of the La Fuente winery in Todos Santos came to their rescue. They contributed their state of the art wine making technology and experience, and introduced them to Jeff Newton, a professional vineyard consultant from California. As a result of this influence, Wendy and Charles decided to grow some red varieties of grapes and blend them with the original grape-vine. Last year, they blended the grafted granache grapes with the original grapes to make a very pleasing sparkling rose which Charlie named Don Carlos Cabron. They produced six cases, or 72 bottles to be exact, from 300 vines. And 2017 looks to be their best year ever in the production of the red grapes.

Rancho El Parralito is a vineyard and holistic retreat center. Whether it’s from wine or yoga, they can help you relax.

45 bumpy minutes northwest of the Los Cabos convention center. They named the ranch El Parralito, which means “little grape-vine.” The name was an ironic by any means. This grapevine was most likely brought here 500 years ago by the Jesuits to be used to make sacrament wine. It probably came with grafting, which is essentially crossbreeding grapes. They successfully grafted these other varieties to the original root stock

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

Not pictured are the crops of mangoes that helped Rancho LaVenta gets its start as a vineyard.
You'll never know until you try doing it on a standup paddle board

BY LACEY STORER

You know that Cabo offers just about every kind of water sport and activity possible. But did you know that includes standup paddle board yoga? Walk along Medano Beach around 9:00 a.m. on a Saturday morning and you'll likely see a group of yogis, about 20 feet from the shore in front of Tio Sports and ME Cabo, doing poses on their boards.

The classes are led by Karla Garcia, a local yoga teacher who first started doing SUP yoga six years ago. Paddle boarding was still pretty new in Cabo but was gaining popularity. She saw something about SUP yoga online and thought, “We have to do that here.” Practicing yoga on the water offers an experience that traditional yoga classes just can't match.

“It’s amazing how you can be practicing yoga while watching the sea lions and the birds and feeling the wind,” Garcia says. By doing yoga outside, you absorb the energy of the environment, she says, which energizes you. People in her class come off the board with their hearts pumping and huge smiles on their faces. If you want to give SUP yoga a try but are worried because you’ve never done yoga or paddle boarding before, don’t be. The paddleboards are very buoyant and wide so you have a fair amount of stability. The class starts with students in a sitting position on the board, warming up with some breathing exercises while they get used to the motion of the waves. From there, they move into the yoga poses.

“People are surprised by how fun and how easy it can be,” Garcia says. “It’s easier than it looks.” She says that once students realize it’s not as difficult as they expected, they start testing their limits to see how far they can push themselves. And why not, what’s the worst that can happen? If you fall off the board, you just fall into the water. Garcia says it can actually be good if people fall in, because the cool water gives their system a bit of a shock and reenergizes them. And once people fall off, they’re no longer worried about falling so they are more relaxed and free while they’re moving through the poses. Garcia always tells students that if they start to feel unbalanced, they should simply release the pose and then start again.

Participants do traditional yoga poses in the class; Garcia doesn’t modify anything to make it easier. “It’s just that the mat becomes the board and the classroom is nature,” she says. The boards are tethered to buoys, so while they might change position in the water, you don’t have to worry about them from floating out to China.

To Garcia, SUP yoga is more than just another recreational activity, it’s also a good analogy for life. “You’re trying to find balance on your board, and you’re trying to find balance in life,” she says.

While there are a few others who have held SUP yoga classes in the area, Garcia says they teach sporadically because they don’t live here full time. As far as she knows, she’s the only full time resident teaching SUP yoga in Los Cabos. A Google search for “SUP yoga Cabo” would agree; while there are lots of places that offer either SUP or yoga, Garcia’s Facebook page is the only site that pops up that offers the two combined.

Although Garcia has an established yoga following, she says it’s been hard getting a regular group together to practice SUP yoga. Many of the people who take the class are tourists who are only here for a week, and most locals work so much that it’s hard to fit the class into their schedules.

SUP yoga classes last an hour, with another 15 minutes for cool down. And there’s always a photo session at the end of each class, so you can show all your friends just how good your water yoga skills are. Well, it will show that you’re still on top of board.

Classes are $55 per person (although Garcia does offer group discounts) and must be booked in advance. You can make your reservations by messaging Garcia through her Facebook page, www.facebook.com/ SupYogaCabo or emailing her at supyogacabo@gmail.com.
Seafood And Pizza Cones

BY LACEY STORER

Here are two new Cabo restaurants for you to check out.

Have you ever been eating a slice of pizza and thought to yourself, “Man, the only thing that could make this better would be if it were in a cone?” OK, so probably not. But, if it sounds intriguing, then you’ll be happy to hear that pizza cones are real, and they’re here in Cabo.

Crazy Cones & Cocktails, which opened in April, offers pizza, tacos, salads and desserts in cones. But not the sugary waffle ice cream cones you’re likely thinking of; obviously, that wouldn’t taste good with pizza or tacos. Instead, the pizza dough and the taco shells are shaped into cones and then baked or fried. Then the meat, cheese and fillings are piled into the cones and topped with more cheese.

Pizza cones come in the traditional pepperoni, Hawaiian and veggie supreme options, as well as more unusual choices like macaroni and cheese, Philly cheesesteak and breakfast pizza. The taco cone options are pretty standard: ground beef, pastor, chicken tinga, and chicken, shrimp or beef fajita. The only odd man out there is the roast beef taco.

There are only three candy cone options, all of which include a filling of vanilla ice cream, blueberries and blackberries. The French toast cone with fruit on top.

Crazy Cones is a bigger-than-it-looks restaurant located in Plaza Bonita on the back side of the new Tiki Bar and across from the back entrance to Starbucks. The space seems small when you first walk in and see just a few tables, until you realize there’s an upstairs loft with six additional tables. Downstairs there are three flat screen TVs, one playing the inevitable soccer game and the other two playing music videos.

It’s a casual place with reasonable prices. Your best bet is to get one of the combo meals. For about $6 USD you can get a cone (either pizza or taco), potatoes or a salad, and a draft beer or soda. There’s also a two-cone combo for $10 and a four-cone meal for $21 (they also both include the choice of potatoes or salad, and drinks).

And if you want something a little stronger than soda or beer to drink with your meal Crazy Cones has a full bar (and daily drink specials). Find them on Facebook at facebook.com/crazycones2017.

Another new restaurant in Cabo is one that doesn’t have a gimmick like pizza cones, but it does have a sh*tck. It’s Barracruda’s, and yes, that “r” is supposed to be in the name, “cruda” meaning raw (as in fish) and hangover at the same time.

The sh*tck is the beachy/surfer vibe of the place that’s accented by the servers’ uniforms: Shirts with neon lettering, jean shorts, backwards floral ball caps, sunglasses and sneakers worn with glasses and sneakers worn with high sport socks. The outfits give them the look of a late 80s/early 90s California dude (or dudette, in the cases of the female servers). Surfboards and skateboards adorn the walls, which are painted turquoise and seafoam green with accents of bright orange and yellow. It might be a sh*tck, but it works and it’s fun.
It's Not Just Like Riding A Bike

There's no pedaling required when you're riding a water bike

BY LACEY STORER

When you've been coming to Cabo for awhile, you start think that you've seen and done it all. You've tried all the activities and watersports and need something new to excite you. Well, we found that something: bike riding in the ocean.

No, we're not crazy. Water bikes are a real thing, and they're one of the more unusual activities available from Sea Cabo Activities. The water bike looks like a regular bike (minus the wheels) but there's no pedaling involved. And once you have the hang of steering, you're encouraged to stand up rather than sit on the seat, so it's more like you're riding a Segway over the water.

The bike is controlled by the handles; you straighten or bend your arms to go forwards or backwards. If you want to turn, you do it with your body. The controls are very sensitive, so it only takes just a little bit of pressure to move. It's the same with turning; all you need to do is lean slightly.

