

Aleximia Winery in the Guadalupe Valley is a good example of how to capture the rainwater.
 Photo credit, Bill Veal Graphics



The Need for Speed!

A Water Watch Series

BY MARTINA DOBESH

Colorado Water Management

Federal officials in August moved to implement a series of emergency cuts to water use in the Colorado River Basin, after seven Western states missed a deadline to come up with a plan to do it on their own. The latest news from the US water managers have yet to come to an agreement on how to manage the obvious crisis that is not going away. The 1922 Colorado River Compact will be renegotiated in 2026. It would seem they believe there will still be water to negotiate. This is amazingly complicated. Just think of trying to get seven members of a family to agree on how to distribute their resources and also share it with their next door neighbor. Now, multiply that with the needs and personalities of

40-million people in seven states and Baja California. It could be called a train wreck waiting to happen. Someone; some business; some community is not going to get what they want, and quite possibly not get what they need.

The Big Picture Looming for the Colorado River Water

Headlines in the LA Times October 7, 2022

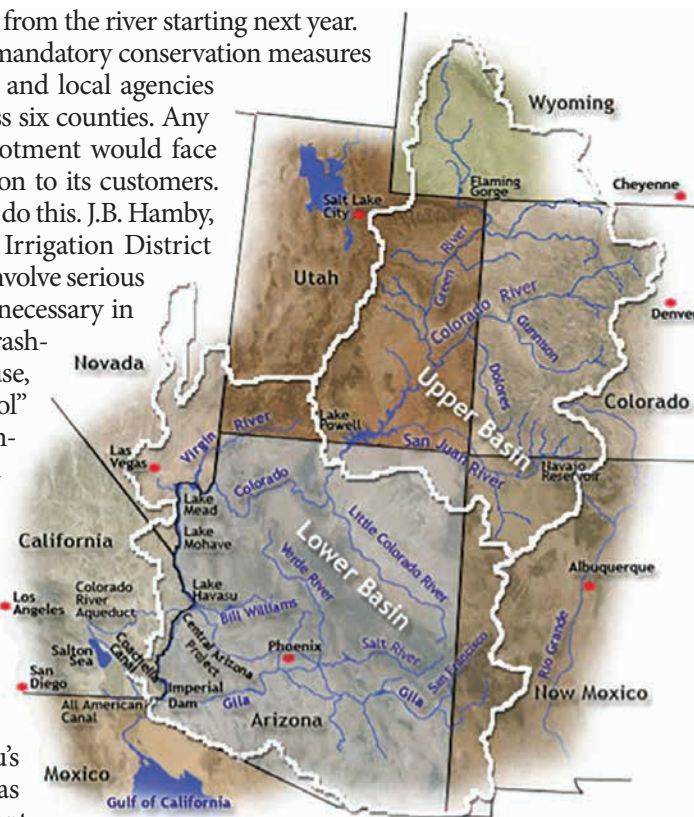
With the Colorado River in crisis and reservoir levels continuing to decline, some California water agencies are planning to signifi-

cantly reduce the amount they take from the river starting next year.

It is said “they plan to endorse mandatory conservation measures to begin rationing water for cities and local agencies that supply 19 million people across six counties. Any agency that overuses its water allotment would face penalties, which would be passed on to its customers. They haven’t yet worked out how to do this. J.B. Hamby, a board member of the Imperial Irrigation District said, “The reductions are going to involve serious sacrifice within California, but it’s necessary in order to prevent the system from crashing.” Without major cuts in water use, Lake Mead is approaching “dead pool” where water will no longer pass downstream through Hoover Dam to Baja California. These new conservation programs have yet to be approved by the district’s board.

Kyle Roerink, executive director of the Great Basin Water Network, said in a statement, “Certain Upper Basin interests are holding the Bureau of Reclamation hostage at this point... They have called the Bureau’s bluff time and again. Nothing has changed with today’s news — except

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Guidelines For Buying Real Estate in Mexico

BY LINDA NEIL



Mexico is an amazing and very beautiful country. If you enjoy your visit you may begin to think about acquiring a bit of our paradise. We have mountains, lakes, rivers, forests, deserts and seashores in Mexico. We also have history, ancient cultures, handcrafts, folklore and many other wonderful things to share.

Buying property in ANY

1. Be sure the agent you select to represent you is licensed by state authorities. He/she should also be a member of AMPI, the Mexican National Real Estate Association. Ask for references, check them out. Be satisfied the person representing you is experienced in Mexican transactions.

