

# THE CUENCA DISPATCH

Ecuador's Original English-Language Newspaper

Volume 4 • ISSUE 7

September 15th, 2019 • [www.thecuencadispatch.com](http://www.thecuencadispatch.com)

## Threats made to Mangajo prosecutor

There is concern in the city about alleged threats made to prosecutor Valerie Rojas by an apparent family member of Juan Andrés V., alias "Mangajo". The alleged intimidation was disseminated through a video published on social networks on Wednesday.

According to Leonardo Morales, an attorney representing Rojas, the video clearly shows a direct threat against his client, who was recently involved in the sentencing hearing for "Mangajo."

Morales said the video was posted on social networks such as Facebook and Instagram and was released after an announcement was made that Rojas was being transferred to the Ponce Enriquez canton.

The video shows an alleged family member of Juan Andrés V. saying, "Poor thing, how it will be happening in that climate, winter is coming, as it will be, hopefully nothing happens. A woman so straight, so hardworking that she raised dust and ash here in Cuenca through the figure of 'Mangajo'"

Lawyer Morales interpreted what was said in the afore mentioned video: "This is a threat anywhere in the world, even more to the person who is taking this case, and that leads us to ask what the Azuay Prosecutor's Office is doing regarding the protection of its prosecutors (...) What actions will it take from now on to protect the Prosecutor in charge of this case, and



even more so what it is doing to obtain sentences in the other processes where the complaints exist ". Morales submitted a letter to the Azuay Prosecutor demanding protection for Rojas.

Leonardo Amoroso, the prosecutor of Azuay, said that the appointment of Rojas was made by the Judicial Council.

Regarding the video, Amoroso said that the words said by the alleged relative of alias "Mangajo" have been taken as threats, and that the State Attorney General's Office will order that an investigation be initiated to verify this situation and that the Victim and Witness Protection program do a risk analysis.

cont. page 5.

## City demands more transparency in awarding contracts



The Mayor's Office of Cuenca is urging all city officials to increase transparency in how they use and award public resources, said Juan Pablo Galán, municipal director of Public Procurement.

The decision comes after the contracting processes of some public companies were declared questionable by the National Public Procurement Service and several contractors and councilors.

Councilman Cristian Zamora says that, for example, the Mobility, Transit and Transportation Company (EMOV), has been told to expand its efforts in contracting insurance for the company. Also, some other companies have been told that they need to improve their consulting contracting practices after five contracts totaling nearly \$65,000 were found to be awarded to the same person.

cont. page 7.

## Venezuelans being allowed to pass through Ecuador



The Ecuadorian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, José Valencia, announced on Wednesday that Ecuador will allow Venezuelan emigrants who have visas to third countries, to pass through its territory.

The foreign minister said in an interview that these migrants will benefit from a "permit of transit," that is authorized at the terminal border and can only be obtained by submitting the appropriate visa for a third country. This permit gives the emigrant the possibility to move freely through the Ecuadorian territory for a period of 10 days in order to reach their destination.

Since August 26th of this year, Ecuador has required that Venezuelans entering the country have a valid visa. Prior to that, Venezuelans could enter the country by simply presenting their identity card.

cont. page 8.

Let us help find your *Dream Home*

**Compra, vende y renta tus propiedades**

Con o sin comisión

Call  
**Roberto Cruz**  
0995 821 318

**puntoSUR**  
propiedades

[www.puntosurpropiedades.com](http://www.puntosurpropiedades.com)

**You don't need to live in an embassy in London for 7 years to become an Ecuadorian Citizen.**



**We can show you how to do it in Ecuador in 3 years... without the embassy stay!**

**"Ecuador Visas"**  
Acrópolis Building, Office #303  
Ave. José Peralta and Ave. 12 de Abril  
Cuenca, Ecuador 010150  
sara@ecuadorvisas.com | 099 296 2065



# THE CUENCA DISPATCH

Ecuador's Original English-Language Newspaper

VOL 4  
ISSUE  
7

Publisher:  
Jonathan Mogrovejo  
info@thecuencadispatch.com

Graphic Design  
Bianca Mosquera

FOR ADVERTISING,  
PLEASE CONTACT:  
info@thecuencadispatch.com  
098-482-24195

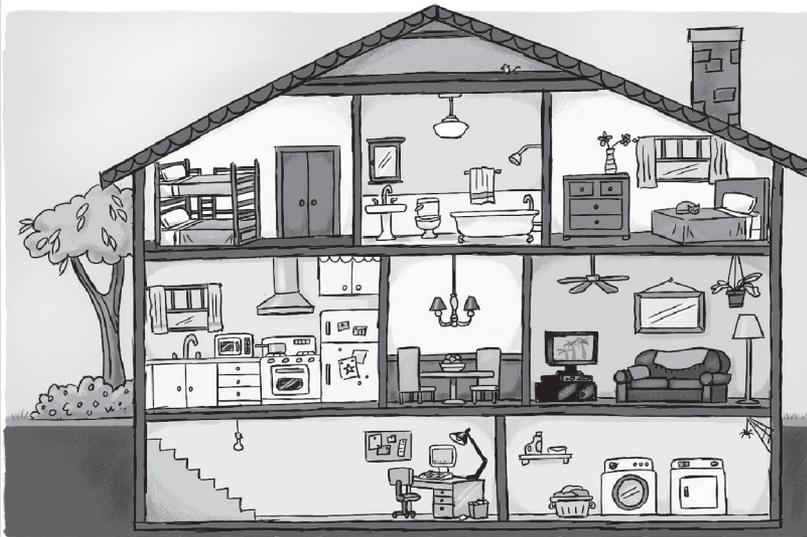
Printed by:  
Imprenta Unigraf

The Cuenca Dispatch is published by GoBig Web Design and Marketing. Any reproduction or duplication of any part thereof must be done with the written permission of the Publisher. All information included herein is correct to the best of our knowledge as of the publication date. Corrections should be forwarded to the Publisher at the address above.

Disclaimer: The paid advertisements contained within The Cuenca Dispatch are not endorsed or recommended by the Publisher. Therefore, neither party may be held liable for the business practices of these companies.

© The Cuenca Dispatch & GoBig Web Design and Marketing, 2019

## CUENCA consignments



If we don't have it...

...You don't need it!

