

THE CUENCA DISPATCH

Ecuador's Original English-Language Newspaper

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Ecuador private sector to build plant to make fuel out of plastic

On Wednesday, August 7, Gustavo Ruiz, President of the Chamber of Small and Medium Companies of Pichincha (Capeipi), announced that the private sector is working on building the first South American plastic treatment plant to turn plastic into fuel. The project is called Plastikgas.

The plastic industry provides around 140,000 jobs, directly and indirectly in Ecuador. The recent announcements by different branches of government to seek prohibiting one-use plastics, has pushed the industry to look for a way to transform this material and provide other uses for it.

With today's technologies, processing of plastics can provide new products like paraffin, kerosene, gasoline and diesel. Gonzalo Aguirre, General Manager of the company Sogia, explains that these processes do not generate gases that contribute to the greenhouse effect on the planet, nor environmental pollution.

Therecurrently are two of these 'plastic to fuel' processing plants in Mexico. There is also one being constructed in the United States. The



one to be built in Ecuador is projected to be completed by March 2020. It will be located in Cayambe and will have the capacity to process seven tons of plastic a day. This will amount to 50,000 gallons of gasoline a month.

An agreement has already been made with Petroecuador for the commercialization of the gasoline. Extracted from Diario El Mercurio

Informal "hostel" businesses must now be registered



All property owners that rent out housing or even rooms to tourists must now be registered and acquire the 'Unique Annual Functioning License' to continue to exercise this business. The Ministry of Tourism (Mintur) has already drafted the 'Accommodation Regulation for Properties with Tourism Purposes,' that will rule over these types of rental contracts.

Once the regulation is published, owners will have a three-month period to proceed with the official registration and other processes.

This new process provides rights and obligations, as well as prohibitions for both owners and clients. For example, all guests will have the right to a
cont. page 5.

Coopera crimes come to light with release of documents



After six years of being kept under cover, the financial analyzes and investigations into the Coopera case are declassified and they open a door to the investigations of the people implicated in the fraud. Three people will go on the list of the country's most wanted, and two former officials will be investigated for the plot that includes cases of corruption, embezzlement and money laundering.

Ecuador's Anticorruption secretary, Iván Granda, announced that Claudio Alvarado, who was Coopera's general accountant, Luis Carmona, an alleged accomplice of the former manager of the financial institution Rodrigo Aucay in the crime of money laundering, and Marcelo Vega
cont. page 4.

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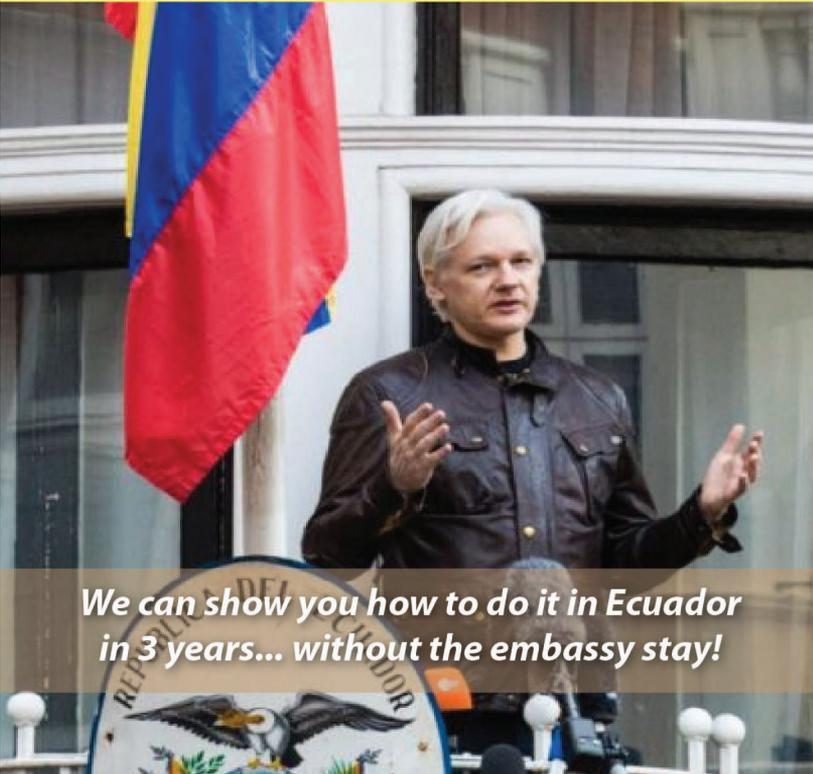
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CUENCA consignments

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I'M JUST SAYIN'

By Michael Soares

Unconnected in the country

Now that Codie and I are living in Yunguilla, we like to think of ourselves as living a remote lifestyle with little need for the conveniences of the modern world. We are starting to grow our own vegetables (our tomatoes are amazing) and now get free farm fresh eggs from one of our neighbors. The most yellow yolks you'll ever see. In fact, we were discussing today the idea of buying him a cow so that he (and we) can get fresh milk every day. That may be taking it all a little too far, but who knows with the way things are going in the world?

For now, getting our kale growing and adding on other crops like potatoes and carrots are on the top of my list of things to do here in the countryside. Since Codie is a strict vegetarian and I cook all of our meals, I'm as close as one can get to being vegetarian without actually being one—I still like to grab some chicken wings or a meatloaf sandwich when I make my weekly one-night visit to Cuenca. But that's probably going to change too because of all that cardiac work I had done in May (no sense clogging those arteries up again!).

