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VOL. 28 ED. 12 · JANUARY 30, 2023 NO BAD NEWS



Photo by Gracie Atherton

Medano Beach Has New Public Restrooms

BY FERNANDO RODRIGUEZ

In late November, we reported the always-crowded and most popular beach in Los Cabos, Medano, would be opening long-anticipated public restrooms in the area located below the service road between Cabo Villas and the Hacienda resort.

The new facilities were going to feature new sinks, faucets, and toilets for public use. On New Year's Eve, those bathrooms were put to the test as hundreds upon hundreds of men, women, and children flocked to relieve themselves at the New Year's Eve fireworks show.

Andres Flores, an engineering professor from Morelia, Michoacan explained "My friend went first, since one of us had to stay behind and watch our things and save

our place on the beach, which was a little more crowded than the previous time we were here in 2018. And when he came back, I asked him if it was crowded, and he said yes. Football, baseball stadium size crowded, I asked again. He said worse."

When Flores went to pee, he found it was indeed too crowded. So crowded in fact, that the line started up on the hill and there was no way he could wait. He chose to use the old standby restrooms, just below Edith's Restaurant, where they now charge 15 pesos to use their facilities and 20 pesos if you want toilet paper.

The new public restrooms at Medano do not have shower areas apart from the small ones people use to wash the

sand off their feet. This restriction was meant to keep homeless people from taking their showers in public areas. The restroom building itself is relatively small when trying to accommodate a huge crowd like the New Year's Eve party goes but it is more than adequate to serve the daily needs of those who frequent Medano beach.

The history of the facilities finally seeing the light of day is a long and arduous one that first began 14 years ago and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Mexico Tightens Anti-Smoking Law

BY DAVID FLORES

And it's really tough now. As of January 15, it is forbidden to smoke in restaurants, (even outdoors), malls, private ballrooms, beaches, parks, sports stadiums, movie theaters, theaters, live concerts, amusement parks, hotels, schools, workplaces, government offices, medical facilities and public transportations.

If you are in a restaurant and go out to smoke, you must be 10 yards away from the entrance. You are stuck smoking at private properties like your home or your friend's place. Last but not least, packs of cigarettes for sale must not be visible, so store chains like OXXO have covered them with black curtains. 🦋

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Que Pasa in Cabo?

BY DAVID FLORES



Hot Mamas Filming in La Paz. "Single women between 40 and 60 seek love with single men in their 20s while staying in a beautiful retreat in Mexico," says TLC on the website of MilfManor, the TV series that is being filmed in the former Governor's mansion on the Las Conchas beach, just outside of town on the road to Pichilingue. TLC is an American cable television channel owned by Warner Bros. Discovery. Episode 1 is streaming as we write this.

Ground break for Treat-

ment Plant Begins. The small town of Pescadero, located on the Pacific seaside 38.11 miles north of Cabo San Lucas and with a tad over 2,500 inhabitants at last count – and dozens of ex-pats – will get a \$1.6 million sewage treatment plant soon, as the groundbreaking took place early this week. The treated water will be used to well, water the green areas of the town.

New Flight from Dallas This Spring. Only this time, it's aboard a luxury, semi-private jet service. Starting on April

21, Aero will take off from the Dallas Love Field airport in Texas, San Francisco Int'l, Van Nuys and LAX. Prices start at 1 grand per person and are available to book right now, according to a press release. Avoid long lines, crowds and check-in. Aero stated their flights will take 30 minutes less than those of commercial airlines. Let's go to Cabo!

Flight Spain – Los Cabos Returns. Our Los Cabos Tourism Fund closed the deal with Ávoris air division to fly from Madrid to Los Cabos once a week starting in June this year. Last year, Iberojet flew the same route and in the few weeks that it lasted it brought 400,000 Spanish tourists to Cabo. Ávoris and Iberojet are part of the Barcelo group.

We Have Eight of Mexico's Best Golf Courses. The Golf-Pass magazine has released the names of the Top 25 Golf Courses in Mexico, eight of which are in Los Cabos. They are, from bottom to top: Cabo San Lucas Country Club, Quivira Golf Club, Cabo del Sol's Desert Course, One&Only Palmilla, Cabo Real, Club

Campestre, Puerto Los Cabos and Solmar Golf Course. This looks like the magazine has different tastes than others as the ranking is waaay different from that of Golf Digest.

Invitation to Join the Mardi Gras. The La Paz Institute of Culture has launched an invitation to participate in the floats parade during the local Carnival (Mardi Gras) that will take place in February 19, 20 and 21. There are prizes that go from \$7,000 to \$25,000 to the winners. To get your team in, call 612) 129 4872 Monday to Friday from 8:00 to 3:00 pm. In Spanish.

We Are Going to Spain This Week! The Los Cabos Tourism Fund (FITURCA) will be in Madrid, Spain this week from the 18 to the 22 promoting our tourist destination. Mexico's tourism secretariat has booked six spots and five offices that will be shared by Los Cabos with the Mexican Caribbean resorts and three other states, Queretaro, Michoacan and Oaxaca. We will report on the success of the dozens of meetings that FITURCA has scheduled. Stay tuned.

Cruise Ship Arrivals Will Increase This Year. A stunning 750,000 cruise ship passengers are expected to visit Cabo this year, said Arturo Musi, spokesman for the cruise lines association in Mexico. "16 new cruise ships with capacities between 2,000 and 6,000 passengers will be added this year," he added.

Los Cabos Bars Extend Working Hours. The city's fiscal department approved new hours for bars and nightclubs in Los Cabos. They are now allowed to remain open until 3 am and can get an additional 2-hour extension for a small fee. Party, party until late! Well, we are pretty sure downtown Cabo residents will not be happy, the bars are pretty noisy.

Police Abuse Decreasing. Many foreigners and Mexicans, too, have been complaining about police abuse in Los Cabos. Although through the efforts of civil organizations, it

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has been decreasing slowly, it should be much better soon. Several policewomen and men are now carrying video cameras, which are monitored from their headquarters in San Jose del Cabo. Ain't you happy?

San Jose Resort Changes Name. The Cabo Azul resort, located on the beach in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Social Club Starts New Year with A Bang!

BY SANDRA BERRY

Los Cabos Tomatoes, the ladies' social and networking group, met for its first meeting of the year on Thursday, January 12, with a luncheon at the new location of Casa Valentina, an open-air restaurant specializing in authentic Mexican fare.

The new digs sport an urban garden on the scale of a farm-to-table concept right in the center of Cabo San Lucas at the corner of 12 de Octubre and Melchor Ocampo. Sixty-five members and guests attended and enjoyed a plated meal of cream of corn soup, a choice of

grilled fish over mesquite with garlic butter, baked chicken breast with mushroom sauce, La Norteña (marinated arrechera -flank steak) with guacamole, nopal, and chambray onions, or a vegetarian chile relleno (veggies and cheese), and for dessert, a corn pudding. It was all very delicious. For reservations for breakfast or dinner (sadly, they are no longer open for lunch), call 624-172-0495.

Julie Anderson, Venue Director, moderated the brief business meeting first introducing Sara Barrales, general man-

ager of Casa Valentina, then asking the following guests to stand and be recognized. They were Suzy Sager from Penticton, British Columbia (BC); Elaine Evans from Okanagan Falls, BC; and Susan Purcell and Cathi Sutton, both from Toronto, Ontario.

Other guests recognized and those joining this day were Kelly Riggs from Higden, Arkansas; Penny Omnes from Vancouver, BC; Tracie Brelsford from Pullman, Virginia; Edith Vizcarra, Director of Sarahuara; Omni Chishti from Portland, Oregon; Gail Rowe from Park City, Utah; and Carol Georgeson from BC.

Libertad Ramirez, guest and a new member who is with CSI Soluciones Corporativas formed in 2006, was in the Network Spotlight and gave a

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Los Cabos Tomatoes was formed in 1991, has close to 700 members on its membership roster, and meets twice monthly. For information, contact loscabotomatoes@gmail.com. 🐦



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Amazing Places in Baja Sur For Your Next Vacation

BY NICK FONG

When planning your next vacation, consider an amazing place in Baja Sur. From Todos Santos just north of Los Cabos along the Pacific to East Cape and La Paz north of Los Cabos on the Sea of Cortez, your choice is inherently difficult since each amazing place boasts its own wonderful character, spectacular views, and attractions for your entire family to enjoy.

Therefore, I'll guide you through each travel destination and point out the unique qualities to help you make your final decision. Then, I'll show you how to pick a great property management company to ensure your Baja Sur vacation is the best it can be.

Discover the magical town of Todos Santos

Located about one hour north of Los Cabos, Todos Santos offers the perfect contrast to the festive lifestyle in Cabo San Lucas. Todos Santos is only one of two towns in Baja Sur classified as a Pueblo Mágico -- Magical Town. A retreat for those wanting to slow down and smell the roses, Todos Santos is also a haven for those who love to dine at fine restaurants, take siestas, and enjoy the natural beauty only Todos Santos provides.

In town and throughout the surrounding areas, explore miles of unspoiled beaches, take an exhilarating hike, spend time exotic bird watch-

ing, surf, snorkel, scuba-dive, kayak, and go fishing. Then, discover Playa Los Cerritos, one of the area's most peaceful beaches. As you'll see, beach lovers embrace the Baja Sur surfer vibe there. They walk freely on the soft sand, watch the amazing sunsets, and drink cold beverages while soaking in the sun. This beach is ideal for family gatherings, barbecues, and hanging out with friends.

Todos Santos is a bird-watcher's paradise. You'll find Oriole finches -- both Scott's and hooded, Western tanagers, Northern Mockingbirds, Cactus Wrens, hummingbirds (Black-chinned, Costa's and Xantu's), doves, sparrows, Wilson's warblers, Turkey Vultures, Vermilion flycatchers, white-faced Ibis, Cassin's kingbird, Gila Woodpeckers, gilded flickers, Verdins, Kestrels, Hawks, western grebes, Great and Snowy-white Egrets, Blue Herons, black-necked Stilts, Frigatebirds, Osprey and Brown Pelicans. Now that was a long list!

