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National Assembly debates medicinal cannabis in Ecuador

On July 23rd, the second debate on the reform project over the Health Organic Code was held. The major issue is in regard to the therapeutic use of cannabis. "Under no concept this pretends to authorize the recreational use of cannabis or to legalize marijuana," stated William Garzon, president of the Commission of the Right to Health.

Mr. Garzon stated that they have received testimonies of families from patients that no longer respond to conventional treatments and they see in the therapeutic use of cannabis the possibility of relieving the pain from these pathologies. "We have to give these people the opportunity for an alternative therapeutic treatment, with all the regulations necessary," he commented.

In the new health regulation, it's provided that the Ministry of Public Health will issue licenses for five years to companies, cooperatives or associations, whose purpose is to produce medications or natural products for medicinal use with this plant.

Even though the World Health Organization, as of November 2017, stated that "cannabidiol does not appear to be harmful substance, nor does it represent a risk of abuse," it is left to the national legislators to decide on



the legal status of this substance.

Ecuador has been among the last countries to address this issue in Latin America. The use of medicinal products derived from the marijuana plant is already regulated in: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico and Uruguay.

Extracted from El Telegrafo

Three companies being investigated for contracted Tram works



Three companies that participated in the construction of the Cuatro Ríos Tram, in Cuenca, are being investigated by the National Directorate of Public Procurement and the Comptroller General of the State (CGE).

For now, none of the companies have been charged with a crime since it is necessary to wait for the CGE to conclude its analysis and make the conclusions public.

The consortium called SMTC-Ac / Artelia Ville & Transport, of France, consisting of two construction firms, is one of the companies on the list of contractors being investigated by the control agencies.

In April 2013, the Municipality of Cuenca signed a contract with this foreign group for the management and supervision of the construction of

the tramway works. The contract was for an amount of \$6.3 million euros (about \$8.3 million USD).

Another company being investigated is the Basque Railway Network Euskal Trembide Sarea, of Spain. In December of 2011, this group won the process for the feasibility studies of the tramway system, for an approximate value of \$3.8 million USD.

Finally, the GME Cita Cuenca consortium, from France, who was contracted in June 2013 by the Cuenca municipality for the "provision, installation and assistance in the implementation of this system" for \$143 million USD is also under investigation.

Cristian Zamora, councilor of Cuenca, says "it is positive that not only public officials are followed when there are signs of corruption but so also are private companies ...".

He added, "... when corruption is suspected there is the corrupter and the corrupted one, therefore it is a biunivocal aspect, where the investigation processes carried out by the authorities must be both ways."

Councilor Omar Alvarez said a pronouncement and analysis on the matter by the Supervisory Committee of the Cantonal Council of Cuenca is necessary.

"We are concerned that new issues arise that are already anticipated ... In the Comptroller General of the State (CGE) processes are ready and it is known in some detail where anomalies have occurred

cont. page 5.



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Publisher:
Jonathan Mogrovejo
info@thecuencadispatch.com

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Bianca Mosquera

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I'M JUST SAYIN'

By Michael Soares

A sunny day really helps

It's early as I write this, just a little after 6:00AM. Not my usual time for waking up, I can promise you that much. But, Cici (our city cat) was of the opinion that, "Hey, it's a beautiful day, you need to get up." She started that cry at about 5:30AM.

I decided to give in and see what she was so excited about. Turns out it was simply a gorgeous sunrise with blue skies and a few random small clouds. The rays of light streaming into our condo this morning were glorious and really worth getting up to see. Granted, an extra hour of sleep and it might still have been just as nice to see, but I'm happy anyway.

And as they say, it's amazing what a difference a day can make. Because last night, after reading about all of the rotten things that people are doing to each other (and to the planet) all over the world, I wrote this column in its first draft. It was not pretty. I had pretty much given up on mankind and wished the planet well in "spewing us all from its surface."

I was filled with dread over what I see as the world's largest democracy being turned into an autocracy, and the rise of hatred and racism all over again. My column really was pretty dark.

But after the cleansing of clear and sunny skies and the purring of a cat who is so happy that I am up to see it with her, it's hard to have such a fatalistic view right now. The world is still a rough place, there is still so much violence, greed, hatred and oppression. But I feel better equipped to face it, talk about it, react to it and push back on it all.

