So we were cruising along in this little panga, on our way back from Lovers Beach, and all of a sudden off to our starboard side, about one foot away, this huge whale shoots out of the ocean!! It was so close we were sprayed with whale spit!! You can see that whale spit here on the right side, which is actually the Big Guy’s top side. It’s coming out of his blow hole. Story inside. Picture courtesy of Cabo Trek.

City Gets A Grip

The Los Cabos city government has agreed to make public any complaints against government officials filed by the people, whether they concern human rights, justice, administration, police, or media.

That’s a very big step for our government.

The new administration wants to show they’re serious about transparency and honesty and will turn over a report on those complaints every 90 days to the Los Cabos Coordinating Council, an umbrella group of the most powerful and influential merchant class in Los Cabos. Members include timeshare, hotel, and restaurant officials, as well as chamber of commerce members comprised of various small business owners and operators.

Maria Camacho, who women the city comptrollers’ office, announced the administration will also make public every bid that goes out for purchases and public works.

Further, she promises we can count on this new procedure continuing for the entire three years that Mayor Arturo de la Rosa will hold office. Ms. Camacho also

What’s Going On At The U.S. Consulate?

Not very damn much

BY UNCLE SAM

The United States government is trying to hire someone to staff our local consular office, but until they get that figured out, they will have shortened hours. As in practically nonexistent hours.

If you need notary services, passport applications or registrations of births abroad, they will be processed on an appointment schedule when somebody travels down from the consular office in TJ.

Emergency assistance for crime victims, hospitalized citizens, jailed Americans and other mayhem, is always available by the Mexican staff which is on duty round the clock. Sort of.

But the other services require American personnel who will travel here from Tijuana on the following schedule, but they will only be available from 9 am to 2 pm, and then only if you wrote ahead for an appointment.

And after 2 pm they hide inside the office. You can see them but no matter how hard you pound on the damn door, they will not open it. Makes
Humane society releases figures. The Los Cabos humane society welcomed a total of 3,132 abandoned kittens and doggies last year, finding homes for 400 of them. That the organization spayed and neutered 3,450 animals during the same period does not seem to reduce the number of abandoned animals in San Jose. Following hurricane Puerto Los Cabos development would be the mangrove area of dogs marauding around town see a big decrease in the number tide. But, really, we old timers shoveling something against the humane society that they’re some- Los Cabos. It must seem some- number of abandoned animals in does not seem to reduce the organiza- last year, finding homes for 400 tion spayed and neutered 3,450 tion started in 2015, the estuary is now full of of hotels chock-a-block has left estuaries, lakes, and ocean beaches are the nation’s patrimony and thus open for public enjoyment. No one can make a beach private, not even a big tourist hotel. That’s what the law says. In reality, the construction of hotels chock-a-block has left local residents without access to at least 16 beaches in Los Cabos. We published that list a few weeks ago, did you pay attention? Sigh. What are we beating our fingers into bloody stumps for if you’re not paying attention? You must start sharing our beaches. Mayor de la Rosa vows his administration will build palapas, showers, public rest rooms and parking spaces at the most popular beaches in Los Cabos. Que Pasa in Cabo? BY DAVID FLORES

Los Cabos. It must seem some- times to those good people at the humane society that they’re shoveling something against the tide. But, really, we old timers see a big decrease in the number of dogs marauding around town in packs The estuary is back! That would be the mangrove area between the Holiday Inn and the Puerto Los Cabos development in San Jose. Following hurricane visitor paths are clean, there are at least two bird watching towers open to enjoy, and the place is full of migrating birds, ducks and other critters. It is really a must visit place. Mayor vows open beaches. Yeah, right. Many before him have tried that. Arturo de la Rosa, Los Cabos mayor, stated last week that every single beach will be open to the public this same year. Oh, you didn’t know Mexican beaches are public? Yes, they are. All rivers, streams, underground water, estuaries, lakes, and ocean beaches are the nation’s patrimony and thus open for public enjoyment. No one can make a beach private, not even a big tourist hotel. That’s what the law says. In reality, the construction of hotels chock-a-block has left local residents without access to at least 16 beaches in Los Cabos. We published that list a few weeks ago, did you pay attention? Sigh. What are we beating our fingers into bloody stumps for if you’re not paying attention? You must start sharing our beaches.

Mayor de la Rosa vows his administration will build palapas, showers, public rest rooms and parking spaces at the most popular beaches in Los Cabos.

The biggest challenge will be to open up some of the beaches on the Pacific side along the Pueblo Bonito Sunset beach and Diamante developments, as well as those on the Mar de Cortez along Hacienda Encantada, the RIU, and El Dorado. Stay tuned, because those hotel owners are not going to suffer the public gladly.

Gringo killed. California native Ratger Tobias, 39, died instantly when he crashed against a public transportation bus in La Paz. He was driving a Ducati motorcycle and witnesses said he did not stop at the crossroads, although it is a courtesy stop crossroads. Maybe he didn’t know about those stops but geeze, on a bike against a bus he can’t be pushy.

Can it Get any worse? Our Southern Baja police have just been declared the worst in the nation by the National System of Security. This is based on the number of policemen and polic- cehicks who failed the recent confidence exam that all police all over the country must take.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Does this guy look depressed to you? He’s El Chapo, the big drug guy and this was taken moments after he was arrested. He seems deep in thought, maybe he’s plotting his next escape. Or maybe he’s wondering why the hell he didn’t get the hell out of Dodge when he had the chance. He was picked up in his own home state, which he never left after his prison escape. Hell, looo, it’s a big world out there and you’ve got more than a bil- lion dollars stashed under your mattress to buy a new passport. Why didn’t you do it?

THE UNITED STATES BY Enojoso

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February 8th, 2016
El Chapo is now a brand. Recaptured drug lord El Chapo Guzmán is in prison, probably for the rest of his life, but family members are scrambling to cash in on his name. Two of his current wives and his daughter have filed for four trademarks on 24 different brand name registrations. Among the requested brand names were several variations on Guzmán’s infamous nickname: El Chapo, El Chapo Guzmán, El Chapito and Don Chapo Guzmán.

The IMPI authorized the use of the brand El Chapo for four different marketable product categories which include precious metals, jewelry, watches, leather and faux-leather, toys, gym and sports articles, and Christmas tree ornaments, among others. Yup, that’s what I want, an ornament dangling on my Christmas tree with a mass murderer’s mug on it.


The IMPI also authorized the commercialization of scientific, nautical, topographic, photographic and cinematographic equipment, as well as costumes, footwear and headwear. Maybe El Chapo shoes, so we can walk on his face. We can only hope we extradite him to the United States before we lose the slippery son of a bitch again.

Oh, and let’s not forget the use of his name and likeness has been approved for products that include equipment and instruments to be used in education and training, and in cultural and sports activities.

Mexico hits the charts again. Not in a good way. Although Mexico did manage to move up eight spots over last year, the Mexico office of Transparency International, which produces the annual Corruption Perceptions Index, observed that there were no significant changes from last year’s index. The improvement in Mexico’s ranking in a recent world wide corruption index was due more to the fact that seven countries were dropped from the list.

According to the results, more than 6 billion people live in countries that are characterized by high levels of public-sector corruption. Armenia, Mali and the Philippines scored the same as Mexico, while many South American countries, such as Argentina, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic and Paraguay, scored significantly less. In last place this year, with eight points, were North Korea and Somalia, while Denmark took first place for the second year in a row with a score of 91. Canada was ninth best, the US was 10th.

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Caboholics Convention Is Coming To Town
If you are addicted to Cabo this might be the meeting for you.

BY DAVID HARMER

For the fifth consecutive year the annual Caboholics convention rolls into the southern Baja February 6th to 13th. You may have noticed a multitude of Gringo folks over the last couple of days wearing various forms of Caboholic memorabilia, wondering round the area’s shops, bars and restaurants. To the uninitiated it may look like winter-break for baby boomers but no, it’s much more than that. Sure the Caboholics are in town to have a great time and revel in everything that this part of Mexico has to offer. In fact it may seem that the only thing Caboholics do in moderation is moderation itself. But look closer and you will find that there is a far more laudable end game to their apparently superficial frolicking.

The Caboholics is an organization that now counts a membership of more than 7800 individuals as measured by the “likes” on the Caboholics Support Group Facebook page. They started as a small initiative five years ago when Cabo was dog meat in the media and because of the economic problems in the US. The idea of Caboholics was simple: to help local businesses survive in tough times. That early initiative has now become an international movement for the betterment of both Cabo businesses and for the hearty partiers of the Caboholics.

At the time of the first annual convention Caboholic membership stood at 150, but a hard core of only about 30 Caboholics made it down for that first convention. 300 made it down last year, and nobody knows how many will show up this year. Plus of course there are many Caboholics living locally, not all are tourists.

Caboholics is a loose organization of people who are addicted to all things Cabo. They drink, they raise money for local charities, and they drink some more. It may or may not be a coinky dink that their sponsors are mostly bars.
added that any government official that is found in violation of the law will be suspended without pay until the investigation of the complaint is over.

De la Rosa came onboard last December, following, even by Baja standards, the worst, most corrupt mayor we have had to endure. Tony Agundez lined his own pockets to the tune of millions of dollars, leaving the city bankrupt.

If the city offices are truly going to be this transparent as they promise, it marks a huge shift in our fortunes that will change our city profoundly, because if spent wisely, we would have enough money to make a difference in our quality of life. We could have such things as streets resurfaced, dirt streets paved, basic barrio services such as sewers, clean water, and electricity, and garbage picked up regularly. We should even have enough money to fix the police department, as it takes money to buy out the corrupt police, and to pay well enough to get honest men and women.

Vastly improved public safety and public works may be coming our way. Everyone who voted for Arturo de la Rosa should feel proud.

WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE... continued from page 1

For a document service, write to appointmentsloscabos@state.gov with your name and the type of service you require, and they double pinkie promise you will be contacted to arrange an appointment on the next available date. Maybe.

For further details on requirements for each of these services, visit their webpage:

- Passports: www.tijuana.us consulate.gov/tijuana/passports.html
- Consular Reports of Birth Abroad: www.tijuana.us consulate.gov/reporting_of_birth_abroad.html
- Notarial Services: www.tijuana.us consulate.gov/public_services.html

For after-hours emergencies, call the Duty Officer at the U.S. Consulate General up in Tijuana and see what good that's going to do you. From Mexico, dial 001 (619) 692-2154, from the U.S., call (619) 692-2154. Local number is 624 143 3566 consagencyloscabos@state.gov.

Here are the dates there might be someone in town to help you. Remember, write for an appointment for these dates.

- 2/16-19
- 3/8-11
- 3/29-4/1
- 4/19-22
- 5/10-13

Subscribe!! or we'll throw the kitty under the bus
Go to page 44
The Whales Are Here!
Ooh! Let’s go out and pet them!

BY MELISSA HEISLER

Starting in December a new class of guest started arriving in Cabo San Lucas – humpback and California gray whales, and like the other tourists, they enjoy swimming in the Sea of Cortez. Between January and March it is hard to go out into the sea without seeing one of these grand beasts. Be sure not to miss them as by the end of April they are packed up and heading back home to Alaska. Just what they pack is a mystery to us, but we’re sure they must bring something with them besides the barnacles on their backs.

Whales visit us for three reasons. First, they come down to get laid. As they do not have easy access to online dating, whales come here to play the dating scene and try to hook up. “Scuse, it’s always dicey to use the term “hook up” to a fish.

Secondly, the female whales come here to safely give birth. After partying down in Cabo the year before, female whales gestate for 11 to 13 months so on their next trip down they are ready to release a new whale into the world.

The third and final reason we’re blessed with their presence is the mamas bring their calves down to teach them the route of the annual 6000 mile trek from Alaska to Cabo. These youngsters will need to take notes, as the next year they will be on their own.

Many opportunities to see whales firsthand are available to us. From tiny little pangas to huge party boats, anyone with a prop is willing to take you out to the whales, although only those with a license to take out whale watchers are legally allowed to do it.

Pricing ranges from $120 at the excursion stands you see around town, (or less or even free if you sign up for a time share presentation but doing that is pretty extreme), to the smaller more personal tours with a guide costing around $90, to a larger more comfy boat and a meal for $49 to $80. You can often go out for as low as $20 dollars if you can talk a water taxi guy into heading a little further out to sea than they usually like to go. Again, it is illegal for those guys to get very close, so you’re paying for and getting a cut rate deal. Most tours last two to two and a half hours.

