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NO BAD NEWS


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The Hurricane Season Ends in November!

Time Is Running Out for U.S. Expatriates in Mexico Who Have Not Been Filing U.S. Tax Returns

BY DON D. NELSON

Americans failing to file U.S. taxes while living in Mexico (or anywhere abroad) can come with serious consequences—including steep fines and passport revocation. The IRS is in the process of hiring over 80,000 new agents to increase their scrutiny of wealthy taxpayers and taxpayers living abroad.

Unlike most countries in

the world, if you are a U.S. citizen or green card holder you must file your U.S. tax return each year no matter where in the world you live and work. The IRS does allow you to take a credit against your U.S. tax for taxes you pay in a foreign country. The statute of limitations NEVER runs out on unfiled tax returns.

How does the IRS catch ex-

pats with late or unfiled taxes? Certain actions prompt the IRS to check your tax standing. Many of these actions are common occurrences for expats, such as:

Opening or signing on an account with a financial institution abroad. This includes stockbroker accounts and escrow accounts.

Applying for Social Security or pension benefits

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Raffle For a Cause in Todos Santos

BY DAVID FLORES

The Baja Bikers mc group and the Santo Chilote taco restaurant in Todos Santos will raffle off an Electric Guitar on Sunday, October 2, to benefit the Todos Santos Fire Depart-

ment.

The guitar was donated by the Greins Music House in Los Cabos, and you can take it home for only 100 pesos!

The event will also feature

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Que Pasa in Cabo?

BY DAVID FLORES



The Road is Open! The Road is Open! The Southern Baja state's civil protection agency is reporting the road between Guerrero Negro and Vizcaino, in the municipality of Mulege near the border with Northern Baja, is now open. Exercise caution, as it is a detour – traffic is slow, but you can drive through now. Safe travels!

Millions to Improve Los Cabos Airport. Nearly USD 14 million will be invested in the next 12 months to improve the Los Cabos International Airport. Just recently the airport inaugurated two additional boarding gates and two more will be added

in November, so now the number of boarding gates is a total of 19. Five will have telescopic hallways to make it easier to board without actually walking to the airplane. More improvements will be made to all three terminals.

Plenty of Water in the State's Dams. Almost all of the dams in our Southern Baja state are full, said the National Water Commission. The San Lazaro dam, located in San Jose del Cabo, the La Palma, the second largest in the state, the Ihuagil in Comondu, La Higuerilla in Constitution and La Buena Mujer in La Paz have enough water to guarantee its supply

to the population. Thank you, Hurricane Kay!

will take place with an estimated USD 12,000 in cash prizes. It has been dubbed "The Revenge" because last year's tournament did not produce any fish within the required weight and the monies were saved to add to this year's tourney. Dorado and Wahoo are the species to catch. For information call:

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Vogue Magazine Gives our State Great Review. The Conde Nast Traveler-owned magazine calls our Southern Baja state "One of the two best options to travel in Mexico." It tells of all the beautiful beaches and activities of La Paz, gastronomy, whale sharks and whales in general, sports activities, museums and interesting towns like Todos Santos. Thank you Vogue magazine!

Are you dreaming of time for yourself? Do you need a soul-cation? Have you considered a local retreat? Join hosts Rose, Richelle, Mellisha, and Sylvia for the Adventures Yoga Retreat in Todos Santos this October 12-16. These four dynamic women have teamed up to offer you a beautiful adventure that will check all the boxes if you're looking for a fun-filled, relaxing getaway. You'll 'choose your adventure' to ensure you spend your days exactly how your heart desires. Optional activities include yoga (2-3 classes of-

ferred per day), hiking, sound healing meditation, spa/massage/energy healing (extra fee) and many more! Check out www.omegamassage.ca/events-one/adventures-yoga-retreat to learn more and sign up! Ready to sign up? Save \$300 with an exclusive locals promo code: LocalsRock300
CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

What The Heck is a Signathon?

BY DAVID FLORES

Glad you asked. It's an event created to sign up for something. It's mostly used to get you hooked on some line of products to buy. You will surely be receiving lots of junk mail,



or email. At least eMails you can block!

On Tuesday, November 22nd from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., RONIVAL Real Estate will be hosting the first Los Barriles 'Signathon' at their office on Costa Brava.

This Signathon is not a hard sales pitch. Instead, it is a chance for everyone to meet with all the non-profits in town and find out their plans for the 2022/2023 new season as well as signing up, volunteering or simply getting to know the wonderful people in the Los Barriles community.

Enjoy music, drinks, refreshments and also help three of the non-profits win a share of USD 5,000 in cash by voting for your two favorites! The three with the most votes will win. (Donation kindly

provided by Ronival founders Nick and Rocio).

If you are an established non-profit group in Los Barriles or the surrounding area, then please email enicholson@ronival.com to be part of the Signathon.

Write this date in your diary - in ink - and we'll be seeing you all on November 22 before or after your dinner plans - bring friends and family! 🐾

RAFFLE FOR A CAUSE IN...

continued from page 1

Live Music with Doug Webb from Los Angeles, who has played with musicians like Rod Stewart, Christina Aguilera, Cher and many others in addition to playing soundtracks for



movies like Gran Torino and Hard to Kill 4 and played Lisa's sax in the Simpsons TV series. Web will have two shows, at 3 and 7:30 p.m.

Let's go help and have fun. 🐾

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No Borders Music Academy to Open Soon

BY FERNANDO RODRIGUEZ

The *No Borders Music Academy*, located atop the Oxxo store on the second-floor corner of Revolución de 1910 and Ildefonso Green Street; which is exactly three blocks north of the Puerto Paraiso

Mall and main Lázaro Cárdenas Boulevard into town, will soon celebrate its grand opening in mid-October, 2022.

The facility has six very spacious and intimate rooms, whose focus will be on a vari-

ety of music-related lessons. They include a keyboard and piano room, one for learning how to play guitar, a film and video production room complete with a green screen for special effects, as well as a deejay learning room complete with a full DJ console, and deejay lighting.

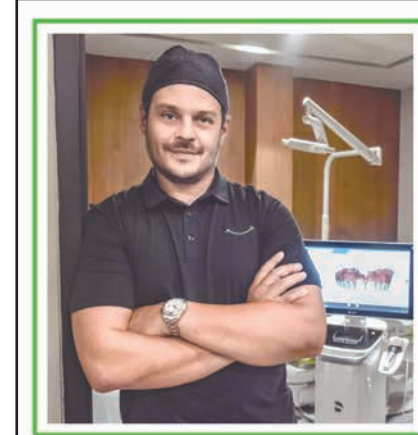
According to the academy's operations director, Mike Henry, the local downtown space is, "where hope meets opportunity."

A very talented musician in his own right, Henry is a retired business developer and former Captain with the Los Angeles County Fire Department. He is the founder of Firefighters Down, a non-profit organization that supports injured firefighters nationwide.

As the owner of The Business Mind Consultants located in Del Mar, California, Henry has worked with many companies to raise capital, create successful business plans and implement winning marketing strategies. Henry has also been the host of 1040 AM radio show "Excellence is Business" and has taught business plan writing with the San Diego Learning Annex.

"We are open to anyone who wants to support the program, and volunteer music teachers are very welcome. We think a music star can potentially come out of this place. Someone who hasn't been discovered but could be living right here in Cabo."

The other two directors in Henry's reference to "We" are Carlos Mariscal and his loving



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wife, Adriana Rubio.

Jay Pickens, whom we have featured in the *Gringo Gazette*, has joined the dynamic trio's Border Academy vision and dream by handling the video production, acting and directing room of the non-profit organization's commercial recording studio.

"We can make company jingles for local businesses," added Henry.

The Academy is connected with Casa Hogar but plans to connect with other local orphanages that have students the music facility hopes to

teach during their 6 month enrollment periods. The cost is \$30,000 pesos or \$1,497 USD and includes lunch for the children, after all, it's tough to learn on an empty stomach. The cost breaks down to \$3,800 pesos a month per student; where they will go from learning to playing during that time.

The Academy will host recitals, create rock bands and provide live performances at The Pabellón, Cultural Pavilion on the Marina.

"We want to connect with the community by accepting

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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Local Biologist Gets International Recognition

During the celebration of 60 years in Mexico, the L'Oréal Groupe recognized the history of contemporary women who make Mexico proud. The campaign, named Women that Move Mexico, celebrates the work of Mexican women who have made a difference in the country in various activities. This is where our very own Graciela Tiburcio, a long-time supporter of the protection and rescue of Sea Turtles, Least terns and several other species, got recognized for her labor. A photo exhibit in the iconic Paseo de La Reforma Avenue in Mexico City – “the 5th Avenue of Mexico” - was displayed to honor those women that... move Mexico. Congratulations! 🐢



TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR... continued from page 1

Receiving an inheritance from abroad or from a U.S. decedent

Renewing your passport
Registering the overseas birth of your child with the U.S. embassy

Submitting information to a U.S. university

Entering the U.S. with a foreign passport that specifies you were born in the U.S.

Forming an overseas corporation or LLC

Entering the U.S. from abroad

The IRS receives a Form 3949A from someone who suspects you are not filing your tax return. The IRS sometimes pays finders fees to these individuals for turning in other non-compliant taxpayers.

If your tax debt reaches certain thresholds, the IRS can have your passport revoked. When the IRS discovers your delinquency before you come forward to file past tax returns you will NOT be eligible for

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certain IRS amnesty programs.

