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Que Pasa Grecia

Serving the West Central Valley since 2014

¿Qué Pasa?



Que Pasa Grecia

Update #3

March 2026

What's New in Que Pasa Grecia

Since our last update, we've added a 2021 Suzuki and a 2019 Nissan X-Trail for sale and have someone available for house cleaning. From 13-15 March, Sarchi will have an artisan fair at Else Kientzler Botanical Garden celebrating the town's admission to the prestigious UNESCO Creative Cities Network as the cradle of Costa Rica craftsmanship (see the article below). There's a Frank Paldino fundraiser concert on Thursday, 26 March, at the new Sazon Nica restaurant (formerly Casa Nosstra) in Grecia. We have added a new home for sale listing in downtown Grecia, and there are updated listings for Atenas properties available. Note: we have re-designed the Property for Sale page on QPG to make it faster to get to the listings. We hope that helps.

After our announcement in the last update, the majority of Donald Voelker paintings were sold to benefit the Costa Rica Humanitarian Foundation and their projects for the needy in Barrio La Carpio. Muchas gracias.

Gracias for Your Sarchi School Uniform Support

We've received a number of donations for Sarchi school uniforms this year! Thanks to all of you for your generosity. It looks as if we'll be able to add a sixth school to our program this school year. Public school classes began two weeks later this year, but the kids are back in school now. Please drive carefully.

Miscellaneous News

Help Save a Baby Manatee! – For the first time in Costa Rica's history, a female manatee calf was rescued alive after being found stranded in Tortuguero. This was possible through a joint effort by SINAC, SENASA, UNA, BOENA, and Rescate Wildlife Rescue Center. Her name Böena and she is receiving specialized 24/7 care at Rescate and her recovery is day-to-day. She requires a special milk formula essential for survival. Each 5-lb package costs around \$150 and volunteers around the world have been donating to buy formula on [Rescate's website](#) as well as directly on [Amazon](#).

More donations are needed, (she goes through a bag of formula every five days), but what they also need are people who are travelling from the US to Costa Rica who can bring back the formula. Saving her means protecting one of Costa Rica's most emblematic and endangered species.



[Things to do in the West Central Valley](#)



[2019 Nissan X-Trail](#)



[Like New – Quilting Machine](#)



[New listing of great assorted items in Grecia!](#)



So, if you are travelling back from the US and want to help save a baby manatee, please contact Amy at Rescate - amy@rescatewildlife.org. She is more than happy to provide info, support, and logistics. (Gracias, Jody F. for this contribution.)

Take Note at ATMs – There seems to be a new issue for non-Costa-Rica-issued debit cards. No attempts at U.S. dollar withdrawals are being permitted at any of Sarchi’s Cajeros Automáticos (ATMs). In addition, some Sarchi ATMs will also not dispense colones when U.S.-issued debit cards are used. Your editor has not found this to be the case at Grecia ATMs. Let us know if you are having similar experiences anywhere in C.R.

Sarchi Admitted to UNESCO Cultural Elite – The municipality of Sarchí long celebrated as the cradle of Costa Rican craftsmanship, has been recognized for its unique artistic identity as a key driver of sustainable development. It has been thrust onto the world stage by being officially designated a member of the prestigious UNESCO Creative Cities Network. “This UNESCO recognition is more than a cultural honor; it’s a powerful legal and economic tool. It provides a foundation for establishing a Denominación de Origen (Appellation of Origin), which legally protects the authenticity and quality of Sarchi’s craftsmanship. This not only safeguards our artisans from imitation and cultural appropriation but also significantly increases the commercial value of their work on the global market, creating a sustainable economic engine for the entire community,” stated Larry Hans Arroyo Vargas, Attorney at Law, Bufete de Costa Rica.

Incoming Costa Rica Presidencia – Laura Fernandez, will be inaugurated as Costa Rica’s “presidencia” for a four-year term in May. She is currently serving as the equivalent of the president’s chief of staff who interacts with the Chamber of Deputies. Fernandez is trying to mend fences with the Chamber before she takes office and get them to enact some infrastructure and security projects. She feels these are essential for the country’s continued economic growth, including re-implementing the Ruta 1 widening and expansion from San Jose to San Ramon and implementation of a viable fixed-rail commute system, both aimed at reducing the growing daily traffic congestion.

Related Government News – Expect current President



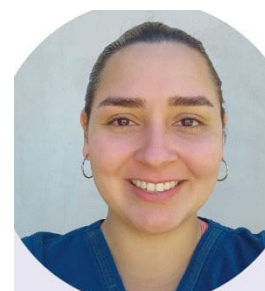
[2021 Suzuki](#)



[13 piece wall art for sale](#)



[Chance for Direct Action to help save a baby manatee!](#)



Amanda offers housecleaning services! Reliable, with English and References. Click image for details.



"Newcomers" Brunch

Rodrigo Chaves to be given a minister position in the new administration. This will give him immunity to avoid indictment and prosecution for alleged crimes committed during his current term as president, at least, while he remains a government minister. This is according to a former high-ranking member of a previous administration.

