

THE CUENCA DISPATCH

Ecuador's Original English-Language Newspaper

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Cocaine hidden in banana shipment from Ecuador



On August 17th, Bulgarian authorities announced that a warehouse worker had discovered 75 kilos of cocaine hidden in an Ecuadorian banana shipment. The banana shipment belonged to the fruit distribution company InterCitrus.

"The ship parted from Ecuador, made a stop in Italy and finally arrived on July 27th in Burgas (a port city in Bulgaria)," said Kaloyan Kolyanov, Chief of Burgas Police and Prosecutor. He stated

that the police will now also search the warehouses of that company in Sofia, Varna and Plovdiv. Some of these banana shipments have already been exported to Romania.

Despite Romania and Bulgaria being considered key transit routes for Latin American cocaine smuggling, Kolyanov affirmed that these types of busts are unusual. So far, this is the biggest bust in 2019.

Extracted from El Comercio

Physical activities in public plazas are drawing many senior participants



Many public plazas are holding dancing sessions, cardio routines and yoga during this vacation season. These events are focused on providing activities for seniors to have activity early in the morning, or at night. Many of these events are organized by the IESS, others by the municipality.

"These activities help improve self-esteem of senior citizens by helping them regain physical and cognitive health," stated psychologist Cira Tapia. "Seniors are prone to staying at home and becoming depressed because of loneliness. These events provide them with a nice activity where they can also socialize and find friends," she continued.

"I used to work 10-hour shifts every day. I enjoyed the rest, at first, when I retired, but after a while I was getting stressed at not doing anything," explained Ana Contreras, a senior who attends one of the activities organized by the Seniors Center of the IESS.

cont. page 4.



Dr. Paúl Peña & Dra. Pamela Valdiviezo

BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT

Dental SMILE: Expats are all smiles (about Dentists!) in Cuenca

I was walking back to El Centro from an appointment on Paucarbamba and saw my friend Ted. He said, "I saw you walking earlier this morning, on my way to visit my dentist."

This was somewhat ironic because I'd just finished visiting with Dr. Paúl Peña and his wife Dra. Pamela Valdiviezo, in preparation for writing this column about their comprehensive dental practice called Dental SMILE.

When I told Ted that's where I had been he said, "Boy, I am so impressed by the dental care in Cuenca. I've been living here since 2012, and have nothing but good things to say about it. Over the years I've seen a number of different dentists and specialists and they are all so impressive. I've had cleanings, I've had x-rays, and now I'm addressing some very bad teeth that need implants."

I can't believe I'm saying this... but I'm excited! I'm so impressed by the modernity of the equipment and the excellent care by all of the doctors. I'd really cont. page 6.



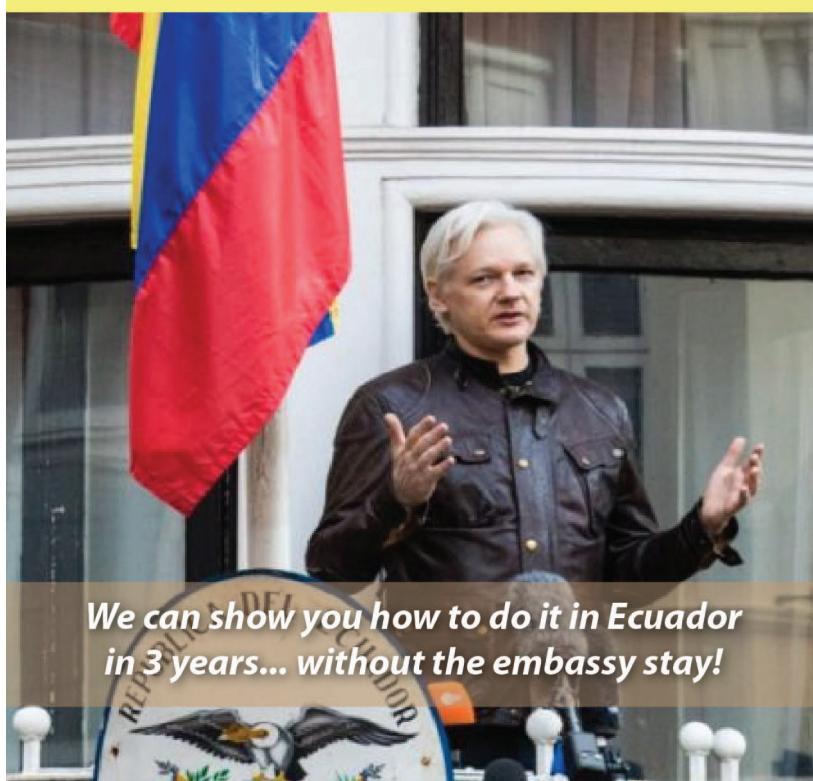
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I'M JUST SAYIN'

By Michael Soares

Please don't say it, just don't

I just don't understand what has happened to "civics" among the expats here in Cuenca. I've beaten this topic like a dead horse over the last few years, but the use of social media to attack people is simply ridiculous, uncalled for and childish.

The old adage, "if you can't say something nice, then it's better to say nothing at all," really had meaning. And it still does. There is no reason to transfer anger, hatred or threats to anyone via social media. We are supposedly adults and we should act like it.

And no, I am not calling out the US President this week over his use of social media. Again, a dead horse (if he was a Democrat I would have used the term "dead donkey") issue. You all know what I think of his behavior on Twitter.

No, I'm talking about what I see on GringoPost and CuencaHighLife every single day. Someone will put up a reply to an article or post. Often, not meant to instill any bias towards others or disrespect by any means. And then it just spirals out of control and comments like this happen (not the entire post, just selected items)

- I only tell you here in case you were still under the false impression that anyone takes you seriously.
- What you don't realize is that people like you have been the laughing stock of democracy since the 1950s.
- I wonder if you can even process any of that.

