Moving the Fourlane Back on the Agenda

We first brought you this news 16 months ago, but at that time you were not paying attention. Please pay attention this time, we can’t keep catching you up.

BY DAVID FLORES

In the March 10, 2014 issue of the Gringo Gazette, we presented an article on the plan to move 7/10s of a mile of the corridor, otherwise known as the Fourlane. That seemed to be a yawner for a lot of you, but now the story of the slippery road is on the front burner again because the proponents of the move are inching ahead with it. Or trying to.

Now that the local Mexican press has finally picked up the story and is running with it, we’re being asked if we know anything about this. Hellsaaaaa... We scooped everyone on this by so many months that everyone’s forgotten about our scoop.

We are re-running the original story here for all you who napped through it, and after that we will explain the latest information on the subject. First the original story:

Fourlane on the move

They can’t just pick up a four lane Hwy, can they? Oh yeah, they did it before, of course they can.

By David Flores (Published March 10, 2014, Vol. 19 Ed. 14)

The Mexican secretariat of communications and transport (SCT) has released a bulletin announcing the “modernization” of the road. We’ve been watching this for a while and it seems like the road is not going to be replaced with a modern highway as they promised. Instead, they are going to widen the existing road.

A Greenpeace vessel patrolling the Gulf of California has discovered gill netters are continuing to snag the endangered vaquita porpoise despite a government moratorium on this activity and the fact that the fishermen are being paid their full income to sit on their ass.

For a while it seemed like the world’s smallest and most endangered porpoise was getting the help it needed from the United States government, which coughed up money to pay the fishermen for doing nothing, but it was not to be that simple. They are at it again. A ban on gill-net fishing—the CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Mexican Poachers Ignore Fishing Ban

And after they were paid to cut it out! Let’s take the money back.

BY BESS EATON

A Greenpeace vessel patrolling the Gulf of California has discovered gill netters are continuing to snag the endangered vaquita porpoise despite a government moratorium on this activity and the fact that the fishermen are being paid their full income to sit on their ass.

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These little cutie pies don’t get along with nets, and the use of them is causing them to become extinct.
Local biologist awarded. Graciela Tiburcio is a young biologist who has devoted 21 years of her life to protecting endangered species in Mazatlan, La Paz and Veracruz in the Gulf of Mexico. 16 years ago she moved to Cabo San Lucas where she first directed the sea turtle protection program of Asupamatoma, a non-profit turtle hugging group. The city hired her a few years later to run the government’s program to protect sea turtles and in that capacity she started an education program that involved the sea turtle protection program San Lucas where she first directed 16 years ago she moved to Cabo Veracruz in the Gulf of Mexico. She has devoted 21 years of her life to protecting endangered species in Mazatlan, La Paz and Veracruz in the Gulf of Mexico. She learned about the several species of sea turtles that come back every year to deposit their eggs. The kids get to toss the newborn turtle babies into the sea when they’re ready to go. Creating these programs earned Tiburcio the individual category Award to Ecological Merit from Semarnat, Mexico’s environmental protection ministry. Uh oh. At a recent city council meeting, Councilwoman Cristina Medina brought up the idea of suspending Chileno Bay’s construction permits, saying the sprawling upscale residential project is slipping on fulfilling their obligatory donation of public works to the community. Developers fees here are pretty casual. Instead of paying high fees to pull the permits, the developers are supposed to donate some infrastructure somewhere. It was suggested that the Chileno Bay developers do something like expand the public parking lot, or relocated the city water pipes that cross their land, and, most importantly, how about that big old Olympic pool that’s pending, as soon as somebody decides where. The council called Daniel Urrea, the developer’s representative to explain. Urrea apologized profusely and said it slipped through the cracks and would be taken care of in a Mexican minute. A second meeting was scheduled for next week. New hospital. But not for everyone. The Los Cabos City Council approved the donation of 60,000 square feet for the construction of a hospital for ISSSTE members. That’s the acronym for the government health system for government workers. Only bureaucrats get patched up at those hospitals. Ground breaking day will be announced in a Mexican minute. Airport traffic expected to soar. The Los Cabos International Airport is operating five percent below traffic volume for the same time period last year; however, it is expected to end the year with a record breaking number of 3.6 million passengers flowing through the facility. This has allowed airport operator, GAP to continue investing, and they have reported that repairs at terminal 1 will be finished in October. Building the private terminal will be expanded which will allow the airport to continue operating in the future.
Leave the driving to them.

Greyhound, the largest intercity bus service in the United States, has begun offering domestic service in Mexico. Greyhound is dogging it mostly in the north of the country with 13 departures a day. Another 10 departures daily will link Monterrey with stops in Texas on a Monterrey-Nuevo Laredo-Laredo-San Antonio-Austin-Dallas route. The bus company has new terminals in both Monterrey and Nuevo Laredo, offering free WiFi and charging stations for electronic devices. New buses offer three-point seat belts, free WiFi, power outlets, leather seats, guaranteed seating, and extra leg room.

Bus service in Mexico can be, and often is, nicer than the airline you flew down on, with way nicer stewardesses than the witches on Alaska who snarl, “tray tables up,” about 600 miles out so they can sit in the back of the plane and read People magazine.

Oh yuck. Celantro import -ted from Mexico to the United States has been proven to cause outbreaks of stomach illnesses. So the FDA sent investigators to Pueblo, an agricultural area south east of Mexico City. Sure ‘nuf, they found bad shit in the cilantro fields. Literally. They found human feces and scraps of toilet paper among the cilantro! Some fields had no sanitary facilities, others did but had no soap or toilet paper.

As a result, cilantro from Pueblo has been banned from going into the United States. Meanwhile, the U.S. FDA is working with Mexican growers, explaining about providing bathroom facilities to a certain standard. When they have come up to U.S. standards, the ban will be removed. Meanwhile, no doubt the growers who are banned from shipping to the U.S. will be aggressively looking for domestic markets to dump their tainted cilantro. So if you’re eating Celantro here in Baja, ask where your grocer or restaurateur has bought it from.

We’re from the government and we’re here to help. Two recent polls reveal how little confidence Mexican citizens have in their federal government. One found 80% didn’t believe the official version of the escape from jail by drug leader El Chapo while in another, 54% of respondents said they doubted the story. The part they didn’t believe was that about the tunnel:

thought him a villain. But those 42% must be big T shirt buyers, because shirts with his image on them are flying off the shelves.

Frankenweed in Mexico. Competition from newly-legalized marijuana in the United States has been blamed for a shift among drug cartels in Mexico to grow opium poppies instead. Turns out Americans are way better at cultivating marijuana than Mexicans and the cartels can’t sell their inferior product anymore. But now they’ve fought back, as some Mexican growers are raising genetically altered marijuana, a sort of super marijuana, which some people are calling Frankenweed. Federal Police have seized 7,000 marijuana plants said to have been genetically modified and cloned in a greenhouse operation in Jalisco. Colombians are behind it. There have been reports of GM marijuana being cultivated there for several years. GM pot was proving popular among Colombian farmers, and is more powerful and profitable with bigger production and better quality.
leading cause of death for the vaquita—was put in place in the marine mammal’s habitat in the northern part of the Gulf of California, giving hope that the last 100 of the species might survive.

Greenpeace officials asked the Mexican government for a meeting to discuss the lack of enforcement in the banned fishing zone, and Mexican officials never even got back to them.

The Hong Kong government has been no more helpful than the Mexican government, as in two separate investigations, Greenpeace activists in Hong Kong have discovered shopkeepers selling totoaba bladders they claim came from Mexico. “We got the shop names, photo evidence, and video and gave all those materials to the Hong Kong government in May,” said Greenpeace East Asia campaigner Bonnie Tang. “However, after two months, the government still has taken no action to inspect any of the shop owners.”

There were 200 vaquitas in the Gulf of California as recently as 2012, but the rising prices of totoaba bladders—thought to cure a limp dick, decimated the population down to 97 individuals last year, with as few as 50 remaining in the wild today. If something isn’t done now to reverse the trend, the world’s smallest cetacean could be extinct within three years.

“The totoaba trade will not stop until the Hong Kong government takes action,” Tang said. “Action taken will send a very large warning that shop owners should not engage in bladder trading anymore. If they don’t, the extinction of the species is imminent.”

Can’t the Chinamen just take Viagra? Just wondering.
MOVING THE FOURLANE... continued from page 1

of 0.7 miles of the fourlane that runs between Cabo San Lucas and San Jose. The area to be “modernized” runs from Chileno Bay to Palmilla.

The current fourlane will be redeployed nearly three miles up into the mountains, where it will connect with the soon to be open San Jose to Cabo San Lucas road. Oh come on, we’ve been telling you about that for years now. It seems out of sight, out of mind with you. A new road has been under construction for the past couple of years, parallelling the fourlane. It runs from the toll road to the airport, 19 miles all the way to highway 1, more familiarly known as the road to Todos Santos. This road is finished, and driveable, but not open to the public yet. We drove it, it’s cool. This new road is particularly handy to the Cabo San Lucas airport up behind Cabo San Lucas, and it will serve as access to all those developments on the upside of the fourlane along the corridor. No doubt they will be quick to build fancy entrances to make those back doors their new front doors.

