

Drone shot of the Pacific Ocean  
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## FEEDBACK Blues & Roots Music Festival Coming in August

Blues Against Hunger Society (BAHS) to host their second annual festival where you can have fun and help feed our community!

BAHS is excited to announce the one-day FEEDBACK Blues & Roots Music Festival taking place at Tempest Trading in Rosarito Beach, on August 6, 2022, International Blues Day. Combining the festive and colorful surroundings, multiple food vendors, and a new

stage they've transformed into one of the premier open-air music venues.

The 2022 lineup includes top local, and regional artists, award winners, and phenoms, it will include a lil' bit country, a lil' bit of rock, lil' r&b, and a whole bunch of roots and blues!

International Blues Day will kick off in the morning with a PANCAKES AND JAM expect to see many many acoustic performers and enjoy a hearty breakfast, followed by an incredible lineup of bands and performers starting with bluesman and preacher Bobby Tee of San Felipe, Wendi Sue + Steve, Blue Exit, and BeLov'd.

Following an amazing morning of acoustic blues, country, and roots the BAHS All-Star Jam Band will kick off electric performances with many special guests, then the blues ambassador Mr. Mopar Murray and his band, the Mopar Murray Blues Band, followed by funk blues powerhouse Palaco Blues of Mexicali, then the BAHS host band the

Wild Pack Band with special performances, Tijuana's blues-rock maestro Ismael Vidal and his band Pachuco Blues, with The Queen of Steam Michele Lundeen and her band, along with special guest guitarist Anthony "Fallbrook Kid" Cullins and Tijuana's Angel Sax in the

brass section will close out the incredible day. Special performances throughout the day will include Bruce Alan Erickson, Hafid Hernandez, Arturo Cardenas, Tino Mendoza, Alan Garcia, Alan Walker, Miguel Kors, Connie Price-Panthen, Deb-  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**



# As a Foreigner, Do You Need the RFC in México?

BY NICK FONG

A few weeks ago, panic and uncertainty invaded our clients. Now, the CFE (Comisión Federal de Electricidad, an electricity company in Mexico) is asking foreigners to present their RFC (Mexican tax ID number). That was the rumor. I should re-write that sentence with a question mark.

Like this:

The CFE is asking foreigners to present their RFC (what in the US is known as the Tax ID number)?

The rumors spread with the speed of a hurricane. Some said one thing, others said another, and it became a sea of contradictory information.

It is paramount for me, and therefore my team, to provide

accurate information that serves our clients and those who are not clients but chose Baja as their home. So, we took on the task of consulting with specialists, from the private and public sectors, to correctly answer the question of whether a foreigner needs that RFC to change the electric bill to his or her name.

We had very interesting conversations with Javier Madero\*, a lawyer specializing in real estate from EMLA Abogados, and with an executive of the CFE. I'll tell you here what happened in both meetings so that panic or uncertainty will leave your mind.

The answer to the question above is yes and no. It is

not that I am giving you more contradictory information. Read on.

First, what is the RFC? It's a document that all Mexicans must have to pay their taxes. And here is why the topic of the RFC became the source of rumors:

In 2022 there was a tax reform in which tax authorities requested that every Mexican citizen over 18 years old must have an RFC.

"It doesn't mean that they have to report taxes, but they have to be inscribed within the tax authority as a possible taxpayer. The wording on the law can be confusing and triggered this whole thing because it says that every citizen or resident when it applies," said Javier Madero.

Many buyers became worried because they were about to buy a home and they asked: "if I don't have an RFC, how am I going to change the electricity bill to my name?"

But the truth is not as complicated as it sounds.

The first step to getting a new CFE service contract is to go to the CFE office by yourself or hire a *gestor* (a person who does all the paperwork for a fee) and complete the process. Only one name can be on the contract with the electricity company, so if a property has two or more owners on the deed, they must choose whose name will be on the electricity bill.