The bike is propelled by water. The water is pumped to the bike through a large hose that's attached to a jet ski. The Sea Cabo instructors control the water pressure with the jet ski's throttle. They're able to gauge how comfortable people feel on the bikes, and can adjust the pressure (and how high you can go) accordingly. The more confident you are controlling the bike, the higher they'll let you go. The bikes can go up to 15 feet in the air, although the instructors recommend that you only go up to 10 feet.

After a quick in-water steering lesson, you're off to ride on your own. At first, getting used to controlling the bikes with just a slight amount of pressure is tricky. On my first solo ride, I pulled my arms towards me more than I should have and ended up falling backwards off the bike into the water. Thankfully, it only took once for me to learn my lesson, and before too long I could steer the bike without issue and was able to enjoy the ride, and the view of Medano Beach.

Carlos Noriega, the director of Sea Cabo, says most people are surprised by how quickly they get the hang of it; it looks harder than it really is. The fly bike, he says, is easy because everyone has ridden a bike before.

The water bike is just one aquatic option Sea Cabo offers. There's also the jet blade, which is kind of like a small skateboard with boots attached to it, and the jetpack, which looks something out of a James Bond movie.

If you have good balance and stability, you probably won't have any trouble with the jet blade, which you control with your feet. A slight tilt of the foot pushes you forward, and rocking back with your heels moves you the other way. The trick with the jet blade, Noriega says, is to stand up straight.

David Khanjian, who was visiting Cabo from Los Angeles with his family, tried out the jet blade on his recent vacation. He said it was hard because every little movement with your feet takes you in a different direction. "It's difficult, it's a challenge," he says. "But it's rewarding when you finally get it."

One difference between the water bikes and the jet blades is that something out of a James Bond movie.

You Only Get One Chance To Make A First Flight

A two-month old masked booby, a bird usually found on oceanside cliffs, landed in the garden of a condo development, just outside of Cabo San Lucas.

The condo's Gringo owner fed it with fish filets and then, not knowing what else to do, called your favorite local rag for help. (Like, what, we're some kind of booby expert?) We called Profepa, Mexico's environmental watch dog agency, and one of their officials took the bird to local biologist for an evaluation.

The condo's Gringo owner fed it with fish filets and then, not knowing what else to do, called your favorite local rag for help. (Like, what, we're some kind of booby expert?) We called Profepa, Mexico's environmental watch dog agency, and one of their officials took the bird to local biologist for an evaluation.

The bird was found healthy, but unable to fly yet. It was probably learning how to fly when it landed in the garden, about 100 yards away from the ocean (and from Mom and Dad). The bird was released by Profepa officials on the cliffs between Misiones and The Cape hotel. Hopefully his parents, who no doubt are worried sick, will find him.

Profepa told us that when a bird, or any wild animal, is found and appears to be injured, don't touch it and call Profepa immediately. They can be reached at (612) 348-9168 in La Paz, or (624) 124-0564 in Cabo. Be prepared to speak Spanish and to explain why you ignored the first rule.
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SECLUDED OCEANFRONT SANCTUARY IN LOS CABOS, MEXICO

Casa Bellamar, Los Cabos, Baja California Sur 23570 | Open House by Appointment
In Cooperation with Janet Jensen of The Agency Los Cabos
Beach Peddlers Are Organized, Who Knew?

The city registers and taxes the 698 pesky peddlers who prowl the beaches looking for any Gringo they can catch casting even a furtive eye on their merchandise. This causes them to zoom over and press their wares on us until even the kindest vacationer wouldn’t keep hounding us.

In addition to the approximately $25 permit, they need to pony up their union credentials. But if we didn’t keep buying from them, they would go away in a kind of a voter card. We all know that mistake will cost you.

And let’s address the issue of why they all sell the same crap. They do that because they are not independent business people. They all have handlers, who drop them off at the beach in the morning, if you didn’t laze around with a hangover, you would see them tumble out of vans like clowns coming out of a Volkswagen at the circus. Tossed out after them is the stuff they’re going to be responsible for selling that day.

Look at this guy, showing off for the camera. Don’t worry, you’re not required to do any tricks your first time on the water bike.

New City Revenue Source

With the support of city government delegate Francisco Garcia, the Amigos de Cabo San Lucas, a group of Cabo downtown business owners, installed a handicapped parking space just outside of the Arambarro supermarket on Lazaro Cardenas, the main street coming into town.

The space, which is now painted blue, used to be a no-parking spot, although plenty of people used it at a parking spot. Usually, a traffic cop would be stationed on the corner to help pedestrians cross the busy street, while at the same time issuing tickets for traffic violations (and often hoping for some bribes from drivers who are too lazy to go to the cop shop to pay their ticket).

 Hopefully the new space will solve the issue of illegal parking, since nobody wants to pay the roughly $374 USD fine that comes with parking in a handicap space. No kidding. That’s how much that mistake will cost you.

out after them is the stuff they’re going to be responsible for selling that day.

Don’t Eat Our Sport Fish!

Marlin & dorado are species reserved exclusively for sport fishing & cannot be sold commercially. If you see them on a restaurant menu, please do not order them. It is against the law.

We know they taste good but these sport fish are the foundation of our community; all business & families are linked directly or indirectly to sport fishing and without a healthy fishery we will not have a healthy economy or environment.

We know this because years ago, the flea market on Lazaro Cardenas Blvd. in downtown Cabo was raided by the cops and everyone was thrown off the property. Turns out they were all squatting there, not paying rent for 14 years. The Ungson family that owned the land fought hard to get it back, for each of those 14 years, driving back and forth to La Paz for numerous court appearances and paying a heavy cost in attorney’s fees.

When they finally won, and dozens of police descended on the property one morning to evict the shops, about a dozen swanky new SUV’s pulled up and well-dressed Mexicans loaded the trinkets from the stores into the very nice cars. When we asked one owner why she sold what everyone else sells, the answer was, “This is what the salesmen who come through town sell wholesale to us.” When we asked them why they didn’t go online or go to the mainland and look for different merchandise, they looked at us like that never occurred to them. And it hadn’t. And it still doesn’t.

Well, they can’t say that anymore, because we suggested it. Now they have to squint their ears shut and pretend they never heard that idea because they don’t want to work that hard. They can make a fairly good living by selling boring crap, so why work harder to make more money by selling interesting, imaginative merchandise? So they can pay better wages to their sales vendors? Naw. That’s not of interest, either.

Since moving to Mexico, the colorful history of the country (which I never learned about in my Illinois school) has fascinated me, and inspired a sense of awe. This heavy coffee table book, with 24 chapters of slick pages and 1,000 photographs, paintings and maps, is a wealth of surprising facts and stories.

Mesoamerica has a history of 22,000 years of human activity and culture, and this book does a great job of describing the rise and fall of many Mesoamerican empires and civilizations. It covers more than 3,000 years of ancient history and sets down the details the Maya and Aztec civilizations long before their conquest by Cortez. It is theorized that the first hunter/gatherers arrived in this area about 21,000 B.C.E. The Olmec, Zapotec and Mayan people were likely descendants of prehistoric Siberian hunters who migrated to North America.

The sections in the back of the book give us information on their ancient art, and you must check out the sacred symbols on page 492 and the murals on page 498. For an overview of what happened and when, there is a timeline on pages 270 and 271 that can help you put it all in perspective. The alphabet used in ancient writings, a form of picture writing that used syllables and not the ABCs we know, is also shown.

There are also portraits of the holy kings of the Mayan city states, and battle victories, important religious sacrifices (including slaughters of rival kings) and more has been chronicled for us in the photos of detailed stone carvings. Other fascinating historical facts include bits on the “jaguar kings.” Jaguars were important symbols of power and royalty to the Maya. Serpent heads were important religious symbols as well, and many of them are depicted in complex drawings in Mesoamerican art. The book also includes interesting facts about Aztec life in the home, what their clothes and hairstyles looked like and the stern rules set forth for their games. Also, you might want to read about the theater of that time period, and the festivals honoring ancestors, palaces, temples, and architecture. The bewildering number of gods and divinities in Mesoamerica, including Tonantzin, the Earth Mother; the Olmec cult of Jaguars; and, of course, the Aztec god Quetzalcoatl (the Plumed Serpent), are all described in the book, too.

