

THE GRAN PACIFICA WAVE

NEWS FROM THE EDGE OF THE SEA

JUNE 2015

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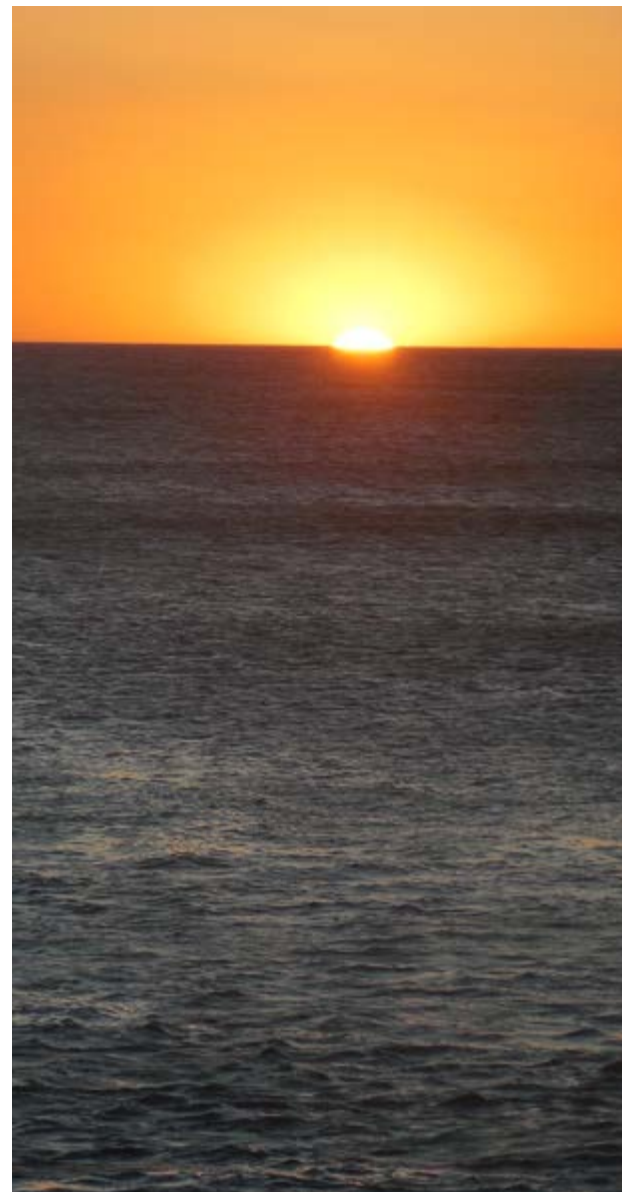
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news@granpacificacom www.granpacificacom Tel:2254-7600 June 30th, 2015

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News from The Edge of The Sea

FEATURE: NEWEST RESIDENT AND GRAN PACIFICA/ ECI EMPLOYEE

JESSICA WOLFE



Jessica Wolfe is a bright new asset to Gran Pacifica. She has fallen in love with the coastal area and recently moved to Gran Pacifica Resort.

Jess attended Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana, adding new depth to her experiences as she lived the life and culture of the city. While at Tulane, she received a job opportunity in Chile with Fundación Coanil, an organization providing homes and education for disabled children.

While at Fundación Coanil, she began to create translations and marketing material for a local startup business, EcoChile. She found a niche and thrived in assisting the business take root. At this point in her journey, she realized the dual nature of her interests- fostering the wellbeing of others along with the intellectual stimulation of creative problem solving.

After graduating with a Bachelorus Degree in Science and Engineering with a Major in Psychology and Minor in Spanish, she stayed in New Orleans and worked as a crisis respondent at a local shelter and as a medical advocate. Her love of Latin America and interest in the business world led her to apply for an internship with Gran Pacifica's parent organization, ECI Development. Since starting with the company, Jess has had the chance to explore the diverse terrain within ECI, working on marketing, financials and local outreach, as well as projects with ECI's CEO, Mike Cobb.

