

THE CUENCA DISPATCH

Ecuador's Original English-Language Newspaper

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Ecuador launches copper exportation, plans for more mining projects

In a few weeks, Ecuador could go from being an exploration area to an industrial copper exporter, as the country plans to ship its first large cargo of this metal within a few weeks.

This shipment will leave from the Mirador copper mine, owned by a unit of the Chinese CRCC-Tongguan consortium (that began operations in July); the shipment could have left in October, but the company imposed some work restrictions as a precaution during the protests that rocked the country last month.

The company resumed normal operations last week and is preparing its first shipment for November 14th, Minas Deputy Minister Fernando Benalcázar told Reuters on the sidelines of the Imarc mining conference in Melbourne.

"Initially we planned to do it before the end of this month. They have already accumulated 30,000 tons. It will be the first time we have a large-scale export," he said.

Ecuador, a neighboring Andean country of Peru—the world's second largest copper exporter—has large mineral reserves, but it is just beginning



to develop industrial scale mining projects.

Copper, a highly conductive metal, is in demand for use in electric vehicles and renewable energy technology, but it is rare to find new large sources of the metal. Canada's Lundin Mining is developing its Fruta del Norte mine in the south of the country, which will be the second of a half-dozen major projects when it starts within two weeks, Benalcázar said.

Ecuador has been changing the investment

cont. page 5.

More Venezuelans leaving Ecuador than arriving



The trend changed in September. In that month there were more Venezuelan citizens who left Ecuador than those that arrived. This has generated, for the first time since 2012, a negative balance of migrants of Venezuelans in the country. According to data from the Ministry of Government, in September 2019, only 2,458 Venezuelans entered Ecuador, less than the 90,828 that did so in August, when the humanitarian visa entered into force.

Last month, 8,778 Venezuelans left Ecuadorian territory. The majority (3,929) left by the international pass of Rumichaca; in addition, another 1,1641 left through Mariscal Sucre airport, 1,514 left by José Joaquín de Olmedo airport, and 1,503 left through Huaquillas.

cont. page 4.

Colombian Navy arrests 3 Ecuadorians for illegal fishing in protected area



Elements of the Colombian Navy advanced an operation of maritime interdiction in the sanctuary of Fauna and Flora of Malpelo, in the jurisdiction of Valle del Cauca.

During the operation, they seized 270 kilos of illegal fish on an Ecuadorian flagged vessel, with three Ecuadorian crew members on board. The operation was carried out by the Coast Guard of the Pacific Naval Force, with support from the ARC Ocean Patrol "Punta Soldado."

The military intercepted a fishing vessel, named "Karla Juliet," whose occupants were operating fishing activities illegally and indiscriminately. During the inspection of the boat, illegal fish specimens were found.

Different marine species, known as marlin, tuna and shark were found in the compartments, the latter being

cont. page 5.



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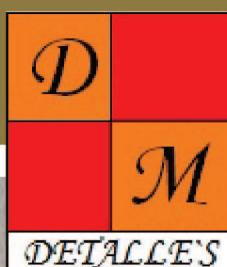
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I'M JUST SAJN'

By Michael Soares

We are all so unimportant

Rainy season is starting here in Yunguilla. What that means is that the mornings bring beautiful sunshine and as the day goes on, rain settles into the valley and brings with it the moisture needed to turn everything green.

And if one is lucky enough (or dumb enough) to get up at 6:15 a.m. as the sun rises, he'll find, like I did this morning that the fog is still settled below the mountain tops, blanketing everything around him in a veil of mist.

That's what I woke to this morning. And it was beautiful to see nature at work. Overnight, the rain ended and then the fog formed and slowly rose with the sun. By 8:00 a.m., the last of it had burned off to let me see how perfect a day we are going to have here.

There are a few large white clouds on the horizon, but not the kind that will threaten us with rain, at least not for the next 6 to 8 hours.

Left to its own devices, nature doesn't care that we are here. It does what it does, when it wants to, and what I want or what I expect, has no impact on it. And it's good to know that. To understand that I really am nothing in the scheme of things.

I am, I think, a good person. And the people in my life appreciate me and are glad I'm around. But in the larger picture, my life means nothing to the world. I am just visiting here and when I'm gone, eventually everyone who knew me will be gone as well. My legacy will become erased by time.

Knowing that is humbling. It also helps guide me each day. I know that my mistakes mean nothing to the world and my worries are really not all that tragic. I know my actions should be selfless. I should help other people, and not worry about what I have or what I can gain from others. Because all of that, all that any of us think makes us important, is so meaningless. To give meaning to our lives, we need to give to others.

This feeling of unimportance keeps me grounded and helps me appreciate what I have, who I have in my life and how all of the people I don't know fit into my version of life on this planet.

And so, with that understanding in my life, I find myself so disappointed in what other people view to be the important things in life. I question how they can be so selfish, so hateful and have such disregard for other people.

What's more, is that I'm disappointed with how people can wear the veil of politics and act like their goal is to help everyone around them. When in fact, it seems more and more that their goal is simply have power. And to pander to their bases to keep their power. To consider all those who oppose them as enemies. To spew vile about them and to blatantly lie, in the face of the world, to keep their fingers clenched around their position.

Even worse, are those who support these people and are willing to make up stories, clearly with no basis in truth, just to push their version of what life is about.