The author, Charles Phillip, is a historian who was key writer on the “jaguar kings.” Jaguars were important symbols of power and royalty to the Maya. Serpent heads were important religious symbols as well, and many of them are depicted in complex drawings in Mesoamerican art. The book also includes interesting facts about Aztec life in the home, what their clothes and hairstyles looked like and the stern rules set forth for their games. Also, you might want to read about the theater of that time period, and the festivals honoring ancestors, palaces, temples, and architecture. The bewildering number of gods and divinities in Mesoamerica, including Tonantzin, the Earth Mother; the Olmec cult of Jaguars; and, of course, the Aztec god Quetzalcoatl (the Plumed Serpent), are all described in the book, too.

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Cerritos, Pescadero & Todos Santos: A good way to spend a day

For those ready to escape the non-stop excitement of Cabo, consider a more relaxing pace less than an hour’s drive north of Cabo. You’ll find an artist’s colony in an authentic Mexican town. You’ll find laid back residential areas, and the best swimming and surfing beach on the south Pacific side of the peninsula.

Todos Santos is charming and authentic with a traditional central plaza, dozens of art galleries, and small hotels. Visit the Hotel California (no connection to the Eagles’ song, despite their best efforts to promote that with T shirts), browse shops full of handcrafted treasures, and enjoy some great Mexican cooking. What you won’t find are chain stores, or fast food joints. What you will find are buildsome great Mexican cooking.

Handcrafted treasures, and enjoy T shirts), browse shops full of handcrafted treasures, and enjoy some great Mexican cooking. What you won’t find are build some great Mexican cooking.

Looking for off beat? Go to the mask museum, called Faces and sophisticated restaurants. There are a couple of ways to get to the beach, either the old dirt road at km 65, or the new dirt road at km 67. Either way, it’s a bump, but what the hell, you’re in a rental car.

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

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

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

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

Plowing the Old Fashioned Way

We just had to pull the car over and snap a pic when we saw this guy and his donkey in a field outside of Todos Santos. The farmer was plowing a basil field the old fashioned way, with a hand-held plow that was pulled by his donkey, whose name is Bula. He said a machine would be faster, but they’re too big for the field’s narrow rows. Besides, Bula is a pretty good coworker, except when she’s hungry and stops to eat the basil. Then she gets the muzzle.

Off the main street in Pescadero is a tiny backyard restaurant called La Pasidita that has, I kid you not, the best burgers on the planet. Drive around the baseball stadium, and turn at the first dirt road on the left, past the first sleeping policeman, (speed bump). La Pasidita is a locals place, though, and is only open after 6 p.m. Maybe 7 pm, sometimes a little later than that.

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

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

Todos Santos Restaurant Guide

MIGUEL’S Restaurant. Best Chiles Rellenos in the Baja. Traditional Mexican Dishes. Seafood. Drinks. Free Wi-Fi. At the corner across from the Pemex station. Open 8:00 am – 10:00 pm. Phone: (612) 146-0814 $.

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

Todos Santos AA Meetings

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 5:00pm
Wednesday and Saturday 11:00am
Chicks only on Fridays at 9:00am
Upstairs in the blue building across from the White Sands Spa

Ocean View Lots from just $8,500 USD

Sizes available from 1,500 sq. mts. Only a few miles North of Todos Santos.

For more information email: david_flores18@hotmail.com
Gringo Gazette Goes Global!

QUE PASA IN CABO?...
continued from page 9

gram will run for two weeks this month. Participating restaurants will be offering special menus with a 30% discount for locals. Last year, 22 restaurants in San Jose and 18 in Cabo participated, and more are expected this year. The dates have not been released yet, but stay tuned to their Facebook page, Facebook.com/CaboComeAsi, for more info.

When packing for her trip to Tuscany, Italy, Gringo Gazette reader Tamara Matthews made sure to take along a copy of her favorite local rag for reading material. She took a break from sipping wine long enough to snap this picture of her and the Gazette. (We've always known wine and the paper went well together. How do you think we make it from one issue to the next?) Has your Gringo Gazette traveled the world with you? Send us a picture! Email your traveling Gringo Gazette photos to lacey@gringogazette.com. If your photo is used, you will win a free copy of the paper.

Another Glory Hog

Carrie Duncan, the publisher of this paper, holds up a copy in front of the machine that prints it. It's called a web press. That means the paper comes off a roll like a roll of toilet paper. The 28,000 copies are printed, folded, and packaged into bundles of 50, all in just under an hour. The press is in Anaheim California.

Get your coins ready. Some brainiac in city hall has come up with the idea to install parking meters in downtown Cabo and downtown San Jose.

A six month test of 106 coin bandits has been proposed for Cabo and if that goes well, they will be planted in San Jose as well. No word yet as to what they are looking for as far as a successful test goes. The charge will be about a 25 cents USD for every 15 minutes. There is no word on what the penalty for not paying will be.

At first thought, it sounds distasteful, but in San Jose most of the parking spots are taken up by City Hall workers who get there at 8 am, before the shoppers, and they loiter all day. In San Lucas, the majority of spots are taken by the marina workers who also arrive early, hogging the parking. Parking meters are intended to keep parking spaces turning over frequently, in order to give shoppers a chance to find a spot. Maybe that's why it's our mer-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

The premiere lighting showroom now proudly serving the Southern Baja Peninsula!

Your favorite luxury and contemporary brands for every application.

Buying a new home, starting a remodel, or a large-scale construction project? Schedule a consultation with our Lighting Professional today!

Chalom Foreman | Lighting Sales Consultant
52.624.225.3956 | cforeman@nclighting.com

northcoastlighting.com
For Sale/Rent

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

Ready For Occupancy

$1.2 million or lease for $6,000/mo
We will listen to all offers. Call today and retire to a sunny and warm beach town by next week. Contact
David Flores
david@gringogazette.com
Cell (624) 121-1214
June 12th, 2017

GIVE MONEY WHILE SAVING... continued from page 10

can vote for: Feed Los Cabos Kids, Casa Hogar and the Los Cabos Children’s Foundation. TogetherMex will donate 50% of its profits to the charities in proportion to the percentage of votes received (meaning, the charity that gets the most votes get the most money). The vote tally and the amount given to the charities will be posted on the TogetherMex website.

The program has already launched in Cabo, and is getting started in La Paz. Zasio says he plans on expanding TogetherMex to the rest of BCS (San Jose, Loreto, Los Barriles and Todos Santos) by the end of July or early August.

And TogetherMex isn’t just limited to local discounts; members are already able to use it in Cancun and Puerto Vallarta and there are plans to expand the program to include Cozumel, Playa del Carmen, Mazatlán, Acapulco and the cities in the Yucatan Peninsula and the mainland Pacific coast. Zasio says he originally planned on TogetherMex being only for La Paz, but as word about his idea spread, so did the program. For more information on TogetherMex and how to sign up, visit their website at www.TogetherMex.com. 

WHAT IS THAT CREATURE... continued from page 18

dried in the sun. Sometimes it’s soaked in gasoline and baked to kill off any bug eggs that might be hiding in the wood. This step can make the wood crack or break, so all the spaces in the wood are filled with small pieces of wood or resin. After the piece has been shaped, it must be sanded. Albérijes are known for being brightly painted and whimsical. Before acrylic paint became popular, the wood pieces were painted with natural pigments made from minerals, ashes, fungus, insects and herbs. These pigments limited the brightness of the piece, but also increased its worth. From only one main ingredient, such as the bark of the male copal tree, many colors, from yellow to green to blue, can be made by adding either lime

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

Calendar of Performing-Arts

CABO SAN LUCAS

CULTURAL PAVILION

Every Friday. 7:00 pm. Pavilion Movie Club. A different movie every Friday. Sometimes in English, sometime other languages with Spanish subtitles. Sometimes with guest artist. Free.

