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VOL. 28 ED. 02 • SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 **NO BAD NEWS**



*September 16th
 Mexican
 Independence
 Day*

Mexico's Independence Day is This Friday!

And we celebrate it BIG time on Thursday Night

BY JOHN K. GLAAB

Canada has its July 1 and the U.S. its July 4. Here in Mexico, we have Mes del Patriotismo (month of patriotism) all of September. In Uruapan, an old city in the Western state of Michoacan, there will be 165 events! Two of my favorites are "el Grito"- shout for freedom by the President on the balcony of the National Palace at 11 p.m. on the night of September 15. This follows the original shout by Father Hidalgo from his bell tower on September 15, 1810, that triggered the war of independence and is nowadays repeated by Mayors across the

country.

The other event I find enjoyable is the parading of the flag each day by schools from the library down the street from us to the flag monument. In the evening the flag is retrieved by the "Bombros" (firefighters) led by their band while they carry wooden spades painted red, white and green, rather than rifles.

In Los Cabos, most hotels, restaurants and bars that are open past 11 p.m. will have some sort of party, and the "Grito" in Mexico City will be shown on their TVs. VIVA

Mexico VIVA!

NOTE: In the photo is our Veronica with Chiles en Nogada a patriotic dish she prepared on September 15, 2021. The red, white and green colors of the Mexican traditional dish, made of stuffed poblano chiles with a nut sauce topped with pomegranate seeds, are served in many restaurants each September. If you are visiting Mexico this month, they are on the menu year-round. 🍷

Los Cabos Tourism Office Awarded

As the Best in the World!

BY DAVID FLORES

During the Virtuoso Travel Week held last week, The Los Cabos Tourism Fund (FITURCA) was recognized

as The Best Tourism Office Worldwide, beating other ones like Australia, New Zealand, **CONTINUED ON PAGE 5**

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Que Pasa in Cabo?

BY DAVID FLORES



Sunken Yacht is Salvaged – then Sinks, Again. The “Fortius,” which sank 2 weeks ago in Balandra beach, La Paz, had been salvaged and was being transported to La Paz port, but tropical storm Javier’s waves caused trouble and the tow boat crew had to cut the ropes and let it go. It sank again, this time in a deeper area out of Balandra bay, where it will be difficult to salvage it again. The feds are still recovering fuel, debris and contaminated sand – hopefully, Mexico’s most beautiful beach will return to its pristine status soon.

New Dam for Cabo San Lucas Requested. Los Cabos Mayor, Oscar Leggs, has sub-

mitted a request to the national water commission (Conagua) to fund the construction of a new dam that would retain water, which right now, runs into the ocean at the Arroyo Seco. This dry river bed is the one that washed away the Chevrolet dealership due to strong currents caused by hurricane Odile in 2014. State governor Victor Castro said he will not build a dam in La Paz because “the water evaporates quickly.” Sigh.

Mexico Beats 9 Countries. And no, it wasn’t in soccer. Mexico tops the list of the most searched country for Gringos to buy a second home... or move to Mexico. Is it the

weather? The rate of exchange? Our friendly attitude, the tacos

New Hotels Planned for Cabo Pulmo. Investing a tad more than \$4 million USD, the project temporarily named East Cape GRE El Rincón will have 2 hotels, 50 residences and villas – 320 rooms total – on a lot of over 153 acres between La Ribera and Cabo Pulmo, on the East Cape. Pulmo, as the locals call it, is a natural

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reserve, home to the second largest coral reef in America. CEMDA, the ecology-minded group has dubbed the project “a threat to Cabo Pulmo.” Stay tuned.

Where Do Foreigners in Mexico Come From? Almost from everywhere. Mexico’s immigration agency reports that over 600,000 foreigners live in Mexico for different reasons, such as to become permanent residents, for work, schooling, humanitarian reasons or because they found their love with a Mexican national. The majority are from the U.S. and Canada, but we also have foreigners from Venezuela, Honduras, Cuba, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, China, Spain, Argentina, Brazil, Haiti, Japan, Korea, France, Italy, Germany, Peru, Chile, India, Ukraine, Nigeria, Turkey, Pakistan, Egypt, Serbia, Iraq, Nepal, and nearly two dozen from North Korea.

Cancun Beats Los Cabos! The Cancun government has announced that it no longer requires arriving travellers to fill out customs (FMM)

forms, granting American and Canadian tourists a fast-track entry process. The long lines at immigration in Los Cabos international airport are very frustrating for our precious tourists, maybe our government could do the same?

Da Big Fish Are Back! According to Carlos Narro,
CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Success in Species Recovery and New Arrivals Mar de Cortes

BY LELA SANKERALLI

The Gulf of California, fondly referred to as the Sea of Cortez or Mar de Cortés, is the youngest and one of the most biodiverse bodies of water in the world. For over 35 years I have worked at sea. I have spent most of my career teaching the natural history of a marine environment while exploring the southern Mar de Cortés. I have seen the decline of many species with

some eventually classified as threatened or endangered. The recovery of several of these species was accomplished through the joint efforts of local communities turned conservationists, scientists and the government. The government agency responsible for the management of the protection of natural areas in Mexico is CONANP.

Examples of recovered spe-

cies are sea turtles, sharks and rays. Populations are recovering and returning to the areas where they were once overfished. The recovery is due to the ban on commercial fishing of sea turtles altogether and imposing a seasonal ban on all shark and ray fishing. These measures have paved the way for their recovery by all of the above stakeholders coming together and working as a team.

Side Note: Sea turtles have a similar environmental instinct as salmon. Reproductive females return to the beach where they were hatched to lay several clutches (nests) in a single season. Their new threat is human encroachment on their nesting beaches.

Public awareness and education play an important role in understanding the ramifica-

tions of our actions. If you are unaware of the negative impact you are making, how do you know what to do to prevent it?

Equally exciting is the arrival of 2 new species to the area that we encountered this past June. These two amazing animals were not previously found in the Mar de Cortés. The first animal was a young bald eagle (águila calva in Spanish). As we entered a mangrove estuary, we were astounded to see a large bird of prey magnificently perched atop a deciduous tree. A couple of us recognized it didn't fit into the usual suspects of the birds of prey in the Mar de Cortés. It was much larger. We were so excited to identify it as a 2-year-old juvenile bald eagle.

Side Note: This was another

species considered threatened due to a long history of habitat loss, shooting, trapping, poisoning from DDT and most recently, lead poisoning. Hopefully, they will find refuge in the Mar de Cortés.

The second animal we encountered was the Guadalupe Fur Seal. A colony of hundreds of juveniles travelled approximately 1800 miles south from Guadalupe Island in the Pacific NW of Baja to a rocky island, Las Animas in the Mar de Cortés. When I visited the island in late June there were about 1000 fur seals, all juveniles 3 to 7 years of age, living in harmony with a few California Sea Lions.

Side Note: Guadalupe Fur Seals were hunted to extinction until a small group of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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Social Club Experiences a "New Concept In Cabo"

BY MONICA ANDERSON

Percy Faith may have sung about a summer place where it "may rain or storm," but that wasn't the case this time for the monthly luncheon of the Los Cabos Tomatoes' social group. The anticipation of predicted thunderstorms and rain loomed in the distance, yet the warm August

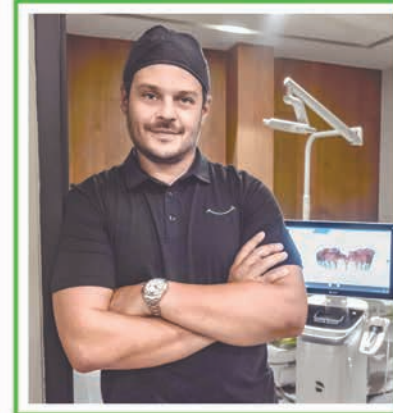
day was embraced by Los Cabos Tomatoes, the lively social networking club that

held its monthly luncheon at San Lucero Restaurant and Wine Bar, the latest addition to downtown's thriving dining scene.

Venue Director Julie Anderson began the meeting by introducing the manager of the restaurant, Miguel Rubio, who announced the establishment as a "new concept in Cabo." The international menu combines elements of Mexican,



American, and Italian cuisines while the ambiance is comfortable, inviting, and can easily accommodate large groups for parties or other events. The wine list consists of a select group imported from Chile and includes notable varietals such



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as reserve chardonnay, pinot grigio, pinot noir, and cabernet sauvignon among others. Additionally, the delicious breads, pasta and even gelato are all made in-house at San Lucero Restaurant and Wine Bar.

The resident chef, originally from Los Cabos, has worked extensively in other restaurants in the area, as well as in Spain. Happy Hour is from 4 to 6 p.m. with a special menu and every week on Wednesday wine pairing suggestions are expertly chosen by a different sommelier.

Two-for-one mimosas are available Saturdays and Sundays, and all meals can be enjoyed outside by the pool which is exclusive for patrons. Valet parking and limited street parking are available.

There is also an additional lot behind the Cabo Vista Hotel.

For starters, members had a choice of the house salad, an assortment of seasonal lettuce, tomatoes, and avocado, which was beautifully presented with house-made Italian dressing or

chicken soup. The entree was a choice of Pollo San Lucero, the restaurant's signature dish, a

Chilean chicken breast slowly simmered with local herbs, onion, tomatoes, peppers, served with homemade fettuccini, or the catch of the day of freshly caught fish cooked Meunière style also served with homemade fettuccini in San Lucero Sauce, or the Arrachera San Lucero, marinated arrachera skirt steak, served with guacamole, potatoes, baby zucchini, or the vegan option, which was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



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Huge Dorado Almost Breaks World Record

BY DAVID FLORES

Oregonian resident Randy Romero caught a 68-inch long and a few ounces shy of 81 pounds dorado (mahi-mahi).

This critter is in a rare category of dorados, weighing over 80 pounds, as only a few that size have been recorded by the



IGFA (International Game Fish Association). Randy and his wife also got a marlin, but that was the one that got away. The catch was aboard the La Patrona boat, owned by Pacific Time Sports Fishing in Cabo San Lucas. Congrats! 🐟

LOS CABOS TOURISM...

continued from page 1

Austria and the British Virgin Islands. The recognition, said FITURCA director Rodrigo Esponda, was the result of the extremely good bounce-back in tourism flow after the Covid-19 pandemic. Congrats! 🐟

QUE PASA IN CABO?...

continued from page 2

president of the Southern Baja Fishing Association, the size and weight of the latest Dorados (Mahi-Mahi) and Marlins haven't been seen in several

years. Dorados are weighing in at 40 – 50 lbs, while most Marlins are weighing over 400 lbs. Come down, fish and have fun!