What Should Expats with Unfiled U.S. Tax Returns Do?

Amnesty programs are still available for those who are late with their expat taxes. However, the IRS-initiated amnesty programs are temporary, and they can only be used by taxpayers who were not first caught by the IRS. They exist to encourage folks to voluntarily come forward rather than wait for the IRS to find them. So taking action before the IRS finds you is the best action for all Americans abroad, since some of the amnesty programs allow you to get caught up penalty-free or with reduced penalties.

Don D. Nelson is a U.S. attorney at law and a partner in the CPA firm of Kauffman & Nelson LLP. He has been assisting expatriates in Mexico with their U.S. taxes for over 25 years and has helped hundreds of expats catch up with their U.S. taxes. His email address is: ddnelson@gmail.com. 🐢



Los Cabos United Keeps on Winning

BY FERNANDO RODRIGUEZ

The Los Cabos United soccer team keeps rolling along, achieving their third victory in 4 games.

"This was my first time watching them play and I was surprised by the electricity I felt in the stands, as they (Los Cabos United) dominated time of possession with their constant attack on goal," said

Agustin Martinez, who has lived in Cabo since 2007. "It was an impressive win."

The team's starting lineup is made up of 9 players from Mexico, one from Brazil (Andrey) and a USA Mexican-American, (Ronaldo Lomeli). Three other Mexican-Americans are on the 22-man roster which includes Sergio

González and Armando Heráldez on defense, along with midfielder, Áxel Cruz.

So in a game that is the most popular sport in the world, Los Cabos United continues to impress in their first season of play. And while the near sold out 3,000 seat Don Koll Stadium is home to the newly-minted Cabo San Lucas soccer franchise of the professional Mexican league, the Liga Mex rules mandate that all its teams who play in their top division and 2nd division expansion league have stadiums with a seating capacity of at least 22,000.

So, Los Cabos United owners and management, along

with Mayor Oscar Leggs, visited the clubhouse of the Los Angeles United Football Academy, and upon their return, announced they will seek to replicate the stadium here with the one they visited there.

"We visited the stadium. A stadium will be replicated here in Los Cabos once the issue of securing the land where it will be is located and secured," said team president Hugo Salcedo.

When pressed about the future stadium location, Salcedo noted they are tentatively considering the area where the highway leads from Cabo San Lucas towards Todos Santos, adding they "are already in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



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PICARO by Romeo and Julieta Ristorante

BY LISSETTE VALENTIN

Just when we thought we had all the farm-to-table restaurants we could handle, an incredible concept opened last year. Picaro Garden Cuisine by Romeo and Julieta Restaurant (the super famous Italian restaurant in downtown Cabo San Lucas) is the latest addition to the Solmar Group, a gastronomic revolution inside the gates of the Rancho San Lucas residential and golf development.

Picaro, which in Italian means mischievous or playful, was the nickname first given to the executive chef Christian Ricci for his peculiar, charming personality, and then to the restaurant, by the late Mr. Paco Bulnes, son of Don Luis Bulnes. The senior Bulnes was a cannery manager and then became the founder of the

Solmar Group of resorts, restaurants, and fishing fleets. He was one of the most important figures in the transition of Los Cabos from a tuna-packing fishing village in the 60's to the exclusive tourist destination that it is today.

The architecture of Picaro reflects the environment within the Rancho San Lucas development. Luxurious and serene, with stunning views of the Pacific Ocean, it is surrounded by edible gardens of herbs de Provence, lavender bushes, and olive and lemon trees, which immediately transport you far across the Atlantic to Europe.

In an interview with Chef Ricci, he said: "Picaro has a casual menu nevertheless refined with a Mediterranean / Mexican twist. It showcases

high-quality local produce with an array of flavours. I use cooking methods discovered from rich traditions. This is the kind of place where you could easily spend an entire afternoon or just stop by for a garden-inspired cocktail. It is like at home. You eat what you want, when and where you want. That is what we would like this space to be. We want you to feel comfortable and satisfied with every glance at every bite, whether you are sitting close to our open kitchen, the bar, the terrace or the cellar dining area."

The dual themes of wine tasting and farm-to-table cuisine run through their private cava dining room adjacent to the main dining area. The room features a long, wooden dining table that seats up to eight guests. Inside diners are surrounded by tastefully displayed cases of wine in a temperature-controlled room. The wines at the cellar are some of the best in Baja and from around the world.

The name of the game here is local and artisanal and it's apparent in every bite. The bread (focaccia among others), pastas (fettuccine and rigatoni), many of the cheeses (ricotta) and Italian charcuterie (Capicollo, salami, pancetta) are prepared in-house as are the preserves and confits.

Chef Ricci said, "In the past, dishes matched the ingredients available during that particular season. If summer brought fresh tomatoes, that is what it was used for. However,



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they also preserve them for the winter months as a Pomodoro Sauce or a Panna Cotta. I am sure you already know there are many organic crops all along the coast and the sierra between Pescadero and Cabo San Lucas and from Miraflores to Santiago. This land is of such incredible abundance that we try to take advantage of it by following a seasonal cycle. Hopefully, soon we will have our own greenhouse so we can grow our own on-site. We are in love with products. They are the crown jewel of our menus as is the presentation. Since offerings are mainly seasonal, presentation never gets dull."

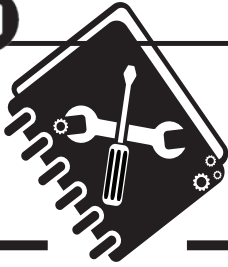
The large bar is a gathering place for celebration and is also open for dining. Along with traditional cocktails, wine and beer served in sophisticated glassware, the bar offers a full range of fruit, vegetable and herb-infused author cocktails like the Picaro Carajillo, the Coniglietto, La Frida or La Picara.

Picaro is available for private events depending on existing reservations and with

advance notice. Without a doubt, at Picaro you are guaranteed to find your vice. Make sure to keep your eyes open for the fall menu coming up soon.

For menu viewing and reservations please visit: <http://picarogardencuisine.com/Reservations> at: republicas@solmar.com. Tel: 624-689-0050. Facebook: picarogardencuisine Located at Grand Solmar Rancho San Lucas, highway to Todos Santos km 120. 🐦





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Cooking Like a Mexican

BY ALEJANDRA BORBOLLA



Some of the most delicious Mexican dishes aren't necessarily featured in big restaurants, but rather in small fondas (Mexican restaurants that serve full meals, soup or entrée, main dish with two choices of side dish, salad, dessert and a drink) which are targeted at the workforce who can't make it home to eat a proper meal. They are usually reasonably priced and the menu changes every day. Chiles rellenos are very popular in fondas since they are a great meal with a very wide array of options and flavors and are cheap and easy to make.

This is as Mexican mom cooking as any dish can be – a comfort meal at its best. And, it's one of those dishes whose recipe goes back as far as grandma's time. It's highly secret and valued. Chiles rel-

lenos are simple, but the steps take time and lots of attention and patience. Roasted poblano chiles stuffed with loads of cheese, battered with a fluffy egg coating, and fried until

vegetables and refried beans, but this recipe sticks to classic cheese. The roasted tomato salsa is the perfect topping, and white rice and sour cream



crispy are the Mexican stairway to heaven. Chiles rellenos fillings can range from ground or stewed meats to seafood,

on top are chile rellenos' best friends. Even though the main ingredient here is chiles, it is not a spicy dish, depending on which chile you use.

Chiles rellenos are said to have been born in the state of Puebla, near Mexico City, during colonial times. They have a mix of prehispanic and Hispanic ingredients and are a perfect mix of indigenous and European.

Before I continue, here are my mother-in-law's tips: separate the eggs while they're still cold, which will make them easier to handle; then let them come to room temperature.

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And make sure there are no traces of yolk in the whites, or the whites will not whip properly.

Removing the seeds and veins from the peppers is easier before roasting and keeps the peppers from tearing while stuffing in the cheese. Roasting over a gas flame keeps the peppers' shape and texture intact during frying.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

THE REAL ESTATE SECTION

Dream Retirement in Mexico

BY RISA MORIMOTO

Mexpat: Cost of Living in Mexico 2022 is a 6-part live online workshop series where expats and realtors from 6 popular expat destinations in Mexico – Puerto Vallarta, Cabo San Lucas, Merida, San Miguel de Allende, Mazatlan and Playa Del Carmen – share the current cost of living, real estate market, experiences, surprises, hacks, and lessons learned. Attendees will get a

chance to ask their questions live.

“Having produced many YouTube videos on moving and retiring to Mexico on the Modern Aging and Dream Retirement International YouTube channels, I’ve had many people ask me questions about how much things *really* cost in Mexico.

Realizing how drastically times have changed over the

last couple of years, I decided to gather a group of expats and realtors from 6 different cities in Mexico to share their experiences, lessons learned, and hacks,” shares Risa Morimoto, founder and CEO of Modern Aging and Dream Retirement International.

All sessions will take place on Sundays in September and October at 1 p.m. EST/ 12 p.m. CST / 11 a.m. MST / 10 a.m. PST.

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If you wonder what it costs to live in Mexico, whether you

can afford to buy a home, or what the real day-to-day costs are, then you will want to reserve a Sunday in September or October to attend.

“Having been a realtor for 16 years, the questions I get **CONTINUED ON PAGE 16**



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Millennial Home Ownership is Finally on the Rise

BY MARTIN POSCH

Anyone born between 1981 and 1996 is part of the millennial generation. For many years, millennials weren't buying homes at the same rates as previous generations. In 2019, only 43% of millennials owned homes, which was well below the national average of 65% when taking every other generation into account.