If you're interested in living in Todos Santos or the surrounding area, there's a new development project being built there called Brisa de Sal in Cerritos. This development is under construction and offers 20 new homes, 14 right now and 6 to come in phase



two. Although Cerritos does offer many great condos in the area, Brisa de Sal presents individual three-story homes, each with their own private roof-top terraces.

East Cape is a secret tropical hideaway

Still fairly undiscovered, the East Cape is a sanctuary of pristine beaches, winding dirt roads, and thrilling mountain

trails to explore. Also, you'll find fresh-water swimming holes with waterfalls and small fishing villages of local farmers and fishermen. There, you'll see very few tourists, making the possibilities for peace and quiet abound.

Along the sea, fill your days with beach-strolling, swimming, snorkeling, and sport

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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Firefighters Receive Jaws of Life Training

BY FERNANDO RODRIGUEZ

In a city, which has seen its population grow to 312,000 since 2010, the number of highway accidents has also gone up. To address that issue of safety, the Cabo San Lucas volunteer fire department invited and received Jaws of Life training from the Puyallup Extrication Team from Seattle, Washington, during the weekend of January 14.

The Puyallup Extrication Team is a non-profit extrication group that teaches the latest life-saving auto extrication courses locally, nationally, and internationally.

"Our group has instructed several Fire & Rescue agencies over the past 11 years, including departments from Canada, Illinois, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska, and now Cabo San Lucas, BCS," said their

president Jeff Pugh, whose www.thepxteam.org website notes vehicle extrication is the rescue skill of disentangling and removal of patients trapped in severe automobile accidents.

"In addition to instructing other firefighter departments, we have also been competing nationally as well as internationally since 2000 in WRO/NAVRA vehicle rescue competitions where teams of firefighters from around the world compete in rescue scenarios to enhance their skills, learn new automotive technologies, and help to advance techniques of auto extrication rescue."

Pugh has been a professional firefighter for 28 years in Washington. The Puyallup Extrication Team is a unique group of 18 firefighters who

provide this training on their days off and pride themselves on making a large impact on the safety of rescue personnel. The organization relies heavily on donations and grants to keep its lifesaving show on the road.

With the blessing and support of Los Cabos Mayor, Oscar Leggs, the city welcomed the Puyallup Extrication Team members and firefighters from San Juanico, LaPaz, Pescadero, Todos Santos, Mazatlan, and Veracruz for the two-day training.

Los Cabos community is very blessed in having such an incredibly visionary leader of our volunteer firefighters. Juan Antonio Carbajal, known by many locals as Commandante Carbajal, arranged the vital training course for not only our own firefighters but for those in our neighboring cities because they are brothers in arms united in their lifesaving careers.

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become something more, then you are a leader," said John Quincy Adams, the 6th president of the United States. Carbajal has been an extraordinary leader and spokesman for all the fire departments in BCS. Yeah, he is THAT special.

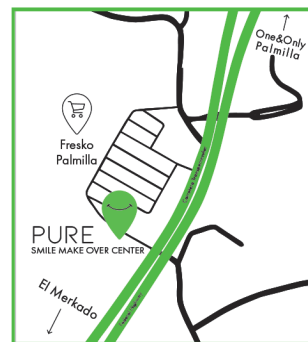
"Thank you so much, Juan Antonio Carbajal," said Miguel Anaya, who serves as the firefighters' director in La Paz.



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"It is important that those who preside over and form part of the civil protection commissions in congress support these noble and important institutions and training courses," added Florentino Mendoza, a leader in our local political circles.

"This is what the Brotherhood of Firefighters is about, that whoever has the chance to support the other Brothers does so. Congratulations Commander Carbajal, for

those who receive this equipment so it can be used to save many lives," said Edgar Doria Torres, the volunteer firefighters' director from Tecoman, Veracruz.

"We know of the shortcomings that exist in many fire departments in the country, and to the extent of our possibilities, we help with the greatest of pleasure," replied Commander Carbajal, adding, "It is painful to see how many firefighters exist in Mexico providing emergency services without adequate equipment; many lives are lost for this reason. We understand the hardships that happen every time they had to pull out a person from the twisted irons of a crashed car, and when they reached out for help, we moved into action, and soon Veracruz will have the 'jaws of life' they requested to help rescue people trapped in crashed cars."

He repeated his plea that many more "jaws of life" are needed for the many other firefighters in Mexico. 🐾

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An Artist in Ascendancy

BY BRAD FALKNER

As part of its Artists in Residence, last December, the Viceroy hotel welcomed the internationally-renowned visual artist Alejandrina Calderoni as their guest of honor. The effervescent Mexicana is wearing a perpetual smile on her face, lifting the spirits of everyone who crosses her path. She makes time for all in attendance, fondly sharing the inspiration behind her work.

The showing revealed the eclectic nature of her artistry and the remaining pieces will be available in the gallery of the hotel through the first week in February.

"I feel very blessed they chose to partner with me," she said. "I have such an abundance of respect and gratitude

for Peter Bowling (Viceroy GM) for orchestrating such an enchanting evening."

When I first met and interviewed Calderoni, her sunny disposition was strikingly evident; she giggled and smiled easily. She is 52 now, but her outlook and appearance are considerably younger. This is an artist who is thoroughly comfortable in her own skin and is unmistakably at ease with herself. Alejandrina is a distinct individual with an innate charm and a gentle nature, who was born to be an artist.

Her beloved mother navigated the parental waters with singular grace, extraordinary elegance, and unmatched dignity. This unimpeachable character, who established

herself in several disciplines, was the anchor of the family. In essence, her mother was her muse. The apple didn't fall far from the tree, as one can see those qualities reside comfortably in Alejandrina and her artistry. Her madre

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tailed traveling often to and throughout South America. She found herself often feeling lonely after the initial excitement of the gig began to wane. The constant travel and long hours were taking a toll on her soul.

Calderoni remembers, "I was living in Chicago, and then I would have to go to Argentina,

stood staunchly behind her principles and left behind a legacy of honor and integrity.

"My mother, who passed away three years ago, was my main inspiration: a flamenco dancer, sculptor, psychologist and a brilliant mind. I grew up surrounded by music and in art concerts, art exhibitions, dance festivals, and literature groups. I feel so blessed to be brought up that way. My painting projects allow me to sustain in time an era that I lived and loved," Calderoni reflects

After graduating college with a degree in international business, she was hired by the U.S. embassy in the greater Chicago area. The job en-

Chile, Columbia, and Venezuela. At first, it was really exciting and a great experience, but I was traveling by myself and a lot of the time I was alone. That loneliness drew me more into painting. While I was traveling and being alone, I would sketch and paint. Deep down inside I knew that art was my true passion."

This singularly gifted and ambitious artist has time to reflect on her journey as she enjoys life with her family and circle of close friends. To be sure, it took her some time to figure out exactly what made sense for her professionally while raising her two boys.

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Cooking Like a Mexican

BY ALEJANDRA BORBOLLA



Precious readers. I am going, to be honest with you. I am not picky at all with ingredients and flavors, but as far as textures go, I lose my cool. I have had to face a hard truth lately: I thought I hated something and turns out I slowly started to like it until one day I woke up craving it. One of the textures I have not been very fond of since I was a kid is mushy (is that even a valid word?). The fact that some dishes change their consistency from the kitchen to the table used to be dreadful to me until a recent trip to Guadalajara, home of tequila, where I was proven wrong. There's a type of torta, ergo a sandwich, that is called a "drowned" torta. This, my friends, is said to be the most iconic dish in the state of Jalisco. The perfect companion for this dish is a cold Mexican beer.

This is often eaten as a hang-over dish, but it was originally meant for satisfying a hungry stomach.

The torta ahogada's story began when a hungry laborer

ents together, satisfied his hunger and was so pleased with the result that he begged his wife to give him the recipe for her salsa. It is the star of this dish



came home to find only a stale piece of bread, some refried beans, pork leftovers and runny tomato sauce that was probably meant for a salsa. The starving fellow put the ingredi-

and is kept a secret whether in a business or a street food cart.

One thing that must be noted for this recipe is that the bread is a special type called birote which is only made in Jalisco. Because of the sea level height, it is said it cannot be made anywhere else. It would become stale pretty quickly, so the torta ahogada was the perfect solution. Soak the stale bread in sauce and it becomes more edible before it turns mushy.

There are as many variations to the salsa recipe as there are stars in the sky. Well, maybe not THAT many but I'm here to show you the main recipe.

The main ingredient here is the tomato. This fruit (yes, it's a fruit) was born in Mexico. It was such a big surprise to the Spanish and they got so used to its flavor that they took it back to Europe in the sixteenth century. Europeans were quite skeptical because of its sour taste and yellowish red color. It was considered either poisonous or aphrodisiac, so women were banned from cooking or eating it. However, from the seventeenth century on, Spanish monks started introducing

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it in their recipes as it was cheap and fed an army. In the nineteenth century, a brilliant Italian man made tomato sauce and it was a huge hit. Tomatoes were then incorporated in Spanish, Turkish, Greek, Lebanese and Arab cuisines. Therefore, tomatoes were our gift to the world. You're welcome.

The Mexican Spanish word jitomate is only applied to tomatoes in the nation's center; it is known as tomate in the rest of Mexico as well as in other Spanish-speaking nations. Sinaloa is Mexico's largest

tomato producer in the North Pacific Region; tomatoes are produced to a lesser extent in the Central Pacific (Jalisco and Nayarit) and in the Central Highlands (Morelos, Tlaxcala and Mexico City).

Fun fact: tomatoes are hermaphrodite, they can turn a blueish color when lycopene (tomatoes and berries' natural color) is high, and a tomato plant can drink up to two liters of water per day. That's why they're so watery.