The sad thing here is I often agree completely with what this person says. But the delivery here? Well, completely unnecessary.

Is it just me that feels this way? That things have gotten out of control and social media is being used to the decline, not the advancement of mankind?

Thankfully, no. A poster on CHL who I sometimes do, and sometimes don't agree with, posted this, which makes perfect sense to me:

- My personal measure of how I comment on these forums is simple, would I make this statement to a person sitting next to me in a bar, or coffee shop, or bus, etc? If it passes that test then I feel free to say it. I do try to be helpful but then of course you get some idiot attacking you because, well, because they can behind the veil of the internet.

That said, what has me bothered today? Well, it had to do with the restaurant that I sold last month and how someone responded to the new owner who posted his hours and some new menu items. Pretty simple, right? No, someone had to post this comment:

- If you're still going to have the same old Trump hater meetings there with the Democrats you will never get any business from me or any of my friends.

Now, someone else did post a response to that which said:

- So sad. Can't be individuals anymore. Punish the business owner. Sounds like hate to me.

What I didn't post but would like to say here is, "What is wrong someone who has to post a rude and childish message to someone who just bought a restaurant and posted their location, hours and new menu items? Were you so wronged by a group of like-minded individuals meeting someplace that you have to carry this hatred (or maybe it's just anger?) around and swing it like a bat at someone you don't even know?"

Look, I get it. Some people were threatened by the meetings I had at the old Vegetable Bar. But they didn't have to be because the space was open (and free) to any group that wanted to use it. Still, because many of the meetings leaned left, people chose to boycott my restaurant. And that was okay with me. That's a meaningful (and fair) tactic to express yourself. But it's not fair to tag that dislike of me, or my principles, to a new owner who hasn't even had two weeks of business yet.

People please, let's just stop all of this nonsense. Many of us have different views politically, religiously, ethnically or even sexually. But that doesn't mean that we have to be rude to each other.

I have many Republican friends and though we do differ significantly in our political beliefs, we are adult enough to put them aside and truly enjoy each other's company (in fact, a dear friend who is on summer vacation in the US used to work for a Republican Senator, and we differ greatly in our politics, but...I can't wait for him and his wife to come back to Cuenca! Codie and I miss their company more than we can say. Shout out to Pete and Chris!).

Really, in the end, do these aggressive comments help anyone? Do they make the world a better place? Do they make someone stop and think, "Hey, maybe I'm wrong and this rude comment just made me think differently"? Of course not, none of these things happen.

All that happens is a trail of disrespect is left in the digital realm so that someone can always look back and say, "Wow, so and so really left an foolish comment on CuencaHighLife."

So, for the last time. Be constructive and if you can't be, just don't respond. Or go out and find something better to do with your morning. Go have coffee with someone who thinks the same things you do. Nothing wrong will like-minded people spending time together.

And if you can't do that, go "offline." For good. Because none of your mean spirited messages are doing anyone any good.

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!

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

See answers on page 11

Physical activities in public plazas are drawing many senior participants (Cont.)

The vacation season will be ending in September. Those seniors who wish to continue with activities can go to the Universidad del Adulto Mayor (University of Senior Adults) and find more engaging activities for the new school year.

Extracted from Diario El Tiempo

Leaked picture means new complications for Ola Bini



A picture from Ola Bini's phone was leaked to a local journalist, who published an opinion piece with this photo in it. The picture showed an alleged attempt by a user called 'OlaBini' requesting access to one of the National Telecomm Corporation (CNT) servers. Now that information may be used against Bini unless his lawyers are successful in getting it suppressed.

Investigators from the Prosecutor's Office have already managed to access Bini's phone by using security-cam footage, where he was filmed putting his 8-digit code into his iPhone. This phone would be just one of the six cellphones seized from the programming expert. Bini's computers are being analyzed in the United States, as the State Attorney General's Office of Ecuador requested investigative aid from the USA.

CNT provided servers and services to institutions like Petroecuador and the no longer existing National Intelligence Secretariat (Senain). This means that any hacking of CNT's security would give access to information from these institutions. According to the investigations, Bini broke into this network on October of 2015.

Carlos Soria, Bini's lawyer, states that this evidence piece must be excluded from the file. The main reason is that they never formally received this evidence as an accusing factor during the trial. "They never talked to us about that alleged photography or proof, which apparently is safeguarded by the Attorney General," stated Mr. Soria.

Furthermore, Soria states that this photo 'leak' as well as the information stated by the media outlets is 'weird' if not 'stupid or criminal'. "This information belongs to a private and reserved hearing. According to the law, you can't divulge this information through any media or someone. The evidences are solely for investigative purposes," he said.

Soria also kept denying that his client made any attempts to hack into any government servers or platforms. According to him, as of now, it adds to the 85 irregularities that have happened in Ola's case, where the government has skipped or plainly ignored protocols, processes and privacy regulations, during the investigation.

Bini is currently free under parole. He was released on June 20th, after spending 70 days in prison. He is attending the Court every Friday, as requested by the court. Carlos Soria stated that Ola Bini will be fully compliant with his parole until the investigation ends and a new hearing is scheduled. The Attorney General's Office has until early September to finish the investigation.

Manta is projecting itself to be a business tourism venue



The city of Manta is starting to complete the formalities to make itself one of the main tourism venues of Ecuador, alongside Quito, Guayaquil and Cuenca. But, Manta is going to promote itself as a center for international business. The president of the Chamber of Tourism of Manabi, Esteban Fiallos, states that Manta already meet all of the conditions to start promoting itself as such. The private and public sector are working on the creation of a Conventions Bureau of Manta, which will enable Manta to promote itself alongside Guayaquil, Quito and Cuenca, in international tourism fairs.