As a foreigner (with or without a residence visa) you need the RFC only if you require a Factura (invoice) for payment of your electricity bill. You do not need that RFC to get your contract if you don't require a factura, and you can change your electricity bill using a generic RFC.

Having clarified this, it is necessary to add that whether or not you need a factura or the RFC for a new service contract

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# What Mexico Has Taught Me

BY THE UNKNOWN GRINGO



Mexico has a long history of masks that goes back thousands of years. Used in religious ceremonies, weddings, appeals to the Gods for rain, warfare, celebrations, you name it. And they are still being used today to act out stories in front of an audience. I've collected them for years. Most are made from wood but a couple are out of leather.

And some are made out of cloth. You can see them being used in lucha libre, the very Mexican form of professional wrestling. Lucha libre means "free struggle" and the wrestlers are called luchadores or luchadoras. The events are staged and planned to show amazing displays of acrobatics but also to tell stories. Story

lines include good vs evil, loyalty vs betrayal, honesty vs cheating, and bravery vs cowardice. A "good" Mexican wrestler is called a "technico" and a bad boy is a "rudo". And, yes, you can go from being one to the other. Most of the audience understands this "secret" of professional wrestling but that doesn't deter them from enjoying a wonderful evening. I call it "physical theatre".

And professional wrestling in Mexico is very different from the American style. Less talk, more wrestling. No endless yelling and pointing of fingers. And the wrestling is more technical with more aerial maneuvers. These folks are athletes not just actors. Wrestling is not separated from the crowd

with barriers in Mexico. Wrestlers will come into the crowd and duke it out. (They will be very careful to avoid senior members of the audience when doing so) And the whole show is geared for all people, not just testosterone-driven boys and young men. After all, you want as many people to show up as possible. It is a family event. I find myself laughing a lot. It is not a dead-serious event.

I've seen it done in Tecate on a basketball court with the promoter selling beer out of the trunk of his car and in the large arena in Puebla that is designed for only boxing and lucha libre. I've seen it many times in Ensenada at the Gimnasio Oscar "Tigre" Garcia on 9th, just north of Reforma by a few blocks. I

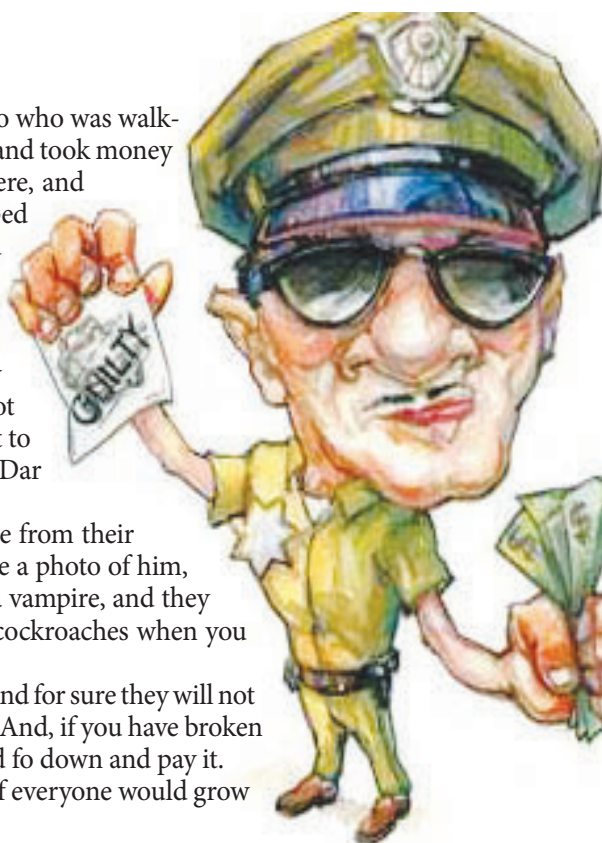
# What To Do If You're Stopped By The Police

We recently got a report from a local Gringo who was walking back home and a police cruiser stopped him and took money from him to let him go. That's extortion anywhere, and there are bad hombres anywhere. If you are stopped for an alleged traffic violation, ask for a ticket and go down to the police station later on or the next day, and pay it. They will take your driver's license to ensure that you show up, and that's OK. They do not want your license, and there's nothing they can do with it. You will get it back. And no, do not give them money if they ask you to pay the ticket to them right there. Just keep asking for a ticket, "Dar may un teeket por favor." Be polite and firm.

