

El Residente



Following a Dream:

Joanne Loewen

Also in this issue:

Where Not to Sit in The Jungle
Golden Orb Weaver

The End of Dry Season
Puppies' Love

FREE MAPS
inside

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CONTENTS



Across the Board ARCR Board of Directors	4
The View from Downtown Michael Miller	5
It Happened To Me William Duckwall	8
Following a Dream Rich Sulzer	10
A Day in the Life Allen Dickinson	13
Wild Side	16
Maps	17
Guanacaste... From a Hammock Geoff Hull	22
Legal Update Romulo Pacheco	24
From the Embassy U.S. Embassy	26
Paradise, We Have a Problem Tony Johnson	28
Club Corner	33
Business Directory	35

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Over the past few months there have been several personnel change in the ARCR office. Just to bring you up to date, here's a current roster of ARCR employees:

Romulo Pacheco - *Director of Operations.*

Carolina Biamonte - *Office Manager and Caja.*

Daniella Rivera - *Reception desk, mail delivery, telephone.*

Ivy Kentish - *Customer Service.*

Laura Cerdas - *Member information, advertising, Facebook, seminar.*

Saicy Quirós - *Legal Department.*

Juan Carlos Calero - *Insurance Department.*

Carlos Ortiz - *Insurance Department.*

Bravleo Mora - *Security.*

Gloria Centeno - *Housekeeping.*

Welcome to another issue of fun and informative reading. This issue starts a new series, *It Happened to Me*. This time William Duckwall tells how he avoided a potentially unpleasant encounter with an Eyelash Viper! And, we have a wonderful story about the coming of the Rainy Season, the second appearance by Geoff Hull from Guanacaste. And, of course, all the usual columns are included, so be sure to check them out. Enjoy!

This magazine has been published every two months since 1995 as the official communications media of the ARCR. Our organization provides service to thousands of foreigners who have chosen Costa Rica to reside for short periods or for permanent residence. Since 1984 the ARCR has been offering reliable **services**, **information** and **advocacy** to Costa Rica's foreign residents. We have the experience and ability to help you with your residency application, immigration, business and financial management, real estate purchases and rentals, property management, insurance, pet importation and much more.

If you wish to place an ad in El Residente, please contact the Advertising and Publicity desk in the ARCR office or at the email address listed in the masthead. Goods & services offered are paid advertisements. Neither ARCR Administration nor El Residente research the companies and take no responsibility for the quality of such goods and services. Some articles published in El Residente may have been written by non-professionals. El Residente attempts to check all facts included, but takes no responsibility for their accuracy.

Cover photo credit: Rich Sulzer

ACROSS THE BOARD

Notes and News from the Board of Directors

Personnel changes keep happening. Kenji, who has been the face behind “service@arcrcr.net” and “info@arcrcr.net” has resigned – he has moved on to devote more time to family and to his second job. Laura, who was previously at the front desk, has assumed his duties. However, during the search for a suitable replacement receptionist, Laura is filling both positions. Unavoidably, some services may be delayed. Please check the *Editor’s Note* in this issue to see the complete roster of ARCR employees and responsibilities.

BULLETIN: Several members have complained about recent issues with mail delivery. **These problems have been originated by Aerocasillas.** ARCR is working diligently to resolve the problems as quickly as possible and we ask our members to please be patient with the ARCR office staff while we work to find a solution.

CAUTION: The Board of Directors advises member to be diligent when utilizing a credit card to buy fuel for their vehicle; there have been some recent reports of persons being over-billed or double-charged on their credit cards. We recommend that drivers step out of their vehicle to assure that the pump is reset to zero before refueling begins, and either use cash or double check any credit card receipts before signing.

HELPFUL HINT: If you want to reduce the hassles of dealing with the TSA when entering or leaving the USA, book your flight via Canada.

DRIVERS LICENSES: Someone recently asked, “Do I need to get a Costa Rica drivers license if I have a valid foreign license, my residency application has been accepted by Migración, and I have been in the country 90 days or more?” The answer is, YES!

Costa Rica law allows persons to drive for 90 days on a foreign license. In the eyes of the COSEVI, the three months allowed for driving on a foreign license is totally unrelated to acceptance by Migración of a residency application, so the person must leave and

reenter the country to obtain a new visa to reset the 90 day clock. Don’t get caught—the fine is approximately \$200.00 USD.

It is relatively easy to get a Costa Rican driver’s license based on a valid foreign license. Ask Ivy in the ARCR office for details and assistance in obtaining one.

REMINDER: United States citizens living abroad have an automatic extension for filing their income tax returns. The due date for expat returns is June 15th.

WHY JOIN THE CAJA? Besides it being a requirement for residency, there is a compelling financial reason; the private hospitals in Costa Rica will charge a patient about \$3,000 per day for emergency care. If the person doesn’t have insurance coverage the hospital accepts, or if the credit limit is exceeded before treatment is completed, the hospital will discontinue treatment and transfer the patient to a Caja facility. Check with Juan Carlos in the ARCR Insurance office for information on supplemental health insurance.

WANT TO BE A DUAL CITIZEN? There are some recent changes to the naturalization process in Costa Rica which can allow that to happen. Now, anyone over the age of 65 can apply and they do not have to give up their citizenship in their home country. Requirements include being over 65 years of age and submitting a recent copy of a police report and birth certificate. Additionally the applicant must have seven (non-consecutive) years of living in Costa Rica and pay the application fee. It will take approximately one year to process the application and the passport and cedula will be good for ten years. Interested? ARCR affiliated attorneys can assist you in getting the process started.

ARTISANS: We are still looking for artists and craftsmen to display their work in the ARCR office. Got a craft or work of art you’d like others to enjoy? Bring it by. Exhibited items can be priced for sale and we will assure the artist receives the payment, after paying a minor commission.

by Michael Miller

The Cultural Center and Eugene O'Neill Theater



The Costa Rican-North American Cultural Center flies both the Costa Rican and the USA flags at its front entrance. The Center includes the renowned Eugene O'Neill Theater.

I am often asked why I live in San José. After all, my friends will point out, San José is crowded, it is noisy, and has crazy traffic problems. Why not live in one of Costa Rica's quiet country towns, or in one of its beautiful beach resort areas, they ask?

Readers of my "The View from Downtown" articles know that I have many reasons why I believe that downtown San José has a lot to offer, and there is one answer I sometimes give that totally surprises my friends; in San José I can go to the opera. And not just any opera—performances of the New York Metropolitan Opera. Live performances! And, I can also see live performances of top-notch theatrical works from The London Theater, and masterful performances of the Bolshoi Ballet from Moscow.

How is all of this possible? San José is fortunate to have the "Centro Cultural Costarricense-Norteamericano." In English, it is the "Costa Rican-North American Cultural Center," sometimes simply called the "Cultural Center," which is located just outside of the downtown area.

When you approach the Cultural Center you will see that both the United States and the Costa Rican flags are flying out front. I asked Karl Schmack, who was the Executive Director of the Center for ten years, "is the Cultural Center tied to the US Embassy?"

"No. We are close friends, but we are independent of the Embassy," replied Mr. Schmack. "We are considered a 'bi-national center' and, even though we are independent, we work very closely with the US State Department. They see us as one of their most important partners for

promoting diplomacy, cultural awareness and language teaching.”

Mr. Schmack continued, “The Cultural Center is a non-profit, independent entity founded over 70 years ago. We are a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), and our funding comes from donations from private individuals and corporations, as well as some grants from the US government.”

The Cultural Center includes one of the great surprises of San José; the Eugene O'Neill Theater. This is an intimate theater that seats 300 and is renowned for its excellent acoustics and state-of-the-art Bose sound system. Throughout the year they present live jazz performances, chamber music, choral works, plays, classical recitals, and much more. During the opera season in New York City, they receive live broadcasts of opera performances directly from The New York Metropolitan Opera via the State Department's satellite. These broadcasts are projected on stage in high-definition, accompanied by exquisite stereo sound.

“The results are stunning,” said Jerry Ledin, a former member of the Cultural Center's board of directors and a long-time member of ARCR. “It is almost like being at The Met in person.”