We are by no means "survivalists." We simply hate having to go buy food on a regular basis since we live pretty far out from a decent supermarket or feria. If we really want to break the tether from a modern lifestyle, we are going to have to learn to make pasta, churn butter and dry fruits and vegetables (we have about 70 fruit trees). I just don't see all of that happening. Yeah, I'm a Colorado guy and love the remote lifestyle, but at the end of the day I like the to use my time doing other things than rolling pasta dough (though I can make a pretty good yeast free bread).

So, all that said, my idea/pride at being able to live a little bit off the land and not needing the conveniences of the modern world came screeching to a halt this morning. No, we didn't lose electricity, so refrigerator still had my fresh cream cheese for my breakfast bagel (from Moe's Bagels in the Las Americas Supermaxistrip mall). And our potable water from the municipality was still flowing fine into our hot water tank, guaranteeing me a nice hot shower.

No, much worse than ALL of that, out internet went out. Not the best timing since it's Codie's birthday today and she wanted to make Skype calls to her relatives in Romania. And because I have to get this column emailed in for this week's issue of The Cuenca Dispatch. All in all, this is a pretty serious issue for us. Staying connected to that modern world we have physically left behind seems to still be very important for both of us. If asked yesterday, I would have told you that we didn't need internet that badly. We don't watch TV, so that isn't a problem. And we can read all the news we want on our phones. But actually, talking to other people and staying part of the community by writing for the newspaper, are critical to our psyches out here in the country. We are not so self-sufficient when it comes to our minds. We need the stimulation of society, and that comes to us by this magical connection of the internet.

Like so many people in fact, the internet has become a part of everyday life. Something that only 20 years ago was limited to some business use, has now become an indispensable tool in all of our lives. It's how we learn, how we interact with others, how we track down long lost friends, and how we stay a part of society (in fact a larger one than we had for the first 30 or 40 years of our lives). It's an amazing tool to better all of our lives.

Unfortunately, as with anything that can be used the wrong way (e.g., assault rifles used by the general population), the internet can be abused and twisted for nefarious purposes. It can be used to spread lies (or to re-tweet false conspiracy theories), to stalk people and even to incite riots. It's a tool, and in the wrong hands it can be a dangerous one.

Sadly, what we see every day now are tweets from many a government official that are pure crap. They are oven used to imply certain things without any supporting proof (because 280 characters is simply not enough to provide any real information to anyone). They try to push people to do certain actions based on false statements. They make the world a worse place in a

matter of a few breaths. And while these tweets can do so much good and help people stay in touch, they also have become a tool of the worse kind of people.

Tweets were never meant to become government policy. They were never meant to spread lies and falsehoods. They were never meant to bully people and condemn people. They were meant to help people communicate and stay in touch. But rotten people will always find degenerate ways to exploit everything good. What was once purely found in the realms of blogs and internet sites now comes to millions of people in less than the time it takes to drink a cup of coffee. In a mere matter of moments, the technology that helps us "country folk" out here in Yunguilla stay connected can at the same time cause the world to shift one way or another.

What a sad place for good technology to end up. And what a sad lot of people who have to use good technology to spread hate and lies. It makes living out here—even farther away from the modern world than Cuenca was—seem even more purposeful. I don't have to see any stupid, hateful tweets that end up online today. Not because of anything I did, but because out here staying connected is not the priority of the locals. Sometime today my internet will get fixed. Sometime today my column will make it to the newspaper offices. And sometime today we will be back online where I promise I will see at least 3 or 4 stupid, mindnumbing tweets coming from one of the biggest abusers of twitter. I don't need to even mention his name, because you all know who I mean. Even if you like the guy. Because his tweets are often untrue, bullying statements made just to incite hatred.

I think I'm going to enjoy this day without internet even more than I thought. I'm just sayin'.

SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love Sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your Sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9X9 grid, broken down into nine 3X3 boxes. To solve a Sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the number will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

3		4		7		8		
		9		8	3			6
	6				5			3
6	1	2	7			9		
		3			9	5	2	7
1			5				8	
9			8	2		4		
		8		6		7		9

See answers on page 11

Informal “hostel” businesses must now be registered (Cont.)

‘factura’ (legal invoice) of the contracted service. Owners will not be able to rent out part of the property, like a room or set of rooms. Neither can they rent shared rooms. Owners cannot perform other tourist activities such as tour guides, land transportation, or the like.

Also, in order to be able to provide these other kinds of services, owners must have the appropriate registration under the SRI (Internal Revenue Service of Ecuador), as well as be properly licensed by the corresponding institutions.

This regulation will only apply to the continental Ecuador, due to the fact that tourist accommodation services are totally prohibited for the Galapagos.

“It’s not fair that formal hotels pay taxes and acquire all the legal permits, so that now they have to compete against houses or apartments which are rented without any permits,” stated Holbach Muñeton, president of the Federation of Tourism Chambers of Ecuador. According to Mr. Muñeton, this ‘irregular’ hostel activity grows 30% annually. Tourism is also on the rise, but figures show that ‘legal’ accommodation companies have had a 4% reduction in their market, every year.

