Protestors Protest Wall And Highway Move

That’s what protestors do

BY CATHY WATKINS

A peaceful crowd of approximately 40 people, including a few Americans, gathered outside the now closed Marbella Suites Hotel to protest a wall along the fourlane at Km17. The protestors didn’t much cotton to it being under construction so close to the highway, or at least that’s what they said they were all pissy about.

The protestors wanted it to be known they are in favor of the new tourist development that built the wall as long as it follows the rules set forth by the Urban Image of Cabo. (IMPLAN) Yes, we really do have a planning commission, you might think not because anyone with some dinero to spread around can disregard it. That doesn’t seem to be the issue, here, however, as the development known as LeBlanc did get the proper permit from SCT. The federal agency in charge of our federal fourlane.

The protestors disagree on the suitability of the wall being built that close to the fourlane, saying it is not responsibly planned and doesn’t take into consideration

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Humane Society To The Rescue

Last weekend the local Humane Society was called to a parking lot where two dogs had been locked in a car for more than 24 hours. The police were called first, but they refused to break a window.

When Humane Society president Aida Trujillo arrived, the fire department was finally called, and those men were permitted to slim jim their way into the car because they were able to get in without damaging the vehicle.

One of the dogs died at the scene, and it looks like the other one is going to pull through.

The Humane Society has been working with the new city administration in an effort to get the police to enforce the laws against cruelty to animals that are already on the books and although it can seem to animal lovers the police dragged their feet here, they did act more proactively than they ever have before.

President Trujillo said she was encouraged, and that now is the time for us all to step up pressure on City Hall.

The car and dogs belong to Guillermo Mayo, a local time share hustler, who at the time of this posting could not be reached for comment.
I'm Baaaack! Did you miss me? Well, I missed you. I took a break from writing this column because I just got tired. What can I say. I ran out of ideas, ran out of steam, I ran out of motivation and I just abandoned ship. I’m soooo sorry. I won’t say it won’t happen again, just let’s just plough on from here and see how long I can hang.

I was inspired by our book report this issue. To me they will always be book reports, not book reports, not book reports. To me they will always be book reports. As a little girl, it was my job to go out at dusk and pour salt on any slugs I could find. This operation did nothing to enhance our share of snakes, no lizards, but plenty of slugs. I mean plenty of those ghastly creepies. I just looked up slug and it seems they are actually “terrestrial mollusks”. Well, they should be kept in the same sealed up bucket as reptiles, because they are equally distasteful as far as I’m concerned.

As a little girl, it was my job to go out at dusk and pour salt on any slugs I could find. This operation did nothing to enhance their horrible appearance, not to mention the impact on their health. It’s as if they took some kind of preverese pride in how ugly they were and decided to leave this world in an orgy of ugliness, curling up, showing their wretched underbelly, and secreting more of a slimy mess that would make a runny booger win a beauty contest. Obviously, the state of Oregon is not scouting me to run their chamber of commerce. Everything else Oregon is fine. Go Ducks!

Back to snakes. Living in Costa Rica is like running with the big dogs, snake wise. They have world class and seriously harmful snakes there, you can never allow yourself to run through a meadow with abandon. Hell, you can’t even run down a road with abandon. And, it turns out, you can’t even wash your clothes in your own garage with abandon. One afternoon I was loading the washing machine in the garage when I heard the ceiling above me go creak. You know, like ceilings do when someone is walking on the top side of them. Well, I look up and there is the biggest damn snake I ever saw, precariously balancing on the rafters right over my head! One careless move by this monster and he would fall right down on top of me, which would probably mean lights out for me just by his weight alone, if not by him sinking his teeth into me. Or maybe I would leave this world by his wrapping around me and squeezing the precious life out of me. I ran out of the garage like it was on fire, which, if it were not attached to the house, I might have lit up to get rid of the thing.

I stood out on the street, way out, until Dick came home to do the manly thing with it, whatever that would be. But he gingerly peeked inside, took one look at it, and tore out of there as if he himself was on fire.

So we decided to wait until our Costa Rican housekeeper came by the next day. Surely she would know what to do. Nope. When we described the offending snake to her, she ran out of the house like she was on fire.

So we went to the neighbors’ house to ask for advise. He tells us the snake is no doubt long gone, departing at evening time when it became cooler outside. Then he pulls out a book, like our book reporter describes in this issue. It’s full of mug shots of snakes, all

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

I am distressed by our book report girl, cribbed out of Cliff Notes your and write about it? Did your 5th always be book reports, not book report this issue. To me they will always be book reports. As a little girl, it was my job to go out at dusk and pour salt on any slugs I could find. This operation did nothing to enhance their horrible appearance, not to mention the impact on their health. It’s as if they took some kind of preverese pride in how ugly they were and decided to leave this world in an orgy of ugliness, curling up, showing their wretched underbelly, and secreting more of a slimy mess that would make a runny booger win a beauty contest. Obviously, the state of Oregon is not scouting me to run their chamber of commerce. Everything else Oregon is fine. Go Ducks!

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 6
Crane report. Not the bird, the type of crane we see from the four lane these days, building all those new developments between the highway and the ocean. Snell Real Estate threw a grandiose party to unveil the new Solaz tourist development that they are the exclusive agents for. This is part of the 131 room Solaz Luxury Collection Resort managed by Starwood, which already manages the multi awarded Esperanza Resort in Cabo San Lucas.

At the event, where guests were treated to French champagne and fabulous hors d'oeuvres, sales were made on the spot. A Mexican family made a quick decision on a penthouse for $3.5 million and a first floor unit for $2.35 million for their children. Maybe the children already have children of their own, and the grandpas want to keep them five stories away.

Solaz is owned by Quinta del Golfo de Cortez group, developers of the Sheraton Hacienda del Mar at Cabo del Sol. Most of the partners are tomato growers from Sinaloa, across the Sea of Cortez from us. Their success at Cabo del Sol has allowed their families to live and grow up in San Diego.

Solaz, which is not very far along in construction, will host the 2016-2020 World Tour Tournament of the Association of Tennis Professionals, which will give our tourist destination more exposure around the world.

Road fight. Not the road that’s on the move in the tourist corridor, we’re talking about the new road from Cabo to San Jose. The local Chamber of Commerce, (Canaco, for its loooong name in Spanish), and the influential CCC, or Los Cabos Coordinating Council, have voiced their opposition to the toll on the spiffy new two lane road that runs from the road to Todos Santos, before entering Cabo, to near the San Jose international airport.

Both groups feel that 75 pesos, (about $4.33 at the current rate of exchange,) for using some 18 miles of a road is too much.

And to add insult to injury, they point out that the road was built using our own taxes. Not quite.

Canaco has already filed for a legal injunction, which could stop the SCT, (Mexico’s Ministry of Communications and Transport), from charging drivers until the matter is resolved in the courts. And, knowing our courts that could be years.

Actually, the SCT is not the agency charging for the use of the road, but CAPIFE, which stands for Federal highways and roads, a subsidiary of the SCT. The money goes to the contractor who actu...
What’s Going On In This Country?

BY SANTIAGO VERDUGO

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Every year it’s the same thing. I’m supposed to look oh so cute in a stupid Christmas getup. Well, I’m already killer cute in my everyday suit, a nice gray number with white accents, thank you very much. But I got a nice haul this year so I guess I can be gracious about humoring my mom by posing sweetly in yet another of her stupid Christmas outfits.

So here I am posing sweetly and graciously in this year’s Santa hat.

Please come back. That’s the message former President Fox had for the 11 million Mexicans living in the United States. “We are building opportunities in Mexico. We work hard to make jobs for them. We need them back,” said Fox during an appearance on American TV show Inside Texas Politics. This, from a country that just raised their minimum wage to a whopping $4.50 U.S. per day. You’re going to have to offer better than that to get your people back, Vinnie. Fox served as president of Mexico from 2000 to 2006.

Discussions on this began back in 2012, and it’s expected to generate more tourism and trade. The pact also facilitates the establishment of alliances between airlines of each country. The famous “code sharing”.

“The new agreement will benefit U.S. and Mexican airlines, travelers, businesses, airports and destinations by allowing increased market access for passenger and cargo airlines to fly between any city in Mexico and any city in the United States,” officials representing both countries said in a joint statement.

Mexico’s carriers have a fleet of 300 planes. U.S. carriers have 7,500.

More flights! We could use more of those. And cheaper, let’s not forget cheaper. Restrictions on air transportation between Mexico and the United States were lifted last week, which leaves airlines from both countries free to fly the routes they choose.

More peddler grief. We’re not the only ones to endure the onslaught of too many pesky peddlers of all things trinket. One of the New Seven Wonders of the World since 2007, Chichén Itzá, the complex of Mayan ruins on Mexico’s Yucatán Peninsula, is at risk of losing that distinction due to the number of vendors who harass tourists.

The iconic step-pyramid, Temple of Kukulcán, lies at the center of the Chichen Itzá archeological site in Yucatán, and has become a popular symbol for all thing Maya and indigenous in Mexico and abroad. It is that status that granted the Maya archeological site the recognition as one of the New Seven Wonders, chosen from a list of 200 monuments through a worldwide vote that drew millions of people. Sergio González said that the New7Wonders Foundation has already warned the government of Yucatán that if the peddling issue isn’t resolved, Chichén Itzá could be removed from the list.

“The situation is worrisome for us, as 70% of the 2 million tourists who visit Chichén Itzá do so through the travel agencies in Cancún and the Maya Riviera that I represent,” said González. He charged that vendors have assaulted travel agency staff on-site and have also imposed extra charges to allow tourist buses to enter the archaeological zone.

The state Culture and Tourist Board has granted permits for 600 vendors in that zone, but it acknowledges that the actual...
Protestors protest...
continued from page 1

safety, ecological, and social is-
sues. After forming up, the group
marched from the old hotel to the
offending wall carrying picket
signs. Upon reaching the wall,
two large banners with “Clausu-
rado por la Ciudadanía” meaning
“Closed Down by the Citizens”
were taped to the wall. This did
make it hard to halt construction
for the day.