“In some ways it is even better” added Karl Schmack. “Because the performance is captured by cameras from many different angles; you will always have the best seat in the house.”

One thing that is definitely better is the cost. You can purchase a seat at the Eugene O'Neill Theater to watch one of the operas for as little as 9,000 colones. A seat at the same performance in New York City can set you back \$2,000.

The Cultural Center also has other functions, the most important of which is teaching English to Costa Rican students. They have classes for kids, for teenagers, and for adults. As you walk around the Cultural Center, you will see several classrooms, many of them filled with Ticos eagerly learning English.

Another popular service they offer is help for young Costa Ricans who want to study at universities in the

Widely known for its excellent acoustics and its Bose sound system, the Eugene O'Neill Theater is a popular venue for live performances of classical, jazz and popular music, as well as live broadcasts from the New York Metropolitan Opera.



Left: Promo for a recent performance by an American jazz group from Colorado University.

Right: Promo for a recent performance of the opera “Romeo and Juliet” by the New York Metropolitan Opera.

United States. The Center helps the students prepare for, and then administers US SAT tests. They also assist students and families by providing information about living and studying at universities in the USA, and will help guide Tico students with visa requirements, student financial aid, and the reams of paperwork.

As you enter The Cultural Center, you will first encounter a large open area. There is almost always a display of visual art there, usually by Costa Rican artists. This part of the Center is known as the Sofia Wanamaker Gallery

and it has become an important part of the country's art scene.

The Center also has a library of English-language books. This is the Mark Twain Library and it offers more than just books; there you can find an impressive selection of audio books, periodicals, videos, DVDs, internet workstations, and reference material. I am pleased that their collection includes a copy of my book, *The Real San José*.

The Cultural Center receives donations of used books from members of the English speaking community in Costa Rica. Some of those books become part of the

American history and great works of American and English literature are part of what is available at the Cultural Center's Mark Twain Library.

Mark Twain Library; others are donated to needy schools throughout Costa Rica.

Former Director Karl Schmack says that the Cultural Center encourages participation and involvement from Americans and other expats. Whether it is to attend the opera or other events, to explore the Mark Twain Library, or to make use of any of their other services, visitors are always welcomed. And, Mr. Schmack adds, "We are always happy for members of the expat community to volunteer their time at the Center."

If you would like to learn more about The Cultural Center, or attend one of its performances, visit The Center's website www.centrocultural.cr to learn about upcoming events. Once there, click on the box that says "Cultura" and select "Eventos Culturales."

The Cultural Center and the Eugene O'Neill Theater are located on Calle 37, 150 meters north of Avenida 2. That is about 5 blocks west of the San Pedro Mall, and two blocks east of downtown San José's very popular restaurant row, known as Paseo Gastronomico la Luz.

I understand that living in San José is not for everyone. But no matter where you live in this beautiful country, you should keep in mind that there are many reasons to spend some time in downtown San José. Despite its issues, the city has a rich tradition of history, religion, and culture, and is the hub of Costa Rica's art, music, and cultural events. The Costa Rican-North American Cultural Center, and its Eugene O'Neill Theater, are very important components of the cultural life of Costa Rica.

It is all part of The Real San José.

Michael Miller is the author of the first and only guide book for Downtown San José, titled, The Real San José. Paperback copies are available at the ARCR office. E-book copies are available at Amazon/Kindle.

A special thank you to Karl Schmack, who served as the Executive Director of the Cultural Center for over ten years. This article would not have been possible without the time and information he generously provided.



The Mark Twain Library at the Cultural Center includes English-language books, periodicals, DVDs, internet work stations and many other resources for students and members.

by William Duckwall

Where Not to Sit in The Jungle

This is an occasional new series about some of the hiccups, mazes, and successes expats have encountered as they attempted to navigate the sometimes unfamiliar aspects of Costa Rica. We present these stories in the hope that by knowing them, other member's forays into unfamiliar and confusing territory might become a little easier. If you have an experience you would like to share, please let us know.

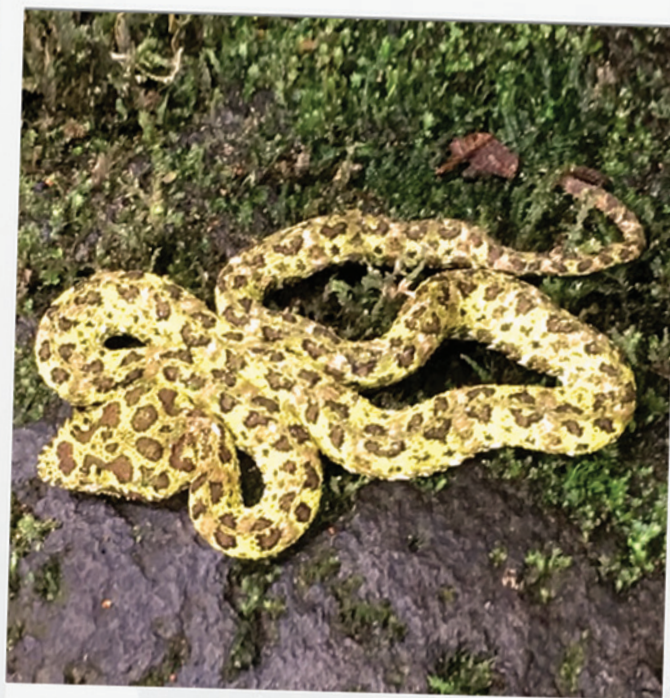
Today I am celebrating 24,478 days of not being bitten on the butt by a poisonous viper! Why does this come to mind now; why didn't I mention this after say, 10,000 days? Or even 20,000 days?

Well, I hadn't really given it any thought at those times, just as I hadn't given much thought to my continuing success of not finding tarantulas in the bananas. What set today apart was the closeness of ending my run of good luck.

On day 24,478, my wife, Janet, and I went for a walk in Braulio Carrillo National Park. This is the largest park in Costa Rica and is located between Guápiles and San José on Highway 32. This is the route we take from San José to our home in Guápiles, and it goes right through the park. As we drive through the Central Valley there is a gentle transition from urban streets to rural farms, and then a sudden, abrupt transition to rain forest jungle. That's where the park begins. There are two park entrances, one is on Ruta 32 near the bottom of the park, close to Guápiles, and that's where we entered.

The park is largely undeveloped. At the lower entrance there are just a few short trails. Two are well-groomed, leveled, graveled, and easy to walk. A third is a longer trail, a 2.5 km loop. It is less polished, with big rocks to clamber around and a steep rocky descent/ascent, plus a small stream to ford, both coming and going. We chose this longer trail.

On our way out, after we had taken off our shoes and walked across the stream, I was looking for a good rock to sit on so that I could brush my feet off and put my shoes back on. I spotted a convenient one and aimed my butt towards it, flaps-down, and was beginning my descent when I noticed a yellowish patch among the mosses and liverworts; a closer look determined it was an Eyelash Viper! He was just a little fellow, really a baby, only eight



inches or so long, and was lying there, sunning himself on the rock.

Eyelash Vipers are so-named because they have scales that stick up above each eye. They are usually really mellow snakes that rely 100% on their camouflage and don't seem to mind people poking cameras at them. They do, I assume, protest when people carelessly put a hand (or a butt) down on top of them. Eyelash Vipers are responsible for several bites per year here in Costa Rica, which include an occasional fatality.

We'd seen an Eyelash Viper before at a nature lodge, lying on a palm frond near the cafeteria entrance. That time we had the usual expat sort of reaction: SOMEONE PLEASE CAPTURE IT AND RELOCATE IT... FAR AWAY! But nope, that's not the standard response to a sighting here in Costa Rica; the locals just called everyone over to see it and take pictures, and then proceeded on into the cafeteria for lunch. People here live a little closer to the wildlife and seem to assume no one will do anything profoundly stupid.

Thankfully I had not done something stupid! After taking the accompanying photo I found a different, unoccupied rock to sit on and donned my shoes, after which we calmly finished our walk, leaving our new friend where we found him.

