

BAJA TIMES

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English Language Newspaper of Baja California

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July 16-31, 2015

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LOCAL NEWS

LOCAL BRIDGES EXPANSION

– with an investment of 42 million pesos, the federal government is going to add four lanes to the “Pemex” bridge (by Walmart) km 22 on the free road in Rosarito. This area is one of the most congested places in the state, averaging 24,500 vehicles per day. The bridge by the Convention Center in Rancho del Mar (toll road to Tijuana) is also being expanded.

FREE BASIC MEDICAL SERVICES FOR BORDER CROSSERS

- The Tijuana border crossing area is offering basic medical care for the thousands of people getting across the International border every day. A small facility operating inside a pair of donated stalls alongside the pedestrian line, offers everything from band-aids to testing blood sugar levels to the 23,000 pedestrians and 31,000 vehicles crossing every day.

BEER FEST 2015 – The last weekend of June, Rosarito hosted its Annual Beer Fest, where over 2,500 people gathered in a fun fiesta event filled with food, music and over 30 different brands of artisan beer. The beer companies participating were from Tijuana, Ensenada and Mexicali.

ROSARITO'S INTERNATIONAL HALF MARATHON – More than 1000 people from Baja and California participated in the first half marathon, organized by Time Track and the Municipal sports department. The event was held as part of the celebration of Rosarito's 20th Anniversary of becoming an independent city in Baja.

CEART ENSENADA RECEIVED PLANTS DONATION

- 60 desert plants were donated to the Ensenada Arts Center by the Calafia Garden Club. The plants are native to this area, and were planted by members of this organization along with CEART workers. Amongst the plants donated were Yuca, Agave, Aloe Vera, and more.



Market awaits final water allocation at Rosarito

Global Water Intelligence
www.globalwaterintel.com

The large-scale desalination plant being developed by Consolidated Water at Rosarito in Mexico has long been hyped as an alternative to siting a plant in California. Will any of the plant's output make it north of the border?

A public tender could be launched within months for the long-planned 100MGD (378,500m³/d) seawater desalination plant at Rosarito Beach (Mexico), after project proponent NSC Agua submitted a detailed proposal to the State of Baja California late last quarter.

Given the amount of work put into the project by NSC Agua (which is 99.9% owned by Nasdaq-listed Consolidated Water) – and the fact that the project proponent is expected to benefit from a 10% bid discount – it seems highly unlikely that a serious rival bid will come forward.

See page 03

Qualitas Donated Insurance Policy to Orphanage

Catherine's Kids, an independently funded orphanage in Rosarito Beach that currently cares for twelve children, has a friend in “Tijuana Independencia”, the local Rotary Club that has provided electrical wiring, refrigerators, lamps, and assistance with a fund-raiser to purchase solar panels for the facility. Knowing there is always more to do, prominent local businessman Jorge Cuadros has worked with Tijuana Independencia and Qualitas Compania de Seguros' manager Eduardo Pedrero to provide the insurance for the 15-seater van the facility uses to transport their kids to school and medical help, both here and across the border. Feeding, housing and clothing the children has been a special project for Tijuana Independencia, and they know the children housed there will be friends for life.

6 Bands Will Help Kids with the Blues at Fourth Annual Rosarito Blues Fest

ROSARITO BEACH, BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO—The Fourth Annual Baja Blues Fest will be held Aug. 21-23 on the oceanfront grounds of the Rosarito Beach Hotel & Resort, with outstanding bands, prizes and more to raise money for local children's charities.

The three-day Baja Blues Fest benefits several local children's charities and features some of the best blues bands from the U.S. and Mexico, arts and crafts exhibits plus food and drink. Its motto is Helping Kids with “The Blues.”

See page 04



40 HOUSES BUILT BY LOVE MINISTRIES AND COUNCILWOMAN LAURA TORRES

Love Ministries International and local congresswoman Laura Torres built houses for the poor in Rosarito. The association stayed in Rosarito for three weeks and donated materials and labor, while the congresswoman donated the cement needed for the houses.

