

East Capers Magazine



Free/Gratis

Publication from Asociación de Artes Supporting Schools of the East Cape

A Brand New Season And A Brand New Event! □

By: Christine Courtright □

□ Welcome Back to the East Cape!!! What an interesting summer it has been with so many storms and rain everywhere but LB! But, we are happy to know that we finally got rain—and the issues that go along with lots of rain in a little amount of time! But, we know that the Baja has the amazing ability to clean up and get things going in one fashion or another and quickly! □

□ Asociación de Artes (AdA) ended its 2025□26 season with deliveries of supplies to the schools in the East Cape. This year, we were able to surprise the schools with a new computer! We were able to purchase computers that were unused or lightly used through a connection with our good friend, Angel Martinez. It was such a blessing for AdA to get affordable computers and for the schools we delivered them to. Having opportunities like that really helps us expand our abilities to support the schools and students! That is our favorite thing to do – deliver the school supplies to each school and watch the kids' excitement as they look through the boxes! □

Our mission “*helping to make the educational experience the best it can be*” has grown to cover more than paper and pencils. It might be AC units, ceiling fans, room repairs, shovels and rakes, new class rooms, desks, chairs, computers and printers, shelving and even roof repairs. We ask each school director what their school needs most and provide everything within our power to provide. And sometimes, it really is just paper, crayons and pencils! We don't do this magically alone. We spend hours planning and coordinating our fund raising events that you all enjoy. It also takes lots of volunteers for the ‘day of the event’ and in the □



preparation stage before, to make sure things run smoothly and you can enjoy yourself at the events. Our volunteers also enjoy themselves while volunteering knowing they are helping to make a difference. When you come and support our events that allows us to raise money and support schools. The reality is, it does take a village to educate the village students and provide entertainment for the village residents! □

This season we are thrilled to bring you a new and exciting event to be held on January 13th!!! Set aside the day now! We call it “*An Evening With The Lack Family....Unplugged*”. This is one you will want to mark your calendars for because will be a not to miss evening and a great time!

Continued on Page 3



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Advertising in the East Capers gets the word out about your business AND your ad money provides school supplies and repairs for 20+ East Cape public schools and 'Cursos de Verano' summer school, for over 120 local children, just to name a few things the Asociación de Artes does!

In addition to space in the printed version, your color ad appears in the online version at no additional cost. You can download the current Advertising Kit by visiting our website at: www.eastcapearts.com

Contributions Can Be Made to the Asociación de Artes

The Asociación de Artes del Mar de Cortez A.C., Los Barriles, B.C. Sur, Mexico is a legal Asociación Civil Mexican corporation not affiliated with any other organization, association, club or business.

Volunteers Needed!

The Asociación de Artes needs volunteers to help support their programs that bring the arts to the local communities and the schools.

To learn more about these programs, visit: www.eastcapearts.com. If you would like to volunteer, send an email to: eastcapearts@gmail.com.

Call for Articles

East Capers is looking for fiction and nonfiction about our region and items that affect our residents. If you are interested in submitting articles, recipes, stories or your personal experiences in Baja, email your 1,000 words or less article to:

eastcapersmagazine@gmail.com

Thank You!

This publication is possible with the help of the board members of the Asociación de Artes and members of the community.



Newsletter Email Address

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The opinions expressed within the articles in East Capers are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Asociación de Artes del Mar de Cortez A.C.

AdA Continued From Page 1 □

The Lack Family like you have never seen them before and in an intimate setting. We are so lucky to have talent like theirs and AdA is so fortunate to combine forces for this great evening. You will enjoy a lovely dinner, a no host bar (drink up, it is a fund raiser), spectacular views and the entertainment of the oh so talented Lack Family. It makes for a great 'date night' and the proceeds go towards the mission of AdA. Tickets go on sale Dec 1st and are limited to 100. You can pre-reserve tickets by emailing eastcapearts@gmail.com, and we will notify you when the tickets are available for pick up. Cost is \$900mxn or \$50.00usd per person. We are thrilled to bring this new event to you, and look forward to an enjoyable and special evening for all in attendance! □

□ The next event will be the **Artist Studio Tour** on February 3rd (the first Wednesday of February). We will continue to feature some of the best artists that reside in the Los Barriles area, their studios and several guests' artists at their homes. It is so enlightening to see their homes and studios, get to talk to them in a more relaxed setting, enjoy snacks and good conversation. The studio tour makes for a great day out in Los Barriles. And while you are at it, you can add to your closet or home a 'of one of a kind' creations from a local artist. And as always, it is a fundraiser for AdA so we can support the schools in the East Cape! Tickets are inexpensive and easy to get too! □

□ Our final event is the big **Festival de Artes** in La Ribera held March 14th (second Sunday of March). This is the big one! We are in our 32nd year – that is a long time for a continuously running festival (well, baring the two covid years!) We will continue to keep our tradition of bringing you the best artists, food, drink and Mexican traditional folkloric entertainment we can find. We are striving for more entertainment, more cars for our car show and more convenience in our parking. We start working early to make sure we can bring a quality festival with only the best of the best. It is a perfect day for shopping, eating, drinking, great traditional entertainment and people watching! Come early and spend the day! □

The festival is our *major* fundraiser for AdA. Our silent auction and raffle are there for you to get great items, and us to earn money. Buy lots of raffle tickets for our loaded baskets and bid often and bid generously for our silent auctions! You will see more details as we get closer to the day! But you must mark the calendar now!! Great time to invite a guest or two to visit □ you already have one day planned! □

If you get one thing out of this article, I hope it is to understand if we all work together to help build a great educational experience for the students of East Cape, we will see the benefits in our communities. Together, with the events of AdA, and your support – financial and otherwise – we can help ensure the students of East Cape are well educated, which helps them become successful and happy citizens of the country. If the students do well, then we all live happy together in a little corner of paradise in this the East Cape of Baja SUR!

More details on events and our mission at www.eastcapearts.com For more information about volunteering, contact us at □ eastcapersmagazine@gmail.com □



Day of the Dead Festivals in Mexico □

In Mexico, the Day of the Dead is not merely a holiday; it is a cultural phenomenon that takes place annually on the first and second of November. What sets this celebration apart is its unique blend of indigenous and Spanish influences, creating a multifaceted festival that varies across regions. □

One of the most famous celebrations occurs in Oaxaca, where the streets are filled with vibrancy and life. The city transforms into a colorful display of marigolds, sugar skulls, and beautifully decorated altars. Families participate in creating ofrendas, altars adorned with photographs, favorite foods, and mementos of the deceased. □

In Mexico City, the festivities are grander than ever, with parades, music, and dance performances that celebrate the essence of life. The Day of the Dead parade, which began in 2016, showcases large, intricately designed floats, as well as traditional dancers and musicians. This event has become a symbol of national pride and cultural identity, drawing thousands of participants and spectators from around the world. □

Different regions also have their unique customs. In Pátzcuaro, Michoacán, the celebration involves a night vigil at the cemetery, where families gather to pray, eat, and reminisce about their loved ones. □

A Tale of Life in Baja Sur Before Gringos □

By: Kay Mundt □

□ I was born in 1941 in Las Cuevas. All I knew about my ancestors was that one great grandmother was French, associated with the mines in El Triunfo. My blue eyes must have come from her. Otherwise, we simply believed our family had always been here. □

□ My earliest childhood memory was beating a drum to keep birds away from my father's grapes. We were poor and life was difficult. There were ten siblings and not enough food. We raised some chickens, but one chicken couldn't feed us all. Sometimes all there was to eat was papaya mixed with water. We had the basic necessities. There were no stores. □

□ Our house was made of sticks. A tiny home, but a united one, with much love. I carried water in buckets from the arroyo, a heavy job for a little girl. A brother had a donkey, with two buckets. □ That's how life was. □ Besides the grapes, my father raised corn, beans, sweet potatoes, cabbage, pumpkins, and papayas to feed his family. We had a few pigs and two cows for milk, not enough to make cheese, which more prosperous ranches made to sell. Both parents worked extremely hard. Mother was always at the wash board, trying to keep clothes for twelve people clean. □

□ There was a school in Santa Cruz. We walked to and from □

on callused, bare feet. The teacher arrived on horseback from La Ribera. She only taught first and second grade. Pencils were provided, but no food. At least I learned to read and write. □

□ I had very little clothes. All the people made their own clothes, as we did have fabrics, brought from Oaxaca by a "falloquero" and sold by the meter. One was known as Indian Head, a sturdy cotton resembling linen, another called Tutor, and poplin. For those who could afford her, there was a seamstress. Everyone made panties. We were just little girls and didn't wear them yet. □ □

