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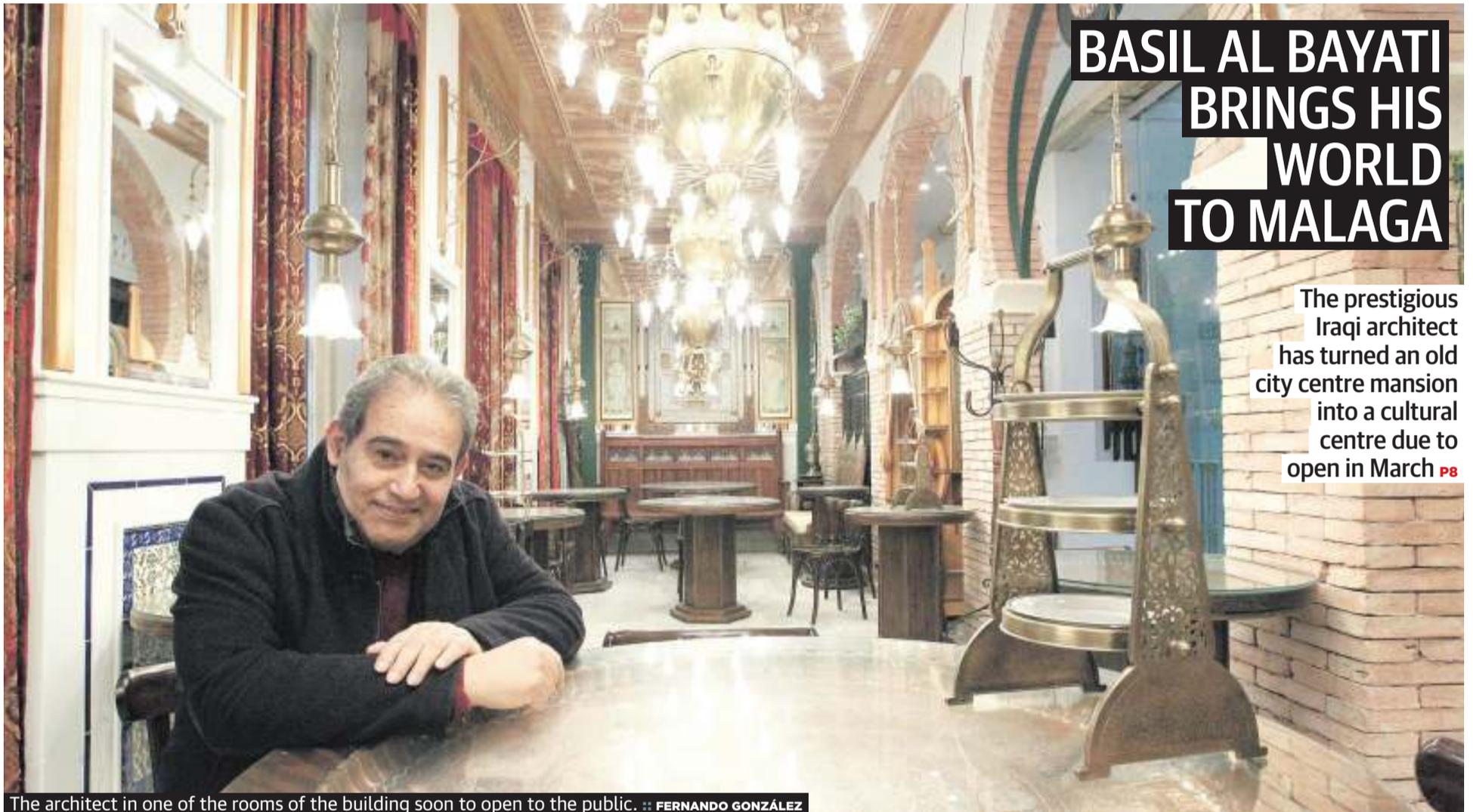
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February 3rd to 9th 2017
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International hockey delights Costa crowds

Spain, France and Ireland's national teams compete in Malaga and Benalmádena **P60**



BASIL AL BAYATI BRINGS HIS WORLD TO MALAGA

The prestigious Iraqi architect has turned an old city centre mansion into a cultural centre due to open in March **P8**

The architect in one of the rooms of the building soon to open to the public. :: FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ

Authorities to step up speed controls at accident black spots on minor roads

A number of stretches in the province of Malaga have been pinpointed

The traffic authority (DGT) has announced plans to install more speed and surveillance cameras on stretches of the regional road network with high accident rates. The move comes in reaction to an increase in the road death toll in 2016; in the province of Malaga 30 people died on the roads, 15 per cent

more than the previous year. The accident rate also increased, especially on secondary roads, despite their volume of traffic being much lower than on dual carriageways and motorways. New controls to be brought in include warning signs that show the number plate of a speeding vehicle. **P2**