Even though millennials were old enough to purchase homes in 2019 (23 to 38 years old), numerous factors have caused this generation to avoid buying homes at the same rate as previous generations. However, 2022 marks a notable change in millennial homeownership.

What Kept Millennials

from Buying Homes?

There are many reasons why millennials haven't purchased homes at the same rate as other generations. Some of the primary factors that have contributed to less interest in homeownership among millennials include:

- Entering the job market during the Great Recession
- Higher amounts of debt from student loans
- Stagnant wages
- Delayed marriage
- Rising home prices
- Low inventory

The financial challenges that many young adults have were exacerbated by the fallout from the Great Recession. Keep in mind that 40% of all unemployed individuals in

2009 were between the ages of 15-24 years old. The federal minimum wage has been at \$7.25 since 2009 despite some states increasing their minimum wages. Even though the cost of living has increased substantially over the past few decades, median wages only grew by around 0.3% each year from 2007-2017. These factors combined make it more difficult for millennials to buy homes.

Why Millennial Homeownership is Increasing

When the Federal Reserve dropped interest rates towards the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, buying a home became more appealing as a result of the reduced monthly payments. It wasn't until 2022, however, that millennials started buying homes at a higher rate than anticipated. While only 43% of all millennials owned a home in 2019, this same age group has accounted for around 43% of homebuyers in 2022.

What this data tells us is that millennials are now the



primary generation that's buying homes. The vice president of demographics for the National Association of Realtors, Jessica Lautz, believes that "Some young adults have used the pandemic to their financial advantage by paying down debt and cutting the cost of rent by moving in with family." By saving up money during the first two years of the pandemic, millennials who were in a poor financial situation before the pandemic may now be at a point where they can afford to buy a home.

Millennials are also aging

into more financial security, with steadier jobs and higher incomes in their 30s and 40s. Rising home prices haven't helped, but homeownership rates increase considerably when looking at millennials who are around the age of 40. An increase in remote work post-pandemic has also allowed more millennials and Gen Zers to move to smaller, more affordable cities and improve their homebuying prospects.

In the coming months, it will be interesting to see what happens as interest rates continue to rise. Even though housing prices have increased by nearly 19% since March 2021, this clearly hasn't caused millennials to become less eager to become homeowners.

Martin Posch, Real Estate Advisor, The Agency Baja. 624-147-5857 and 624-146-9200. martinposch@theagencyloscabos.com, www.TheAgency-LosCabos.com

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QUE PASA IN CABO?...

continued from page 2

Main Square in San Jose Will Change. Bending under the pressure of concerned citizens, downtown business owners and ecologists, Mayor Oscar Leggs has agreed to make changes to the main square. First, better vegetation will be planted, as in big trees that give lots of shade. The second change will be the construction of a fountain like we had years ago. It will look pretty! Stay tuned.

Los Cabos One of the Safest Destinations. In the most recent State Department's Travel Advisory, Los Cabos remained at Level 2, which means that Americans are simply advised to be cautious. Well, we all are cautious when traveling to a foreign country, aren't we? Level 1 means tourists are under no particular threat, while level 4, the highest, means it is on a list of no-go places. Come to Cabo, it's fun, it's rainy but warm right now!

Sea Turtle Rescued at Medano Beach. An Olive Ridley sea turtle got trapped between the rocks outside of the Villa del Palmar complex, on Medano beach. An alert was issued and members of the sea turtle protection network showed up and worked on releasing her for two hours. Finally, they were able to pull her up and she showed a nasty cut on her shell but went back to the ocean happily. Thank you, rescuers!

Hotel in Cabo San Lucas Loses its Beach. The waves are still high after hurricane Kay left Los Cabos, and the Grand Solmar resort on the pacific side has lost its beach. Hotel guests cannot walk on what used to be a very wide, gorgeous beach, as they would be slammed against the resort's contention wall. Grand Solmar beach is also one of the spots sea turtles deposit their eggs. 🐢

NO BORDER MUSIC...

continued from page 4

any and all disenfranchised kids who will benefit from their music school, and get them turned in the right direction. A young mind that is taught to cherish learning, and achieving their goals, will always be on that pathway to success," said Carlos Mariscal.

The Academy will provide 1) Traditional band instruments, 2) singing lessons, 3) band and group performances.

Native Spirit Tequila will fund a scholarship and No Borders is also looking to invite children from the Autism Association, where Henry believes, "we think it would be really good for them. We're gonna make it happen. The other day a grandmother who stopped by to visit said I want my grandchildren to go here. It's like a camp with music lessons. We would love to become The Bellas Artes of Los Cabos."

For anyone who doesn't know, Bellas Artes, in Mexico City, is the historic and premier music school in this country, dating back to 1904. It is akin to being the prestigious New York Juilliard School south of the border.

No Borders has nine teachers, one of whom is Roman Basiluk from Ukraine. Their musical instruments were donated by organizations in California. They are on Facebook and Instagram. Their technology of live streaming classes and events will also feature guest appearances from popular musicians, who can give inspirational talks to as many Los Cabos children as possible.

Adriana Rubio believes that by harnessing modern technology they can expand the academy's program's reach, and thereby provide young kids with an opportunity at learning life lessons that will help them succeed. Studies on different areas of the brain and the neural connections that are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

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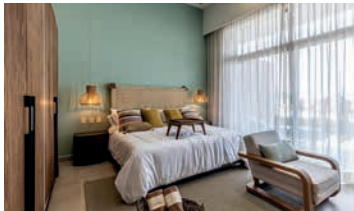
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The Perils of Buying Pre-Construction

BY IVEY BIN DUPED

The brochure looked great. The real estate agent talked fast and had all the answers. I was excited -- top floor of the building and the associated 1250 sq ft private rooftop terrace with 8 ft privacy walls between the neighbors, a pergola to shade a seating area, and an elevated hot tub overlooking the ocean. Oh, Ya Baby. The rooftop setup was perfect for entertaining with a built-in sink and space for a fridge and bbq. Below it was a 1250 sq ft condo, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, laundry, and fronting on a golf course. No one was going to build in front of me! The golf course ensured it would be both dark and quiet at night. This place was a winner. What could possibly go wrong?

Wait. We already have a condo in Cabo... but this one is sooooo much better. Within 20 minutes I was sold. It ticked all the boxes on the "must have" list my wife and I had created over the years. I called my wife in Canada and

told her I just plunked \$10 grand down with my credit card to secure this marvelous new place before anyone else got it since it was the last top-floor unit in the development. Construction hadn't started so delivery was scheduled for one year which gave us time to sell our current place and have enough to cover the new place. Payments were set at a third of the money when they break ground, a third when the roof goes on and the final payment when the interior is finished and I get the keys. Perfect.

Groundbreaking happened soon after I returned to Canada. I bellied up the first third of the money, happy that our dream had sprung to life. We were both still working full time and could only manage a couple of short trips back to Cabo during the year. Six months later we headed back down expecting to make the second installment. When we arrive, we see that only the first level has been built. There are



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about 20 guys mixing cement by hand, lifting cinder blocks one by one and cutting wood with a handsaw. No machinery, no power tools and not even a cement mixer. Oh oh. This doesn't look good. They should be much further along. We head home after two weeks.

Fast forward 6 months and we are back down again. We arrive and see that the roof isn't even done. I contact the real estate agent and ask what is going on. Apparently, the subcontractor bid so low they could only complete 50% of the work before running out of money. The developer needed to raise more money to keep construction going to get to the 2nd draw stage. A few months later I get an email with pictures. The roof is on and they want the second draw. I send the money, wondering how much longer it will take

to get the place completed. At the 18-month stage, we head back down again. They are just plastering the walls on the inside and none of the interior finishing has even started. Well, I can't back out now and just have to wait. At least the windows are in.

At the 24-month stage, we are once again in Cabo doing a walk-through with the developer. I have my notebook and am going through the place with a fine-toothed comb to create a list of deficiencies. I've been involved in home building back home and understand the importance of identifying fixes to be done before signing off. At first, it's minor. A kitchen backsplash tile is cracked and needs to be replaced. Then there's another tile in the main bathroom and the bathtub won't drain. We later learned the drainpipe was

back sloped and their workers were cleaning their buckets in the tub and concrete set in the trap; it all had to be taken apart and redone. The floor in the second bathroom shower also wasn't sloped to drain properly. Unfortunately, the original tile was no longer available and it was redone with an entirely different tile that didn't match anything in the place. I then dumped a 5-gallon pail of water on the main balcony to test the slope. To the developer's horror (and mine) the water ran back to the sliding doors, flowed under, and pooled in the living room. They had to build a sill to keep the water out of the condo. What next?

I thought I caught everything and we ended up taking possession after the fixes were completed. But wait. There's more. The first night after we'd moved in, we heard dripping in the closet. The air conditioning unit's evaporator pan didn't have a drain mechanism so it just overflowed. It was annoying to find out but easy enough to fix. Then, after the first rainstorm, the hard ceiling over the balcony, under the rooftop hot tub, collapsed onto the balcony and water was coming through the light fixtures into the living room. Oh, joy! The living room furniture and rug are all wet. Apparently, the hatch for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

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New Airports Planned for Southern Baja

BY DAVID FLORES

Capt. Sebastian Romo, who owns the Cabo San Lucas International Airport, stated he has been in conversations with governor Victor Castro to build two more airports in our state. Both would be located in the Mulege municipality in the northern area of our state, one in Tortugas Bay and the second one in Santa Rosalia. Romo is confident that the one in Tortugas Bay will become as important as the one in Cabo San Lucas. Stay tuned. 🐦

LOS CABOS UNITED KEEPS...
continued from page 6

negotiations with some of the land from that area."

