Conservation Efforts In Sea Of Cortez
Might or might not work, but it won’t be for not throwing enough money at it

BY SARAH ROUGHAN

The President Enrique Pena Nieto visited San Felipe to formally inaugurate a plan to save the critically endangered vaquita, the world’s smallest porpoise, which is only found in the Sea of Cortez. San Felipe is on the Sea, way up almost to the top of the Baja peninsula.

With less than 100 vaquitas left, the Mexican government believes their existence is threatened by fishing with gill nets while trying to catch totoaba (Mexican sea bass). Omar Vidal, head of the World Wildlife Fund in Mexico, says the vaquitas are "an emblematic species for Mexico, the equivalent of the panda for China." Well, that could be argued, since none of us have ever heard of the vaquita and while they have a certain panache about them, they are not furry and cuddly.

Sunshine Antonio Rodriguez Pena, current President of the
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

We’re chopped liver. You know we’re chopped liver when we can’t even be numero uno in the hearts, minds, and wallets of the spring breakers. The Top 10 spring break destinations for 2015, according to Orbitz.com booking data indicates we’re not even on the chart.

But the kids who were here have chanced in just 12 months. Last year at night you saw the boys parading up and down the street in the baggy shorts, T shirts and flip flops, while the girls were all fancied up in dresses and heels.

But this year, there were no dresses, and the girls were strutting around town in itsy bitsy teenie weenie bikinis and bare feet. Bare feet! Call us old grandmas, but what’s up with that? It’s not just vulgar, but downright unsanitary. Together it seems a bit on the stupid side. Yeah, we’re grandmas, it’s official.

We didn’t get as many spring breakers this year, maybe we’re too costly?

BY JIM LOCHKER

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7
Que Pasa in Cabo?

By David Flores

Oil spill on the East Cape

An oil spill that seems to have been a one-time occurrence on the beach in Los Barriles seems to be taking care of itself, as best it can. Nobody knows where it came from and no officials are out there kicking it around, let alone cleaning it up. Now, a few weeks after it was first seen swirling around in the water and washing up on the beach, it’s just a bunch of droplets left high and dry at the high-tide line. They are slowly being buried in the sand. Well, that’s one way of taking care of an oil spill. Or not.

Solmar spreads out. Over on the Pacific side, a new luxury hotel/time share and golf course is underway by the Solmar group, developers of the Playa Grande and Grand Solmar resorts in Cabo San Lucas. This one will be called Rancho San Lucas. The Solmar company is owned by one of Los Cabos’ pioneer families.

As part of their developer fees, the Solmar group is to make a $2.29 million payment to the city, which the city has vowed to invest in several areas of need, such as a clean water treatment plant in the Vista Hermosa barrio in San Jose. That will prepare water coming down from the mountains for 34,000 people living in a dozen nearby barrios. But Bulnes, the spokesman of the family-owned corporation, didn’t just fall off the turnip truck yesterday. Fearful that our current mayor will, ahem, “divert” the funds, he’s waiting for Agundez’ term to expire before giving the money to the water department. While Mayor Agundez was in charge of the water department before he became mayor, $71 million became, ahem, “unaccounted for” and his former coconspirators are still entrenched in the department.

The rest of the money due from Bulnes in developer fees will be used in restoring public parks and sports facilities throughout the five municipalities that comprise Los Cabos, and to continue building small starter homes for those affected by hurricane Odile.

For more information on the Rancho San Lucas development, look up www.solmar.com.

Speaking of hizzonor. During this mayor’s term in office, $17 million went missing from our city coffers during the 2012 budget cycle, and another $4.6 million is unaccounted for immediately following hurricane Odile. His brother, a former governor of our state, who recently got out of prison on a technicality, is running for mayor right now and looks to be the front runner. Here we go again, my bosses favorite dicho: People generally get the government they deserve.

Esperanza is back! The Esperanza resort in Cabo San Lucas will reopen its doors June 1, with 57 fully renovated oceanfront rooms, and only eight and a half months after it was devastated by hurricane Odile. The refreshed bathrooms feature floating double vanities and spacious showers built for two with access to the terrace.

Their Cocina del Mar restaurant and the lounge bar have also been remodeled, as well as the spa, and we all look forward to the return of all those Hollywood celebrities who love Cabo and love the Esperanza. Rates at Esperanza start at $550 per night. They start at that. That means you get to sleep in the broom closet.

Continued on page 7

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(624) 143-5750 & 143 0865

United States
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Laguna Beach, CA, 92651
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Who’s to blame:
Carrie Duncan,
carrie@gringogazette.com

Sales
David Flores
david@gringogazette.com
Cell (624) 121-1214

Alejandra Sarachaga
alejandra@gringogazette.com
Cell (624) 159-7741

Subscriptions
santiago@gringogazette.com

Distribution
Antonio Fuentes

Graphic Design
Oliver Quintero

Phone 14 30865
www.gringogazette.com

Agents Wanted
RE/MAX
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Broker@RemaxCaboSanLucas.com

Every thing else is just public relations
Fund-raising for kids. The Foundation Helping Children in La Paz (FANLAP) is raising funds for school supplies for children in one of the poorest areas of La Paz. FANLAP is a long-established non-profit that operates largely from private donations. They provide middle and high school students with tuition, uniforms, backpacks, and transportation. A little bit helps so much and what a good way to give back to wonderful Baja! To learn more about the organization look up: yourcaring.com and then enter Fanlap in the search box.

Baja Ferries does Cuba. The U.S. Treasury Department issued a license to Miami-based Baja Ferries, the same folks who bring you our ferry service between La Paz and the Mexican mainland. “If all goes smoothly we could have things up and running by September,” said Joseph Hinson, vice president of Baja Ferries USA. He added the company still needed to get approval from Cuba, as well as Florida port officials. “This is a further step in bringing Cuba and the United States closer together,” said Robert Muse, a Washington-based lawyer who represented Baja Ferries and specializes in Cuba sanctions. The ferries would only be able to carry licensed travelers to Cuba, including Cuban Americans visiting relatives and American travelers for educational and cultural tours. Approved trade and private sector business activities would also be allowed. Baja Ferries plans to offer services three to four days a week, using ships carrying about 1,000 passengers and cargo, on an overnight service with sleeping cabins and dining facilities. Well, OK, so long as they don’t take our ferries away to ply the 10 hour trip between Miami and Cuba....

State & National News

BY DAVID FLORES

PORTUS Group is the first developer in Los Cabos that includes Solar Panels in their new homes.

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Marriage changes passion. Suddenly you’re in bed with a relative.

Exports decreased from 2 to 1.9 percent as a percentage of the state’s gross internal product. Car thefts decreased from 174 to 160 for each 100,000 inhabitants, but it is considered high compared to other areas of Mexico.

We have also not improved in personal income, where the percentage of people who cannot buy basic food staples grew from 17.4 to 20.4 percent. The public debt increased from 1.7 to 1.9 percent as a percentage of the gross domestic product. The time the study covers coincides with the time Governor Marcos Covarrubias has been in power. The state will hold elections for governor, five mayors, state congress and national lawmakers Sunday, June 7.

Hi Ole’ Silver, awaaaay! For the fifth year in a row, Mexico dominated world silver production, blowing the doors off second place Peru. The Silver Institute’s world silver survey put Mexico’s output last year at 193 million ounces, an increase of 6 million ounces over 2013. Trail-CONTINUED ON PAGE 9
true the number vaquita are di-
minishing, but it is not due to the
gill nets, he insists. “The gillnets
are so thin,” he explains, “If a
vaquita were to be caught in one,
he could break through the nets.”
President Sunshine explains,
“They’ve spent over 50 mil-
dlion dollars over the past two
presidents trying to protect the
vaquita with no success. The
government has confiscated
thousands of nets, and not one
vaquita has ever been found in
even one of them,” he insists.
However, the International Com-
mittee for the Recovery of the
Vaquita (CIRVA), insists that 40
to 80 vaquita are killed each year
in the gill nets.
Canada, Mexico, and the
United States launched the North
American Conservation Action
Plan (NACAP) for the vaquita.
It’s a strategy to financially sup-
port Mexico’s efforts to recover
the vaquita. It compensates fish-
ermen who choose one of three
alternatives: rent-out, switch-out,
or buy-out.
In the rent-out option, fish-
ermen are paid if they agree to ter-
mate their fishing inside the
vaquita refuge area. There is a
penalty if fishermen break the
contract which includes getting
their vessels taken by the govern-
ment. The switch-out option pro-
vides fishermen with compensa-
tion for switching to vaquita-safe
harvesting technology. Finally
the buy-back program compen-
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Timeshare Hustle Is A New Low For Industry
And the legitimate timeshare professionals can't seem to stop it

BY CARRIE DUNCAN

There are some fake timeshare snatchers working the marina front with what seems like impunity.
Your first clue you need to flag these guys upside the head with your bag full of souvenir T-shirts is

they came right up to you, with no barrier between you and them. That is not permitted in the industry. They often say they are selling timeshare in the new five story building going up slowly on the marina front, next to Marina Cabo Plaza. They promise different goodies, depending on your interests but a favorite of theirs is golf at Diamante. When reached by phone, Diamante officials said they had never heard of these people.

These slimy bastards make their money by some variation of, “we will buy your present timeshare for a certain amount, (Clue: more than you could get for it anywhere else), and all you have to do is give us the money to buy it now, then we will sell your timeshare and give that back to you, and you’ve rolled that property into this nice pretty new place. Bada bing, bada boom, they’ve got some money from you and you’ve got, what? Not even a round of golf, and certainly not a timeshare in the hotel that’s actually owned by the guy who owns the mall. He has nothing to do with this scam.

Another clue you’re headed down a bad path. They ask you to show up the next morning in an office in Plaza Golicott, second floor, over Senior Frog’s. It’s very close to where the cruise shippers come into shore on the little tenders. If you’re being led into there, flee!

We talked to the director of the timeshare association, a trade group created to promote the industry’s objectives and police their members. But they are not a government empowered enforcement agency and since these slimy guys don’t belong to the association, there isn’t much they can do, according to the general director Javier Olivares.