All our prices are negotiable!

Cuenca Consignments  
Isabela 4-75 y 12 de Abril  
Open T, Th, F 11am to 5pm  
Contact us at: 0995 468 580 / 0984 593 005

## Pick up a copy of The Cuenca Dispatch near you!

You can find The Cuenca Dispatch at the following locations:

- Supermaxi El Vergel
- Supermaxi Don Bosco
- San Sebas Cafe
- Common Grounds
- Oro Verde Cafe
- The Chocolate Factory
- Cafe Del Museo
- Sabatino's
- Sunrise Cafe
- Don Colon
- Creta Restaurant

More locations comming soon!

Want another expat hangout added to the list of locations where you can find The Cuenca Dispatch?

Let us know!

Email us at  
info@thecuencadispatch.com

# I'M JUST SAYIN'

By Michael Soares

## Time is on my side, yes it is...

"I'm running around like a chicken with my head cut off." Now that's not really a pleasant thought when you stop to think about it. Because, for those of you who have never seen it, a chicken DOES run around for a while when its head gets cut off. It's disturbing. Kind of like me just talking about it right now.

As some of you know, I'm in the US right now for a week and that chicken analogy is exactly how I feel. I spent the front end of my trip with two days in Florida visiting my mother and then I headed here to Denver. So, for the last few days I've been running around to medical appointments and lunches and dinners with friends, and I am exhausted. It's been crazy trying to adjust to the pace of everything here again.

After all these years in Ecuador, I've become accustomed to the slower pace. I'm used to things taking longer than expected. To having someone tell me I need this piece of paper done somewhere else before I can get this one stamped here. To sitting around waiting for someone to hopefully show up a half hour late for an appointment. To wondering, "Is that restaurant open on Monday?" To not being able to plan much, because plans in Ecuador don't mean too much.

And I like all of that more every time I come back here to visit. Because all of those inconveniences mean that someone is taking their time about doing something. Time becomes more flexible and less of a hard stop in Ecuador. It isn't this finite thing that rules people's lives. It's more of a loose boundary on things that means, "this will happen, eventually."

I think that's why people are less stressed and run down in Ecuador. Time is not ruling their lives. Life is ruling their lives. They stay close to family. They spent time with friends. They laugh loud in public.

Not to say that Americans don't feel the same way about family and friends, but rather to say that their time is always restricted. It's planned. It is not flexible, and it is self-limiting.

Think about how crazy that is. That is the life I lived in the US. And probably the life many of you lived. Life was hectic. It was stressed. It rarely made me laugh out loud. It was constrained and suffocating. But, I lived it like almost everyone I knew did (and still does).

That's what it feels like this week. Essentially, I feel like I have "play dates." I have to plan when I'm meeting with someone and I have to then deal with the time constraints that were agreed to in advance. Everyone is so busy that they can't see what they are missing. They can't see that their life is passing by in a flurry of activity that won't mean anything to anyone in the end.

It's something you can't help but get caught up in when you come back here. It sucks you in, and because it is familiar you assimilate to it. And it makes me want to scream. I'm looking at everyone running around, going from this to that, and I'm longing to be back in Yunguilla relaxing and talking to Codie.

All of this "activity" makes me see even clearer how great we have it in Ecuador. We have freedom. We have no constraints. No expectations. We can come and go and not worry about being stuck in all-day "rush hour traffic." We can meet with friends and not have someone at the table keeping looking at their phone to see what time it is.

Codie says that I need to come back to the US every six months, just to remember how much more I like my life in Ecuador. I denied that for a long time. But finally, I will say that I think she is right. I

need to come back here to kind of "re-set" my internal clock. To see how much effort I used to put into just living day to day here. To make me realize that I landed in a great place, with a lot of like-minded people, who, among many good things, got to take back their time.

In Ecuador we are able to take back our time and create lives that are more loosely run and not so structured. We get to spend time with friends and family and laugh loud and not worry what the hour of the day is.

I'm so ready to get back there. To get time working for me and not the other way around. I'm ready to have time back on my side. Because here, time just seems to be suffocating everyone I know.

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!

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

See answers on page 11

## Cuencano guitar-maker sets up exhibition as part of World Tourism Day



The artisan Alfonso Uyaguari has set up his guitar exhibition in preparation for the World Tourism Day activities, to be celebrated on September 27th. This is one of the many exhibitions located in La Casa del Coco, as a part of the bigger event that seeks to promote the artisan and crafter economies in the region. La Casa del Coco is located on Simon Bolivar 12-60 and Juan Montalvo. This event has been set in place to boost the market from the Sigsig canton crafters and artisans, like Mr. Uyaguari.

Mr. Uyaguari has been making guitars for more than 20 years, but has struggled to make good business due to the low prices of imported guitars that are of lower quality. "I have decades in this business. I have made a name and history," said Mr. Uyaguari. "My guitars have special adornments; oyster shell, engravings and many details. This is why their prices can

exceed the \$2,000, but these do not compare at all with the \$150 ones," he continued.

Mr. Alejandro Quichimbo, another guitar-maker, agrees with Mr. Uyaguari's concept. "For a quality guitar we need to use quality wood; cherry tree wood, walnut tree wood, or pine," he said.

Mr. Alejandro belongs to the third generation of guitar-makers in his family. "These woods require a special treatment that requires time and dedication, this is why it could take up to a month or more to make one guitar," he added.

The Ministry of Tourism is in charge of the organization of the World Tourism Day. It has scheduled exhibitions, business press conferences and many other special events to help boost the local economy.

Extracted from El Tiempo

## Close to \$2 M USD in contraband merchandise seized in Guayaquil Airport

The Prosecutor's Office along with the National Customs Service of Ecuador (Senae) and the National Police, recently identified and seized contraband merchandise valued in \$1,974,600. The merchandise arrived by plane to the Guayaquil Airport early this month, and it was found on September 6th.



Three pallets filled with boxes were declared as "printers and computer equipment," but upon further inspection, the authorities managed to find over 2,500 top-brand cellphones, 105 varied electronics, 144 phone accessories and 118 vehicle spare parts, among many other items.

Investigations are now working to identify the individual that was trying to evade taxes. The Director of the National Customs Security Corps, Galo Andrade, stated that with this apprehension, the total amount of products that have been seized this year exceeds \$21 million.