If they get nasty, write down their last name from their name badge, or pull out your cell phone and take a photo of him, her, or them. That's like holding a mirror up to a vampire, and they will jump in their vehicle and scurry away like cockroaches when you turn on the light.

It's extremely rare for them to write a ticket, and for sure they will not cite you when you haven't done anything wrong. And, if you have broken a law, the ticket is ridiculously small. Man up and fo down and pay it.

This police extortion would stop in a week if everyone would grow a back bone and stand up to them. 🐦



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always get front row seats to get close to the action. I like yelling at the referee when he magically doesn't see some dirty moves by the rudos. They laugh at my attempts at communication.

But....my favorite lucha libre story is very different. It has me buying a luchadore mask during Carnaval in Ensenada and enjoying the party of tens of thousands of Mexican people celebrating the period of time before Lent. I was wearing

the mask and was with my then-wife walking in front of Hussong's. The place was packed and had two federales blocking the fifty people who wanted to go in from entering. When two people would leave Hussong's.....then the federales would let two go in. Sorry. But then..... one of the federales sees me and points me out to his partner. They split the crowd coming right at me. They grab the two of us and escort us di-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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## FEEDBACK BLUES &amp; ROOTS...

continued from page 1

ra Faxon, and many more!

Music enthusiasts and festival lovers will enjoy the day's curated lineup being divided into all-acoustic performances before noon, electric bands in the afternoon, a \$10 VIP upgrade to table beverage service, and a wonderful variety of food vendors under the warm Baja sunshine with plenty of canopies to stay out of the rays if desired.

"We are so excited to be able to host another festival in Rosarito this summer," said Rachel Pack, co-founder of BAHs. "We believe that the FEEDBACK Music Festival will not only offer some incredible music for everyone, it will also bring BAHs closer to nutritional sustainability by providing meals to those in need all year; in

multiple Baja communities". BAHs has been feeding the hungry in Baja with music since 2013, Rachel continues, "Our vision is to use music to end hunger in the communities we serve. We do it weekly all summer, and the festival will help us continue serving the community all year".

On sale now, General Admission tickets are available for \$20 per person and \$30 for VIP, which includes table beverage service. The FEEDBACK Festival is a food drive and fundraiser with food being collected at the door and food being purchased from tickets and event proceeds. BAHs is offering sponsor packages and will need volunteers. Contact us to help make music that makes a difference.

The BAHs mission is simple. Blues Against Hunger Society is dedicated to producing live blues music events that promote the col-

lection and distribution of non-perishable food to those in need while supporting, promoting, and preserving the blues in the communities we serve. Blues Against Hunger Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Whether you are a music lover, blues fan, or humanitarian; we invite you to donate to BAHs and help provide meals to families facing hunger every day. Become part of the BAHs Movement.

For more information visit the Blues Against Hunger Society websites and follow the festival's Facebook and Instagram. Blues Against Hunger Society /www.bluesagainsthunger.org \*bluesagainsthunger@gmail.com

## AS A FOREIGNER, DO YOU...

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with the CFE, you must bring with you or deliver to the gestor a variety of documents. Do you want to know which ones?

We prepared two documents with all you need to know about this topic. If you would like to have them contact me on Instagram (@nickfong\_ronival), Facebook (Ronival Real Estate) or email me at HYPERLINK "mailto:info@ronival.com"info@ronival.com and bring peace to your mind.