Just yesterday, a well-respected military office testified before the US congress, telling a version of a story that didn't support a person in power. That led a certain group of newscasters to suggest that this person was "maybe" a spy. There was nothing that implied this to be true except for the person's place of birth, which he left when he was 3 years old.

That suggestion, as the day went on, became "fact" on that news channel. And it continues today. This military hero is now being painted as a "sleeper agent" of the Ukraine.

This is absurdity. It doesn't matter what anyone believes politically, religiously, or morally, this is simply wrong. How have we as people, come to believe that it is okay to try to destroy what a person has stood for their entire adult life, just to get what we want?

Any one of us should be able to look at this and tell that it is merely a veil over the truth. It is the fog that covers up what is beautiful about life and people.

But unlike the fog that lifted for me this morning, there is no beauty behind it. There is nothing to look at and marvel about.

Because the people who do this kind of thing are not aware of how unimportant they are in the larger scheme of things. They think they are important. They think what they are doing matters so much that they don't have to think about truth. They don't have to consider others. Because they think their legacy will matter. It won't.

Their legacy will be one of disgust, dishonor and destruction. They should in fact hope that their legacy is forgotten. Because it will not be something that made the world a better place.

Their legacy will only be one of constant rain with no history of feeding the planet what it needs to nourish it. Their legacy will be like a storm that never ends. That washes away everything good with it. That is relentless and caustic. That is how these people will be remembered.

At least by those who also have been humbled enough to know how unimportant each of us really is in the larger picture of life.

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

See answers on page 11

More Venezuelans leaving Ecuador than arriving (Cont.)

The associations of Venezuelans and groups that watch over the vulnerable migrant population list three potential causes for this exodus: xenophobia, labor exploitation and the lack of "decent housing."

According to the migratory balance of Venezuelans, since 2012, there were 384,747 in the country. Between January and September 2019, 134,292 remained. Although in the last bulletin of Human Mobility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it was reported that 400,000 remain in the country and about 125,000 entered with some type of visa to Ecuador.

Visual signs of departure

The lowest presence of new migrants is noticeable in Guayaquil. The information area for Venezuelan foreigners in the Terminal Terrestre de Guayaquil, looks empty. A few foreigners approach to receive information or help for accommodation.

Meanwhile, in the bus arrival area, the large groups that formed on the platforms of cooperatives that arrive from northern provinces such as Carchi, Imbabura and Pichincha, are no longer observed.

Also, in the shelter Un Techo para el Camino, in the Atarazana sector, in the north of the city, the figures fell. Of 140 Venezuelan temporary residents daily in August, the number has fallen to an average of 40 this month.

Carlos Velastegui, Vice Minister of Human Mobility, reported that between August 17th and October 23rd, 16,000 applications for the exception visa were registered for humanitarian reasons to enter Ecuador. So far, 9,537 visas have been delivered.

Ronald Borges, coordinator of the Housing Corporation of Hogar de Cristo in Guayaquil, said that the visa requirement, since last August 26th, marked the change in migration flows. He said a similar picture is recorded in Peru and Chile, countries that also require migrants to apply for a visa for access to their territories.

"There are those who still migrate, mostly irregularly, but it is already in a smaller proportion. On the contrary, there is now a trend that marks a reverse migration, they are returning to Venezuela from the south of the continent and Ecuador," said Borges.

Last Thursday, for example, Hogar de Cristo received 20 migrants returning from Chile, Argentina and Peru. Their intention was to return to their country because they did not find employment. One of the young people said he had no plans to stay in Ecuador, because he believes that the economic situation in the country is also difficult.

"To spend work in foreign lands, I prefer to fight in my country with my family. In Chile I had to sleep a long time on the streets and in parks," lamented the young man who preferred to not give his name.

Andrew Castro, of the Venezuelan Foundation Moves, said that many of his countrymen decided to return because they failed to establish themselves formally, they have no decent pay and, mainly, they are subject to xenophobic acts.

Larry Gómez, a native of Valencia, is one of those who is considering returning to his country because he has not found a stable job in the year he has lived in Durán. He is the breadwinner for his wife and two minor children. The 34-year-old man said he will apply for the humanitarian visa as a last option to try to reverse his "bad economic situation" in Ecuador.

Extracted from Diario EL COMERCIO

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Azuay victims of sexual violence acknowledged in public ceremony



A plaque was placed in the Province House this week as public recognition to Azuay victims of child sexual abuse.

Children, students and justice authorities of the province participated in this ceremony that recalled the actions of the victims.

Catalina Mendoza, Gender, Childhood and Adolescence coordinator of the Azuay Prefecture, explained that the public acknowledgement sought to give the victims recognition for what they have suffered.

"As a form of reparation for victims of child sexual abuse, the Provincial Council of Azuay decided to pay tribute [to them] and urge the Prosecutor to act quickly in the investigation."

Pablo Valverde, provincial director of the Judicial Council, highlighted the courage of the victims and reiterated the commitment to support not only in words, but also in actions to ensure better days.

The provincial prosecutor of Azuay, Leonardo Amoroso, stressed that impunity will not prevail and called on families, children and adolescents to maintain a culture of denunciation. "The culprits have to answer for their actions."

Jorge Palacios, one of the victims of César CM and who is part of the Association of Struggle for Survivors of Sexual Assault (Alsas), demanded greater action by the Prosecutor's Office for sexual predators to be punished.

Students from various educational institutions urged the authorities to continue working to prevent sexual abuse.