Back to the torta ahogada. My first tip is to eat it as soon as

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continued from page 1

has been entangled in a long and drawn-out legal and political process in granting the permits for its construction.

Before opening, most tourists and locals would pay 10-15 pesos at the facilities near the statue of the Fisherman in the roundabout area by Billygan's and many would take that short walk to the Puerto Paraiso Mall, whose restroom facilities are some of the cleanest in the vicinity.

The restrooms are a welcome and long overdue addition to a Cabo San Lucas city and Los Cabos community whose population has grown from 68,443 in 2010 to 350,100 in 2023. ✍

QUE PASA IN CABO?...

continued from page 2

hotel zone of San Jose del Cabo has merged with the Hilton Hotels group and is now named Cabo Azul Hilton Vacation Club. The resort features spacious suites with kitchens, Spa, 4 restaurants, a kids' camp and six pools including a three-level infinity pool. An upgrade to its luxury services is among the Hilton plans.

Four Seasons Opening 2nd Cabo Resort This Year. The new resort is located inside the Cabo del Sol development just outside of Cabo San Lucas on the road to San Jose. The luxurious resort includes 74

rooms and casitas, 17 suites and five villas, pools, multiple restaurants and a signature Four Seasons Spa. Hotel St. Regis will also open this year, within the Quivira development (think Sunset Beach on the Pacific side). By the end of the year, there will be 600 more rooms available in Los Cabos.

New Kosher Restaurant Does Cabo. Located at the entrance to the Pedregal park inside the Cabo San Lucas Jewish center, Ember has opened its doors. The menu includes soups, steaks, wraps, wine and more, and it is kosher-certified by Rabbi Rotenberg.

Southern Baja Breaks Record. Again. Our gorgeous state welcomed 4.116 million tourists last year that flew in, an increase of 22.4% over 2019.

The tourism office estimates that the revenue left behind was \$1.3 billion USD. Ninety-seven percent of international tourists arrived from the U.S. and Canada. ✍

AMAZING PLACES IN BAJA...

continued from page 4

fishing. Then, throughout the beautiful surrounding landscape, enjoy ATV adventures, horseback riding, hiking, and 18 holes of world-famous golf. Take advantage of the deep-water marina where you can dock your own yacht.

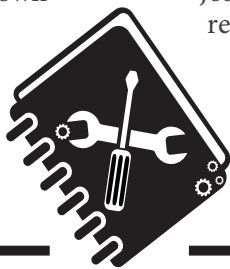
If you're feeling adventurous, take a half-hour drive to the quaint community of Santiago. There, go for a short hike and refresh yourself with

a swim beneath a waterfall cascading down beautiful high granite cliffs. Or head to El Triunfo, a 19th-century mining town where several old buildings were restored and converted to restaurants, boutiques, art galleries and a museum.

La Paz in Baja Sur is a natural wonder

It's time to uncover the coastal Mexican town of La Paz in Baja Sur. It's located north of Los Cabos along the beautiful Sea of Cortez. With a population of almost one quarter of a million people, it's the perfect-sized city to have everything you need like stores, services, and health facilities without being too big.

Espiritu Santo Island, the
CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



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PROFECO Director Meets With Realtors

And agrees to a reprieve until the end of February. Edgar Chico, Director of PROFECO, Mexico's consumer



protection agency, met with Harry Schikora, President of the Los Cabos Association of Real Estate Professionals (AMPI), following the closure of several real estate companies. It was agreed that by the deadline stated above, all real estate companies will have complied with the NOM 247. Learn all about the NOM-247 going to: <https://gringogazette.com/wp/2022/12/norm-247-consumer-protection-for-property-buyers/> To assist in becoming compliant reach out to Harry Schikora, President of AMPI Los Cabos at cabo-agent@gmail.com or info@ampiloscabos.com for more information. 🐦

Lic. Edgar Chico, PROFECO Director. Center: Harry Schikora, President AMPI Los Cabos and right, Ileana Carrillo, AMPI's administrator.



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AN ARTIST IN ASCENDENCY... continued from page 6

A chance encounter with a perspicacious art connoisseur changed the professional course and tapestry of her life.




She explained "My husband had just opened a La Dolce restaurant. It made sense to have some of my paintings there on display for décor purposes. One day this man came in and he was sitting at the bar looking at one of my paintings. He asked me 'do you sell them?' I said hmm I don't know. I had no idea what to charge him. I said 'how about \$400 USD?' He said are you serious and paid me on the spot," Calderoni continues. "He came back a few days later with an art history book. He showed me a piece by William Turner 'The Storm.' My painting (Hurricane) was so similar. I had heard of Turner but I had never seen that particular piece. I tried to buy my painting back, but he smiled and said no way. We both laughed."

Her work soon started to get the attention of not only civilians; the government took notice as well. The best was yet to come, as she procured the

first of many distinguished awards and accolades starting in 2015. That was a banner year, as she received recognition from the Instituto de Cultura Sudcaliforniano for being the winner of the Seventh Carlos Olachea Visual Arts Biennial with her piece "Ensayo en Rojo."

"It was the most significant award of my career. If you win a Biennial you become very recognized by curators. It was the first time I decided to participate," she said. "I was kind of freaking out but I thought to myself I'm just going to go for it. The Acquisition Prize is such an honor because your piece gets bought by the government and lives on in





CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



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Santiago Dreams of Expansion

BY FERNANDO RODRIGUEZ

Santiago is a small community located along Highway 1 about 103 miles southwest of La Paz and 56 miles northeast of Cabo San Lucas. City leaders are looking for investment in an urban project that is being spearheaded by David Garcia, an architect. His plans include restoring the chimney of the sugar mill; a museum and photo exhibition of the Trapiche, a mill tool used to extract juice from fruit; a welcome sign to the entrance of Santiago; a cable car; a small cabin hotel; a viewpoint for bird watching enthusiasts; a multipurpose room; an artisan street market; a double-decker tour bus; and a vacation center with swimming pools.

Garcia hopes the small city could qualify and earn the

much-prized distinction and government certification as a Pueblo Magico, like Todos Santos and Loreto.

"Staying in Santiago was such a different experience from being in the busier beachside areas. I think we were the only tourists in the town, which consisted of a small square and that's about it, but we loved it! Over the few days we were there, we were constantly in awe of the landscape. Seeing flowing waterfalls, springs surrounded by green palms, and layers upon layers of mountains in the desert was amazing," said travel writer Sandy Sees. "We were just as blown away by this part of the state, and the beauty around Santiago can give even the most beautiful of Baja's

beaches a run for their money. It was a highlight of our Baja California Sur road trip."

Unlike its more passive Pericue native inhabitants in the northern city of Loreto, the Santiago Pericue indigenous were less friendly or welcoming of the Spanish invaders and a decade after its mission was founded, a rebellion broke out over the entire south cape region in 1734 that resulted in the deaths of the Spanish speaking padres in San José del Cabo and Santiago.

The rebellion began in Santiago, where a small band of Pericues first killed two unarmed Spanish soldiers and then did away with Father Lorenzo Carranco. They dragged the padre outside his home where they ended his life with arrows, sticks, and stones. They also did away with a mission Indian who tried to help Carranco. After throwing the bodies into a bonfire, they ransacked the homes and church and set them on fire. Once they made their way into San Jose del Cabo they located



Padre Nicolas Tamaral and killed him in the same violent manner.

Years later, the small village settled into a restful existence. And since then, the city has changed very little. There is enough water from several springs to irrigate 1,500 acres of mango, oranges, sugar cane, papaya, bananas and other fruit trees. The last census count of the entire Santiago area listed about 4,000 residents.

One of its greatest attractions is the Sol de Mayo waterfalls and ecological ranch that is located within the Sierra de la Laguna Biosphere Reserve. The waterfalls in the Cañon de la Zorra (Canyon of the Fox) can be reached a few miles north on a dirt road. It is a protected area on private property (Rancho Ecológico), and accessible to the public for a small fee. The hot springs are reached a bit farther south in another canyon tumbling out of the Sierra La Laguna, which is the highest mountain range in Southern Baja California.

And while many visitors and a few movie stars have considered Santiago a dreamy place to visit, the small town has dreams of its own of becoming a Pueblo Magico that will entice and encourage even more visitors to their tiny, special, unique, place on this planet and one of the nicest places, found right here in our nearby backyard. 🌵

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Handcrafted Pottery Is Like Artwork

For All Areas of One's Home

BY KATHRYN REED

Imperfections can actually make something even more perfect.

That's what happens with handcrafted pottery and glassware. Two glasses or bowls may be similar, even seem alike, but look closer and you'll see each is unique.

Mexican pottery is full of vibrant colors that seem to draw one's eye to it no matter where it is located—a kitchen, outdoors, or on a table as a decorative piece.

Ibarra's Pottery was founded in 1958 by Julio Ibarra and Juanita Chavez. They met in Mexico City where they were both studying art. They decided to join forces and create pottery together.

In the mid-1980s they moved to La Paz in Baja California Sur where they had a family. In many ways, it was like starting all over as the Ibarra art was not locally known.

Julio Ibarra died in 2015, while Juanita Chavez was still working there last year.

In April 2022, Ibarra's Pottery celebrated what it called its evolution in La Paz from 1987-2022.

Today, the La Paz shop is run by the founders' daughter, Vicky Ibarra. A third generation is also becoming potters.

While they don't like peo-

ple to take pictures onsite, the pottery makers post pictures online of the finished work and of employees painting what is essentially a blank canvas. There are even videos of how the clay comes into being.

The store/factory in La Paz is continually turning out new work. Plates, glasses, wall hangings, pitchers, and so much more are handcrafted right there. If you don't find what you are looking for or you have an idea for a piece, special orders can be placed.