If you squint at this pretty lousy map, you can see this newly announced stretch of highway will feature five new overpasses on the part that will go down towards the beach and the hotels Dreams, Melia Cabo Real, Casa del Mar, Ventanas, Meliá Cabo Real, Hilton and Secrets Cabo Real. All these are owned by Grupo Questro, the developers of the Cabo Real area and the San Jose marina. It’s no secret that whip smart Eduardo Sanchez Navarro has wanted this new highway for many years. He knows how to make his developments attractive to foreigners. Although the date for ground breaking was not revealed, the bulletin states that it will be finished 18 months after whenever it starts. When asked about this major change, Mayor Tony Agundez said, “Huh? What? Who? Where? I don’t know anything about this.” Well, we paraphrase, but he was pretty clueless that one of his roads was on the move.

The SCT news release is trying to pretty this project up by pointing out that at least eight dangerous crossroads as well as access roads will be eliminated, saving lives and limbs. But that’s not for sure. In fact, nobody involved is saying if the road is actually moving or if this new road is in addition to the old road. Are they going to tear up the asphalt on the current .7 miles of road? It would seem that road will become private, the property CONTINUED ON PAGE 7
The Place to be... in Los Cabos
Lets go to the mall

Located in the heart of Cabo San Lucas, right on the marina, you can find the unique and spectacular PUERTO PARAÍSO shopping mall, more beautiful and larger than most malls in the U.S. and Canada. With liberal use of marble everywhere, even in the stairwells and restrooms, you will feel like you’re special at this mall. Because shopping should be an unforgettable experience, Puerto Paraiso delivers just that: a unique experience and you’re sure to find everything you need, and you can enjoy a leisurely lunch or dinner. You will find excitement at the Casino Caliente, fishing excursions, 10 movie theaters with VIP movie rooms, the Harley Davidson store with motorcycle rentals.

At our special concierge area, you will be offered many activities like the camel safari, whale watching, swim with the dolphins, and more fun activities you can find at Cabo Adventures.

You will be attended like a VIP with our promotions and discount coupons in many of the mall stores. Or you can visit a special area of luxurious boutiques where you can obtain swimwear, shoes, sportswear, and the best brands like Nautica, Hugo Boss, Nike, Kenneth Cole, and Tommy Bahama. You can’t miss the most exclusive jewelers and the beautiful Mexican handicrafts.

And if you come for business we have banks, ATM machines, and a money exchange.

This all makes the mall on the marina the perfect place to relax and sip a cup of coffee or enjoy a glass of wine at full service, luxurious restaurants like Ruth’s Chris steak house, Baja Brewing Co., Johnny Rockets, Senior Sweets and more. Now you can live this extraordinary adventure in your mall.
The fourlane between San Jose and Cabo San Lucas was built in the early 90’s with funds from local businesses who were required to pitch in 1.3% additional corporate income tax, which paid for a third of the road’s cost. The remaining cost was ponied up by the state and federal government in equal parts. This financial arrangement is one of the reasons, but not the only one, the local residents consider the road theirs. Most of us know the federal police consider it theirs, and charge their private “toils” accordingly. Unfortunately for us, they do have jurisdiction over traffic on the road.

Within months of opening, the El Tule bridge washed out, leaving Cabo and San Jose isolated from each other, as the fourlane was and is still the only road to get to the international airport. It was then that Eduardo Sanchez Navarro, the biggest, most successful developer in Los Cabos, proposed an alternate road to parallel the fourlane, but running three miles inland, further up the slope. That actually happened, and we now have a second road, which starts on the road to Todos Santos, runs 19 miles, ending at the toll road to the airport in San Jose. This was recently finished, but has not officially opened. You can drive it, though, and for now it’s free.

Developers, led by Sanchez Navarro, are once again agitating to move a small section of the fourlane inland to make room for more developments south of the highway. Obviously this property would sell for more money if it is on the ocean side of the highway. But Sanchez Navarro tells this paper that it is not why he wants to move the road. He says guests of the five hotels that would be impacted by this traveling road would be safer with the whizzing traffic of the fourlane not whizzing so close to the hotels. He also allows that they would enjoy a more tranquil, quiet holiday if they are far from the highway. But because the local papers have picked up the story now, opponents have come out of the woodwork. Many locals are against it, as they were also against the Chileno Bay developers moving the road toward the cove, but they keep it clean and even pay for a security guard in the area looking years younger.

Moving the road would be safer with the whizzing traffic of the fourlane not whizzing so close to the hotels. He also allows that they would enjoy a more tranquil, quiet holiday if they are far from the highway.

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These days everybody wants to look beautiful. As 78 million “baby boomers” near retirement, age is becoming to show. But with the fast pace of today’s society, an aging society now wants that fresh look without spending weeks of painful recovery. A rejuvenation vacation is their solution.

Many people think about going on vacation for a little rest and relaxation hoping to go home feeling and looking refreshed. Spa Cielo Laser Center takes it one step further offering skin rejuvenation. Now they can return home looking years younger, without any loss of vacation time.

People want to look better, but they don’t want to give up any time from their daily lives or vacation,” said Cathy Dammann, Medical Aesthetics Practitioner and Owner of Spa Cielo Laser, a Medical Spa that offers the newest in safe, non-surgical cosmetic skin treatments.

“The public is demanding, transformation without pain or downtime” states Dammann. Cielo, which specializes in light and laser treatments.

Many of Cielo’s treatments such as wrinkles, spots, pores, unevenness, early skin cancer and photo damage from too much sun exposure. The VISIA gives us the information necessary to determine the best treatment options, yielding the most rejuvenation in the shortest amount of time. Vacationers, who return home looking years younger, can take advantage of the AAD recommended annual UV skin scan. The scan, which is stored in the computer, allows Cielo to follow changes in their patient’s skin from year to year.

Cielo’s most popular procedure is the non-surgical face-lift procedure. “Laser Genesis incorporates the Cutera Titan. Titan has been the recipient of numerous awards including: 2008 Aesthetic Medicine Award for “Best Customer Experience and Satisfaction” and Aesthetic Trends and Technologies “Best non-laser for skin tightening and wrinkle reduction”. Titan rejuvenates the skin by bringing about collagen contraction and then regeneration for months afterwards. It’s painless and can be used on the face or body. It requires no incisions or recovery time and takes an hour or less to perform, leaving patients to resume normal activities or their vacation. Titan delivers a uniform volume of heat under the skin to bring about collagen contraction and then regeneration for months afterwards. It’s painless and can be used on the face or body. It requires no incisions or recovery time and takes an hour or less to perform, leaving patients to resume normal activities or their vacation. Titan delivers a uniform volume of heat under the skin.
Cerritos Beach: Hottest Real Estate In Baja?
It just might be

BY CARRIE DUNCAN

Cerritos Beach is an area between highway 19 that goes to Todos Santos and the ocean. The beach is actually in Pesquero Todos Santos and the ocean, between highway 19 that goes to the swanky road is known as Tony’s road. There are several roads going towards the beach, which is about a mile from the highway. Try to choose a good road, as some are pretty rutted. The best road is known as Tony’s road because it goes to the swanky multistory condo building that Tony Cordova has built on the south end of the beach. He has brought electricity to his condo-building and actually paved the way to it. Sol Pacifico is an anomaly on this rustic couple of square miles known as Cerritos Beach, but it’s at the far south end and can easily be avoided if that’s not your thing. In fact, the owner would like you to avoid it, as his hired thugs chase away anyone walking down the beach in front of this high rise. Another, more quaint development, is what we’ve always called the huts. It’s a collection, originally, of 10 thatched roof one room bungalows which sold for peanuts. The developer, Roger Pollack, was going for surfers. Cerritos beach is known for its surf break that appeals to beginner and moderate surfer dudes and dudettes. But in recent years Pollack changed his mind and is selling them timeshare. And he has built a big fancy pool with a swim up bar. He has been indicted by the feds in Oregon for bank fraud and issuing death threats to witnesses. At issue is continued on page 13.

There are a ton of for sale signs hanging on fences out in Cerritos and we called all of them with little response. Even if we managed to get a recording, we never got a call back.

Until we called a number on the biggest sign of all, created by someone calling herself the Cerritos Lady. The Cerritos Lady called us back within 10 minutes and then sent us a huge list of listings for the area, including everything from a little patch of land to a large patch of land, to nice houses. She has listings from $9,000 to several hundred thousand. She also has the plot map for the entire Cerritos Beach area and reproduced it on her sign she erected at one of the entrances to Cerritos Beach. She also has the plot map for the entire Cerritos Beach area and reproduced it on her sign she erected at one of the entrances to Cerritos Beach.

The Cerritos Lady is Cheryl Miller, 624 122 2690. www.forsaleinbaja.com Or email her at info@forsaleinbaja.com.
from the use of genetically modified seeds sourced in Europe. La Cominera, a variety developed in the Netherlands, sells for about 10 times the price of the product from the regular garden-variety plants. One grower near Cali says she can get US $54 a kilogram for La Cominera, whose levels of THC, the fun part of the plant, are as high as 18% compared to 2% to 7% for regular marijuana.

Keep ‘em coming! Mexico continues to lure U.S. visitors in record numbers despite travel warnings and news of violent drug cartel crime. American tourism to this country was up 24% last year, as we welcomed a record at 25.9 million visitors, according to U.S. Commerce Department data. The U.S. State Department issued two travel warnings two years ago but apparently nobody listens to them.

