

SUR

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THE NEWSPAPER FOR
SOUTHERN SPAIN

Official market leader
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November 27th to December 3rd
2020

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SPORT

RAIN STOPS PLAY FOR GOLF'S ELITE

Azahara Muñoz is favourite to win the women's Open de España which is taking place at Guadalmina this weekend **P37**



Junta keeps Covid restrictions and says Christmas depends on the next two weeks

The 10pm curfew, municipal lockdown and early closing are in force until 10 December when the situation will be reviewed

The Andalusian authority has said it will not decide to what extent Covid-19 restrictions will be relaxed over the Christmas holidays until it has seen how

the current measures affect infection rates and hospital admissions over the next couple of weeks. On Sunday it extended the restrictions already in place

until 10 December, allowing restaurants the option to serve food to take away until 9.30pm and for shops to sell toys until 8pm. **P2**



SALVADOR SALAS

Landing with the right result

The first passengers obliged to carry recent negative PCR Covid-19 test results arrived at Malaga Airport on Monday morning. **P3**

Spanish government says the first coronavirus vaccines will reach care homes in January

The government has unveiled a three-phase plan concerning the first Covid-19 vaccines to be administered among the population from next year. The health ministry plans to take delivery of 140 million doses, through the EU, and will start with care homes in January and hopes to move on to health workers by the end of March. **P4**

White Mercedes driven by Estepona fatal stabbing suspect located as it was about to be shipped out of Spain **P7**

Don't take your eyes off the road ahead. Put a drive across the border to Portugal among your travel plans for 2021 **P22-24**

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Andalucía extends restrictions but reserves Christmas decision until mid-December

The 10pm curfew, 6pm closing and municipal lockdown continue until 10 December

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SEVILLE / MADRID. Restrictions in Andalucía aimed at curbing the spread of Covid-19 were extended last Sunday until 10 December, with very little change on the previous fortnight.

The president of the Junta de Andalucía, Juanma Moreno, announced that movement between municipalities would remain restricted to essential journeys (for work, education, appointments, etc.) throughout the region.

The night curfew also remains in force, from 10pm to 7am. Non-essential businesses still have to close at 6pm although customers are now able to pick up takeaways from bars and restaurants until 9.30pm. Another change was that shops are now able to sell toys until 8pm.

Granada

The stricter measures in force for almost three weeks in Granada province (total closure of non-essential businesses) have been relaxed in the 43 municipalities in the Granada Sur health district.

This includes towns on the Costa Tropical and in the Alpujarra area, where businesses were able to open again this week until 6pm as in the rest of the region. The total closure remains in force in the rest of Granada province.

Looking to Christmas

Moreno explained on Sunday that Andalucía had to remain under the current restrictions until after the long Constitution weekend (7 and 8 December are public holidays) in order to allow more freedom of movement in the run-up to Christmas.

What will be permitted during the coming festive period is currently being debated around the country, both on a regional and national level.

The central government, which has left the decision-making on Covid-19 restrictions to the regional authorities, has nevertheless produced a draft list of measures that it proposes for the Christmas period.

Six-people proposal

These include limiting Christmas and New Year's dinners to a maximum of six people per gathering and imposing a night curfew between 1am and 6am, which would

prevent the traditional all-night-long New Year's Eve parties that are popular in Spain, especially among young people.

The draft set of measures also suggests limiting company Christmas celebrations to six people, recommending outdoor celebrations wherever possible.

Andalusian president, Juanma Moreno, responded by saying that the regional government would take its own decisions, rather than sticking to the central government's guidelines, and that these would depend on how the infection rate and the hospital figures develop over the next couple of

weeks.

In fact Juanma Moreno said on Wednesday that they would wait until mid-December before deciding on what measures to bring in for the holiday period. He is due to announce changes to the current measures on 9 December.

Speaking again on Thursday,

he warned of the "enormous danger" of contagion if people "relax their attitude" too much as the holidays approach, although he hoped that families would be able to get together.

However "Christmas 2020 will be very different to Christmas 2019," he said.

Restrictions now in force in Andalucía

Until when?

Until 10 December

All municipal boundaries remain closed throughout Andalucía



Moving in and out of Andalucía or between municipalities is not permitted. Exceptions include travelling for health-care, work, education, to care for the elderly or other dependent person; to return to place of residence; for legal or administrative procedures; or force majeure.

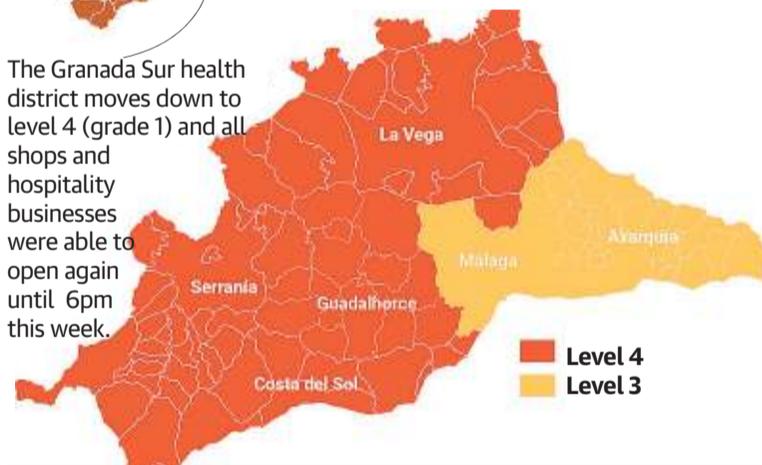
Some health districts change their risk level



The Granada Sur health district moves down to level 4 (grade 1) and all shops and hospitality businesses were able to open again until 6pm this week.

In Malaga province Guadalhorce goes up a level and Axarquía goes down:

Serranía (Ronda area): Stays at level 4
La Vega (Antequera area): Stays at 4
Costa del Sol: Stays at level 4
Malaga (city): Stays at level 3
Axarquía: Moves from 4 to 3
Guadalhorce: Moves from 3 to 4



Night curfew remains at 10pm



The home by 10pm rule continues at least until 10 December. No one is permitted to go out between 10pm and 7am without one of the justified reasons.

Commercial activity closes at 6pm except toy shops (8pm)



The rule for non-essential businesses has changed slightly: toy shops can now stay open until 8pm. All other shops must close at 6pm except for those considered essential.

Restaurants can stay open for takeaways until 9.30pm



Only for takeaways. From this week restaurants have been able to stay open until 9.30pm, but only for customers to pick up food to take away and eat at home. All table service and eating-in must end at 6pm.

No change for schools and colleges



Schools remain open as before. Classes onsite at schools. Universities must continue with online lectures except for practical classes.

Capacity restrictions by level

Level 3

Level 4 (1)

Civil and religious ceremonies

Wakes and burials: 10 people indoors and 20 outdoors. **Ceremonies:** 50% capacity. Guests seated. **Receptions:** 50 people indoors and 75 outdoors. Maximum capacity 50%.

Wakes and burials: 6 people indoors and 15 outdoors. **Ceremonies:** 30% capacity. Guests seated. **Receptions:** 30 people indoors and 50 outdoors. Maximum capacity 30%.

Bars and restaurants

50% capacity inside and **100%** on terraces. No eating or drinking at the bar. Maximum groups of 6 people.

30% capacity inside and **75%** on terraces. No eating or drinking at the bar. Maximum groups of 6 people.

Shops

60% maximum capacity respecting safe distance

50% maximum capacity respecting safe distance

Transport

Public transport: 100% seated and 75% capacity standing.

Public transport: One empty seat between passengers and 50% capacity standing.

Sports

Facilities (indoor and outdoor): 50% capacity, 200 people indoor and 400 outdoor. **Swimming pools:** 50% capacity.

Gyms (indoor and outdoor): 40% capacity. **Swimming pools:** 40% capacity.

Cultural activities

Cinemas and theatres: 60% capacity: 300 people indoor and 500 outdoor. **Traditional festivals and pilgrimages:** Not permitted.

Cinemas and theatres: 40% capacity. 200 people indoor and 300 outdoor. **Traditional festivals and pilgrimages:** Not permitted.

Environmental activities

10 people indoors and 15 outdoors. **Activities:** Maximum capacity ten people. **Hunting:** permitted with distancing and face masks.

6 people indoors and 10 outdoors. **Children's games closed.** **Activities:** Maximum capacity 6 people. **Hunting:** permitted with distancing and face masks.

Care homes for the elderly
No visits allowed.

Case rates are dropping nationally as number of Covid deaths climbs

SUR

MALAGA. While the number of deaths because of coronavirus reached similar high levels to the peak of the first wave this week, the number of new cases detected was steadily falling across Spain. On Tuesday, 537 deaths in the previous 24 hours were reported nationally, the highest number so far on this second wave, although the figure had declined to 369 in Wednesday's data.

Nationally on Wednesday this week there were 340 new cases recorded per 100,000 in the previous 14 days, down from 452 a week earlier. While Andalucía opted to maintain its restrictions longer into December, some regions were easing certain ones. Catalonia relaxed its full closure of bars and restaurants this week.

In Andalucía, there were 2,551 still in hospital with Covid-19 on Thursday this week (26 November), down from 3,162 a week earlier. The average contagion rate per 100,000 in the previous 14 days in Andalucía was 382.9.

In Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol, there were six deaths on Thursday, down from 20 on Wednesday. There were 345 in the province's hospital, nine fewer than Wednesday, of whom 46 were in intensive care (four fewer than Wednesday). In Malaga province the average new case rate per 100,000 in the last 14 days was 238 on Thursday (down from 308 a week ago).

First passengers land at Malaga Airport armed with negative Covid test results

The new requirement that came into force on Monday applies to travellers from high-risk countries entering Spain by sea or air

IVÁN GELIBTER

MALAGA. "It's understandable that they're demanding a test. It's good, that way we're all safer." This was the opinion of the majority of passengers who got off the Ryanair flight from Brussels at Malaga Airport on Monday morning, the first required to comply with Spain's new Covid-19 test requirement for travellers from high-risk countries.

According to some of the passengers, there were barely 20 or 25 people on the flight, but they all had the piece of paper to prove their negative PCR test result.

"We saw that those who didn't have the document in Charleroi [Brussels] weren't allowed to board," said Elisabeth, who was travelling with her husband Christoph to their property in Antequera.

On Monday the Spanish government started demanding a negative Covid-19 test from all passengers arriving in Spain by sea or air from high-risk countries or regions - and whose final destination is a Spanish port or airport - independently of their nationality or country of residence.

Passengers must carry the document that confirms the nega-

tive test result, with test dated within 72 hours, when they travel. This, according to the regulation published earlier this month, must be an original copy, written in Spanish or English, in paper or electronic format and it must contain the traveller's name and surname, passport or ID card number, date of the test, identification and contact details of the medical centre where the test was carried out, the technique used and the negative result.

Travel agencies and airlines are informing passengers of the requirement several days ahead of their travel date. In the case of Elisabeth and Christoph, Ryanair sent them several emails and messages to remind them that they had to have a test, which, in their case, cost 67 euros each.

"The flight was only 16 euros, so in the end we haven't spent that much," said Dutch-born Elisabeth, who lives in Antwerp.

"We have a house in Antequera and we've just got married, so we're going to spend our honeymoon looking after the olive trees," she said with a smile.

"I know we can't leave the town until we go back, but we don't mind as we're going to be at home for all five days," she added.

The first to emerge on Monday from the arrivals hall were a Belgian couple [they preferred not to give their names] who were heading for Torremolinos.

"We were warned about the PCR," they explained, showing their certificates.



Passengers land at Malaga Airport with negative Covid test results. S. SALAS

"It's logical, the way things are," they said in French, adding that they loved the Costa del Sol.

"We don't mind that the bars close at six o'clock. We'll eat earlier and then go for a walk - better than staying at home," they explained.

Neither of the two couples we spoke to will be able to leave the municipalities they are staying in, although they won't have to have another PCR test before they go back, or at least not to enter their country.

To be able to deal with the new requirement, the Health Ministry has set up a point with several workers inside the airport.

They are responsible for asking to see the results of the tests. If a passenger cannot produce the required document (despite having stated before leaving that they had the result) they would be failing to comply with a health requirement and would have made a false statement before departure.

As well as having to take a test on arrival and pay for it, the passenger could face a fine.

Countries with a Covid rate of more than 150 considered high risk

The current list of countries considered as high-risk by the Spanish government and to which the PCR test rule must be applied is long.

It includes most of the EU, except for a few regions of Greece and Norway. The criteria for this comes from European Council recommendations.

For non-EU countries, including the UK, the criteria used is based on the 14-day Covid-19 case notification figure per 100,000 inhabitants. If a country's rate is above 150 it is considered high risk.

The list is revised every two weeks and the government has already published the countries included during the period up to 14 December.

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Care home residents and staff to get Covid vaccines from January, says minister

The government has announced the first version of its strategy to distribute doses in three phases next year

ÁLVARO SOTO

MADRID. The national minister for Health, Salvador Illa, said this week that, if all went to plan with the predicted rollout of the vaccination, the first Covid-19 vaccines would be given to the most vulnerable groups from January onwards. However full details beyond March are sketchy until the availability of the vaccines becomes clearer.

The government unveiled its three-phase plan for the vaccination, which would start in the new year with some 2.5 million people who are either resident in care homes or work in them.

This first phase, running to March, would also then include frontline health workers, followed by other health and social care workers, and finally patients needing high levels of care at home for a disability. Only a limited number of vaccines are ex-

pected to be available at his stage.

In the second phase, which is less precise at present, starting in April and running to June, more vaccines would be given and from June onwards the government expects to be giving more widespread jabs. It has broken down the population into 18 categories starting with those most at risk.

The Health ministry plans to take delivery of 140 million doses of a coronavirus vaccine, from the several different versions currently being trialled. Spanish stocks will come via EU-wide agreements with the manufacturers. This would give Spain enough to vaccinate 80 million people, almost double the country's population.

The strategy also explains that the initial plan is to set up 13,000 vaccination points mostly in local health centres. The vaccine would be free to everyone that wanted it.

The Andalusian government's spokesperson, Elias Bendodo, told SUR this week that the regional health service was ready for the phase one start in January and that 25 million syringes had been stockpiled in Andalucía.



Queues have been common outside local health centres. M. FERNÁNDEZ

Costa health professionals worry about local capacity

A. GÓMEZ

MALAGA. With local health centres already stretched to the limit, staff are worried about how they will cope with giving so many vaccinations next year. Malaga province has over one million people with only 4,000 existing nurses to do all the work, they say.

"Just thinking about it," con-

fessed one health centre nurse, "is making us quiver".

Unions say it is impossible to take on more people as there aren't enough with the skills and they are urging the regional government to lure back Spanish health workers from overseas.

Marbella council has already offered up the resort's congress centre for vaccinations if needed.

HERE AND THERE



Malaga's Calle Larios. S. SALAS

MALAGA

A low-key Christmas light switch-on this year

J. SOTO. The Malaga Christmas lights, which have in recent years been a major attraction, will be much more low key this year. They will be switched on on Friday night for the first time, though there will be no official inauguration and concert, nor will there be any light or music shows for the duration of the Christmas period. During the current period of coronavirus restrictions, the lights will only remain on until 10.30pm.

MALAGA

Tower project in the port to be approved

I. LILLO. The project to build a 130-metre-tall (35-storey) tower in Malaga port will be approved by the city hall today, Friday, SUR sources can confirm.

The tower, which will house a 350-room luxury hotel, casino and shopping area, will be built by investment fund Al Alfia, which has links to the Qatari Royal Family.

After more than five years of red tape, the project should get under way in 2022.

TORREMOLINOS

Free Wi-Fi to be installed in town centre

T.B. Torremolinos will be the first municipality in Andalucía to offer a free Wi-Fi service throughout the whole of its town centre. The service will be available from December and will implement a wireless network in the town's main commercial areas, including Calle San Miguel and Plaza Costa del Sol. The project was launched in order to help the commercial fabric of the town recover from the affects of the coronavirus pandemic.



Mercy Chapman (left) and Fay Newman with their awards. SUR

Nurses receive Lions Melvin Jones Award for services to Costa diabetics

MIJAS

TONY BRYANT. La Cala de Mijas Lions club held a World Diabetes Day celebration dinner in Mijas last week. The fundraising event, which was attended by more than 60 members and supporters, raised 1,163 euros.

President Graham Rutland presented Fay Newman and Mercy Chapman, two nurses who work tirelessly for the club's Diabetic Support Group, with the coveted Melvin Jones Award. The humanitarian honour is presented by Lions Clubs around the world to people who give their time and services to causes supported by the organisation.

At the beginning of November, the association also presented the award to its resident doctor, Dr Francisco Gómez Trujillo, and volunteer receptionist Diane Mather.

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UK financial advisers and EU-resident clients – 10 key questions to ask

BLEVINS  FRANKS

By Chris McCann, Senior Partner, Blevins Franks

Are you a UK national living in Spain or another EU country? Or are you currently UK resident but planning to move here in the next year or so? If the answer to either of these is yes, read on...

The Brexit deadline of 31 December 2020 is now just a few weeks away, but we are coming across many prospective clients who assume they will be able to continue their relationship with their long-standing UK-based financial adviser, even if the client resides in the EU.

Currently, this assumption is correct – but only until the end of 2020. The ‘passporting’ regime remains in place until the UK leaves the EU at the end of the year.

However, as has always been the case, a UK adviser registered with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and passported into Europe is not necessarily an expert on the tax and regulatory requirements of that EU country, especially if they are not based there themselves. The giving of advice is a regulated activity that links into the exercise of passporting permissions, whether these are cross-border or establishment (branch) related.

If you are putting planning in place today using a UK adviser, for your own peace of mind, ask them to answer the following questions in writing.

1 What is the adviser’s post-Brexit plan to continue to advise EU-resident clients in the event that passporting rights fall away, or if there is no trade deal agreed between the UK and the EU?

In the context of ‘treating customers fairly’ (an FCA requirement) advisers must be transparent in this regard. As a client, you could ask to speak to the company’s compliance department to understand how the company will be structured

post-Brexit. Explain you want reassurance that they will have the necessary regulatory permissions to implement advice provided to EU-resident clients such as yourself from 2021.

The FCA expects UK advisers to have put considerable consideration to this matter already even if the final position is unclear until the end of the year. See the FCA website <https://www.fca.org.uk/firms/preparing-for-brexit/considerations-uk-firms>.

Note that the FCA recommends that the adviser discusses their ‘plans with European regulators to ensure that you will be ready and able to continue to provide services to EEA customers when the transition period ends.’

2 If the UK adviser loses the necessary regulatory permissions to advise clients outside of the UK, how will advice be delivered going forward?

You need to be aware if you will be required to travel back to the UK for meetings and to sign documentation. If so, consider how practical that would be in situations where you need funds quickly or if you are ill and unable to travel.

3 Will the adviser confirm in writing/by email that their professional indemnity insurance will cover them in the event of poor advice?

Beware that a reluctance to provide this assurance in writing may signal that all may not be as it seems.

4 Can your adviser give you the phone number to confirm their status in relation to advising EU clients?

They should not hesitate to provide contact information. You can telephone the FCA to discuss the situation at their contact centre on

0800 111 6768 (freephone), 0300 500 8082 from the UK, +44 207 066 1000 from abroad or email consumer.queries@fca.org.uk.

5 Will the product providers used by the adviser for clients in Europe allow the adviser to intermediate if they do not have the necessary permissions?

Our understanding is that some providers will not force the client to change their adviser but will prevent the adviser from intermediating on new transactions such as top-ups. This will limit the planning opportunities using the existing arrangements.

The financial regulator in France, for example, has already confirmed it will be illegal for French banks and insurance firms to do business with a provider who is not authorised in the country. As a result, no insurance company or bank operating in France is likely to accept business from UK advisers not authorised in France, limiting the planning options available to British expatriates in France. We expect similar positions to be taken by other EU regulators seeking to protect the consumer in their markets. The Central Bank of Ireland, for instance, decided to provide a temporary insurance run-off regime for three years on existing insurance contracts, but entities that apply for this regime cannot distribute any new insurance contracts or even renew any insurance contracts.

6 Before moving from the UK, what financial and tax planning steps do I need to take (and when) and what should I not do until I have moved?

In many countries getting the timing correct is crucial to secure the most tax-efficient arrangements – especially as the financial year in Europe runs from 1 January rather than 6 April as in the UK. It is therefore essential that you get the

right planning advice before becoming tax resident in Spain.

7 What are the cost implications of revisiting UK-based advice after the transition period ends and how will the adviser provide that advice?

Implementing advice that is effective in the UK today but is ineffective for living in Spain next year will result no doubt in increased costs for you as a client, as both advisers (in the UK and Spain) will seek recompense for their services whether by invoicing or initial product fees.

8 If a client is EU-based post-Brexit and complains about advice provided by a UK-regulated entity (that is not set up to provide advice in the EU from 2021), how would the FCA review this advice?

The FCA would not just look at the suitability of the advice but also consider whether the entity has potentially provided advice illegally (i.e. not in line with the provisions of the EU member state). The client can contact the regulatory authorities in their EU member state and these authorities may then decide to open enforcement proceedings against the UK-regulated entity regarding any unauthorised activities. **Whilst the FCA will not undo the transaction to ensure they remain in line with the obligation to treat customers fairly, the onus will be on the client to seek appropriate new advice and rectify any planning mistakes.**

9 What local knowledge does the adviser have of Spain on residence, domicile, wealth tax, succession law, succession tax, capital gains tax and income tax?

10 What are the key aspects of the UK/Spain Double Taxation Treaty in relation to the

above and how are they affected by the UK leaving the EU?

At Blevins Franks we can give you straight answers to all 10 questions. We are Brexit-ready:

- All the regulatory arrangements in place to advise our clients, whether in the UK or Spain, going forward.
- In-depth knowledge and expertise on taxation, residence, double taxation treaties and also the practical local aspects that are needed when advising UK expatriates in Spain, France, Portugal, Cyprus and Malta.
- Specialist in-house tax, pensions and investment teams monitoring relevant changes in Spain, Europe, the UK and elsewhere, who can provide expert back-up to our advisers.

On the face of it, it may be tempting to avoid change and stay with the UK adviser that you have built a trusted relationship with, maybe over many years. However, once you are tax resident in Spain, this will only prove the best option if the existing service levels and quality of advice can be maintained without putting you at risk of having to rectify mistakes at your own cost.

The safest option for Spain-resident clients from 2021 will be to check whether a UK-regulated entity is authorised to give advice and perform regulated activities in Spain (either via the local regulator’s register or by making direct enquiries with the local regulator).

Blevins Franks are. Please check that you are not exposed by staying with an adviser who is not.

BLEVINS  FRANKS

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The Coastal Path will soon link Marbella town with the beaches at Las Chapas

MARBELLA

Work has just begun on a new stretch between El Cable and Río Real, which will be 500 metres long and very close to the sea

HÉCTOR BARBOTTA

Marbella council has now started work on another stretch of the Senda Litoral, or Coastal Path, and it will link Marbella town centre with Las Chapas. It will be 500 metres long, running from the eastern side of El Cable beach to Río Real, and will cost 620,000 euros.

