City Officials Look At Beach Access

And they don't like what they see

BY ANNETTE FUNACHELLO

City officials went around posing as Mexicans, (which was easy to do, as they are Mexicans), to find out how accessible our beaches are to the locals.

Beaches in Mexico are the property of the nation and must be open to everyone. The concept of private beaches, therefore, is non-existent in Mexico. At least by law, but hardly seen in reality, which is a cause of constant protest both in social media and in live picketing.

Last week, a number of city officials, responding to complaints from local residents, toured every single beach in both Cabo San Lucas, San Jose and the corridor in between the two towns, and found there are 17 beaches that allow no access to local residents. And some of those are the most beautiful and most swimable.

Here's the list:

Diamante, on the road to Todos Santos does not allow access, their security people will tell you to go around the Cabo San Lucas desal plant, and jump over the fence.

Pueblo Bonito Sunset beach, security agents will tell you to get a permit from management or to go to the Yenekamu association, which is currently providing guided tours to the old lighthouse.

The Pedregal housing tract. Access allowed but you are required to show an I.D. and security will follow you around if you look suspicious. (Mexican).

Solmar, Terrasol and Finisterre, you are required to leave an I.D. at the security gate, park your car where they tell you to, and walk to the beach.

Medano beach next to the Continuidad Paseo.

So What’s The Trend With Our Local Hotels?

Back on track and up up and away

BY CONNIE HILTON

14 months ago we took a bad hit from hurricane Odile. Cabo came through it pretty bedraggled, but San Jose was simply devastated. Every hotel along the ocean suffered severe damage, causing the entire town to suffer terribly. Many restaurants didn't make it, and even the art district which is inland and pretty safe, suffered because there were no tourists in San Jose last winter.

Now all but three of the hotels are back on line, they're already nearly filled to capacity, and it shows in town, with the streets clogged with tourists. Downtown San Jose has more than a dozen new restaurants, some ice cream shops, taco shops, gourmet coffee houses, new galleries, and many new trinket shops. Everyone is not just hopeful, but already

The Hilton has reopened and has abandoned its all inclusive business model in favor of encouraging their guests to explore the town and its restaurants by offering the European meal plan. The hotel has nearly 400 rooms. That’s 800 people going into town to buy dinner. This is a very, very important possible new trend.
Christmas music. Don’t miss out on the Voices of Peace Christmas Concert on December 17th at 8:00 p.m. at the Cultural Pavilion in downtown Cabo. Opera soloists from Los Angeles will be featured and accompanied by the Philharmonic Orchestra from the Mexico National Autonomous University. It’s free and it’s

Que Pasa in Cabo?

BY DAVID FLORES

in Spanish, but hey, Christmas carols know no language. Didn’t most of them start out in Latin anyway? For our precious tourists, Genaro Ruiz, the state’s secretary of tourism, announced the creation of the very first Center of Total Attention and Protection of Tourists, which will have offices in all of our major tourist areas. Ruiz is a tourist developer who entered politics this year, and he is conscious of the need to protect our precious tourists, so he may make this happen. May being the key word here. At first, the center will have offices in Cabo San Lucas and San Jose, and would expand to other tourist areas of the state. Ruiz emphasized that there is a lot of interest and concern at both state and federal levels to make this happen. As we say, light up a candle. The last time something like this was tried, the girl running it suddenly took off to the United States with a Gringo meal ticket that she picked up. The office was closed. Cabo marina boats impounded. At least 16 boats of all types and sizes (pangas, yachts, sailboats) have been removed from the Cabo marina by API, the marina management company, as they either had been abandoned or had stopped paying their dock fees. Some seemed damaged by last year’s hurricane Odile but most of them were abandoned. Although their owners were notified that they had to come up with their past due fees, they didn’t respond and now they have lost them. Some boats were also involved in labor law suits and are being kept as guarantee of payment to workers, under the watch of the labor courts.

Feds tearing up our streets. Although it is hard to tell which streets are torn up by construction and which are just torn up. Fonatur, the federal agency that developed San José’s tourist zone and the Cabo marina, is tearing up Cabo streets to fix them. The agency has been assigned to fix the lousy sidewalks in Cabo’s downtown and is working on the sidewalks of Morelos and Leona Vicario streets and will go on to finish the unfinished work on the so called Par Vial that runs from the entrance of Cabo towards the downtown main park and the Marina boulevard. That “improvement” has been sitting unfinished for four years now. Raul Chollet, the local delegate of Fonatur, said that they will stop construction on December 15 and resume on January 4, to allow downtown merchants to take advantage of the influx of tourists and local resident who flock to the downtown area to shop during the Christmas season. Sure, because so many people buy tourist trinkets for gifts. More likely they’re knocking off work because the guys want to take Christmas off. Anyhow, let’s hope they don’t leave it half way finished.

City to clear off sidewalks. Several sidewalks in downtown Cabo and San Jose have been taken over by stores, who’s owners are encroaching with their merchandise. They are using the public walk way as an extension of their stores, with tents, clothes hangars, and even tarps that make our precious tourists and local residents to duck or walk on the street. But! Bending to local residents’ pressure, the city has promised to clear off those sidewalks, which were built for pedestrians, not as an extension of business displays. The move is also a result of complaints from civil organizations who work for the handicapped, who can’t use their wheelchairs or walkers without bumping into some... CONTINUED ON PAGE 7
Almost 400 Los Cabos VIP’s attended the “Grand Unveiling” of the Residences at Solaz last night in the Beach Pavilion at the resort overlooking the Sea of Cortez. Snell Real Estate reported that with only 21 residences ever to be available, 6 were scooped up by eager buyers in the first 3 hours for total sales of over $15.9M. Not bad for an opening party bash.

Attendees were treated to French champagne & fois gras as well as shrimp and scallop hors d’oeuvres. Six videos were used to unveil the spectacular resort in the middle of Cabo’s famed “corredor.” The VIP guests oooed and awed at fire dancers who entertained them while they sipped top shelf liquor served by 30 waiters buzzing among the elegant, chic crowd. Afterwards a spectacular fireworks display picked up the pace of the evening as a DJ rocked the house.

Buyers included a Mexican family that bought a penthouse for $3.5M and a first floor unit for $2.35M for their children to enjoy. Others were so awed by the 180 degree views and scooped up full floor units with 3000 air conditioned square feet and 2000 square feet of outdoor terrace space for $2.4M to $2.5M.

Snell Real Estate reported the interest was “amazing.” Vanessa Fukunaga, President of Snell Real Estate said: “We knew this was going to be a hot new offering, and the evening proved the point. The rarity of the number of units being offered didn’t hurt. Fortunately we have 15 left.”

The Residences at Solaz are part of the 131 room Solaz, a Luxury Collection Resort complex that is being developed by Quinta del Golfo de Cortez Group, who are the owners of the Sheraton Hacienda del Mar Hotel located just up the beach.

Last week the new resort got the fantastic news that it had been chosen by the Association of Tennis Professionals to hold its 2016-2020 World Tour Tournament at a new tennis center to be built on the north side of the highway, giving Solaz, a Luxury Collection Resort, an international reputation in the tennis world and bringing to Cabo a world class tennis event.

“We knew this was going to be a hot new offering, and the evening proved the point”.

- Vanessa Fukunaga
Merry Christmas precious readers!
I spent the week doing some investigative undercover work for you, and here’s a picture of my clever steak out. This was all on purpose, mind you, I could have got down any time.

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and I will be back to you before the new year!

Feliz Navidad a todos.

Cheap property taxes. Anyone who pays property taxes here knows they’re a joke. Although gains have been made in the amounts of property taxes collected in recent years, Mexico still lags when that revenue is measured in terms of gross domestic product. Mexico was at the bottom of the list of countries in 2012, the most recent year for which figures are available, tied with the Netherlands and Estonia with property tax revenues representing just 0.3% of GDP. Mexico collected a total of US $2.7 billion in 2012, which was only about a million dollars more than in 1980.

Bank fraud. Mexican banks registered almost 3 million cases of fraud totaling $480 million last year. A study by the consumer protection agency Condusef indicates that although the number of cases decreased by 2% last year, the financial impact increased by 3%.

Credit card fraud accounted for 48% of the total. Savings deposits were next, then debit card fraud and prepaid card fraud. It seems as though people can find ways to steal from any system.

The banks with the highest number of registered fraud claims were Banamex (800,046), Bancomer (713,486), Santander (534,245), Banorte (261,862), HSBC (172,081), Banco Azteca (137,463), Scotiabank (99,450), and Inbursa (52,345). Banco Azteca saw a 130% increase in cases, up from 59,657 claims in 2013. So now you know where your bank stands.

Oh No! Mexico bought 30 Sukhoi Superjet 100 aircraft from Russia, costing a total of $1.78 billion. Haven’t we learned our lesson? Just this year Mexico hired the Russians to send up a communications satellite, a very expensive item, and Russia’s rocket fizzled out and crashed back to Earth, totally destroying our satellite. So Mexico built another one and this time hired NASA to launch it for them. The deal went smooth as butter. Now they’re once again going the cut rate route? What are they thinking? Well, I’m thinking I’m not flying on them, that’s for sure.

More Pemex grief. Pemex has opened five gas stations in Houston, Texas, hoping to cash in on all the Mexicans living there. More could follow if that goes well. Stations, not Mexicans. But that’s a big if, considering how nobody here feels the love for cheating Pemex stations. The company said in a statement that the Houston pilot project would allow it to measure the impact the Pemex brand has against American brands and identify business opportunities. Good luck with that.

Hot gas. Federal authorities estimate that 30% of all gasoline and diesel sold in Mexico’s gas stations is stolen, a figure they hope will be reduced by new controls on fuel sales that take...
What Do All These Meal Plans Mean?

**All-Inclusive (AI)**
You pay for all your food and beverage before you even leave home. That includes alcohol, taxes, and even the tip. Many of these resorts have multiple restaurants and bars, so you have a large number of dining options. Being hungry is a simple problem to solve.

Non-motorized water sports are generally also included in AI. Most resorts offer free nightly entertainment. Travelers looking to relax, not worrying about the little things, and stick around the resort for the majority of the trip may be interested in the all-inclusive option. It’s the full-service vacation.

**European Plan (EP)**
All food provided by the hotel is at an additional cost. Tips are the guest’s responsibility. If you’re planning on venturing out beyond the resort, then this might be your best option. The European plan is more for the adventurous type who wants to do some exploring. Since you won’t be at your resort or hotel much, it doesn’t make sense to pay for meals you won’t be eating.

An EP vacation tends be more intimate than at an AI resort since they are more popular with smaller properties. There’s no pressure to “get your money’s worth” like at an AI where guests feel compelled to get their money’s worth.

**American Plan and Modified American Plan (MAP)**
This means breakfast, lunch, and dinner are included with the price of reservation, but drinks and snacks are not included. The Modified American Plan includes breakfast and either lunch or dinner.

**Breakfast Included vs. Continental Breakfast Plan**
Resorts and hotels also make a distinction between breakfast included and continental plan. The continental breakfast plan is the classic continental breakfast popular at many hotels. Breakfast is self-serve, and guests are given juice and coffee options. There are no cooked foods such as pancakes or eggs, but there are breads such as muffins, pastries, bagels, or scones. Some continental-plan hotels have waiter service to make it more intimate, but they don’t leave a tip. No other meals are covered. Breakfast Included is similar to the continental breakfast plan in that breakfast is the only meal covered by the cost of the reservation. However, breakfasts are a little more involved with cooked foods on the menu. Breakfasts can be buffet or a la carte, and are generally staffed with waiters who should be tipped.