News from The Edge of The Sea

FEATURED GRAN PACIFICA PROPERTY OWNERS



Ruth and Karl Ohrman from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania are property owners at Gran Pacifica, and have been instrumental in helping children in the communities near Gran Pacifica. Mr. Ohrman has been a financial service professional for 47 years, and continues to be active in the firm he established, Coordinated Financial Services, which specializes in unique financial concepts such as special fundraising projects for nonprofits nationwide.

Mr. and Mrs. Ohrman work side by side in their fundraising business, and in November 2015, will have been married for 52 years. They recently renewed their marriage vows in the cathedral to which they belong in Pittsburgh.

Besides all the good they have done for various non-profit organizations and projects, they have raised two successful children and now have three grandchildren. All of their children and grandchildren live in Pittsburgh.

Gran Pacifica is extremely proud to have this loving, innovative and energetic couple as property owners and residents.



PROPERTY UPDATE

KENT PAYNE

Gran Pacifica Beach & Golf Resort strives to deliver nice homes and a tremendously tranquil lifestyle, and believes that being removed from the hustle, bustle, traffic and noise of a city is a plus. Homes can be a bit more expensive than in Managua or other areas of Nicaragua, but you will discover that the quality is much higher, since we build to USA/North American standards.

We are pleased that so many homes are now under construction at Gran Pacifica, and we welcome new owners and investors to the property. Some have purchased existing homes, receiving the benefit of years of growth of the property and plants. Some are planning to construct small casitas (photos attached) and there are six casitas being built right now. Some are built for the owners and family to use. Some are for re-sale and come fully furnished with A/C in the bedrooms and nice appointments.

Prices for a complete casita, all permits, kitchen equipment, land, furniture, sheets and towels included, start at \$139k. Let us know if you have any interest in owning one for yourself, or adding one to the rental pool (BTW, the one pictured was recently completed and already rented for an entire year). We can't guarantee high ROI's, but we can assure you that if we build it, they will come!!!



New owners and residents of Gran Pacifica Golf and Beach Resort include:

Jodi Padgett, owner of golf course lot #A-40

Bud Shimmon, who just visited his Casita #E-56

Paul Moore, who just spent his first week in his Casita #E-62

Rosa Marina Celaya and family, who own lot #A-13a and are planning a new home.

Zandi and Claudia Dezman, the proud new owners of #B-82

Please contact us at info@granpacificacom if you have any questions about how to own property here. We have a stable of qualified professionals for construction, legal information, immigration and continuing lifestyle. Come join us.

FEATURE EL JÍCARO AN ADOPTED COMMUNITY

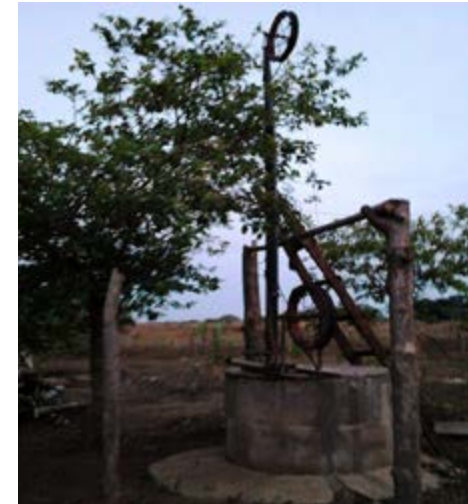
■ CHERYL NICHOLAS

The community of El Jícaro, just a couple kilometers from the gates of the Gran Pacifica Resort, has evolved into one adopted by residents and guests within and outside the gates of the resort.

The second issue of The Gran Pacifica Wave highlighted the new school, as well as guest Marianne Lidstone, a high school teacher who volunteered her time teaching English to the children at their new school. The school was built by several residents of Gran Pacifica, alongside partners a few kilometers from the property. Dinh Nguyen, Mark Randall, Jo-Anne Stoltz, Bob Price, Kelly McInturff, Dr. Ellen Roose, and I have all dedicated time and expertise to improve the quality of life of the small community.

