

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Manuel Antonio/ Quepos Tidings

The *Comité de Seguridad Cantonal* invites residents to join its efforts to create a safer community for friends, families and tourists in the Quepos-Manuel Antonio area. Many people and businesses are joining in to help this great cause.

For businesses, a \$100 monthly donation goes a long way toward helping to ensure continued safety and tourism in our area. Donations can be made to the account of Pro Mejoras Quepos-Manuel Antonio S.A., account number 400521480, at Banca Promérica. For more information, contact the offices of 2 Costa Rica Real Estate in Manuel Antonio at 2777-3270 or scott@2costaricarealestate.com.

We have a new pet sitting service in our area. Pam-Pered Pets will do home visits or even overnight stays to take care of your pet, "because there's no place like home." For more information, call **Pam Folden** at 8556-4961.

Stephen Robba, formerly of the Banco Bar, has opened Mymositos Restaurant. It's open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner and anytime for drinks. Hotel Mymosa also has a pool if you want to have lunch and then a dip. For reservations or information, call Stephen at 8386-2112.

—Jennifer Rice
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& Anita Myketuk
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Flamingo/Potrero News

Casagua Horses will be holding another "Taste of Guanacaste" Ranch Buffet and Sabanero Show April 17. Visitors can watch Guanacaste cooks prepare handmade tortillas on the *fogón* and enjoy a delicious buffet, including three salads, *picadillo*, *pollo en salsa* and other "tastes of Guanacaste." After lunch the show begins, with *sabanero* cowboys riding beautiful Spanish *criollo* horses, Tony the Bull and more. The day ends with an exciting *carrera de cintas*, the traditional fast-paced ring race. The fun starts at 11:30 a.m. and ends about 2:30 p.m., and the cost is \$25 per person. For reservations and information, call 2653-8041.

Hats off to the Blue Flag committee and leader **Bonnie Taulere**, who rallied the community and especially schoolchildren to work tirelessly to preserve our Blue Flag this past year. Many thanks to everyone who participated in the cleanup, including the area businesses that offered to help with donations of staff.

Nonprofit group CEPIA's "Playa Magic" fundraiser, held March 22 at Flamingo Beach, was a rousing success. San José musicians Sura Wak provided entertainment along with Teatro Som, which performed fire and acrobatic shows. CEPIA kids performed songs and dances, while CEPIA volunteers served food. Area restaurant owners and residents offered services, food and fun programs to help out with the evening. Everything to do with the

fundraiser was donated, meaning that the entire \$6,000 raised will go toward CEPIA's programs to benefit the children of Guanacaste.

—Babe Hopkins
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Jacó Happenings

The first three months of 2008 were very successful for the McKee Project in Jacó and the central Pacific region. The group has been taking care of many strays, as well as animals living with poor families in Quebrada Ganado, Tárcoles, Quebrada Amarilla and Esterillos.

Thanks to a donation from **Judy Yanover** of Los Sueños, McKee has been able to spay/neuter approximately five animals per week. The organization will continue this project, as its goal is to fix 100 animals. A big thank-you goes out to veterinarians **Eugenia (Gini) Bermúdez** and **Carolina Rodríguez** for taking care of the operations practically at cost.

There are some changes at Dr. Alfaro's clinic. Carolina is leaving the clinic, and it will be closed weekends and unable to offer emergency service from noon Saturday to 9 a.m. Monday. However, a new local vet, **Becky Mora**, who recently came to live in Jacó, will be available in case of emergencies. She can be reached at 8305-4549 or 2643-5438.

For more information about the McKee Project, contact **Katja Bader** at info@mckee-jaco.com or 2643-4012.

Los Perros, a new band made up of U.S. expats from Jacó and Hermosa, will debut its music tomorrow at 8 p.m. at the La Joya Project. DJ **Vicente** will be spinning tunes between sets. The event is an informal barbecue; a \$5 cover at the door includes food, but guests must bring their own beer. Donations can be made to the *Reciclar Hermosa* program at the event. La Joya is 200 meters east of the Costanera Highway; the entrance is just south of the bridge that crosses over Quebrada Seca, two exits south of Doce Lunas. A Costa Rican flag will be posted on the highway to mark the entrance. For more information, contact **John O'Toole** at 8391-6013 or john@lajoya.com.