Besides price, see if your tour group has a marine biologist on board for questions and education. And ask how many people you will be sharing the boat with, and if they have a hydrophone to hear the whales’ underwater chatter, that’s fun to eavesdrop on.

Also check to see if the company is aware of and recognizes the work of the Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC) and the World Cetacean Alliance (WCA). These organizations believe whales and dolphins have begun to move away from areas where a lot of boat-based watch-
“Confidence exam” is our phrase for failing a lie detector test for past corruption capers.

Highway alert! The ministry of communications and transport (SCT) announced last week that a new overpass will be built at the crossroads of Leona Vicario and Constituyentes streets (known as the hump) to resolve the bottleneck that was created by the new overhead toll road.

trash heap help. The city has just acquired 20 brand new garbage trucks. Mayor Arturo de la Rosa said last week that “it is a priority to provide good quality public services to the city. We inherited a very inefficient administration with lots of vehicles broken down, but we’re working hard at improving it,” adding that only eight trucks out of 39 were in working conditions when he took over last December.

Volcano alert! Not. A citizens’ report sent the civil protection agency (sort of like FEMA but much more efficient), scrambling to what seemed like a new volcano a rumbling. It wasn’t such. The smoke erupting from the ground was an underground fire in a Cabo San Lucas’ dump site that spontaneously began burning. The city’s fire department zoomed out and with the aid of heavy equipment, it’s under control. Note “under control.” They aren’t claiming it’s out.

Come Paint! Join a group of enthusiasts for the first weekly plein air (outdoor) painting adventure or any week you can make it. They meet at the Baja Beanery between 9 am and 9:30 am every Friday and take off from there to a painting site. Bring sun gear, water and a lunch, as well as drawing/painting materials and a trash bag. All levels welcome, no fee, no instructor, just fun. Email if you want a free copy of “You Can Paint Plein Air!” for beginners. Jolyn Wells-Moran, jowellsmoran@gmail.com, www.jowellsmoran.com.

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Police Try To Break Up Barricade Of Public Road
Protest closed the road 3 months ago

BY BARB DWYER

Early one morning last week the state police swooped down on a handful of protestors who had been blocking a public road round the clock in Todos Santos since October 29.

The protestors managed to shut down construction on a beach they had fished from for generations. The tourist hotel was being built by Tres Santos, a mega residential, farm, recreation, and hotel development that simply took out a permit to use that land, something the fishermen had neglected to do.

So, with no good legal leg to stand on, the fishermen barricaded access to the beach. They built a very cozy lean-to that the men took turns sleeping in by night and the women cooked meals in it and took refuge from the sun by day.

Dozens of heavily armed and heavily armored police showed up, along with an ominous looking empty bus that looked quite capable of hauling all the protestors off to somewhere else. But the police explained nobody had to be taken anywhere, that the fishermen were welcome to keep protesting, but the public road would have to be re-opened.

There has been bad blood between many of the locals and the American developers, which the developers have done nothing to patch up. Every stupid move they make just loses them more support.

They promised the fishermen nice fish cleaning facilities would be built for them for compensation but that never happened. Then they promised they would build a desalinization plant so they would not be taking scarce water from the town, but that never happened.

They also promised the fishermen could still use the beach in front of the hotel, but then the developers screwed up the beach by dumping boulders on it.

Each of these questionable decisions digs the Tres Santos people into a bigger public relations hole, but still they push on.

The protestors hold up a sign for the media saying “Governor, is this the way to rule? By repression?”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27
Buying Beachfront Property in Mexico

BY CHERYL MILLER

If scientists made a list of the top 10 most common desires of western cultural peoples, among them would be a home on the beach! How many times have you visited a beautiful beach area and dreamed of a place on the sand? Or thought how tranquil life would be to live next to the sea? It is a common dream. But, there is an old saying that "They just are not making beachfront anymore!" And how true it is! Which, as a result, beachfront property in most western cultures, is higher in price than the property behind it. Whether you are looking in the United States, Mexico, Spain, Italy, Costa Rica, you name it. It is a fact of life! The days of a $20,000 USD beachfront lot are way over. You may be able to find some remote spot where prices are lower, but relatively speaking, that lower price there is offset by the price of access; hot, desert, dirt, kidney-rattling roads, and an isolation from comforts and services that may be too much for most modern men to justify or get their wives to agree to! For the most part, just be aware that beachfront is beachfront and it is more expensive than back row beach properties. They simply are not making beachfront anymore; it is a finite commodity.

So how does Baja California Sur: Los Cabos and La Paz Counties beachfront properties fare in the world markets? Very well, indeed. Of course, the closer you are to the action the higher the price, just like anywhere in the world. Certainly a riverside lot in Manhattan will be much higher in price than a river side property in western remote Idaho. Same is true with beachfront here in Mexico.

Beachfront in the tourist zones of Los Cabos starts at around $1000 US/m2 (or about $90/sf) and goes up from there. If YOU CAN FIND ANY LEFT. But areas such as Cerritos, Elias Calles, the East Cape offer beachfront ownership starting on average of about $100/m2 (ABOUT $10/sf) and up. There are occasionally some bargains out there. Compare that to prices in San Diego, Malibu, Costa del Sol in Spain, or Costa Rica. We still have some of the lowest prices around with spectacular views, easy regulations and permitting processes, close to paved roads and emergency services and just a 2 hour plane ride from most of the southwest and Midwest southern states! So your dreams can come true.

What you need to know about buying beachfront property in Mexico:

1) All coastal properties in Mexico are protected by the Constitution of the United States of Mexico as being in the "Restricted Zone". If you are a foreigner, you will need to hold title in a fideicomiso, or bank trust good for 50 years and that is renewable.

2) Any beachfront property in all of Mexico, whether owned by a Mexican National or a Foreigner MUST obtain an approved Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prior to being allowed to build. If you have no plans to build a permanent structure, and just want to hold land, this does not apply. You can own land and sell it without an EIR. BUT, contrary to popular impressions, Mexico DOES INDEED have a sophisticated process and set of laws to protect its natural areas and beaches. The EIR will establish if there are any endangered or protected species of plants / animals on your property. If there are, you may have restrictions or procedures to follow to further protect them, or to replace them. It also establishes the stability of the coastline, and specifically geographically and structurally of your property. It establishes the rules and regulations for construction, for protection of migrating species such as turtles, and the building envelope limits on the site, height and allowed building areas. Personally, all of the EIR reports I have read here in Mexico, they are logical, easy to maintain in compliance, and reasonable in all facets. As an architect formerly from Southern California who has designed homes on the beach in Malibu and other coastline areas, the requirements in Mexico are a "walk-in-the-park" in comparison. But it is the responsibility of the person wanting to build to obtain this report and to pay for all of its approvals. Not the Seller of raw land. Do not expect that a Seller of raw land on the beach will have done this for you or will be willing to do this for you as a contingency of the sale. It will not happen. Cost? Depends on the area, but prices start at $8,000 USD and go up to $30,000 for a home site, and the process takes about 6 months to accomplish. If you are looking to do a large project, prices are higher and the process longer. But it is still a heck of a lot cheaper and faster than the same process in the United States.

3) As a foreigner, you are restricted to ownership 2000m2 or less without having to comply with the Foreign Investment Clause. Anything 2000.0000000001m2 and greater kicks in a requirement to commit to invest a specified dollar amount within 2 years of purchase. Most times, this amount starts at $250,000 US Dollars and goes up based on the size of the property. The Notarios are now checking to see that this clause has been complied with and the requirement is set in place.
Should You Build Your Own Home Here?

There are advantages and disadvantages, let us count the ways

BY LETICIA DIAZ RIVERA

If you already fell in love with Baja but have not decided on the property that best fits your lifestyle, have you considered building to your needs? The keen advantage of building is that you get exactly what you want in every aspect.

Here are our top 5 reasons to build your Baja dream home:

No cookie-cutter: You can go as minimalistic or as inno-

vative as you wish.

Cost efficient: You will definitely be in the know and will ultimately have better control over the qualities and choice of the building materials.

One Step ahead: Should you chose to rent/sell your property once it is completed, a financial model can be worked out with all the different scenarios and what the return on your investment will look like.

That new house smell! A new house comes with warranties as well as the utmost satisfaction of having everything brand new.

Proximity: And since we are located within a few hours flight from the United States, Canada and mainland Mexico, you can visit the progress as often as you like while using the perfect excuse to spend a couple of days by the beach!

The process is simple: you start by choosing the location and narrow it down to the community that best accommodates your lifestyle. Several communities, such as Pedregal in Cabo San Lucas and La Paz, Las Lomas Residencial in La Ribera, Puerto Los Cabos in San Jose and many more throughout Baja, have guidelines and regulations to protect and to encourage harmonized view of the residences. And because we understand the importance of choosing the right architect and builder, here are the top three things to consider:

Reputation & esthetics. We advise you to take the time to visit the properties that most appeal to you and talk to their architects to see what their designing approach is and what their advice and proposal are. Remember, a good architect will listen to your needs and specifications but will make recommendations based on their experience, the terrain you are about to build on and other relevant factors.

Budgeting & time frame. It is important that you set a budget and a time frame to work with, always allowing a 20% more in case of incidentals.

Legal advisory. A legal document will protect you and the architect and will avoid any misunderstandings in the future.

Your favorite real estate advisor in Baja California Sur can help select the best lot for your project: oceanfront, ocean view, within a private community, or off the grid.

And when it comes to building, as real estate professional, I’d like to present you Riveras Building by MCA – an award winning design services company offering precise cost estimation and project management for new construction or remodeling ventures in Baja California Sur. Riveras Building prides in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

REAL ESTATE

SECTION

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3 Tips On Getting Money To Buy Property Here

And, save on your taxes, too

BY DON D. NELSON

1. If you have lived in and occupied your US primary residence for at least two years out of the five years prior to the date it is sold, under US tax law $500,000 of any gain on sale ($250,000 if filing as single or married filing separately) is exempt from US taxation. This is one of the last big tax breaks left in the US tax code which can allow you to take the equity from your house tax free and purchase a property in Los Cabos. This same rule applies to a line of credit borrow an additional $100,000 and still have the right to deduct all interest paid on this loan on your tax return. You can use this $100,000 as part of the purchase price of your new property in Los Cabos.

2. An additional limitation on the tax deduction of mortgage interest on personal real property is that the total amount of mortgage loans on your personal residence, line of credit and perhaps a mortgage on your vacation home cannot exceed $1.1 million dollars. If the mortgaged on these properties exceed $1.1 million dollars. If the mortgage you used to purchase the property is not used to purchase the property to pull out the equity you have built up to purchase property in Los Cabos. Most often you can deduct all of that interest on your new mortgage as a rental expense on your tax return. Unlike the limits on deductible interest which exist for personal real estate, there is no limit on deductible interest on rental properties. And if allowed, you can use any tax losses produced by your rental property of offset other taxable income on your return.

3. So long as your modified adjusted gross income does not exceed $100,000 on a joint US tax return you can deduct up to $25,000 of rental property losses on your tax return to offset your other income if you actively manage your rental real estate. If your modified adjusted gross income exceeds that amount, the amount of losses you can use to offset other income is reduced. Any disallowed rental losses, (called passive losses), carry over and can be used in the future. Read IRS Publication 527 and 925 at www.irs.gov to learn the important details of this limit.

As a side note, if you purchase property in Mexico, (whether personal or rental), and use a mortgage for part of the purchase price, the same US tax rules previously discussed apply to your property in Baja Sur.

Don Nelson is a US Tax Attorney (and a retired CPA) who has assisted Americans with their US taxes and returns in Baja Sur for over 25 years. He can be reached by email at dndelson@gmail.com or at his US phone 949-480-1235. He is also in Cabo for about six months a year. His website is at : www.TaxMeLess.com. Blogs with the latest news on US expat and international tax developments are at www.usexpatriate.blogspot.com and www.us-mexicantax.blogspot.com.

US taxes on the sale of your primary residence in Mexico.

2. Though there are limits on the amount of interest you can deduct for personal taxes on your personal residence mortgage (which is generally limited by the interest payable on the current amount of the mortgage you used to purchase the property plus the amount of funds borrowed for improvements), you can always with a second mortgage or mortgages on these properties exceed the limits set forth above the interest on any mortgages above $1.1 million cannot be deducted for tax purposes.

The tax deductible interest rules of personal real estate loans are complex. See IRS Publication 936 at www.irs.gov for a full explanation of the limitations.