Kathy's Real Estate Roundup:

Buying a home in Baja: The right time, the right price. Now is the time make your oceanfront retirement dream come true.

After hitting rock bottom in 2009, home sales in Rosarito have been steadily increasing. Still, property prices are 30 and in some cases even 40 percent less than what they were 5 years ago. And though inventory is scarcer, a batch of bank owned property has recently streamed into the market. Thus, opportunities are to be

had. Now you can own an oceanfront home –at the right price.

Most median waterfront properties in Rosarito are at the sweet spot of between \$300,000 and \$600,000 -still lower than the median price of a non-waterfront San Diego home.

See page 07

U.S. CONSULATE IN TIJUANA

Business hours are 7:30am to 4:00pm Mon-Fri. In case of an after-hours emergency involving U.S. citizens, please contact the Duty Officer at:

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EMERGENCY NUMBER

By Len Merson

The equivalent of the U.S. emergency number of '911' for us here in Baja is '066'. A person recently complained to me stating "I dialed this number and no one answered!" I handed her my phone and asked her to dial the number. Rather than having dialed the NUMBER=ZERO-6-6, she instead dialed the LETTER='O'-6-6. This is equivalent to referring to the U.S. emergency number as '9-i-i'. I realized then that it is a mistake to say "OH-6-6". It should always be stated as

"ZERO-6-6". In an emergency, with our stress on high, it is understandable that the person had made this mistake.

NOTE 1- When in Baja, the '066' Emergency number can be accessed with a U.S. phone as well as a Mexican phone. NOTE 2- When you need to call the '066' Emergency number, there is always an English speaking staff member on duty. e-mail: Lmerson@livingchaosfree.com

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From Front Page....

Market awaits final water allocation at Rosarito

I don't see anybody else even taking a swing at this – how would you?" said one source close to the project. "You don't have the ground, you can't co-locate with the power plant, and you don't have the right-of-way to get the water up to northern Mexico," he told GWI.

Although the project has frequently been hyped as a way of getting desalinated water to the US without having to jump through all the permitting hoops associated with siting a facility in California, the most intriguing question of all is whether any of the water will actually make it into the US.

Despite the fact that Otay Water District signed a non-binding letter of intent in 2012 to purchase water from the project, the State of Baja California last November made a proposal to NSC Agua to purchase the plant's entire output, and simultaneously appointed Rodney Smith of Baja Norte Water Resources to explore the potential of on-selling up to half the plant's output to US water users. A final decision on how the water will be apportioned is expected in October 2015.

This raises several interesting questions. While it may be tempting for NSC Agua to sign a single offtake agreement for the entirety of the plant's output, Baja's international credit rating was downgraded to Baa3 by Moody's last October, putting it on the cusp of junk status, while both Standard and Poor's and Fitch rate Otay Water District in the "AA" bracket. The credit quality of the offtake consortium will inevitably affect the risk profile of the project, which will impact on the size of the debt service payments associated with the project finance that the developer will need to put in place.

It also raises questions over the extent to which California is being held hostage by the authorities in Mexico. Should Baja end up owning the plant's entire output, it can theoretically charge US users whatever it likes for the desalinated water, with the added kicker of being in a strong position to monetise some of its existing Colorado River water rights in order to subsidise the unit cost of the desalinated water to its customers.

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CONACULTA

Opening Night of the Photo Exposition

GREY GARDENS

By Amaury Ciappara

Thursday, July 16,
 At the Mezzanine of the Rosarito ICBC (Baja Institute of Culture)
 7:00 p.m.
 Free Admission

ICBC Rosarito Beach
 2004 Jose Haros Aguilar St. (By City Hall building)
 Phone (661)612-6760
comunicacion.icbcrosarito@gmail.com

From Front Page

6 Bands Will Help Kids with the Blues at Fourth Annual Rosarito Blues Fest

This year Tommy Castro & The Painkillers lead a lineup of six bands. The host band will be the Backwater Blues Band from San Diego.