\*Listen to the full conversation with Javier Made-



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## WHAT MEXICO HAS TAUGHT...

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rectly into Hussong's. Right past the partition inside the front door and into the center of the packed room. The mariachi band sees me and

stops playing at the table that was paying them, surrounds me, and starts serenading me at full blast.

It dawns on me. The Mexican citizens think I'm  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 7**



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# Ask a Mexican

The professional Mexican job market has changed and shifted since the beginning of the pandemic. How has your work changed? Has it changed for the better or for worse?

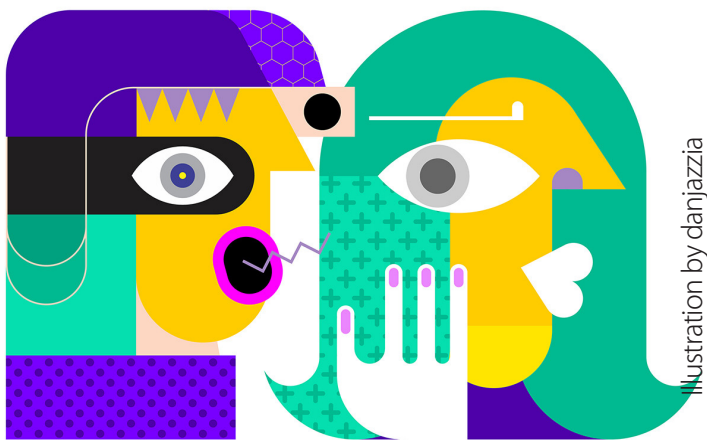


Illustration by danjazzia

**Eduardo Elías, 41, salesman.** When the pandemic began, my company acted as if it was nothing. I think the owner did not believe what was going on until we all got sick. He stopped going and authorized the home office. The tests had to be done with our own money and we had to send a positive result to be allowed to do home office, but we didn't stop working. We all went back to the office with a negative test, also paid by

us and now two years later, now that we are all vaccinated, we are not allowed to do home office because the symptoms are not as bad anymore. We only have to wear masks if we feel sick.

**Daniela Lugo, 25, PR.** The pandemic was awful for my industry and we all had to pause our projects. Last year we were allowed to bring them back and make events but with fewer people, which also impacted us but at least it was something. If

one of us is sick or suspicious, we are advised to do home office and rest if we really are feeling ill but almost none of us do. We have so much work we just know we will fall behind.

Jonathan Altamirano, 36, telemarketer.

All of our staff was sent on home office and those of us who did not have a proper workspace was given one by the company, as well as phones, computers and everything we needed. After the first year, our big office closed for good and a smaller office was set up. Now we have subsidized internet plans which our company pays for, and rumor has it we will never go back to being in person for our job, which is not that bad, honestly.

**Armando Juarez, 46, maintenance engineer.** When the pandemic started, I was laid off from my previous job because we went into bankruptcy and were forced to "resign." I was lucky to get this job after, and the whole office was insulated. All the desks had plastic protection, we had to eat at our desks and make sure we took turns going to the bathroom and disinfecting it afterwards. It was weird, but at least I had a job. Now we have really let our guard down, and some people at the office have gotten sick, but no big deal. We are allowed to do home office for any reason now as long as we keep our numbers up.

**Brisa Tellez, 22, assistant.** I work in a place where there's multiple offices and businesses so the first year was rough. We couldn't use the communal eating area, we had to wear a mask our whole shift and were not allowed to access the whole building, only our offices. Then we were asked to do a staggered home office schedule, which was awful since I can't concentrate at home, but now I think it's all better. We all got sick at the same time so we all got better together and were able to come back to our office.