About a month ago, as we drove into the community, we saw a mom and two of her children pounding clothes on a rock as Mom washed her family's laundry in the river. The clothes worn by the residents of the village are cleaner and more wrinkle free than yours and mine. They have never had running water.

The most recent and exciting project has been the building of the well. With the help of donations of material from Gran Pacifica, Bob Price and others, as well as time and labor from Dinh Nguyen and Mark Randall, this community will have access to clean, running water. The volunteers actually built a building with bathrooms, showers, and a large sink! Through the kindness of others, enough monetary donations have been acquired to build a well house, allowing the pump to be installed. For the first time, the village will have running water! Below are pictures of the old rusty non-functional well and the new structure with showers and bathrooms.



I'd been told there was an older lady whom Dr. Roose had diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and needed a wheelchair because she could no longer walk. My nursing kicked in and I asked Dinh to take me to her. I met Señora Sánchez along with her daughter. Watching the daughter as she struggled to help her mother, trembling and shaking, to a small plastic chair tugged at my heart. I visited Señora Sánchez a second time and measured her to be sure she gets a wheelchair that fits her body and is light enough to roll over the uneven dirt floor of their home.

I can barely describe the warmth I felt as, when I entered their home the second time, Señora Sánchez reached up to hug me, then reached to hug me again when I left.



Dinh Nguyen returned to California, and just emailed us that he had acquired a wheelchair for Señora Sánchez and only needs someone who is coming to Gran Pacifica from the States to bring it with them so we can take it to her.

No one was able to say how old the lady is because there is no documentation. Most people in the little village are born there, live there and die there with nothing to say they even existed.

Jo-Anne Stoltz has moved in a direction to help resolve that problem, by taking photographs of all the children, and then making library cards with their pictures and dates of birth on them.



As soon as Jo-Anne gets the cards laminated, we'll present them to the children. I am looking forward to the brightness in their eyes as they gaze at their official library cards with their pictures right there, identifying them as children from the village of El Jícaro.

Jo-Anne is also helping Ada, the schoolteacher, to create a library. Mark Randall is inquiring with the Christian Academy in Managua regarding book donations. A collection of books has already begun, thanks to the Ryan and Fulton families, who visited Jo-Anne and didn't hesitate in bringing with them many children's books. Below are pictures of the families and their donations.



Fulton Family - Mom and Dad, Kellee and Chris with daughters, Nélanee and Zoee



Ryan Family - Mom and Dad Mandy and Shane with daughters Sarah and Emily

It is going to be great fun bringing these gifts to the children so they can begin to use their new library cards.

Plans now are in the works to acquire used laptop computers and programs on compact discs in math and English to assist the children with their education, introducing them to a little bit of technology as well.

There is a need to grade the road, or whatever intervention will work, so that the children can get to school and people can get to the village when the road has been deluged with rain. We had to abort one trip and get pulled out of the thick mud on our last attempt to get to the village.

Anyone who would like more information on the activities at El Jícaro, would like to join us, or has items to contribute, contact any of the following people:

Mark Randall - mrmmsk@yahoo.com

Dinh Nguyen - iamsurfingtoday@gmail.com

Jo-Ann Stoltz - joanne.stoltz@gmail.com

Cheryl Nicholas - ldytru@comcast.net

GOOD SOULS ONLY

KARL OHRMAN



Please let me begin with my inspiration for this article. At one of our collection sites I noticed the sign above taped to the collection box in front of a Goodwill site.

Shoes for Nicaragua has been an exciting and very effective international philanthropic project. Pittsburgh Rotary Club initiated the campaign three years ago, and it has given many Nicaraguan children the opportunity to attend school where they normally couldn't because they had no shoes to wear.

In the first year of the campaign, Pittsburgh Rotary shipped over 4,000 pairs of gently used children's shoes to Managua, Nicaragua.



Last year, we shipped nearly 5,000 pairs. At the end of May, the rotary celebrated their third year collecting and shipping gently used shoes to Nicaragua and we have collected well over 5,000 pairs of shoes.