"We plan to offer services at an international standard by 2020," said Mr. Fiallos. "We also need to avoid competing with the other cities and instead promote Ecuador as a whole, as the venue for business. In order to achieve this, we must work with the Government," he continued.

According to the vice minister of tourism, Mario Proaño, the city was already studied to determine its strengths and weaknesses. One of the main problems the city has is the Eloy Alfaro airport, which only has two airlines operating there, with just two national flights a day. But, as part of the projects to be tackled by the Bureau, they have planned to change this situation when the new airport under construction is finished.

In May, the Ecuadorian government received a proposal from South Korea to lease a concession at the new airport to the Korean Airport Corporation. According to a study made by this company, this airport is projected to have the best growth in Ecuador.

To Manta's advantage, there are at least 37 buildings newly constructed or refurbished to suit the needs of the business tourism market; 5-star hotels, malls and outlets, and elegant restaurants. Most of these buildings had been planned for a long time and were under construction. But, after the earthquake in Esmeraldas in 2016, they halted operations for a year.

However, the city wasn't static during that time. Between 2017 and 2018, twenty business fairs were organized for national companies and government institutions. Additionally, there were 40 national workers conventions held there during that period.

The Ministry of Tourism, with the help of the hotel sector, is planning for the creation of a Hotel and Tourism Business School and an Advertising Brand declaring Manabi (the province of which Manta is capital) as a province belonging to the Chola-Montuvia nation, among other strategies.

The Manta Municipality will start debating an ordinance focused on tourism that would allow it to create the entity of Tourism Police. It would also deal with the provision of more street signaling, recycling projects and training for all personnel involved in this sector.

Finally, there are already a few excellent tour services that any businessman can attend after closing an important contract. For example, Yate Adventure, a yacht tourism company, has been operating since last month. Businessmen can organize meetings or boards onboard the vessels. These vessels are equipped with tech equipment and furniture for audiovisual presentations.

Extracted from El Comercio

Five Azuay tourist venues to be built or remodeled



The Ministry of Tourism and the Prefecture of Azuay have created a plan and approved the budget to enhance and improve five tourist spots in the province. Four of these spaces are expected to be completed by the end of this year. These five zones are all located in rural areas.

"Our main goal is to make tourism a pillar for the economies of rural areas," state Patricio Abad, director of Economic Development Department of the Prefecture. "At the same time, we want to rescue customs and traditions in each of those places," he continued.

The projects to be made are the remodeling of the Chobsi Archeological Complex; the creation of a park in El Cabo in Paute; the improvement of the infrastructure in the Busa lake; a study the possibility of a panoramic elevator in Chorro de Giron; and, finally, a study for the viability of a cable car railway in Frances Urco. For touristic purposes, the province has been divided in three zones: Cuenca del Paute, Cuenca del Jubones and the Centric Zone.

In the Cuenca del Jubones, comprised of the Giron Canton, with the support of the Municipality there are plans for an agrarian and artisanal fair. The same location for this fair will have a tourist office and a training center for crafters. The possible panoramic elevator would be located in this area.

The Cuenca del Paute is where El Cabo is located. This September, the Prefecture will begin the construction of a park in this area. Also, the Chobsi Archeological Complex is located here, and its first refurbishing stages will begin.

Mount Frances Urco is located in the Centric Zone, and a study will be done to determine the viability of a cable car system. "We are looking for a strategic partner to help us finance the cable car system in Frances Urco. We estimate that the investment will be of \$3 million per kilometer," said Mr. Abad.

Extracted from Diario El Tiempo

C	F	O	S		E	P	I	S	C		A	F	T	A
H	I	F	I		G	U	S	T	O		M	E	A	N
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		C	O	X		M	A	D	D	A	S	H		
S	P	I	N		M	I	T	T		T	O	E	R	R
A	A	A		R	U	L	E	O	F	T	H	R	E	E
I	L	L	B	I	T	E		L	I	E	N	E	E	S
N	E	I	L	D	I	A	M	O	N	D		D	S	O
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		Q	U	I	N	I	N	E		G	R	R		
A	B	U		N	O	N	S		R	E	A	I	M	S
B	R	I	N	G	O	U	T	T	H	E	B	E	S	T
B	A	R	B		S	T	E	R	E		I	N	G	A
E	N	Y	A		E	E	R	I	E		A	D	R	Y

Answers to puzzle on page 10

Young Azuayan girl killed while riding her bicycle in the US

Stephanie Pesantez, a 15-year-old native from Sigsig, was tragically hit by a truck on August 12th while riding her bicycle in Moriches, Long Island, New York. She was taken to Long Island Community Hospital and then transferred to Stony Brook University Hospital, where she died of her injuries and was declared brain dead shortly afterward. Her parents agreed to have Stephanie's organs donated.

Pesantez's death follows that of 13-year-old Andrew Alati, who was killed by a car



while riding his bike on Long Island on June 30th of this year.

Nestor Pesantez, Stephanie's father is applying for a humanitarian visa that would allow him to go to the US to say his last goodbye to his daughter. Mr. Pesantez was an illegal immigrant in the US from mid-1999 until he was deported in April of this year, leaving his daughter there to finish her studies.

"I'm now looking for a way to at least go and say goodbye to my daughter. It doesn't matter if I have to come back right after, I just want to say goodbye to her. That's all," he said.

A funeral service was held for Stephanie on Saturday, August 24th at St. John the Evangelist Church in Center Moriches, NY.

Extracted from Diario El Mercurio and Newsday.com

AH1N1 flu is determined cause of death for Ecuadorian Naval officer



Authorities of the Naval Hospital of Guayaquil and the Ministry of Health have confirmed that the death of a former Navy member was caused by the AH1N1 influenza virus, forcing the development of an epidemiological quarantine and other measures.