Olivares cautions you to only do business with timeshare snatchers, (OPCs) who are wearing a current ID around their neck.

Next, only take a voucher for an activity that has a red number on it.

If you do not heed our warnings and find yourself in the belly of the beast, check that the basic contract has somewhere on it the Asudestico logo we have pictured here.

If you’ve really seriously blown us off and you realize that you’ve just lost anywhere from $10,000 to $30,000, hustle yourself down to the timeshare office and they will hold your hand through a rather lengthy and confusing process, totally in Spanish, that might get your money back. The organization is called Asudestico and they are on the corner of Cabo San Lucas St. and Juventud St. It’s easy to find, CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

This is the back and front sides of a legitimate timeshare snatchers’ ID that must be dangling from his or her neck when they’re working.
Note the date on the back side, “DEL” is From “AL” is To. Check those dates to see if it’s still valid. They’re supposed to turn their ID in when they leave the service, but like this handsome devil here, most of them keep it, doing God knows what with it. In the upper left corner is the logo of Asudestico, the timeshare association. If this logo is not on a timeshare contract, something stinks. Put your pen down and run.
Dirt Biking Down The Baja Peninsula
Seems like an inconvenient way to get there

BY SARAH ROUGHAN

Last month 39 dirt bike riders departed Tecate for the annual Monster Energy drink Rip to Cabo. This 1500 mile journey down the peninsula all the way to Cabo consisted of about 10 hours of riding per day for each of seven days. Hmmmm...1500 mile journey to the end of a 1000 mile peninsula? They took the long way.

A support crew that provides food, drinks and drags them out if they fall down, follows them. This year’s crew consisted of 6 1 ton 4x4 trucks, 4 paramedics, 8 TV crew members with a media support truck, and a helicopter that chopped along overhead.

The challenge started out 10 years ago with just a few friends, and over the years it has grown. Host Cameron Steel says, “The Rip to Cabo received about 800 requests to join this year’s race through our website. Out of the 39 riders who ended up making the trip, 32 were returning vets and seven were new riders. We always try to reserve at least five spots for new riders so we can share the magic of Baja with them and we can be injected with their fresh stoke. This year 2000 Surfing World Champion Sunny Garcia made his fifth trip with Rip to Cabo and Short Course Off Road Champion Casey Currie was along for the trip as well.”

“It’s not all fun and games along the way, some of the terrain is very difficult. And, this is not a race pitting rider against rider, they are all friendlies helping each other down the Baja.”

Mark Moss, who has gone on the Rip to Cabo every year explains, “Over the years we’ve had some very tough challenges to overcome such as breakdowns, being stuck in bad places, riders getting hurt and needing to be flown home. Last year we had five bikes fall off a panga boat outside of Mulege and ended up at the bottom of the Bahia Concepcion. In contrast to that, this year went pretty smooth. The most challenging situation was when we were riding a long section of the beach south of San Juanico and into San Carlos. We came across a river mouth and had to cross but the water was much too deep. The first few bikes that attempted to cross sank to the bottom. Trying to get the dirt bikes back on dry sand and running again was a tough task, but by banding together and working quickly, we were able to salvage all the bikes and get them running again.”

The Rip to Cabo has gained the attention from the towns they visit along the way. This year they stayed in San Felipe, Catavina, Bay of LA, San Ignacio, San Carlos and La Paz. “It’s awesome how happy and stoked everyone is to greet us along the way,” Cameron explains. “A highlight of the trip for me was the lunch we shared with the people of Guayauquil. We even brought supplies to a remote fishing camp in San Rafael, aka Panchos. While the riders were making

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

Jot This Down

The federal Chamber of Deputies has approved legislation that will make 066 the official, nation-wide emergency number for civil protection and emergency police response. Now the National Center for Crime Prevention and Citizen Participation has the responsibility to dispatch the police to the site of your emergency. It was thought for a while that 911 would be a good number, following the U.S. lead, but national pride took hold, and the fact that 066 has been promoted in most parts of the country, so you are to use that one.

Good luck with that. First, you’re going to have to do this in Spanish, and second, the people at 066 don’t have a great track record of sending the cops out in a hurry.

In Tampico, a woman stepped outside her home to make a phone call, (bad cell reception?) When a bad guy grabbed her, punched her in the stomach and threatened rape. (Like that’s going to put her in the mood?)

Upon hearing her cries, two neighbors pursued the assailant, who took off on foot, while one called 066. The operator calmly asked a series of questions for five minutes, and a full hour later, state police meandered by.

When asked why they took so long, police said the emergency responder had only just passed along the call, and they recommended calling the police station instead. “You called 066? They always call us too late. What you need to do is call us directly, at the moment that you need us. We will come instantly and leave the questions for after.” Which would be a miracle here in Los Cabos, given our stumblebum Keystone Kops.

Better tip: Try to not need help.
SO WHERE WERE THE SPRING... continued from page 1

Here are the favorite hot spots for spring breakers this year:

1. Las Vegas — One reason for Sin City’s popularity? A hotel room is only $115, on average.
2. Cancun — The perennial favorite is also Number 6 on U.S.

average of 7 people in one room. More beer money, yeah!
8% say they have stayed awake as much as 48 hours. (How do you say uppers in Spanish? Dunno, but apparently these kids do.)

And the biggie: 64% of travelers purposely avoid student destinations at spring break time.

So who needs them? Not us. We just don’t like being dumped. It’s the principle of the thing.

4. Punta Cana — This Dominican Republic resort area takes its name from the dry palm leaves used on many roofs. How did it show up on college kids’ radar? And do fronds even make it onto radar?

5. New York City — Wait. College students realize it’s still winter, right?

6. New Orleans — Airfare to the Big Easy ($362, on average)

News & World Report’s recent list of best budget spring break destinations.

8. Miami Beach — Average March high temperature: 76 degrees. And mom and dad perceive it as safe.

9. Playa Del Carmen — Number 10 on the U.S. News list, where it’s described as more down to earth (read: less crazy) than Cancun, although its only 30 miles south and uses the same airport.

10. Riviera Maya — Replaced San Juan on this year’s list. Again, uses the same airport as Cancun and it’s easy to zip into town for a quick binge. And how much do these kids spend? $1,000 or less for 7 out of 10 college students this year.

12% of the survey respondents say they will squeeze in an average of 7 people in one room. More beer money, yeah!
8% say they have stayed awake as much as 48 hours. (How do you say uppers in Spanish? Dunno, but apparently these kids do.)

And the biggie: 64% of travelers purposely avoid student destinations at spring break time.

So who needs them? Not us. We just don’t like being dumped. It’s the principle of the thing.

L.M.B.
Mexican Auto Industry: Well, Different

Anybody want a brand new 23 year old Nissan Sentra?

BY ANNE TEAK

Have you ever thought about buying a brand new 23 year old Nissan Sentra? They're still being made and sold in Mexico, under the name Nissan Tsuru, (that's Japanese for crane). It has received only mild mechanical and electrical updates since its introduction in 1992, like the new Renault-sourced transmission. Beyond that it’s largely unchanged from the original version, and used primarily by taxi companies throughout Mexico. Except here, of course.

Propelled by a 105 hp, 1.6-liter four cylinder engine and a five speed manual transmission, the Tsuru doesn’t have much in the way of safety equipment, but parts are plentiful, it weighs almost nothing (just 2,175 pounds, less than a Mazda Miata) and it’s cheap: about $8,700 U.S.

And here’s another oldie but goodie. The 2015 Chevrolet Matiz.

While the Chevy Spark we know in the States is the latest and greatest version of that car, in Mexico you can still buy an ancestor of that car, dubbed the Chevrolet Matiz. Powered by a tiny 65 hp 1 liter four cylinder engine and a five speed manual transmission, it seats four passengers and goes out the door at a low, low price of just less than $6,500, not including air conditioning or a radio and tax. Registration? Chump change. Drivers license? Why be the only one on your block with one of those?

Think this is the Nissan Sentra your dad drove? Nope, it’s a brand new Tsuru built and marketed in Mexico.

The 2015 Chevy Matiz at $6500 looks an awful lot like our Chevy Spark, but don’t be fooled, it’s very old technology.
May 18th, 2015

The Riviera Maya last week, my World Economic Forum held at the world, largest proven silver reserves in $19.10 last year. Mexico has the from $23.70 an ounce in 2013 to last year. Production was up which dropped 16% on average as their production costs decline, continue to expand their capacity Leyland, said the main producers authors, Reuters analyst Andrew and Chile. One of the report’s ing Peru were China, Australia and the world,

**More Mexico facts.** At the World Economic Forum held at the Riviera Maya last week, my country bragged about:

Mexico has a $1.26 trillion economy, making it the 15th largest economy in the world, and the 11th taking into account power purchasing parity. This makes Mexico a so-called “middle power”: falling just short of being a G7 economy, it is nevertheless an economic power to be reckoned with.

With its 122 million citizens, the GDP per capita currently stands at about $10,000, placing it firmly in the “upper middle income” countries. Adjusted for purchasing power, the GDP per capita is about 60% higher, at roughly $16,000. That puts it in the same league with countries like Turkey, Romania, and Brazil, but still far below countries like the U.S. ($55,000) or Switzerland ($58,000).

Economic growth is forecast to rebound to 3.5% in 2015. Mexico is the OECD country with the second highest economi
disparity between the rich and the poor, behind only Chile. The bottom 10% on the income rung dispose of 1.36% of the country’s resources, whereas the upper 10% dispose of almost 36%. 26% of GDP comes from those working under the table, which has almost 60% of the workforce.

**Mexico Might get big telescope.** Mexico is one of two countries on a short list for the construction of the Cherenkov Telescope Array (CTA), a project that will be the world’s largest and most sensitive, ground-based gamma-ray observatory in the world. Mexico is already the site of the High-Altitude Water Cherenkov Observatory (HAWC) situated on a mountain in Puebla, east of Mexico City. It went into full operation last month.