Highway Improvements on the Way. The federal government has announced that it will improve the 2 lane road between Vizcaino and Guerrero Negro, in the most northern part of our state, bordering Northern Baja. The road will also be widened by 6 to 9 yards in that area. Vizcaino is part of the Biosphere Reserve, while Guerrero Negro is home to the largest salt mine in the world. Baja freaks, who drive all the way from the U.S. to our peninsula will be happy!

More Water Available in Los Cabos. The city government has restored the pump on well No. 4, which caught on fire due to an electrical failure. The well is now providing nearly 10 liters per second to our thirsty population.

Los Cabos Tourism Office Awarded. During the Virtuoso

Travel Week held last week, The Los Cabos Tourism Fund (FITURCA) was recognized as The Best Tourism Office Worldwide, beating other ones like Australia, New Zealand, Austria and the British Virgin Islands. The recognition, said FITURCA director Rodrigo Esponda, was the result of the extremely good bounce-back in tourism flow after the Covid-19 pandemic. Congrats!

Foreign Investment in Mexico Skyrockets. As in an increase of 49.2 percent in the first semester of this year, compared to the same period of 2021. Much of this was caused by the merger of Televisa, Mexico's largest media company, with the U.S.-based Univision. Without this merger, the increase was 12 percent, which is still a very good figure.

It's Whale Shark Season! Let's Swim with Them! This Tuesday, August 30, it's International Whale Shark Day and **CONTINUED ON PAGE 12**



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Los Cabos United Soccer Wins Season Opener

BY FERNANDO RODRIGUEZ

The pressure on Saturday, August 27 was immense for the Los Cabos United soccer franchise during its inaugural game. The owners felt pressure to provide this city of soccer-crazed fans with a winning club and the players and coaches wanted to start the season with a win

and give the hometown fans something to cheer about. And true to form, coach Rodrigo "El Pony" Ruiz demonstrated to a near-capacity crowd at Don Koll Stadium that he has orchestrated and prepared a winning team with their 2-1 victory over the Zapopan Falcons from Guadalajara, Jalisco.

During the first half, the Los Cabos United fans kept screaming at the Falcons players who kept falling down with alleged injuries from the physical contact with aggressive LC United men in black. During that first half, the LC United team dominated the field, spending most of the game on the offensive with more shots on goal than Zapopan.

The crowd knew that it would only be a matter of time before their beloved men in black would finally put the ball into the net. It was not until the 46th minute that LC United's Victor Argumedo blasted a powerful kick towards the goal which was blocked by a



Falcons defensive player with his hand. In soccer, this is totally illegal and calls for a free penalty kick at the point of the foul.

Victor Argumedo, wearing jersey number 10 like

world-famous Pele, scored what would be the first goal in Los Cabos United franchise history. The Los Cabos team struck again during the 53rd minute of the 2nd half with

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Cabo San Lucas Firemen Celebrate Their 40 Years of Service

The first recorded fire in Cabo San Lucas history dates back to one night in 1939, when legendary schoolteacher and unofficial city leader, Amelia Wilkes, watched her home go up in flames after her sister accidentally knocked over a kerosene lamp. As fast as they could, so their humble wooden home wouldn't explode, the two Wilkes women rolled the barrels of oil out of the home, and while the fiery heat consumed their house, Amelia ran back inside and grabbed the cash savings given to her by the schoolchildren.

Amelia Wilkes lost everything she owned. The following year, Amelia and her sister were given a new wooden

home by the Governor. It was at this 1940 humble abode that Amelia received and welcomed Pulitzer Prize-winning American writer, John Steinbeck, a

little after he penned his most famous book, "The Grapes of Wrath."

For over 40 more years, Cabo did not prepare in case of another fire-related tragic accident. Finally, in 1982, Gildardo Payan Azcárraga, who was an electrician and plumber, founded what is now Los Bomberos de Cabo San Lucas, in response to a fire at the original Giggling Marlin. Hiraldo recruited his family and friends, which included his son as the city's first fire captain, and his daughter handling emergency phone



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calls while also serving as the city's first paramedic.

Those first firemen, comprised of his friends and family, were paid from Gildardo's own pockets. The first fire trucks were donated by Oceanside and Los Angeles, California. Gildardo retired in 1992, after devoting 10 years of his life to providing the city with a 24-hour fire station.

Soon after, the young group



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of firefighter trainees known as the Delfines/Dolphins, founded by current "Comandante" (Commander/Fire Captain) Juan Carbajal, became the first school of trainees. Already 40 of their alumni have served our community as fireman, nurses, and administrators. Since then, donations of trucks and equipment from the United States have played a major role in the growth of our volunteer firefighting service.

Some have gone on to become firefighters in the small rural areas and communities that surround Los Cabos. This community-based non-profit organization continues to serve our city and neighboring villages not as high-paid employees but as volunteers.

Their impeccable 40 years of selfless service to the community of Cabo San Lucas and Los Cabos is a credit to the diligent, well-liked, and hardworking Commander Juan Antonio Carbajal Figueroa. He is committed to Los Bomberos who risk their lives saving the lives of others.

Mariana Estrada-Tallman of San Lucas says in Spanish the fireman live to "Servir Hasta Morir," which in English means they will serve the community until they die.

"The work of Commander Carbajal and his team is admired by the community and by me, who will always consider them our heroes," said Connie Jaimes, who originally hails from Toluca, a southeastern city an hour away from Mexico City.

A photographic history of our firemen portrays the evolution of their 4 decades of service from a small building in the middle of a dirt road town with a handful of volunteers to their gradual year-by-year growth and expansion. They have become a pillar of this town and an exceptional team of dedicated men and women who are passionate about the responsibility of always being ready for any fire, hurricane, or natural disaster as they serve and save this community—until their dying breath. "Servir Hasta Morir." 🦁

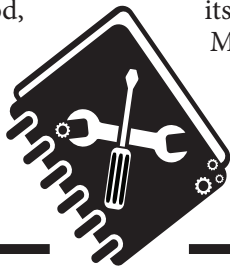


ARTIST STUDIO TOUR...

continued from page 3

less than 20 was discovered in the mid-1950s. In the early 1990s, there was a considerable increase in reproductive females and an extraordinary number of pups were born. The continued increase of the fur seal population has created a need for more space. They are travelling further in search of new haulouts where food, rest and possible breeding grounds could be established.

Environmental change is very much real. Human impact has



been minimal, at least in the area I explore (the marine park between La Paz and Loreto), and I anticipate it will remain this way. The environmental change the Mar de Cortés will experience is a natural process in the geological time clock of the Earth: drought, lack of precipitation, storms and hurricanes and climate change. Because of the great lengths taken by stakeholders to protect the area and its inhabitants, the Mar de Cortés is

an example to the world that conservation is everything to saving our oceans.

Lela Sankeralli is the Senior Naturalist with the Panterra Adventure Travel / Panterra Geo Expediciones. www.panterra.com

SOCIAL CLUB EXPERIENCES...

continued from page 4

veggie lasagna or Basmati rice with sautéed vegetables. Desert was the Nona's apple pie

with a scoop of vanilla gelato, both also prepared in-house. Members were also treated to a courtesy first glass of sparkling brut chardonnay, and the option of beer, wine and cocktails were available for an additional purchase.

With a warm introduction by longtime member Cathie Smith, the "Network Spotlight" speaker of the month was Mary Alexander, of MoXi, a Global Mortgage Company, whose headquarters are located at the Plaza Peninsula in San José

del Cabo. MoXi specializes in providing mortgage

loans to Americans purchasing in Mexico as well as American homeowners in Mexico looking to explore a cash-out refinance option. They are currently offering 15, 20 or 25-year, fixed rates, fully amortized loans. Loans are funded in US dollars through their investors in the United

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Cooking Like a Mexican

BY ALEJANDRA BORBOLLA



There's magic in Mexican street food. Sure, we have Mexican high-end food as well, but nothing hits the spot quite like antojitos. Antojitos comes from the word "antojo" which translates to craving. The diminutive is because they are usually small. The first documentation of Mexican street food dates from 1831 but they were not called antojitos until 1890 and not in a good way. These foods were for the working class who had such a bad schedule they usually had to eat on their way to work. The women who usually made them saw the need for a more accessible meal and took them to the streets. The upper class was not very fond of seeing food on the streets and got the press involved. Newspapers would often write articles saying

how bad antojitos were. These writers went as far as they could to keep food away from the streets and would use arguments like, "There is no way to keep this food clean while

they know, demand wouldn't go down, and soon enough all these street food joints were regularized and allowed. This time, I will give you a recipe



people are walking around all the time," and "Certain foods are prepared with leftovers which is unsanitary." Little did

to satisfy your need for street food.

Mexican anything is a force of its own: food, traditions, idioms, expressions, culture and contrasts. Mexican food and slang are tied together so tightly and seamlessly it's difficult to describe and attempt to explain the slight but important differences in words and expressions. As we approach our national holiday and we gather up delicious recipes to have at our fiestas, this time we will shine the light on Gorditas. Typically a street food item with humble origins, it is a crowd pleaser,

a comfort food, something to eat on the go in a rush or to use up all the week's leftovers in a delicious way.

The term "gordita" only means a chubbier tortilla. There's no need to dive in to

study the root of the word and relate it to fatphobic gendered terms because we're not going down that road here. Yes, "gordita" does mean chubby in a feminine way, but here's where Mexican folklore, language and food is so tied together it is quite difficult to separate. No one has compared the food to anyone's figure. Gorditas are older than societal pejorative terms, and honestly, that sort of social interaction is relatively new in Mexican culture. Long story short, it's not in our traditions to follow slender figures anyway. Bernardino de Sahagún, a Franciscan friar, missionary priest and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

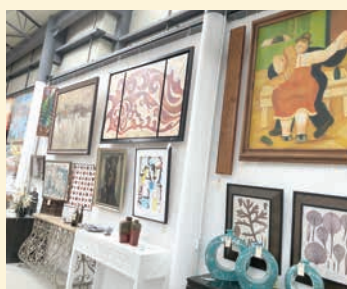
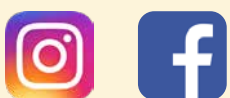
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Real Estate in Los Cabos Relies on Strong Fundamentals, Remains Smart Investment Amid Global Economic Agitation

BY KATIE MARISCAL

In an effort to tame inflation, financial authorities in the U.S. and around the world are set to continuously raise interest rates during the coming months. The way in which the different sectors that

compose the real estate market will be impacted is a focus of attention among the industry's players. In the following paragraphs Katie Mariscal, real estate professional at Los Cabos Sotheby's International

Realty, offers her reading of the current state of the market in Los Cabos. Read on and join the discussion!