**German Flores, 57, driver.** My boss is a really nice woman, so she immediately told us that we could take all of the adjustments necessary to our cars and provided us with the



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proper materials. Since we are a private company, she contacted all of our clients and asked them to warn us if anyone had symptoms, but she never lowered our wages. She also took care of all our tests and gave us the time

off necessary if we got sick and got us an emergency medical plan just in case. Now we don't have as strict measures, but the plan still stands and we all still disinfect our cars and follow some protocols. 🐦

## Cooking Like a Mexican

BY ALEJANDRA BORBOLLA



Corn is the most representative food in Mexican identity since pre-Hispanic times. To write about corn, we have to go back to a couple of Prehispanic elements. First is the Popol Vuh.

Popol Vuh, "The Mayan Bible", was originally painted in an indigenous code. It was

or the bark that was used to write on. Popol Vuh is the name of the sacred book of the Quiché Indians of Guatemala, where they relate their cosmovision about the origin of the world and of the Maya. In its first part, they describe the creation of the universe and the origin

of corn by the Mexicans is only comparable to the invention of fire by mankind." The oldest corn husk was found in 4250 B.C in Oaxaca, but I think we can safely say it has been around longer than that.

To this day, corn is the most consumed cereal in

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its sweet side. There are two main varieties of corn used in Mexico, white and yellow. Tortillas, tamales, esquites, pozole, atole are all made from white corn. Yellow corn is, in my opinion, better suited for desserts and sweets for its sweeter flavor. This edition's pan de elote is made from yellow corn, and

with delicious varieties as all recipes shift from one state to another. It's a soft, moist, sweet food that can be eaten at any time of day. It is sold in high-end restaurants, small restaurants, street carts, and taco stands because it's so easy to make, has such a low cost and it doesn't require great baking

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translated to the Quiché language in 1542, and the original is saved in a box sealed with 64 padlocks, whose keys are in the possession of 64 indigenous chiefs! Its translation to Spanish was under the care of Francisco de Ximénez in 1701. The Mayan word "Popol" means reunion, community, common house or meeting. And "Vuh" means book, paper,

of man, who, after various failures, was made out of corn, a basic nutritional food source. If you ever get the chance to read this amazing compilation of myths and legends, I very highly recommend it.

Corn is such a big part of Mexicans that Octavio Paz, a Mexican poet who won the Nobel prize for literature in 1990, wrote: "the invention

Mexico. We have about 60 different varieties which make it very fit for use across the food and industrial economic sectors, and find its way into alternative plastic, packaging solutions, paper and many more things.

The versatility of corn in the food industry has a wide range of flavors, mainly salty and sweet. In this edition, fortunately, we will explore



it is also used to make ice cream, flan, cheesecake, and sweet tamales.

Pastel de elote (corn cake) is a typical dessert in our beautiful country, made from tip to tip of Mexico

abilities.

My favorite way of eating pan de elote is with Rompope cream. I am pretty sure you have seen Rompope and might relate it to eggnog;

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 7**

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# WHAT MEXICO HAS TAUGHT...

continued from page 4

a bonafide lucha libre wrestler AND they apparently LOVE this guy. I did NOT know whose mask I had purchased. It just simply fit me and didn't have gauze over the eyes to limit vision or a small mouth to limit eating and drinking. And I am TERRIFIED because I am committing fraud and when the band finishes their three minute ballad I might be asked to make a speech or sign autographs. And I swear to all of you the only complete sentence I know in Spanish is "Donde esta el bano, por favor?" So I yell something to my wide-eyed then-wife about "We need to get the hell out of here now.", wave farewell to the crowd, and bulldoze us out of there while the musicians and customers watch us in confusion. The mask goes in my pocket and stays there as we hustle down Ruiz. No beers. Adios.

Weeks later I'm punching the remote and accidentally hit on a Mexican cable channel.....and there he is. He's wearing my mask as well as a silver cape, boots, and tights. And he / I am looking damn good. He / I am running on top of a speeding semi-truck

trailer trying to make his / my way to the cab to take over the wheel while bad guys are shooting at him / me from cars with machine guns. His name is Atlantis and he is one of those rare wrestlers who made the transition from the ring to movies. He is a cultural icon in Mexico and deserves yours and my respect due to his dedication and hard work. And, like a complete idiot, I sold the mask soon after I got divorced because it reminded me of.....us. If I had only waited a couple of years...