The two locations under consideration are La Palma, one of Spain’s Canary Islands, and San Pedro Martir in Baja California, already the site of the National Astronomical Observatory, operated by UNAM.

**New drone regulations.** Mexico’s Communications and Transportation Secretariat, (SCT), announced regulations governing drones, including a ban on flying at night or within six miles of a controlled airport. (Does anyone prefer out of control airports?) They can’t carry anything dangerous or illegal, (do baggies of drugs count?) and pilots must...
sates fisherman for permanently turning in their fishing permits as well as their respective gear. In 2008, because of how few fisherman were enrolling in the switch-out option, PACE Vaquita added a yearly, short-term option for fishermen, letting them simply rent the vaquita-safe fishing equipment yearly for compensation. Then, in 2010, this option was broken down even further, giving fishermen the option of buying the vaquita-safe net, or paying the yearly rent, but for less compensation. Only about a third of the fishermen in the area have accepted any of these terms so far. Some continue to fish in the protected areas despite the economic alternatives.

So why are the fishermen cooperating at all with this most recent initiative? “The difference this time is the government is listening to the fisherman and giving us everything we are asking for,” says President Sunshine. “Although they will be sacrificing their culture and daily way of life, this $37 million initiative (The gift from the United States), will include funds to compensate the fisherman. Of course they’re not complaining.” Sunshine says that the two year ban will give scientists an opportunity to determine what is really killing off the vaquita. Some believe it could be due to the lack of water from the Colorado river and lack of minerals that it used to provide. He explains, “In order for us to prove it is not the fisherman, we have to get out of the water.”

The government is taking steps to enforce the gill net ban. They brought four large speed boats, satellite tracking and drones. They also have a large coast guard ship with radar and eight different small boats that will verify what happened if something is caught on radar.

As for the fisherman of San Felipe, they are glad that the efforts to save the vaquita will not interfere with their income over the next two years. President Sunshine explained “This is the first time any government has looked at the reality of the people. They didn’t just come in and tell us what to do. For the first time, there is a president who believes in fishing and is helping fisherman.”

And it helps that the United States is paying for most of this possibly impossible mission.
Now Here’s A Cool New Development
Something different Might want to pull out your check book for this one

BY MIKE HUNT

Tres Santos, which means three saints in English, is a very ambitious residential development underway in Todos Santos. Todos Santos, for you newbies, is an hour up the new super-highway on the Pacific side, towards La Paz.

This is going to be a mixed use mega project, brought to us by BlackRock, a Colorado based developer. BlackRock’s infrastructure investment group has $6 billion in invested and committed assets, so their Todos Santos project should be taken seriously.

BlackRock chief executive officer Larry Fink, (ja ja ja, how do you even get a name like that?) and how do you get someone to marry you with a name like that), explains his position thusly: “Mexico is finally beginning to unlock its true potential as an economic powerhouse. Over the next few decades, capital is going to flow more effectively into Mexico, the workforce will become better trained, and it will be easier and easier to do business.”

Well, he lives in Colorado, he can be forgiven for being such a Polly Anna.

BlackRock has an office in Mexico City with about 30 people as part of its iexchanges-traded fund business, and is looking to hire investment specialists in Mexico’s infrastructure. They also have a local office on the main drag, pretty kitty corner from Hotel California, on the corner. It is offices and a sales center complex kind of under cover, as it’s advertised outside as a bike rental business. They call it the hub, a pretty stupid name for a sales office, but then this is not a push real estate development. Their entire operation is sort of CONTINUED ON PAGE 21
Calendar of Events

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

Every Tuesday and Saturday from 9 am to 12. Farmers market in La Paz. Veggies and crafts. Calle Madero and Constitución, La Paz Centro.

Every Tuesday & Saturday 9 am-1 pm. Liga MAC Used Book and Thrift Store. San Jose. Donations of books, clothing and household items greatly accepted. Funds go to support Liga MAC service programs. For directions see the map at www.ligamac.org. info@ligamac.com

Every Wednesday, 1 to 5 pm. San Jose organic market. At Huer- ta Maria on the Las Animas road across from the Jockey Club, near downtown San Jose. Food, vegetables, plants, music, art, workshops, books. For directions look up: www.sanjomo.com

Every Wednesday. 9 am to 4 pm. Buena Vista Organic Market grand opening. Live music, regional dances, arts and crafts produced by regional artisans, snacks, organic vegetables and more. East Cape road north of San Jose between Rancho Leonero and Rancho Buena Vista at Baja Martires. Info: buenavista@aromaarte@gmail.com. Call 624-151-3478

Every Thursday. 6-9 pm. Art Walk. At the Gallery District in San Jose.

First Thursday. Yo Reciclo sets up tents to receive plastic, aluminum, cardboard, computers, printers, cell phones, green, clear glass but NO Batteries, please. In San Jose, Plaza Dorada at the roundabout near the Pemex. 8 am to 2 pm. info@yoreciclo.org.mx

Every Thursday. 5 to 9 pm. Farmers Market at El Encanto Suites. San Jose. Live music, organic produce, art.

Every Thursday. 8:00 a.m. Rotary Club breakfast at the Playa Grande Resort, Restaurant Brigantine, Cabo San Lucas.

Every Thursday, 7:30 pm. Moviemight. Free. At the Cultural Pavilion in the Cabo San Lucas marina.

Every Thursday, 7:30 pm. English worship and bilingual message. Turn at Office Depot and stay straight almost to the crest of the hill. Tezozomoc at Zapotecas on the left side of the street.

Every Thursday. From 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Organic market. Historic downtown activities program. Postal Park, Constitución and Madero streets. La Paz. Spanish. Free.

Every Thursday at 7:30 “Cine Club en el Pabellon Cultural”, a free movie, generally in English, at the Cultural Pavilion ground floor level. Program usually involves movies you can’t find in theaters in Los Cabos.

Every other Thursday. You guess which one. Los Cabos Tomates, ladies social group. All women who aspire to be a tomato are welcome. loscabostomatoes@gmail.com. Info: loscabostomatoes@yahoo.com

Every Friday from 1 pm to 5 pm. Children’s library by The Palapa Society ages 3 to 17. Membership is free. Children’s movie at 3 pm. Bring your beach chair or towel to sit in the sand for the movie. Popcorn will be served. We take gently used books in. theranchkids@yahoo.com, Todos Santos.

Every Friday. 8 am to noon. Organic Market in Boca del Salado, East Cape. Directions at whittens@drancho@gmail.com

Every Friday from 9 am. Pickleball at La Huerta Sports Club, San Jose. 100 pesos per person. Everyone welcome. Even beginning picklers. Some spare pickle paddles available. Contact head picker mdumbarton@gmail.com for directions and to confirm your pickle propens

Every Friday. Todos Santos farm market, main drag, next to Hotel California. 9-1. Vendors 100 pesos. Reed. 612 104 5755 wrktodos@yahoo.com

Every Friday. 6 pm - 9 pm. Organic local food market. El Mari posario, Gaia Tienda & Cocina. Conscious documentary showing 9pm-11pm. Call 624 175-3931 for directions.

First Friday of every month. 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Miróíl Services is taking all clean plastic for recycling. Corner of Rangel and Verduco St. Just behind the old Pemex station downtown, near to the Pura Vida health food store. (612) 145 07 02.

Every Friday. Todos Santos Farmer’s market. 9:00 am till 12 noon. Outside of the downtown church. For info: wrktodos@yahoo.com

Every Saturday 9 am - 1:30 pm. Liga MAC Used Book and Thrift Store. San Jose. Donations of books, clothing and household items accepted. Funds go to support Liga MAC service programs. For directions see the map at www.ligamac.org. info@ligamac.com

Every Saturday. Children’s classic movies at the marine museum in La Paz.


Every Sunday. 7 - 11 am. Bike, 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. clubcactusbike@gmail.com

Jun 09 – 14. Los Cabos Open of Surf Zippers Beach, Costa Azul, San Jose. www.worldsurfleague.com To get your event listed here, email the details to david@gringogazette.com. There is no charge.

Todos Santos, Live guitar music and good, local, organic stuff to buy. holas@laesquinats.com, www.laesquinats.com, 612 145 0851.

Every Wednesday. 8 to 11 am. Organic Market at Pedregal. Just before Colegio El Camino at the back entrance to Pedregal. 8:00 to 11:30 a.m. cell 624 113 8756.

Every Saturday. 8 am. to noon. Organico Market at Pedregal. 8:00 am. to 1:00 pm. info@yoreciclo.org.mx

Every Sunday. 11 am. Movie Club en el Pabellon Cultural. At the Cultural Pavilion ground floor level. Program usually involves movies you can’t find in theaters in Los Cabos.

Every other Thursday. You guess which one. Los Cabos Tomates, ladies social group. All women who aspire to be a tomato are welcome. loscabostomatoes@gmail.com. Info: loscabostomatoes@yahoo.com

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La Paz

Crossroads Church Abasolo St, Corner of Sonora & Sinaloa Mon. & Friday 9:30 AM

Frank 612-154-1050 (OPTO) 

Or Loo - 612-129-3293 (LAND)

Todos Santos. Live guitar music and good, local, organic stuff to buy. holas@laesquinats.com, www.laesquinats.com, 612 145 0851.

Every Wednesday. 8 to 11 am. Organic Market at Pedregal. Just before Colegio El Camino at the back entrance to Pedregal. 8:00 to 11:30 a.m. cell 624 113 8756.

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Capital Gains In Mexico

BY JANET JENSEN

Capital Gains Tax

Capital gains tax law in Mexico states that tax is owed on the profit you receive when you sell your home or property. By law, you have two options when it comes to capital gains and you can use whichever is the better of the two options for you:

1. You pay 35 percent of the net profit. (There are a variety of deductions included in this option.)

2. You pay 25 percent of the gross sales amount with no deductions.

Although a 35 percent capital gains tax may seem high, Mexico does have several laws and procedures that will assist you in maximizing your cost basis, thereby reducing your net profit and lowering your capital gains. The key is to understand these laws before you buy, not when you decide to sell.