Prospective buyers and sellers are questioning whether the financial climate in the

U.S., marked by higher mortgage rates, will have any influence on the real estate market in Los Cabos. In fact, most changes in the U.S. economy tend to impact our market, as we are mainly a vacation and

second home market relying heavily on U.S. investment.

That being said, as per MLS data, Q2 2022 experienced a 22 percent increase in closed sales compared to Q2 2021. That figure is nearly six times higher than pre-covid numbers, and runs parallel with the 29 percent increase in condos and homes pending in the MLS since October 2021. The fact is that during the last five years Los Cabos has experienced a vertiginous growth rate. This

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



SOLD PROPERTIES

VILLA HART, MLS #22-1471, Cabo San Lucas, \$3,735,000 USD, Selling Agent: Rebeca Curiel, Galta Real Estate

MAGUEY LOT, \$575,000.00, 21-3056, Land, Los Barriles, LA & BA, Emma Nicholson & Dede Bacon, Ronival™ Real Estate.

CASA WINDSKIPPER, \$399,000.00, 22-709, House, Los Barriles, BA, Jesús Zavala, Ronival™ Real Estate.

TAMAR 201, \$189,000.00, 22-1153, Condo, Los Cabos, BA, Cid Chacon, Ronival™ Real Estate.

MARAVIA LOTS 136 & 137, \$100,000.00, 22-3326/27, Land, La Paz, BA Agustín Olachea, Ronival™ Real Estate.

LOT OLTER, \$450,000.00, Land, Los Cabos, LA & BA, Cid Chacon, Ronival™ Real Estate.

TESSA'S LOT, \$72,500.00, Land, Los Barriles, LA & BA, Dede Bacon & Emma Nicholson, Ronival™ Real Estate.

CASA TUMALAN, \$890,000.00, 22-2618, House, Los Cabos, LA & BA, Cynthia Vilalta/ Clarissa Cota, Ronival™ Real Estate.

VILLA ESTRELLITA, \$272,000.00, 22-1652, House, Todos Santos, BA, Mark Sherman, Ronival™ Real Estate.

COSTA SOL, \$175,000.00, 22-2015, House, Los Cabos, LA & BA, Gaby Lopez/Paolo Guerrero, Ronival™ Real Estate.

LAS HUERTAS, \$161,000.00, 22-1826, Land, Todos Santos, BA, Ronival™ Real Estate.

PALO BLANCO LOT, \$70,000, Land, Los Barriles, BA, Emma Nicholson, Ronival™ Real Estate.

CONDO MATIZ 1 At Miro Condominiums, \$204,000.00, 19-3628, Condo, Los Cabos, BA, Cristian Ochoteco, Ronival™ Real Estate.

CASA 256 PARAISO DEL MAR, \$445,000.00, 21-3220, House, La Paz, BA, Sol Gutierrez, Ronival™ Real Estate.

CASA MEXICANA, \$220,000.00, 21-4391, House, Todos Santos, BA, Ronival™ Real Estate.

LOTE JULIETA 17/LOTE RUTH 16, \$94,589.00, 22-2269/68, Land, Todos Santos, BA, Mariana Sanchez, Ronival™ Real Estate.

CASA CHILENO, \$325,000.00, 21-3883, House, Los Barriles, LA & BA, Emma Nicholson and Dede Bacon, Ronival™ Real Estate.

SAN YSIDRO LOT, \$23,000.00, 19-1982, Land, Los Barriles, BA, Jesús Zavala, Ronival™ Real Estate.

FN397, \$325,000.00, 21-3055, Loreto, LA, Ronival™ Real Estate.

VERANDA RESIDENCES 103, \$331,498.00, Condo, Los Cabos, BA, Sol Gutierrez/ Gaby Lopez, Ronival™ Real Estate.

MONTE BELLO LOT M2-02, 20-718, Land, Los Barriles, BA, Dede Bacon, Ronival™ Real Estate.

COPALA 3406, \$765,000.00, 22-337, House, Los Cabos, LA, Brian Worley & Emma Nicholson, Ronival™ Real Estate.

TERRASOL 221, \$1,625,000.00, 22-691, Condo, Los Cabos, LA, Lori Pedersen, Ronival™ Real Estate.

MORGAN RESIDENCES 413, \$100,000.00, 22-987, Condo, Los Cabos, BA, Mitch McDonalds, Ronival™ Real Estate.

PEDREGAL TOWERS B05, \$165,000.00, 22-31, Condo, Los Cabos, BA, Jason Muirhead, Ronival™ Real Estate.

CUATROVIENTOS A1-304, \$268,000.00, 21-3026, Condo, Los Cabos, LA & BA, Rosella, Beto, Lilia / Lilia, Ronival™ Real Estate.

CUATROVIENTOS A2-102, \$270,000.00, Condo, Los Cabos, LA, Rosella, Beto, Lilia, Ronival™ Real Estate.

CUATROVIENTOS B2 -107, \$176,000.00, Condo, Los Cabos, LA & BA, Rosella, Beto, Lilia / Gaby Lopez, Ronival™ Real Estate.

CUATROVIENTOS B2-306, \$150,000.00, Condo, Los Cabos, LA & BA, Rosella, Beto, Lilia / Isabel Soto, Ronival™ Real Estate.

CUATROVIENTOS D2-204, \$375,000.00, Condo, Los Cabos, LA & BA, Rosella, Beto, Lilia / Rosella / Beto, Ronival™ Real Estate.

Los Cabos Foreign Resident Advisory Board Takes Office

Without actually having an office

BY R. LEE SCHULTZ

The Los Cabos City Council has voted and issued its official endorsement to mayor Prof Leggs' request for the formation of a Los Cabo Foreign Resident Advisory Board. The mission of the board is to "facilitate the integration of the foreign residents into the Los Cabos community and to address their concerns and issues while improving the communications between the Los Cabos Municipality and its residents". The official endorsement of this Board is a major step forward in responding to the concerns of Los Cabos foreign residents.

The Board is comprised solely of concerned volunteer foreign residents who reside within the Municipality. A Board member acts as a representative and spokesperson for designated areas within their own communities. Each

Board member will meet and listen to the concerns of their foreign residents and report those findings back to the full board for discussion and a plan of action. The Board then will prioritize these issues and forward them with their recommendations to the mayor for resolution.

Nohemi Romaro, the Municipalities Coordinator of Attention to the Foreign Resident Community, acts as an advisor to the Board. The mayor, Prof Leggs, has issued a memorandum to each of the Municipality Department heads, advising them of the purpose of the Board and requesting their full cooperation with the board in resolving any issues which might be brought forward to them.

The Board's Initial survey results of concerns within the foreign resident commu-



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nity included public safety; potable water; traffic; uncontrolled building growth and the lack of reliable infrastructure to name just a few. The Board has already taken a proactive position in fulfilling their responsibilities and has invited several municipal authorities to meet with the Board and discuss possible solutions to these concerns.

"The best way to experience travel abroad is to live with the locals." – Unknown

When one moves from one country to another, one needs to accept the reality that things are going to be different: some better and some worse. And that is a good thing! In Mexico just about everything is inherently different from "back home" and there is little we should do to change the culture of our new home. That, too, is a good thing!

To live with locals, you need to be a person who takes the time to get to know them. For the most part, locals don't respect individuals that will not take the time to learn about their culture. They **do** respect foreign residents and visitors who are looking to become a part of the landscape, not just photograph it.

Within Mexican culture there is an old saying: "El

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VISTA LOS SUEÑOS

BY ALTUS

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muerto y el arrimado a los tres días apestan." This Mexican saying is often used when guests stay a tad bit too long. Loosely translated, it says: "A dead body and a free-loader stink after three days!" Even though it is unlikely that many of us know how dead bodies actually smell, we can surely imagine that it must be very unpleasant.

We are each used to having a set routine in our own homes. And that changes when guests visit. The Los Cabos Municipality is not much different. Cabo is now a world-class tourist destination with millions of visitors and thousands of new residents each year. There is nothing wrong with this. It, too, is a good thing. It provides a good standard of living for thousands of

Mexicans who work within the tourist and supporting industries.

However, when visitors seek to change the local culture, that's when it becomes an issue. Truth be told, this phrase is really only used by Mexicans when their guest wants to alter their daily routine or culture. That is when "guests" become a bit of a burden to the host. It hints that it's probably either time to leave or time to adapt to Mexico's natural culture.

The mission of the Foreign Resident Advisory Board is to facilitate the integration of foreign residents into the Los Cabos community, **not** the reverse. How your life in Mexico unfolds is entirely up to you! We would like to suggest however that we should

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

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QUE PASA IN CABO?...

continued from page 5

also the date when their season officially begins in our area. Each year, an average of 30 of these critters – the largest fish in the world - visit La Paz and Cabo San Lucas, becoming an attraction for locals and tourists alike until March, when they move to greener pastures – bluer waters? The gentle giants—which can reach up to 40 feet (12 meters) or longer in length, and weigh an average of 5 tons, are so nice that they let you dive with them. Enjoy!

The Tom Ramsey Foundation Comes to Cabo. The foundation will build a Community Center, employing 40 people and supporting the community of the Caribe Bajo neighborhood located near the Cabo San Lucas airport. Tom Ramsey is a former professional American football quarterback, who played five seasons in the NFL for the New England Patriots and one season for the Indianapolis Colts. The Tom Ramsey Foundation “is committed to building bridges between individuals, businesses and community organizations, who in collaboration, will stand in the gap for those we are called to serve.”

Los Cabos Promotes Destination in Leading Travel Meeting. During the IBTM (Institute of Business Travel Management) Americas held last week in Mexico, our Los Cabos Tourism Fund (FITURCA) held over 500 business meetings with leading Travel

Experts. IBTM is the connection bridge for the Professional community of meeting and event industry across the Americas. This should bring us even more tourists in the near future. Congrats FITURCA!

SOCIAL CLUB EXPERIENCES...

continued from page 8

ment to their clients at the end of the year for a potential tax deduction (to be determined by your accountant). Please note that you must be a U.S. Citizen, paying United States taxes with a minimum FICO score of 680.

The company has a recognized history in the mortgage loan industry, dating back to 2006 and member Joni Ross contributed her own positive experiences with MoXi and Global Mortgage.

Member Cathie Smith is also a preferred international insurance vendor for MoXi and believes they are “a real game changer for real estate investment.” For more information contact Mary Alexander via email at mary.alexander@moxi.global, phone at +52 (624) 195-4148, or visit

www.MoXi.Global.