The mayor, Ángeles Muñoz, who visited the site with the Councillor for Works, Diego López, earlier this week, pointed out that the stretch of the Coastal Path between San Pedro Alcántara and Nueva Andalucía is already complete and the works which are currently under way are part of the plan to link the four districts which lie within the municipal boundaries.

This part of the project is expected to take three months to complete. The path will have street lights, urban furniture and will be connected to the water supply so that in future public toilets, showers and fountains can be provided.



The mayor, Ángeles Muñoz, and Councillor for Works Diego López at the site. JOSELE

The materials which are being used for this part of the project are very much in keeping with the surroundings at Las Chapas, and have been selected with sustainability in mind.

Río Real watchtower

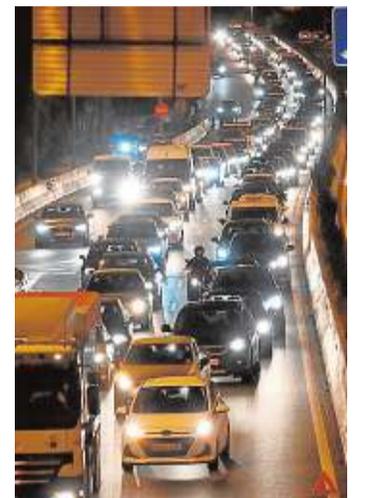
This part of the Coastal Path will not be easy to build because some residential properties are

very close to the beach and so is the Río Real watchtower, which is officially classified as a Building of Cultural Interest. However, the plans have all the permits needed from the provincial Culture committee, the Coastal Authority and the regional government's Ministry of the Environment, and an archaeologist will be monitoring pro-

gress in case the works uncover any interesting historic items.

Meanwhile, the town hall is currently waiting for the permits to be issued so work can start on a new stretch of the Senda Litoral by the campsite. When that is complete, there will be a continual five-kilometre stretch from the town to the seafront at Las Chapas.

HERE AND THERE



Kilometres of traffic. JOSELE

MARBELLA

Restrictions on opening hours results in tailbacks near Banús

H. B. The new restrictions on non-essential businesses across Andalucía has had unexpected consequences on the roads in Marbella.

Kilometres-long tailbacks have been frequently reported on the A-7 between San Pedro and Puerto Banús as workers in retail and hospitality, as well as their customers, all head home at the same time, using roads that do not meet current legislation.

The volume of traffic reported from 6pm onwards is similar to that of at the height of the summer season.

MALAGA

Heavy rain across the province brings light damage and flooding

I. LILLO. An amber weather warning for heavy rain was in place for much of Malaga province from midnight through to 3pm on Thursday as a storm front approached from the Atlantic on Wednesday afternoon.

In Coin 68mm of rain fell in a day (48mm in 12 hours), while quantities in the fifties fell in various points of the Guadalhorce valley, Malaga city and on the Costa del Sol.

Across the province traffic flow was reduced on a number of roads because of flooding (the MA-6404 in Teba, the MA-6406 in Almargen and the A-7 in La Cala del Moral and Rincón de la Victoria).

In Marbella, the municipal emergency plan was put into effect. There was light flooding at the Las Albarizas roundabout, near the famous arch and at the entrance to the El Ángel and La Dama de Noche developments.

Firefighters also had to respond to reports of fallen walls and branches in various parts of the town.

Junta de Andalucía to fast-track three major tourist projects worth 411 million euros

The schemes will generate wealth and create jobs and will help to consolidate Marbella as a leading destination for high quality tourism

H. BARBOTTA

MARBELLA. On Tuesday the Junta de Andalucía will approve a move to fast-track three major tourist projects in Marbella, under a special scheme to speed up and facilitate bureaucratic processes for viable projects which are considered to be of strategic interest for the region.

The three projects in question are the luxurious Las Dunas Club, which will be run by the W chain, the Siete Revueltas Resort hotel complex, which is also on the east side of Marbella, and a complex to the north of Puerto Banús which will include an ex-

hibition centre. The three projects, which include five-star hotels, will cost 411 million euros.

Elías Bendodo, the Junta de Andalucía government representative, made this announcement in Marbella this week, at a virtual meeting organised by SUR with the collaboration of Sando and Sierra Blanca Estates, which was moderated by the director of SUR, Manuel Castillo. It took place at the Puente Romano hotel

Bendodo explained that this fast-track scheme, which was set up in March, is run by 20 project managers who supervise progress on the works and also act as a link with the investors. They are all highly qualified, speak several languages and are directly answerable to the Andalusian government.

The scheme can be applied to projects which are expected

to generate wealth for Andalucía, and the aim is to complete all the necessary bureaucratic processes as easily as possible. In the case of these three tourist projects, all have been found to meet the requirements.

The luxury resort Las Dunas Club is the most advanced of the three projects. It is expected to cost 200 million euros and will create approximately 300 jobs during the construction phase and a further 180 when it is open.

The Siete Revueltas project, for which Marbella town hall has already approved the first planning processes, will cost 77 million euros and create 448 jobs; and the complex to the north of Puerto Banús, costing 134 million euros, will create 745 jobs.

In all three cases, the plans include five star hotels, and as

Marbella already has eight establishments of this quality, it will consolidate its leading position as a destination for high quality tourism.

These projects will also bring more major hotel names to Spain.

Bendodo stressed that people who are keen to invest in Andalucía need a fast response from the authorities, and if they meet the requirements then they deserve to be supported and fast-tracked "because this not

only provides legal security for them but will also attract more projects which will bring wealth and employment to our region. We want Andalucía to be a type of motorway for investors," he said.



Elías Bendodo



Ángeles Muñoz

Mercedes involved in Estepona killing located just as it was about to be shipped out of Spain

Police had been searching for the UK-plated vehicle driven by the suspect in the fatal stabbing of a 19-year-old during an apparent traffic dispute last week

J. CANO / F. TORRES

MALAGA. The National Police have located the white Mercedes driven by the suspect wanted for the killing of a 19-year-old man in Estepona last week.

The vehicle, with British reg-

istration plates, was found parked in an area away from the coast. The police confiscated the car, according to sources, after a recovery truck arrived to take it away. Police believe that the vehicle was due to be loaded into a container and shipped from Spain, possibly to the UK.

Detectives from Estepona's specialised and violent crime unit, UDEV, had been searching for the vehicle as the main lead in the investigation into the death of Ulrich, who was stabbed in a car park near the Diana commercial centre last Wednesday.

The incident occurred at



Friends of the victim in the neighbourhood of Las Acacias, Estepona. SUR



The white Mercedes seized by police this week. SUR

around 2.30pm when the 19-year-old victim, who lived nearby, was almost knocked down by the Mercedes.

When Ulrich reproached the driver for going too fast, he got out of the vehicle and started hitting the victim before stabbing him with a knife. The blade reached his heart and he died at the scene.

The assailant then got back in the white Mercedes, accompanied by a woman, and left the scene. Witnesses described him as tall, blond and stocky.

The victim, who lived with his family in Las Acacias, was well-loved in the neighbourhood.

Local shopkeepers started a collection to help pay for his funeral and the town hall also offered to cover the costs.

Relatives thanked them for the gesture but refused the offer, said town hall sources. They also said that they had not started any sort of campaign to raise funds on social media. The family will pay for the funeral themselves.

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Three arrested for 'brutal' attack on police who had asked family member to wear a mask

The mayor of Alhaurín de la Torre condemned the attacks and said the council would be taking legal action against those who made slanderous comments about the victims on social media

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE. The town of Alhaurín de la Torre has been rocked by an incident in the past week which saw three males arrested for beating up Local Police officers who had told off a family member for not wearing a mask last Friday.

The alleged aggressors are a 16-year-old who refused to put on a mask when asked to do so as he attended a gathering at

Plaza España, his father and his older brother. As the minor refused to cooperate, unlike the rest of his peers, he was taken by officers to his family home where the officers were subjected to a "violent" and "brutal" attack on arrival. The attack lasted several minutes and had the intention of "causing the most damage possible". The officers called back-up before the alleged aggressors could finally be arrested.

The two victims required hospital treatment. One officer suffered a fractured nasal septum, while the other required four stitches on his forehead, where he received several hits.

The town's mayor Joaquín Vilanova condemned the attacks and said that the town hall would take legal action against those who have slandered the two policemen on social media.

Father and son held over shooting which saw bullet pass through victim's head

J. C. / F. T.

MALAGA. A father and son were arrested this week, three months after allegedly shooting a 29-year-old in the head in Las Albarizas, Marbella.

The victim lived to tell the tale as the bullet passed straight through his head, albeit causing damage to his jaw, (three plates were installed and he still has difficulty speaking), and leaving him deaf in one ear. No damage was caused to his brain.

It is believed that the attack was in relation to the killing of a 23-year-old in the same neighbourhood - part of an ongoing dispute between two families.

The alleged aggressors are being held without bail on charges of attempted murder.

112 REPORTS

MALAGA

Baby suspected of dying due to abuse had a blood condition

Á. F. / J. C. Investigations are continuing into the death of an 18-month-old baby whose body was brought to the Hospital Materno in Malaga city with a head

MALAGA

Woman fined for city centre vagina procession

F. TORRES. A woman who carried a large-scale model of a vagina in a religious-style procession through the streets of Malaga city as part of International Women's Day protests in 2013 has been sentenced to paying a daily fine of 10 euros for nine months.

The judge concluded that the events constituted an offence against religious sentiment.

wound and several bruises on the body.

The baby's mother was arrested for suspected mistreatment and is being held while the autopsy is being carried out.

The results may take a long time as sources close to the case say that the baby had haemophilia which results in people bleeding for a longer time after an injury and bruising easily. The mark on the head was also caused by recent surgery.



The model vagina. SUR

Horse rescued with the help of ARCH is now part of the Iglesias family

The twin daughters of famous crooner Julio had heard about the shelter in Alhaurín el Grande while they were in New York

SUR IN ENGLISH

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE. This year has been a particularly challenging one for the the Andalusian Rescue Centre for Horses and Donkeys (ARCH) in Alhaurín el Grande. With fundraising events mainly cancelled, the charity is relying heavily on the generosity of its supporters. Now the shelter can add celebrities to its list of backers.

Victoria and Cristina, the twin daughters of world-famous singer Julio Iglesias, are long-time horse



Zaza with Victoria at home at the Iglesias stables near Marbella. **SUR**

lovers and first heard about ARCH through contacts in New York. On returning to the family home near Marbella, they arranged a visit to the rescue centre and since then they have been generous donors.

This summer the girls went one step further, offering to foster one of the rescued horses and help with training before finding a permanent home. The horse they chose, a 12-year-old mare known as Moni, had been at the centre for several months after being abandoned, tied to a tree on waste ground near Malaga a year ago. She was heavily pregnant and gave birth to a small colt foal in torrential rain.

At the Iglesias stables Victoria and Cristina gave her care and attention. They started to ride her and discovered that she had a talent for jumping. The sisters quickly fell in love with her and it wasn't long before they decided to keep her.

Moni has now been renamed Zaza, and is enjoying a life of luxury at the Iglesias residence.

Towns call for a return of regular service of the Cercanías C2 line

T. BRYANT

MALAGA. Several town halls in the Guadalhorce Valley region have backed a motion to request the return of the regular daily train service of the C2 commuter line between Malaga and Álora. The motion, supported by the mayors of Cártama, Pizarra and Álora, calls for the 28 services that were operating prior to the state of alarm to be reinstated. The schedule was reduced by 50 per cent at the end of March, however, only 20 daily services were reintroduced after the lockdown was lifted, making it difficult for some residents to travel to and from their work places.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Locals asked to donate food and gifts for Costa del Sol hamper appeal

Marbella-based fundraisers hope to be able to provide festive cheer for around 500 families this Christmas

SUR IN ENGLISH

MARBELLA. A Marbella-based charity has launched a festive scheme to give struggling families a Christmas hamper next month.

As part of the project Costa del Sol residents are being asked to donate food or presents for children up to the age of 18.

It's hoped the hamper will bring some Christmas cheer to around 500 families between Puerto de la Duquesa and Malaga.

Organised by British expat Kara Caradas, a team of 25 volunteers are helping to collect and dish out the hampers.

Kara, 36, from Kent, who has lived in Spain for 20 years and manages Marbella's Boardwalk Cafe, said: "The hampers are for anyone who needs them. If people contact us they will get a hamper for their family and presents for their children. We won't be saying no to people as we don't want anyone going without this Christmas."

Kara, who has helped run similar events over the past 10 years in Marbella, started the reg-



Organiser Kara Caradas, shopping to fill food hampers. **SUR**

istered charity Food Fairies during lockdown, to help those who were struggling to feed their children during the pandemic.

She said: "We helped around 500 families during lockdown. So we decided to do something similar for Christmas.

Kara explained that non-perishable food such as pasta, rice, cooking oil, tinned food was preferred, and that presents are needed children aged from six months to 18 years.

She added that gifts for teenage boys are needed in particular as they are often forgotten.

Anyone wanting to donate a gift, is invited to purchase a present, wrap it up and label it with the sex and the age of the child, then deliver it to one of the drop-

off points listed on the Costa Collections page on Facebook.

As part of the festive appeal a Hollywood-themed fundraising event is being held this Saturday 28 November at The Beach House in Elviria, from 12.30 to 6pm.

The four-course dinner with live entertainment costs 60 euros a ticket, with 25 euros of each ticket paying for a hamper, which provides for a family of six.

More information : To find out how to receive a hamper send a WhatsApp message to Kara on 602531928. For details of the Hollywood fundraiser contact 952839458 or email info@thebeachhousemarbella.com

Rotary Club Marbella-East delivers food supplies to local charities

MARBELLA

SUR. The English-speaking Rotary Club Marbella-East has been making regular food donations to help needy families since the group was founded in June.

Deliveries of several thousand euros' worth of products were made this week to Cáritas and to the Emaús soup kitchen in Estepona

which provides hot lunches to several hundred families every day.

Further donations are planned during the Christmas season to the homeless shelter Hogar Betania, in La Línea de la Concepción, which provides hot meals to over 300 people daily. Gifts are also being donated for Christmas.

Rotary Club Marbella-East was founded on 24 June this year and currently has 23 members from Scandinavia, Germany and Great Britain, the former Yugoslavia and the Middle East.

Its membership is open to business and professional people who wish to contribute to the community.



Members with some of the donated products. **SUR**

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Axarquía scientists develop a bioplastic using cocoa beans

ALGARROBO

The University of Malaga team has been working in collaboration with other researchers from Genova and Washington as part of an EU funded project

EUGENIO CABEZAS

ALGARROBO. Scientists at the department for genetics and biotechnology at the subtropical and Mediterranean horticultural institute in Algarrobo have developed a biodegradable material, similar to plastic, using cocoa bean shells and cellulose from cotton plants.

The research team, which forms part of the University of Malaga, said that the bioplastic is similar to plastic made from petroleum, but with the advantage of being entirely biodegradable. They added that due to its composition, it gives off an iridescent effect, similar to the rainbow colours of soap bubbles.

They believe that the product could have a number of uses including food packaging, toys and notebook covers.

The team have been researching alternatives to plastics for several decades and have already come up with a material using tomato skins.

They explained that cocoa bean



An image of the bioplastic which has been developed in Algarrobo. SUR

shells take a relatively long time to break down to turn into bioplastic and are "difficult to work with" due to their "strong and resilient nature".

However, in laboratory tests, the final product has been found to fully biodegrade both on the ground and in seawater.

As such they are confident that if they have managed to develop a solution with cocoa bean shells they believe they could "work with any other type of waste product."

The team has been working in

collaboration with the Italian institute for technology as well as the universities of Genova and Washington through a European Union funded project, whose aim is to promote the concept of the 'circular bioeconomy'.

The EU's definition of the bioeconomy is that it "encompasses the production of renewable biological resources and the conversion of these resources and waste streams into value added products, such as food, feed, bio-based products and bioenergy".

HERE AND THERE

FRIGILIANA

Former Frigiliana mayor Antonio Fernández dies

E. C. Antonio Fernández Vera, who was mayor of Frigiliana from 1987 until 1995, has died. Mr Fernández had been suffering from colon cancer and died on Tuesday, aged 68. As well as serving as mayor, he was head teacher at the Enrique Gines primary school for several decades. Fernández was married to María Jesús Cobos, who was a teacher at the same school. Current mayor, Alejandro Herrero, described him as "an inspiration."

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

Plans for Vélez-Málaga theme park unveiled

A. P. Vélez-Málaga town hall unveiled plans for a new theme park on Tuesday. The park, which will be known as Fortaleza Alcazaba (Fortress Alcazaba) will be located on land near to the Axarquía primary school at the entrance to the town. It will incorporate children's playgrounds as well as activities related to the town's history and a story telling area. The new attraction forms part of the council's agricultural employment development plan.



High numbers of tiger mussels have been detected at La Viñuela. SUR

LA VIÑUELA

Tighter controls and fines as La Viñuela reservoir is plagued by tiger mussels

E. C. The Junta de Andalucía has this week introduced restrictions on sailing and swimming activities in La Viñuela reservoir in light of the high numbers of tiger mussels that have been found in the water.

According to the regional government's official bulletin (BOJA), the molluscs, which favour reservoir waters due to the absence of natural predators, can proliferate rapidly by attaching them-

selves to sailing and bathing equipment such as boats, boards, floating aids, lifesaving equipment and wet suits.

Companies that offer water sports on the reservoir have been told to follow disinfection protocols in an attempt to reduce the proliferation and the Junta said that fines will be issued for failure to comply with the protocols. Vehicle access to the area is also to be subject to tighter controls.

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA

Giant nomad jellyfish found on Axarquía beach

E. C. Jellyfish weighing up to 45 kilos, which have been spotted on Torre de Benagalbón beach this week, are believed to be an invasive species native to the Indian and Pacific oceans.

The environmental association of Rincón de la Victoria (AMR) believes they are *Rhopilema nomadica*, or the nomad jellyfish, which can cause painful stings to humans as well as damage to local marine life, biodiversity and fishing.



Rhopilema nomadica. SUR

Council hands over new premises to Nerja-based NGO, Taller de la Amistad

TORROX COSTA

E. C. Since last Monday the Nerja based charity, Taller de la Amistad, which works with people with disabilities, has been running workshops and activities in a building on Avenida el Faro in Torrox Costa.

The town hall handed over the building to the not-for-profit organisation in response to social distancing problems since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

The new premises can hold up to three members of staff and 15 users at a time. The organisation has approximately 300 users who come from Nerja, Frigiliana, Torrox, Algarrobo, Almayate and Torre del Mar,

In addition to the building, Torrox town hall also announced that its annual grant to the organisation is to be increased from 5,000 to 8,000 euros.



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OFFERS OF THE WEEK



PREPARE FOR THE FESTIVITIES WITH CARREFOUR

This holiday period, you'll find all the products you need at the Carrefour shopping centres in Estepona, Mijas, Fuengirola, Torremolinos and Valle del Guadalhorce

Although it looks like it will be rather different to usual this year, Christmas is a time to enjoy and to share with loved ones at home. A table laden with the best local and gourmet products, moments of leisure, play and laughter or relaxing with music and a good book. All of that, and much more, can be found at the Carrefour shopping centres in Estepona, Mijas, Fuengirola, Torremolinos and Valle del Guadalhorce.

These establishments stand out for their commitment to quality and customer service. A wide range of products which customers will always find at the best prices.

In this way, 'foodies' will be able to purchase fresh fruit and veg, meat and fish from the La Despensa (pantry) sections of these centres to triumph during the festivities with their most delicious creations. Those who wish to combine tasty flavours with taking care of themselves can choose from among the best Bio and Eco items on the market. Moreover, these establishments have a bulk section where customers can obtain a wide range of goods such as rice, pasta and legumes in paper bags, thus reducing on plastics and residues.

What better than to accompany these delicacies with something from the premium Bodega (wine cellar) with labels from different denominations of origin. Local wines, including a selection of Sabor a Málaga (Málaga Flavour) products, and international wines from benchmark countries in wine

production such as France, Italy or Chile, among others. To top it all off, nothing better than to choose from the wide range of Christmas desserts and sweets, from mariscados to roscos, nougats or panetones, which will be the delight of children and adults alike.

Likewise, the Hogar (home) section has everything you need to decorate your house and create a festive atmosphere, and in Textil you can find the best clothes to keep warm and look fashionable and stylish.

In Electronics and Multimedia, as well as the most sought-after gifts of this Christmas, the Carrefour centres in Estepona, Mijas, Fuengirola, Torremolinos and Valle del Guadalhorce have all the latest products and technology to liven up family moments. Video game consoles, music systems or smart TVs with offers and discounts. To overcome physical distances, there are computers, tablets and smartphones which will connect you to your loved ones with the maximum quality and definition. All arranged in a comfortable and simple manner, with professional staff to advise you or solve any queries.

And as Christmas isn't the same without the excitement of the youngest members of the household, these Carrefour centres have the most sought-after toys on the market. Educational games, dynamic games and games for the whole family. A selection aimed to provide happy experiences for people of all ages to treasure the best memories.

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 C.C. La Trocha,
 Ctra. Coin-Cártama, Km 1. Coin

Hundreds of girls at risk of genital mutilation in Malaga province

Violence. A pioneering protocol is now under way to detect and protect women and girls from FGM, a practice which is normal in their own countries and continues to be carried out here



One of the protagonists of the 'My fight is your fight' exhibition in Malaga last February. PHOTO: CAMILA ESPINEL

ANA PÉREZ-BRYAN /
JUAN CANO

“It’s like something you have to do to be accepted by your people. I would have my daughter done, because she is always touching herself down below. It would stop her wanting to do that.”

“I think they do it so you don’t go with other men. We didn’t talk about these things. I don’t know if it’s normal or not...”

“Sometimes we do things for our family’s sake. Before you get married, you are circumcised. I know a 19-year-old from my country who hadn’t been, but she had to before the wedding because it’s the tradition.”

“I didn’t know that some girls die. Sometimes you hear that someone has died, but not from that... they tell you it was something else.”

This is not Africa. These are real comments from women who were born on that continent, but now live in Malaga. Women who have integrated here, who go to our health centres, stop for a chat on the street and take their children to school.

They were noted by the NGO Médicos del Mundo during a training course for African women, covering subjects such as sexuality, gynaecology and reproduction, and also female genital mutilation (FGM), a practice which still continues to different degrees in their countries of origin and which in some cases they bring with them and perpetuate with the new generations.

“It was right here on our doorstep, and we just hadn’t seen it,” says José Manuel Muñoz Martínez, a doctor at the Regional Hospital in Malaga and member of Médi-

cos del Mundo.

“In Malaga province there are about 500 girls aged between four and 12 who are at risk of ablation; and more than 300 of them live in Malaga city,” he says.

He is referring to girls who have come with their families from other countries, not those who were born here and are Spanish, although they may still be affected by genital mutilation.