This makes all the sense in the world. With Don Koll Stadium, there is traffic congestion as the old road from downtown 4 miles away gets flowing with fans headed to the game which causes massive delays and slow traffic. The four-lane highway from San Lucas towards Pescadara and Todos Santos is better suited for the nearly 2,700 local fans that have been attending every home game with love and passion for the sport and excitement for their winning hometown team. 🐦

COOKING LIKE A MEXICAN...
continued from page 9

INGREDIENTS

For the salsa:
1 lb. of tomatoes, cored and halved
1/2 medium white onion,

cut into 1/2-inch slices

2 medium garlic cloves, peeled and smashed

1 medium serrano chile, stemmed (Optional for heat)

Salt and pepper to taste

For the chiles rellenos:

4 medium poblano chiles (about 1 pound) Now, you can also try ancho peppers which are dry. You just have to soak them in hot water before.

Freshly ground black pepper

3 cups Oaxaca shredded cheese (about 8 ounces) You can get creative here. Use a mix

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of cheeses, and maybe even try with goat cheese!

4 large eggs, separated and at room temperature (as explained above)

Salt to taste

1 cup vegetable or canola oil

INSTRUCTIONS

For the salsa:

Place the tomato halves skin-side up on a Comal over high heat. Scatter the onion, garlic, and serrano around the tomatoes. Cook until the tomato skins start to blacken and blister, about 7 minutes. Transfer the vegetables to a blender, add salt, and blend into a smooth runny salsa. Taste and season with additional salt as needed.

Transfer to a small saucepan and keep warm over low heat.

For the chiles rellenos:

Lay 1 chile on a work surface so that it sits flat naturally without rolling. Using a paring knife, make two cuts forming a "T" by first slicing down the middle of the chile lengthwise

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Cabo San Lucas

Meetings Daily

At ACE hardware store, Second floor, on the old road to San Jose. That is, kitty corner to McDonald's. Daily at 6:00 p.m. and M-F at 4:30 p.m.

Michael Movie Moments

BY MICHAEL YOUNG



Spencer

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My first reaction when *Spencer* popped up on my list of movies was, "Do we really need another screen telling of the tragedy of Princess

like this film or not. Popular reaction to the movie is not very positive and I suspect that is because nobody in this film comes across as very appealing. Queen Elizabeth and her royal family are portrayed

favorites this year.

The film takes place over Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Boxing Day (the day after Christmas in Britain) in 1991 at the royal family's holiday estate, Sandringham. At this point, Diana had been married to Prince Charles for a decade and his affair with Camilla Parker Bowles was widely known. Interestingly, Diana Spencer had grown up at Park House, a smaller estate that the Spencer family leased from the Queen and was very near the Sandringham residence.

Spending the holidays there was also an opportunity for Diana to nostalgically re-live parts of her childhood. It turns out that Diana, as a child, had frequently played with Princes Andrew and Edward, but not Prince Charles as he was, in fact, 13 years older than she was! The opening sequences of the movie involve the British military bringing in the food for the royal family's holiday festivities. Food plays such an important role in this film, expressing both the extreme

luxury of these people as well as their strict adherence to formal tradition and order.

The story tells how Diana deals with the events of these three days in a world where she does not feel she belongs.

Having set that stage, though, the best way to view this film is to forget entirely that it is about Diana Spencer. Instead pretend it is about

someone trapped in a gilded cage – a beautiful, vibrant young woman who is both totally without privacy and yet so completely alone. She is a person who is not even allowed to dress herself and, at one point, asks a maid to leave so she can masturbate (was that a joke, or was it not? It doesn't matter, and that's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20



Diana's life?" Especially for the TV screen, her story has been repeated so often that everyone must, by now, know exactly how bad her marriage was, and how her life then ends in an untimely and tragic death.

But *Spencer* is not your typical biographical retelling. This is a different story told, as the film announces itself, as "a fable based on a true tragedy." And that difference is likely to determine whether you

as cold as their frigid estate house. And Diana, in this film, is less someone you feel sympathy towards and more someone who borders on the insane, inspiring, not so much love and admiration, but evokes pity and demonstrates desperation.

Those enthralled with the Princess may not find the woman they want to love and cherish. And yet, despite all that, I thought this was an excellent movie and one of my

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**DREAM RETIREMENT IN...**

continued from page 10

about how much things cost remain the same. There is tons of information online, but it's hard to tell what is accurate and what is not. It's really important to me that people get the facts so that they can make the best decision for themselves and their families," said Taniel Chemsian, real estate agent based in Puerto Vallarta and co-founder of Dream Retirement in Mexico.

In addition to the Mexpat series, Risa and Taniel created Dream Retirement in Mexico. It is an online program with comprehensive videos, audio files, transcripts, and resource sheets with top experts in real estate (sales and rentals), real estate law, visas, banking, accounting, healthcare, dentistry, and veterinary care. Expats who live in Mexico share valuable insights about their experiences and more.

Mexpat 2022 and Dream Retirement in Mexico are produced by Dream Retirement International and Modern Aging. Dream Retirement International shares information on various retirement destinations around the world. Modern Aging provides ways to elevate and

optimize one's health and well-being for people over 40. For more information, visit www.DreamRetirementInternational.com and www.ThisIsModernAging.com

NO BORDER MUSIC...

continued from page 12

made from birth illustrate the window of opportunity for a child to learn a musical instrument is at its highest before the age of 10. After that, this learning becomes more difficult. So whilst there's no right or wrong age to start learning a musical instrument, the best research says to start before a child is 10 years old.

The Los Cabos demographics notes there were 330,312 residents in the general population during the 2020 census. Of those numbers, there are 105,040 Children from 0 to 17 years of age, which represents approximately 31.8% of the people in Los Cabos are children, and the total number of students in 2018-2019 was 94,335.

Our Los Cabos municipality has 121 preschools, 120 elementary and 45 junior high schools. The cities of San Lucas and San Jose also have 25 high schools, two technical professional schools and 12 training

schools. All factors were taken into consideration when the founders of the Academy went about creating a unique and special landmark in music education. Hoping and planning to become a true gem of this Southern Baja California Region.

THE PERILS OF BUYING...

continued from page 13

the hot tub machinery hadn't been sealed properly. Some of the recessed living room lights no longer worked because they were full of water. We contacted the developer (again) and he says he can't get that size and style of lights anymore. We have to get all of the lights removed and new ones installed or accept mismatched lighting in the unit.

After two and a half years, with everything fixed, we finally settled in and started to enjoy the place, only to learn when the new neighbors moved in that our common balcony wall offered no privacy. None. Their conversation overshadowed our conversation. You could smell their supper.

Long story short, the shine was gone from our dream place. We sold it and vowed not to repeat the pre-build

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purchase experience in Mexico. We did stay in Cabo and bought again but buying an existing home or condo unit with a thorough house inspection is the only way to go for us from now on. Not every pre-build purchaser will have the same experience, but hey – buyer beware and good luck!

Place 1 chile directly on each burner and roast, turning occasionally with tongs, until blackened and blistered on all sides, about 5 to 7 minutes.

Place chiles in a plastic bag so they "sweat". Let the chiles steam until cool enough to handle, about 15 minutes. With your hands, scrape away and discard the chile skins, being careful not to tear the chiles; set the chiles aside. If you think the chiles smell too spicy, you can soak them in milk for a little bit.

Stuff each chile, being careful not to tear them, with a quarter of the cheese (about a heaping 2/3 cup) and close the flaps over the cheese; set the chiles aside.

Whisk the egg yolks in a bowl until lightened in color and frothy, about 2 minutes; set aside.

Place the egg whites and a pinch of salt in a clean, dry bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a whisk attachment. Beat on high speed until stiff peaks

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

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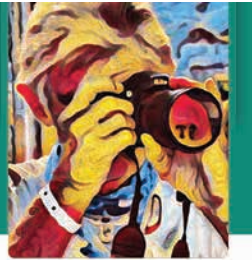
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Fish Report

BY GARY GRAHAM
THAT BAJA GUY



Cabo

Hurricane Javier and Tropical Storm Kay brought a double whammy with devastating, torrential rains from the tip of Baja to just below the U.S. border.

In Cabo, it took only a few days before the seas calmed both inshore and farther offshore and fishing resumed, offering some of the best dorado action of the fading summer season.

A nice-sized blue marlin was released yesterday on Pisces 35' Bill Collector 2, plus 8 yellowfin tuna and dorado! Other boats also did well with tuna yesterday -- Pisces 35' Knot Workin had 18 yellowfin total, with most between

30 and 50 pounds. Pisces 30' Karina had 5 nice yellowfin and dorado as well.

Rebecca Ehrenberg of the Pisces Fleet reported on Mexican Independence Day (September 16), "There was a total of 181 fish caught TODAY, with the dorado picking waaaay up! 122 of those fish were dorado with anglers and crews respecting limits, and more than half of those were released. The fleet also had blue and striped marlin, sailfish, wahoo, and yellowfin tuna."

Some of the dorado were huge! One landed on Pisces 31' Tiburon weighed plus more dorado and striped marlin released.