“Percentages reflect the 2013 Revenue Tax Code.

Always record your true Purchase Price at closing.

In the past, some real estate companies have recorded values lower than the actual purchase price in an effort to “save” taxes for their client; they thought they could save money on the two percent acquisition tax. This is a major error. Never record a lower value than what you actually paid for the property. Doing so simply establishes a lower cost basis for the

Don’t be fooled by imposters!

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OR
www.mlsinbajasur.com

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How do I know if my value is recorded correctly?

Snell Real Estate’s closing officer oversees the creation and completion of your trust. We review the documents with you to make certain everything is in order, and we are present when you sign your trust. You can verify the value yourself by examining your trust and noting the amount written in text, which is indicated in U.S. dollars or Mexican pesos and includes the exchange rate of that day. (We will provide a certified translation of your Spanish trust.) Simply divide the current exchange rate into the peso amount and make sure the result reflects the actual dollar amount you have paid. If you would like to review an old trust, simply determine the peso rate for the day and year the trust was executed. We can assist you in finding the exchange rate, as can the bank and the Internet.

What is inflationary credit?

As soon as you pay your two percent acquisition tax to receive your trust, you are eligible to receive an inflationary credit from the Mexican government for each year you own the property. This credit is added to your cost basis when you decide to sell your property. The credit is based on consumer index adjustments (inflation) and can be quite significant. In the past when inflation was higher, we have seen credits in excess of 15 percent per year applied to a cost basis when you acquired

Agent Profile

Douglas Christensen

Douglas “Dooglas” P.L. Christensen found the Cape in 1986, met Cabo’s first real estate broker shortly thereafter and went to work for him for 15 years. Those early days of dirt streets, few phones, and no internet comprise some of his best memories.

Dooglas has kept pace with Cabo’s modernization from his offices above the square in downtown CSL as Broker of Cape Realty Associates since 2001. Yet his love for Baja’s rugged side keeps him commuting from his rustic ranch a few miles up the Pacific Coast where he and his wife, Dedee, feed their serenity (and their animals, including horses).

Dooglas led formation of the Los Cabos MLS real estate association in 1997. He now serves as VP of the statewide MLS BCS, providing real estate services including an online database of inventory for agents. He is a Certified International Property Specialist, Accredited Buyer Representative graduate and International Realtor.

While he thrives on satisfied customer referrals, new direct-contact clients are certainly welcome. Contact Doug: Office hours 10:30 to 7 M-F, to 4 Sat. (624) 172-0088.

site (lot) for $1 million, but unwise to record a value of $500,000. In the eyes of Mexican tax law, your cost basis is now $500,000. If you sell the lot for $1.2 million, you see a profit of $200,000. However, according to your recorded cost basis, Mexico sees a profit of $700,000 and your capital gains tax for Mexico will be 28 percent of $700,000 ($196,000) — a difference of $140,000 in profit.

Snell Real Estate’s approach to ownership in Mexico, specifically the trust process, has been established to protect you and provide you with the legal means to safeguard your investment. Recording your authentic purchase price with proper documentation is the only way to maximize your potential profits. The bottom line is to always secure your property trust for the true value of your purchase as quickly as possible.

Never allow anyone to convince you to record a lower value than what you have actually paid for your property, or you will assume the Seller’s capital gains tax liability and you will be in violation of the anti money laundering law. Recording a lower value today can cost you, should you decide to sell in the coming years. If a Seller can convince a Purchaser to record a lower value, the tax liability is simply passed along, and eventually someone will have to pay. Don’t let anyone tell you, “That’s how we do it here.” Mexico is like everywhere else — the capital gains tax is the responsibility of the Seller.

Fact: Recording a property’s true value benefits you and establishes your cost basis in the eyes of Mexico.

Fact: Capital gains taxes you pay in Mexico can be credited to your U.S. or Canadian taxes as a result of the Treaty to avoid double taxation. (Other countries have this same tax treaties, like the European Union and some south American countries)

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2014 End of Year Real Estate Report

BY CAROL BILLUPS

Well, 2014 was nothing if not eventful for Los Cabos. While natural disasters and fairy tale endings have been discussed over and over the real estate market has been surprisingly quiet. What’s going on? Is the recession still hurting us? Quite the contrary.

The numbers show that real estate did very well last year. Before I start boring you with all the statistics let me make two good, old-fashioned disclaimers. Our MLS, FLEX MLS based in Fargo, North Dakota makes every effort to provide reliable information but remember what they used to say about “Garbage In - Garbage Out”? Here in Cabo we refer to it as “Agent Input Error”. And (AHEM) we’ve got a lot of it. So although we know the numbers aren’t completely accurate they’re the best we’ve got and in general are good enough to indicate trends.

The other disclaimer is to explain that the MLS is statewide. Because my area of interest is Los Cabos I eliminated any data outside the limits of Cabo San Lucas and San Jose proper and the corridor. And the categories I looked at excluded any commercial properties, limiting myself to single family homes, condominiums, and land (building lots). Lastly, when I mention price I’m talking about the actual sales price in U.S. dollars unless otherwise noted.

For the three property types the total dollar volume last year was $290,604,970 U.S. In terms of the number of actual transactions we were up 18%, or 450 versus 379. With the increase in dollar volume so similar to the increase in transactions you would think prices have held to the 2013 level, and overall prices were up by 0.1%. But, that’s misleading as well see when we look at area. There are actually two zones to the corridor, creatively labeled San Jose Corridor and Cabo Corridor. The break is roughly at El Tule, the big arroyo midway between the towns. Prices went up 18% on the Cabo Corridor over 2013, and down just a bit in the other three zones.

Here is the data on Dollar Volume of Sales:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th># Sold</th>
<th>Volume Sold</th>
<th>Median Price</th>
<th>Low Price</th>
<th>High Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cabo Corridor</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>$25,378,500</td>
<td>$92,250</td>
<td>$65,000</td>
<td>$8,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabo San Lucas</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>$5,644,050</td>
<td>$110,000</td>
<td>$14,500</td>
<td>$3,544,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Jose Corridor</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>$4,259,500</td>
<td>$225,000</td>
<td>$48,000</td>
<td>$2,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Jose del Cabo</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>$5,091,900</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$725,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>$40,573,950</td>
<td>$140,000</td>
<td>$14,500</td>
<td>$8,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And here is the data on Median Sold Cost:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th># Sold</th>
<th>Volume Sold</th>
<th>Median Price</th>
<th>Low Price</th>
<th>High Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cabo Corridor</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>$8,166,550</td>
<td>$237,000</td>
<td>$54,950</td>
<td>$925,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabo San Lucas</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>$28,346,043</td>
<td>$245,000</td>
<td>$28,000</td>
<td>$2,475,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Jose Corridor</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>$8,505,000</td>
<td>$462,500</td>
<td>$210,000</td>
<td>$1,450,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Jose del Cabo</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>$18,837,000</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
<td>$2,450,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>$63,854,593</td>
<td>$225,000</td>
<td>$28,000</td>
<td>$2,475,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above numbers are aggregate, all types lumped together. But was there any difference between types? Are condos moving faster than single family? Is the market for building lots still dead? To find out, we broke up the categories, again by zone.

All in all, it was a very good year and 2015 is poised to be even better, at least once most of the hotels are in service. Hurricane Odile did not devastate our prices as some feared would happen. She did reduce the inventory, something that was already happening from natural causes. There were more sales than new listings for 10 months of 2014. Inventory increased only in February and December of 2014. All of which bodes well for 2015.

Carol Billups is Broker/Owner of Cabo Realty Pros. She has enjoyed working with both buyers and sellers for over fourteen years and still thinks hers is the best job on earth. She is also the real estate columnist for Los Cabos Magazine. You can read more of her articles on the website blog.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16
your property some years ago. On a million-dollar property, this can be as much as $150,000 USD per year added to your cost basis, significantly reducing your capital gains tax should you decide to sell in the coming years.

**Fact:** You are not eligible to receive the inflationary credit unless you have paid your two percent acquisition tax.

**What about the primary residence capital gains exclusion?**

Mexico, as well as the U.S., provides its residents a capital gains tax incentive for their primary home. The tax incentive in Mexico states that if you sell your “primary residence,” you pay no capital gains. This law is in place for “residents” (Mexican nationals or foreigners) of Mexico only, and there are several items required to establish residency status. In order to claim your home as your primary residence in Mexico, you must be able to prove that it really was your primary residence for a period of five years. At closing, you will be required to provide the Notary with a Permanent residence visa (Formerly FM2 as inmigrado), as well as a bank account, water, phone and electric bills, paid tax receipts and your Trust—all in your name, all with the address of the home, and all in place for more than five years. In some circumstances, a tax ID number may be necessary. Please keep in mind that this is just a guideline of the requirements. It is necessary to communicate with the Notary prior to closing your transaction in order to know if you are eligible for exemption. However it is worth to say that after the 2013 tax reform and since more than 95% of the total homes in Mexico do not exceed the 3.5 Million pesos (more or less $275,000 US) this exemption only applies for homes less than that amount and for the ones worth more than that amount then you can get some credit up to that amount as a maximum on a prorate basis but subject to certain requirements.

**Fact:** You cannot have two primary residences at the same time.
**Featured Property**

**Copala**

Copala at Quivira is an innovative, gated residential community on the Pacific coast of Cabo San Lucas, adjacent to a Jack Nicklaus “Signature” Golf Course. Copala consists of 7 condominium towers and 86 single-family homes, with spectacular ocean views.

Construction is Mexican Contemporary architectural style with red tile roofs, wrought iron and cantera stone.

Copala is the first real estate development built inside the well-established, highly secure Pueblo Bonito Sunset Master Plan with its beautifully manicured grounds, providing residents with both a sound investment and an opportunity to experience “The Good Life,” exemplifying a holistic philosophy through its spaces and services. Residents enjoy spas, restaurants, organic garden and market, wine and a yacht club.

