

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Arenal Report

Capt. **Ron Saunders'** new Lake Arenal Historical Museum, which had its grand opening Monday in Nuevo Arenal, has already proven a helpful source of information. Writer and Tico Times staff member **Sophia Klempner**, researching an article about the lake, was able to gain facts and insights from Capt. Ron and his historical records. Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, the museum is 25 meters south of the gymnasium on the Venado road. Entry fees are ₡500 (about \$1) for locals, ₡1,000 (\$2) for tourists.

Pet owners who used to have to wind down out of the mountains to the heat of Cañas to find a small-animal veterinarian now have a choice of local vets who will actually make house calls if your mastiff refuses to get in your car. The latest is Dr. **Mario Cruz**, who has been associated for six months with the *casa de ganadero* known familiarly as Jenkins Veterinaria, across the street from the Palí in Tilarán. His fellow vet, good friend and former



Photo courtesy of Gloria Dempsey

Rescued Pups: New Tilarán veterinarian **Mario Cruz** holds four abandoned pups for which he helped find homes recently. **Linda Frey** of Nuevo Arenal found the pups and called in frequent rescuer **Gloria Dempsey** for preliminary treatment. **Gloria** brought them to Dr. **Cruz** for a checkup before all four pups moved on to new homes.

associate Dr. **Ana Cristina Rojas**, the vet at El Colono Veterinaria, persuaded him to relocate to Costa Rica's finest town. A pet owner wanting a house call has to supply transportation at this early stage of his practice here, but he'll soon have his own car. He can be reached at 2695-5083 or dr.mario.veterinario@gmail.com.

At the Arenal Volcano end of the lake, wonderful improvements have been made to the road leading from the lake highway to Sky Tram, El Castillo, Rancho Margot and the all-but-impassable Río Caño Negro, where each year 4,000 wading bikers struggle against being swept away as they participate in March's Vuelta al Lago. The powers that infrequently improve our roads have designated funding of ₡30 million (nearly \$60,000) every three months to work on the heretofore painful El Castillo road. According to **Juan Sostheim**, owner of notable eco-resort Rancho Margot, which borders the river, the road is now

excellent. He's optimistic about the river being bridged within a couple of years. A bridge and further improvements on the road from Río Caño Negro to Río Chiquito would make the drive between Arenal Volcano and Monteverde Cloud Forest much shorter than the current route around the whole lake.

—**Alex Murray**
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Manuel Antonio/Quepos Tidings

The National Dance Company will present a show called "Leonardo da Vinci" May 7 and 8 at Copaza, the community theater by the pier, near the new marina. Ticket prices are ₡5,000 (about \$10) for preferred seating and ₡1,500 (\$3) for general admission. The performances start at 7 p.m. both days. For more information, call 8847-5907 or 8308-5500.

Mymositos is now offering Sunday barbecue and live music, with alternating weeks of rock and blues or Latin music. For information and reservations, call **Steven** at 8386-2112.

Sevi Milano has just come to Manuel Antonio to visit her sister, 16-year resident **Jennifer Rice**. This is Sevi's first visit, and she loves it so much she is already planning her next trip. We live in an amazing place.

—**Jennifer Rice**, monoazul@racsa.co.cr
& **Anita Myketuk**, labuenanotacr@gmail.com

Flamingo/Potrero News

Many women in the neighborhood welcome the news of a female physician in our area. Dr. **Andrea Messeguer** of Playa Grande comes highly recommended, and can be contacted at 2653-2767 or 8884-8047 for appointments.

A new local business, Force One Security, is offering security services such as installation of burglar alarms, closed-circuit television, gate electronics and more. For information, call 2653-0962.

Local store **Books and More Books** hosted its first Book Fair in the La Paz Community School gymnasium April 23 in celebration of International Book Day. The event included a book exchange area, a used-book table, children's activity books and storybooks, teen and adult literature, books about Costa Rica, recipe books, a reading corner, magazines and more.

Mar y Sol Restaurant in Flamingo now closes Tuesdays but will be open for dinner all other days, including Sundays, through the rest of the green season until its annual closing in September.