The largest yellowfin tuna was aboard Pisces 35' Bill Collector 2 with an approximate 85-pounder and 4 dorado and striped marlin released.

Pisces 42' Caliente had 13 dorado with 6 released, 3 yellowfin, and a 40-pound wahoo.

Some other recent catches included Pisces 80' Tag Team with a nice Billfish GRAND SLAM with an approximate 259-pound blue marlin released, striped marlin, sailfish, and 5 dorado.

Pisces 31' Tracy Ann had 14 dorado, 9 released, plus striped marlin released.

Lots more amazing catches recently for all boats, but these are just a few of the highlights ... doesn't get much better than this!

Puerto Los Cabos

As the summer season draws to an end, we are all ready to welcome the fall. The cool air in the early mornings indicates a definite climate change. The heat index reached 100 degrees (or more) after the rains, and the humidity has been at its highest. The desert landscape has turned a brilliant green, and we are beginning to see clear, calmer days. This gave ocean conditions a chance to rebound. We are also seeing blue water close to shore once again. Ocean temperatures are averaging about 85 degrees, creating an environment for storm systems to develop quickly.

Now we are following Tropical Storm Madeline off to the southwest, and it appears that this storm will stay far enough away that we should not feel too much impact. So, the most we will see from Madeline will probably be some larger swells, cloud cover, scattered rain squalls, and south wind.

Anglers saw great action for

Fish Killer Of The Week



There haven't been many wahoo caught this year around La Paz. But some have shown up lately, and everyone uses the "tried-and-true" dark Rapalas, Nomads, and Yo-Zuri trolling lures. John Vondrak, who didn't have one, saw all his buddies weren't catching any wahoo on their dark lures, so he grabbed the ugliest yellow/red Rapala in his tackle bag and dropped it back. Wham! Wham! Two big wahoo in a row! He's with Captain Gerardo from the Tailhunter Fleet in La Paz. John fishes with Tailhunters every year and is from Washington. So now all his buddies are trying to "borrow" his lure for the next few days!... Jonathan Roldan, Tailhunter International

dorado. Limits were common, with many releases scattered throughout the region. Smaller to medium-sized fish were being found closer to shore, with some larger specimens on the offshore grounds where marlin and sailfish were being discovered. These fish were readily struck with lures and various baits.

Recently, bait supplies consisted of ballyhoo, mullet, and slabs of squid; the sardina rebounded and were found to be schooling close to shore near the marina jetties.

Everyone is asking about the tuna. We have not seen tuna on our usual grounds. But, of course, that can change on any given day. However, we did hear of a few reports of some yellowfin tuna being found farther offshore associated with porpoise.

This is usually the time of year when we find the tuna schooling on the inshore high spots. As the water temp cools off a little, we are optimistic that the all-around bite will improve. In the meantime,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

Don't feed the fish!



The act of disrupting the natural marine environment should be discouraged, not encouraged. There are many studies that discuss the impact on wildlife by humans doing simple self-indulgent acts like feeding them because they get pleasure / entertainment from it. Feeding fish and aquatic life can lead to the animal having behavioral changes, like aggression, as well as, causing them to become ill from a foreign food source. Simple acts, like feeding wild animals can have long term consequences and detrimental impacts. The Baja needs to be protected.

(Suggested by Ted Miller, Cabo. Illustration by www.greenfins.net)



What Makes Living in Mexico So Different?

Insights about essential things you need to know as you make your Mexico lifestyle plans

BY R. LEE SCHULTZ

Over the 16-plus years I have lived in Mexico, I have had countless numbers of folks approach me and ask many of the same questions. What it is like living in Mexico? I completely understand why they would ask that question. They are probably visiting here and having a great time on vacation and, back in the canyons of their mind they are thinking: "Maybe this could be a place for a second home or even a place to retire and live full time." Don't feel like the Lone Ranger. You are not alone. The last estimate is that close to 30,000+ US and Canadian citizens are living in Baja Sur.

My first parcel of sage advice that I share with these folks is to tell them, that this is Mexico; this is NOT anything like back home. Don't try to

make it like back home. The Mexican people, their culture and just about everything else about Mexico is far different.

Long before my first visit here, I was looking for that "perfect place to retire." I had spent many a night reading travel books, searching travel blogs and watching countless videos on YouTube. I can't begin to count the number of articles I read telling me all about "The Ten Best Places to Retire."

Even after more than 2 years of hard-core research, I was not as prepared to live in Mexico as I had thought I would be. I have lived in the municipality of San Jose del Cabo, in the State of Baja Sur now for over sixteen years. During that time, I learned a great deal. I would like to share a short glimpse of what life in Mexico is about as



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If you have not made the move yet, the following explanations may help you to understand why living in Mexico is so different. If you already live here, then this list will likely be an amusing reminder of the wonderful quirks of Mexican Expat Life. Mexico is a huge

country made up of 31 States. Each state has its own uniqueness, foods, and diverse culture. Baja California Sur didn't become a state until October 8, 1974. Prior to that, the whole of Baja California was likened to the US Old West. It was wild, lawless and quite primitive even for the 1970s.

The municipality of San Jose del Cabo is made up of two distinctly different areas some 20 Km apart. They are connected by a major four-lane highway called the corridor: San Jose, the political and cultural center of the municipality, and Cabo San Lucas, known for its

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

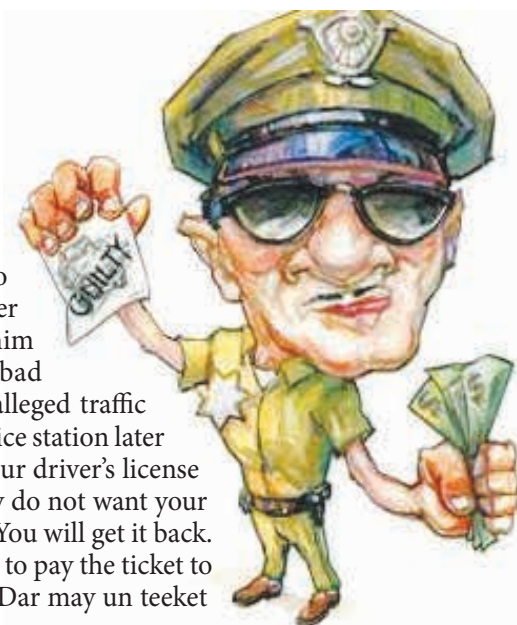
What To Do If You're Stopped By The Police

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

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

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

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



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Success In Recovering Species Part 2

BY IRMA GONZÁLEZ LÓPEZ

Environmental changes in the Mar de Cortes in recent years include an increase in sea level, hurricanes, an increase in temperature throughout the year, and modification of the movement patterns of the different species of animals in the Gulf of California.

The rising sea level is affecting marine life, especially corals, all coastal ecosystems, as well as human life in the maritime coastal zone.

We have seen how hurricanes such as "Odile" have had a negative impact on reefs, mangroves, devastated the coastal zone and economically affected the populations that live near the sea.

The increase in temperature, droughts and lack of water are other notorious events that should concern us in the face of this change in the environment.

Mangroves serve as a barrier to the force of hurricanes. In the case of Isla Espíritu Santo, there is the destruction of the "El Erizoso" Mangrove. It has been under restoration for three years and we still cannot recover all the ecosystem services it provided before Hurricane Odile.

Corals have also been im-

pacted due to the effects of hurricanes. In this case, the corals of Espiritu Santo and Cabo Pulmo suffered major breaks in their structures and have gradually recovered their ecosystem services.

In terms of marine ecosystems, we have seen how sardine and anchovy populations have recovered in the Gulf of California. These fish are the base of the food chain and provide a wealth of food for many more species.

In the same way, we have observed the return of the great manta rays in "La Reina" and Espiritu Santo, the hammerhead sharks in large schools of more than 200 in "El Bajo" and the return of the Orcas that are found in Isla Cerralvo, Isla Espíritu Santo and San José.

It is our duty to care for and protect the Gulf of California, its ecosystems and its incredible landscape.

Biologist Irma González López, Director of the National Park marine area of the Espíritu Santo Archipiélago and Protected fauna and flora of the Gulf of California Islands. National Commission of Protected National Areas. (CONANP).



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MICHAEL MOVIE MOMENTS...

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the point!) It is unlikely that the events told here unfolded exactly that way in real life but, again, that's not the point. This is an exaggeration of pretty much everything and the beauty of the exaggeration is that the viewer begins to feel

the intensity of the woman's struggle. You don't have to identify with her in any way, nor are you led to really care for her in any real sense. But what you get from this film is a sample of the intense pressure and anguish of being forced to bottle up your feelings until, somehow, they are squeezed out in ways no one expects, maybe least of all, you!

The film is brought to us by an accomplished and creative team. Steven Knight (*Pretty Little Things*) wrote the script and Pablo Larrain (*Jackie*) directed. They assembled an Oscar-seasoned crew including the production and costume designers and composer, Jonny Greenwood, whose discordant strings echo the stridency of the emotions

and give an unrelenting eerie feeling without becoming dominant.

In front of the camera is an outstanding cast of supporting actors. Timothy Spall (*Mr. Turner*) plays Major Alistar Gregory, perhaps the ultimate expression of the aristocratic order and the "watcher so others don't see!". Sallie Hawkins (*The Shape of Water*) plays Maggie, one of only two people who Diana can trust (or can she?) Add to those two a wonderfully nasty Queen Elizabeth, a completely deplorable Prince Charles, a kindly head chef, and a warning Anne Boleyn, and you have the really important characters.