Protestors are upset for a va-
riety of reasons. First, the wall
which is private property is being
constructed in the emergency
lane, (the shoulder), of the federal
highway which they say is a safety
hazard. There isn’t enough room
for emergency vehicles, they say,
and if you needed to pull over,
it would be impossible for those
several hundred yards. Victor
Trujillo, a resident of 30 years,
stated that he showed up for the
pep rally because they are taking
the shoulder and he fears this
may be the start of making the
four lane down to a twolane. Aha!

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

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 an-
ounced that it has received a TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence award. The ac-
colade, which honors excellence, is given only to establishments that consist-
tently achieve outstanding traveler reviews on TripAdvisor, and is extended to qual-
ifying businesses worldwide. Only the top-performing 10 percent of busi-
nesses listed on Trip-
Advisor receive this
prestigious award.

To qualify for a Certificate of Ex-
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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 Dam-
mann, Medical Aesthetic Practitioner and founder of Spa Cielo Laser Center. “Our
team strives to make a positive
difference. 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 a testament to the wonderful team work car-
died 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, skin care
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or acne, rosacea, hyperpig-
mentation, spider veins, skin
damage, unwanted hair, scars,
nail fungus or tattoos, or just
loose flaccid skin that comes
with age, their cen-
ter will help you over-
come your challenges. Their
newest cutting edge technologies
include HydraFac-
cials*, Total FX
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and LifeStyle Lifts*. They provide free of
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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
establishments around the world the recognition they de-
serve, based on feedback from those who matter most – their
customers.”

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March we have the Baja
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PAID ADVERTISEMENT
FROM THE PUBLISHER...
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likely suspects, according to him. But I did not make a good witness to this snake caper because all I had seen was his white belly and it turns out that many snakes have white bellies. Who knew? We never learned what this particular guy’s, (or gal’s) name was and that’s just fine, I didn’t want to renew the acquaintance. Neither of us was ever quite comfortable in that garage again, it was like it was now haunted.

Another time we were driving to the beach when we saw a dead snake on the road, a pretty big one, not of epic proportions like the garage monster, but good size. A 10 footer anyway. And fat. On the way home from the beach, all that was left was some bones.

Not even skin! Yes, snakes have bones, who knew that snake fact? Here’s my question: What kind of animal could have devoured all that snake meat in a few hours? I don’t think I want to know.

So that’s my reptile stories, sorry they aren’t more festive in keeping with the season. Wait! Turtles are reptiles, no? I have a rather disturbing turtle story to add.

I built a pond in my backyard, renting a Bobtail to dig it, lining it, installing a pump to get the water to the top of my cool waterfall, the whole works. This pond was the focal point of my yard. Then I picked out some beautiful colored fish and just to round things out, in the interest in biodiversity, I bought a nice turtle imaginatively named Tommy.

Soon, I was losing fish. I couldn’t figure out where my pretty fish were going. It was a closed system, it’s not like they could swim away. I never found any fish floating tits up either.

When I ran this by my fish store clerk, I was told that turtles eat fish!! I still get chills thinking that one of my precious critters would eat another of my precious critters. I had created this wonderful environment, I made sure none of my babies ever went hungry, even reading up on their dietary preferences. I never read anything about turtles eating flesh and blood fish, let alone flesh and blood of their own family. It was very disillusioning and I was very sad. When I took Tommy back to the store, It was suggested that maybe I wasn’t tough enough to create and maintain a nice home for wild critters. Well, why should it take toughness? Why can’t we all get along?

That’s probably what the slugs I poured salt on were thinking all those years ago in the Oregon twilight. Yes, now that I think about it, they heeled over, looked up at me and asked with their pleading eyes, "why can’t we all get along?" But my eyes were squinted shut against the ugliness of their death throes and I didn’t learn that lesson. Maybe the pet shop owner was right, I’m not tough enough to participate in the wild kingdom.

THE PUBLISHER...
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December 28th, 2015

Que PASA in Cabo?...

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ty just built the road at their own expense, not that of the federal government.

Some drivers have complained that they lose cell phone signal along the road, that there is no presence of Green Angels emergency trucks, nor highway police. Hey! No cops is a blessing, as all the feds do is extort money from drivers. And you're not supposed to be chatting on your cellie while you're driving anyway. And why do you need the Green Angels? Are you saying you can't go 18 miles without someone holding your hand?

Geeze, what a bunch of whiners. It's a nice road, and we like the charge, because it keeps the riff raff off the road and clears the way for us to barrel down the highway practically alone, and at whatever speed we want.

Culture for everyone! Alan Castro Ruiz, The city's Director of Culture, took an entourage of artists to the state lockup in Santa Anita, north of San Jose, to perform for the inmates and bring a smile to their faces. Are they supposed to be smiling? Aren't they supposed to be contemplating their transgressions? Even working on chain gangs?

Convention center to open mid-2016. Really? The state's secretary of tourism, Genaro Ruiz, stated last week that the Los Cabos convention center should be up and running again six months from now. Ruiz has been talking with several international and Mexican groups about possibly operating it, and he expects to hire a world-class firm. His words, not ours. So far, Ruiz has met with French, Canadian, American and Mexican firms. The facility has stood empty and has deteriorated badly due to hurricane Odile and subsequent neglect by our city government.

Hold on to those reins. A female tourist fell of her rental horse on Medano beach last week and she was abandoned by the stable guides. She was just left lying there. The city inspectors were called, as well as paramedics, who took care of our precious tourist. The inspectors followed the horses’ tracks and shut down the business, as they did not even have a permit to operate.

Do we need another hotel? The Velas Group thinks so. They began operations in Puerto Vallarta in 1989 with the Velas Vallarta, and for their next trick they will begin construction of a nine story, 360 room resort in Los Cabos next year. The location of the 3.5 acre property has not been disclosed. The new resort will add to the 1,170 luxury rooms that the group has built in Mexico which in addition to Velas Vallarta...

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Arbitration Laws Are Great in Mexico
And it’s Less Costly and Much Faster than the Mexican Court System

BY DON NELSON

Mexico has excellent arbitration laws. If you live and work in Mexico, you should consider putting an arbitration clause in your next contract or agreement. Such a clause in the event of a dispute may save you untold amounts of legal fees and time. It is a fact that in many parts of Mexico the courts are so backlogged that can take 5 to 18 years to get a decision and during the entire period attorneys are charging additional fees.

If you have an arbitration clause in your agreement you can usually get a decision within 9 months to a year and have that arbitration decision entered with the court as a judgment thereafter. It is also possible to remove legal disputes from the Mexican Courts and have them resolved with arbitration if both parties agree. All parties will benefit agree due to the much quicker decision and due to the knowledge and experience of the chosen arbitrator. Keep in mind also the cost savings. You can still be represented by an attorney if you choose. When parties arbitrate they can pick the arbitrator with experience in the particular area of law governing the dispute. Often when disputes are litigated in Court, the judge has little or no background in the governing law and therefore the final decision can be arbitrary and not predictable. Arbitration decisions in most situations cannot be appealed. But if you have choose a knowledgeable arbitrator (1 or 3 arbitrators can be used), and it saves you waiting 5 to 10 or more years for a decision, that disadvantage may be worth ignoring.

In lieu of arbitration of disputes, consider mediation. When parties mediate a neutral mediator with experience in the applicable laws works with the two opposing parties to help them reach a mutually satisfactory resolution. Statistics show that mediation has a 30 to 50 percent chance of success and it is significantly less expensive than arbitration or litigation in Court. CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

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ASK FOR OUR RENTAL PROGRAM
When Is the Best Time to Install Solar Panels on your Real Estate in Cabo?

BY CHRIS MIHM

Dinosaurs, humans, insects, plants, my puppies, and pretty much everything else would never have existed without the Sun and our specific proximity to this G-Class Star. Did you know the Milky Way galaxy is speckled with 40 Billion stars that are very similar to our Sun? Kepler satellite, powered using solar panels, actually observes these Sun-like stars to discover potentially habitable planets.

There are hundreds of billions of planets in the Milky Way Galaxy (and over 100 Billion OTHER galaxies besides the Milky Way). So, how do we determine if any of those planets have liquid and life like Earth?

The Kepler search for Earth 2.0 starts in our Milky Way galaxy, and employs an Earth Similarity Index which characterizes suitability for vegetation, rockiness, and atmospheric density. A planet must also be a certain distance from its star, orbiting in The Habitable Distance, or Goldilocks Zone.

Considering goldilocks and the three bears can live there, so can other life. In July 2015 scientist announced the discovery of the most similar Earth-planet, so far. It may have volcanoes, oceans, and a 385 day year. The planet is 1,400 light years away. Using conventional fuel and spaceships 1 light year requires 20,000 years to travel. However, breakthroughs in interstellar travel condense the travel of 1 light year to only 4.3 years. In 100 years or so, we may even be able to commute back and forth from these Earth-like planets all across the galaxy or even Universe(s), if that’s your cup of tea.

OK. So let’s get back to our solar system, our Sun, Earth, and our Cabo. Did you know the Sun CONTINUED ON PAGE 10
Reminder! Your Property Taxes are Coming Due SOON.

BY CHERYL MILLER

Attention all foreign property owners: Property taxes are coming up.

If you own property in the Municipality of La Paz, which also includes property in Cerritos, Todos Santos, north of Las Barillas, your property taxes can be paid NOW! You receive a 35% discount if paid through November 30th, a 20% discount if paid in December 2014. Right now, if you are behind on your property taxes the Municipal of La Paz is offering an 80% discount on all penalties and fees if paid in 2014. Payments are accepted at the Municipal offices in La Paz or Todos Santos in cash. La Paz DOES NOT HAVE online payment services. So if you need assistance, contact your realtor, closing agent or property manager today.