2. Insist that the person

ferred at a far lower price but it cannot legally be sold or promised to be sold until it becomes private property.

4. Be certain that you and your agent are dealing ONLY

5. Avoid costly and time-consuming litigation, insist upon including a binding arbitration clause in your contracts with the seller and other parties involved.

6. Request a copy of the no-liens certificate. Be sure there are no liens on the property and no marginal notes regarding the property. If you do not understand the verbiage of the certificate get it translated or send us a copy to help you.

7. Think carefully about how you acquire title in order to avoid or minimize probate and transfer costs in the future.

8. Closing costs may run from 13% to 20% of the cost of an inexpensive property! The closing cost for an expensive property will be about 3.5% of the purchase price. Certain costs are fixed regardless of value. Be sure to

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country can be stressful. A property purchase in Mexico can be just as safe and secure as in the U.S. or Canada... IF it is done correctly!

Following are some guidelines for success in a real estate acquisition in Mexico:

representing you, represent ONLY you, the buyer, and not also the seller unless you understand, agree to and sign an agency disclosure agreement.

3. Consider only the purchase of PRIVATE property. Ejidal property is often of-

with the owner of record or his or her legitimate power of attorney. Insist upon receiving a copy of the seller's deed as a condition of your offer. If you and /or your agent don't understand Spanish, get it translated.

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budget for closing costs and get a full estimate in writing from the company supervising your transfer.

9. The major portion of your payment for the property should be withheld or held in escrow until the deed has been signed by the seller and, if applicable, the bank trustee (if a fideicomiso).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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What Mexico Has Taught Me

BY THE UNKNOWN GRINGO



Editor Note: Our friend "The Unknown Gringo", has done it again and deviated a little bit from his usual subjects to talk about things that you don't see everyday, hope you enjoy it!

HORSE POWER vs DOG POWER. I was sitting on the balcony of my favorite room in my favorite hotel overlooking First Street in Ensenada when I heard a strange sound. I always ask for that room because I have seen so many fascinating things happen on the street below. Parades. Huge groups of bicyclists in the afternoon. Classic old cars beautifully restored. Or the man walking with the big tray of candy balanced on his head. It's not the quietest room in the hotel.... but sitting on that balcony can be like watching a movie. So....I turned to look up the street and here's a guy in a wheelchair being towed down the middle

of the street by two very large dogs. The chair was a low "sports" chair; the kind that gets used in basketball games. One dog on each side of the chair, he was holding onto their collars and moving at a brisk speed. While I saw him giving them tugs and verbal commands, he went around slower cars, down two blocks, and took a hard right out of sight. Shocked, I sat down and marveled at what I had just seen. I have worked for decades with special needs populations, including my own sister, but had never seen anything like that. Still amazed ten minutes later....what?..... the same sound!! But now he's coming down the street with a woman on his lap!! And she's obviously enjoying the ride. Zig. Zag. Down the street and out of sight. This happened about 15 years ago and I haven't seen him since.

HOMEGROWN INGE-

NUITY The maintenance man in Revolucion Park sweeping a 10' wide concrete walkway with a 12' long palm frond. A standard 2' wide broom from Home Depot would have taken many times longer. Faster = smarter. And the tool was FREE.

MARIACHIS PLAYING PINK FLOYD In Hussong's. Always a mixture of locals and tourists in a place that hasn't changed much since 1892. I like sticking my head in there at 10 in the morning to see it when it's empty. Just me and the employees. And then go back much later in the day for a beer on a stool at the old wooden bar to feel the energy of so many happy people. And....as has happened several times....to hear a group of mariachis play The Wall by Pink Floyd. The guys know their crowd and will try to please everyone. That's what working musicians need

What To Do If You're Stopped By The Police

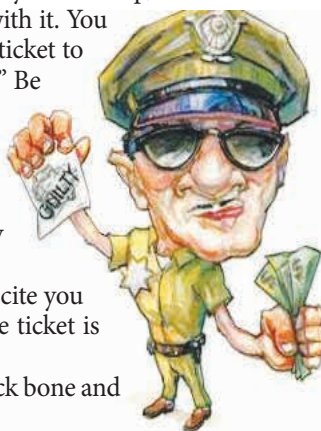
Ed Note. We have received comments from the local community asking us what do we have against the local police force. The answer is nothing, there are several great elements among the force, but unfortunately it is also common to find cases like the one we report below, specially with tourists or expats, which we feel is part of our duty to educate and protect. This is why we print this note on every edition of the Gringo Gazette.