Paradoxically, I was actually pretty happy to have discovered the little guy, especially as compared to finding him by sitting on him! It was just nice to find a native, wild critter on our own, without having a guide point him out.

But I will now be a little more cautious about where I sit; I plan to extend my 24,478 day record a good while longer!



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(10) FOLLOWING A DREAM

by Rich Sulzer

Joanne Loewen—Graphic Artist, Entrepreneur

Joanne Loewen arrived in Costa Rica in 1993, a successful business woman from Canada, with the goal of transferring her many talents from her home country to the warm, tropical environment of Costa Rica. But she wasn't met with instant success.

Armed with three degrees (journalism and multi-media communications, fine arts and film production, and finance) she tried many things. First she partnered with three others to start a multi-pronged company doing real estate development, automotive wheel alignment, and customer service training for the tourism industry. For various reasons, however, the business never took hold and Loewen was forced to fall back on her specialty, corporate and commercial graphic design.

Utilizing her skills, she started *gsa design*, soon garnering clients in the publishing and advertising industries, as well as a number of other companies. One of her early clients was *The Tico Times*, where she worked on *The Tico Times Exploring Costa Rica Guide*. Simultaneously, she landed AT&T as a client and produced the *English Language Telephone Directory*. For her clients in the real estate and hospitality industries she was providing design work, creating print products such as corporate identity packages, logos, brochures, billboards, and the like. For still others she did consulting on design and training employees how to design on Apple Macintosh computers.

Over the years her business has blossomed and expanded into many interesting areas; she still does design work (her specialty has always been logos, which she continues to create) and now designs web pages too. She also handles social media for various companies, and recently branched out

to write scripts and do voice-overs for corporate videos. Most of all, Joanne enjoys the variety and the creativity of her work.

Her list of client categories, which span the globe, seems endless, including resorts, restaurants, technology, finance, and charter airlines, to name just a few. Using her multi-faceted talents, she smoothly transitions between providing work on corporate identity packages, websites, social media design and implementation, and photography. "They may want help designing on-line forms that improve workflow, or need voice talent for a video. I supply whatever they ask for" she says.

Never one to sit still, Joanne has also entered into real estate development and is a partner in two businesses; Costa Rica Tiny Homes costaricatinyhomes.com and Real

Estate Costa Rica realestatecostarica.com. The former is involved in providing eco-friendly container homes. Joanne says she is enjoying learning about solar power and water catchment systems, which are offered with the homes. In addition, she has also developed a health drink, BOOM! which is selling faster than she can make it! She is exploring the idea of branding the drink and expanding production through an appropriate bottling facility.

Ms. Loewen is definitely a multi-tasker!

She always had a dream to have her own design studio and to live in the tropics. Then, more than 25 years ago, she fell in love with Costa Rica and was able to combine the two in one package. Early on, Joanne predicted Costa Rica would become the "Silicon Valley of Central America" and has promoted the use of computers as a modern design tool. Keeping with that philosophy, *gsa design* has evolved with technology and is now almost totally web-based. Her biggest challenge, she notes, has been





staying one step ahead of the game; “It’s not easy making a living here” she says, and finds she is reinventing herself all the time.

When asked how has Costa Rica changed since her arrival, and how has that impacted her work, she replied, “That’s a whole article within itself. I could go on and on... but back in the 1990’s life in CR was much simpler. Technology, mostly television and the Internet, has forced progress and, as a result, many family values have changed, as has the marketplace. With those things come changes in lifestyle and now there are fewer Mom & Pop operations and more big business and franchises here.

The country has grown up considerably and has many of the “comforts” of North America, such as shopping malls, more cars, and condominium developments. All those conveniences cost money and the cost of living has increased considerably. Originally I found Costa Rica endearing because it lacked the hustle and bustle that I had become accustomed to in Canada. I miss that slower paced ‘Pura Vida’ land, but I try to afford time to enjoy the beauty of the Costa Rican countryside whenever possible.”

Our final question to Joanne was, “What would you tell someone coming here who wanted to open a business?” She replied, “Take inventory of what you want to accomplish and what is needed here, as well as what is already available. Do your research and due diligence. There can be many surprises/challenges you didn’t anticipate, so always have a plan B, even a plan C. And, make sure you have sufficient funds to bankroll your business for a minimum of six months.”

Joanne Loewen has heeded her own advice and has followed her dream to paradise.

She can be reached by email at: jolodesigner@gmail.com

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by Allen Dickinson

Kibbles and Bits

Kibbles? My dictionary defines kibbles as (paraphrasing here), to divide into relatively large chunks (not to be confused with “Kible” which means, “A person of Japanese descent born in the US and educated in Japan”) and this column is about some chunks of my life.

Recall, that I have mentioned I have teenage daughters? Well, one recently broke off with the guy she had been seeing.

So, a few nights ago, as I came home from the grocery store, I found a full mariachi band assembled in front of my house! There were eight guys; three with violins, two had trumpets, one was a bass player, there was a singer, and one other on tambourine, all dressed in traditional garb. They were standing in a semi-circle around my daughter, who was holding a large bouquet of flowers as they played their hearts out. Wow! He must have really screwed up!

I didn't much care for the guy she was dating, but now I may need to reevaluate him. I mean, obviously he's not taking the breakup well and spent a bundle of money on this over-the-top effort to try and win her back. That's pretty serious in my estimation! (And, it worked; they have resumed their relationship. However, my gut tells me she won't be long swayed; I give it another two weeks.)

But in the meantime, it sure was romantic!

You may remember that back about a year ago I wrote about living in a noisy country and my love of relative silence. I have also written about the problems of living in a solid concrete house where all sounds are amplified and reflected. Now, can you imagine what it is like living in a small home made of such a material, with pre-school age children? Well, here's another aspect of my ongoing quest for peace and quiet.

I had forgotten that having “smalls” around means living with the constant audio background of cartoons on TV—where all the dialog is uttered in the high-pitched



range of supposedly-young voices. I probably don't need to say that those tones are the antitheses of the silence I enjoy, and they can quickly become more than a little grating on me — they enter my brain and, over a short period of time, can scramble any rational, adult thoughts I might try to have.

The occasional sound of a passing truck, birds chirping, people walking by talking to each other, those don't intrude. Even normal levels of conversation don't bother me — sometimes I don't even hear them. But, a steady diet of false laughter and fake, high-pitched voices can

sometimes drive me a little nuts. Occasionally I think I can hear brain cells dying — they scream in a most unpleasant way. (Or is that me?)

Now I know why parents should have their offspring when they are young!

I don't like to wish ill of people, but for those persons who supply the voices for TV cartoons, when they die I hope their souls are consigned to a special place in hell!

But, after all that is said, I wouldn't trade my four-year old granddaughter for anything in the world, cartoons and all.

We now have a parrot. He/she (I'm too shy to ask), stands about eight inches tall and has beautiful green feathers, with a few more accented in red and black. At first, how we got this parrot was unbeknownst to me — it and its large cage just showed up on the balcony one day. I later found out it was a gift to my wife from an older Tico friend who had it for over 20 years, and was concerned that he would no longer be able to properly care for it. (For those concerned, the bird has been “federalized”— that is, all the legal steps to own such an animal have been completed.)

I don't know its actual age, but I'm sure it's older because, like me, it mutters to itself constantly. Also, it is really particular about what it eats — it likes apples, but not bananas, papaya, plums, or a bunch of other fruits we've tried. Nor does it like vegetables — carrots, cucumbers, lettuce, and more all get rejected and lie on the cage floor disregarded. But it does like bread! The family's morning ration of fresh bread has to be shared with it, sometimes with a sip of my coffee, so it's obviously a Tico parrot! And it's kinda cool!

As a young boy I had visions of being a pirate, complete with an eye-patch and saber, and maybe an arm with a hook (left hand only because, if you've never tried it, it's virtually impossible to zip up a pants fly with anything but your right hand), but I never wanted a parrot. That's because a neighbor had one and I knew it to be noisy,

occasionally screeching at piercing volume for no obvious reason, and I didn't want that. But, this one doesn't “screech” and I now have decided that a parrot isn't such a bad thing.