If you own property in the Municipality of Los Cabos, your payment can NOT be made until about January 6, 2015. Los Cabos does not accept advance payments. But, if you pay prior to January 31st, you receive a 20% discount. 10% in February and 5% in March. After March, penalties and interest will be levied. Payments in Los Cabos require the property tax payer to register their tax info prior to paying. This started January 2014. If you have not already registered, do so. Or ask your realtor, closing agent or property manager for assistance.

Happy Savings!

By Cheryl Miller, Broker, Baja Realty, and Investment 624-122-2690, info@forsaleinbaja.com.
December 28th, 2015

**Baja Properties SHOWCASE**

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We would highly recommend Gerardo Pineda at Baja Properties as your Realtor. He spent endless hours with us looking at property and has been with us from the start and well beyond the settlement of our condo.

If you are having a tough time finding property to buy in Cabo, please give him a call... he'll find it for you! - Joseph and Victoria Washington, DC

**Featured Property: San Jose Del Cabo**

**Condos Villas Baja**

On the San Jose del Cabo Municipal Golf Course lies a unique development of less than 30 quaiint condos. Villas Baja is an architectural gem with a spirit that is often lost in today’s quest for ease of construction and cost.

Upon entering, one notices the abundance of mature landscaping. Bugambilia vines climb upwards with cascades of color. You pass trickling fountains on your way to the designer pool leading to a cozy palapa/BBQ area.

Each unit owns a unique floor plan, incorporating winding staircases, arched windows, rustic woodwork and private patios. The Mega shopping center is two blocks away. Villas Baja, a true taste of Mexico in Los Cabos.

Contact Steve Schulz with Madero Associates at cabodreams@hotmail.com or cell. 624-129-3306 for information and showings.

Agent Profile

**Angela O’Reily**

Originally from Toronto, Canada Angela came to Cabo in 2006 for a “mini getaway” to escape the cold Canadian winter, and literally “fell in love with Cabo”. Being an experienced licensed realtor in Canada, she recognized this unique opportunity to fulfill a life-long dream of living in Mexico while engaging in the profession she loves. Her draw to Los Cabos in general was the great sense of community, the professionalism within the real estate industry and of course, the outstanding climate and breathtaking beauty of Los Cabos!

Prior to becoming a realtor, she has over 20 years experience in the top Canadian law firms and also as a Contract Negotiation Manager in the entertainment industry. Angela is a general realtor with extensive experience representing both buyers and sellers.

Let her experience and knowledge work for you!

You can contact Angela at angela@dreamhomesofcabo.com 624-157-2091.

**FOR SALE**

$87,900 1-bedroom condo, Laguna Vista, San Jose

Well maintained, furnished, ground level, estuary and cityscape views. Walking distance to downtown, restaurants, transportation. Lowest priced in complex – this is a steal! Occupied, 24-hour notice to view. MLS 15-1497. Contact: Deborah Reubens, Horizon Realty: (011-52) 624-137-3980, (209) 779-5404, email Deborah.Reubens@hotmail.com.

**SOLDS**

1. Cresta del Mar Lot #76 in Cabo Corridor; Sales Price $80k. Vacant Lot. Listing Agent: Nick Fong, Los Cabos Agent, Sales Agent: Ery Romeike, Los Cabos Agent. MLS #15-882

2. Ventanas Phase 3 #514 in Cabo Corridor; Sales Price $270k, 3br/2ba Condo Listing Agent: Rosella Banderas, Portus, Sales Agent: Nick Fong, Los Cabos Agent. MLS #14-1959.

3. Costa Azul Condominiums, San Jose del Cabo, Very well appointed 1brm /1ba with million $ $ Ocean Views. MLS #14-614, E. M. Abelson/ Baja Properties and Jason Vogt/ Snell, $118,000 USD

4. Misiones #320Misos del Cabo, 2 BR/ 2 BA remodeled & furnished turnkey. Spacious Terrace, ocean view!, MLS 14-107 K. Arellano/ abo Linda and C. Suveges / Realty World $180,000 USD

5. Casa Monet #34 Cresi tada del Mar with Great Arch view. 4 BR & 4 full ba., 2 - 1/2 bas, MLS 15-1435 J. Ceballos/ Cabo Linda Real Estate/ Cabo Linda $570,000

**FRONT- MLS#15-2457 $278,000**

- Misiones Condo #6101 Remodeled, 2BR, 2BA. Spacious MLS#15-1768 $255,000

**Rocky Zietzke Cell (624) 1416442 or Cabo Linda at Tel. 143 1688**

- Casa Monet #34 Cre stada del Mar with Great Arch view. 4 BR & 4 full ba., 2 - 1/2 bas, MLS 15-1435 J. Ceballos/ Cabo Linda Real Estate/ Cabo Linda

**OPEN HOUSE**

1) Castillo de Arena Open House Tour, Jan. 01 and 08, 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
Ph. 624 147 0111

2) Thursday, January 7th. 7pm – 9pm

GROUP OPEN HOUSE Villas Baja – Fonatur/Golf – San Jose del Cabo

A) Townhouse/Condo #6; 2 bdrm/2.5ba, golf views, upgraded kitchen & baths, privacy, MLS #15-494, Angela +52-1624-157-2091

B) Townhouse/Condo #12; 2 bdrm/2.5ba, golf views, upgraded kitchen & baths, walk to beach & shops, MLS #15-310, Michelle (908)267-9188

C) Condo #23; 2bdrm/2ba, ground floor, single story, upgraded appliances, MLS #12-1257, Steve +521 (624)129-3306

3) Thursday January 7th. 2016 from 2pm to 5pm

Open Houses at Misiones del Cabo:

- Casa Silva Misiones #3104. Condo 2BR/2BA SELLER FINANCING.
MLS#15-2347 $498,900

- Misiones Condo #1202 Condo 1BR/1BA. BEACH-FRONT - MLS#15-2457 $278,000

Want to know more about Arbitration or Mediation in Mexico? Want the proper provisions included in your legal agreements and wish to know how to arbitrate your legal dispute in Mexico? To learn on how to use arbitration in your legal disputes in Baja email us at dddnelson@gmail.com.

Don D. Nelson, Attorney at Law, CPA.

**ARBITRATION LAWS ARE...**

continued from page 8

**Real Estate SECTION**
WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO...

continued from page 10

SOLAR IN LOS CABOS: When is best to install Solar on My Home and Why?

FULL TIME RESIDENTS: WHO: You live here 6–12 months and use AC in the summer. WHY: You likely just racked up compounding CFE bills due to your AC consumption and you pay double what you could and should pay for each unit of energy you consume. On October 15th the proverbial light switch is flipped, and Cabo cools off overnight. Imagine you already have solar panels and October rolls around. Less AC use translates to WAY less energy use (kWh/day).

So during winter, solar panels on your roof begin to generate a credit of solar energy that you see add up on the bottom right column of your CFE bill. Like an old cell phone plan, this credit rolls over on each bill, and offsets your high summer AC bills. This cycle repeats each year. With as few as 4–8 solar panels, a typical solar client who paid $70,000 Pesos/year will now pay around $12,000 Pesos/year with solar panels by leaving the expensive DAC rate bracket.

OWNERS OF VACATION RENTALS & SECOND HOMES: WHO: You vacation rent your home or visit your second home in Cabo.

SOLAR RECOMMENDATION: GRAY TIE/HYBRID SOLAR, SOLAR POOL PUMPS, POOL HEATING

WHEN: November–December is best for full timers to Install Solar.

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Dengue fever is a mosquito-borne disease seen by the World Health Organization as a threat to about half the world’s population. Some 400 million people are believed to be infected annually. The vaccine has only been approved in Mexico for patients aged nine to 45 who live in areas where the disease is endemic, barring its use for younger children — considered to be at risk — and tourists. Additional data will be needed before considering whether the vaccine may be of use to travelers.

In Mexico, 7,136 cases of dengue were reported between January and July, with 11 deaths. We have had dozens of cases right here in Baja.

Minimum wage is minimal. The minimum wage is set to go up 4.2% on January 1. The National Minimum Wage Commission decided this week on an increase of 2.94 pesos. Slightly more than 1 million full time wage earners are estimated to be among those who are paid the minimum wage, which will total 73.04 pesos in 2016. That’s about $4.50 U.S. per day. This increase earned scorn from people interviewed in Mexico City, who labeled it as “a mockery” and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18
1. Martín Zamora Guizar 34 years old, QA analyst.
Lose weight. That is all, at my age it’s becoming harder and harder, and my parents live with me (I do not live with them, I pay the bills). My mom’s cooking is just amazing but let’s just say she doesn’t make salad. I used to be tall and skinny and played football, but now all I do is work and my job is sitting down, so that doesn’t help.

Get married, accept my body and move up in my job. I promised my girlfriend we would get married, but we never set a date, so I hope this year we finally will. I also want to be at peace with my body, I don’t feel fat but I wish I was in better shape, I know I’ll never have the muscles that I want because it’s not my body type, but I want to feel happy about it. And for my job, I know it’s telemarketing but I hope to be a supervisor this year.

3. Emmanuel Alejandro López Ramírez 20 years old, chemical engineering student.
I want to quit drinking soda, and smoke less for my health. Also, I want to keep studying so my goal is to shift my schedule in a way that’s possible to do both. I want to get my body condition back, I’ve become so unfit it’s amazing. Also I want to buy a Chevy, because my dad made me sell my car and I sold it very cheap. Now I have to ride the bus and it’s awful.

4. Montserrat Arreola 18 years old, student.
All I want is to quit smoking. I have been getting very bad headaches and my family won’t stop giving me a hard time, they say I’m young and can quit now when I want to, but I just can’t. I’ve tried so many times, but at the end of the day I go back and smoke even more.

5. Héctor Gonzales 39 years old, public accountant.
You know, same as everyone, every year. Exercise, lose weight, get fit, feel better. I always have the same resolution and keep it until February until (the holiday) Candelaria and stuff my face with tamales. And then it’s sort of like “just this cake” or “just one coke because tacos taste better with coke” and end up not doing anything. And I’ve subscribed to the gym but end up getting caught up at work.