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**Spa Cielo Laser Center earns 2013 TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence Award**

Multiple award winning Medical Laser and Weight Loss Center, Spa Cielo, located in San Jose del Cabo, today announced that it has received a TripAdvisor® Certificate of Excellence award. The accolade, which honors service excellence, is given only to establishments that consistently achieve outstanding traveler reviews on TripAdvisor, and is extended to qualifying businesses worldwide. Only the top-performing 10 percent of businesses listed on TripAdvisor receive this prestigious award.

To qualify for a Certificate of Excellence, businesses must maintain an overall rating of four or higher, out of a possible five, as reviewed by travelers on TripAdvisor, and must have been listed on TripAdvisor for at least 12 months. Additional criteria include the volume of reviews received within the last 12 months. Spa Cielo carries a five star rating.

“We are pleased to receive a TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence,” said Cathy Dammann, Medical Aesthetics Practitioner and founder of Spa Cielo Laser Center. “Our team strives to make a positive difference in the lives of our clients and the community in which we live. Spa Cielo was founded on the principles of professionalism, safety and most importantly, client satisfaction. We ever-so-carefully unite patient concerns with the most advanced, proven, non-invasive cosmetic technology to achieve the patient’s personal goals. We are committed to enhancing the personal well-being, confidence and self-esteem of our patients in a safe, professional, ethical environment.” This accolade is evidence that our hard work is translating into positive reviews on TripAdvisor. This award compliments the previous awards received by Cathy Dammann and her Laser Center. In 2012 Cathy was named among the “Successful Women of the Baja” by Baja Traveler Magazine and in 2009, Spa Cielo earned the title of “Best Medical Spa” by the Mexican Association of Medical Tourism, this is truly an testament to the wonderful team work carried out each and every day by her amazing team.

It is our goal to provide a true “Rejuvenation Vacation” and have our patients go home looking younger,” States Cathy. Spa Cielo has been serving the Los Cabos area for the past 10 years and has helped over 14,000 clients “Turn Back the Clock” with customized programs for overall health, including diet and nutritional, and skin and body rejuvenation. Whether battling the bulge and cellulite, or acne, rosacea, hyperpigmentation, spider veins, sun damage, unwanted hair, scars, nail fungus or tattoos, or just loose flaccid skin that comes with age, their center will help you overcome your challenges. Their newest cutting edge technologies include HydraFacials®, Total FX® CO2, VelaShape², Genesis, Titan® and Lifestyle Lifts®. They provide free of charge the VISIA® Computerized Skin Surface Analysis and printed report for you to take home. You can call and schedule an appointment at 624-105-2209 or visit their website at www.spa-cielo.com.

“TripAdvisor is delighted to celebrate the success of businesses around the globe,” said Alison Copus, Vice President of Marketing for TripAdvisor for Business. “The Certificate of Excellence award provides top performing businesses around the globe, consistently offering TripAdvisor users a great customer experience,” said Alison Copus, Vice President of Marketing for TripAdvisor for Business.

Crossroads Country Club and Hotel Vidasoul

Voted #1 Restaurant on Baja’s East Cape

It’s been a fantastic season on the East Cape, so far. The new road is great and gets you out to Shipwreck’s, which cuts down on travel time and is a much more comfortable ride. The new airport road gets you to us quicker from Cabo San Lucas and Todos Santos. It’s more easy to get to us than ever before. It is well worth the drive for peace and tranquility, private beaches and fabulous whale watching real soon.

Our next event will be Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, with a special dinner serving. Please contact us for more information. Reservations please.

New Years Eve Gordo Bank dinner at Vidasoul

In 2014 Gordo Bank was born when Timothy James and Neil Henderson decided to pour heart and soul into a new band. From Los Zacatitos they now play with full ensemble, rocking the East Cape and all the Cabos with emotional, danceable rock and roll. Reservations for dinner.

January 9th Brian Flynn’s All Star Band with Mike Es- tes of Lynrd Skynrd and Jay Johnson from Skinny Molly. These guys put on the performance of the year last Spring.

We are located on Baja’s East Cape in Vinorama half way between the Puerto Los Cabos Marina and Cabo Pulmo. Keep us in mind for your wedding, meeting, corporate or private affair, retreat, conference. For more information about our events or specials, find us on Facebook Hotel Vidasoul or our web site www.itiscool.com. Call us at 624 142 1165 or 624 154 6966. USE number 626-840-0485 at the hotel (satellite phone) USA 323-431-8225. E-mail to info@vidasoul.com.

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Cathy Dammann is a Medical Aesthetics Practitioner and has certifications in Aesthetics, and Light and Laser Therapies. She is a member of the International Association for Physicians in Aesthetic Medicine and the Mexican Association of Medical Tourism, this is truly an testament to the wonderful team work carried out each and every day by her amazing team.

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The Legend Of How The Christmas Tree Got Its Angel

What, you thought we were going to forget this this year? C’mon, it’s a GG tradition

BY CRYSTAL SNOW

One Christmas season long ago and far away, Santa was getting ready for his annual trip... but there were problems everywhere.

Four of his elves called in sick, and the trainee elves did not produce the toys as fast as the regular ones, so Santa was beginning to feel the pressure of being behind schedule.

Then Mrs. Claus told Santa that her mom was coming to visit. This stressed Santa even more. When he went to harness the reindeer, he found that three of them were knocked up and two had jumped the fence and were out, heaven knows where. More stress.

And as he began to load the sleigh, one of the boards cracked under the load and the bag of toys fell to the ground, scattering toys everywhere.

Now thoroughly frustrated, Santa went back into the house for a cup of coffee fortified with a dollop of whiskey. But when he looked into the cupboard, he discovered that the elves had got into the liquor and there was nothing left. In his frustration, he lost his grip on the coffee pot and it fell to the floor, breaking into smitheries. Grabbing the broom to clean up the mess, he found that mice had eaten the straw. Just then the doorbell rang and Santa cursed his way to the door.

He opened the door with a mighty swoosh, and standing there was the cutest little angel with a great big Christmas tree. The angel said, very possibly with just a tad too much cheer, “Merry Christmas Santa. Isn’t it just a lovely day? I have a beautiful tree for you. Where would you like me to stick it?”

Thus began the tradition of the little angel perched on top of the Christmas tree.
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50’ JERSEY S/F 1994............................$249,000
35’ CABO EXPRESS 2005.....................$269,000
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28’ TOPAZ W/ TOWER............................$35,000

Call Capt. Sheldon Caughey
Ph. 624-110-2673 to inquire.
Email: bajayacht@gmail.com
Office North end Lot Tesoro Resort
Hotel across from Cape Marine

Puerto Los Cabos. No access, you will be directed to La Playita beach.

El Ganzo. Controlled access you need to show an I.D. to enter.
Palmilla. Access allowed.
Acapulquito and Costa Azul. Access allowed.

El Dorado. No access permitted.

The fine for parking in those clearly marked blue spots amounts to 7,000 pesos, or about $420.

Speaking of the handicapped. Cabo San Lucas traffic cops, in cahoots with DIF, have begun a
campaign to reserve handicapped parking spots for genuinecrips, especially in the bigger commerc-
cial areas like Sendero, Soriana, Mega and Chedraui, as well as in
downtown Cabo.
The DIF has handicapped signs that those who need them
can hang from their rear view mirrors, but c’mon, they have to
go to any DIF office and apply

Continued on page 16
MLS Agents Take a Bus

BY CHERYL T. MILLER

The MLS BCS represents all of Baja California Sur with Multi-Listing Services that enables their member agents to access properties throughout the State with listings from other agents following the same guidelines and rules, as themselves. The Multi-Listing Service expands your, the BUYER’s horizons for options in your purchase. MLS BCS members must be professionals in the Real Estate Industry, working through a qualified broker and meeting all the minimum standards set for the protection of the industry and the buying/selling public. They must adhere to the strictest rules and regulations in all of Mexico, agree to follow not only the AMPI (the Professional Realtors Association in Mexico) Code of Ethics, but also the National Realtor's Association (NAR) Code of Ethics from the United States. They must agree to cooperate with their fellow brokerages and agents. In addition, the MLS BCS subscribers must be professional in the Real Estate Industry, adhering to the AMPI (the Professional Realtors Association in Mexico) Code of Ethics and the National Association of Realtors (NAR) Code of Ethics. Hiring an MLS BCS agency / agent is the highest standard of professionalism in Mexico.

Now, your agents are even more knowledgeable with the commencement of monthly bus tours offered free to all members. Each month the MLS BCS tour buses will be jammed packed with agents touring different properties in different areas of Los Cabos and La Paz.

In November the MLS Tour went to Misiones, Cabo Bello and the Santa Carmela communities. Two buses choked full of the most informed agents toured over 31 homes and condos. December’s tours will visited the Palmilla and Querencia properties visiting all the fine luxury properties in those areas.

So far, the tours are limited to real estate professionals.

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Baja Properties 

The Perfect Home on a Perfect Location. Excellent Golf and Ocean. Views 5 bedrooms, Private Pool. MLS # 15-354. Paseo Finisterra in San Jose del Cabo. Price Reduced $ 599,000 USD

MLS BCS Agents Take a Bus

By Cheryl T. Miller, Broker, Baja Realty and Investment, Cell 624-143-3990. Office 624-142-0988. sales@bajaproperties.com

Visit the MLS BCS website. www.bajaproperties.com
The Top 5 Improvements
That Will Add Value to Your Home

PIERRE LAUTISCHER

There is definitely a difference between what improvements will enhance your lifestyle and those that provide value or a higher return when trying to resell a property. An acquaintance, Scott McGillivray, host of HGTV’s “Income Property,” agrees that any improvements or renovations that provide income from the property can dramatically increase the resale value of the property, as you are not only selling a home but providing the buyer a stream of cash flow.

Of course being a landlord is not for everyone and perhaps a future article can explore this idea. For this reason, we shall focus on specific improvements within the home that will bring the biggest return upon resale. This article won’t provide you with all the answers but perhaps it will steer you in the right direction.

When considering resale value of your home and what projects to undertake, think “aesthetics”. From the Encarta Dictionary, aesthetics is defined as, “outward appearance” ... the way something looks, especially when considered in terms of how pleasing it is. Those things that are visual are upmost in the buyer’s mind.

The seller must take their emotions out of the equation. Most people believe their home is worth more than it really is. Buyers will only pay what they think the home is worth not what a seller believes it’s worth.

Every home is unique and has pros and cons. Do some research and view the homes for sale in the immediate area. When you do your tour, think of course a buyer, take notes and pictures. This exercise will provide insight as to what is available, at what price and allows a comparison as to what you’re offering.

Keep in mind the subject of this article. Make the best use of money to maximize the resale value. As a minimum, each dollar spent should result in more than a dollar increase in value.

The top of the list is Curb Appeal. Sounds simple but there is a lot involved in this. The house and the surrounding grounds are included in this category. When a buyer pulls up to the front of the property, this initial view can set the tone for the rest of the viewing. In fact, there have been occasions where a prospective buyer arrives and because of disappointment of this first impression they’ll actually leave without exploring the inside.