3. Though there are limits on the amount of interest you can deduct on your US tax return on your personal real property mortgages, if you convert your residence to a rental property you can then refinance the property to pull out the equity you have built up to purchase property in Los Cabos. Most often you can deduct all of that interest on your new mortgage as a rental expense on your tax return. Unlike the limits on deductible interest which exist for personal real estate, there is no limit on deductible interest on rental properties. And if allowed, you can use any tax losses produced by your rental property of offset other taxable income on your return.

So long as your modified adjusted gross income does not exceed $100,000 on a joint US tax return you can deduct up to $25,000 of rental property losses on your tax return to offset your other income if you actively manage your rental real estate. If your modified adjusted gross income exceeds that amount, the amount of losses you can use to offset other income is reduced. Any disallowed rental losses, (called passive losses), carry over and can be used in the future. Read IRS Publications 527 and 925 at www.irs.gov to learn the important details of this limit.

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Budgeting for Baja

A checklist for planning your escape to Baja: Part I

One of the best reasons to own a home in Mexico is the low cost of living you will enjoy. You’ll be amazed at how inexpensive many things are compared to the U.S., Canada or the E.U., but a little planning will help you avoid unpleasant surprises. Each property is different, so ask your Realtor® to help you understand how the location and type of property you purchase will impact these costs.

Water. The infrastructure in Baja California Sur has improved substantially since I arrived 12 years ago but there are still some areas where water is trucked in. That means you purchase it by the truckload and have it pumped into a storage tank on your property. Be sure you understand the source and fees for the water before you purchase your property. Whether the supply is municipal, a private well, or a common well you’re likely to find the cost surprisingly reasonable considering we live in a desert.

Increase your estimate if you have a pool or landscaping that requires a lot of water. If you are lucky enough to get your water from a potable supply, you still have to consider the method of transport. Broken or cracked pipes can lead to contamination.

The easiest way to address this is with a whole house filtration system. My husband and I found it well worth the expense to be able to drink from any water source in the house. I don’t even worry when the cats drink out of the toilet!

Food. If you are willing to adopt a diet with lots of fresh veggies, fish and fruit, you can eat like a king here on a very limited budget. You can indulge in things that are expensive in the states like avocados and mangos, but items that are less common (low fat anything, gourmet ingredients, i.e. pancetta, truffles), are going to be pricey. Likewise, you can enjoy dinner at many good Mexican restaurants for under $10/person or opt for the white linen experience for just a little less than you would pay in the states. Remember, minimum wage here is less than $5.00 US per day, so tip generously for good service.

Electricity. There is one electric company here, CFE. I have been impressed with their level of service and automation, considering they have no competition. The bill can be confusing because the charges are tiered and based on your previous usage. If you run your air conditioners all of July, expect to pay top dollar per kilowatt hour in August.

Things that impact your electricity bill include pool pumps and electric heaters. Your electric bill is due every other month and you are responsible for this whether or not you receive a physical bill. Fortunately, you can auto-pay your CFE bill if you have an account with one of the local banks.

Propane. Most homes use propane powered water heaters and stoves. Some will have a large tank and others use bottles, (those green tanks you see alongside some houses). Both are supplied by trucks that rove around honking their horns or playing a song over a speaker. You can also call them and ask for a delivery. Ever see a sign at the side of the road that says, GAS? The arrow points to the house needing a fill or replacement bottle.

Internet/Phone. Recent changes in the law suggest we may have more options in the future, but right now TelMex is your best bet for a landline with DSL. If you just want a phone, a cell phone is a good option. But DSL over a landline is a practical and fairly reliable way to get Internet. This bill can also be paid automatically with your local bank account. If TelMex service is not available at your property find out how the existing owners are connected. Some neighbors may share a connection or you may need to budget for satellite service.

Gasoline. At this writing, regular, unleaded gas was running around $3.25/gallon. Rumors of a large price decrease have proven over-optimistic but new laws allowing for foreign investment in Pemex (the national provider of gasoline in Mexico) mean it’s possible the price will not continue to rise at the historic pace.

Satellite TV. While cable has caught on, most people watching TV are doing so with a satellite connection. DishTV is the most popular. Packages vary but you can get a good selection for about $100/month. I have limited personal experience with this. We just never got around to installing TV and I must say I’m not sure when I would find time to watch it. Consider all the other wonderful ways you will enjoy passing the time here before you invest in an expensive TV package.

Stay tuned for Part II with continued on page 16.
Hot Tip: Go The Arbitration Route
And stay out of 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 piles of legal fees and time. It is a fact that in many parts of Mexico the courts are so backlogged that it can take 5 to 18 years to get a decision and are so backlogged that it can take many parts of Mexico the courts fees and time. It is a fact that in the governing law and therefore may save you untold piles of legal much quicker decision and due in the governing law and therefore can usually get a decision within nine months to a year and have that arbitration decision entered to two Beaches on Property. When parties arbitrate they can pick the arbitrator with experience in the applicable law and therefore the final decision can be arbitrary and not predictable.

Arbitration decisions in most situations cannot be appealed. But if you 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 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.

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 more on how to use arbitration in your legal disputes in Baja Sur email us at dnelson@gmail.com. Don D. Nelson, Attorney at Law, CPA.

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BUYING BEACHFRONT...
continued from page 9

with when you sell. If you have not complied and the time period expired, you will be required to either invest this money into the property or donate the specified amount to a Mexican social account serving the Mexican people in general before the sale can be ratified. This clause MAY be removed or modified in the future, but for now, it is in place and the law of the land. So, consider personal purchases of any land 2000m2 and under only, if you are a foreign purchaser.

4) Building on the beach, also carries with it many times specific structural challenges. If you are building on sand, your construction costs may be higher. Mat foundations which act like a boat in the sand, or pile footings may be required and cost more than slab on grade construction.

5) Building on a dune type structure is restricted to 20 meters behind the official “crest” of the dune as designated by Semarnat and an official survey approved by them. No permanent structures are allowed in the front of the dune. See http://www.semarnat.gob.mx/english/Pages/whatissemarnat.aspx for more info regarding Mexico’s Environmental Agencies.

All in all, if you want beachfront, there are additional costs and requirements, but nothing beats the accomplishment of a dream to walk out your back door and watch the sun set with toes in the sand on your back porch. And in Baja California Sur, Mexico, although regulated, their regulations follow logic and are easy to do.

Cheryl Miller, Broker of Baja Realty and Investments, 624-122-2690, www.forsaleinbaja.com, info@forsaleinbaja.com. So if you are seeking this dream, contact us! We can help you fulfill your dream and guide you through the steps!

BUDGETING FOR BAJA...
continued from page 14

more important items to consider when estimating your total cost of living in Baja.

Read the full article on Pam’s blog at www.homesandlandofbaja.com. Pam Gray is a Realtor® in Baja California Sur? We’ve got you covered.

When buying or selling real estate in Baja California Sur, look for the MLS symbol & enlist an MLS agent.

Buying real estate in a foreign country is unlike any experience you may have had in your home country or state in Mexico. There are simply different laws, procedures and safe guards here in Baja California Sur.

Did you know that over 300 real estate professionals have organized in Baja California Sur to insure your success in dealing with Mexican real estate? We started in 1991.

We now call ourselves MLS BCS, and we operate a Multiple Listing Service statewide in Baja California Sur with over 3000 available properties. We cover Los Cabos, Los Barriles, Todos Santos, La Paz and Loreto. Any affiliate Broker or Agent can help you locate available inventory anywhere in the state, and can quickly connect you with the properties and agents in the area of interest.

WHY USE AN MLS BCS AGENT?
Our MLS BCS agents and brokers subscribe to the strictest set of local Operating Policies and Procedures in the Country. These OPP’s are the result of hammering out 41 years of dealings with foreign investment on the Anvil of Experience. Each member also agrees to follow the Code of Ethics of the Mexican Association of Real Estate Professionals (AMPI), and subscribes to the Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics of the National Association of Realtors in the USA.

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

Agent Profile
Karen Langton

Karen came to Cabo with hopes of retirement after her years as a Corporate Trainer at a humanitar-ian organization and running an e-sales business out of her home. Just one visit to Cabo convinced her retirement should always include sun, sand, and warm breezes, so it was easy to leave the wet cold of the Pacific Northwest behind.

After settling in and realizing she wasn’t ready for retirement, Karen joined her husband as a Real Estate agent team. Their combined effort on behalf of all their clients, whether sellers or investors, includes what she fondly calls ‘aftercare’: an ongoing service excellence that begins with an initial inquiry and continues after a client is introduced to, and welcomed into, the area.

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The national electricity monopoly now has competition from the private sector beginning last week when the state of Baja, (not our state, Bunky, we’re Baja Sur), launched the first day-ahead wholesale power market. Prices averaged about $19.20 for power to be delivered the following day, slightly less than those in Texas.

Trading on the new market, operated by the National Energy Control Centre, or Cenace, rolled out throughout Mexico the following day. The new system means that private companies will be able to generate and sell power, which was until now the sole domain of CFE.

There will be two levels of customers under the new scheme, those that consume 3 MW or less, who will remain customers of CFE, and the large firms that consume more than that, who will be able to generate their own electricity, or to buy it from the provider they choose. Awe, poo. Once again the little guy takes it in the neck. The price the average household pays for electricity is way more than say, in the state of California, according to my Gringa boss who about has a heart attack every time the electric bill comes in. Don’t blame me, I can see in the dark, it’s not me turning on all the lights around here.

Who likes dogs? Petco México, a joint venture between retail holding company Grupo Gigante and U.S. firm Petco Animal Supplies Inc., has announced it will invest more than $10 million U.S. to open another 12 stores in Mexico this year. Double-digit growth in same-store sales last year were higher than expectations. The company plans to have 50 stores operating by 2018; it finished last year with 18 located in six states and the Federal District, serving between 130,000 and 140,000 clients per month. So, why can’t we get the local Mexicans to help out with the local shelters? The Yucatan Times reported last September that Mexico City authorities capture and kill 20,000 dogs a month, and that more than 16,000 dogs and cats live on the streets of Manzanillo, in the state of Colima.

Coldwell added that, on the bright side, the state-run oil producer was able to raise $5 billion in bonds. The money will be invested in projects that have been suspended until recently, he explained, such as badly needed...
One of the many grateful recipients of Caboholic fund raising is El Ranchito which is a no kill temporary home for distressed dogs. In this case a single donation from a corporate Caboholic member, Baja International Realty, kept El Ranchito open for three months over the summer when their funds simply dried up.

The other two initial recipients of Caboholic philanthropy were the humane society and the local volunteer fire department. In recent years both Feeding Los Cabos Kids and Ecopean, (turtle huggers), have been added to the grateful roster of aid recipients. The aid provided is not just cash. Caboholics supply leads for dogs and reading glasses for the elderly. According to the group, they don’t really help local communities directly but prefer to nudgudge groups who want to give, into the right direction. Sponsorship of the Caboholic

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30
What’s An Apostille, And How Do I Get One Of Those?

Assuming, of course, that I even want one

BY ORLANDO GOTAY

Some time ago, I attended an event where I had the opportunity to listen to the concerns of expats. One was patently clear. People were concerned of what wrapping up their affairs be like, if they die while residing in Mexico.

One of the things that people discover when the time comes, is that local authorities will require documents such as birth, marriage or divorce certificates from your home country. In original, of course. But here comes the rub.

Let’s take a birth certificate. In the United States, an original stands on its own, and requires no further authentication. Outside of the United States, by itself, it can be just about useless. Enter the Apostille [uh-pos-til].

An Apostille is a certificate of authenticity issued by a designated authority in a country that recognizes the Hague Convention abolishing the requirement for legalization of foreign public documents is in force.

Apostilles authenticate the seals and signatures of officials on government documents such as birth certificates, notarials (affidavits), court orders, or any other document issued by a government authority, so they can be recognized in foreign countries that are parties to the Convention. Mexico and the U.S. recognize documents with apostilles. Sorry, Canada is not a member of the Convention and therefore has an even more complex procedure to get documents authenticated. Eh?

Each state in the United States has a procedure to issue apostilles to their own documents. In California, it’s all done by the Department of State. The document has to be sent or carried to their office, a fee paid, then the apostille is attached and returned to you. Federal government documents get apostilles by the US Department of State also.

You can see that this multiple step process can take quite a bit of time and hassle, which is precisely why I am a strong advocate for getting these documents apostilled ahead of time. I have come to learn that when those types of documents are needed, they are often needed right away.

Depending from where one needs an apostille, the cost varies. Getting an apostille on my own birth certificate by the Puerto Rico Secretary of State cost $3. Thanks Mom!