The alarm was first raised at Médicos del Mundo a few years ago, when the subject came up during a project with migrant women and sex workers on preventing illnesses and improving healthcare.

The NGO has found that in Malaga city there are about 2,500 women whose countries of origin practise FGM (Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Ghana and Senegal, among others), with all the physical and psychological risks that implies, not only for those who have been mutilated before coming here, but for the young girls who grow up with these traditions.

Their call for attention has been heard by the provincial committee against Gender Violence, including Dr Carmen Agüera, who has designed pioneering protocols in Andalucía, such as the detection of chemical submission at hospitals. She has now also participated in another unprecedented protocol from the regional government, designed to detect cases of FGM and take action.

“Female genital mutilation is something absolutely unknown in the health sector, so we need to train professionals to recognise it and, above all, to know how to treat it,” she says. “Without the right training, doctors are likely to miss it completely.”

Dr Sergio Pérez, another member of Médicos del Mundo, agrees.

Resident African population of Malaga, from countries where FGM is practised

Nigeria	2,468
Ghana	587
Senegal	162
Costa de Marfil	4
Guinea	88
Camerún	74
Egipto	73
Mali	70
Burkina Faso	37
Mauritania	36
Gambia	31
Togo	30

Since 2017, the NGO has seen about 80 women who were subjected to FGM in their countries of origin, “and others have been notified to us by the health service”, he says. Nothing can hide the impact of seeing for the first time how ablation affects women’s lives.

“From childhood they have been controlled, first by their father then their husband. They tell you about the aggression they have suffered. Personally, as the father of a young

daughter, I find it very hard to hear,” he admits.

This is a complex subject and needs to be handled delicately. “It’s not something you can talk about on the first visit. But when they have been to see you several times and built up trust, you can approach the subject. The patients don’t even know what female genital mutilation is. They have other names for it,” says Dr Agüera.

Pediatrician Pedro Navarro, who

is also vice-president of the Colegio de Médicos (doctors association) in Malaga, says he has never personally come across a case of ablation, but one mother did come to ask his opinion.

“They were going on a trip to visit relatives and she was afraid they would insist on mutilating her daughter. She said it was customary there, but she didn’t like the idea and was scared. I told her that apart from being a form of ill-treat-

“Ablation is a type of gender violence in disguise”

J. C. / A. P. B.

MALAGA. Female genital mutilation, the “invisible crime” as prosecutor Flor de Torres describes it, is not considered gender violence in Spain, at least in State legislation. “In this sense, the law is completely obsolete,” she says. However, the Istanbul

Agreement (2011), to which Spain subscribed, does recognise ablation as violence against women, and so does Andalusian law 7/2018, so De Torres says an “important legislative reform” is needed for it to be recognised nationwide as what it is.

There are plenty of arguments to support a change in the law.

“Ablation reinforces the masculine role and hides a form of subjection of women, as well as violating human rights in terms of health and being a genuine form of torture,” says Dr Carmen Agüera, co-director of the protocol created in Malaga to detect and prevent FGM.

“They destroy any possibility of women having a healthy sexual life. It is a thousand-year-old cultural practice which disguises a type of gender violence.”

Dr Agüera says women who have undergone FGM believe it

ment, it was absolutely barbaric. In the end I convinced her not to allow it," he says.

Another doctor with Médicos del Mundo, pediatrician Mercedes Rivera, says she has seen one case of ablation, an eight-year-old girl who had come to Spain alone. She explains that there are other practices within the same category, carried out at home as something completely normal but still a form of mutilation.

"Some mothers have told me they put coins on their daughter's clitoris, or massage it hard and push it in because they think that will stop it growing," she says.

Monitoring by doctors is essential, but it is only the first step. The aim of the protocol is to widen the networks for detecting cases of FGM.

"Teachers can help us to detect these situations, because they may spot that these girls find it uncomfortable to sit down, or to urinate, or they may seem sad after a trip to their country because of the psychological trauma of their ablation," says Dr Agüera.

It is also important to know in advance if a trip of this type is being planned, whether from a GP, a school or social centre.

"When we know they are planning a trip, the parents have to sign a guarantee that they will not subject their daughter to this practice. It is a legal document and they are warned that if they do not comply then they will be committing a crime, with all the implications that go with it," says Dr Pérez. In these cases, the child is examined before she leaves for the trip and again when she comes back.

Flor de Torres, a prosecutor in cases of violence against women and a member of the working group which drew up the protocol, is adamant: "Mutilation is an attack on physical, social and sexual health, which makes the woman a victim from the moment she is born, but it is also the forerunner to other crimes, such as forced marriage and aggression."

FGM is an "invisible crime" because such practices are considered normal within their communities, she adds.

has improved them and gives them a special role in their community. "They see it as a form of maturity, of being eligible for marriage and economic security. We make them see that it is an attack on their body, but they don't understand that and even justify it because they have always been told that female genitals are dirty and need to be removed. We have to be careful about how we tell them that it denigrates women and that their wishes are not taken into account," she says.

Rain and Covid dampen anti-violence events

This year's march to mark International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in Malaga was a quieter affair than usual as Covid-19 restrictions meant that many could not travel to the city and the rain left the streets even emptier than usual. Nevertheless around 300 people joined the march, with the aim of drawing attention to the ongoing problem of domestic or gender violence. Many women have been living through a "double pandemic" since March, they pointed out, suffering the coronavirus lockdown and violent treatment in their own homes. Slogans chanted called for "resistance" against "patriarchies" and against "machismo".



SALVADOR SALAS

More than 3,300 women in Malaga province have protection due to a risk of violence

ANA PÉREZ-BRYAN

MALAGA. There are currently 3,310 women in the province of Malaga registered with the VioGén system, a tool used by state and local police forces to help prevent cases of domestic violence and protect victims.

After the state of alarm was declared in March, the system saw an increase in new registrations, a figure that rose continuously until July. Between January and June, 3,051 reports of cases of violence against women were filed at the courts in the province, a figure 18% lower than the same period last year. This decrease is thought to be because, in many cases, victim and aggressor do not live under the same roof and so the lockdown reduced contact and fear.

Deaths

No deaths due to domestic violence have been recorded in the province of Malaga this year, however the statistic remains dismal. Since 2003, when cases started to be counted separately, 38 women and three children have been killed by a partner or former partner.

In Spain as a whole 1,074 women have been killed since 2003, 41 of them this year.

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which they can help with.

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UK writes to Brits in Spain as Brexit nears end

The British government has posted over 100,000 letters to those on the Department for Work and Pensions database

SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. The UK government has written to over 100,000 Britons living in Spain who are on its Department for Work and Pensions database. The letter includes advice on the actions they need to take to prepare for the end of the transition period after Brexit, which ends on 31 December.

The letter has been sent to UK State pension and benefit recipients who live in Spain. It includes advice on how to register for residency and healthcare, exchange driving licences and check new passport validity rules online. The UK government said it is part of a Europe-wide mailing to over

300,000 people.

The British Embassy in Spain has also reminded people that funding has been given to some charities and community voluntary organisations to assist British nationals that may need additional help in applying for residency. This includes potentially at-risk groups, such as pensioners and disabled people and those living in remote areas or who have mobility difficulties. In Andalucía, one group - IOM - has received funding (for details of how to contact them visit gov.uk/livinginspain).

British Ambassador to Spain Hugh Elliott said: "Since 2017, we have organised nearly 300 outreach events. Whilst face-to-face events are currently limited by restrictions, we continue to provide support through our Facebook Live sessions. Our next session on residency is on 1 December, so please do follow us on BritsinSpain on Facebook to take part."

Deaths on region's roads fall 10 per cent as fewer people travel due to Covid-19

ANDALUCÍA

JOSÉ LUIS PIEDRA. The coronavirus pandemic and lockdown restrictions have led to a drop in the number of deaths on Andalucía's roads so far this year, national government officials believe.

The data studied covers January to the end of October, when there were 133 fatal accidents on the region's roads in which 145 people lost their lives. This is 10 per cent fewer than the same period in 2019.

The reduction in deaths isn't as large as the drop in journeys made, which fell just over 21 per cent in the region.

The national government's representative in Andalucía said that the number of motorcycle riders and cyclists killed was particularly concerning.

Queen opens Seville tourism summit as king self isolates

Queen Letizia (2r) made a solo official visit to Seville on Wednesday to attend a conference on tourism. She had expected to be joined by King Felipe, but the monarch went into quarantine this week for ten days after coming into close contact with a person with coronavirus. Declaring the Tourism Innovation Summit open, the queen said that Spain "is a world leader in the tourism industry" due to the "dedication and excellence of its professionals and the immense natural, cultural, culinary and social history". The Andalusian president, Juanma Moreno (2l), highlighted the "trustworthiness" of the tourism sector and its "ability" to innovate.



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Bars and restaurants are among the hardest hit by fresh restrictions in this second wave of Covid-19. NITO SALAS

Local firms put in 935 ERTes in two weeks with new lockdown

The CC OO union has said it is most scared of an avalanche of companies folding once the furloughing schemes end

NURIA TRIGUERO

MALAGA. Just like Covid-19, there has been a second wave of furloughing in Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol. With the restrictions imposed by the Junta de Andalucía on bars, restaurants, some shops and other non-essential services, almost 1,000 local companies had put forward ERTE applications for their employees between 10 and 23 November.

In total 935 firms applied to furlough staff, of which 864 were affected by a partial limitation of activity because of the new lockdown measures. These included those that have had to lower the shutters at 6pm. This week the Junta said it had already processed 550 of

IN NUMBERS

864

ERTE applications were presented from 10-23 November in the category of "limitation", or partial-restriction, of activity.

61

ERTes were presented where business were completely prevented from opening.

these requests from companies in this position.

The other recent category of ERTE furloughing created as a result of Covid-19 is where a firm is stopped from operating completely due to any measure adopted since 1 October by national or foreign authorities. Sixty-one local ERTE applications of this type were sent to the Junta

from 10 to 23 November. Forty of these the regional government has already processed.

The exact number of staff affected by these latest ERTes isn't clear, but latest Employment Services data available states that 27,000 people locally were still furloughed at the end of October.

"Companies in the bar and restaurant trade and retail have taken out ERTes again in a big way," said the provincial leader of the CC OO trade union, Fernando Cubillos. "What we are really scared of is an avalanche of firms going into administration when ERTes end," he added.

Period could be extended

For the president of the Malaga association of business leaders, Javier González de Lara, the ERTes "take the temperature of the real situation companies are in".

He said that he hoped that they would be extended beyond 31 January, "at least until the end of the state of alarm on 31 May".

THE EURO ZONE
MARK NAYLER

A step too far



The pro-independence Catalan Republican Left (ERC) has become steadily more confident over the last two years, using its small but pivotal presence in parliament to pin Pedro Sánchez to the wall. This week, the ERC made its most audacious demands of the Spanish government to date - and Sánchez, desperate to push his 2021 budget through parliament before the end of year, has tentatively agreed to satisfy them. This time, though, he's gone a step too far.

Sánchez has theoretically agreed to abolish "tax dumping" in Madrid - i.e. the reduction of the capital's tax rates to attract business and investment. The principle, rather than the specific content, of this clause is the most objectionable aspect of his pact with the ERC. Spanish politics has apparently become so deal-orientated that the fiscal policies of the capital can be indirectly altered by minority parties from other parts of Spain, without the assent or collaboration of Madrid's Conservative-led administration.

The Socialist leader wasn't always so accommodating of Catalan secessionists. "We do not accept ultimatums": this was the apparently principled stance of his government in late 2018, as ERC and other pro-independence groups celebrated the first anniversary of their failed attempt to break from the rest of Spain. It was assumed in response to a threat made by Catalonia's then-president Quim Torra, to the effect that,

unless Sánchez guaranteed a legal referendum on secession within a month, the Catalan parties represented in Madrid would cease to support him. On this occasion, the Socialist leader toughed it out.

Just over a year later, after the two elections of 2019 had failed to award any single party a parliamentary majority, Sánchez was again in a position of needing the votes of Catalan separatists, this time in order to be sworn in as prime minister. He eventually secured them, but only after agreeing to discuss the issue of Catalan independence, or at least the possibility of a legal referendum on the matter, with the region's secessionists. That concession was vague and mainly symbolic, but those secured by the ERC this week are more concrete. They also show the disproportionate amount of control exerted by Catalan separatists over national parliament.

The ERC has praised its deal with the Socialists as a symbol of the "paradigm shift" that's occurred in Spanish democracy over the past forty years. In a way, it has a point: the plurality of ideologies represented in today's lower house would have been inconceivable ten years ago, let alone immediately after the death of Francisco Franco. But hastily forming or altering policies of national importance without due process, in order to satisfy the demands of a group that sits on thirteen of the 350 seats in congress, is far from democratic.



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Gibraltar will 'stretch every sinew' for post-Brexit deal

The chief minister says discussions with Spain, UK and Brussels are moving in the right direction but time is short and nothing can be guaranteed

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. The Gibraltar government is cautiously optimistic that an agreement can be reached regarding its future relationship with the EU following the end of the Brexit transition period, but chief minister Fabian Picardo says he would be prepared to continue discussions after 31 December even if no agreement has been reached. Speaking to the House of Lords European Union Committee during a virtual appearance this week, Picardo explained that in the past five

months there have been detailed ongoing talks between Gibraltar, the UK, Spain and Brussels and that things are moving in the right direction, but he stressed that "time is short". He is, he said, optimistic enough to think "we will

make it", but stressed that even so this does not mean that an agreement is certain.

In answer to questions about Gibraltar joining Schengen and the Customs Union, he said that full membership would be a bu-



Fabian Picardo. SUR

reaucratic and unnecessary nightmare for such a small territory, but other arrangements might be possible. He also stressed that even if there is no deal by the end of this year, neither Gibraltar or Spain would want to damage each other and that the people of Gibraltar would not expect him to give up on negotiations one minute after midnight on 1 January because the deadline had passed. "We want as much cooperation as possible without crossing red lines," he said.

IN BRIEF

NEWS

2020 Christmas Coins available now

D.B. This year's set of Gibraltar Christmas Coins was officially presented by government minister Sir Joe Bossano on Wednesday, and is the 32nd set to have been issued since they first began in 1988. This year's collection consists of a cupro-nickel 50 pence piece, a cupro-nickel 50 pence with colour, a bi-metal £2 coin and a bi-metal £2 coin with colour. The two coins with colour are a limited edition of 1,000 each.

The coins may be purchased from www.gibraltarnationalmint.gi, and must be collected by appointment only.

CULTURE

Victory in Europe exhibition online

D.B. The Victory in Europe exhibition which was at the John Mackintosh Hall in October can now be seen online via the website www.nationalarchives.gi

A total of ten new videos are now accessible via the GNA Website, and the The Victory in Europe exhibition video consists of the complete set of images arranged in six photo-montage sections: The gathering storm, home front & defences, underground city & hospital, the Gibraltar defence force, Gibraltar under enemy attack and victory in Europe. A fascinating resource for history buffs.

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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Leaflet issues

I am writing regarding your article (November 20th-26th) concerning extra policing for the Nerja area. I wholly agree that this might well be necessary but have to add that in my area we have had "leaflet distributors", who just dump the leaflet in the area of the property.

My partner went around the properties close to us and brought home an armful of leaflets - I contacted some of the companies who were advertising to say that these houses were unoccupied and received an apology from one, but heard nothing from the others.

Leaflets are a wonderful way to let the robbers and/or squatters know the property is empty. The company who apologised I would happily recommend to anyone, even though I have not used them nor am I likely to do so, but they said that they would do their best to ensure that any leaflets regarding their services were not left visible to anyone passing the house. I feel that I should now advertise them in this letter - Rofer & Rodi (chimney sweeps among other things). I also recall that another one was an estate agent.

Yours, trying to keep Nerja safe. **RUSSELL DICKSON**

Let's switch off for
a while

My eyes are an average of ten hours a day glued to online meetings, classes and lecture notes, as well as looking at more than 400 WhatsApp messages a day.

I'm connected to a screen for an average of 16 hours.

If I have to sleep for eight, when can I switch off?

The coronavirus is taking away health and lives, but it is also putting all of us students and remote workers at risk.

We must look after ourselves and switch off.

GEMMA RIBAS

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THE MUSIC MAKER
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Change the record

The town of Torrijos, with a population of 13,466, lies about twenty minutes' drive to the north of the city of Toledo in Castilla-La Mancha.

Were you ever to pass by, you might be struck by its vivid urban art work or, indeed, the magnificent Palace of Pedro I. You might also see a chap running backwards in flippers with a determined yet mildly bemused look on his face.

This would be the rather splendid Christian López, 32, native of nearby Cabañas de la Sagra, who dedicates much of his time to beating Guinness world records.

Apart from the flipper thing, he's turned his hand to many other pursuits such as playing keepy-uppy with a ping pong ball on the side of a table tennis bat which feat he managed to endure for a mind-boggling

51 minutes at which point he probably sneezed or something. There's more.

Only last week our hero beat the Guinness world record for running a mile in Dutch clogs; his time was under seven minutes which, bearing in mind each clog weighs one kilo 300 grammes, is pretty stirring stuff. It's unclear whether The Chariots Of Fire soundtrack was playing in the background.

One of his specialities is running backwards, not always in flippers and, to this end, he wears rear view mirrors. Balancing a mountain bike on your chin for ten minutes? Christian's your man.

The world needs more chaps like this - striving for greatness in a not necessarily dignified manner.

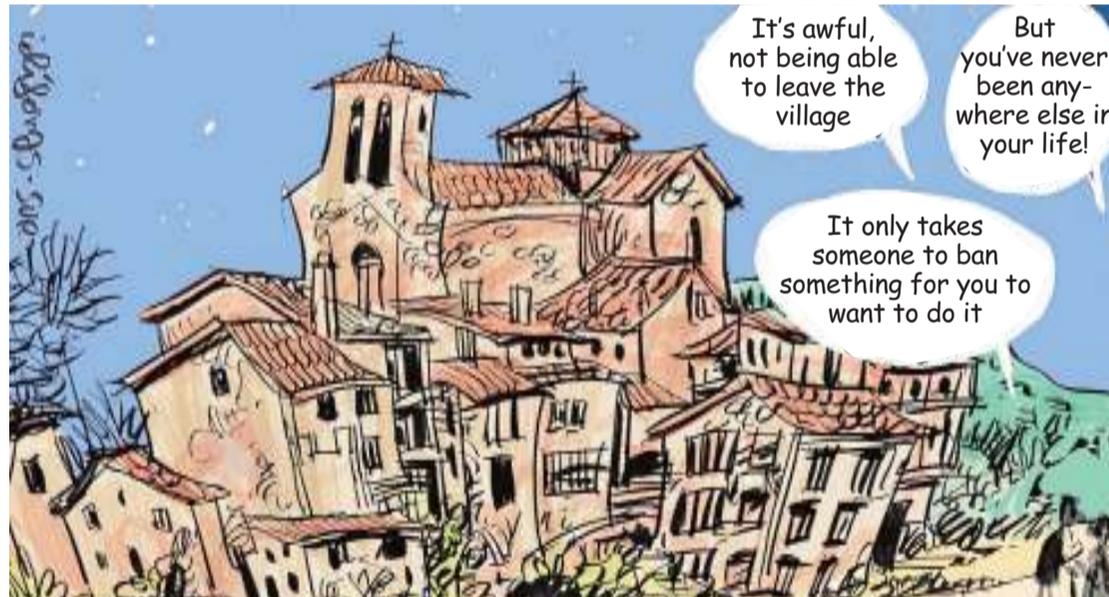
Spanish people hold some other wonderful records, including the fastest ever mara-

thon dressed as a clown, the preparation of sixty bathfuls of gazpacho, the making of the biggest red carpet in the world and the sale of the world's most expensive cheese.

Anyway, back to our mate Christian. Remember the sack race at school which principally consisted of children falling over in a heap while a red-faced PE teacher blew a whistle indiscriminately as if he had any control over proceedings whatsoever? Well, López holds the world record for the fastest ever hundred metres jumping in a sack.

As far as I can tell Christian is currently in possession of a total of forty world records, although this might be changing as I write as he flicks a selection of garden peas up Mount Kilimanjaro with a pair of knitting needles dressed as Snow White.

IDÍGORAS



SUR in English

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THE BOTTOM LINE
IGNACIO LILLO

A place at Christmas

Christmas is coming and rather than being a celebration it is well on its way to becoming the wet dream of Ebenezer Scrooge ('Bah humbug'), that infamous anti-yuletide character in Dickens' novel. In every family the debate has started over who to invite and who to leave out, especially in the larger homes of the rich relatives who usually play host round the dinner table on special family occasions. Those party-bore brother-in-laws are already angling for an invite, sucking up to others in all

their WhatsApp groups: they know that they'll be the first to miss the cut and no one wants to find themselves eating alone more often than the other at this time of year, however much family upset they cause every time they turn up.

The government has said that in the upcoming festivities, which will be the saddest ever for many thousands of people in Malaga, only up to six people will fit around the table but it hasn't made clear if children enter into the equation.

On the day, maybe they can take turns: group A starts at eight on Christmas Eve, as a sort of dinner-supper; and then in successive shifts until downing the grapes at midnight on New Year's Eve. But not much later than that mind you, as by one o'clock at the latest we've all got to be back on the sofa, dozing in front of whatever is being churned out on the telly.

It's hard to find a 'malagueño' clan that doesn't usually all get together at this special time of year, and in the best case scenario, the hardcore group, including partners, is more than ten people. That's without even thinking about families with lots of children; they're going to have to send one of the kids over to the neighbours'. So it goes without saying that the level of compliance is going to be somewhere between zero and hardly, although to be fair, ignoring rules is as old a tradition in these parts as Christ-

mas itself. It's going to be impossible to police a rule imposing such a low limit on people eating the Christmas Eve meal, or Christmas Day lunch, or at New Year, so that, as ever, everybody will do just what they want to do.

Having said that, and now it's time to get serious, I'm worried that all this palaver of limits and timings means many people become more lonely, those who don't really mix with family much or who normally work far away from their loved ones and who rely on the Christmas period as a time to meet up. Loneliness, depression and sadness also kill, and as much as the virus does, although this other pandemic is talked about in public very little. Whether it is in groups of six and six, or shifts, or however the Holy Government lets us, everyone deserves to have their place at the Christmas table.



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◀ Walter Starkie (standing) talks to actor Leslie Howard at one of the famous flamenco parties at the institute in Madrid in 1943.

Eight decades developing links between UK and Spain

The British Council. The institution was founded in Madrid in 1940 by Irish fiddle player Walter Starkie to promote a wider knowledge of the English language

TONY BRYANT



▶ Starkie, shortly after arriving in Madrid at the age of 45 to take up the position of Director of the British Council.



▶ The British Council headquarters in Madrid is celebrating 80 years of building bridges between the UK and Spain.



The British Council is an organisation specialising in international cultural and educational opportunities that promotes a wider knowledge of the United Kingdom and the English language. The institute has branches in more than 100 countries, and this year marks the 80th anniversary of the first branch in Spain, which was founded by an Irish fiddle player in Madrid in 1940.