**Contact Inés Ma. Valdez Haza at Copala. +52 1 (624) 161 2737**

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**LIVING IN LOS CABOS...**

**continued from page 14**

**www.caboreal_estate.me. You can reach her from the U.S. or Canada at 1-760-481-7694, or in Cabo at 044-624-147-7541. You can listen to our 24/7 broadcast at www.livecabo.net for a mix of happy music, weather reports and local information.**

**CAPITAL GAINS IN MEXICO...**

**continued from page 15**

Fact: The capital gains tax exclusion is intended for residents of Mexico, not for persons owning second homes or vacation homes. Please be aware that Resident does not implies National, implies being a tax resident. Just as there are no shortcuts or legal ways around taxes in the U.S. or Canada, there are no shortcuts around taxes in Mexico. Your home is a sizable investment and following proper legal steps will ensure a safe and enjoyable experience in Mexico. If someone says, “This is Mexico, and that’s the way we do it here,” then beware. Seek another agent or Broker. If you plan on building a home or doing a major remodel to an existing home, please read our brochure, “Manifesting Your Construction,” to make certain all your expenses are added to your cost basis. If you are considering a real estate purchase in Baja, make certain everything is done right. Allow Snell Real Estate to put our knowledge and experience to work for you. We are an independent brokerage, assuring our only interest is representing you in a safe, solid and secure real estate transaction.

**Helpful Hint:** When you sign your new trust, ask the Notary to jot down the exchange rate on the document itself. This will be useful in the future. Or ask the Notario to include that rate in the fideicomiso.

By Janet Jensen, Broker, Snell Real Estate. TEL: 624-141-6726


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La Residencia A-2, Costa Azul, MLS 12-1023

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Cabo Kennels Pampers
It’s a dog’s life

BY LYNN TROTECHAUD

Dog kennel owners Luis and Monica Pacheco are celebrating the twelfth anniversary of what they say was the first pet hotel and spa in all of San Jose. Since then, Cabo Kennels has been a home away from home for nearly 1500 canine and feline guests. Luis says the idea to open an American style boarding kennel came to them when they themselves were travelling and were unable to find suitable lodging for their own pets, or as Luis explains, “there was no place good enough for our kids.”

With 19 individual hotel rooms, the kennel can accommodate up to 36 dogs at single occupancy. Many though, come with their siblings and larger suites are available for a family stay.

Cats are also welcome, and have their own area with 12 individual cages. The boarding areas are on either side of a grass play area, watch your step.

The kennels themselves are nestled under solid roofing, (no palapas here), are easily accessible, light and clean. Muzack plays all day and whirling fans whirl during warm weather. When the real heat comes, the grassy area is covered with umbrellas and there are small plastic kiddie pools for cooling down and play time.

As advertised, the kennel is very much like what many of us are used to in the U.S. and Canada. Boarding is available by the day, week, or month or longer. Day care is available Monday through Friday between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm and costs about $10 a day. Overnight boarding is about $15 a day but better rates are available for longer stays and multiple dog or family rates are also available. A shampoo before pick up is included.

Daily rates for the feline persuasion are $10 per day. Grooming services are also available for them on site for about $10. An additional service that is not typically seen is the option to have your pet picked up at your house in San Jose or Cabo in a fully equipped pet friendly van. Kind of like a school bus, but don’t leave them out on the corner for pickup and the bus isn’t yellow and it doesn’t actually go to a school. Other than that, it is remarkably like a school bus.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25
MAR ADENTRO
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Fish Report

BY GARY GRAHAM

Baja Sur Fishing...Sunday, May 10, 2015

Welcome to topsy-turvy May. We have both warm and cold water in all the wrong places. In front of the Harbor and up the Pacific side, cooler water is producing yellowtail, while on the Sea of Cortez, the warm water has produced striped marlin that aren’t very hungry and most of the other species that are usually on the forefront in May have taken a powder. Gary Graham, gary@garycgraham.com

Cabo San Lucas

It is definitely a “be careful what you wish for” kind of year as far as the striped marlin are concerned. The entire fleet had been hoping for the winter bite that never happened — pleading for the fish gods to intervene. Now that there are lots of striped marlin being spotted on the surface in the warm water up toward the Sea of Cortez, some of them feeding, some of them sleeping, and in some cases, waving their tails at the boats going by, it seems that they are plugged with squid; they aren’t hungry and they won’t bite — so everyone is now adding “hungry” to their wish list.

The good news is that the yellowtail are biting which is exciting because it gives everyone something to target. Also now in the available category inshore are the roosterfish, sierra and skipjack.

There are a few dorado being caught as well as even fewer wahoo to round out what thus far has been a frustrating season!

San Jose

It’s hard to pick the hot spot by watching the boats leave in the morning. Offshore the striped marlin have found the warmer water and have been the target for many anglers. The good news is that they are spread out anywhere from a few to fifteen or so miles offshore. However, there are so many free swimming bait in the water that it is tough to interest the marlin in biting.

The dorado have yet to really make much of an appearance. Those that are found are really not in schools — just a few smaller-sized fish hanging out together. Fluctuating sea temperatures may be a partial cause of the poor showing.

With the exception of a few days recently the yellowfin tuna are also in short supply so far. When yellowfin were caught trolling with live bait off the 25- to 40-pound range. Anglers were fortunate to land one or two of these fish. Wahoo also made a strong showing in the same area, though many more wahoo were lost than were actually landed. Anglers were scratching away at a variety of structure species.

With the exception of a few days recently the yellowfin tuna are also in short supply so far. When yellowfin were caught trolling with live bait off the Cardon area, they were all in the 25- to 40-pound range. Anglers were fortunate to land one or two of these fish. Wahoo also made a strong showing in the same area, though many more wahoo were lost than were actually landed. Anglers were scratching away at these fish.

East Cape

Striped marlin action is an “on again off again” thing as the unseasonal north wind continues with what is hoped to be its last gasp. On the good days, multiple marlin being caught per boat is

And here he’s begging Heather Cushing for his life. Heather was fishing with her dad, Steve, out of San Jose at the Gordo Banks. She had just landed her first wahoo with Captain Angel aboard a Cabo Playa panga when Angel had to explain to Heather that it’s customary to toss the fish back overboard when you’re finished smooching with it. We can just imagine the war story this wahoo is going to have. “And then, after getting pulled around by my lip, I get smooched by a monster the color of neon!”

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Journey with a Baja Burro

This poor little donkey has sores on his back from carrying too much too far. No wonder he's cantankerous. Maybe that's how donkeys got their bad rep? By pushing them too far. Poor little guy.

BY JEANNINE PEREZ


Graham Mackintosh claims that he has the luck of the Irish, but in his case, mere luck seems insufficient. Luck, courage, fool-hardiness, or a mixture of all, seems to work for the author of this book. Journey with a Baja Burro is written with love and a passion for Baja that doesn’t diminish with years and experience.

Graham admits his first Baja trip was a bit of a stretch for a non-athletic Scottish/Irish/British teacher (he also admits to being a couch potato), knowing no Spanish but nevertheless, he continues to take on hostile desert miles with the certainty that nothing really bad will happen to him. And somehow, it doesn’t. Scorpions, rattlesnakes, water shortages, sore toes, drug runners; nothing prevents him from completing each trip and beginning to plan the next.

This book is one of our most popular Baja books, the author is always in demand for signings, and everyone always eagerly awaits his next book. Perhaps we do also find it difficult to read and believe it’s true, with Graham still around to tell it. Journey with a Baja Burro is Graham’s second book. He’s written two more since, and we’re awaiting a fifth. His first book, Into a Desert Place relates his first two year journey on foot around Baja’s coastline. That book, now out of print, can still be found at used bookstores or online. (We have copies at our

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

A Donkey, A Burro & A Mule Walk Into This Bar....

A donkey is the descendant of the African wild ass. Ass is the correct term for the animal commonly known as the donkey and burro. Donkeys are a different species than a horse, but in the same family. (Like horses and zebras). Donkeys were originally bred in Egypt or Mesopotamia around 5,000 years ago. They can reproduce.

In the United States we use the term burro to differentiate between the domesticated donkey and the wild free ranging burros. Therefore a burro is wild and a donkey is domesticated. There are no physical differences between the two. In Mexico most often the term burro is used.

Mules, on the other hand, are a cross between a female horse and a male donkey or “jack” (hence the word “jackass”). Both male and female mules have all the correct parts and really want to use them and can, but they are sterile and cannot reproduce. Male mules might as well be castrated, since they are sterile and they can get very cranky with too many hormones rattling around in them.

So, the main difference between a donkey/burro, a mule, and a...
of undercover and deceptive. If you do stumble into the building looking for a bike to rent, and if you happen to wander into the back room, you will see a very sophisticated graphic display of what the project will look like. You will also encounter a pretty strange sales pitch; a throw back to hippie days of the 1960’s, complete with an over age flower child wearing Birkenstocks. Swear to God.

Other projects of this size, and Tres Santos itself, have encountered some opposition from local ecofreaks who don’t want to see any development along the coast, and especially anything large. So BlackRock has had the good sense to pussy foot into Todos Santos in stealth mode. Their project probably wouldn’t need it, because it’s ecologically sound, is well planned, and provides a beautiful environment. It is sure to be well received by buyers, but they are presenting themselves as this pious, ecologically sound alternative to the rapists of the land who might have gone before them. They probably don’t need to do this, as anyone who can afford to buy into their development doesn’t wear Birkenstocks, and is probably pragmatic enough to buy into whatever place they want to live. Also, Todos Santos is like catnip to 50 + retirees who fancy themselves somewhat food/beverage/art oriented.