Extracted from El Telegrafo



**In Dental Smile** you will find a multidisciplinary team of dentists specialized in different dental treatments, capable of helping you achieve excellent oral health and the best smile, always with the highest quality and professionalism of our dentist.

Financing options available.

Services: *Cosmetic Dentistry, Oral rehabilitation, Preventative Dentistry, Oral Surgery, Braces and Emergency Dentistry.*

**Dra. Pamela Valdiviezo.**  
Oral Rehabilitation

**Dr. Paúl Peña**  
Maxillofacial surgeon

Paucarbamba Av. "Edificio Manyapura". Office 204.  
0998523162  
dentalsmile77@hotmail.com

## These places have been making some of the best pork sandwiches in Cuenca for more than 30 years

Pork sandwiches are a simple but tasty treat that has been popular in Cuenca for a long time. There are multiple places that serve this meal and it's not easy to settle the debate on which one is the best. However, for anyone interested in this wonderful lunch or dinnertime treat, we suggest a visit to four of the longest-standing businesses serving it.

On Juan Jaramillo 1-119 street, there's Sanduches de Pernil: Doña Piedad. Mrs. Piedad Segarra started the business with her husband 42 years ago, and have become a well-known place in Cuenca to get a pork sandwich. Now, her daughter runs the place. But you can still see Mrs. Segarra preparing sandwiches in the back.

Then, there's 'El Vecino,' a shop on the corner of Simon Bolivar and Vargas Machuca. This business has been running for more than 50 years. Angel Guapacaza, the current owner, helped his father with the business back when he was a kid. Now, he's 63 years old and his pork seasoning is still favorite for many Cuencanos.

'El Mono' started out 40 years ago as a general-store type of tienda. The owner, Luis Solis, decided to make a corner available to produce pork sandwiches and in 1972, he left his tienda business behind and fully dedicated his space to the pork sandwich business. Later, he partnered with his daughter to run the place. The sandwich shop is located on the corner of Juan Jaramillo and Miguel Angel Estrela. Now, his daughter also runs another location called 'El Mono Chico' located at Baltazara de Calderon 3-14 and Miguel Heredia. This "new" branch has been open for 33 years.

Many people know that food business is not easy in Cuenca, meaning that these places have surely earned the loyalty of their customers.

Extracted from Diario El Tiempo

## IESS insurance users now have access to 5 more private medical centers

The IESS, Azuay Branch, signed a contract on September 6th with 5 different private medical institutions to become external service providers for IESS insurance. These new providers are: Medimuz, located on Avenida Paucarbamba and Diez de Agosto; Clinica and Maternidad Alban in Control Sur; BF Medical chain stores; Centro de Especialidades Medicas Medivalle in El Valle and Med Corpo in Totoracocha.

These health centers will provide the following services: family medicine, general medicine, dentistry, pediatrics, gynecology, pharmacy, lab tests, X-rays, ultrasound and home visits.

"The physicians and other personnel are right now under training on IESS protocols, but they will be ready to provide services to IESS affiliates in about a week," said Carlos Orellana, the IESS Provincial Director.

Extracted from Diario El Tiempo

## BDE triples its budget for credits to Decentralized Autonomous Governments

Right now, the Austro Region Branch of the Bank for Development of Ecuador (BDE), covering Azuay, Cañar and Morona Santiago, has \$91 million available for credits to be assigned to any Decentralized Autonomous Government (GAD) in the region. This budget triples those of previous years, according to Boris Palacios, BDE manager for Zone 6 (Austro Region).



"Normally, this budget depends a lot on the projects proposed each year, which can be varied. Each GAD has its proposals ranked according to the type of project and estimated deadlines," said Mr. Palacios. However, he mentioned that many GADs currently have a small debt capacity. The amounts they can request do not allow them to create big projects.

"It's very likely that we have to remake the category standards for municipalities that have not enough capacity to get into a substantial debt," said Raul Delgado, Mayor of Paute and president of the Association of Municipalities of Ecuador (AME).

"Right now, a financing of 50-50 that the Bank provides is just not enough for municipalities that do not have enough debt capacity or those that have reached their debt limit," he continued. The proposal for a remake of the categorization standard has been sent to the central Government for its further assessment.

Extracted from Diario El Mercurio

## Improvisation comedy show is popular in Cuenca



The 'Impro a la Carta' (Improvisation a la Carte) Theater Group is performing a no-script comedy show in 'Break' Cultural Café. Their show is performed in Spanish every Thursday night. The group allows the audience to write a topic on a piece of paper and the comedians will have to make it work.

Jose Andrade a Cuencano actor who specialized in improvisation theater in Colombia created 'Impro a la Carta'. When he returned to Cuenca, Andrade met Aldo D'Amore, Andres Perez, Francisco Pesantez and Lorena Palomeque, who were all invited to be part of the group. "Although we have no script, we do have rehearsals. We have to develop a cool attitude that is not easy to keep when you don't really know what you're going to say," said Mr. Andrade.

The actors generally create a long form improvisation show with eight or nine pauses to bring a new idea from the audience.

"I think we do a good job trying to avoid 'trying to be the funny guys' and resorting to easy jokes. The stories developed during the show come out naturally, spontaneously and, of course, free of mental blocks," added Mr. Andrade.

Extracted from Diario El Tiempo

## Historic documents stolen in Quito



Two pages from a historical vital records book have been stolen from the National Historic Archive in Quito. These two pages belong to a deathbed will of Eugenio Francisco Xavier de Santa Cruz y Espejo, a prominent colonial era physician and political activist. This document dates back to 1795.

The Ministry of Culture issued an official communication on September 7th detailing the discovery of the theft of the missing pages. The Ministry sent an official letter in May to the Executive Director of the National Cultural Patrimony Institute (INPC) inquiring about a public denunciation made by the cultural collective "Cofradia de los Duendes." The INPC responded that the Prosecutor's Office of Ecuador was under pending investigation on the matter, but no further reports were given.

On September 6th, the Ministry of Culture had requested a detailed report on the status of the investigation, where the INPC simply responded with the confirmation of the missing pages.

That same day, the Transnational and International Organized Crime Unit of the Prosecutor's Office of Ecuador was given a request to initiate a full investigation. The General Ombudsman Office will also initiate a full assessment on the current administration of the National Historic Archive.