Orlando Gotay is a California licensed tax attorney (with a Master of Laws in taxation) admitted to practice before the IRS, the U.S. tax court and other taxing agencies.

His love of things Mexican has led him to devote part of his practice to the tax matters of U.S. expats in Mexico. He can be reached at tax@orlandogotay.com.
Efraín Vacila Sierra, 56 years old, construction worker.

I think the only good thing is how it’s going to take a lot of people to build the new development, like me, who depend on construction to bring our families food and shelter. If it does end up being built, it will be huge and the investors will want it to be quick, so I think they will hire a lot of construction workers. The bad part about it is the obvious, they are cutting down a huge part of a natural reserve and there will be consequences. All the animals that died added a special balance to the place.

Evelyn Guerrero, 34 years old, personal chef.

I had no idea it was so bad until I saw an article online, the real problem is that we are letting go of our land to make a few bucks and then they will build something bigger and nicer and we will have that area that used to be a mangrove and we will kick ourselves when we have no more nature. The good thing is, that the project will bring millions of pesos for our economy, I hope it all stays in our economy and not in the politicians’ pockets.

Silvia Gutierrez Manriquez, 27 years old, dental assistant.

It’s very hard to have a positive perspective about this, because all I’ve read is negative and really awful. The only thing I guess is good is the people are coming together to fight for the cause, something we all should do. The negative side is so big, but right now all I can think about are the pictures of dead crocodiles that have been circling around the internet, and we are killing our planet, no wonder why the extreme weather sometimes, we are taking it out of balance. (The pictures of the dead animals have been exposed as faked by those against it).

Adriana Galvez Soto, 34 years old, dentist.

I don’t think it’s as bad as the papers make it look. In real life, there is like 20 times more mangroves around, the pictures show just that little bit. It will bring money to our country, tourists, jobs for our people. Sure they could have taken the time to make sure all the animals made it safely to another location, but who is going to pick up a crocodile? They are a millennia species, they will survive. I hope they use that space well and do things right, not just leave it half way done, then it will be bad.

Valeria Murillo, 22 years old, unemployed.

The project would be a good idea if it were done where there weren’t as many little animals harmed. I went to Cancun once and there is so much jungle and space that mangroves could have been torn down without the effect people say there will be on this area. The bad thing is that we are always doing things the wrong way, there are far too many inconsistencies with the approval and probably a lot of money involved for private parties. I bet that if that money were given to the people we would all think that was a brilliant idea.
The new toll road is open, so hop on it, it’s fast, relatively empty, and not so expensive at about $4 to drive from Cabo directly to the airport in San Jose. The road parallels the fourlane, but further up the hill.

**CABOHOLICS SCHEDULE...**

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**continued from page 4**

- **Tuesday February 9th**
  - 9:00 – 12:00: Giving back – Feeding Los Cabos Kids.

- **Wednesday February 10th**
  - 9:00 – 1:00: Giving back – El Ranchito dog home in San Jose. Grayline tours is sponsoring transportation.

- **Thursday February 11th**
  - 9:00 – 12:00: Giving back – visit to the Los Cabos Humane Society

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Oofa. It looks a little screwy to us, does it look a little screwy to you? Are you sure the bridge should connect to terra firma that way? Just to be sure, be careful on the bridges, maybe hurry across them. Maybe even take the old road.

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Go to page 44

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Fish Report

BY GARY GRAHAM

Sometimes the fishing gets tough and when that happens the excuses begin to fly — sea temps are too hot or too cold, the moon is too bright — these are just a few of the favorite excuses. Fortunately, January has gone and prospects are becoming more favorable in February. Inshore and offshore fatty mixed in.

Dorado, a favorite for visiting anglers, were in short supply with only a handful of boats being able to catch one or two. However, the wahoo seem never to have left and are still being caught frequently. Those who preferred to re-heading into the Sea of Cortez is holding at 75 to 76 degrees. Surface breezes flowing mostly from the westerly directions and ranges from nearly calm morn- ings to 13 mph.

San Jose

Yellowfin action was reported on the more distant Pacific Banks for a larger grade of yellowfin. The Iman Bank was producing tuna to over 30-pounds, though with the northern winds and sea lion presence, this has been a tough bite recently.

Wahoo have been playing hide and seek games as usual, though recently they became more and more active close to shore; trolling lures and baits are your best bet early in the morn- ing, but there are chances at all hours of the day. You just have to be in the right place at the precise time when these finicky feeders decide to strike. The wahoo now being landed have been in the 15- to 40-pound range. Anglers re- ported wahoo action off of Santa Maria, Palmilla, Punta Gorda and Iman Bank. Last season some of our best wahoo action was found in mid-February. Striped marlin action has been improving, found straight outside the Puerto Los Cabos Marina, anywhere from one to four miles from shore; most strikes were on caballito, soaking down deep, or slow-trolling baits on the surface, or even occasion- ally gun and run to feeding fish.

Not much going on for sierra — sporadic action found, though some dorado were caught very close to shore, attracted by available baitfish. More dorado available all the time with sizes ranging up to 20-pounds. Anglers were fortunate to find one or two recently . . . no big numbers of any particular spe- cies now.

Bottom action was tough, mainly due to the windy days. It has been hard to reach the more productive areas to the north; closer inshore, where it was more protected from gusty winds, most common catches were for triggerfish, a handful of snapper, bonito and cabrilla.

East Cape

While much of the attention in January centered around wind surfing, on the days that the wind failed to blow, the locals found remarkable action. Out in front of La Ribera the striped marlin made an unreasonable appear- ance. Not too far offshore, boats were reporting several releases per day. Adding to the exciting discovery was the more surpris- ing catch of a few wahoo in the same area. Farther north Bernie Bathgate hooked a wahoo trolling a ballyhoo, south of the Palmas Hotel; they also had a nice dorado

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GRINGO Gazette Cabo

Fish Releaser of the Week

Bernie Bathgate with his prize January wahoo at East Cape.

Striped marlin action has been improving, found straight outside the Puerto Los Cabos Marina, anywhere from one to four miles from shore; most strikes were on caballito, soaking down deep, or slow-trolling baits on the surface, or even occasion-

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. Amenities include a world class spa, gourmet restaurants, tennis courts, lush tropical landscaped walkways and gardens, multiple pools, hot tub and Zen garden. $875K.
Donald was found near San Jose. He belonged to a man who just abandoned him to die as he was leaving town. Second chances are what we do best at Baja Safe so we went to work on Don. He is now ready for his forever home. He’s free of mange, he’s been neutered, and his shots are up to date. He’s about 3 years old and happy and healthy, currently at our shelter Safe Paws under Melissa’s care.

We Love Before And After Shots

Now This Is A Press Release

Sorry, we got so excited about finally receiving a professionally created press release, we forgot to tell you what this is about

BY ROBBY Z

The Los Cabos Senior Center is the only non-profit organization in Los Cabos that provides food, shelter, clothing, medical treatment, arts and crafts, exercise classes and many other benefits to the seniors of our community. They have made huge strides over the past six months and they want to share their progress with you.

1) They now have a board of directors who are providing guidance and direction
2) They now have an English website, which is www.caboseniorcenter.com/language/en/
3) They now have a Facebook page in english at facebook.com/CaboSeniorCenter/
4) They have just entered into a contract with The Monarca Foundation in Canada so Canadian supporters can now donate to the Senior Center through Monarca and receive a full Canadian tax write off.
5) They are now fully approved for Mexican tax deduction for all donations made in Mexico
6) They have opened a checking account at Santander bank which is controlled and governed by the board of directors. They can accept Mexican checks and cash directly into this account and provide tax receipts for all donations (100% of every donation goes to purchasing food and supplies, nothing goes to overhead).
7) They have purchased a used truck that is being used to zip around town picking up food donations from various resorts who have leftovers.
8) They are creating a lot of awareness through social media about the Center which is working well in getting more people volunteering and helping
9) They now have a full working kitchen with refrigerators, freezers, stoves, ovens and everything needed to supply healthy meals to the Seniors.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36
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watching and plans to offer accreditation in the future. This seems to be just turf building, as there are already non profit organizations in place that do this. Also, Semarnat, a federal ecological agency, licenses all boats that go near whales. To get the license the boat hand must take a two hour course on do's and don’ts of whale encounters, and pass a test.

If you go out whale watching in Cabo you can’t expect to pet them, because here we have the humpback whales who frequently show aggressive behaviors such as breaches, tail slaps, and pectoral fin slaps. Occasionally humpbacks approach the boat but that is very rare and for short time, nothing compared to the gray whales in Lopez Mateos north of here. Those up there are gray whales and behave differently from the humpbacks, and the encounter with these animals is very different: In Magdalena bay it is possible to pet them, as they are more mellow, and often come right up to the boat.

CaboTrek is one local whale watching company that takes the safety of their customers and a respect for the whales seriously, even providing a marine biologist onboard. As a World Cetacean Alliance partner, CaboTrek states they “work diligently towards creating a common consciousness and understanding of the oceans and we strive to make a difference in this world by interacting with it responsibly and humanely.” This tour group ensures they maintain a safe distance from the whales and works to educate their adventurers on ways they can help the whales and other amazing wildlife around Cabo San Lucas.

If you decide to take a boat out to see one of these grand mammals, it doesn’t really matter what time of day you go out, as they’re always there. Whales do not have normal sleep schedules like we do. Whenever they need a little downtime, they shut down half of their brain to sleep, counting on the other half of their brain to keep them afloat and be aware of their surroundings. February is the best month to see the new babies with their mothers mostly concentrated in the area between Punta Ballena and Medano Beach.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36
PREPARE YOURSELF
A new concept in Oceanfront Living is coming to Los Cabos

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These materials are not an offer to sell or solicitation to purchase property to any resident of a state or country where registration is required prior to such offer or solicitation, and is void where prohibited by law.
Foreigners are forbidden to participate in politics, period. Those who do, are subject to article 33 of the constitution, which clearly states that any foreigner who gets involved in Mexican politics will be deported instantly. Just ask our Gringa boss about that law, she is now very familiar with it.

Luckily, the time Mexican immigration knocked on Buck’s door – he is a part-time resident of Todos Santos - he had chartered a jet and flew out of the country. Will he get picked up when he returns? Maybe. He’s done a lot of good for Todos Santos, as all proceeds from the music fest go to the Palapa Society, which helps children of low-income families. But that’s not enough to give him a pass to call out politicians who can simply use immigration officials to get rid of him. Stay tuned.

La Paz malecon to be restored. API, Mexico’s government agency that manages the public marinas, will spend more than 300 grand in restoring the La Paz malecon, which was badly damaged by hurricane Odile in 2014.

Sidewalks and retaining walls were destroyed by the storm, but now the government is coming to the rescue of this popular and beautiful area, a year and a half late, but hey, this is Mexico. Why whine over a little tardiness if you move down here escaping the American or Canadian rat race. You got out of that, didn’t you?

More goodies for us. The economic development secretary said last week that his administration will attempt to build an aquarium and an ocean museum to benefit marine research and aid more tourist development. In La Paz, our state’s capital city. The project will cost some $44 million and would be built somewhere near the beach and the malecon with the help of the National Polytech Institute and the National Council of Science and Technology who may also invest in it. 

Stay tuned.

WHAT’S GOING ON IN THIS... continued from page 17

refineries. Mexico is hurting so badly for refining capacity, it sends much of its oil to the United States for refining, and then brings it back into the country. No wonder we’re all whining about the price of gasoline.

Mexico is the world’s tenth largest oil producer in the world and it relies on oil for 10 percent of its total exports, which account for some 18 percent of its budget.
February 8th, 2016

**Every Monday**, 8:30 am
Pickleball in San Jose. Contact rondumbarton@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

**Every Thursday**, 12:00 – 8:00 pm. Artisans Market at Maco Raspad (Vegetarian restaurant). On the road to the Hacienda beach resort (behind the Puerto Paraiso mall), across from the Marina Fiesta hotel.

**Every Thursday** from 6pm to 9pm. Art Walk. Historic downtown, San Jose. Visit galleries, many serve wine, they close down the street.

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

**Every Friday** Palmita Market Every Friday 9 am to 1 pm in the parking lot of the Palmita strip center

**Every Friday** Todos Santos Farmers Market. Music and fun stuff. James Black, merlo4u@earthlink.net, www.facebook.com/Todos-Santos-Farmers-Market-937899742952014/?tref=hl, (612) 134-8728, Todos Santos. It moves around, so check where it is this week.