□ If we needed something, someone would go by horse to Santiago, where there was a little store. Food from the harvest was accepted by trade. There was no currency, only barter. The only doctor was in La Paz. By horse, the trip could take weeks. There was no anesthesia. Most people lost their teeth by age 40. □ Neither my mother nor my father had a full set of teeth. □

□ It was common for the families to have many children. I remember one married couple that only had two children, and they were living much better, with more money. People used to say the husband somehow got his wife treated so she wouldn't have more children. I don't know how, because female sterilization was prohibited. If a doctor ever performed one, he would lose his title and medical license. Also, mothers never spoke to their daughters about feminine issues. My mother was born in 1903, and in her time, it was disapproved of, to talk to daughters about natural matters. □

□ Pregnancy and delivery were very difficult; many women died. □ A midwife, or just a birth attendant, would help. When I was 30, I couldn't deliver my son, but was helped by a doctor who was very good at moving him around and finally he was born, prematurely, but alive. □

□ There was little work available. When "piloncillo" (whole cane sugar) was harvested, there was a machine called trapich which squeezed the juice from the sugar cane. Work was available to cut and haul the cane, for a few pesos, but things were less expensive then. A kilo of rice cost 30 cents. □

□ I found work at Rancho Trinidad, where there were fossils in the hills. There had been five very wealthy sisters, none of whom ever married. They were relatives of my dad, who would visit them by horse through the mountains. There were only three of the sisters left, already old, and Dad would loan them a daughter to help them out. That's where I met my husband. □

□ We knew very little about the outer world. There being no mode of communication. But we didn't care. We danced with family and neighbors, very happy among ourselves. Despite the □ □ poverty, we were happy inside. □ □

□ My mother knew an American woman living in Santa Cruz when I was very young. The woman was single and wanted my mother to give me to her, but Mom said, "Not my daughter." □

Continued On Page 5 □



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Life Continued From Page 4 □

At age 12, I went to work in Los Planes, where American companies planted crops. I remember their planes were white with black bottoms. Crops were small yellow squash, bell peppers, Fresno peppers, Ancho peppers and different varieties. I saw my first Gringa, who was in charge of the whole operation, with work crews of men and sixty or seventy women. I was awakened at 4:00, taken to work at 5:00, and worked from 6:00am to 5:00 pm. The representatives of the Gringos were a Japanese man and a Mexican man. We were told the woman in charge had 12 peso wages for each person, but they were even stingier. I was paid 6 pesos. The most I was ever paid was 8 or 9 pesos. We worked half a day on Sundays. A gringo would bring a bucket of water to wash our hands, but often ate with dirty ones. □

Living in poverty, there was no money for things like mattresses. The Gringos changed how we made a living, and thank you, God, we now have beds and mattresses to spare. Before, we'd used cowhides to be used as cots. The cushions were made with wool and had to be washed because they got hard. Mother had to take the stitches out to remove the wool and beat it out with a stick to wash it. There weren't many cushions for all the kids. □

Life was simple and peaceful back then, but now I have a house with running water. How can one compare that to the loss of peace, and loss of sincere friendships? Back then, alcohol was prohibited and people were healthier for it. □

Now, at 85, life is peaceful again. I have teeth, food is plentiful. I've had cataract surgery and enjoy adult coloring books. Really, I don't miss anything of the old ways. My past was too heavy, working way too much all the time. I am not suffering any more, not worrying any more. I now have more people who like and respect me. □



Emergency Numbers You Should Know □

From Expat Insiders □

Whether you're new to Mexico or have lived here for years, these numbers are worth saving in your phone. □

911: Mexico's national emergency number for police, firefighters, ambulances, accidents and civil protection. Call when someone is in immediate danger or urgent help is needed. □

088: The Guardia Nacional's citizen service line for reports involving possible federal crimes, administrative offenses, and incidents on highways and toll roads. □

089: An anonymous reporting line for suspected crimes that require investigation but are not currently in progress, such as kidnapping, drug trafficking, extortion or human trafficking. □

071: CFE's service line for reporting power outages, voltage problems, fallen electrical lines and other risks involving the electricity network. □

074: CAPUFE's assistance line for incidents, road conditions, medical assistance and vehicle problems on highways and toll roads operated by CAPUFE. □

078: Angeles Verdes (Green Angels) provides tourist information and roadside assistance on designated routes in all 32 states. Coverage is not universal, so help depends on your location and operating hours. □

079: The Línea de Bienestar para las Mujeres provides confidential legal, psychological and emotional guidance to women experiencing violence. For immediate danger or a crime in progress always call 911. □

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You Are the Difference Together, We Change Destinies

By: Jo Dibblee Founder of Team Humanity Baja

We're building something far bigger than you or me—a movement that's changing lives, lifting children, and brightening futures across Baja. You're invited to join us!

In 2024, we discovered a terrifying gap for foster children at New Creation Kids in La Paz: when they turn 18, they must leave care—often with nowhere to go. While some countries have safety nets, these young adults in Mexico are left vulnerable. We knew we had to act.

These children, once again the most vulnerable, are at risk and in danger.

So we got busy, developed a plan, and with encouragement and support from our volunteers and donors, we made it happen. In January 2026, shovels hit the ground for ***Alas de Libertad***—a first-of-its-kind transition home for young adults aging out of foster care.

Thanks to our amazing community, we raised every dollar to finish ***Alas de Libertad***! It's a safe, uplifting home where 18–21-year-olds can learn, grow, and step into independence with confidence.

YES, WE DID!

From the bottom of our hearts—thank you. Your kindness and belief have changed lives—ours included.

If you are just learning about us, these are our guiding principles.

Team Humanity Baja has been serving children and families since 2016, powered by passionate volunteers, generous donors, and a shared vision of positive change. We're grassroots, energetic, and hands-on—lifting up those who need it most.

Our mission: *Elevate, Educate, and Empower. With you, we build brighter, opportunity-filled futures—one child at a time.*

Who We Serve

At New Creation Kids, our foster home in La Paz provides up to 35 children with safety, warmth, and a chance to dream big. Through daily care and mentorship, we help them heal, grow, and realize their incredible potential.

We also reach families facing extreme poverty in the Colonias—delivering essentials, nutritious food, and hope, in partnership with local leaders.

Our hands-on, holistic approach means we don't just meet immediate needs—we build skills, confidence, and community for the long haul.

Continued and Recent Progress

Last season (spring 2025/2026), we completed vital upgrades—plumbing, painting, and a new kitchen filtration system—and launched ***Alas de Libertad***, a transition house for youth ages 18–21. Your support made this milestone possible, creating a first-of-its-kind transition house for older foster children as they enter adulthood.

Sunday Funday is pure joy—meals, laughter, art, and learning that remind every child they're part of a caring family. Here, belonging is built, not born.

Little Aprons, our cooking program, lets kids team up with mentors to cook, learn, and celebrate new skills. Confidence grows—one recipe at a time.

Alas de Libertad is already inspiring others across Mexico to dream bigger for their youth. Together, we're sparking a movement. Several organizations have reached out asking how we did this.

Next, we'll fully furnish ***Alas de Libertad*** so every young adult has what they need to thrive as they step confidently into the world.

You can make a real difference! Every act of kindness—large or small—creates new hope. 100% of donations go straight to programs, and we honor your trust with transparency and real stories of change.

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New Creations Continued From Page 6

Our impact is seen in art therapy, food, language, gardening, animal care, and life skills programs. We measure progress not just in numbers, but in growth, confidence, enthusiasm, laughter, and newfound hope. We are vigilant about safety and steady growth, never forgetting the past challenges that have shaped our mission.

Upcoming Projects 2026/2027

- Outfitting Alas de Libertad beds, linens, and dressers
- Expanding Little Aprons to include more challenging recipes
- Improving the existing septic system.
- Building more garden and animal spaces as we expand the program
- Creative healing art sales and literacy programs

Now, we invite you to join Team Humanity Baja—volunteer, give, or simply spread the word. Every contribution, every action, lifts a child and builds a brighter future. Together, we're building something far bigger than you and I!

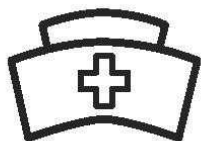
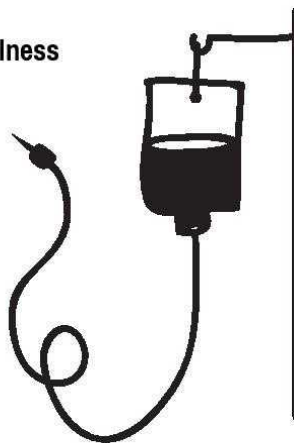
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Join Team Humanity Baja's journey for the 2026/2027 season!