These two pages of the Eugenio Espejo Testament only contained the debts he carried until the time of his death and the names of his two forced heirs, his brother Dr. Juan Pablo and his sister Ms. Manuela Santa Cruz y Espejo.

Eugenio Espejo was a prominent academic and officer of the Royal Audiencia of Quito, the formal government at the time. He was known for inspiring separatist ideas to the current Quito government, as well as his satirical critiques over the education system of the time and the corruption in the government.

## Threats made to Mangajo prosecutor (Cont.)

"After the analysis, it will be determined whether it is feasible for Dr. Valerie Rojas to enter the victim and witness protection program or not," Amoroso said.

### Mother of a victim

Carla (protected name), mother of one of the alleged victims of "Mangajo", commented that she is worried because she does not know what will happen later with respect to the cases that are still pending to be resolved on the assumptions crimes of rape, sexual abuse and pornography of which Juan Andrés V. is accused, since prosecutor Valerie Rojas, who is in charge of the cases, has to go to work in Ponce Enriquez.

"It causes us a lot of worry and fear because it is a complicated case. What I want is for prosecutor Valerie to finish the case and pass the appeal hearing because she was the one who was in charge from the beginning," said Carla.

Carla agreed that the video represented threats to Rojas and noted that she and other mothers of the victims have also previously received intimidation and insults. "We, with this whole process that have passed more than a year, have received verbal threats from relatives of "Mangajo". This is not new for us, because on several occasions we have been intimidated," said Carla.

Extracted from Diario El Mercurio

## Ecuadorian students create vegetable-based ice creams to promote healthier eating in children

A group of students from the Espol University created a new vegetable-based ice cream product called Healthice. The product was presented in the Expo-fair BIDA (Biology, Research, Development and Application), as a biology project. Right now, the ice cream prototypes come in three base flavors: red bell pepper, yellow bell pepper and celery.



The students chose those primary flavors and ingredients due to the nutritional properties of those vegetables. "Celery contains vitamin A, B1, B2, B3, B6 and C; red bell pepper has B9 and B6; and yellow bell pepper has A and C," said Lourdes Cando, a Tourism School student involved in the project. "Additionally, they have fiber and antioxidants," she continued.

Typically, per every two liters of ice cream you would have 5 full bell peppers as ingredients, and even though the smell is strong when recently made, it fades out after 15 days of refrigeration. The Healthice ice cream has no preservatives, and it lasts six months at a temperature of 0 degrees Fahrenheit.

"Initially, the ice cream wasn't so sweet because we focused on the adult market. However, when noting that adults don't really have a problem eating vegetables, and children do, we decided that the latter should be our target market," said Monica Bejarano, a Nutrition School student involved in the project.

The students made a study with a group of 4 to 7 year-old children; 87% of them responded that ice cream was their favorite dessert. This information was enough to get them started.

The idea was not only to give them an ice cream with vegetables, but also that the ice cream retained part of the vegetable flavor so that kids would get accustomed to it. The sweetness in the ice cream is given by added fruit like peaches, strawberries, some nuts, granola and other ingredients, but they do not make a jelly as it would be too sweet.

The Healthice project was a success in the Expo-fair and their 3.5 liters of each flavor, for sampling, were all given out. "The students identified an important need in society for a nutritious diet. Undoubtedly, kids and parents are easily influenced to buy sugary products for the energy needs of the kids, but most of these do not provide further nutritious elements," said Diego Gallardo, tutor for this project.

"Our prototype product is a good step forward, but we require more work to achieve a product for mass production," he continued.

The recommended fruit and vegetable intake per person per day is 1 pound. Statistics in Ecuador show that most people barely manage to eat 1/3rd or 1/2 a pound, from early childhood to their senior years. The institutes keeping the figures in this matter like Ensanut, Ministry of Public Health and the National Statistics and Census Institute, have not really determined the cause of this low consumption of vegetables. But they agreed that this results in poor nutrition and other afflictions.

The World Health Organization has said that when vegetables are part of a healthy low-fat, low-sugar and low-salt diet, they can help prevent weight gain and obesity.

Extracted from El Telegrafo

## Remote working is becoming a more popular employment option in Ecuador



Remote working is becoming more and more popular throughout Ecuador. Although primarily found in Quito, this working alternative has started to become more appealing to both employees and companies in the country's other major cities. Some of these "remote" jobs do require an employee to fill some office time during the week, while others are 100% "remote," meaning they can be done from any location with a good internet connection.

According to the data from the Ministry of Labor, there are officially 11,260 remote workers in Ecuador, the vast majority in the Pichincha province, followed by some in the Guayas province. And, there are over 21,00 public and private companies interested or already implementing this work variation with one or more employees.

"This work modality will be a main need as a result of this 4th industrial revolution, also known as the digital revolution. We must be open to change," said Nataly Mayorga, a speaker for the Ministry of Labor. "Thanks to the excellent initiative from our Minister of Labor, Andres Madero, and President Moreno, this new work option of the new era is becoming a reality," she continued.

Remote working has started increasing even more in Quito as a new series of vehicle transits restrictions are being introduced. Beginning September 1st, the 'Pico y Placa' ('Peak and Plate'; the name for the road space rationing) program is going to last the entire 12 working hours of the day, from Monday to Friday. In this program all vehicles starting with a specific plate number are forbidden to transit during a specific day of the week; if they are found driving around on public streets, the driver will be fined.

As a result of this action, many public and private companies have become more interested in allowing some of their employees to work from home on the particular day that their vehicle is not allowed to circulate; some companies are allowing employees to work completely from home. "This needs to be studied fully by the company, in order to determine two things; if the worker's functions can be fulfilled from home, and if the technological logistics can be covered for the employee to work from home," said Ms. Mayorga.

"Additionally, in the public sector, we have the requirement that the employee that is to work remotely has a very high performance level. We want to keep this as a reward for top performance in our public sector," she added.

Ms. Mayorga clarified that there are two general protocols in order to officially become a remote worker in Ecuador: the first case would be if you're being hired in order to work remotely, in which case the company should add all the specifications of this work modality and its terms in the initial work contract; the second case would be if you're already under a work contract, and you are requested to work remotely or you request such work modality. In this case there would need to be an addendum document to your current contract indicating the terms of such work modality.