Walter Fitzwilliam Starkie (1894-1976) was an Irish scholar whose reputation was largely based on his travel books, *Spanish Raggle Taggle* and *Don Gypsy*, publications which described his colourful life on the road. He was an outstanding musician, writer and communicator, who travelled through Spain on foot during the

early 1930s in pursuit of adventure, with only his violin for company. Starkie was also a leading authority on Romani culture and is said to have spoken the language fluently. His observations of Gypsy life, while more anecdotal than scholarly, provided insights into their language and customs.

His love affair with Spain and its people began when he honeymooned with his wife Italia - a Red Cross nurse he met in Italy during the First World War - in Spain in 1921. His connection with the country flourished when he was appointed to the Chair of Spanish at Trinity College in Dublin.

Arrival in Madrid

He arrived in Madrid at the age

of 45 and began lecturing at the Residencia de Estudiantes, where he enjoyed the company of Spanish artists such as Miguel de Unamuno and Manuel de Falla. At the outset of the Spanish Civil War, Starkie announced his support for the Franco regime. This, together with his staunch Roman Catholicism, positioned him well with the new regime and paved the way for his nomination for the post of Director of the British Council in Madrid in 1940.

Launching of an institution

After securing suitable premises close to the Prado Museum, Starkie launched the institute at a special party for 70 English, Spanish and American guests. During his inaugural speech, he made a point of mentioning

Shakespeare and Cervantes as symbols of the two countries.

His most outstanding contribution came in the field of education and during the inauguration he expressed his intentions to provide short, intensive English courses for young Spanish ex-servicemen who wished to sit the Diplomatic Service examinations. However, activities would not be limited to delivering classes. Cultural pursuits such as concerts, flamenco shows, films and exhibitions were also planned.

One of his early triumphs was a recital by Czech pianist Rudolf Firkusny, who was passing through Madrid en route to the US in October 1940. Finding a grand piano in Madrid at that time was no easy task, but Starkie was

able to locate a new Steinway for the concert, which brought together a significant gathering of Madrid society.

The institute was also the setting for a series of successful public lectures, and guest speakers included British Ambassador Sir Samuel Hoare.

In December 1940, a primary school was established at the institute, and adult English classes had also been set up. Students were required to pay ten pesetas for registration. The institute also offered a non-student membership, which gave access to the library and a variety of activities including lectures, concerts and art exhibitions.

It was not long before Starkie told colleagues back home that the institute was being "besieged by people who are interested in our work", describing it as "like a London railway station in rush hour". With almost 500 students enrolled by early December 1941, it became necessary for Starkie to convert his private sitting room and spare bedroom into classrooms.

A lack of space remained an issue at the institute, where student and member registrations continued to grow. By July 1942, the number of students rose to 762, with an additional 100 primary school pupils to accommodate, so reorganisation of the premises was undertaken. Additional staff were also enlisted to keep pace with the institute's growing success and popularity.

Starkie was always alert to cultural opportunities and his enthusiasm and drive knew no boundaries: he was determined to make the British Council a centre of significant cultural activity.

Today, the British Council in Madrid continues to flourish. In the same manner as Starkie originally intended, the institute helps to establish connections with which students can realise their full potential and play an active role in cohesive and inclusive communities.

Developing links

Eighty years after he founded the British Council in Madrid, Walter Starkie is still remembered and respected for his tireless work in developing special links between Spain and the UK. He went on to open branches of the British Council in Barcelona, Bilbao, Seville and Valencia.

He retired in 1954, but continued to live in Madrid with his family until his death in 1976.

Starkie and his wife are buried in the British Cemetery in Madrid.

Inquisitive ibexes lead to award for British photographer

Gary Browne has spent much of the year getting up at dawn to capture local wildlife and one of his shots has won an international gold medal

JENNIE RHODES



COMARES. British photographer Gary Browne has recently won an international award for his photograph of Spanish wild goats taken in Comares, where he has lived for two years with his wife, Hayley.

Gary's shot, entitled Part of the Landscape, which shows the silhouette of a family of ibexes on the Fuente Gordo rocks near the village, was given honorable mention and a gold medal for professional photographers in the silhouette category of this year's Black & White Spider photography awards.

Now in its fifteenth year and as its name suggests, the international competition honours both amateurs and professionals in the field of black and white photography.

Gary, 58, says that he is "rela-

tively new" to black and white photography and has spent much of this year getting up early to take shots of the village at dawn and "experimenting with shade and shadow". He adds that it was the "drama of the clouds" that first inspired him.

"The ibexes are regular visitors to the village and I certainly noticed more during the first lockdown," Gary explains. He goes on to say that they are not shy and that he has been able to get quite close to them with his camera.

He describes the morning that he spent "about half an hour" photographing a male ibex which was on its own. "He was aware that I was there but he didn't seem worried," says Gary.

When he captured the family that went on to be the winning photo, Gary says he was up early with his dogs and walking around the Fuente Gordo area of the village. The ibex to the right of the photo was actually watching Gary's dogs at the time.

The recognition, Gary says, has been "a nice surprise in a tough year". Awards, he goes on to say, "make a difference and give you inspiration to keep going".

While Gary says that he's missed the colour and vibrancy of Spain's festivals, flamenco and other traditions this year, Co-



Part of the Landscape, the winning photograph of ibexes in Comares. GARY BROWNE



Gary Browne. SUR

been too bad. At least, he says, he's had the dogs as an excuse to get out of the house.

Prior to moving to Spain, Gary, who is originally from north Wales, worked as a photographer for the Kent Messenger newspaper for 15 years.

As a press photographer, he describes himself as a "Jack of all trades" and has a varied portfolio of photos. Although since coming to Spain, Gary's work has focused on landscape and fine art as well as flamenco and festivals, with a forced change of focus this year.

Move to Spain

Unlike most Brits who retire to Spain, Gary says he'd never been to the country before deciding to move here.

"The kids had left home and it was time for a change and the op-

portunity to do something different," he explains.

The photographer says he'd heard of Andalusian white villages and the couple visited just two - Cómpeeta and Casares - before falling in love with Comares. For them it has everything, he points out, stressing the panoramic views of the mountains and coast.

Gary's studio - www.thestudio-underthewall.com - can be visited as part of the Comares heritage trail. He also has an online shop.

He says that he's looking forward to being able to capture more colour and festivals, as well as discovering more of the art scene in the Axarquía and Malaga.

Gary hopes to become more established in the local arts scene when the situation allows.



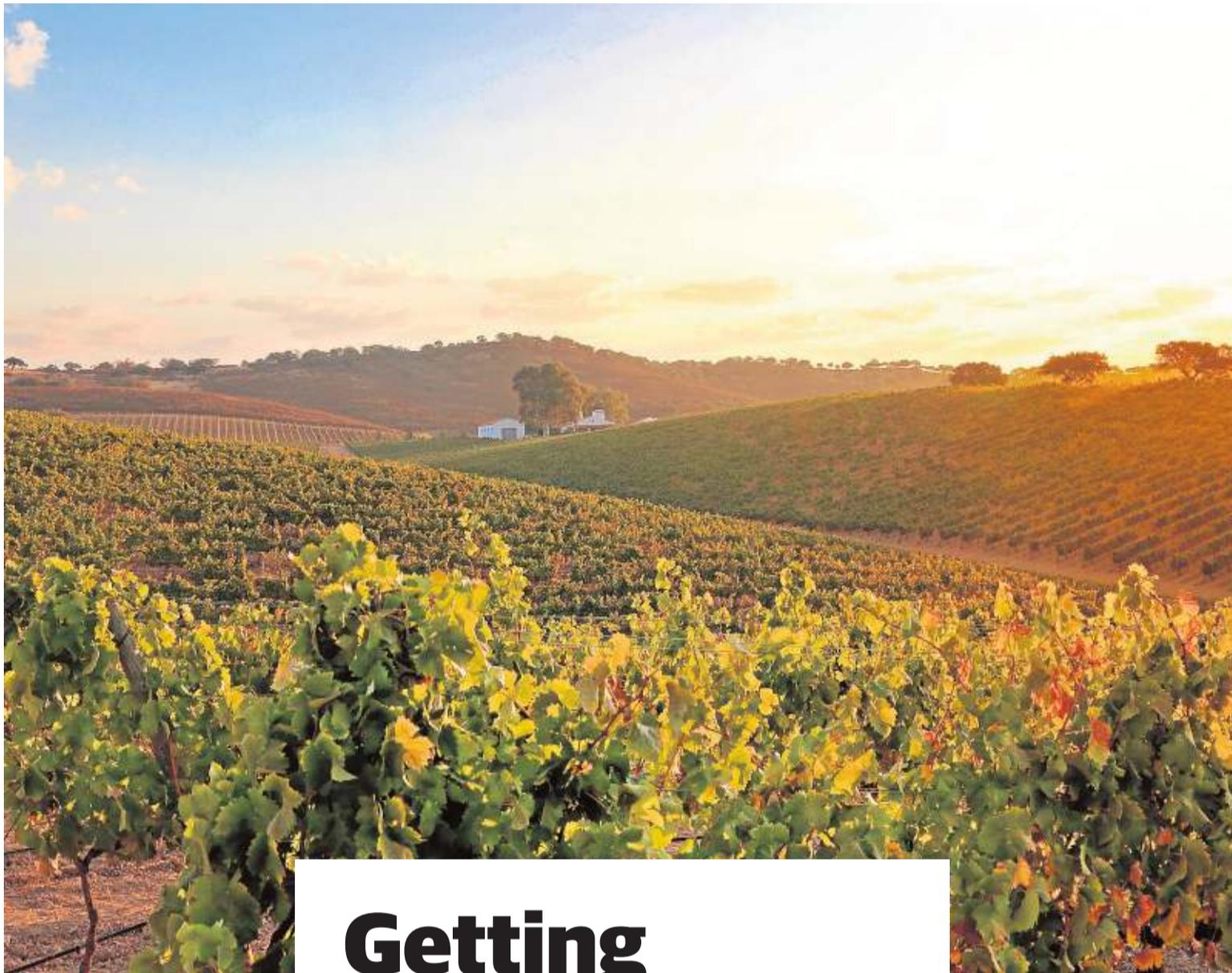
Santa, during the stunt. SUR

Father Christmas arrives early at Fuengirola shopping centre

SUR IN ENGLISH

FUENGIROLA. Father Christmas announced the start of the festive season this week by abseiling down the façade of the Miramar shopping centre. The show was put on with the help of specialist company REA Danza.





Getting to know the neighbours

This year has obliged us all to create coping strategies for lockdowns, confinement and travel restrictions. With bars and restaurants closed, weekends see me honing my skills at cocktail making and losing myself in films. Sci-fi is my guilty pleasure, but my restlessness has also drawn me to re-watch some classic road trip movies.

The appeal of hitting the road without a truly fixed itinerary is compelling. It epitomises freedom – the liberty we used to take for granted, yet now feel we've lost. I can't wait to get back out, although I'm not looking for the intensity of experiences in Dennis Hopper's *Easy Rider*, and I definitely don't want to end my trip as *Thelma and Louise* did in Ridley Scott's cult film!

However, it's true that the thought of once again enjoying freewheeling freedom and indulging my wanderlust, is keeping me sane during these autumn weeks of confinement. Some of my most memorable trips have been on the road, from taking the Pacific Coast Highway down to Los Angeles, to navigating the dusty tracks of Argentina's northern Salta province, towards Bolivia.

Iberian adventures

Yet we don't need to travel long-haul to find adventure. In fact, we don't even need to take a

Portugal. Planning a springtime road trip could be your antidote to lockdown cabin-fever

ANDREW FORBES



The unmistakable Lisbon skyline. SUR

◀ Alentejo is littered with hundreds of small wineries and farmsteads offering tastings and authentic accommodation. SUR

Portugal is a dream destination for road trips, with kilometres and kilometres of memorable highways that span some of the most beautiful landscapes in Europe

den behind are humble but now filled with interesting shops and market stalls selling more than you can imagine, from Portuguese towels and linens, traditional cataplana cooking pans, to even singing pet canaries.

For a leisurely coffee or drink, visit the smart main square, the Praça Marquês de Pombal, framed with period buildings, lined with orange trees and paved with distinctive black and white basalt and limestone mosaic tiles, typical of the country's 'Calçada Portuguesa' squares, promenades and pavements.

For an original experience, enjoy a visit to the nearby salt marshes of the Sapal de Castro Marim Nature Reserve. Salmarin is a family-owned business that continues to harvest the flor de sal from water that naturally evaporates in salt pans dug out within the marshlands. Owner Jorge shares his passion for this most artisan of products and invites visitors to try the delicate pyramids of salt, learning about the different varieties that are prized by gourmet chefs.

Then feast on huge Atlantic carabineros prawns cooked on a bed of salt, served with local goats cheese and over-sized juicy beef tomatoes. It will change your perspective of salt for ever.

The Algarve will tempt you to stay longer. From Albufeira to Lagos you can find plenty of places to stay, as well as eat well – most within steps of the weather-worn cliffs and glorious beaches that stretch on for hundreds of kilometres.

Sleepy Alentejo

Getting back on the A2, heading north will take you through part of Portugal few discover in depth – Alentejo. The motorway could lead you to Lisbon in about three hours, even less if you drive as fast as the Portuguese.

But this is a road trip, so exit the highway and take the minor roads. You will be surrounded by countryside that is littered with hundreds of small wineries and farmsteads offering wine tast-

flight, as Spain and Portugal is a dream destination for road trips, with kilometres and kilometres of memorable highways that span some of the most beautiful landscapes in Europe.

Heading for Portugal is a favourite. Within just a few hours you're entering another country, a different culture and the promise of new escapades.

Once you cross the border from Andalucía, pause for a night or two at the belle époque Grand House Algarve Hotel in the town of Vila Real de Santo António. In the past I'd continue along the A22 motorway and not stop until I reached Tavira. But I was missing this interesting former frontier town that faces out over the broad Guadiana river. Santo António shares the same 18th-century Pombaline architectural style of the Portuguese capital. It's evocative of Lisbon's elegant Baixa centre, since both were rebuilt after the 1755 earthquake and tsunami by the dictatorial Marquês de Pombal.

Alluring Algarve

Since Vila Real de Santo António was the first town Spaniards from Andalucía would reach after taking the ferry, it was designed to appear impressive. The main street looking out across the river to Ayemonte is a row of elegant houses with extravagant glass windows. The streets hid-



▲ The Algarve is known for its weatherworn cliffs and glorious beaches. **SUR**



► The impressive Vasco de Gama bridge. **SUR**

ings and authentic accommodation, surrounded by nature.

Alentejo has understandably emerged as Portugal's slow travel destination, a place of sweeping fields of wheat, ancient cork oak forests, olive groves, and vineyards. It feels Mediterranean with its dry heat, scents of rosemary and pine, and luminous white villages.

If you head north to Lisbon via Alentejo's coast, then on the way home, take time to just meander and maybe get a little lost in the heart of this region, discovering your own route south through the countryside and medieval villages (and don't miss the magnificent medieval town of Évora).

West coast highway

Portugal's wild west coast is Europe's answer to California's Pacific Coast. From Porto Covo there are by-roads that will take you all the way north to Comporta and up to Lisbon. You pass lagoons and remote beaches, lined with dunes, pines and surfers' campervans. It's perfect for hiking, or simply chilling and enjoying some of Europe's best sunsets.

In the coastal village of Porto Covo, look out for the Alma Nomada restaurant. It's a strange lo-

Lisbon is not only renowned for its vintage trams, pastéis de nata cake shops and melancholic Fado clubs – it is also a nexus for creative start-ups and contemporary European urban life

cation, by a camping area, but here you'll experience some of the cuisine and wines for which Alentejo is renowned. Expect traditionally inspired dishes like a shoulder of Alentejo pork, and Blue Fin Atlantic tuna, each paired with wines from some of the region's independent producers.

Lisbon is close, so there's time to continue on the backroads through the Arrábida Natural Park before joining the highway over the iconic 25 de Abril suspension bridge crossing the Tagus river into Lisbon.

City of Light

Lisbon needs little introduction. One of the oldest cities in Europe, bathed in brilliant Atlantic sunlight that ricochets off the river and ocean, Lisbon is not only renowned for its vintage trams, pastéis de nata cake

shops and melancholic Fado clubs – it is also a nexus for creative start-ups, and contemporary European urban life.

The chic streets of Chiado, the buzz of Cais do Sodré and the historic sights of Alfama and bairro Alto are among the most popular parts of the capital. But I'd suggest also discovering the north east of the city centre, and the Parque das Nações area.

Redeveloped for the 1998 Lisbon World Exposition, this architecturally striking new quarter gives a thoroughly modern view of Lisbon. Myriad by SANA hotels is a landmark property at the heart of this Expo '98 'park of nations' and offers design accommodation and a Martin Berasategui restaurant – all with the most extraordinary views across the city, the Tagus delta and the impressive Vasco de Gama bridge.

It's a reminder that this is a maritime city and the best perspective is undoubtedly from the water. So, it's time to leave the car and instead board a boat.

A sunset river yacht cruise will leave you with lasting memories of this romantic capital, an unpredicted highlight of the trip. There's the other great appeal of a road trip holiday - expecting the unexpected!

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INSIDER GUIDE

Portugal road trip

ANDREW FORBES

A slow travel itinerary from the Algarve coast, through the foodie region of Alentejo, to the Portuguese capital.

TRAVEL ESSENTIALS
Motorway tolls

To enjoy a road trip in Portugal, first you have to register to use the Portuguese toll motorways, as car number plates are captured by overhead cameras and sensors. Simply register online or pull over just after crossing the border from Andalucía, where you will find self-service kiosks for credit card billing.

www.portugaltolls.com/en/

ALGARVE

Vila Real de Santo António

Grand House Algarve

Start your road trip in style at this sophisticated five-star belle époque hotel in Santo António. The classic interiors, with creative contemporary twists, play on the property's Grand Dame style.

The Grand Salon Restaurant & Bar offers expertly prepared cocktails, gourmet tasting menus and an impressive selection of Portuguese wines.

Take the complimentary bicycles for the short ride down to the hotel's Grand Beach Club, a beautifully designed waterside restaurant with pool, sandy, landscaped sun terraces, with lounge beds and hammocks.

grandhousealgarve.com

Gourmet Salt Experience

The Sapal de Castro Marim Nature Reserve, adjacent to Vila Real de Santo António, is a landscape of marshes not only rich in wildlife but salt too. 'Salmarim' is one of the few remaining family-owned artisan companies that still harvest salt naturally (relying on evaporation). Grand House Algarve can organise for guests a personalised tour of the salt pans, including a gourmet salt and food experience with Jorge Raiado.

www.salmarim.com/en

Cacela Velha

A twenty-minute drive west towards Tavira will bring you to this charming historic seaside hamlet, with spectacular views over an Atlantic lagoon and beaches that seem to never end.

www.visitportugal.com/en

Albufeira

EPIC SANA Algarve Hotel

This family-friendly resort is located in landscaped gardens and pine woodlands that lead onto the stunning Falesia beach. Expect an intimate guest experience, with elegant guest rooms and upscale dining at the spectacular Al Quimia restaurant. There's a wellness spa too.

Boat Tour of Sea Caves

This part of the coast that runs west to Lagos and Sagres is truly magnificent. It has been eroded into an otherworldly landscape, with impressive caves. One of the

best ways is to explore by boat, with some tours offering a lunch of Algarve produce on board.

www.bluefleet.pt/en/

ALENTEJO

Porto Covo

Tres Marias

Alentejo is all about nature and staying at the hideaway of Tres Marias will immerse you in the beauty of this area. This farmstead has a homespun style that will appeal to those looking for simplicity and authenticity.

tres-marias-pt.book.direct

Explore villages & beaches

The coastal hamlet of Porto Covo is a former fishing village of whitewashed cottages with brightly painted doors. Stroll the cobbled streets, browse the tourist shops and lunch in the main square, indulging in grilled fish and tasty seafood.

The village is a stop on the 450km Rota Vicentina coastal trail. So it's easy to take a walk to nearby postcard perfect beaches like Pessegueiro Island Beach.

LISBON

Lisbon

Corpo Santo Hotel

Historic boutique property built upon the remains of medieval sea walls, which are still visible in the Reading Room. Located in the on-trend Cais do Sodré district, guests are close to the foodie Time Out Market.

corposantohotel.com/en/



Vila Real de Santo António.



Grand House Algarve.



Al Quimia.

EPIC SANA Marquês

Set to open in spring/summer, this will be Lisbon's newest grand hotel. Gastronomy will be a defining element, with two signature restaurants. The Kōji Japanese Bar & Restaurant promises a rooftop terrace for cocktails, inspired by sake. The other is called Allora, a place for authentic Italian cuisine that celebrates rustic, wholesome dishes.

marques.epic.sanahotels.com

Myriad by SANA

A landmark, architectural hotel, that's also home to Fifty Seconds,

the acclaimed Michelin starred restaurant by chef Martín Berasategui. This designer property, with exceptional panoramic views of the Tagus and Vasco da Gama bridge, makes a superb base from which to explore the Parque das Nações district, where the Oceanário de Lisboa, Europe's largest indoor aquarium, is located.

www.myriad.pt

Sunset yacht cruise

Take a sunset sailing trip with the lovely people at Yacht Lovers Portugal who organise small-group catered cruises on sailing yachts that give an unforgettable perspective of Lisbon.

www.facebook.com/boateventsportugal/

Sud Lisboa

This stylish waterside dining and leisure venue has a privileged location in historic Belém, with photogenic views of the Tagus and the iconic 25 de Abril suspension bridge. Combining cocktails, gourmet bites and cool DJ sets at the infinity SUD Pool Lounge; Mediterranean dining on the SUD Terazza; and the high-end events space, the SUD Lisboa Hall, this is Lisbon's unique leisure destination.

www.sudlisboa.com

History of Cod Interpretation Centre

This sparkling new, high-tech interactive museum right on Lisbon's iconic Praça do Comércio square is really entertaining and will be a hit with children. It imaginatively tells the story of Portugal's obsession with Bacalhau, which was fished off the coast of Newfoundland during the golden age of Portuguese maritime navigation and discovery.

www.historiabacalhau.pt/en

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

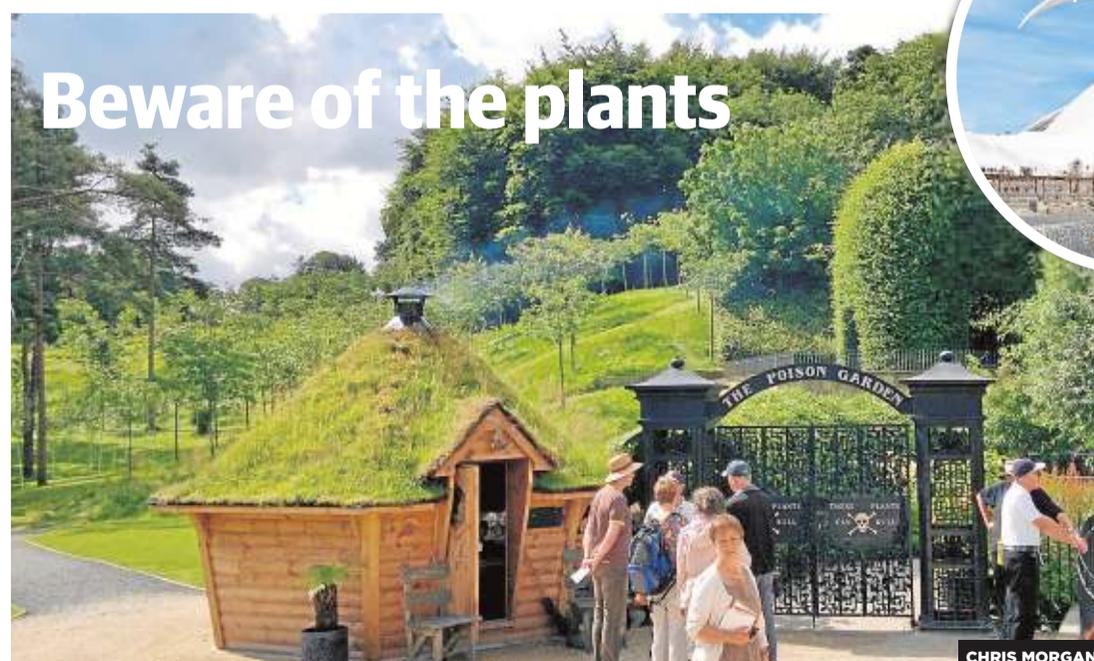
This is the entrance to a garden which has a rather peculiar theme: all of the plants inside are deadly.