"The Baja Blues Fest has raised more than \$45,300 for local children's charities and projects this year should add a lot more, with several Southwest television stations among event sponsors", said Jackie Alameda, president of the Baja Blues Fest Organization.

Events range from a Friday night kickoff party to Saturday's day-long concert featuring six bands to a Sunday jam session. Tickets can be purchased for individual events or the entire festival weekend.

Further details are available at www.bajabluesfest.org or by email request to admin@bajabluesfest.org. If you have any questions, contact

admin@bajabluesfest.org or call (from US) 1-800-520-5471, (from Mexico)

01-661-614-0513 and ask for Jackie Alameda, president of the Baja Blues Fest Organization.

Tickets and event packages range from \$10 to \$35. The Baja Blues Fest Organization helps sponsor the hard work and programs provided by local children's

charities for medical needs, housing, education, reading programs, a school and a food bank.

Special lodging packages are being offered by the Rosarito Beach Hotel, the largest and most famous oceanfront resort in Baja. Information is available at www.rosaritobeachhotel.com

TV stations from Yuma, Mexicali, San Luis and El Centro are among this year's sponsors, including channels KYMA 11 (NBC), KSWT 13 (CBS) and Estrella TV KSWT 13.3. They will be in Rosarito in August producing advance promos.

Event Schedule

Friday, August 21, 2015 – Meet-N-Greet Pro-Jam & August Birthday Party – 7pm to 11pm. Saturday, August 22, 2015 – Baja Blues Fest All-Day Event – Gates open 10:30am featuring Music, Food, Drink, Prizes and a variety of art, treasures and information until approximately 8pm.

Sunday, August 23, 2015 – Jam-Session from 1pm to 4pm where the locals and the pros play together.

Cost: (All Prices are in US Dollars – pesos at the daily rate of exchange)

3-Day All Event Ticket, sold in advance only, \$35 Saturday only event \$20 in advance - \$25 at the gate Friday night only event \$10 at the gate Sunday afternoon only event \$10 at the gate Tickets available at:

<http://www.bajabluesfest.org/index.php/tickets> Baja's Click-on.com –

Free Road at KM 44.4, Local #1, Rosarito Rosarito Beach Hotel

BAND Lineup: Headlining – Tommy Castro and The Painkillers - "Tommy Castro and The Painkillers are a crackling, stripped-down band with plenty of grit and a rocking soul." – Jambands.com

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Missy Andersen – Follows her self-titled debut with a timeless follow-up of blues going straight to the spirit and body. Nominated for 2 awards 2015 Blues Blast Music Award Nominations, Soul Blues Album & Female Blues Artist.

Hola Soy Lola - Tijuana 's Hola Soy Lola's distinctive style is highlighted by its originality, spontaneity,

professionalism and more than anything else, by their joyful and fresh interpretation of classic blues and rock.

The Bayou Brothers - Well known for their rowdy shows, bluesy Zydeco that drives

the band and fans Zydeco dance crazy! Michele Lundeen - Dubbed the "QUEEN OF STEAM" for her stirring vocals and electrifying stage presence, does indeed command attention.

Media Contact: Jackie Alameda

General Assembly Meeting
For Club Marena (K 38.5)
Home Owners Held on Sunday August 16th to Review Audited 2014 FYE Financial Statements

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 16-31M At Ensenada
Wedding Pictures at the Valley
An expo showing the best wedding pictures shot at the Guadalupe Valley. Exhibit available at the Wine Museum. Free entrance. Carretera Federal Ensenada-Tecate | Km. 81.3 Valle de Guadalupe
info@museodelvinobc.com Tel: (646) 156.8165