Guests attending this month’s luncheon included Samantha Hall from Phoenix, Arizona, accompanied by member Joni Ross, Mary Alexander of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, by member Cathie Smith, Veronica Mejorada, from Guadalajara, Mexico by member Debbie Brown, and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

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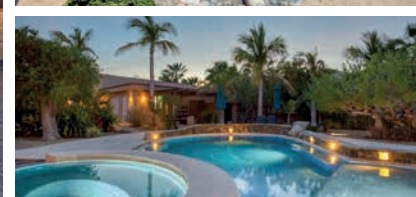


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La Garita

The Story Behind The Authentic Regional Taste of Baja

BY JOAQUIN RENERO

A must-stop location in the middle of nowhere between Los Cabos and La Paz, surrounded by flora and fauna of the desert, lays an award-winning regional restaurant that started all its magic in 1988. Lluvia Márquez is the third-generation chef and owner of Lonchería La Garita. Ever since she remembers, her life has revolved around this place, "I'm always proud of my entire family. I've learned administration from my grandmother, but her gift mainly taught us how to make the meals fresh, clean, and tasteful. I've learned to work hard as a team from my mother, who has always elaborated on regional snacks from seasonal fruit. Finally, I've learned customer service from my dad, being kind and inclusive. To make each client feel as if they were arriving to visit a friend they've known for a long time; that's what placed La Garita into people's favorite," she said, smiling while talking about her upbringing.

Her grandparents founded La Garita due to the urgency to bring food to the table. One day, something miraculous

happened under the desert sky when her grandfather visualized a deer passing by; it was then that he realized that his prayers had been answered. He took his rifle, aimed, and pulled the trigger. It was a matter of survival. When he arrived back at the ranch and his wife saw what he brought home, she said to him, "let's prepare burritos with this bounty and sell it by the road." They walked towards an enormous mesquite tree that cast an immense shadow and set up a dining table and a few chairs. They brewed café de talega over a firepit they had just made and waited for the first customer to arrive. Los Cabos was growing back in the day, and they had plenty of large trucks driving back and forth on the highway, so they knew they would catch these drivers' attention.

Shortly after, a flashy car appeared, "Wow! What an elegant machine!" her dad said as a first impression. A gay couple pulled in asking for water. "We don't have water, but we have coffee," her grandma replied proudly. Then, they

exited their car, ate burritos, drank coffee, and tipped the family vastly. "My dad felt so blessed that he asked them if they could sign the 5-dollar bill they had left for a tip. He kept that bill framed as a good luck charm and hung it in view of every customer that came. "The gays brought me luck, my dad will always say," stated Lluvia.

Consequently, their family, who owned a hardware store, donated to them their first wood stall, which resembled the look of a sentry box (Garita) up north. That is why the truck drivers began spreading the word by saying, "you gotta stop at La Garita," as if it were a mandatory check inspection. And that is how this family business received its popular name. Still, their popularity mainly grew from their unique taste. Hand-made flour tortillas, machaca burritos, seasonal fruit empanadas, pot beans, quesadillas, refried beans, freshly made cheese, and their traditional café de talega made them legendary in Baja California Sur.

Their traditional ranch-style cuisine remains unchanged even though several restaurants operate today in different locations, all operated by the same family. Their local touch and friendly sense of humor continue to invite customers near and far. Lonchería La Garita is located

at the 29th Kilometer on the highway from Todos Santos to La Paz. Actually, there's one on each side of the road, across

from each other. They both are fabulous! Stop by and see what happens after you leave a good tip: ¡Provecho! 🍴

There are objects that fight a constant battle against time...



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What's LCCF?

Stands for Los Cabos Children's Foundation and you will learn more here.

BY BRAD FALKNER

Who among us can fully comprehend the highs and lows in the life of a child growing up in an impoverished environment? The primary reason why I grapple with a proper understanding of what it feels like to walk in their shoes is that I'm uncertain as to their physical, social and psychological needs.

I try to imagine how challenging it must be for a child to move past constant disappointments and the frequency of being a victim of excessive neglect and abuse at the hands of the very people they should trust the most, adults.

I will never fully know the answers to those questions. That is why the Los Cabos Children's Foundation (LCCF), a cornerstone for positive change

and the conduit of reliability, resources and structure for both children and their families, requires continuous support from the community at large.

Thankfully, for the last twenty years, the LCCF has provided financial support and invaluable advice on how to confront the issues these children face on a daily basis. Earlier this month I had the chance to attend a press conference held at their new office located at the Koral Center. Over 74,000 children and their families have benefitted from the services provided by the non-profit organization.

The LCCF needs the support of a committed community: volunteers, board members, donors, and companies who

invest in the future of Southern Baja California children. The vision of this organization, founded in 2002 by Tom Walsh, is to help children have a better quality of life. The LCCF is an agency entirely dedicated to providing and/or advocating on the behalf of children in need.

"What we want is to give comprehensive support, beyond financial, in order for programs to strengthen their capacities, work with more transparency and efficacy, and serve childhood better," said Gabriela Palacios, Programs Manager at Los Cabos Children's Foundation.

This is possible thanks to a conscientious community that invests generously in the children of Southern Baja California. Querencia has been hosting our annual fundraising event, the Fred Duckett Challenge, for 16 consecutive years and it had a successful result in 2022. A total of 89 people invested \$1.6 million dollars in the future of the children in Baja California Sur. This rep-



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resents more than 80% of the funds raised in the year.

The Duckett will have its 17th edition in February 2023 and will again have an ambitious goal because children's needs in our state's growing population are ever greater. The LCCF helps companies to create permanent fundraising programs for their clients. "Hacienda del Mar, Corazón Cabo and Sunset Monalisa are some examples of companies committed to investing in children, in the future of Baja California Sur. The support

of businesses and the local community is vital. We can all give something back to this destination that has given us so much," said Griselda Torres, Development Manager at Los Cabos Children's Foundation.

Flora Aguilar Leggs, Honorary President of the DIF Municipal System in Los Cabos, highlighted the importance of government, businesses and civil society working hand in hand for the good of our community. "Los Cabos needs us all working together for the future of our children and youth."

"We are a fortunate team to have an active board, with so much business and philanthropic experience and whose main interest is that BCS families feel accompanied in the painful moments when they need better health and well-being for their children. The vision of our board transcends our daily work; transparency and collaboration are values with which we must fulfill our mission," said Marisa Come-
CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



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Profeco Isn't Perfecto but Getting Close!

BY R. LEE SCHULTZ

No one likes to be taken advantage of when dealing with anyone or any business here in Mexico, or anywhere else for that matter. But unfortunately, sometimes it does happen. Perhaps you have found yourself in just such a situation. Many folks, I am sad to say, have at one time or another been sold a bill of goods or have been generally mistreated by a business or service provider here in Mexico.

Clearly, events like that are not good for anyone and especially not good for our destination's public image. A visitor or foreign resident who feels "taken advantage of" is certain to tell ten other people or more how they were ripped off in Cabo. Many times, these stories get blown out of proportion, but all usually have some basis in fact.

Mexico is often criticized for a lack of enforcement of such problems. Mexican laws are not really laws but merely a suggestion appears to be the mantra. That kind of thinking can be a formula for economic disaster. These stories are costly, especially because other destinations that offer similar beauty and splendor, but with

a far better reputation for visitors' treatment, gladly accept these vacationers. Our loss! Unfortunately, Baja Sur, like far too many other Mexican destinations, is hemorrhaging from just such a bad reputation and the U.S. and Canadian media are far too willing to put it in the headlines.

In the past, Mexico has been too shortsighted and held back by not thinking of a better long-term resolution. For starters, addressing these issues is critical if we are to continue making strides in economic growth, especially in tourism. Some say that progress on this front is not possible. They think that the government just doesn't care. But they do! As of late, just about every level of the Mexican Government, Federal, State and Municipal, seems committed to engaging its assets to curb unethical business practices. Enter PROFECO!

So, what is PROFECO? Simply stated, it is a federal Mexican government agency tasked with enforcing business law and investigating possible business practice violations. They respond to complaints from residents and tourists,

perform random inspections on Mexican businesses and have the authority to fine or close businesses that are in violation. If you feel you have been treated improperly or have an issue to report, we encourage you to file a formal complaint with PROFECO. If enough attention is brought to light, maybe some of these issues will disappear.

The following is the process of reporting an issue and how to submit a formal complaint. Please understand that this process, like many Mexican legal matters, can be slow and time-consuming. We encourage you, however, to stay on top of your complaint. Don't give up. Keep pushing to get your issue heard and resolved.

How do you file a complaint? If you feel you were treated improperly by a business, you may file a complaint through the Federal Agency of Consumer Affairs (Procuraduría Federal del Consumidor, PROFECO).

To file a complaint, you will need to do the following:

Fill out a complaint form available at Procuraduría Federal del Consumidor, PROFECO

Enclose the document to prove the consumer relationship (agreement, factura, invoice, receipt, publicity, etc.)

Submit all documents that



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may serve as proof of your complaints, such as copies of cheques, credit card slips, receipts, credit card statements, airplane tickets or any other document that might be relevant to your claim.

If a complaint by a person is presented by a legal guardian in Mexico it must be through a simple signed power before two witnesses. It must include

a copy of the official identification of the person who accepts the power and two witnesses.

Copy of your official identification (passport, driver's license).

All this information must be sent by e-mail to: turista@profeco.gob.mx

We don't recommend it, but you can also file using

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

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Calendar of Events



September 24. 9th Annual Van Wormer Resorts Tuna Shootout. Heaviest Tuna wins! For more information go to our Tuna Shoot Out page on this site <https://vanwormeresorts.com/tournaments-page/63/tuna-shootout>, or contact Kit McNear at sportfishingkit@cox.net. For reservations please call 877-777-8862.

October 15, Saturday. Oktoberfest Cabo. Cabo San Lucas. Location and time to be advised.

October 20-23. Bisbee's Los Cabos Offshore. Information: www.bisbees.com

October 25-29. Bisbee's Black & Blue. Information: www.bisbees.com

October 29, Saturday. Todos Santos Beer Festival. Food and Beer and fun! Location and time to be advised.

October 30 – November 2. Day of the Dead Festival. Main square, Todos Santos.

November 3-8. Todos Santos 18th International Film Festival. More information later.

November 6, Sunday. Los Cabos Ironman. Information: <https://www.ironman.com/im703-los-cabos>

November 11-13. Gastrovino Wine festival. Todos Santos. www.gastrovino.mx

November 27, Sunday. 5th Annual Los Cabos Chili Cook-Off. To Benefit P.E.T. Los Cabos. \$40 USD/800 pesos Early Bird Special. \$50 USD/1,000 pesos after August 15. Information: Rob Zolezzi, robzolezzi@gmail.com

December 4, Sunday. Paws 'n Claws. Open Golf tournament. At Palmilla Golf Club, San Jose del Cabo. To benefit The Los Cabos Humane Society. Information: loscaboshumane-society.org

COOKING LIKE A MEXICAN...

continued from page 9

pioneering ethnographer who participated in the Catholic evangelization of colonial New Spain, now Mexico, wrote a great chapter in his book about general history in Nueva España about food. In said chapter, he noted there

were several types of tortillas in Nueva España, which we now know as "gorditas", which were thicker.