6. Alan Martín Hernández Salazar 18 years old, student and part time store clerk.
I don’t have one, and I haven’t had one since three years ago, don’t even think about it.
New Year’s is just another month finishing and a new one starting, I think that if you want to do something you shouldn’t wait for January 1st, it’s procrastinating, like saying I’ll do it Monday. I hate that.
December 28th, 2015

PROTESTORS PROTEST... continued from page 5

away from the racket of the four-lane. The five hotel owners say it will cost about $30 million U.S., and are out raising private money for it now.

Pedrin and her protestors believe they need to draw a line in the sand right here and right now, at this wall, because if the highway does pick up and move itself, this part of it will no longer be part of the four-lane highway that barrels down the coast from San Jose to Cabo San Lucas. They fear this part of the road will now be made into a quiet, two lane strolling and bicycling road, only for tourists and that the locals will be kept out. They point to Cabo del Sol as an example of this. Because there is a guard shack at the main entrance to Cabo del Sol, it’s very difficult for the locals to get down to the beach.

If they don’t look affluent, they are turned away. This is because the Mexican owners of these big hotels believe their guests do not want to sit on the beach next to a Mexican. They also fear that the city will raise more private money, will sell more permits to beach peddlers. Therefore, these protestors believe this wall is the first step to making the highway into a sleepy little two lane.

Second, residents believe that if the highway does move, the old part will become private and reduced to two lanes. Residents believe they should have a say in this matter since this part of the federal highway was not constructed using federal money. Instead, it was paid for with the taxes from the local people living here.

To draw more attention to the issue, local citizens have formed a page on Facebook at www.facebook.com/lacarretarareasnuestra and a website called www.lacarretarareasnuestra.com, both in Spanish. These sites have a place to sign a letter of protest against the proposed moving of the highway. There is also a tab to email your opinion to several politicians. While there, check out the video they have posted showing all the beaches that the locals have lost access to due to the privatization of the land just outside of the federal zone, and in front of the beach. The CONTINUED ON PAGE 21
larta includes Casa Velas – also in Puerto Vallarta –, Grand Velas Riviera Nayarit (Nuevo Vallarta) and Grand Velas Riviera Maya.

Brothers Eduardo and Juan Velas got their start by signing an agreement to buy the land that is now the Velas Vallarta resort, with no money in hand. Or pocket. Or even bank. They took the signed deal to Fonatur, Mexico’s tourism development agency, and got the needed financing to build their first resort, proving once again that in Mexico it’s all about who you know. Of course they’re all timeshare. And that’s how fortunes are made.

Todds Santos inching along. The quaint, seaside Magic Town located only 40 minutes north of Cabo finally has brand new streets, and is only waiting for the power company and Telmex to plant their underground wiring before pouring the new sidewalks. New street lighting, benches and facades are the next step for this artists’ nest that features some 20 art galleries and some of the best restaurants in Southern Baja, all with a very laid back atmosphere. Local citizens are still trying to raise funds for trees to be planted along the sidewalks, because trees are not in the government budget.

Robber finally caught. A teenager who confessed to robbing at least 12 homes in Todos Santos, Pescadero and Elías Calles between May and December of this year, has been busted by state police. When his home was searched they found laptops, cameras, tablets, cell phones and much more loot. The pendejo was stealing the stuff faster than he could fence it.

There have been way more than 12 robberies in the Todos Santos area, so either this guy is being modest describing his achievements, or there are more burglars out there.
Money is pouring in for hotel and residential development at the Pueblo Bonito group, owner of five resorts in Cabo San Lucas: the Pueblo Bonito Blanco and Rose resorts on Cabo San Lucas Medano beach, as well as their properties on the Pacific side which include Pueblo Bonito Sunset beach and Pacifica, as well as the Copala developments that include Quivira and Montecristo. They are plowing in $120 million for next year on new construction. They can afford it, most of their properties, (but not all), are timeshare and any of us who have bought timeshare, (and who hasn’t), know how much quick cash that generates.

The Pueblo Bonito group has planned a major expansion for their Pacifica Golf & Spa Resort, the group’s adults only property. Two new buildings, with a total of 47 rooms, will be added, including a presidential suite and six suites each with a private pool. The two buildings will be called Quivira Club and will feature enhanced room amenities as well as snappy service with a butler on each floor. This also has the new Jack Nicklaus Quivira golf course, the most awesome course in Baja. Yes, even more awesome than the Davis Love III’s Diamante course which is pretty awesome. And Quivira is way, way awe-somer than the new Tiger Woods course at Diamante that opened a year ago. Tiger’s is pretty ho-hum, as you would expect from the first effort of a guy who used to play golf. Nicklaus, meanwhile, has 375 courses open for play in 36 countries with another 45 under development. It pays to hire experience and Quivira has done just that; it shows in their fabulous course. It’s hard to get on unless you agree to sit through a timeshare pitch at Pueblo Bonito, but it just might be worth it. Or you can buy full ownership at Quivira. They CONTINUED ON PAGE 22
In-room amenities:
• Key-less room entry
• Flat screen led TV with US Channels
• 10” deep Memory Foam Queen Mattresses
• Memory Foam Pillows
• Private line with Free phone calls to U.S. and Canada

Hotel amenities:
• Dip – pool with beach entry pool for children and 18 – person SPA – All Heated
• 5-minute walk to almost everything in town
• Underground parking
• 24 – Hrs. Security + Pedregal Security
• Discounts on activities at Concierge desk

Access to Pedregal Housing development amenities like:
• Private Beach
• Private Tennis Club
• Pedregal SPA

During the current administration, which concludes in 2018, at least 80 highways and 52 freeways will have been completed, helping drive national development. Port facilities will also be upgraded. The operating capacity of Mexico’s ports will be nearly doubled, from 280 million tons annually to 520 million.

Bible banging tourists? As millions of pilgrims were flocking to the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City on December 12, tourism officials were suggesting that Mexico could become a world leader in religious tourism with some investment in infrastructure.

Representatives of business organizations told a press conference this week that religious tourism is growing between 5 and 7% annually, and that Mexico now captures about 10% of the world market. The World Tourism Organization estimates that some 300 million people travel every year for religious reasons, and that Mexico receives 35 million of them.

Annual visits to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the north of Mexico City, total about 20 million, and 7 million of those arrive in early December, leading up to the feast day of the Virgin of Guadalupe, December 12. But infrastructure is urgently needed for further development of the religious tourism sector, said a vice-president at Concanaco, the Confederation of Chambers of Commerce, Services and Tourism. Churches have been abandoned, visitors must buy tours from street vendors, shrines lack washroom facilities, transportation is terrible, and in places such as the Basilica of Guadalupe there isn’t sufficient parking. This year is the 484th anniversary of several apparitions of the Virgin of Guadalupe before Juan Diego, a native Mexican, who was asked by the Virgin that a church be built there in her honor.

All we get here in Los Cabos along those lines are sun worshipers, do they count as religious tourism? No, we didn’t think so.

Did you come to Mexico for a baby? Might as well go home now, because a Mexican state legislature has voted to close the door to foreign couples and gay men looking to have a child by surrogacy.

Mexico has become a low-cost alternative to the United States, where surrogacy can cost $150,000 or more. But the surrogacy boom in Mexico brings tales of missing money and stolen eggs. The Gulf coast state of Tabasco is currently the only Mexican state that allows surrogacy, supposedly on a non-commercial basis. It has attracted many foreign couples looking to have children, but the Tabasco state legislature has voted 21-9 to restrict the option to Mexicans only.
Fish Report

BY GARY GRAHAM

What a way to end the year! A report filled with nearly every species is about as good as it gets for under the Christmas tree, underscoring the impact of El Nino that has filled the news most of the year.

As we close out 2015 and head into 2016, the fishing prospects seem promising. So, sharpen your hooks, spool on some new line and start the New Year right. Tight lines and a Happy New Year Gary Graham, gary@garycgraham.com

Cabo San Lucas

Cooler weather along with a few cloudy days failed to slow the fishing. Best action seemed to be up on the Pacific side with billfish well represented by striped marlin along with an occasional sailfish and even a blue or two.

Dorado put on a good show up the coast literally from the surf out to the banks. Nice-sized fish up to 40 pounds kept anglers smiling. Speaking of inshore, the tuna were very close to Cape Rocks as Sam Vigneri, Casper, Wyo., discovered while fishing with Baja Anglers and Captain Grant Hartman. Note the hotels in the background on the beach.

Other fish hanging out in the same zone were a few wahoo that continue to extend their season. Speaking of inshore, the tuna were very close to Cape Rocks as Sam Vigneri, Casper, Wyo., discovered while fishing with Baja Anglers and Captain Grant Hartman. Note the hotels in the background on the beach.

Other fish hanging out in the same zone were a few wahoo that continue to extend their season. Even closer to the shore there were roosterfish frolicking along with a good showing of ceviche candidates — the sierra mackerel always a favorite for visiting anglers.

San Jose

The area from the Cabo San Lucas Arches to Sol Mar, within one mile or less of shore, was where the best bite for yellowfin tuna was found; drift fishing with strips of squid, the bite was sporadic, with fish ranging from 8 to 15 pounds. Many anglers did catch limits, though there was a good chance at losing some to hungry sea lions.

Lots of pressure, since this was the only productive spot; the North Winds made it almost impossible to fish on the grounds to the north. When the northern conditions changed, boats headed north again with encouraging reports, especially considering all the wind, water clarity was surprisingly good.

Yellowfin tuna have started biting again on the Iman Bank — nicesized fish to 30 pounds. Only an occasional dorado and wahoo being landed; other strikes lost, but no significant numbers of either of these species. Nothing much going on around the Gordo Banks, but maybe the calmer conditions will get this area back on track, as lots of skipjack and other baitfish activity was reported.