We all know that my politics lean left. And I'm not asking anyone to agree with that. If you want to be a conservative right-winger and disagree completely with what I think leaning left stands for, then so be it. I don't care if you think "socialism" is a dirty word. I don't care if you think owning a gun fits in with your Judeo-Christian beliefs. I don't care if you think it's okay that an almost imperceptible percentage of the world's population owns the majority of its wealth.

What I do care about is if you think it's okay to tweet hatred and support the idea of making classes of people "the problem," so that you can feel better about yourself. I do care if you believe that being presidential means tweeting vile and hateful things rather than offering wise and sage advice. I do care if you think that acting like a 12-year-old schoolyard bully is the way to run a country, 280 characters at a time.

Those things matter. Those things are what will raise up a country, and the world along with it, or will help push it further and further along the path of civil war and segregationism. Those are the things that will make it "okay" for people to blame others for their problems and allow people to have excuses for killing each other.

Those are the things that will make us forget that we are all part of "mankind."

And that's what got me so worked up in the first draft of this column last night. What I see happening worldwide is a throwback to the past. Where it's the "others" that cause all of "my" problems. Where someone else is always to blame. Where it's not okay to say, "This is wrong, let's talk about it," without being called all sorts of vindictive and childish names.

That's not okay. We should be better than that at this point in our evolution. We should be able to have CIVIL discourse and debate points, not yell and scream and insult and dig in our heels and say that your wrong simply because I'm right.

For the sake of mankind, the animal kingdom, the planet and all of us on a personal level, wake the hell up! This is a turning point in time where we can choose to keep digging holes to push each other in, or where we can stand across our chasms and at least listen to each other and work on fixing things we all see as problems.

Now today, I am seeing that as a possibility. Because I woke up to a beautiful sunny morning with a purring cat. And I didn't read any news before I wrote this. Hopefully I can maintain that feeling throughout the day. Because the alternative is to yell and scream and blame and argue. And that is getting so tiresome. Really,

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

See answers on page 11

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

Answers to puzzle on page 10

Street sellers willing to leave the streets if space is made for them

The Federation of Autonomous Workers of Azuay (Fetrapaz), met once again with the Municipality of Cuenca to request the provision of new spaces for informal merchants. They are requesting that the Municipality appoints certain spaces for them to occupy, if they are to leave the streets.

The organization has detected multiple spaces in the Canton that could be used for permanent markets, such as the Hermano Miguel Alley and the platforms for itinerant markets in Narancay, Quinta Chica, Miraflores, among others.

"As president, I agree that we cannot make public markets out of the streets, but we have given proposals for solutions and we ask that they listen to us to reach an agreement," said Mauricio Zambrano, president of the Federation.

The Directorate of Markets and Autonomous Commerce of the municipality is in process of reorganizing the markets in accordance to their wares and niches, thus providing a better order and service to users.

Fetrapaz is comprised of over 1,200 members. All of them work in public spaces selling their merchandise.

Extracted from Diario El Mercurio

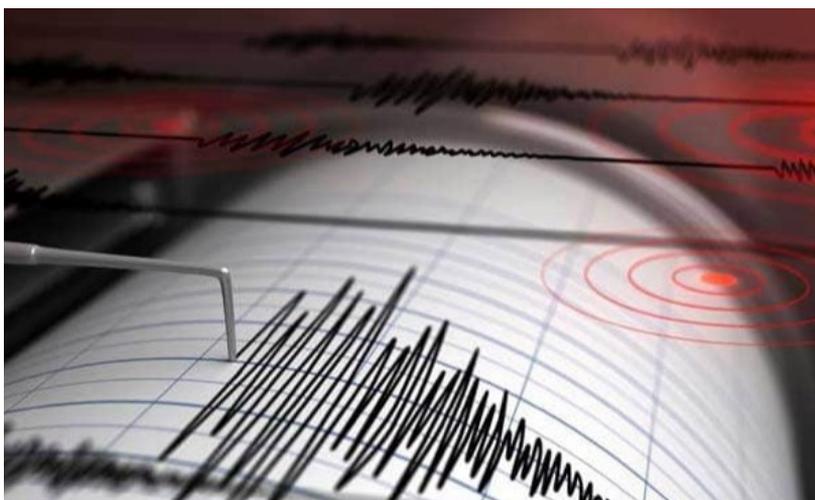


Cuenca wakes to earthquake tremor

A slight tremor was felt at dawn on Wednesday, in Cuenca. According to information from the Geophysical Institute, IG, the epicenter was registered in the province of Chimborazo.