**Every Friday** night from 5:00 - 9:00 pm at the Amelia Wilkes Plaza in downtown Cabo. The Artisan Market. Nothing made in China here.

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

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

**Every Saturday**. 9am to 3pm. The San Jose organic market behind downtown San Jose, off of Centenario St.

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

**February 12 to 14**, VinAmo Love and Wine Festival. To celebrate Valentine’s Day. 3 Day event starts Friday February 12, Shimul’s Flying Guitars. Concert by Corazones en la Huerta from 7:00 to 10:00 pm. T and plenty of seating and space for $50 pesos, or about $5 bucks gets you 1 emblematic red wine glass, 2 glasses of Shimul wine, country style food at 3 different food stations (all you can eat). Premium wines will be sold by the bottle

**February 13 from 6:00 to 10:00 pm**. The Shimul Flying Guitars will play at Sorritos restaurant in La Paz along with a 5 course pairing of Mexican fusion cuisine. Wines from the Shimul winery from Valle de Guadalupe in northern Baja. Shimul has been the winner 3 times in a row at the Todos Santos GastroVino Festival. The concert / pairing dinner is limited to 40 seats. Cost $72 bucks.

**Sunday**, February 14 from 6:00 to 10:00 pm. Music fusion concert by Los Valentinos at Tre Galline restaurant. Rest is same as above. labodegadetodossantos@gmail.com or look up: www.vinamofest.com.

**February 28, Sunday**, 2016 Historic Home Tour Of Todos Santos. An opportunity to view a piece of Todos Santos history. These magnificent homes will be open for only one day to tell the story of a past era rich in cultural and social graces. These homes will draw you back to a time of pride and prosperity in a humble mission town and give you insight into the lifestyle people enjoyed in the past century. Supports the Palapa Society and its many charitable causes. Paul Bumann, paul@boominenterprises.com, Ph. 612-178-0062.

**March 3 to 5**. Los Cabos Baja Biker Week. An estimated 1,200 bikers will be visiting La Paz, Todos Santos and Los Cabos. Information: http://www.bajaridersmc.com/

**March 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18 & 19** – Baja Shakespeare presents its 16th Season, The Lost Barrels of Pleasure Island. All shows at 7:00pm except Sunday matinee on the 13th at 1:30pm. In Convention Center at Hotel Buenavista Beach Resort in Spa, offering special room rates and pre-show dinners, call directly: 624-142-0099 or info@hotelbuenavista.com. Ticket price is $20USD or 350 pesos, purchase at Homes & Land of Baja and Galeria Los Angeles or Will Call, nanametbden@gmail.com, 624-141-0314. More details at: www.facebook.com/BajaShakespeare/

To get your event listed here, email the details to david@gringogazette.com. There is no charge.
Did You Miss Constitution Day Again?

How could you, this is a biggie around here. Most of us got jammed up in the parade

BY DON PARTIE

February 5th was Mexican Constitution Day, commemorating the day it was signed - February 5th, 1917. Nowadays, the official observance is on the first Monday in February, which this year was February 1st.

Both the Mexican and the U.S. Constitutions are products of the cultures which produced them and the times in which they were drafted. Here we do a little comparison, just to give you a frame of reference to better understand the Mexican document.

The U.S. Constitution was drafted in 1787 and was a product of the Anglo-American political tradition, incorporating principles which had been developing in England since medieval times, the political experiences of the colonial and independence periods in the U.S., and other influences the drafters incorporated. It was designed for a republic with a limited government.

The Mexican Constitution was drafted in the early 20th century, as a result of the Mexican Revolution. The government envisaged in the Mexican Constitution is an activist state, dedicated to bringing about social justice among its citizens.

The Mexican Constitution is longer than ours, for which there are several reasons. The Mexican Constitution spells out in detail many legal principles, including the responsibilities of local governments. For example, it stipulates that the government of a municipio (more or less equivalent to a county) has to operate a slaughterhouse for livestock.

Mexico has a European Civil law system, in which it’s more necessary to spell out legal principles in the constitution. The U.S. has an English Common Law system, in which legal principles are dealt with in judicial precedents.

Legal guarantees in the U.S. Constitution are much more limited but the Mexican Constitution stipulates similar rights, but also guarantees that Mexicans have the right to a good job and decent housing. However, as subsequent Mexican history has shown, just decreeing rights doesn’t make them a reality. But since they are in the Mexican Constitution, the demand for them does exist.

The right to bear arms is part of the U.S. Bill of Rights, and it is also guaranteed in the Mexican constitution (Article 18). Nevertheless, over the years, gun rights have been severely restricted here in Mexico. Try that in the U.S! Of course this hasn’t prevented drug traffickers from bearing arms, including rocket launchers and grenades, as recent cartel violence shows so well.

The Mexican Constitution recognizes freedom of religion, but puts more restrictions on churches and clergy than does the U.S. Constitution. Until recently, clergymen weren’t allowed to vote in Mexico and still cannot run for office.

Listen up, this part is for you! The Mexican Constitution spells out the rights and duties of Mexican citizens, and non-Mexicans residing in Mexico. This was a result of some foreign interventions in Mexican history. (Did you know there was an arch duke of Austria who was president of Mexico? The Mexicans eventually executed him.) Foreigners are forbidden from getting mixed up in Mexican politics. Article 33 stipulates that foreigners who violate this principle can be expelled from Mexico, and this happens from time to time.

Article 25 of the Mexican constitution designates the Mexican government as the “rector” of national development. That

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37
rejuvenation vacation is the solution. Spa Cielo Laser, Wellness and Weight Loss Center in San Jose del Cabo has built its business over the past 10 years with its clientele of vacationers visiting Los Cabos to meet those vacationer desires. “People want to look better, but they don’t want to give up any time from their daily lives or vacation” said Cathy Dammann, Medical Aesthetics Practitioner and Owner of Spa Cielo Laser, Wellness and Weight Loss Center. “The public is demanding transformation with little pain or downtime” states Dammann. Spa Cielo, which specializes in the latest light and laser treatments, offers a variety of treatments every day before her wedding or someone who wants to go home looking five years younger.

The HydraFacial™ is the first step in skin rejuvenation for someone in their 30’s or 40’s who doesn’t really need laser or for someone who is looking to maintain their skin in their 50’s and 60’s. HydraFacial™ were even featured in InStyle magazine in 2009 as the “hottest celebrity pre-bridal facial”. All the notoriety is with good reason. The HydraFacial is the only system to vacuum extract; wet- microderm and vortex skin exfusions, following a computerized customized treatment plan based on the individual’s skin type and needs. “It is truly amazing!” exclaims Cathy.

On the other end of the spectrum, Spa Cielo offers fractional CO2 laser treatments, named “#1 in Antioxidation, sun damage, precancerous as well as benign lesions and uneven skin texture. This is the only laser treatment at Spa Cielo that requires any downtime, typically less than 5 days.

All of the other laser treatments at Spa Cielo, including TITAN™, a non-surgical facelift, recipient of the Aesthetic Medicine Award for “Best Customer Experience and Satisfaction”, can be performed the day before a media or public relations event. LifeStyle Lift Now Available at Spa Cielo.

Spa Cielo offers a complimentary VISIA™ computerized complexion analysis, which allows a customized treatment program for efficient rejuvenation in shortest amount of time. Make your time here a rejuvenation vacation. Call 624-105-2209 to schedule your complimentary VISIA™.

Cathy Dammann is a Medical Aesthetics Practitioner and has certifications in Aesthetics, and Light and Laser Therapies. She is a member of the International Association for Physicians in Aesthetic Medicine and the recipient of the 2012 “Successful Women of the Baja” by Baja Traveler Magazine. She has made numerous appearances on talk shows including Oprah. Spa Cielo’s physicians and staff are trained and certified in United States and Mexico and are bilingual. Spa Cielo Laser and Wellness Center holds a five star rating and received the “2013 Award of Excellence” from Trip Advisor and has the experience you look for in a laser medical spa.

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The owner of Hooligans bar, Stephanie Ormiston, is also a big convention supporter and has been a sponsor for each event since 2013 when she took over the restaurant and bar. “Caboholics are amazing word of mouth communicators and via their web site and Facebook page their positive reviews of my restaurant and bar is extremely helpful marketing for me. Of course the great work they do in the community makes our support a no-brainer. From the instant I was asked by the group founders to help, we jumped on board.”

So if you are a Caboholic with no desire to find a cure but a strong desire to spend time with other similarly afflicted sole in a support group, talking all things Baja, join. Because no matter how hard you try not to think about it you just know that this little part of Mexico will always be washing around your consciousness. And even if you consider your addiction to be absolutely normal behavior, make your way to the Caboholic store at Plaza Nautica in downtown Cabo, stand tall, and confess to store manager Angel Castelan your name and that you are a Caboholic. He will introduce you to the rest of the support group who are equally afflicted by such a need for all things Cabo. Yes, there are others who travel down here to get their fix multiple times a year. A word of warning however; you will probably stumble out with a Caboholic T-shirt and be on your way to meeting new friends who you have a lot in common with.

For more information go to www.caboholics.com.
Chuck Holes And Water Leaks On A Main Drag

Wherein we try to sort out acts of God from crappy engineering

BY CATHY WATKINS

On the corridor between San Jose and Cabo San Lucas, more near Cabo, there are often several big puddles of water standing on the service road in front of the Corona deposito, next to the Pepsi plant. Pot holes too. The water fills the pot holes, now you've got a lake in the middle of the road. The pot holes keep getting deeper and wider due to the action of the water on them. Now we've got like Lake Superior, the action of the water on them. getting deeper and wider due to the corridor. The pot holes keep chronic and so is the water filling the holes.

This mess is hard on the businesses along the road, it damages cars, it causes wrecks, and jams up traffic, as drivers try to maneuver around the holes and pools of water. There is also a bus stop in the middle of all this, and wading through the mud to get to the stop is pretty unpleasant.

The holes in this side street to the fourlane are over water, and it runs amuck, rolling down the street. He has spoken to the gardener in charge of the irrigation at the hotel, but nothing has changed, he says. The manager is unavailable. Emailing the manager of the hotel didn't work either. No response. The water still run down hill, sometimes more than other times. Frustrated, Gutierrez contacted MegaCabo, a local TV station, hoping publicity might get them some results. They promised to come out and they actually did, airing the story on the evening news. Next day a man taking his daughter to school stopped short to avoid taking a dive into a big pothole and was rear ended by a pickup truck. The truck driver even commented that he didn't understand how the road could be in such terrible condition since this is a tourist area. Like the government treats foreigners special, sigh.

At the scene of the accident Capitan Diego Islas stated that the SCT, Secretary of Communication and Transportation, had been informed of the holes in the road and actually had repaired them on several occasions. He added that the city investigated the situation and yes indeed, determined the water is coming from the Hotel Los Patios. The police believe the next step is for the SCT to send a written notice to the hotel to get a grip on their flooding has been a problem for several years now. The business owners here from Artesanos to Los Corredores are left to fend for themselves with no easy solution. Where do they send the water? Just moving it on down to the next store doesn't solve the problem and only angers the neighbors. Kathia Garcia of Baja Grills said they don't even open the store when the road is flooded. In order to deal with the problem, they purchased a pump to pump it impossible to stop at any of the businesses located in this area. You can't get out of your car without wading through very deep water, a foot or more in some places. The entire business district is usually messed up for about a week which definitely has an economic impact. Juvenil, manager of Los Corredores said, “Our business suffers because we don't have any customers.” He doesn't believe that the city is interested in solving the problem. After all, the flooding has been a problem for several years now.

The business owners here from Artesanos to Los Corredores are left to fend for themselves with no easy solution. Where do they send the water? Just moving it on down to the next store doesn't solve the problem and only angers the neighbors.

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www.mexicosecurity.com.mx
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 area, and surfing beach on the southern Pacific side of the peninsula. Todos Santos offers a charming, authentic environment, with the traditional central plaza, dozens of art galleries, and surfing lesson or rent a boogie board. Kicker Rock is a small town north of downtown Cabo San Lucas and its neighboring beach, San Lucas to Todos Santos, then goes north to La Paz. Stop at one of the many taco stands along the highway, or buy veggies or fruit along the road. In the afternoon when the fishermen come in with the day’s catch you can buy fresh fish off the boat at Punta Lobos. For a small propina (tip) they’ll filet it for you, too.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Visitors interested in hiking, horseback riding, surfing, charter fishing on a traditional panga, a Mexican fishing boat, adventure tours, or just experiencing Mexican village life, should head to Pescadero, Cerritos and Todos Santos. They are less than an hour’s drive north along the Pacific.
This time I will like to write about two of the most common and simple ingredients of the Mexican cuisine, but not for that less interesting: Beans!