Internationally recognized Costa Rican artist **Felix Murillo** is exhibiting his "Ocean and Nature Series" at the gift shop in Los Sueños Marriott for the month of April. His artwork is full of amazing color, strong emotions and powerful textures. Additional exhibits are on permanent display at Galería Murillo, 300 meters east of the municipality in the Picasso Building in Jacó. The gallery is open Monday through Saturday, 3 to 7 p.m. For more information, call 8361-5719 or visit www.felixmurillo.com.

The Central Pacific Women's Group will meet April 17 at 7 p.m. at Balcón del Mar for a showing of the movie "Not for Sale." **Nancy Dilbeck** from the Rahab Foundation will present the film as a follow-up to her presentation at the last monthly meeting.

Hollywood director **Robert Marcarelli**



Photo courtesy of Penny Houghton

THEY ARE THE CHAMPIONS. Under the captaincy of **David Crisp**, managed by **Roger Mathauda** and sponsored by **Bagelmen's**, the Costa Rican cricket team traveled to **Granada, Nicaragua, March 28-29**, and beat **Nicaragua** and **El Salvador** to win the three-nation contest. From left, standing, **Edward Dew, Julian Olivier, Ross McKenzie, Fred Walker, Chris Prasad, Ben Smith**; sitting, **Micky Peart, Andrew Gilroy, Roger Mathauda, Garth Tweedale, David Crisp**.

produced and directed this documentary based on the book by **David Batstone**. Marcarelli and his film crew traveled more than 120,000 miles across five continents investigating human trafficking operations. The crew also captured on film the spirit of those dedicated abolitionists working in the field to emancipate the victims. "Not for Sale" tells the story of these heroes in an effort to inspire others to follow their example and help the cause.

For more information about the Rahab Foundation, contact Nancy at 8369-2266 or nancydilbeck@yahoo.com.

—Christina Truitt
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Tamarindo Talk

Chad, Devin and **Lindsey Gaston** invited practically the entire town of Tamarindo to "come experience Costa Rican nightlife through their eyes" at the official grand opening of their Aqua Discotheque, right in front of the beach on the main boulevard. Seriously, it felt like everyone was climbing the stairs to the main floor of this gorgeous club with its exquisitely designed bar overlooking the ocean.

Chad said he was able to design the real-waterfall centerpiece artwork despite two or three architects telling him it was impossible. Upstairs, in the VIP lounge, locals basked in the music of R & B chanteuse **Sasha Campbell**, who by the way is taking a break from her day job as 911 Groovy Radio program director to open two weeks of United Kingdom concert dates for Grammy Award-winning singer **Amy Winehouse**.

Aqua Discotheque, a decidedly different

space in Tamarindo – it's 600 square meters, to start with – is open Thursday through Sunday.

The Santa Cruz Municipality, along with the Guanacaste Tourism Chamber, sponsored a wonderful event, Festival Folklorico Tamarindo 2008, outside Plaza Tamarindo March 29. It was nice to have the authentic Guanacaste culture among our little "city" life, with traditional food, dances and art exhibitions. Too bad they couldn't figure out a way to get the bulls there.

Cécile Lapierre is teaching a wide variety of swim classes at the Gymnasium Tamarindo pool. For more information, e-mail lapierre_costa@yahoo.fr.

According to Amigos de la Educación co-directors **Suzye** and **Barry Lawson**, funds raised at the eighth annual "Have a Heart" Charity Golf Tournament at Hacienda Pinilla have been used to build three classrooms to accommodate the enrollment of 95 additional students, which had forced the Villarreal high school to move some classes outdoors. In addition, textbooks, library chairs, school supplies, maps, athletic equipment and desks were purchased for other area schools.

Moreover, Amigos matched a \$2,000 donation from the Cantonment Rotary Club of Florida and the Give-A-Book Foundation to place three libraries in the La Garita, Cartagena and La Delicio grade schools beginning in May. Via Give-A-Book, they were able to buy six cases of Spanish-English dictionaries for all the schools.

Amigos de la Educación also renewed nine scholarship students this year.

—Ellen Zoe Golden
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