Andalusian health service bosses resign amid protests

The Junta tries to restore credibility in its management after a number of marches calling for more spending **P17**

Former animal shelter boss accused of misuse of funds following last month's conviction for animal cruelty **P3**

Business owners warn of an increase in violent theft around nightclubs and bars in La Nogalera, Torremolinos **P7**

Malaga bar courts controversy after banning customers from entering if they're wearing pyjamas or dressing gowns **P16**

Midfielder José Rodríguez signs for Malaga on loan in the club's only deadline day transfer action **P57**

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Traffic authority announces plans to improve safety on hazardous minor roads



IGNACIO LILLO

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New cameras will be used to monitor speed, to determine whether vehicles have passed the motor vehicle test and if seat belts are being worn

MALAGA. The government's traffic authority, the Dirección General de Tráfico (DGT), is to increase safety on the regional road network with new cameras following an increase in deaths and offences on these stretches in 2016.

Thirty people lost their lives on the roads in the province of Malaga last year, a 15 per cent increase on 2015, while other figures confirm that half of the most serious accidents take place on regional roads despite having a much lower traffic density than dual carriageways and motorways.

As a result, the interior minister Juan Ignacio Zoido announced on Tuesday that the department will implement 15 measures in an attempt to reduce the number of accidents and fatalities in 2016. This follows the DGT's announcement on Saturday that rumble strips will be painted on the more dangerous ordinary roads, where the majority of road fatalities occur in Spain, with studies suggesting that the measure will reduce head-on collisions by 29% and accidents when exiting them by 67%.

The main additions to road safety will be the use of 60 new speed cameras, 200 surveillance cameras to ensure everyone inside the car is wearing a seatbelt (which also helps to

THE MOST DANGEROUS ROADS IN MALAGA

Road	Route	Deaths
A-357	Campillos-Ardales-Cártama	4
A-343*	Antequera- Zalea	2
A-355	Casapalma	1
A-356*	Casabermeja-Vélez	2
A-366*	Ronda-Coín	-
A-367*	Ronda-Ardales	-
A-369	Ronda-Guacín	-
A-374	Ronda-Algodonales	-
A-384*	Antequera-Arcos de la Fra.	1
A-387*	Alh. el Grande-Mijas	-
A-397	Ronda-San Pedro A.	2
A-402	La Viñuela	1
A-404	Coín-Churriana	-
A-405	Gaucín	-
A-7052	Churriana-Est. Cártama	-
A-7053	Alh. el Grande-Fuengirola	-
A-7054*	Malaga-Pizarra	-
A-7059	Cártama-Coín	-
A-7075	Villanueva de la Concepción	-
A-7200	Archidona	-
A-7281	Antequera	-
N-340*	Costa del Sol	2

*Two stretches. Source: DGT's Invive report.

Half of the 30 deaths in Malaga province last year took place on country roads

Electronic panels will display number plates of cars exceeding the speed limit

determine whether the vehicle has passed the motor vehicle inspection test known as the ITV), and real speed signs on the most dangerous stretches.

The use of the latter is the most original idea from the department. If one or more of the drivers exceeds the speed limit, the electronic panels will display the number plate of the car together with the message "modere su velocidad" (reduce your speed).

The panels will not be used to give out retrospective punishments for speeding, but will simply serve as a warning. The location of these systems will be indicated to road users, while a list of them will also be made available on the DGT's website.

Although the exact number of cameras and speed signs to be used in the province is unknown, SUR has had access to Invive, a report on speed surveillance published by the DGT with data from 2015, which

mentions the 30 most dangerous regional roads in the province. Although the official statistic for accidents in 2016 has yet to be published, SUR's newspaper library shows that at least half of the 30 deaths in Malaga last year occurred on some of these roads. These same roads are also believed to have been listed in last year's report.

The Invive report

These stretches of road, according to the definition given by the department's website, are "the most dangerous" because of the degree to which drivers speed on these roads (which in some cases has been 30km/h over the speed limit), in addition to the accident and death rates on them between 2010-2014.

The DGT also plans to alert drivers to each one of the 300 roads considered to be dangerous in Spain by putting a sign directly under the speed limit indicator.



Guardia Civil officers carry out a speed test with mobile speed cameras on

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Drivers and road accident survivors praise new measures

:: SUR

MÁLAGA. Drivers and traffic accident victims alike celebrated the news that 15 new measures are being introduced in an attempt to reduce motor incidents.

Mario Arnaldo, the president of the European motorist association, Automovilistas Europeos Asociados, showed his support for the proposals in a statement to Europa Press, although he did hope that they have not been implemented "as a mere attempt to paper over the cracks and silence public opinion."