The word epazote comes from the Nahuatl and has Mexican origins. The compound word comes from "epatl" "shrunken" and "zotli" grass. It is an aromatic perennial plant that is used as a condiment and as a medicinal plant in Mexico and some other Latin American countries, and in the southern part of the United States as well.

Its lifetime is one year and it grows an average of 47 inches. Its branches are developed unevenly and leaves get to be 5 inches in length. Its flowers are small and green. This species is native to America, and was known and used by the Aztecs. It grows in sandy soils and the plant grows larger on the banks of rivers and lakes. Legend has it that it was introduced to Europe in 1577 by Francisco Hernández, who was also physician to King Felipe II.

In Mexican cuisine it is used in many dishes, such as boiled corn or boiled and condiment corn grains, tortilla soup and certain varieties of quesadillas, and some types of tamales, plus some seasoning in soups and of course the delicious black beans and either bean broth soup or refried as we shall see later.

They are one of the oldest foods known to man, and have formed an important part of human diet for thousands of years. It is among the first domesticated food plants cultivated. The common bean cultivation began about 7000 years BC in southern Mexico. The natives grew lima beans, black, and all other varieties of color, either small or large seeds.

Since the Mesoamerican cultures of Mexico crossed the American continent, these beans and its cultivation practices gradually spread throughout South America as they explored and traded with other tribes.

When the conquerors from the Iberian Peninsula arrived to the New World, many varieties of beans were blooming. Columbus called them faxon and favas beans like in the Old World, the Aztecs called them etl, the Mayan quinsoncho, and the Incas purutu. The early explorers and traders subsequently led American bean varieties worldwide, and early seventeenth century, beans and crops were popular in Europe, Africa, and Asia.

The food product is the dry grain of this plant, and it can remain in good condition for a long time if kept in closed containers and in areas without humidity.

The beans have a high content of protein and fiber, being itself an excellent source of minerals. In Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras (where they are called beans) they are eaten cooked, traditionally shredded and fried with lard or corn oil after being boiled and known as beans. They are usually eaten accompanied by corn tortillas. There are other variants such as charro beans, beans pigs, enfrijoladas, (these are like bean enchiladas for a lack of a better description) bean soup, beans and sausage, and so on.

Ingredients for beans (for 4-8 people):
1 lb of black beans (buy those that come in a plastic bag, and not precooked.)
1 large onion
2 serrano chiles
6 cloves garlic
1 large tomato
2 tablespoons of lard (you can always use vegetable oil, but the flavor may vary.)
2 epazote branches (in case you cannot find epazote you can use bay leaf)
Water
Salt
Recipe for beans
To make beans the traditional way:

Recipe for beans

3 Eggs, Bacon, Potatoes, Fruit, Beans and Toast just $4.99

We have 1000's of varieties of beans, some of which are not considered vegetables, but fruits. Beans grow primarily by pole, bush or vine. Bean types are further sorted by the time and way they are harvested: when soft, by shell or dried.

Common soft beans are string beans, snap beans and wax beans. Bean sprouts such as alfalfa and clover also fall into this category. Shell beans may include peas, garbanzos or chickpeas. Dried beans are generally hard shell and require soaking before cooking. These include kidney beans, limas, pinto, great northerns, butter beans, white beans, and black beans. And let’s not forget the jelly bean! That kind of bean is very tasty, although not so nutritious.
Tourism VS. Mangroves
Uh oh. That's never good

BY ALE BORBOLLA

Crocodile tears.

Mexico has many mangroves and natural preserves which are world recognized, and have become tourist points of interest. There used to be more, of course; but with the growing economy and the rush for the injection of more tourist dollars into the economy, many of them have disappeared, only to be replaced by new hotels and homes.

In July 2005, the Malecón Tajamar tourist project was approved by SEMARNAT (The federal environment and natural resources government agency), and the permit for the land use change was approved in February of 2006.

Both permits had an expiration date set for February 8th, 2016, however according to Fonatur, another federal agency, this one in charge of tourist infrastructure, the urbanization started in 2006.

Part of the conditions of the project was to relocate the mangroves on the property, which the developers and Fonatur said was done, but according to Greenpeace and assorted activists, that never happened. As a result, many species perished when the land was cleared, say the eco activists.

On the night of January 16th of this year, big bulldozers and many workers entered the mangrove, and despite the 15 or 20 activists

CONTINUED ON PAGE 40

Before and after the destruction of the mangroves. Check out the before picture, obviously taken many years ago, as the now mature palm trees in the foreground are just babies. But look at the shell of the building on the very left. It was abandoned back then it is still abandoned now.

What's A Mangrove, And Why Should We Care About them?

Mangroves are a natural hurricane barrier, and they help purify the water that runs into the ocean because they can withstand the salinity of the ocean that they have their roots in, acting as a natural filter. Environmentalists and biologists say that tropical mangroves are effective at capturing carbon dioxide as well as protecting certain fish and marine species within their habitat. Healthy mangroves are believed to equate to healthy fisheries, and cleaner air and water reservoirs for birds, reptiles and mammals. They play a big part in holding back flood waters in times of storm surge, and prevent erosion of the banks. In moderation, mangroves are also a big part of the local economy as a source of wood and natural renewable resources, as well as providing fishing and hunting grounds. In recent years, mangroves have been looked to as a possible source of some control over climate change.

According to regular monitoring carried out by Conabio, Mexico’s biodiversity commission, the country ranks fourth worldwide in terms of total mangrove coverage. The highest concentrations of mangroves are found in Campeche, here in Baja, and Oaxaca.
East Cape Throws Artist Studio Tour
Chance to see 15 very different studios and support local kids’ art efforts

BY ART MAJOR

Did you ever wonder what an artist’s studio looks like? Ever wonder where they get the inspiration for the treasures they create? Well, here is your chance to see the home studios of about 15 different artisans who reside in the Los Barriles area. See where it all becomes a master piece and see what new things they are creating. Artists on the tour vary from fabric, jewelry, bead or soft goods medium, oil and water color paintings, ceramic and pottery and wood or rocks. Some work out of a part of their homes, others have stand alone studios or rented space in commercial areas.

This is a great opportunity to see how your favorite artist works and where they work, create and bring their master pieces to life. You can also see many of the artists in action as they work right there as you come by. Don’t miss this great opportunity to enjoy, view and even purchase some great works of art. This is a chance to cut out the middleman at the gallery and buy direct from the artist.

6th ANNUAL Artist Studio Tour on February 12 from 10am to 4pm, in Los Barriles.

Admission is $8.00 US or $80 pesos. Tickets available day of at Land and Homes Real Estate Office on 20 November in Los Barriles or pre-sale tickets can be had at Baja Beach Company in Los Barriles. Day of show tickets sold from 9:30 to 2pm to allow time to see all 15 stops.

This is a self guided tour; you pay, you pick up a map, and then you drive yourself around to each stop. Each artist studio will have a sign out front and details of that stop are listed on your map.

It’s all brought to you by the Asociacion de Artes of East Cape, and the proceeds benefit the Asociacion de Artes kids programs.

For more information contact Christine Courtright at 624-124-8054.
**FISH REPORT...**

continued from page 22

cabrilla, bonito and jack crevalle were caught — more typical of this time of year. Two marlin were hooked and lost. It’s crazy to even see marlin in the middle of winter!

Hopefully the wind will allow anglers to get back out for a day or two. As the north wind continues to do its winter thing for another month or two. Not great...but fishable. Air temps are really nice. High 70s to high 50s. Sun is out. Nice time to be in town!

Cabo San Lucas
Tracy Ehrenberg www.piscessportfishing.com
Larry Edwards www.cortezcharters.com

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

**NOW THIS IS A PRESS...**

continued from page 23

10) They now provide service to between 80 and 120 Seniors each day

Things to keep in mind:
1) Their staff is made up of all volunteers who receive no pay
2) They need donations of food, money and supplies to continue doing what they do so well
3) They invite everyone to visit the Center and see what they are doing
4) Please make a tax deductible Mexican or Canadian donation - email Robby for details

Thank you for you past support... please continue to help take care of our Senior Citizens.

For more information email the king of press releases, also known as Robby Z, at robzolezzi@gmail.com

**THE WHALES ARE HERE...**

continued from page 25

When you are on the boat, don’t even try to take a picture. You’ll spend more time looking at your camera and cursing the missed shot. Enjoy seeing the whales firsthand with your own eyes and don’t worry, most tours will offer you photos or videos after your trip. CaboTrek is the only company that brings a drone along, permitting them to get amazing aerial footage of these creatures, as well as you in the boat. You want to take home a drone shot of you chasing whales? Go to the drone guys.

Seeing whales is hit or miss. They don’t take appointments. When small groups of male whales arrive there is more activity so there are some days with more going on than others. Due to the weather or the lack of whales coming out to play, your excursion may come up short. Some tours recommend you book two trips a few days apart to ensure you get your fill of whales. Other companies, like **CONTINUED ON PAGE 44**
Calendars of Events

Whale watching everyday. Swim in the pool and watch the whales.

VALENTINE'S WEEKEND
Getaway, local prices on rooms, special dinner, reservations please. One night, dinner for 2 and Valentine’s Brunch for $250 plus tax.

February 13 JULIETA killer rock n roll band, house band at Cabo Wabo starring Juan Cerbero on lead guitar, previously with Strogeno.

February 27 Stamina from La Paz excellent Reggae band now playing killer rock n roll too playing Marley to Hendrix.

March 12, David Raitt and The Baja Boogie Band 7:30 PM.

Crossroads Country Club and Hotel Vidasoul
Voted #1 Restaurant on Baja’s East Cape

Calendar of Events

Whale watching everyday. Swim in the pool and watch the whales.

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February 27 Stamina from La Paz excellent Reggae band now playing killer rock n roll too playing Marley to Hendrix.

March 12, David Raitt and The Baja Boogie Band 7:30 PM.

We are located on Baja’s East Cape in Vinorama half way between the Puerto Los Cabos Marina and Cabo Pulmo. Keep us in mind for your wedding or private affair, retreat, conference.

For more information about our events or specials, find us on Facebook Hotel Vidasoul or our web site www.vidasoul.com or call us at 624 142 1165 or 624 154-6966. US number 626-840-0485 at the hotel (satellite phone) US# 323-431-8225. E-mail to info@vidasoul.com.

To understand either the U.S. or Mexico, one must take into account their constitution. Not that either country completely follows its respective constitution, but it's the necessary reference point in understanding its political system and much else.

We hope you had a very nice Constitution Day this year, or at the very least, noticed that it was happening.

CHUCK HOLES AND WATER...

continued from page 31

Grills tries to pump it into the median, but that's an issue with cars driving over the hose.

If they manage to get the water pushed somewhere, they next have to hire workers to sweep up all the dirt and silt and then haul it away. The city doesn't clean that up either. We can all see a huge pile of dirt sitting on the sidewalk just before the turn off to the Riu Hotel, a result of many floods past. Rohn Kittel, owner of Baja Outdoor Living, continued from page 44
What’s With These Hard To Pronounce St. Names?

They all have a significance and if you know it, maybe you can remember the name of the street with your favorite restaurant on it.

BY ALEJANDRA BORBOLLA

Does it seem like every town in Mexico has the same street names? That’s because they do. And they are all named after Mexican heroes: revolutionary leaders, presidents and the like. If it seems like we recyle just a few names, well, maybe we only have a few heros in our 400 year old history. Los Cabos does mix in some local, home grown heroes, named after locals who made a difference and helped Cabo’s development.

Calle, (the word for street), Miguel Hidalgo got it’s name after Mr. Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla; a Criollo Catholic priest and independence leader. He was always a shit stirrer: when he fist started his service in Colima and Guanajuato, he was shocked by the deep poverty so he encouraged people to grow olives and grapes, which was discouraged by the authorities because these were hard to pronounce. He inspired independence, among Mexicans, to lift the people to depoverty so he encouraged the authorities because these were

import items from Spain, thus taking a little away from the king. Miguel Hidalgo gave his famous speech in the city of Dolores 1810, called the “Cry of Dolores” which inspired independence, among Mexicans, to lift the people to

arms, prevent them from being Napoleon’s slaves, and oppose the events in Spain. To this day, on the eve of independence day, the president gives el grito, the cry, singing out Hidalgo’s words. Fun fact: he did not vow for poverty or gunner child, he was a 12 year old boy who fired a cannon. He never felt part of his own race. He never felt part of any group; he wasn’t Mexican, wasn’t full Spanish, and his fellow criollos behaved like (Can I write a-sshole boss?) while he fought with the indigenous people. So think of this dude when you drive down his street.