Extracted from Diario El Tiempo

ECU 911 promotes tourism campaign with surveillance postcards



The Integrated Security Service, ECU 911, launched the 'Ecuador Renace' campaign that will show the best postcards from different areas of the country that are captured through surveillance cameras throughout Ecuador.

With the hashtag #EcuadorRenace, messages are being sent out that seek to highlight the beauty of the country.

In these "postcards" viewers can see mountains, beaches, ports, valleys, parks, avenues, churches and rivers, among other panoramas of the video surveillance system.

Alexandra Altamirano, zonal director of ECU 911 Austro, said this campaign seeks to project the country's beauties.

"The images allow us to visualize a part of the landscapes and tourist places of the four regions thanks to the scope and coverage of the video surveillance points of the ECU 911," he said.

Ecuador launches copper exportation, plans for more mining projects (Cont.)

environment for mining companies, including adjustments to its concessions, and plans to have a bidding process ready in the third quarter of next year focusing on six regions with enormous mining potential.

The country, which has dealt with low oil prices in recent years and announced its exit from OPEC starting in January 2020, has encouraged foreign investment to exploit its large deposits of copper, gold and silver. Its objective is to more than double the value of mining in its economy by 2021.

Mining contributed 1.61% of GDP at the end of 2018, up from 1.5% the previous year and "is targeting 4%" as new large projects come into operation, Benalcázar said.

Among other projects are the Loma Larga gold-copper mine, developed by Canada's INV Metals, which Benalcázar said recently secured its financing, and the Cangrejos gold mine at Lumina Gold Corp.

Extracted from Diario El Universo

Anti-corruption research to begin at University of Cuenca



A framework agreement for inter-institutional cooperation on issues related to corruption was signed between the Anti-Corruption Secretary of the Presidency of the Republic, Dora Ordóñez and the rector of the University of Cuenca, Pablo Vanegas.

According to the Anti-Corruption Secretary, both institutions will build lines [of cooperation] around this theme through scientific and academic research projects. The agreement will be in place for two years.

This agreement will allow the promotion of spaces to deal with corruption with expert investigators and thus encourage their debate with students. Dissemination and promotion activities (courses, conferences, seminars, workshops and forums) aimed at citizens and public servants on issues of transparency, integrity, ethics and the fight against corruption are also planned.

Ordóñez highlighted the efforts of the University of Cuenca to get involved in this campaign. She also noted the efforts of the State portfolio for the execution of international standards with the implementation of the ISO 37001, Anti-bribery standard in public institutions.

The University's rector Pablo Vanegas called the purpose this agreement "a coordinated work through an accompaniment in good practices for the prevention of corruption cases."

The Anti-Corruption Secretary points out that according to "the studies of Latinobarómetro (2018)" in Ecuador, 47% of the population considers it better to remain silent in the face of acts of corruption and only 8% of the people thought that corruption is the most important problem Nacional level".

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Colombian Navy arrests 3 Ecuadoreans for illegal fishing in protected area (Cont.)

the most affected by illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Likewise, communications equipment was seized.

According to the naval authorities, the seized material was made available to the National Authority of Aquaculture and Fisheries of Buenaventura. The crew of the boat was handed over to the Criminal Investigation Operational Group of the Buenaventura Police. The captain of the frigate Julio Sánchez, Commander of the Coast Guard of the Pacific, said that to date, 4 tons of illegal fish have been seized from Ecuadorian vessels in the sanctuary of Malpelo.

"These ships pass the border and enter the protected area. The captured are made available to the Prosecutor. As they are people from another country, they are also available to the Colombian Migration authorities. Yearly, about 40 people are arrested for crimes in this area," said Sánchez.

Extracted from Diario El TELÉGRAFO

IACHR begins investigating human rights abuses from protests in Ecuador



A team of the "Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)," began inquiries in Ecuador concerning possible human rights violations during the 11 days of social protests that the country experienced this month.

The delegation met with the Minister of Government, María Paula Romo, with Vice President Otto Sonnenholzner, with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Comptroller Pablo Celi and the Minister of Defense, Oswaldo Jarrín, and well as representatives of the Presidency, Ministry of Culture, Finance and Health, who reported on the events.

This mission coincides in with another of the United Nations Office for Human Rights, who arrived in the country a week ago and was scheduled to meet with representatives from all sectors to investigate what happened between October 3 and 13, in the national strike.

The Government, who has invited the two commissions to verify what happened, assures that it acted in moderation in the crisis. However, there are complaints from different groups, which state the opposite.

The members of the IACHR team began their work yesterday, in which they received whistleblowers to hear first-hand their claims of abuses during the protests.

The Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (Conaie), has asked anyone who considers it appropriate to report incidents at their headquarters, where the information will then be transferred to the members of the research team.

One of the most prominent people to report an incident to the IACHR was Julio César Toroche, who was the coordinator of the Peace Brigades Medical Brigades during the demonstrations in Quito. Toroche decided to help with the injured in the protests knowing that the situation was not easy. He was aware of the danger he was facing, but he never thought that his selfless work would lead him to have a permanent disability. On the night of October 11, he lost one of his eyes due to the impact of a tear gas canister.

"We went to the rescue of a young man who had received an impact on the abdomen, we carried the white flag and indicated that we were moving an injured person, but when we retreated [we were] bombarded with tear gas and I felt one hit me in the face. They took me to the IESE hospital, but they couldn't do anything for me, they had to remove my eye. For what happened to me, I hold the Police accountable," explained Toroche in testimony on Monday in Quito.