Traffic accidents took out 17,102 people last year according to national health statistics, a number comparable to the deaths attributed to organized crime. So why isn’t anyone addressing this issue? All we hear about is crime stats, oh boo hoo. Why don’t we work on saving lives where we can, instead of carrying on about deaths we seem powerless to stop? For starters, buckle up! And be careful out there!

What, me drive us instead? Are you kidding? I'm a cat for crying out loud! Cats don’t drive!
QUE PASA IN CABO?...
continued from page 2

Invest In Cabo
Get in on the action

Fritz Belgian Fries has successfully developed a winning formula with their first location in Cabo San Lucas and is now ready to open a 2nd location in San Jose del Cabo. It will also serve as the pilot to open and operate several locations across Mexico; next one, most probably Playa del Carmen.

They plan to open at the Mega shopping mall in November 2015, just in time for the high season and are presently running a Crowdfunding campaign to make it happen! They’ve put together great perks for you, where for the most part, you get more than the value of your contribution.

For example, the $10 contribution is a $15 value and for the $100 dollar contribution, you get $125 dollars in gift certificates which can be redeemed at any of their locations. They can also be donated to a local charity of your choice.

Crowdfunding is the practice of funding a project or venture by raising monetary contributions from a large number of people, typically via the internet. In 2013, the Crowdfunding industry grew to be over $5.1 billion worldwide.

Find out how to support their 2nd location in San Jose on their website at CaboFritz.com and get great discounts along the way!*

Oops, did I roll my eyes out loud?

At Least Someone’s Cleaning Up Graffiti

In La Paz high school kids are trying to stay ahead of the graffiti that springs up on public buildings like flowers in a spring meadow. The battle never ends with these thugs, but the city doesn’t see dealing with it as a priority.

But the big news with this picture is, squat closely at what’s under the bucket of paint. It’s a drop cloth! No doubt it’s first one ever seen in Mexico.
and may attract investment in more hotels and residences. The opposition is having a heart attack over what they perceive as an excuse to snatch away from the local Mexicans the beaches along that .7 miles of new closed highway. A word about Mexicans and their beach(es): All Mexican beaches are public. They are part of what Mexicans call their national patrimony. Every Mexican feels they own every beach, and in fact they do. But in tourist areas of Mexico, the foreigners seem to have established exclusive rights to many of them. Or more accurately, in tourist areas such as Los Cabos, Mexican developers try to keep Mexican off their beaches because they perceive that foreign tourists don’t want to spread their beach blanket not under a Mexican family. It is invariably a Mexican who puts up barriers to Mexicans enjoying their beaches. But this is the issue with the moving road: the fear that the Mexican developers moving the road will keep their pisanos from getting to the beaches.

There is some justification for this fear, as most of the Palmilla beaches and all of the beaches at Cabo del Sol have been blocked off with guard shacks staffed by men who will not let Mexicans driving jalopies filled with families and buckets of fried chicken into these developments. This history has created a Mexican standoff, with the protestors not trusting the road movers to not block off the beaches.

Last week Eleazar Gutierrez, the delegate from the state ministry of communications and transport (SCT) leaked the news that the fourlane was on the move again, funded 100% by local resort developers, at a cost of $6 million. The news even named names, saying who was behind it: Eduardo Sanchez Navarro of Grupo Quebraro, Ruben Coppel of the Sheraton Hacienda del Mar and the new Solaz resort, the Lomeli brothers of Villa Nepiuno, Casa Mexicana, Puerto de Hierro residential developments and the upcoming LeBlanc resort, and Owen Perry and partners from the Villa Group.

Last week SCT’s leak caused $6 million.

UPDATE ON MOVING THE...
continued from page 7

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23
Calendar of Events

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

Every Wednesday, 8 pm. Free movies from independent studios for teenagers and adults at the City Theater in San Jose.

Every Wednesday 9am-12pm. Farmers market at La Esquina in Todos Santos. Live guitar music and good, local, organic stuff to buy. hola@laesquinats.com, www.laesquinats.com, 612 145 0851.

Every Wednesday, 7:30 to 8:30 pm. Bike ride in San Jose. Free if you bring your own bike, or rent from Sportia bike store. Form up at Plaza del Pescador in San Jose.

Plaza Grande Resort, Restaurant Brigantine, Cabo San Lucas.

First Friday of every month. 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Miro's Services is taking all clean plastic for recycling. Corner of Rangel and Verduzco Sts, just behind the old PEMEX station downtown.

Every Saturday. 10 am to 1 pm. Children's library open. Story tellers at 10:30 and 12:30. Looking for gently used books. therrakidkids@yahoo.com, Todos Santos


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

Across from the Royal Solaris hotel at 7:15 pm. (624) 130-7159. info@sportita.mx

First Thursday, Yo Recibo sets up tents to receive plastic, aluminum, cardboard, computers, printers, cell phones, green, clear glass but NO Batteries, please. Drop off at the La Playita bridge.

Every Thursday, 8:00 a.m. Rotary Club breakfast. At the Rotary Club at the Sheraton Hacienda del Mar resort.

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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 Tomatoes, ladies social group. All women who aspire to be a tomato are welcome. loscabostomatoes@gmail.com. Info: loscabostomatoes@yahoo.com

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October 20 – 24. Bisbee's Black & Blue fishing tourney. Information: bisbees.com

February 28, Sunday, 2016 Historic Home Tour Of Todos Santos. An opportunity to view a piece of Todos Santos History. These magnificent homes will be open for only one day to tell the story of a past era rich in cultural and social graces. These homes will draw you back to a time of pride and prosperity in a humble mission town and give you insight into the lifestyle people enjoyed in the past century. Supports the Palapa Society and its many charitable causes. Paul Bumann, paul@boominenterprises.com
CERRITOS BEACH: HOTTEST...
continued from page 8

about $20 million which those banks would like to get back. He will go to prison, and if the creditors can prove he used the money to build in Cerritos Beach, that could cloud ownership, so keep that in mind if you’re buying from him. He’s currently selling his big house on the point.

This is the direction Cerritos Beach is headed toward: Big development. If you don’t want to be in that environment, then don’t buy there because it surely is developing into a modern, swanky, resort area. On the other hand, if you want to get in on the ground floor, buy now. Actually, you missed the ground floor, but the elevator to riches in Cerritos Beach real estate is still on the lower floors, with fast development coming. The widening of the highway between La Paz and Cabo helped speed that up, and now the next step will be to get the area wired for electricity. Let’s just hope they wait until there’s enough money in the kitty to put the wires underground, as it would be a terrible shame to inflict overhead wires on this beautiful beach.

Not very long ago this was all ejido property, which is similar to our Indian reservation land. Roger Pollock and Tony Cordova were partners back then and bought the land after all the ejido people voted to sell it. Of course they had no vision of what those two men were planning, and how they would enhance the value. Surely they are sorry now.

Cordova and Pollock had a falling out and are no longer partners, and the land has been broken up like a checker board, with virtually all the squares for sale. A lot of them were bought for speculation and are being flipped. Others are being built on right now, and we have brought you information on five of those properties here in this issue. There are not many single family homes, most of Cerritos seems destined for commercial development. A community of homes is just north, over a little rise on a dirt road. You can look down at dozens of nice

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

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2 locations: CaboIn Plaza Nautica
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KM 17.5 on the Fourlane across from the Marbella Suites. Look for the banners to exit.

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How to Choose a Custom Home Builder in Cabo

BY CINDY LEE SIEGEN

After finding the perfect home site, the next step is to find the right custom home builder. In Cabo custom home builders can be architects, engineers, or general contractors. Solid companies will have all these skill sets as part of their team. Here are some suggestions to help you choose your perfect custom home builder.

Start with a list of potential builders:
- Do an internet search for builders in Cabo. Learn about the company's dynamics; look at the gallery of photos; read the references. Established companies will have an informative, robust website.
- Ask your realtor for suggestions. Most knowledgeable realtors will know the quality builders. Some builders offer hefty commissions for a referral so ask your agent about this. You want to be sure you're getting a referral that comes from genuine good faith.
- Look in the real estate trade magazines for possibilities.
- Ask around in the area or neighborhood where you plan to build. Neighbors can be a good source of suggestions.
- Never meet one builder and stop there. Do your homework.
- Create a short list:
  - Ask each builder for references.
  - Contact at least 5, preferably 10, previous clients of the builder. If the builder can't supply that many satisfied clients move on.
  - Then call these people and ask to see their homes. Don't just listen to them tell you what a "nice guy" he or she was. Insist on seeing the finished product and look at each home carefully and critically.
  - Look at the quality of the construction. (For a Quality Control Checklist, contact me).
  - Is there true creatively in the home or does it look like a "cookie cutter"? A custom home should be an individual expression of the owner's lifestyle and taste.
  - Ask the owners if they had any electrical, plumbing, air conditioning or pool problems. And, more importantly, how did the builder handle any problems. Was he willing to come back and fix things and who paid for the repairs?
  - Don't assume just because the builder is a "gringo" you won't be exploited. There are good apples and bad apples. Find the good apples by checking into the builder's work. Don't just rely on what someone might say or write about themselves.
  - Ask the homeowner what damage their home had from Hurricane Odile. Well-constructed homes sustained far less damage than poorly constructed ones.
  - Often the home featured by a builder will be their poster child. Be sure to look at homes within your budget range.
  - Look for builders who incorporate Green Building technologies and methods. Energy efficient homes are becoming very important in the Baja as electricity prices sour.
  - Narrow your choice to two or three builders.