Last Sunday, August 18th at 2:00AM, a 64-year-old former naval officer arrived at the Naval Hospital with symptoms of cough, malaise and flu. He had been symptomatic for two weeks but had not sought medical help prior to his admission, said Commander Pablo Herrera, director of the Naval Hospital. Herrera also said that the patient's other chronic diseases triggered the virus to affect him more. The patient was admitted to the hospital for renal and respiratory failure.

According to authorities, this is the first victim of AH1N1 so far this year in zone 8.

They added that this incident is still being investigated to determine where the virus came from and where it could have been contracted.

Inti Kory Quevedo, National Undersecretary of Health Surveillance, said that influenza has been an endemic disease in the country since 2009 and that "it has 2 peaks: the first begins in December, January and February; the second in August and September. The hospitals of the Public Health Network are part of the case surveillance."

Extracted from El Universo

Dental SMILE: Expats are all smiles (about Dentists!) in Cuenca (Cont.)

neglected my mouth for years in the States, and I was worried that I'd never be able to afford to repair all of the damage. I am so relieved to have found quality, affordable dental care in Cuenca."

Well, I couldn't have said it better myself. Thanks, Ted!

Dr. Paúl Peña and Dra. Pamela Valdiviezo, a husband and wife team dedicated to keeping your mouth healthy and attractive, are the founders of Dental SMILE. Located in a modern office building on Ave. Paucarbamba in Edificio Manyapura, these two professionals represent the best of health care in Cuenca.

Dr. Peña and Dra. Valdiviezo met in their first year attending the University of Cuenca. Dr. Peña is from a family of dentists, and Dra. Valdiviezo's mother was a dental assistant — they bonded over their goal to become dentists. They completed their six years of education, graduating with degrees in general dentistry. After seven years of general practice, each decided to go on for specialized training.

Dr. Peña was accepted into the exclusive Specialist in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery program at the University of San Francisco School of Dentistry in Quito, completing four years of training and obtaining his credential. Oral and maxillofacial surgery encompasses many areas of medical skills and is a difficult field to enter. These surgeons are trained to repair trauma and treat injuries and illness of the neck, face, jaw and mouth. Dr. Peña stresses that although he sees most of his patients for scheduled appointments, the nature of his specialty means he is available on an emergency basis seven days a week.

Dr. Peña is an expert in dental implants, the most important and best solution for replacing the look, feel, and function of natural teeth — and a procedure that is prohibitively expensive in North America. Another frequent surgical procedure is tooth extraction, especially on impacted wisdom teeth. Maxillofacial surgeons are also one of only three surgeons who may perform bichectomies, or bichat ball removal, an esthetic procedure that improves appearance.

Dra. Valdiviezo completed an additional three years of training at the University of Cuenca, and specializes in Oral Rehabilitation and Cosmetic Dentistry, essentially all dental services that improve the quality of the teeth and smile, including bridges, crowns and veneers. Dental SMILE also offers orthodontics and braces, should that be a good option for you.

And Dra. Valdiviezo specializes in "Smile Design."

I'm so impressed by how far dentistry has come. Using simple photos along with sophisticated software, Dra. Valdiviezo creates a cosmetic treatment plan to share with you that allows her to create a smile that you've been dreaming about but could never afford. Creating a new smile that looks natural is the goal instead of 'Chicleteeth' that look obviously fake. Veneers and crowns have come such a long way in the past few years, and Smile Design allows you and the dentist to perfectly fit and color resin and ceramic veneers and crowns naturally. Email or call the office for your \$20 consultation with Dra. Valdiviezo and see your options for that dream smile.

Dr. Peña and Dra. Valdiviezo stress that the comfort and trust of the patient is their first priority and therefore they offer three different levels of anesthesia. Some procedures may require just local Novocain, or a patient may opt for both local and an anti-anxiety medication to make the procedure more tolerable. If necessary, an anesthesiologist will be scheduled to help ensure your comfort and this can be performed in the office.

And speaking of comfort, each chair suite has a flat screen television positioned on the ceiling right over the chair, so when you're lying back during a procedure you can enjoy your choice of Netflix and other entertainment! You can cope with any anxiety by watching an old episode of Seinfeld!

With two separate chair suites in the spacious office, procedures can be scheduled to allow as much work to be done in as short a period of time as possible. Both doctors work with specialists — should you need endodontic (root canal), periodontic work (gums), or an orthodontic specialist, the office will schedule all services to coincide with an implant or other procedure if necessary, to limit the visits to as few as possible.

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Cuenca updating 3 de Noviembre market as tourism location

The 3 de Noviembre market has been selected to be turned into Ecuador's first market specialized for tourists. A plan is already set to refurbish the entire market, including both the retail and the wholesaler warehouses. This would be an option to enjoy gastronomy and purchase products typical of the region. There will also be added services to attract tourists, such as the 'limpias' (cleansings) done by the elder women.



Luis Alba, Vice President of the Association of Merchants, explained that this market suffered heavily when the Tramvia works started. They were once very busy, but because of the construction and street closings caused by the Tramvia, the market saw a huge decrease in sales that has continued even with the opening of all the streets in El Centro.

A few modifications to the market have already taken place. For example, a closed-circuit TV network has been installed, free WiFi is now available and new food stands have been added. There are also plans to move the seafood and meats zone to another area. With the new design there will also be a specific section for crafts.

The Directorate of Markets is also planning something similar for three plazas: San Francisco, Las Flores and Santa Ana, that are all part of the "Patrimonial Route". The "Patrimonial Route" is a program to hold cultural and artistic events portraying traditions of the city. These events will be promoted with the concept of "Plaza Viva," (Living Plaza).