So cut the lawn, trim the foliage, rake the sand, clean, remove clutter, make minor repairs and if it needs paint then paint. If there is a pool make sure it is clean and minor repairs are done (such as replace missing and damaged tiles).

Broken tiles on the roof? Replace them. Clean the windows and put a welcome mat at the door. These are very inexpensive ways to add tremendous value to your home.

OK you got them in the door, what’s next? Take the clutter out of the home, the daily living items. The effect you are trying to achieve is that the buyers are walking into a showroom where there is ample space for their stuff. So remove photographs, those cute little items collected over the years and perhaps the scatter rugs you may have. Removing clutter and scatter rugs creates the illusion of a bigger space.

Number three includes fresh paint and minor repairs but only if needed. Fix hairline cracks, leaky faucets and odors. Inspect the window coverings and either fix / clean or replace them. Most of the time painting will get rid of odors. A great sales technique is to bake some cookies for the showing. Not only will you create a beautiful smell (unless you burn them) but also the buyer will get that, “I am home feeling”.

Staging is next. If the house is vacant it have it professionally staged. If the house is not vacant consider removing worn out furniture and staging part of the house. A professional stager will advise on more than just furniture.

Finally, you’ve heard it before, Kitchens and Bathrooms. These are the rooms where you should get a reasonably amount of value for your improvements.
Closings In Usa VS Closings In Mexico

BY PEDRO PERICHART

After having closed hundreds of real estate transactions in Mexico where U.S. clients have acted as Sellers or Buyers or Lenders, I have realized that there are important differences between the U.S. closing process and the Mexican closing process, as well as the actors in each process. Here is a summary of my findings:

In the U.S., the closing process is handled and administered by an Escrow Company with their own closing attorney. The Escrow Company verifies that the owner is properly recorded as such in the County Records, verifies the tax ID number of the property, orders title search, gets title insurance commitment, handles all telephone calls and emails from parties involved, coordinates closing process and date with realtors, buyer, seller and lender (if applicable), if there is an existing mortgage coordinates its payoff, obtains any information with regard to county property taxes, water and homeowner’s dues. At the end of the process, the Escrow Company prepares the HUD-1 and advises Buyer of amount of money needed to be wired to the Escrow Company’s trust account for the closing, and prepares disbursement instructions. If there is a lender involved, the Escrow Agent obtains lender’s closing package. At closing, all the parties sign the settlement statement, deed and other closing documents and tax forms.

In Mexico, the closing process is typically handled and formalized by a Notary Public when the parties involved in the transaction are Mexican. A Notary Public in Mexico has a completely different role than a Notary Public in the U.S. In the U.S., a Notary Public’s role is to certify a signer’s identity or that a document’s copy has been obtained from its original. In Mexico, a Notary Public attests not only identities and original documents, he/she attests all real estate transactions, verifies the owner’s title at the Public Registry, verifies tax ID and property taxes at the County office, issues the closing deed, pays capital gains taxes on the parties’ behalf, pays buyer acquisition taxes, and usually also takes care of recording the closing deed at the County land title office and Public Registry. However, when a foreigner is involved as a seller, buyer or lender in a Mexican real estate transaction, or when a Mexican transaction is complicated or involves lending, there is usually a closing attorney or closing agent involved to support and complement the Notary’s work, and also to go beyond the Notary’s duties. Here are some examples:

- The Notary will not perform or coordinate a title search, he/she will only request a certificate from the Public Registry showing if the property currently has a lien or other encumbrance, or if it is free & clear, but will not review the chain of title, nor will verify the correct cancellation of previous liens or encumbrances. An extensive title search can be performed by the closing attorney at the buyer’s request.

- The Notary will not get involved in the title insurance process, simply because in Mexico title insurance is not part of a real estate transaction. Therefore, the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12
Agent Profile
Ed Langton

After 40 years of owning and running his own sales and marketing company, Ed accepted a friend’s invitation to get out of town for a week and party in the sunny warmth of Cabo. One visit led to another and then another until both he and his wife were convinced that Cabo was the only place that they wanted to be.

During the past 10 years, Ed has won numerous Top Sales awards but finds the greater rewards lie in relationships and successfully assisting clients in obtaining their lifestyle and investment goals.

Ed is currently affiliated with Cabo Realty Pros in Cabo San Lucas.

Contact Ed Langton at 624.122.3104 or via email at edwardslangton@hotmail.com

Loma Linda

Loma Linda is known for panoramic views that span the city lights of San Jose del Cabo, the Desert Mountains of Punta Gorda and the Azure waters of the Sea of Cortez. Walk to the beautiful white sand beaches, the serene fresh water estuary and all of the down town amenities. Secured and gated parking. This quaint development of only 18 condos is walking distance to convenient amenities of shopping, entertainment, restaurants, groceries, hospitals, banks and has a city park just minutes away. Heated swimming pool and spa. Gated and secured. Lushly landscaped, lawn, palm trees and tropical flowering plants. Shade Palapa, Al Fresco dining and lounge area. This is Baja living at its finest.

For more information contact Connie Meyerhoff with Snell Real Estate at 624-122-2337, c.meyerhoff@snellreal-estate.com

FOR SALE

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Real Estate Section

December 14th, 2015

The Top 5 Improvements... continued from page 9

money spent. Start small, as a full renovation may not be necessary. You might be able to spruce things up by making minor repairs and replacing certain items. Replace outdated faucets, realign or even paint cabinetry, try to replace appliances so they all match in color. Replace outdated toilets and clean or replace countertops. Remember the tour you did of the other houses for sale? What did those kitchens and bathrooms look like compared to yours?

As always, education is the key to success. Should you want to do further research, start by picking up Scott McGillivray’s bestselling book, “How to Add Value to Your Home”.

Pierre Lautischer is an agent with Cabo Gold Realty and author of the book entitled, “BECOME A MILLIONAIRE FOR WHAT IT MAKES OF YOU!” He can be contacted at 624-121-0890 or via email at plautischer@hotmail.com

1. Castillo de Arena Open House Tour. Dec. 12 and 18, 2:00 to 4:00 PM
Meet at Castillo de Arena Office and tour Casa Bonita MLS 14-2112, $345,000, Casa McMahon MLS 15-1368, $275,000, and Casa Glover MLS 14-1216, $475,000. Paul Clark, PC=eastcapehomes.com 624-147-0111

2. Club Campestre “Group Open House” December 14 from 2 to 5 pm
16 homes in the gated, master planned Club Campestre San Jose community will be open for your viewing pleasure from 2 to 5 pm on Monday, December 14.

Homes in this “Group Open House” are represented by seven MLS BCS and AMPI member realties. Maps to the various properties will be available at the Guard Gates in Club Campestre.

a) Casa Desierto, Pueblo Campestre 14, $395,000 USD, 3 BR / 2.5 BA, MLS # 15-880, C. Buchanan, 503-545-1767
b) Casa Maite, La Canada lot 35, $795,000 USD, 4 BR / 4.5 BA, MLS # 14-699
C. Buchanan, 624-157-7518
c) Villa Treinta Tres, C. Buchanan, 624-157-7518

Further information about transportation to the event: Call Cathy Buchanan for information about transportation to the event: Call Cathy Buchanan, 624-157-7518

3. East Cape “Group Open House” December 15 from 2 to 5 pm
Five homes in Los Cabos’ southern east cape region will be open for your viewing pleasure. Please join us to experience the lesser developed Los Cabos coastline. Call Cathy Buchanan for information about transportation to the event: Call Cathy Buchanan, 624-157-7518

4. Punta ballena “Group Open House” in the Las Residencias neighborhood, December 17th, 2 to 5 pm
Punta Ballena is the home of the fabulous Esperanza Hotel. Please join us to experience one of Los Cabos’ premier resort destinations. Call 624-157-7518 MX cell for further information.

SOLDS

1. Casa Suchley, Casa Pulmor, Nice bungalow, MLS 15-1885 $180,000, Paul Clark, East Cape Homes
2. Casa Boag, Castillo de Arena, 4 Bedroom Cortez view home, MLS 15-1886, $220,000, Paul Clark, East Cape Homes
3. Casa Tucker, Castillo de Arena, 4 Bedroom Cortez view home MLS 15-229, $150,000, Paul Clark, East Cape Homes
4. Casa Pulmo Lots 7 & 8, Cabo Pulmo, Beachfront lots, MLS 11-1595, $220,000, Paul Clark, East Cape Homes

R. Mardock, 624-147-0102
k) Casa Montgomery, Vista Hermosa 117, $595,000 USD, 3 BR / 2.5 BA, MLS # 15-1735, C. Buchanan, 624-157-7518
l) Pueblo Campestre 9, $495,741 USD, 3 BR / 3.5 BA, MLS # 15-1283, D. Mathei, 624-168-4527
m) Casa Adrian, Pueblo Campestre 11, $375,000 USD, 3 BR / 3 BA, MLS # 15-606, C. J. Mota, 624-132-4857
n) Casa Canad 14, $785,000 USD, 3 BR / 3 BA, MLS # 15-2178 M. Geisler, 624-157-1775
o) Casa Cañadas, La Canada lot 39, $1,100,000 USD, 5 BR / 6 BA, MLS# 15-2065, J. Geisler, 908-267-9188
p) Casa Lexa, La Canada 1 Lot 41, $850,000 USD, 4 BR / 5 BA MLS # 15-1877 C. Meyerhoff, 624-122-2237

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CLOSINGS IN USA vs CLOSING...
continued from page 10

Closing attorney can coordinate title insurance with a U.S. based title insurance company such as Armour Secure (formerly Fidelity) or Stewart Title, among others, simultaneously with the closing process.

The Notary will not (and should not) act as “escrow” for the earnest money, interim deposits and balance of the purchase price. Not even the closing attorney/agent should be receiving purchase price deposits. You should always ask the closing attorney/agent to open a third party neutral escrow account with a well-reputed escrow company such as Armour Secure (formerly Fidelity) or Stewart Title, among others.

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**THE QUIVIRA LOS CABOS ECONOMIC CONFERENCE FEATURING MACARIO SCHETTINO**

On November 30th, 2015 Qui- vora Los Cabos presented a spec- tacular economic conference at the fabulous Pueblo Bonito Rose Hotel in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. The conference featured one of Mexico's economic leaders, Mr. Macario Schettino. A chemical engineer, a professor of economics, and holds a PhD in Administration, an author of over two-dozen books and a top govern- ment advisor in the economic sector nationally and internationally.

The captivated, standing-room- only international audience was reminded poignantly by Mr. Schettino. “Now is definitely the time to invest in real estate in Los Cabos because the Mexican economy has incredible upside and expectations in the immediate future.” Present- ing amazing, educated insights and figures about the growth in Mexico over the last two decades at a sustainable rate surprised many in the audience, as the trends are extremely positive.

Examples of the latest data, which were explained, are that at the end of September 2015 there is an indication that trade, communica- tions and transport are growing at a rate of 6% per year. Additionally, construction and manufacturing growth is significant registering at a clip of 3% and up to 4% across the country. Coinciding with this is a booming industry in Mexico of course, with tourism sector growth at 8% annually.

All of the aforementioned equals a strengthening of national invest- ment as well as international as Mexico is more frequently opening its doors to foreign investment at an accelerated pace.

The conference was essentially a showcase of the newest economic analyses in Mexico and local mar- kets yet, title his newest book titled “The End of Confusion” recently hitting the market on No- vember 24th, 2015 to rave reviews.