July 15, At Rosarito
Flying Samaritans Monthly Meeting
Meet 3rd Wednesday of the month at Villas del Mar, 10:00 a.m. For info contact Susan Smith, President at: (661)100-6066 e-mail: susansmithz@hotmail.com at: FRAO@rosarito.gob.mx

July 16-Aug 2, At Rosarito
Rosarito Fair
To be held at downtown Rosarito. Carnival rides,

concerts, food and more! More information at the Tourism and Conventions Bureau, www.rosarito.org phone (661)612-0396

July 17, At Rosarito
Wine Tasting
At Mercado del Mar (by Blvd Popotla) 4-8 p.m. more info at: mercado_delmar@hotmail.com Tel: (661) 612 01 10

July 18 and 25, At Rosarito
How to Buy Real Estate in Baja Seminar
10:30 a.m. title, offer to purchase, contingencies, closing costs, escrow, property insurance, HOA. At Palacio del Mar, more information at: mario@bajaopenhouse.net phone: (858)366-4399

See more events in our webpage www.bajatimes.com

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Musical groups featuring closely related performers are not a new phenomenon. Pre-WWII examples in the U.S.A included the Andrews Sisters and The Mills Brothers. Back in the 1970's, Viola Williams, a Juilliard alumna, started vocal training her daughter's four young children. They began performing at local church and community functions as 'Mrs. Williams' Granddaughters.' As the quartet of youngsters...Debbie, Joni, Kathy & Kim...became more polished, their mother Florez (wife of renowned Broadway actor Edward Sledge) took over as their professional manager and changed the name of the quartet to 'Sister Sledge.' Their first album, released in early 1979 was named after the eponymous lead tune 'We Are Family' written by the songwriting duo of Bernard Edwards and Nile Rodgers. The wildly popular and infectious hit was soon 'borrowed' by baseball's National League Champion Pittsburgh Pirates and became their anthem on their way to winning the World Series over the American League Champion Baltimore Orioles. Of more-than-passing-interest to musicologists of the time (and perhaps more than a few baseball fans) was the alteration to the lyric from 'we are family/I got all my sisters with me' to 'I got all my brothers with me.' The change in gender specificity worked perfectly for the Pirates of 1979 and it works perfectly for the subject of this article, the Hermanos Herrera, with still one qualifier. It's only true when sung by one specific member of this uber-talented sextet. We promise to reveal the secret to our riddle before we complete our story.

As we were told by their proud father on their elegant website, "...united by blood and through music, my children have established themselves as the future of Regional Mexican music. Youthful exuberance, authenticity, and a refreshing image are the characteristics that are propelling them to new heights. They are able to capture various traditional styles with remarkable authenticity as they are true representatives of Mexico's rich musical landscape."

Their first ever performance in Baja California

will be as part of the all-star lineup of talent that will be featured at this year's 6th Annual Rosarito Beach International Mariachi & Folklorico Festival. Please Save The Dates: September 30th through October 3rd and The Location: the iconic oceanfront Rosarito Beach Hotel.

"Hermanos Herrera is a family group consisting of my six children. They play various styles of traditional Mexican music including Son Huasteco, Son Jarocho, and Norteño. They perform with an aggressive and energetic style that is both passionate and exhilarating."

Currently the group has recorded six CDs under the Sonbros Record label. The latest, a Norteño CD, has received strong radio play throughout the U.S. and Mexico with one of the singles reaching number one in several markets. Their newest Son Huasteco video further broke new ground as it was awarded the prestigious "Sol Poniente" Lifetime Achievement Award in the Mexican State of Veracruz. Their discography includes: Sonos Huastecos con Los Hermanos Herrera (1998); De Corazon Huasteco (2001); Cruzando al Norte (2004); Pasion Huasteca (2004); Siempre Unido (2008) Huapangueros Para Siempre (2009); and En Tu Corazon (2009). They are planning to release two new CDs in 2015...the first featuring new Son Jarocho/Son Huasteco performances and the second, later this year, solely focused on Norteño.