Despite the wonderful efforts of all the other people in front and behind the camera, the movie belongs to Kristen Stewart. Having only known her through her roles as Bella in the *Twilight* movies and as Snow White in *Snow White and the Huntsman*, I was never really impressed by her acting. But, like many other critics, she has surprised the hell out of us with her performance in *Spencer*. Perhaps because of Stewart's own experience -- with being famous and the paparazzi -- she brings an awareness of Diana's situation that is frighteningly real. Early on we see how Stewart has mastered Diana's mannerisms and accent. (Watch how she is always turning her head and looking over her shoulder, just

like Diana did.)

But Stewart is best in expressing Diana's anguish at being held so tightly in her gilded cage. We first see Stewart's incredible intensity in the Christmas Eve dinner scene with the pearls and the soup. Watch how she passionately consumes her meal. Then I especially loved her confrontation with Charles at the billiard table. Watch her fingers caress - no, touch without feeling - the edging of the table and imagine the tension as she asserts her personal moral authority (with a single white ball) against her husband's overwhelming command of the situation and of her (and his rack of red balls).

Her fingers move up and down as her face contorts to match her words as she flails, emotionally, against an impenetrable stone wall. Then, again, Stewart commands the role at the top of the stairs at Park House as she desperately contemplates her future...

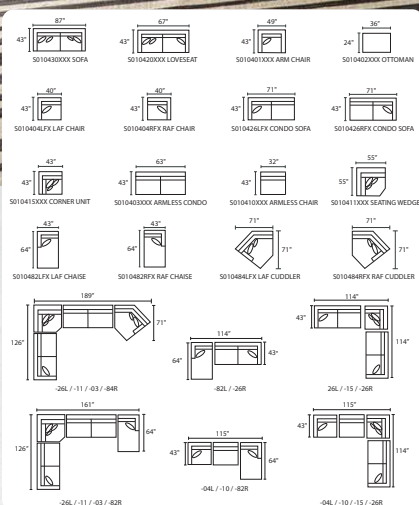
In scene after scene, Stewart rises to a level of acting art that wasn't just surprising coming from her but was surprising coming from anyone. I've reviewed my notes on the other four of this year's Leading Actress nominees and considered their roles, and despite the fact that this is Stewart's first Oscar nomination, I think she blew the rest out of the water. Apparently, even Stewart said that this "was the best thing I've ever done. This is the most alive I've ever felt." I now eagerly look forward to future work from Kristin Stewart.

If you are looking for another tale of the stuffy monarchy and their awful treatment of a Diana deserving of sympathy and love, this will likely not satisfy your craving. But, if you want to explore what she was feeling, stretched to the outer limits, and experience an actress ready to take you there, then watch this movie. (4*)

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Ask a Mexican

There is a big difference in dating between Mexicans and foreigners, the way relationships work overall and with feminism being a stronger movement every day, what seemed traditional in Mexico is now changing.

How does that work for you? What advice would you give foreigners who want to date a Mexican?



Illustration by danjazzia

Daniel Zapata, 34, counselor.

The expectation here is that as a male when dating, you're expected to pay for everything, usually; but now there are more and more women who rather pay half or pay everything themselves. Sometimes it seems like a power thing, as if a woman who pays can't be

told what to do, but it really depends on what type of man you were raised to be. If we get married, same deal. The woman stays home if the man has enough income to look after the family, and the woman administrates the home and raises the kids. If you're a foreign man looking to woo a Mexican lady, up your chivalry

game but be aware of her ideas: if she's a hardcore feminist you might get told off. If she's a traditional girl, she will very much appreciate it.

Gabriela García, 25, seamstress.

I feel like there's a huge problem in our culture with wanting a super-submissive wife, which plays into machismo culture. Usually, men learn these things from their parents or other family members. They see their dad and tios get treated like gods by their wives and they want that too, which is so wrong. I've seen it happen before, where the family just starts criticizing the girlfriend for not doing everything for him. Even growing up as a girl, you get taught to serve the men in the household or you have to learn how to cook for your future husband because if you don't do these things, he won't want you. If you're a foreign woman, date a Mexican man who was not raised in the macho culture, who will understand your culture is important and you will not give in to unrealistic standards in traditional Mexican relationships.

Fatima Delgado, 22, baker.

Many Mexican men are machistas, but not all. My dad always cooked for my mom and sisters growing up and served us first. He's always treated us like queens and taught us to never accept any less. He is our example of what to look for and has interviews with all the boys who are



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interested in us. He can sniff the bad ones and lets us make our choices but tells us exactly what he thinks. Because he is a man, he grew up when there was no feminism and he knows the macho ways. I'd say before getting into a relationship, don't ignore the small signs. Don't fool yourself into thinking you can change machos. It just doesn't happen.

Josué Hernandez, 42, banker.

Of course, there's plenty of old backwards minded, conservative, and stupid people in Mexico as there are everywhere else in the world. Mexico is a huge country with more than 120 million people,

from different roots, values and religions. Our culture and traditions are beautiful but machos are from all parts of the world. It's a matter of being a good man overall, regardless of where you're from. My advice is to treat women the way you would like your future daughters to be treated.

María Jiménez, 33, receptionist.

One thing you need to know is that Mexican girls expect you to formally ask them to be boyfriend/girlfriend. No matter if you think it is implied because you act like boyfriend and girlfriend, they still want the official question. The day

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

**COOKING LIKE A MEXICAN...**

continued from page 16

form, about 1 1/2 minutes. Remove the bowl from the mixer, add the egg yolks, and fold with a rubber spatula until just combined (do not deflate the egg whites); set aside.

Heat the oil in a large frying pan over medium-high heat until hot, about 4 minutes. Working with 1 chile at a time, dip the stuffed chiles carefully in your egg batter,

making sure they are covered and drop in the hot oil, again, very carefully. Cook without disturbing until the bottom of the chile relleno is golden brown, about 2 to 3 minutes. Using a flat spatula and a fork, carefully flip the chile relleno over and cook until the other side is golden brown, about 2 to 3 minutes. (If the sides of the chile are not brown, use a spatula or tongs to turn it onto each side to brown.)

Serve on a plate, cover with the warm salsa and top with some sour cream! I recommend serving these with white rice and let the salsa soak the rice. Warm some tortillas, too!

Pro tip: you will have some bits and pieces of egg and chile and some grains of rice swimming in salsa. When you're done eating, grab a quarter of tortilla and scrape the plate. Damn, my mouth is watering! 🐦



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FISH REPORT...

continued from page 17

the dorado are keeping anglers busy. We also saw a couple of wahoo in the mix.

Off the bottom, anglers found a variety of fish – bonito, barred pargo, yellow snapper, Almaco jack, and triggerfish. Though not many anglers were primarily targeting the bottom, for those who were, the action was better than we had seen in previous weeks. ... **Eric Bricton, Gordo Banks Pangas**

East Cape

Hurricane Kay swept through the East Cape area recently, bringing much-needed rain but also lots of flooding and water damage. As the Baja peninsula recovered from the damage, the Van Wormer Resorts reported no damage to the hotels or boats. The boats

have been out fishing, which has been very good following a storm.

Sea temps have been in the mid-80s, with partly cloudy weather, highs at 89 degrees F, and some rain in the afternoons up in the foothills. Winds are SSE at 10 to 20 mph.

One visitor shared his recent trip experience. As usual, fish scatter during storms, and it takes some looking around to get dialed in. However, with the lack of fishing pressure, it's pretty awesome once you find the fish. Tuna was a bust, but dorado was wide open out on the shark buoys by the 88 Bank. Five quality fish from 20 to 55 pounds, plus plenty of quality pargo and amberjack in the mornings while making bait.

The striped marlin bite was as fruitful as always for those who targeted them. There were fish on the inside banks

and canyons near shore, and most boats had a couple of opportunities. Unfortunately, we hooked 5 billfish accidentally trolling for dorado and lost all on small gear. Never got any of them to come back and eat a pitch bait. We saw a wolfpack of sails offshore in our spread but didn't connect on those either.

A group observed bonito and skipjack were around for practice, along with 10 to 15-pound dorado with a few 40-pounders in the mix farther offshore.

There also have been a few wahoo that seemed to be a more incidental catch than targeted.

Also in the mix are the billfish, striped marlin, sailfish, and even a few blue marlin hooked and released.

And last but not least was a nice-size Almaco jack

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24



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WHAT MAKES LIVING IN...

continued from page 18

touristy resorts and sport fishing. Over the past 20 years, San Jose del Cabo has experienced massive growth with an influx of individuals from every Mexican state and many Central and South American countries as well.

For me and many of my friends, living in Mexico is a dream come true! We have all experienced many once-in-a-lifetime moments while living here. The history, culture, and diversity of the various cultures shape all the people who live here. I have had times when I wanted to throw in the towel because I did not expect life in Mexico to be so challenging. Yet, I am glad I stuck it out through every challenge. My life is never boring and is full of adventure here. I welcome all of it with an open heart and a great deal of patience. Here are just a few of my observations.

LANGUAGE BARRIER

Countless times not speaking Spanish has been a huge issue. Knowing how to speak Spanish is so important when living in Mexico. Can you live here without knowing Spanish? Yes, because I did it. I knew just a few phrases when I first moved here. I needed so much help because I do not speak the language fluently.