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

If they get nasty, write down their last name from their name badge, or pull out your cell phone and take a photo of him, her, or them. No, it's not illegal to photograph or record a police officer doing it's job. That's like holding a mirror up to a vampire, and they will jump in their vehicle and scurry away like cockroaches when you turn on the light.

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

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



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to do. "All in all, you're just another brick in the wall...." Mas cerveza, por favor.

CARNAVAL The most wonderful event of the year. Parades. Music. Dancing. Mechanical bulls on the street throwing customers into padding. Vendors with microphones selling everything imaginable, creating an avalanche of blended sound. And, along with the roller coaster rides, games of skill, and the tacos stands is a tent that will show you freaks of nature for a price. Five legged sheep. Two headed snakes. And one year.... in a VERY dark corner was an

eagle with a human head. The star of the show. And....I had a flashlight. Yep, it was a real eagle. But it was stuffed and the head was a color picture of an attractive blond haired woman cut out from a magazine. I was by myself so I turned off the flashlight and started moaning and groaning "Oh, my God, nopleaseNO" to make myself laugh as if I was truly horrified at the sight. A hidden woman popped up from under the display stand. And she was breast feeding. She saw me and the flashlight. I pointed at the eagle and started laughing and so did she. She got

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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Cooking Like a Mexican

BY ALEJANDRA BORBOLLA



Fall is finally here. It's my favorite season and the kick-off to all my favorite events. I know the weather down here doesn't change quite as much as up in our northern neighboring countries, but we do get all the fall ingredients at their prime in this season's harvest.

Besides the widely-known maize, pumpkins are without a doubt one of the most Mexican vegetables, and is often represented in art and pottery as well as being a staple ingredient in cooking. Native Mexicans being the resourceful people they were, learned how to exploit every single bit of this veggie, from the stems to the flowers and seeds. First representations of pumpkins are found in ceremonial vases, paintings and sculptures, found all over Mexico and dating as far back as 7000 years ago. Other times, pumpkin flow-

ers were painted on ceramics as decoration. Although there is no defined meaning, many pumpkin-themed vases were found around mortuary offerings which leads historians to believe pumpkins were especially valued. Pumpkins are also mentioned in popular Mexican legends and tales, closely related to the creation of the world and being a part of the Gods' gifts.

In the prehispanic era, pumpkins were an essential part of the basic diet, the most used part being the "pepitas" or seeds. Pepitas were consumed toasted or ground and added to different dishes. Most of them are still cooked in a traditional way, like pipian, a special kind of green mole. Pepitas were extremely popular because they were easily stored, abundant and did not go bad as easily as other in-

gredients.

This time, I bring you a recipe called mole Verde or pipian Verde, from the state of Michoacán. It is located in Western Mexico and has a stretch of coastline on the Pacific Ocean to the southwest. The word mole has a Nahuatl origin, coming from the word "molli" or "mulli" originally making reference to the act of grinding chiles and adding

choacán's original ingredients. In the eastern territory of Michoacán, vegetables are abundant all year round because the weather is very good. If we add to these veggies some tomatoes, herbs, chiles and seeds the result is a delicious mole with a complex flavor and a rough texture. Green mole from Michoacán is usually served with chicken or pork,



some kind of liquid, resulting in a thick sauce. With a century-long tradition, almost every region has its own version, sticking to the endemic ingredients of the land.

This particular variety of green mole is defined by Mi-

white rice and corn tortillas.

Before I give you this recipe, I must clarify some points:

-This is a complex and elaborate recipe. All steps must be followed to achieve a good mole, but I promise it is so worth it.

-This recipe calls for lettuce. Any kind can be used. I do recommend using a deep green kind for the coloring.

-This recipe calls for pepitas, which must be peeled (and toasted for a deeper flavor).

-In this recipe, pork lard is used, but it can be substituted with vegetable or olive oil.

-This dish will take about 40 minutes of your time and will feed eight people.