There are some people that do not agree with this measure. “This is unnecessary. I only rent my property some days a year. It’s not my full-time business. I do this to help pay for my mortgage,” stated Fernando Soto, who has a property in Playas. However, other people like believe that these properties are a direct competition to hotels and hostels, which makes it only logical that this type of business should be formalized and regulated.

The registration process starts by requesting and completing the information provided by Mintur’s web site. Once this is done, Mintur officials will make an inspection of the property and verify compliance. If the owner provides erroneous information or fails to comply with the requisites, he or she can be fined from \$1,000 up to \$5,000.

Once the registration and verification process with Mintur is successfully done, they can take their certification to City Hall and acquire the ‘Unique Annual Functioning License.’

Extracted from EL Telegrafo

Breast feeding in an important health priority in Ecuador



In the midst of ‘Breastfeeding Week’, back in early August, the Zonal 6 Coordination of the Health Ministry made an ‘open house’ for breast milk donations at their premises to help promote the breastfeeding bank in the Vicente Corral Moscoso Hospital. The Hospital’s breastfeeding bank just marked its 10th anniversary. Each year it benefits close to 10,000 babies.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) suggest that during the first six months, the only food for newborns should be breast milk.

An average of 75 mothers a month go to the breastfeeding bank to donate their breast milk. Many of them feed their babies there, but others just go to donate for other babies. “Donations have increased close to 60%, from 2010 to 2018,” said Monica Bonifaz, a nutritionist in the Breast Milk Bank.

Milk that is donated can be preserved for up to six months. The bank

collects from 60 to 70 liters a month. ‘Milk production does not decrease. A mother can feed more than one baby,” said Bonifaz.

The Breast Milk Bank at the Moscoso Hospital has a well-equipped, comfortable room with six cubicles with extractors. Mothers are given adequate protection to avoid the contamination of the milk. The milk is then analyzed and pasteurized for its storage.

This department also provides information on the importance of a mother’s milk. It seeks to promote the respect for this activity in public spaces, so mothers can feed their babies at any time and place.

Another milk bank, the Health Center Carlos Elizalde, inaugurated its breastfeeding bank on August 8th this year. This makes a total of 14 breastfeeding bank institutions in the Zonal 6 Health Coordination.

Right now, the National Assembly is working on passing a regulation that provides that all companies have special spaces for breastfeeding mothers, so they may have a peaceful and comfortable area to feed their babies at work. The regulation would apply to any company that has at least one expecting mother.

Extracted from Diario El Tiempo

Two lost hikers rescued in Cajas National Park

On August 10th, two missing foreign hikers were located and rescued in the Cajas National Park, as reported by the Fire Department of Cuenca, through their Twitter account. The Park Ranger Department and ETAPA personnel also aided in locating the hikers.

The hikers were a thirty-five-year-old man and a thirty-year-old woman who got lost in the Tres Cruces sector. When they were found, they both had symptoms of dehydration and hypothermia.

No other information was given on the hikers.

Extracted from Diario El Tiempo



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				R	E	N	D			D	E	N			
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T	R	E	T		T	O	P		S	E	A	S	S	O	N
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S	C	O	O	T		S	E	E	N		L	I	O	N	
S	H	A	P	E		S	S	R	S		S	O	R	E	

Answers to puzzle on page 10

Pollution on a downward trend in the city



Vehicle traffic in Cuenca, with about 150,000 vehicles registered in 2018, is the main source of pollution in the city; however, the air in 2018 was 10 percent less polluted than in 2017.

Claudia Espinoza, a technician of the Mobility Monitoring Network (EMOV), said that one of the strategies that has helped to improve air quality are the controls on the roads that the company carries out to measure the emissions on vehicles.

According to latest emissions results for Cuenca, carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides are the main pollutants that come from vehicular traffic. Espinoza indicated that they constantly monitor 20 areas of Cuenca to study the concentrations of carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), fine particulate material (MP_{2.5}) and ozone (O₃).

Based on the 2018 findings, Cuenca does not exceed pollution levels. This past Tuesday for example, the air in Cuenca had a pollution level of 39 micrograms per cubic meter, below the 50 micrograms allowed by the Ecuadorian norm. "There are areas like the Terrestrial Terminal where we have high levels, but they do not exceed the maximum measure."

On a separate note, in 2017 researchers studied how much Cuencanos contribute to greenhouse gases. The study revealed that each person in the city produces 2.5 tons of CO₂ equivalent, significantly above international standards (approximately 2.0).

Buses

In perhaps the most important finding for Cuenca, public transport produced 70 percent of total CO₂ emissions. This was followed by the residential and industrial sectors that accounted for 15% and 16% of CO₂ emissions, respectively. In distant fourth place was solid waste.

These results led to the adoption of regulations in Cuenca to limit pollution from these vehicles. In November last year, the renovation of the 475 urban transport buses began. To date, 52 percent of the fleet has been replaced with newer, more efficient vehicles, that produce significantly less pollutants.

Leonardo Albarracin, president of the Chamber of Transportation of Cuenca, said that the buses purchased guarantee an opacity emission of five percent in the first years of use.

Espinoza believes that this is a great step for the city, but he believes that citizens should opt for alternative forms of mobility since buses are not the only vehicles causing pollution in the city.