So, what is this new development, Todos Santos’ first biggie, like? It’s pretty neat. It’s on a chunk of land that stretches from the highway that goes to La Paz, all the way down to the beach. It follows an arroyo, (a dry river bed), from the mountains to where the arroyo drains into the ocean. Winding through it, will be a very cool bike/walking path, in an area that actually has some green trees and green vegetation. It really is a pretty piece of land. Along the way will be homes and a few retail businesses of a friendly nature, such as a coffee shop. It’s on a chunk of land that’s long and skinny, stretching from the highway that goes to La Paz, all the way down to the beach. It follows an arroyo, (a dry river bed), from the mountains to where the arroyo drains into the ocean. Winding through it, will be a very cool bike/walking path, in an area that actually has some green trees and green vegetation. It really is a pretty piece of land. Along the way will be homes and a few retail businesses of a friendly nature, such as a coffee shop.
Dirt Biking the Baja... continued from page 6

their way south, their families were flying into Cabo and preparing to meet them at a bar called The Office. Mark Moss explains, "Riding dirt bikes through the open desert of Baja is long, tiring and dangerous. But getting to Cabo makes it all so worth it."

The following night was an awards dinner held at Baja Brewery. "Expect the unexpected around every corner. Respect the land, the people, the farms and the animals. For me, it’s a trip of a lifetime every time," said Cameron. "Expect the unexpected around every corner. Respect the land, the people, the farms and the animals. For me, it’s a trip of a lifetime every time." - Cameron

Que pasa en Cabo?... continued from page 7

The resort sits on 39 acres of Santa Maria bay. Montage Los Cabos will be the first international destination for Montage Hotels & Resorts, and they’re hoping to get it open in late 2017. Montage will offer its guests wellness programs a spa, as well as tennis, barefoot pitch-and-putt, basketball and recreational lawn facilities, two pools, and an immersive children’s program. "Whoops, you had us up until we heard about all the little curtain crawlers running around. The Mar, Secrets, and Dreams resorts in Los Cabos. The ME by Melia hotel on Cabo’s Medano beach is not changing hands as we keep hearing. The resort will continue to be operated by Spain-based Melia hotels, and will reopen sometime this November. Again, hurricane damage."

If you think the Rip to Cabo is something you’d like to participate in next year, start prepping now. "Seven days of back to back riding 200 to 300 bumpy miles a day is not for everyone. It’s more mental than physical for most that come on the ride the first time," said Cameron. "Expect the unexpected around every corner. Respect the land, the people, the farms and the animals. For me, it’s a trip of a lifetime every time!" - Cameron

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be responsible for any damage caused by an accident. Further regulations regarding altitude and speed are applicable depending on the drone’s weight. However, a different set of rules will probably apply to another drone that may soon be flying in Mexican skies. Insitu, a Boeing subsidiary specializing in drone development and manufacturing, has been in talks with representatives of the Mexican government interested in complementing their equipment with drones, specifically autonomous ones.

“We’ve held conversations with all the government agencies, and each has shown different levels of interest,” said Dexon Guzmán, Insitu’s director of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance business development. The company was approached by several agencies during last week’s aerospace fair.

Guzmán explained that drones are used in surveillance, intelligence tasks as well as reconnaissance. The Army, Navy and other departments have shown interest in the vehicles which, instead of being remotely operated, are fully autonomous for up to 24 hours, time that can be dedicated to data collection or surveillance.

Insitu’s units are not small. The ScanEagle, one of the most popular models, has a wingspan of 3 yards, a length of up to 2 yards, and beats through the skies at 80 mph. It is a model used by the U.S. Air Force and Navy. Mexico already has at least nine drones in use, but none of them is autonomous, which means the aircraft is controlled by an onboard computer system. Several consumer models are proving popular, particularly for aerial photography. Most of us have seen them around here, as they are popular with real estate agents.

No more bribes! They can’t stop police officers — male officers, that is — from going after mordidas in the state of México over on the mainland, so the state has declared a three month moratorium on such fines while new transit officers — women only — are trained. The new officers will all be women as part of ongoing efforts to curb corruption. Women officers, it is believed, tend to be more honest than their male counterparts.

That is also a perception on the part of the public. Citizens have greater confidence in uniformed women, said Government Secretary José Manzur Quiroga. “... we are looking to stop corruption in the state of México and we believe there is much greater respect towards a woman police officer than a man.”

Well, not in Cabo, women aren’t so squeaky clean. There is a woman cop who camps out at the entrance to Cabo extorting money out of anyone driving a foreign plated car. She even waves around the same fake ticket to scare the people. She recycles it because the foreigners stupidly fork over money to her. More stupidly, officials won’t do anything about it. This paper contacted our state tourism director, and he wouldn’t even respond to our pleas. Sigh. Seems our precious foreigners are on their own in this state.
This service runs between $14 and $26, depending on how far out in the boon docks your pet lives.

Luis and Monica have two human helpers, Carmen and Victor, and one canine assistant, Frisco, a golden retriever, who takes his job, (and his tennis balls), very seriously. He’s a great host, making all the new guests feel right at home, especially the cats. Ja ja. (That’s Frisco’s attempt at humor. He actually isn’t allowed around the cats, since That Day.)

You can reach Cabo Kennels at 624-146-2185 or you can visit them online at cabokennels.com.

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fin fishing were not even able to get out on the water for three of the days this week because of the high winds and seas.

Except for that one day, conventional tackle boats were out everyday with varying degrees of success. But results were not continued on page 32
book store in Loreto). On his second great Baja adventure, Graham takes a companion, Mision, a moody and horny burro. In October, 1997, they travel together for 1000 miles, celebrating the 300th anniversary of the founding of the mother of all California Missions, in Loreto. Mision proves to be an interesting and rather needy companion. The first donkeys are said to have been brought to the New World in 1495, and burro-temperament probably has not improved much since then. Nevertheless, with an overloaded and reluctant burro, our author heads down the Mission Trail. Reading Graham’s books puts readers into the moment, and quickly dumps them into his world. Colored photos in the center give us views and details about the terrain. Together, we experience Graham’s hardships, encounters, and anecdotes, and we slides bits of each area’s history into his personal experiences, then ties it altogether with pithy quotes in italics that begin each chapter (and may or may not, ex-

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**So Is Any Real Estate Selling Around Here?**

A little. Here’s one development that is selling and even offering sustainable homes

**BY BILL DING**

The Portus Group began the highly successful Ventanas Residential project in Cabo San Lucas nine years ago. It consists of three master-planned communities of single family homes and condominiums, Phase I and II — already delivered — and Phase III, each centered around a very upscale club house.

A key reason for the success of Portus Group is their philosophy of building entire communities rather than just some houses. According to Jose Acosta, “When we deliver the key to your house, it is not the end, but the beginning of our relationship with you, as we are here to help the homeowners preserve the beauty, tranquility, and property values of their new investment.”

The experience of community begins upon purchase of the property when the new homeowners are assigned a personal customer service agent who will answer them with progress reports. There is even a home store on the property, where you can buy everything you need for the new home, right down to the silverware and pillow cases.

When your home is completed, the Portus staff welcomes you with a key ceremony and a tour of all the amenities Ventanas offers. Then, as a homeowner, the true Ventanas experience begins: you will join our private club, with special discounts for all services and activities on site, as well as discounts at restaurants and popular tourist locations in Cabo. If you love sport fishing and other water sports, the Portus boat is available for your use. Use it and walk away from it, which is the best way to enjoy boating.

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**Belgium French Fries, a Big Cabo Favorite**

Have you tried the fries at Fritz Belgium Fries? The buzz around town is that they are delicious, they are awesome! Fritz Belgium Fries opened three short weeks following Hurricane Odile. Already Fritz is seeing return and word of mouth customers as good news travels quickly, especially in a community like Los Cabos.

Fritz Belgium Fries are prepared with fresh cut potatoes and fried in zero trans-fat oil within a six-stage process making them tastier; golden crunchy on the outside and soft & chewy on the inside. Simply wonderful! Fries are served with a side of pickled red onions and a choice from ten dipping sauces which include Bacon garlic, Dijon mayonnaise and Lemon parmesan to name a few. And of course, you will find ketchup and malt vinegar if you prefer the more traditional dip.

Stop by to try some time, they are located at the corner/entrance of Giggling Marlin downtown Cabo San Lucas and are open from Noon to 11pm. You will be delighted you did stop by, as their slogan goes “Try our Fries, You’re Gonna Love Them”.

PS. They also serve Poutine, fries with gravy and cheese, absolutely yummy! 🍟

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**VILLA DEL ARCO**

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Calendar of Performing Arts

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Open Monday to Sunday. From 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Voluntary donations are welcome.

CULTURAL PAVILION
Jun 13. Saturday. 7:00 pm. Dance Gala. International guest artist from dance companies around the world representing Marinsky Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, Ballet West and Sammy Hagar as special guest. Hmmm..... Sammy en pointe? Naw. General admission $50 USD. Vip admission $100 USD. A percentage of the entrance fees will be donated to support young local talent in foreign dance schools. Info and tickets with Laura Alfaro Cel.: 624 191 3506. Spanish and English.

Jun 14. Sunday. 2:00 pm. Dance Gala. International guest artist from dance companies around the world representing Marinsky Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, Ballet West as well as International Latin Ballroom Champions. Special participation of selected winners of Youth America Grand Prix. Matinee for all audience. General admission $15 USD. VIP $30 USD. A percent of the entrees will be donated to support young local talent in foreign dance schools. Spanish and English. Info and tickets with Laura Alfaro Cel.: 624 191 3506.

MARINA FRONT
Every Saturday. From 12:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Cultural circuit. Art exhibition by local artists, workshops, paint, sculpture, photography, food tasting, theater, live music and dance. Spanish. Free. Various parts of the malecon. Except not Saturday April 4 because its Good Saturday or something like that. CASA CARACOL UNA RANA
Every Saturday 7:00pm to 11:30pm. Cultural circuit. Live music, poetry, painting, books, arts & crafts, sculpture, movies, vegetarian food. Hidalgo and Revolucion Sts, downtown Cabo. Cel. 624 117 1663. Free.

AMELIA WILKES PLAZA

LA PAZ
ALIANZA FRANCESA
Every Tuesday. 6:00 pm. French films movie club. Different French film each week. Alianza Francesa cultural center at 925 Gomez Farias St. between Republica St and Guerero St. Estero town, La Paz. For info and program: www.facebook.com/alianzafrancesaslapaz. Spanish, French, English and other languages. Free.