Ingredients:

8 lettuce leaves (1 oz)
5 acelga leaves (chard) (.5 oz)

4 green tomatoes (7 oz)
2 poblano peppers (8 oz)
2 serrano chiles (.8 oz)

1 ½ cups of sesame seeds (5 oz)

1/2 cup of pepitas (2 oz)

2 cloves of garlic (.2 oz)

1/3 of an onion

3 cloves (clavo de olor)

5 springs of cilantro (1.5 oz)

3 sprigs of parsley (1 oz)

6 cups of chicken stock (50 liquid oz) You could also use water, but it'll taste better with chicken stock.

5 spoonfuls of pork lard (2 oz) or vegetable or olive oil

3 whole pepper grains

Salt to taste

Preparation:

Work with the pepitas:

1. Place the pepitas in a pan on the stove over medium heat. Roast them for about a minute, until slightly brown moving regularly. Make sure you don't burn them or they turn awfully bitter.

2. Put them in a blender once roasted and roughly grind. do not turn them to powder. This mole is special for its texture, which comes from the pepitas.

3. Transfer the ground pepitas to a bowl.

4. Add ½ a cup of chicken broth to the pepitas and stir into a paste. Reserve.

Blend the rest of the ingredients:

1. Devein and remove the seeds of the poblano chiles, liquefy and reserve.

2. Roast sesame seeds for about a minute and a half the same way you roasted the pepitas, until golden brown moving regularly.

3. Place sesame seeds in a blender, along with the lettuce, acelga or chard, green tomatoes, serrano chiles, garlic cloves, onion, cloves (clavos de olor), cilantro, parsley, a cup of the chicken broth, and pepper grains.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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Michael Movie Moments

BY MICHAEL YOUNG



Being the Ricardo's Movie Review

One of the recurring criticisms, from both critics and the viewing public, of Nicole Kidman in *Being the Ricardo's* is that she just isn't Lucille Ball. Some fault the makeup, arguing that it makes Kidman's face stiff and unable to deliver the kinds of expressions that make Lucy famous. Others suggest Kidman is just too cool of an actress to play the hot-headed redhead. Kidman, herself, said she was "terrified" of the role and wondered whether she would successfully pull it off. Coupled with similar criticisms of Javier Bardem as Desi Arnaz, then, it isn't hard to understand why this film rates near the bottom of the critical and popular scales among this year's Oscar-nominated movies - people didn't like this film because their images of Lucy and Desi weren't in it!

I get all of that - in fact, early into my first watching of the film I asked my wife the simple question - could anyone successfully impersonate Lucille Ball? Think about that for a while and try to come up with personalities that might have been chosen. Lucille Ball is simply a one-of-a-kind character and I don't think anyone can become her. So, if what you demand is a high-fidelity rendering of the main character in this film, you are going to be disappointed - and, it appears, many viewers were.

But that is an unfair expectation because this is really an excellent movie. If you can back off the notion that this is somehow a true-life biography of Lucille Ball and her marriage to Desi Arnaz, then the movie takes on some amazing power. Considered as a chronicle of an actress, her troubled marriage to a brilliant but conflicted

man, all thrown together in a stewing pot of a television production and a nationwide political storm and you have an amazing movie. That it might also provide some insight into two of America's cultural icons is just an added bonus.

The cast worked very well together and ended up earning three Oscar nominations. Nicole Kidman received a Leading Actress nomination, not because of her physical comedy, but because she nails the dramatic scenes. Javier Bardem may not look exactly like Desi Arnaz, but he delivers a wonderful take on the man showing the intelligence and the fighting spirit Desi harbored for his wife. He earned a Leading Actor nomination for his performance. The interactions between the two of them illustrated the conflicts in their relationship as well as their intense love for each other. The two supporting actors, J.K. Simmons as Bill Frawley (Fred Mertz) and Nina Arianda as Vivian Vance (Ethel Mertz) portray their characters with a precision that is uncanny. Simmons received a Supporting Actor nomination for his role here and Arianda probably should have. The interactions between all four of these characters were wonderful and illustrate a terrific ensemble team - something that is always as much fun to watch as it must have been to film.

The fact that this film received three acting nominations and nothing for directing or writing is puzzling. In my opinion, the strength of this film is in the script and the way the story is told. And for that, the credit goes to Aaron Sorkin. His scripts (*The Social Network*, *Moneyball*, *The Trial of the Chicago 7*) have a unique way of taking very complex subjects (like courtroom proceedings, or a gambling ring)



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and explaining them with rapid dialog. His characters are always deep and often conflicted people, rooted in real life, who are under intense pressure. The plot is executed more as conversations between characters than as heavy action scenes and he often mashes together scenes from different locations or times to help elaborate on a common theme.