Community Cinema workshop brings immigrants and Cuencanos together



Cuenca will be the third venue in a series of workshops for Colombian and Venezuelan immigrants—and local Ecuadorians—to come together to create a joint cinematographic project. The organization Aldhea is putting this program together with the help of The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). These workshops have already occurred in Southern Quito and Guayaquil and will be held in Machala and Northern Quito in the future.

The Aldhea organization has existed for 10 years and has focused on non-formal education programs to create awareness for populations in an exclusion situation. "We have worked with secluded sectors like Amazonian organizations who are struggling with the defense of their territory, and also small country towns who have been affected by the dynamics of cities," said Lorena Salas, General Coordinator of Aldhea.

The UNHCR administration envisioned the use of the Communitarian Cinema Workshop as a way to create bonds between the migrant communities and Ecuadorians. The main goal is to bring them into a comfortable space so that they can honestly and genuinely share their experiences, the good and the bad. "Also, we saw that there are many campaigns dealing with the migration issue, but they don't spring from the actual people suffering this reality. So, the project will allow these people to create their own content," said Salas.

In previous Aldhea projects they saw that the best way to promote an open discussion and a peaceful cohabiting between peoples was by creating workshops where everyone has to work together on a common project. "The cinema techniques, production methods, cinematographic skills are just a means to get them to cooperate, work and bring about peaceful interaction," added Lorena.

With all of their projects the organization provides education on the issues surrounding the participants. With this series of workshops, they are holding training and education sessions on migration issues. Their final goal for the workshops is for participants to create a cinematographic production about their reality as immigrants and locals, living together.

The workshop in Cuenca will run for 10 days beginning on August 20th and ending on August 31st. Casa Comunitaria, located in Benigno Malo 12-95 and Vega Muñoz, will host the workshop.

"More than a simple movie production, this program will allow the participants to create a network of acquaintances, or even friends, which can be very enriching for them," said Jan Luis Salgado, a volunteer in the Community Cinema Workshop.

You can find more information on the Aldhea organization at ww.aldhea.org.

Exclusive interview of Lorena Salas to The Cuenca Dispatch



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Cantonal Council of Cuenca discussing the approval of new handicap ordinance

The Cantonal Council of Cuenca is holding its second and definitive debate on the new Municipal Ordinance for the Protection of Rights of Handicapped People. This ordinance is being promoted by the Councilwoman Paola Flores.

With this new ordinance, any construction that does not have an access that guarantee the safety of handicapped people can be fined for up to \$3,940. The ordinance will replace the previous ordinance on the matter, which was passed in 2010.



Companies like EMAC EP (Waste Disposal Municipal Company) will have one year to work out a better system for garbage racks out in the sidewalks, in order to avoid accidents. Also, the Municipality and its offices will have six months to update their entrances with ramps, guard rails, elevators, signs and devices for better mobility. Additionally, there is a 180-day period for the City Hall Digital Records Directorate to create a database of handicapped citizens, who will be eligible for municipal benefits.

People with disabilities can expect other positive changes once the ordinance is finalized. For example, all public buses will be required to have a minimum of six seats exclusive for handicapped people. The municipality will also promote the use of Braille language, Ecuadorian sign language, as well as different formats of communication to reach the hearing and visually impaired.

There are around 20,300 people with disabilities registered in the National Council for Equality in Disability (CONADIS). 52% of these have physical disability and 32% of them have intellectual disability. Less than 1% are below 3 years of age and almost 46% of them are between 30 and 64 years of age. Finally, approximately 49% are women and 51% are men.

Extracted from Diario El Mercurio



Pastaza farmers abandoning agriculture and switching to ecotourism

Around nine years ago, the first Pastaza plantations turned into tourism service businesses. At the time, most properties were dedicated to cattle farming and vegetable farming, but they have since opted to change their business models. It all comes down to the difference in income that land owners can get from their investments.

Take for example the Yanacocha refuge, a property dedicated to research and reinserting rescued animals back into the wild. Surprisingly, very few researchers were interested in going there which led the owners to open the place to the public. Now they hire indigenous guides and provide night tours through the jungle.

Now, more and more tour businesses take advantages of the relative safety in the Yanacocha zone to provide walking tours. These tours allow for photographic sessions, observation of reptiles and birds and plant identification activities, as well as others. There are also small waterfalls and creeks to visit and take swim or bath in.

The Ministry of Environment, together with the Pastaza Tourism Directorate, are assessing land owners who wish to adapt their properties to this purpose. "Pastaza is just immersing into this type of business which is already exploited in Napo. The advantage here is that we don't have oil companies, and our rainforest is preserved," stated Patricio Vallejo, a co-owner of Heimatlos Eco Lodge & Farm.

In many of the properties turned to eco-tourism lodges, a lot of the native vegetation has returned. Many owners have invested a substantial amount of money to create paths and make flower arrangements to delineate the paths through the jungle. Some lodges have even installed hot tubs and hydro-massage machines.

Many of the local landowners feel that these tourism projects empower the community and help preserve the rainforest. And now the Ministry of Environment is working with them to provide them with a 'Protected Zone' certification.

Extracted from El Comercio

Ecuador banana farmers preparing for a possible fungus threat from Colombia

On August 8th of this year, the Colombian Agrarian Institute (ICA) announced that they had confirmed the 'Fusarium Wilt Race 4' in 175 hectares of a banana plantation, in the La Guajira area. This disease has proven historically to be the most destructive to banana plantations and it's among the top 10 most devastating plagues historically.