New sports area and pedestrian bridge open in Miraflores



On Friday, October 25, 2019, Mayor Cuenca, Pedro Palacios, inaugurated the new pedestrian crossing and sports area in Miraflores.

These works that will benefit the more than 30 thousand inhabitants of the El Vecino parish.

The park includes an area of almost 10,000 square meters with two multipurpose courts with a hard platform for sports such as indoor football, ecu-volly and a high-impact platform court for basketball practice. For football, three synthetic grass courts were installed that will allow continuous practice of the sport.

The total amount spent on this bridge and sports area was \$632,744.

In addition, a 460 square meter food court was inaugurated that has four modules for food sales, bathrooms, benches, lights, garbage dumps, drinking fountains and a bicycle parking lot.

The second part of the project, the pedestrian crossing, is 168 meters long and including spirals at a height of 5.70 meters. The total cost for this part of the project was \$1,335,696.

Authorities said that this work has a high social impact since the largest pedestrian flows at this intersection come from the corner of Calle Ocarina and Avenida de Las Américas, towards the crossing with the green space that conforms to Barrial Blanco Street.

New Museum of Modern Art events

The Museum of Modern Art has installed some new exhibitions for the city's independence holidays. The first will exhibition is "La fiesta", a drawing and watercolor show by artist Mayra Silva, whose work "is characterized by small characters with party and identity characteristics". This exhibition opened on Wednesday, in the gallery of the City Hall.



On Thursday 31, the Museum opened a collective exhibition called "6 rooms" that is showcasing paintings and installations and audiovisuals, by artists Diego Molina, Israel Muñoz, Priscila Urdiales, Damián Sinchi, Carlos Heredia and Jhonathan Mosquera.

Finally, on November 2 and 3, a colloquium was scheduled with people who lived in the house that today is the art museum; in the 1960s and 1970s it was home correctional home for children and minors, where they suffered serious abuse.

In 1981, the building, formerly known as the Temperance House, served as a detention center for alcoholics.

Located in the San Sebastián district, the museum exhibits collections of pieces done in paint, xilopintura, ink, drawings, screen printing, engraving, etching, photography and sculpture. The Museum of Modern Art regularly exhibits works of acclaimed masters of Ecuadorian and foreign.

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Urban agriculture program beginning to sow results



The Urban Agriculture Program (PAU), has been designed for two specific purposes: to strengthen community relationships and to generate vertical orchards that allow individuals to recycle waste generated at home to generate life and to sow and obtain food production for families.

The formula is simple, for three months, technicians have implemented the technique of vertical orchards in the urban parishes of the city. The first results, the first harvests of these foods, is expected in December. So far, the reactions of citizens to the project is very good; the people of the neighborhoods have been extremely open to receive assistance in growing their own food.

The project has been implemented in homes in San Sebastián, El Batán, Cañaribamba, El Cebollar, El Vecino, Totoracocha, and other sectors of the city.

The PAU focuses on the helping citizens who are open to asking for help and who express interest in generating clean food. Diego Barrera, the technician responsible for the program, explains that in each neighborhood between ten and 15 families who have the desire to cultivate food to meet their needs work together to build the gardens.

This program is open to everyone. People who are interested in being part of the project can contact the Social Development of the Municipality to request advice and guidance for their community.

Lauro Pulgarín's house is a laboratory

In Totoracocha, the house of Lauro Pulgarín has become a central place of learning and working together as a laboratory for this crop project. Lauro's house is like a hanging garden using block walls to support the plants.

Here, bottles, reusable containers and discarded pans become the ideal supports to grow medicinal plants or small horticultural plants for family consumption. Usually, ten people gather in Pulgarín's space to work on this process and then they, as assistants, help replicate the processes in other homes.

The cultivation process is not complicated. It is a two-step effort; the pre-cultural ones that involve the preparation of the soil and, the cultural ones such as irrigation, weeding and fertilization.

The soil and the crop

The pre-cultural steps mainly involve preparing the land. In every location, the ground already has macro and micronutrients on a greater or lesser scale. To this ground fertilizer is added in a 3:1 ratio of soil: fertilizer. Then, the ground is watered and the seeds are planted, depending on the variety of crop that is.

With each crop, growers we must consider whether the species requires direct sowing, like potatoes, or transplantation, as is the case with most of

the vegetables (vegetable seeds are planted in separate containers and emerge in from six to eight weeks; there is usually a two month period post transplantation before product can be harvested). A micro shovel and a micro rake to remove soil and weeds are important tools to help give the right conditions to sow and for plants to develop.

Ornamental plants have a different treatment in relation to the light; vegetable plants require direct light contact whereas ornamental plants may require direct light or a little shade. Medicinal plants have a similar development to ornamentals.

"All of that knowledge is shared in the neighborhood(s). The obligation of all human beings is to support the production of vegetables. Becoming a part of the project requires a small plan of activities to fulfill," says Lauro.

Planetarium needs to equipment update



The Planetarium needs to update its equipment. Take for example the equipment for screening of films; it's over six years old and obsolete, having been purchased in 2013 when the Planetarium was restored.

The four "RSA Cosmos Planetarium Designer," high-powered image and sound computers were acquired in France. This is where all the films that are presented in the dome are stored, and they require a LOT of memory.