Shoes for Nicaragua has had an unexpected impact, and generosity has spread in many ways. Through contacts made with our friends at Gran Pacifica, the Monroeville Rotary Club funded a playground at a local school. Some of the students at the Pittsburgh schools who collected shoes have established email and Skype relationships with local students who live in the villages near Gran Pacifica.

An inspiring impact of this three year campaign is that our project has been operating without any budget or funding. It has been a success solely due to the generosity of local rotary clubs and area businesses. The folks at Gran Pacifica and ECI Development have been big supporters. We have yet to spend a penny out of our pockets for anything needed to succeed in this project, including printing, storage, and shipping.

If anyone would like more information or would like to help in some way, please contact: karlohrman@aol.com



Karl Ohrman is an ECI shareholder and owns a home at Gran Pacifica, as well as a part ownership in one of the condo units.

For more information on Shoes for Nicaragua and how you can help, contact

Karl Ohrman 800 570-9266 karlohrman@aol.com

MEET THE GRAN PACIFICA CONSULAR WARDEN

JESSICA WOLFE

It's always important to know the resources available in the event of an emergency, and to know there is a strong network of support in place. Here at Gran Pacifica, the team continues to create these systems for our residents and guests. As such, in May 2015, the U.S. Consulate General appointed me Consular Warden to the Gran Pacifica area.

In Nicaragua as well as the rest of the world, Consular Wardens work with U.S. Embassies to ensure the health and security of individuals in their respective communities. The term "warden" was derived from World War II, when Air Raid Wardens alerted citizens to emergencies, such as bombing raids. Think of me as your very own Batman-like street corner vigilante, fighting for the wellbeing of everyone who lives, works and spends time at Gran Pacifica. In actuality, it is a very tame position, but any comic book enthusiasts I just disappointed may still think of me as Batman.

The Consular Warden program is in place to facilitate communication between the U.S. Embassy and the U.S. citizen community. One important program that will allow me to help Gran Pacifica guests and residents is the U.S. State Department's STEP program, or Smart Travelers' Enrollment Program. STEP is a free service provided by the U.S. Government to citizens and nationals either traveling to or living in a foreign county. Enrolling in STEP is simple, and ensures travelers' immediate access to warnings and alerts, evacuation contingencies, and other urgent information about breaking events in Nicaragua.

I can also provide assistance in:

- Helping family members or loved ones locate you in the event that you go missing, are hospitalized, or incarcerated.
- Providing information regarding topics such as voter registration and income taxes.
- Providing information about Consular events being held in the Gran Pacifica area.
- Linking Americans to the right person at the U.S. Embassy for assistance.

As a Consular Warden, I will periodically meet with the American Citizen Services unit of the U.S. Consulate in Managua to discuss matters relevant to the security of American citizens in Nicaragua- specifically for Gran Pacifica and the surrounding areas. I have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Consulate acknowledging my responsibilities under the Privacy Act of 1974, and am bound by law to protect information given to me. Discussions and subjects brought to my attention in confidence will not be disclosed.

As our Gran Pacifica Community consists of more than just U.S. citizens, I look forward to advocating for anyone in the Gran Pacifica Resort and surrounding communities. Ultimately, a Consular Warden is an added resource and liaison for all.

If you have any questions, need assistance, or would like to introduce yourself, I can be reached by email at jwolfe.ECI@gmail.com. See you all soon out at beautiful Gran Pacifica!

HAPPENINGS

CHERYL NICHOLAS

Spirits reigned high at the Sea Salt Restaurant at Gran Pacifica's resort Sunday, June 14. Brad Corrigan, musician and leader of the band, Dispatch, with his group of fifty volunteers had come to the resort for a day of playing on the beach. When they finally were able to pull themselves away from the ocean, they joined together for a buffet dinner at the restaurant. The joy was palpable when, after a meal of hamburgers, fruit, salad and ice cream, David and two of his musicians played their music for the group and several residents of Gran Pacifica Resort. All chattering ceased as his melodic, spiritual voice floated through the crowd.