On August 12th, the Association of Banana Producers of Ecuador (Aprobanec) announced that they will be taking the most rigorous measures to prevent the arrival of the fungus into the country. "If Fusarium Race 4 enters Ecuador, it will be disastrous. It would be a social debacle. We're talking about 2 million people that live directly or indirectly off the banana farming activity," stated Patricio San Martin, administrator of the Association.



First, they propose the development of a 'National Banana Institute,' for the creation of policies that will provide answers to the problems being faced by the banana industry, in a localized manner. This institute would also be in charge of permanently monitoring for diseases that threaten the fruit. Additionally, the association proposed the use of organic prevention protocols, such as using microorganisms to nurture the soil.

As of now, organic banana plantation permits have been halted in Ecuador; it appears that the plague in Colombia started on an organic banana plantation. Nevertheless, the fungus spreads to any type of plantation, without discrimination, and it is said it can stay for up to 30 years.

Furthermore, Aprobanec is requesting phytopathologic technicians, university research centers, and farmers to create discussion panels in order to generate viable solutions jointly. "None of the measures will guarantee 100% that the fungus doesn't come here, but we have to reduce the risk," stated San Martin.

The appearance of 'Fusarium Wilt Race 4,' also called 'Tropical Race 4 (TR4),' or 'Panama disease,' has generated an emergency situation in Colombia. As of now, ICA is sweeping and checking over 2,400 hectares of banana plantations in La Guajira, adhering to biosecurity protocols in order to prevent the spread of the disease throughout the country.

Since August 8th, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cattle Farming of Ecuador (MAG) has implemented stronger sanitary measures on its border paths. All vehicles coming through the Rumichaca International Bridge (Carshi) are being sprayed with quaternary ammonium. This is also being implemented in the Bi-national Border Service Center of San Miguel and in Huaquillas. For now, the importation of any vegetable material from Colombia is prohibited. Also, MAG has proposed the use of lime foot bath boxes (for disinfection) in the border paths, airports and bus terminals.

Extracted from El Comercio

Construction sector shrinks heavily all around Ecuador

Carlos Repetto and Silvio Duran, Presidents of the National Federation of Construction Chambers and of the Chamber of the Construction Industry, both agree that the reduction in public works has highly affected the sector during the first part of this year.



Public investment has dropped to \$2.4 billion, which is the lowest in 10 years. Plus, only 43% of the budget has been executed so far, this year. "If the Government has no money, then they should use the private sector's leverage," said Mr. Duran. He said that the construction sector has submitted multiple proposals for its reactivation, especially by allowing the entrance of new foreign capital that would invest in this sector. But they have gotten no answer.

Just as the construction sector plunges, so does the suppliers. Mexichem, a plastic tubing manufacturer and supplier company states that once the electoral season was over in early Q2 of this year, sales began to drop. Generally, electoral season is a positive season with all the last-minute sewage systems and water service fixes around all of Ecuador's cantons. Despite that fact, all of Q1 was also a season with red numbers.

There has been an overall shrinkage in the country's growth, which also accounts for this reduction in the construction business. "This basically means that as long as the industrial and commercial sectors do not need new plants, new malls, etc., and that, with the decrease in general employment, people will have to postpone the acquisition of a housing unit," said Carlos Repetto.

The real estate market has dropped 12% in regard to purchase/sale contracts, in comparison to the same period during 2018. "The inconsistency of the public policy on the Public Interest (VIP) and Social Interest (VIS) Housing credits, has been the core reason for this drop," stated Jaime Rumbca. The recently approved Credit Manual from the Bank of the Ecuador Social Security Institute (BIESS), made a modification reducing the percentage of financing for housing.

Furthermore, new standards required by the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, will make each of the housing units more expensive. One of these new requirements is that in order for the units to have "universal accessibility" (meaning suitable for handicapped), each house has to have a minimum of 615 square feet. "All these social interest housing projects are waiting for the agreements to be modified. These demands make the projects impossible to begin. We're not getting any funds, and the houses are too expensive to build," stated Ignacio Ibarra, manager at Proinmobiliaria.

Extracted from El Comercio

Ecuador adding to police force nationwide

This past Monday, the National Police reported through the governor of Azuay, Xavier Martinez, that they are recruiting for 2,000 new police officers in the country (200 for the Superior Police School and 1,800 for training centers).

Applicants can register through

the National Police recruitment platform until August 23, 2019.

The training process will take eight months, during which time the applicant must pass different stages of training, validate his or her requirements and provide required documentation.

"Psychological, medical-dental, physical, academic evaluations are developed, among others," Martinez said.

The requirements for new police recruits are:

- Must be between 18 years to 25 years of age at the date of registration.

- Must have a minimum height of 1.68 for men and 1.57 for women.

- Must have at least a bachelor's degree.

Applicants can learn more details of the requirements on the website of the Ministry of Government.

CRIME REPORT AND ACCIDENT REPORT

Cuenca Area Traffic Accidents

* Civil transit agents verified an accident on the road to Challuabamba—Llactón. One person was slightly hurt. The driver of one of the cars scored over the legal limit on a Breathalyzer test.