The president of the motorcyclists' association Mutua Motera, Juan Manuel Reyes, stressed the importance of the fact that a large part of the measures being taken imply improvements to road infrastructure, although he criticised the lack of specific measures for motorcyclists.



a minor road. :: SUR



Marín, who was recently found guilty of ill-treating animals, leaving the court building. :: A. G.

Former boss of Parque Animal is now accused of misappropriation of funds

A judge in Torremolinos has found indications that Carmen Marín and her family used the association's funds for personal purposes

:: ALBERTO GÓMEZ

MÁLAGA. The former head of the 'Parque Animal' animal protection centre in Torremolinos, Carmen Marín, who has already been found guilty of ill-treating animals and faking documentation, may soon be facing a new trial in Malaga's courts.

She is alleged to have used the association's funds for personal purposes, including 104,382 euros to modernise and decorate a cosmetic beauty clinic owned by one of her daughters, and also to adapt the lift in one of the buildings she owns.

According to a notification sent from a judge in Torremolinos to the official prosecution authori-

ties and private prosecution in this case, Carmen Marín used money from the animal rescue centre, which received tens of thousands of euros from Torremolinos council in the form of grants and to finance the incineration of animals, in a well-known supermarket, a car hire firm and a major wholesale store.

The bank accounts of Parque Animal, which is registered as a non-profit-making organisation, were also allegedly used by Marín and her family to pay for a course of driving lessons, monthly gymnasium membership and a security system for a private home.

The judge also considers that there is evidence to indicate that Carmen Marín paid for stays in luxury hotels in Marbella, Lisbon, Salamanca, Nerja, Bilbao, Jerez de la Frontera, Marrakesh, Boston and St. Petersburg, and that all these costs, which amounted to thousands of euros, were charged to the current accounts of the animal protection centre

in Torremolinos.

The judge also says it looks as if the association's president used the funds to pay more than 11,000 euros in restaurants between 2008 and 2010.

According to the judge, Carmen Marín wrote cheques for more than 23,000 euros from the animal protection centre's accounts and Felipe Barco, her right-hand man, who has also been found guilty of ill-treating animals, used the charity's funds to buy a Nissan pick-up. Marín is also said to have bought a Citroën C3 worth 14,490 euros in the name of her daughter.

In the notification to the prosecutors, the judge explains that these deeds could indicate misappropriation of funds, and she has asked them to draw up a formal request for further investigation to be carried out.

She has also found evidence of possible fraud in the renting of premises ceded by the town hall to a third party.

Malaga will host a summit with Mariano Rajoy and François Hollande on 20 February

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

MÁLAGA. On 20 February, Malaga will be hosting the 25th Hispano-French summit, which will be presided over by Spanish prime minister Mariano Rajoy and French president François Hollande.

The decision to hold the summit outside Madrid is thought to have been made in order to highlight Malaga's existing links with France and due to Mayor Francisco de la Torre's passion for that country. In 2015 the first branch of the Centre Pompidou outside France opened in the city.

This is not the first time that Malaga has hosted an important summit for Spanish and French leaders, as in 2002 the then prime minister, José María Aznar, received French president Jacques Chirac there.

At this month's summit, the subjects discussed are likely to include the challenges faced by the EU following Britain's decision to leave, the refugee crisis and the implications of Donald Trump as US president. It will also give both leaders a chance to stress the benefits of the EU, although François Hollande will not be standing for re-election in the French presidential election this year.



Rajoy and Hollande. :: SUR

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Aifos owner jailed for taking 56,000 euros for a flat that was never built

Jesús Ruiz Casado has been convicted for misappropriation and must return the amount and serve a two-year prison sentence

:: **ÁLVARO FRÍAS**

MALAGA. The Malaga provincial court has sentenced Jesús Ruiz Casado, owner of real estate promoter Aifos, to two years in prison, according to documents made accessible to SUR. He has been convicted of misappropriation after making off with the 56,000 euros paid by a couple for an apartment which was never built.

The lawyer representing the couple, Antonio Castillo Adam, explained that they had emigrated to Canada, but on retiring and the wife developing lung problems, the couple decided to spend their life's savings on a move to the Costa del Sol.

Attracted by an advertisement, the couple signed a contract for a 84-square-metre home on the Las Caballerizas estate in Mijas in November 2004. They paid 13,500 euros



Jesús Ruiz Casado and his wife, Teresa Maldonado. :: SUR

up front, then took the total up to 56,221 over the course of 20 monthly payments.

On seeing that construction had not started, the couple asked for the money to be returned - a request that was denied despite no works licence having been granted or even submitted.

The money, which had been used

to finance other business endeavours, must now be returned to the couple, plus legal interest charges. Ruiz Casado must also pay a fine of 2,400 euros as well as serving time in jail.

His wife, Teresa Maldonado, who acted as administrator, was also on the bench and was acquitted on the basis of not being part of any contractual processes.