Described as the most 'dangerous garden in the world', it is filled exclusively with around 100 toxic, intoxicating, and narcotic plants such as strychnine, hemlock, deadly nightshade, opium poppies and tobacco plants.

Visitors can only enter with a guide and cannot touch any of the plants. In fact, just getting close to some of them can make you feel unwell.

The garden was created by a duchess as a way of educating on the effects of drug use.

If you know where this is, you could win a prize. Send the name of the garden complex



Beware of the plants

CHRIS MORGAN



OCTOBER'S PHOTO

and its location to english@diariosur.es.

Only entries which include your name, address and telephone number will be considered.

Congratulations to Deborah Buxton of Benalmádena Pueblo who correctly identified last month's photo. It was of the striking Adán Martín auditorium in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, designed by Santiago Calatrava Valls.

Send your answer to english@diariosur.es

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

27 NOVEMBER 1983

Colombian Boeing 747 crashes in Madrid

Among the passengers were prominent literary figures en route to the Meeting of Hispanic American Culture in Colombia

TONY BRYANT

At around five minutes past midnight on 27 November 1983, a Colombian Avianca Airlines jumbo jet crashed only minutes before it was scheduled to land at Madrid's Barajas airport. Avianca Flight 011 remains the second deadliest aviation accident in Spanish territory (behind the Tenerife disaster) and the worst accident in the history of Avianca.

The Boeing 747 was on an international scheduled passenger flight from Frankfurt to Bogotá, with stops in Paris, Madrid and Caracas, and most of the passengers were French nationals. The plane crashed near the

small town of Mejorada del Campo, approximately eight miles from Madrid, and witnesses claimed the aircraft smashed into a field after veering to miss houses, before bursting into flames.

The aircraft, which took off from Charles de Gaulle Airport at 10.25pm on November 26, was bound for Madrid, but during the approach to the runway the plane hit three different hills on its way down.

Of the 181 people killed, 23 were crew members, although four of these were off duty. Miraculously, 11 people survived the crash, which was judged to be caused by human error due to the captain incorrectly judging the plane's position. Some of the survivors were ejected from the plane while still in their seats.

The aircraft was completely destroyed and the debris was widely scattered due to the severity of the impact.

Among the passengers were



Firefighters with some of the wrecked fuselage at the scene. SUR

prominent writers and culture critics who had been invited to the first Meeting of Hispanic American Culture by the Colombian president of the time, Belisario Betancur.

These included Mexican novelist Jorge Ibarra; Uruguayan writer and literary critic Ángel Rama; Peruvian poet and novelist Manuel Scorza; and Ar-

gentinian writer and art critic Marta Traba. Another notable cultural figure who died in the crash was Spanish pianist Rosa Sabater.

The first contact with Spanish air traffic controllers had taken place at 11.30pm, and the plane was cleared to land at around midnight: this was the last contact with the aircraft.

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Estrellar	To crash
Pasajero	Passenger
Medianoche	Midnight
Aerolínea	Airline
Testigo	Witness
Llama	Flame
Aproximación	Approach
Tripulantes	Crew members
Supervivientes	Survivors
Destrozado	Destroyed
Escritor	Writer
Controladores	Controllers
Aterrizar	To land
Maniobra	Manoeuvre
Grabación	Recording
Avión	Plane
Novelista	Novelist
Desastre	Disaster
Altitud	Height

The plane's digital flight data recorder was recovered in good condition several hours later. The crash was investigated by the Spanish Civil Aviation Accident and Incident Investigation Commission (CIAIAC), which concluded that the fault was 'inaccurate navigation by the crew', which placed them in an incorrect position for initiating the correct approach manoeuvre.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

HOSPITAL

Helicópteros Sanitarios use the latest technology to guarantee safety in their interventions during the pandemic

An innovative system guarantees air quality in operating theatres used for patients with heart conditions

MARBELLA

SUR. The prestigious scientific journal *Eurointervention* has just reported that there are a greater number of complications related to myocardial infarction and its treatment in people who suffered from Covid-19 at the time of the heart attack.

On the other hand, the number of patients treated for myocardial infarction during the COVID-19 outbreak has decreased compared to the previous year, among other reasons because many people are afraid to go to hospitals, which may end up causing greater complications for people who must be treated for heart problems.

As we know, Coronavirus is a virus with positive single-stranded

RNA; they are responsible for diseases in animals but also in humans. Until now, Coronavirus had caused illnesses in human beings ranging from the common cold, the most frequent, to more severe diseases such as SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome). A new Coronavirus is responsible for the current pandemic with the initial focus in Wuhan (Hubei, China), in December 2019. Finally, on 12th March 2020, the WHO announced the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic.

The Helicópteros Sanitarios hospital, in collaboration with the German company B. BRAUN, one of the world's leading suppliers and manufacturers for the healthcare sector, has implemented in the Interventional Cardiology Unit of its healthcare centre one of the first systems for reducing the bacterial and virus charge of the air in environments at risk of aerial contagion (STERYBOX), such as operating theatres.



^Doctors Luis Iñigo, Eduardo Molina, Pedro Brugada and Juan Sieira. HSH



<The Interventional Cardiology Operating Room at Helicópteros Sanitarios. HSH

This device uses the well-known properties of the UV-C germicidal radiation at 254 nanometres (UVGI) and, specifically, the capacity of denaturing the genetic material of the cells it strikes, by inactivating every type of microorganism present in the air (bacteria, germs, moulds, viruses). The germicidal radiation, which is isolated inside the device, prevents the spreading of the dangerous UV-C rays in the environment and it eliminates any side effect detrimental to health; the air is aspirated by the device through noiseless axial fans and it is then submitted to an intense UV-C radiations field through a patented coil system; the air is purified and ready to be released into the environment, thanks to a continuous change of air.

We would like to congratulate Helicópteros Sanitarios Hospital and B. Braun for this important initiative that will undoubtedly benefit many people.



DENISE BUSH

GARDENING

Corymbia

Included in the Eucalyptus genus until 1990, Corymbia now has a genus of its own, although it is still classed as one of the eucalypts and may still be found listed under its old genus name.

It is a genus of just over 100 species, 100 native to Australia and one native to New Guinea.

The majority are small trees with the characteristic bark which sheds in flakes or thin

strips; the new growth also has leaves that are different from those on the older growth, just like Eucalyptus.

The large flowers form in branching bunches at the ends of the stems and are very attractive to bees and butterflies.

They are followed by decorative gum nuts, popular

in dried flower arrangements.

The leaves are shiny, dark green on the top and light green underneath and new growth is often reddish in colour. As the trees don't need pruning they are very low-maintenance.

There are several hybrids available that are more suited as focal points in smaller gardens, such as Corymbia ficifolia 'Summer Beauty' which has an open form and weeping habit.

It has large pink or apricot blooms up to 20mm across, followed by large fruits. Peak flowering is during the summer but in temperate areas it may continue to produce flowers sporadically throughout the whole year.

All the hybrid Corymbias are grafted onto vigorous rootstocks and any shoots that form below the graft must be removed as they will eventually weaken the scion (grafted plant).

Hybrid plants cannot be propagated by seed as the resulting plants will not be true to type and will probably develop into weak seedlings. Cuttings from eucalypts are also notoriously difficult to strike.

Once established, Corymbias are drought-resistant although they will benefit from occasional watering during prolonged dry spells. New plants must be watered regularly until fully established. The ideal location is full sun or partial shade and the soil should be free-draining with plenty of organic material added.



Corymbia ficifolia and hybrid Summer Beauty (insert). WIKIMEDIA/NEEDPIX

READERS' PHOTOS



MARIA MUÑOZ MARÍN

Christmas is coming

In order for a Poinsettia to change colour it needs twelve hours of darkness for five consecutive days, according to text books. Well María's appears to have received just that as it is starting to develop the emblematic red bracts that make it a Christmas favourite.



CAROLINE SELLERS

Dates galore

It seems that this year has been a good year for date palms as this photo of one in San Pedro shows. There are many different species of palms, the majority of which have edible fruit. The most popular for eating though is Phoenix dactylifera.

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

We know many of our readers have lovely gardens, or enjoy growing plants on their terraces or balconies and some like to take photos of plants they see when out and about. Why not share them with others? Email

your photos to english@diariosures.es or send them to SUR in English, Avda Dr Marañón 48, 29009 Málaga, with a caption and a few words of explanation. Alternatively, you can send them to us via Facebook ([@surenglish](https://www.facebook.com/surenglish)) or Twitter ([@SUR_English](https://twitter.com/SUR_English)).

DISCOVER

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REGISTER AND
ENJOY MALAGA 100%

The **municipal register** or "**padrón**" shows the number of inhabitants in a municipality (not necessarily tax residents).



It's highly important as the **number of people registered** has an impact on the **financial contribution** the city receives.

Register and take your community up a notch.



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Grants.



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(depends on nationality).



+ DISCOUNTS

Discounts on municipal and social services.



+ SECURITY

More Police Officers and Firefighters. New vehicles,
material and equipment.

EXHIBITIONS

Marbella Gallery Weekend

MARBELLA. Until 28 November.

The newly formed Marbella Association of Contemporary Art Galleries has organised an open-doors event for the general public to get to know the town's galleries. The Es Arte, Badr El Jundi, Isolina Arbulú, Reiners Contemporary Art, Sholeh Abghari, Yusto / Giner and Wadström Tönneheim galleries are all open 11am to 2pm and 4 to 6pm on Friday and 10am to 12pm on Saturday. Prior

booking of slot advised.

David Tomé

MIJAS. Until 1 December. Casa Museo.

DUALidades is an exhibition by photographer David Tomé. The photos show two different realities in the same location, in the same shot. There is no cheating or double exposure, just shots that seek the complicity of the observer. A proportion of sales will go to the Alzheimer's and other Dementias Association AFA in Mijas Costa and Fuengirola. For a guided tour: contactme@davidtome.com



Brinkmann, Churriana.

María José Paneque Salazar

MIJAS PUEBLO. Until 1 December.

Casa Museo.

An exhibition of figurative and realism art by Archidona born María José.

Photograph portraits

MIJAS PUEBLO. Until 14 December.

Casa de la Cultura, Las Lagunas.

This is the annual collective exhibition organised by the Asociación Nuevo Enfoque.

Macarena Pozo

MALAGA. Until 1 December. Sala

Alfajar, C/Císter.

The exhibition NO DOLOR by artist Macarena Pozo includes works completed since 2016 using the technique of mezzotint.

Los Machados

MALAGA. Until 12 December. Centro

Cultural Fundación Unicaja. P/ Obispo.

Around 200 pieces are on display that form the legacy of the poets, the Machado brothers Antonio and Manuel. It includes photos, drawings, documents and transcripts, many of which have not been exhibited before.

Americans on parade

MALAGA. Until 30 November. Fnac

Malaga.

British photographer George Georgiou has won The British Journal of Photography Project prize in 2019 and two World Press titles for his photos. His exhibition shows that despite the segregations in US society due to race or wealth, the American people come together for the annual parades in these photos.

César Dezfuli

MALAGA. Until 20 December, Alianza

Francesca, C/ Jacinto Verdague.

The exhibition Passengers consists of a collection of 118 photographs of refugees taken as they were rescued from their rubber boats on the Mediterranean. The photographer has met with 65 of the people photographed in the project which began in 2016.

Enrique Brinkmann

CHURRIANA. Until 5 January 2021.

Casa Gerald Brenan, C/ Torremolinos.

Artist Enrique Brinkmann has an exhibition of 12 of his works entitled Estrellas para Brenan, Obra Gráfica, a personal tribute to the writer. Brinkmann has exhibited in the MOMA in New York as well as many other museums and art galleries around the world.



Marilyn Manson, Malaga.

Marilyn Manson 21 Years in Hell

MALAGA. Until 22 January. La

Térmica. Free.

British photographer Ralph Perou took photos of the extravagant, dark and peculiar American rock star Marilyn Manson over a twenty-one year period. Thirty of his photographs from the book '21 Years in Hell: Manson/Perou' are on display at the Térmica in Malaga city.

Eugenio Chicano

MALAGA. Until 16 March. Casa Natal

Picasso.

The first director of the Casa Natal

COMING SOON

GASTRONOMY DIRECTORY

Quién
es
Quién

en la Gastronomía
de Málaga 2021

WHO'S WHO
IN GASTRONOMY MÁLAGA 2020

A selection of the most outstanding establishments
on the culinary scene in Málaga by Enrique Bellver.

The most creative and the classics; specialists in sea
cuisine; barbecue and grill restaurants; breakfasts; wines
and wineries; cocktails; gourmet products and lots more.

Andalucía

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SUR
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Picasso, Eugenio Chicano, died in November 2019 leaving a substantial artistic legacy. The artist had dedicated some of his works to Picasso and the museum has selected some of these for an exhibition in his honour.

The Beatles versus The Rolling Stones

MALAGA. Until 31 March 2021. Centro Cultural La Malagueta. The exhibition consists of a collection of photographs taken by Terry O'Neill and Gered Mankowitz of the two legendary bands from the start of their careers and through their 'boom' years. There are also some photos taken by Baron Wolman and two documentaries, Eight Days A Week by Ron Howard and Charlie is My Darling by Peter Whitehead.

Joint exhibition

NERJA. Until 28 November, 11.30am - 4pm. Sala Municipal, C/Almirante Ferrándiz. Elke Eleonore Weitenkopf and Anna Bilon are holding an exhibition of their works entitled Sonidos de la Luz - Ver, Sentir y No Tocar.

José Cabrera

ALMUÑÉCAR. From 5 until 19 December, 6-9pm. La Sala Rowland Fade, Casa de la Cultura. An exhibition by José Cabrera and guests including José Antonio Lerta Marmol.

LIVE CONCERTS AND MUSIC

OFM Chamber Music concerts

MALAGA. Auditorio del Museo Picasso de Málaga. **29 November, 12pm.** Concerto Zapico. **12 January.** Quinteto de Jazz OFM. **2 February.** Harmoniemusik Málaga. **9 March.** Cuarteto para el fin de los tiempos. **6 April, 8pm.** La Spagna. **11 May, 8pm.** Quinteto OFM. **1 June, 8pm.** Trío Círculo. www.museopicassomalaga.org

Chopin talk and recital

MARBELLA. 5 December, 5 to 7pm,

Pigsy's work goes virtual

Many of the paintings are self-portraits, or semi-biographical and portray spontaneity, frustration, simplicity and emotion

TONY BRYANT

MALAGA. Malaga-based Irish artist Pigsy (Ciaran McCoy) will host an online exhibition of his work from 28 November until 12 December. The artist, renowned for his large colourful paintings, will exhibit the body of work he has produced since arriving in Malaga earlier this year. Organised by Designyard, Ireland's most established and best known contemporary art platform, Seven Spanish Angles will feature 26 paintings curated by Ronan Campbell. These will include the title piece, a huge canvas which is dedicated to seven revered Spanish artists, which include Picasso, who Pigsy refers to as the "god father of art".



Pigsy and one of the huge paintings at his studio in Malaga. T. B.

The mediums he uses range from everyday household acrylic paint, chalk, oil sticks, acrylic sticks, oil paint, spray paint and charcoal, to any other medium that feels right at the time of painting.

Born in Dublin in 1972, Pigsy has dyslexia and he considers his work to be a reflection of the disorder.

Many of his paintings are self-portraits, or semi-biographical.

They are unique in that they have no boundaries: they portray spontaneity, frustration, simplicity and emotion.

His work has been described as 'angry' and 'aggressive', but the artist disagrees, claiming he is simply expressing "the frustrations of someone who lives with dyslexia".

www.designyard.com

via Zoom. 15 euros.

A virtual journey through the artistic journey of Frédéric Chopin. Talk (in Spanish) and recital. Reserve places on reservas@musicaconencanto.org.

FLAMENCO

Zambomba Flamenca

MALAGA. 19 December, 7pm. Teatro Cervantes. Flamenco performance with the Antonio de Verónica dance company and Sara Cortés.

TALKS / LECTURES

The Arts Society

NERJA. Lectures online. The Arts Society Nerja season of lectures free online for members and supporters. www.theartssocietynerja.com **15 December, 6pm.** Santa Claus. The art that turns him from St Nicholas to Father Christmas: Lecturer Christopher Bradley.

The Arts Society Costa del Sol **FUENGIROLA.** Lectures online.

The Arts Society Costa del Sol streams lectures to its members. You can also register for a single lecture. To join email: amanda.nad-fas@gmail.com **14 December, 4.30pm.** Santa Claus: The art that turns him from St Nicholas to Father Christmas. Lecturer Christopher Bradley.

The Arts Society Benahavís **BENAHAVÍS.** Lectures online.

The lectures are broadcast online using Zoom for members and supporters. theartssocietybenahavis.com

CHARITY

Clubhouse Charity Shop

GIBRALTAR. 304a Main Street. Clubhouse Gibraltar mental health support charity now has a selection of Christmas decorations, trees and gifts. www.clubhousegibraltar.com

ACE Christmas dinner

CALAHONDA. 19 December, Los Olivos Restaurant, 7pm. 25 euros. The ACE Dog Shelter in La Cala de Mijas hopes to host its annual Christmas dinner at Los Olivos Restaurant, with live entertainment from Laura Elen plus a charity tombola. Tickets include a three-course dinner and all bookings must be made in advance. Reservations: 606 145 359 / 647 647 671 / pr.spain@ace-charity.org

MORE IDEAS

Free film script courses

MIJAS 12, 13 December. Casa Museo de Mijas. Learn the basics for creating audio-visual texts etc. In Spanish. Register: cultura@mijas.es or call 952590380. Students should bring 3kg of non perishable foods on the first day for the food bank.

Diver Arte for children

TORREMOLINOS. Until 8 May 2021, 12-1.30pm. Centro Cultural Pablo Ruiz Picasso. Art workshops dedicated to the History of Art for children. Painting and creativity workshops, exhibitions. Registration call: 952053835.

Lux Mundi Christmas Carol Service

TORRE DEL MAR. 12 December, 6pm. San Andrés parish church. An ecumenical carol service. Call: 952 543 334 or email: luxmundi@luxmundi.org

Lux Mundi Taize Prayer

TORRE DEL MAR. 18 December, 8.45pm. San Andrés parish church. Monthly prayer meetings. Call: 952 543 334 or email: luxmundi@luxmundi.org

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Payment refused

ANDREW J. LINN



It sometimes happens through no fault of our own. We ask for the bill, telling the waiter we will pay by credit card. On the card machine it comes up as refused. Second attempt and the same thing happens. The waiter sug-

gests we pay cash, but we do not have enough. Either the card is suspended because someone has fraudulently used it, or our credit limit is maxed out. If we are a regular customer, we will be permitted to leave on the promise of

making a bank transfer or returning another day to settle the bill.

Sometimes restaurants claim their card machine is not working so that they can justify requesting cash. This allows them to keep the transaction off the books and untaxable. The average customer does not really care but the inconvenience caused is selfish and unlawful. More disturbing is adopting similar tactics to defraud the restaurant owner when he or she is not present. The employees agree between themselves which customers

to con and how to split up the illegal loot.

Occasionally people have no intention of paying. I remember seeing a man at an adjoining restaurant table enjoy a superb lunch with a bottle of expensive wine. After his coffee he informed the waiter that he could not pay. I never saw the final outcome, but one thing is sure: he would not have been asked to wash the dishes, as the old myth used to have us believe. Nor is calling the police a cost-effective alternative. Writing off the loss is the commonest finale.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Monte Real 2017

Although readers should forget the Rioja-Ribera del Duero tandem occasionally to try wines from other regions, it is hard to ignore the time-honoured classics for long. Another excellent red from the old Monte Real bodega, with all the trappings of Rioja as it should be. Tempranillo and Garnacha. Around €12.50.



Potatoes in the air

Chayote. At this time of year large markets and greengrocers stock unusual pear-shaped gourds; few of them agree on the name

ALEKK M. SAANDERS



On the outside, this pale green gourd might look a bit like a very old avocado or a very young turnip, although the resemblance to a pear is more obvious. In Scandinavia this fruit is called 'pärongurka' and 'grönsakspäron', 'pear-cucumber' and 'vegetable-pear' respectively. While in greengrocers on the Costa del Sol this fruit is given a range of different names - 'papa mora' and 'batata mura' are two recent examples - this exotic gourd is in fact the chayote squash. One of its alternative Spanish names is 'papa del air', meaning 'air potato'.

Even more names

In northern parts of Spain the gourd is called 'sequi' or 'patata China' (Chinese potato), while Andalusians name it mostly as 'papa

del moro' (Moor's potato). However, the gourd is native to Mexico. In the United States, as well as being called mirliton, it is also known as Mexican cucumber or Mexican pear squash.

The chayote is considered a tropical squash. The starchy fruit was a staple of the Aztecs, and the name 'chayote' is derived from the Nahuatl world 'chayotli'. It was one of the several foods introduced to the Old World during the Columbian exchange.

The name of the fruit in the New World changes from border to border. The chayote is 'chuchu' for Brazilians, 'yota' for Colombians and 'güisquil' for Guatemalans. And the names don't stop there: in France it is called a 'Christophe'; in the Philippines, 'sayote'; in Australia, New Zealand and Singapore, 'choco'. Such va-



Above, chayotes growing in the Axarquía and, right, ready for sale. **SUR**



riety can therefore excuse local greengrocers for coming up with their own versions of the name.