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TURTLE SEASON ***2026/2027 IS UPON US!*** □

By: Kareema Jones □

□ As we head into our 15th year, all of us at Grupo Tortuguero Los Barriles are excited to welcome another turtle season! □

□ This summer has been especially hot and humid compared with previous years. These months also bring rainstorms, thunder, lightning and, of course, hurricane season. Too much rain and excessively high temperatures can be detrimental to developing nests, so we are keeping our fingers crossed for a safe season for our community and our precious hatchlings. □

□ THE WORK HAS ALREADY BEGUN □

□ Every morning since mid July, brothers Omar & Noe have been collecting Olive Ridley sea turtle eggs along the beaches from La Ribera to Los Barriles and safely transporting them to our protected nursery. □

□ Once mature, female Olive Ridley turtles return to the beach to nest. The entire nesting process can take up to three hours as she digs her nest, lays her eggs and carefully □

□ covers them before returning to the sea. The eggs then incubate for approximately 45 days before the little hatchlings are ready to begin their journey. On average, Omar and Noe collect approximately 10 nests each day. Each nest is carefully transported in its own bag before being cautiously reconstructed inside the nursery. □

□ And we already have a record this year! □

□ 150 EGGS IN ONE NEST! □

□ That is the largest nest we have recorded! A typical nest contains around 100+ eggs, and a female may return several times during the season to lay additional clutches. □

□ We have even seen Omar arrive at the nursery on his ATV carrying 17 individual nests! Imagine that—a day that begins around 5:00 a.m., followed by his regular full day of work until 4:00 or 5:00 p.m. □

□ That, friends, is dedication. □

□ Omar and Noe also check the nursery throughout the day and night, watching carefully for those first little heads to emerge from the sand. □

□ PUBLIC TURTLE RELEASES □

□ We anticipate beginning our public hatchling releases around mid October. Once releases begin, we will post announcements and updates here and through our local community outlets. □

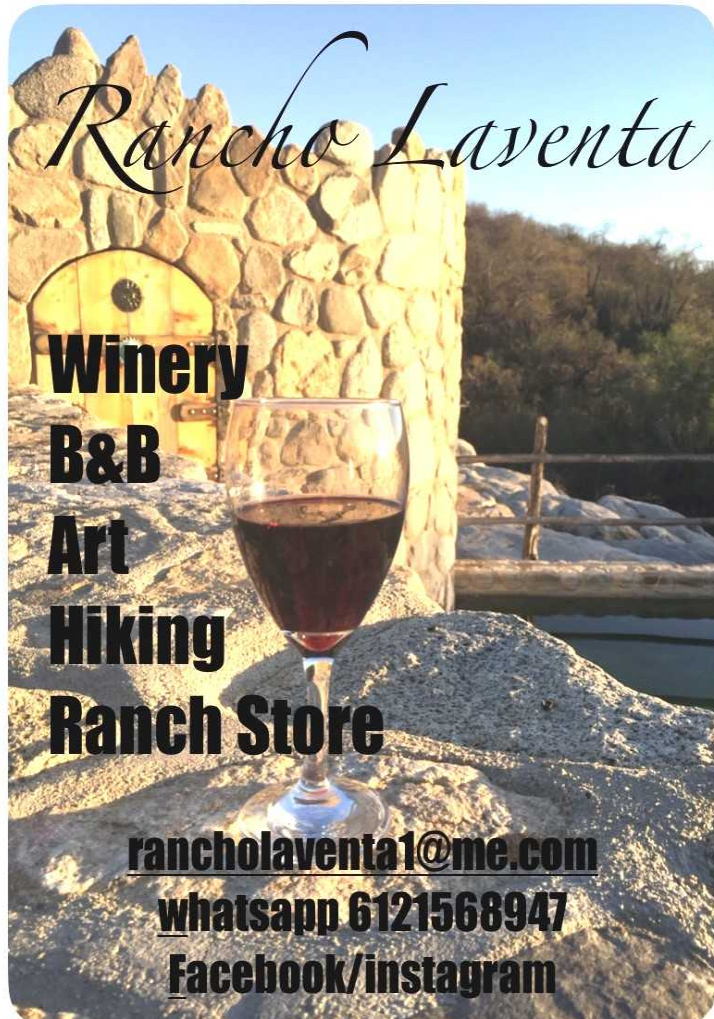
□ We cannot wait to share the magic of watching these tiny Olive Ridley hatchlings make their way to the Sea of Cortez! □

□ NEW THIS SEASON — JUST FOR THE KIDS! □

□ We are especially excited to introduce our new bilingual Kids Interactive/Story Workbook! □

□ Created in both English and Spanish, it gives children a fun introduction to sea turtles through reading, writing, storytelling and interactive activities. We especially encourage visiting teachers to take one home and share the experience with their students. □

Continued on Page 9 □



Turtles Continued From Page 8 □

SAVE THE DATE! □

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, December 15th at Dodo's Beach Club for our: Turtlely Cool Crazy Christmas Pajama Jam — Turtle Aid! And yes...it's Taco Tuesday! □

□ Watch for more information as we get closer! □

□ Throughout the season, we will also hold several raffles at our Community Market, which begins in mid-November and runs through the end of March/mid-April. □

□ Looking for a special turtle gift? You can always contact one of our core volunteers to purchase something from our collection and help support the program. □

□ We are incredibly excited for another season and look forward to welcoming old friends, new visitors, families and lots of smiling kids to the beach. Thank you for continuing to support our little grassroots turtle program and the work that goes into protecting these incredible animals. □

□ Grupo Tortuguero Los Barriles
"Protecting today so they can return tomorrow" □





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Al-Anon group meeting every Monday and Thursday from 10-11am at the Spa Buena Vista Serenity Garden for families and friends that are affected by someone's else's drinking. Contact sheilafluf@yahoo.com or 624-141-0267, or cell 619-889-2779.



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Tech News To Help You Stay Out Of Trouble

By: Lane Sykes

Just completed my online passport renewal. Official Link: opr.travel.state.gov. Renewal takes about 10 minutes if you have all the docs ready along with a credit card. My wife took the passport photo with me in a T-shirt against gray wall. I also had a facial scar from recent surgery (temporary). I uploaded the photo to Gemini AI (Artificial Intelligence) and asked it to make the photo passport application ready. Within 1 minute Gemini changed the background to white, erased the scar and dressed me in a dark jacket with a white dress shirt. That photo is now on my passport. Start to finish two weeks.

AI wrote this paragraph: *Apple iOS 27 for the iPhone delivers a major expansion of Apple Intelligence centered on a completely rebuilt, far more conversational Siri that understands personal context from messages, emails, photos, and calendars, supports multimodal input, and can take actions across apps. Key practical tools include advanced Photos editing with Spatial Reframing, generative Extend, and stronger Clean Up; Siri Mode in the Camera for visual questions; receipt-based bill splitting with Apple Cash; smarter password management; and improved system-wide writing assistance, all while prioritizing on-device processing and Private Cloud Compute for privacy. The deepest features, including the highest-tier on-device AI model, more expressive voices, and top dictation accuracy, require 12 GB of memory and are limited to iPhone 17 Pro, Pro Max, and Air (with future Pro models expected to support them fully). Basic Apple Intelligence works on iPhone 15 Pro and all iPhone 16/17 devices, while the full update runs on iPhone 11 and later, with the public release expected in September.*

Back to me, Scam Alerts. The FBI reports \$20 billion in losses to scams during 2025. Those are the only ones that have been reported. Viruses are no longer the issues.



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- Most computer attacks are aimed at your wallet. It's
- has become too easy for hackers. Some simple rules:
- Never click on a link in an email unless you know exactly what that link will do. Never give out your two factor 6 digit text code to anyone who asks for it. Exception, if you called the organization, that company may send you a code to make sure it's you. Again, you called them. How do you know you called the correct number for help? Excellent question, I'm glad you asked. Scammers buy ads on Google Search to boost their ranking on searches. For example, you need tech support from HP. You Google search for HP Tech Support. The first couple of results may just be a paid scam ad. I use Artificial Intelligence (AI) instead to find help and phone numbers. BTW, I use AI to solve most of the computer issues people bring me. If your calling a financial institution, use the number on the back of the credit card or official statement. If you see a pop up on your screen that you have a virus and are directed to call Microsoft or Apple, it's a scam! I always try to hit the "Esc" key first. If that fails, no matter what computer you have, hold down the power button for 10 seconds or until you see the screen go black. Then restart. Most often the cause is cross contamination on the host sever. That's geek speak for "it's not your fault". If someone in tech support (or one pretending to be) asked you to download an app to grant them access to your computer, DO NOT do that. Never give them a credit card number unless you are 100% sure you are talking to a legit person!!! Not a number that you saw on the pop up warning.