The first plaza to hold events was San Francisco, and within the next few weeks, Plaza Las Flores will be holding events. "All these activities have the objective of attracting more visits to the Historic Center, and to bring people to our Plazas," stated Fausto Guillen, administrator of Diez de Agosto Market and of Plaza San Francisco, Plaza de las Flores and Santa Ana Plaza.

Extracted from Diario El Tiempo

Ecuador reviewing new regulation for the fishing sector



The Ministry of Production, Foreign Commerce, Investments and Fishing (MPCEIP), has sent the National Assembly the new Organic Law Project for Fishing and Aquaculture. It has been 45 years since the last time the fishing sector was provided a new regulation.

The new regulation will rule over sectors that weren't included before; marine farming, inland fish farming and aquaculture. The latter category is where shrimp—one of the main exports of Ecuador—are found.

"The aim of this new regulation is to make sure the use of these environments and animals is sustainable and responsible," stated Patricio Donoso, Minister of Production. The project is backed by international institutions such as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, and the DG MARE—an institution in charge of the European Union maritime and fishing policies.

The fishing industry provides over 100,000 direct and indirect jobs in Ecuador.

Extracted from Diario El Tiempo

Clinica Guayaquil obtains nationwide air transportation permit for human organs



(DGAC).

The company in charge of this transportation service will be ARIGIL S.A., which will obviously operate from the Clinica Guayaquil heliport. The helicopters to be used are the Robinson R-44 models. They helicopters can fly in many different climate conditions.

Extracted from El Telegrafo

Ecuador World Robot Olympiad winners heading to Hungary

On August 17th, teams of students from numerous schools competed in a "knockout round" in Guayaquil to gain three spots to go to this year's International Final of the World Robot Olympiad in Hungary. This year's Ecuador event, held at Universidad Católica de Guayaquil, boasted the largest attendance ever in the country. The robots in the contest were designed and made with Lego pieces; Lego is one of the partners of the WRO Organization.

The members of the jury chose winners based on the robot's design, size, and the time it took to complete the tasks it was programmed to do. Most tasks were just transporting items resembling people or goods, from one point to another. The robots had to navigate through a board



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that resembled a city, while carrying things on a specific road and without bumping into too many objects.

The competition had four categories and 3 winning tickets; no more than one ticket could be awarded in any category. The four categories were: "WeDo," for kids between 6 and 10 year of age; "Elementary," for the 7 to 12 age group; "Junior," for ages 13 to 15; and finally, "Senior," for adolescents for 16 to 19 years of age. The Junior category had no winners.

The winner for WeDo was Colegio Menor; for Elementary was Moderna; and for Senior the winner was Aula del Conocimiento Hogar de Cristo.

The finals in Hungary will take place in November 8th. The theme for this year's edition is "Smart Cities."

Extracted from El Telegrafo

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see the back page >>



BIESS puts up \$900 million for home mortgages up to \$130,000



The Bank of the Ecuadorian Social Security Institute (BIESS), is setting aside \$900 million to be used for mortgage loans of up to \$130,000. The Government of Ecuador is guaranteeing the loans for up to 100 percent of the appraised value of the property.

This new mortgage commitment was reported by President Lenin Moreno, at the "House for All of BIESS," event held yesterday in La Armenia, in Quito.

New or used home loans of up to \$90,000 will have an interest rate of 5.99 percent, while home loans from \$90,000 to \$130,000 will have an interest rate of 6.99 percent. The maximum payment term will be 25 years.

With the BIESS mortgage loans, people can acquire their own home, land, commercial premises, or office. They can also build, expand or remodel a house or apartment.

In addition, the bank will allow mortgagees to transfer a mortgage loan from other financial institutions to share in the benefits of this program.

The prequalification application to obtain a mortgage can be completed online. The approximate time from application to the disbursement of funds is 56 days.

Cuenca opens new Property Registration building



This week the city inaugurated a new Property Registry building, located in the south of Cuenca. The property, located on Avenida Doce de Octubre and Isabela Católica, has eight floors with an area of almost 5,000 square meters of construction. Two subfloors have parking for 34 vehicles.

Pedro Palacios, the Mayor of Cuenca, reported that the total investment in the building was just over \$3.75 million. He also announced that services in the building commence on Wednesday, August 21, 2019 from 8:00AM to 4:30PM.

The ground floor will house the customer service, information processing, reception and delivery areas. The first floor will also have a customer service and information processing areas.

The second floor will be used for processing, systematization and strategic information development activities; the third floor

will hold the categorization of information, archiving, strategic technological development of information and research divisions.

The fourth floor will be used for administrative activities and on the last floor will be used for resource management, complementary services and training.

Cuenca medical office closed for violations



The medical clinic of 'Clinical Surgical Specialty' was temporarily closed by the Agency for Quality Assurance of Prepaid Health and Medicine Services (ACESS).

Agency staff said that the clinic's medical professional did not have his specialty documentation and was not registered in the computer systems of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (Senescyt).

"The registration of the title of professionals who provide health services is one of the fundamental requirements that are verified in the inspections they perform. The Agency has a digital platform, where professionals can register," said Juan Avilez, ACESS provincial delegate.

Extracted from Diario El Tiempo

Amazon fires cause stir on social media



The plight of the Amazon has seen millions take to social media to decry reports of a massive yearly increase in forest fires. But some of the most striking - and viral - pictures shared by social media users are not all they seem.

The hashtag #PrayForAmazonia started to be widely used on Tuesday. It has been included in almost 3 million tweets since. The most widely shared tweet using that hashtag - with more than a million likes and retweets - includes two aerial images of forest fires, neither of which show the current situation.

One dates as far back as 1989. And other widely shared images include fires as far away as Siberia or the United States.

Likewise, video of a Pataxo woman angrily accusing illegal ranchers of starting fires has almost 5 million views. But the video has been shared on social media since at least July. So while it may point to one potential reason for the reported increase in forest fires, it's not

necessarily a depiction of the present situation.