In *Being the Ricardo's* for example, he uses several different tricks to tell the story. In one of them, we peer deep into Lucy's mind as she imagines how an episode they are working on is going to play out. He

pictures Lucy's thinking in black and white because that is how it would have been shown on television at the time. Sorkin also brings in elements of a "mockumentary" interviewing some of the minor characters - using actors portraying them as much older people.

This commentary helps frame events by telling back stories which might then be the basis for a flashback. He uses this technique several times to tell the story of how Lucy and Desi met and how they ended up doing this particular television show together.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

THE NEED FOR SPEED...

continued from page 1

for the fact that the Colorado River system keeps crashing." Jack Schmidt, River scientist, has spent decades chronicling Colorado's troubles. "I won't say it's too late, but we are in true crisis." He goes on to say, "To tell people their way of life is threatened or that their way of life may not be able to proceed... it's not the American way to recognize limits... but we are going to have to deal with them."

The Colorado River Compact, Keep an Eye on California

Associated Press Reports the Compact, a 1922 agreement among the seven southwest states, before Baja signed its treaty in 1944 is now 100 years old. John Matthews, executive director and co-founder of the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation said that the compact held together, "but just

barely," and they left out the Native Americans, who were not allowed at the table. Matthews went on to report, "We had a profound amount of ecological and hydrological hubris in how we designed things then, and how for the most part we still design things now." Anne Castle, a former Interior Department official said, "The point I want to emphasize is the need for speed. It's just not clear that the river will allow the current pace of discussions to continue without devastating consequences."

Vanishing River - youtube.com/watch?v=ooGeK4hP0NQ

This is a well-done video on the complicated issue that will be faced in the west, as well as Baja California's coastal communities. It is a visual dose of reality.

Global Water Monitor & Forecast Watch List, September 15, 2022

Thomas M. Parris, President, "The 12-month forecast ending May 2023 indicates in Baja intense deficits in the peninsula's northern half."

Local News and Developments

This didn't just happen overnight. "It is based on the fact that people don't want to give up what they have." Jim Glynn said in the last **Water Watch, Edition #15**. In 2023 the northern state of Baja will face an additional 7% water cut. This might not seem like much; however the math brings it closer to home. We will lose 33 trillion gallons

next year, from an allotment that has already been reduced, and will be reduced further as the United States sees fit. Baja has become partners in these reductions, but is still covered by the 1944 Treaty. This is one area in which to keep a watchful eye as our northern neighbor renegotiates the River Compact allotments in 2026.

La Misión Water Board decreased household water use from 200 gals a day use to 180 a day, this is a very real effort to not lose their well. John Stadelmann, President, says the community as a whole has stepped up to the plate and the meters show a reduction. The community is seeing that working together to secure the water rights is the highest priority. It is fortunate that La Misión has a group of volunteers that are actively involved in safeguarding the future water rights for everyone.

New Developments

Like ravenous growling animals, the great earthmovers are denuding Baja's landscape of all natural plants and the important top soil for water retention. Any informed person would naturally ask themselves who is allowing the continued overdevelopment in the face of the water crisis, and who issues the water permits? I stopped into an office of a mega development in Primo Tapia. I was curious as to how they were planning on building a city with the coming water cuts from the Colorado River in 2023. A

lovely young woman greeted me and said that at this time they relied on the water trucks. The plan, "later," would be for pipes laid up the mountain. I asked where the water would come from to run up the hill to the new homeowners. The sales rep paused to think, then replied, from the city of course. With further discussion it was learned she was unaware of the Colorado River crisis, or a crisis of any kind in Baja. A project dubbed "The Sand Dunes," also a huge development, disappeared over night. They destroyed the natural dunes, pulled down their signs, and left without a forwarding. One day they were offering lots for sale, the next day they were gone. There is no way to find out why they vanished for the last few months, only to reappear this month. It can be speculated that investors pulled out; however observation would suggest it is a risky project.

Proyecto Fronterizo Meets in San Antonio Del Mar.