One of Ibarra's Facebook posts sums up why handmade art is so wonderful. "When you are buying a handmade piece you must know it might have some small defects and you can't blame the artisan. The truth is: it makes it unique. Why? Because when you are creating something with your hands no matter how careful you are sometimes it's impossible to make it exactly like the others."

A post on Ibarra's Instagram page says each piece takes about two weeks to complete. All of the Ibarra pieces are lead-free. What I have bought can go in the oven and dishwasher, though I haven't done so.

I love that each is signed on the bottom, so you know it's

an Ibarra. (They carry other works at the store.) To me, Ibarra pottery is functional art.

Deets:

Address: Guillermo Prieto 625, La Paz. Email: ibarraspottery@yahoo.com, More info is on Ibarra's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ibarraspottery

COOKING LIKE A MEXICAN...

continued from page 7

it's served so you don't end up with a bowl of unrecognizable mush and have a spoon handy because things will get quite

messy. Warning: if you go to a place where tortas ahogadas are served, take into consideration that "ahogada" means the whole piece of bread will be soaked in spicy hot salsa. Half "ahogada" means only half of the bread will be soaked in spicy salsa. But the whole thing will either way be soaked in non-spicy tomato salsa. So, if you ever order one, make sure you know this unless you want a fiery trip to the toilet later.

Ingredients:

8 stale (day old) bolillo pieces of bread (I don't think you'll find the typical birote for this, but day old bolillo will do

the trick)

600 grs of braised pork
1 cup refried beans (these can come straight from the can as they are only for smudging a little on the bread)

7 tomatoes

1 onion

3 garlic cloves

1 spoonful of oregano

100 grams of tree chili (that's what it's called everywhere)

1 cup of water

½ cup white vinegar

Preparation:

Boil tomatoes, onion and garlic together. Once that's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



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The Artist Studio Tour is Here!

Beautiful art, beautiful homes and one great day!

BY CHRISTINE COURTRIGHT

As the world continues to claw its way back to normal, Asociación de Artes (AdA) is here to provide you with a great day with the Artist Studio Tour on Wednesday, February 8 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. The tour is conveniently located just a short drive from anywhere in Los Barriles! The nature of this event especially lends itself to being Covid-safe as it is easy to maintain social distance, lends to small groups and is spread out in several locations.

If you have not been on this tour, now is the time to go as it is a two-in-one event! Not necessarily a home tour, but you get to see the home and studios of some of the most popular artists in the Los Barriles area in addition to seeing the latest and greatest work of these select artists. We have several new homes on the tour this year. It is great to see the artists' homes as you can learn a lot about their art from their homes and studio. You can often see where they get their

inspiration for their work, understand their love of textures and color and see where their personalities come out in their work and their home.

The 2023 tour will feature over 17 homes (several are side-by-side homes). Many of the homes will showcase the works of more than one artist, giving you the opportunity to see the work of 25+ different artists! Artists on the tour vary from fabric, jewelry, bead or soft goods medium, weaving, photography, oil, acrylic and watercolor paintings, wood, ceramic and pottery and natural materials and that is just a sample! Artists include Elizabeth Perkins with some silver and precious stone jewelry, Victoria's Sunny Dresses with Baja perfect clothing, the Apron Lady with sewn art creations, San Antonio weavers, Michele Melehes with up-cycled indigenous Guatemala and contemporary clothes, Mary Naylor our poster artist, Julie Shipman Photography and the artwork of Colin Harival, Jeff Heintzman, Tamera Hall, and Connie Heinen – just to name a few of the artists. We will also have the first exhibition of the paintings of Steven King since his passing in 2021!

Getting tickets is super easy with our drive-through ticket booth located at the Baja Properties office in Los Barriles (across from Tio Pablos Restaurant and Hotel Palmas de Cortez). The ticket booth location will be well-marked and easy to find. You

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drive in off of 20 November and exit at the side street. It can't get any simpler! Tickets are sold on the day of the event from 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. and prices have remained at \$100 pesos or \$5 USD. You will get your map to the studios and your wristbands for entry.

The artist studio tour has become a favorite event for many in Baja Sur. Friends meet and tour the studios, take a break for lunch at one of our great restaurants here in Los Barriles and finish the

tour stops. Being a few days before Valentine's Day you can get your shopping done while enjoying the tour. Get gifts for your loved ones and yourself! And if you are one of the many new residents in Baja Sur, what a great chance to get some new local art and accessories for your home and that includes your closet and jewelry box!

We have worked hard to ensure that we can provide for our guests and artists an event where we can main-
CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

Artist Studio Tour

Feb 8th 10am—4pm



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Creating or Becoming a Partner in a Mexican Corporation

BY ZAIRA AKE

Are you interested in becoming a partner in a Mexican business or creating your own corporation? It's important you understand some of the rules and requirements for foreigners investing in Mexico.

Do you need a Mexican investor to open a business?

Many investors do not realize that, depending on the business activity, a Mexican company can be incorporated with only foreign investors.

Real estate businesses, restaurants, clubs, and stores are some examples of businesses that meet the requirements necessary for 100% foreign investment, meaning they do not need to include a Mexican business partner.

There are other activities that may require a certain percentage of Mexican investment and others may be reserved for only Mexican investors or the Mexican Government.

Do I need to have Mexican residency?

To be a shareholder in a Mexican company, it is not mandatory to obtain Mexican residency. However, all partners must provide their details such as legal name, legal address, and valid identification (passport), as well as their foreign tax information such as your tax ID.

If none of the business partners have Mexican residency, the company must have a legal representative who has a valid Mexican RFC (tax ID) and electronic signature. This person will be authorized to register the company as a taxpayer with tax authorities, among other procedures.

Can I be the only shareholder of a Mexican company?

Yes, this is possible. However, you must have a valid RFC and electronic signature, in addition to being limited in terms of income and activities. This will require you to be a Mexican resident. We typically do not recommend the option of being the sole shareholder and will often recommend there be at least two shareholders.

Mexican Corporations & Real Estate Transactions

A legal entity is not limited to the amount of real estate

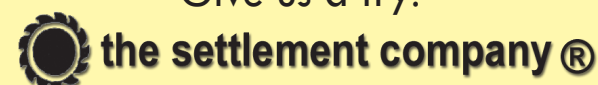
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it can acquire. However, the properties must be entered into the legal and accounting records of the company through shareholders' meetings and the corporation must submit real estate acquisition notices to the appropriate institutions.

If you are interested in signing a purchase contract to acquire a property in Mexico but still do not have a Mexican company to acquire it through, you can request the developer, prior to signing the contract, add a clause requesting that you are allowed to deed the property title in the name of a Mexican company of which you will be the majority partner.

If you've already signed the contract as an individual and want to change it in the

name of a Mexican company, it will depend on the developer or seller and their availability to make the necessary adjustments. However, once the company is established, a protocolized meeting of partners must be held to relate the payments made by the buyer from their personal account with the company.

What are some other things I should consider?

A company needs a physical address in Mexican territory as a requirement of Mexican tax legislation, ideally the place where its accounting is kept.

A foreign company can act as a partner of a Mexican company if it has the necessary documentation notarized, apostilled/legalized and translated if there is any text in a language other than Spanish.

A foreigner as an individual and his foreign company can act as partners in a Mexican company, even if he is the owner or partner of it.

The RFC of the company covers only the company as an entity, but not partners as individuals.

Foreign individuals who want to obtain their own RFC must first obtain their Mexican residency and, later, schedule an appointment to go to the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



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Looking at 2022 Through a Rear View Mirror

BY JOHN GLAAB

2022 saw a plethora of activity in the real estate industry, including an important Mexican consumer protection law. The new law will seriously impact real estate transactions in Mexico.

SUMMIT OF THE THREE CALIFORNIAS:

A historic event took place in Baja California Sur in June. This was the Summit of the Three Californias. The event was sponsored by OMNI MLS. The Los Cabos Section of the Mexican Association of Real Estate Professionals (AMPI) sponsored a "meet and greet" the night preceding the opening of the event. Realtors, brokers and agents came from the state of California, Baja California, Baja California Sur,

and many states in Mexico. There were even attendees from Argentina and Brazil. The President and the C.E.O. of the California Association of Realtors also came to Mexico for the event. They made presentations and spoke about the potential for referrals from their state. Their common theme was doing business between the U.S. and Mexico. A featured event was a panel on mediation and arbitration. Diana Cuevas, an attorney specializing in Mexican/U.S. law with the Arbitration Commission of the International Chamber of Commerce, came from Mexico City to participate on the panel. Marco Klein directed the panel and Linda Neil in the representation of

Mexico's Settlement Company® was one of the participants. Hopefully, this will become an annual event.

AMPI NATIONAL CONFERENCE:

Tijuana (Playas de Rosarito) in Baja California Norte was the venue for the 51st Conference and Annual General Meeting for the Mexican Association of Real Estate Professionals. It was the largest and most successful conference in my 27 years of attending. It had a substantial number of international attendees. (Argentina, Brazil, Central America, and the U.S.) The *Rompehielo* (Ice Breaker meet and greet) took place at the Cultural Center of Tijuana. A large trade show was included. Ten new members of the Consejo (Advisory Board) were elected: Emilio Rojas Colian Wawa was elected Vice President and Ignacio Lacunza Magana of Acapulco will serve as President for 2023. Next year's conference will be held in Mazatlán; Sinaloa.

NAR ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

ENCE

The National Association of Realtors® (NAR) Flagship Event, "Realtors Conference and Expo" took place in Orlando, Florida in early November. It was an opportunity for REALTORS® from around the world to renew global connections and to meet new friends from around the globe. U.S. Realtors held state meetings and, in addition to a plethora of educational sessions, some went to the "Hill" to meet with their government representatives. As in other years, Dr. Lawrence Yun, Chief Economist at NAR, presented his thoughts on the 2022 economy and offered some possible economic scenarios for 2023. The 2023 conference will take place in Anaheim, California. Each May NAR holds its Realtors® Legislative Meetings in Washington, D.C.