Juan Diego Cárdenas, Director of the Planetarium, points out that the renovation of these devices is set out in the Annual Operational Plan (POA) for 2020.

"We have to wait for the response and availability of the municipal authorities to acquire the equipment that will allow us to deliver a better service," said Cárdenas.

The Planetarium receives more than 300 attendees a day (2,000 a week). Children, teenagers and adults fill both the morning and afternoon film screenings.

So why does the Planetarium need to replace projectors that are only 6 years old? Simply put, the change in technology is rapid, and the old system has outgrown the capabilities of today.

The projection system itself includes a 180degree fisheye projector, that needs to be replaced with one with greater brightness and definition. Similarly, the computers that feed the projector with new films are outdated; at least ten new computers are needed to keep up with all the new discoveries of extra-solar planets. Add to that the already massive amount of information that is now known about the universe.

The projection dome itself is in good condition and does not need to be changes. The physical infrastructure needs some modification and the LED light system needs to be repaired or replaced.

For the 2020 POA, two economic alternatives were presented: one with all the outdated equipment replaced, at a cost of \$300,000 dollars; and a second option to change only the fisheye projector for one with greater luminosity.

Extracted from Diario El Mercurio



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Ufologists trained in Cuenca become part of Ufology Community of Ecuador

Two years ago, Juan José Correa and Jane Sarmiento attended a lecture by Jaime Rodríguez, an Ecuadorian Ufologist, known throughout the country. At first, they had decided to listen to the man who talked about UFOs to know "what was going on". Both were curious.

At the conference Juan and Jane met Eduardo Ortega, who was 15 years old at the time. Eduardo, unlike his future friends, knew about Ufology. He had read books related to the phenomenon and was interested in expanding his knowledge about these extraterrestrial objects.

The now colleagues and friends met at the conference and listened to Rodriguez, who told them that a series of workshops was about to begin in Cuenca aimed at turning participants into Ufologists. The three conference attendees took it as an opportunity and signed up.



"We heard that the first practical ufology workshop was going to be held in Ecuador and we enrolled. We wanted to know about flying saucers, to know about that topic," says Juan José.

In total, 25 people from different parts of Ecuador signed up for the Ufology workshop that was divided into five parts. Some people were still skeptical, others believed that UFOs existed because of photographs they had seen and books they had read. But everything was about to change in the first part of the workshop.

The "mother" of UFOs

After the first part of the workshop, the participants camped in one of the highest parts of Canton El Pan. It was time to practice what they learned. There they were on watch. That night, the sky turned red. Some of the participants were fascinated to see what was happening. Others hid in the tents for fear.

"It was something unbelievable. The whole sky was red. Our theory is that what we saw in red was the mother of UFOs. It was giant. We were wondering, questioning. And that marked us because we said yes, it was real," says Jane.

In the jargon of the Ufologists there are names: the mother ship is the primary ship (e.g., the one that appears in the cont. next page).

movie Independence Day and destroys the White House). There are also crawlers, which the Ufologists say are similar in size to a vehicle on Earth. And then there are the Foo Fighters that resemble a fireball and that became famous in World War II.

The prejudices behind belief

A few weeks ago, of the 25 enrolled in the workshop, 14 culminated, including Eduardo Ortega, the youngest of all at 18 years old. In deciding to enter the world of Ufology, a part of the participants had to deal with prejudices and the two most repeated words: you are crazy. Even so, Ufologists are able to face the judgment, mainly from their family.

"I invite people to leave the field of doubt. Let's investigate. It is my reality. The absolute reality for you may not exist, but for me it does. The UFO phenomenon is not the only one with this problem," says Eduardo, who hopes that someday UFOs will be accepted as physical and not fictitious.

Ufologists graduation

Last week, workshop participants who completed the program were officially named Ufologists and presented 10 UFO investigations in Cuenca and Ecuador. In addition, the first "Ufology Community of Ecuador" was presented, which is already legally constituted.

\$55 million allocated for renewable energy projects in the Galapagos



The Government of Ecuador has allocated—thanks to the support of international cooperation—more than \$55 million for the construction of renewable energy projects in the Galapagos Islands, with the aim of promoting wind and solar power.

This was reported on Monday by the Ministry of Energy and Non-Renewable Natural Resources, specifying that the projects are part of the initiative called Zero Fossil Fuels, in a unique space such as the Galapagos archipelago, with endemic species.

A statement from the Ministry indicated that the investment seeks to promote the production of renewable energies for electricity generation in the aforementioned Ecuadorian province, particularly in the islands of Santa Cruz, Baltra, San Cristóbal, Isabela and Floreana, in order to replace the use of fossil fuels, benefiting more than 25,000 thousand inhabitants.

The initiative is promoted by the Ministry through the electricity company Elegalapagos, with the aim of eradicating the use of petroleum-derived fuels and the emission of CO₂ into the environment.

According to the Ministry, it is planned that by 2025 the islands of San Cristóbal, Santa Cruz, Isabela and Floreana will be powered by wind and solar power. In 2018, the total energy generated in the archipelago was 56,897.64 MWh / year, of which 16% correspond to renewable sources.

In 2018, the Government of Ecuador inaugurated the Isabela Hybrid project, which today consumes 34 percent less fuel than the old thermal power plant, meaning a saving of 1,400 tons of CO₂ per year.

Likewise, and through cooperation with the Government of Korea, the 1.0 MWp photovoltaic project in San Cristóbal, will have a 2.2 MWh storage system.