Published by Polity Press, Mr. Schettino explains why the twenti- eth century economic experiments failed. All attempts to construct developed nations by closing the economies coupled with govern- ment control had the same result: they did not work.

On the contrary, where econo- mies were opened and governments played a role, albeit with less control, nations excelled with exponential economic growth.

As Macario Schettino explains the data for Latin America, “The road to development (i.e. at a higher level of income and decreased equality) involves building a strong state, bound by the law and ac- countability to the citizens, but also through a different nationalism for the Latin American countries. They should celebrate creating wealth, not the wealth obtained by privileges. In our continent, that’s not easy. In Mexico, where the great wealth of the twentieth century is all associated to political power, it is very complicated.”

The book and economic confer- ence consists of three parts: the first to investigate the steps to a developed economy and democratic politics are needed. The second re- views how different economies over the centuries have played out in terms of economic successes and failures.

For example, when reviewing national and personal wealth in the first wave of the twentieth century, those who experienced commu- nism were a failure. In the third part, the recent history of Mexico, specifically since 1997, portrays that global trends are slowing down while Mexico continues to grow and build upon it. As most economic experts are aware and reiterated by Macario Schettino, the Mexican economy is growing at an increasingly stable 3.5% for nearly the last 20 years. The country is not having the massive ups and downs economically such as the United States or European countries. During the eco- nomic crisis of 2008, Mexico was not affected as severely. In a variety of areas Mexico sustained or increased growth in a variety of sectors.

“Today, considering that the world is not growing as quickly lends itself for good economic op- portunities,” he said. Throughout the economic conference, Macario Schettino emphatically repeated that there is an abundance of rea- sons to feel positive about the world, not negative. In sharp contrast to the current news and reporting, vast opportunities exist today.

Today, according to Schettino, one of today’s world- wide statistics in terms of both economy and violence Macario Schettino suggest a positive perspec- tive. “As the United States is the most, the Asian countries are equal in terms of economy and in terms of violence yet, there is no reporting of this with such vigor.

In 2030, the United States will be ranked number 1 glob- ally in terms of economic growth. China will remain number 2 and Mexico will jump dramatically up to number 7. We can decisively look forward to the future growth opportunities in Mexico.”

In his last achievement, currently Macario Schettino writes a column entitled “Out of the Box” in the financial section of the Mexico City newspaper and is a weekly pundit on national television. What’s more, he travels around the world providing insight into the Mexican economy and its subsequent growth over the last 20 years.
December 14th, 2015

WHAT’S GOING ON IN THIS...
continued from page 4

effect next year. There will be a registry of all commercial fuel transactions in which all gas stations must participate, although only half of Mexico’s 15,000 stations have begun the process of obtaining the permit they will need to continue operating. The registry is intended to keep track of all fuel sales along the supply chain and ensure that all the fuel sold by gas stations has been legally sourced. The Federal Tax Administration, SAT, will also play a role in the process by cross-checking fuel sales against tax filings. With a 90-day processing period, stations that haven’t applied by the end of September will not be allowed to operate come January 1. So that’s about half of all gas stations. Well, this will be interesting.

Is everyone a crook? The small village of Polixtepec, in the state of Guerrero, population 250, is under siege in the wake of violent confrontations between drug traffickers, community police and people from neighboring villages. Schools have been closed since all the teachers fled the town, as did the only nurse at the community’s health center. There is little food available.

Before you start feeling too sorry for these people, the beef is a fall out among thieves. They’re fighting over control of opium poppy cultivation, which the locals admit they grow. But they say they are not criminals, only farmers. Well, if you grow opium instead of food, yeah, you might be a farmer who goes hungry. Cheap gas. Of the other kind. Propane prices could plunge. As in 30%. Changes are coming with the liberation of import rules that take effect January 1. These include the liberation of import restrictions in 2016 and the elimination of price controls the year after.

The first will see private companies being allowed to import gas themselves, rather than go through Pemex, the state oil monopoly. At present, a firm such as Grupo Tomza buys its

continued on page 23
Every Monday, 8:30am Pickleball in San Jose. Contact ron@dumbarton@gmail.com

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 9am-12pm. Farmers market at La Esquina Bar in Todos Santos. Live guitar music and good, local, organic stuff to buy. holaglaesinas.com, www.laesquinas.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, across from the Royal Solaris hotel at 7:15 pm. (624) 130-7159. info@sportia.mx

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

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

Every Thursday from 6pm to 9pm. Art Walk. Historic downtown, San Jose.

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.

Every Friday Palmilla Farmers Market Every Friday 9 am to 1 pm in the parking lot of the Palmilla strip center.

Every Friday 11:00 a.m. an Jose Al-Anon Family Group. Next to Calvary Chapel Corner of Degollado and Margarita Maza de Juarez in San Jose. Info: Cell 624-127-1892

Every Saturday. 10 am to 1 pm. Children’s library open. Story tellers at 10:30 and 12:30.

8:30 pm. Bike ride in San Jose. Contact ronball@gmail.com

Tuesday, San Jose. Across from the Royal Solaris, 9pm. Art Walk. Historic downtown activities program. From 10 am to 1:00 pm.

Wednesday. From 6pm to 9pm. Christmas Trees, Decorations, Ornaments And Handmade Gifts sewn by the members of Manos Magicas (A women’s cooperative dedicated to the culture and traditions of handmade crafts sharing talents and skills, while learning together the goal of economic self-reliance). Opening day raffle for a tree. Silent auction throughout the show. (612) 103-8393

December 13 7:30 Menorah lighting on the marina in front of the Puerto Parissio mall. rabbijewishcabo.com 624 143 5702


January 14th, 15th, 16th, 21st, 22nd and the Finale on the 23rd. Todos Santos Music Festival. Hotel California, Todos Santos. Google it.

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 Buemann, paul@boomineprises.com, Ph. 612-178-0062.

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 1:30 pm. Tickets $20usd or 300 pesos. For show details go to www.facebook.com/pages/Baja-Shakespeare/220397878011557. More info closer to show dates.

March 20, Sunday, 23rd Arts Festival at Los Barriles, East Cape. Art works from around Southern Baja, arts and crafts exhibits and sale, food and booze and live music. More information as they figure it out.


October 29, Saturday. Tuna Shoot Out fishing tournament. At Palmas de Cortez resort, Los Barriles, East Cape. Approximately $35,000 prize based on 100 teams. Raffle prizes of tackle, lures and return trips to Van Wormer Resorts. $500 entry fee. Information: www.eastcapeshootout.com

To get your event listed here, email the details to david@gringogazette.com. There is no charge. David Flores www.gringogazette.com Office 624-143-0865 & 624-143-5750. Cell 624-121-1214
Say You’re Hurt Here, Say You Flag Down An Ambulance

Here’s what to expect. Hint: it isn’t pretty

BY BILL FOLDES

So how is it decided what hospital you are taken to in an emergency? That depends on where the hospitals are located and what type of injury or illness the patient has. In areas where there are multiple hospitals very close together, as in Los Cabos, it should be the patient’s choice. Some hospitals run ambulances, in which case, as you would expect, those ambulances will transport to their hospital. However, in all cases, a patient must be transported to a hospital with appropriate treatment for their injury.

Some hospitals are specialty centers. If a patient needs those resources, the patient should be transported to the nearest hospital that has them. In the case of a vehicle accident, if significant trauma is suspected, the ambulance should transport the patient to the nearest trauma center unless the patient’s life is in danger, in which case the ambulance should go to the nearest hospital first to treat this, then move the patient to the appropriate specialty center.

These are a lot of “shoulds”. Usually in Los Cabos those shoulds are ignored and it often comes down to a physical struggle or a crap shoot where you end up. Or, it’s decided by extraordinary marketing.

We have too many hospitals here, and even too many doctors. That creates an unseemly battle for injured and sick but still breathing bodies. Most hospitals have their own ambulances to CONTINUE ON PAGE 23
for them. Too much trouble for some folks.

More water for Cabo. Mayor Arturo de la Rosa met last week with the head honchos of Banobras, Mexico's public works bank and Fonadin, the National infrastructure fund, to obtain the necessary funding to build a second desalination plant for Cabo San Lucas.

All three officials toured the existing water desal plant along with former Mayor Pene Nunez who currently manages the Los Cabos water supply agency. It was agreed they have to get tough and demand Promaqua, the Spain-based company that built and is supposed to operate our desal plant, to comply with their commitment to supply Cabo with 50 gallons per minute or go back home. But first give us our money back. Well, they didn't say the go back home part, but it looks like finally our city government has grown a pair and is getting tough on this company. Our desal plant was the first municipal plant in Mexico and it is a national pride. Or it should be. The meeting ended with a promise from Conagua and Fonadin to mail a check "soon". To the same crappy company! Why would we sign on for another plant from this company when they never got their first plant to deliver the water? Follow the money. Due to the United States Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, any American company that takes kick backs to get contracts, will see their chief executives thrown into prison. This is why U.S. companies cannot compete in large portions of the world. And why in those same portions of the world, their engineering projects often don't work.

More money for Todos Santos. Before leaving office last June, former Governor Marcos Covarrubias applied for nearly $1 million in funding to finish fixing up Todos Santos, our state's Magic Town. Well, current governor Carlos Mendoza twisted some arms here and there, and got 300 grand more from Mexico's ministry of tourism (Sectur). The money will be used to finish paving most of Todos Santos' downtown and main access street, to bury the electric and telephone wiring, additional street lighting, painting and improving facades, street signs, and refurbishing the town's main park. Congratulations, Todos Santos! Spend it carefully.

Still need Christmas stuff? Not to worry. La Paz merchants have set up their traditional tiangies (that's Mex speak for street continued on page 24
Guadalupe-Reyes Marathon Coming Up
You might want to shape up for this one

BY ALEJANDRA SARACHAGA

The Guadalupe-Reyes Marathon is a concept typical of Mexican culture. It began in the decade of the 1990s and informally refers to a period from December 12 (Day of the Virgin of Guadalupe) to January 6 (Day of the Three Wise Men or Tres Reyes Magos). During this period there are a whole bunch of holidays which, when linked together, create a marathon of festivities.

The celebrations linked together by the Guadalupe-Reyes Marathon are:
December 12: Day of the Virgin of Guadalupe.

Every evening from December 16 to December 24: The nine Posadas parties.
December 24: Last posada and Christmas Eve (Nochebuena).
December 25: Christmas Day.
December 28: Holy Innocent’s day, which in Mexico is remembered by playing practical jokes.
December 31: New Year’s Eve.
January 1: New Year’s Day.
January 6: Day of the Three Wise Men.

And just in case this isn’t enough for you, there will be the last celebration of the season, Day of Candelaria on February 2.

The name of the marathon (Guadalupe Reyes) has also been used in advertising. Certain comedy shows sometimes feature the fictional character of “Guadalupe Reyes”, a proper Mexican name which can belong either to a male or a female.

Mexican customs and traditions are very extensive but when it comes to marathon partying, (and especially Christmas parties), it’s something else altogether. Let’s just say that the Guadalupe-Reyes Marathon is not athletic at all; it’s quite the contrary. For Mexicans, this is a very commonly heard expression once December.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25
Los Cabos Restaurant Scene

BY CHUCK WAGON

There are so many new restaurants in San Jose, it’s hard to choose where to eat. But one place not to be missed, especially if you’re looking for an upscale fine dining restaurant with great presentation and warm hosts, is La Patrona.