How has President Bolsonaro reacted?

President Bolsonaro further angered those concerned over the spike in fires by brushing off the latest data.

He argued that it was the season of the "queimada", when farmers burn land to clear it before planting but Inpe has noted that the number of fires is not in line with those normally reported during the dry season.

The president also joked about the criticism directed against him, saying "I used to be called Captain Chainsaw. Now I am Nero, setting the Amazon aflame."

Later he appeared to suggest that non-governmental organisations had set fires, as revenge for his government slashing their funding. He presented no evidence and gave no names to support this theory, saying there were "no written records about the suspicions".

"So, there could be... I'm not affirming it, criminal action by these 'NGOers' to call attention against my person, against the government of Brazil. This is the war that we are facing," he said on Wednesday, before subsequently denying having blamed the NGOs for lighting the fires on Friday.

It is not the first time Mr Bolsonaro has cast doubt on figures suggesting that the Amazon is deteriorating rapidly.

Last month, he accused Inpe's director of lying about the scale of deforestation and trying to undermine the government. It came after Inpe published data showing an 88% increase in deforestation in the Amazon in June compared to the same month a year ago.

The director of the agency later announced that he was being sacked amid the row.



What causes the fires?

Wildfires often occur in the dry season in Brazil but they are also deliberately started in efforts to illegally deforest land for cattle ranching.

"The dry season creates the favourable conditions for the use and spread of fire, but starting a fire is the work of humans, either deliberately or by accident," Inpe researcher Alberto Setzer told Reuters news agency.

Ricardo Mello, head of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Amazon Programme, said the fires were "a consequence of the increase in deforestation seen in recent figures".

Over the past decade, previous Brazilian governments had managed to reduce deforestation with action by federal agencies and a system of fines.

But Mr Bolsonaro and his ministers have criticised the penalties and overseen a fall in confiscations of timber and convictions for environmental crimes.

Extracted from bbc.com

CRIME REPORT AND ACCIDENT REPORT

Cuenca Area Traffic Accidents

* A serious traffic accident between a van and a truck left three people injured in the Cuenca-Molleturo-El Empalme road. The force of the crash caused the truck to flip over.

According to the witness reports, there were people trapped inside the cars involved. Drivers who stopped for the accident tried to help the injured drivers and passenger out of the vehicles but were unable to open the doors.

Ambulances from the Ministry of Public Health, MSP, Traffic Commission of Ecuador, CTE, and the Fire Department of Cuenca were sent. They helped the injured escape from the vehicles and transferred three people to area hospitals.

An infant and a 31-year-old woman were sent to the José Carrasco Arteaga hospital. A 36-year-old male was transferred to the Vicente Corral Moscoso hospital.

* 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.

* Two people were killed and two others were injured in a violent crash in the high-speed lane of the Cuenca-Azogues road. The accident happened at 9:20PM on Saturday, when a Suzuki Forsa was hit in the rear by a large dump truck.

The force of the impact crushed the small car, trapping its occupants. Firemen from the Azogues and Cuenca Fire Brigade had to use special tools to cut the roof off to rescue the injured. They found two men and a woman inside the vehicle and a young woman outside the car.

The injured were rushed to the Homero Castanier hospital in Azogues, where doctors confirmed that a woman identified as Deysi Karina Morquecho, 22, died. Hours later it was learned that Jorge Luis Sarmiento, 26, also passed away. The other two injured were released.

Luis Guayasamin, chief of the Cañar Traffic Police, said there are different witness reports as to whether the car was parked or moving. Investigations will continue to determine the circumstances of the accident to establish responsibilities.

* A motorcycle passenger was killed on Saturday night when the vehicle he was riding on was rammed by an unknown vehicle in the livestock fair sector.

Paramedics reported that at the site of the accident they found Cristian Xavier Guamán, 22, without vital signs, and another person with minor injuries, next to a motorcycle on the road.

The body was transferred to the Forensic Center, where the autopsy was performed Tuesday morning revealing that the cause of death was due to a skull fracture.

The vehicle that rammed the motorcycle fled the scene of the accident.

* A young woman died after being run over at kilometer 12 of the Panamericana Norte, Challabamba sector, in Cuenca.

According to relatives of the victim, Mayra Maribel Saant Yunga, 26, the police do not know the identity of the driver or have a description of the vehicle involved.

The tragedy happened last Thursday around 6:30PM. At that time, the woman was found seriously injured on the road and her relatives took her quickly to the hospital. Edwin Saant, the girl's father, said that at first they did not know what happened to her and all they did was try to save her life. However, due to the severity of the injuries, Mayra died at the hospital on Tuesday morning.

Cuenca Area Criminal Activity

(Cuenca) On Tuesday, bus riders called the local police to report that a young woman was robbing passengers. The call for help was responded to by members of the Motorized Operations Group, who later arrested a 16-year-old teenager for allegedly stealing a woman's cell phone.

The robbery was committed around 1:00PM on Tuesday at Batán Street and Avenida de las Américas. The teenager was later arrested at Remigio Crespo y Cañar Avenue.