Cord Cutter Weekly has a list of good deals for video streaming: <https://cordcutterweekly.com/the-big-list-of-streaming-deals/>. Most will require a VPN (Virtual Private Network) to stream in Baja. By the way, Proton offers a free VPN with some limits (paid gets more data). Express VPN and Nord VPN are the most popular. Express VPN will stop support for Router firmware at the end of 2027. If you have an Express VPN router, you can expect it to continue to work even at the end of support. Proton (a Swiss Company) offers a suite of really good products including passwords. I use their email, encrypted end to end.

So you have Samsung Cellphone, you already know that Samsung is no longer supporting their texting app. They have switched you to Google Texting app. If you really miss that program on your Samsung, try this: <https://messages.ozarksmade.net/>. They are resurrecting that older app.

Backup your data! Take a look at the photos on your phone. If you don't have a backup strategy, this may be the last time you see them. If you are an Amazon Prime member, you can get free backup for all your photos and some videos just for downloading their free app. Google also offers a generound amount of backup but at 12 mega pixels, Amazon full resolution.

From Concept to ☐ Kilowatts: Designing an Off ☐ Grid Solar System with AI ☐

By: Ages Agecus ☐

Transitioning to solar power—especially in remote or extreme off-grid environments like Baja California Sur—requires careful planning, precise calculations, and an understanding of electrical engineering. While navigating load requirements, system voltages, and battery chemistry used to take weeks of research, modern artificial intelligence tools like Gemini act as a 24/7 technical copilot for planning renewable energy projects. ☐

However, while AI excels at calculations and conceptual design, turning a blueprint into live electricity requires licensed expertise. Here is how AI can help you conceptualize, build, and maintain an off-grid solar installation—and why professional execution is essential. ☐

1. Designing Your System with Gemini ☐

The design phase is where an AI assistant shines. Gemini helps translate household appliances into electrical demands, guiding you through the primary steps of system sizing: ☐

Load Auditing: You can list your appliances (e.g., small refrigerator, lighting, 8,000 BTU mini-split AC) and run hours, and Gemini calculates daily energy consumption in watt-hours (Wh) or kilowatt-hours (kWh). ☐

Voltage & Architecture Selection: AI helps model system architecture. For example, it can explain why high-draw appliances require a 48V direct current (DC) battery backbone rather than a 12V system to prevent overheating cables and power losses. ☐

Array Sizing & String Math: By analyzing panel specifications—such as Open Circuit Voltage (Voc) and Short Circuit Current (Isc)—Gemini helps configure series and parallel wiring arrangements (like a 2S2P setup) to match the voltage limits of your charge controller. ☐

2. Developing & Sourcing Components ☐

Once system specs are established, Gemini assists in evaluating components and organizing the build: ☐

Battery Chemistry: Compare Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFePO₄) versus traditional AGM or lead-acid batteries based on depth of discharge, lifespan, and thermal performance in hot climates. ☐

Inverter Sizing: Calculate continuous wattage requirements and starting surges (amps needed when ☐

AC compressors engage) to select the right pure sine wave inverter. ☐

Balance of Plant (BOP): Draft lists of safety components, including circuit breakers, inline fuses, surge protectors, disconnect switches, and proper American Wire Gauge (AWG) cables. ☐

3. Centralizing Documentation with Notepad ☐

Throughout the planning and build phases, maintaining a simple, centralized text document (using applications like Notepad) is crucial for keeping track of your system's evolving specifications: ☐

Master Component Log: Keep an up-to-date reference list in Notepad of model numbers, panel wattage, Voc, Isc, wire gauge sizes, and circuit breaker ratings generated during your AI prompt sessions. ☐

Copy and Paste Prompt Bank: Store standard prompts and system specs in your text file to easily paste them back into Gemini when revisiting calculations or modeling future expansions. ☐

4. Building & Installation: Why Professional Execution Matters ☐

When it comes to physical installation, AI reaches its boundary. High-voltage DC solar arrays, heavy battery banks, and main panel integrations involve severe risks, including arc flashes, electrical fires, and equipment damage. ☐

Before touching a wire, mounting a panel, or turning on an inverter, **always consult certified solar professionals like EC Solar (Ectech Solar).** ☐

Working with established regional experts like EC Solar ensures your installation meets necessary standards: ☐

Safety & Compliance: Certified electricians ensure proper grounding, conduit usage, overcurrent protection, and compliance with local electrical codes. ☐

Climate Hardening: In regions subject to extreme heat, high humidity, or tropical storm-force winds, specialized mounting systems and marine-grade components ☐

Continued On Page 12 ☐

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Solar Continued From Page 11

are required to keep equipment safe.

Valid Warranties: Equipment purchased through authorized regional channels guarantees valid manufacturer warranties and local technical support.

5. Maintaining Your Solar Array Over Time

Once installed, Gemini serves as an ongoing knowledge base for system maintenance, troubleshooting, and expansions

Preventive Schedules: Set reminders for cleaning dust and salt off panel surfaces, inspecting wire insulation, and checking terminal torque.

Enphase) to spot thermal throttling or panel shading.

Performance Monitoring: Learn how to interpret daily yield logs from smart charge controllers (like Victron or Enphase) to spot thermal throttling or panel shading.

Upgrade Planning: As your power needs grow—such as adding air conditioning to additional rooms—you can model expansion steps with AI before hiring installers to add capacity.

Final Thoughts

Artificial intelligence democratizes access to technical knowledge, making complex engineering concepts accessible to everyone. By pairing Gemini's rapid calculation capabilities with structured notekeeping in Notepad and the hands-on mastery of certified professionals like EC Solar, you can build an efficient, safe, and reliable off-grid system designed to power your home for decades.



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Shout Out to the Cortez Rescue Summer Crew

By: Terri Foster

This past summer was a brutal one. With extreme temperatures becoming the norm, the heat was tough on everyone—and at Cortez Rescue in Las Cuevas, it was even hotter.

But the heat didn't stop the amazing summer crew of volunteers from showing up for the dogs. Many of Cortez Rescue's volunteers are only part-time residents in the area, returning to their homes elsewhere when the summer season arrives. But the handful who stayed locally throughout those long, hot months never stopped showing up. Almost every day, they made the trip to the rescue to make sure the pups and dogs received something they desperately needed: time, attention, exercise and, most importantly, love.

For the dogs at the rescue, those visits mean everything. Those days are spent walking the dogs, giving them a chance to stretch their legs and explore while also enjoying some one-on-one attention inside to enjoy a much-needed break in the air conditioning.

And honestly, sometimes that's exactly what they need.

The dogs can relax in the cool air, get plenty of pets, chew on a favorite bone and simply spend time with someone. For a dog living in a rescue environment, that kind of quiet companionship can make all the difference.

It may seem like a small thing—showing up for an hour, taking a dog for a walk, sitting beside them and giving them some attention. But for a rescue dog, those moments are anything but small.

Consistency matters. Human interaction matters. Love matters.

And thanks to the Cortez Rescue summer crew, the dogs continued to receive all three throughout one of the hottest summers we've experienced.

So this is a huge **thank you** to the volunteers who kept showing up, even when the heat made it difficult. Your dedication helped keep the dogs happy, healthy and feeling loved.

The dogs may not be able to tell you themselves, but we're pretty sure they'd all agree:

You're the best!!

What's New at Cortez Rescue?

We have some exciting news! **Cortez Corner is coming soon!** Cortez Corner will be a place where you can relax and enjoy some time with your dog while connecting with other dog lovers. Grab a coffee or a tasty treat, bring your pup, and stay awhile!

And, of course, you'll be able to pick up some **Cortez Rescue swag** while you're there.

We can't wait to open our doors and create a fun, welcoming space for our community—and our four-legged friends!

Stay tuned for more details!

Howl-O-Ween Is Coming to Cortez Corner!

Cortez Rescue & Outreach is hosting its **first-ever Howl-O-Ween at Cortez Corner—and everyone is invited!**

Bring the family, dress up your pup and join us for an afternoon of Halloween fun. We'll have spooky punch and snacks, music, games and candy for the kids, plus plenty of dogs, costumes and Halloween spirit!

Costumes are encouraged for both pups and people, so get creative! Whether you're a longtime Cortez supporter, new to the area, or simply looking for something fun to do, **everyone is welcome.**

~ **Event Details** ~

Saturday, October 31, 2026

3:00–5:00 PM

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The Perfect Beach Day and the Importance of Reef Safe Products

By: Cheryl Hampton

Swimming off the beach, watching kites on a windy day, or soaking up the sun are all typical ways to spend a great day at the beach. Perfect is different for all of us but one thing is common; Big smiles and a sense of well being after a great day at the beach.

With over 30 miles of beautiful sand beaches, Los Barriles, BCS Mexico in the East Cape area offers many great choices. Perfectly located halfway between Cabo San Lucas and La Paz, this area is easy to reach either for a day trip from those commonly visited areas, or come for a longer stay to enjoy all this area has to offer.