June 15. Thursday. 7:30 pm. Common Travelers. As part of the Light Traveling Practice. Spanish. Tickets are $5 USD at the Pavilion’s office. All audiences.

June 16. Friday. 7:30 pm. Cri-Cri the Little Singing Cricket ballet performance. By students of Danstudio Dance School. Spanish. Tickets are $11 USD at the theater entrance.

June 22. Thursday. 8:00 pm. Mexican Voices. Actress Ofelia Medina performs scenes as different women from Mexican history such as Frida Kahlo, Sor Juana Ines de La Cruz and Rosario Castellanos. Proceeds benefit the Los Cabos Women Institute. Spanish. More info and tickets: info@fundacionhiutry.com

June 24. Saturday. 5:00 pm and 7:30 pm. Jazz dance show by Kenia Kota. Spanish. Tickets are $10 USD at the theater entrance.

June 26. Monday. 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Gala de Danza. Performances from the students of the Danza que da Esperanza program and the dance school.

June 30 - July 1. Friday and Saturday. 7:00 pm. A Quarter Century Festival. Del Angel Dance Studio celebrates 25 years of performing and teaching.

July 2. Sunday. 8:00 pm. Los Cabos Youth Orchestra Concert celebrates its 9th anniversary playing themes from famous movies. Spanish. Tickets available at the Pavilion office. Free.


November 8 to 12. Los Cabos International Film Festival 2017. Movies from the USA, Mexico and other countries will be shown, with appearances by the directors, actresses and actors. English and Spanish. More info: facebook/CabosFilmFestival

November 25. Saturday. 7:30 pm. Flute concert by Horacio Franco, accompanied by the Los Cabos Youth Orchestra. Free entry, but better pick up tickets early at the pavilion’s office at least one week before. Spanish.

LA RANA VEGANA Playa Migrino St. up from Miguel A. Herrera St. Turn right 2 blocks before the gas station

SOUTH COSTA AZUL BEACH

July 1. Saturday. 8:00 pm. Music concert on the beach. The Los Cabos Youth Orchestra Concert Celebrates its 9th anniversary playing themes from famous movies in a beautiful setting. Bring your favorite beach chair or blanket and enjoy the music. Spanish. Free.

MAIN PLAZA SAN JOSE downtown San Jose Every Saturday. 6:00 to 10:00 pm. PlazArtre. Four hours of arts workshops, music, dance show and family fun. Spanish. Free

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.


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. San Jose. Free.

MIRAFLORES July 15, 16, Saturday and Sunday. Flora And Fauna Of My Community painting contest. As part of the Miraflores Pitaya’s Festival.

KINESIS GYM. El Chamizal barrio near the Convention Center. From Monday to Friday. 4:30 to 6:00 pm. Talamotunas Reading Club. Spanish. More info and special activities on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/saladelecturatrotamundos/timeline

At AMELIA WILKES PLAZA Main plaza downtown CSL, Every Saturday from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Herman Ita de Ysabela Reading club has a different book to read and come. Saturdays starting April. Some Spanish mostly. Book donations are welcome. More info and special activities with Nixania email: todosomasoleto@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 CAFE. Leona Vicario St. And 12 de Octubre St. 2nd Floor, downtown Cabo.

Every Tuesday from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. Talamotunas Reading Club. Spanish. 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 to 8:00 pm. La Maroma Reading club. Books available. More info and special activities on Facebook: facebook.com/Sala-de-lectura-La-Mar%C3%B3nma-Kinesis-Fabuladanza-69103979763083/timeline

At LA CIRCO. Libroteka Reading Club. From Monday to Friday. From 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Books available and circus drama style reading on Thursdays at 7:00 pm. More info with Sara Flores on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/LaCirco.57789703553733/timeline
Keep Cabo’s Beaches Clean
We want more blue flags than Cancun

BY LACEY STORER

If you take a hard look at the beaches of Los Cabos, you might notice they look a little cleaner these days. You’ll see fewer pieces of trash dotting the sand and mixing with the seashells.

A recent beach cleanup effort on Medano Beach brought out more than 120 people, mostly hotel and restaurant employees. They spent two happy hours collecting all types of icky stuff, like cigarette butts, aluminum cans, straws and glass. The cleanup efforts are part of Zofemat’s (that’s Mexico’s federal maritime agency) campaign to get Los Cabos residents in the habit of picking up after themselves and keeping the beaches clean, as well as passing these habits on to their children.

Another part of Zofemat’s campaign is sending its own employees out to walk along the beaches, stopping to talk to tourists about keeping the beaches clean. (Because that’s what everyone wants to get when they’re on vacation, right? A lecture about trash.) Tourists are instructed not to take animals to certain beaches or to make fires on the beach. They’re also shown the trash and recycling bins where they can separate and throw away their waste.

Zofemat is also holding workshops about waste management for the tourist service providers in Cabo. They’re shown examples of the most common types of trash picked up on the beaches, and how they can negatively impact the marine life.

The city of Los Cabos is also getting in on the action. To celebrate World Environment Day on June 5, they planned an entire week of activities, including another big cleanup of Medano Beach. And it’s no wonder the beach needs more than one go; we’ve seen all the trash that gets left behind during Spring Break. We can only imagine what’s buried under all that sand.

Although Zofemat says the goal of all these cleanups and workshops is to teach tourists and residents about the importance of taking care of the environment, care and concern for Mother Earth isn’t the only thing that’s motivating them, and the city, to keep the beaches clean.

It was recently announced that another four Los Cabos beaches – Acapulcoito, Las Viudas (Widows Beach), Hacienda and Packer (beach by the marina where the old caninery was) – were given the esteemed blue flag designation this month. Combined with the three Los Cabos beaches that are already blue flag designated, Chileno, Santa Maria and Palmilla, that puts the total at seven blue flag beaches; that ties us with Cancun as having the most blue flag beaches.

The blue flag is a global accreditation that’s given to beaches that have shown excellence in four categories: water quality, environmental education and information, management of environmental issues and safety and services. Beaches that are blue flag certified must meet (and maintain) 33 quality standards and criteria. “In that commitment, we urge our local residents and tourists to keep our beaches clean,” Zofemat’s municipal coordinator, Juan Adolfo Orcl Martinez explained.

He also said that Zofemat is already working with developers on getting more beaches certified, so they can brag that Los Cabos is the destination in Mexico with the most blue flags. OK, so that’s not exactly a feel good motive for keeping the beaches clean, but if the outcome is the same and less trash ends up in the water and the tummies of the sea turtles and fishes, then does it really matter?

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

The director of Spa Cielo, Cathy Dammann, a registered nurse back in the real world, allows this very expensive piece of equipment to be used by local autistic children for no charge, as hyperbaric concentration of oxygen has proven to be very beneficial for those kids. Shh. Say nothing about brain scans before and after treatment that shows parts of the brain actually normalizing, and more than that, the improvement in these kids’ behavior is dramatic. So why can’t we get plenty of benefit from it as well? We can.

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

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

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

RATED WITH FIVE STARS ON TripAdvisor

MANGO WINE AND ONE...
continued from page 17

The ranch, you start to sense that you are being taken to a different world.

El Parralito is a perfect place for all of this. It’s only nine miles from San Jose, but the bumpy road turns it into a half-hour ride. As you slowly work your way up towards the ranch, you start to sense that you are leaving the city behind. The ranch sits on a gently sloping 1,000 feet above sea level at its highest point, which provides fantastic views. On a clear day, you can see all the way from Zacatitos (East Cape) to north of Cabo on the Pacific side.

Wendy originally bought Rancho El Parralito as an investment, but it has become much more than that. It has become a second home, a micro-winery, and a holistic retreat center. Her ranch retreats focus on nutrition and detox, raw food preparation lessons, yoga and relaxation.