Also at least one 200-pound class black marlin was landed, and another black, estimated to weigh close to 500 pounds was hooked on a trolled live bait, only to be lost near the boat as the fish got its head down, and headed deep, breaking the lighter 130-pound leader which had been intended for a cow yellowfin tuna — not a late season El Nino black marlin.

Inshore smaller-sized roosterfish off of the San Jose del Cabo Hotel area, particularly near Holiday Inn and the Estuary, were an option. Very little bottom fishing now, more triggerfish than anything else; we expect to start seeing more variety start to move in off of the structure.

Billfish action was scattered as well, a few striped marlin and then the chance at a larger marlin around the Gordo Banks, no big numbers though of any of these billfish. It will be interesting to see if there is a good run or mackerel and in turn striped marlin this season. This is when this normally occurs, starting on the Pacific Banks, before shifting in the direction of the Sea of Cortez.

East Cape

While wind surfers revel in the mighty north winds, anglers wait for the calm days, and remark-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23
Almost 400 Los Cabos VIP’s attended the “Grand Unveiling” of the Residences at Solaz last night in the Beach Pavillion 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
PROTESTORS PROTEST... continued from page 15

beaches are in the federal zone and must remain public, but so many times the land just in front of the beaches will be privately owned and those owners will do whatever they can, including erecting barb wire fences, to keep the people off the beach. It is true that while the beaches of Mexico are public if there is a security guard at the entrance to the beach it's no longer truly public.

That was last week. Early this week, the city council approved moving the road. A heavy, heavy blow for the protestors.

The approval took place at City Hall, which was surrounded by about 50 angry citizens carrying banners. They managed to briefly close down the government building, but they still lost their fight.

When some of the city council members walked out following the vote, some protesters threw coins at them, calling them traitors and sell outs and claiming they were paid cash for their vote to move the highway.

Other protesters must not have got the memo on the City Hall protest, because they staged a protest near the San Jose Mega store. To the distress of motorists, this lasted about 40 minutes, until the federal police showed up.

Not so smart closing down the federal highway, because you don't mess with the federal cops, they are mean, compared to our city cops who are marshmallow if you just stand up to them.

The road movers did have all their ducks in a row, with graphics showing how there will now be shaded bus stops, roundabouts, a bicycle path, new landscaping and scouts honor, double pinky promise, it will all be open to the public.

The developers have promised, in writing, and signed, that both the road and beach access along the entire five mile stretch will be open to the public.

All of the protestors and most locals scoff at anyone living up to this promise.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28
**New Ocean Front Luxury 2 Bedroom Penthouse for Sale**

A very special 2-story unit for vacationing or as a rental property, located inside the Casa del Mar resort near San Jose. Tastefully decorated. Wake up to sunrise in a master suite with a king size bed on the second floor that walks out onto a large patio overlooking the Sea of Cortez. Huge master bath is huge with a walk in closet, walk in Spa-like shower and an oversized tub. Guest suite located on the lower level with two queen beds with ocean views and a walk-out patio. Cable TV, Blue Ray players, Bose stereo system and Wi-Fi.

Casa Del Mar is a 5 star luxury beachfront resort with the feel of a boutique hotel. Its many amenities include a world class spa, gourmet restaurants, tennis courts, lush tropical landscaped walkways and gardens, multiple pools, hot tub and Zen garden.

**Motivated seller • Contact:** Franklin Moore, eMail: franklin@mandmsls.com

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**QUE PASA IN CABO?...** continued from page 16

pick-up truck. $500.00 entry fee. Information: www.eastcape-shootout.com

And then on October 29, the annual Tuna Shoot Out fishing tournament will take place, also at the Palmas de Cortez resort. You’re fishing for the biggest badest tuna here. Approximately $35,000 prize based on 100 teams. You will need to pony up $500 for this one as well. Information: www.eastcape-shootout.com

No olvidar! That’s Mex speak for Don’t forget! The Pelican Theatre of La Paz, now in its third season, will present the Love, Loss and What I Wore play by sisters Nora and Delia Ephron this January 21, 22, 26, 27 and 28 at 7:00 pm. At the City Theater (Teatro de la Ciudad).

The play celebrates as well as redelines the expression, “wardrobe malfunction.” Tickets are only 150 pesos, or about $9 bucks, and are for sale at the Al-lende bookstore in La Paz and the Tecolote bookstore in Todos Santos. Most importantly, this nine Gringo bucks even includes wine at the end of the play.

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**PUEBLO BONITO PROPERTIES...** continued from page 17

have full ownership homes, villas, and three story townhomes in a variety of prices, starting at quite reasonable and going through the roof for some very fancy properties. If you play golf, buying in Copala, which includes the Quivira community inside it, might be your best bet.

Pacifica also will add a third new building, this one three stories. On the first floor there will be a Mexican-Mediterranean fusion restaurant with indoor and outdoor oceanfront dining. The second floor gym will offer dramatic ocean views to sweat by. The third floor—accessible by a high in the sky kinda scary bridge from the other new buildings—will be a VIP lounge open only to Quivira Club guests. There you can get a light break-fast, afternoon snacks, and pre-and after-dinner cocktails while overlooking the ocean. Not much of a kitchen there, you’re there for the quiet exclusivity and the impressive Pacific ocean view, not the food.

Pueblo Bonito Sunset Beach timeshare hotel is also expanding, with the addition of 104 villas and a new food court offering a choice of restaurants that include family friendly, Asian, and Italian, as well as separate areas with desserts, beers, and wines. A new area for teenagers, which will feature arcade games, table games such as air hockey and pool, a movie theater, and a snack bar are planned. (We hear the rumor of a lock on the outside of that door is not true, that
Shopping Center Goes Green

La Paz mall goes Solar.
Plaza La Paz, the commercial area that houses Liverpool and WalMart, among other smaller stores, is installing 792 solar panels that will produce 90% of its electricity consumption, which was running them $8,000 a month from the bandit electric company.

The solar panels come from German company Solar World via its base in Oregon, which is the U.S.’s largest solar cell manufacturing facility in North America.

Plaza La Paz’s project covers all common areas but not the individual store units, and is being built at a cost of nearly 600 grand, of which 75% goes to solar panels and the rest (25%, Bunky), to the hurricane-resistant metal structure. Hmmmm….hurricane resistant, not hurricane proof. Wouldn’t want to be downwind of those babies if they take flight. They are nothing but a sail.

The mall expects to recover its investment in eight years as it was paying nearly $120,000 a year for power. A big ribbon cutting ceremony and party is planned for late December, when the project is finished. Maybe.

FISH REPORT...
continued from page 19

La Paz

About the only ones who seem to be having a great time on the water are the windsurfers and kite boarders who come down this time of the year specifically because it’s windy. . . . a big reason they flock to the area. That area between Las Arenas and Cerralvo Island is like a wind FUNNEL making it world-class for the windsurfing crowd.

But, their high-season, is also the reason it’s the off-season for fishing. It’s chilly and windy! However, when the winds die down, and the windsurfers leave, the fishermen start rolling back in. So, yeah … good winds are blowing … again! And, generally that’s how it was recently and it has been now for over a month. The few anglers who have ventured down were introduced to the dreaded North Wind. And wind and fishing usually aren’t a good recipe for fishing success.

There were some small cabrilla and pargo caught. Along with two marlin hooked that fell off — some bonito and trigger fish and that was about it.

It’s that time of year! Not many fishermen these days and the town is quiet – peaceful; very nicely so, in many respects. It might surprise many regulars. Not much traffic. Everyone is getting ready for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30
Christmas In Mexico
Is A Hoot.
We cultures share a lot, seems like more all the time, but at holiday time, our traditions are quite different

BY ALEJANDRA BORBOLLA

As we all know, Mexican Christmas is a little different from the standard North American celebration, there is a whole tradition in the way we Mexicans do it up, and the biggest proof of this is the nativity scene.

It is confirmed that the idea came from Saint Francis of Assisi, a missionary who, from a cave near Greccio, Italy in 1223 was trying to get people to understand the meaning of the birth of Jesus. The first nacimiento as we called it, was staged with real people and real animals, a stand in for the Virgin Mary, Joseph, a baby, cows, mules, sheep and pretty much any animal they could find. This quickly became a tradition, popular in all Catholic countries, making it a family tradition for parents who wished to explain Christmas’ origins to their children in a visual way. Mexico shows signs of this tradition from the end of the XVI century, and at the beginning it was just a few essential characters: Joseph, Mary, Baby Jesus. Of course being as creative as we are, Mexicans started adding the Three Wise men, the shepherds, animals, and all kinds of religious images as well as vegetation.

Although technically the nativity scene took place in Israel, Mexican families have a very special way to set up their nacimiento. It is usually erected in a corner of the living room, with tables and boxes making different levels, but it can take up to a whole room when the builder gets carried away.

First, you must find the correct manger, it should be the correct size to fit at least the main characters, but we’ll get to size in a minute; according to Catholic Mexican tradition, the manger represents humility and simplicity. You must put in the structure star printed paper, rocks, paper, and moss, as well as tiny trees, palm trees, cacti, and whatever you can find to create the Nazareth feel. We make valleys and hills, with sand and pebble pathways, tiny houses and villages. Some people put fake snow over everything, making no sense.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32
Christmas Piñatas?
What’s Up With Those?
And what makes them so special?

BY ALEJANDRA BORBOLLA

The traditional Mexican piñata is not the multicolored donkey stuffed with candy and smashed at birthday parties. That one is sold everywhere. The Piñata comes from China, where it was a way to evangelize the Mayans. The natives were keen on sports and had a game where they tried to break a clay pot which was full of chocolate and hung from a string. The padres saw this broken by the emperors celebrating New Year. It was shaped like a bull, typically adorned with brightly colored paper which, depending on the color employed, brought different things to the new year. It was filled with seeds and burned after it was broken open and many people would scoop up the ashes in hopes of good luck for the year. This tradition was hauled from China to Europe by Marco Polo, and the piñata got its name and religious meaning in Italy: “piñatta means fragile pot, and they were first crafted to symbolize a pine cone. It quickly spread to Europe and eventually Spain.