The movement was recorded at 04:41, with an earthquake of magnitude 4.65, at a depth of 9.85 km, 26.81km in Cumandá, Chimborazo. No material damage or injured persons have been reported.

The Risk Management Secretariat reports that the earthquake was moderately felt in San Miguel, Guaranda and Chimbo, Bolívar province, and mild in Naranjal, Guayaquil, Samborondón and Bucay. In the province of Pastaza, Cañar, and most cantons in Chimborazo



Nulti offers a 'living tour' package



Inhabitants from the town of Nulti have made an alliance with a travel agency from Cuenca to offer tourist packages to visit the community to see the day-to-day living in the locality. They are seeking to draw attention from expats who might wish to live there.

The inhabitants of Nulti are mostly local crafters and artisans; bakers, cooks, farmers. They realized that many people could be looking to live in or visit a quiet town with great things to offer; landscapes, plains and mountains. The group of inhabitants arranged 3 tours around the parish.

The Decentralized Government and people of Nulti always had in mind to make this town a touristic attraction, but only recently have they been able to start making that idea a reality. They created an alliance with CorpoViajes, located in Borrero 6-49 and Jaramillo, in El Centro of Cuenca, to create this 'living tour,' where people not only visit, but engage with the community and share experiences with them. The tour cost of \$40 dollars.

The visitors are taken to different landscapes, locations, restaurants and they are given a snack, a souvenir and a meal. The tour takes a full day.

The locals are planning to expand the services for extreme sports enthusiasts in the future.

To sign up for the tour, you can also contact a guide at 0993420623.

Extracted from Diario El Mercurio

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Fake calls to 911 have a high cost

Since the beginning of 2019, Ecu-911, as the emergencies agency is called, has been receiving around 170 fake calls a day—just in the Austro region alone. This represents a high waste in time and resources for the institution.

The average fake call lasts around 1 minute and 11 seconds and costs the institution —according to calculations provided by Senplades (National Secretariat of Planning and Development)—around \$2.08 dollars. Senplades estimated the productive and non-productive costs; compensations, depreciated equipment and basic services including telecom.

This means that in the Austro region (Cañar, Azuay and Loja) fake calls cost around \$353 dollars a day to the state. "These are high numbers. When people make a fake call we deliver resources, deploy personnel and spend time," stated Alexandra Altamirano, coordinator of Ecu-911 Austro.

Because of this, the institution has started a campaign called 'Usa bien el 911' (Use 911 well), in order to create awareness of the right use of the system to the citizens of the region. The initiative was presented yesterday



on a national level.

The campaign will create images and information banners to spread through the internet and social media and they hope the amount of fake calls will decrease once citizens understand the situation. "Last year we spent over \$12 Million USD attending these calls," stated Juan Zapata, national director of Ecu-911.

Extracted from Diario El Tiempo

Sigsig signs an intention document to become a Healthy Municipality

The Sigsig Municipality is working with the Sixth Zonal Health Coordination to become a "Healthy Municipality." This is a program created by the Ministry of health where Decentralized Governments (GADs) file their intention to adhere to the standards set by the ministry in order to be certified as a town for healthy living.

The standards created by the ministry range from: urban planning for healthy walking spaces; regulation in traffic and transportation; good management of sewage, drainage, residual waters, waste and drinking water; promoting recreational areas that focus in art and sport; territorial planning for a good use of the soil; preventing and controlling environmental pollution; promoting mechanisms of social economic growth; and finally, good management of expenditure of produce, slaughterhouses, markets and cemeteries.

These are the factors that the Ministry of Health has detected that can immensely change the health and living conditions of a community.

As of now, the Sigsig City Hall has signed a document of intention to submit to these qualifications, as part of the 'Adherence Phase' (Phase 1) of the program. The next step would be the Development Phase, in which a situational analysis will be performed, and a plan of action will be drafted. Finally, the Certification Phase requires an external assessment, a report of the implementation of the plan and finally, the issuance of certification.

The GAD's progress will be measured in three types of certificates; Certificate 1 (35%): Municipality Enthusiast of Health; Certificate 2 (60%): Municipality Guarantor of Health; Certificate 3 (85%): Healthy Municipality.

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Three companies being investigated for contracted Tram works (cont.)

...", he said.

Andrés Ugalde, councilor of Cuenca, announced that he has sent an official request to the Comptroller General of the State (CGE) to deliver the final report on the last examination he made to the Four Rivers Rivers Tram project.