Calle Adolfo Lopez Mateos is named after one of our favorite presidents. He nationalized electric companies, created the national commission of free textbooks, and promoted the creation of museums. Lopez Mateos was also the first left wing president after Lazaro Cardenas, 18 years apart. He had a good run as a president, then became chairman for the 1968 summer Olympics while he suffered from massive migraines. He was finally diagnosed with several brain aneurysms, and told his friends that life had smiled at him in every way possible, but it was time to take whatever came. After he stepped down from power he was thin and fragile, telling his friends he was “pretty screwed up”. He died in 1969 at the age of 59.

Narciso Mendoza street is named after one of the youngest Mexican heroes in history. Also known as “el niño artillero” or gunner child, he was a 12 year old boy who fired a canon and pushed the Spanish troops to leave the town of Cuautla in the state of Morelos while the Mexicans were trying to take the town. He was then recruited by the Morelos armed party and reached the Lieutenant Colonel position, but was later exiled to

Continued on Page 44
American Consular Agency In Los Cabos

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

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

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

Hours of operation are hit or miss.

Canadian Consulate In Los Cabos

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

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

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

Open Monday - Friday 9:30 to noon:30

——

MEXICAN COOKING...
continued from page 33

tional way may take too many hours with the pan into the fire. To save this work we will see how to prepare the beans more quickly. First of all, thoroughly rinse the beans under running water; sometimes beans come with some dust or sand, or even small rocks so they must be made clean. Now in pan or pot big enough put the beans inside. Cover them with water, about three fingers of water above the beans. Leave to soak overnight.

The next morning the beans have softened a bit and we can prepare in less time. Note that the water has been colored black. Throw away the water and add fresh water to cover beans.

Put the pot on the fire and add half an onion, serrano chile (I like to pinch them with a fork so they will give a nice flavor to the broth), four peeled garlic cloves and the epazote branch (I set it first), from time to time.

Remove from time to time taking care not to burn and ensures that at all times there is a finger of water above the beans. If necessary (it almost certainly will be), add water, (do not heat it first), from time to time.

After two hours add a tablespoon of lard and leave to heat until beans are very soft. Do not add salt at the moment. Let them boil for 10 more minutes and add salt.

At this point you can eat them already as a bean soup.

For refried dry beans, as they are served as a side dish in every single restaurant of this country, at breakfast, lunch or dinner, here is what we do.

Take the remaining half onion and chop finely. Put onto the fire the remaining tablespoon of lard and slowly let it brown. Add a little bit of salt.

After a couple of minutes add the onion to fire two cloves of garlic cut into thin slices.

While the vegetables are lightly browned (do not let it burn - only to catch a golden brown)

Then add the boiled beans, using a strainer to avoid too much liquid. When they start cooking, smash them and add broth in which the beans have been made little by little. Mix well. You can pour more beans but always little by little, the idea is to fry them very well with almost no liquid.

Continue let on the fire for almost 10 more minutes, always moving so they won't stick to the pan.

Taste for salt, add if needed and ready.

So, again you can have them like a soup before refrying or as a side dish for almost everything. Once they are refried (a friend of mine calls them baked beans), you can pour them on tortilla chips add in some cheese and sour cream on top, a little bit of salsa, whatever comes to your mind. Let your creativity and imagination flow.

Keep this recipe handy, because we will be using these beans for other recipes in the near future.

Alejandra

——

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It’s whale season again, the big guys, and gals, are back in our waters and there’s never a better time to take a boat out to see them.

Save the whale

The road from La Playita to La Laguna is finally feeling some love. The residents out there were going nuts, as the road was so full of craters, it was impossible to pick through them all without falling into some. The road would actually have been easier to drive if it had been dirt but El Encanto, which helped lead the reconstruction effort, could hardly command the prices they want if their development was at the end of a dirt road. Finally the feds stepped up with funds from the SCT. The project is overseen by the state, which will be in charge of the upkeep of the road.
campaigned out there, surrounded by police officers, all 140 acres of mangroves were bulldozed down and carted away. Protestors say there is no proof the animals and vegetation were relocated as Fonatur says they were.

Activists say many special animals have been killed while others are left to die. In particular, a female crocodile, they say, has been seen roaming around looking for her youngsters. Turns out she was quite famous and popular with the locals, and it is speculated she lost her babies during the destruction of their habitat, and now there is nothing for her to eat, since all the critters of the swamp land have been killed or run off. Locals have sworn they have seen her cry. Big crocodile tears, no doubt. They say all they see out there these days are birds of prey looking for whatever’s left of the carcasses.

According to a university activist in Mexico City, who is an authority in the field of reefs, that due to the increasing urbanization around this land, it was just a matter of time. “They just rushed to tear it down before the permits expired,” he said, “it will be a landmark to human stupidity in 10 years”.

But after that night, the area has not been further disturbed, which leaves the activists with a little hope that if the area is left alone it will somehow be able to restore itself. Slowly, yes, but surely and eventually.

Government agencies SEMARNAT, and Fonatur, along with Cancun’s governor, all declared everything was done according to the law, and had all the necessary permits were in order, but still there are many people who are not accepting this. They say that’s the way it’s been in recent years in Mexico: tear down paradise to build up concrete jungles.

Investors are considering demanding a full refund from the government agency that promoted the project in the first place, the National Tourism Promotion Fund (Fonatur).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 45
Choyero comes from the Word cholla which is an extremely prickly type of cactus, (cylindropuntia cholla), which grows abundantly in the Baja California Sur desert.

It is a term commonly used for the people born here, mostly used from one Choyero to another, determining their origin. Locals are called cholleros because this is home to the cholla cactus, not because they're prickly people.

You Know You’re A Local When You....

Here’s a little test. Hint: If your first language is English, you’re probably not a Choyero

BY ALEJANDRA BORBOLLA

Inspector Chollero” a political comedian who satirized the accent and the famous words, sentences and expressions locals use. Fernando Escopinichi used the term in his speech in 2003, making a note of how locals, choyeros, are very protective of their traditions and regional identity.

The typical choyeros come from the valley, people who don’t discriminate, are kind hearted and look after their state, respecting the tourism and cultural mix in their land. It doesn’t matter the exact point where a Choyero is born, as long as he or she is from the South of the peninsula, he or she is considered a Choyero.

There are a few sayings that go around in the spirit of, “you know you are a Choyero when...”

- You walk around the beach and your feet are peeling… since you were a baby.
- You know how to swim because you once wanted to learn how to surf, snorkel or dive.
- You put mayo on ceviche, the best food in the world.
- On Sundays, your mom makes flour tortillas and your dad brings home dried meat for lunch.
- When you leave Squid Roe you grab a hot dog from one of the uquiquetes vendors you see on every corner.
- You call waiters primo, (cousin) or compa (dude or friend)
- Every single summer you complain about the heat but you still go out because you’re a socially committed person.
- Spring break you don’t go on vacation you go camping to the farther beaches with your friends or your plebita, (girlfriend).
- Because you’ve got a hell of an accent like a northern beach boy/girl but when it comes down to it, you can speak properly… yeah right.
- You know all the big traditional families and they all have their family nickname like Los Ceseña=La Ceseñada.
- You know there are only two radio stations in Cabo, and you know which hour they play what.
- You know all the good street food places and talk to the owners or servers like they’re family.
CALENDAR OF PERFORMING ARTS

CABO SAN LUCAS
WALMART PLAZA
Cabo Bookstore over La Europa.
Marcona Bookstore cafe showing every Wednesday. 9:30 pm.
macondo.csl

MACONDO BOOK STORE Above La Europea at Walmart
Every Saturday. 8:30 pm. Live music by different guest artists.

CINEMA VAGABUNDO Movie Club at Macondo book store
February 11. Thursday. 7:30 pm. Love. 2015. House-Art-
Drama. Non-linear narrative examining modern love and
sexual desires. Murphy is an American living in Paris
who enters a highly sexually and emotionally
charged relationship with the unstable Electra.
Unaware of the effect it will have on their
relationship, they invite their pretty neighbor
into their bed. Directed by Gaspar Noe.
English with Spanish subtitles. Free.

TIC TACK GARDEN SALON At the end of the
dirt road beside the entrance to Costco
February 13. Saturday. From 1:30 to 7:30
pm. Ashishan. Fair of The anime costumes and
everything related to the J apanese style cartoon.
Cosplay runway, videogames contest, music, karaoke,
contest, dance show, etc. Organized by Nakamafest.
Spanish mostly, J apanese too. 20 pesos. facebook.com/
nakamafest.tictimeline.

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,

CASA CARACOLINA RANA
Every Saturday. 7:00pm to 11:30pm. Cultural tianguis (market).
Live music, poetry, painting, books, art & crafts, sculpture,
movies, vegetarian food. Hidalgo and Revolucion Sts, downtown

CERRITO DEL TIMBRE CULTURAL HOUSE behind Aramburo

SAN JOSE
PLAZA DEL PESCADOR At the hotel zone across from the Cabo
Azul hotel.
February 12 and 13. Friday and Saturday. 5:00 pm. 4th San Jose
Jazz Fest 5:00 pm to late. The mall closes off one side of the
4 lane avenue, deploying tables, chairs and tents to cater to the
attendees. The mall restaurants set up food booths, with plenty of
varied food to choose from. Cocktails and wine are also available
for sale. For more information. Call (624) 154 8510, or email Azul
Casanova: eastchicruz@gmail.com. www.san joselazzweekend.
com/

DANZA TELLEZ STUDIO Plaza Caracol, upstairs; San Jose,
across from the MEGA.
February 28, Sunday. Noon to 4:30 pm. Auditions for J offrey
Ballet School summer intensive courses. Auditions for ballet,
and contemporary. $15 USD to audition for each discipline.
Pre-registration on line: www.joffreyballetschool.com/international-
auditions. More info and requirements for the auditions with Laura
Alfaro Cel. 624 191 3506.

CIRCO TEKA Angela Cesaña 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: todosmossemitoto@gmail.com. At Angela Cesaña St,
between Fourlane Street and Barlovento St, San J ose. Spanish. Free.

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 J ose. More info with Alfredo Sosa
facebook/artalfredo.sosa Spanish and English. Free.

TODOS SANTOS
LUNA AZUL THEATER On The Other Side at Todos Santos. (Las
Tunas).

LOS COLIBRIS HOTEL In the La Poza neighborhood.
February 4. 5, 6, 7 and 8. From Thursday thru Monday. From 10:00
am to 2:30 pm. Mosaic Art Workshop. Create mosaic art murals for
permanent installation led by Tami Macala of Santa Barbara School
of Mosaic Art. $795 USD per person includes all materials and
gourmet lunch by chef liker Aligoni of Cafe Brown fame. English.
More info contact Tami Macala, tami@alcrackdampedusics.com,
Local 622 345 0189.

TODOS SANTOS CULTURAL CENTER Downtown Todos Santos.
February 5. Friday. From 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Sea turtles of the
Eastern Pacifi c. Fourth of six presentations of the Todos Santos
Speaker Series. Stephanie Russo, M.S., Wildlife Biologist.
100 pesos Donation (120 at door) supports presenters’ missions.
Advance tickets at El Tecolote Bookstore. More info with Kate
Lewis Jayms@yahoo.com, 624345-0285.
February 26 and 27. Friday and Saturday. March 3, 4 and 5.
Thursday to Saturday. 7 pm Blue Moon Theater
Alice, Down the Rabbit Hole. Original musical play, has Alice, an
aspiring Rock in Roll singer, on a wild ride to Wonderland. Directed
by Blue Moon theater group. Tickets at Tecolote Bookstore.
English. More www.teatrolunazoal.com

GALLERY HOTEL CASA TOTA Alvaro Obregon St. Downtown
Todos Santos.
February 11. Thursday. 5:00 pm. Black-Plus Art Show. Michael
Cope will be the Meet the Artists guest presenter. osamctotn@
yahoo.com

LA PAZ
ALIANZA FRANCESA
Every Tuesday. 6:00 pm. Different French film each month. Alianza
Francesa cultural center at 525 Gomez Farias St. between
Republica St and Guerrero St. Estetico bwn, 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.