Originally, it was brought by the Spanish to Mexico at the beginning of the 16th century as a popular game as an opportunity to link it to Catholicism, and to teach the people a religious twist to it. Toward this end, the game was trotted out each year close to advent time.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

BlueNetHOSPITALS
Learn more about the Intensive Care Unit of Blue Net Hospitals

1. What is the Intensive Care Unit?
It’s the service used when illnesses put at risk your life. It specializes in treating and preventing failures of different organs of your body.

2. What are the reasons to get in the Intensive Care Unit?
When risk illnesses, organ failures or illnesses complications arise, such as:
- Cardio-Cerebrovascular
- Brain stroke
- Heart attack (Acute Coronary Syndrome - ACS)
- Thrombosis (Clots)
- Respiratory
- Any cause of acute respiratory insufficiency
- Severe pathologies
- Sepsis

3. What’s the expertise and human capacity of the Intensive Care Unit at Blue Net Hospitals?
Our Intensive Care Unit provides security and confidence care throughout the process of a critical illness. This unit provides a human and warm treatment for the patient and relatives. It also has the expertise and support to handle any metabolic or surgical complication.

4. How is the success of our Intensive Care Unit evaluated?
It is our continuous goal to achieve the best quality though a constant score. We rely on international validated quality programs and predictive mortality models. Our scores are based on a SAPS3, SOFA with a predicted mortality average of 70-80%, resulting into an actual mortality below 1%.

5. What makes successful the Intensive Care Unit of BlueNet Hospitals?
a. Focus on quality of care with defined procedures within the ICU, such as:
   - Prevent a thrombosis
   - Pressure ulcers
   - Nutrition care
   - Strict control of glucose level
   - Prevention and control of infections within the unit
   - Protocols of illness estimation for the patient care
b. Wide experience of the medical team

6. Why is it important to know this?
When a medical emergency arises which puts in danger the life of a person or the functioning of any of the organs, you need to be sure the attention will be immediate and adequate with the highest medical care quality.

In Blue Net Hospitals we offer this assurance thanks to our expertise in the handling of seriously ill patients, and we also have the properly trained medical and nurse staff, as well as the last generation technology, all of this surrounded by the human and personalized service which is distinctive of Blue Net.

In the last four years, 58 patients have been taken care of in the Intensive Care Unit of Blue Net Hospitals. Considering the critical conditions of each patient, which were submitted to the predictive models above mentioned, the result is an average of Expected Mortality of 70%. We have been able to reduce this mortality index below 10%, which means we have been able to revert the expected mortality index in 86%, figures way above the national average.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MORTALITY INDEX - INTENSIVE CARE BNH</th>
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58 PATIENTS IN 4 YEARS

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2) Master Suites ..................... $1,500
3) Presidential Suites ............. $2,000

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1) 2 Bedroom HOLIDAY ........... $10,000

PUEBLO BONITO SUNSET BEACH
FIXED AND/OR FLOATING
1) Junior Suites ..................... $1,000
2) Executive Suites ............... $1,500

VILLA DEL PALMAR
FIXED AND/OR FLOATING
1) 2 Bedroom HOLIDAY ......... $7,500
2) Penthouse Suites ............ $10,000

PUEBLO BONITO ROSE
FIXED AND/OR FLOATING
1) Junior Suites ..................... $1,000
2) Executive Suites ............... $2,000
3) Presidential Suites ........... $3,000

VILLA DEL PALMAR
FIXED AND/OR FLOATING
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You almost stepped on a snake! Oh dear! Could you tell, was it a Baja night snake, or perhaps a Baja California rattlesnake? What is the difference between those two snakes? What if the snake you almost stepped on, was partially hidden by tall grass? Both of these reptiles have meandering faces, and somewhat similar spots. Reading this guide will help you identify the many regional species of reptiles and amphibians, and the answer to the above question can be found on plate 56, under “Baja California endemics”. Knowing how to identify snakes could be a lifesaving skill. We do not have many venomous snakes, but it is comforting to know that you can at least identify those to stay away from.

Here, in this Peterson Field Guide is everything you could ever need to know about the creatures I once thought of as creepy crawlers. My youngest daughter’s fascination with toads, then living in a Neles, Mexico desert and now here in Baja, has given me greater respect and a certain fascination with reptiles and amphibians.

This guide gave me a wealth of information I didn’t already know. Of course, Peterson Field Guide already have a great reputation for the facts and research they present, they are published in many areas, and the author of this book, Dr. Robert C. Stebbins, comes also with a sterling resume. He is emeritus professor of zoology and emeritus curator of herpetology at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley. His contribution to herpetology is immense. He is emeritus professor of herpetology at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and emeritus curator of the herpetology division at the University of California, Berkeley. He has written many books and articles, spending more than 60 years studying and drawing amphibians and reptiles. The Peterson Guide is equally valuable for students and for general public information.

This book is full of help for the reader: line drawings of unique body parts of various amphibians and reptiles, many colored photos, and a wealth of information that is also quite readable. A unique feature can be found in the back, just preceding the bibliography, (which contains general references, regional references and journals). Dr. Stebbins has included range maps, a few in black and white and 36 pages of maps in brilliant colors. These maps show the ranges of each of the reptiles and amphibians described in the Field Guide and it contains a key to the map symbols.

The black line drawings are clear and detailed, and can be found throughout the book. The introduction contains areas covered and hints on how best to use the book. Chapter 2; Making Captures, gives instructions on picking up those that can continue on page 25.
Cerritos, Pescadero & Todos Santos: A good way to spend a day

For those ready to escape the non-stop excitement of Cabo, consider a more relaxing pace, less than an hour’s drive north of downtown Cabo San Lucas. You’ll find an artist’s colony, an authentic Mexican town, laid back residential areas, and the 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, 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 across from the Pemex. Next to the Pemex is the very sophisticated La Casita, try Alma & Manny’s or Los Adobes, 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 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 polbano chili fields are everywhere, as well as strawberry, tomato and basil fields. The town is rent on 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 the beach, either the old dirt road or the new dirt road at km 67.

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.

For a truly unique experience book a room at the Arriba de la Roca, which means “top of the rock.” It’s 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, 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.
PROTESTORS PROTEST... continued from page 21

Maybe with good reason. One of the developers involved has a brother in law who used to run several resorts here for the developer. He once scoffed at someone in distress who said to him, “yes, but you promised...” This guy laughed right in the homeowner’s face and said, “You were a fool to believe me.” Maybe these local Mexicans are tired of being the fool.

The approval took place after the director of the IMPLAN, the city planning department, stated that the new road was not contrary to the city’s urban plan. However, some people close to the situation believe it was not up to IMPLAN to approve the project, but rather to the City Council of urban planning, which wasn’t even asked about it. Such city council includes both government agencies and organized business groups and has been in existence for at least 10 years although every single mayor has paid no attention to them.

The vote, which didn’t take long, ended up with 12 in favor, including our Los Cabos mayor, and two against, from the rather obscure coalition of the political parties PRD, PT, and MC, as well as the Morena party. They usually can be counted on to vote against everything anyway.

So, how will this effect your commute between the two towns? Can’t be any worse than all the construction that’s going on right now on that very road. They are tunneling under it, and they are moving materials and equipment every which way across it, and we never know from one day to the next which lanes are going to be closed, and how backed up the traffic will be. So how bad can this be?

Very bad, if the promise to keep the beaches open to the locals is not kept.

Do You Want Pretty Or Loyal?

Chuchis (Dog)
Makeover Volunteer
Anybody got a brush? I seem to have left mine in my other life, which I’m not talking about to the Humane Society volunteers. I am a sweet cutie patootie who cocks my head with delight at every word you say. I admit I’ve let myself go lately, but still, with my natural handsomeness, all I need is a nice warm bath, maybe a haircut, and a pink bow and I’ll be a superdog model and your lifelong companion!

Cascada (Cat)
A nice humane society worker lady found me wandering around leisurely at a local resort, just like I owned the place, which I kind of did. I miss all the snacks the foreign tourists gave me. Oh, the chow here at the shelter is fine, but its all so healthy! I miss the junk I was so good at extracting from the hotel guests. And, not so be saying I like to sleep around, but it was pretty easy to get a soft bed in someone’s room any night I wanted it. All I had to do was watch my manners, which I’m pretty good at, so I will make a good addition to your home.

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Cooking Like A Mexican
BY ALEJANDRA SARACHAGA

January 6, is always special for Mexican kids. Tradition tells of three wise men who made their way from the East, guided by the star of Bethlehem to visit the baby Jesus. But behind this tale are many interesting facts that you probably want to know. Well, you’re going to read about them, because I think they are fascinating.

It is believed that the three wise men came from different continents, Africa, Asia and Europe, although it is likely that they were from Persia, now Iran. Another version says that the Magi represented the pagan religions of Asia, Africa and Europe, who come to Jesus in recognition of Christianity. But how could they do that when Jesus hadn’t begun Christianity yet?

There are stories that tell of four and twelve kings who visited Jesus, however, as determined by the most widespread version, there were three, because three gifts were presented in the manager: incense gold, and myrrh. All had great commercial value at the time. They were called magicians and sorcerers, and wise men of science. This is according to the gospel of Matthew which mentions the existence of wizards who searched the heavens for the star of Bethlehem, but does not specify how many wizards were searching those skies. Could explain why they were late, however. Traditionally it is said the Magi were guided by a star that appeared in the west, although other explanations claim that could have been Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky as seen from Earth, and even a comet.

The belief by Mexicans in the Magi emerged from San Francisco de Asís, who came over from Europe. It is now deeply rooted in Mexico. And here it was customary to mention the belt of Orion, made up of three stars, guiding the Magi on their way to their gift giving.