Gorditas can vary greatly. They can be made with corn or flour masa, and in the case of corn, there are more than 50 types of corn that can be used; they can also be made sweet or salty. Gorditas also vary in the way of cooking.

They can be grilled or fried, boiled in stews and beans or be soft or crunchy. If we do the math that's a big number of gordita variations, but hands down my favorite will always be gorditas with some kind of pork grinds.

Cracklings or pork grinds are a huge deal in Mexico and can be bought almost anywhere. From corner stores to

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supermarkets and mercados, it's a delicious snack, can be made into a meal, it's affordable and it helps reduce waste. Animal skin fried in fat is a worldwide flavor, but Mexicans did it first. How you may think? Well, in the times when afromexicans were enslaved, they would live on the outskirts of the towns and raise pigs which had been brought by the Spaniards. Often, the Spaniards would collect all the meat from the farmers and only leave behind what they considered waste. The skin was cooked until all the fat was released and stored in cans because it lasted a very long time; what was left was chicharrón. The people started eating it and it was soon a staple in their diet.

There are two kinds of chicharrón, crujiente (cracklings) and prensado (pressed). Chicharrón crujiente is the pork skin, and there are three main kinds: thin (skin only), meaty (with some meat) and ranch style (skin with both fat

and some meat). The skin is cleaned and scored and laid in the sun until completely dry. Once dry, it is marinated in milk, salt and onions, called sancocho, or sometimes orange juice. It is very important in all steps that the skins do not stick to each other. The last bit goes quite fast as the skin is fried in pork lard for a minute until it starts to crackle.

Chicharrón prensado is what remains at the bottom of the cazo -the huge pot where carnitas are made. It is scooped up, drained and pressed in a special machine made just for that purpose. Out comes a block of heaven, which includes skin, meat and love. Chicharrón prensado is often made in salsa or just refried, and a common stuffing for gorditas and quesadillas. To your luck, I will take street food to your kitchen.

For the gorditas:
Ingredients:

2 cups of corn masa
CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

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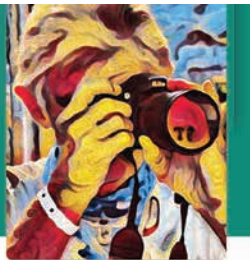
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Fish Report

BY GARY GRAHAM
THAT BAJA GUY



Cabo

As the latest tropical storm warnings predicted "Javier" would bring heavy rains to the Baja California Peninsula over the weekend, the waters off Cabo San Lucas erupted with some of the best sportfishing since early spring, according to Rebecca Ehrenberg of Pisces Sportfishing.

"A pod of whales kept watch nearby as we backed down on a double-hookup of striped marlin. Bait boiled up as marlin crashed down through them. Dolphins, sea lions, and birds were all around ... sea life was everywhere. Multiples, double, and triple hookups accounted for the 20 marlin released on Wednesday. Still, it was a wonderful experience of time spent with outstanding people. We couldn't have had a finer Captain and crew, and doing it all aboard the new Pisces 72' Viking Reels N Dirt was the cherry on top. This magnificent boat will soon be available for charter in the Pisces Fleet here in Cabo," she said.

Pisces' Viking 60' Happy Ending with another great day to report: 10 striped marlin, regardless of the impending weather reports. The excitement from the extraordinary fishing this week hasn't worn off – As anglers await the Port's reopening as the storm moves on through. ... Rebecca Ehrenberg, Pisces Sportfishing fleet.

Top boats, 46' La Chingona released 24 marlin in one day, while 37' BBII released 22 in one day. In addition, there were large dorado weighing up to 52-pounds caught aboard the Yahoo and 20 to 45-pound yellowfin tuna.

Calm, beautiful seas with most of the action at the Golden Gate where the billfish and dorado were feeding on bal-

lyhoo and mackerel, so much it attracted Bryde's whales with sea lions, porpoise, and many different seabirds in addition to the 70 to 90 marlin a day that the Pisces fleet released.

Puerto Los Cabos

So much for the Eastern Pacific being quiet. The new month began with Port Closures for the first three days due to the passing of Tropical Storm Javier. This system brought some much-needed rainfall and several inches of rain in certain areas. San Jose del Cabo river basin filled and washed out into the sea, taking with it lots of debris. Ocean swells increased, though this system passed just far enough to the west that we did not feel the high wind gusts.

Now the Port is back open

for Sunday, the 4th, though we are closely following the forecast of a new system named Kay that is rapidly developing. This one will likely reach hurricane strength and be on an unpredictable path that hopefully will take it just far enough off to the west, where Southern Baja will not take a direct hit! We expect higher winds, larger ocean swells, more rainfall, and new Port closures. The local landscape has quickly turned from a dry, parched desert into lush green tropical vegetation.

On the few days that the fleets were able to fish, anglers were catching primarily dorado in good numbers, though many were being released due to their small size and limits

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

Fish Killer Of The Week



Mike Mizell, San Antonio, Texas, aboard the "YAHOO" landed a 52.5-pound dorado prior to the arrival of all the rain caused by Tropical Storm Javier offshore.

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**REAL ESTATE IN LOS CABOS...**

continued from page 10

is true not only of our second home market, but also of our primary real estate market, typically in the US\$750,000 and under price point. This latter phenomenon is due to the growing workforce from new hotels and private clubs and more flights from the U.S. and Europe. There was a 178 percent increase in the number of condos sold on the inland Cabo Corridor in the last 12 months, which is prominent for property under the US\$500,000 price point.

Furthermore, it is important to note that there is a substantial particularity in the

Los Cabos real estate market. We primarily deal with cash buyers, and homeowners here do not typically have any debt on their properties. This tends to nullify the effects of interest rate hikes in the U.S. Also, homeowners can balance the expenses of their properties by renting them out. And, although less frequently, there are opportunities to obtain seller financing and long-term cross-border loans.

This dovetails with a broad international trend. The attractiveness of markets that offer an ocean lifestyle remains strong: it is one of the most compelling property segments with international buyers today. As Philip White, president and CEO of Sotheby's

International Realty, recently said, "beachfront homes remain a popular investment for many homebuyers around the world. Searches for properties that offer a waterfront lifestyle on sothebysrealty.com have increased 63 percent year on year." White adds: "Today's luxury homebuyer is not just interested in a property's location, but also one that aligns with their lifestyle. Beachfront properties offer the best of both worlds — stunning views and appealing activities for the family."

Indeed, at the high end of the Los Cabos market (US\$3,000,000 plus), inventory continues to dwindle, and, according to MLS data, there is a 25 percent increase of prop-



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erties pending in this price point since October 2021. The homes on the high end of the market on the oceanside of the San Jose Corridor and East San Jose have seen an average sales price increase of around 15 percent in the last 12 months.

Translating to "Earth-Sun," Terrasol, a beautiful beachfront community of privately-owned condos, was inspired by the surrounding nature and the raw, organic energy of Solmar Mountain.

The fact is that the Los Cabos real estate market, while not exempt from global macroeconomic forces, is based on strong fundamentals. Most notably among them is the region's privileged, one-of-a-kind lifestyle, which has become even more attractive since covid and the permanent lifestyle changes it produced.

As Sotheby's International Realty's Luxury Outlook 2022 report points out, global trends are prompting wealthy buyers across the world to make moves abroad. For instance, at least 40 percent of the global workforce is now "location

independent." Brokers expect that demand for second homes will continue — and that those who have already purchased vacation properties since the onset of the pandemic will likely hold on to them for some time. There may eventually come a cooldown in demand, but prices will probably remain relatively high in the coming months.

Most types of residential properties in Los Cabos have experienced price growth during the last few years. For instance, the yearly average sales price for condos in the Cabo San Lucas beach areas in 2021-2022 increased by 37 percent when compared with 2020-2021, while the yearly average sales price for houses in east San Jose del Cabo increased by 18 percent.

During the eight months leading to July 29, 2022:

- The active inventory of homes and condos in Los Cabos priced at up to US\$250,999 experienced a 65percent plunge.

- The active inventory of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

LOS CABOS FOREIGN...

continued from page 11

all work together and become MEXI-CANS!

FOREIGN RESIDENT ADVISORY BOARD—MEMBER AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Tatiana Boykin: Rolling Hills, Ranchos San Lucas, and Diamanté

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Ardith Ruth: Diamante.

The Advisory Board is currently seeking a few additional volunteers. They are in need of individuals who either reside along the corridor, in San Jose or within the East Cape areas. They must be willing to work within the Board's protocol and represent the foreign residents within their general residential areas.

Anyone who has an interest in becoming a Board Member in one of the areas mentioned, please contact Nohemi Romero Guzmán, Municipal Attention to the Foreign Residents between the hours of 8:00 AM-3:30 PM Monday – Friday! She can be reached on WhatsApp at: 624-171-2843, OR call Robert Schultz, at 624-159-0710. 🐦

SOCIAL CLUB EXPERIENCES...

continued from page 12

Rhonda Blevins from San Diego, California, by coordinator Sandra Berry. Thirty members and guests attended and the Tomatoes also welcomed its newest members Mary Alexander, Veronica Mejorada, and Rhonda Blevins.

During the luncheon a video compilation featuring the Los Cabos Tomatoes' "Folies" revue show from years past played on several large screen televisions in the restaurant. Those in attendance were entertained and some were reminded of unforgettable performances from

different members showcasing their unique talents in the annual variety show event.

Los Cabos Tomatoes originated in 1991 and currently has 600 members on the membership roster. For information, contact loscabostomatoes@gmail.com. 🐦

SOCIAL CLUB EXPERIENCES...

continued from page 14

lla, Executive Director of Los Cabos Children's Foundation.

At the end of the press conference, I sat down with Comella, who has a gigantic heart of gold. After talking with the indefatigable defender of children's rights, I know that the LCCF will inevitably bring some fresh ideas and contributions through its relentless commitment to the children in need and families at risk. Her unyielding determination, leadership and commitment to shaping the right strategy for turning the tables of poverty will succeed on a large scale benefiting Southern Baja California's future generations tenfold.