LOS TAMARINDOS GARDEN
On Melchor Ocampo, across from
Coppell in downtown La Paz.
February 12. Friday. 6:00 pm and 8:30 pm. Fugitives. Play directed
by Catalina Pina, written by Fedra Rodarte. Acted by Escenica
Colectiva winner of The Encounter Theater of the State. The show
is only for adults and teens. Spanish. For information and tickets,
call 122 52 94.

CASA DE CULTURA ESTATAL State’s Culture House. On Calle
Madero 825 between Salvadoria and Torre Iglesias.
February 13, 20 and 27. Saturday. 7:00 pm. History, drama and
legend of Salvaria Hospital. Play directed by Mario Reyes presents
what is described as a multisensory production. Admission is
limited. Spanish. (612) 122 90 40

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

LOS BARRILES
March 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19 - Baja Shakespeare’s 16th Season
at Buena Vista Beach Resort in Spa Buena Vista’s Convention
Center. All shows at 7:00 pm except March 13, a matinee at
1:30pm. Tickets $20 usd or 300 pesos. facebook.compages/Baja-
Shakespeare/220397878011557. More info closer to show dates.
March 20, Sunday. 23rd Arts Festival at Los Barriles, East Cape.
Art works from around Southern Baja, arts and crafts exhibits and
sale, food and booze and live music. This event is for the programs
we support in the East Cape area. We appreciate the support
from the local residents—full and part time—and the visitors. More
information contact Elizabeth at edesignsbaja@aol.com Or visit the
web site: http://www.eastcapearts.com/

To list your event at no cost, email details to david@gringogazette.
com. Facebook page Baja California Sur Events. More info
kidding around about this. It happens frequently, so go, with great
expectations of a wonderful evening, but have a backup plan.

To list your event at no cost, email details to david@gringogazette.
GOLDEN CACTUS GALLERY is excited to now be in Plaza Casa Blanca on the highway to Todos Santos, across from the movie 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.

OFFICIAL TRANSLATOR Spanish-English license issued by the Supreme Court of Justice of the State of Baja California Sur. Celyne Poupard, cell 624-147-5897.

DENNIS RAY SMITH. Pay your outstanding debt on the duplex you purchased in 2002 in Cabo on the corner of Camino al colegio and Miguel Hernandez. Contact Dewayne Brown 714-343-5432; email: vehildev@aol.com; 624-159-0711; Jeff 624-160-3757, usa 714-460-0827; Cabo cells: Rick. 624-154-0711; contact rick@amerimexbcs.com.

RHERE IS ITFor Sale Beautiful Palmas Del dorado near the animal shelter. There are 5 bdrms, 3 baths, 2 half baths, 2 full baths, 2 car garage, community pool/spa $349,000 U.S. (REDDUCED). Peter & Ann 144-5312 (Cabo) 604-288-7433 (Cdn. Vphone) (12)


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2005 DODGE DAKOTA. 2 Door, V8, 100,000 miles. (REDUCED) $8,500. For details, call Wally Tom at 714-423-0066 or 624-165-0222.

WILL SWAP Todos Santos Oasis Property for Infiniti QX70 or Prius. Call 612-127-0895.

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Double Wide Modular Home For Sale by owner in El Tezal with Pool. Private lot, walled/ gated. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, 46’ covered patio, Bodega, Room to park Boat/RV. No more space rent or HOA dues! Move in ready. $169,500 143-2841, 624-121-3731 or 503-766-3638 cabovistasuites@yahoo.com.

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Currently in dry storage building at San Jose marina. $65,000.00 OBO. Call for questions 714-713-1008. Email rbsauro@yahoo.com (15)

LIQUOR LICENSE FOR SALE. Cell 624-155-1049 (16)

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER Available www.cabophotography.com (17,18)

BIG LOT FOR SALE at the entrance of Puerto Los Cabos. 65,000 sq. feet. Motivated seller accepting offers. Zoned for anything. Call 624-147-5807 for details. (19)

1993 22’, immaculate, 18K original miles, 6 spd, LT1 engine. Patriot maroon w black top. Ontario plated. (20)


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1991 22’, immaculate, 18K original miles, 6 spd, LT1 engine. Patriot maroon w black top. Ontario plated. Original owner. The perfect boys toy for cabo! $19K US. rickranch2@gmail.com Rick. (24)


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BUILD A DREAM HOME IN Cabo San Lucas. 32,000 sq. ft. hillside lot with mountain, city, ocean views. Site is graded, slopes retained, allowing a 21,000 sq. ft. building area including tool/storage/ mechanical room; large bathroom including shower, washing machine and dryer; covered parking space & covered 10,000 gallons of water. Site includes infrastructure - a covered 40ft. motorhome allows you to live while you build. Must see first. Design and permit processing available. Contact rick@amerimexbcs.com. USA 714-460-0827; Cabo cells Rick 624-154-0711; Jeff 624-160-3757.

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CaboTrek, guarantee you will see whales. If you don’t, they will take you out again for free.

If downing some Dramamine to survive a potentially rocky boat ride is not your thing, stop by the CaboTrek office in the Tesoro mall to pick up videos of whale trips taken from their aerial drone. You don’t have to go out, but you still get the evidence you did. Almost as good as the real thing.

Their office is in the old lobby of Tesoro in downtown Cabo. www.cabotrek.com. They also have local snorkel trips to swim with the whale sharks, where you can pet the critters, will take you up to Mag Bay of Tesoro in downtown Cabo.

The city promised they would shopkeepers to address the issue. Actually held a meeting with the first became a problem the city communications and Transportation, the Health Department, and the Secretary of Community Services, the Public Service, the Health Department, and the Secretary of Communications and Transportation, but with no results. When this first became a problem the city actually held a meeting with the shopkeepers to address the issue. The city promised they would take care of this, but the architects and engineers who were sent out to the site told the businesses there was no solution.

No solution? Really? We can put a man on the moon but we can’t engineer a highway properly? What they meant to say was they didn’t know what the hell to do and they shouldn’t be drawing a paycheck as engineers. That’s what they meant to say, no doubt.

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South America for unknown reasons. It is speculated that he was expelled from the country because he supported the second empire army, which was led by one of his closest friends. He came back to his hometown Cuautla to die at 80 years old.

Calle Mariano Matamoros also comes from a rebel priest. He was a Mexican Roman Catholic priest, who studied art and theology. He sympathized with rebels and rebellious issues and was put into jail shortly after the independence war had started, but escaped and joined the revolutionary army under Morelos’ lead. After he was recognized by his ability in the battlefield and named colonel, he was ordered to make his own army, which he did, leading 2000 men. Matamoros became second in command for the army quite soon after he joined, earning him a treason charge and being executed at the age of 44. If only priests these days were like that...

Niños Heroes street is named after six revolutionary heroes who have had all kinds of stories told about them until they have become mythical in Mexican history textbooks. Official version: Six kids aged between 13 and 19 who stayed behind to defend the Chapultepec castle when their leader ordered them to retreat after realizing the United States army outnumbered them and they had no chance. Juan Escutia leaped from the castle wrapped in the Mexican flag to prevent the flag from being taken by the enemy. They were buried at the castle and given memorials, ceremonies and honor. Now for the people’s version: These were six kids who were not part of the army, they were junior and high school students who were held captive in the castle because they were caught drinking underage. The real army was composed of about 100 kids the same age as the heroes but actually enlisted and more than three fourths ended up prisoners of the American Army. It is also believed that Juan Escutia did not throw himself over the ramparts bravely, he and his five friends escaped their cell in the revolt and he tripped while drunk.

The U.S. Consulate General Tijuana is seeking a U.S. citizen applicant for the position of Consular Agent in the Consular Agency in Cabo San Lucas.

For more information about this job opportunity visit: http://tijuana.usconsulate.gov/consularagent.html

Sorry, Canadians, we just could not reliably get them to you so we’re not mailing to Canada anymore. To subscribe, you must have a United States address.
One of the investors declared that Fonatur must answer for the legal and social controversy because neither he nor any of the other investors acted illegally. Founder of the Mayan Riviera parks Xcaret and Hel-Ha, paid US $2.1 million for a 10,000 square foot piece of land directly from Fonatur. This company had already obtained the permits and hired a biologist to look after the transportation of the wildlife, but in April 2015, Fonatur summoned the 22 investors and signed an agreement with them, giving the agency full responsibility for the removal of wildlife and the clearing of the mangrove forest.

The head of the Environmental Secretariat (Semarnat), Guillermo Haro, has stated that the work carried out at Tajamar was conducted “with full environmental impact authorization. Fonatur complied with all terms and conditions in the removal of the vegetation, but failed to do so in the rescue of wildlife,” according to Profepa, the environmental protection agency, which visited Tajamar on January 26 and found five crocodiles.

Haro said that his agency has received 112 written complaints regarding the Malecón Tajamar development, but that many of them “did not correspond to reality.” He claimed that many of the photographs used online by groups opposed to the project were fake. As an example, Haro pointed to the picture of a dead crocodile that had its tail cut off. In actual fact, he said, the crocodile had died in Cozumel several months before. When asked about the origin of such pictures, Greenpeace distanced itself from the organization called Saving Malecón Tajamar, the original source of the pictures, and claimed that the picture was part of a campaign orchestrated by Profepa to discredit the opposition to the development.

Tajamar development will have more than 5,000 accommodation units, 2,600 residences, malls, a hotel, and a church. Fonatur has predicted millions of dollars and more than 5,000 direct jobs and 10,332 indirect jobs will be generated by this project, but the activists don’t care about that. Former president Felipe Calderon has been blamed for the ecocide, because the permits were issue during his presidency, but even he has backed away from this, saying he passed a law against the damage to mangroves back in 2006.

On Tuesday Jan 23rd, a little boy accompanied by an adult handler filed a petition to CNDH (the national commission for human rights) for the project to be temporarily suspended, demanding his right for a healthy environment be respected. His motion was granted a temporary suspension of the Tajamar project and the trial will begin soon.

One part of the confusion stems from the changes to the law since the permit was issue so many years ago. Laws have become much more rigid in regards to mangrove forest destruction. Those laws apply to all subsequent projects, but do not apply to Tajamar, according to the developers who hope to sneak in under the wire of the old standards.
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and fell among other people while they were shot. The flag was actually captured by the US army and returned 135 years later when president Truman stood in their memorial in 1947, laid out a wreath and said “Brave men don’t belong to any one country. I respect bravery wherever I see it.”

It is said the Mexican government told the heroic story because there was a need for patriotism and civics and ethics lessons.

Avenida Lázaro Cárdenas is named after another president, Lázaro Cárdenas del Río. He was elected in 1934, and was the one responsible for the ejidos, a very familiar word in Cabo. (Communal land owners). He also created the agrarian reform, (which changed the way agriculture, people and economy interact), nationalized the oil industry, (throwing out foreign oil companies), and gave political refuge to the Spanish exiles during their Civil War. He also funded the National Polytechnic Institute, one of the most important in administration, science, engineering and technology research. He is also known for not making himself rich out of his time as president of the country. He retired to a small house by a lake and spent his last years supervising watering projects for land and promoting free medical clinics and education for the less fortunate. He died a victim of cancer after living a long happy post-presidential life.

Leona Vicario Avenue got it’s name after the “Sweet Mother of the Fatherland”, an insurgent woman who was one of the main characters in the Independence movement. She was a messenger, helped fugitives, sent money and medicines and helped any way she could. Eventually, at the age of 24, she was arrested, sent to prison and all her belongings were confiscated. Months later she was freed by her fellow insurgents and escaped to Michoacan, where she joined Andrés Quintana Roo and later became his wife. She was jailed again five years later and given a pardon under the promise to abandon the movement, and she was kept under vigilance along with her husband until the Independence movement finally succeeded in 1821. She also appears on one of the 200 year memorial five peso coins.

Calle Ildefonso Green is one of the few named after a true Baja hero. He fought William Walker, an invader in 1853, defended our land and constitution in 1857, participated in the expulsion of Pedro Navarrete in 1866 who committed several abuses against the people. He also took down Ramón Valdez in San Jose in a duel in 1875, after extorting and terrorizing the locals. At 85 years old, he still had the strength to fight with the constitutionalists and against the Villistas chasing them North. The name sounds Gringo, and it is Anglo; It’s British. The Green family, a large clan nowadays, is descended from a British sailor who jumped ship here, spending the rest of his life in San Jose. So there you have it, now you can drive down these streets and know you’re supposed to be honoring. And, maybe it will help you remember these names so you can’t do the Gringo thing and refer to the street as the up street, down street, or street with a certain restaurant on it.
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