"In the end, most terms, benefits and who supplies which logistics is entirely up to negotiation between the parties," Ms. Mayorga finalized.

Extracted from El Comercio



**Cuenca Expat Health Insurance**  
by Megabrokers

## Guarantee a Peaceful Expat Life in Ecuador

- \*Semi-annual payment plans
- \*We accept all major credit cards

Learn more about our health insurance plans.

[cuencaexpathealthinsurance.com](http://cuencaexpathealthinsurance.com)

099-520-6384 | We speak English!  
info@cuencaexpathealthinsurance.com

## An Ecuadorian company is processing plastic into an ecologic 'plastic wood'



An Ecuadorian company Ecuambiente—located in the Ecuadorian Amazon—is tackling an ecological problem and helping to develop a new industry. They are producing a material called 'plastic wood' out of plastic waste. This material can be used to make tables, boards, chairs and many furniture items. The company has been manufacturing this material since 2013, but it has been under the spotlight as one of the first companies to be fully compatible with the Ecuadorian government's cyclical economy plan.

Besides being a 'green' option that helps reduce the need for trees for many furniture and solid material items, this 'plastic wood' is much more resistant to environmental factors than wood. "This material doesn't have the risk of insects attacking it, nor fungi or bacteria. Additionally, it's an acoustic and electrical insulator," said Maria Eugenia Moreno, Project Manager for the company. On the downside, Moreno admitted is that the material is a little heavier than your average wood planks, making it good for some industrial uses, but not so useful for household needs.

This type of industry, by fitting into the new cyclical economy plan, qualifies for a series of tax and economic benefits that are now provided in the new Organic Environmental Code Regulation. These companies can acquire machine import permits and obtain financing much swifter than other types of companies.

"We still have some challenges to go. But with the passing of time and the incorporation of new waste-management policies from companies, as well as our capability to position our products in the market, we should be able to lower our costs for the public," explained Ms. Moreno.

Extracted from El Telegrafo

## City demands more transparency in awarding contracts (Cont.)

Zamora said that in 15 days he will ask the Cantonal Council to vote for a resolution that improves transparency in public procurement through actions such as: recording the sessions in which the works are awarded, openly displaying winning bids to other contractors, requiring the breakdown of unit prices, requiring a code of ethics to avoid the awarding of positions and contracts to family members of officials.

Galán said that, for the moment, it has been agreed that the processes need to "be much more open" and that a greater participation of bidders needs to be promoted.

Extracted from Diario El Tiempo

## IESS bank offers new mortgage loan program



The IESS bank, or BIESS, has a new mortgage program for both new and resale homes. The new loans have lower interest rates and offer higher credit caps. And perhaps even more importantly, the program is also open to retirees and other pensioners.

The preferential interest rates start at 5.99%, and the bank will finance up to 100% of the household's value (up to \$90,000).

A study made by the Association of Real Estate Brokers of Azuay (ACBIR) found that in first half of the year, most of the purchases have been for houses (48%); condominiums accounted for 24.69% and just land sales equaled 22.22%. They also found that 80% of all homes purchased had a cost just under \$100,000. "These prices are somewhat high because of the high cost that land in Cuenca. However, buying a condominium lowers the price, and makes housing more accessible for the average citizen," said Adrian Rodriguez, president of the Association.

The study also determined that most of the home purchases are in the following areas: Yanuncay 20%; Machangara 16%; San Sebastian 16%; and Ricaurte 13%.

Extracted from Diario el Tiempo

If you are looking for   
**Real Estate & Rentals**  
see the back page >>



## The art of stone grinding is slowly disappearing in Cuenca



In Azuay, some millers and dough-makers still prefer old fashion grinding and milling, especially for 'choclo' (local corn) or typical corn products. They insist that it's much tastier and healthier. However, this is a dying art.

Some of the products you can get from these flours or dough are the tamales, humitas and machica. For as far back as anyone can remember the ingredients for these food staples would be grinded with river stones. Other products such as zambo seed and even hot peppers are also ground this way.

This traditional way of grinding has slowly disappeared over the years as commercialization has pushed the need for newer technologies to be used. "My mother used to have a big stone in her kitchen, and also a smaller one," said Carlos Huiracocha, who is an 80-year-old miller. "Things have changed fast. There are few homes now that have stones to grind food," he continued.

In addition to stone grinding, there is also a local type of iron manual grinder called a "Corona," that used to be very common around Cuenca's homes. With this machine, people ground dried corn. "This machine is slightly better because it can be moved around. It can be used at any time and it doesn't require electricity," said Carmelina Flores, an at-home grinder.

In the 'old days' people would also take their corn and other food products to the 10 de Agosto market, where people would use stones to grind these products into flour. Unfortunately, today those more traditional grinders are hard to find. There are still a few in the 9 de Octubre or 3 de Noviembre markets. The few grinders that do still exist get enough business to survive, but for how long is really the question.

Extracted from Diario el Tiempo

## Venezuelans being allowed to pass through Ecuador (Cont.)



The Government imposed the recent visa requirement after stating that the number of Venezuelan migrants "far exceeds" the reception capacity of the country. It was estimated that by the end of the year there will be about 500,000 Venezuelans in the country.

Authorities estimate that from May 2017, to July 2019, almost 1.7 million Venezuelans entered Ecuador, of which almost 342,000 remain in the country.

Extracted from Diario El Comercio

## Pumapungo holds a seminar on suicide prevention



On Tuesday, the Pumapungo health center held a seminar on the causes of suicide and the ways to prevent it. The event was attended by students from the educational units César Dávila, Manuela Cañizares, Zoila Aura Palacios, users of the health center and the Zonal 6 Health coordinator, David Ordoñez.

The day featured different activities such as talks, theatrical performances, informative videos and more that were oriented to life care and mental health.

Health center officials told attendees about the Intensive Outpatient Treatment (TAI) program, that serves adults 18 and older who have serious mental conditions and/or problematic uses of alcohol and other drugs.

Carmen Z., a TAI patient, shared her experience with the young attendees and recommended that they seek support for any type of emotional difficulty they have. "They should never give up," she said. Since the implementation of TAI in October 2015, over 600 people have entered the program.

To be part of the TAI, interested persons can access the program by calling 171 (toll-free).