The view here is that the LCCF can rebuild the community that needs them most. But the fact remains that it is no facile task translating large aspirations into towering victories. 🐦



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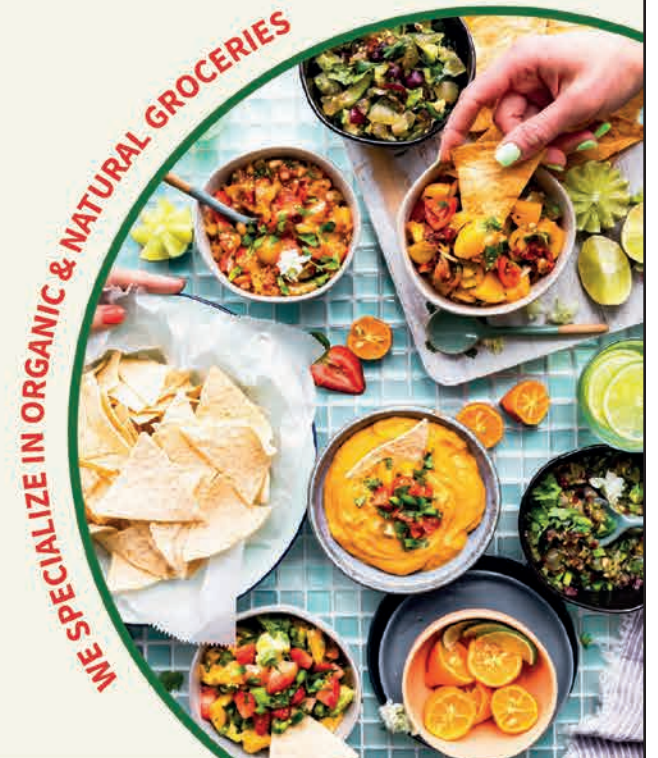
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**PROFECO ISN'T PERFECTO...**

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YOU CAN COMPLETE A COMPLAINT FORM HERE TO SUBMIT TO PROFECO: https://www.profeco.gob.mx/formas/f_3i_quejas.htm

The following are other helpful links that you may wish

to read. A lot of good information here:

<https://consulmex.sre.gob.mx/montreal/index.php/en/foreigners/services-foreigners/318-consumer-protection>

<https://www.gob.mx/profeco/en>

<https://www.facebook.com/CattacCsl>

<https://www.profeco.gob.mx/juridico/pdf/ley%20ingles.pdf>

<https://www.globalcompliance-news.com/2020/03/24/new-regulations-to-the-federal-consumers-protection-law-in-mexico/>

Additional information is available at: <https://www.gob.mx/profeco> 🐦

COOKING LIKE A MEXICAN...

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¼ cup of all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons of baking powder

½ teaspoon of salt

2 tablespoons of lard (pork or vegetable, your choice)

1 ½ cups of water

1/3 cup of vegetable oil

½ cup of crema (can substitute with sour cream if you're outside Mexico)

½ cup of queso fresco, crumbled (can substitute with any kind of crumbly cheese if you're outside Mexico, even feta)

2 cups of lettuce, finely chopped

Procedure:

Mix the masa, baking powder, salt and flour together. Keep the flour last so you can adjust the texture and make sure it's not too dry. Little by little, add some water until you have something like playdoh. Divide into fourteen small balls that have roughly the same shape.

Cover the masa balls with a damp towel to make sure

they don't dry out while you're working.

Make the balls into disks, about a half-inch thick. If they crack around the edges, the masa is too dry. Add a couple of drops of water.

In a good-sized frying pan, add the vegetable oil and let it reach almost a boiling point. The hotter the oil, the less the gordita will absorb it. Drop the disks in without overcrowding the pan and let them fry on both sides until golden. Place on an absorbent paper towel and let them drain.

Once cool enough to the touch, slice them on the side and pinch to make a pocket. Make sure you do this carefully and without puncturing the "belly" of the gordita.

For the chicharron:

Ingredients:

1 lb. of chicharron prensado (if you can't find any, slowly cooked pork with just salt and pepper will do, but it will need to be very tender and almost confited)

5 green chiles (serrano or jalapeño, to your preference, can be more or less depending on your tolerance to picante)

2 cups of water

2 cloves of garlic, peeled

¼ of an onion, chopped

Procedure:

In a big pot, add the water and chiles and bring to a boil.

In a blender, add the garlic, onion, cooked chiles and just enough water to get things going. Blend on high until smooth.

In a pan, add the chicharron and cook over high heat for about 8 minutes. It will release a lot of fat, which should be removed.

Add the salsa and simmer for four minutes.

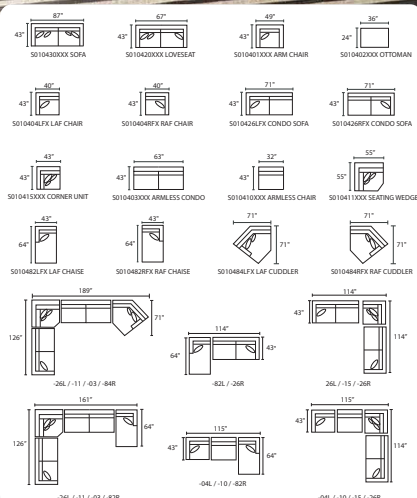
To assemble:

Stuff the gorditas with the chicharron, add some lettuce, queso and crema and enjoy!

You can always find me at ale.borbolla@gringogazette.com. I love getting pictures, questions and comments from my readers! 🐦

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Ask a Mexican

We are all taught history in school, but we have grown to learn that not all of it is true.

What are some of those stories that have become the most shocking to you?



Illustration by danjazzia

Baruck Gomez, 34, bartender.

I think the story I have heard the most is that of "Los Niños Heroes," which speaks of some young people who protected the Castle of Chapultepec with everything they had, and even that one of them threw himself wrapped in the national flag. The myth has been talked about for years of which there is no proof and is based on an overly poetic narra-

tion. It's said it's more likely the kid was shot in the back and fell as they were fleeing. But, hey. Who does it hurt in the long run?

Daniela Padron, 24, assistant.

A lot of people believe Juarez was a great leader when in reality he was a racist that mistreated natives and kind of screwed the country over. He caused a war by not paying back

our debt and then fled. He then came back and killed Maximilian who wanted to provide free education to natives among other good things.

Sandra Hernandez, 30, logistics manager.

The story of Gonzalo Guerrero. Guerrero was a Spanish sailor. He was shipwrecked near the Dominican Republic, then he and other Spaniards drifted for two weeks in a lifeboat until they get to the Yucatán peninsula near Tulum. After years as a slave, he become a free man, married a Mayan girl and had children. Probably the first Mexican mestizos. When Hernan Cortés heard about the Spaniard living among the Mayans, he wrote a letter inviting Guerrero to join him, but Guerrero declined and instead he fought with the Mayans against the Spanish soldiers using modern techniques. I learned that on my own. It was not in any history book.

Jesus Guerrero, 42, security guard.

The myth of "El Pipila". Basically it features this Mexican giant who ripped off a one-ton stone ledge with his bare hands and carried it on his back as a shield to set a Spanish fort on fire. Some believe the fire came from his endless wrath boiling down against the Spanish, but some scientific sources claim it came from a torch. Either

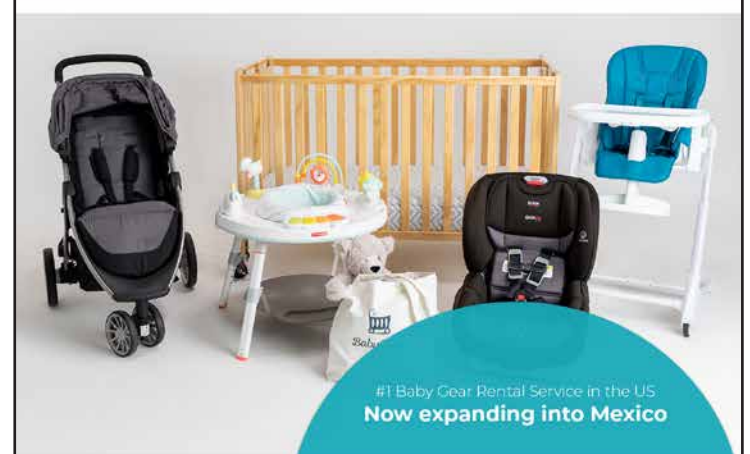


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way, I have always thought it was way too dramatic to be true.

Alejandra Palomera, 22, team leader.

The Revolution in general is for many the pivotal point of Mexican history. It was the first revolution of the 20th century, but it was not communist, it didn't stem from ideologies of educated people but from the actual workers and injustice. It was also full of backstabbing and that's funny in history. More can be talked about Zapata and Villa as icons, not so much about the events though (it's been years since I studied

them). Saying that, it was not a Revolution as much as a Civil War but the Mexican Revolution sounds nicer.

Jesus Medina, 51, maintenance worker.

Porfirio Díaz is commonly portrayed as a bad guy because he refused to step down from power for 30 years and because he basically lost the Revolution. In reality, he did a ton of stuff that was super beneficial for the country. He brought industrialization, the railroad, and a ton of knowledge and technology from Europe. I have no idea where we would be without him. 🐦

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**FISH REPORT...**

continued from page 17

being enforced. The most popular fishing grounds were near Cardon, La Fortuna, and Iman Bank, where a few wahoo were also caught. As we find water temperatures cooling a few degrees after the storms pass, the wahoo might become more active.

Tuna action has been very slim, though again, this could change on any given day. Early

in the week, one 400-pound black marlin was brought in from a small panga fishing on the Gordo Banks. The big black hit on a live skipjack. Striped marlin were found in good numbers near Vinorama, and even better action was located on the Golden Gate Banks on the Pacific side.

Minimal bottom action and not much inshore action is being done, though we did hear reports of a couple of late-season roosterfish found farther north. ...**Eric Bric-ton, Gordo Banks Pangas**

East Cape

There hasn't been much fishing recently, as it rained almost daily. However, from last weekend through Tuesday, the 7 to 20-pound yellowfin were biting from 30 to 45 miles off the beach. They have been more line-shy than in past weeks.

No boats have gone out

since midweek, although five went out today. There were lots of stripers around as usual.

Tuna are still outside under the porpoise. They have been very picky biters after the storm. Still, lots of stripers and sails are lurking offshore. However, the dorado bite slowed, or perhaps there wasn't anything left floating for them to hide under on the surface.

Bottom fishing resumed as though nothing had happened. They were still getting Almaco jack, pargo, and, believe it or not, a couple of nice-sized 10 to 15-pound yellowtail in 89-degree water! ...**John Ireland, Rancho Leonero**

La Paz

It took a long time for summer to reach us down here with summer-time fishing as La Niña kept the waters cool and fishing unseasonable until almost mid-July. But, things finally hit stride, and the fish-

ing has been solidly summer and conditions more normal with sunshine, blue waters, and typical Baja humidity.

