

# THE TICOTIMES

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Friday, August 20, 2010 – San José, Costa Rica

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## NEWS

### Universities Keep Pushing For Increased Funding

Thousands marched Tuesday to call for increased funding for scholarships, research, and salaries – the country awaits the outcome of a two-day negotiation between rectors and the nation's president. **Page 4** ▶

## BUSINESS

### Coffee Growers Seek Return to Golden Days

A government plan consisting of loans and other measures to revitalize the country's coffee production has growers hopeful and others wary. Coffee production has decreased in recent years. **Page 11** ▶

## WEEKEND

### Tourists Teach Local Kids English in Tortuguero

A new program at Tortuga Lodge on the northern Caribbean coast has guests teaching valuable English skills to students from a nearby village. **Page W1** ▶



## Near Catastrophe

Francesco Vicenzi | Tico Times



Miraculously, all passengers aboard the San José-Alajuela TUASA bus that fell into the Río Torres survived, but a young woman and her son walking along the road were killed as the bus veered off the highway. See story Page 10.

# President Unveils 4-Year Plan

*Chinchilla stressed reducing poverty, and fostering citizen security and economic growth*

and Oscar Arias, and hovers only slightly above those of former presidents Rafael Angel Calderón and Miguel Angel Rodríguez after their first 100 days in office.

Even while President Laura Chinchilla may not be making the "most popular" lists, she also hasn't made as many enemies.

According to a Unimer poll, published last week in Costa Rica's daily La Nación, a mere 10 percent of the population was "dissatisfied" with her performance; as opposed to 20 percent dissatisfied with Arias and 13 percent unhappy with former President José María Figueres.

The 51-year-old mother, who was vice president under Arias, said the study was "good

news," as most supported her leadership skills (only 20 percent believe she lacks leadership) and her priorities (the majority believe she is heading in the right direction).

"I deeply appreciate the recognition of leadership," she told La Nación. "Here is how we see it: We have been here a few days up to now and I think it is good to admit there is room for growth."

### Four-Year Goals

With that comment, this week she unveiled her priorities for the next four years, presenting benchmarks in the four areas in **Page 3** ▶

## CENTRAL AMERICA

### Renewable Revolution

The Sandinista government has big plans to expand electricity coverage and switch to renewable energy in Nicaragua.



By Chrissie Long

Tico Times Staff



Only four in 10 Costa Ricans are giving their president a thumbs-up as she rounds the 100-day mark in office.

That grade is worse than those of the last two presidents, Abel Pacheco

# Rainforest Radio: Osa Station On the Air

*Station connects Osa residents with the world, and each other*

weekday morning.

"Un muy, muy, muy buenos días a todos ustedes!" he cries, following a lead-in from "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" a song made popular in Disney's "The Lion King."

He's broadcasting from Alto Los Mogos, a high spot above the Osa Peninsula's rainforest, aided by a 240-foot tower equipped with the latest technology.

He recounts what wildlife has passed through the region, takes calls, delivers the local news – all with an underlying ambition

of inspiring pro-environment action and giving a voice to the rainforest-covered region.

His words reach far beyond the rural peninsula that hangs off the country's lower southwestern coast, spreading throughout the Central Valley, and, thanks to the Internet, to much of the world.

But Roberto's words, broadcast weekday mornings from 5 a.m. to 7, is only one piece of a radio station dedicated entirely to **Page 6** ▶

## ALSO INSIDE

- Editorial **14**
- Letters **15**
- Cartoon **15**
- Classifieds **16**
- Business & Real Estate **14**
- Puzzles **19**
- Weather **19**

### Weekend

- Community Connection **W2**
- Exploring C.R. **W4**
- Movies **W5**
- Calendar **W6**



40 PAGES

# Broadcasting from the Rainforest

◀ Page 1

the environment.

Rainforest Radio, which went on the air for the first time in January, was founded by Jani Schulz and her husband, Jurgen, both active environmentalists and property owners on the Osa since 1994.

The couple fell in love with the region, and moved there full time in 1995. They built a home and purchased the land around them with the aim of conserving a little corner of the rainforest.

Schulz, a Texas native, said beyond the monkeys swinging through the backyard and the rainbow of birds that perch on the windowsill, it's the people that captured her heart.

"Ticos are special people," she said. "They adopted us as family and changed my life and the lives of my children."

Through her relationship with her neighbors, Schulz became convinced that the only way to save the Osa was by way of its people, a community that in many ways has lost out in the past because of a disconnect with the rest of the world.

So the former radio show host and 15-year magazine publisher began designing Rainforest Radio, with the mission of connecting the Osa Peninsula with the outside world.

"Osa had no voice," said Schulz. "And (its residents) had no way to voice their needs. We thought the best way to save the peninsula was through its people. If you save the people, you will save Osa."