"There is already a first draft and this draft already raised some issues that are complex ... There is already talk of companies that had intervened in a manner not to say illegal at least irregular in the construction of the tram ", he said.

Ugalde questioned the fact that the previous administration had begun the circulation of the tram cars without completing all construction work and processes. He recalled that the maintenance has yet to be contracted.

Note: The construction of the Cuatro Ríos Tram was initially planned with an investment of \$230 million USD.

Extracted from Diario El Mercurio

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Manta fishermen free baby humpback whale from nets

In the early afternoon of July 17th, the fishermen that worked on the 2nd international dock in the Manta port, realized that a baby humpback whale was trapped in one of their nets. They immediately alerted the authorities in order for a scuba team to be deployed for the rescue mission. The Ministry of Environment deployed the rescue team and the humpback whale was released by 6:00 PM that same day.

The video of the rescue was uploaded to YouTube, where you can see the rescue team cutting the nets that trapped the baby whale. As a curious side note, the baby whale stayed closed to the boat where the team was without the need to restrain it. When it was partially set free, it started to drift away, but came back on its own will to allow the rescuers to finish cutting off the nets. A nice remark to remind us of the sensibility and intelligence of these animals.

These whales generally swim through these waters, near Manabi, in order to mate. Their mating season starts in July and ends in October.

Extracted from Diario El Tiempo



Institutions call for the revision of the drug schedule

The Citizen's Assembly for Safety of Cuenca," is requesting the National Government and the National Assembly revise and reform the 'drug schedule.'

According to data of the Ministry of Public Health (MSP), Cuenca is over the average of underage (12 to 17 years old) drug use in the country, including cigarettes and alcohol.

"In Cuenca, the quality of life is better than in other places, and there's more money. This could mean that there is a higher acquisitive power, thus more money to buy these products," said Milton Tamayo, an educational psychologist and consultant for drug prevention programs. As of now, alcohol use is at 46.4% and tobacco is at 22.37%, in contrast to the national averages which are 40.6% and 13.7% respectively.

Different areas like: San Joaquin, Quingeo, El Sagrario, Gil Ramirez Davalos and Huayna Capac are where you will most likely find teenagers consuming drugs.

Various experts feel the government needs to address this issue by making awareness campaigns in schools and also by providing information for heads of families.

As of 2013, the National Government created a schedule that differentiates consumers from drug dealers. There are certain amounts of certain drugs that can be carried and are considered consumer amounts; two grams of cocaine paste; one of cocaine hydrochloride; 0.1 g of heroin; 0.015 g of ecstasy or substances alike; 0.04 g of amphetamine; and up to 10 g of marijuana. 1 g is about 1/30th of an ounce.

This schedule is what The Citizen's Assembly is asking be revised. Extracted from Diario El Mercurio



CIDAP, a Crafts and Arts Museum worth visiting while in Cuenca

The Inter-American Center of Popular Arts and Crafts (CIDAP), is a museum and cultural space with over 8,000 art and craft pieces from over 28 countries. It's located right next to the stairs down towards Parque de La Madre from Calle Larga, on the 3 de Noviembre Road.

The institution was created in 1975 and it's supported by the Organization of American States, as well as the Ecuadorian state. It has seven halls where exhibitions are set up according to temporary themes. "It all depends on the dates, since we set up the annual calendar for displays according to the Hispano-American traditional celebrations," stated Raul Cabrera, guide at the museum. "For example, in November we'll be displaying pieces in honor to Mexico, and they'll be in display for a month," he continued.

In addition to having a room to commemorate past administrators, there is a space to commemorate Olga Fisch. She was a Hungarian refugee, escaping from the devastation of World War II. She brought her entire art collection and eventually donated all of it to CIDAP. In Ecuador, she was called the 'Matrona de las Artesanias' (The Madam of the Crafts), due to her passion for painting, textiles and art in general.

The center also has a library with over 7,000 books open to the public for browsing. There are also over 18,000 documents including maps, magazines, newspapers and postcards, among other things. "The access to this material is free, but people must remember that these are unique items that must be handled with care," said Norma Contreras, the librarian.

To finish off the experience, CIDAP has a café right outside where visitors can enjoy hot coffee, waffles, sandwiches and beverages of various sorts. The café's service hours are from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

"Our institution also holds multiple fairs and events throughout the year in our premises, making sure we bring life to local art and crafts," said Fausto Ordoñez, the current director.