Besides, I have come to be this parrot's friend. When I am around it comes to the side of the cage and presses its head against the bars so I can pet it; it loves to have its head and neck petted and scratched, even around its eyes, and mutters little noises of pleasure as I stroke it. And, when I put my hand inside the cage it will “hold my hand” with its little clawed foot and give me “kisses” (that are really little, painless “love bites”).

So, I'm now reliving my youthful pirate fantasies and trying to teach it to say, “Make 'em walk the plank, Cap'n,” but I'm not making much headway. It's probably because I don't have an eye-patch. Maybe I'll get one.

I had an idea the other day and shared it with a friend. His response was, “Your mind is always working, isn't it? Working weirdly, but working!”

Well, yeah! I have to, because if I don't give my mind something constructive to do, like write these columns, it tends to lie around and do nothing but watch TV and eat snacks. A while back I even caught it playing with itself. In public! I'm afraid that if I don't keep my mind busy it will slip into senior delinquency (like juvenile delinquency but with greyer hair and better friends). And there's only so much golf, reading, Internet surfing, and playing solitaire my mind can handle before it starts to get a little sloppy.

Like the time my mind was not being closely watched and came up with the idea for inventing invisible paint. It said, “We humans see colors via reflected light, but we can't see ultraviolet, so, all one has to do is find the formula for a paint that only reflects the ultraviolet part of the color spectrum, then anything coated with the paint couldn't be seen. Think of the military applications!”

Well, you can see why I have to keep my mind busy! With thoughts like that, it needs close supervision!

20
100

TIME

20
100

FOR YOUR

20
100

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20
100

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Golden Orb Weaver

Costa Rica gold. Well, this is the Rich Coast, but not all that glitters is gold. Or something like that. In this Wild Side we take a look at one of the top 10 weird creatures of the country, the Golden Orb Weaver.

An incredible spider, *Nephila clavipes*, known as the Araña de Oro in Spanish, can be found in the lowlands on both coasts of the country. The female and her web are conspicuous in the forest, being one of the largest you will find here. A female's body can be 3 to 4 cm, with a leg span of 5 cm, and she looks quite predatory. Males are much smaller at 4 to 8 mm, and several will often hang around a female's web to poach from the ample food supply... and there is plenty of room to hang around! The Golden Orb Weaver spins its silk between branches, creating an enormous web up to a meter wide, often just a few meters off the ground. Its golden color helps to attract their diet of flies, bees, beetles, moths, and butterflies. It also blends in with its environment. The web itself is extremely strong and has even been known to capture small hummingbirds.

The spider is venomous and injects its prey to paralyze it, then wraps it in silk before moving it to a different location to dine. The venom is powerful, and can be quite painful to humans, though not fatal. Fortunately we are of little interest to them.

Particularly interesting, however, is current the investigation into the composition of their very strong web. Promising research by a group at Hannover Medical University suggests it could be used for the engineering



of nerve regrowth, which in turn could literally turn the silk into gold in the future. They are also looking into how the fibers could treat wounds and connect veins in humans. Watch out Spiderman!

The species itself is the oldest surviving spider species, which may account for its size, with a fossilized specimen dating back 165 million years ago having been uncovered in Mongolia in 2011. In perfect condition, it is larger than a human hand!

Good spots to observe this species today, in a less fearsome size, include Corcovado, Curu, Palo Verde and Cahuita National parks. Just don't get 'caught' while spying...

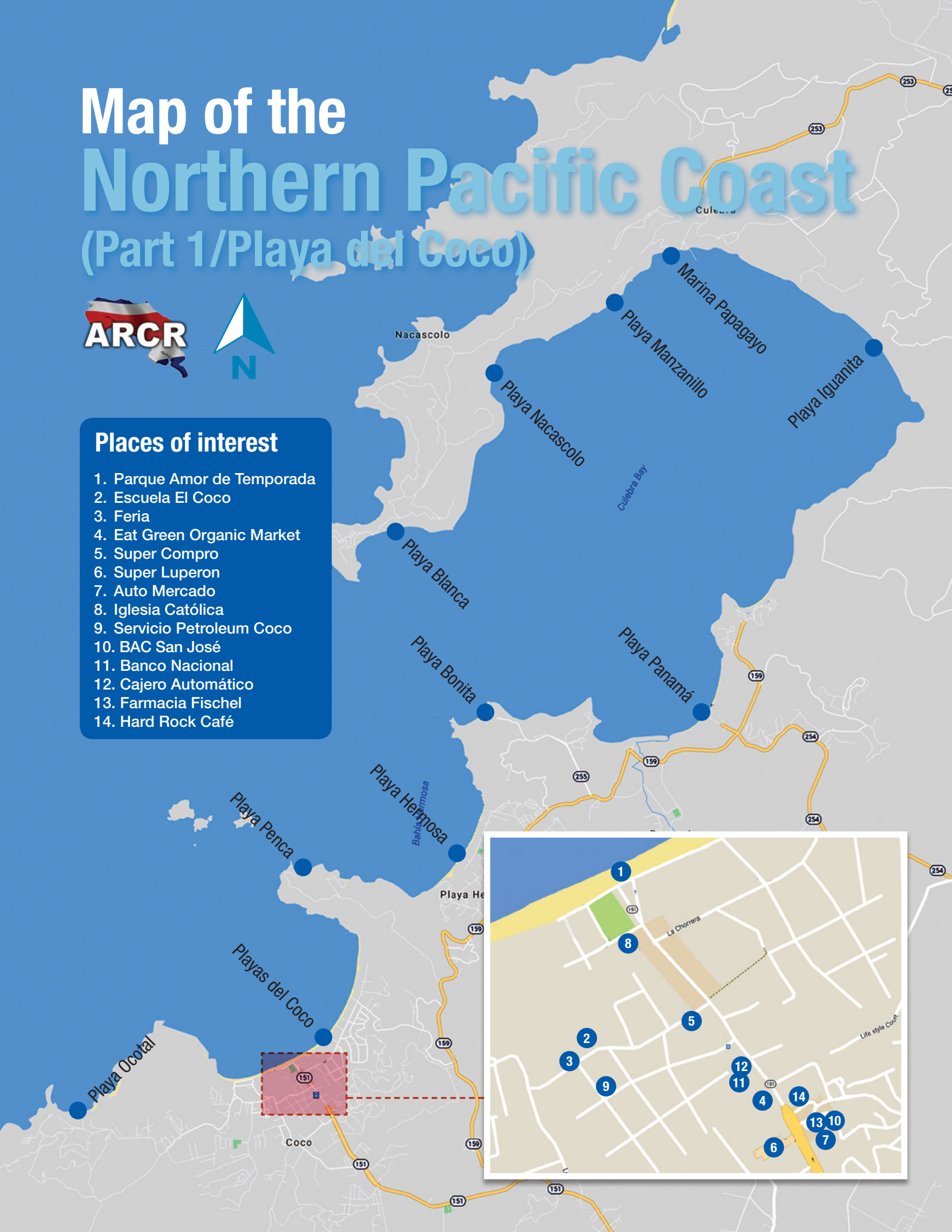
Map of the Northern Pacific Coast

(Part 1/Playa del Coco)



Places of interest

1. Parque Amor de Temporada
2. Escuela El Coco
3. Feria
4. Eat Green Organic Market
5. Super Compro
6. Super Luperon
7. Auto Mercado
8. Iglesia Católica
9. Servicio Petroleum Coco
10. BAC San José
11. Banco Nacional
12. Cajero Automático
13. Farmacia Fischel
14. Hard Rock Café



Map of downtown San José

Museums

1. M. de Arte Costarricense
2. M. de Arte y Diseño Contemporáneo (FANAL)
3. M. Nacional
4. M. del Ferrocarril
5. M. de Jade
6. M. de Criminología
7. M. de Oro y Numismática
8. M. Filatélico y Telegráfico
9. M. de los Niños

Hospitals

1. H. Calderón Guardia
2. H. San Juan de Dios
3. H. Nacional de Niños
4. H. de la Mujer
5. H. México
6. Cruz Roja Costarricense
7. H. Clínica Santa Rita
8. H. Clínica Bíblica
9. H. Clínica Católica