Design Assignment:
- Ask the builders on your short list to provide you with a conceptual design for your home.
- The design doesn't need to be full architectural blueprints but rather just a basic floor plan concept drawing.
- Here is where you will see the creativity and communication skills of each potential builder.
- This will also be a good test to see how compatible you are with the builder. Building a house is a long term relationship. The easier it is to communicate and work together the better it is for everyone.
- Some builders may charge for this service so be prepared to

Agent Profile
Cherine Khouzam

Cabo resident, Canadian Citizen and Egyptian Born, Cherine is proud to label herself as hard working, very dynamic and truly dedicated. She continues to build her success in Real Estate in this picture perfect part of the world by Managing our San Jose del Cabo office of Coldwell Banker Riveras, one of 6 offices throughout the southern tip of the Baja. And with over 20 years of sales experience, countless education programs and her four beautiful children, Cherine thrives on teamwork and manages pressures and deadlines very well. Completely fluent in English, French, Arabic and as of late, Spanish!

Contact Cherine at cherinek@cbriveras.com Cel (624) 1329699 www.cbriveras.com

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1. What is a Fideicomiso?

Think of a Fideicomiso like an adaptation of the American style trust to Mexican legal system. It is a legal instrument subject to mercantile federal law, that can be used in all sort of transactions such as family and living trusts, joint ventures, as a securitization instrument, for real estate developments, in warranty trusts and many more.

One of such uses of the trust in Mexico is to allow foreigners to have the use, enjoyment and disposition of real estate property for residential purposes, located in restricted zone as if they were the direct owner.

2. Why is a Trust needed?

This type of trust is required because, in terms of Mexican Constitution (article 27), there is a prohibition for foreigners to have the use, enjoyment and disposition of real estate property for residential purposes in the “Restricted Zone” which was established as a) the 100 kilometers from any coastline. Because of that, the territory for real estate properties for residential purposes in the “Restricted Zone” is a prohibition for foreigners to have the use, enjoyment and disposition of real estate property, same as any Mexican citizen.

To comply with the Constitution, the execution of trusts within the restricted zone, requires the foreigner to obtain a permit granted by the Foreign Affairs Ministry first, this allows the Trustee to hold a specific property in trust on behalf of a specific foreigner. This is done during the closing process by the closing agent.

3. How does it work? A Trust is comprised of 3 parties:

a) Trustor (settlor): Is the party who creates the trust and transfers the trust assets to the trustee, entrusting him to accomplish the trust objectives. I.E. The Seller.

b) Trustee: In Mexico, a trust is mandatory and must be authorized to act as such according to Mexican law. Currently, only banking institutions can be trustees. The trustee will hold the property of the transferred assets in trust, and is entrusted with accomplishing that trust objectives set forth in the trust. I.E. The Trust Bank.

c) Beneficiary: it is the person or entity that receives the benefits of the trust objectives and its assets. I.E. The Buyer

In the Restricted Zone trust, the Trustor is the Seller of the real estate property, who transfers to the Trustee (The Trust Bank) the property and the ownership domain of the real estate, entrusting such trustee to hold the property on behalf of the Beneficiary (the foreign Buyer), allowing him the use, enjoyment and disposition of the property that the Beneficiary may choose for the property through the trustee, as if the beneficiary was the direct owner, but subject to the rules and restrictions contained in the permit and the trust.

The Trustee is a banking institution chosen by the buyer or his closing agent, but that may be provided by the seller, as well, as in the case of taking over an existing trust. An annual administration fee is charged by the Trustee to hold the property in trust on behalf of the foreigner or Beneficiary.

The Beneficiary is the foreign Buyer that, as it has been said, can use the property freely, as if it was the direct owner, but, through the trustee and subject to the permit and trust restrictions. The beneficiaries can rent, sell, transfer, will, put a lien or mortgage on the real estate property at their free will but, they must do all through the Trustee, who holds legal title and is the legal owner. In other words, you must inform the Trustee is you plan to construct, demolish, change the use, etc. Per the Constitution, these trusts are valid for 50 years, renewable for another 50 years, after which the beneficiary can make a new trust on his behalf. So essentially, trusts are a way of having ownership for a lifetime and beyond.

It is very important to be very clear, although the Trustee (the Bank) is the legal owner of the real estate property for all legal effects, trustee cannot use or encumber or sell the property for his own interest, and in his accounting must show any assets held in trust in an independent accounting. It is shown and held as assets in trust, so if the trustee fall into bankruptcy. It is not subject to a foreclosure or any lawsuit that leads to the loss of the Trustee’s assets. The trusts are protected by law. A judge is obligated to take all assets held in trust and designate a new trustee. There is no risk for the Beneficiary.

Also, when the acquisition is done through a trust, there is no purchase contract, the property title is held through the trust and is recorded in Public Registry.

A Three Part Series. See Part 2, next issue.

By Raúl León, Attorney At Law, Expert in Mexican Trust (Fideicomiso), Commerce & Real Estate Attorney. From US: Cel. 011 521 624-151- 6332., Local Cel: (624) 151-6332, eMail: posadleon@prodigy.net.mx posadleon@gmail.com

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

To search all of the listings available in the MLS, visit: www.mlsinbajasur.com
Los Cabos Residential Market Report

BY MARTIN POSH

The residential real estate market is recovering slowly, here in Los Cabos. All the numbers reported are compared to the first five months of 2014.

The good news is that the number of sales (closed transactions) for the first five months has gone up a 4% to 167 transactions.

Total sales volume is down by 37% to $68,272,000 US Dollars. The total sales volume was down 21% to 71 units. The total sales volume is down by 14 closed escrows. The total sales volume is down 72% to 19,578,000 US Dollars. The average sales price was down by 35% to $1,398,000 US Dollars.

The average sales price was down 39% to $409,000 US Dollars.

Now let’s take a look at how the numbers look like for single family homes. All the numbers reported are compared to the first five months of 2014.

The residential real estate market: the number of sales (closed transactions) for the first five months has gone up a 4% to 167 transactions.

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By Martin Posh, Broker, Windermere Los Cabos, Office Phone: +52(624) 131-3330, Cellular: +521 (624) 147-5857, martinposh@windermere.com

Agent Profile
John Penny

John first made his visit to Cabo in the early 2000’s on a friend’s recommendation to go fishing, and that was all it took. John has since been a full time resident of Cabo and contributes all his success to his honest hard work ethics.

John is from Toronto, Canada where he began his sales career at the age of 17 in a family business, later becoming president of the company which sold products worldwide. After selling the business John retired at an early age however but, the hunger for sales, drove him back into the luxury real estate market.

John has found his home with Desarrollos Inmobiliarios del Mar, a solid Mexican corporation known for their quality construction of luxury homes and resorts. He can be found 6 days a week at the Hermitage office. John would be more than pleased to evaluate your home land or business for sale. John is also known as A.K.A. Cabo John.

Contact John Penny - Luxury Sales, jpenny@glgrupo.com, (624) 166-6948.

Global Mexico Concludes First Half with a class in Spanish

Global Mexico (IIGM) is the organization that was created to bring international education to Mexican REALTORS®.

During the first half of 2015, classes certified by the National Association of Realtors (NAR) and the Arizona based Center for Real Estate Negotiations (RENI) were delivered in Mexico. NAR classes included a Certified International Property Specialist (CIPS) Institute and Accredited Buyer Representative classes (ABR). The RENI class Certified Negotiation Expert (CNE) was also presented. Global concluded the first half of 2015 with the ABR class being taught for the first time in Spanish. Linda Neil a Global Mexico Founder was the instructor for the class held in La Paz B.C.S. It was attended by members of the two local real estate associations (AMPI and ASPI). A special salute to Monica Rodriguez, ABR, Manager of the La Paz Settlement Company® office for her support in organizing the event.

For further information, John.glaab@settlement-co.com, www.settlement-co.com
The Manifestation
An important detail if you are building a house

BY ALICIA PARRA

This document is very important as it is valid for the Notary Public to use as value of the construction and it will establish the basis for tax calculations when the property is sold.

The cost of manifestation is minimal if done in a timely manner. Not only does it establish a date for calculation of capital gain taxes (ISR) upon sale, but also it lowers the property tax rate from that of a vacant lot to that of a residential dwelling which can result in lower property taxes even though the overall value of the property is higher.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Ms. Parra is Chief Closing Officer for The Settlement Company. It is the first escrow company in Mexico, and is dedicated to processing the trusts and title transfers of Mexican real estate for foreign buyers and sellers for properties located ANYWHERE in Mexico. The company frequently sponsors seminars on the various aspects of real estate ownership in Mexico and holds membership in AMPI, NAR and FIEABCI and PROFEICO Certificate 00063/96 E-Mail: info@settlement-co.com Web Site: http://www.settlement-co.com copyright September 2004-14, Consultores Phoenix, S.C., reproduction prohibited without permission.