Officially though, the chayote is classified as *Sechium edule*, part of the genus *Sechium* and the cucumber plant family.

The leaves of the chayote plant are similar to cucumber leaves, but the fruit is like a pear in shape and size. The chayote is usually pale green on the outside, with white flesh on the inside. It is crunchy and slightly sweet with light hints of cucumber. The peel, the flesh, the seed, as well as its

tendrils, flowers and even roots are said to be edible.

The chayote squash is a good source of vitamin C, vitamin B-6, folate and dietary fibre. It is prized for its high levels of potassium and amino acids. It is relatively low in natural sugars and calories compared to other fruits but it has a high water content. The leaves and fruit have diuretic, cardiovascular and anti-inflammatory properties. Scientists state that the health benefits of the chayote are

essential for people with inflammatory diseases like high blood pressure, kidney stones and digestion problems.

Cooking

The chayote squash is popular in Hispanic, Indian and Filipino cuisines. It can be eaten raw and, after shredding, it can be added to salads and slaws. However, the chayote is mostly cooked very similarly to other squashes. It is mentioned in different casserole and dressing recipes. It is prepared au gratin, boiled, mashed, baked, fried, pickled, sautéed or stuffed. In restaurants chayote squash can be offered on menus stuffed with shrimp or oyster dressing.

José María Robles from Vélez-Málaga has been growing chayote for seven years as a hobby.

He says growing them is not difficult and he prefers organic methods without chemicals. He admits they would grow better in an area more humid than the Axarquía, but chayotes need even less water in comparison to other tropical fruits grown locally.

José María funds his hobby by selling green chayotes, as well as the more exclusive yellowish-white variety called perulero, online.

For him the best chayotes for eating are firm, smooth, with bright skin and fewer wrinkles. The amateur grower prefers to eat chayotes fresh. For his refreshing salad he peels the fruit, takes away the seed and cuts it into slices. He dresses his salad with olive oil and cut garlic.

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Sales of over-the-counter cold remedies at chemists have dropped by 50 per cent

Wearing masks, reducing social contact and the mild weather have all contributed to less demand for these products

ÁNGEL ESCALERA



MALAGA. Sales of over-the-counter cold, cough and flu remedies have dropped by half in Spain this autumn, in comparison with the same period last year.

Leandro Martínez, the president of the Asociación Empresarial de Cooperativas Farmacéuticas (Asecofarma) says there are three reasons to explain this 50 per cent reduction in sales so far this year: people are wearing face masks, not mixing so much with other people, and the weather is mild.

As a result of the combination of these three factors, fewer people are suffering from colds and coughs this autumn.

The first two reasons are related to the coronavirus pandemic. As people now have to wear masks in outdoor and indoor spaces, the drops which are expelled when someone coughs or sneezes are contained by their mask, thereby reducing the risk of contagion.

Equally, now that people have less social contact and keep a distance of at least a metre and a half between themselves and

others, the germs are not spreading as much as usual.

Also, the flu has not yet arrived: it is expected to do so in December and, especially, in January and February, which are normally the coldest months of the winter.

The protective measures which have been adopted against SARS-CoV-2, the pathogenic agent which causes Covid-19, are also effective against colds, which are caused by another coronavirus but one which is much more benign.

Frequent hand washing and regular ventilation of rooms have also resulted in fewer people catching colds, so they are not buying remedies such as Frenadol, Couldina, Gelocatil, Gelogrip etc. Sales of cough mix-

tures and syrups have also dropped considerably.

Leandro Martínez says that although these are types of medication, they are freely available without a prescription and pharmacists are qualified to advise on their use. "The range is very extensive and there are many different ones to choose from," he explains.

He points out that chemists carry out a valuable advisory service. "Many people don't re-

alise that pharmacies are essential medical establishments. They actively collaborate with the control and monitoring of illnesses, and they provide an excellent service for their customers, who can go to them for rapid assessment and advice, and to have any questions answered about what they are taking," he says. "At the moment, though, because people are protecting themselves against coronavirus, they have managed

to reduce the chances of catching the common cold and as a result they don't need so many over-the-counter remedies."

With regard to the lack of flu vaccines available at pharmacies at the moment, Martínez says they have not been supplied with many doses yet. However, he says the Andalusian Health Service has bought a far higher number of doses this year than it normally would, so more should be available soon.

A wide range of cold and cough remedies can be bought over the counter without a medical prescription

A change in the way of booking a flu jab, to ensure there are enough for those who need one

ÁNGEL ESCALERA

MALAGA. The Andalusian Health Service has changed the way people can request a flu vaccine: this can no longer be done via the Salud Responde app or on the ClicSalud+ website. The reason is that both systems will give an appointment but they cannot tell whether the person asking for the flu jab is in a risk group for under-65s or not. It was decided to make the change to ensure that health centres do not run out of doses

for the patients who most need them. Many people who tried to book a flu jab through SaludResponde or ClicSalud were surprised to find the option was no longer available as there had been no announcement that it was to be discontinued.

It means that now, if someone wants a flu jab, they have to book a phone call with their GP and explain the reason why. The doctor will then decide whether they are eligible to have the vaccine yet or not, based on their medical his-



A woman is given the flu vaccine. NITO SALAS

tory. This year, because of the coronavirus epidemic, more people are aware of the situation and want to be vaccinated against the flu, and it is essential that supplies do not run out. The health service

has ordered a large number of doses in total, but the manufacturing process takes time. Sources say as soon as there are enough supplies everyone who wants a jab will have one.

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ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC

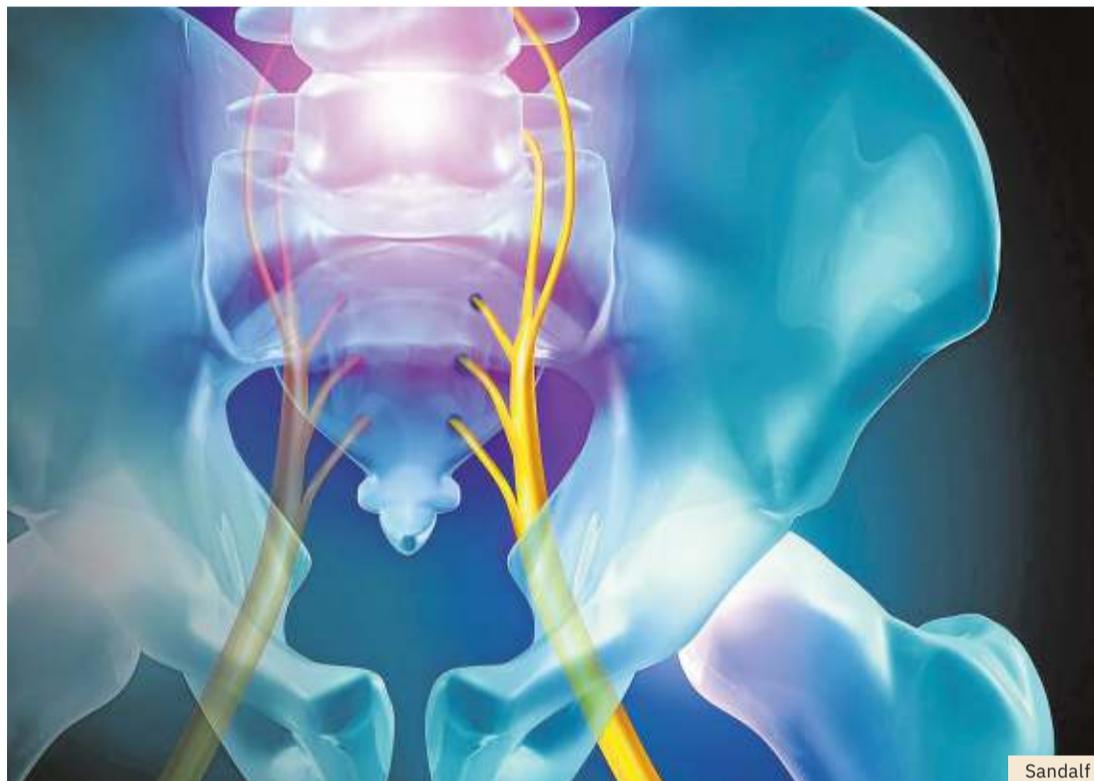
Lower back Pain resolving after Total Hip Replacement

BENALMÁDENA

Sandalf. Lower back pain is a medical condition that probably affects everyone sometimes in life. It could range from just some discomfort in the lower back region, which is usually caused by wrong position, like sitting for several hours at the computer working, or sleeping in an uncomfortable position like on the plane. A few days rest would get rid of it. Another 'classic' lower back pain is caused by overdoing things or wrong movements, like working in the garden for an extended time in a bend forward position, carrying or shifting heavy material around or similar. This is often referred to as 'pulling once back' or 'pinching a nerve'.

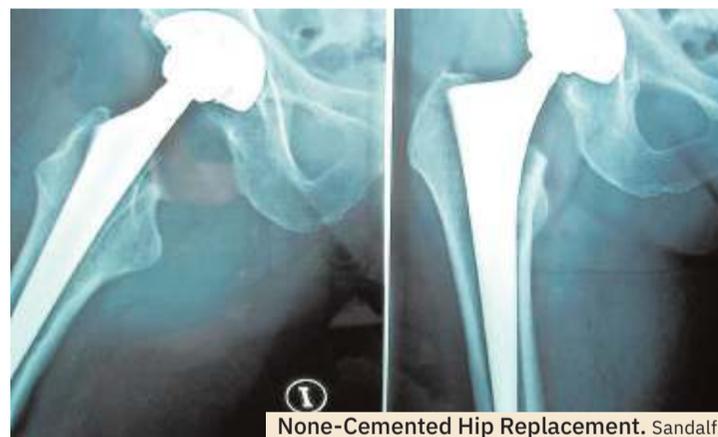
The result is often an inflammation of the sciatic nerve, or 'sciatica'. The symptoms are much severer, reaching from sharp pain in the lower back region, in particular on certain movements like rotation, often radiating to one side into the leg and even all the way down to the calf. People suffering from 'sciatica' very frequently are complaining pain in particular at night, with the pain waking them up several times. Standard pain killing medication often does not work or just takes the edge off for a couple of hours or so. If left untreated it could turn into constant pain 24/7, making daily activities almost impossible.

The treatment of the early stages of lower back pain ranges from physiotherapy, osteopathic mobilisation, acupuncture, postural control and similar. In the advanced stage, with pain radiating down the leg and night pain, a direct infiltration of the inflamed nerve next to the spine, with some local anaesthetics and Cortisone, often



does he trick. Orthopaedic Surgeon Dr. Alf Neuhaus could perform this infiltration during the initial consultation with him. But the decision is based on clinical findings during the thorough physical exploration that he always performs on any patient, including checking joint mobility of the lower extremities.

Should there be any signs for possible involvement of the hip (reduced range of movement, pain on palpation) he would take an X-ray of the pelvis and the lower back. If the image confirms that one of the hip is completely worn out, the reason for the lower back pain is most certainly found. If in any doubt he would perform a X-ray guided injection into the joint. Should this injection help



significantly with the pain it would prove that the origin for the lower back pain is indeed the hip. The reason why a worn out hip can cause sciatic nerve problems is on one side the very close proximity

of the nerve to the hip joint, and the reduced mobility of the joint, in particular on flexion and internal rotation, resulting in compensatory overuse of the lower back.

Once the total joint replacement



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has been implanted, the lower back pain usually disappears on the day of the surgery. The UK trained physiotherapist, working with Dr. Alf Neuhaus, would get the patient on her/ his feet the afternoon following the surgery in the morning. This early mobilisation technique allows the patient to go home after only spending 2 nights in the hospital, walking full weight bearing through the operated leg, with the aid of two crutches, and free of lower back pain. During the out-patient physiotherapy sessions, following hospital discharge and using the facilities of Clinica SANDALF, the patient would not only learn exercises for the hip(s) but also for strengthening and stabilising the lower back.

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**DIGIT. X - RAYS | BONE DENSITY
ULTRASOUND SCAN | SHOCK WAVE THERAPY**

Mónica Alonso, an architect from Madrid, remembers her loss of smell and taste as “an uncomfortable experience”. When it happened to her, the scientific community had not yet associated these symptoms with Covid-19.

“It’ll be because of my hay fever,” she thought, back in April. However, the pollen had nothing to do with it: when she stopped taking antihistamines because her other hay fever symptoms improved, she still couldn’t smell or taste anything. She didn’t realise it, but she had coronavirus.

“If you’re someone who can normally smell things easily, or if you taste the food as you cook, or you like sweet things, it seems pretty strange. I remember one day when I had been disinfecting the bathroom everyone in the house complained that the bleach and ammonia I had used smelled horrible, but I couldn’t smell a thing. Sometimes, later on, I would sniff those bottles to see if my sense of smell had come back, but it hadn’t. In the end, I only ate if I was really hungry; I didn’t feel like eating because I knew I wouldn’t be able to taste anything. And when it started to come back, everything tasted odd, as if I had eaten wood shavings or something burnt, iron or something like that,” she says, more than six months later. It was ten days before she was able to smell and

In search of a lost sense of smell

Anosmia. If Covid-19 has given you ‘smell blindness’, there is now a way to train it to come back and it can be done at home

ROCÍO MENDOZA

taste again.

“Then I started to notice something, but only with strong smells. It was a month before I began to get back to normal, but even now I don’t feel I have completely recovered,” she says.

Mónica’s experience has been shared by around 345,000 people in Spain after they have caught the coronavirus. It took a while

for the loss of smell and taste to be recognised as a symptom but then it became more prevalent than anticipated. According to the Spanish Society of Otorhinolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery (SEORL-CCC), 88 per cent of Covid-19 patients lose these senses completely or in part. Many recover them spontaneously once they are

over the illness but others, around 20 per cent, say they have not returned completely. That is similar to Mónica’s case. Like her, as they had no other symptoms and felt well, they didn’t consult a doctor. However, few people are aware that it is possible to recover the sense of smell, and therefore taste, through a particular type of training, and some scientists say it is very effective. What’s more, it can now be done at home without the need to see a doctor.

Something new

Before the appearance of this virus that now holds us all in suspense, only four or five hospitals in Spain specialised in the recuperation of smell. The most common causes for this problem until now have been viral infections, (like a cold or flu); serious head injuries which may have broken the nerves involved in the sense of smell, the use of toxic substances (such as tobacco) or some tumors.

“Before now it was something that people weren’t really aware of, but Covid-19 has changed that. We have seen many more cases in recent months,” says Dr Raimundo Gutiérrez Fonseca, the general secretary of the Spanish Otorhinolaryngology Society.

Specialists in this field have been working on training the

sense of smell with the method described in 2009 by researcher Thomas Hummel in an article titled Effects of Olfactory Training in Patients with Olfactory Loss, published in Laryngoscope magazine. In it he concludes that olfactory sensitivity can be increased through short exposures to odiferous substances. Dr Gutiérrez Fonsaca describes the procedure that is used:

“We do what we call an olfactometry, in which the patient is exposed to 40 aromas they should be familiar with, (such as orange, melon, smoked fish, for example), and then carry out an evaluation, which may be qualitative - measuring their ability to identify those aromas - or quantitative, to detect the threshold of their intensity of perception. The medical term for this smell blindness is anosmia. It may seem a minor matter to some people, but I have patients who work as chefs and they have come here in tears because they need their sense of smell to earn their living”.

The relationship between smell and taste is curious. The sense of taste is not lost with anosmia. The five basic tastes remain, but the nuances don’t.

It is the smell of the food that makes us think it tastes nice. When we chew, the aroma of the food rises up behind the nose and that is what gives us the nu-

GRUPO DENTAL CLINICS

A rational feeling or a phobia? How to deal with fear of the dentist

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA AND NERJA

SUR. For many people, visiting the dentist is a traumatic experience that begins even before entering the clinic. The fear that numerous patients suffer is caused mainly by memories of past events, which, combined with other factors, could even turn into a real phobia.

For Dr Octavio Cristancho, maxillofacial surgeon and Medical Director of Grupo Dental Clinics for Vélez-Málaga and Nerja, “Fear of the dentist is perhaps one of the most significant challenges that a dental team faces nowadays.” In addition to quality of care, the doctor-patient relationship is one of the factors that people value the most when it comes to health concerns. Especially when the visit generates unease. Therefore, detecting anxiety in patients at the start of the visit is of great importance to “help them face the appointment and treatment with a positive attitude”.



Dr Octavio Cristancho, maxillofacial surgeon and Medical Director of Grupo Dental Clinics for Vélez-Málaga and Nerja. GDC

Multifactorial fear

The first visit, the fear of an anaesthetic injection and the beginning of the surgery process are the main moments when anxiety appears. In words of Dr Octavio, “The first visit is a decisive moment in which patients express their fear, even

“It is important to spend time with patients, to have an active listening attitude and never be in a hurry”

though they are not going to undergo any treatment.” However, he states, “It is impressive how patients who came to a first visit with a very high level of anxiety and fear, end up coming to further consultations as relaxed as if they were visiting a friend.”

A relaxed atmosphere, the first step towards fear management

Under these circumstances, it is difficult for patients to follow their specialist’s recommendations. According to Dr Octavio, “Generating a pleasant environment for patients is essential to create a sense of trust, and this is achieved from the design of the space, the type of music or the clinic’s ambient scent”. Furthermore, he adds, “It is important to spend time with patients, to have an active listening attitude and never be in a hurry. The more information patients receive concerning their treatment, the less they are afraid.”

Technology for our patients’ well-being

Technology and new methods such as conscious sedation or the application of topical anaesthesia offer professionals the possibility of dissipating fear and anxiety in a more rapid way.

“At Grupo Dental Clinics, many patients have been successfully treated with the conscious sedation technique since it was incorporated into our clinics’ portfolio, becoming an essential procedure for treatments such as implant placement, bone grafts, sinus lifts, etc. These are therefore much more comfortable both for the patient and for the dentist who is carrying them out.

Furthermore, to minimise the discomfort of one of the procedures that causes most anxiety, the administration of local anaesthesia, Grupo Dental Clinics uses topical anaesthesia, a gel that is applied before the injection, thus reducing pain by «pre-anaesthetising» the area. According to Dr Octavio Cristancho, «Numerous investigations have shown that this anaesthesia system substantially reduces the perception of pain and anxiety, consequently dissipating the idea that going to a dental clinic will always be a painful experience.»

ances, making it taste pleasurable and not just savoury or bland. "If you lose your sense of smell, those nuances are lost as well," says Dr Gutiérrez Fonsaca. That would explain the strange sensation that many Covid sufferers have reported, saying that their food tastes strange or doesn't have much flavour.

Thomas Hummel's method of training the sense of smell involves the patient smelling an aroma which must be floral, fruity, resinous and spicy, for up to 30 seconds. Over time, and combined with visual stimulus, the olfactory memory can be rehabilitated. From his experience with one patient, Gutiérrez Fonsaca came up with the idea of producing a kit with these different smells so that Covid-19 patients can train at home.

"That patient had links with the Arkopharma laboratories, which work with aromatherapy, and we decided to develop the kit. It is called Olfae and is now being sold in pharmacies," he says.

Ideally, patients in this situation would be monitored by a specialist, but if the person feels healthy they can carry out olfactory training at home without having to see a doctor. However, if as well as the loss of smell there are other severe symptoms, such as bleeding, double vision or congestion, it is best to seek medical advice.

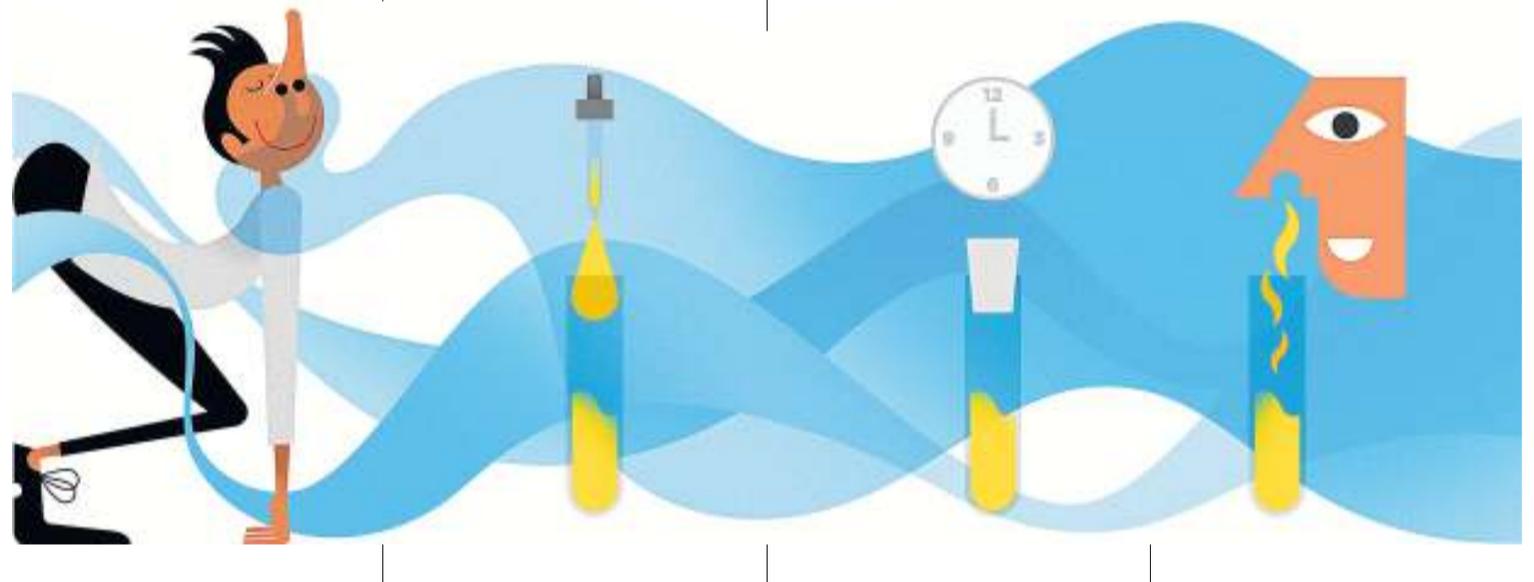
SMELL TRAINING

► **Four types of aroma.** The olfactory training carried out by medical specialists is only effective if it uses four aromas in the categories of floral, fruity, resinous and spicy. Olfae, the kit devised for patients who have had Covid-19 to train their sense of smell at home, contains four bottles with essence of lemon, rose geranium, eucalyptus and cloves. These aromas should be very well-known, as the person needs to self-evaluate whether he or she recognises their smell and to what degree.

► **Maximum 30 seconds.** The treatment is carried out through exposure to the aromas for just 30 seconds. Any longer than that and the sense of smell becomes overpowered and stops working. That's what happens in a room which smells unpleasant: after a while, you don't notice it. The kit includes a QR code which, when scanned with a mobile phone, links to videos with images relating to that particular aroma. The patient looks at those while sniffing the aroma to fix it in the olfactory memory.