Brit facing nine years in jail for storing and sharing child porn

:: **EP**

MALAGA. A British man is facing nine years in prison, accused of possessing and sharing thousands of files containing child pornography - some 5,800 images - from his home in Manilva. The man was wanted for the same crime by police in Wales.

The Guardia Civil, in collaboration with the FBI, came to suspect that the man could have been in possession of child pornography

and ordered a search of his property in July 2016. They seized eight hard drives and in one of them found an application in which he had created several virtual folders and subfolders.

In one of the folders, there were several subfolders in which there were 5,878 images of child pornography and 1,171 files of this type, showing very young children being submitted to "various types of degrading treatment" of a sexual

nature, according to the public prosecution's initial statement.

The man had these files, the statement reads, "to satisfy the desires of himself and of third parties".

The public prosecution accuses the man, who has been in prison since July 2016, of the corruption of minors through the possession and distribution of particularly degrading child pornography and is asking for nine years imprisonment as well as ten years of supervised release, during which he must take part in sexual education programmes and will be banned from using file sharing software and working with minors.

112 REPORTS



The moment when the leader of the Camorra was arrested. :: SUR

Leading figure of Camorra arrested in Alhaurín de la Torre

MALAGA

AGENCIES. A leading member of the Camorra mafia-style organisation was arrested in the early hours of Saturday morning in Alhaurín de la Torre by National Police.

The international fugitive, who is thought to be the right-hand man of the leader of the Camorra, is believed to be a prominent figure in the group's international drugs ring, trafficking cocaine and cannabis.

He had apparently been leading illegal operations from Spain, acting as the direct contact for the organisations here being supplied with the drugs.

Local Police officer sentenced to four months in prison

MALAGA

J. C. A member of the Local Police force in Antequera has been given a four-month suspended sentence and a fine of 120 euros after attempting to steal a camera from El Corte Inglés in Malaga.

He was caught by a security guard, and eventually arrested by National Police officers after a struggle.

Parents investigated after one-year-old tests positive for cannabis

MALAGA

J. C. An investigation has been ordered after a 12-month-old girl tested positive for cannabis after being rushed to the Quirón hospital for excessive drowsiness.

The father, both at hospital and at the hearing, suggested possible ingestion of a joint left within the child's reach. Judicial proceedings are under way into possible child maltreatment and neglect of duty.

Gang linked to ATM explosion robberies brought down

MARBELLA

SUR. The National Police and the Guardia Civil have brought down a criminal organisation responsible for the robbery of 12 cash machines using either explosives or flammable gas.

The operation, carried out be-

tween Malaga and Madrid, has resulted in the arrest of four Spanish men aged between 26 and 33, who have also been charged with possession of arms and explosives, and drug trafficking.

Raids on properties uncovered a number of tools and equipment used for the operation.

This operation ran simultaneously with the one that brought down a group of British criminals in November for similar crimes.

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Offshore banking options continue to narrow - Nationwide International to close

By Steve Langford, Partner, Blevins Franks

Many British expatriates close their UK bank accounts and open new ones in offshore centres once they leave the country. They may not have a choice if their bank does not allow non-UK residents to hold accounts. Nationwide International in the Isle of Man is a popular choice for expatriates, in Spain and elsewhere, but it has announced that it is closing its doors in summer 2017.

The bank will start closing customer accounts from early 2017. It will be writing to clients again with important information and dates regarding the closure of their specific accounts.

In the meantime, it suggested that since looking for a new home for their savings can take time, clients should start looking now.

If you have accounts with Nationwide International, you can choose to close them right away or wait until you have the closure dates. The bank has removed any notice requirement on its accounts, and fixed rate bonds can also be closed before the scheduled maturity date,

with no penalty.

The bank's decision to close came following a strategic review of its operations and was based on a number of factors including falling customer demand, running costs and changing market conditions.

This only affects Nationwide International in the Isle of Man. Accounts held with the Nationwide Building Society in the UK are not affected.

Looking for a new home for your savings

This is a good opportunity to review your savings and consider if a bank is the best place for your money.

The Bank of England interest rate has been at historic lows since March 2009 and was cut to an even lower 0.25% following the Brexit referendum. If you need your savings to provide an income, preferably without withdrawing much capital, or are looking for capital growth to keep pace with inflation over your retirement

years, seek advice on how you may be able to generate better returns from your savings.

How long do you need your money to last?

This is a sobering question and not one most people can answer with certainty. Underestimate this, however, and your money could run out too soon, leaving you unable to live the lifestyle you want. Life expectancy has been increasing and you need to make sure that your savings will provide the income you need right to end of your and your spouse's retirement years. No-one wants to be forced to reduce their quality of life in their later years.

You therefore need to establish a strategic savings and investment strategy to preserve the value of your wealth and income.