Extracted from Diario EL Tiempo

## Cuenca finally moving forward on finding land for new dog shelter

Three years have passed since the approval of the "Ordinance for the Control and Management of Urban Fauna and the Protection of Domestic Animals of Compañía de Cuenca." This ordinance, that was approved by the Cantonal Council of Cuenca in July 2016, requires that a shelter for abandoned dogs be built. Yet the Center for "Management of Domestic Animals" has not been built.



Marco Riera, a pet rights activist, believes that a shelter is urgently needed, because according to a projection made by the University of Cuenca in 2018, about 19,000 dogs roam the streets of the city. Riera believes that this year we will see an increase of at least 1,000 more dogs and approximately 2,000 cats. This represents a high risk to public health, mainly due to the waste generated.

According to Riera, there is also a study conducted by the Cantonal Health Council of Cuenca (CCSC), an entity attached to the local council, that said in 2016 there were about 15,000 dogs without owners.

"The best solution would be to have responsible owners, who take care of their dogs, to control their reproduction, to protect them, but given that we do not have that, then a solution for now is to make the shelter," he insisted.

According to the initial planning made in 2017, the capacity of this shelter would be a maximum of 1,000 animals. The shelter would also be in charge of two animal organizations, ARCA and the Familia Amor Animal (FAAN) foundations. Both are made up of volunteers. The first takes care of

about 200 dogs on average and the second about 250.

For Diego Maldonado, an allergist, a quick solution is needed regarding stray dogs because they represent a danger due to the unhealthy conditions in which they live and the litter they feed on. According to the doctor, street animals are carriers of a variety of bacteria, parasites, viruses and fungi, which can be transmitted to humans by bites, scratches or by excrement or saliva. It is more serious when this affects children, infants, pregnant women or people who have a weakened immune system due to illness or another condition of any kind.

"The authorities must understand that this is a public health problem, that this is a problem that deserves full attention to solve it, because that is their responsibility and they have to comply," he reflected.

The project has been brought to the attention of the Cantonal Council of Cuenca. The Council is required (by law) to establish a land reserve and change of management category, prior to the respective socialization with local authorities, leaders and surrounding communities.

According to the Commission of Environmental Management (CGA), of the Municipality of Cuenca, land to build the Center for Management of Domestic Animals on has been found.

It is in the Cumbe parish, near the sector known as La Posada, and meets the basic conditions for the location of an animal shelter. In the original plans for the shelter, it was determined that the site should be at least 3.5 hectares. The land being considered is approximately 12.8 hectares. Municipality of Cuenca calculates the value of land is about \$200,000.

Extracted from Diario El Mercurio

## CRIME REPORT AND ACCIDENT REPORT

### Cuenca Area Traffic Accidents

\*Five members of a family traveling from Loja to Cuenca, after the festivities in honor of the Virgin de El Cisne, suffered a serious accident in the San Lucas parish.

One male, Ángel Patricio BaculimaQuinde died from his injuries; three women and a child who accompanied him are hospitalized.

The accident occurred at 4:00 PM on Sunday, when the car crashed into the railings of the bridge, in San Lucas Parish, located 55 kilometers from the city of Loja.

ECU 911 reported that the occupants of the vehicle were alive when they were rescued but that Patricio Baculima died during the night at an IESS hospital.

\* The first accident occurred around 08:30 AM when three vehicles collided in the Pan-American North, Rialto ceramic sector. The vehicles involved were two public transport buses and a private vehicle. Two people were injured and were treated at the scene.

Health care units arrived at the site to care for affected people.

Later in the day, a second accident occurred around noon at the intersection of González Suárez Avenue and General Artigas Street, where a motorcyclist was hit by a vehicle.

An ambulance from IESS, arrived on scene and attended to an injured 25-year-old male who was later taken to a local hospital.

\*A car accident in the early hours of Thursday, September 5, 2019, at the traffic distributor bridge in the Guangarcucho sector, in Cuenca, left an 18-year-old dead and a 19-year-old seriously injured.

According to ECU 911, the accident occurred when the driver of the vehicle crossed lanes and ended up driving off a bridge and flipped over into the Cuenca river at kilometer 1 + 780 of the Gualaceo-Cuenca road.

Firefighters said that the body of the deceased young man was transferred to the Forensic Center to perform the law autopsy. The Office of Traffic Accident Investigation (OIAT) is investigating the causes of the incident.

\* A 54-year-old woman died after being hit by a truck in the sector of Chaullayacu, Tarqui, in the southwest of Cuenca. The mishap occurred at 3:25 p.m. on Wednesday, September 4, 2019.

After receiving the accident alert, the ECU-911 coordinated the emergency and an ambulance from the Ministry of Public Health arrived.

Upon arriving at the site, the medical staff found a woman was on the Cuenca-Girón Pasaje road without vital.

### Cuenca National Criminal Activity

(Cuenca) Around 13:30 on Wednesday, September 4th, a citizen entered his home located on Del Tejar and César Andrade y Cordero and was attacked by three armed subjects who robbed him of \$12,900 he had withdrawn from a bank. The criminals escaped on a motorcycle.

(Cuenca) Last Thursday, Anti-Narcotics Police captured two suspected micro-traffickers who had 1,425 doses of cocaine in their possession.

Police reported that agents went to the La Floresta neighborhood after reports of drug dealing in the area and found a man and a woman in a Chevrolet Corsa car removing a package hidden in the undergrowth. The car was stopped on Del Chorro streets and Gil Ramírez Dávalos avenue where the occupants were arrested.

(Ibarra) Secondary school teacher Edwin Hernán MT, 36, was arrested in Ibarra during the international operation 'Luz de la Infancia,' that was executed in seven countries to dismantle a child pornography network.

The Prosecutor's Office said that the operation was carried out on Thursday morning and led to the arrest of 72 people in Brazil, 14 in El Salvador, seven in Paraguay, four in Panama, three in the United States, three in Chile and one in Ecuador.

The report says that in Ecuador an investigation had been started by the Office of the Specialized Prosecutor for Organized, Transnational and International Crime, Fedoti No. 2 of Pichincha on Edwin Hernán MT on July 5, 2019, based on a police report prepared by the agents of the Unit of Investigation of Technological Crimes.