Extracted from Diario El Tiempo



Ecuador filing document to control international investments and their effects on communities

Ecuador is endorsing a proposal for a treaty—with the purpose of making it a binding instrument—that regulates the activities of transnational corporations and other commercial companies, emphasizing on resource extraction companies. The document will be presented before the United Nations this October.

"This document will work as an umbrella for communities in resistance, for indigenous people that have no opportunity to defend their rights," said Yaku Perez, Prefect of Azuay.

The document is not meant to meddle with the investments from transnational organizations, but instead to make them place those investments in a way that protects the interest of the people. It is expected that this document (if approved) will promote respect in commercial and resource extraction activities within the country and that these activities always comply with international human rights.



In the document's fourth article, it states: "Victims of abuses and damages will have the right to access justice in a context of equality, effectively, swift and without discrimination. The victims will also have access to the proper judicial resources as provided by international law, such as: restitution, compensation, reinstatement, including environmental issues when it corresponds."

The process to approve the document is on its fifth session of negotiations in Geneva. So far, there has been strong opposition from world industrial powers like the United States and China.

Extracted from Diario El Mercurio.



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Returns and refunds law in Ecuador even covers virtual purchases



The Organic Law for the Defense of the Consumer, allows for the return of products and services strictly on the basis of defects. In stores, you can generally always return a product as long as it's in an acceptable condition, just as when it was sold.

Previously, in general there was an exception to this regulation for products and services acquired by phone, TV, internet or delivery. "In these cases, you now have the right to return if you exercise it within three days after the receipt of the good or service and as long as the nature and physical integrity thereof allows it," states the law.

Many stores will not return cash here, but if you bring the receipt, they will give you another product in exchange. The period in which returns are accepted varies from store to store. In cases of services, the right to return is exercised by the immediate cessation of the contract for services.

According to Paulina Murillo, clerk for the "Users and Consumers Department of the People's Advocate Office," these laws are directed towards goods that are of a durable nature; house appliances, vehicles, clothing. These products need to also have a warranty from the seller. "The warranty is basically a promise to solve any issue of the goods I purchased, to fix it until it's in perfect state. If they do this, and I'm still not satisfied, I have the option to return it and receive a money refund," she stated. The warranty should always be the first option when someone is not satisfied with the quality.

Belen Jacome, an attorney, commented that quality cannot be sacrificed under any concept, including discount. It's the obligation of the seller to provide clear and complete information in order for the consumer to freely choose. "If they hid any defects, there is no reason to not accept a return," she said. When a salesman fails to return the good in perfect condition despite resorting to the warranty, people can appeal to the legal figure of hidden defects and demand a reimbursement.

The Ministry of Industries and Productivity has a program for the defense of the consumer. They provide assessment to citizens for the protection of their rights as consumers, through their Internal Management of Assessment and Defense Unit. To access their services you can call 023948760, or through the e-mail: defense.consumidor@mipro.gob.ec. The typical period you have in order to file a complaint is 12 months since the issue with the product or service.

The People's Advocate Office also has a contact e-mail for these incidents: consultas@dpe.gob.ec

Extracted from El Telegrafo

Art exhibition in Puente Roto (Broken Bridge) every Saturday

The Association of Fine Artists of Puente Roto (Broken Bridge) are now having full-day exhibitions of their paintings on Saturdays.

"We start early Saturday mornings. We do this so the community can enjoy some contact with art, and enjoy of the sensibility it creates in human beings," said Holger Zavala, president of the association.

Gabriel Mendez, founder and Vice President of the association, stated that they have been organizing these activities as prelude to the Day of Culture to be celebrated this August 9th. "Artists felt the need to show their art regularly, and not just in Cuenca's festivities. We invite all people who love art to come and see and talk to our artists," he said.

Extracted from Diario El Mercurio



National Assembly to review new deportation proposal



The National Assembly has received a proposal to reform the Organic Law of Human Mobility from the Minister of the Interior, María Paula Romo, who seeks to improve deportation processes. The document was given to the President of the

Assembly, César Litardo, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, José Valencia.

In the proposal, some of the contents of the Mobility Law issued in 2017 are updated. "As you know, Ecuador is no longer part of Unasur," said Romo, explaining that it was necessary to "review the chapter that relates to the treatment of citizens" of that organization.