Remember to factor in the effect of inflation on reducing your spending power each year. Say, for example, you typically spend €5,000 a month. Assuming an inflation rate of 3% a year, in 10

years' time you could need about €6,720 a month to maintain the same spending, and €9,030 in 20 years.

Protecting your savings

Another issue to consider, when deciding what is the best home for your savings, is the level of protection you would get should the financial institution fail. For example, the Isle of Man Depositors' Compensation Scheme provides individuals with protection of up to £50,000.

Time not timing

The uncertainty over Brexit has been making some people cautious about investing. However, trying to time when to buy and sell investments has plenty of risks – but the biggest one may be the risk of missing out.

To illustrate this point, a hypothetical £10,000 investment in the FTSE All-Share index for the 10 year period to 31 December 2015 would have earned a profit of £7,197 if invested the whole time.

If the five best days were missed, the profit would be considerably lower at £1,831. Missing the 10 and 30 best days would have resulted in losses of £607 and £5,269 respectively. (Source: Russell Investments)

It is important to ensure that your portfolio is built around your risk profile, and with strategic asset allocation and diversification to reduce risk and meet your objectives. Take specialist, personalised advice and build a good relationship with your financial adviser so they understand your needs and guide you through the Brexit years and into the future.

These views are put forward for consideration purposes only as the suitability of any investment is dependent on individual circumstances; take individual personalised advice. The value of investments can fall as well as rise. Past performance should not be seen as an indication of future performance.

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People power forces Marbella council to put high-voltage cables underground

Councillors vote to remove overhead lines near schools in Trapiche Norte and San Pedro after parent and resident campaign

:: HÉCTOR BARBOTA

MARBELLA. A dream came true for parents last week when town councillors finally voted to allocate funds to put high-voltage power cables near three Marbella schools underground.

Local people in the Trapiche Norte area of Marbella have been campaigning for 14 years to have cabling hidden. They claim that the magnetic fields generated are a health risk and that the failure to remove them contravenes European rules on high-voltage power lines run-



High-voltage power cables in the Trapiche Norte area. :: JOSELE-LANZA

ning through urban areas.

The Trapiche Norte district has a population of 1,600 and two schools, Xarblanca and María Auxiliadora, are also in the area. At Xarblanca there are 1,200 pupils and teachers are also present. The offending cables have also prevented a children's park from being completed. In all, 900 metres in this area run overground.

Locals get tough on council

Although agreement was reached in April 2015 with Endesa to put the lines underground, nothing has happened since, forcing parents' and residents' groups to lobby each party on Marbella council directly in order to speed up the initiative.

Francisco Claro, president of the local residents' association in Trapiche Norte commented that: "It doesn't make any sense that this has been stopped because we've been waiting for many years. We are talk-

ing about health as the children still have these cables running over their heads."

A lesson in democracy

Councillors voting on the motion to approve funds for the work to be included in this year's budget praised the campaign waged by parents' associations, saying it was "a lesson in democracy".

CSSP-Podemos councillors also demanded that funding was approved as a precondition for giving their approval to the overall 2017 budgets. A representative of the parents' associations was allowed by Podemos to read out the funding motion in the council chamber before voting took place.

In a last minute intervention, Partido Popular councillors secured support for the powerlines running near Al-Andalus school in San Pedro to be included in the same motion.

Of the 26 town councillors, all voted in favour, except two from the Opción Sampedreña party, who abstained, claiming it would be better to move the cables away altogether from the schools.

Although funds will be set aside, the work in both areas is not likely to be finished this year.

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Innovative co-working space for businesses opens in Marbella

Entrepreneurs have been invited to experience a new form of co-working at a local business centre

:: RACHEL ARMSTRONG

MARBELLA. Business owners and entrepreneurs in Marbella have been introduced this week to a new concept in office space at the heart of the Golden Mile.

Our Space Marbella offers 13 private offices and 140 desks in a shared environment to promote co-working and networking. All members of the Costa del Sol business community were invited to the opening of the first of twelve centres that the firm plans to open worldwide this year, and the first of fifty planned for the next three to five years.

An innovative concept here on the coast, the team said they were unsure how locals would take to the



Representatives cut the ribbon at the new co-working facility. :: R. A.

idea however all but two offices were sold out before opening.

Designed by Carlos Barbosa, an Emmy-nominated Hollywood Production Designer who has worked

on television programmes including Lost and CSI Miami, Our Space Marbella features a futuristic style which aims to encourage productivity and creativity. The work space

covers 500 square metres.

Chief Operating Officer, Sean Phillips, said that the aim is to enable "people who don't want to sign a long term lease - or can't - [...] to grow their businesses by giving them extra help, a different environment and surrounding them with like-minded people that are in different businesses".