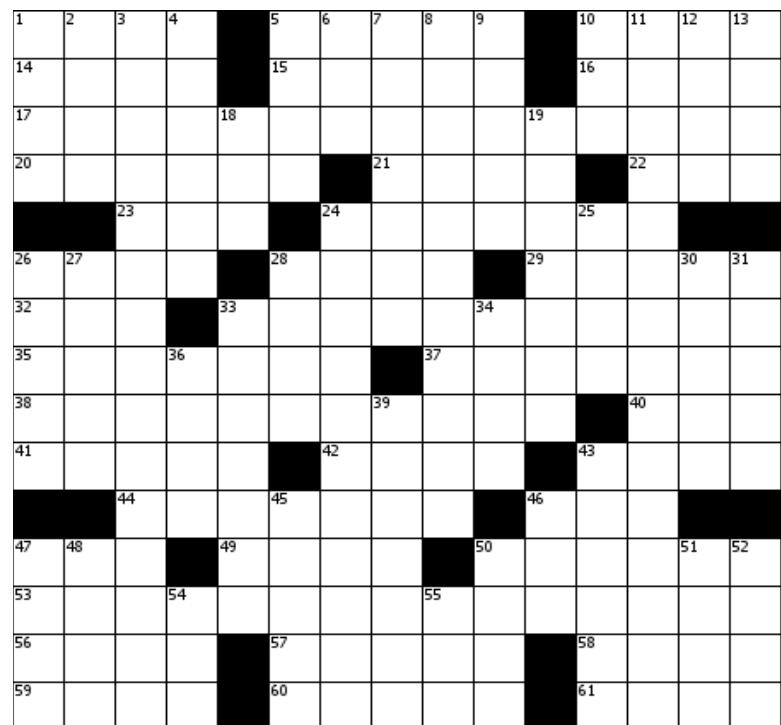
(Cuenca) Citizens who have businesses in the Historic Center of Cuenca are concerned about the frequent robberies committed in recent days.

The most recent robbery happened in Tuesday morning at the 'JG' jewelry store, located on Mariscal Lamar and Benigno Malo. Guillermo Durazno, owner of the premises, said that the robbery was committed in the early hours of the morning; when he arrived at his business he was surprised to find one of his showcases empty.

He said criminals took \$500 in cash and jewelry valued at \$3,500. Police investigations indicate that the criminals first entered a tombstone store next door, then opened a gap in a wooden division and went to the jewelry store to commit the robbery.

In another Historic Center robbery, a few days earlier a criminal robbed a multi-payment premises, located at Mariscal Lamar and Padre Aguirre. The thief's action were recorded by a security camera that showed the subject approaches the cash window and point a revolver at the workers, demanding that they give him the money.

The owners of nearby premises also recalled that about three weeks ago a subject entered a legal office and with a screwdriver intimidated the lawyer to steal his cell phone. In addition, they stated that theft of passersby is frequent.



See answers on page 5

Across

1. Corp. VIPs
5. Church of Eng. descendant
10. Aqua Velva alternative
14. Place to use old records
15. Verve
16. Signify
17. Opening well
20. Whodunit weapon
21. MGM co-founder
22. Looney Tunes devil, familiarly
23. Crew leader
24. One might be made for an exit
26. Slant
28. Fly catcher
29. "Wine ... causeth all men __ that drink it": Esdras
32. Org. that can find a way?
33. Oratorical principle evident in "Friends, Romans, countrymen"
35. Words after a failed guess
37. Most homeowners
38. "The Jazz Singer" composer, 1980
40. Victoria Cross relative: Abbr.
41. Fit
42. Perfume scent
43. Some
44. Malaria medicine
46. Boxer's warning
47. __ Dhabi
49. Nice negatives
50. Makes an adjustment at the rifle range
53. Elicit a top performance
56. Zinger
57. About 1.3 cubic yards
58. Actress Swenson
59. "The Council of Elrond" singer
60. Chilling
61. "Not __ eye ..."

Down

1. Pork serving
2. Inventory acronym
3. Scotland Yard action
4. Suppresses
5. Alaska's first governor
6. Curly-tailed dog
7. Cut off
8. Risked
9. Hard to crack
10. Fig.
11. Pet parrot, e.g.
12. Fictional Georgia spread
13. 1998 film with the character General Mandible
18. Losing line
19. Smacked
24. Really fast
25. Frau's boy
26. Elmo, for one
27. Ancient: Prefix
28. Conductor Riccardo
30. '40s-'50s Dodger hero
31. Plant anew
33. Clearing
34. Canary, so to speak
36. Sharp cheese
39. Where the Treaty of Westphalia was signed
43. Qatar locale
45. Portentous knot
46. "How about that!"
47. Calais cleric
48. Ground husk
50. Asian resignee of 1960
51. Cath. title
52. Abide
54. It had a team in Ft. Wayne, Indiana until 1957
55. Part of TNT

Streetlight Productions presents...

Gatos Negros y Cascos de Arena

When:

September 21, 2019.
Doors open 6:30pm

Where:

Villa San Carlos
Remigio Tamariz 1-85
& Av. Solano

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

Net proceeds are for the benefit of the
musicians

Can you see this?
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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 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

MegaPizza VasSalli NEW HOURS of Operation

Hi Everyone, as most of you know I have issues with my back and neck , for the last few weeks it has been very difficult for Carina to do most of the work.

The new hours effective Immediately for MegaPizza VasSalli

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday : Closed

Thursday: 5pm -10Pm

Friday : 5pm 10pm

Saturday: 5pm -10pm

Sunday 5pm -10pm

Address: Esteves De Toral 13-31 and Antonio Vega Muñoz.

Contact: Cari phone: 0990783480

We are Visa Angels of Ecuador

Visa Angels of Ecuador is located in Cuenca and is here to make your visa process a breeze

Contact: joann mansfield

Contact Email Address: jodie47@gmail.com

Contact Phone Number: 0995362612

Conversation in English Wanted

Conversation

I am looking for a woman for conversation in English. I am an older male gringo in pretty good condition. While I would prefer an Ecuadorian woman I am open to any race, nationality, or color. We could meet in any coffee shop of your choice. I live near Supermaxi in El Vergel. Only conversation. Nothing else.

Contact: Theodoro Swenson phone: 098-759-0678
e-mail: theodoroa645@gmail.com

Vegetarian and vegan food

Delicious falafel, made with the traditional recipe based on chick-pea and crispy vegan nuggets, ready to fry or bake.