NORM 247 COMES INTO EFFECT:

September 22, 2022, marks the day NORM 247 went into effect. As of that date, FULL DISCLOSURE became law for

all residential housing in Mexico. Gone are the days when evasive agents could tell a story that was less than correct and get away with it! Penalties for misleading information are hefty and complaints can and will be filed.

Among the essential items covered by the law are:

Advertising – must be truthful and accurate, misleading advertising is prohibited.

Costs and property prices must be written in Mexican pesos. Dollars may be included but with the notation that the real price will be that of pesos on the date payment is made.

Properties offered for sale must disclose the status of services such as electricity, telephone, gas and water. Full disclosure is a must on off-grid properties.

All advertising and websites must include a working telephone number for customer service.

In an Offer to Purchase the consumer-buyer has a right to cancel within five days of sign-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

Harcourts Baja

**Bravo to the team at Harcourts Baja Real Estate!
On celebrating their 1-year anniversary!**

Reach out to Melissa Murphy and Heather Walker to say congratulations!

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Instagram: @caboluxuryhomessoldhere
www.MelissaMurphyRealEstate.com
Melissa.Murphy@HarcourtsBaja.com

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AMAZING PLACES IN BAJA...
continued from page 8

beautiful little island just off the coastline of La Paz, is a UNESCO National Heritage site. There, you'll find an amazing sea lion colony where you can snorkel or dive alongside these wonderful creatures all throughout the year.

Uncover how to pick a great vacation rental

When looking for an amazing vacation rental in Baja Sur, make sure you choose a vacation-rental agency that provides great hospitality services. From friendly service to attention to detail, take the time to find the right one. When renting through someone who really cares about the quality of your vacation, your time in Baja Sur will leave you with the best memories that only Baja Sur can offer.

It's also important that your vacation rental is clean and well-maintained. You don't want to deal with issues while you're on vacation. Also, personal touches like a welcome basket make all the difference. It is good to know you're in great hands while on your vacation, and a great vacation-rental agency/property management company will provide all of that and more.

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AN ARTIST IN ASCENDENCY...
continued from page 9

national museums."

This estimable artist is an achiever of the highest class. In 2018 she received a scholarship from FONCA (Fomento Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes) in mobility for special projects.

"I was invited by the Art Institute of Oaxaca to have a solo show there. FONCA gave

me an award for that show. I received their official seal as a result which is such an honor" Calderoni recalls.

At the end of 2022, Calderoni took her "Faces" series to Spectrum Miami, a curated art fair presenting independent career artists, studios, and newer galleries. The event annually attracts thousands of attendees, drawing in the cognoscenti of the art world as well. Initially apprehensive about how she would be received, it didn't take long after many of her pieces were sold for her to feel like she belonged.

"This was my first time showing my work solo at an event of this iconic stature and I was nervous. I was overwhelmed by the reception that I was given by fellow artists," Calderoni said. "When a friend of mine showed me that one of my pieces (Sueno Constante) was included in the opening day 'Highlights you won't want to miss' flyer, I thought that I was dreaming."

Calderoni takes considerable pride in how she fared in Miami and at the Viceroy. She is an artist of instinctive brilliance and creativity, who keeps her life in perspective. Above all else, Alejandrina is sorting out her priorities and inevitably will take on new challenges in the years ahead. The feeling here is that her best is yet to come. 🐦

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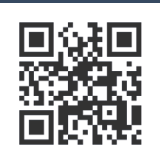


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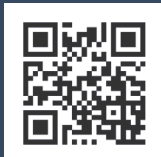


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What is El Cardonal?

We tell you right here

BY LINDA STOKELY

What is El Cardonal? It's a scenic 28 km drive north of Los Barriles is El Cardonal, a new dining, snorkeling, swimming, and living destination. Nestled in this sleepy fishing village are a dozen or so multi-million-dollar homes. The recent purchase of a small motel, RV park and restaurant on the white sandy beaches in

the center of town by the owners of Hotel Palmas de Cortez, Vanwormer Resorts, has added speculation to the future of this affordable, beachfront town.

Entering El Cardonal, the first establishment you see will be on the left-hand side of the road. This is La Hornilla, simply one of the best restaurants in southern Baja. The chef and

owner, Adriana, learned her skills from her grandmother. Tasting the food, one would think Adriana's grandmother must have been schooled in the art of cooking in Paris, France. The menu includes fresh fish with a delicious lemon sauce, mango habanero ribs, ribs with a blueberry sauce, and many other delectable and unique dishes. La Hornilla is an open-air restaurant with indoor and garden seating. The warm, welcoming, vivacious hostess is Patricia, Adriana's daughter. Saturday night is always packed, so unless you

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don't mind having a drink and waiting, I suggest going another evening. Check their Facebook page for days and hours they are open.

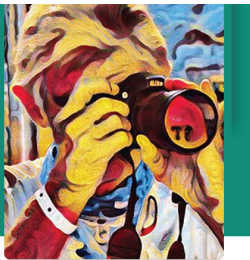
Continuing a quarter mile down the road, visitors will see the town's colorful, hand-painted El Cardonal sign. A left turn at that sign and a few hundred feet bring you to El Vecino, a sports enthusiasts' hangout with ceiling and walls covered with flags, hats and other sports memorabilia. On

game days the bar is full of fans of teams like the 49ers, Broncos, Seahawks, Chiefs, etc. Its bartender and owner, Alfonso, is a very likeable fellow who gave up a successful career in IT to come to Baja, the land he loved as a child, to find the right place to open a sports bar. The bar has a big-screen TV, two pool tables, and a giant Jenga game. It serves beer, margaritas, mezcalitas, a variety of vodka cocktails

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

Fish Report

BY GARY GRAHAM
THAT BAJA GUY



Cabo

Incredible fishing was good through the first half of January, raising our expectations for the remainder of January and February, with the excellent catch success rate for the fleet – the 899 marlin caught and released in one week, 141 dorado, and the 192 yellowfin tuna, plus the 56 fish caught in the other categories, including species like sierra mackerel, thresher and hammerhead shark, grouper, wahoo, bonito, and skipjack.

The top marlin boat last week was Pisces 37' 'BB II,' captained by Osiel Winkler with mate Joel Cota. They released an incredible 361 marlin over a seven-day period. Their best day was 110 released marlin for angler Lars Losee.

Mr. Losee also fished aboard Pisces 46' 'La Chingona,' releasing another 78 striped marlin and landing 5 dorado! The marlin averaged anywhere from 70 to 120 pounds each, and all took live mackerel bait. Each dorado averaged between 15 and 20 pounds. The previous day, a 30-year Pisces angler, David Palmer and his friend Mark Muncy, had 106 marlin released weighing between 100 to 120 pounds plus 2 dorado.

More from Pisces 37' Viking 'BBII,' – 65 striped marlin released, averaging up to 190 pounds each for anglers Dax, Scott, and Travis from Texas.

The 72' Viking 'Reels N Dirt' accounted for 100 striped marlin and 18 dorado over two days of fishing the Finger

Banks for angler Timothy Eck and friends. On that news, angler Fritz Stiles and his friends decided to fish for two days, one at the Finger Bank aboard Pisces 46' 'La Chingona,' where they released 49 striped marlin.

And closer to home, aboard Pisces 60' 'Happy Ending,' where they landed 3 excellent dorado a little over 20 pounds each and released a marlin of about 120 pounds on mackerel at the Golden Gate.

Standard boats have also been doing very well at the Finger Banks. With boats like Pisces 30' 'Karina' with Capt. Orlando Murillo releasing 30 striped marlin in a few hours, plus seven 15-pound dorado caught for the McGregor Family aboard.

Fish Killer Of The Week



Pictured are Andrew James (left) and Deyhmein Rijos. They caught the big fish on "Tuna Action" out of the new San Jose del Cabo marina. They flew in from NY where Deyhmein's girlfriend Lily James goes to college. It was the first fish Deyhmein's EVER caught!



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For anglers from North Dakota, Pisces 31' 'Ruthless' had 20 striped marlin between 110 and 130 pounds on live mackerel, plus 5 dorado between 15 and 30 pounds each.

Closer-to-home fishing was also good, with boats like the 28' 'Adriana' releasing 2 striped marlin and landing 2 dorado, and 12 yellowfin tuna. All were caught at the San Jaime Bank, for anglers Marque de La Garza and Scott Smith.

Pisces 38' 'C Rod' had another excellent week closer to Cabo with 5 marlin released and 5 dorado, all on mackerel close to the La Brecha area. On another day, they headed out to the Finger Bank, releasing 30 marlin and taking home some nice-sized dorado.

Dorado accounted for 40% of catches this week, with many fish averaging between 20 and 30 pounds... Pisces Sportfishing Fleet

Puerto Los Cabos
CONTINUED ON PAGE 23



Wanted: Dream Makers to Golf With a Cause

BY BARBARA POLLOCK

For most of us, education is something we take for granted. We are fortunate that in Canada and the United States we may attend right through grade 12 with little thought to the cost. Here in Mexico tuition is free till grade nine, but many children don't get past grade six, ending up on a different path – working to provide for their families.

Going to school takes more than tuition. Students' families are on the hook for some books plus transportation, school uniforms and supplies. That's a tough call if you have more than one child of school age, and it's a tougher call if you're having trouble making ends meet.

Thankfully in La Paz there is a foundation hard at work to fill in the gap. The idea that nutrition and education lead to a better future is the basis for Fundación Ayuda Niños La Paz (FANLAP). Mothers and volunteers have been fundraising, cooking and encouraging children and adolescents to seek education since 2005. The organization's services include a library/computer resource center, and a food and scholarship program. From 2005, more than 2000 children have benefited from their programs, and more than 1200 have received scholarships for further education.