Thus began 90+ hours of programming a week, part of it broadcast from a little studio



Ronald Reyes | Tico Times

**Jungle Drums:** Jani Schulz, the radio station's founder, hosts the *Jana of the Jungle* show on Rainforest Radio every Wednesday at noon.

behind San José's Calderón Guardia Hospital and another part from the station in the Osa, near the village of Rincón. The shows, mainly in Spanish, are not only a platform for people from Osa to share their ideas, but also a way for "Josefinos" to get to know the Osa.

"You would be surprised by how many people here have not even heard of the Osa," Schulz said, recalling stories of Ticos who she introduced to the Osa for the first time.

The shows receive dozens of callers each day, host leading environmentalists and environmental organizations both from within and outside of the country, and aim to transmit an uplifting, informal and fun message.

"This is a different kind of proposition," said Luis Diego Angulo, whose lengthy career in radio includes managing five radio stations. "It goes beyond small clips of ecological news and the basic messages of 'recycle' and 'don't litter' and presents a full panorama of the worldwide environmental situation. And it is also delivered by people who live at the heart of one of the most precious ecosystems in the world."

Mike Boston, a longtime Osa enthusiast who owns the Osa Aventura tour company, said the station has brought a new pulse to the area's remote villages.

"It has been so well received here," he said. "People are excited to call in and participate on the shows."

But more than entertainment and the light-hearted message of earth-friendliness, Schulz hopes she can inspire Costa Ricans to take care of their country; and everyone – foreigners and Ticos alike – to take care of the world.

"I hope we can make a difference and that my great-grandkids will be able to see what I see down there," Schulz said. "I think the Osa has the potential of being an example to the world." ■

## Rainforest Radio Programming: 960 AM

### Monday - Friday

- 4 - 5 a.m. "Rancheras" (music)
- 5 - 7 a.m. "Despertar en Osa," Roberto Rainforest
- 7 - 8 a.m. "Panorama: Noticias Voz de Osa," Ricardo Escalante
- 8 - 8:30 a.m. "Buenos Días América"
- 8:30 - 9 a.m. "Impacto Ambiental," Paula Solano
- 9 - 10 a.m. "Cátedra de Salud," Dr. Hugo Howell
- 10 - 11 a.m. "Que Linda Es Mi Tierra," Luis Pagés
- 11 - 11:30 a.m. "Voz de América"
- 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m. "Impacto Ambiental," Paula Solano
- 12 - 1 p.m. "Frecuencia Natural," Luis Diego Zúñiga (Monday), "Proyecto Tsunami," Aimee Leslie and Jorge Castillo (Tuesday and Thursday), "Jana of the Jungle," Jani Schulz (Wednesday)\*, "Frecuencia Natural," Eledith Díaz (Friday)
- 1 - 12 p.m. "La Hora de la Naturaleza," Luis Jiménez (Monday), "Ambiente Natural," María del Rosario Viquez (Tuesday and Wednesday), "Bioinstinto," Pao Jinesta (Thursday), "Frecuencia Natural," Luis Diego Zúñiga (Friday)
- 2 - 2:10 p.m. "Mi Tío Juan"
- 2:10 - 3 p.m. "Vivencias en Osa"
- 3 - 5 p.m. "Allan and Jex Show"\*
- 5 - 5:30 p.m. "Noticias Voz de Osa," Ricardo Escalante
- 5:30 - 6 p.m. "Impacto Ambiental," Paula Solano
- 6 - 7 p.m. "La Revista del Deporte," Tony Valverde
- 7 - 8 p.m. "Frecuencia Natural"
- 8 p.m. - 4 a.m. music

### Saturday

- 7 - 8 a.m. "Panorama: Lo mejor de la música"
- 8 - 9 a.m. "Ferias Verdes," Luis Pagés
- 9 - 10 a.m. "Ambiente Natural," María del Rosario Viquez
- 10 - 11 a.m. "La Hora de la Naturaleza," Luis Jiménez
- 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. "Bioinstinto," Pao Jinesta
- 12 - 1 p.m. "Vivencias de Osa: Lo mejor de la música"
- 1 - 2 p.m. "Qué me dice, mae?," Perro Azul
- 3 - 6 p.m. "Vivencias de Osa" con lo mejor de la música
- 6 - 7 p.m. "La Revista del Deporte," Tony Valverde
- 7 - 8 p.m. "Vivencias de Osa: Lo mejor de la música"

More information can be found on the Web at [www.rainforestradio.com](http://www.rainforestradio.com).

\*Shows that are wholly or partially in English.

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## INSURANCE NUGGETS

By law, ALL employers must provide INS Workers' Compensation (Riesgos del Trabajo or "RT") insurance to cover work-related accidents. As reporting for RT policies is onerous, there is a simpler version ("RTH") for domestic workers such as maids and part-time gardeners.

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