It is believed that Melchor, a white-bearded old man, Gaspar, a young blondie haired guy, and Baltasar, a middle aged guy, this one with dark skin, represent the three stages of man. Legend or reality, the Kings have become part of Christmas traditions in various Spanish speaking countries, especially Mexico, where in addition to being seen as characters that reward children every Jan. 6 for good behavior during the year, We in México celebrate the day the three Magi brought presents to baby Jesus, as a day in which children get their Christmas presents. For a Mexican kid, the “Día de Reyes” (day of the kings), has much more importance than the Santa arrival on the night of December 24th. In México the children write their letters to the three Magi, asking for toys, and they tie them to a balloon and let it go to the sky. Also, they leave a shoe next to the Christmas tree filled with hay or grass for the Magi’s animals.

So the morning of January 6th the first thing they do is to run towards the tree to see if the Magi brought what they asked for. The tradition is that they open their presents first thing in the morning, and families get together in the evening to share a Rosca de Reyes, (king’s crown), a ring shaped sweet bread decorated with jewel like candied fruits. The ring of cake is supposed to look like a crown.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36
the teens can get out and come back to join you in their ardent desire to spend quality time with the family.)

Within the Quivira residential community, not primarily time share, but there are some large beautiful fractional opportunities, 2016 will also bring the next phase of development at Copala, which ultimately will include 85 houses and seven six floor buildings, each with 36 apartments, including -1.2 and 3 bedroom units. These are built back from the ocean, up on the hill, with expansive golf course and blue water views. These houses and condos will have their own clubhouse, in addition to the Quivira Beach Club down by the water, 20 miles of hiking/biking trails, and even a chance to plant your own wine bushes. They are laying out a vineyard. The condos here, and some of the homes starting at about $400,000. Considering how many amenities there are spread over this 1800 acre property, this is a sweet deal.

They have a website, but it sucks. Maybe call them at 624 173 6146 or in the States 800 632 0147. Oh, OK, we’ll tell you their website, but you’re not going to like it. www.quiviralascabos.com. There are some pretty pictures on the site, we will give them that. Just no details of anything. ❌

Christmas. It’s a good time to be here. Even if you’re not fishing. Or catching. Still beats working. Just come and hang out. And escape the snow, rain and cold from wherever you are! 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.

Cabo San Lucas
Tracy Ehrenberg www.piscesportfishing.com
Larry Edwards www.cor-texcharters.com

South Africa
Dorothy Fisher www.fishandhunt.co.za

FISH REPORT...
continued from page 23

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

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Cabo San Lucas
Tracy Ehrenberg www.piscesportfishing.com
Larry Edwards www.cor-texcharters.com
It was of interest, so we read it aloud while eating lunch.

After lunch, we continued on the road and, lo and behold, we were stopped by a Mexican policeman for speeding. With the article fresh in our minds, we were stopped by a Mexican policeman for speeding. We insisted, he let us go.

Thank you, Thank you . Thank you.
Please pass this on to the writer.
Sincerely,
Pat Phillips

Editor,
Some of your readership may benefit from a mention of ways to
get help if a vehicle breaks down on the Baja peninsula roads. The other day a family in a car flagged me down about 50 km north of Loreto on the highway. They asked me to call for a tow truck. I reported it to the military checkpoint just north of Loreto. After checking with other staff they said they would call, but suggested that I also call when I got to Loreto. I called the 074 number displayed on the road signs and spoke to someone in Monterrey who said they didn’t operate in Baja. I then tried an 088 number and spoke to another person who also told me they couldn’t help. They also suggested that I would be liable for costs if I called a local mechanic or tow truck and sent them out. Plus, of course, others may have contacted a mechanic and had them go out also. As I’ve now checked on the web, there is also a 078 number and several possible numbers for the Green Angels. So is there any formal/optional way of getting help for a car that has broken down on the carretera or other roads in Baja?

John Hodgson
Via email
Geeze, what a nightmare. None that I know of. I always feel I’m on my own in the case of a breakdown. Or worse.

Every time we give out a number that the govt p.r. flacks give us, it turns out not to work. Editor
Please do not paint all who are stopped by a cop in Mexico”. Or something similar.

December 28th, 2015

Pat Phillips

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Dinner menu includes steaks baked potato or fries and salad.
We offer beef or chicken teriyaki served with shrimp and vegetable tempura.

Pat Phillips

Editor.
CHRISTMAS IN MEXICO IS A...
continued from page 24

at all but adding to the magic of it. The bigger ones include scenes from the bible, from the devil to the Annunciation. Part of the nacimiento often has a river flowing at the middle, made of tin foil with a mirror symbolizing a lagoon, for the purity of it all, and how else were they supposed to shower? Yeah, we really get into our nacimientos.

Then come Joseph, Mary, and of course Baby Jesus’ bed made out of hay, and the angel. The meaning is obvious, but the angel must go at the top of the manger, because he announces the coming of Jesus. The Star of Belem hangs above the angel, it is the symbol for everyone to come see the baby, usually big and shiny, preferably lights up so no one gets lost on their way to find the family. Especially the three wise men with those valuable gifts.

Then, very close to where baby J will be, there is an ox; who with his warm breath will keep the baby nice and cozy, a sheep for its wool symbolizing abundance, and a donkey, which was chosen because donkeys are the most humble animal in creation, besides it was a donkey who carried Mary while she ran away from Caesar Augustus’ orders of killing the Messiah. It is very normal to have a huge sheep and a tiny family, or to have porcelain figurines with missing legs or ears; because the nativity scene is set up every year and these items are sometimes passed down through generations. They have far too much emotional significance to throw away if they get frayed or broken.

The three wise men are the Mexican Santa. They bring gifts who carried Mary while she ran away from Caesar Augustus’ orders of killing the Messiah. It is very normal to have a huge sheep and a tiny family, or to have porcelain figurines with missing legs or ears; because the nativity scene is set up every year and these items are sometimes passed down through generations. They have far too much emotional significance to throw away if they get frayed or broken.

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Christmas pinatas must have seven points. No Homer Simpson shapes, no animals, sticking with seven points, please. The traditional seven point piñata has a clay pot core, representing Satan and seven cones with streamers at the end of them, representing the seven deadly sins. It was all covered in bright beautiful colored paper, which represents the temptation of evil. Legend has it that the devil makes sins look beautiful to lure in sinners. And, it is shaped as a star, to remind us of the star of Belem.

To break the piñata symbolizes defeat: pride with humility, greed with generosity, rage with patience, jealousy with understanding, lust with chastity, gluttony with temperance, and laziness with diligence. Covering the eyes means to trust blindly and fully, and the stick represents willpower. The entire tradition is supposed to be pretty much a fast and fun way to absolve your sins without that bit of bother involved in confessing to a priest.

This seven point affair is typically stuffed with fruits, mostly oranges and sugar cane, and these represent god’s love when you break and defeat the evil. Finally, some people spin you around blindfolded before you try hitting it, supposedly to confuse your pure heart; tradition states 33 spins, to commemorate Jesus’ age before being hung on the cross. Not everyone at the party gets a piece of God’s love in this way so money is given out, with the idea that no soul is left without some loving.

Nowadays for security purposes piñatas are no longer made with a clay pot. Emergency workers are happy for the change, as clay pot parts were raining down on players; parts, ruining parties, but songs have come up, the typical one being “Dale, dale, dale, no pierdas el tino, por que si lo pierdes, pierdes el camino” which translates to “hit it, hit it, don’t lose your aim because if you do, you’ll lose your way” turning into a joke, you better not lose aim, buddy. Also, a piñata song’s excerpt is: “La piñata tiene caca, tiene caca, cacahuates de a montón” Caca means shit in Spanish, cacahuates peanuts, obviously funny in Spanish, but making a note to duck when the piñata breaks. Is it only we Mexicans who can turn a religiously significant event into what sounds like a sailor’s dittie?
I have a fascination for these wonderful creatures, and the differences between sea turtles and desert tortoises, and their shell markings are great material for many native legends and children’s fables. The opposite page of each plate has brief descriptions and locations, and then gives page numbers for more information and maps.

There are many more exotic amphibians than you can imagine. The horned lizards look like miniature dinosaurs, and of course we also have night lizards and skinks, whiptails, and alligator lizards. The last full page plates are of western snakes, with much information, which I have already mentioned. Full descriptions, habits, unique sounds, more colored photos including a small colored photo of a Western skink, who has a bright blue tail that can be left behind if seized by a predator. The range of each species follows the plate.

On page 419, the author writes about “Baja California endemics.” Browse through the rest of the book, but do completely read this section! Did you know that 96 species of reptiles and amphibians, (all described in this book), occur in Baja California, and that 18 of these are endemic (found only here)? He also admits that studying the reptiles and amphibians in Baja has been quite difficult, easier since Highway I was built, but that still, many more research studies need to be conducted.

This Peterson Field Guide is not only informational and useful, it is a read that will cause you to marvel at how many very different reptiles and amphibians can be found here in the desert, and an idea of the great diversity of the many species.

The Peterson Field Guide of Western Reptiles and Amphibians can be found in bookstores and on Amazon.com. After reading this guide, I have decided that I need to start my own library with as many different Field Guides as I can find! I found that reading the guide took a little of the mystery and much of my fear away and gave me a greater respect and fascination for these many creatures that share our planet! This guide is available at my book store in Loreto, El Caballo Blanco, for $22. (jeannine1220@yahoo.com).
**Calendar of Performing Arts**

**TODOS SANTOS**

**TODOS SANTOS CULTURAL CENTER**

January 8. Friday. 5:30 pm. Eco-Technologies - Sustainable Building. Felipe de Jesús 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 Tecolote Bookstore in Todos Santos. jaymisi@yahoo.com, 612/145-0295. **HOTEL CALIFORNIA**

January 14th, 15th, 16th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd. Todos Santos Music Festival. Information: http://todossantosmusicfestival.com/

**CABO SAN LUCAS**


**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 tianguis (market). Live music, poetry, painting, books, arts & crafts, sculpture, movies, vegetarian food. Hidalgo and Revolucion Sts, downtown Cabo. Cel. 624 117 1663. Free.