Featured Property
Villas de Oro, Palmilla

Villas de Oro is a very fitting name for these "golden" jewels within the prestigious, gated, golf community of Palmilla within walking distance to the swimmable beach.

These bright and airy fully furnished 2 and 3 bedroom villas with a variety of time-less floor plans, feature high ceilings, smooth finished walls and are especially known for their large, luxurious bathrooms. All villas have garages or mountain, all within easy access to the large community pool and jacuzzi within the fully landscaped enclave. Make ownership effortless, with the feel of a custom home.

Never has this entry price from $265,000 been offered within the exclusive Palmilla 27-hole golf development For more information contact BY
Wendy Knapp, Rionda & Knapp Mobile 044-624-118-1395

Featured Property
Residencias Lomas El Tule

Located exactly halfway between the bustling towns of the Los Cabos at km 18., lies a neighborhood unlike any other. El Tule is an inland residential community where a great neighborhood, and impressive views can be found all year long.

The homes vary from simple and cozy, to elaborate and luxurious, offering you a variety to choose from to find your perfect home. Away from the urban pace of either Cabo San Lucas or San Jose, El Tule offers quiet and peaceful living. Close to El Tule, you can find dining, shopping and beaches, like our famous Blue Flagged Chileno Bay for snorkeling, swimming or relaxing... it’s all merely minutes away, as well as, the rocky and peaceful beach of El Tule, where spectacular sunrise gazing is yours for merely the cost of a short walk!

El Tule, ask for it by name! Contact Cesar Meza, Coldwell Banker for more information (624) 132 4852 cel phone or c-sarm@cbriveras.com.

R.E. Classifieds

FORECLOSURE. I represent a group who have won a lawsuit and are foreclosing on a BCS property to collect. We are looking for investors ready to make an initial $4.2 million commitment on a project with a potential of $23 million return. Information: linda@lindaneil.com

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Aug. 14 and Aug. 21, 1:00 to 4:00
Three homes to tour on the East Cape, with water and professional solar systems. Tour Casa Clark MLS 14-941, $799,000, included. Situated along the Ocean Course fairways with large terraces and views of ocean.

SOLDS
Casa Glover, MLS 14-1216, $475,000., Casa Tucker MLS 15-229, $189,000. Start at Casa Clark, Castillo de Arena and be toured by Paul Clark (+52 1) 624-147-0111

PRICED TO SELL! OVER 40% BELOW Intrinsic value! One of a kind solar-powered beachfront compound in the Punta Perfecta area of the East Cape, 1.7 acres, 131 ft frontage. 3 homes, 5000+ sq ft under roof, 5 beds + 5 baths. Over $34K in vacation rental income per year. Financing considered for qualified buyer. For more information contact Dawn Pier at dpier@snellrealestate.com

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Baja Sur Fishing...Sunday, August 02, 2015

As we slide into summer’s “hump month,” conditions for the billfish tournaments — beginning with Bisbee’s East Cape Offshore in August and continuing all the way through November in Cabo — seem to be encouraging. There have been enough billfish qualifiers (up to 300 pounds) caught lately throughout the region. Regardless of your location here in Baja Sur, (dorado being the one exception that seems to have taken a powder) all the other popular species, including roosterfish, yellowfin tuna and wahoo, are present and accounted for. Take your pick and go get ‘em.

Gary Graham, gary@garycgraham.com

Fish Report

BY GARY GRAHAM

Baja Sur Fishing...Sunday, August 02, 2015

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Gary Graham, gary@garycgraham.com

Fish Killer of the Week

Perla Clifton from Albuquerque, NM shows off her first ever roosterfish caught aboard El Regalo during a recent half day trip. photo provided by Matt Clifton, Big Game Baja Charters

Adding to the excitement is that the roosterfish seem to be everywhere and they are not being picky at all. Troll a bait, toss a fly or grab your spinning tackle … chances are you will be screaming like some frenzied sports spectator as the hard to miss distinctive dorsal slices through surface of the water towards your offering. “FISH ON!” However, the East Cape options do not stop there — snapper, jacks and even pompano are all part of the mix right now.

La Paz Fishing is steady, if not spectacular. Everyone caught fish, continuing on page 24
Peña Nieto to participate in a meeting of elected governors. Calderón is known as El Bronco for his tough style and preference for wearing cowboy hats and chaps. And for shooting his mouth off like a horse’s ass. The meeting is organized by the National Conference of Governors. Caldeón is the seventh elected governor to be received by President Nieto. Nuevo León is located in northwestern Mexico and borders Texas.

Oil people make nice. Mexican oil company Pemex and the German company Siemens reached an agreement to end a legal dispute after almost 14 years of doing battle. The battle was initiated by disputes over upgrades to a refinery in Nuevo Leon. Charges included allegations of bribes (what a shock!) and false invoices. A consortium formed by Siemens and South Korea’s SK Engineering won the litigation against Pemex with compensation in the hundreds of millions of dollars, part of which goes into a trust fund to finance energy projects in Mexico and anti-corruption and environmental protection measures.

Bimbo on the rise. Get it? Ja ja. Grupo Bimbo has now acquired the Canadian firm Italian Home Bakery, based in Toronto, for an undisclosed amount. The Canadian bakery cooks up about $11 million Canadian dollars a year, and employs 100 baker people. The name Bimbo never fails to send Gringos into hysterical laughter, but in Mexico it is a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

You Can’t Shame A Mexican

That’s what we always hear, but one city is trying

Bad hombre is accused of littering three times. They will also face a fine and an administrative arrest in a police station.

“They will be punished by putting their picture and complete name on the billboards of shame,” Mayor Pedro Salgado told local media. “We have to create the culture of cleanliness in the municipality.” Salgado said, defending the move when asked whether human rights were violated by such punishment.

In Mexico, dump trucks make their rounds in the morning, ringing a bell so people know to run their trash out, but many take their garbage out on the street overnight. Dogs get into it, and much of the trash blocks sewer and drainage systems, causing floods during the rainy season.
homes on roughly the same size property as Cerritos. It’s called Pescadero.

We suggest you drive up there on a Sunday afternoon, as Daline Jones stands on the beach and sings her heart out. She’s usually there from about 2 to 5. She stands in front of the Cerritos Beach club, a rustic wooden shack of a bar run on generator and water truck. It’s owned by Tony Cordova, and he charges five bucks to park, but if you buy food or drink, you get that back. It’s fun to sit on the sand under the beach umbrellas and enjoy Sunday at Cerritos. It’s kind of a tradition for Daline Jones followers. Go early and drive around, you will see plenty of properties for sale.
Another New Development In Cerritos

Cerritos Puesta del Sol is a work in progress, eventually to be six standalone two story buildings with a central pool and restaurant.

This is all full-time ownership of studios, (675 square feet), 1 bedroom (875 square feet), and 2 bedroom (more than 1000 square feet, two story, with vaulted ceilings). All are fully furnished and for 40% of the take, the owners, Nick and Heather who live on the property, will manage your unit if you want to rent it out.

There is 24 hour security, they are wired for satellite TV, there is WiFi, fireplaces, modern, if small, kitchens, and roof top decks. There's plenty of off street parking so you can leave your car while you're up in the States. Storage lockers are also available if you want to store your stuff while you rent out your unit.

Prices start at $140,000. They have a website but there isn’t much info there; www.cerritospuestadelsol.com. Phone 844 751 2075. nick@cerritospuestadelsol.com.

The southern part of La Paz was flooded, along the Forjadores Boulevard, which is the one you drive on when coming in from Cabo. Several vehicles got washed away for a few hundred yards, some with at least 10 people inside. Some people had to be rescued by city and state police, as well as firemen.

New desalination plant planned. After months of begging, finally Mexico’s national water commission, called Conagua, approved spending thousands of dollars to study the feasibility of building a second desalination plant in Cabo San Lucas.

As much as $650,000 is authorized to perform four different studies to build the second phase of a desal plant in Los Cangrejos.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

What Preventive Medicine Can Do For You
And in Mexico it’s a bargain

By Dr. Dick

Medical research has come a long way, and as a result people are living longer lives than at any time before. The average life expectancy for an American is now approaching 80 years, and with simple lifestyle changes many people can live to 95 years and beyond!

Simple lifestyle factors such as a healthy weight, regulating blood pressure and cholesterol levels can easily add an extra decade or more to your life span. Other steps are managing diabetes, a healthy diet and staying active, mentally and physically.

Preventive medicine is a branch of medicine dealing with the prevention of disease and the maintenance of good health practices. Every year millions of people die from preventable diseases, many diseases which can be avoided if detected early. The most effective method for prevention of disease is to have a regular check-up, even if you are healthy. With a preventive health check-up we can detect many diseases before they start, and find problems early, when chances for treatment and cure are better. By getting the right screenings, and treatments, you are on the path to living a longer, healthier life.

One World and Saint Luke’s Hospitals know the importance of early detection and timely treatment, and combine world class medical care with preventive health check-ups to enhance healthy living. They offer a range of health check-up packages, which includes clinical evaluations with scans, medical tests and investigations, and advice on a healthy lifestyle and diet. The packages are designed for different age groups and disease profiles, and include:

- Basic Check-up
- Check-up Plus
- Hypertension Check-up
- Diabetic Check-up
- Heart Check-up
- Master check-up
- Whole Body Check-up for Men & Women

The Whole Body Check-up for Men & Women is designed to meet individual health needs and preferences. This test will screen each organ closely to detect even the smallest symptom that could be an indication of a major disease. Also screens for anemia, diabetes, including a lipid panel to access cardiac and stroke risk factors, and other tests.