La Patrona is in the art district of San Jose where the old Voila was in Plaza Paulina, on Morelos. Our hosts are Bonnie and Klaus Birkel, who have lived here three years now, moving from Texas, which you can still hear in Bonnie’s speech, just as you can still hear German from Klaus.

Bonnie likes to say eating is a necessity but dining well is an art and she does make the experience into what appears to be an effortless art. White linen tablecloths and napkins are only the beginning of the elegant table she sets. It’s a pretty spot to begin with, and the Birkels have brought it up to the level of glamorous.

The food is wonderful, and all the more impressive because we were there opening night. Still, everything went off flawlessly, with the prix fixe menu on a nice timetable, and the waiting already on their game. The food was excellent. For now they are only open for dinner Tuesday through Saturday, but a more casual outside lunch is coming soon, whatever that means. But we would guess that’s a German soon, not a Mexican soon.

The wine list is three pages long, and is a well chosen eclectic mix of countries of origin and blends. Of course there is a full bar of distilled spirits.

Considering the atmosphere and the menu, the prices are fair, with a generous 8 oz USDA Prime 30 day aged filet mignon dinner for $47. A rack of lamb, rosemary crusted with mint sauce and mashed potatoes, is the same. Sesame crusted seared blue fin tuna served with a ginger soy sauce is only $28. Locally sourced fish dinners are $25.

There are appetizers, including oysters or beef carpaccio, soups and salads. And of course

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30
The appearance and departure of late-season Hurricane Sandra had little effect on our fishing other than getting the port closed on Friday and Saturday; the fishing was good prior to the storms and great afterward, depending on what you were fishing for. Gary Graham, gary@garycgraham.com

Cabo San Lucas

Bill fishing for striped marlin is as good as it gets; the dorado are biting like crazy and there are some tuna to be found with some very nice wahoo being hooked up.

Following the two port closure days provided by Hurricane Sandra, the week turned into excellent weather with good fishing conditions on both sides of the peninsula. Air temps varied from 65 degrees at night to 85 degree daytime highs and a 63% humidity level average...a few passing clouds through the week but mostly sunny and warm.

Water temps have been 79 to 81 degrees from the Pacific side around to Los Frailes on the Sea of Cortez side. Surface breezes, mostly from the southerly directions, varied from calm to 9 mph.

There were lots of feeding stripers in numerous locations a few miles from the Cabo Harbor on the Pacific side; they were fast-feeding and difficult to get on but bit well when you did.

San Jose

There have been persistent northerly winds, ranging 15 to 25 mph creating choppy conditions on the open grounds north of Punta Gorda. The winds did slack off later, but air temperatures are still reaching into the 80s and lows dipped to 60 degrees. Ocean water temperature now ranges from 79 to 80 degrees throughout most of the region. North winds pushed in slightly greener current close to shore. Wahoo have been aggressive and very active early in the day on the Iman Bank. Best action was on slow-trolled bait, either caballito or chihuile. Some boats scored up to five wahoo, averaging 25 to 40 pounds, with that many additional strikes lost — fewer dorado in the area.

Yellowfin tuna action was hampered by harder-to-find porpoise activity, persistent winds making it unfavorable for drift and chum-style fishing. On calmer days, anglers could see tuna breezing on the surface, but these fish were just not interested. A handful of yellowfin tuna have been landed, some football-size, but other quality tuna in the 40- to 120-pound class were caught. The day before “Sandra,” a commercial pangero based out of Los Frailes fishing on the San Luis Bank reported landing one yellowfin tuna weighing 378 pounds on a squid.

The bottom fishing showed a little more promise recently, but again calmer conditions would help. A few species of pargo, bo-nito, amberjack, triggerfish and cabrilla — no big quantities — but better than what we have seen over the past month; we expect to see improved bottom action, though this will depend on how persistent north winds prove to be. Normal fall/winter wind patterns have been harder to predict this year. Winds usually blow for several days, followed by a few nice days and the cycle repeats itself, not like these seven to eight days of blowing we have had this fall.

Bait supplies remain plentiful for live caballito. Not much else was available, no ballyhoo or sardina to speak of. With changing ocean conditions we hope to see sardina move back within our range.

Fish Killer of the Week

One of two wahoo caught by Tim Larsen. They were 55 and 45 pounds. Tim was here visiting his mom and his brother who live in San Jose, for Thanksgiving. And what did Tim have to be thankful for? That for a week he wasn’t in Corning Iowa!
Why Can’t Mexicans Just Say No?

Because it’s not in their DNA, but here’s why they do this

BY ROSAURA BARAHONA

Mexico is a beautiful country and its ancient culture is fascinating. Mexicans are nice and friendly, but we are not easy to understand because of our cultural heritage, among other things.

If you visit Mexico as a tourist, you will have diverse experiences, as in any other country whose culture is different from yours, but if you come from elsewhere (especially the first world), and decide to live here, your experience will be something else: no one can just transplant a way of life and keep on with it.

A foreigner has to adapt to another environment, set of values, language, food and ways of doing things. The process is not easy to handle when some of the clues to understanding the new country are hidden from you: unintentionally, but still hidden.

Once I attended a lecture about American poetry organized by a friend at the American Consulate in Monterrey (northeastern Mexico). When I got there I saw about 200 chairs ready to receive guests. I knew there wouldn’t be that many people at the lecture but as the invitation said RSVP, I asked my friend how many persons had confirmed.

“About two hundred”, he answered. Did they say they were coming for sure?, I asked. He said they did and I insisted: Did they say: “Yes, I will be there” or something else? He didn’t understand where I was trying to get at, so he called his secretary and asked her. Most of the people had said: “I’ll do my best to be there. Thank you”.

I told my friend that in Mexico, that is a way of saying “No” politely. Mexicans rarely say “No” directly to an invitation, because we feel (and sometimes think) that it is not nice to do so. This has a lot to do with our heritage. Our very rich prehispanic cultures tend to be extremely polite and respectful with others and the word “No” seems too strong and direct to them, so they would rather say something like: “I am very grateful for your invitation and although I have something else at the same hour, I’ll try to be with you on time”. We learned this as we grow up and though many of us are trying to change it, it is not easy to go against a mentality that has been the same for centuries.

Of course, he/she won’t be there at all and they do not realize that their absence for foreigners is worse than being sincere, because Mexicans know, as soon as we hear those words, that he/she won’t be there. That is one of our secret linguistic clues and foreigners take a long time to understand it because it takes time to decipher a secret code. We Mexicans hear the same words you hear, but our interpretation has nothing to do with yours, which is logic and literal (as it should be).

If the avoiding of a direct “No” in regard to invitations is a problem, we see that problem grows bigger when it is taken to everyday life.

“Toño, so my car will be ready tomorrow afternoon?”

“Yes!”

But the car won’t be ready tomorrow afternoon and neither will it be the day after tomorrow or even two or three days after that. But Toño will keep asking you to come back tomorrow, an action that causes despair, anger and frustration not only in foreigners, but also in Mexicans.

It is important to know that in many cases, Toño knows from the very beginning that the car will not be ready when he says, but to him, it seems rude to say the truth, so he keeps promising and promising because he knows that one of those times, the car will be ready!

When you ask someone on the street for a certain street or place, they smile and take the time to explain to you how to get there. The problem is that sometimes they have no idea what you are talking about, but they think it is impolite not to help someone who is visiting our country and they would rather send you on a wild goose chase than accept their ignorance.

Something similar happens in other Latin American Countries, but not in Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay because their people are more European than in the rest of Latin America where we are more half-breed.

Carlos Fuentes, an important Mexican writer, illustrated this when he wrote that Mexicans
Created with the vision and creativity of Miguel Angel Aragones, Mar Adentro features a five-star hotel and private residences and estates. Mar Adentro is the first contemporary luxury development of its kind in San Jose del Cabo.

Every detail has been considered and priority given to the finest of services and amenities.

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Here Is A Unique Way To Get To Cabo!
And cheap!

BY B. A. WARE

A new airport terminal opened last week in California to great fanfare. Notice we said new airport terminal, we didn’t say new airport.

You check in to this new terminal which sits right at the California/Mexico border and then drag your suitcase down a 340 foot hallway and presto! You are in the Tijuana airport! You have just walked through a new foot bridge that straddles the border, going over the top of the razor wire fence separating the two countries.

This terminal is physically located in the United States, 22 miles east of downtown San Diego, while serving the Tijuana airport. The terminal has parking, restaurants, and there are kiosks to print your boarding pass. After picking up your pass you walk through the tunnel/bridge and proceed directly to your gate. You pay $18 to walk across the bridge, which seems a little steep, but the terminal facility,parkign garage, and the bridge cost an investment group headed up by Chicago billionaire Sam Zell $120 million to build. It was the creation of Ralph Nieders, who introduced the concept and infrastructure design in Mexico City and San Diego back in 1990.

But look what you get for that $18, which remember is $36 going both ways which you will probably be doing.

To fly out of TJ airport you will need to cross the border and try to find the damn thing in all that traffic. You really need to buy car insurance as one miss step and you’re screwed. Then you take your chances leaving your car in Mexico.

You could park in the U.S. at various lots which will drive you to the border. Then you have to drag all your stuff through the border on lousy broken pavement that screw up your wheels, and hail down a taxi to drive you to the airport. Coming back is worse, as you need to stand in line with the unwashed masses of humanity that go through the busiest border in the world. You will be standing on your feet for between one and two hours, sometimes more. And you will be doing the dragging over broken pavement in reverse. About 2.6 million passengers went through this shuffle just last year.

Or you could walk through a brand new, clean, bridge and terminal with other airline passengers and whizling through border control. Yeah, that’s worth the 18 Gringo bucks. 20% CONTINUED ON PAGE 28
But with the Hilton going the other way now, possibly the pendulum is swinging back, and our precious tourists are coming out of the resorts and looking around.

Another good trend is all the building that’s going on the corridor. These new hotels and residential developments are Villa Valencia, LeBlanc, Solaz, Maravilla, Vievage, and the Park Hyatt.

Out on the other side of San Jose the JW Marriott is coming along and looks almost as big as the next door Secrets that just opened.

But of course that never happens, and it’s not just this hospital that gets aggressive in procuring patients, they all do. And a free 24 hour stay? Never happens.

The ambulance drivers monitor the police bands and when there’s an emergency of any kind they zoom to the scene in hopes of picking up a patient or two. It’s not uncommon for five ambulances to show up at a minor fender bender and even get into fist fights for transporting privileges. And of course no ambulance driver is going to keep his job if he delivers a patient to another hospital.

significant change in a country whose propane gas consumption for domestic use is said to be the highest in the world, used by 80% of the population.
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Money flowing in. La Paz

Mayor Armando Martinez is happy as a worm and wiggling because tax payments are flowing in like almost never before. It seems that his constituents trust that he will not take that tax money for himself like former officials did. Mayor Martinez even walked around the tellers at La Paz city hall and personally thanked those who were in line paying their taxes. He promised that the money will be used to benefit the city and improve lighting, security, pavement and, well, the usual city stuff.

Do we need one more hotel?

Apparently we do. Velas Group, which began operations in Puerto Vallarta in 1989 with the Velas Vallarta resort, will begin construction of a 9 story, 360 room resort in Los Cabos next year. They’re keeping the location of the 3.5 acre property a secret. The new resort will add to the 1,170 luxury rooms that the group has previously built in Mexico, including Velas Vallarta, Casa Velas – also in Puerto Vallarta –, Grand Velas Riviera Nayarit (Nuevo Vallarta) and Grand Velas Riviera Maya.