► **From 0 to 6.** The person doing the test should write down in the notebook provided whether they recognise the smell - if they can distinguish between eucalyptus and cloves, for example - and at what intensity on a scale of 0 to 6, i.e. from nothing at all to intense. This operation, which only takes a few minutes, can be repeated several times a day. The number of sessions will be determined by the degree of loss of smell (and, as a consequence, of taste) as described in the instructions which come with the pack.

► **From basics to the infinite.** It is said that genetically we are programmed to go far beyond the ten basic aromas (floral, woody or resinous, non-citrus fruit, chemical, menthol or refreshing, sweet, burnt or smoked, citrus, decomposed and rancid). That is the idea behind the training kits for experts in tastings (wine, water, oils, etc.), which have been very popular on the market for some time. Olfae is the only one to have been produced for medical purposes.



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MARBELLA - FUENGIROLA - MANILVA

"After water purification, vaccination has saved the highest number of lives"

Daniel Ocaña Member of the Vaccine Advisory Committee of Andalucía

The doctor says that some people are sceptical about every health alarm, and are too keen to believe disinformation

ALBERTO GÓMEZ



MALAGA. Daniel Ocaña does not find it surprising that some people are sceptical about the coronavirus and are opposed to a vaccine: "That happens with every health alarm," he says. This doctor, a member of the Vaccine Advisory Committee of Andalucía and the Andalusian Society of Family and Community Medicine, says people should "listen to professionals, not social media" and warns that it is essential to prevent flu and pneumonia, illnesses which can complicate the cases of Covid-19 patients and for which

vaccines already exist.

–Up to 40 per cent of patients who are admitted to hospital with pneumonia die. Have we underestimated the risk?

–I think people underestimate the risk of infectious illnesses in general, maybe because they affect older people above all. Pneumonia is the tenth most common cause of death, higher than many tumors, traffic accidents and other pathologies. It's as if they have trivialised it. If there were a vaccine for cancer, it would be unthinkable not to use it. And for pneumonia, there is a vaccine.

–It's the primary cause of death in children. Why is that?

–Mainly because of the figures in developing countries.

–But in Spain it is also the primary cause of death in children. Why is the mortality rate so high in children here?

–Immunity is one of the functions of our body. It is not an organ, but it is a system. Just as with age there is a deterioration called immunosenescence, which is the age-

ing of the immune system and something that makes us more vulnerable to infectious agents; in children this system is still immature and not fully developed.

–Then why does the coronavirus, unlike pneumonia, hardly affect children?

–All viruses and bacteria need us as hosts; they need to coexist with us in order to survive. But the coronavirus gains access to the cells through an enzyme which has a lot to do with the cardiovascular system. That's why it affects people with cardiovascular pathologies: hypertension, diabetes, a history of cardiovascular accidents... the mortality is not so much due to the infection as the underlying conditions which can complicate the illness. And children do not present a cardiovascular risk.

–What is the relationship between coronavirus and pneumonia? A lot of patients who are hospitalised with Covid have both.

–The way these infectious agents enter and cause these illnesses is via the respiratory system. They colonise it. That's why the pulmonary tissue is most affected, and it leads to pneumonia.

–Can the vaccine against pneumococcus minimise the impact of the virus?

–From the data from the first wave of Covid-19 we know that up to 60 per cent of patients with coronavirus had pneumococcus in their airways. In other words, they had a double infection: coronavirus and pneumonia. They go hand in hand, just as occurs with the flu. When flu and Covid, or pneumonia and Covid, coexist it increases the risk and can lead to death.

–So why has there not been a vaccination campaign for pneumococcus like there has been for flu?

–In Andalucía we try to programme these things. The health system has its limits. Last year 1.2 million people were vaccinated against flu and another half a million against pneumococcus. But



Doctor. Daniel Ocaña, a GP and expert on vaccines, at work. **sur**

"The vaccine is like a Photofit image, a portrait of the most-wanted criminal; the body will recognise that germ when it arrives"

GPs have to carry on with their other work as well. Vaccination has to be organised by sector to avoid crowds and contagions. Flu is seasonal: from December or January to March or April. Pneumonia, not so much. With flu, because it doesn't create a permanent immunogenic memory, we have to vaccinate every year because the virus mutates, although the germ is the same. With pneumonia, you only need a vaccine once in your life.

–Who should be vaccinated

against pneumococcus?

–The two most extreme age groups: children, which is why we have a vaccination calendar for them, and people over 65. Also people who are at risk from this, who are also high risk for the coronavirus, such as those with a depressed immune system or who have chronic illnesses such as diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cardiovascular pathologies, arrhythmia...

–Does it worry you that so many people seem to be sceptical about vaccines?

–That happens every time there is a health alarm, some people will be negative about it. But the main problem with regard to vaccination is that there is a lack of awareness about health and care. The coronavirus has reminded us what an infectious illness can do, what harm it can cause. There is a great deal of disinformation, and that leaves the door open to myths and conjecture.

–So can a lack of resources be a risk factor?

–It is for all health problems. That's why we are trying to empower people, make them aware of the importance of self-care, remind them that these vaccines are free... but not everybody has access to the information.

–What do you think about the war between pharmaceutical companies over coronavirus, with different firms announcing that their vaccine is more effective than the others?

–It's a war of figures. I think all the vaccines which are approved will be useful, because we are going to need so many doses.

–Will there be different vaccines for Covid-19 at the same time, then?

–Oh, yes. Production is difficult because of the amount needed. But that happens with the flu, too. In Andalucía, for example, we don't buy just one flu vaccine, we buy three or four, because if there is some type of production problem with one of them we might not have enough. And every vaccine will cover different groups of the population; some will be more effective among certain groups than others.

–What would you say to someone who opposes vaccines?

–We demand things from vaccines that we don't demand from any other medication. People happily take anti-inflammatories or antibiotics, but they can have more adverse effects and cause more organ damage than any vaccine. Vaccination, after water purification, is the health measure which has saved the most lives. I tell my patients that vaccines function like a Photofit portrait, the photo of the most-wanted criminal. The body will recognise the germ when it arrives. We give our bodies a defence system to fight against what harms us. I don't know why there is so much disinformation about vaccines. I recommend listening to professionals, not social media.



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Heavy rain fell at Guadalmina this week but play was able to get under way on Thursday morning. SUR

Marbella welcomes the golfing elite for the women's Open de España

Azahara Muñoz is the favourite to regain her title on "home" ground at Guadalmina this Sunday, but faces strong competition from Emily Kristine Pedersen

JOSÉ MARÍA MARTÍN

MARBELLA. Marbella will become the world epicentre for women's golf in the coming days as the Real Club de Golf de Guadalmina plays host to the Andalucía Costa del Sol Open until Sunday - weather permitting.

This is the last event of the year on the Ladies European Tour (LET), which this year goes by the name Race to Costa del Sol thanks to partnerships forged by the Andalusian Ministry of Tourism, Turismo Costa del Sol, Aco-sol and the Benahavis and Marbella town halls - representatives of which all participated in the virtual presentation of the tournament on Monday.

The president of the Royal Spanish Golf Federation, Gonzaga Escarriaza, said in the presentation that the holding of the tournament "comes at a perfect time to put Spain in the forefront as a golf destination", as well as highlighting that this sport "can be a driving force behind the recovery that the country needs so much".

One of the institutions dedicated to promoting golf, and specifically women's golf in the country, is Turismo Costa del Sol. Its president, Francisco Salado, took part in the press conference,



Tournament favourite Azahara Muñoz gets ready to tee off. SUR

pointing out that this event is "an opportunity not only to show off our magnificent offering, but also the extraordinary capability of the Costa del Golf to host major international events".

Rehearsal for the Solheim Cup

Mayor of Marbella Ángeles Muñoz also highlighted the importance of the event for the economic recovery of Marbella and the Costa del Sol after the Covid-19 pandemic. "It's essential that we continue to invest in a sector that not only creates jobs, but also boosts the local economy."

This is especially the case when considering the impact the 2023 Solheim Cup will have on the area. "These competitions are an excellent boost for our hotel, leisure and gastronomy sectors," Muñoz said.

Nuria Rodríguez, the regional government's delegate for Tourism, added that the Spanish Open "will be a demonstration of An-

dalucía's ability to organise big events, especially with the Solheim Cup on the horizon in 2023".

A fascinating battle

The amount of promotion that this year's Open de España has received means that the prize fund for the winner will be double that of last year.

When the action got under way on Thursday morning, after a night of heavy rain, all eyes were on local player Azahara Muñoz.

The San Pedro-born golfer won the tournament the last time it took place at Guadalmina, a course Muñoz describes as "home". She will be the big favourite to regain the crown but will face stiff opposition from Dane Emily Kristine Pedersen, who has won three tournaments on the tour this season.

Later on Thursday, play was stopped for the day due to the unsettled weather.

The Malaga city Women's Race Against Cancer goes virtual on 12 December

Registration for the race, which can be completed where the participant likes, costs eight euros and the money goes towards various associations

SUR

MALAGA. The eighth edition of the Malaga city Women's Race Against Cancer will be held virtually this year, because of the pandemic, on Saturday 12 December.

This joint initiative from Malaga city hall, La Caixa Foundation and Primor will raise funds for the United Against Cancer development partnership.

Until Friday 11 December at 12 noon, anyone of any age or sex can register online (www.carreeramujermalaga.com) for eight euros. All participants will receive a bib number and a mask for the occasion but note that the majority of pick-up points are in Malaga city and Rincón de la Victoria.

The virtual race takes place

from 8am to 6pm and during this time anyone who has registered and has a mask can take part in the virtual race from their home or from any point in the city.

The registration fees and donations received (possible through the Dorsalchip website) will be distributed in full among the Cesare Scariolo Foundation, the Olivares Foundation, the Cudeca Foundation, the Spanish Association Against Cancer, Fundación Malagueña de Asistencia a Enfermos de Cáncer (FMAEC), Asociación de Mujeres Operadas de Cáncer de Mama (ASAMMA), Asociación de Voluntarios de Oncología Infantil (AVOI), Asociación de Padres y Madres de niños/as oncológicos/as de Málaga (Aspanoma) and Ronald McDonald Children's Foundation.

These entities work to improve the life of cancer patients in the city and their families by offering different complementary services to their medical treatment such as psychological assistance, physiotherapy, accommodation during treatment, economic and social support or leisure activities.

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Escassi header gifts Malaga major win away at Girona

The Blue and Whites scored from a set piece for the second game in a row but this time allowed their opponents to have very few chances

DARYL FINCH



0-1

GIRONA-MALAGA

Girona: Juan Carlos; Calavera (Yan Couto, 46'), Bueno, Bernardo, Franquesa; Monchu, Terrats (Gumbau, 70'); Bárcenas, Samu Saiz, Pablo Moreno (Alex Pachón, 63'), Sylla. Unused substitutes: Suárez, Muric, Monjonell, Luna, Cristóforo, Kebe, Pau Víctor.

Malaga: Dani Barrio; Ismael, Mejías, Escassi (Lombán, 46'), Matos (Juande, 86'); Benkhemassa (Ramón, 57'), Luis Muñoz; Joaquín (Calero, 74'), Cristian, Rahmani, Chavarría (Caye Quintana, 74'). Unused substitutes: Soriano, Benítez, Cristo, Jairo, Jozabed, Larrubia, Orlando Sá.

Goals: 0-1 Escassi (33').

Referee: Ortiz Arias. Yellow cards for Calavera, Benkhemassa, Joaquín, Chavarría and Bueno.

Venue: Montilivi.

MALAGA. Malaga's early season form returned at Montilivi on Tuesday night as they battled to pick up a valuable win on the road against Girona.

The Blue and Whites allowed their hosts to have very few opportunities and made them pay with a superb header from Alberto Escassi which proved to be enough to seal all three points.

Despite making seven changes to the starting line-up, the Blue and Whites looked accomplished on the field with the



Luis Muñoz, Ismael and Matos rush to celebrate with Escassi. **AGENCIA LOF**

midfield pairing of Luis Muñoz and Mohamed Benkhemassa (back from suspension) limiting space between the lines for Samu Saiz to wreak havoc, and closing off the channels in which Bárcenas and Pablo Moreno like to operate.

Barring one moment of overconfidence from Josua Mejías, Malaga were perfect in defence during the first half. The only real chance for the hosts came through Sylla who brought a top-class save out of Dani Barrio when he looked certain to score.

This came as an almost immediate response to Escassi giving his side the lead. The big defender leapt highest in the 33rd minute to power home Yanis Rahmani's corner kick - the Frenchman's second assist of the week, both from set pieces.

With Escassi going off injured at half time, Malaga were marginally less secure at the back

and Monchu should have equalised but instead badly misplaced his header from Yoel Bárcenas' inch-perfect cross.

At the other end, Luis Muñoz could have settled the tie when he went clean through on goal thanks to a lucky break, but his powerful effort came back out off the crossbar.

With Ramón on the field in place of Benkhemassa, who had picked up a booking, Malaga were able to enjoy longer spells of possession and stifle Girona's momentum.

Fresh legs in the form of Iván Calero and Caye Quintana with 15 minutes to go also gave the visitors another dimension, forcing Girona not to overcommit for fear of conceding another on the counter-attack.

And it worked. The win, their fourth on the road this season (the second best record in the league), lifted them up to six place.



Captain David Lombán after failing to keep out the opener. **S. SALAS**

All-action Juande has a big hand in loss

The young defender scored at both ends before giving away the decisive penalty in the first game of the week

D. FINCH

It was a day Malaga defender Juande won't forget in a hurry. The academy graduate played a part in every key moment of his side's 2-1 home defeat against Leganés last Saturday.

Malaga made one change, bringing in Alejandro Benítez for José Matos, but with it came a change of formation with the normally right wing-back Iván Calero moving to left midfield in an unorthodox 4-4-2.

The hosts started the game strongly and had the better opportunities to open the scoring. Calero's improvised volley from a cut-back almost caught out veteran keeper Iván Cuéllar, while Yanis Rahmani repeated the action in an almost mirror image. Rubén Pardo then came close for the visitors with a free-kick which landed on the roof of the net before having a hand in the opening goal.

Leganés captain Unai Bustinza, who had until then been pegged back by the combination of Calero and stand-in left-back Juande, then finally found space to ghost in behind David Lombán and latch on to Rubén Pardo's inch-perfect ball over the top. The right-back controlled the ball with his first touch and his second

1-2

MALAGA-LEGANÉS

Malaga: Soriano; Benítez (Orlando Sá, 81'), Escassi, Lombán, Juande (Joaquín, 74'); Jairo (Julio, 74'), Ramón (Cristian, 81'), Luis Muñoz, Calero; Chavarría, Rahmani. Unused substitutes: Dani Barrio, Ismael, Quintana, Matos, Cristo, Mini, Juan Cruz, Larrubia.

Leganés: Cuéllar; Bustinza, Tarín, Ignasi Miquel, Javi Hernández; Palencia (Miguel, 92'), Perea, Rubén Pardo, Bua (Rosales, 85'); José Arnaiz (Eraso, 74'), Sabin Merino (Borja Bastón, 74'). Unused substitutes: Riesgo, Diego Conde, Sergio González, Lasure, Jonathan, Ojeda, Rober, Juan Muñoz.

Goals: 0-1 Juande (OG, 33'); 1-1 Juande (63'); 1-2 Merino (pen, 71').

Referee: De la Fuente Ramos. Yellow cards for Perea, Luis Muñoz, Bustinza, Juande and Tarín.

Venue: La Rosaleda.

forced an unfortunate ricochet off Juande to beat the keeper - very much against the run of play.

It wasn't until just over half way into the second half that the young defender could atone. He went in bravely among high boots to head in Rahmani's free-kick from the left at the far post to level the scores.

Just minutes later though and his good work was undone. VAR confirmed Juande's seemingly innocuous challenge on José Manuel Arnaiz was a penalty and, despite guessing the right way, Juan Soriano couldn't get a hand on Sabin Merino's spot-kick which nestled into the top corner with twenty minutes still left to play.

Manolo Sánchez: "The players have shown that we're a team"

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

MALAGA. With Sergio Pellicer serving a two-game touchline ban following his sending off against Ponferradina on 15 November, stand-in coach Manolo Sánchez led the team against Leganés and Girona.

"I'm so proud of the players,"

he said in his post-match press conference on Tuesday. "They showed that they were a team. They all play a part and that's the best possible scenario."

Sánchez applauded the adaptability of the players too, saying he was "proud" that they could play so well after making seven changes, as well as responding



Assistant coach Sánchez (r) who stood in for the last two games. **AGENCIA LOF**

positively to changes during the game. "We also have to applaud how we defended a lot of very good crosses into the box. It's not easy."

Malaga currently have 21 points to their name, just one short of the total for the whole first half of the season last year.

"We've gained another three points, that's all it means. Of course we're ambitious but we have to be careful not to set ourselves goals that are too ambitious. First we must secure safety, then take it a game at a tie," he concluded.

Antonio Banderas refuses to rule out a future investment in the club

The Malaga actor insists that his involvement depends entirely on who is involved and what their plans are

BORJA GUTIÉRREZ

MALAGA. Malaga-born actor Antonio Banderas has hinted that he could be tempted to invest in his city's club in the future.

It's no secret that Banderas is a fan of the club and the Hollywood star has often been seen in the box at La Rosaleda and collaborated with the club on a number of projects.

With the club currently in difficulties both on and off the field, Banderas is one of several individuals being linked with making an investment once the legal proceedings currently un-

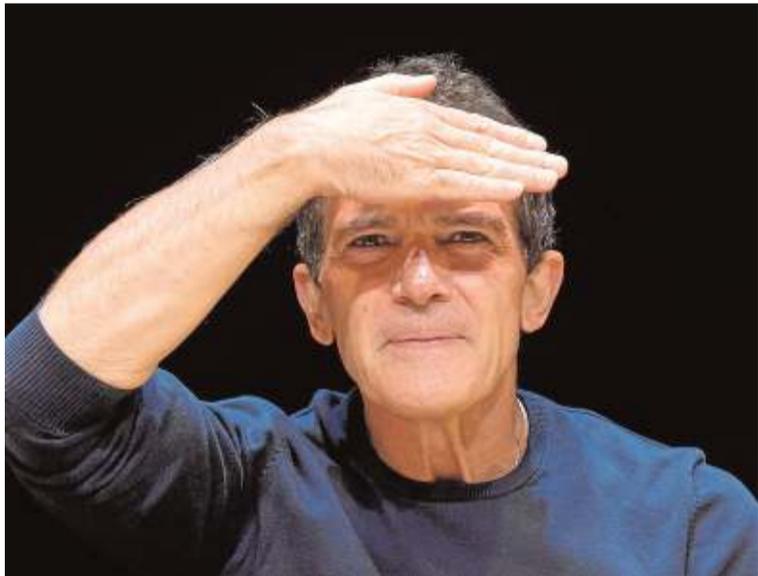
der way regarding majority owner Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani are concluded.

The actor's main investment at the moment is in his Soho Theatre project, which opened only a year ago and which he hopes to expand internationally. Therefore, he would only be involved as a minority investor.

Banderas, speaking on the programme *Ser Deportivos Málaga*, said that his potential involvement would depend on "who the new investors are and what they want".

He added: "What the club needs is someone to grab it by the scruff of the neck and take it forward."

Banderas, however, applauded the current squad, saying: "They're doing great, much better than anyone could have hoped given the circumstances."



The Hollywood star in an image taken recently. **SUR**



A LOOK AT LA LIGA
ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports

A recognisable brand

Diego Simeone is the only man currently in world football who has been able to continually rebuild a successful club side



As kids we used to marvel at the skill of Brazil, a whole generation has cited Barcelona as the model to follow and Manchester United's style made the football club a global brand. The names and faces changed in the teams above, but you knew exactly what you were getting with them - hence the popularity.

Nowadays, though, things are different. Brazil is no longer lauded, Barcelona has lost its aura and Manchester United's brand isn't dependent on a failing football team. The nearest thing to a recognisable 'brand' now is 'Cholismo', the continued regeneration of Atlético Madrid.

Diego Simeone took over nine years ago and has a continued level of success that can only be matched by Sir Alex Ferguson in recent years. Under Ferguson there was a recognised style as he mastered the art of continually rebuilding the side; Simeone is the only man in world football who continues to pull this off at club level.

His club is back in vogue after beating Barcelona in a La Liga match for the first time in a decade, prompting talk of claiming the league title for the first time since 2014. 'Cholismo' won the title back then and is tipped to do



The long-time Atleti coach. **EFE**

that again.

It's a word that describes the philosophy of the Atleti coach. An ability to harness skill, determination, pride and a slither of the dark arts into a winning mentality. The willingness for a finely-tuned middleweight to slug it out in the ring with a heavyweight.

I needed to double-check the facts when I read that only Koke and José María Giménez remain from the Class of 2014, plus the returning Diego Costa. Whereas other clubs undergo revolutions and change managers, Atlético follow an evolutionary process and trust in their coach like no other club.

One season's Atlético doesn't differ from the previous edi-

tion. They rely on a world-class goalkeeper. Once it was David de Gea, then Thibaut Courtois and now Jan Oblak. The defence is constructed of men who can tackle and head the ball, midfield consists of footballers with a bursting heart and his strikers always find superpowers in the striped shirt. The tune is the same, but there are subtle changes to those who play the music.

When Thomas Partey departed for Arsenal, Lucas Torreira arrived to learn his role. When Antoine Griezmann headed for Barcelona, João Félix joined the club. When other clubs pondered over Geoffrey Kondogbia, Simeone swooped and then he gave Luis Suárez a new home when others hesitated. None of these players are fully established yet, but you know they will reach their full potential under Simeone's guidance.

It's like a school when the first-years step into the playground; by year two, they are more confident in expressing themselves. After five years, they are flushing heads down the toilets (figuratively speaking, of course).

Simeone may not have beaten Barcelona in a league match previously, but he knocked Luis Enrique's team out of the Champions League when they were led by Messi, Suárez and Neymar. He humbled Bayern Munich when Pep Guardiola was coach, overcame Chelsea with José Mourinho on the touchline, and ended Liverpool's reign as European champions last spring.

Simeone and his players are afraid of nobody and that's why they must be the most feared team in Spain - and maybe even Europe - in a season when it will be survival of the fittest, physically and mentally.

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Femenino demonstrate worrying inability to hold onto a lead

Malaga went ahead three times against Cáceres on Wednesday but left with just a point; on Sunday they lost after going in front early on

ADG / MARINA RIVAS

MALAGA. After suffering a third consecutive league defeat in Cár-tama on Sunday, things took a slight turn for the better for Malaga's women's team on Wednesday night when they picked up a point away in Cáceres.

Despite a point being reason in itself to celebrate, the manner in which Nati Gutiérrez's erratic side earned it will be cause for concern. Malaga took the lead three times in the game but were pegged back on every occasion.

Claudia Jiménez levelled the scores just before half time, after



There were plenty of chances at both ends on Wednesday night. ADG

Andrea gave Malaga the lead in the 26th minute. The forward made it a brace in the 52nd minute before Nerea retaliated at the other end just ten minutes later.