Brad has made a name for himself in the spiritual and musical world, combining the two to spread faith and hope. More information on the group's activities in Nicaragua can be found on his website, LoveLightandMelody.org.

Dedicated restaurant employees from the chef to the servers worked very hard to make the experience as memorable as possible, staying very late into the evening.

A few of the Sea Salt restaurant's employees

Iveth, server, Jaycil, bar manager, Chef Roys, and Julio, server



Happenings with Angela



Angela Smetana, the 'Go To' lady at Gran Pacifica Resort, has been very busy. She's organized many events from fun days in Managua and Granada to show gratitude for the employees' hard work to medical examinations for all the employees. She also organized a volunteer garden project for one of Gran Pacifica's local communities.

Angela and her son, Kaiden

San Diego School Garden

David Perram, Director of Student Affairs at Westerly School located in the Long Beach, California area, brought ten students and two teachers from May 11-17 this year to work at one of the local schools. This is the 2nd year the group from Westerly has come to Gran Pacifica to do social service projects in our local communities. Last year they put together a mural for the Zapote School. It was created by using drawings made by the Zapote school students, drawn on the wall by one of the Westerly art teachers, and then painted by the Westerly Students and Zapote Students. The first year was such a success, that they came back and do another project at one of the other local schools!



We decided to do a garden at the local San Diego school, located a few kilometers from Gran Pacifica. Collaborating with "Help Them Help Themselves", an NGO that Patrick Hiebert founded, the teachers and students first built two wooden beds 20 inches deep, 8 feet wide, and 4 feet long. Then, they planted tomatoes, peppers, and cantaloupes. They also planted a number of fruit trees, including orange, mandarin and papaya.



The teachers at the local San Diego School have always wanted to do this project, but have not had the right tools or resources to make it happen. The Westerly high school students helped provided them with those resources, to "jump start" the garden they have always wanted.

Even after the Westerly students left, the San Diego teachers continued the project by building a fence around the garden area to protect and have continued to grow and maintain the garden. Right now, there are tomatoes, cantaloupe, beans, squash, peppers, and corn.



One of the Westerly student's parents just contacted us. They had asked their son where he would like to go for their summer vacation. He replied that he wanted to return to Nicaragua to show his parents the work they did, and see how the project is continuing. They will be back on property Mid July of this year.

Medical Exams

"We contracted a medical team to come give all of our employees' health exams, based on their area of work. Required by MITRAP (Nicaragua's labor department), it helps us detect any health issues that the employees might be unaware of, so that they can be treated correctly, maintaining the safety and health of employees and guests. We are happy to report that all the employees are in great health!"



Employee Fun Day

Patrick Hiebert decided to show his gratitude for all the employees' hard work over the past six months and treated both the rental and restaurant employees to fun days out and about Managua and Granada.

On June 2nd, a thirty passenger van picked up all of the restaurant employees by 9:30 and headed to Managua. Our first stop was to Restaurant Casa Mia in Managua, a comfortable and very pleasant restaurant with great service and food. All of the employees had a fun, relaxing time. We spent a few hours enjoying a number of shared appetizers, entrees, and desserts. Our restaurant employees were able to experience what it feels like to be on the receiving end of good service!

After leaving the restaurant, we drove over to Volcano Masaya. Just outside Managua, it is still a very active volcano. We visited the museum and then drove to the top of the volcano.



Then, on June 9th, we took the rental company employees (front desk, accounting, surf shop, housekeepers, gardeners, and maintenance staff) on their own fun day. A big, thirty passenger van took us to Masatepe, where we got to see beautiful handmade furniture. Then we made our way to Catarina, a small town located in the department of Masaya. We enjoyed a nice lunch at the "mirador", overlooking the beautiful sparkling water of Laguna de Apoyo, a crater formed after one of the volcanoes erupted

Then, we were off to the Isletas for a boat tour, The Isletas de Granada are over 350 small islands that were formed in lake Nicaragua when Volcano Mombacho in Granada erupted. Many of the islands are occupied by private homes and/or wildlife, including an abundance of monkeys. The



After the boat tour through the isletas, we piled back into the van and drove to central Granada for some shopping and snacks.