The story of how the group was born is unique in Mexico. Well, not so much. Brothers Eduardo and Juan Velas signed an agreement to buy the land that is now the Velas Vallarta resort, with no money in hand. They took the document to Fonatur, Mexico’s tourism development agency, and got the needed financing to build their first resort. Years later, they began selling time share. And that’s how fortunes are made in Mexico. You know somebody in government.

More hotel rooms.

Our tourism minister pointed out that 14 months after Hurricane Odile, Los Cabos is almost 100% recovered and acknowledged that was due largely to the work of teams of employees in the hotel industry. Now, we’re facing a different challenge, he said, with 3,900 new rooms coming on line in the next couple of years, we will need a workforce of more than 10,000 people to service those rooms.

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New criminal justice building.

$5.5 million has been found to build a three story building to house our municipality’s criminal justice system. It’s going to take more than a spiffy new building to bring us justice. It’s going to take a thorough house cleaning of all the crooked judges and especially the crooked district attorneys who won’t bring charges to anyone who will pay them to make a case go away. Justice would be better served in a field under a tree, than in a swanky new building with the same tired old thieves in charge.

More hotel rooms.

Our tourism minister pointed out that 14 months after hurricane Odile, Los Cabos is almost 100% recovered and acknowledged that was due largely to the work of teams of employees in the hotel industry. Now, we’re facing a different challenge, he said, with 3,900 new rooms coming on line in the next couple of years, we will need a workforce of more than 10,000 people to service those rooms.

Continued from page 16
ber rolls around and it is no wonder it is a success in our culture. If you are Mexican, you'll know what we mean. We like to party.

There are many party days which it is fairly easy to celebrate: from the 16th to 24th are the famous posadas. The 24th is Christmas Eve, the 25th Christmas; the 28th, the day of the Inno- cent Saints, the 31st is New Year's Eve and finally on January 1st, the first day of a new cycle. No, it's not a physically strenu-
ous marathon in which one has to run long distances, but it does require a certain type of exertion in order to persist, without succumbing. Of course bets may be taken as if it were some type of sport to see just who among us can make it. Of course very little work gets done at this time of a holiday for crying out loud! Little work gets done at this time, of course there's always a friend or two newspapers – in Spanish in "El Sudcaliforniano" and in English "The Gringo Gazette." For the reasons discussed above, the Court hereby ORDERS, pursuant to Rule 4(f)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, that Defendant be served by publication of a notice in the form attached hereto as Exhibit 1 to be made once in "El Sudcaliforniano," a Spanish language newspaper of general circulation in the state of Baja California Sur, Mexico, and in the form attached hereto as Exhibit 2 for once every two weeks for four consecutive issues in "The Gringo Gazette," an English-language newspaper of general circulation in the state of Baja California Sur, Mexico. If Defendant fails to appear within thirty days of the final publication date in "The Gringo Gazette," this Court will proceed to the adjudication of this case.

F. Disposition

For the reasons discussed above, the Court hereby ORDERS, pursuant to Rule 4(f)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, that Defendant be served by publication of a notice in the form attached hereto as Exhibit 1 to be made once in "El Sudcaliforniano," a Spanish language newspaper of general circulation in the state of Baja California Sur, Mexico, and in the form attached hereto as Exhibit 2 for once every two weeks for four consecutive issues in "The Gringo Gazette," an English-language newspaper of general circulation in the state of Baja California Sur, Mexico. If Defendant fails to appear within thirty days of the final publication date in "The Gringo Gazette," this Court will proceed to the adjudication of this case.

And any reason to get together is a good one.

And what to say about the celebrations at the offices with your friends at work, in which there is also an "interponer de regalos" meaning that using some raffle system, everybody at the office takes out a piece of paper with the name of one of their colleagues at the office and you will have to buy a Christmas present for that person and so on. So this way, everybody goes away with a present. Christ-
mas…leftovers…post-Christmas parties where we can reunite with those who couldn't be there on Christmas Day. Then there's el día de los santos inocentes (Innocents' [penguins] days), and of course there's always a friend with a birthday around the 29th or 31st of December who is ready to celebrate, and thus we continue through New Year's and up until Kings' Day.

¡Feliz Lupe Reyes marathon to you! See you at the Finish Line, if you make it!
BY JEANNINE PEREZ

Book Report


For centuries, we now wonder at the whales. We have countless legends and tales about them, from Jonah in Biblical times, to tales of them, such as in the story of the B&B with the yurts in San Luis Obispo. In fact, the whales have on their bulletin board a picture of a whale in the ocean, surrounded by numer- ous other animals, such as fish and sharks. Dolphins are also warm-blooded, as are porpoises.

The author gives us many colorful descriptions and com- parisons of different species of whales. He informs us that a humpback whale is longer than a big bus, and that the tongue of a blue whale is as large as a elephant. But this is a childrens’ book so they didn’t go into the size of a whale penis. If you want to know how to contact an ambulance, you must have a United States address.

When an individual staying in Los Cabos suffers a life threatening condition, the patient should be taken by ambulance to the nearest hospital that has an emergency ward. If the condition is not life threatening the patient can choose to which hospital they will be taken. When the patient is taken to the nearest hospital with emergency facilities, the hospital is required to provide ‘stabilization of patient’ up to 24 hours, before sending the patient to another hospital.

There is a procedure the ambulance operators should follow when transporting a patient to hospital. These procedures are similar to those which have been adapted in many States in the US:

“Under the Emergency Medical Systems Act in the US, the ambulance service must adopt procedures for the bypassing of or the diversion to any hospital or trauma center. These procedures provide that a person shall not be transported to a facility other than the nearest hospital, regional trauma center, or trauma center unless the medical benefits to the patient reasonably expected from the provision of appropriate medical treatment at a more distant facility outweigh the increased risks to the patient from transport to the more distant facility, or the transport is in accordance with the System’s protocols for patient choice or refusal.”

As an example, if you are involved in a car accident and suffer minor injuries, the ambulance driver would likely take you to the closest medical center or to the hospital the ambulance represents, or to the hospital you choose. If, however, you have life threatening injuries, the driver may decide to take you to a hospital with a trauma center even if this means bypassing a closer hospital because the medical benefits to you would outweigh the risk. Either way, unless the ambulance service procedures allow you to make this choice, the paramedics have to decide to which hospital or trauma center to take you. If you want to know what procedures your local ambulance service is following, you should contact them.

The nearest hospitals in the downtown area of San Jose del Cabo with emergency facilities are Saint Luke’s Hospital and Amerimed (Hospiten). At Saint Luke’s they have fully equipped ambulances and emergency doctors and nurses on hand 24 hours a day. They also have an air ambulance on standby, in case the patient needs to be air evacuated. Emergency number 624 142 5911 (24/7)

For More Info Call Dr. Dick 624 157 1970

I also found it fascinating to read that whales have flippers, forelimbs which are believed to have once been similar to our arms, but after millions of years of evolution from land to sea ani- mals, have evolved into flippers. The flippers help whales balance...
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 relaxed 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 best 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. South of town, near the Pemex, is Dana’s Diner, which has 13 TVs and 13 channel feeds for sports. The gourmet French restaurant Chez Laura is a bit difficult to find, but wow, is it amazing. You step off a dusty dirt road into another world. For fabulous chili rellenos try Miguel’s from across from the Pemex. Next to the Pemex is the very sophisticated La Casita.

Want off beat? Go to the mask museum, called Faces of Mexico. Tucked on a side road in Todos Santos, the proprietor provides an enthusiastic tour of authentic masks from the various eras of Mexican history.

The cultural museum on Juarez Ave. also has interesting historic displays. Todos Santos is home to the annual music festival every January, an artist’s open studio tour in February, and the ever-popular GastroVino in April.

Many visitors extend their Cabo vacation and get to know the real Mexico by staying a few days in either Todos Santos or the nearby beach areas. Cerritos Beach is part of El Pescadero, but where the town of Pescadero is old Mexico, Cerritos has that vibrant beach vibe. Cerritos and its neighboring beach, San Pedrito, are both world-class surf spots. There are a couple of ways to get to the beach, either the old dirt road at km 65, or the new dirt road at km 67. Either way, it’s a bump, but what the hell, you’re in a rental car.

Cerritos is perfect for swimming and enjoying the sand and sun for a day, or a week. Take a surfing lesson or rent a boogie board. Kick back with your favorite refreshment and watch the surfers. There’s a beach club there with tables and beach umbrellas set out on the sand, so you don’t even have to pack a lunch if you don’t want to.

El Pescadero is a small town on the way to Todos Santos. It has a rich history of agriculture, ranching and fishing. The lush poloblanco chili fields are everywhere, as well as strawberry, tomato and basil fields. The town is between the ocean to the west and the Sierra Laguna mountain range to the east. A modern four-lane highway runs right through it connecting Cabo San Lucas to Todos Santos, then goes north to LaPaz. Stop at one of the many taco stands along the highway, or buy veggies or fruit along the road. In the afternoon when the fishermen come in with the day’s catch you can buy fresh fish off the boat at Punta Lobos. For a small propina (tip) they’ll filet it for you, too.

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

Off the main street in Pescadero is a tiny backyard restaurant called La Pasidita that has, I kid you not, the best burgers on the planet. Drive around the baseball stadium, and turn at the first dirt road on the left past the first sleeping policeman, (speed bump).

La Pasidita is a locals place, though, and is only open after 6 p.m. Maybe 7 pm, sometimes a little later.

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

Visitors interested in hiking, horseback riding, surfing, charter fishing on a traditional panga, a Mexican fishing boat, adventure tours, or just experiencing Mexican village life, should head to Pescadero, Cerritos and Todos Santos. They are less than an hour’s drive north along the Pacific.
discount to seniors, and porter services are available.

With this alternative to San Diego’s maxed out Lindbergh field, residents from the tip of California now have instant access to 30 airports that TJ serves. That is bound to increase as people get used to this and more destinations are warranted. The irony will be when people from California go to Mexico to catch a flight to, say, Oregon.

Pricing will set you back $16 a day, but there is off site parking available for $10 a day. Long term parking lots are fenced, well lit and patrolled 24 hours, 7 days a week.

Trusted traveler programs are in place, including SENTRI and Global entry, are available. There is duty free shopping.

The company is called Cross Border Express, but they promote themselves as CBX. They have a website at www.crossborderxpress.com.

This land bridge and terminal were built at a cost of $120 million. Last year 2.4 million people crossed the border just to use the TJ airport. At $36 a round trip, we figure the private company that built it will get their investment back in a year and a half.

Do You Want Pretty Or Loyal?

Free Lap Dance!
Psst, yes, you there… I am a sweet, young, redhead who will cuddle with you on your lap (wet kisses included) “furever” for free! And I’m young, I could grow into my looks. The camera didn’t get my best angle here, either. And you know, looks aren’t everything, I have heart. And who says I’m not pretty, anyway?

Paloma
Can’t decide if you like blue or green eyes better? Problem solved - I have one of each!

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December 16 is when the Christmas season officially starts for us Mexicans. We start our Christmas celebrations nine days prior to Christmas dinner with our very traditional and worldwide known posadas. The posadas are parties that are celebrated during the nine days prior to Christmas.