Now is a good time to get a check-up. Until October 31 health check-ups are at significantly reduced prices, starting at $650 pesos. Contact the hospital about the check-up package that’s right for you.
an immediate reaction, the first on the scene being an open letter published by the association of architects, which said the new road was not part of the urban plan and would have to be reviewed by everyone on the committee before it would be approval. What, you didn't know we have an urban plan? Yes, we do, and it's rather intricate, but of course it's always subject to “suggestions” involving “donations”. Others less kind than we might say adherence to it is a joke and easily breached by anyone with money to spread around.

A few days after the SCT and the architects weighed in on the subject, representatives of the road movers attended a meeting with the Madrugadores group, an influential old boys’ network of business owners. The developers made their pitch on the project and its benefits, promising that the current four-lane would remain open to the public, but with controlled access and stoplights to make the area and road safer.

A day after that presentation appeared in the local media, the associations of architects and engineers, as well as several non governmental organizations, (NGOs) met with lame duck Mayor Tony Agundez to express their opposition to the project. (It does need the blessing of they city council to move forward.) Agúndez dodged that hot potato, saying “I do not know the project in depth; I did attend a meeting on it that the city council’s urban planning committee called, but the project was explained in only a very general form.” Sounds like he napped through this thing for the second time.

Fernando Garcia, president of the association of tourist developments, said, “The project can bring benefits to all but must be studied carefully and the final decision taken according to the law.”

Gonzalo Franyutti, who is the road movers’ lobbyist, said the new road would be, “Like the Par Vial (downtown) in Cabo San Lucas, a safe and pretty boulevard.” But remember, he’s paid big bucks to say that.

Rubén Coppel, one of the road moving developers, said, “This is fine. The people are asking questions and getting answers. We will work with the community on this project. The existing road will become a pretty boulevard, and only the private properties will have gates.” Of course he did not say exactly where those private properties are and where the gates would be exactly.

Carlos Moreno, president of the local Architect Association, said, “The most important thing here is that the developers and the city council open the door to debate and analysis before approving it. (A guarantee of) public access is definitely the key.”

Gianmarco Vela, president of the Restaurants Ass., said, “We are in favor of development but we are also concerned about access to the public. We already have controlled access to Cabo del Sol and some local residents are not allowed in to go to the beaches, which are public. Plus, we don’t want to lose that beautiful ocean view drive.”

Heriberto Anaya, president of the local Engineers Ass., said, “I’m glad they have chosen to present the project to the public. It is obviously not part of the current, revised urban plan… I don’t see the need to move the road other than to reduce the number of accidents in that area.”

So let’s talk about timing. And transparency. When the original Chileno Bay chunk of road moved, there wasn’t this much transparancy, it just up and moved. This time the developers seem to have shot themselves in the foot by showing their cards before rolling out the bulldozers. Or have they?

Remember, the city council needs to approve it, and the current mayor, who leaves office next month, would surely have been an obstacle to this, as his greed is legendary. He would no doubt obstruct it until he got everything he wanted for his retirement. And the developers’ candidate for mayor, Alberto Trevino, was just defeated at the polls, a big setback for them. Also, 2015 is a new era in social movement in Mexico and in Los Cabos. Activists are paying closer attention now, so this road move is going to be a more delicate and tricky negotiation. It will be interesting to see who gets what they want and how much they have to compromise to get it.
That’s right, I’m bringing sexy back. Mine, that is! I am a gorgeous Rhodesian ridgeback, complete with a very cool cowlick on my back, my own version of a CrossFit routine, and a penchant for cuddling.

Las Arenas upheld its Roosterfish Capital of the World reputation with “smaller roosters” in the 30-pound class. The larger ones were good-sized — 50 to 60 pounders with even larger roosters lost! Plus some okay-sized 10- to 15-pound dorado were caught. Many are the 5-pound class. There are also some smaller pargo, cabrilla, triggerfish and such along the rocks that are great eating.

Looking For Love?

HUMARA

You: Sweet and loving, with a good can opener.
Me: Sweet and lovable, with a good appetite. Let’s stop playing games…

DASH

That’s right, I’m bringing sexy back. Mine, that is! I am a gorgeous Rhodesian ridgeback, complete with a very cool cowlick on my back, my own version of a CrossFit routine, and a penchant for cuddling.

Perhaps the truest statement in this E-book is this; “Baja Mexico...either you love it or you don’t.” This is a saga of two couples who have never been to Baja, and who with great enthusiasm, and more planning than you can imagine, decide to give it a shot, going to a campground south of Mulege. Of course, nothing happens as planned, and the vacation is a disaster, and friendships are frayed forever. The author says the moral of this book is, “Don’t take friends that you intend to keep to Baja Mexico.”

His account reads like a diary of frustration and venting. I would disagree with this view, but do realize that a planned six weeks camping together in a strange country would be a lesson in tolerance and patience.

Gray acknowledges that names are changed, and events and problems are exaggerated and sometimes outright lies. This does not take away from the story. Gray renames the couple who makes the planned vacation a disaster Dahlia and Harvey, who happen to be their closest neighbors in California. The author gives us a not so subtle hint of what’s to come with another quote, “the morning Dahlia stuck her head out of the trailer and said, “Where the hell did all these Mexicans come from?” I thought, Houston, we have a problem.” The hapless couple joins the other two couples in a caravan of trailers heading south on highway 1, and they bring along two small dogs. Gray renames Dahlia and her two snorting dogs, “Winnie, Minnie, and Whiny.”

Right from the start the trip begins to fall apart, and the author’s credo becomes “Why didn’t he listen?” Everyone else is making mistakes that are ruining this long planned vacation, and we read of bad roads, snorkeling dogs, jellyfish bites, and plugged music on and that’s like something to play gol...
family’s last name. Some banks more bad than others. The National Commission has levied fines of more than $2.5 million on banks for illegal business practices. Of that round of fines, Banorte got his with 57 percent, followed by Bancomer, with 11 percent and Banca Aforre, with 8 percent. Pemex gassing Japan. Everybody’s favorite gas station, Pemex, has agreed to send six million barrels of crude oil to a Japanese refining company starting next August and until next January. According to Pemex, Pemex is crowing about it while gas prices at home keep going through the roof.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

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, 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 enjoy service, 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.

AT&T creeping into Mexico. AT&T’s acquisition of DirectTV was announced, making AT&T the largest pay TV provider in the world. The global telecommunications giant also acquired Iusacell and Nextel Mexico. Industry analysts forecast AT&T may eventually buy the network Televisa. The purchase of DirectTV formalizes the entry of AT&T into Mexico.

ampitheater. Three bedroom ocean view condominiums in Cabo del Mar Village start at $149,000 U.S., and single-family houses start at about $315,000 U.S. There are numerous upgrade packages available at reasonable prices, and all homes will come with a one-year warranty.

In more exciting news, Portus Group has just announced its newest venture: Solecado Beach & Spa Resort. This elegant condo-hotel will be located on the popular swimand surf beach Costa Azul in San José del Cabo. Only 24 units will be offered: prices start at approximately $475,000 U.S. (unheard of for beachfront homes). All of the residences will be delivered furnished, and owners are encouraged to participate in a hotel rental program.

Portus Group is very happy to announce they are the first developer in Los Cabos offering a new way of living, changing all their properties into SmartLiving, (sustainable communities). That means they are becoming green communities. Green areas are irrigated with treated gray water, and solar panels will be built into the new preconstruction homes.

Portus Group also has a direct financing program, requiring only $10,000 initial deposit, then 35% when the property is ready. The balance of the mortgage is paid over 10 years at 7.2% interest. For those who are not full time residents and would like to rent out their property, this plan, together with the Rental Program, offers the opportunity to generate income that will cover your mortgage.

So if you’re looking at homes here, you can’t go wrong with Ventanas. Better hurry there before the real estate market comes roaring back and the prices go back up. Now is the time to buy. If you need more information about the great projects in Los Cabos, go to www.portusmexico.com or book your private real estate tour today by calling 624 104 3775.

Looking For Love

Odile. Yes, you read my name right. The fact is, I delivered a healthy set of the cutest little kittens smack in the middle of Hurricane Odile, none of whom I let blow away. I am just the kind of devoted, responsible mama that you need in your life Amigo!

Muñeca. Once you know me, you’ll understand why I am called “doll”. I am beautiful, kind, polite and anxious to be your new Bestie!

We need volunteers

No one can do everything, but everyone can do something! www.loscaboshumanesociety.com

Money laundering—say it ain’t so. Is nothing sacred in the world of corruption? According to the Wall Street Journal, Sonora governor Guillermo Padrés, and his brother Miguel are under investigation for receiving millions of dollars from a businessman linked to government contracts

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32
Calendar of Performing Arts

TODOS SANTOS
CASA TOTA GALLERY
Dec. 3rd, 4th, 5th – Las Estrellas de Todos Santos presents Slice of Life, featuring their new Ensemble in the Galeria at Hotel Casa Tota at 7:00 pm. $15 USD or 200 pesos. Closing night includes a Wine & Nibble Mingled with the actors. Facebook.com/LasEstrellasDeTodosSantos for details.