"My children have shared their music with a worldwide audience. They have performed at/on internationally renowned venues and television programs. They have shared the stage with Los Tigres del Norte, Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano, Linda Ronstadt, Conjunto Primavera, Los Lobos, Julieta Venegas, Ozomatli, Jose Feliciano, Montez de Durango, and Banda el Recodo among countless other artists."

"Beyond music, they have also established themselves as exemplary members of society. All six graduated as valedictorians of their high school classes and were all-star athletes in various sports. They have, or continue to attend UCLA and USC, two of the most prestigious universities in the U.S. Jorge

Andres Herrera has earned his Ph.D, Luis Albino Herrera received his Master's degree (both from UCLA), Miguel Antonio Herrera received his Bachelor's degree from UCLA and his MBA from USC while Juan Pablo Herrera is following in his footsteps, just completing his 1st year in USC's MBA program after also completing his undergraduate work at UCLA. My youngest two have completed their undergraduate degree programs at UCLA and are pursuing graduate work there as well."

In addition to their musical and academic accomplishments, Hermanos Herrera have maintained an active presence in the community. Through their music they have raised over \$150,000 for various communities and have assisted in countless fundraising service events, educating children and assisting those in need. They look forward to assisting the Club de Ninos y Ninas de Rosarito in like fashion when they visit Baja California this Fall. Here's some more details taken from their website: Jorge Andres has earned his Ph.D in Ethnomusicology at U.C.L.A. As musical director of the group he plays requinto, violin, and accordion. Jorge Andres has also studied classical and jazz piano, violin, and trumpet. The first instrument he learned was the jarana jarocho at age five. He enjoys many styles of music, but his favorite style is the son huasteco. Miguel Antonio Herrera graduated with his B.A. in International Development Studies & Chicano Studies from U.C.L.A and recently added an MBA from USC. He plays various instruments which include: tololoche, jarana, and bajo electrico.

Jose Marcelino is a graduate of UCLA and is now pursuing his Ph.D. While he plays the saxophone for Los Hermanos Herrera, he also plays other instruments such as the jarana huasteca, accordion, and the classical piano. While attending Fillmore High School, he was an All CIF athlete in basketball, cross country, and track and field. He graduated as class valedictorian Luis Albino Herrera recently graduated with his M.A.in Latin American Studies from UCLA. He plays bajo-sexto, huapanguera, and jarana with Hermanos Herrera. He has

written various songs on recent albums, including the most recent single, "Lo Dejaría." Juan Pablo Herrera is a graduate of UCLA and just completed his 1st year of the MBA program at USC. He plays the jarana huasteca, jarana jarocho, and the drums for Los Hermanos Herrera. He also plays trumpet and tololoche. He also enjoys playing with his Bulldog "Bamba".

OK! Now if you were wondering about the riddle about the one member who could sing the changed lyric with the most conviction, here's your answer:

Rebeca Isabel Herrera recently received her B.A from UCLA and is currently working on her MBA.. She plays the classical piano along with the saxophone. Rebeca Isabel is also a percussionist for Los Hermanos Herrera.

Venues performed at: Gibson/Universal Amphitheatre, Ford Amphitheater, House of Blues, Disney California Adventure, UCLA Pauley Pavilion, San Jose Performing Arts Center, Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Pico Rivera Sports Arena, Ventura County Fairgrounds (set attendance record with Los Tigres del Norte)

TV Appearances: Sabado Gigante, El Gordo y La Flaca, Sal y Pimienta, Despierta America, ABC's Vista L.A, Primer Impacto, Primer Edicion, Telemundo, Estrella TV, Mun2

Los Hermanos Herrera are definitely family...and they are excited about introducing their unique musical talents to Rosarito this Fall. They are just one of the very special groups that will be performing at this very special event where ALL...100%...of the net proceeds go to benefit the building and operation funds of the Boys and Girls Club(s) of Rosarito.