Posadas were believed to be first held in 1587, in a village near Mexico City. These parties are very family orientated, our kids participate directly in everything, and they have just tons of fun. Families decorate their houses with Christmas stuff in a kind of mixed media, because you can see the typical Mexican handcraft decoration and also the big influence of Gringo culture like lights, Santas, snowmen, reindeer, etc.

But the main decoration in all homes consists in the representation of the baby Jesus’ birth. We call this nativity scene a nacimiento and there is no way that anyone can organize a posada without this. They can be real huge, or just big, or tiny, but there has to be one. These parties take place in a different house every day, or the nine take place out in the street but there is one family each time who takes responsibility of the feeding and drinking.

They have a very serious Catholic connotation. The crowd is divided in two groups; the ones who will remain in the inside of the house and those who will be outside asking for “posada.” They do all this by singing special songs in which the outsiders ask permission to come in and the insiders respond in song. The outsiders have a candle in their hand. These little candles are a must at these parties.

Then after asking for a place to stay the night, representing the Virgin Mary and Joseph who didn’t have a place to stay while she gave birth, the outsiders finally agree to let them in and so the celebrations start with a lot of joy. Also in some neighborhoods little kids are dressed up as Mary and Joseph and they go along to all the houses when the groups are asking for posada. That is really cute. Sometimes I have even seen a real burro participating in this. This is common to see especially in small villages.

Next, another important Mexican tradition takes place: Breaking the piñata. A traditional Mexican piñata is made from a clay pot decorated with seven horns representing the seven deadly sins. Everything is covered with colorful paper and filled with fruit and candy. The kids who are blinded with a palizada will have to hit the piñata with a piece of wood, and when it is broken, the sins are put away, the all the fruit and candy jump into it to grab as much as they can.

In some barrios and in almost all schools, these pastorelas take place that is also a play, usually with music in which kids play the wise man, shepherds, sheep, Mary and Joseph and many others. For dinner, depending on their budget, sometimes pozole is served, or tamales, or tostadas. But there are two things that cannot be missed on any posada: the super traditional ponche and the also traditional fritters with guava syrup.

**Ingredients for the Ponche**
- 2 gallons of purified water
- 1 pound of quinces
- 1 pound of apple with or without shell
- 1 pound of hawthorn
- 1 pound of guava
- 34 leaves Mexican basil
- 1 gallon of sugar cane
- 1 bottle of wine per 2 persons

**Cooking Like A Mexican**

**BY ALEJANDRA SARACHAGA**

December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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Ponche is very common in other countries, in the States and Canada its called punch and here it is made from fruit, but there are some ingredients that make ours very special and you will see in the recipe. It is very easy to make.

Its high caloric content allows the drinkers to keep proper body temperature through in-clement weather. Although its development varies according to the country or region where it is prepared, it generally consists of a variety of fruit boiled with sugar.

This drink is one of many that emerged through between Indigenous and European cultures that gave rise to the current Mexican nation. Small clay jugs coexist harmoniously with tropical fruits like guava and tamarind, and with others that came from the Old World, such as oranges or apples. The characteristic flavor and color of the drink is also due to these contrasts, which has been enriched by the creativity of the cook: to give to it a reddish color, in some regions hibiscus flower is added, while in other areas, more importance is given to citrus to get a flavor peculiarly acidic, but with a very nice contrast of sweet sugar cane.

**Ingredients for the Ponche**
- 2 gallons of purified water
- 1 pound of shelled tamarind
- 1 pound of guava
- 1 pound of Hawthorn
- 1 pound of apple with or without shell
- 1 pound of quinces

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 34**

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**Dreaming of a Home in Los Cabos?**

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[Image: Cabo San Lucas/ Los Cabos]

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[Image: John’s Place Menu]
LOS CABOS RESTAURANT...
continued from page 18

there is Klaus’ German style cheesecake for desert.

There are several special events each month, so do check their website. This month there is German Christmas dinner, Mexican Christmas dinner and American/Canadian Christmas dinner. Also this month is a duo playing guitar and bongos, perfect dinner music.

La Patrona is open Tuesday-Saturday for dinner at 6 to 10:30. Sunday brunch is served from 11 to 3:30 and then they close. Closed all day Monday. Phone cell 624 129 8637. Website is www.lapatronafinedining.com. There is valet parking and close by self parking.

Not up for fine dining tonight? Want to just wander into town in your comfies and maybe catch a game and a drink, food too? Just One More has opened in downtown San Jose, on the down street, across from the bank.

It’s an upstairs/downstairs/terrace place, giving you three seating options, but most people opt for the upstairs roof top.

Los Cabos Restaurant...

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Cabo San Lucas

Ready For Occupancy

As Rancho Leonero wrapped up its season, they underscored what an odd year it had been with their final blue marlin of the season release.

For the prudent anglers perfectly willing to leave the North Wind to the growing horde of wind-surfers arriving, preferring to be on the beach at gray light to take advantage of the early morning sierra, cabrilla and even a dorado or three... now that has the making of a December to remember.

La Paz

The winds were up again and really ripping it up. In fact, we were watching the weather reports pretty carefully as Hurricane Sandra was building up to the south of us; this is very, very late in the season to be seeing anything like hurricanes so there was some trepidation. It's been a wacky two seasons of El Nino conditions so the weather is out-of-kilter.

The hurricane was never going to hit La Paz, but enough of the outer bands of the storm had a good chance of rain and some very intense winds... stronger than what we were already having. By the time the storm hit mainland Mexico, the hurricane had diminished to a manageable tropical storm with nothing but clouds and some big fun surf for surfers in Cabo San Lucas.

But, we still had winds in La Paz. That generated some big waves, too. Waves have been whacking the waterfront Malecon with such force that spray hits passing traffic and much of the sand below the seawall has been dragged out, exposing all the underlying rocks!

However, there were no fishermen as this is off-season now until about March.

Fortunately, just as the winds dropped off, we had anglers show up — and it was better than expected.

The roosterfish bit! Producing some 30- to 40-pound fish. All released.

There were some billfish lost and some medium dorado. Also, they got into that yellowtail bite that's been taking place off Las Arenas the last few weeks at the big hole where the shallow sand drops off to deeper water and where we have also been getting some big cabrilla and amberjack.

It seems the equation is the same. If there's no wind, the fish bite. If it's windy... best to stay in town and have a beer.
a competing hospital.

We’re talking about foreigners getting into trouble. Let a poor Mexican get into an accident or suffer a stroke and they can damn well wait for the Red Cross ambulance, and pray they have gasoline in the tank. And, they can pretty much kiss their wallet and shoes good-bye, because those will likely be harvested along the way.

Marketing to foreigners is intense, with most of the hospitals employing full time body snatchers. Well, that may not be their official job title, but that’s the job description. One of their tactics is to call on police, concierges, and guards who work at foreign-heavy developments, and offer a reward for steering Gringos to their hospital. Many of them even pass out stickers with their hospital’s number on it, expecting that point person to put the sticker on the back of his cell phone, the better to remember who to call to get an ambulance and collect their reward.

Last month a San Diego woman...
WHY CAN’T MEXICANS JUST... continued from page 20

descend from the Aztecs, Peruvians descend from the Incas and Argentinians descend from the ships.

Mexico, as any other country, has many wonderful things and many not so wonderful. It could be useful if someone tries to help you understand a little better whom you are dealing with. I’ll try to do that.

QUE PASA IN CABO?... continued from page 24

He added that preferably these positions should be filled by people already living here, because bringing in the labor will generate more urban sprawl and the social problems that come from demand on municipal services and schools.

$1,900,000. That’s the tab for installing 680 light poles along the 27 kilometers of fourlane. Then there’s the ongoing electric bill, and the cost of re wiring the stolen cable, which is already underway before the job is even finished. Why can’t we just turn on our headlights? If your headlights don’t work well enough to see where you’re going, please get off the fourlane before I get on it.

Economy is booming. The residential development Quivira, which is over on the Pacific side, presented an economic conference at the Pueblo Bonito Rose Hotel on Medano Beach. Macario Schettino, a chemical engineer, holds a PhD in administration, is an author of more than two dozen books and a government advisor in the economic sector nationally and internationally.

OK, so. He says “Now is definitely the time to invest in real estate in Los Cabos because the Mexican economy has an incredible upside and expectations in the immediate future are high.”

Now you have it. If you get in on this real estate boom too late, it won’t be our fault or Macario’s fault. We told you.

BOOK REPORT... continued from page 26

The book gives the most information on the most common whales; the gray, the humpback, the fin, and the minke, and of course, the blue whale. Our author tells us that the largest dinosaur weighed about 100 tons, and was 100 feet long, but the largest blue whale weighs more than 150 tons, and is 110 feet long. Blue whales weigh more than 25 adult elephants, and the heart of a blue whale is as big as a Volkswagon.

Statistics and comparisons like this, help us get some idea of the size and weight of whales, not...
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COOKING LIKE A MEXICAN...
continued from page 29

- ½ pound of walnut
- 2 cups of hibiscus flower
- 6 pieces of sugar cane
- 6 whole oranges with peel
- 3 cinnamon sticks
- 2 pounds of brown sugar (or regular sugar)

NOTE: Some stores like Wal-Mart and Costco sell all the ingredients already in a plastic bag. I myself prefer to do it from scratch but it is up to you.

Procedure:
First thoroughly wash all fruit and cut into pieces for easy consumption; I recommend to cut the cane into 4 slices, thick slices of orange, apple and guava into 4 segments and crab-apples and quinces in half.

Once this is done, pour the water into a large bowl and put in the fire, then brown sugar or cinnamon and sugar, stir until dissolved it added. Then take a few minutes and add chopped fruit with prunes, walnuts, cinnamon, tamarind and hibiscus flower. The whole combination is ready as soon as the water boils.

It can be served in clay jars, (little jars), for a more traditional look, and there are those who like to accompany it with a splash of liquor; recommend are tequila, mezcal or rum. Thanks to its delicious taste and because it is rich in carbohydrates, this will help you maintain good body heat in the adversity of winter temperatures.

Alejandra
Calendar of Performing Arts

TODOS SANTOS
TODOS SANTOS CULTURAL CENTER
December 18. Friday. 5:30 pm. Flera Of Baja. J on P. Rebmam, Ph.D., Curator of Botany, San Diego Natural History Museum. Todos Santos Cultural Center. $100 pesos Donation ($120 at door). Tickets: El Tezcote Bookstore. jayms@yahoo.com, 612/145-0295.

January 8. Friday. 5:30 pm. Eco-Technologies - Sustainable Building. Felipe de Jesus Morales. Understand the latest technologies driving sustainable building and development in Baja. Bring your green design and building questions. Donation $100 pesos ($120 at the door) Tickets at El Tezcote Bookstore in Todos Santos. jayms@yahoo.com, 612/145-0295

CULTURAL PAVILION
December 17. Thursday. 8:00 pm. J oy of the World Grand Gala. Christmas recital featuring an impressive line-up of international choral singers and orchestra with Los Angeles Opera Soloist Douglas Applef-Tenor with UNAM Philharmonic Orchestra as part of the state and city cultural program. Spanish.

December 17. Thursday. 7:00 pm. Music School Symphony Orchestra Christmas Concert. Possibly 100 pesos. For more information, call 612-129-4199.