With the opening of spaces in Dubai and Miami planned for June and July respectively, Sean revealed that there have been questions asked about their choice of Marbella.

"With our footprint across the world, people go 'why Marbella? Of all places... wouldn't you pick London?' Well, people are already picking London. People have already done that," he said "We kind of like Marbella because of the melting pot that it is."

Speaking at the launch party on Wednesday night, Kevan Halliwell, CEO, said: "We are five years ahead of everybody else and that's where we'll stay. This is the first real step on our global journey. Our Space is creating 50 of these co-working locations in twelve key cities around the world over the next three to five years and the one here in Marbella is number one."

Museo del Grabado's accounts frozen as town hall demands 100,000 euros

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ

MARBELLA. The foundation controlling the Museo del Grabado museum in Marbella has had its accounts frozen since November, SUR sources understand.

This is due to an unpaid debt to the town hall, totalling 100,000 euros, for repair works carried out in 2015 on a building on Calle Hospital Bazán which had fallen into a dangerous state of disrepair.

The building, left to the museum by businessman Joaquín Rivero, required underpinning and saw the road closed for several months and access blocked for residents.

However, at the time of works, the foundation was still awaiting the paperwork to take complete control of the building and they claim that the works are therefore the responsibility of the town hall.

Business owners warn of increase in violent theft around La Nogalera

LGBT associations blame a number of organised criminal groups which take advantage of the low reporting rate "out of fear or shame"

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

TORREMOLINOS. "Every night people get robbed," says the owner of a popular nightclub in La Nogalera in Torremolinos. Residents and visitors are enduring a state of "defencelessness" after several organised criminal groups have established themselves in the area known as a benchmark of gay leisure in southern Europe.

The narrow alleyway where the majority of the area's gay bars are located seems to be the area chosen by these criminals: "They wait at the start and the end and target customers."



The passageway in La Nogalera, a target for criminals. :: A. G.

The fact that very few of these crimes are reported encourages the thieves. The Spanish LGBT Confederation (Colega) doesn't classify these as hate crimes but admits that the

attacks "have a clear homophobic element" as the assailants know that the chances of the crimes being reported are lower due to "shame or fear".

The president of Colega in Torremolinos, Santiago Rubio, calls for "more security and higher police presence" at La Nogalera, even during the week when there are fewer peo-

ple frequenting the establishments, making people, especially drunk tourists returning to their hotels in the early hours, more vulnerable.

For their part, the Torremolinos town hall claims that the crimes are "isolated and not coordinated", adding that the number of crimes has not increased. Despite this, last week they announced that police presence would be stepped up "in response to appeals from residents and business owners".

Many nightclub owners have come together and are preparing a document in which they are appealing for institutional help to tackle the problem. "We are not worried about our premises because we all have security measures and cameras. But we are worried about the general safety of the area. It's very easy to rob someone here, especially if there are no police officers to be seen." The arrest and then subsequent release of offenders is another reason for indignation: "They pick them up, let them go and then they rob again. They are laughing in our faces."

In the letter, they propose the installation of surveillance cameras, employing private security, and the strategic placement of police cars in the area.

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JOSELE-LANZA

PLATFORM DEMANDS ORANGE SQUARE BE RID OF TERRACES

The platform 'The square is ours' has gathered more than 800 signatures in their latest campaign to reclaim Plaza de los Naranjos in Marbella for public use. They have presented their petition to the town hall to stop the several restaurants in the area from putting tables and chairs on what they consider "a space for everyone".

HERE & THERE

Major works licences grow by 60% in one year

ESTEPONA

L. P. Economic recovery was strong in Estepona in 2016, a record year in terms of construction in the town. Licences were granted for 209 major works projects, an increase of 60 per cent on the previous year.

The town hall claims that its own projects, such as improvements to the historical centre, the botanical park and the coastal path, have encouraged private enterprises to start projects designed to attract residential tourism.

San José renovation project put out to tender

ESTEPONA

L. P. The area surrounding San José church, which has fast become an important part of Estepona due to its connections to other parts of the town, has been added to the 'Estepona, Jardín de la Costa del Sol' initiative.

It will now be remodelled with improvements needed to drainage, sewage and electric infrastructure, and pavements. The project has been put out to tender with the works valued at 700,000 euros.

Town hall takes over river clearance works

MARBELLA

M. PÉREZ. Marbella town hall, with the collaboration of residents' communities, has taken matters into its own hands in order to tackle the problem of overgrown rivers and streams in the municipality.

Despite being the responsibility

of the Junta de Andalucía, inaction on their part has meant the work is now urgent, in order to prevent possible flooding, fires and plagues of insects settling.

"We cannot wait any longer," said councillor Miguel Díaz as work got under way to clear the excess vegetation from the Arroyo Alicates. This is the eighth intervention carried out by the town hall.