Even in heavy tourist areas, English is not as common as you would think. Yes, if you stay at the all-inclusive hotel most of the staff speaks English. However, just outside those gates is a whole world in Spanish. Simple tasks like paying your phone bill, calling to make an appointment, or shopping online are difficult when you do not speak the language. I highly suggest enrolling in a competent language school and learn the basics. Then use what you have learned as often as possible. If you don't use it, you will certainly lose it.

DRIVING

Driving in Mexico takes guts and requires total full-time

concentration. When driving anywhere you must watch traffic carefully. Taxi drivers zoom around like they are in a NASCAR race. You would think that driving in less populated areas would be less loco. Not so much! Speed bumps (topes) will just pop up unannounced. You could easily find yourself flying down a remote jungle road and out of nowhere the car launches over a speed bump. Laws, and regulations are considered mere suggestions. Just be careful while driving and always make sure you are covered by insurance.

SHOPPING

I live along the corridor between Cabo San Lucas and San Jose, which are two decent-sized communities. We have access to Walmart, Costco, and Starbucks as well as several well-stocked and modern supermarkets and U.S.-style shopping malls. When you are feeling homesick, these stores will be a welcome sight. These places will be your best shot at getting things from back home at a reasonable price. You may find your favorite item online but often the price is crazy high.

Clothes run small in Mexico, and it is difficult to find larger sizes. Finding larger underwear and bras has been extremely difficult. The selection of maternity clothes is sad. When you find well-made products or things that fit, be prepared to pay more. Most stores do not carry large-size shoes and socks for men. Ama-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24



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ASK A MEXICAN...

continued from page 21

of your anniversary and we normally celebrate each month for the first year with a little present (flower or something like that) or a night out.

Javier Cepeda, 31, broker.

There's a lot on dating in Mexico. Chivalry is a must for some people. We have all kinds of courtesy in dating in all sorts of things like walking, eating, paying, etc. but maybe so do you. My advice is: be a gentleman but don't be afraid of showing that you are attracted to her. Mexican girls, as I think most girls in the world, fall for that. 🐦

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FISH REPORT...

continued from page 22

caught by my friend, David LeCompte, who scored his first Almaco after many years of fishing the East Cape. CONGRATULATIONS, my friend!

CAPTION

And last but not least was a nice-size Almaco jack caught by my friend, David LeCompte, who scored his first Almaco after many years of fishing the East Cape. CONGRATULATIONS, my friend!

La Paz

Fishing recovered faster than expected after two big storms and the full moon two weeks ago. Surprisingly, even though the waters were somewhat murky and cooler due to the rain's runoff and the wind, the fish bit as soon as we could get back on the water. It wasn't a strong bite, but enough to quell anxious fishermen who could not fish because of the storms.

Seemingly, the waters got a bit clearer and warmer with each passing day, and the dorado bite turned on full speed. Not every boat and not every location, but for the most part, it was often all the dorado one could want as fast as you could go. Many fish were released. Some boats didn't do quite

as well, but since most of our fishermen are on the water multiple days, they stacked a lot of filets at the end of the day. Dorado ranged from school-sized 5-pounders to 25-pound larger fish.

In addition to the dorado, billfish like marlin and sailfish also woke up to feed on all the dorado, but we had several hookups on striped marlin, blue marlin, and sailfish, although most broke off.

A few stray smaller roosterfish, lots of big bonito, jacks, pompano, trevally, snapper, and pargo rounded out the catch. ... **Jonathan Roldan, Tailhunter International** 🐦

WHAT MAKES LIVING IN...

continued from page 23

zon MX has offered some relief but you will pay for the service.

SCHOOLS

Foreign Resident families living in Mexico usually send their kids to private school or home school. Public schools are an option; however, in Mexico, they only teach in Spanish, and they do not offer programs to help non-Spanish-speaking students. In our area, it has been two years since public schools closed due to Covid. They have still yet to open fully, and many children have just stopped go-

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that particular holiday.

MAKING NEW FRIENDS

Making friends in any new place is difficult. I did not expect it to be as complicated as it has been to find friends in Mexico. We have managed to find a few great people we love dearly. Living in Mexico would have been so much more difficult if it were not for their support and advice.

My number one piece of advice on this topic is to make friends with at least one local family. The people of Mexico are so caring and have such big hearts. We are so thankful for our local friends. When we need assistance, they are always available to give a helping hand.

Many foreign residents can be found in the local bars and restaurants. Several have regular Meet and Greet nights which will give you an opportunity to meet new friends. Be selective, however. There is a local saying that Cabo is the home to sunny beaches and shady people.

HOME EXPECTATIONS

Living in a Mexican home was a new experience for us. The homes have very different plumbing systems, air conditioning systems, LP gas, and hot water heating systems compared to the homes I lived in previously. I was just not familiar with the way the systems worked in Mexico and how to maintain them. I will also mention that most of the important workings for these systems are on a second story possibly even a third-story roof.

The state of Baja Sur is a
CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

ing to school. The fall of 2022 will be interesting to watch as a "regular" school year is scheduled.

Many private schools teach remedial English classes half the day. The other half of the day is taught in Spanish. It is not common for private schools to offer special services for non-Spanish speakers either. But it is not free. Math, science, history, music, physical education, and technology are taught in Spanish. A friend's son has commented that he has difficulty comprehending the classes taught in Spanish and is bored in his English class.

HOLIDAYS

There are enough to go around. It seems that every few weeks there is some "National" Holiday. Holidays are a great reason to have a fiesta and dive into cultural traditions. Just like in the States family and friends get together and share food and fun together. I was surprised when I found out Christmas is not heavily celebrated in our area of Mexico.

Mexicans love to celebrate, and they enjoy every moment of a holiday. Many celebrations begin the day before around 11pm. We were invited to a local's house for their Independence Day celebration. We did not realize that Independence Day starts the night before. We got a call around 11:30 the evening before Independence Day asking where we were. When invited to a celebration ask what day and time it is. Do not assume it is on the day of

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10 No-Nonsense, Practical Tips for Moving to Mexico

BY JENNIFER JENNINGS

Welcome to Mexico! We've compiled 10 no-nonsense, practical tips to make your transition to the good life easier. Whether you're staying for a month, staying for a season, or making Mexico your full-time home, these tips will make your move south of the border easier.

1. Join the local Facebook groups

Yes, sometimes Facebook groups can dissolve into pointless arguing and name calling - but they also offer a wealth of information. Join local Facebook groups so you can ask for recommendations, stay abreast of the latest news, and learn about local events.

Being a member of the neighborhood Facebook can be important for finding out when garbage day is, being aware of any suspicious activities in the area, participating in luncheons, events, fundraisers, or other cultural events, and connecting with potential friends.

2. Find a social circle

Moving to a new country (and possibly having limited Spanish-speaking skills) can be very isolating. To make the transition easier, find your tribe.

Make friends with your neighbors or find a group that you enjoy spending time with. Spending time with people in a similar lifestyle or stage of life

can fill your day with activities and socialization and take the edge off of missing your family and friends back home.

3. Learn the basics

One way to make the move easier is to learn the language! Start off with simple words and phrases to make regular day-to-day activities like shopping and dining out easier.

Knowing even the basics of the language can change your experience interacting with locals. People are going to be pleasantly surprised when you make an attempt to speak to them in their native language.

As your confidence and vocabulary grow, you can expand your social circle to locals and experience authentic life here in Baja.

4. Develop a routine

Just because you moved to Mexico doesn't mean you moved to an all-inclusive resort. Laying in the sun and drinking margaritas will eventually get old.

Establish a routine to add structure to your days. Morning walks, coffee with friends, shopping, volunteering, and even some email checking will give your day purpose.

5. Get involved with the community

Speaking of volunteering, that's a great way to get involved with your community. There

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are tons of amazing groups in Baja looking for volunteers. You may even be able to use your existing work skills to help the community.

If volunteering is not your thing, getting involved in the community can be as simple as helping with a community clean-up, attending local events, or talking to your neighbors. If Mexico is going to be your long-term home, weaving yourself into the fabric of the community will positively impact your experience.

6. Leave the trailer and suitcases at home

It may surprise you, but Mexico has everything you need for your new home. There are department stores with the same high-end goods you're used to at home. So, leave the luggage and shop local for your linens, towels, flatware, kitchen appliances, and house decor.

Some things you may need

to bring? Bringing some prescription medications may be a good idea until you find a local pharmacy and doctor. Your favorite skin care may be tricky to find if you have a set regime. And if you get really homesick, you may find yourself bringing random foodstuff that you just can't live without.

7. Cash is king

While most larger stores and restaurants will accept credit cards, cash is king in Mexico.

Pro tip: when using the ATMs, decline the conversion rate. While you might still get dinged with the use fee, you'll get a better conversion rate from your bank.

It's also helpful to figure out how much money you're spending per month and which ATMs allow you to pull large sums out. This saves you from hitting the ATM multiple times per month (and racking up fees).

8. Know the law

You've probably heard that there are some crooked cops who will pull you over because of your gringo status or foreign-plated car... well, if you do get pulled over, know the law!

The cops are not allowed to take your license. If you do get pulled over, ask the cop for the ticket or follow them to the local police department to pay your fee.

Don't hand over your license or cash. Paying a bribe

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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How To Dial Toll Free #'s

Mexico blocks toll free calls to the United States, which is frustrating to us, as most of our banks, credit card companies, and large businesses only provide us with toll free numbers. But we have a work around.