Margarita Diaz, Director of the group fighting for clean water, once again gave a comprehensive overview for Baja California. For 30 years she has been working within the water agencies calling the government to step up to the plate. She spoke to empty chairs. The turnout was dismal, given the life threatening topic. But Margarita powered on to give the handful of Mexican nationals and expats the bad news. She does not have

a problem in calling it like it is, "A Crisis." Waking people up to the reality is the first step. Eight government officials had been invited; only one woman from CSPT was present.

After the meeting was over, I asked the question of how the rampage of land clearing for development could get water permits from the city. The explanation was not easy to follow for the obvious politics. An architect from TJ said that under the current laws of operation there is nothing to stop what is happening. He stated that the door is being held wide open for land development.

This Water Watch is ending on a bleak note; there is at this moment a water crisis, even though you personally have not been impacted, and it is a Buyers Beware market. For now, readers can help those working the front lines by contacting Margarita. Her presentation should be seen by the greater communities and Baja educators. margarita@pfea.org

Editor's Note: Martina is asking the community to report any loss or reduction of water in your area. These will be used in the next Water Watch series.

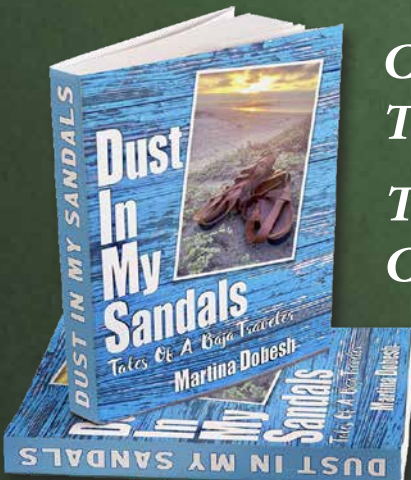
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Ask a Mexican

Last week, several power outages disrupted San José and Cabo San Lucas. Some reports pointed to abnormally high winds and rain. These power outages affected traffic, the trans peninsular highway and several parts of town. **How did you manage? What do you think caused the outages?**

Amelia Gallardo, 54, field worker.

I think the real reason is there are more and more new buildings for the tourists and the locals are paying the price. The CFE facility no longer has the capacity to sustain all of it. Of course, the natural elements can be a big factor, but they are surpassed now. I am very used to it now and all of my electronics are protected with breakers and voltage regulators

have also been updating it and it was a combination of things and it took longer than expected. Back when Odile hit, CFE did a wonderful job and brought back power, but we are so dependent on energy that we make such a big fuss out of it. I did nothing out of the ordinary. It was many outages but not for too long. I just made sure I had my extra batteries charged. At work, we have emergency generators.

lations and there is not enough budget to keep up with the maintenance, so it gets to a point when it fails. Overall, Cabo has always had very weak power and electricity. It was not meant to be such a big city and we have over-exploited it. I had to go home since I work on deliveries and it was insane to be driving with all the mayhem, and since I had no power, it was a quiet time to read with all the windows open and avoid opening the fridge and freezer. It wasn't so bad.

Arturo Muñoz, 19, croupier.

It was funny at the casino because no one noticed since the emergency power came on, and it wasn't for a long time so we were fine. I don't spend much time at home. I live on my own so nothing really to report except my frozen items being a little melted and refrozen. I think this will

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but they are very expensive. I did notice though that many people got stuck in traffic and the whole city was chaotic.

Simón Delgado, 26, boat operator.

I was lucky I was coordinating the warehouse and it was not a big deal for me in particular. We just lost power and had to pause but the office lost power and it got to a point where all the freezers and the fridges were on the emergency energy generator, but the rest of the office has to be shut down to give them priority since we never know when it's coming back.

Emiliano Castillo, 31, hospital worker.

I think we are not really thinking about what happens at CFE and how they have to update the infrastructure to keep up with the growth of our state. Yes, it's hurricane season and that can also affect power, but I think they could

We are all well prepared.

Virginia Mora, 48, teacher.

We live in a place where tourism will always be favored over locals, and that will never change. The tourist area was not affected, not only because they have special emergency generators, but because they have their own CFE generators which are independent from the ones used for the city, which have better technology. The generator for the city was built for a smaller community and has been updated but it can only be updated to a certain point, and I think we have reached the highest point. I had to make sure all my electronics were on breakers, all my food was transferred to the freezer and properly stored, my computer unplugged just in case and my ac protected.

Lucía Martín, 28, distributor.