CABO SAN LUCAS
SAN LUCAS PLAZA (WALMART PLAZA)
August 14. 8:00 pm. The Night of the Dance (La noche de la danza). Flamenco dance and Spanish music by Primo dancer Gamaliel Burgos and different guests artists every time. Spanish and some help in English. Free.


LIBROTECA
Libroteca at the Circoteca. Reading Camp for kids. Workshops about recycling, love to the Mother Earth, vegan food, pottery and paint. Vegan lunch included. More info with Jorge Yañez Cel. 624 117 1663. Hidalgo and Revolution Sts., downtown Cabo.

YANDI MONARDO ART GALLERY
July 22 until September. Opening Wednesday. From 7pm to 9 pm. Art exhibition by the muralist Leonardo Díaz. Paint and other arts expressions created by the local artist. Yandi Monardo Art Gallery featuring different artists who live in or are inspired by Baja. New artist exhibit every 45 days. YM Art Gallery is inside the Luxury Avenue mall at the marina. Spanish and English. Free.

LA PAZ
ALIANZA FRANCESA
Every Tuesday. 6:00 pm. French films movie club. Different French film each week. Alianza Francesa cultural center at 525 Gomez Farias St. between Republica St and Guerrero St. Esteroito town, La Paz. For info and program: www.facebook.com/alianzafrancesalapaz. 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 Guerrero St. La Paz. For info and program: www.facebook.com/alianzafrancesalapaz. Spanish, French, English and other languages. Free.

CENTRO CULTURAL LA PAZ
From Monday to Friday. 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. On permanent display. Man, nature and culture (Hombre, Naturaleza y Cultura). Photography collective exhibition. A permanent photography show that highlights the special characteristics that make up the cultural identity of Baja California Sur. A video showcasing BCS complements the photographs. In the Codex Peninsula of the Centro Cultural La Paz, located on 16 de Septiembre at the corner of Belisario Dominguez. Text is in English and Spanish. Free.

CENTRO DE ARTES Y CULTURAS POPULARES
From April 20 to indeterminate date. Monday to Friday. 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. Oaxaca pottery exhibition. A collection of Oaxacan decorative black pottery (barro negro) which comes from a village that specializes in crafting the unusual, and beautiful pieces. Posted information in English and Spanish. This cultural center is on Madero St between 5 de Mayo and Independencia, across the street from Velasco garden. Free.

SAN JOSE
CIRCOTEKA Angela Cesena St. between the fourlane and Barlovento St.
Every Thursday. 7:00 pm Libroteca at the Circoteca. 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. Circoteca is located at Angela Cesena St. between Furlane Street and Barlovento St., San Jose. Spanish. Free.

BUENA VISTA
March 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19 - Baja Shakespeare’s 16th Season at Buena Vista Beach Resort in Spa Buena Vista’s Convention Center. All shows at 7:00 pm except March 13, a matinee at 1:50pm. Tickets $20 or 200 pesos. facebook.com/pages/Baja-Shakespeare/220397878111537.

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.
barrio, north of Cabo on the Pacific side. Cabo lacks natural water sources, so they have to pump water from San Jose and from the existing, half-functioning desal plant. As many as 40,000 people are constantly suffering from lack of regular water supply, having to resort to purchasing loads from water trucks at a cost of $5 per gallon. The no good desal plant bought from Spain, has been a loser since it limped to its own opening.

Although the San Lazaro dam in San Jose will contribute an additional 20 gallons per second, the need for Cabo is 50 gallons per second — and it is growing, with more and more people moving over from the mainland. The cost of the new desal plant is estimated at $34 million.
GOLDEN CACTUS GALLERY has moved to a new warehouse! Call anytime for an appointment to view the art of more than 20 international artists. I will pick you up at your hotel! Celyne cell: 624-147-5287. From the US: 1-619-272-3737.

OFFICIAL TRANSLATOR Spanish-English, licensed by the Supreme Court of Justice of the State of Baja California Sur. Celyne Poupard, cell 624-147-5287.

DENNIS RAYMOND SMITH Pay your outstanding debt on the duplex you purchased in 2002 in Cabo on the corner of Camino al Colegio and Miguel Herrera. Gloria Shaw.

AMERICAN DELI FRANCHISE Opportunity available for San Jose and La Paz. Call 624-158-8650.

FOR SALE. 2002 CENTURY. Walk around cuddy cabin, twin four stroke outboards. Tuna tower, generator, air conditioned. Includes triple axle aluminum trailer. This is a perfect Baja fishing boat and over nighter. Two beds, full head, auto pilot and too much to list. For pics and details go to http://www.magellanyachts.com. 2 ½ bedroom 2 ½ bath, 2002 in Cabo on the corner of Camino al Colegio and Miguel Herrera. Gloria Shaw.

LIQUOR LICENSE FOR SALE. Cell 624-155-1049.

SANDY JACKSON AND RENNE LARUE Pay your delinquency maintenance fees.

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to call an 877 number, change the 877 to 882

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We will listen to all offers. Call today and retire to a sunny and warm beach town by next week.
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David Flores
david@gringogazette.com
Cell (624) 121-1214
Cerritos, Pescadero & Todos Santos: A good way to spend a day

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

Todos Santos offers a charming, authentic environment, with the traditional central plaza, dozens of art galleries, and small hotels. Some of the streets are torn up right now for utility upgrades, but the jewelry stores, galleries, cafes and restaurants are all still open and inviting. Visit the Hotel California (no connection to the Eagle’s song, despite their best efforts to promote that with T shirts), browse shops full of handcrafted treasures, and enjoy some great Mexican cooking. What you won’t find are buildings taller than three floors, chain stores, or fast food joints.

Speaking of food, Todos Santos has a full range of temptations. Try Alma & Manny’s or the Todos Santos Inn for breakfast; Bob Marlin or Hotel Casa Tota for lunch; Los Adobes, or the Santa Fe for dinner.

This is your wake-up call for mindful living. Two villages are being crafted next to the historic town of Todos Santos—one on the beach, one around a small farm and international research center. Both offer shops, restaurants, recreation, sophisticated design, daily conveniences and a variety of distinct neighborhoods. All in a region known for arts festivals, farm-to-table dining, world-class surf breaks, palm forests, mountain bike trails and more. Discover an immersive way of life at Tres Santos.

OPEN MIND
TODOS SANTOS, MEXICO Explore the new homes and villages.
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Tres Santos
TresSantosBaja.com

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BOOK REPORT... 
continued from page 25 

up black tanks. 

While I was recuperating from a bum leg, and without access to the books in my Loreto book store El Caballo Blanco, I ordered this short e-book. It’s a quick read, and I Googled the author and other books and reviews. The author lives in Mulege, has other e-books, as well as some others about the Baja. The account I read, according to the author, happened about 20 years ago. In the book, Gray calls it fiction, but the Amazon review claims it is non-fiction. The only review there gives the book three out of five stars. That reviewer says the book is disorganized, but fun to read. He’s correct in pointing out that more is written (pages and pages), about the preparations than about what happened on the trip. 

The cover is a view of a winding road, with a vista of the Sea (of Cortez?)! The book is a fast read, and some formatting issues and misspelled words don’t distract. I enjoyed the narrative. About the journey down Highway 1, past all of the cities and villages that are now familiar, and helps me remember my first trip south. Reading the saga of mistakes and problems, and misperceptions about Mexico was entertaining, but I wished the author had added some descriptions of the beautiful landscape; rocks, sea, plants, and all that’s unique about our Baja. Mulege, and the area south of the village are unbelievably beautiful, and a few observations about that camping area, would have balanced the descriptions nicely. 

WHAT’S GOING ON IN THIS... 
continued from page 26 

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WHAT'S GOING ON IN THIS...

continued from page 26 

to provide school uniforms to the state’s public schools. The U.S. Justice Department is in on the investigation because the brothers deposited their ill-gotten gains in U.S. banks. School uniforms? Really? Our high, their low. While Gringos are enjoying the current exchange rate, the weakened peso is killing some industries. Six of 21 industries are getting clobbered, especially in printing and related industries, manufacturing of petroleum products and coal, chemicals, basic metals, manufacture of machinery and equipment as well as computer equipment and other electronic components. Border banks close. Citigroup announced it will close the three branch offices of Banamex USA doing business on the US-Mexican border. Additionally, the company will pay a fine of $140 million for lack of money laundering controls. Apparently, if they can’t launder money, they want to pick up their marbles and go home. What ever happened to banks making their money from providing banking services, like issuing loans? 

