

Burgos Today

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Reconocimiento - No Comercial - Sin obras derivadas - Genérica



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NEWS BULLETIN

- **FASHION**

- Burgos to host 8th edition of Castilla y León Fashion Week*

The regional government has announced it will stage the seventh Best Emerging Designer Award for designers born or normally resident in Castilla y León. This event will be part of the 8th edition of Castilla y León Fashion Week to be held in March, 11 to 13, in Burgos. Participants, falling under manufacturer or designer categories, may now send their entry forms to the organizers. The regional Enterprise and Innovation Department stressed that the fashion industry in the region and the promotion of young artistic talent remain high on the regional government's agenda for financial backing.

The closing date for the submission of entry forms and collections is January 21st. Terms and condition are to be found at www.excal.es. The judges will shortlist 10 submissions. The overall winner will receive a prize of €6,000 and a training scholarship.

- **ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN**

- Gathering clouds*

All that glitters may not be gold for Burgos economy. Roberto Alonso, chairman of the Burgos Federation of Trade Associations pointed out a number of weak economic variables which may have felt the ripple effect of international trends: interest rate hikes, a global slowdown in economic growth, high energy costs and shrinking spending.

“The combination of all these elements points in the direction of a recession, not a crisis itself but a slackening of pace”, contended Alonso, who cited some sectors which might take a more severe hit such as hotel and catering, construction and the steel industry. “ There is reduced spending in bars and restaurants and the metal industry is showing low profitability ratios, despite good prospects in terms of employment”.

As regards construction, there are clear indications of a downturn, “quite predictably, as those rising figures in previous years were utterly unreasonable. We've got to come to a situation where supply and demand match nicely”, argued Alonso.

As for households' financial matters, the picture is as gloomy as for companies. Rising mortgage rates, mounting household debt and the high price levels for basic goods have put a brake on consumption and generated some mistrust of the finance sector.

- **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

- Filth and noise*

It may not be a problem confined to North inner city areas but surely residents in Hospital de los Ciegos St. and Valentín Palencia St. have some good reason to complain, and bitterly so. They have not got much consolation though as their repeated calls for speedy action against noisy and disrespectful street drinking and partying have come up against, they claim, not opposition but blatant negligence. Noise and occasional brawls are not the only source of concern. Hygiene standards in and around those streets continue to deteriorate dramatically.

Youngsters urinate outside bars unblushingly and if rebuked they answer back defiantly. “The council cleaning squads take too long to show up”, some residents argue, “and uncollected waste keeps piling up. They should bring along those street sweepers to scrape off the vomit stuck on the pavement”.

It all comes down to the delicate balance to strike between allowing people to have fun and preventing them from exasperating others while they do so. That surely is not something to sneer at.

- **TWO GOOD SAMARITANS INVOLVED IN STABBING INCIDENT**

Knife attack occurred in Valle de Santibáñez, just outside the local bar

A 36-year-old man staggered and collapsed

He was visibly intoxicated

Two unsuspecting residents came to his rescue. They tried to help him to his feet.

The drunkard lashed out at the two with a knife.

Injuries: Both of them received stab wounds to the shoulder and to the neck and head, respectively. The bar tender was also injured as she tried to intervene.

A Guardia Civil patrol arrived at the scene and apprehended the drunkard.

Although he had thrown the knife away, the police officers were able to find it somewhere close.

The assailant was questioned about the incident but had no recollection, “naturally enough, given his intoxication”, said a spokesperson for the central government’s local office.

Guardia Civil officers arrested a 28-year-old man in Belorado.

He had threatened to stab the owner of a bar and had caused extensive damage to the premises.

At the time of the arrest he refused to produce his identification.

Apparently, he has prior convictions for vandalism, assault with bodily injury and breach of the peace.

● REGIONAL POLICY-MAKING PUT TO THE TEST

The findings of a survey on citizens’ approval of government agencies, commissioned and financed by the regional Council for Economic and Social Affairs, have now been released.

By rating the services that are provided by the various public bodies and agencies on all levels, central, regional and local, people across the region have been able to express their views and their top concerns.

One of the issues that Castellanos y Leoneses were asked about was whether those decisions and policies carried out by regional government agencies impinge on people’s lives. Burgos and Valladolid Counties have showed the strongest conviction that policy-making has “a tremendous effect” on our lives and the household economy, particularly in areas such as housing provision.

As to **public safety**, it is people from Burgos County who seem to be most concerned about rising crime figures. On the other end of the spectrum, for voters from Ávila, Zamora and Salamanca security issues are very low on their list of top concerns.

With regard to their outlook on **work** and the **workplace**, job permanence, motivating team work and a real accommodation of working mothers’ needs by businesses take precedence over fulfilment. 43.6 per cent of voters would put a better job before job mobility.

Burgos’ scoring in terms of **prosperity** and **quality of life** is modestly higher, 6,64, than last year’s 6.45. Within the region it is Salamanca County that takes the dimmest view of its standard of living. However, when asked specifically about access to quality and affordable housing, Burgos and Valladolid are the counties where there is greatest pessimism.

While residents in Ávila take great pride in the city's **infrastructure** and public transport systems, those in Burgos showed the lowest satisfaction ratings for transport links and planning and management of infrastructure needs over the last five years.

Finally and as for **ideological motivations** and leanings, Burgos seems to be equally divided between a 28.2 % of Burgaleses who are self-described left-wing or left-of-centred, whereas 26.7 % would show rightward affiliations. Burgos and Palencia are the counties in which people have showed greatest support for the right.