For more information, including how to register for the Workshops, how to become a Padrino de los Talleres and buy tickets for all of the concerts, please visit the event website:
www.rosaritobeachmariachifolkloricofestival.com AND the Facebook event pages.

Contact Rosy Torres, the President of The Boys and Girls Club for more information via e-mail at: rosymtorres@hotmail.com or via phone at: (661) 850-1773

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Flying Samaritans 6th Annual 4th of July Celebration at the Rosarito Beach Hotel was once again a great success.

Our thanks go out to all who attended, volunteered and entertained at the Flying Samaritans 6th Annual 4th of July Celebration. Once again Julio Acosta masterfully handled the hosting duties and Maryam Malak made the grand finale something truly special. Young Zach Guy was a great singer, and Lee Romero and friends demonstrated some fun Texas line dancing and then led an enthusiastic group from the audience. And, throughout the afternoon, the America Nova

Band not only entertained, they had everyone up dancing. This event is the major fund raiser for the Flying Samaritans free health clinic here in Rosarito. With nearly 1,000 people attending, we raised over \$10,000 which will cover nearly 6 months of operating expenses. Additional fundraisers throughout the year include once a month BINGO (3rd Wed) at Oceana and every other month Luncheons - the next two will be in October and December.



Your continued support is appreciated and critical to keep this service available to Mexicans who have no other access to health care. For more information about the Flying Samaritans, please contact Susan Smith susansmithz@hotmail.com 858-240-2360 (US) 661-100-6066 (MX)

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From Front Page

Kathy's Real Estate Roundup:

Buying a home in Baja: The right time, the right price.

A 2014 study by the real estate search engine Zillow revealed that the median value of a San Diego waterfront home is \$1,924,500. That's nearly 3.5 times the \$564,900 median for regular single-family homes in San Diego. The gap is still greater in Long Beach, California.

Certainly, the economic downfall of 2008 brought sales in the Rosarito area almost to a halt. But now the outlook is very positive. In 2014 we experienced a 50 percent increase in property sales, in relation to the previous year, and are expecting that in 2015 we will register the highest levels of sales in the last 5 years.

Part of this increase can surely be attributed to improvements at the border and to the bustling social scene at the Rosarito-Ensenada corridor.

The lovely Baja seashore is still lovelier now that border waits are down. At the busiest border crossing in the world, waiting periods have dropped to less than 45 minutes since vehicle lanes were added in September 2014. At certain times, the wait can be as low as 10 minutes. According to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, delays have decreased between 50% and 75% from previous years. "Shorter lines have fueled a 20 percent increase in passengers, luring more Americans to Mexico for family visits or getaway weekends," reported NBC San Diego. More improvements in this area are to come once the \$735 million border expansion project is completed.

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commented.

Our expats here have also been enjoying the many sporting and cultural activities in the area. For those who love yachting and fishing Ensenada boasts a top-notch marina. You can also take a very affordable sport fishing day tour, and surely come back with some handsome catch, such as, Marlin, Tuna, Sierra, Dorado, Wahoo and Barracuda.

If you are more into arts and culture, you can see excellent theater in Ensenada, and open air music with bands, playing every Wednesday of July at the Malecón. Not to be

missed are the sunset music concerts at the Valle de Guadalupe, organized as part of the Vendimia events. The offerings range from classical music to jazz, always accompanied by wine and cheese and the stunning views of the vineyards. So, life is good here in Baja. And the time to enjoy it is now.

From the Baja Real Estate Group Marketing Staff. For more information please contact Kathy Katz at Kathy.katz@BajaREgroup.com. About Kathy Katz. AMPI Charter Member-Rosarito Chapter Mexican Certified Baja Real Estate Agent Full Time Resident for over 20 years. Broker-owner for the Baja Real Estate Group with over 20 years of experience doing business in Mexico. Specializing in development, resort and retirement properties.

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