Markets

1. Mercado Central
2. Mercado Borbón
3. Mercado Paso de la Vaca
4. Mercado de Mayoreo
5. Mercado de la Coca Cola

Churches

1. Catedral Metropolitana
2. Iglesia La Merced
3. La Soledad
4. Santa Teresita
5. El Carmen



Bus stations

1. Caribe Sur / Valle de la Estrella / Bribí / Sixaola / Limón / Guápiles / Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí / Siquirres / Río Frío / Pocora / Cariari
2. Liberia / Playa del Coco
3. Santa Cruz / Brasilito / Flamingo / Potrero
4. Nicoya / Tamarindo / Nosara / Sámara / Gofito / Palmar Norte / San Vito / Paso Canoas
5. Puntarenas / San Ramón
6. Jacó
7. Parrita / Quepos / Manuel Antonio Dominical / Uvita
8. Puerto Jiménez (Corcovado)
9. San Isidro del General (Pérez Zeledón)
10. Turrialba
11. Cartago / Paraíso
12. Heredia
13. Aeropuerto Intl. Juan Santamaría / Alajuela / Volcán Poás
14. San Carlos / La Fortuna / Los Chiles / Naranjo / Zarcero / Ciudad Quesada / Monteverde / Tilarán
15. Volcán Irazú
16. Panama City, Albrook terminal

Map of La Fortuna



- ## Places of interest
1. Parque de La Fortuna
 2. Piste de atletismo
 3. Oficina de correos
 4. Fuerza Pública
 5. Bomberos de Costa Rica
 6. Clínica Sanar
 7. Estadio Berni Hidalgo
 8. Colegio Escuela Sta. María de la Montaña
 9. Colegio Técnico Profesional
 10. Redondel de La Fortuna
 11. Iglesia Católica
 12. Salón Pastoral
 13. Iglesia Metodista
 14. Salón del Reino
 15. Mercado de Artesanía
 16. Souvenir Arte Nómada
 17. Tienda de Artesanías
 18. Centro Comercial El Buño
 19. Centro Comercial ADIFORT
 20. Hey Market Supermercado
 21. Super Fortuna
 22. Mini Market Arenal
 23. Mega Super
 24. Pali La Fortuns
 25. Banco Nacional
 26. Banco de Costa Rica
 27. BAC San José
 28. Banco Coocique
 29. Gasolinera La Fortuna
 30. Gasolinera La Cristalina





Love

in translation
LETTERS TO MY
COSTA RICAN
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22 GUANACASTE... FROM A HAMMOCK

by Geoff Hull

The End of Dry Season

Five blistering, hotter than normal months of dry season just ended this week, with rain. Towards the end of April, prior to the rains, dark clouds increasingly began to build up behind the mountains of Samara each afternoon, but never quite made it over the peaks. I had noticed back then, while having conversations with locals, that their eyes would divert from mine and be drawn to the distant dark clouds; there was a lovers yearning in their eyes as they gazed at what they hoped would soon quench their desire.

Just before the release of its showers, the humidity in the hot air wraps around the body like a suit, and inhaling the thick air reminds me of the similar increased resistance of breathing through a firefighter's face-mask. Then, with a crack of thunder, the dark clouds finally let go and it pours!

When it happens I am not the only one who drops what they are doing and runs clear of any building or tree, face raised to the sky, eyes closed and smiling in a wide grin of welcome. With my arms stretched out, hands open and fingers spread wide, I dance, relishing the sensation of the welcome rain.

What amazes me is the incredibly rapid change in nature after only the first rain. Months' accumulation of fine dust is instantly washed off the jungle's edge along the roadside. Heliconia, Ti, Bougainvillea, Crotons, and Hibiscus literally erupt in color. The green after the first rain is like one of those photos you see where

the volume of colorization has been turned up to surreal levels. The difference between the tropical jungle's last, arid day of the dry season, versus the vibrant explosion of color after the first rain, is like the difference between looking at an old sepia photograph from the 1800's and viewing a back-lit, high definition photo on an iPad.

The dry, reddish brown bark of the majestic Guanacaste trees literally, overnight, pop alive with bright lime green moss and baby ferns that unfurl from the trees' deep ridges, giving them an emerald fur coat. After the first rain the awkward flying, and seemingly always lost, brown beetles suddenly appear. They're harmless and slow, and no matter which direction you choose to avoid them they will somehow fly directly into your forehead, bounce off, and redirect themselves to whatever location they just never seem to find.

Late at night the silence of a break in the rain awakened me and I looked outside my window to see a few little bright lights dancing all over my back yard! Ah, the childhood magic of fireflies still excites me as if I were five years old. As I stare out the window I grab a little penlight from the night stand and hold it up to the window, flashing it a few times. Instantly the yard lights up like a thousand lighters at a Bob Marley concert (I recall from my past). I think I just started a firefly mating orgy outside.

I feel the bed move and Georgia scoots next to me and we sit and watch the light show for about ten minutes. Then the rain starts up again and the show ends. The raindrops bouncing on our tin roof lull us back to sleep. It'll be sunny in the morning, with increasing late afternoon clouds, hopefully followed by another shower.

I love the wet season.

Geoff Hull is a retired fire service Captain and Paramedic from California. He and his family have lived in Playa Samara since he retired in 2010. He spends his days beach-bumming, surfing, gardening, and wrestling his memoirs into a future book. Read excerpts from them at: www.fireflashbacks.wordpress.com

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

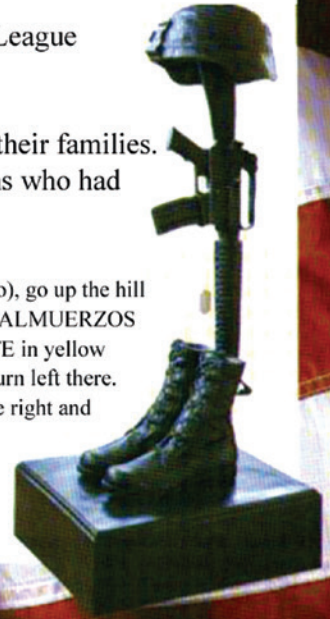
FRIDAY, MAY 26TH, 2017, 11AM.

This year's Memorial Day Ceremony will be conducted by the Marine Corps League Costa Rica at the Campo de Esperanza Cemetery in San Antonio de Escazú.

Everyone is invited to attend, especially veterans and widows of veterans and their families. Admission is free. The names of the United States of America military veterans who had passed on in Costa Rica since the last Memorial Day Ceremony will be read.

Directions to the Cemetery: From behind the Catholic church in San Miguel de Escazú (Escazú Centro), go up the hill on Calle 132 following the curves in the road. At about two kilometers, you will see a red TIQUICIA ALMUERZOS sign by a street on the right. About 50 feet past that, you will see a sign INTERSECCION ADELANTE in yellow and black with green graffiti. At the next road on the left there is a sign Dr. Elizondo with an arrow. Turn left there. Go over a little bridge with a yellow fence on both sides of the road. Turn right at the first street on the right and go straight up the hill on the curving road until you come to the Cemetery on your left.

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by **Romulo Pacheco**

Can a Resident or a Non-Resident Work Legally? (Part One)

Over the years I've had many inquiries about Resident and Non-Resident foreigners legally being employed and working in Costa Rica. As a practicing attorney, I offer the following observations and guidelines on this subject.

To begin with, the current immigration laws distinguish between two categories: Non-Residents and Special Categories (permits and others), and Residents (permanent, temporary). In this article I will address the laws and rules applying to Non-Residents and Special Categories, and cover those for Permanent and Temporary Residents in the next installment.

What are the rules for Non-Residents regarding employment? According to article 92 of the General Law of Migration and Foreigners (No. 8764 of September 1, 2009), Non-Residents (which includes tourists, foreigners on medical stay, and foreigners in transit) **CANNOT BE EMPLOYED**. Under this law there can, however, be exceptions made for those who work:

- 1) For companies engaged in the international transport of goods.
- 2) As special guests of the High Government of the State.
- 3) As guests of public or private institutions.
- 4) As business managers, provided they do not receive salaries in the country.
- 5) For media service workers whose wages are paid abroad.