In 2021 alone, FANLAP supported 180 teens to pursue

their dreams for a bright future. One of those young people was Elizeth, a recent graduate of the FANLAP program. "If I did not have a scholarship, I would not have graduated from my accounting studies. I am now able to help my parents and I can hope for a good job", says Elizeth.

A significant source of the \$350 USD scholarship Elizeth was awarded is an annual golf tournament held at Paraiso del Mar on El Mogote in La Paz. It's a great event where golfers at any level can enjoy a day out, while supporting education for La Paz youth.

When the pandemic hit, many FANLAP fundraising activities came to a grinding halt and the organization lost awareness-raising opportunities and operating funds for its food and education programs. The golf tournament was one of those suspended activities.

But it's back! The 8th FANLAP golf tournament to benefit the children of La Paz will be held on February 25 and FANLAP alumni like Elizeth hope you will swing your clubs in support of the students.

The two-person best ball format starts with breakfast and ends with prizes, a raffle and a silent auction – all to please golfers, art lovers and foodies.

Rebecca and Jim MacDonald, La Paz residents and FANLAP supporters, are proud to put their company, Baja Life Realty (<https://bajaliferealty.com>) behind the organization's efforts. "We've been in La Paz for seven years and we are grateful to be a part of this community. We consider it a privilege to support FANLAP and the golf tournament. If you're in the area in February, this will be a great way to spend the day – knowing you're helping to make a local child's dream come true."

If you're interested in playing, please visit the Paraiso del Mar or FANLAP websites for tournament details. If you'd like to sponsor a hole at the

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tournament, or if you would like to donate for a scholarship, use the easy on-line giving option on the FANLAP website, or please contact FANLAP at fanlap@hotmail.com or telephone 612 121 2166.

FANLAP – Fundación Ayuda Niños La Paz is a Mexican-registered non-profit established as a Mexican Civil Association (a charity corporation) and is a member of International Community Foundation (ICF) in San Diego, California, who gives 501c3 tax-deductible receipts for donations in the United States.

Baja Life Realty is a full service real estate firm helping clients find their dream homes in La Paz, Baja California Sur. 🐾

COOKING LIKE A MEXICAN...

continued from page 11

cooked, add the oregano and strain. Keep warm.

Roast chilies and blend with vinegar, water and salt. Put aside. This is your spicy

salsa.

Warm up the braised pork and the beans separately.

Open the buns, smear them with beans and stuff them with pork.

Once the torta is done, drown it in a deep-ish dish so all the sauce makes a little pool around it.

Thinly slice some onions and add some lime and a little oregano for topping.

Put the spicy sauce on the table for any brave folks out there.

Pretty simple, huh? I told you I would give you the basic recipe. Some people may say this is insane and that it's nothing like their abuelitas make, but that's the reason there are so many variations to the recipe. Everyone has their own take on things, and even more when it comes to Mexican food.

Until next time, if there's anything you'd like me to know, any questions or suggestions you can reach me at ale.borbolla@gringogazette.com 🐾



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The Placid and Pretty Waters of La Paz

BY JAMES BELL

While Los Cabos is known for its fantastic fishing, long stretches of sandy beaches, strong waves, fancy resorts, world-class golf courses, ideal winter weather and good, hard-working people, the capital and relaxed city of La Paz has much to offer, too: A peaceful bay, safe and shallow waters, marvelous beaches, friendly and easy-going residents, a relaxed pace not always found at many high-traffic tourist destinations, and good prices, too. And, "las mujeres son bonitas y los hombres atractivos."

These are only some of the features that attract national and international travelers to the La Paz region. Some travelers like what they see and decide to make La Paz their seasonal or year-round place of residence. Some find their special friends here. Some hook up in a big way and later make beautiful babies.

If you ask the locals in La Paz, they will likely tell you that life here is generally "bien tranquilo," and they are right: Life is mellow here.

Together, La Paz and Los Cabos are two of the safest regions of Mexico, with some of the lowest violent crime rates and highest standards of living in the Republic.

La Paz, located roughly two and a half hours northeast of Los Cabos, rivals the Los Cabos region in marine-life diversity. The region also sees the arrival of many colorful and huge fish and mammals, cool birds and colorful people. Dolphins, sea lions, turtles, and curious things big and small enjoy the delicious waters here. Young children especially like the bubble guppies. Friendly sharks also cruise the bay, and they are always peaceful to locals and tourists. No one is ever bitten

by them.

Jacque Cousteau, one of the world's most famous marine biologists, loved spending time and doing underwater research in the grand haven of Baja Sur with his crew. A statue of him can be seen on the La Paz "malecon", or bay walk. Other statues include a giant stingray, a fisherman looking out to sea, a well-endowed and bare-naked mermaid (my favorite), known for waking up sleepy men in the early morning hours, and many bronze sea creatures adorn La Paz' popular walkway. This is the place for a good walk. Runners, skaters, bike riders, morning coffee drinkers and evening beer drinkers enjoy it, too.

Cousteau once said the waters of Baja Sur are "el acuario del mundo," though he probably first said this in French. So while the Amazon forest may have the greatest lungs on Earth, Southern Baja has one of the best natural aquariums in the world. And it is gigantic.

The mighty blue, grey and killer whales (Orcas), great white sharks, and excited snowbirds swim or fly down from the north to spend a pleasant time in our warm winter places between the ocean and the sea. Some of the snowbirds just drive down. The world's smallest and largest fish and mammals and creatures of all colors, sizes and shapes, including many humans, get along swimmingly here. They love coming to our tranquil peninsula, and why wouldn't they?

Where Los Cabos sees some of the world's largest marlin and other hefty fish caught (and usually released) off its coast, La Paz welcomes the annual return of the world's largest fish, the awesome whale shark;

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24



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The New Year in Cabo del Este!

BY CINDY RAY

Welcoming the New Year in Cabo del Este is the debut of three fresh and wonderful places worth visiting. Anyone

wishing a day-long adventure away from the bustle of "city" life can find a lovely new art gallery rivaling anything in


the San Jose art district (with an ocean view even). For fresh shopping, two new organic markets offer abundant fresh produce, meats, dairy products, bread, eggs and more. For the non-East Caper, the roads offer the most breathtaking and pristine coastline in the world complete with eateries aplenty and even a couple of



inns for the overnight adventurers.

First and foremost, anyone who lives in the mid-section of the East Cape dreads the ride to "town" for supplies. When you first move here it seems to beckon as a "fun" experience but spending hours on the washboard surface we call a road somehow lessens its luster. Some are inclined to spend the night in town to soften the trek. With that in mind, if you are unaware of the two new shopping venues available to you, this might help you out!

On Friday mornings, Whitts End Rancho hosts a gorgeous organic market that often turns into a social event. Ramon and Anna bring a very wide selection of fresh produce complete with greens, root vegetables, squashes, fresh herbs, melons, and fruits. In addition, they bring in organic eggs, fresh shrimp, chicken, and fish which they file to order. The ranch offers freshly baked sourdough bread, sourdough cinnamon rolls, and zucchini or banana bread as well as their complete line of fermented foods and drinks such as kombucha, sauerkraut and goat yogurt. Fresh milk is available as are handcrafted cheeses, sourced organic honey, and homemade bone broth. Emphasis is on self-sustainable ranching and healthy products. The grounds are lovely and restive. The ranch is complete with a shady palapa veranda where neighbors lounge and visit. For more information visit @whittsen-drancho@gmail.com and Lisa or Norma would be glad to put you on their weekly product and mailing list for deliveries. There is a very good chance of



Los Barriles AA Meetings

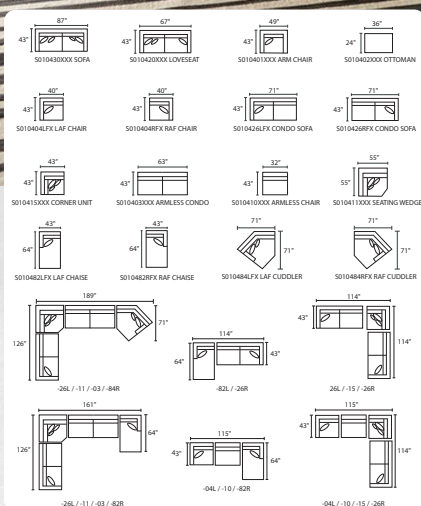
Palmas de Cortez Hotel
Tue & Fri 8:30 am
Rancho Buena Vista
Wed & Fri 4:00 pm

an upcoming music and dining event in mid-March this year as well. The weekly market event is on the coast road approximately 6 miles (about 10 km) south of Los Frailes and 6 miles north of Vinorama. The market is from 9 until noon; look for the Toboggan sign on the main road. The ranch is two miles down. If you get lost, just pull into Castillo de Arena (with the flags) and ask someone.

On Sunday mornings, Vidasoul Hotel and Restaurant host another beautiful organic market. Jose Mundo brings in a lovely variety of produce including greens, squashes, cauliflower, cabbages, and fresh bean sprouts. The tables are piled with peppers, citrus fruit and herbs. Vidasoul is in Vinorama on the beach and has the very best location for whale watching. Enjoy breakfast on the patio or a lovely pile of nachos for lunch with a cocktail or cerveza. In addition to the produce, they offer fresh fish and fresh organic chicken. The market also sells bread and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

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Ask a Mexican

The Mexican government prohibited smoking in public places which means beaches, patios, terraces, hotels, restaurants, bars and pretty much any space of collective concurrence. It is now also prohibited to advertise and show tobacco products in stores, supermarkets, convenience stores, and a long etcetera. The WHO applauded said law but there are divided opinions among the people.

What do you think? Do you think this will lower tobacco consumption in our country? Who will benefit from all of this? Do you think anyone will be affected?



Illustration by danjazzia

Catalina Jiménez, 21, recent graduate. I think it's a great idea and the only good one our government has had this year. Smoking is awful and unsanitary. It not only

affects the person actually smoking but everyone around them. It's very annoying to go out to a bar or a club and come home smelling like an ashtray and even worse when you are

not the one with the gross habit. I'm okay with vaping though. The ban on vaping seems way too aggressive. It could be a good alternative for those who really can't break the habit but I guess there's interests involved and it just couldn't be perfect.