He was taken to the detention center for traffic offenders and both cars were transported to the EMOV yards.

The injured person was treated at the scene by an ambulance of the Ecuadorian Institute of Social Security, IESS.

* Another accident took place on Thursday afternoon at Avenida de las Américas, in which three cars were involved, two of them public transport buses. Data from the civil agents who took the procedure indicate that no one was injured in the accident.

* As of August 7th, 2019, Cuenca had reported a total of 23 deaths by traffic accidents for the year. The last deadly accident occurred that morning on Avenida de las Américas and Primero de Mayo, when Max Abel Olmedo, 30 years old, crashed into a house at 3:00 AM.

According to the statistics of the Municipal Mobility, Transit and Transportation Company (EMOV), the accident that took Olmedo's life was the 14th road accident that took place in August in Ecuador and the 486th recorded nationwide for the year. To date there has been 481 people injured in accidents throughout the country.

Numbers from EMOV show that in August 2018, there were 70 accidents nationwide that left 61 injured and three dead. The traffic authorities expect that at the end of this month the figures will decrease, as has happened in the previous months.

Cuenca Area Criminal Activity

(Cuenca) Yesterday morning, policemen from the El Vecino 2 circuit were alerted to a break-in at a building on Benigno Palacios and Paseo Milchichig, north of Cuenca. The break-in was discovered by a resident of the area who noticed that a metal door had been broken.

Officers inspected the home and did not find the owners. After speaking with the neighbors, they managed to communicate with the owner of the house who informed them that he was in Guayaquil. The owner sent a relative to verify what happened.

(Cuenca) Last Friday on General Torres and Pio Bravo streets, in the Historic Center, criminals stole a Suzuki vehicle, with a PJR-016 license plate. The owner reported that he left the car parked around 8:00 AM and when he returned, he could not find his car.

On Saturday morning, criminals stole accessories from a Peugeot vehicle on Antonio Neumane and Martin Garate streets. They took a computer and other accessories.

(Turi) Two inmates were injured during a fight that took place last Monday night in a medium-security pavilion of the Turi Social Rehabilitation Center (CRS), south of Cuenca.

Both inmates were injured with a sharp weapon at chest height. Both were transferred in ambulances to the Emergency room of the Vicente Corral Moscoso Hospital.

Speaking to the press, Xavier Martínez, governor of Azuay, explained that the objects used as weapons were "tips," handcrafted by inmates in the penitentiary. He said that the two injured inmates were taken back to CRS Turi after being treated.

Martínez said the confrontation was not gang related. It appears that the quarrel was due to personal problems between the two inmates.

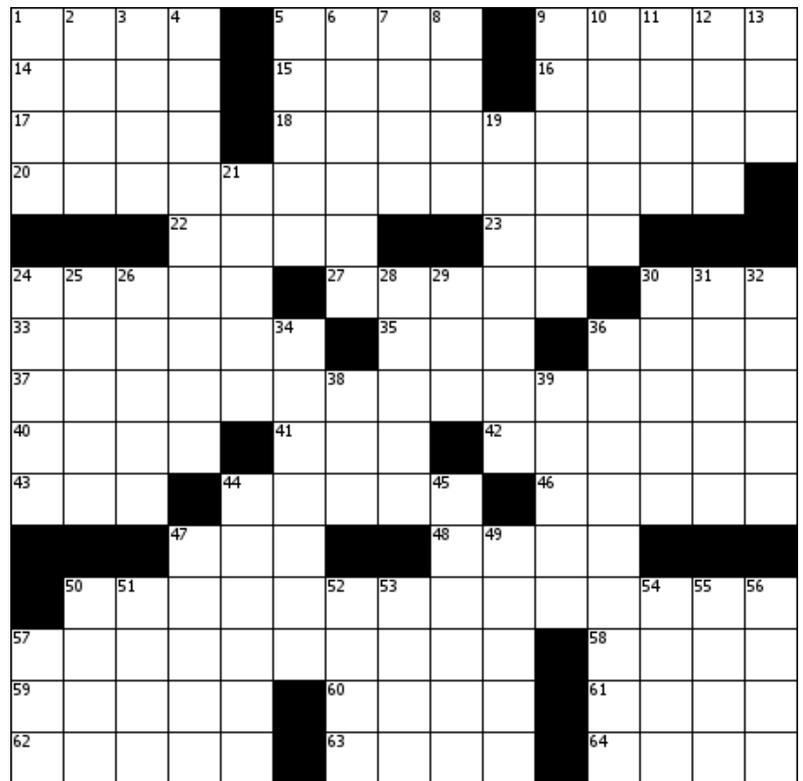
(Tumaco, Colombia) Colombian authorities captured Yeison C. alias 'Chuky', a guerrilla from the FARC dissidents who allegedly participated in the murder of two Ecuadorian merchants and in the kidnapping of a newspaper team from El Comercio newspaper in 2018.

A statement from the Colombian Navy said that alias 'Chuky' was captured in a rural area of Tumaco, in the department of Nariño, bordering Ecuador.

The information added that, in April 2018, 'Chuky' "participated in the murder of Oscar Efrén Villacís Gómez and Katty Vanesa Velasco Pinargote, a couple of Ecuadorian merchants kidnapped while traveling through the border province of Esmeraldas."