The main beach areas are easy to walk to from most hotels and lodging choices. If you drive onto the beaches just be sure locate parking areas and stay on the hard packed areas to park. To experience the more remote locations you should consider using a UTV and they can be handy to haul all your stuff even at the main beaches. These come in many different styles and sizes so if you have access to one, plan your group and locations accordingly. If you need to rent one there are many great local companies who offer plenty of choices. 2 person or multi person UTVs are available so you can pick what best fits your needs.

Of course don't forget to think about sun protection, hydration, snacks and comfort. Make sure to include water along with your beverage of choice as dehydration is no joke and can ruin a great vacation. Sun protection in the form of shade, sun shirts or sunscreen are a must to protect you from the sun. Remember to reapply after swimming and always use reef safe products. We must protect this beautiful sea and the creatures that live there.

Chose your spot and set up for an epic beach day. Perhaps you will chose a beach canopy for maximum shade for your group or just an umbrella for one or 2 persons. Be sure to bring chairs along for a more comfortable experience. If these items aren't available in your lodging, you can rent them by appointment from LB Beachgear conveniently located on the beach by Hotel Playa del Sol. Reef Safe Products are also available here for sale if you didn't bring any with you. If you want to order these before your trip just use my referral link below for a 10% discount using referral code Cheryl.

<http://stream2sea.com/?ref=BeachGear>

Add some fun or entertainment to your day to ensure everyone is enjoying the experience. Many of us like to listen to music, read a book, swim or paddle and just sit and enjoy the view. Depending on the season you may see a humpback whale cruising by or a mobula jumping for joy. Take a pair of binoculars along so you can get a

closer look. Be sure and try some snorkeling for a peak beneath the shiny surface of the sea. It's another beautiful world.

To ensure we continue to enjoy this beautiful marine environment make sure you are using Ecofriendly Reef Safe Products. My choice is Stream2Sea, a woman owned, veteran owned company that offers a full range of products.

Five Important Things You Need to Know.

1. Avoid petrochemical sunscreen ingredients

The full impact of petrochemical sunscreen ingredients – including oxybenzone, avobenzone, octinoxate, ensulizole, homosalate, octisalate, octocrylene, padimate O and butyloctyl salicylate – is still being studied, but it appears that they all can damage aquatic ecosystems and the creatures who live in them in amazingly small concentrations.

2. Read the back of the package

There is no legal definition of “reef safe” or “ecofriendly” sunscreen so manufacturers can say almost anything on the front of the bottle. They are, however, required by law to list active ingredients on the back of the label. Take the time to check and make sure that they don't contain petrochemical or ingredients that could harm our oceans, lakes, rivers and reefs.

Continued On Page 16

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Perfect Beach Day Continued From Page 15

3. Ecofriendly sunscreen is important wherever you're using it

More than 14,000 tons of sunscreen are reported by NOAA to wash off our bodies and into the oceans every year. What they don't tell you is that the most important source of ocean-harming petrochemicals isn't from beachgoers and scuba divers, but rather from the wastewater created when you wash those chemicals off in a shower or flush them down the drain.

4. Check the container too

Eighty percent of ocean debris is plastic, that can take hundreds of years to break down. Plastics kill millions of animals every year who mistakenly eat it or get tangled in it. More recently, studies are showing that microplastics

created when plastic containers break down into tiny pieces have been found in more than 100 species of fish and shellfish that humans are likely to eat. (All Stream2Sea products are packaged in sustainable containers made with bio-resins from sugarcane or post consumer recycled materials like milk jugs.)

5. Ecofriendly is people friendly too!

Many questions remain about the safety of petrochemical sunscreens for the people using them too. In 2019, the FDA removed the GRASE – generally recognized as safe and effective – designation for petrochemical sunscreen ingredients and asked manufacturers to provide safety data. The only sunscreen ingredients that are still considered GRASE are zinc oxide and titanium dioxide found in Stream2Sea products – yet chemical companies continue to put new petrochemical based sunscreens on the market.

Since 2014, Stream2Sea has the first and only sunscreen to be scientifically tested and proven safe for fish and coral larvae. We can still debate what it means to be reef safe, but we fully believe is the reef safest! Check out the results of those tests at <https://stream2sea.com/product-testing/>.



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Role of Food and Drink in Day of Dead Celebrations

Food plays a central role in the Day of the Dead festivities, symbolizing life, sustenance, and the continuation of traditions. The culinary offerings are not merely for consumption; they carry deep significance, with each dish reflecting the tastes and preferences of the deceased. The preparation and sharing of these foods serve as a communal activity that fosters connection among family members and friends.

Pan de muerto: This traditional bread is shaped like a skull or decorated with bone-like pieces. Its sweet flavor and symbolic form make it a staple of the celebration.

Calaveras de azúcar: Sugar skulls, often decorated with colorful icing, are both a playful and poignant representation of the dead, serving as a reminder of mortality.

Atole and champurrado: These warm beverages made from corn and chocolate are commonly served, embodying comfort and nostalgia.

Favorite dishes: Family recipes and the deceased's favorite foods are prepared and offered on the altar, reinforcing the idea of familiarity and love.

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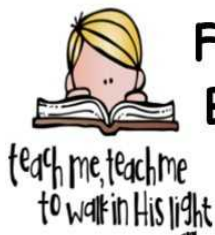


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History Of Ofrenda's On Día de los Muertos

The **ofrenda** (altar) is a sacred, multi-tiered structure built in homes and cemeteries across Mexico during Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) to welcome back the souls of deceased loved ones

History and Origins

- **Pre-Hispanic Roots:** The tradition traces back over 3,000 years to indigenous Mesoamerican rituals—including those of the Aztecs, Mexica, and Maya—which viewed death not as an end, but as a natural part of the cycle of life. Indigenous peoples held month-long festivals and left offerings to guide and honor their ancestors.
- **Catholic Syncretism:** Following the Spanish conquest in the 16th century, the Catholic Church moved these indigenous death-honoring rituals to align with **All Saints' Day** (November 1) and **All Souls' Day** (November 2). This blending of native beliefs and European Catholicism created the modern holiday.
- **Evolution & Modern Custom:** Over the centuries, elements shifted from rural community vigils to urban traditions. In the 20th century, printmaker José Guadalupe Posada popularized skeleton art like *La Calavera Catrina* to satirize social classes, and the holiday later



gained global recognition (including a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage listing in 2008).

Key Components of an Ofrenda

Traditional altars incorporate the **four elements of nature** to sustain and guide visiting spirits:

- **Earth (Tierra):** Represented by food, bread (such as *pan de muerto*), and local crops that nourish the returning souls.
- **Wind (Viento):** Represented by *papel picado* (delicate perforated paper banners) that flutter and move in the air.
- **Water (Agua):** Placed in a pitcher or glass so the spirits can quench their thirst after a long journey.
- **Fire (Fuego):** Represented by flickering candles that light the way home (often arranged in the shape of a cross for the cardinal directions).

Structure and Symbolism

- **The Tiers:** Altars commonly feature **three levels** (representing heaven, earth, and the underworld), though elaborate public or regional altars can have up to **seven levels**.
- **Photographs & Keepsakes:** Pictures of the deceased sit on the upper levels alongside their favorite foods, drinks (like *atole* or *tequila*), and personal items.
- **Marigolds (Cempasúchil):** Bright orange and yellow marigold petals are scattered to form pathways, and their strong scent guides the spirits back to the living world.
- **Sugar Skulls (Calaveritas):** Sweet decorated skulls bearing the names of the departed symbolize the sweetness and presence of life.



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Baja Shakespeare Is Turning 27!

By: Sheryl Segal

This February marks Baja Shakespeare's 27th season, celebrating more than a quarter century of laughter, drama, and community magic.

When Baja Shakespeare first took the stage more than 25 years ago, many people thought it was just a lark: a summer camp skit, a community talent show, something done "just for kicks." Twenty-seven years later, look at us now! Baja Shakespeare has acted, danced, and sung its way into the heart of Los Barriles. Each year, our wonderful community comes together to enjoy and support this fantastical undertaking.

Last season's smash production of *The Little Baja Mermaid* brought delight, and our new stage lights added an extra dimension of wonderment, especially to the "under the sea" scenes. Our troupe had been using stage lights older than most of us! After two years of setting aside ticket proceeds for our light fund, Baja Shakespeare was ready to buy, and Dave Ahlers spearheaded the effort. He researched the options, ordered the lights, and even set them up in his garage so we could try costumes and makeup "under the lights." Comments like "The lights add so much," "The underwater scenes were amazing," and "You guys looked so young up there" only added to our joy of performing for more than 700 audience members, filling the theater with laughter and applause. Friends old and new joined us onstage, backstage, and in the seats, proving once again that theater thrives when community comes together.

This Season's Show

Baja Shakespeare returns in February at the stunning Hotel Palmas de Cortez Convention Center.