The ranch is also home to the 2209. Go to the 2209 ranch also developed into a holistic retreat center. Wendy is a traditional naturopath (also known as a doctor of natural and integrative medicine), a nutritionist, massage therapist, yoga instructor, breath facilitator and published author of “The Raw Transformation, Energizing Your Life with Living Foods.” Her ranch retreats focus on nutrition and detox, raw food preparation lessons, yoga and relaxation.

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photographer, production advisor and than 30 years of experi-
City's Film Commis-
Villa Smythe has
Hugo fest changes.
very, very uninviting. Neighbors
bogus. We're sure the prize patrol did
and paid for, and now we're sure.
monstrosity of a building.
We're sure the prize patrol did not even come out and look at
that monstriosity of a building.
The facility is beautiful inside, even stunning, but the outside is
butt ugly, imposing, neglected in the elegant design process, and
very, very uninsivating. Neighbors where very distressed when it
was built. Bullshit to that award, which is now exposed as bogus.

OK, I'm done with my rant, moving on…

International film fest changes. Hugo
Villa Smythe has been the appointed the
new director of Los Cabos International Film Festival. Smythe is the current General Director of Mexico City’s Film Commission, and has more than 30 years of experience as a producer, cinematog-
rapher, production advisor and government officer.
The Los Cabos International Film Festival is one of the top film industry events in Mexico, link-
ting talent from the Mexican and
Latin American industries with their American and Canadian peers. This year’s 6th film fest will take place November 8-12.

Five new flight routes launched. A new joint venture between Delta and Aeromexico means expanded service between Los Angeles and Los Cabos.
The airlines will also launch five new flights between the U.S. and Mexico: between Atlanta and Merida; Atlanta and Queretaro; Los Angeles and Leon; Seattle and Mexico City; and Portland and Mexico City.

Sam Simon does La Paz. The anti-poaching ship that hunts whale hunters, named Sam Si-
mon in honor of the philanthro-
pist who donated it to the Sea Sheperd organization in 2012, docked in La Paz last week.

It has been following white shark swimming grounds near our capitool city. The ship has also been recovering abandoned fishing nets in the Sea of Cortes, to help protect the already en-
dangered vaquita, an endangered type of porpoise whose popula-
tion is estimated to be only 30 to 40 animals.

Geeze, they’re doomed. The fishermen won’t stop using nets even now that they are paid to stay home. They are demonstrat-
ing and picketing and going out anyway. Doomed, I say.

WHAT IS THAT CREATURE… continued from page 27

The paints used for ala-

Celebrated the most of the time are geographic pat-
terns. The spots and lines are hair thin, and shows the artistry of the
piece; it takes a steady hand to
achieve such intricate detailing. After that comes another layer of patterns, in colors that are dif-
ferent than those used in the first
layer, but still complimentary. The layering can continue for
awhile; some artisans make their
alebrijes with up to 10 layers of patterns and outlines.

One of the most important things about these figures is that
every piece is removable, mean-
ing the head, legs, arms, tails,
etc., can all be taken off and put
back on. This is how you can tell
you have a piece made by one of the great original carvers. Newer
carvers didn’t learn the technique of carving each piece so it could
be removed and put back on again and again. Those pieces are more valuable, and the painting
on these figures is also more in-
tense and varied.

The alebrije market is di-
vided into two categories: the
high-quality, labor-intensive pieces that are handmade, and the average quality, inexpensive pieces that all look alike and are mass produced. Those who
have produced exceptionally fine pieces have gained reputations as artists, commanding high prices for their work. The most
successful carving families sell
almost exclusively to dealers and
wholesalers, and may have only
a few pieces available for drop-in
visitors.

Within Mexico, Oaxacan
alebrijes are often sold in tourist locations such as Oaxaca City,
La Paz, Cancún, Cozumel and Puerto Escondido. Most pieces
sold internationally go to the U.S.,
Canada, Europe and Japan, where
the most expensive pieces end up in
ethnic craft stores in urban ar-
eas, university towns and upscale
resorts. Cheaper pieces tend to be
sold at trade shows and gift shops.

The price of each piece de-
pends on the quality, coloring,
size, originality and sometimes the reputation of the carver. Pieces sold retail in Oaxaca gen-
erally range from $1 to $200 USD.
The most commercialized figures are those of dogs, armadillos,
iguanas, giraffes, cats, elephants,
zebras, deer, dolphins, sharks and fish.

The article on Real Estate agent Sergio Gutierrez Diaz hit me strangely when he said he worked for a “7-star” hotel. I didn’t know there was such a thing. There isn’t. Not really.

If anyone cares, here’s what Wikipedia says: Seven Stars. Some hotels have been advertised as seven star hotels. The Burj Al Arab hotel in Dubai was opened in 1998 with a butler for every room – this has
been the first hotel being widely described as a “seven-star” property, but the hotel says the label originates from an unnamed British jour-
nalista on a press trip and that they neither encourage its use nor do they use it in their advertising. Similarly, the Emirates Palace Hotel in Abu Dhabi (open since 2005) is sometimes described as seven star as well, but the hotel uses only a five star rating.

The Galleria in Milan, Italy was opened in 2007 and it claims to have a seven star certificate from SGS Italy2008. However the SGS Italy (not the official tourism agency) only has five stars in the general hotel stars categorization, with the full title of the certificate being left
unknown, just as the renewal process is unknown. Overall, as no tradi-
tional organization or formal body awards or recognizes any rating over five-star deluxe, such claims are meaningless and predominantly
used for advertising purposes.

With all the bragging rights hotels claim here, it’s probably good to understand the “real” rating system. Some obviously make up their
own.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kruzinski
Editor’s note: We got a chuckle out of it too. We let it go because
that was a paid ad, not our editorial. The only hotel down here that
everyone pretend is seven stars is the new Grand Velas, although
it is very far from it. The only seven stars Grand Velas can claim
is their public relations machine. I would give that team even
eight stars. They do a good job for their hotel, they are relentless
in their self promotion.
**Giving Back To U.S. Veterans**

Redrum Sportfishing hosts free trips for servicemen

**BY LACEY STORER**

Landing a 140-pound marlin is exhilarating for any fisherman. But it’s especially exhilarating when that fisherman, Hubert Gonzales, is a Marine Corp veteran who has spent the last several years recovering from combat injuries and a partial leg amputation.

This was Gonzales’ first deep sea fishing trip. The marlin, one of the biggest catches of the day, put up a good fight for about half an hour before being reeled in (and then released to re-join his family, once pictures were taken). “I thought I was in pretty good shape,” Gonzales says, “but I had to pace myself a few times.”

Gonzales, who served almost seven and a half years and did four tours of duty in Iraq, Afghanistan and southeast Asia, is one of six veterans who came to Cabo as part of a trip organized by Veteran Outdoors and Redrum Sportfishing here in Cabo. The group spent five days fishing, kayaking, paddle boarding and just enjoying being able to get away from work, school, hospitals and everyday life.

This is the third trip Redrum has hosted for veterans with PTSD. Although Sasaki hasn’t had PTSD, he’s seen many of his fellow servicemen suffer from it. “Getting together and being able to share stories, it helps them heal,” he says.

Even though none of the guys on this trip knew each other, there was a bond between them that started as soon as they reached the airport. “There’s that brotherhood,” he says. “I never met them before as they reached the airport. There was a bond between them that started as soon as they reached the airport.”

Sasaki says Cabo was a good healing, groups like Veteran Outdoors also give the veterans inspiration. Gonzales says the group motivated him to give back to the community. He’s currently in school studying rehabilitative science. He wants to get his degree in physical therapy and then work at the center where he went through rehab, so he can help veterans going through what he went through.

Giving, and getting, back Donovan says he and his son, Ryan, tried for eight years to organize trips like this, but nothing came together until he heard about VO three years ago. He flew to Texas to meet with the organizers and make sure the group was legitimate, and had the same motivation and desire to help veterans as he did.