In addition, Romo stressed that the proposed reform improves procedures to deport foreign citizens who commit crimes in Ecuador. "I think this is the message that has to be clearer: [in this proposal] there is a way to treat people who come to Ecuador and comply with the law (...), but there is a completely different treatment to people who break it."

Romo also noted that in current legislation the procedures for sanctioning and deporting foreigners who violate the law are cumbersome, long and almost impossible to comply with.

"Flexibility, not asking for visas from anyone is a way of being more respectful, but in practice it has proved otherwise. This flexibility made Ecuador an attractive country for human trafficking," said Minister Romo, mentioning the entry of 2,044 Cameroonians who have not left the country.

National Assembly President Litardo said the proposal will be one of the immediate priorities for the Assembly in the coming weeks.

Extracted from Diario El Teimpo

CRIME REPORT AND ACCIDENT REPORT

Cuenca Area Traffic Accidents

* One person was killed, and one was injured in a traffic accident on Tuesday morning in Cañar, Chilchil sector. The accident occurred at 7:00AM when a tanker carrying milk, lost control and drove into a home near the roadside.

Suscal firefighters confirmed that one of passengers in the tanker truck was killed and that one other person was injured and was transferred to Luis F. Martinez de Cañar hospital with a fractured jaw, multiple lacerations and additional cuts to the head.

Ecuador Transit personnel and the National Police investigating the incident said the driver had fled the scene.

* Last Sunday, July 28th, two traffic accidents were recorded in Chordeleg and Cuenca. According to ECU 911, 9 people were injured in the accidents.

The first mishap occurred at 01:40 in the morning in the Chordeleg. A car lost control and crashed, resulting in four injured men between the ages of 19 and 31.

Chordeleg Fire Department personnel evaluated and treated three of the injured at the site and transferred the driver to the Gualaceo Hospital.

The second incident occurred in Cuenca around 1PM when two vehicles collided in the sector of Yana Urco and Río Upano. As a result of this accident five people with minor injuries were treated onsite by personnel from the Cuenca Fire Department.

* This past Saturday two people were injured in separate motorcycle accidents less than an hour apart in Cuenca. According to EMOV and CTE data, mishaps on motorcycles are increasing.

In the first accident, a 19-year-old motorcyclist was seriously injured as a result of a traffic accident on Avenue Primero de Mayo. The car involved in the accident fled the scene but was later tracked down by police with the help of witnesses.

In another similar accident, which occurred on Paseo de los Cañaris Avenue and Hurtado de Mendoza Avenue, another motorcyclist driver was injured when a truck struck him.

Cuenca Area Criminal Activity

(Cuenca) Luis Germán Q. was sentenced to 16 years imprisonment for the crime of rape his stepdaughter when she was 13 years old.

The Prosecutor's Office reported that Luis Germán Q. took his stepdaughter to school every day, but on October 12, 2012, he took her to his hardware store in the center of Cuenca, where he hit and sexually assaulted her. Investigations note that after raping her he threatened to harm her mother and siblings if she told anyone what happened.

(Cuenca) Criminals broke into two homes in Cuenca this week during the absence of their owners. The first case happened on González Suárez Avenue and Cumandá Street, in Cuenca.

Upon arriving home, the owner noticed that the door was forced and after entering found that criminals took several appliances, including an electric oven, an induction cooker, a microwave, a dishwasher, a refrigerator and an extractor hood. According to videos captured by cameras in the area, the robbery was committed around 05:50 last Saturday.

Another break-in was reported last Sunday night, around 7:30PM at De la Bocina and Pasacalle streets, Miraflores sector. There criminals entered a house and seized \$14,500 in cash.

The homeowner returned from a trip he made to Riobamba and found that criminals had broken into the home through a bathroom

window. The property has an alarm system that had not been activated.

(Cajas) A citizen who took a walk through Cajas National Park last Sunday, returned to find that criminals had broken into his car and stolen accessories from the vehicle.

The victim told Police that his day of tour of the lagoons began at 07:00. He left his Chevrolet D-Max truck in the parking area at Tres Cruces, but when he returned, he found the doors of his truck had been forced open and that both front seats and the vehicle computer had been stolen. The vehicle had been parked for approximately eight hours, so it was not clear at what time the robbery was committed.

(San Fernando) Estefany Liseth Castro Giñín, 21, was found dead Monday, around 9:00PM, at the back of the San Fernando Canton Sports Coliseum, in the province of Azuay. An autopsy revealed that the young woman was strangled with her own shoelace. Authorities are investigating the crime, but at this point have few leads.