I think every hurricane season weakens all the instal-

keep happening as long as CFE doesn't update their infrastructure. We are growing really fast and need more advanced technology. ✍

GUIDELINES FOR BUYING...

continued from page 2

10. INSIST upon receiving a registered title document for your property. If the seller is financing the property, sign a document protecting his interests in the event of your default. Be SURE you know the amount which is declared in your deed and understand the tax implications of same.

11. Use an experienced neutral third party to supervise the transfer of title to you.

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WHAT MEXICO HAS TAUGHT...

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my joke. We shared a special moment of glee together and I went on my way. What would you call such a creature? I call it a she-gle.

female owner. I decided to find the bar and get a feel for the neighborhood that the painting used because that might convince me to buy it. Found the bar and went inside. It was early afternoon with only a few customers. Some loud music.....a large dance floor with nobody on it..... and two shiny brass poles, floor to ceiling, on a raised platform. Purely out of curiosity I walked up to them to get a closer look. The customers at the bar started hooting encouragement so I teased them a bit with some tentative touches.....they got louder.... walked around the poles a few times.....shouting!!.....then WENT TO WORK bumping and grinding with my bicycle helmet on. They knew they were watching a rookie. No one threw pesos at me but I got the laughs I wanted then

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guy giving a woman money out of his wallet. A stray dog and a very drunk man. A street scene with lots of personality. And it was in front of a bar that my friend told me still existed in old town Ensenada called La Política Alegre / The Happy Politician. Named by the original

joined them for a beer at the bar where I was treated like a friend. I stick my head in there now and then to put a smile on my face. The painting hangs in my house. And I have a warm feeling of being personally grounded in the scene that the painting shows. Thank you, my Mexican friends. ✍

MEXICAN COOKING...

continued from page 4

4. Blend until smooth and reserve. You can strain if you wish to have a super smooth consistency but this recipe is usually better left as is.

Cook the mole.

1. In a pan, melt the lard or heat the oil.

2. Fry the pepita paste for about 5 minutes until well cooked, stirring regularly.

3. In the pan, add the liquefied mixture, the rest of the chicken stock and salt.

4. Cook the mole for about 20 minutes, until the color turns more intense and the consistency thickens. Stir occasionally.

5. Serve over cooked chicken or pork!

Enjoy with a side of white rice and some tortillas.

Pro tip: if you have remain-

ing mole on your dish after you've eaten the chicken or pork, mix it with the white rice. This is not very "proper" per se but it is absolutely delicious, and as my grandfather used to say, if you're at your house, eat under your own rules!

I am always available at ale.borbolla@gringogazette.com and love how lately I hear more and more from you with stories, questions, pictures of your own experiments and recipe requests! 🐦

MICHAEL MOVIE MOMENTS...

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Unfortunately, the biggest complaint is that Sorkin doesn't exactly tell the real story. I don't know how many times I read that the events portrayed in this movie didn't happen the way it was suggested. The movie supposedly takes place during the week Lucy and Desi were

filming a particularly famous episode of "I Love Lucy" - the fight between the Mertzs. (There is a dated newspaper featured in the film that suggests it was the week of Sept 8 - Sept. 12, 1952). It turns out that that particular episode couldn't have been filmed that week. Then it turns out that the three huge events that happened that week - that give the film all of its dramatic import - actually occurred in multiple other weeks and didn't occur together at all! (For example, Ball's first pregnancy was a year earlier.)

For some, I guess, the precise attention to biographical facts really matters - enough to thoroughly pan this movie. But I come away with a very different take. The title of the movie isn't "A Week in the Life of the Ricardos" - instead, it is "Being the Ricardos". And it isn't billed as a documentary, but rather a dramatic rendering of what these two phenomenal



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people were like. What Sorkin has accomplished is not a day-by-day, blow-by-blow, account of a week in the lives of these people. Rather, by combining events from multiple years and melding them together into one very complex and emotional week, we get a real sense of what was motivating these people and what made their lives move.

Sorkin's screenplay may not be a time-line accurate in the facts that it presents, but it does tell a moving story about two people who struggled very hard as imperfect beings to love each other and live their own lives with all the warts and blemishes that unfold. For me, Sorkin's screenplay, like so many of his earlier works, should have been nominated - it is a wonderful work and his film is a remarkable example of movie craftsmanship.

I get that maybe Kidman and Bardem just aren't Lucy and Desi, but the film delivers an emotionally rich and intellectually challenging take on just what it might be like "Being the Ricardos". (4 Stars)

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