Many people who ask about this law are foreigners classified under the categories of Non-Residents. Most have, or are in the process of, applying for a Resident Authorization, whether permanent or temporary. It is important to note that, in accordance with the law, when an application for residency has been submitted by a foreigner, and is in-process, that person does **NOT** automatically obtain the intended immigration status;

they enter a waiting period, or "legal limbo," where additional issues may arise.

With regard to labor issues, the immigration law always refers to the qualification "authorized." This means that even if a foreigner has opened an immigration application file with an expectation of approval, the status of Resident or Permittee is not authorized until the Administration gives formal approval to it. Although in the practice many foreigners, such as company executives, begin work as soon as they start the process, this is wrong; legally, they are required to wait until there is a corresponding resolution of approval before beginning work.

Article 175 of the previously mentioned law regulates this situation by literally stating; "No person or legal entity, public or private, may hire foreign workers who are in the country in an illegal condition or whom, even if they have legal status, are not entitled to carry out such activities." Said another way, even if a person has applied to perform a specific job function, in the case of temporary residents or special categories, they cannot engage in tasks different than the one authorized (a painter cannot work as a plumber, etc.), without the specific authorization of the Administration, for which they would have to be recognized under a specific category.

In this sense, Permanent Residents without conditions (parents of Costa Rican minors, for example), temporary residents free of status (foreigners married to nationals, for example) and other special categories free of conditions (such as those seeking refugee status or those performing cross-border work) will not be subject to this labor restriction. The qualification "free of conditions" will always have a purely working connotation.

Returning to the point of this article, referring especially to whether foreigners can start work once they have started the residency application process, I must emphasize that the correct action under the law is to wait until the DGME (Director of General Immigration and Foreignhood) issues a formal authorization. Doing otherwise would be like moving ahead without permission. The practical

problem of complying with the law is that the process for obtaining residency can take much longer than the three months indicated by law as the maximum period to resolve the application, once it has been submitted.

To recap:

- 1) Employers should not hire or employ foreigners until their final authorization by the DGME. (If they do so early, employers are exposed to potential fines.)

- 2) Being authorized to stay in the country as long as the residency process takes to be approved does not authorize, and it is not equivalent to, being authorized to work.

For more information, please contact me:

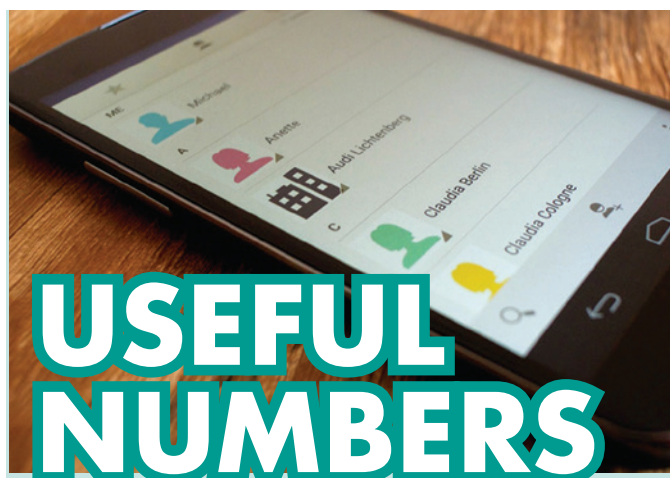
Romulo Pacheco

Attorney at Law, Notary Public

Pacheco, Marin, and Associates

4052-4055 / 8710-0780

romulo@residencycr.com



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26 FROM THE EMBASSY



Somebody Stole my Bags! How do I File a Police Report?

Whether you got pick-pocketed on the bus, or the monkeys at the beach in Manuel Antonio took off with your fancy new camera (the Consul has seen it happen!), filing a police report, a denuncia, is important.

Costa Rica has 911 for reporting emergencies and crimes in progress. But in order to report a crime after the fact, the victim must notify the Costa Rican investigative police, also known as the Organismo de Investigación Judicial, or OIJ. These law enforcement officers are charged with investigating crimes and gathering evidence under Costa Rican law.

Can't Fuerza Publica help me?

The uniformed police you may typically see on patrol are members of the Fuerza Publica, and their primary mission is crime prevention. There are also other specialized divisions of uniformed police responsible for other sectors, such as enforcing traffic laws. You can request their assistance, but only OIJ is empowered to take a police report and investigate a crime. One important note is that Fuerza Publica has a specialized division of police officers who assist foreign visitors to Costa Rica, called the Policia Turistica. If you are the victim of a crime, they may also be able to assist you in filing a denuncia, as well as advise you in many other associated tasks such as cancelling credit cards or providing information on how to get to your Embassy to request a new passport. They are also uniformed officers and can be found patrolling in major tourist destinations.

So how does the process work?

Present yourself in person at the OIJ office closest to where the crime occurred. You can find a list here, under: "oficinas" www.poder-judicial.go.cr/oij/ Upon arrival, let the attending clerk know you wish to file a denuncia.

An officer on duty will then walk you through the form. If you do not speak Spanish you may wish to bring a friend with you to help translate if the officer does not speak English. Try to be as detailed as possible; if you are the victim of a crime, no detail is too small to help the investigators! After you complete your statement and provide your identification, the officer will review the statement with you. If you are satisfied, you can sign off on it and request a copy for your records. If your case requires follow-up, you will also be provided a case number so you may request updates.

If you are the victim of a serious crime and would like the Embassy to assist you with follow-up on your existing case, our staff will need the case number to make an inquiry on your behalf.

I have a copy of the denuncia. Why is it so important?

Under Costa Rican law, the authorities cannot take action without justification—such as stopping a crime in progress, or investigating a criminal or civil complaint. Furthermore, the authorities need these reports for tracking overarching trends and spotting patterns. This way, they can ensure they are providing adequate staffing and resources to the areas most in need. More directly to you, a police report is not just helpful for insurance claims, but it may also be necessary to complete certain tasks. For example, certain rental car companies may levy additional fines on clients who return damaged vehicles without a police report. In any case, we recommend you contact your relevant provider and ask about their policies regarding waiving of fees.

Okay, so what do I do about all the photos the monkeys took with my camera?

Unfortunately, you might be on your own there!

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28 PARADISE, WE HAVE A PROBLEM

by Tony Johnson



Puppies' Love...

Doing for others is one of the most reliable and well documented sources of happiness. I'll bet you've often seen that in your own life, too. So my life plan includes volunteering at a few agencies here in the Costa Ballena. My longest service is with an animal rescue shelter where every time I help, some dogs make me happy just by being happy to see me. But as fortunate as I've been in experiencing happiness, and as much as I've studied the matter, I still have much to learn.

You might think that not very much of such learning would come from kids. After all, it's our role to teach these apprentice humans about the habits, attitudes, and lifestyles that produce a good, happy life. But, I had to revise that assumption lately as I learned a lot about happy living from kids. I also discovered that a happiness

lesson—even one well learned—can be forgotten and a happiness opportunity missed.

A little story will help me explain. Before a recent fundraiser for the shelter, I almost talked myself out of enjoying a guaranteed source of happiness; puppies! The morning of the event I considered canceling my participation. Oh, I had plenty of "good reasons;" my wife arrived late the night before, I was very tired, and it looked like rain. Besides, truth be told, I didn't think many would show up for the activity. As cute as they are, how many adults would want to "Smooch Pooches" when they could be inside drinking and rocking out to local bands? *Why bother?* I thought. I expected to be sitting alone outside, listening to the bands from a distance.

I was wrong. Boy, was I wrong!

To my surprise, many of the fair's attendees were parents and the puppy pen turned out to be a "babysitting service" for their kids. Most were little girls from age

four to about fifteen, and all wanted to smooch those pooches, freeing their parents to enjoy adult beverages in the bar and grill. Throughout the afternoon, kids came and went, and some even settled in and spent the entire time with me and eight of God's cutest creations. Little boys seemed less inclined to "mother" pups.