**CERRITO DEL TIMBRE CULTURAL HOUSE** behind Aramburo supermarket and Guacamayas taco restaurant, downtown Cabo.

January 24. Sunday. 7:00 pm. Full moon nights. A traditional bohemian Cabo night with live music, poetry, dance and guest artists. Spanish and some help in English. Free.

**LA PAZ**

**ALIANZA FRANCESA**

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. Esteroito 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 Belisario Dominguez. Text is in English and Spanish. Free.

**TONANTZIN GALLERY** 320 Constitución St. between Aquiles Serdán and Revolución St. The same block as the post office.

January 23. Saturday. 8:00 pm. Music concert with Roz from La Paz on the harmonica, along with some musical friends at the gallery courtyard. English. Free.

**CENTRO DE ARTES Y CULTURAS POPULARES**

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, 28 7 pm. Love, Loss And What I Wore, by Nora and Delia Ephron. N.Y. comedy hit presented by The Pelican Theatre of La Paz’s 3rd season. Play celebrates as well as re-defines the expression, “wardrobe malfunction.” Tickets 150 Pesos; wine served. Ticket sales, Allende Books in La Paz and Tecolote Bookstore in Todos Santos.

**SAN JOSE**

**CIRCOTEKA** Angela Ceseña St. between the fourlane and Barlovento 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: todossomoselobo@gmail.com. At Angela Ceseña St. between Furlane Street and Barlovento St., San Jose. Spanish. Free.

**BUENA VISTA**

**MAIN PLAZA SAN J OSE**

March 3. Thursday. 9:00 am. Introspectionism. International art exhibition with works of artists from different countries. The beginning of the display showing introspective art with a common philosophy or style on the streets and urban areas of the main government buildings in San Jose. More info with Alfredo Sosa. Facebook/artalfredo.sosa Spanish and English. Free.

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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. ❤️
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP In English (La Paz) Crossroads Christian Fellowship. Sharing the living water of Jesus with thirsty people. 3124 Absolvo between Sonora and Sinaloa. (Up the alley under the Crossroads sign) Call Milton Sanders at 612157575 or 612191832. www.crossroads-la-paz.org (9)

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GOLDEN CACTUS GALLERY is excited to now be in Plaza Casa Blanca on the highway to Todos Santos, across from the motel La Roca near the animal shelter. There is a stop light there so make a U-turn and voilà! (It's just 3 miles from the marina.) Mon - Sat 12 - 6 PM. Cell: 624-147-5287 (tf)

OFFICIAL TRANSLATOR Spanish-English, licensed by the Supreme Court of Justice of the State of Baja California Sur. Celyne Poupart, cell 624-157-5287 (9)

DENNIS RAYMOND SMITH. Pay your outstanding debt on the duplex you purchased in 2002 in Cabo on the corner of Camino al Colegio and Miguel Herrera. Gloria Shaw. (9)

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1993 Z28, immaculate, 18K origi- nal miles, 6 spd, LT1 engine. Patriot maroon w/black top, Ontario plated. Original owner. The perfect boys toy for cabo! $19K US. rickrand2@gmail.com Rick. (11)

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COOKING LIKE A MEXICAN... continued from page 29

Tiny figures of babies are hidden in the dough before baking. There is much excitement as each person cuts his or her own slice, for whoever gets a piece containing the baby is obliged to host another party on or before Candlemas, February 2nd. This is when Mexico’s holiday season finally comes to an end. This tradition was brought to Mexico by the Spaniards and they got it from the Romans. Wherever the tradition comes from, the truth is that Mexican families really enjoy this, and most kids are more excited about this than they are about Santa. To bake your own cake can be really fun, because you can share this activity with your children, I am sure that they would have lots of fun hiding the plastic babies into the raw dough and decorating it with the dry sweet fruit pieces. These decoration ingredients actually make them look like the jewels of a crown. Or a round fruit cake. If you feel too lazy for it, you can always buy yours, they will be available in every single bakery section at supermarkets, and even on some corners on the streets downtown. Usually it is served with hot chocolate (hot cocoa) but mainly with a nice cup of atole. Atole is a traditional hot corn and masa (corn dough) based beverage of Mexican origin. The chocolate flavored atole is also known by Champurrado. It is typically accompanied with tamales, it is very common during breakfast and dinner time at any time of year. It is usually sold as street food and very popular during the Christmas holiday season and of course you cannot go without a hot glass of atole to go with your Rosca. This drink typically includes the masa, water, coned brown unrefined cane sugar, cinnamon, vanilla and optional chocolate or fruit. The mixture is blended and heated before serving. Atole is made by toasting masa on a griddle, then adding water that was boiled with cinnamon sticks. The resulting blend varies in texture, ranging from a porridge to a very thin liquid consistency. You do not have to do it the traditional way, because is kind of complicated, especially because of all the ingredients it takes, but I have for you the easy, fast, and delicious way to make your atole. Just go to the supermarket, or the closest corner store and ask for a little pack (sobre) of “maizena” it is cornstarch actually but it comes under that brand. They CONTINUED ON PAGE 38
Mexicans Are Good At Combining Traditions
They’ve had centuries of practice

BY ROSAURA BARAHONA

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Syncretism is defined by the American Heritage Dictionary as “the reconciliation or fusion of differing systems of belief.” And that’s what we have regarding religion in Mexico.

Mexico is a Catholic country. In 2010 the official data showed that 84% of the 100 million Mexicans were Catholic, but Elio Masferrer, President of the Latin American Association for the study of religions, considers that the real number is much lower (73%), although the Vatican considers it is much higher (91.89%).

Part of the problem is that no one defines what Mexican Catholicism is. They naively think that Catholicism is Catholicism no matter where you find it, but the truth in Mexico is the religious beliefs, rituals and traditions from our preHispanic cultures, when combined with the Catholicism brought by our Spanish conquerors in the XVI century, blended into a very peculiar form of Catholicism that is often closer to heresy than to Christianity. Won’t the Pope be surprised to discover that when he arrives in February. Or maybe he won’t be surprised.

This fusion of different beliefs doesn’t bother most of us Mexicans because we easily reconcile superstition with preHispanic beliefs and Catholicism. This is no problem at all, except for the very orthodox, which are a minority. That is why our Catholicism is not very Biblical and has a shape of its own.

Priests and nuns differ from place to place within our country. First of all, because there are not enough priests in Mexico to cover our religious needs. Most of them stay in cities and only some go to small towns certain days of the week and, only occasionally, others go to rural areas. That is why different Christian religions have grown so fast in those regions.

When the Catholic priests came from Spain, they didn’t try to understand the preHispanic religion or mentality. They threatened natives with punishments or death if they weren’t baptized and renounce their gods and beliefs, which most of them did…apparently. Their temples and shrines were destroyed by their “saviours” and substituted with European Catholic churches or chapels, but natives kept on with their animal sacrifices not in front of their idols any more, but at the cross or the images of virgins or saints that took their places. Baptism didn’t mean anything to them nor did the Biblical God or saints.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 39

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CHRISTMAS IN MEXICO IS A...
continued from page 32

of perfume goo); pretty sweet gifts for a new born promise for the entire world. These three shall be placed one after the other. Such sweet and thoughtful presents. Of course, there should be an elephant, a camel and a horse, because that’s how they got to Belem. With them there should be some shepherds and herdsmen, because they saw the star and knew the baby was born, they had to come see him and make sure he was OK being born in a barn. They symbolize the human connection with this event, the humble people at the service of their king.

We traditionally set up the scene on December 16th with the first posada. Before dinner, the oldest person in the family is in charge of cooing baby Jesus in a scarf. Typically, the scarf is silk, and then the whole family has to sing to it, from generation to generation and he is finally placed in his hay bed.

Many of these figurines are made artisanally in wood, porcelain and clay, but way back they were made of wax with fine silk dresses which were embroidered by nuns or the single women of the family. It was prepared with great anticipation and is to this day, the biggest tradition in the Mexican household. Nowadays almost every city in Mexico has a community life size nativity scene, usually placed in the main downtown gardens and those do tell the whole nativity story, complete with bible passages and live representations.

COOKING LIKE A MEXICAN...
continued from page 36

Come is several flavors, they are all delicious, and one little pack is good for 4 cups. The instructions are very easy:

Boil 3 cups of milk (if you use one pack, if you use 2 then use 6 liters of milk and so on), put a cinnamon stick that will give it a more pleasant taste, previously dissolve the corn-starch into a cup of cold milk and then add it to the boiling milk, for last ad the amount of sugar you will like. Do not stop moving it or it will sure as hell stick to your pot. If you think it is too thick you can add a little more milk or water. The proper consistency is like melted ice cream (more or less).
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Young Cat Looking For A Better Deal

Soy got his name from being white like Soy Milk. He’s a 6 month old neutered male with all his shots, and he’s packed up and ready to go to his forever home. Soy was in a foster home for almost two months and is not used to shelter life where he spends most of his time in a small box. Nor does he appear to be anxious to learn to like it. He thought he was a house cat.

The Virgin of Guadalupe is an example of how Mexican Catholicism is not precisely the way the Vatican would have its followers believe groups with deep native roots. The main reason is that Catholicism was imposed on us and our preHispanic religions were never really replaced, so we ended up in a heterogeneous religion almost tailor made.

In our syncretism, people who adore the Virgin de Guadalupe visit her on December 12th, with mata-chines (Mexicans dressed as natives and dancing ritual dances for miles). You will also see people with cactus on their knees, chest or/and back in order to offer a painful sacrifice in exchange for the favor or miracle they are asking for. Today’s Catholic church does not condone this, but sooner or later they will accept it is true, although they’ll say something like: “This only happens among ignorant people”.

Not so. Many educated Catholic people believe in tarot cards, ouija boards, palm reading or white and black witchcraft. Many don’t, that’s true, but we all have to get along, and if you don’t take all this very seriously, it can really be a lot of fun.

Gone are the days when girls cooked like their mothers. Now they drink like their fathers.
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