December 18. Friday. 8:00 pm. Piano Concert by Juan Pablo Bautista Cano. On the program: Bach, Sifoti, Sciabine, Franz Liszt, Beethoven, Rachmaninoff and Zarándy Akos. $100 pesos. Phone 122 22 86.

December 19. Saturday. 7:00 pm. Chamber music performance with music from the baroque, classical and romantic periods. Tickets on sale at the state music school. CENTRO DE ARTES Y CULTURAS POPULARS.

From April 20 on. Monday to Friday. 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. Oaxaca pottery exhibition. Information in English/Spanish. On Madero St. between 5 de Mayo and Independencia, across the street from Velasco garden. Free.

TEATRO DE LA CIUDAD
January 21, 22, 26, 27. 7 pm. Love, Loss And What I Wore, by Nora and Delia Ephron. Play celebrates as well as re-defines the expression, "wardrobe malfunction."150 Pesos; wine served. Ticket sales, TBA early Jan

CABO SAN LUCAS
Hidalgo Cero Tapas Bar. Hidalgo St. Downtown Cabo San Lucas, across from the main park and band stand.

Every Tuesday. 9:00 pm. Theater night by Akelare theater group. Spanish. www.hidalgocero.com


NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
Open Monday to Sunday. From 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Donations welcome.

CABO MARINA FRONT
Every Saturday. From 12:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Art exhibition by local artists, workshops, paint, sculpture, photography, food tasting, theater, live music and dance. Spanish. Free.

CASA CARACOL UNA RANA
Every Saturday. 7:00 pm to 11:30 pm. Cultural tanguis (market). Live music, poetry, painting, books, art & crafts, sculpture, movies, vegetarian food. Hidalgo and Revolucion Sts, downtown Cabo. Cell. 624 117 1663.

BOLADE VILLA Behind the Mega supermarket in San Jose. English Free.


LA PAZ
ALIANZA FRANCES
Every Tuesday. 6:00 pm. Different French film each week. Alianza Francesa cultural center at 525 Gomez Farias St. between Republica St and Guerrero St. Estero town, La Paz. facebook.com/alianzafrancesalapaz. Spanish, French, English and other languages. Free.

Every Friday. 6:00 pm. International films movie club.

CENTRO CULTURAL LA PAZ
From Monday to Friday. 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. On permanent display, permanent photography collective exhibition that highlights the cultural identity of Baja California Sur. In the Codex Peninsula of the Centro Cultural La Paz, on 16 de Septiembre at the corner of Belsario Dominguez. Text is in English and Spanish. Free.

CATEDRAL DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA PAZ Revolucion St between Constitucion and 5 de Mayo. Downtown La Paz. Free. December 15. Tuesday. 8:00 PM. Joy of the World Grand Gala.

December 16. Thursday. 7:00 pm.  Music School Symphony Orchestra Christmas Concert. Possibly 100 pesos. For more information, call 612-129-4199.

December 18. Friday. 8:00 pm. Piano Concert by Juan Pablo Bautista Cano. On the program: Bach, Sifoti, Sciabine, Franz Liszt, Beethoven, Rachmaninoff and Zarándy Akos. $100 pesos. Phone 122 22 86.

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SANCOS
MAIN PLAZA
December 16. Wednesday. 4:00 pm. First Christmas Parade and artistic Christmas show. Starts at 4:00 pm in downtown streets ending at the main park at 5:30 pm.

December 18. Friday. 6:00 pm. Christmas Concert by The Youth Orchestra of Los Cabos as part of the municipal cultural program.

CIRCOTECA Angla Ceseña St. between the fourlane and Barlvento St.

Every Thursday. 7:00 pm. Reading club for kids. Actors dressed up, read and act a short story for the kids. More info about reading lounges: todosmosoleslote@gmail.com. At Angina Ceseña St. between Furlane Street and Barlvento St., San Jose. Spanish. Free.


PLAZA MJ AREAS (MAIN PLAZA)
December 18. Friday. 8:00 pm. Christmas Concert by The Youth Orchestra of Los Cabos. Spanish, but it's songs, so who needs language? Free.

LA DOLCE VILLA Behind the Mega supermarket in San Jose. English 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.
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AGE 50 - 54 from $51 USD p/mo
AGE 60 - 64 from $97 USD p/mo

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Roger@protexplan.com - www.protexcare.com

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Classification: Classified Ads Easy Sign Up

Walk It In
You can bring them into our office which is on the marina in Cabo San Lucas, second floor in front of the Cultural Center over Captain Tony's.

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You can mail it to 303 Magnolia Dr, Laguna Beach, CA, 92651

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You can email it to carrier@gringogazette.com along with your cc # and expiring date.

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HELP WANTED. Write for the Gringo Gazette. Make good money, and have a good time doing it. Good way to get involved in the community and know what’s going on. carrie@gringogazette.com (u)

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PARTNERS WANTED FOR FISHING boat, 34’ with captain, to share expenses. Current partners all have homes in Cabo. For info, call Jim @ 144-0026 (eve’s) or Bob @ 145-8501 for details. (# 11)

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www.ec-cabo.com • facebook/ElCallejonCabo

All this is the brain child of Terry and Denise Erickson, who have been around San Jose for many years, even owning some previous watering holes, so they have a following that has got them off to a fast start. It also helps that they have at least a dozen TVs, and frequently have live bands.
There is no parking, but street parking can usually be found within a few minutes walk on every night but Thursday. It’s also not a glamorous establishment. Actually, it’s a little rough. Try not to need the ladies’ room, as it’s not going to win any architectural prizes. Maybe they’re working on that. Maybe not, as they would have to move walls to make it work.
But you’re there for the great food, the great prices, the rooftop ambiance, the live music, and to hang with the fun people who know how and where to party.
Contact Terry at osopelon5758@gmail.com. No website but they do have a Facebook page. You know how to find that.

Los Cabos Restaurant...
continued from page 30

Fresh Margaritas made from scratch. 2 will lay you away!

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This one’s gonna hurt

BY ORLANDO GOTAY

By now you may have heard about the passport provisions of the Transportation Bill currently being considered by Congress. This is the most recent attempt by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) to take passports away from people who have “seriously delinquent” tax debt. If enacted into law, those who owe more than $50,000 could be in for a bad surprise.

Under the bill, the IRS could choose to let the Treasury Department know a person was seriously delinquent. This means over $50,000 in debt, (interest and penalties are included in arriving at that dollar amount), and having a previously filed lien or a levy to collect the tax.

Those with installment agreements, offers in compromise or collection due process hearings would not be includable as “seriously delinquent”. However – this is not explicit in the bill but I can tell — liabilities labeled “currently not collectible” by the IRS could be “seriously delinquent” despite being uncollectible.

So, on one side, the IRS could acknowledge that the debt is not currently collectible because the taxpayer doesn’t have the means to pay—and on the other hand, report it away to the Treasury Department.

Names reported to Treasury would be turned over to the State Department. State, in turn, would not authorize issuance or renewal of passports for those on the list. It also can, but is not required to revoke previously issued passports.

As a side note, not providing a social security number would be grounds for denial of a passport. There are many U.S. citizens out there—especially abroad—who do not have a social security number, an exceptionally difficult thing to get while residing overseas.

Especially in the expat context, where huge penalties arise quickly for failure to file something as simple as an information return, these developments are cause for alarm. Thank Sen. Hatch for his diligence.

Meanwhile, the Transportation bill has another gem that should not go unexamined. It also requires the IRS to turn over to private debt collectors, part of its old inventory of uncollected tax liabilities. The IRS had authority to do this, but the new bill would instead require the IRS to contract with outside bill collectors.

The Congress is clearly mad at the IRS. Some in Congress are mad at expats in general. Stay tuned.

Orlando Gotay is a California licensed tax attorney (with a Master of Laws in Taxation) admitted to practice before the IRS, the U.S. Tax Court and other taxing agencies. His love of things Mexican has led him to devote part of his practice to the tax matters of U.S. expats in Mexico. He can be reached at tax@orlandogotay.com.
long ago hunted almost to extinction. However, a few countries still do hunt whales, and some other whale species are still endangered.

There are two large division of whales: toothed whales and baleen whales, but altogether, there are about 90 different kinds and only the most commonly seen whales are listed and described in this book.

The last paragraph of the last page sums up the tone and scope of the book very well "... will whales be allowed to share water when dead, and had lots of blubber which could then be sold for whale oil used in lamps. Because they were such easy prey, and easy to process, sailors considered them to be the "right whale to catch". They were so over hunted that of course, they are now endangered."

This book is available at El Calabio Blanco' in Loreto BCS, and Sunbelt Publishing in San Diego. jeannine1220@yahoo.com

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Worldmark by Wyndham is currently rebuilding our sales Team after the reopening of our new and enhanced Coral Baja resort in San Jose. We are looking for a select few talented sales professionals to join our tight-knit family.

Please contact: mike.montgomery@hensleyandco.com for more information.

an who was staying at a private home out in Puerto Los Cabos, way the other side of San Jose, had a stroke. The host called his guard shack at the entrance to the complex, and the guard called the sticker on the back of his phone. But that hospital did not have the facilities to handle a stroke victim, so the husband, who happened to be a doctor in La Jolla California, got into an argument with the ambulance driver, demanding that she be taken to the new hospital, H+. (Yeah, stupid name for a hospital).

The driver refused, threatening to just leave her there lying on the ground. Another ambulance was called, and it turned out it was a good decision, because the woman needed two brain surgeries within the first two days. He flew a neurosurgeon over from their sister hospital on the mainland, who stayed for three days until they were confident they had stopped the bleeding in the brain. There is no other hospital in Los Cabos that could have come near that level of care. The cost? Insurance paid for all but the charter jet to get the surgeon here.

So, pick your ambulance carefully, because that may ultimately determine your care - and your life.
What If You Die Owning Real Estate In Mexico?

Don’t leave a mess for your survivors to sort out

BY ORLANDO GOTAY

I have come across several situations where U.S. individuals run into various problems with regard to Mexican real estate they owned by someone who dies. These people may have a foreign will executed outside of Mexico, or even have no will at all. Both situations present challenges in Mexico and may result in your property distributed in a way inconsistent with your wishes.

Each Mexican state has a civil code that provides, among many other things, the matter of wills and successions. In Baja California, the Civil Code provides that a will that is validly executed under the laws of a foreign state shall take effect locally. But I ask you, do you want to risk it to be deemed defective for any reason, held locally inapplicable, or its provisions misunderstood or misapplied?

Not having a will may cause the disposition of locally owned real property to the defaults contained in the Baja Civil Code. Do you know what those are? You may or may not want those defaults for your situation.

A better option could be to write out a will in accordance with local law and formalities that deals with the property and debts owned in Mexico (or in Baja, in my example). Such a will may be coordinated with other testamentary dispositions executed elsewhere (like a California will, for example).

For folks who do not speak Spanish, local law requires the presence of two interpreters with a Notary (and required witnesses) at the time the will is executed. It is possible to write out a will in long hand in English, but be warned—it is remarkably easy to fail to comply with specific procedures required, ending up with a document with little legal effect, or legal fights you can watch from afar later on. Saving a few pesos here is not a wise move.

If your property is in a Mexican land trust, (a fideicomiso), it is critical that instructions with regard to it are prepared and included in a will. Important tax reporting obligations will ensue, with incredibly steep penalties for not complying. You wanted to give your property to your loved ones, and not to the IRS, right?

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