Euromoney Magazine praises HSBC. The British magazine awarded this year’s Best Investment Bank award to HSBC in recognition of the bank’s expansion of its investment banking platform and the most complete banking services. HSBC just paid $1.25 billion forfeiture and $665 million in civil penalties for failing to monitor more than $670 billion in wire transfers and more than $9.4 billion in purchases of U.S. currency from HSBC Mexico. The bank also violated U.S. economic sanctions against Iran, Libya, Sudan, Burma and Cuba, according to a criminal 

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35 

LUXURIOUS 
BEACH FRONT VILLA 

Enjoy all amenities of this world class Costa Baja Resort Championship 18-hole Gary Player golf course. Fabulous beach club with 130 foot infinity pool. Villa features 3 master suites, each with bath, large living room, dining room/full kitchen combo, with granite and stainless steel. 2 patios, private inner courtyard, spacious roof-deck you can see to forever. World-class marina, (boats to 250 ft.) See on VRBO.com #254455. First time for sale. $1,295,000 U.S. Elaine or Bill 650-341-1734. Email: ElaineSells@comcast.net
**Sweet Corn Cake**  
In Mexico and Central America it is called elote. One of the most important food crops in the world, corn, or maize actually originated in Mexico. Only recently have scientists linked maize to a Mexican grass called teosinte. Thought to be cultivated by the Aztec civilization. There are still paintings, engravings and sculptures representing corn in the galleries of the pyramids, indicating corn was an important source of food.

In 1510, when Hernan Cortes arrived in what is now Mexico City, he found that the Aztecs wore amulets formed by a string of popcorn used in religious ceremonies. The Indians used to prepare popcorn in three ways, the first was to thread a corncob on a stick and toasted over the fire, picking the beans that exploded and fell off of it. The second was to separate the kernels from the cob and throw them directly to the fire, eating the exploding and the last and most difficult was to heat a shallow clay pot, containing coarse sand, and when the sand reached a high temperature, were placed on it shelled corn kernels from the cob, once cooked they exploded on the surface.

Corn has played a major role in Mexican culture, and not just for cuisine. Corn dough is used to make tortillas. Fresh corn is eaten roasted or boiled, and as an ingredient in corn soup and corn cake. The dried leaves of corn (called totomoxtle) serve as fiber for fabrics, to produce baskets, hats, bags and rugs. Artisans also use it for artificial flowers, or wreaths. Corn leaf is also used as a wrapper for tamales, fresh or dried, depending on the type of tamale. The beard, hair or hairs of the ear of corn are used in herbal medicine to treat various diseases, such as the kidney stones.

A coarse corn meal is produced by soaking raw corn grains in hot water containing limewater, which loosens the grain hulls. They are separated and the softened grains are called hominy. This ancient native Mexican process is called nixtamilization.

Below is the recipe for a popular Mexican corn cake we call Pastel de Elote, which we eat as a dessert with a good cup of coffee. It’s delicious, try it.

### Pastel de Elote

**Ingredients**
- 5 fresh corn cobs
- 1 cup of milk
- 5 eggs
- 2 cups of butter
- 1 teaspoon flour
- 1 pinch of baking powder
- 1 cup sour cream

**Preparation**
- Grind corn kernels with milk and sugar. Beat the egg whites into meringue. Beat the yolks with a little sugar and add the yokes to the corn, flour, baking powder and cream. After that, melt the butter and add to the mixture. Mix all this together with the egg whites until stiff, this will make your cake is very fluffy.
- Pour everything into the greased and floured pan and bake at 350 Fahrenheit for 30 minutes. You can pour some raspberry or strawberry jelly on the plate before serving each slice and any red fruit on top.

---

**Does anyone else get road rage from pushing a cart through Walmart, or is it just me?**

---

**Canadian Consulate In Los Cabos**

Phone 624 142 4333  
Fax 624 142 4262  
lcabo@international.gc.ca

For help with all sorts of stuff, most of which you never should have got yourself into in the first place.

Located on the fourlane, at km 5, in the Walmart plaza, upstairs kind of over La Europa. Unit 82.

Open Monday - Friday 9:30 to noon.

**American Consular Agency In Los Cabos**

Phone (624) 143-3566  
Fax (+52) (624) 143-6750  
conagencylascabos@state.gov

If you’re jammed up, they aren’t very helpful, but they can be better than no help at all.

In the Palmilla strip center at km 27.5, down in the basement in the corner.

Hours of operation are hit or miss.
Another New Development In Cerritos

The cheerful and charming Olas de Cerritos Hotel recently received the Trip Advisor number one ranking in the Bed & Breakfast category in the Cerritos/Pescadero area. (Olas is Spanish for waves.) Only two years old, the ranking is a testament to the hotel’s popularity with happy guests who’ve been talking about it in the right place.

There are eight comfortable, clean, quiet rooms on two floors with king size beds, daybeds, private bathrooms with towels and toiletries, solar powered ceiling fans (no A/C), and a security box.

Four of the rooms have kitchens equipped with dishes and utensils for cooking. The second floor rooms feature lovely Pacific Ocean views.

The spacious, sun-filled property has a new pool, shaded loungers, a large palapa with a shared kitchen, and free WiFi.

This largely appeals to surfer types, and provides free use of their boogie boards, beach umbrellas, chairs and tables to take to the beach, which is a five minute walk from the hotel.

Pescadero native Cornelio Mendoza is a co-owner and the builder of this family run hotel. His warm hospitality greets all guests in perfect English, and ensures everyone feels at home. He is happy to help guests discover and book local activities including surfing lessons, full surf equipment rental, bike tours, horseback riding, training surf fitness, yoga, and spa treatments.

Hmmmmm...can’t picture a surfer dude in a yoga class but one assumes the dudes sometimes have dudettes with them.

The Olas de Cerritos Hotel rooms start at $50 to $60, depending on the season and a continental breakfast is included in the room price. They have a special promotion for August where guests can reserve four nights for the price of three this month only.

---

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Cabo Marina, by the Baja Cantina, (01 521) 1437266. VHF Ch. 71. www.dreammakercharter.com dale@dreammakercharter.com

Gricelda cleans, vacuum packs and freezes your catch for easy transport back home.

Her secret marinade and smoking process assures your catch is the best smoked fish south or north of the border! And filleting is no extra charge!

---

The Olas de Cerritos Hotel rooms start at $50 to $60, depending on the season and a continental breakfast is included in the room price. They have a special promotion for August where guests can reserve four nights for the price of three this month only.

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Gricelda’s Smokehouse

Gricelda cleans, vacuum packs and freezes your catch for easy transport back home.

Her secret marinade and smoking process assures your catch is the best smoked fish south or north of the border! And filleting is no extra charge!

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QUE PASA IN CABO?

continued from page 28

do nothing about it. Skimming occurs when the bad guys insert a card reader into the ATM slot where your card slips into. Your transaction goes through OK, and you never know that’s where you lost control of your card.

Good bye to Baja Cantina Beach Club. The only adult hang on Medano beach, the only restaurant that doesn’t blare music at teenage levels, is getting kicked out of their spot in December when their 10 year lease is up. Cabo Villas spokesman Chris Erickson won’t say what they’re planning for that location, just that they want it back. Pleeze not another beach blanket bingo place. For now the food is probably the best on the beach, and even the service is not bad by local standards, so enjoy it while you can.

---

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Center Mexico identified that cactus plant pigments have a protective effect against ultraviolet rays, which could be used as base ingredient to develop a sunscreen. Well, Mexico’s not going to run out of cactus any time soon, so maybe this is good news.

**Mexican 3D printer hits the market.** Growth of 3D printing is a big thing these days, and a Mexican company is selling their own. The first Mexican 3D printer is priced at only $330. The company expects to sell 3,000 printers in Mexico this year, targeting households and educational institutions. Don’t look to find one in your local Office Max here in Cabo, we’re out in the sticks.

**Short pour in Mexico.** What’s worse, a short pour at a gas station, or a short pour at a bar? They’re both downers. Complaints from citizens in Loreto keep growing about abuses in some service stations. People are demanding the Federal Consumer Protection Agency should increase supervision of the staff. Lack of government inspections is blamed for some stations selling incomplete liters. The problem is, more inspectors won’t help, they will just take payoffs.

**Cruising cash to Loreto.** Arrival of cruise ships has already become a route for economic recovery in Loreto, especially for the small enterprises. Transport, visits to places of interest, restaurants, bars, and tours of historic sites such as the town of San Javier have come out winners in the race for the cruise ship dollars.

**What To Do If You’re Stopped By The Police**

The Police are poised to step up their efforts to shake down foreigners now that our federal gendarmes sent to protect us from them are being recalled. People! Do not feed these thieves, you only make it worse for yourself and for everyone else. If nobody gives them money, they will stop asking.

If you are stopped, and you have actually made a boo boo, ask for a ticket and go down to the police station later on or the next day, or even the next week, and pay it. They will take your driver’s license to insure that you show up, and that’s ok. They do not want your license, and there is nothing they can do with it. You will get it back.

If you have not broken any law, just keep asking for a ticket. “Dar may un teeket por favor”. Be polite but be firm.

If they threaten you or get nasty, write down their name, or if they are not wearing their name badge, (mandatory, but still it’s common for them to stick it in their pocket), then haul out your phone and take their picture. That’s like holding a mirror up to a vampire, and they will jump in their car and scurry away like cockroaches when you turn on the light. They will laugh, go with some face saving mumble like, “just a warning this time”. It’s extremely rare for them to write a ticket, and for sure they will not cite you when you haven’t done anything wrong. And, if you have broken a law, the ticket is ridiculously small. Man up and go down and pay it, don’t take the cowardly/lazy way out and throw money at the officer. OK, once more now, altogether, “dar may un teeket”.

This police extortion would stop in a week if everyone would grow a back bone and stand up to them. If it doesn’t stop, then it’s your own fault.
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