Performance dates: February 19, 20, 21 (Sunday matinee), 24, 25, 26, and 27

Tickets go on sale in January. Mark your calendars!

This year, we will once again support local nonprofit groups and enjoy baked goods from Friends Supporting Families.

Where Does Your Ticket Money Go?

We're often asked this, and we're proud to say it stays right here in the East Cape. Your support helps us:

- Purchase props, costumes, and the hundreds of little items it takes to put on a show

- Feed our hardworking actors and crew during marathon rehearsal days

- Rent storage for our sets, backdrops, costumes, and lights

In short, your ticket helps keep Baja Shakespeare alive and thriving while supporting local businesses and nonprofits.

A Note of Thanks

We are deeply grateful to everyone who has laughed, sung, and stood by us. Your support keeps the arts alive in Los Barriles and makes this magical journey possible.

Here's to 27 joyous years of Baja Shakespeare, and to many more to come! See you in February for another unforgettable adventure onstage.



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Volunteerism – Good for You and our Communities

By: Cheryl Hampton

OK, now you've arrived in Paradise, settled in a bit, had some great food and fun, now what? One choice can be volunteerism, in whatever flavor appeals to you. Our East Cape communities have many well known organizations that need help keeping paradise, paradise.

From animal welfare groups to community support, education, art and health care there is something for everyone. Most groups can be found and reached via Facebook posts or Google searches. Usually in late November there is a gathering of all groups in a street party to share info, answer questions and reconnect so watch for postings or fliers with more details on that fun event. I love all their missions and try to support most each season in some way. Whether it's attending their fundraiser/event or buying something from them when they have local booths, most anything and everything can help them deliver projects that directly benefit our East Cape communities.

Whether you are just visiting, code for thinking of moving here, or a seasonal or full time resident, you have many choices for getting involved.

Personally, I am a beach lover, so I started with showing up at a Rotary Club sponsored north beach clean up after the fall storm brought all kinds of debris down the arroyo. I made lifelong friends that day as I watched everyone working to clear the beach for everyone's use. That is one way to help paradise stay paradise, we clean up. I went to a couple meetings to learn about other projects that were in the works and decided to join the local club as it's a great way give back in a community that I love. A future project I envision could bring public bathrooms to our local beach. I love that Rotary provides temporary rented versions for the busy Semana Santa spring holiday week but our paradise needs a broader solution for our busy, well loved beaches.

Full disclosure I am the Membership Chair for the club so please don't hesitate to contact us if you'd like to learn more about us and how you can get involved. If meetings aren't your thing, no worries, we welcome Friends of Rotary who get all the info so you can lend a hand when possible as we usually need extra hands for activities. When you join a nonprofit you lend your voice to the planning process. If you physically aren't able to have financial resources, consider our new Sponsor a Local program. Your dollars support a local who wants to contribute their effort but lacks funds for dues.

Many organizations sponsor local events like fishing or volleyball tournaments, sports field activities, even parades for holidays. Our community of Los Barriles does love our parades so if it's a holiday, check Facebook to see if one is being planned. Like others, The Rotary fundraising events are in direct support of the

local community projects like playground improvements and various projects for the schools and sports parks as well as annual health screenings which we conduct in the schools.

December 2, 2026 we will hold our 11th annual *Taste of East Cape* so please consider buying a ticket, reserving a premium table for your group or donating an item or experience to the auction. Many of our local great restaurants participate by providing "tastes" of their best dishes for attendees to sample while enjoying entertainment and a silent auction. Even if you have attended in the past please join us as each year we work to improve the experience. Come for a beautiful evening under the stars and join the fun while supporting projects around the East Cape.

Professionals tell us that giving back improves our mental and physical health, building strong social ties and teaching valuable skills. Physical health benefits can include lower blood pressure, increased daily movement, and a lower risk of death. Frankly it just makes us feel good.

Volunteerism can take many forms. If you know you want to join a group of like minded people, pick a nonprofit go talk to them, at a meeting or event. Don't be shy about asking questions as you learn more about the organization, the group of locals guiding their efforts, and the mission of their nonprofit. If joining isn't for you, there are still many

Continued On Page 22



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Volunteer Continued From Page 21 □

ways to support these efforts. You can provide monetary support via donations or sponsorship either personally or from your local business. When a group is holding an event, they usually hold raffles or silent auctions so you can consider donating an item or experience. On the other side of that, please attend as many fundraising events as you can and bid generously on the items offered. Remember, it's not about getting a "deal", it's about supporting the nonprofit's projects and activities that benefit many who need help, while having fun. These events usually involve a great venue, good food and entertainment of varying types so entry tickets are already a great value. □

□

It's easy to slip into a routine of inactivity, not get enough social interaction and physical exercise. The weather has sure contributed to that this season with extreme heat, lots of storms and big winds. Once the dust settles in late October, many start to find their way back to our paradise for another stay/season. Consider making an effort to learn more about a local cause and get involved. You will make friends, put smiles on children's faces, feed a hungry family, and provide some needed medical exams, save an animal from the streets, support turtle releases and so very much more. Do something that will make you feel good and will benefit our paradise communities. □



Rotary President Alicia Hundley & Treasurer Jenniffer Alarcon delivering refurbished picnic tables to community □





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Exact Steps To Take After A Car Accident in Mexico □

By: El Expat Insider – Mexico Sept 2026 □

□ If you get into a car accident in Mexico, what should you do first? Who do you call? And what should you avoid doing while you wait for help? We asked Mexico car insurance specialist, Federico Ransom, of Ransom Becker Insurance Solutions to walk us through the process step by step. □

#1 Prioritize Safety □

□ If your vehicle is in a dangerous spot or at risk of another collision, move it to a safer location. If you have time before moving it, take photos of where the vehicles came to rest. □

#2 Call 911 and Your Insurance Company □

□ Even if the accident seems minor, call 911 and your insurance company immediately. □ Your insurer will dispatch an adjuster, while tránsito will document the accident and begin determining responsibility. Once you've reported the accident, wait for the adjuster to arrive before leaving. □

□ If anyone is injured, tell your insurance company when you report the accident. An injury can turn the accident into a legal matter, so your insurer needs to know injuries are involved. □

□ Unlike in the U.S. or Canada, drivers in Mexico don't typically exchange insurance and driver's license □

information at the scene. The police and insurance adjuster handle the process. □

□ If you're injured and unable to call, someone else can contact your insurer on your behalf. Keep a printed copy of your policy and claims number in your glove compartment so that information is available if you can't access your phone. □

#3 Stay at the Scene and Document the Accident □

□ Do not leave the scene until the police and adjuster have completed what they need from you. □

□ If someone is injured, leaving without providing assistance or waiting for authorities can have serious legal consequences. □

□ If the other driver leaves, don't chase them. If you can, photograph their vehicle and license plate and give that information to the police and your adjuster. □

□ Take photos of the vehicles, license plates, damage, and overall accident scene. They can help establish what damage was – and wasn't – caused by the accident. □

□ **Note:** If you're injured and have international health insurance, make sure you obtain a copy of the police report. You'll need it to file a claim. □

#4 Don't Admit Fault □

□ Even if you think you caused the accident, don't admit responsibility at the scene. You may not fully understand how the applicable traffic laws affect who is at fault. □

Continued On Page 25 □

□

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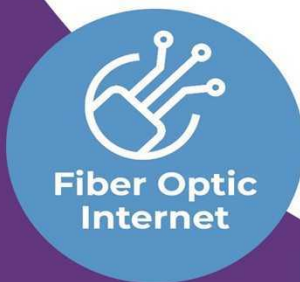
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Accident Steps Continued From Page 23

Stick to the facts about what happened and let the authorities and insurance adjuster determine responsibility.

If responsibility can't be resolved at the scene, you may be required to go to the traffic police station while the accident is reviewed.

#5 Don't Make a Cash Deal

The other driver may offer you money – or ask you to pay them – to settle the accident on the spot.

Don't do it!!

If you make a private agreement with the other driver, your insurance company can decline your claim. You also have no way of knowing the full cost of the damage at the scene. If you accept a cash payment and repairs turn out to cost much more, you could be left paying the difference yourself.

Let your insurance adjuster handle the claim before you agree to or pay anything.

What If Someone Is Injured?

Depending on the circumstances and the state where the accident occurs, you could be detained while authorities determine responsibility and financial obligations. The process varies by state.

If your car insurance includes legal assistance and bond coverage, it can cover attorney assistance and eligible bond expenses up to your policy limits.

An Accident Is the Wrong Time to Find Out Your Coverage Falls Short

Without adequate coverage, an accident can mean more than a repair bill – you could face legal expenses and other costs your policy doesn't cover.