During the raid on Edwin Hernán MT's home, four laptops, USB sticks and a cell phone were seized. He will be prosecuted for the crime of commercialization of pornography with the use of girls, boys or adolescents, which is punishable by imprisonment from 10 to 13 years.

(Biblián) After an investigation, a Sukida motorcycle, stolen on September 2nd was recovered by the National Police last weekend in the Canton Biblián.

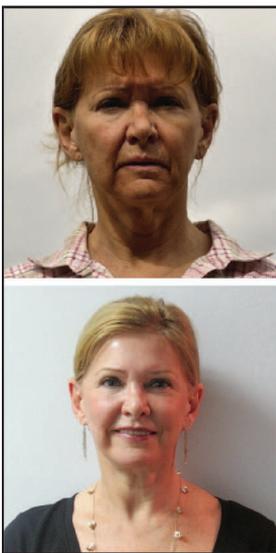
The motorcycle was taken to the retention courts of the Judicial Police of the province, it was later returned to its owner

Can you see this?  
So can thousands of our readers.

Place your business's ad here and reach your market

Contact us to start your marketing campaign

098-482-2495 - info@thecuencadispatch.com



**BEFORE**

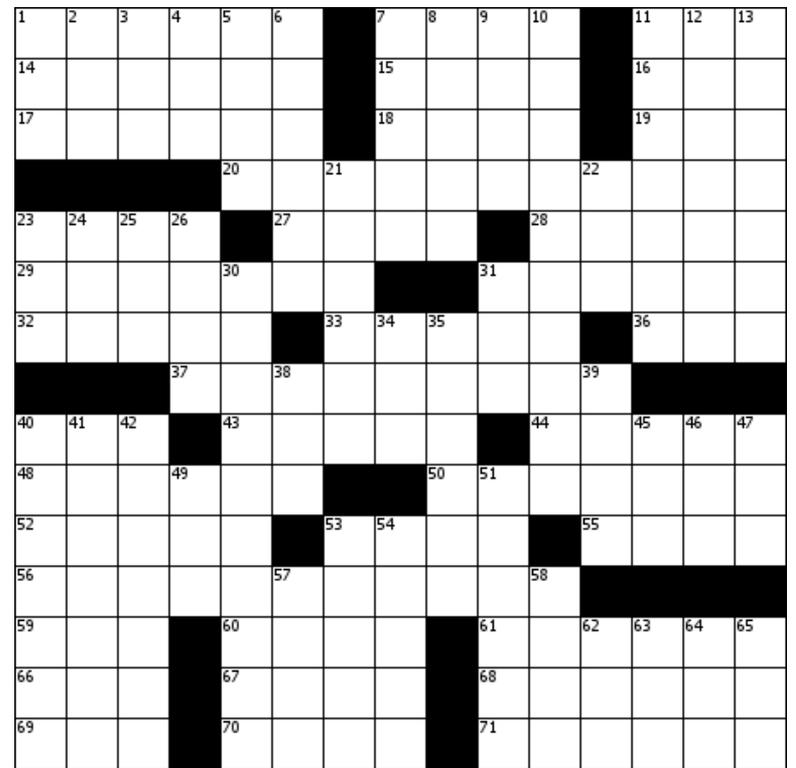
**5 YEARS AFTER**



**Dr. VICTOR ASTUDILLO, M.D.**  
CIRUJANO PLASTICO

If you're thinking about cosmetic surgery, only two things matter. Experience and Lasting, Natural results.

Clinica Latino, 3 de Noviembre  
Et Unidad Nacional  
✉ drvictorastudillo@gmail.com  
☎ 098 149 8595 📍 Dr. Victor Astudillo



See answers on page 11

**Across**

- 1. Least furnished
- 7. Quahog, e.g.
- 11. Bacillus shape
- 14. Agcy. for global cooperation
- 15. Places
- 16. Wax trapper
- 17. Wild and crazy
- 18. New Year's word
- 19. Four-stringed instrument, for short
- 20. Doc wannabes
- 23. Tadpole cousins
- 27. Valentine's Day offering
- 28. Pumas' pads
- 29. Sour grapes?
- 31. Seat for two or more
- 32. Gain access
- 33. Nullify
- 36. Always, in verse
- 37. In the thick of things
- 40. Test starter
- 43. Polyphonic song
- 44. Old photo tint
- 48. Go back
- 50. Thoroughly
- 52. Rousseau novel
- 53. Draped dress
- 55. Little one
- 56. Garb for the jet set
- 59. "\_\_\_ Gotta Be Me"
- 60. Walk with weariness
- 61. Make-believe food
- 66. Fractional monetary unit of Japan
- 67. Water drainer
- 68. Krauss of bluegrass
- 69. Time of the 75th meridian
- 70. Cultivated grasses
- 71. Christening activity

**Down**

- 1. Borrow, as a cigarette
- 2. Santa \_\_\_
- 3. Fifties epithet
- 4. "Oops!" key
- 5. Pigeon drop, e.g.
- 6. Loser in Brown v. Board of Education
- 7. '03 or '04, e.g.
- 8. Oafs
- 9. Nonprofit org. since 1920
- 10. Global hot spot
- 11. Get back together
- 12. Yellow ribbon bearer
- 13. Armoire kin
- 21. Most urgent
- 22. Nosh
- 23. Time before anything
- 24. Radiator part
- 25. It does blowups
- 26. Look
- 30. Scythe-bearing visitor
- 31. Belgrade-to-Athens dir.
- 34. AAA suggestion
- 35. Conductor Toscanini
- 38. Hi and Lois' kid
- 39. Satisfy, as demands
- 40. Assumption
- 41. Withdraws
- 42. Clear
- 45. Snoop
- 46. Kind
- 47. Supporter's response
- 49. Folklore being
- 51. Jack Haley role
- 53. What push comes to
- 54. Executive's staff
- 57. Leave helpless with laughter
- 58. Toni Morrison novel
- 62. Not very bright, really
- 63. Chi-omega connection
- 64. It's never neutral
- 65. Noted twin

## Moreno reiterates support for Cuenca tram system and gets involved in final negotiations with Alstrom

The civil works of the tram are already in the hands of the city. The ACTN consortium signed the delivery of the works to start up the system, one of the critical nodes that stop the definitive operation.