Josué Sepúlveda, 27, technician. I think it would have been better to be a little less aggressive. For example, smoking at the beach. I get it because a cigarette contaminates so much, but at bars and places with designated smoking areas it is just too much. We all have free will and we all know the health consequences of smoking, and there are open spaces everywhere so we can smoke and dispose of cigarette butts, but to completely ban it and have the risk of a fine is excessive in my opinion. I think many people who work in the tobacco industry will be affected because sales will probably go down, and tobacco is a good source of income down south.

Helena Plomo, 44, administrator. This is one of the best things our government has done, and I hope it works like in other countries. I was reading the other day that in South America it worked and the number of smokers has decreased by over 20% in the last 10 years. It will take some getting used to, and it will be a

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long process but I think at the end of the day, we will live to be healthier and our environment will thank us. We have done enough damage anyway.

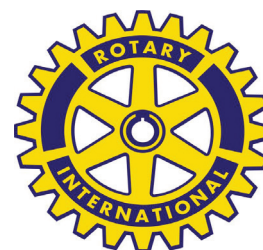
Roberto Dominguez, 42, trucker. One more of those stunts the government pulls to seem like they're doing something when they have better things to do. No one will stop buying cigarettes if they don't see them. It's not like they don't know they exist. No one will stop smoking. We will just find places where

we can and businesses will suffer because they will not be able to provide a comfortable place for customers to be happy and have a smoke with their drinks. The people and the families who depend on the industry of tobacco will also suffer, but no one thought this through. Looks like the police are going to be going home with some more pocket cash after they get to patrol tourist areas.

Laura Ramos, 32, custom-
CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

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**THE ARTIST STUDIO TOUR...**

continued from page 12

tain the government's Covid Safety regulations and be safe. With that said, make sure you check our website (www.eastcapearts.com) for the latest information on any Covid related restrictions. Please note: Masks may be required if it is required here in Baja Sur.

The Studio Tour is one of the major fundraisers of the Asociación de Artes del Mar de Cortez, whose mission is "Improving the educational experience for all students of the East Cape". This runs from providing school supplies, maintenance at the schools, sports programs and summer programs. Come and help us continue the mission. See you on February 8 for the Artist Studio Tour! More details at www.eastcapearts.com

CREATING OR BECOMING...

continued from page 13

tax authorities to process their personal RFC.

If you need to sign documents for a Mexican company, you must be in the country. However, you can grant a power of attorney abroad so that your lawyers in Mexico can sign the documents on your behalf.

How long will it take to establish a Mexican company?

This depends on how quickly you provide the necessary documents (powers of attorney and/or corporate documentation duly notarized, apostilled/legalized and translated). Once we have all the necessary documents, we can have the initial paperwork ready to sign within 3 to 5 business days.

Once the Mexican compa-

ny is incorporated, it must be registered as a taxpayer before the Mexican tax authorities. The length of time to complete this process is completely dependent on the tax authorities and is not within Mexlaw's control.

For more information regarding creating a Mexican corporation or becoming a shareholder in a Mexican company, please contact our team of corporate attorneys at Mexlaw.

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LOOKING AT 2022 THROUGH...

continued from page 14

ing the offer.

Defective construction – Buildings must have a five-year guarantee on the structure and a one-year guarantee on all else. Failure of a contractor to

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respond can result in penalties of up to 20% of the purchase price.

Contractors must indicate the source of their construction funds.

Buyers have the right to select the notary public who will formalize their purchase.

All forms for offers to purchase and related documents must be registered with and

approved by PROFECO.

Editor's NOTE: Since writing this I have been advised that two Cabo San Lucas companies have been shut down. One is the local Branch of a well-known international franchise.

Breaking News----coming event: The Los Cabos Section of the Mexican Association

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



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WHAT IS EL CARDONAL...

continued from page 16

and six kinds of pizza. Alfonso describes it as “where paradise begins.”

El Cardonal is an easy day-trip adventure, but for those wishing to experience the awe-inspiring, red sky sunsets and a night in this town, there's a beautiful, small motel with private verandas, some even with a hammock, and views of the Sea of Cortez. This is La Terrazas which is located between La Hornilla and Alfonso's El Vecino. It has a beautiful, well-maintained swimming pool and comfortable rooms, some with kitchenettes. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served in the restaurant on the ground floor. Reservations can be made at their website.

El Cardonal is a second home to many northern Californians, Oregonians, and expats from other states. It has the benefits of being off the beaten path yet still on a paved one. It's a town to watch as Baja grows. 🌱

FISH REPORT...

continued from page 17

Fishing has been noticeably quieter for the number of anglers arriving. Although it is not peak season now, the cooler weather and the north wind are always factors this time of year. Ocean water temperatures dipped to 68 degrees, and currents are even more unpredictable, picking up most days from the north by mid-morning, sometimes limited considering the options available. Live sardina rebounded a bit this week, still not overly abundant, but they have been an option most days, as well as ballyhoo, slabs of squid, and some days mackerel.

The main fishing grounds are concentrated from the Gordo Banks, Punta Gorda, Cardon to Iman Bank. Yellowfin tuna up to 80 pounds have

been found on the Iman Bank, mainly drift fishing with strips of squid. No big numbers at all, but if putting in a reasonable effort, there are chances of quality yellowfin. Most anglers are lucky to land one, but some caught a couple. Winds were a factor on these grounds, making it hard at times, too fast of a drift, and lots of bait was needed.

Fifteen-pound dorado were still spread out on these same grounds, striking more often on trolled ballyhoo, with an average of two to four per boat. Last weekend a few wa-

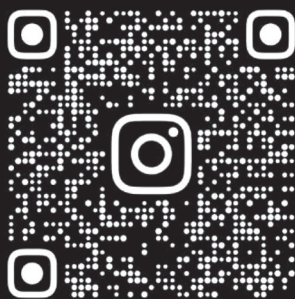
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THE PLACID AND PRETTY...

continued from page 19

a super-mellow swimmer that can grow to the size of a large tour bus. The friendly giant (currently vacationing here), whose mouth grows to a meter wide and houses around three hundred teeth, finds its comfortable place to breed a short distance from El Mogote peninsula, located west of the downtown area. Watching the fantastic creatures up close or underwater can be an awe-inspiring experience.

The diverse sea life of the Pacific and Gulf of California is fueled by its oxygen-rich water, which teams with life and helps nourish fish and mammals with special ingredients that allow

them to thrive. Some of the young or fully-grown beauties of the sea are pursued like Hollywood movie stars by excited onlookers, curious fans and enthusiastic photographers.

The La Paz travel experience is enhanced by special ingredients found in the flavorful dishes and drinks served at local restaurants, bars, and side-street vendor stands. They are often found in Margaritas deliciosas and raspados de fruta (fruit slushes), or in fresh seafood, sweet fruit salads, tasty tacos de pescado, cervezas sabrosas, and things of that nature.

Fishing, swimming, snorkeling, sailing, boating, paddleboarding, sunsets, golf, people-watching, siestas, and even doing nothing at all are good in

La Paz. It's all good. Very good, sometimes. Many people come here to find Peace and Love. La Paz y El Amor. This, often, is why they stay.

This is where the weather is wonderful in the winter and not so much in the summer--unless you come from southern Arizona. Then it may seem mild. Even native-born residents here can at times be heard complaining of the summer heat and crying out: "Ay, que calor!" Hence the popularity of its beautiful beaches, air-conditioned restaurants, shaded places with a breeze, and very cold beer.

By comparison, the Pacific side of Baja Sur, a bit cooler, including the Los Cabos area, offers surfers and strong swimmers plenty of good, powerful,

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and often dangerous waves (which have taken the lives of far too many innocent tourists), whereas the beaches of La Paz never see large crashing waves steal away and swallow horrified victims. The super-clear and shallow beach water around La Bahia de La Paz is warmer here as well and allows for stress-free swimming or casual wading on super-soft sand. Families with small children or adults who lack strong swimming skills and just wish to quietly immerse themselves in the bay's calm, soothing and turquoise waters find it welcoming and worry-free.

La Paz is also ideal for per-

fecting the art of floating. Lying on one's back on the buoyant water, relaxing all muscles, slowing the respiration rate, closing the eyes and relaxing the mind can be a transcendental floating experience. This meditative activity may be even more effective in relieving stress than a full-body massage—and it's free!—once you arrive.

If the enjoyable activity of wading through the colorful waters around the bay is chosen, it is best to learn how to quickly identify the stingray, la Mantarraya, whose brutal but purely defensive- sting can inflict excruciating pain on its victims. I know how it feels. La Mantarraya is usually easy to see in the clear and shallow waters, but poses a threat in murky waters where they can't be seen.

As for the winter weather here, if you ask many of us—and we're not bragging-- it's even better than in Florida. It is not nearly as humid and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27



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ASK A MEXICAN...

continued from page 21

er service. We all benefit from this, although smokers are not happy. The people who have been smoking their whole lives will have a tougher time, but I think this is the move we needed to stop new generations from picking up a nasty habit that does no good to anyone but the tobacco industry. I think this will also help the environment and public health, as fewer hospital beds will be occupied by patients with illnesses derived from smoking.

Paulina Contreras, 26, nurse. I think it's a great initiative and we are not the first country to go this far. There are many places in the world where smoking is not only not encouraged, but kind of frowned upon and they have similar laws. I see many people with an array of illnesses that originated from smoking, and they don't believe it. 🐦

LOOKING AT 2022 THROUGH...


continued from page 22

of Real Estate Professionals is sponsoring a certification class created by the National Association of Realtors®. This will be the Accredited Buyer Representative (ABR) course. The dates are January 25 and 26. Linda Neil, CIPS, ABR, TRC, SRES, RSPS, PIC, CN International REALTOR of the Year, 2012, will be the instructor. The current Vice President of mlsBCS said after completing ABR classes, ABR should be mandatory for all members of MLSBCS. 🐦

FISH REPORT...

continued from page 23

hoo were landed, as well. One 52-pound fish won the local tournament, though we have not seen these fish since. The water is too cold now; these pelagic species migrate farther south this time of year.