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The Sea of Cortez: □ A Lifetime of Discovery, □ One Voyage at a Time □

By: Lela Sankeralli, Founder of Panterra Eco Expeditions □

There are places in the world that capture your heart and never quite let it go. For me, that place is Baja California Sur and the extraordinary Sea of Cortez. I first visited La Paz in the late 1970s, drawn by the dramatic landscapes, the incredible meeting of desert and sea, and, above all, the warmth of its people. What began as a personal connection gradually became a lifelong passion for exploration, education, conservation, and sharing this remarkable part of Mexico with others. □

Panterra Eco Expeditions is the result of that passion as I continue my journey and adventure, inviting small groups of travelers to discover the natural wonders, cultural heritage, and extraordinary wildlife of the Sea of Cortez. □

A Sea Like No Other □

Separating the Baja California Peninsula from mainland Mexico, the Sea of Cortez, also known as the Gulf of California, is one of the most biologically diverse marine environments on Earth. Its story begins millions of years ago, as geological forces gradually separated the peninsula from the mainland, creating a remarkable marine landscape of deep underwater basins, volcanic islands, rugged coastlines, and sheltered bays. □

The meeting of ocean currents, seasonal winds, tidal movements, and nutrient-rich upwelling's sustains an extraordinary web of life. Phytoplankton feeds tiny marine organisms, which in turn support enormous schools of fish, seabirds, dolphins, and whales. UNESCO recognizes the region's exceptional natural heritage, with hundreds of islands, nearly 900 recorded fish species, and a remarkable

diversity of marine mammals. □ It is a place of striking contrasts. Towering cardón cacti rise above the arid desert, while turquoise waters lap against pristine beaches and ancient volcanic cliffs. On the islands, seabirds nest and sea lions gather along rocky shores. Beneath the surface, colorful reef fish dart among rocky formations, while rays, turtles, dolphins, and, in season, migrating whales move through these productive waters. □

Every adventure offers something different. The sea is constantly changing, and no two days, anchorages, or wildlife encounters are ever quite the same. □

Discovering Baja Beyond the Shoreline □

For me, my work has always been about more than taking people to beautiful places. I believe that travel becomes meaningful when we understand the landscapes we explore, the wildlife we encounter, and the communities whose lives are connected to them. □

Our Sea of Cortez cruise adventures offer an opportunity to experience Baja from a different perspective. Travelling aboard a small, comfortable vessel, you can explore remote islands, secluded coves, sheltered bays, and stretches of coastline that are often inaccessible to conventional tourism. □

Days might include snorkeling in clear waters alongside curious California sea lions, exploring a quiet beach, watching pelicans plunge for fish, or simply enjoying the stillness of an island anchorage. Depending on the season and conditions, we may encounter dolphins, whale sharks, or migrating whales. □

My hope is that guests leave with more than photographs and wonderful memories. I hope they leave with a deeper appreciation for the natural world, a connection to the people and places they have encountered, and a desire to protect the extraordinary environment that made their journey possible. □

The Sea of Cortez is not simply a destination. It is a living, breathing world of discovery—and one that I feel privileged to share. □

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Olive Ridley Sea Turtle

Lepidochelys olivacea



VULNERABLE

*population is **severely fragmented** and in continuing decline

MAIN THREATS

- Fisheries bycatch
- Pollution
- Marine debris
- Ecosystem alteration
- Climate change
- Oil spills
- Human intrusions

In one of nature's greatest spectacles, olive ridley turtles come ashore by the thousands to nest, a phenomenon known as arribada, from the Spanish word for 'arrival. Through they are the most abundant of sea turtles, olive ridleys are increasingly threatened by trawling, coastal development, and other threats.

DISTRIBUTION

- Circumglobal
- Nesting is mostly in tropical regions
- Migrating and foraging is sometimes in temperate regions
- 'Arribadas,' or synchronized mass nesting events during which thousands of turtles lay their clutches over the same couple of days, occur on only a few beaches around the world
- Map of Global Biogeography of the Olive Ridley (search on google)

SIZE

ADULTS						HATCHLINGS
* Length	60-70cm	(~23.5 – 27.5in)				* Length approximately 25mm (~1 in)
* Mass up to	70 kg (~154 lbs)					* Mass 15 – 20 g (~0.5 oz)

DIET

For all life stages, mostly benthic invertebrates (crabs, other crustaceans, and mollusks) and some jellies

REPRODUCTION

- Individual mature females reproduce every 1-3 years
- Lay 1-3 clutches of eggs per season during reproductive years
- Lay 90 – 130 eggs per clutch
- Ping-pong ball size eggs weight approximately 30 grams each (1oz)
- Incubation period is approximately 50 days long
- Temperature dependent sex determination – embryos become male or female depending on temp of nest
- Takes 10-15 years to reach sexual maturity

OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE FACTS

- Olive ridleys are thought to be the most abundant sea turtle species globally
- Along with Kemp's ridleys, olive ridleys are the only sea turtle species to exhibit synchronous mass nesting, termed arribadas. During the arribadas, the Spanish word for 'arrivals,' tens of thousands of female turtles nest during the same 3-7 day period once a month.
- Along with Kemp's ridleys, and to a lesser extent, flatbacks, olive ridleys are the only sea turtle species to commonly nest during the day.

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East Cape Guild Scholarship Fund Brings Music To Los Barilles!

By: John Plotkin

The East Cape Guild, at age 30, continues to send local children to school by raising money through fun fundraisers! This year the Guild will hold two musical events. The Guild will bring in talented Canadian singer/songwriters to perform in Los Barriles in December. Nashville Songwriters will return to Los Barilles the first week of March for their fifth year!

The December concert will take place on December 12nd at Palmas de Cortez Hotel. The lineup includes Canadian award winning artists Cara Luft and Clayton Parsons and Neil Osborne. Talented southern Baja based musicians will also perform. For more information about the concert, musicians and tickets look for postings on the Baja Pony Express and on the Los Barriles Facebook pages and the East Cape Guild Facebook page.

A little background for new residents and visitors. The East Cape Guild was established in 1996 to provide scholarships to local students to attend high school. The Mexican government pays to send kids to school only through the secondary level. The Mexican government

pays to send kids to school only through the secundaria level (9th grade). After that, parents must pay tuition, transportation, and other costs (uniforms and supplies) to continue their child's education. These costs can approach \$500 USD annually, depending on the transportation costs, and are difficult for some families to pay, especially if they have more than one child at the high school level.

The process of awarding the much sought-after becas (scholarships) begins in January when the Guild distributes applications to the secundaria and preparatoria schools. The students must submit the applications in Spanish and English, as well as provide proof of their grades and a letter of recommendation from a teacher or other non-related person. Becas are awarded based on academic achievement and financial need. Scholarships are awarded based on the ranking and on the amount of money the Guild has raised each year. To receive a scholarship in year one and subsequent years, the student must maintain at least a level of 8 (out of 10) in each of their classes. *In May of 2025, we awarded 190 high school and 80 college scholarships.*

The East Cape Guild is an entirely volunteer organization that raises funds by holding community fundraising events and through cash donations. Donations can be tax deductible under US law by donations through the International Community Foundation.

The Guild serves a variety of towns and communities in the East Cape, with its service area ranging from Mira Flores in the south to El Triunfo in the north. It provides scholarships to students from the larger towns, e.g., Los Barriles, La Ribera, Santiago, Mira Flores, El Cardinal, and San Bartolo. It also provides scholarships to children from smaller towns and remote ranches.

The Guild members and board include Mexican, American, and Canadian citizens. The Guild meets once a month to discuss its fundraisers and activities. Membership is \$50 per year. We welcome you to join this meaningful organization.

Since its inception, the Guild has raised over \$1.5 million and funded over 4,000 scholarships. Your town mayor, your builder, your architect, your engineer, your restaurant or spa owner, and your Mexican neighbors may have been scholarship recipients.

So, that is who we are. Please consider joining the Guild, attending our fundraisers, or financially supporting the deserving students

of the East Cape.

THANK YOU!

Cara Luft returns to Los Barriles in March



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Government Report Recap ☐

By: El Expat Insider – Mexico Sept 2026 ☐

☐ President Sheinbaum delivered her Second Government Report from the National Palace in mid September, outlining her administration's accomplishments and where Mexico stands. Here are a few of the key takeaways from her report: ☐

- **Economy:** 60 million people are employed, unemployment stands at 2.7%, and foreign investment hit a record of nearly \$35 billion in the first half of 2026.

- **Wages:** The minimum wage has risen 154% in real terms since 2018, while the average formal sector wage reached a record 20,212 pesos a month.

- **Security:** Homicides have fallen 51% since she took office, equivalent to 44 fewer killings per day.

- **Healthcare:** 33 new hospitals have opened over the past two years, with 152 new health facilities planned over her six ☐ year term.