However, it almost seems like the seasons are already changing to fall conditions. It's been sunny but cooler – warm but breezier. We've had afternoon tropical showers. In fact, this coming week, the weather predictions show chances of thunderstorms here and there almost every day. (See **update below...** "tropical showers" turn into major tropical storms!)

Hopefully, things aren't changing too fast because the fishing has been mostly excellent, especially for dorado. That said, we had even hooked some "cold water" fish like sierra, usually caught in the winter, and pompano and trevally, that we typically see in the cooler spring months! So, we'll have to wait and see...



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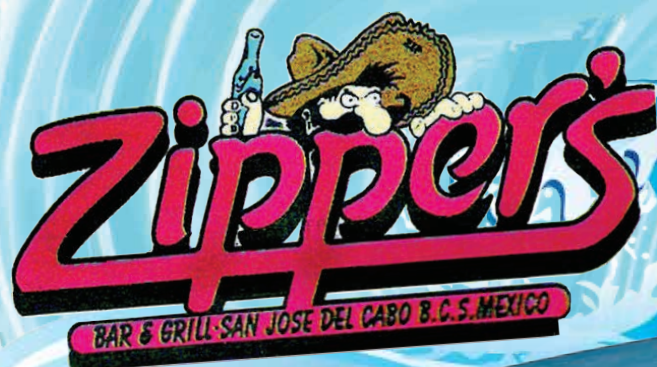
Tropical Storm Xavier hit us as I was about to publish this week's report. Well... mostly, it glanced off the Baja and headed west to the sea, but enough of it hit so that today (Friday, September 2), it's now raining, and winds are blow-
CONTINUED ON PAGE 24



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Baja Sea Turtles Conservation

BY LISSETTE VALENTIN

A couple years ago, I was having dinner at a local hotel on Medano beach when I suddenly felt something crawling under my feet. They were baby turtles trying to make their way to the sea. I was mesmerized by them and worried about them at the same time.

For me it is incredible to think that sea turtles walked the Earth along with dinosaurs and are still here with us. They are some of the only prehis-

possible because they are sensitive to, and use, the Earth's magnetic field as a means of navigation. From late July to December, they come back to visit our coast lines to lay their eggs on long stretches of warm beaches and then is when the odds are off for these creatures. On top of their natural predators and other threats, there is us. Unfortunately, an estimate of 35,000 sea turtles are known to be illegally hunted and



toric living creatures today. Turtles were relatively widely distributed around the world and are known to have existed in North and South America, Australia, and Africa.

Due to a privileged geographical location surrounded by the Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Cortez, the Baja Peninsula is home to five of the seven species of sea turtles in the world: the Hawksbill, the Loggerhead, the Leatherback, the Green Turtle and the Olive Ridley. All are endangered or on the edge of extinction.

Although sea turtles live most of their lives at sea (and mate at sea) the females always return to the same beach where they were born exclusively to lay their eggs. This is one of the mysterious aspects of the turtle rituals. They return to the precise location where they themselves were born. This is

killed annually throughout Baja California Sur.

In an interview with biologist Graciela Tiburcio, former director of the Los Cabos-Turtle Conservation Program, she mentioned that a delicacy called Sopa de Caguama (turtle

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24



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**LOS CABOS UNITED SOCCER...**

continued from page 6

its second goal by Argumedo.

The United team didn't give up a goal until the 89th minute of the 90-minute contest. And so the first step has been taken and the hometown heroes look forward to continuing their winning ways and crowd-pleasing victorious play.

There was a bit of traffic from Cabo San Lucas to the Cangrejos neighborhood as excited fans poured into the stadium anxious to see actual professional soccer. The cost is an affordable price of \$100 pesos for adults and their youngsters. The games being

played on Saturday night are another attractive element for many locals who work six days a week and enjoy their Sundays off.

And like any sporting event in the world, the price of beer at games is always high but when your team's a winner, it makes everything alright. Even our Mayor Oscar Leggs Castro enjoyed the triumphant festivities. Congratulations to team ownership, coach Rodrigo "El Pony" Ruiz, and their players. 🐾

REAL ESTATE IN LOS CABOS...

continued from page 18

homes and condos ranging in value from US\$251,000 to US\$1,099,999 showed a 23.5 percent increase.

- The active inventory of homes and condos priced at US\$1,100,000 and higher suffered a 12.3 percent decline.

Q1 2022 experienced an 84.7 percent increase in homes and condos sold in Los Cabos compared to the same period in 2021, while Q2 2022 saw a 22 percent increase compared to Q2 2021.

On October 18, 2021, there were 625 homes and condos pending on the MLS in Los Cabos. On August 1, 2022, there were 810 homes and

condos pending. That is a 29.6 percent increase of properties under contract.

Katie Mariscal is a Sales Associate at and may be contacted for information at +1 (949) 275-5267 or kmariscal@sirloscabos.com 🐾

FISH REPORT...

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ing up to 30 mph. Some areas have even lost electricity. In the video, you can hear the car, and building alarms set off by the storm.

The port captain has closed all boat traffic in and out of the Port. As a result, we regretfully canceled all guests' fishing. Hope we can get back on the water soon. ...**Jonathan Roldan, Tailhunter International** 🐾

BAJA SEA TURTLES...

continued from page 23

soup) was a fundamental part of the diet and culture of South Baja Californians and many others throughout the world. Although currently prohibited, this soup continues to be illegally served in clandestine locations along with a side of fresh eggs.

"Thankfully we have

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ASUPMATOMA," (Southern Baja California Association for the protection of the environment and sea turtles of Los Cabos) Tiburcio said. Founded in 1994, it is a non-profit organization which started out in environmental protection in Los Cabos and, officially in 1995, became a marine turtle center. Their main focus is protection, conservation, and research of marine turtles with an emphasis on community outreach.

The pioneer of the turtle conservation movement in Baja was Don Manuel Orantes. Every year a statue that holds his name is given as a recognition to a member of the Grupo Tortuguero de Las Californias (Turtle Group of the Californias). A group also named after him, located in La Playita in SJD, patrols the local beaches daily on their ATVs, trying to protect the nests from poachers, from all-terrain vehicles (please don't drive your Razors or ATV's on the beaches) and dogs that dig out the eggs. The rescued eggs are taken to an incubation location. Depending on the species, the eggs will typically take 70-120 days to hatch. Once the turtles are born, they release them out the sea.

Tiburcio said there are other government agencies like ZOFEMAT (The Federal Terrestrial Marine Zone) and other local and foreign non-profit organizations that have emerged to help protect sea turtles. They are joined by the

63 plus hoteliers-developers all along the 120,000 km coastline from Migrino on the Pacific side to La Ribera on the Sea of Cortes and a local committee which rendezvous three times per year.

The Birding Los Cabos group hosts two programs and runs exclusively on donations. They ask volunteers to participate in overnight patrol camps or sea-turtle releases, teaching them about their navigation, feeding, courtship and mating rituals. The donations also go towards education programs for children and more conservation. The Sea Shepherd, with a branch called Sea Shepherd Mexico and their national campaign Marcelino, have been protecting sea turtles since 1973. They train volunteers in all aspects

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East Cape Dreaming

BY CINDY RAY

The East Cape is home to a prolific menagerie of wildlife and marine life. It is fishing boats along the coast and 11 species of sharks seek Cabo Pulmo's famous reef for



priceless to watch the whales breaching and teaching their calves to swim and spew. There are schools of dolphins that play along with tour and their home and nursery. The Leatherback turtles paddle up onto the beach to dig a nest for their payload of eggs and they don't fool around. They

deposit the eggs in the sand and paddle quickly back into the surf. When the turtles lay their eggs, a local attendant scoops them up and transports them to a nursery for hatching and documentation. Without this "help," most would not survive predators. The residents of the East Cape are very careful to preserve, protect, and coexist with nature.

The fishing is extremely good with Yellowfin, Dorado, and Bass often caught within sight of the beautiful beaches. Frailes is home to a colony of seals; and an actual freshwater estuary host to local ducks and White Ibis. It borders Cabo Pulmo, a Mexican National Park, well protected and off limits for fishing. The fertile natural coral reef is one of only three in North America and an international destination for diving and whale watching. The Mexican government began sanctions for preservation over a decade ago. It is a story of success and regeneration of grand proportions which Mexico is very proud of.

If recreation is more your style, the East Cape is abundant with surfing, diving, windsurfing, sailing, and wing foiling. From San Jose del Cabo, the road north along the coast is often very "rustic" which keeps away all but the most devoted residents and

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travelers. The Coast Road east is paved for about 6 miles until just past Zacatitos. If you need refreshment, Zac's has great food and cocktails daily. Many of the residents of Zacatitos are "snowbirds" and the lovely beach remains a prime surfing destination. Vindanta is constructing a palacial resort which will bring vacationers, commerce and variety to the area. Sometimes the saying, "you can't stop progress" holds true,

though most of the East Cape residents hate to see its arrival.

Northward up the coast, a four-wheel drive vehicle is at times advisable but one will view some of the most deserted and pristine white sand beaches in the world. The coastline is unspoiled and breathtaking. There are a few lone Mexican homes and small ranches but mostly just spectacular scenery. Traveling on to Shipwreck beach, there is a snack bar and a popular surfing beach. There are palapas on the beach and often a few swimmers.

The settlement of Fortuna was historically a dairy cattle ranch and it has given way to a huge surfing area. Zai Sushi Bar has spectacular sushi and world-acclaimed cocktails. Shades has great pizza, Mexican food and a lovely view of the surfers and beach. The Libre usually has cocktails and tacos and a great view. A snack bar just on the outskirts of town has burgers and hot dogs, and a store has opened across the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

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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.



**BAJA SEA TURTLES...**

continued from page 24

of turtle conservation, send them to projects around the country and offer legal and educational support.

Commercial fishing poses a great threat to turtles by using trolling nets which trap turtles as bycatch. The Mexican government has established two norms for shrimp boats: the NOM-002-SAG-/PESC-2013 y NOM-061-SAG-PESC/SEMARNAT-2016. This obliges every shrimp vessel to use certain techniques to avoid trapping and dragging turtles but there are many boats out there still using old nets – and most of them go undetected.

Unmonitored and uncontrolled fishing practices represent a more worrisome problem nowadays than poaching. Biologist Tiburcio claimed, “It is of paramount importance to survey the open sea as far as we possibly can, maintaining an open dialogue with government agencies like PROFEPA,” the federal agency devoted to protect the environment.

Either as a visitor or as an expat living here, you can help. Please consider donating to any of the local organizations. They always need large plastic bags and gloves to collect eggs, coolers to store them, flashlights with batteries, and

even an old, used ATV can be put to use.