Veterans can either apply or be nominated for a trip, and VO is in charge of selecting the people who go on the trips. They also pay for all of the airfare. Redrum, with the help of sponsors and local businesses, provides housing, meals and even spending money for souvenirs so the veterans don’t have to spend a dime. Donovan says the trips cost around $12,000 USD, although that price doesn’t include the housing and fishing boats that Redrum donates, which would bring the total to more like $30,000.

But being able to provide a trip like this to those that have served their country, “it’s truly priceless,” he says. “We get more out of this than the veterans. We feel blessed.”

That sentiment is shared by Rusty and Dan Hoffman, a father-son duo from San Diego who help Redrum sponsor the trips. They’ve been fishing with Redrum for six years, and loved the idea of being able to give something back to the vets. “A lot of these guys have never been to the ocean” Dan says, “so it’s a big deal.”

For Rusty, who served for four years in the Sea Bees, the U.S. Navy’s construction battalion, being able to bond and become friends with the veterans, “it’s something special,” he says, “that we can sit down and talk to people who’ve given so much.”

The VO currently has a list of 400 veterans who are waiting to go on trips. Redrum hosts VO trips twice a year, although Donovan says he would love to be able to do more trips, or be able to host more veterans per trip. To do that, however, would take more money and sponsorships. Or more people like him who are willing to help organize the trips with VO. It takes about four months of planning for each trip.

To learn more about Veteran Outdoors, visit their website at veteran-outdoors.com. If you’re interested in helping sponsor or host future trips, you can email Redrum Sportfishing at info@redrumcabo.com.
of aguachiles. (For those of you who don’t know, aguachiles is shrimp that’s submerged in liquid seasoned with chili peppers, lime juice, salt, and slices of onion.)

It’s pizza in a cone!

We sampled the ahi sashimi tostaditas and the Mexatun, which is cubed ahi mixed with pico de gallo and guacamole and served in a tortilla bowl, and were happy with both. However... the fish tacos and shrimp empanada we also sampled were a bit underwhelming in comparison. Our advice is to skip the tacos and go for one of the more unique seafood dishes, because that’s where Barracruda’s kitchen shines.

One thing to note about Barracruda’s the service can be slow, so don’t go there if you’re in a rush and need a quick lunch. When we were there, the tostaditas and the Mexatun came out quickly, but then we had to wait about 20 minutes or so for the other items, which seemed like a long time considering it was just two tacos and an empanada. But if you’re not in a rush and have a bucket of beers to keep you occupied, you likely won’t notice if your food takes a little longer.

Despite some slow service and lackluster tacos, Barracruda’s is definitely a place to try. The atmosphere is fun and relaxed—especially in the upstairs palapa bar, which has three flat screens playing sports and light fixtures made out of beer buckets — and the dishes they do well are very tasty.

Barracruda’s is downtown, about half a block back from Harbard on the corner of Ignacio Zaragoza and Ninos Heroes. Find them on Facebook (and look at their yummy food pics) at www.facebook.com/barracru-dasLoscabos.

The seafood at Barracruda’s comes with a side of California-surfer ambiance.

The Pa-

lapa Learning Center began in November of last year, and is nearly complete, with just one of the three buildings still unfinished. Most of the furniture has been moved in, and much of the work being done now is just finishing touches, including the sports courts, the landscaping and an outdoor kitchen.

“It’s kind of fun to see it all coming together,” Warnert says. For more information on the Palapa Society and the progress of the learning center, or to discover how you can get involved, visit their website at palapasociety.org.
**Cabo San Lucas**

The billfish catching continues to be on the slow side, and while there are some bite opportunities scattered across the area, trying to find the one that will bite continues to be difficult. There have been reports of blacks and blues seen recently as well.

The bright spot is some high quality roosterfish have been taken, ranging in size from about 25 to 30 pounds to 55 pounds, with the bulk of the action in the Chileno area. Jack crevalle, red snapper, sierra mackerel have been caught in that same area.

**Best Fishing Area: Billfish are scattered about the area. The bulk of the sleepers have been seen on the Sea of Cortez side of Cabo in various locations, from close in to the offshore banks, but there’s not one particular best bite area. The roosterfish are showing well and biting in the Chileno area.**

**Best Bait or Lure:** Bait seems to be working best for the billfish and the roosterfish.

**Live Bait Supply:** Very good supply of caballito at the $3.00 per bait rate.

**Puerto Los Cabos**

Sardina supplies are becoming more limited; even surf conditions are on these grounds now, but as things continue to improve, we expect the supply of caballito will increase.

Currently, limited numbers of marlin are scattered anywhere from four or five to 15 or more miles offshore. Anglers are seeing an occasional tailing fish that will readily take the larger baitfish, with some boats having multiple shots per day.

The dorado and wahoo are an incidental catch at best.

**Highlights out of San Jose are**

- The billfish catching continues to be on the slow side, and while there are some bite opportunities scattered across the area, trying to find the one that will bite continues to be difficult. There have been reports of blacks and blues been caught in that same area.

- Cabo Climate: Near picture-perfect, with sunshine and daytime air temps that averaged 76.8 degrees and 69.7 degrees for the nightly averages. The humidity ratio averaged 70.14 percent. There was one breezy day that caused the Port Captain to close the port for half a day.

**Sea Conditions:**

- Temps from the Finger Bank to Cabo Falso ranged from 69 to 71 degrees. Cabo Falso to Cabo San Lucas held at 75 degrees and Cabo San Lucas to Los Frailes ranged from 76 to 80 degrees, with temps rising slowly into the Sea of Cortez.

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I couldn’t have been more surprised when I read an article about Nopalea C, a beer that is made with Mexican nopales (as in cactus). Nopalea beer is the result of a project that was started in 2012, by the Mexican business Nopalea, Prague University and the Czech Health System, and it is the first beer made from nopales. This drink is now being produced in the Czech Republic with nopal that is harvested in Mexico and exported over there.

The nopal is a member of the cactus family that’s grown here in Mexico. It is often seen in the form of bushes or plants. Wild populations of cactus can grow in almost all ecological conditions in our country, with variations in temperature and rainfall. This cactus grows almost in every corner of Mexico but mostly in the states of San Luis Potosí, Oaxaca, Jalisco, Puebla, Michoacán, Aguascalientes, Baja California, Mexico City and Zacatecas.

According to experts, the first nopales date back about 5,000 years ago. In ancient Mexico, the juice of the leaves was spread on the wheels of vehicles to prevent overuse.

During the 17th and 18th centuries, when the Franciscans established missions in Baja and adjacent areas, they found that these cacti were useful as a source of “mucilaginous,” a material that was used as glue in the adobe bricks used to build the missions.

The nopal is intended primarily for human consumption, whether served fresh in salads, cooked as part of various dishes, or packed in brine, vinegar and jam. We Mexicans like to eat it with eggs, juiced and in many other ways.

The nopal also has healing properties. The Aztecs used it for many medicinal purposes: to control a fever they drank the juice; the cactus mucilage (or slime, for lack of a better word) was used to treat cracked lips; diarrhea was cured with the flesh of the plant; and the thorns were used to clean infections. They also used the leaves of the cactus to relieve inflammation, and the roots to treat hernias, liver irritation, stomach ulcers and skin damage from sun exposure.

Nopal is also a great source of fiber, both soluble and insoluble, which helps cleanse the colon. Insoluble fiber can prevent and relieve constipation and hemorrhoids, and at the same time help prevent colon cancer. Soluble fibers have been used in many conditions because their presence retards the gastrointestinal tract and keeps nutrients from being absorbed too quickly.

Nopal can also help fight obesity. It has become somewhat of a diet fad to eat a cactus with lime juice, while washing it after frizzing, or to bake it, or use it in a smoothie. The problem is, the meat are removed by the nopales.

Inhibit the body’s immune system (VHF), outriggers, storage cover, Bimini top, live bait well, marine head/ bathroom, four marine batteries, stainless steel anchor, hydraulic steering & solar charges, excellent condition. Can be seen in Cabo marina. Turn key & well maintained. Lots of extras not mentioned. $30,000 U.S. Contact Captain Tony at 624-165-3092 or 971-285-2695.