What could be a better source of short term happiness and a better opportunity to reflect on overall happiness than time with puppies and kids?

Kids and puppies are a happiness slam dunk

To a one, these kids were sweet, cute, innocent, free of games and hidden agendas; they were honestly expressing their genuine feelings. My four hours in an almost total-kid-world turned out to be completely delightful. It was a huge escape from the adult world of cynicism and games. The kids made it loving and wonderful. Their ability to find fun and wonder in a hair brush, a ball, and a puppy was infectious. They reminded me of when my world was young and fresh, sweet and wide-eyed. Traits that I, and all adults, still possess; often buried somewhere deep inside ourselves.

Things are harder for kids and puppies. Some don't have their full physical strength and agility yet, and they certainly haven't developed the mental and emotional strengths necessary for an independent life. They can't really understand how something that could be so much fun, like jumping from rock to rock on the beach or chewing on a favorite shoe, could bring such a loud "NO!", nor do they understand why something as boring as learning spelling words or asking to go outside before peeing, could be important. That's our job; to see what they can't see.

But, it's a part of THEIR ROLE in our lives to remind us of what we can no longer see; that happiness is natural. Not natural in the sense that breathing is our moment to moment nature, but as a potential of our nature. We are wired to be able to FEEL happiness, and without that "wiring," there would be no experience of happiness at all. We may not feel happiness continuously, but it's often present for the asking. And kids can remind us how to summon it.

So, when do kids feel happy?

Maybe it's better to ask when are they not happy?

Kids, like puppies, are happy beholding various aspects of their still wondrous world. They thrive on exploring

the new, testing their skills and understanding, seeing what they can discover and what they've learned to do well. In the company of critters like themselves, small, dependent, cute, wanting nothing more than to play, and be loved, puppies give kids a chance to be the "grownups." Demonstrating their evolving grownup skills, it was no accident that the most popular puppy activity was bathing the wriggling little ones. One especially cute pup must have gotten five baths that day.

A few adults came by and briefly watched the frolicking, but kept a hands-off distance. Some would pet the pups for a few minutes and move on. The children, meanwhile, simply dived right in, wholeheartedly absorbed in the cuddly fur balls, unconcerned about what anyone might think or what life was demanding elsewhere. Fully engaged, fully present, not distracted by cell phones or worries, unreservedly enjoying some of life's best: Love and youth.



Adult happiness: more complicated

As adults we're happy when some situation brings us pleasure, satisfaction, AND has some personal meaning. We look for some symbolic, emotional, personal, or conceptual "take" on an event to decide if it is what makes one situation feel happy while another feels "blah" or sad. Our "take" on a situation can give or take away the potential for happiness. Believe it or not, some adults seemed uncomfortable with the puppy pen. For them, the primary concern was not the joy, but the risk; "Be

careful. Don't hurt that puppy." Their focus on some possible danger erased all joy.

This might be called the "interactive" view of happiness. We feel happy when we "see" a situation as one that meets our needs. Happiness there is the result of an interaction between a situation and our perception of it.

Many believe that happiness is possible, but only if we're in the right conditions. In this view it's the situation alone that "makes" us happy. We can only create happiness by putting ourselves in the right situations. This "we feel happiness—IF the conditions are right" perspective seems confirmed by our daily experiences. The weather's great, we feel good. It's pouring rain, we feel down.

As conditions change throughout our day, the brief, intense short-term kind of happiness that comes and goes seems totally dependent on the situations. Those conditions seem completely in charge of our happy feelings. Happiness from this perspective comes from the "outside"—from the conditions.

A third view claims that happiness is not just dependent on external conditions or on our perception of those conditions, but is "always present inside us." It's not simply one of many emotions we are capable of feeling, but happiness is who we truly are at our core, our very nature regardless of conditions. Kids seem to confirm

this perspective. Don't bring distress into their lives to distract them from their core being, and they're happy.

Core happiness is harder to explain and understand than interactive or conditional happiness. But kids help. They certainly feel pain, but few have learned how to reduce or eliminate their own happiness. Few feel the enduring, happiness-erasing emotions of guilt, regret, remorse, loss, resentment, anger, jealousy, and so on. They haven't yet learned to live in the "rear view mirror" of life, looking back on a regretted past. Nor ahead to all the danger and pain that lie in wait for us.

Imagine the typical adult playing with a pup. You'll hear many "OMGs" and "oohs and ahhs" and off they go to another emotional place, returning quickly to their worries and preoccupations. From the core happiness perspective, happiness is still within them, but has been buried under adult concerns.

I almost spoiled this great opportunity for happiness by being negative about the booth I was assigned at the fund raising fair (the interactive view). I only focused on the downsides (packing the equipment, driving all the way up to... and having no one show up). I neglected to consider what Saturday mornings at the shelter always give me—some dog always happy to see me. Luckily, my sense of responsibility kicked in and the reality of the





event erased my negative expectations. I almost talked myself out of one of my most happy experiences.

Whatever the ultimate source of happiness (interactive, conditional, or core) it rewards us for certain experiences,

habits, behaviors, and ways of living (in this case, keeping my promises). In this view, happiness is built in to guide us generally toward the good. Happiness is thus a refined aspect of the pain or pleasure “GPS” that we’re born with—telling us “we want to feel more of this, then rinse and repeat the way you’ve been living.”

Wanna feel happy again in the future? Request the “Smooch a Pooch” booth at the fair.

I wasn’t just doing my part for the animal shelter fundraiser; I was a kind of shorts and t-shirt “Santa Claus” with a bag full of happiness for those kids. I could have seen the kids as a pain in the ass because I had to keep track of them and the puppies, but I didn’t... and they weren’t. I trusted their feelings about the pups and let them play as they wished. And that interaction with them made me happy; the puppies loved being loved, the kids loved loving the pups, and I loved seeing all that love given and received. It was a very happy day!

Next time: How all three theories of happiness can help us in pursuit of our happiness.

If you’re happy OR unhappy with these ideas, let me know at: paradise.we.have.a.problem@gmail.com

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COSTA RICA Seminar

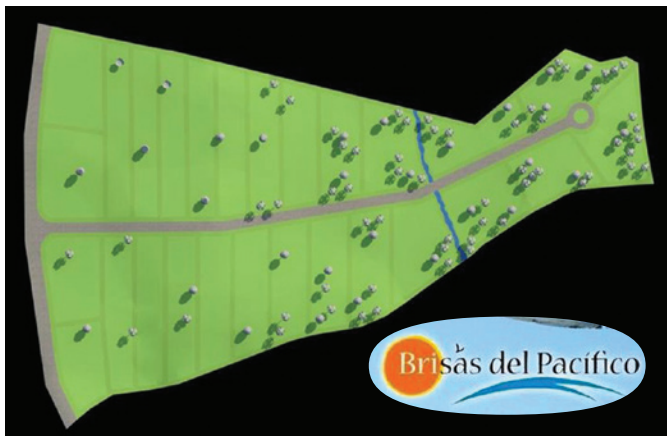
Join us on the **last Thursday and Friday of any month** (except December) in San José to find out more about what it is like to live in Costa Rica and how to go about getting things done here. We invite professionals from each field to share their knowledge and expertise with you. Hear what they have to say and ask them the questions for which you have not found an answer.

Subjects covered in the seminars

Costa Rican Laws and Regulations - Health System in Costa Rica - Buying, Selling or Renting Real Estate - Title Guarantee - Costa Rican Culture - Technology, Communications and the Internet in Costa Rica - Banking in Costa Rica - Moving and Customs - Insurance in Costa Rica - Living in Costa Rica



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► **Alcoholics Anonymous**

Groups meet daily throughout the country; times and places change frequently. Schedules for AA meetings and their locations can be found at: www.costaricaaaa.com.

► **Al-Anon Meetings**

English language Al-Anon meetings are open to anyone whose life has been/is affected by someone else's problem with alcohol. Alanon meeting information can be found at: <http://www.costaricaaaa.com/category/al-anon/>.