C.R. Road News – The “Crocodile Bridge” over the Tárcoles River on Ruta 34 is again prohibiting foot traffic and also again has controlled one-way traffic until reinforcement improvements to the bridge are completed. Construction expansion for 49 kms of Ruta 1 north of the Punteranas exit have resumed. Expect “notable” delays approaching both projects.

Filings Due for C.R. Corporations – Inactive corporations must register their continuing viability (file that your inactive corporation is still active!?!?) by 31 March and all corporations must file their beneficiary statements by 30 April.

Interesting Coin Notes – As of this moment, you can find four different 10-colon coins being accepted as legal tender: the aluminum coin; a new alloy coin of the same size as the aluminum ones; a smaller version employing the new alloy; the old brass-based coin of the same size as the aluminum and mixed-alloy versions that are replacing them. In addition, it was announced that 50-colon commemorative coins will be introduced that feature six Costa Rica critters in color. Sadly, we don’t know the expected introduction date(s).

Rainfall totals for February 2026

El Cajon de Grecia (Irina)
YTD: 1.9 cms; 0.74 ins.

San Juan de Sarchi (Tom)
YTD: 1.3 cms; 0.52 ins.

Note to Readers: The following section, **U.S. Government Changes Impacting Expats**, is accurate at the time of writing, but may contain information, conclusions, and/or suggestions with which some readers may disagree, cause discomfort, or find objectionable. For those individuals, we recommend that you finish your *Que Pasa Grecia* update reading

Wednesdays at noon, Los Jardines in Grecia



Be Aware of Scams!!



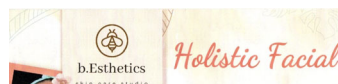
[Regular recycling dates for 2026](#)



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[Real Estate For Sale](#)



here and skip to the Costa Rican saying. For the rest of our readers, we hope you find value in reading the section below.

U.S. Government Changes Impacting Expats

Foreign Entanglements – Panama just wrested away the Chinese contract to run Panama’s entry ports to the Canal on both the Pacific and Caribbean sides. This was due to a claim of fraud, but the U.S. regime made a big deal of the Chinese contract authority. China has vowed to retaliate. These actions could have a positive impact on U.S. commercial and military watercraft through the Canal. A Costa Rica legislator has proposed asking the U.S. to build Army and Air Force military installations on both the Caribbean and Pacific Coasts to help shut down the cartel movement of drugs and humans. This could have a very positive impact but is also fraught with possible negative implications of having the U.S. military operating from within Costa Rica territory. The U.S. Coast Guard has recently been granted permission to operate from Coast Rica ports in its drug interdiction efforts.

C.R. Economic Issues Tied to the Iran War –

Economists are already raising red flags about the cost of a barrel of oil quickly spiking, due to the dangers or inability of moving oil shipments through the Straits of Hormuz. Since all of Costa Rica’s petroleum and propane gas is imported, it could quickly become a large economic issue for Costa Rica and its residents.

Travel – The cost of flying or travel by sea could also spike due to spiking costs of fuel effecting tourism, which is already under stress here. The Iran War may also contribute to a fear by travelers of flying or vacationing in foreign lands, which could further impact Costa Rica’s sagging tourist industry.

Immigration – Judges are responding to their court orders halting immigrant deportations without due process being ignored. It has become a chronic problem, but the court’s recourse for forcing adherence to these orders appears to be limited to contempt fines, as the president is permitted to fully pardon anyone convicted of federal criminal contempt charges. We’ll keep an eye on this situation.

Tariffs, Retirement Savings, and the Cost of Living –

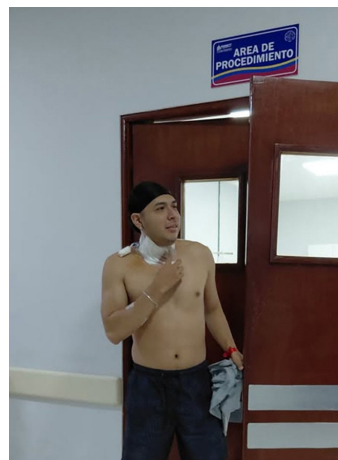
SCOTUS ruled that most of the administration’s tariffs



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A catheter was finally secured for Aldair to continue his intense chemo treatment. When you support **Romeo's** son **Aldair's** fight against leukemia, you support this entire family of artists. Read the current update via our [GoFundMe Campaign.](#)

SCOTUS ruled that most of the administration's tariffs had not been instituted by the U.S. Congress and were illegal. The administration immediately moved to implement 10% tariffs across-the-board on all imported goods using a law that allows an emergency temporary 180-day tariff to be declared. We'll see how, or if, the courts respond to these new temporary tariffs. Tariffs impact the cost of exported products in the U.S. and impact sales revenues for Costa Rica companies.

"Más difícil que crucificar a una culebra"

Literal translation:

More difficult than crucifying a snake.

Source: From A lo Tico, a book of Tico sayings and expressions by Alf A. Giebler Simonet.

Take a deep breath and remember we're living in Costa Rica,

D. Davis, editor

Diane Cooner, webmaster



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