Just substitute these numbers:

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to call an 888 number, change the 888 to 001 881
to call an 877 number, change the 877 to 001 882
to call an 866 number, change the 866 to 001 883
to call a 855 number, change the 855 for 001 884
to call a 844 number, change the 844 for 001 885

Best to talk fast because these numbers are not toll free. And yeah, we know any business that deals in toll frees doesn't have a live person answering the phone, so good luck with making it a speedy call.





The Foods of Baja Sur

BY LISSETTE VALENTIN

Like most regions of the world, BCS has its own unique culture, one that pays homage to food that is grown, picked and quickly after presented quite beautifully on a plate. People here have great respect for the food that thrives on the land and sea which is why you'll more often than not see locally grown organic ingredients on a menu. In many ways eating here is a privilege.

Local restaurateurs have been promoting sustainable produce and meat for many years. In 1996, a restaurant called "Café Flora" opened. It was the first little organic restaurant in Cabo in Animas Bajas. Located beside the foothills of the Sierra de la Laguna, it is an area particularly blessed with fertile land flush with aquifers, a crop friendly microclimate and the sun almost always dangling in the blue sky—perfect growing conditions that make for a robust culinary scene.

Back then, however, the lack of organic produce was evident, so Gloria Greene and her husband Patrick founded Flora Farms to supply the restaurant with the best fresh ingredients. The Greene family

also founded the first farmers' market and, along with John Graham, they started offering breakfast and hosting charity events for the Los Cabos Humane society. Eventually Café Flora was closed, but then the Greene's became acquainted with Chef Guillermo and Leslie Tellez, who are now Flora Farm's Executive Chef and Executive Pastry Chef at Flora's Field Kitchen restaurant which opened in 2010.

Also in Animas Bajas, Tamarindos Mexican Farm to Table was founded in 2003. It is located in an old sugar cane stone brick farmhouse dating back to the 19th century and brims with rows of herbs and vegetables. The restaurant was named after of the edible fruit that flavors the margaritas in many of Los Cabos' bars. The owner and executive chef Enrique Silva, trained in agricultural engineering, and, along with the Green's, is considered one of the pioneers of organic produce and fusion cuisine in Los Cabos.

Around 2016, an oasis called Acre emerged with lush foliage of green palms, mango groves and a zoo of rescued pet farm animals roaming the

property. Owned by two Canadian expats, Cameron Watt and Stuart McPherson, this minimalist restaurant bar was the first of the so-called Cabo New Wave of restaurants and eateries inspired by the bounty of land and sea.

After Acre, an increasing number of 5 star or casual restaurants and organic markets have sprung up around Los Cabos like Don Sanchez where daily tasting menus showcase the freshest local and seasonal ingredients. Chef and owner Todd Chapman sources organic produce from his own local farm, Sánchez Orgánico. Cynthia Fresh, closer to the resort zone in San Jose del Cabo, is a healthy, beautiful

petit restaurant with a casual atmosphere. It serves simple but superb dishes at affordable prices described as "Mexican with an Argentinian flare."

Animas Bajas wasn't the only place farm-to-table was happening and continues. One & Only Palmilla, a popular (and celeb-preferred) resort features farm-to-table dining at Agua by chef Larbi Dahrouch. This restaurant's menu changed seasonally -- sometimes daily -- depending on the fresh catch and the produce sprouting in the on-site organic garden.

Near Todos Santos in Pescadero in 2012, Hortaliza Hierbabuena Restaurant owner Marcos Ramirez had a vision inspired by the basil fields of El Pescadero.

Most recently, The Shop-

pes at Palmilla created its own farmers market happening every Friday morning and the Cabo San Lucas Organic Farmer's Market in Pedregal runs every Wednesday and Saturday. El Merkado, in the connecting corridor, is a modern and innovative food procurement and distribution center that is open every day.

And just when we thought we had it all, among all the trendy new restaurants where chefs harvest the produce and feature it on the menu as a true "straight to plate" dish, an incredible concept arrived in Cabo San Lucas last year. Picaro Garden Cuisine by Romeo and Juliet is a gastronomic revolution and the latest addition to the Solmar group and the Rancho San Lucas development. The architecture of Picaro reflects the environment within Rancho San Lucas. The calm and serene interior was designed by Holly Regan, a traveler, craft beer lover, and amateur chef. It features clean strokes and defined industrial forms and, at the same time, the atmosphere harmoniously highlights the breathtaking views of the Pacific Ocean and the cozy countryside surrounded by provencal herb gardens, olive and lemon trees.

The southern tip of Baja California is becoming a hotbed of amazing food that is here to stay. 🐦

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Room for Expansion

5 Steps to Expand Your Vision of Space

BY WILLA ROBERSON-MITCHELL

A home is defined by walls, floors and ceilings - the space in which we live, grow and allow our visions to expand. Unfortunately, our homes are becoming a scarce commodity where one may feel there's never enough life space. Regardless of the size of a home, the key is to plan what will be put into your space to create a sense of comfort, joy and peace. Conceptualizing a layout of your space will determine how it will work efficiently for you. Here are 5 basic steps on how to make the most of your space.

Multiply Space with Color and Light

To create the illusion of spaciousness, seek to enhance the natural light in your room and introduce colors such as basic white, lighter neutrals and soft pastels. Darker hues tend to reduce the appearance of space, making a room feel closed in. Selecting a lighter color palette and multiplying incoming light will broaden visual expansion.

Dare to Scale Down

An important factor with

increasing the size of your space is to scale back the amount of furniture. Keeping furniture at a minimum will allow one's eyes to experience visual relief between the pieces featured in the room. Mindful placement will bring focus and appreciation to the finer details displayed in a design. Avoid placing massive size furniture into a small space as it tends to produce a heavy, strong mood and claustrophobic atmosphere. Choosing furniture in smaller scale makes for a lighter feeling and enhances the flow of energy and natural light emitted into your space.

Create Dual Function

With space at a premium, today's rooms often serve a larger role. Evaluating personal needs based upon the size of your room will help create a space that can take on dual purposes. For example, a den or a living room becomes a bedroom overnight. A bedroom converts into an office or study. A dining space can be created within a small corner of a living room. What gives these rooms

their two-sided character? It's all about the furniture you choose to play up in a small living space.

Furniture Plays a Role

Consider furniture that's dual to multi-functional. Love-seats, chaise lounges or a modular seating group can convert into sleepers while occupying a single space. Console tables with expandable leaves offer a great advantage. They can stand alone in a foyer or be positioned behind a sofa in a living room until ready to take on the role of a dining table when both leaves are raised. Flat top storage chests are dual-purpose favorites when played up as a coffee table or media center piece. Accenting with mirrors and furniture curated from glass, chrome and other forms of reflective metal will create spatial illusion.

Minimal Accessories

Keep accessories at a minimum - use the "less is more" approach. The "less" accessories placed throughout the room, the "more" space you will envision and feel. When introducing artwork into your décor, try hand picking a few special pieces that uniquely personalize your overall scheme.

Implementing these steps to maximizing your space will create a place where you can breathe freely and feel the ease



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of movement in the illusion of space.

Willia Roberson-Mitchell is an Interior Designer and Writer at Lifespace Designs.

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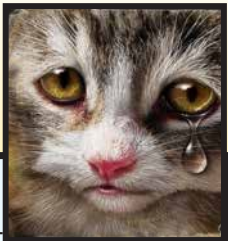
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**WHAT MAKES LIVING IN...**

continued from page 24

desert. It is very hot and humid. Mold, dust, weatherproofing, water damage, bad plumbing, and leaky windows and doors are all normal down here. We have stayed at the most beautiful modern houses, and they had most if not all these issues. The climate fights hard to stake its claim in your home.

After living in Mexico with our family for over 17 years, we have learned so much. The number one reason living in Mexico is so amazing is because it is so different. These dissimilarities are why our family has experienced moments we could have never imagined. Living in Mexico with a family is difficult at times yet the benefits outweigh the negatives by far. We have grown stronger and closer as a family and as individuals. And suddenly you just know. It's time to start something new and trust the magic of new beginnings. 🐦

10 NO-NONSENSE TIPS...

continued from page 25

or morditas is illegal for you and for the cop.

Feel like you've been taken advantage of? Sindicatura is an organization run by the Mexican government that investigates corrupt police interactions.

9. Prepare for hurricane season

If you're from somewhere that doesn't get hammered with hurricanes and they're more of a foreign concept to you, listen up!

Hurricane season comes every year. It's from May 15 to November 30 with most storms active from August to October. Whether or not the peninsula gets hit by a hurricane or tropical storm is a toss-up, but you still need to know how to prepare.

- Stock up on food and fresh water.

- Gas up your vehicle and get an extra fuel can to fill your generator or car.

- Look around your casa and consider that anything that isn't embedded in the concrete can (and will) become a flying projectile. Have a plan for where all those items are going to go in the event of a storm.

- If you're here all year, investing in a generator to keep your AC running might also be a good idea.

Keep in mind that the power infrastructure in Mexico is likely not as robust as you're used to. A thunderstorm can knock out the power for a couple of minutes to a couple

of days.

10. Yes, you need insurance

After purchasing your new home, you definitely want insurance to protect your investment. Your homeowner's policy (or rental policy) should cover you for the essentials like fire, debris removal, loss

of use, glass breakage, theft inside your home, hurricanes, and more.

You also need to insure your vehicles and boats. Your regular insurance likely will not extend south of the border so purchase a separate policy to cover your vehicle and toys while they're down here. 🐦

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