Every Friday 6:00 pm. International films movie club. Various films. Alianza Francesa cultural center at 525 Gomez Farias St. between Republica St and Guerero St., La Paz. For info and program: www.facebook.com/alianzafrancesaslapaz. Spanish, French, English and other languages. Free.

CITY THEATER downtown La Paz

CENTRO MUNICIPAL DE LAS ARTES Cyt Art Center, Hierro Street in El Dorado barrio
May 28. Thursday. 7:00 pm. Southern Baja identity and Modernity. Photography exhibit by Elizabeth Moreno and Alejandro Rivas. Spanish. Free. Pictures are in Spanish? We gotta see that.

ESCOLA DE MUSICA DEL ESTADO State school of music on Morelos Street, downtown La Paz. May 29. Friday. 4:30 pm. Recital for voice and piano under the direction of Ivan Hallal Zapeda at the Main Hall of the Escuela de Musica del Estado. Spanish. Free.

SAN JOSE
May 18. Monday. 7:00 pm. Luna Itzel. Mexico Singing (El canto de Mexico). Concert of Mexican music by singer Luna Itzel to benefit Sarahuaro foundation's battered women's programs. Admission 550 Mexican pesos or about $36. Info: info@sarahuaro.org. Tickets Cel.: 624 188 9383. November 12-15. 4th Los Cabos International Film Festival. JUne 3. Wednesday. 5:00 pm and 7:30 pm. Aganjuni un posa a tavola (The deluge that's coming) is a musical comedy written by Pietro Garinei, Sandro Giovanni and Iaia Fiastri, which debuted in 1974 under the direction of Garinei and Giovanni. Music was written by Armando Trovaioli. By Students of Penitencial college to benefit the San Miguel community center for the Elder. Donations welcome. In Spanish. June 5. Friday. 4:00 pm. Jazz Dance Festival. Goodbye to school by the students of the Jazz Studio. Info: Eugenia Cota, Cel 624-182-0773 Free admittance.

SAN JOSE DOWNTOWN
May 29. Friday 6:00 pm. Lion King-The Musical. A Musical-Broadway play acted, sung and danced by the students of Mission College as part of the city's cultural activities. Spanish and English. Free. May 30. Saturday. 7:00 pm. Opera recital by Maestro Nahum Aquino with Paola Torner, Mezzosoprano and Daniel Silva, Tenor. To benefit of The Captain Children foundation. Info and tickets with Luz E. Rojas Phone: 173 3807. June 7. From 5:00 pm to 12:00 am. Sunday. World Music Fest. Music in the streets and the Main Plaza in San Jose. This diverse festival combines all styles, audiences and countries, artists and music-lovers of all ages gather all over the world, live music with several local bands, in commemoration of the World's Music Day. Our local event also features cultural exhibition and sale of arts & crafts. San Jose's downtown streets will be closed to vehicle traffic. Starts at 5pm and go on until 2 am. All artists are invited to sign up by emailing: fiestadelamusica@cosobos@gmail.com . For more information: http://www.fiestadelamusica@cosobos.net. Spanish and English. Free.

CIRCUETKA
Every Thursday. 7:00 pm. Libroteca at the Circueteka. Reading club for kids. Actors disguised read and act a short story for the kids. Libroteca is part of a Reading lounges organized by The Ysabela’s little sister. More Info about reading lounges Email: todossomoselotro@gmail.com. Circueteka is located at Angela Cesaña St. between Furlane Street and Barivento SC. San Jose. Spanish. Free.

To list your event at no cost, email details to david@gringogazette.com. All events subject to change without warning, and we’re not kidding around about this. It happens frequently, so go, with great expectations of a wonderful evening, but have a backup plan. ➤
A DONKEY, A BURRO AND A... continued from page 20

horse is genetics. Horses have 64 chromosomes; donkeys have 62, leaving the mule with 63.

Mules are not really stubborn, but they can seem lazy because they will not put themselves in danger. A horse can be worked until it drops, but not so with a mule. The so-called stubborn streak is just the mule’s way of telling humans that things are not right here. Mules are very intelligent and it is a good idea to abuse a mule. They will do their best for their owner, with the utmost patience, but they know the limits, sometimes better than the people who are using them.

In a lot of ways, a mule is superior to both a donkey/burro and a horse, taking many of the best traits of each. For instance:

- Mules have tougher and less sensitive skin than horses.
- Mules live longer than horses (as much as 50 years, compared to the horse’s 30 or so years).
- They also have a greater number of years where they can be productive, averaging about 18 years to a horse’ 15 years of productivity. Further, mules can be used as many as 30 to 40 years for riding, long after the horse would be dead.

Mules also require much less in the way of high quality food (no grain needed). They can be turned out into the desert around here and can take care of themselves, where horses could not survive.

- They need less food, pound for pound, than horses, with a much more efficient digestive tract (needing only around 1.5% of their body weight per day, compared to a horse’ 2.5%).
- Mules, like donkeys, also have a very strong self preservation sense, which makes them naturally a better companion in a fight with wild animals, and also better in the sense that they won’t let you work them to the point of death.

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**Questions? Call the office in Cabo at 14 30865. U.S. number is 562 714 6735**

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The Place to be... in Los Cabos

www.puertoparaiso.mx
Cerritos, Pescadero & Todos Santos: A good way to spend a day

Todos Santos, Pescadero and Cerritos are a town, a half-a-town, and an area that are all chock-a-block together just 45 minutes up the divided four-lane highway from Cabo San Lucas. If you haven’t seen this area, you haven’t seen all that Southern Baja has to offer, and the drive is along the Pacific Coast with spectacular vistas almost all the way to China. Any day will be fun from the trees are the folks who fashioned up their folding tables under the ocean to the dirt road just before the only Pemex gas station in south to km 65—the old Cerritos road or for a little smoother experience try hopping off at km 67. Turn off west to the ocean and follow the signs leading to a wooden beach shack which is actually a very cool restaurant/bar—Cerritos Beach Club - with tables and chairs on the sand in front of the surf break. It's crowded inside so sit outside in the sun with your toes in the sand. Sun-day, Daline Jones and Diego Rivera stand out there on a wooden platform thrown down on the sand and entertain you with music that's just right for the environment.

When you arrive, you will be given a parking slip. Get that stamped and give it to the kid on the way out. They're just trying to stop the moochers from camping on the beach using all their water which they have to truck in. Yup, no electricity either, you're off the grid. This is a swimmable beach & surf break, so take your beach stuff.

If you want to skip the beach and drive north on your way to Todos Santos on the four-lane, and don't get off it, (but why would you do that?) Pescadero will be on both sides of you and you won't even know you're going through it. The community is on the east side of the highway, look sharp and drive up the newly renovated and paved entry road at km 62.

El Pescadero is a traditional agricultural based town that’s recently been invaded by mostly budget conscious foreigners who can carve out a wonderful lifestyle in the quaint pueblo sitting pretty between the Sierra Laguna mountains and the sea. The town’s 2500 plus souls have produced a “downtown” but it isn’t really a destination for visitors and it’s a bit of a stretch to even call it a downtown.

The charm of the town is in the few foreign directed businesses such as surf camps, taco stands, a couple bars, and some small boutique hotels. The beaches are largely safe and swimmable while still being attractive to surfers.

There is a wonderful citizen group called Amigos de El Pescadero that’s open to all, regardless of country of origin. It’s a non-profit, working to improve the community through neighborhood watches, health programs and special events. They work hard at providing any resources the community needs that they can’t obtain through official channels. Back on the highway, you’re only a few minutes to the charming town of Todos Santos.
You’re Leaving For The Season Without Me??

I thought we agreed, you would sneak me into The United States of America in the trunk of your car! I’ve even been practicing holding my breath and I’m up to 20 minutes. More or less. Honestly, I don’t wear a watch. But it seems like.

Pedro

Look, I always clean my feet when I step out of my litter box or when I come inside the house. I am polite, fastidious, and truth be told, I could probably teach you a thing or two about keeping a clean house.

We need volunteers

No one can do everything, but everyone can do something!

LOS CABOS Humane Society

QUE PASA EN CABO?... continued from page 22

More fun at Cerritos. The Freesouls Restaurant in Cerritos is now open, serving great food and pizzas, with a view of Cerritos beach, as it sits up on a second floor. The rooftop is partially covered and features a heated pool. There is live music some nights, mostly on weekends.

It’s a cool place. Already we’ve seen Pepe Soza’s Todos Santos Jazz band perform there. The band features the talented female singer Divier Guivie. They serve lunch and dinner every day. Reservations: info@thefreesoulsproject.com, Cell 624-191-4666.

Geek needed. Stephanie Rousso in Todos Santos is looking for an app developer to well, develop an app. Her idea is an app for turtle lovers to record their sea turtle sightings. There’s limited funding. (Translation: You’ll be working for starvation wages. If you think you can do the job, and you think you can make more money somewhere else, heck you might even be a turtle hugger, then contact Stephanie Rousso, Cell. 612-150-6667.

Think summer is boring?

Well, you’re right. But to combat that, Todos Santos resident Anita Trammell will hold craft classes for adults and children, starting with a sign up meet up Wednes-day May 20 at La Esquina. Examples of the classes will be available to check out. There will also be Scrabble, Mah Jong, even bocce ball groups. Anyone staying the summer who would like to give a class, should contact Anita for more information. Anita Trammell, anita.trammell@sbcglobal.net, Cell. 612-104-8188.

FISH REPORT... continued from page 25

very spectacular. When the wind blows and the waters crash, it’s hard to get bait so that didn’t help. Still, there were some nice catches of rooster fish (10 to 40 pounds), pargo, cabrilla, jack cre-valle, small dorado, and bonito plus a wahoo or two. But nothing was especially great and every day was different.