Jean-Luc Taulere, son of Mar y Sol owners **Alain** and **Bonnie Taulere**, catered a special event April 17: the inauguration of the wind turbine park in Guayabo de Bagaces. He and his team served 130 people three courses in one hour, flawlessly. President **Oscar Arias** and brother **Rodrigo Arias**, as well as several ministers, legislators and other dignitaries, were in attendance. Jean-Luc received personal congratulations from French Ambassador **Fabrice Delloye** and others, and the event organizers cited the quality of the food and service as high points of the event.

Tourist Information Flamingo, above Flamingo Subs and Pizzeria, is offering new



Photo courtesy of Costa Rica Cricket Federation

COSTA RICA CRICKETERS IN COLOMBIA. From left, standing, **Richard Illingworth**, **Tim Baker**, **Albert Pfister**, **Chris Prasad**, **Andy McQuaid** and **Sudesh Pillai**, and, kneeling, **Sam Arthur**, **Fabián Arce**, **Armando Foster**, **David Crisp**, **Julian Olivier** (captain) and **Karavadi Chandrasekar** (absent, **Ben Smith**), traveled to Bogotá to take the pitch against a Colombian team in two matches April 24 to 25 at the Bogotá Sports Club. Costa Rica won the first match by 8 wickets, while Colombia rallied to win the second by 90 runs. The matches were practice for Costa Rica's upcoming participation in the official International Cricket Council Americas Division IV tournament to be held in Mexico City in June against Cuba, the Falkland Islands and Mexico.

services, including car rentals, transfers, rental and vacation homes and weddings. For more information, contact **Claudia Hladik** at 8377-5701, 2654-4021 or info.flamingo.com.

—**Babe Hopkins**
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Jacó Happenings

Global Electric Motorcars is now distributing its electric cars in Jacó; check them out in the showroom at I Love Sushi, on the corner of Calle Boulevard at the first entrance to Jacó. These electric-battery cars are perfect for short-distance transportation and zipping around town. Available in six different models, they are an economical, eco-friendly and fun alternative to gasoline-powered vehicles. For more information, contact **Marc Hauser** at 2643-3083 or grdncafe@racsa.co.cr.

Special thanks go out to **Jimmy T** of Jimmy T's Provisions in Los Sueños resort for helping to get extra school supplies to the district of Garabito. The school principals who received the donations were **Syrlene Campos** of the Hacienda School, **Eduardo Arias** of Playa Azul School, **Carmen Padilla** of Quebrada Amarilla School, **Marcos Villalobos** of Pochotal School and **Franklin Herrera** of Pueblo Nuevo Las Monas School. Anyone else interested in helping out area schools may contact the Central Pacific Chamber of Commerce's **Gabriela Arias** at 2643-2853.

Italian beautician **Laura Visetta** is back in town and has set up her new spa in the Pacific Center, store 17. Ache Spa offers treatments ranging from anti-aging and deep moisturizing facials to microdermabrasion, massages and waxing. For information or appointments, e-mail lvisetta@gmail.com or call 2643-2112 or 8317-9328.

Ken Soto is now coordinating Spanish workshops in Jacó for Central Pacific residents. These workshops are designed to give foreigner participants their first tools in the Spanish language so they can become more involved in their communities. A percentage of all workshop proceeds will be donated to Jacó's new library project and to the McKee Project's spay-neuter campaigns. For more information about this month's workshop May 21 and 22, contact Ken at spanishworkshopcr@gmail.com or 8917-9697.

Ken also will be presenting at the next Central Pacific Women's Group meeting, May 20 at 9 a.m. at Balcón del Mar.

—**Christina Truitt**
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Tamarindo Talk

The local premiere of the film "Fe De Agua" is at last coming to Tamarindo, tonight at Aqua disco. Starring **Jonathan Yonkers** and directed by **Alrick Brown**, the movie was filmed entirely in Guanacaste and is about a young boy who learns to surf and ends up in an international surf contest. The premiere starts at 7 p.m. and will be hosted by local comedian **Paul Belanger**.

Paul is busy preparing for his own production, The Beach Nuts Theater Company's rendition of "Peter Pan," featuring **Corey Hahn** as Capt. Hook, **Lori Beckwith** as Smee, **August Beckwith** as Peter Pan and several great local kids. The show is set to run May 13 through 15 at the Tamarindo Diria Beach and Golf Resort's outdoor amphitheater. Tickets cost \$15 and are available at Jaime Peligro's and Papaya Con Leche in Tamarindo and Marie's Restaurant in Flamingo. For information, call 2653-0270.

—**Ellen Zoe Golden**
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