One of the exciting benefits of this trip was that the employees in the reception area, who sell our day tours, now have a true understanding of what we offer. Now they will be able to share their experience with clients who are interested!

JEWEL OF A JUNE

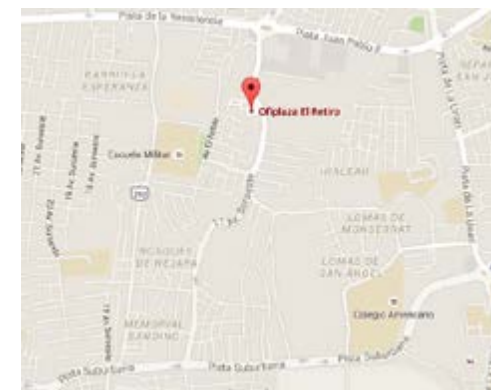


MIKE COBB

Where to start. What an exciting month it's been for Gran Pacifica! After a couple days of hard rain, the property is looking lush and green, and the golf course has really sprung to life with both players and maintenance crews. The rain didn't last long though, and many Nicaraguans and tourists are spending the sunny days of June at Gran Pacifica. In fact, the entire Las Perlas building was rented out for this past weekend! That is a first for the low season, and I think it is a testament to the increased economic confidence growing across the continent.

Take a quick ride or stroll around the property, and you might lose count of all the houses, pools, and other additions currently under construction. I've heard more than once, "It took five years, but we finally got around to building this." I don't think the "five years" number I've been hearing is a coincidence. Not only that, but Gran Pacifica has been seeing steady lot sales in the first half of 2015. People finally have that peace of mind to commit to their dreams and move forward with longstanding plans.

Speaking of long-awaited moves, Gran Pacifica has relocated its offices in Managua to Ofiplaza el Retiro. These new offices offer a much more comfortable interior, a lot of natural light, and a convenient location for local and international clients alike. The entire staff participated in the move, and it has been fun seeing the pictures of them putting the new office together, piece by piece. If I hadn't been out of the country, I would have been right there with them getting my hands dirty.



In other news, literally, Gran Pacifica's Content Editor, Joe Duchene, recently returned from an expedition to northern Nicaragua in search of Mayan Ruins! While the team didn't find the pyramids they had hoped for, they did find some amazing petroglyphs and evidence of large settlements. This is revolutionary for the accepted history of the region.



Joe spent two weeks living in the town of Runflin, about an hour and a half from running water and electricity, hacking up mountains with a machete. If I could have been on the trip, I would have been, and I'm ecstatic that Joe got to experience his first "Indiana Jones" moment in my stead. Stay tuned to the Gran Pacifica blog, as Joe will be releasing a multi-part series on the adventure, what it taught him about Nicaragua, and the role Gran Pacifica plays in uncovering and preserving the country's heritage. I know he's currently working with Osman, Gran Pacifica's onsite artifact expert, as well as the expedition group to organize some official analysis of the region around Gran Pacifica.

Gran Pacifica residents, visitors, and employees seem to be moving with quite a spring in their step as increased traffic has created a bustle around the property, and everyone looks forward to another fruitful six months in 2015. The World Surfing Games, sponsored in part by Gran Pacifica, just concluded and in turn reaffirmed the remarkable tourism potential of Nicaragua. People and organizations alike seem hooked to the pristine beaches, immortal waves, and welcoming people that make the Pacific Coast of Nicaragua so unique.

I couldn't be happier to call this place home, or to share that home with you, the property owners and shareholders of Gran Pacifica that have made so many of our dreams reality. Carol, the girls and I look forward to our next meeting, and, as always, to sharing an evening together under one of the incomparable sunsets out at Gran Pacifica.

Until Then,

Mike Cobb