Extracted from Diario EL COMERCIO



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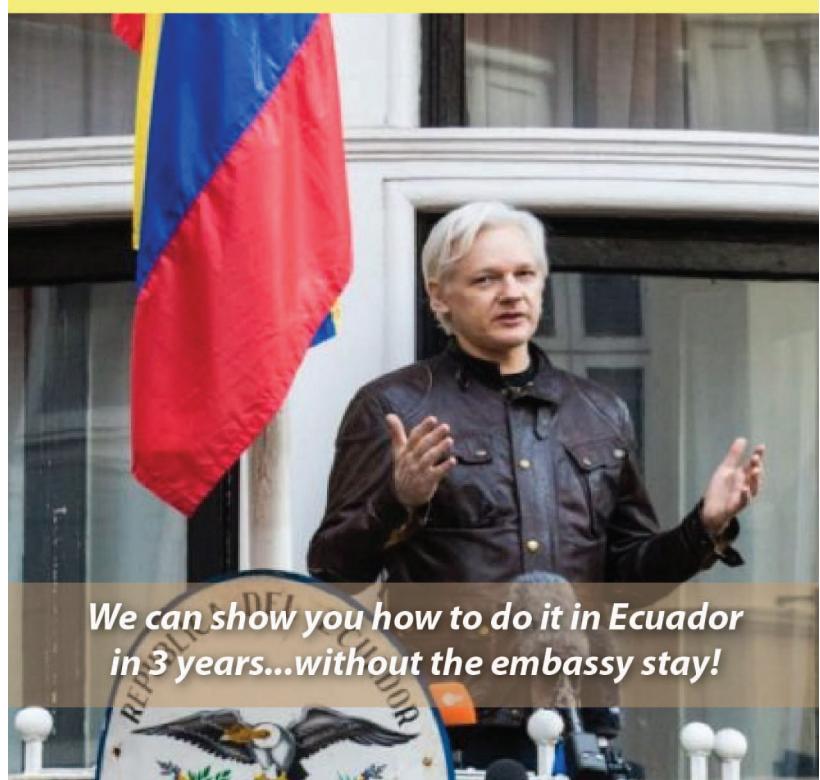
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CRIME REPORT AND ACCIDENT REPORT

Cuenca Area Traffic Accidents

* On Monday, two traffic accidents recorded on the streets of Cuenca left three injured and substantial material damage.

The first emergency occurred at 06:20, in the Circunvalación Sur, sector of the University of Azuay, where a van after losing control, hit a light post.

The driver and his companion were trapped in the twisted cabin of the van and had to be rescued by the Cuenca fire department.

Both occupants of the van were treated at the scene by IESS paramedics and then transferred to hospital centers to receive specialized medical care.

Another accident occurred at 10:30, on Doce de Abril Avenue and Fernandina, sector of the Olympic pool, where a motorcyclist was injured after crashing into a car.

* Four occupants of a vehicle died early Sunday, October 27, 2019 after hitting a passenger transport bus on the way to the Coast, sources from the Ecuadorian Transit Commission (CTE) reported.

The incident occurred at the height of the Rio Verde commune, around 05:00, when the light silver-colored car, apparently crossed the opposite lane and hit the bus of the CICA cooperative that was travelling from Santa Elena to Guayaquil. As a result of the strong impact, the car was completely destroyed. At least five passengers in the transport suffered some blows.

Cuenca and National Criminal Activity

(Cuenca) Thirty-two months in prison, a fine of eight unified basic salaries and \$1,500 of comprehensive reparation was the sentence issued by the Criminal Guarantees Court in Cuenca to two individuals who on December 26, 2018 physically and verbally assaulted uniformed men the Citizen Guard.

The incident occurred in the front of the El Arenal Shopping Center, while the citizen guards requested the withdrawal of street sales located in the sector.

Carlos Tamariz Ochoa, judge of the Court, ruled for the citizens David M. and Cristian B. the offense of attack or resistance, typified in article 283 subsection one of the Organic Integral Criminal Code, COIP.

It is this article that "the person who attacks or resists with violence or threats to public employees to the depositaries or agents of the public force (...) when they act in execution of the laws, or of the orders or regulations of the public authority, will be punished with imprisonment from six months to two years."

In addition, the fact that the attack was between two people was ruled as aggravating, so the penalty was added eight months.

(Cuenca) Lorenzo C., owner of a pig farm, was sentenced to three years in prison for water pollution in the Cachihuayco gorge, located in the parish of Santa Ana de Cuenca

At a trial hearing, which ended the afternoon on Tuesday, October 22, the judge of the Criminal Guarantees Court of Azuay, Cayo Cabrera, informed that - as integral reparation - the sentenced person must perform the general cleaning of the Pichacay sector and the riversides from the Cachihuayco gorge and the Gordeleg river, under the direction of the Ministry of Environment.

The ruling also orders the defendant to plant 1,000 trees on the banks of the Gordeleg River. In addition, he must offer public apologies in a media outlet, which should be read in the church and in a parish school.

(Cuenca) The Prosecutor's Office initiated two criminal proceedings against Ronald Antonio Ch. G., 21, Jostyn Ariel CO, 19, and Ronald Raúl Ch. A., 18, for their alleged involvement in two cases of theft, one case involved a teenager and the other two adults, on Wednesday night, October 23, in Cuenca.