Celebrations of Andrea's hat-trick were shortlived too. Despite taking the lead with 20 minutes to

go, Malaga surrendered that as well, with Polvillo cancelling out the visitors' lead for the third time just five minutes later.

This concerning pattern of play occurred on Sunday too. Malaga started strongly against Pozoal-bense, perhaps inspired by their failure to get on the scoresheet the last time out, and took the lead in the eighth minute as María Ruiz's left-footed shot clipped the inside of the post on the way in - her third of the season.

Their lead was shortlived then too; Marín lobbed the ball over keeper Romero, who was well out of her goal, to level the scores.

The defining moment came just five minutes after the restart when Ale fouled Marín to gift Karla the chance to grab the go-ahead goal from the 12-yard spot. She didn't disappoint, completing the comeback and leaving Malaga empty-handed.

Another defeat as Marbella's poor start to the season continues

SANLUQUEÑO **2**
MARBELLA **1**

The Costa side found themselves two goals down after just twenty minutes

MODESTO SÁNCHEZ. ADG

SANLÚCAR DE BARRAMEDA (CADIZ). Marbella's poor start to the season

continued on Sunday as they fell to yet another defeat, this time on the road in Sanlúcar de Barrameda.

Their opponents Atlético Sanluqueño, who hadn't won at home all season, started strongly and proved to be too hot to handle for José Manuel Aira's team in the opening twenty minutes.

Within 30 seconds, Esteban Granero had to clear Adrián Armental's effort off the line, giving a sense of what was to come. In fact it took just nine minutes for San-

luqueño to go in front; Armental's cross from the right was converted by Álex Geijo, though Granero appealed for a foul in the build-up.

Marbella barely had a moment to refocus before they found themselves two goals down. A corner by Facu Ballardo was toed in at the near post by Diego Cervera just ten minutes later.

It took some time, and several substitutions, before Marbella found any sort of rhythm in the game and Sanluqueño's keeper Isma Gil was made to earn his wages. In the 73rd minute, Manel had the ball in the back of the net but his effort was ruled offside because of Gudiño's touch.

Shortly afterwards, the latter had a go himself but Isma Gil pushed the ball out for a corner.

It wasn't until stoppage time when the Costa side finally got themselves on the scoresheet when Óscar García converted a free-kick with a well placed header. However, this was all too little, too late.



Bernal complains to the referee. ADG



Some of the speakers line up at the end of the event. FRANCIS SILVA

Getting to the bottom of the high drop-out rate among female athletes

The third '+deporte +mujer' forum explored the possible reasons for girls stopping playing sport after leaving secondary school

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

MALAGA. Some of the biggest names in women's sport in Spain were in attendance as the '+deporte +mujer' forum, organised by the Malaga provincial government, tried to address the high drop-out rate of young girls from sport.

The debate, which took place at the Edgar Neville Auditorium in Malaga city last Friday, was also open to four schools from the province: Colegio León XIII, IES Puerta Oscura (both Malaga), IES Montecillos (Coín) and IES Guadalpín (Marbella). Students from these schools were invited to participate in the debate to try to shine light on the issue and receive advice from athletes who had themselves made it.

Retired high jumper Ruth Beitia, the only female Spanish athlete to win two Olympic medals

(and the first to win gold), said: "I want to motivate all those girls who are doubting whether they should continue or not by asking, regardless of whether you win or lose: do you enjoy it?"

Ten-time world freestyle kite-surf champion Gisela Pulido said that the problem is that there are fewer female athletes to start with. She warns, however, that there will soon be a "generational change" and that there will be "fewer differences between men's and women's sport".

Former Olympic skier María José Rienda agreed, pointing towards full houses achieved at the Wanda Metropolitano and San Mamés for women's football.

As well as a series of short speeches and question and answer sessions with successful athletes, the flip side was also shown with lesser known athletes explaining the reasons they had for quitting, namely a lack of time and a difficulty balancing sport with studying.

A further section showcased different initiatives and brainstormed ideas which could counter the problem.



González reaches Open final

Rising padel star Bea González, 18, from Malaga, missed out on the big prize at the Open de Las Rozas on Sunday, losing the final 6-0 7-6. Alongside Paula Josemaría, the youngest pairing on the tour lost to Triay and Sáinz.

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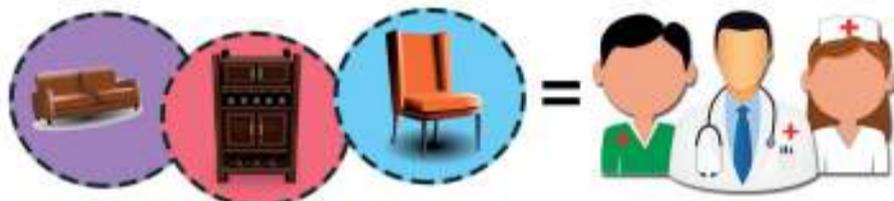
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THE STARS

Aquarius
January 21st - February 19th
Need to rediscover creative passions? If you no longer feel so inclined to socialize, it may be time to make the most of a natural skill that has lain dormant and underused for a while.

Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
With a Lunar Eclipse in your home zone, this can be a time to dig deep and find inspiration. It could provide material that you'll make your own.

Aries
March 21st - April 20th
With a Lunar Eclipse in Gemini stirring up feelings you may have a lot you would like to say, and indeed something should be said.

Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
A financial matter may come to a head due to a lunation, which could be linked to a money issue or accentuate any feelings of insecurity.

Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
The week begins with a Lunar Eclipse that can influence you and your relationships, as feelings that have been swept under the carpet rise to the surface.

Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
If you can simplify your schedule, it could assist the Full Moon Eclipse that spells out the value of a short retreat from the world and a chance to consider your priorities.

Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Attracted to someone? This could be an encounter that seems destined, and you might sense that this person's appearance in your life has something to teach you.

Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Ready to take a bow? This week can see the completion of a project that may have been ongoing for some while. If you are happy with the results, then the chances are that others will be too.

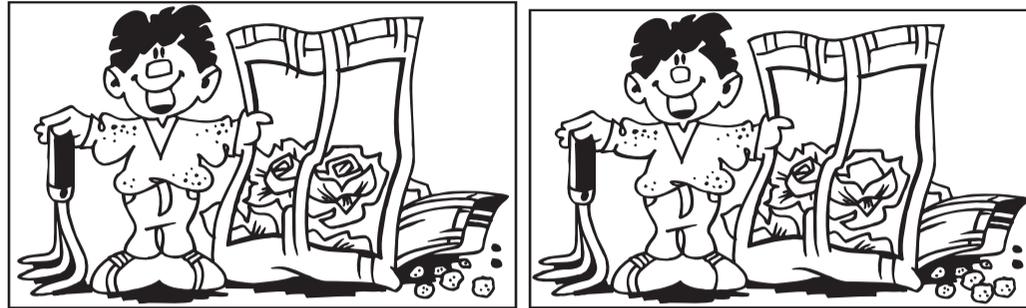
Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
If you have a secret desire to let go of an old and unsatisfactory way of life and take that bold step forward, the coming days, weeks or even months could be thrilling.

Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
If you measure your self-worth by the amount of money you earn, this week's Eclipse can be a turning point. It could be a time of revelation, when you may be seeking answers to a financial issue.

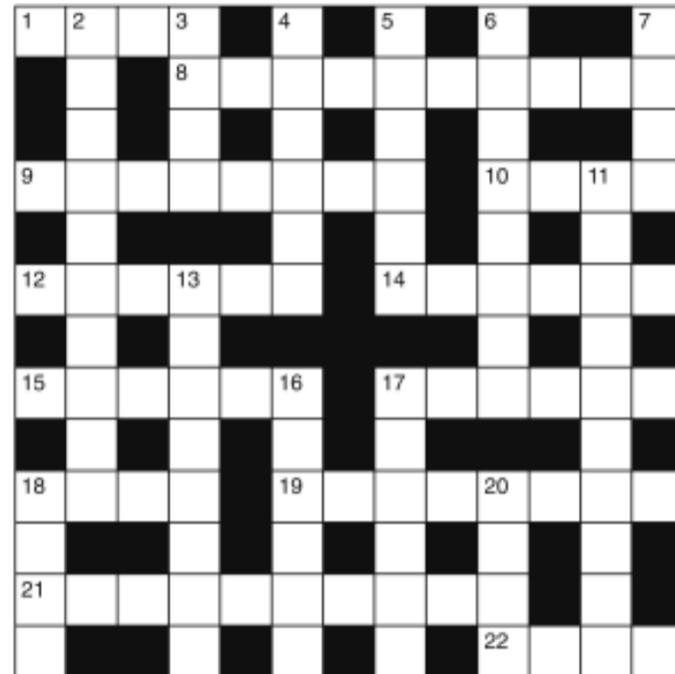
Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Relationships often go through cyclical shifts and dynamic changes, and this week's Lunar Eclipse can usher in a new phase in this regard.

Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
With a potent lunation in your lifestyle sector, you may realize you have outgrown certain routines and be keen to do something about this.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11437



Across

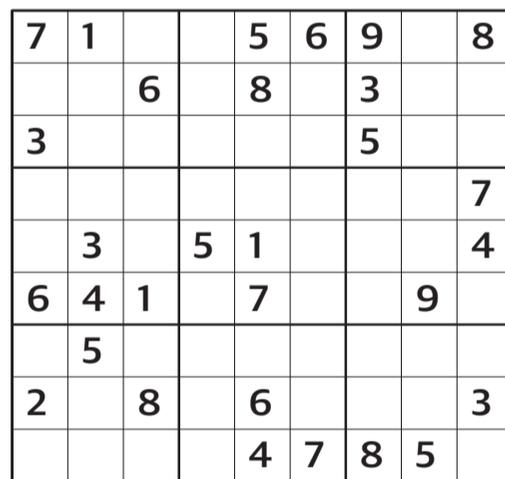
- 1 Around 50, the dandy is a complete failure (4)
- 8 Two will go into it with less feeling still (4,6)
- 9 Equitable transaction involving quite an amount (4,4)
- 10 Time for negation both ways? (4)
- 12 Calf is involved in government finances (6)
- 14 The right boots for automotons? (6)
- 15 The rise of a perfume (6)
- 17 The old boy was looked at and did as he was told (8)
- 18 The glass belonging to little Leonard (4)
- 19 Completely reject just claim? (8)
- 21 When to use cosmetics to catch up on oneself? (4,2,4)
- 22 Ungrammatical article in males? So be it! (4)

Down

- 2 Lawful heirs - a matter of law (5,5)
- 3 An equal in the Upper House (4)
- 4 Disclose minister spilt ale (6)
- 5 There's a catch to his success (8)
- 6 In the morning, make it possible to be responsive (8)
- 7 Country governed by one (4)
- 11 By and large not carried by part only (2,3,5)
- 13 Some may be used to check on the board (8)
- 16 There's nothing in setting up games for soldiers (6)
- 17 Set of clothes for leaving hospital in good health? (6)
- 18 Walk lamely lacking stiffness (4)
- 20 Thought of in terms of solid earnings (4)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

Instructions
Complete the square making sure that every row of nine numbers includes all digits from 1 to 9, every column includes all digits from 1 to 9 and every 3 by 3 subsection includes all digits from 1 to 9



THE WORDPUZZLER

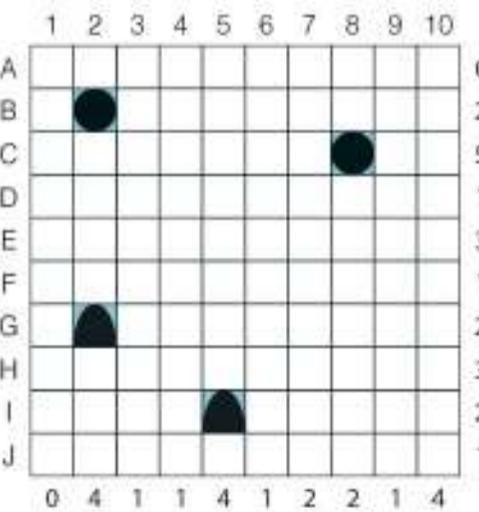
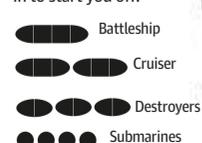


Can you identify the words that contain 'lea' from the clues listed below?

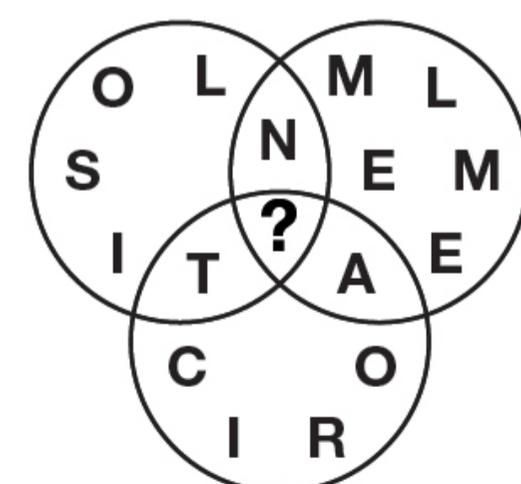
- 1. Sheep's noise
- 2. Entreaty
- 3. Insect
- 4. Disclose
- 5. Transparent
- 6. Guide
- 7. Wash
- 8. Minimum
- 9. Jump
- 10. Shine

BATTLESHIPS

Instructions Find where the fleet of ships (1 battleship, 2 cruisers, 3 destroyers, 4 submarines) are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some have been filled in to start you off.



CIRCLEGRAM



Instructions
Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters in each circle can be arranged to form words, names or terms on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

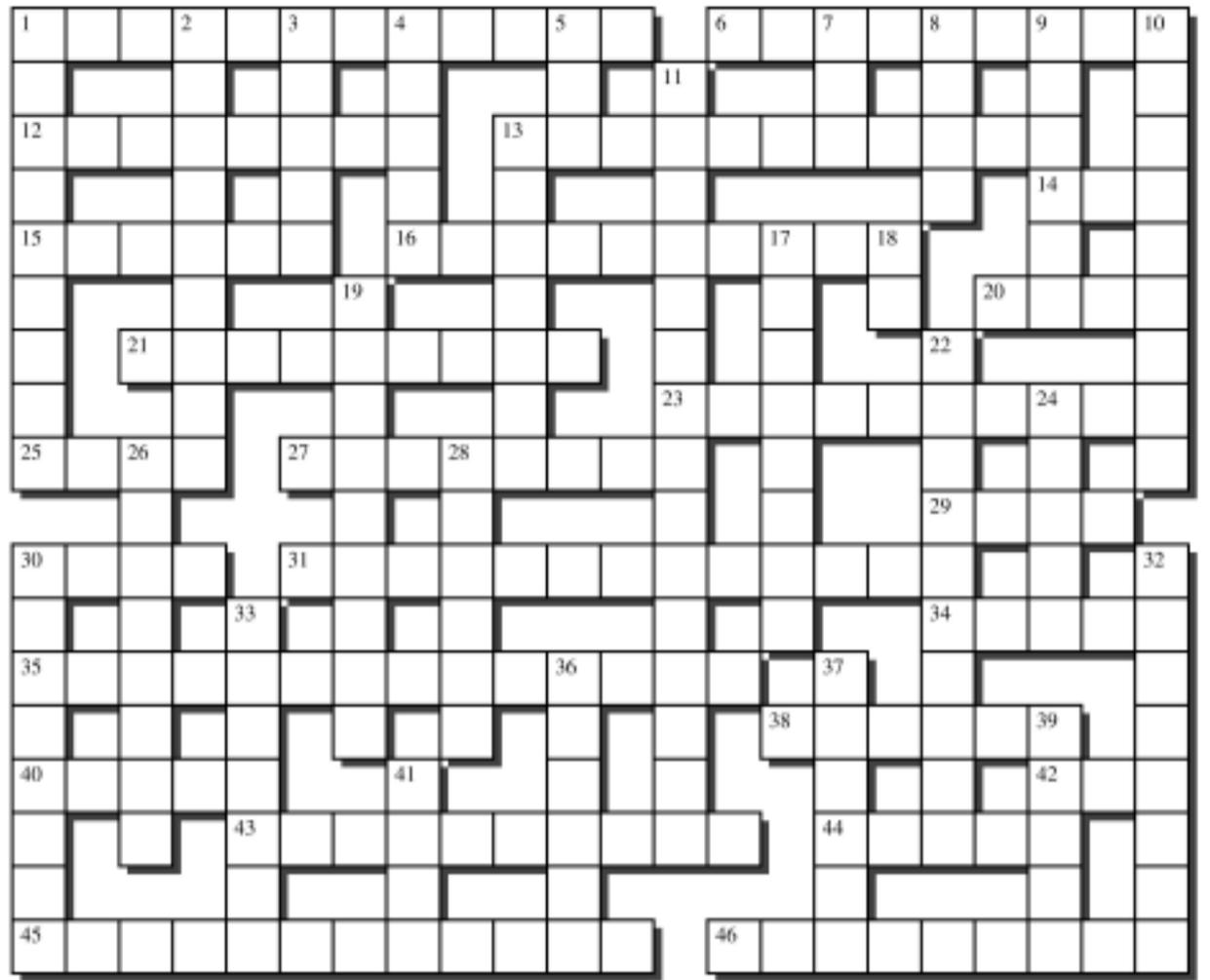
LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

Across

- 1) Approach (12)
- 6) Novelist (9)
- 12) He emigrated (8)
- 13) Crew members (11)
- 14) Uncle (3)
- 15) Rolls (6)
- 16) Destroyed (m) (10)
- 20) I drank (4)
- 21) To suspect (9)
- 23) Midnight (10)
- 25) Strange (f) (4)
- 27) Manoeuvre (8)
- 29) This (m) (4)
- 30) She does (4)
- 31) Controllers (13)
- 34) Late (5)
- 35) Survivors (14)
- 38) He praises (6)
- 40) Others (m) (5)
- 42) I went (3)
- 43) Writers (10)
- 44) Mars (5)
- 45) Authorisation (12)
- 46) Passengers (9)

Down

- 1) To land (9)
- 2) Proud (f) (9)
- 3) You were going (pl) (5)
- 4) Coffin (5)
- 5) To hear (3)
- 7) Road (3)
- 8) Mourning (4)
- 9) Tailor (6)
- 10) Airline (9)
- 11) Approximately (15)
- 13) Tested (m) (7)
- 17) They helped (8)
- 18) You (pl) (2)
- 19) Wake (9)
- 22) To investigate (10)
- 24) To taste (5)
- 26) I recover (8)
- 28) To sense (6)
- 30) History (8)
- 32) Witnesses (8)
- 33) To cook over coals (7)
- 36) Cloudy (6)
- 37) Flames (6)
- 39) To make ugly (5)
- 41) Crane (4)



ANSWERS

Quiz answers

Answer: 20 years.
Of interest: The word 'vicennial' originated in the eighteenth century from the Latin 'vicennium' meaning 'period of twenty years', '(vices' twenty times plus '-ennium', from 'annus' - year).
Answer: Dinosaur.
Of interest: Victorian scientist and paleontologist Richard Owen coined the word dinosaur. He decided there was sufficient grounds to establish a sub order of Saurian reptiles which he called Dinosauria. He combined two Greek words: deinós, meaning 'horrible' and the previously used sauros meaning lizard.

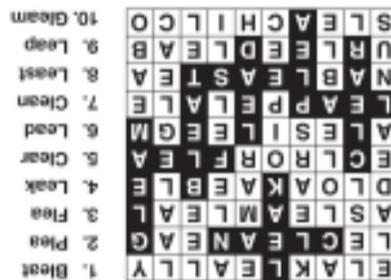
Language Crossword



Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 1 Flip; 8 Even number; 9 Fair deal; 10 Moon; 12 Fiscal; 14 Robot; 15 Ascend; 17 Obey; 18 Lane; 19 Outright; 21 Make up time; 22 Amen; Down: 2 Legal issue; 3 Peer; 4 Reveal; 5 Anger; 6 Amiable; 7 Man; 11 On the whole; 13 Cheesecake; 16 Troop; 17 Quite; 18 Limp; 20 Idea.

Wordpuzler solution



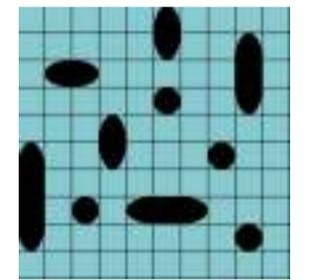
Sudoku solution

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

Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is T. Stilton, Emmental, ricotta, all cheeses.

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



A fishing port

Last week: Fuente del Piedra

This pretty roundabout is on Avenida de Andalucía in Fuente del Piedra



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The star attraction even on the Costa

Diego Maradona. The Argentinian, perhaps the greatest ever footballer, died this week aged 60, but will forever be remembered for his star quality, including at a local tennis tournament

HÉCTOR BARBOTTA



◀ Maradona, centre, was the star attraction at the El Casco Tennis Club in Marbella. **JOSELE**

▼ The Argentinian celebrates a goal for his country at Italia 90. **AFP**

The summer of 2008 was ending and the Spanish Davis Cup team was preparing to travel to Mar del Plata where they would beat the home team 3-1 in spite of an untimely injury to Rafa Nadal.

In Marbella, a wise businessman understood that that unprecedented Davis Cup final presented a business opportunity. Without hesitation, he organised an exhibition tournament for players on the verge of retirement: Moyá and Ferrero on the Spanish side and Cañas and Acasuso for Argentina would face each other at El Casco Tennis Club.

However, when he realised that a clash between players who were past their best wasn't arousing enough interest, he invited Diego Maradona to promote the

event and the tickets sold out immediately.

At that time Maradona was 48 years old, he had been retired for 11 years and, although he was about to be hired as his country's national coach, his occupation at

the time was the same as it always had been: being Maradona.

He arrived in Marbella on Friday 5 September 2008 from Beijing, where he had been cheering on the Argentinian team at the Olympics, and held a mas-

sive press conference at the Guadalpin hotel, where he was staying. For almost an hour he left no ques-

Record gate receipts at a jam-packed La Rosaleda stadium

SERGIO CORTÉS

MALAGA. It's impossible to know how many fans there were inside La Rosaleda on 17 October 1982, but the gate receipts were a record 32 million pesetas. There wasn't a spare spot anywhere; even the stairwells were full. The

reason? Diego Maradona's Barcelona side were in town.

He had just joined following the World Cup and was a global sensation. The stadium was already full 45 minutes before kick-off, just to get a glimpse of his famous skills, even in the warm-up. The moment he

stepped onto the field, the crowd erupted.

Maradona's move to Spain was the catalyst for many young fans to switch their allegiance to the Catalan team. On the day, Malaga fans inside the stadium were vastly outnumbered by around three to one. So,

despite a 4-1 win for the visitors, most inside La Rosaleda were pleased one way or another. Either because their newly adopted team had won, or because they saw the majesty of Maradona first hand. He even got on the scoresheet with the final goal of the game.

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