Streetlight Productions
presents...
Gatos Negros y Cascos de Arena

<p>When: September 21, 2019. Doors open 6:30pm</p> <p>Where: <i>Villa San Carlos</i> Remigio Tamariz 1-85 & Av. Solano</p>	<p>Tickets: \$25 includes buffet dinner. Buffet starts 7:15 pm ... dancing, beer, wine... Tickets available at: Inca Bar, Common Grounds, Hostel Santa Canela, Cafe San Sebas and www.streetlightproductions.net</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #cccccc; padding: 5px;"><i>Net proceeds are for the benefit of the musicians</i></p>
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See answers on page 5

Across

1. Wine-producing city
5. They may sting
9. Away from the speaker
14. Vandyke site
15. Parisian lady friend
16. Moth-___ (stale)
17. Legal wrongdoing
18. Attorney's aides
20. Song featured in several films
22. Split in two
23. Room for 9-Down, perhaps
24. Insects' sensors
27. "Look before you leap," e.g.
30. Ernie on the fairway
33. Noted channel swimmer
35. What a wahine may pluck, for short
36. Discontinue
37. First Emmy-winning song
40. Weigh station concern
41. Go one better
42. One of four in a year
43. French condiment
44. It's unmetered
46. Hollywood mover
47. It has a wet floor
48. Lorre film persona
50. Rodgers and Hart ballad
57. Wife of Louis XVI
58. It sailed to Colchis
59. "Get going!"
60. Caught in the act
61. British emblem
62. Fashion focus
63. Pre-'91 republics
64. Paying for exercise?

Down

1. The five of "Macbeth"
2. Type of business
3. One for the road?
4. Translate
5. Hard, black varnish
6. Gunsmoke's Kitty
7. Grosbeak, for one
8. It may bark
9. Entertainment for many millions, informally
10. Uta of the theater
11. Card catalog abbr.
12. Depend (on)
13. 40 percent of ninety-nine?
19. Paying guests
21. Edison rival
24. Assaults with snowballs
25. Be extremely fond of
26. Carpentry tool
28. Trash collectors?
29. Crime report initials, perhaps
30. Press the backspace
31. Begin an Internet session
32. Dog-tired
34. Board Amtrak
36. Oblique lines
38. Prelude to a hickey
39. Cow catcher (Var.)
44. Diminutive
45. Scenery chewer
47. Pesky neighbor
49. Signs of the future
50. Rainfall measurement
51. Promenade site of yore
52. Hardy role
53. Numbered rds.
54. Dixie Chicks, e.g.
55. "Petrushka" composer Stravinsky
56. Peak shape
57. Beast of burden

Former Minister avoids censorship

This past Tuesday, the National Assembly (Parliament) of Ecuador voted against censoring former Health Minister Verónica Espinosa, who was accused of alleged irregularities, such as the acquisition of a dubious test for the early diagnosis of the HIV virus.

The motion of censure, according to the Ecuadorian legislative regulation, had to have 91 votes to be effective, but in the final vote it only obtained 89, with 27 abstentions filed. In the vote on Tuesday, 116 assembly members of the 137 who make up the unicameral Ecuadorian Parliament were present.

Espinosa, who left office on June 25th, again defended her administration and rejected the evidence presented in his case. The former minister denied having failed to perform her duties and said that several international organizations have endorsed the use of the test for the early diagnosis of the HIV virus.

"All the accusations that have been made have been distorted, with duly documented evidence," said Espinosa, noting that other arguments that had no relation to the main accusation had been evoked in the case, which, for her, violated due process.

Mae Montaña, the legislator who initiated the political process and suggested the censorship of Espinosa, once again accused her of noncompliance. "This political trial has as victims the poorest and the most vulnerable groups in Ecuador," Montaña said in his speech, in which he also referred to a case of expired medicines that Espinosa refuted.

Montaña warned that the use of inadequate supplies to make HIV diagnoses had produced "false positive" and "false negative" results, and said that such a test, similar to that used to detect pregnancies, warned of a possible infection of the virus, when in fact the patient had not contracted it, and vice versa.

The complaint of the legislator came after a controversial digital media, "La Posta", disseminated a report entitled "The Ministry of Death," in which it denounced Espinosa's administration for having acquired a "doubtful test" for the early detection of the HIV virus.

According to that report, the diagnostic tests so clearly yielded significant error rates that it had been recommended to avoid their use.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Health assured that the HIV diagnostic tests that were used were supported by reports from international organizations and recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO).

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND TOWN AND BEYOND....

"What's Happening..." is updated weekly with a large variety of events that both ex-pats and Ecuadorians will enjoy. If you have an interesting event you would like to publicize, email [info@thecuencadispatch](mailto:info@thecuencadispatch.com) for consideration.

Classifieds and Events



New schedule for garbage collection

Since August 14, EMAC has new schedules for garbage collection in the city of Cuenca.

You can check it on their website www.emac.gob.ec, Facebook, calling to 139 or texting to their WhatsApp: 0958749229

Ecuadorian Residence and Legal Translations

Do you want to live in Ecuador? You will need to apply for a Ecuadorian Residence and I can help you with the paperwork, the translations of the legal documents and the application. I will personally go with you to apply for your Ecuadorian Residence and also to the meeting to obtain your Residence. I am a legal translator certified by the Azuay Judicial Function.