(Sisig) A man of approximately 20 years was found dead Monday morning in the Santa Bárbara river, in the jurisdiction of the Sigsig canton.

The Fire Department report indicates that at 10:17AM, a citizen approached the fire station to alert them that a body was found in the Bethlehem bridge sector.

The remains were transferred to the Forensic Center of Cuenca for the autopsy to determine the cause of death. Until the end of this edition, no family approached to remove the body.



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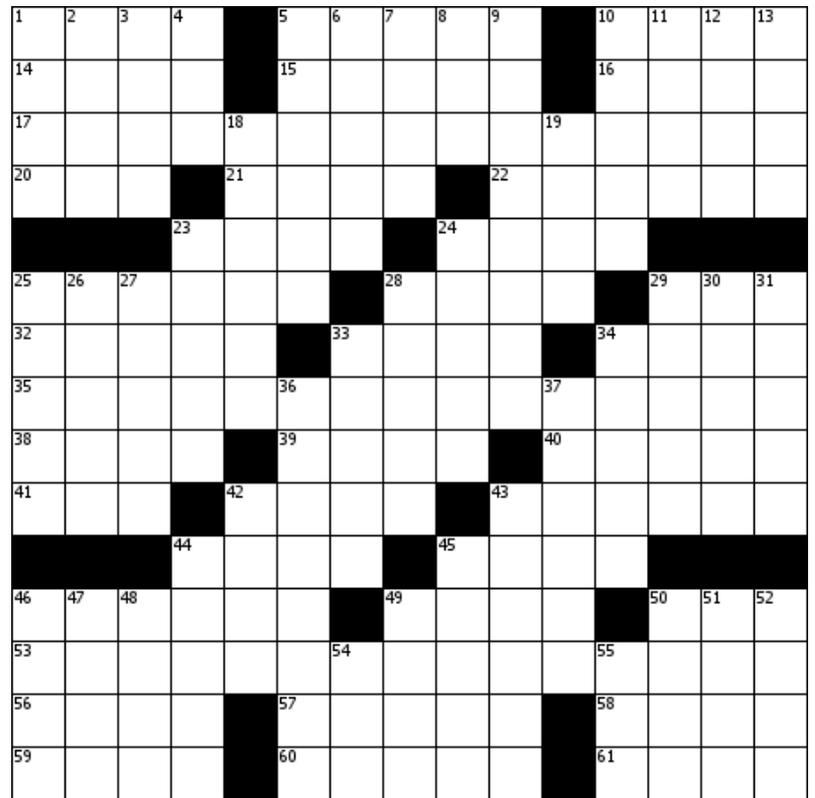
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See answers on page 3

Across

- 1. Inlet at the shore
- 5. Attention-getting sounds
- 10. Open, but just
- 14. Dedicatory poems
- 15. Buick fit for a king?
- 16. Closeout, e.g.
- 17. READY
- 20. Coastal flier
- 21. 1969 World Series champs
- 22. In need of laundering
- 23. Storage compartments
- 24. Reduce to carbon
- 25. Blue shade
- 28. It may be followed
- 29. Part of a dehumidifier
- 32. One might stand up in court
- 33. Livestock abode
- 34. Davenport
- 35. AIM
- 38. Family follower
- 39. Something that smells?
- 40. "Keep your ___ the ball!"
- 41. Two of nine?
- 42. Its password was Mickey Mouse
- 43. How Yul Brynner acted?
- 44. "They ___ With Their Boots On" (1941)
- 45. Baldwin's center
- 46. More in need
- 49. Like an academic point
- 50. Ginger adjunct
- 53. FIRE
- 56. Enjoys brandy
- 57. Like a graveyard at midnight
- 58. Sacrum or radius
- 59. Attempt at a carnival booth
- 60. Word with folk or tap
- 61. Several bits