The first event was recorded around 20:35, in the Puertas del Sol sector. The three defendants were mobilized in an Aveo model car. Two of them got out and intercepted a teenager, threatened him with a gun and forced him to hand over his cell phone.

Half an hour later in the sector of Avenida Primero de Mayo, the three defendants

stopped two people, assaulted one of them, stole a cell phone, \$600 and jewelry.

After the report to ECU 911, at about 9:30 p.m., agents of the Judicial Police arrested the three defendants in the streets Nicanor Merchán and Héroes de Verdeloma, an area of the old prison. The vehicle, a revolver type firearm, three cartridges and six cell phones were also seized.

The crime of theft is typified and sanctioned in article 189 of the Organic Integral Criminal Code (COIP), paragraph 1, with imprisonment of five to seven years.

(Cuenca) The National Police detained Venezuelan César Joel CM, 23, who was charged for the murder of Jonnathan Fabricio Peralta, 22, according to Mario Castro, commander of the Azuay Police Subzone.

The accused was located last Friday, at 9:00 p.m., between Sucre and Hermano Miguel streets, in the Historic Center of Cuenca.

The murder of Peralta happened on April 21 of this year. The victim's body was found on a plot of land located next to the De Los X Bolivarianos Avenue and Luis Mario Rodríguez Street, Las Orquídeas sector, north of Cuenca.

The body was handcuffed, wrapped in a wine-colored sheet and packed with black plastic and transparent tape.

According to the Prosecutor's Office, the report of the legal medical autopsy revealed that the cause of death was acute cerebral edema, produced as a result of blows to the head.

(Cuenca) The Judicial Police of Azuay last Saturday located the ATM that was stolen Tuesday the 22nd of October, in the Challuabamba sector of Cuenca.

The device - completely shattered - was abandoned in an area of the Irquis sector of the Victoria del Portete parish; at the same location police also found the van that was used for theft.

According to data from the National Police, the car was reported stolen since October 17 of this year in Machala, province of El Oro.



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New law to enforce lower Internet rates in Ecuador in 2020



According to Andrés Michelena, Minister of Telecommunications, the goal reform of the Telecommunications Law that President Lenin Moreno sent to the National Assembly last week, "is to grow access to 4G technology in the next six months from 50% to 80%."

To do this, Michelena said in an interview last Tuesday with Teleamazonas, "structural reforms" have been sent in telecommunications. In addition, Michelena said that the Government is working on projects to reduce telephony rates in Ecuador.

"Next month (November) the president will announce the reduction of the rates of internet at home from \$20 a month to \$15 a month, and next year, in January 2020, we will have the reduction to \$9 a month, that is to say we are lowering 50% of the cost of fees."

These savings will come as part of implementing changes in the structural issue of the service. "For example, we believe that the telephone companies should share the infrastructure. This means that you go to a city and see three antennas, of the three operators (that provide the service in Ecuador), but there should only be one antenna and that is shared by the three operators. The other antennas go to towns, parishes or cities that have no connectivity, with that we are growing from 50% of 4G access to 80%, just with that decision."

Michelena also referred to the decree signed by President Moreno on September 16th of this year. With this document he granted the Electric Corporation of Ecuador (Celec) the ability to be an Internet distributor. "We have 5,800 kilometers of high-quality fiber optics from Celec. We can run telephone service through this Internet wiring, this reduces the

costs for telephone operations of 12% plus 40% savings on antenna tracing. We are talking about more than 50% savings only in the cost of operations. Now we can ask the telephone companies to lower the rates of Ecuadorians to 50%."

Celec wiring can already be used for telecommunications according to Michelena. "This is already enabled; the president signed a decree that gives Celec the ability to be an Internet carrier."

On Friday (October 25), Arcotel handed the qualifying titles to Celec. Now "we are going to make an international purchase of an Internet package, as a country, and so we go down 50 cents per megabit per second, we use Celec wiring and we are going to launch wireless Internet so that in the rural sector, the Internet costs \$9.50. We will be able to do this starting in November of next year," Michelena said.

He also noted that "the President made an important decision when he reduced taxes for the importation of smartphones, computers and tablets to 0%, that is part of the technology we are developing," he said. "We must take into account that only 5 out of 10 Ecuadorians have access to 4G technology. That's 4 out of 10 Ecuadorians have a smartphone, 4 out of 10 have Internet in their home and 1 in 10 have laptops in their homes. The only way to move the country forward is through technology, for every 10% of bandwidth growth we can grow 0.5% of GDP," added the Minister.

Extracted from Diario EL COMERCIO

Tariffs removed from phones, tablets and computers lead to lowered prices



The price of certain cell phone models has been reduced in Ecuador as a result of the resolution of the Foreign Trade Committee (Comex), which establishes the elimination of tariffs (0% rate) for products such as smart phones, tablets and computers.

The measure is in effect as of October 8th. The telephone tariff was 15%. For computers and laptops it was 10%.

In some commercial premises there are already new prices showing up. For example, a Samsung A10 phone that cost \$145 went down to \$135. A Samsung A20 that was selling for \$185, today goes for \$175.

In other places, the values have not yet changed, pending the renewal of stock. In some places the price has not changed despite having new merchandise. Oswaldo Flores, owner of a place that brings cell phones from Colombia and Peru to the country, mentioned that from his providers, the same cost is maintained.