The amino acids, fiber, and niacin contained in nopal prevent excess blood sugar that becomes fat, while at the same time metabolizing fat and fatty acids, reducing cholesterol.

Nopal is a natural antibiotic; it slows or stops the growth of several bacterial strains. Both eating nopal and applying the “slime” from the cactus leaves have beneficial effects on wounds and skin infections.

It also helps people with diabetes. The nopal helps stabilize and regulate blood sugar level. The hypoglycemic power of nopal has been scientifically proven as an effective treatment for the prevention of diabetes. Studies have shown that eating nopal before each meal for 10 days helps people lose weight and reduces the concentrations of glucose, cholesterol and triglycerides in the body. (This has been seen only in individuals who are insulin resistant, or in patients with Type II diabetes.)

Finally, the nopal plant fibers and mucilage control excess gastric acid, preventing gastric ulcers and all sorts of stomach conditions. Nopal contains vitamins A, B and C, and minerals like calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium and iron. Toxins from alcohol and cigarette smoke that inhibit the body’s immune system are removed by the nopales.

The nopal’s tender and fleshy pads are sold as a vegetable; they can be pickled, cooked broths and soups, in salads or cooked in main dishes, such as appetizers, sauces, beverages, desserts, jams and endless food uses that can be given to this plant so rich in properties. Nopales is so important to us that, the Mexican flag has it as part of our national shield.

There is only one tiny problem with nopales and it is that many people find the taste of the slimy part a bit unpleasant, and that making the smoothie stays there. But there are ways to get rid of it, by frizzling, or to bake it, or use lime juice, while washing it after cut it in slices or dices. Another way, but only when you are going to have them as salad, is to boil them with salt. The nopal pills or nopal dehydrated powder has come to offer a solution to this problem. The benefits you can get from this Mexican treasure are worth the effort.

Nopales Salad
6 pieces of nopales (you can find these at Walmart)
1 small onion
2 serrano chiles
2 small tomatoes
1 bunch of cilantro, washed and disinfected
Juice of 1 lemon
Olive oil
Oregano
Salt
Pepper
1 ripe avocado
Panela or feta cheese, diced (optional)

Procedure:
1. Remove the seeds from the tomatoes and the serrano chiles.
2. Slice the nopales leaves, continuing on page 39
Humane Society Names New Board President

The Los Cabos Humane Society is welcoming a new board of directors, with one big change. After serving 12 years as president of the LCHS board, Aida Trujillo is stepping down. Taking over for Trujillo as the new board president is Jack Fisher. Fisher began volunteering with the LCHS six years ago.

CHARLY
Do you want to go for a run, because I do! I’m a two-year-old part Shepherd mix who is athletic, friendly and loves attention. This should come as no surprise, since I was rescued from a destitute, homeless life on the streets of Cabo. If you have ever adopted a shelter dog, you know we are generally very loyal, and well-behaved because we are ever so grateful. If you want to enhance your fitness routine and gain a running buddy for life, come and check me out! They’ll even let you take me out on a test run.

ESMERELDA
I’m all dressed up waiting for you, because I’ve heard you need to put your best paw forward to impress potential fur-ever families. But don’t be fooled by my bow tie; I’m a young lady, not a gentleman. I’m also extremely affectionate and can’t wait to be the reason you smile each and every day. I’ll even let you dress me up in costumes. This gender bending outfit I’m not so crazy about.

We need volunteers
No one can do everything, but everyone can do something. You can help support the work of the Los Cabos Humane Society by volunteering at one of our events, or by helping with day-to-day operations at the shelter. We need volunteers to help with everything from cleaning to walking dogs to training puppies. If you’re interested in volunteering, please visit our website at www.LosCabosHumaneSociety.com.

MANGO Wine and One...
continued from page 28

His best successes were with the syrah and cabernet sauvignon; the others failed for various reasons. (Meaning, who knows? They just were not suitable to Rancho LaVenta.) The Pudwills also ran into a problem with microbes that attacked the roots of some of his vine starts. He managed to get about six harvest years from that vineyard before throwing in the towel and starting over with a new planting spot on the ranch, further up a hill and sunnier. He also used better researched varieties. He also enlisted the help of Jeff Newton, the vineyard expert from California, to choose a more suitable location that has a red clay and rock soil consistency; it’s also on a ridge that has good climate. Pudwill says he was unaware of any other vineyards south of Valle Guadalupe near Ensenada, so he just guessed on the grapes. He picked syrah, cabernet sauvignon, zinfandel, nebbiolo, chardonnay and merlot.

Continued on page 35
MANGO WINE AND ONE...
continued from page 34

air flow.
And with guidance from Camillo Magoni, a winemaker from Valle Guadalupe who knows the growing conditions of BCS well, Pudwill chose grape varietals that are better suited for the climate.

Pudwill, Osborne and other Southern Baja winemakers would plant experimentally. Of those eight varietals, Pudwill chose two of Magoni’s 100-plus varietals.

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of sizes. The biggest fish dropped at the Smoke House weighed 180 pounds.

Down south near Los Frailes, the bite continues. Doug and Kathy Dennett limited on this bite with their biggest, a chunky 56-pounder.

Dorado are biting out in the open water as well, with some really big bulls around. Wahoo have been on a tear all week, too. Always be prepared or you’ll be bit off for sure. The best area has been from La Ribera all the way down to Los Frailes.

The warmer water has made for some good fishing inshore. Just come equipped for the big roosters. Pompano and barred pargo were the bottom fish that hit the cleaning table all week long. Yoyos were working well.

There’s been good beach fishing for roosterfish, jacks and ladyfish for both the spin-fishing and fly-fishing anglers.

The winds came back again this week and didn’t help things. The thing with this kind of fishing is that it’s home run fishing. You get a big fish if you’re lucky, but if you miss your fish or it’s just not your day, then there’s not much else. Go big or go home. Tropies or trash. You get the idea.

There were nice 20 to 50 pound wahoo. Some days almost every panga had a shot, and there were some really big fish that were regretfully lost. Losses ran 60 percent of all the hookups.

Fortunately, the big roosters, in the 25 to 60 pound range, returned and there were nine large roosters released on a single day.

continued from page 32...
Artists Unite

Cabo 8 wants to create an intellectual artistic movement

BY LACEY STORER

Hugo Aguilar is trying to bring an artists’ renaissance to Cabo. For years, he’s had this idea of getting back to the romanticism of art; back to the time when artists would gather in coffee houses and bars and discuss their work and ideas.

So, Aguilar got together with his friend and fellow artist, Alfredo Sosa, to find like-minded artists who shared his vision. He wanted the group to become friends and family, so the artists invited into the group were chosen for their attitudes as much as their works. Together, they formed Cabo 8.

The Cabo 8 artists are working to create a new artistic movement in Los Cabos.

The artists in the group include: Aguilar, Sosa, Leo de Albarracín, Mamanchatte, Piero Milani, Alberto Padilla, Edgar Zamora, and Fernando Nafratare. Their work includes painting (in several different styles, ranging from realism to modernist), sculpture and photography. The Cabo 8 artists come from around the world – Mexico, Italy and Bolivia – though they all make their homes in Los Cabos now.

Bringing these artists together not only makes the artistic movement stronger in Los Cabos, it also promotes the culture of the community. “It’s not just one artist, it’s a group of artists working for something in common,” Aguilar explains.

They’re working to bring a more intellectual approach to art. Aguilar says that a lot of art today comes from a purely organic place, where the artist just puts something on a canvas without thinking about form or technique, and without any organization. “Even Jackson Pollack had a technique,” Aguilar says. (For you non-arty farty readers, Pollack was a famous abstract artist whose paintings look like a bunch of paint splatters on canvas.)

The Cabo 8 artists want other artists to realize that art should be more than just doing what you feel and hoping someone buys it. “We want to try and inspire other artists to care more about what they do,” Aguilar says. “Even if you show in the street, try to show some quality.”