Cabo San Lucas

Tracy Ehrenberg www.pi-scesssportfishing.com

Larry Edwards www.cor-tezcharters.com
San Jose del Cabo
Gordo Bank Pangas www.gordobanks.com
East Cape
Rancho Leonero Hotel www.rancholeonero.com
Jen Wren Sportfishing www.jenhwrn.com
East Cape Tackle Cindy Kirkwood, www.eastcapetackle.com
La Paz
Jonathan Roldan’s Tailhunter International www.tailhunter-international.com

FISH REPORT... continued from page 25
Cooking Like A Mexican

BY ALEJANDRA SARACHAGA

If you’re like me, you love recipes that feed lots of people for not much money, they make enough for leftovers, and they can be served either as a main dish or a side dish. This issue’s recipe is one of those. And yes! It is traditional Mexican.

We start with the potato. The word papa is a Quechua word meaning tuber. Historians agree that potatoes are native to America, and the only controversy is which part of America. There are two centers of wild potato: one, located in the central region of Mexico, and the other, between the central region of Peru and northwestern Argentina. The cultivated potato has more wild relatives (228) than any other crop. Cultivated potatoes spread in South America through the interconnection of the Andean peoples. In southwestern Mexico all the way to Peru, the first Spanish conquerors saw that the Incas cultivated a strange plant whose fruit grew in the ground. This was the potato.

Agriculture was a sacred activity for the Incas who worshipped Pachamama (Mother Earth) and Inti (Sun God). Potatoes were the basis of their diet, and they had a remarkable mastery of this crop. They used terraces on which they placed a foundation of layers of rock and clay (some terraces reached over 7500 feet above sea level.)

The Incas made botanical experiments. They learned to produce a large array of potatoes in small plots of land: white, yellow, purple, and red in various sizes. Even today, in the Urubamba Valley (which stretches from Machu Picchu to Cusco), there are many of these terraces left. And even more amazing is that many of them are still used by farmers to this day. The potato traveled to Spain in 1550 and from there spread throughout Europe during the sixteenth century. Initially the potato was despised, as there was no custom of eating roots. Some Europeans believed the tuber was causing leprosy. In Russia they called it “plant of the devil.” Catholics decreed that eating it was a sin since its consumption was not mentioned in the Bible. Others believed they caused flatulence. (Do we have to spell that out for you, Bunky?) Because of all the reasons to avoid this food, its use was limited to livestock and as a decorative plant.

However, some people were interested, including Antoine Augustin Parmentier, a pharmacist in the French army who was a prisoner for three years during the Seven Years War. He survived thanks to the consumption of this tuber. As thanks, Parmentier advised King Louis XVI to encourage the cultivation of potatoes amongst the peasants. A Spanish writer documented that potatoes were better than truffles.

The peasants began to sow potatoes because the rulers forced them to as a way to survive famines, wars and epidemics. But it took two centuries before the potato began to be considered a domestic crop. Eventually, however, this crop covered large areas of land. The farmers realized how practical growing potatoes could be. It only took three or four months until they were ready to harvest. They required less work, which allowed farmers to focus on other tasks. Finally they could be stored for a long time.

With the large-scale cultivation of potatoes, more dishes were created for their use: breads, noodles, soups, stews, and cakes. Potatoes could be baked, roasted, or fried. Today, with advances in technology, we can enjoy even dehydrated potatoes.

The potato acclimated well to European lands, especially in countries like Germany, Poland, Russia, Ireland and Belgium. In 1750, the potato was already considered a staple throughout the European continent and one of the most important crops of that time. An old legend says that Andean quinoa growers dominated the highland people for many years and wanted to let them die slowly so they decreased food rations. On the verge of death, the poor cried to heaven and God gave them round, fleshy seeds, which, after planting, became beautiful purple clumps that dotted the icy highlands with their flowers. The rulers did not object to the cultivation because they planned to harvest everything themselves. Indeed, when the plants were yellow and the fruit seemed ripe, the oppressors mowed the fields and took everything. Bereaved and dying of hunger, the vanquished asked again for clemency. A voice from above answered, “Remove the earth and take out the fruits, which have hidden there to fool the oppressors and bless the poor.” And so, under the earth were the beautiful potatoes, which were collected and hidden. Each morning the men of the highlands ate a portion of potatoes and soon were strong enough to attack and defeat the oppressors who fled and never again returned.

Currently, the potato plays a substantial role in the economy of many countries and is one of the staples of our Mexican table.

Potato pancakes, Mexican style. What makes them Mexican style? Well, for starters, the fact that they’ve got about 10 ingredients to deal with, and it will take several hours to assemble these patties.

No one ever says, “It’s only a game!” when their team is winning.

Potato pancakes

Ingredients:
1 pound of potatoes
butter
5 eggs
salt to taste
cumin to taste
oil for frying

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 35
Modernity and progress come, but each village keeps its own history, personality, and always retains what works well. We marvel that Graham made his first two trips without the aid of some of today's technology. His perceptions and descriptions make it all real, and are strictly his own opinions. He describes San Quintin (in 1997), as a “small village…a hundred two-leggeds and a hundred million fleas” (page 130). He describes the many rusted car wreck sculptures along the road. Where are they now?

Complaining, he admits he’ll forevermore appreciate motherhood because caring for a burro is like having a child, and he’s found it to be a 24 hour job. Coming through the Vizcaino desert (without enough water), he describes the círios (also called Boojum trees). They were called círios by the first padres, because they resemble tall church candles, and they’ve changed little in 100 million years, can only found in the central desert, in only one place on a range in Sonora. They remain a mystery, because no fossils have been found. Why are they just growing there? No one can say with any certainty just how, where and why these trees looking like upside down hairy carrots or weird space aliens originated.

When he reaches Santa Rosalia, mentions the Boleo Bakery, and the 1955 report of 60 mineral species in the area.

Mulegé is next, and we discover why it is called “heroic Mulegé” because of its importance during the Mexican American war of 1846-1848. Next, he swings west and we experience Purísima and the Pacific coastline, and finally he reaches the end of the road in Loreto, and the very first Mission built in the Californias, giving us the proud history of that village, and the Boleo Bakery, and the 1955 report of 60 mineral species in the area.

Graham Mackintosh is a popular author as well as speaker, and can often be found in the Baja. Previous to the journey described in this report, he and his family were extras in Rosarito during the filming of the Titanic (and he claims he was a camera hog in a drinking scene below decks). However, he missed the TV presentation of Oscars won by that film. At that time, he was busy giving Mision reassurance that food, water, and rest would be assured.

**Easier Border Crossing**

Artist's conception of pedestrian terminal in Otay Mesa, just inside the United States. Passengers flying out of the Tijuana airport will check in here, and then hike across the 160 yard pedestrian bridge, hauling their luggage behind them, ending up directly inside the TJ airport. This saves them from parking in private lots in Otay Mesa, taking a shuttle to the border, then dragging their rollies down a sidewalk for about 500 yards, and then hailing a cab to the airport. That cab costs about $10 if you dash across a very busy street with no traffic light, or about twice that if you take a cab from the safe side of the street.

The $78 million project has been in the works since October 2013 and is expected to be operational by this coming November.

**Easy Peasy**

Artist's conception of pedestrian terminal in Otay Mesa, just inside the United States. Passengers flying out of the Tijuana airport will check in here, and then hike across the 160 yard pedestrian bridge, hauling their luggage behind them, ending up directly inside the TJ airport. This saves them from parking in private lots in Otay Mesa, taking a shuttle to the border, then dragging their rollies down a sidewalk for about 500 yards, and then hailing a cab to the airport. That cab costs about $10 if you dash across a very busy street with no traffic light, or about twice that if you take a cab from the safe side of the street.

But the real savings in time will be returning. Walking across the border into the United States is an ordeal, made worse by all the Mexicans who have visas to come into the States, which they use to go to the head of the line. Hopefully this pedestrian bridge crossing will be restricted to flyers only.
probably more sensitive to this dichotomy than they need to be, because the Mexican authorities don't much care what the Gringos want, they want to keep their electorate happy and provide

how ecologically friendly this development is, yada, yada, yada. But go one room further into this building, and you will see a floor to ceiling glass wall where the suits who run the place are huddled. You know by looking at them that they haven't drunk the Kool Aid of ecological correctness, that they are pragmatic

them with jobs, so they are fast tracking the project. And the pool of American and Canadian Tres Santos buyers don't care about how Todos Santos used to be, they just want a nice place to live in what they think is still a very nice town.

Nevertheless, BlackRock is not taking any chances, so if you find yourself in their sales office, toe to toe with the over age flower child in long cotton dress and Birkenstocks she's going to stay in character no matter how you taunt her. We couldn't shake her loose of her role. She's going to keep yammering away about business people who are going to pull off a very successful, very liveable residential development that promises to be the best one in all of southern Baja. For more info look up www.tressantosbaja.com. We would give you the phone number of the hippie at the "hub" in Todos Santos but she's not going to tell you the real deal, and you're better off cruising the downtown stoplight on your right floor to ceiling glass wall where the suits who run the place are huddled.

Dip pancakes into the egg mixture and fry in hot oil. Drain on a paper towel to remove excess oil. Serve as a side dish with steak, grilled chicken or fish. Or, you can serve the potato pancakes as a main course with a nice salad or balls with mashed potato. Set aside.

Separate egg yolks from egg whites. Whisk egg whites until stiff When ready add the yolks and mix well.

Form small patties or balls with mashed potato. Set aside.

Stiff When ready add the yolks and mix well.

COOKING LIKE A MEXICAN...

Preparation: Cook potatoes in a saucepan with water. Puree. Add butter, cumin and salt. Form small patties or balls with mashed potato. Set aside.

Serve as a side dish with steak, grilled chicken or fish. Or, you can serve the potato pancakes as a main course with a nice salad on the side. Cheap, tasty and versatile. What more could you ask for? 

BOOK REPORT...

continued from page 34

soon be plentiful.

Reading Graham’s books gives a taste of adventure for those who would not dare hike Baja as he does, and we of course, also greatly admire his wife Bonni, who understands shares, and supports his passion for Baja adventures with unlimited patience. 


Elmer Sawatzky e.mail. desa99@icloud.com ph. (624) 148 6907

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