I strongly suggest you try lucha libre at least once. Live. From the front row. Look for colorful posters stapled to power poles all over town announcing the event in advance. And maybe do what

head with it and give it back to you, bent in half. It would be a souvenir I would treasure the rest of my life. With a story to tell all my curious friends since it would be prominently displayed. ✍

## COOKING LIKE A MEXICAN...

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they could be long distant cousins, but Rompope is a force of its own. Grandmas make and drink Rompope, and it's typically the first taste of adult beverages among many Mexican households.

There are many versions regarding the origin of Rompope, but one thing is for sure: it was made by nuns during the Viceroyalty times in Mexico. The story



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all the kids there desperately want to do. Buy a cheap plastic horn from a vendor at the event and let a wrestler who has come into the audience take it from you (because you will be holding it out to him or her with a pleading look in your eye) so he or she can hit their opponent over the

goes that in 1524, after a very long journey, a group of Franciscan friars known as the "twelve apostles" arrived in Mexico. They were in charge of education and professing the Catholic religion in our country. They started setting up convents and that's how the marriage

of both Spanish and prehispanic culinary began.

The best Mexican recipes from Viceroyalty times originated in the convents, and to this day their cuisine is recognized across the country as one of the tastiest. The nuns' recipes are also considered the most traditional

like chiles en nogada, moles, campechanas, an assortment of cookies and Rompope.

Puebla de los Angeles was the Franciscans central. It was the city that welcomed them with open arms and the passage for those who came from the Atlantic on their way to the capital. It was a point of reunion for very important characters, both peninsular and creoles.

The Clarisa nuns were accommodation experts for such powerful individuals, which gave them the chance to show off their culinary abilities, making the best food and drinks like Rompope. It is a mix of milk, cinnamon, eggs, sugar, powdered almonds and rum which also changed the history of alcoholic beverages in Mexico. One of the most interesting things about nuns and their cooking is that they could not taste everything they made, specially Rompope for obvious

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## COOKING LIKE A MEXICAN...

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reasons. There was only one nun per convent allowed to use rum and taste the Rompo, but with time it all changed.

It is said that the Clarisa nuns made a beverage which Spaniards called Rompón, and it was so popular that the recipe was shared among convents eventually leading to industrial production for



commercial purposes.

Now for the recipes! Pan de elote with the perfect pairing, Rompo cream.

For pan de elote:  
3 ½ oz of butter


½ cup of sugar  
1 cup of yellow corn kernels (can be canned)  
1 tablespoon of flour  
1 teaspoon of baking powder

4 eggs  
1 pinch of salt  
2 tablespoons of butter mixed with corn oil to grease the pans

Procedure:  
Preheat your oven to 350F.

Beat the butter and sugar until soft and creamy.

Add the corn kernels and eggs one by one while beating.



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Add the flour, baking powder, and salt.

Grease and flour your pans and add the batter.

Bake for approximately one hour but check about 45 minutes in to make sure your oven doesn't burn your pan de elote.

For the Rompo cream:  
1 stick of cinnamon

1 cup of milk  
½ cup of Rompo  
1 vanilla pod  
4 tablespoons of sugar  
4 egg yolks  
Procedure:

In a pan with the milk, add the cinnamon and the vanilla beans and bring to a simmer.

Beat the yolks with the sugar until the yolks become a lighter color and the texture is smooth.

Once the milk mixture starts a soft boil, quickly remove it from the heat and add one tablespoon at a time to the egg mixture until incorporated. Make sure you do this slowly to avoid making scrambled eggs.

Strain and let cool and add the Rompo.

Enjoy! I am always available at [ale.borbolla@gringogazette.com](mailto:ale.borbolla@gringogazette.com) and am happy to read your feedback! 🐦



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