The Cabo 8 gather almost every Sunday to discuss topics like composition and the psychology of color. They teach each other lessons, focusing on how the traditional techniques of art can be applied to modern works. But, just as Aguilar had hoped, it’s not all about work. Some of the artists have known each other for more than 20 years, and the group gets together to cook dinner, or go to the beach with their families.

And, of course, the Cabo 8 artists showcase their work together too. Each of the artists creates pieces (which range in price from $1,000 to $10,000 USD) specifically for the Cabo 8 exhibitions; those works aren’t shown or sold anywhere else. Aguilar says this is to maintain the artistic identity of the group. Their most recent exhibition was at Maravilla and they are in talks with Las Ventanas to have a permanent exhibit.

To be showing at these kinds of places, and have people actually pay them to put on exhibitions, is not something Aguilar expected to happen so quickly. Cabo 8 is only in its second season (which finished this month) and Aguilar says he had no idea the group and its work would expand the way it has.

Along with promoting an intellectual artistic movement, another part of Cabo 8’s mission is to give back to charity. The group donates 15% of its sales. Last year, they gave roughly $1,100 USD to Casa Hogar. Aguilar says that this year, Cabo 8 wants to do something different and give directly to the people who need help. One idea is to assemble food packages and deliver them to low income families in Los Cabos. However, Aguilar is quick to point out that charitable giving isn’t the main focus of the group. It’s just a small way they can give back while also opening more doors for Cabo 8.

“Let’s be honest, people like being able to say that the art they show/buy helps the needy.”

Looking ahead to November and the start of its third season, Cabo 8 already has big things planned. The group is looking at opening a gallery in the gallery district in downtown San Jose. Aguilar says the artists are also planning on making their exhibitions more interactive by working on pieces during the shows, so people can see how they create. They’re going to take their shows on the road, too, hosting exhibitions in big cities like Mexico City and Guadalajara.

“We just want to see where this takes us,” Aguilar says. “We don’t believe in luck, we don’t believe in good fortune, we believe in work. If you don’t work, you get nothing.”

To learn more about the Cabo 8 artists, their works and upcoming shows, visit their website at www.cabo8.mx or find them on Facebook.com/caboeight.
Monday to Saturday. 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Rancher’s market in Todos Santos. Featuring homemade products from rural areas. Artisanal cheeses, organic chicken and eggs, liqueurs and virgin honey, as well as handicrafts such as furniture made with regional woods, leather goods and clay pottery all made by ranchers’ hands. The Mercado (market). Todos Santos on Calle Morelos between Rangel and Cuauhtemoc inside the San Diego Feed Store.

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

Every Monday. 6:30 pm. Paint Party at Pez Gordo gallery with painting lessons and other art-focused activities. Fee includes all materials and guided instruction. Visit www.paintcabo.com for more information.

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 Chamilal (Paseo de Los Marinos Street, almost on the corner of Calle Goleta) in San Jose. Runs through until April.

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

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

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

Every Wednesday. 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Organic and artisans market. Organic eggs, honey, locally made jewelry and beauty products, traditional baskets and more! At La Esquina in Todos Santos. Email Paula at ballenatod@yahoo.com or visit www.facebook.com/laesquinats. Runs through April.

First Thursday. 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. YoReciclo sets up tents to receive clear glass bottles, metals, plastics (except Styrofoam), thick cardboard, computer equipment (except monitors), small home appliances (except TV’s of all kinds), cellphones and accessories, edible vegetable oil, ink cartridges and toners of HP, Samsung and Xerox only, please. In San Jose at Centenario Park, corner with Ildefonso Green. In San Jose at Centenario Park. For more information, visit www.yoreciclo.org.mx for more information.

Every Friday. 11:00 am. 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. 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 tomyrosa@gmail.com (English).

Every Friday. 8:00 am to 10:00 pm. Liga MAC’s used bookstore and thrift shop. El Chamilal (Paseo de Los Marinos Street, almost on the corner of Calle Goleta) in San Jose. Runs through April.

Every Saturday. 12:00 to 8:00 pm. Organic and artisans market. Postal Park, Constitucion and Madero streets. Free.

Every Saturday. 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.caboscroftal.com for information.


July 4, Tuesday. 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. 4th Annual Dog Surf Contest at Cerillos Beach. Proceeds benefit local dog rescue in Pescadero. More info: www.dogsurfcompcerritos.com

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


July 12-16, Mind, Body & Soul yoga retreat at Rancho Pescadero, RSVP by calling 52-1-612-135-5849, www.ranchopescadero.com

July 15-19, 13th annual East Cape Dorado Shoot Out. The entry fee is $500 per team and the winning team will walk away with a brand new, fully loaded, 4x4 pickup truck. The tournament also offers optional side jackpots of $200, $300, $500 and $1,000. At Hotel Palmas De Cortez. Los Barriles on the East Cape. Visit www.vanwormerresorts.com for more information and to sign up.

August 1-5. Bisbee’s East Cape Offshore fishing tournament. More information, visit www.bisbees.com

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


October 28, Saturday. Tuna Shoot Out. Los Barriles, East Cape. For more information, visit www.vanwormerresorts.com/


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Can’t You See The Signs?

A new #LosCabos sign was unveiled recently on the main plaza in downtown San Jose, providing yet another photo opp for all the tourists.

The sign is the work of Victor More, and is essentially a replica of the #LosCabos sign that you see as you exit the airport, with a few changes. Each of the letters contains a special set of images that are designed to represent various parts of the Los Cabos culture and local community. If you squint, you will see our Gringo Gazette logo in the upper right hand corner of the letter “a.” Never mind, we can’t even make it out here on the computer. By the time it’s printed, you are never going to be able to see it. Trust us on this one.

**COOKING LIKE A MEXICAN... continued from page 33**

onion, tomato and chiles into thin strips.

3. Place the onions and chiles in a bowl. Add the lemon juice, olive oil, salt, pepper and oregano and let it marinate while you cook the nopales leaves.

4. Boil the nopales in salt water. Don’t overcook them; they have to keep a firm consistence.

5. Add the onions, tomato and chopped cilantro to the bowl with the marinated nopales, and stir everything.

6. Top with sliced avocado and diced cheese.

This nopales salad is a great side for grilled meat, fried fish, fish fillet or whatever you want.

When the nopales are done, pass them through a sieve and rinse under running cold water, then drain well and place in a bowl.

FISH REPORT...
continued from page 35

For many anglers, it was their first rooster or biggest personal best fish, so it was a good thrill.

There wasn’t much else except some bonito, cabrilla, a few pomano and snapper. Still no sardina for small baits.

When fishing was good for the Las Arenas fleet, it was slack for the La Paz fleet and visa versa. And it all had to do with the winds. If the winds were blowing, it made it tough.

Inshore, it was lots of big triggerfish and a number of bigger cargo and cabrilla lost in the rocks. However, later in the week, there were some decent numbers of 10 to 25 pound dorado. Some larger fish were lost, but it was nice to see better numbers and a better grade of mahi-mahi finally appear.

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Larry Edwards www.cortezcharters.com
San Jose del Cabo
Gordo Bank Pangas www.gordobanks.com
East Cape
Rancho Leonero Hotel

But Is It Art?

This colorful art installation is on the marina, next to the empty lot in front of Plaza Nautica. Take a close look and you’ll realize that those aren’t just brightly painted metal beams tossed out higgly piggly; they’re street lights that were knocked down during Hurricane Odile in 2014. Talking about reusing and recycling materials.

The sculpture, which was installed last year, is titled “Tunnel,” and is the work of Betsabee Romero, an artist from Mexico City who uses everyday materials like tires, cars and even chewing gum (hopefully unchewed) to create her pieces. In front of the sculpture is a plaque with a poem, which talks about how the recycled materials represent the resurgence of Cabo after the storm: "With fallen luminaries, We remember the roads, The restored avenues, To recover the light, To leave the tunnel, enlightened, with energy and color."
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