Ask also for our gluten milanesas. 100% vegan and nutritious at the best price.

Contact: Oriana Maria Gonzalez phone: 0963271183

Sunday Worship at Calvary Chapel Cuenca

We would love to have you join us for Sunday Worship at Calvary

Chapel Cuenca. We have two Spanish services at 8 and 11AM and an English service at 9:30AM. We are located eight blocks west of Coral Centro, which is on Avenida Las Americas. The church is at the intersection of Juan Pio Montufar and Primera Convención. Montufar is the street directly across from Coral Centro. It has no street sign. Bus Line 22 has a stop in the block in front of the church.

Contact: Charlie Carroll phone: 0988226365

Vacation Season DISCOUNTS! C&C unisex hair design

C&C cares about your hair. Take advantage of this huge DISCOUNT!!! 2X1 Hair Treatment \$25 . Men's Package includes manicure pedicure haircut shaving facial scrub exfoliating by steamer \$20 . Cut , Color , Style \$30 and up . Eyebrows upper lip by threading or waxing \$6 . Highlights \$50 and up . 1 hour body massage \$30 get free express manicure and more.

All Services include a glass of wine , coffee, hot tea .

Book up today or follow us in Facebook as C&C unisex hair design , Instagram as c.c_unisexhairdesign .

Contact: Clemencia Vizhnay phone: 0988148902

Ahhordable massage, facials and more at home. Specials!

Massages, facials and much more by an experienced, licensed cosmetologist with her own treatment/massage table – in the comfort of your own home.

August, 2019 specials – in-home only.*

Services summary: Massage – Facial hydration – Anti-aging and lifting – Facial renovation – Body and facial depigmentation – Acne control – Relaxing massages – Lymphatic drainage before and after surgery – Waxing with facial and body wax – Permanent Eyelash curling.

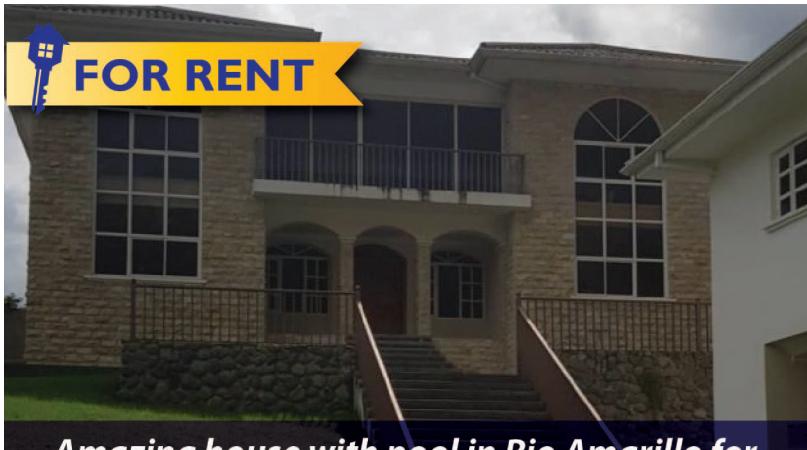
*for first time clients.

Contact: Alejandra phone: Whatsapp message/voice and cel 099 101 5477

Solution to Sudoku puzzle on page 3

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

Real Estate & Rentals



Amazing house with pool in Rio Amarillo for rent near Pettit Jardin Restaurant

It has 4 bedrooms, 3 baths
Living room with beautiful fireplace
Dining room. Large Kitchen
2 parking. Suite adicional (1 bedroom & bath, small kitchen)

Contact:
Carla Encarnación
093 905 5399
ecuadorclegsa21@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



Fully furnished apartment with a covered terrace 180° VIEWS

This amazing unit just came out of the oven. YES, it comes with a Terrace and has a great view to the Yanuncay-river. The apartment has 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, EVERYTHING IS INCLUDED!

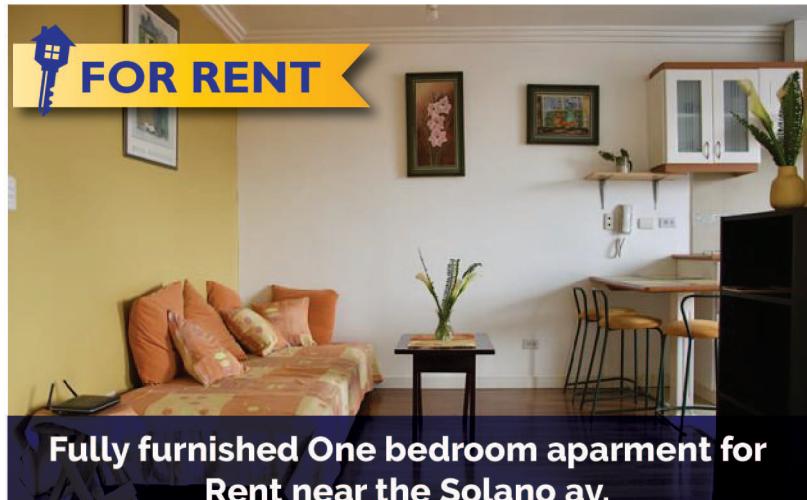
Contact:
Roberto Cruz
0995 821 318
mediosoles@gmail.com



THREE-BEDROOM APARTMENT BY THE YANUNCAY RIVER

This 3-bedroom apartment is on the second floor, comes fully furnished with washer and dryer, TV room with 42 inches flat screen TV. It includes a large terrace. Rent covers all utilities, condo fee, Internet and Direct TV. 24-hour security, elevator, lines and taxis. Pets are allowed

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0994882938
rentalscuenca@gmail.com



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mediosoles@gmail.com



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Kathy@CuencaRealEstate.com