A dream come true for Basil Al Bayati

The famous Iraqi architect is opening a cultural centre in the centre of Malaga city

The building, in Calle Marqués de Guadiaro, will house a room for exhibitions on design and craftsmanship, a cafeteria and a bookshop

:: JESÚS HINOJOSA

MALAGA. A journey into the origins of the culture of Al-Andalus, a place to experience new sensations through design, architecture and craftsmanship. That is The Unique World of Basil Al Bayati, a museum and cultural centre which is scheduled to open in March after more than three years of preparation.

This project, the brainchild of Iraqi architect Basil Al Bayati, is located in a building which was designed by Jerónimo Cuervo and constructed in 1877, at number 3, Calle Marqués de Guadiaro, between Calle Álamos and Calle Beatas. Now aged 70, Basil Al Bayati is finally going to fulfil his dream of showcasing in this completely restored venue the best of all his work, which includes not only architecture but also furniture design and even literature.

"I came to Malaga in 1976 and I liked it because it reminds me of Bagh-



Basil Al Bayati, on the staircase of his building. **:: FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ**

dad, where I was born," explained Basil in one of the most luxurious areas in the building, the space which is going to be the cafeteria.

For this architect, who has designed some of the most remarkable mosques, hotels, universities and hospitals in Europe and the

Arab countries during the past 30 years, including the central mosque in Edinburgh, a museum such as this in the very heart of Malaga will enrich the city. "I had offers to do this in the UK and Germany, but I wanted it to be here because the concept fits in better," says Al Bayati.

The project was expected to cost more than one million euros, but that sum has almost doubled because of numerous improvements which were added after the works began. The ground floor will house a book and gift shop where some of the books published by Fabulist - also owned by Basil Al Bayati - will be on sale. These will include architecture, fiction, the psychology of creativity and the his-

tory of the Muslim era of Andalucía. On the first floor, the cafeteria has hand-carved wooden ceilings and lamps which were made especially in Turkey. The food served here will be ecological, and vegetarian.

The second floor is a room for temporary exhibitions, and will house displays of architecture, ceramic items and furniture, among others. The intention is to establish links with the Architecture School of Malaga university and the College of Architects, to work on joint projects.

On the third floor there will be an area for workshops and conferences, and the fourth floor will be a residence for Basil Al Bayati, who also owns other homes on the Costa del Sol. Finally, the terrace will be open so people can enjoy the wonderful views of the cathedral and the Alcazaba fortress.

Metaphoric style

The museum, which will publish a catalogue of its own, is filled with pictures of Al Bayati's designs and very unusual antique Arab-style furniture. The work of this architect, who has had offices in London and Kuwait in the past, is outstanding for the originality of shapes, and the imagination and fantasy of his designs.

It is what is called 'metaphorical architecture', a style which uses oneric forms and nature to configure the appearance of the buildings. This is the world of Basil Al Bayati, a genius of forms and design which, in a few weeks, will be on view for all those who visit this latest attraction in the old part of the city centre.

Insider Tips

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HERE AND THERE

Town plan invites residents' priorities**RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA**

✪ **E. C.** Rincón de la Victoria Town Hall has launched its 'future horizons 2025' plan and is inviting feedback on the administration's existing strengths and weaknesses as well as what future priorities should be. Mayor, Encarnación Anaya (PSOE), said that residents' participation is "fundamental for all". Existing forums, such as local history groups, school councils and domestic violence organisations are being consulted.

Opposition threatens vote of no confidence**NERJA**

✪ **E. C.** As the feuds between the current coalition administration and previous leaders at Nerja Town Hall continue, there are mounting rumours of a potential vote of no-confidence against mayor, Rosa Arrabal. Juan Marín, the Andalusian president of Ciudadanos, whose party which fell short of an absolute majority in the May 2015 local elections, admitted to SUR last week that his party is, "in talks with the PP to evaluate the possibility of such a vote."

Waste water station improvements start**RIOGORDO**

✪ **E. C.** Malaga's provincial government, Diputación, has announced a 75,000 euro investment for improvements to Riogordo's waste water station. Work has already started at the site, which was visited last Friday by Diputación's president, Elías Bendodo and mayor of Riogordo, Antonio Alés. The politicians also visited the town's industrial estate, which has received public investment to the tune of 423,196 euros since 2005.