Down

- 1. Overcome difficulties
- 2. Redolence
- 3. Ore deposit
- 4. Ending for heir or steward
- 5. Impassioned
- 6. Tests the weight
- 7. They cause swelling of the head
- 8. Make a dent in
- 9. Cutting, as prices
- 10. Not inactive
- 11. Place to hear crime stories
- 12. Lily family relative
- 13. Tear apart
- 18. Martin Sheen's son
- 19. Paint unit
- 23. "___ Day Out" (1994)
- 24. Irene, Marie or Pierre
- 25. Social class
- 26. Vegetable oil component
- 27. Sinks one's teeth into
- 28. Irreverent
- 29. Watched the birdie
- 30. "___ and his money ..."
- 31. Many a pram pusher
- 33. Expansive
- 34. Arrange hair
- 36. Half-starved
- 37. Fireplace floor
- 42. Nutritional regimen
- 43. Knitted shoe
- 44. Smelting residue
- 45. Word with strip or book
- 46. Subdued attention getter
- 47. Part of B&O
- 48. "Sorry 'bout that!"
- 49. Early hours, poetically
- 50. Nautical salute
- 51. Pocket fluff
- 52. Blunt sword
- 54. Stephen of "The Crying Game"
- 55. Partner of flow

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Tickets:
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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

ATTENTION RETIREES AND PRE-RETIRES FROM THE USA

Special free class at the University of Cuenca, Central Campus: THE CHANGING WORLD OF RETIREMENT PLANNING. Wednesday July 31, 2019 from 9 am to 1 pm.
Louis Terrero
LTerrero@sofausa.org 732-984-9001

Nurse Services Home or Hospital care

I'm available for nurse care in hospital or out call service. I'm a professional nurse, bilingual and I can provide you help with several things, massage therapy, cooking your food, shopping your groceries, etc. Affordable price and great company.
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Contact: Whatsapp/Text/Voice 099 101 5477 (Alejandra).

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).

August 05th

Cuenca Diabetes Support Group

People with diabetes are not "diabetics," they are people living with a condition that can be successfully managed, sometimes with lifestyle alone, and sometimes with both lifestyle and medication. To learn more, just contact me. And contact me for the location of the meeting too!
Contact: Susan Burke e-mail: susanthedietitian@gmail.com
Phone: 0997129013

August 05th

Bohemian Rhapsody - Concert, Academy and Art

Music band, guitar ensembles, piano, violin and accompaniment, choir, soloists, creations of unpublished themes, painters instilled in the professional and more.
Time: 7:00pm.
Address: "Teatro Sucre". Luis Cordero and Sucre.

August 08th

FREE TALK: Your Psyche & Your Body

Presenter: Silvana Spano, B.A., M.A.
Come to this talk and learn how it is that our biography becomes our biology and what you can do to understand, alleviate and even resolve physical issues based on mental, emotional or energetic factors.
Address: "Casa de Bienestar Natural/House of Natural Wellbeing". Cornelio Merchan 794 and Padre Sodiro.
Contact: Beth Shahda e-mail: info@casadebienestarnatural.com
Phone: 0939820306 / 07 281 5579

August 09th

Fishbon Presents Buena Suerte, Supporting Helping Kids In Ecuador

Fishbon del Sur's Buena Suerte (Good Luck), is a wacky comedy/farce about a small Mexican town with an overbearing bombastic Mayor. It's a romp and is performed in English. The group helps disadvantaged Ecuadorian kids get life-saving medical procedures and supports families during difficult and expensive medical treatments.
Time: 7:00pm.
Address: "Fishbon del Sur Theatre". Mariscal Lamar 14-25.
Contact: Laura Bodine e-mail: 098-773-3803

Worship Services

Calvary Chapel Cuenca this Sunday - English and Spanish Services

What: Calvary Chapel has been formed as a fellowship of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.
When: Sunday's service in English at 9:30 a.m., in Spanish at 8 a.m. and also at 11 a.m.
Where: Our location is at the western end of bus line #22, Juan Pio Montufar and Primera Convención
Cost: Free
Contact: Roger Quilty 098 032 6390

The International Christian Community

What: We are open to Christians of all backgrounds and our main goal is to love one another in the Lord. Come and enjoy "God With Us".
When: Every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. (in English). Coffee fellowship after the service.
Where: Nicanor Aguilar and Solano (one block north of Monte Sinai Hospital).
Cost: Free
Contact info: Email info@internationalchristiancommunity.org

Solution to Sudoku puzzle on page 3

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

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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

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Monica Merchan
099 640 4291
monicamerchanbritto@hotmail.com



FOR RENT

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Modern and charming, this penthouse has 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms; master suite has in suite bathroom. You will wake up to make your coffee in a modern kitchen enjoying your hot coffee while overlooking the city since the terrace is covered with a glass roof.

Contact:
CuencaRentalsandSales
0994882938
rentalscuenca@gmail.com