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Only a few striped marlin are being found; It's too late for them to show on local grounds. However, we expect more to show up in local waters soon.

We have recently seen more productive bottom action using bait and yo-yo-style jigs. A handful of impressive-sized amberjack, as large as 71 pounds, also quality yellow snapper, bonito, leopard grouper, and others. We will do more of this structure action in the upcoming months as surface action typically fades out during the colder months.

More inshore sierra action and juvenile rooster fish will start to be seen. Hopefully, supplies of sardina Hang in there, because we rely on those baitfish during the winter season... **Eric Bricton, Gordo Banks Pangas East Cape**

If it lives up to its reputation, the north winds can be expected to be intermittent here during the next few months. Because of recent winds, few boats have ventured out, even in the early mornings.

However, on his early-morning daily walks on the beach, Mark Rayer reported numerous schools of sardina close to shore from Spa down south past Ranch Leonero. There were enough to entice some anglers to fish in boats and on foot on the beaches.

The beach gang was rewarded with catches of several popular species, including ladyfish, small jacks, a few pargo, and cabrilla. While the boat gang, fishing a little farther out, scored a few small dorado and sierra.

La Paz

It has been mainly a sunny week with temps between the mid-50s and mid-60s. Although not many folks are out on boats because of North

Winds roughing the waters. We have had to cancel several trips because of it.

However, here and there, some folks found some windows of opportunity to get out in-between gusts. Many folks who get out are locals with flexible schedules or tourists with enough wiggle room in their vacation agendas to avoid the windier times.

Surprisingly, some dorado, usually gone by October or November, are still around. That leads me to believe there are still some warm water patches here and there. However, most catches were colder-water fish like small yellowtail and numerous sierra and bonito, jacks, and cabrilla.

There are lots of live sardina, although yo-yo jigs have also been productive if you can keep them off the rocky bottoms ... **Jonathan Roldan, Tailhunter International** 🐦



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Lifestyle Benefits of Minimalist Home Design

Starting the Year with "Less is More"

BY WILLA ROBERSON-MITCHELL

Have you wondered what life would be like if you had fewer furnishings in your living space? Would the fear of scaling down make you feel less whole or more out of control? This article is an expansion of my November 2022 article on "Decluttering". Now that you've gathered insight on how to remove clutter and better organize your space, why not take it

a step further and start the New Year with a fresh vision? Clinging on to things you truly don't need in your home will prevent you from letting go of situations representing your past.

Discovering the health and lifestyle benefits of a "less is more" approach will inspire you to look at your living environment from another perspective. Of course, the most obvious

benefit is that you have more space for physical movement. Yet, there are expanded benefits to becoming minimalist that appear less visible, yet equally important.

Here are just some of those insights.

Less Space – When you live in a less amount of space, you'll benefit from not possessing the urge to cram in more furnishings.

More Design Appeal & Spatial Relief – When there are fewer furnishings arranged throughout the room, the eye experiences spatial rest between each object and is, therefore, able to take in finer details of your design.

More Meaningful – More space allows you to highlight objects that symbolize personal meaning with true purpose.

More Inner Peace – Having peace of mind is a serene state of being. It is an entryway to all aspects of life that opens room for all that is.

More Visual Expansion – Fewer furnishings not only open more physical room; it also expands the illusion of space that inspires peace and comfort.

More Space for Relaxation – When you can physically move about and not stumble into wall-to-wall furniture, you are giving the body more

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freedom of movement and relaxation. Fewer furnishings inhabiting a space creates less visual competition among the elements. Eliminating visual confusion will create an ambience of peace, clarity and relaxation.

More Positive Energy Flow – Minimalist design balances and circulates the flow of positive energy. It allows energy to re-vitalize for health and well-being.

More Environmentally

Sensitive – Less furniture helps to reduce synthetic toxins and promotes environmental consciousness through the preservation of natural resources.

More Organization – fewer furnishings reflect a more organized space and will take less time to locate things.

Less Stuff Owned – The less stuff owned; the less stuff will own you.

Less Maintenance – Having fewer furnishings to clean in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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NEW YEAR IN CABO DEL... continued from page 20

pastries. Information is available at info@vidasoul.com or whatsapp 624-154-6966. The market starts at 9 am and Vidasoul offers day passes for their pool and hospitality. It is also a favorite for live music and dancing on select Saturday nights. It is a wonderful get-away for dinner, dancing, and available ocean-view suites. The sunsets are some of the best on the Cape.

For a different type of destination and shopping, just

North of Castillo de Arena about a few hundred yards and south of Los Frailes about 5 miles on the coast road, is a new art gallery/studio. It features the paintings of Anne Pechous who, for two decades, has delighted us with lovely paintings reflective of the area and Mexican culture. The gallery is a yellow and cream building with an art sign hanging out front. The lovely high walls and airily bright interior is the perfect showcase for her works. Anne has a studio in the back where she paints and is glad to greet customers and

admirers of her creations. The works are of local landmarks, the East Cape coastline, and local ranchers and their livestock. She has created quite a few small paintings as souvenirs for tourists to take home with them. Shipping may also be available upon request. If you live out here and have guests, it would make a lovely stop on your travels. The gallery is not on a full-time schedule yet but look for the Art sign out front. If you are planning to visit, you can email Anne at @galeriatananne.com for hours and status. If you live in

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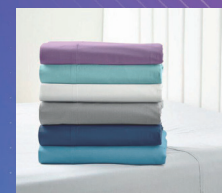
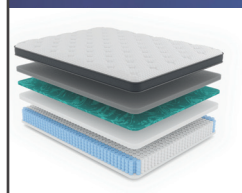
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the area, just stop by. The gallery rivals any in the San Jose art district and is well worth enjoying.

Whether you live on the East Cape or just want to wander out for an adventure, make sure your gas tank is full and you have time to enjoy the new shopping destinations out here. If you live here, it could save you a three to four-hour round trip to town. The coastline is beautifully dotted with views of splashing whales. Be cautious of random free-range cattle, horses and occasionally goats. It is a bit of the Mexican wild-wild west but many of us wouldn't be anywhere else. 🦋

THE PLACID AND PRETTY...

continued from page 24

it rarely gets too cold. Plus, it never snows, unless you are way up the Sierra de la Laguna and get lucky (a good place to get lucky). Although this region does get its yearly threats of hurricanes and drenching storms, these disruptions of the good

life are not common, and the storms are usually less potent than those that pummel the US states along the Gulf of Mexico or the Caribbean islands. Usually. Still, the ferocious Mexican hurricanes Liza and Odile, which walloped Southern Baja in 1978 and 2014, are two exceptions. Liza was a killer and may have accounted for more than three thousand deaths (mostly drownings) in La Paz, due to tons of rain and a violent burst of a weak and heavy dam, which super-flooded and shocked the city on its saddest day in history.

Normally, life is good in La Paz. Todo bien. The weather is mostly dry, sunny, breezy, and good for whistling. When the weather is lovely, which it usually is from November to May or parts of June, it is really lovely. Casi perfecto.

The high desert hills and canyons in the area, or the fine, sandy beaches of Balandra, or the divine and serene places of Espiritu Santo Island, and many other sweet spots, make

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



LIFESTYLE BENEFITS OF...

continued from page 26

a room allows more time to relax, increase productivity and focus on what's important in life. It will offer a feeling of self-liberation.

Less Work for Others – Not

only will you benefit from having fewer things to clean but so will others!

Less Financial Spending

– Consuming fewer furnishings will provide you with more financial freedom by lessening your expenditures and increasing your savings.

More Purchasing Power

for Higher Quality – Buying fewer furnishings for fewer high-quality pieces tends to be a good tradeoff.

Less Societal Competition and Comparison – Purchasing fewer items that reflect you and not more to satisfy your counterparts will decrease the motive to compete and compare.

It will put materialistic values in check.

Living minimalist is a creative and ongoing process. Once achieved, you may be inspired to maintain this lifestyle by monitoring what you purchase for your space with truthful inquiry, “is this something you want” or “Is it some-

thing you need?”

Through it, all, striving to achieve minimalism may appear to be a tough love approach, but do not give in. Ultimately, you will feel less stress which can lead to more peace and solitude for the mind, body and spirit. Proceeding with steps to minimalist design can be worth the journey and the new year is a fresh time to start.

Willa Roberson-Mitchell is an Interior Designer and Writer at Lifespace Designs, specializing in space planning, color schemes, furnishings, lighting, feng shui & sustainable living design. lifespacedesigns@yahoo.com / lifespacedesigns.com

THE PLACID AND PRETTY...

continued from page 27

the La Paz region a pretty place to enjoy life.

La Paz has a history of welcoming famous people and eager travelers from afar. Novelist, John Steinbeck, spent time here, enjoyed the quiet delights of La Paz, and found inspiration to write the classic novel “The Pearl,” published in 1947. Steinbeck studied marine biology at Stanford University, and in 1951, with the help of his research partner, Ed Ricketts, published “The Log from the Sea of Cortez” (aka Gulf of California). In the middle of the last century, many Hollywood stars, like Clark Gable, Bing Crosby, Errol Flynn and Desi Arnaz escaped to La Paz to fish, have fun, and get away from it all. I bet they had a lot of fun.

Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip and their large entourage also visited the city in 1983 and disembarked from the Britannia onto the malecon pier after sailing around the long peninsula. The queen wished to see the region from which the magnificent pearl on her crown originated. Although the large perlas lindas are long gone, the placid and pretty waters of La Paz remain.

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