- **Infrastructure:** Mexico's 2026 National Infrastructure Plan calls for more than 960 billion pesos in investment in roads, ports, airports, trains, energy, hospitals and schools.

- **Energy:** Mexico imports 75% of the natural gas it consumes. The government is studying whether the country can develop more of its own unconventional gas while protecting water and communities.

- **Water:** She reported the government has "deprivatized" more than 5 billion cubic meters of water — enough, it claims, to supply 90 million people for a year – while carrying out more than 24,000 potable water and drainage projects across 2,183 municipalities.

U.S. relations: She acknowledged "difficulties" in the relationship but emphasized continued cooperation, while declaring that "cooperation does not mean submission." ☐



Festival de Artes ☐

March 14, 2027! ☐

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Crescent Moon Project ☐

Twelve Sponsors. Twelve Months. One Art Center ☐

By: Betsy Fox ☐

☐ Our annual Calendar Project helps provide the rent for our Art Center. Twelve generous sponsors each donate \$300 USD, and each sponsorship covers one month of rent. In appreciation, each sponsor receives a custom painting created by one of our students, along with a 2027 Crescent Moon Project calendar featuring artwork inspired by the theme, *Art Without Borders*. And here's the fun part: you get to choose an artist from somewhere around the world whose work will inspire the student painting created for your sponsored month. ☐

☐ Why Your Support Matters ☐

This Calendar Project is vital to keeping our programs going. More than 175 children participated in 2026 art experiences, with over 1,000 hours of creative engagement—all free of charge to our students. Your sponsorship helps us continue providing these meaningful experiences to the children of Los Barriles. ☐

Become a 2027 Calendar Sponsor ☐

Choose your month: ☐ ☐

Visit our **SignUp** page and select the month (or months) you would like to sponsor: ☐

SignUp.com – 2027 Calendar Sponsorship ☐

<https://tinyurl.com/3sbp6rwe> ☐

☐

Make your \$300 sponsorship donation. Choose either: ☐

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<https://tinyurl.com/4kdec49h> ☐

Follow the prompts and be sure to choose CRESCENT MOON PROJECT as the organization ☐

After making your donation, please email us at crescentmoonlosbarriles@gmail.com ☐

and let us know which payment method you used. This helps us keep track of sponsorships and ensures that we can arrange for you to receive your student painting and calendar. ☐

☐ Can you guess where each artist is from? ☐

Wassily Kandinsky • Pablo Picasso • Henri Matisse • Nahui Olin • Santy Guevara • Carmen Lomas Garza • Yayoi Kusama • Maud Lewis • Eduardo Kobra • Alma Thomas • Kenjoak Ashevak • Gustave Baumann ☐

☐ Ready to Sponsor a Month? ☐

Thank you for supporting the Crescent Moon Project and for helping us continue to provide creative experiences to the children of Los Barriles. Your sponsorship does more than help pay our rent. It helps keep our Art Center open and gives children the opportunity to create and see the world through art. ☐



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SNAP East Cape: Stopping Overpopulation at the Source

By: Paula Myers

Every litter that is never born means fewer puppies and kittens struggling on our streets and beaches. Since we began, SNAP East Cape has sterilized more than 10,000 dogs and cats through free spay and neuter clinics, working hand in hand with local families, veterinarians, and volunteers to build a lasting, community-driven solution to pet overpopulation. This fall, we're building on a record summer with new clinics, a new website, and two community events we'd love for you to join.

A Summer of Success: 500 Animals Sterilized

This summer, SNAP offered flea and tick medication as part of a special clinic promotion, and the response was incredible. The promotion helped bring 500 dogs and cats in for sterilization, preventing thousands of unwanted births in the years ahead. Healthier pets, happier families, and fewer homeless animals: that's what community partnership looks like. Thank you to everyone who spread the word and brought their animals in.

Upcoming Free Spay & Neuter Clinics

Saturday, October 24 – La Ribera

Saturday, November 7 – Los Barriles

Saturday, November 14 – Miraflores

Let's keep the momentum going! Please help spread the word to neighbors, workers, and families who may need these services.

Mural Unveiling – Wednesday, November 11, 5–7 PM

Join us at Clínica Veterinaria Buenos Aires in Los Barriles for the unveiling of a new mural celebrating the animals and community of the East Cape, presented in partnership with the Crescent Moon Art Project – Art for Children. Come see the artwork, meet the SNAP team, and celebrate with us.

Fishing & Sports Equipment Garage Sale – Sunday, November 29, 11 AM–3 PM

Pully's Beach Bar, Los Barriles Find great deals on fishing gear, sports equipment, and outdoor items, with all proceeds supporting SNAP's free spay and neuter clinics. Have gear to donate? Contact us at info@snapeastcape.org.

Our New Website Is Live!

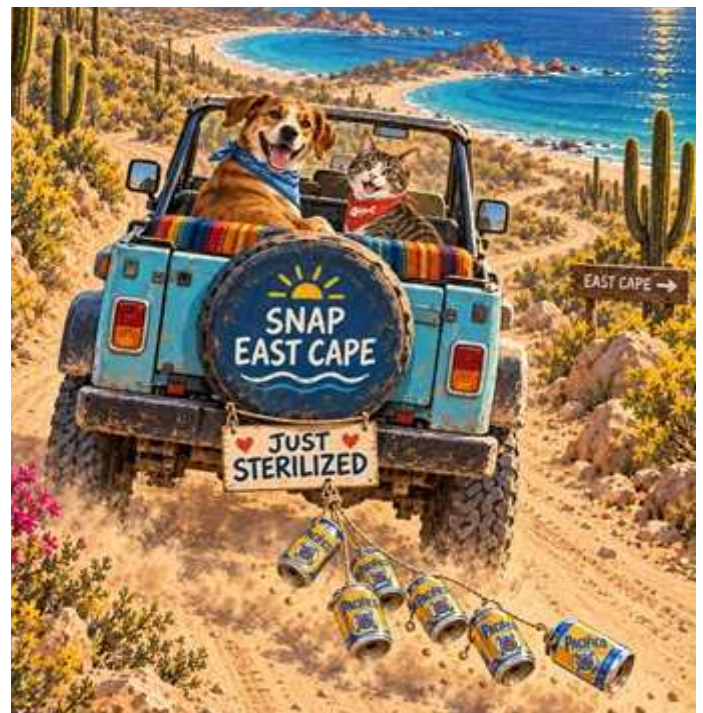
Visit us at www.snapeastcape.org to learn about our work, see upcoming clinic dates, find out how to volunteer, and make a donation online. It's the easiest way to stay connected with everything happening at SNAP.

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U.S. supporters can give through Friends of SNAP, our U.S. 501(c)(3) nonprofit (EIN 42-2549819). Donations made through Friends of SNAP are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law, and every dollar supports free spay and neuter services here in the East Cape.

Thank You, East Cape!

From 500 animals this summer to more than 10,000 since we began, every clinic, every event, and every gift brings us closer to a future where every animal born here is wanted and cared for. We couldn't do it without you.



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We sincerely thank our buyers and sellers for their continued trust and support over the years. If you are considering selling your home or homesite, we invite you to contact us or visit our office. We would be happy to discuss how we can help you achieve the best results for your property. Our office is conveniently located in the center of Los Barriles in the Palapa Building with the big orange sign next to the Tiki Bar and across the street from the Modelorama beer store.

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EAST CAPE
FUNCTIONAL HEALTH

When the body asks a different question

We have opened a new space in Los Barriles, built around wellbeing: East Cape Functional Health Clinic. We work with functional medicine.

There are seasons when the body asks for something else. Sleep no longer restores. Energy does not return. Food no longer sits the same way. The stress stayed. Sometimes there is a name on top of all of that; sometimes there is only the certainty that something does not fit.

Therapeutic IV infusions follow the same logic. Vitamins, minerals and antioxidants go straight into the bloodstream: to hydrate, restore energy, support immunity, give a lift when fatigue will not let go.

We choose with care, a Myers' Cocktail, glutathione, iron, vitamin C, NAD, a rehydration after heat or travel, a B12 if it is needed. What goes in the bag answers the plan.

At home, care can continue with Metagenics supplements, selected according to each person's needs and adjusted over time as the body responds.

In East Cape, the heat, the travel, the seasons that run long, asks for this kind of attention. We opened this space to meet it.

Book your appointment and leave with a clear plan. Call or message **624 156 3949**.
Plaza Libertad, Local 1, Los Barriles.

The hyperbaric chamber comes in when recovery needs more oxygen in the tissue. You breathe at a different pressure to support repair, improve circulation, and help the body work through lingering inflammation. Some people come after surgery, a sports injury, or as part of wound care when healing needs additional support.

Some come looking for support when the nervous system is moving slowly. Sessions are planned as a series: a single visit, a short cycle or a longer protocol, always after an evaluation.