Computers

In the case of computers, in one company that sells these products, prices are maintained since they still have merchandise. One of its executives mentioned that the new values would be reflected with a new import that could occur in the next few months.

According to Jorge Cevallos, director of the Association of Telecommunications Companies (Asetel), which brings together twelve telephone, pay-TV and internet companies, at points of sale that brought in new products after October 8th, prices have been reduced. However, he added that it cannot be generalized, because those who still have inventory could keep the values up until they finish selling, or assume the tariffs paid because of competition pressure.

Increased cost of cellular plans

Although Cevallos sees the elimination of tariffs as a positive thing that will bring benefits to the user, he questions the intention to create an ICE of 10% to postpaid mobile plans. This would generate about \$100 million for Ecuador.

More than half of the users of the postpaid segment have contracted plans of \$15 or less per month, said Cevallos. According to figures from the Telecommunications Regulation and Control Agency (Arcotel) as of August of this year, there are 4,402,114 postpaid lines. Meanwhile, there are 11,453,741 prepaid customers.

He estimates that it could affect the demand, the income of the operators and the taxes.

"We have a measure that makes the acquisition cheaper, but we also have one that increases the fee that users must pay each month. We are concerned that it does not contribute to the digitization efforts and above all it will affect those customers who have lower plans," he said.

Extracted from Diario EL TELEGRAFO



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

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

Classifieds and Events

EVENTS

November 6th -

Azuay Community Theater A.C.T. NAKED Readers auditions next week

AUDITIONS for A.C.T. NAKED's READERS theater performance of "Over the River and Through the Woods", a full length comedy by Joe DiPietro, (same playwright as our readers' last December of "Clever Little lies"), directed by Deana Culp

AUDITIONS:

WHEN: Wednesday, November 6 from 2 – 4pm, and

Thursday, November 7 from 10am – noon

Please come at beginning of auditions

WHERE: At Azuay Community Theater, Ordóñez Laso, next to Hotel Oro Verde, across from the Palermo apartments.

WHO: If you want to put your acting skills to use, be on stage, but have concerns about memorizing all those lines, this could be for you! Age and experience is not important, but do need people to be able to tell the story with their voices and facial expressions only, minimal set/props, thus NAKED (stage)! Minimal rehearsals, plus tech.

Contact: Deana Culp phone: 0998637127

November 7th -

CETAP Lucy nonprofit tour

Are you interested in seeing the great work that is happening in our community? On Thursday, November 7, Hearts of Gold will be visiting our partner, CETAP Lucy. We will take a tour of the center, which offers educational and psychological support services to children in Chilcapamba.

If you would like to join us, we will be meeting at the Hearts of Gold office at 9:15 AM. Then, we will carpool over to CETAP Lucy. The tour should last approximately 45 mins. Please email Amy if you would like to attend this event.

Hearts of Gold is scheduling tours of local nonprofits throughout the year. If you can't make it to CETAP Lucy, but are interested in attending future tours, please let us know. Thanks.

Contact: Amy Montiel email: info@heartsofgoldfoundation.org

November 8th -

Jerry Joe Holland's Yakunights Blues

Jerry Joe Holland's ever-evolving blues show in concert for your listening and dancing pleasurealways a hoot! \$3 cover.

Friday November 8th

Doors Open 6pm Show Begins 7pm

PATIO YAKU

Address: Luis Cordero 5-66 and Honorato Vasquez.

Contact: Jerry Joe Holland Phone: 099-513-0118

CLASSIFIEDS

Looking for a 2nd grade teacher

I'm looking for a teacher for my daughter to be homeschooled. She'll finish 1st grade on July 2020 but I would like her to start with English classes right away. I would like for my daughter to be homeschooled with the Abeka Academy program. If you have experience, patience and are interested in a steady job please write me. You must have references (Doesn't matter if they are in the United States) and a resume.

Thanks in advance.

Contact: Roxi Guerrero phone: 0969040914
email: guerrerotita_rox@hotmail.com

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Contact: Andreas Wiedenfeld
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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

Montúfar and Primera Convención

Cost: Free

Solution to Sudoku puzzle on page 3

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

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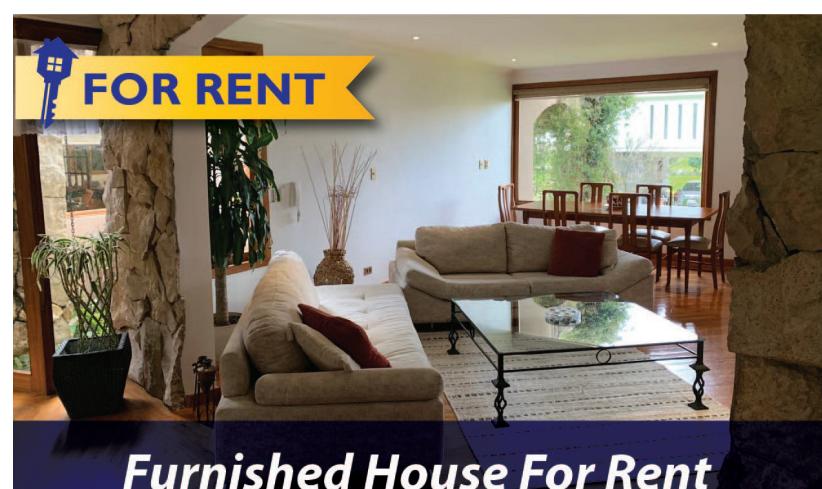


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