If you want to watch turtles being released in most of the protected areas, nests are open to the public for viewing during daylight hours. If you would like to take part in one of these, use the links below. You can also report any cases of turtle mistreatment or poaching action.

<http://www.asupmatoma.org>

birdingloscabos@gmail.com

<https://grupotortugero.org>

<https://www.seashepherd-mexico.org>

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To place a report, contact gtiburcio@prodigy.net.mx

Or call 624-157-0422 🐢

EAST CAPE DREAMING...

continued from page 25

street now.

Traveling through cactus and desert shrub-dotted scenery, the next surfing stop is Nine Palms. This is a very popular surfing beach. A surf shop has opened and a developer has paved three miles of road and brought in power to an overlook mound. The burros of East Cape are legendary. Mexicans and gringos alike carry bags of carrots to feed

them and take photos.

In about three miles, Palo Escopeta road intersects with the Coast Road. Many locals travel this road into San Jose; it treks inland and is sometimes in better repair. The settlement of Vinorama lies here with small communities and a huge arroyo. Just perched at the north end of the arroyo is the art deco Vida Soul Hotel with a restaurant and bar. The food offered ranges from steaks and burgers (with fries) to tacos and fresh fish. The owner, Joan, started with a mere taco stand equipped with a cooler and palapa. The food was so good it brought locals and tourists alike and

grew. Vida Soul also offers live bands on advertised weekends and the dance floor beckons locals and tourists alike.

Moving north a few miles, nestled on the hilltop overlooking the Sea of Cortez, is the eco hotel El Faro. It is one of the most curious resorts in the East Cape. The tiles were kilned on the property and the grounds are uniquely exquisite. Mexican cuisine is offered by reservation and the hotel suites are beautiful. The grounds are sculpted by local artisans and is a symphony of whimsical fauna.

Passing by the Playa del Tule, the road was redirected in 2021. The rumors fly as to whether a hotel will be built or even a future marina. The coast is not visible from this point and hooks back into the main coastal road with a small spat of concrete. Trekking on to the large Boca del Salado arroyo, the road takes a sharp turn through the Gonzales ranch. The lovely ranch is home to our local “Delegado” who is our local government liaison and support. The family is one of the old original ranch patriarchs and supplies local communities with water. The ranch offers horseback riding and sells lovely fresh bovine cheese. Around the bend is a wonderful goat ranch. Whitts End Rancho

is the creation of Lisa Whitt. The ranch supplies the local communities with fresh goat yogurt, cheeses, and milk as well as local honey and kombuchas.

The next community is Boca del Salado and is gated and built on the beach in an elevated area. There are paved roads into the complex and the homes are well guarded and private. This far up the East Cape, the homes rely on solar, propane and water storage tanks. Some homes are converting to lithium batteries for solar storage options which need less maintenance but all are “off the grid” in any case.

About three miles up the road is Castillo de Arena. The development has over 20 homes all perched above the sea. The white sandy beach and sand dunes are the scene of “full moon” parties and wienie roasts during the winter season. The influx of residents from colder climates fills the community with a lovely social atmosphere. There are year-round residents as well. But the winter beckons a festive crowd, not to be confused with the Cabo party scene. Baja midnight is usually about 9ish or so.

Paul Clark of East Cape Homes built a very lively

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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There Are No Bad Days in Cabo!

No Bad Days. This is more than a bumper sticker that is commonly seen on vehicles in the greater Todos Santos area. It is a mantra for those who live, work and vacation in this tranquil spot of Baja California Sur.

With a year-round average daytime temperature of 82 degrees Fahrenheit (22 degrees Celsius), it's hard not to want to be outdoors nearly every day. The nights average 63 degrees

endless. For the athlete, the surfing in the Cerritos area is world class. Those who want water fun that isn't so intense will find the boogie boarding at the same beach to be thrilling. Mountain biking continues to be a favorite activity. More trails are being built every year. These are throughout the desert and go toward the Sierra de la Laguna mountains. Be sure to have fat tires to be able to maneuver through the



F, or nearly 17 C. A light jacket or sweater will keep you comfortable on a winter night long after the sun has set.

This idyllic weather is one of the reasons this spot on the Pacific Ocean continues to be a draw for people from the United States, Canada and mainland Mexico. Those who are used to more severe winter weather can trade their puffy jackets and boots for short-sleeves and sandals. Casual is the norm no matter the time of year.

The subtropical desert climate means rain is sporadic. The bulk of the wet stuff comes in August and September, so an umbrella is seldom needed in the winter. And when it does rain, it is often warm out—similar to a shower in Florida or Hawaii.

The abundance of sun provides more hours in the day to play outside. Activities are

sandy terrain. Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports, with basketball courts and tennis courts being converted to accommodate those with a paddle.

The number of nurseries in the area proves gardening is a huge pastime for many homeowners. And if you don't want to do it yourself, "gardener" is one of the most popular jobs and the expense is much less here than what you are probably used to. While desert landscaping is the norm to save water (which is a precious resource throughout Baja Sur), the options are endless. So many homes are professionally landscaped and resemble works of art. Homeowners are apt to be surprised with the variety of choices. Considering 120 species of cactus call the peninsula home, no two yards need to look alike. Beyond cacti, bougainvillea thrives

here, giving a delightful splash of color, with magenta being the most popular. Many people associate the poinsettia plant with Christmas. They grow year-round in Baja Sur—not in pots, but as small trees. They are native to Mexico. Locally they are better known as *la flor de la Nochebuena* or the flower of Christmas Eve. It is from Joel Roberts Poinsett that the plant gets its more common name. He brought it to the United States from Mexico in 1828. Poinsett was a botanist as well as the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico.


Another reason to relish this temperate climate is to be able to eat outdoors every month of the year. It would be hard to find a restaurant that does not have outdoor dining. The weather is so perfect that some restaurants have shunned indoor seating. While all of the al fresco dining is sure to be a delight, even better is the food you will consume.

Throw out your preconceived idea of what Mexican food should taste like. You will be more than impressed with the lighter fare common at restaurants in the area. Dishes are not the heavily cheesy plates that are the norm in the United States. Fresh seafood, whether it's from the Pacific Ocean or Sea of Cortez, is a staple at most eateries. Beyond Mexican food, the culinary scene is outstanding and interesting. From farm to table restaurants, to a brew pub, to Italian, French and Asian the options seem to be endless. A burger and fries are also available for those craving those staples from the U.S. You definitely won't have to cook and you definitely won't go hungry when living in the greater Todos Santos area.

Todos Santos is a quick hour or so drive north from Los Cabos. The toll road from the airport makes it a comfortable, easy to navigate drive on a well-maintained highway. Before reaching this enclave are the burgeoning towns of Cerritos and Pescadero. Cerritos continues to be a hub

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of growth with real estate a hot commodity here. This is largely because homes are being built so close to the ocean, just steps from the best surfing in the state. You will find more condos available here than up the road in Todos Santos. For those who don't want to deal with landscaping, this can be a great option. In some ways it is like a mini-Cabo San Lucas, or what that tourist destination was like a couple of decades ago before the mega-resorts took over. Pescadero, just north of Cerritos, is also experiencing a growth spurt. It definitely has more amenities than Cerritos but isn't as commercially developed as Todos Santos.

While Todos Santos is the big town in the area, it is very much a small *pueblo*. It has about 6,500 full time residents and a ballooning ex-pat community that includes full-time residents and those who fly in to their second home at random times. Mostly, though, the second homeowners descend in winter to enjoy the

spectacular weather that can be the polar opposite of where their primary home is located. Housing choices are more varied in Todos Santos compared to the towns just south of there. It is possible to have a small bungalow or a mini-mansion. One option is to live downtown, which means the ability to walk to just about any store or restaurant. More housing is on the outskirts of town, with the greatest development occurring in the Las Tunas area to the north. Las Tunas is mostly home to ex-pats as opposed to native Mexicans. But the locals are smart as they have been expanding their commercial enterprises to this area, much to the delight of those who call it home.

No matter where one calls home in the greater Todos Santos area, incredible views are possible. The mountains, ocean and desert provide a breathtaking bounty of beauty. It's not unusual for all three to be visible from a property. Living here you will see why there are *no bad days*. ✍

EAST CAPE DREAMING...

continued from page 26

complex which has weekly pickleball competitions as well as two bocce ball courts. Last year there was a Bocce Ball Tournament in February and a Chili Cookoff later in the season. The center has lovely restrooms, a nice book-sharing library, and a basketball court. This year the center is adding a pottery studio with wheels and a gas kiln in the fall season. It is a great social mecca for the Cape.

Another six miles up the Cape is Los Frailes. It is so named for the rock formation which resembles a monk. Most of the winter is full of campers and gringos as well as sailboats of all types. The lovely cove is home to local fishermen seasonally from whom fresh fish is readily bought. Occasionally entire flotillas of sailboats anchor for the night on their float northward. It lies just outside of the protection of Cabo Pulmo National Park area two miles up the road.

Arbolitos is a sheltered beach just up the road. The waters are calm and shallow and the fish plentiful. The park village offers diving, whale watching, great food, and shops. Local artisans' creations are for sale and there is no shortage of fresh seafood and beverages. Just on the south entrance to the village is a new information center on the main street. The National Park also has a large museum on the main road highlighting the history of the conservation efforts and the various species of marine life. Though humble, Cabo Pulmo is an international destination for many.

About another 6 miles past the lighthouse point, one hits paved roads. Rolling past the outskirts of La Ribera lies the new Costa Palmas resort by Four Seasons. The gorgeous complex is in stark contrast to the rustic East Cape roads

and Cabo Pulmo. The resort is luxurious and has lovely estuaries winding through the golf course.

Rolling northward is the famous Rancho Leonero Resort which is a wonderful hotel and fishing spot. The ranch was visited by John Wayne, Bing Crosby and Errol Flynn

in the early days. The ranch was named after Gil Powell, the cinematographer, who founded the resort in the '50s. Since Gil often shot movies in Africa, he was nicknamed El Leonero which translates roughly to "One Who Knows Lions".

At this point, one is at

Buena Vista and Barriles which are bustling and full of city life. Leaving the quiet and rustic charm of the East Cape behind, the road winds on through the mountains. In our rear-view mirror is the East Cape – a mix of lovely villas, old Mexican ranches, fishing, adventuring, and watching

the whales from a palapa or white sandy beach. Reluctant to give way to progress and pavement, it is a well-kept secret of the residents. As the iconic song goes, "They paved paradise and put up a parking lot." Let's hope not; it has made it this long and it is well worth the visit. 🐦



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