Contact: +593987469683 (Mauricio Bernal).

American Dentist in Cuenca

Periodontal disease not only is made worse by diabetes, but new research has demonstrated that diabetes is made worse by periodontal disease. Today the use of periodontal treatment/preventive trays with a peripheral seal allows us to deliver (at home), into the pockets and around the teeth, a mild natural medicine to control the bacteria and treat, or prevent the reoccurrence of periodontal disease. You only leave the trays in your mouth for 15 minutes a day. To see if these trays are right for you, call Dr. Woods as 097 924-6002.

LOOKING FOR URGENT MULING, Please...

In urgent need of special supplements for close relative who has stage 3 cancer and is following natural therapies. (He regressed from st 4 but is about out of his initial special supplements that cannot be found here). Please contact me ASAP for more details... Thank you ever so kindly.

Contact: Elyclare e-mail: Pac.CC7@gmail.com

Organic Meals all week! Delivered straight to your door

Our specialty is to make personalized diets and according to the goals of our clients, we have keto, paleo, diets to lose weight or increase muscle mass!

Get your combo NOW!!

Contact: GT gourmet Phone: 0983350895

Pet Cemetery: Cremation and Burial Services

As an outreach program for The OASIS Center for Conscious Living (and Conscious Dying) we are now offering cremation and burial services for your beloved pet. You can choose to have a memorial service for your pet, have the remains buried in a cemetery plot, or have your pet cremated and keep the ashes in an urn.

Many options to choose from as an alternative to the typical vet/crematorium route. Write to us for details and we can help you plan a very special end of life process for your dear friend.

Contact: Louis Bourgeois e-mail: 0995241088

August 21st

Oldies but Goodies Dance party!

Happy Hour is from 5 - 7pm with Great Food All Evening
Drink Specials & Music from 7 - 10pm

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON THE DANCE FLOOR

We're all here to have fun!!!

Contact: Rene e-mail: obgdance@gmail.com

Address: "Common Grounds". Eduardo Crespo Malo Av.

August 21st

Songs for the Young at Heart

Mansión Alcázar Presents Kent Mills and Songs From the 21st Century which will be presented in a special 2-hour vocal concert.

*Seating is limited to about 30 attendees (FREE).

Time: 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

Contact: Kent Mills e-mail: kentmills@protonmail.com

Address: Calle Simon Bolivar 12-55 and Tarqui.

August 24th

Saturday Blues w/ Jerry Joe Holland

Come in for a fun evening of great blues music from multiple eras and regions. Early show and No Cover!

Time: 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm.

Address: "Common Grounds Sports Bar & Grill". Eduardo Crespo Malo and Gran Colombia.

August 25th

Enjoy being part of the Bailo-Maraton (Dance Marathon) in Monay Shopping.

Free entrance from 11:00am.

Solution to Sudoku puzzle on page 3

3	2	4	1	7	6	8	9	5
7	5	9	2	8	3	1	4	6
8	6	1	9	4	5	2	7	3
6	1	2	7	5	8	9	3	4
5	9	7	4	3	2	6	1	8
4	8	3	6	1	9	5	2	7
1	7	6	5	9	4	3	8	2
9	3	5	8	2	7	4	6	1
2	4	8	3	6	1	7	5	9

Real Estate & Rentals



 **FOR RENT**



COMFORTABLE SIXTH FLOOR 2-BR APARTMENT IN NEW CONDO PROJECT

This furnished 2-BR, 2-bath apartment on Av. Lazo is close to supermarkets, an indigenous mercado and good restaurants. Rental includes utilities, internet and CATV and condo fee. Building includes elevators, underground parking, 24-hour doorman and has a swimming pool, BBQ area, sauna and gym.

Contact:
CuencaRentalsandSales
0994882938
rentalscuenca@gmail.com



Looking to rent or sell your apartment, house, or land?

Contact us to include your listing in the next issue!

info@thecuencadispatch.com
099-582-1318

 **FOR RENT**



Fully furnished One and a half bedroom apartment

One bedroom apartment for rent with an office, independent, fully furnished, in the upper floor of a cozy house full of plants, located in the residential area of "Puertas del Sol", with permanent guards,

Contact:
Roberto Cruz
0995 821 318
mediosoles@gmail.com

 **FOR SALE**



House for SALE near the Loja Av.

It comes with 4 bedrooms plus an attic, 3 and a half bathrooms. This unit is located in a quiet neighborhood but near to El Centro. The house is 10 years old and it has two parking spaces.

Contact:
Roberto Cruz
0995 821 318
mediosoles@gmail.com

 **FOR RENT**



Fully furnished One bedroom apartment for Rent near the Solano av.

It is completely furnished. With a nice view towards El Cajas, very bright and full of sunlight. It is located in the Virgen de bronze area. One year lease minimum. For only \$400 per month, utilities are included.

Contact:
Roberto Cruz
0995 821 318
mediosoles@gmail.com

 **FOR RENT**



FURNISHED 3 BR / 2.5 BA CONDO FOR RENT IN A GOOD, QUIET NEIGHBORHOOD

Open-concept, 6th floor condo in Puertos del Sol with great views from its huge terrace. Short or long-term lease. Fantastic building amenities! 24/7 security.

Contact:
Kathy Gonzalez
099 450 0325
Kathy@CuencaRealEstate.com