During a meeting this week with President Lenin Moreno, Cuenca Mayor Pedro Palacios announced that the responsibility and authority of running the Tramvia system has been turned over to the city. President Moreno reiterated his support of the work.

Palacios said that by the end of the month, he expects that the remaining technical obstacles to getting the system up and running will be completed. Once that happens the city can hire maintenance teams. Before the end of the year, a definitive date for tram operation can be set.

**Support**

Juan Sebastián Roldán, President Moreno's private secretary, said that during the president's visit, the tram was discussed in a meeting with municipal authorities. He explained that there is a joint effort between the Government and the Municipality to carry out the project; the President has even asked French President Emmanuel Macron to get involved with resolving any remaining issues between Ecuador and Alstrom (the French company that installed the tram system).

"On his last visit to France, President Lenin Moreno spoke with President (Emmanuel) Macron and asked for a prompt closure of the project and guarantees of the works," said the official.

Roldan points out that the pressure that the Government of France can exert on Alstrom will accelerate the culmination process of the tram project.



He also said that a special commission will analyze the procedures for the payment of the \$50,000,000 that the Municipality must pay to the French government for the work.

**Streetlight Productions**  
presents...

**Gatos Negros y Cascos de Arena**

---

<p><b>When:</b> September 21, 2019. Doors open 6:30pm</p> <p><b>Where:</b> <b>Villa San Carlos</b> Remigio Tamariz 1-85 &amp; Av. Solano</p>	<p><b>Tickets:</b> \$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 <a href="http://www.streetlightproductions.net">www.streetlightproductions.net</a></p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #ccc; padding: 5px;">Net proceeds are for the benefit of the musicians</p>
--	--

## 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

#### EVENTS

##### Sept. 17th - NEXT TOUR to our Rose Farm and Hacienda

Save your spot! A chance to discover our paradise just 45 minutes from Cuenca near Biblian. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about roses, visit an historical hacienda and get some great photos. Departing in medium-size bus from Plaza del Otorongo at 9 a.m. and returning at 3 p.m. The cost is \$35 per person, transportation, farm tour, and lunch are included.  
 Contact: Ecuador Direct Roses  
 Phone: 0969041385

##### Sept. 18th - What everyone ought to know about Permanent and Temporary Residence Visa

Are you saying poquito, chiquito? Do you leave your house with an extra coat even though it's sunny out "just in case" because chachai? Well... you've been around enough...maybe it is time to apply for your Permanent Residence Visa!  
 We will be addressing all your questions and best options according to the law. Regardless of the type of Visa you hold, this is your chance to get it all right!  
 Where: Jose Peralta 1-19 y Av 12 de Abril. Edificio Acropolis - 6th Floor  
 Complimentary Conference (11:00am) . Ulloa y Zamora Asesores Ecuador.

##### Sept. 21st - Cooking class at the Alliance Française

Back to school after our renovation ... come and see our BRAND-NEW demo kitchen  
 Saturday, September 21st - 9AM - 1PM  
 \$10 for AF members - \$15 public  
 Tadeo Torres 1-92 Y Av. Solano  
 Class executed by yours, humbly, Chef Marc Dullin (Retired in Cuenca)

- Stuffed boneless chicken breast with truffle sausage
- Fresh-made saffron Tagliatelle pasta with basil and pinenuts
- French Chocolate Lava Cake with ice cream

#### CLASSIFIEDS

##### 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](mailto:jodie47@gmail.com)  
 Contact Phone Number: 0995362612

##### Pilates Strong to the core classes at SkyFit

In this Pilates based class you will utilize your body, exercise balls, exercise bands, weights for a total body workout. You will improve your posture, core strength, overall strength, balance and flexibility.  
 Professional Pilates Instructor, Sky will guide you to a strong, toned physique.  
 Next session Begins September 2 on Mon/Wed/Fri at 10 am  
 Address: SkyFit on Sucre 7 - 70 y Luis Cordero above Cafe Alicia  
 Contact: Sky Rajewski phone: 0998660379

##### Guitar tabs, Notations, Sheet Music, Lyrics, Chords, Songbooks free downloads

Guitar Learners' heaven for downloading guitar chords, Guitar tabs, Scales, Lyrics, Sheet Music, Song book.  
 A Huge collection of guitar tabs for music lovers.  
 Contact: Guitartab Shrestha e-mail: [tabguitar.shr@gmail.com](mailto:tabguitar.shr@gmail.com)

##### Highly recommended! (CCNations Language School)

Highly recommended! Classes are customized to student level

and interest, but always stay exciting. The school and the teachers are wonderful and very kind to various difficulties their students may be experiencing.  
 Gracias!!  
 Kathy & Joe

##### 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

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

Solution to Crossword puzzle on page 10

Solution to Sudoku puzzle on page 3

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



**FOR SALE**

## Land for sale/ 2.2 hectares in Chordeleg

Just 45 minutes away from Cuenca. It has 23,000 meters of land, includes an old house 4BR, 3BA, (needs restoration in some areas such as roof, plumbing, electric cables and some windows). It is located next to the Santa Bárbara River. PRICE \$320,000

**Contact:**  
Mónica León  
0999 880 979  
monileonera@yahoo.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 SALE**

## NEW AFFORDABLE APARTMENTS AND STUDIOS FOR SALE

These brand new apartments are located in the center of Cuenca in a historical building. We have 12 units available, you can find a two bedroom or a studio for you. We have prices from \$55,000 to \$69,000. CALL NOW!

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



**FOR RENT**

## COZY GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT \$450 - 1 YEAR LEASE MIN.

Fully furnished, 2-BR, 2.5 bathrooms, big sun laundry covered with glass roof. Quiet/safe neighborhood, close to San Sebastian Church, bus lines and new tram. Included DirectTV, high-speed internet, water. No building fee. Not included: electricity

**Contact:**  
Marna Feican  
099 8409 884  
feicangm@gmail.com



**FOR RENT**

## 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



**FOR SALE**

## Amazing river front house with a huge garden

This incredible house is surrounded by nature and it is in front of the Yanuncay River. It comes with 300 m2 of land, 240 m2 construction(house). This unit has 4 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms. PRICE 245,000

**Contact:**  
Katy Moscoso  
099 868 8843  
katyestetique@hotmail.com