► **American Legion Post 10-Escazú**

The A.L. Post 10 has relocated the monthly meetings to Casa de España in Sabana norte. There is an elevator so those with a handicap will not have a problem entering the building or reaching the meeting area. If you wish to attend please e-mail or call for directions. Terry Wise, cell#: 8893-4021, Claudio Pacheco, cell#: 8876-1394, home#: 2225-4239.

► **American Legion Post 12-Golfito**

Meetings are held 4 p.m. 1st Tuesday every month at Banana Bay Marina. The Golfito GOVETS have been helping Southern Costa Rica for over 20 years. Contact Pat O'Connell at: walkergold@yahoo.com or 8919-8947, or Mel Goldberg at 8870-6756.

► **American Legion Auxiliary**

The Legion Auxiliary meets the second Saturday of each month, at 1300 hours in Moravia. Contact Doris Murillo 2240-2947.

► **Asociación Caritativa Canadiense**

The activities of this charity began in 2000 as part of the Canadian Club of Costa Rica. Our Vision is that every student has access to a clean, secure, well-maintained and healthy physical environment in which to learn and grow. We use our donations to complement what the locals can raise. Our volunteer membership is made up of both Canadians and Costa Ricans, male and female. If you would like to contribute or learn more please contact Fred Boden, fredrick.boden@gmail.com

► **Bird Watching Club**

The Birding Club of Costa Rica sponsors monthly trips to observe local and migrant birds in various areas of the country. For more information, please visit our website: www.birdingclubcr.org

► **Canadian Club**

The Canadian Club welcomes everyone to join us for our monthly luncheons, and at our special annual events, like

our Canada Day Celebration, no passport required. There is no fee or dues to pay, just sign up with your email address and we will keep you informed of Canadian Events. For information visit our website: www.canadianclubcr.com or email Pat at: canadianclubcr@yahoo.com to sign up.

► **Cooking Class Club**

Meets the first Wednesday each month from 10am to noon. Learn how to create memorable dishes from a culinary expert. Each class will be followed by a four-course lunch and beverage at a special price. For location, directions, and more information, contact Barry Blazer at 6008-9944. (Reservations recommended.)

► **Costa Ballena Women's Network**

Costa Ballena Women's Network (CBWN) started in Ojochal with a handful of expat ladies almost 10 years ago. Our focus is networking, community, business, and social activities as well as offering an opportunity to meet new people. Monthly lunch meetings are held the 3rd Saturday of each month at various restaurants with guest speakers talking on interesting topics. For more information please contact: cbwn00@gmail.com and see our FB page - www.facebook.com/CostaBallenaWomensNetwork

► **Costa Rica Writers Group**

Published authors and writers; newbies, and wanna-bes make up this group, dedicated to helping and improving all authors' work, with resources for publishing, printing, editing, cover design; every aspect of the writing process. Third Thursday, January through November, Henry's Beach Café, Escazu, 11:00 a.m. Contact: bbrashears0@gmail.com, 8684-2526.

► **Democrats Abroad**

Democrats Abroad meets on the last Saturday of every month at Casa LTG (Little Theatre Group). Contact Nelleke Bruyn, 8614-2622, e-mail: cr.democratsabroad@yahoo.com. Join Democrats Abroad at: www.democratsabroad.org. Register to vote absentee at: VoteFromAbroad.org

► **First Friday Lunch**

Each month ARCR sponsors a "First Friday Lunch." All are invited to join ARCR Officers and others for an informal lunch and BS session. There is no RSVP or agenda, just food and meeting new and old friends. Attendees are responsible for their own food and drink expenses. The FFL takes place at 12:00 PM on the first Friday of the month. Gatherings are at the Chinese restaurant, Mariscos Vivo, located behind the Mas x Menos grocery store (located across from the Nissan Dealer) and not far from Hotel Autentico (the former Hotel Torremolinos, where the ARCR Seminars are held).

► Little Theatre Group

LTG is the oldest continuously running English-language theatre in Central or South America and currently puts on a minimum of four productions a year. The group's monthly social meetings are held in the theatre on the first Monday of the month from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and everyone is welcome. Membership: Student C2,500, Adult: C5,000, Family: C8,000. For more information Call the LTG Box Office 8858-1446 or www.littletheatregroup.org

► Marine Corps League

Meets at 11 a.m. the 2nd Saturday of every month, at Tres Hermanas Restaurant on the service road opposite Hospital Mexico. Look for the big bull statue in front. For information call Bill Enell at 8812-0126 or write to mcleaguecr@gmail.com

► Newcomers Club

Newcomer's Club of Costa Rica (for women) meets the first Tuesday of every month, September through May. Contact: 2588-0937, email us at: costaricaporo@yahoo.com or visit our website at: www.newcomersclubofcostarica.com

► PC Club of Costa Rica

The PC Club meets the third Saturday of each month; social, coffee, doughnuts at 8:30 a.m. The meeting starts at 9 and ends at 11 a.m. Guests are allowed one free month before joining. Meetings are held at the Pan American school in Belén. For information call Dick Sandlin at 2416-8493, email him at d_sandlin@email.com or visit our website at: www.pcclub.net

► Perez Zeledon International Women's Club

PZIWC was formed in November 2009 to promote friendship between English speaking women in Perez Zeledon and, through friendship, to make positive contributions to our local community. The PZWIC meets for luncheons on the SECOND Tuesday of the month, hosts Walkers Day on the THIRD Tuesday of the month, and has a Games Day (board and card games) on the FOURTH Tuesday of each month. Event sites change frequently, so call or check our website for locations. More information can be obtained from Jane Gregson at 8899-6859 or Cathy Carrolan at 8384-8281, or email to: pzwomansclub@gmail.com. Please visit our website at: www.pzwomansclub.org

► Professional Women's Network

PWN provides its members with opportunities to network with other professional women with the goal

of aiding personal and professional development of entrepreneurs, students, and professionals. PWN sponsors service and outreach programs to "give back" to the community. The meeting charge is 4,000 colones for visitors, members 3,000. Membership fee is 12,000 colones and includes listing in the business directory, if desired. Meetings schedules vary. For info on the speaker for the month and to register, call Helen at 2280-4362. Location: Tin Jo Restaurant in San José, Calle 11, Av. 6-8. Or email us at: pwn.costarica@gmail.com. PWN website is www.pwnrcr.com

► Radio Control Sailing Club

Meets at Sabana Park Lake. For information write Walter Bibb at: wwbbsurf40@yahoo.com

► Wine Club of Costa Rica

The wine club usually meets at 1 p.m. on the last Sunday of each month. Join us to tantalize your taste buds and expand your education. For more information on upcoming events please contact us at 2279-8927.

► Women's Club of Costa Rica

The Women's Club of Costa Rica is the oldest, continuously operating, philanthropic organization for English-speaking women in Costa Rica. The Club is focused on serving community needs in Costa Rica, particularly on children's needs. Along with its philanthropic fundraising activities, WCCR also hosts regular lunches, teas and many special interest groups. Guests are welcome and further information and a calendar of planned events can be found at: www.wccr.org

► Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Open to men too. English language group in Cariari de Belén, English-Spanish group in Heredia, Spanish language group in San José. We work on peace and human rights issues. Call Mitzi, 2433-7078 or write us at: peacewomen@gmail.com

"Club members should review the contact information for their clubs and make sure it is up to date. Send any changes or corrections to: info@arcr.net, Subject line; El Residente."



BUSINESS DIRECTORY (35)

Holidays and Observances of Costa Rica

Monday May 1st
Labor Day
National Holiday

Sunday June 16th
Father's Day
Observance

Monday July 25th
Annexation of Guanacaste
National Holiday

Wednesday August 2nd
Our Lady of Los Angeles
Observance

Funniest One Liners

I didn't say it was your fault,
I said I was blaming you.

The shinbone is a device for
finding furniture in a dark
room.

Politicians and diapers have
one thing in common.
They should both be
changed regularly, and for
the same reason.

The early bird might get the
worm, but the second mouse
gets the cheese.

A computer once beat me at
chess, but it was no match
for me at kick boxing.

Evening news is where they
begin with 'Good evening',
and then proceed to tell you
why it isn't.

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