New method estimates cave drawings to be 20,000 years old

An article published this week in the Journal of Archaeological Science reports findings made by experts who have been analyzing the artwork

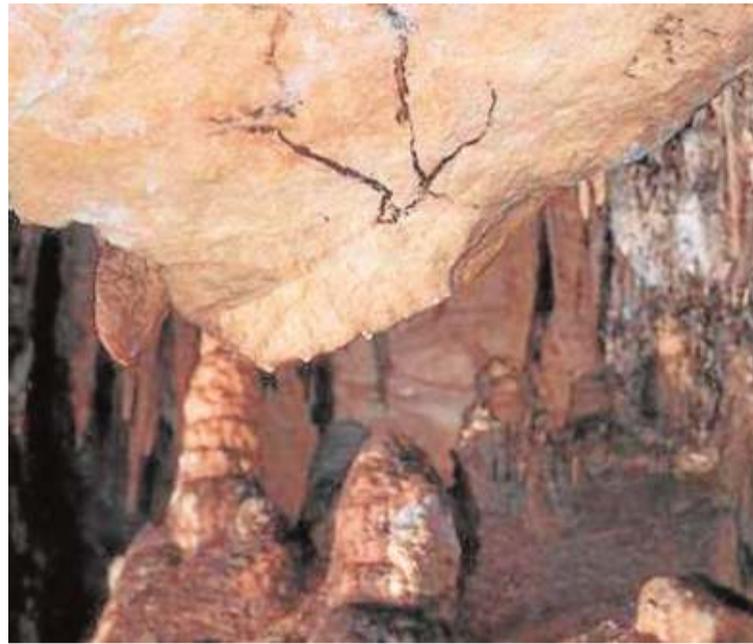
✪ EUGENIO CABEZAS

NERJA. A team of scientists investigating the age of the drawings in the Nerja caves has dated them back 20,000 years, instead of the previously believed 43,500 to 40,000 years.

The team, which has been led by professor José Luis Sanchidrán, from the university of Córdoba, has been working at the site for five years using a new technique to analyse paintings such as the famous 'goat,' which is used by the Nerja Caves Foundation as their logo, as well as the Camarín de los Pisciformes.

In 2010 an analysis of the materials used to create the latter drawing dated it back to Neanderthal times. However, the latest findings suggest that the paintings could have been done by Homo-Sapiens.

The results of Sanchidrán's team's work were published on Monday in an article in the Journal of Archaeological Science, which is already avail-



'The goat,' Nerja Cave's most symbolic painting. ✪ **E. C.**

able online with the title, 'New perspectives for 14C dating of parietal markings using CaCO3 thin layers: An example in Nerja cave (Spain). The journal itself will come out in April.

This new method can only analyse drawings which mix organic elements such as charcoal, with inorganic ma-

terials like calcite. "We want to continue to deepen our knowledge of the age of these drawings, without harming their conservation," said Professor Sanchidrán, who highlighted that the method used is "not destructive." The team will now ask the Junta de Andalucía's permission to take samples from other cave drawings.

Antonio Pascual, the mayor who brought water to Riogordo

✪ EUGENIO CABEZAS

RIOGORDO. Following the publication last November of a book about his years as mayor of Riogordo, Antonio Pascual Campos spoke to SUR about his experiences. Pascual, who is now 95, still lives in Riogordo, to where he moved with his parents at the age of six, from the hamlet of Mondrón, which belongs to Periana.

The former politician was mayor of Riogordo from 1960 until 1979 and witnessed the transition from the dictatorship to democracy.

However, as the book, written by his niece, Emilia Pascual Madrona, 57, tells, his own work transformed Riogordo. Among his achievements as mayor he brought drinking water to the town, was responsible for the

tarmacking of the town's roads, creation of 13 schools, building of the swimming pool and in 1968, brought back the famous 'El Paso', which had last been performed in 1954.

"I have never earned a penny from the town hall, I can hold my head high and my heart is clean," says the nonagenarian. The book, 'Antonio Pascual Campos. Retazos de historia viva de Riogordo' can be found in bookshops in Malaga city, as well as Riogordo Town Hall. It is priced 12 euros and all proceeds will go to the Malaga Down's Syndrome association and a NGO in Burkino Faso.

Rincón de la Victoria rallies together to help seven-year-old with cancer

✪ EUGENIO CABEZAS**RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.**

Following the success of a party last Sunday to raise funds for Pablo, a seven-year-old boy from La Cala del Moral who has cancer, further events are being organised for this weekend. The party, which took place on Plaza Gloria Fuertes, raised 20,000 euros to help the little boy and his family. On Saturday a charity walk will leave Rincón de la Victoria tourist office at 10.30am and head towards the Mare Nostrum exhibition centre, before returning to the tourist office. Those wishing to participate are asked to donate two euros. On Sunday a charity football match will take place at the José Ruiz 'Pepito' football ground in La Cala del Moral, starting at 10.30. The event will be followed by a charity paella and a bar will also be available. All of the events are being organised using the hashtag #TodosConPablo, (everyone with Pablo) and all funds will be donated to the boy's family.



Last Sunday's party. ✪ **E. C.**

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"I'm a gypsy and I've been in prison - I never thought I would find a job"

A group of 40 women serving prison sentences take part in the 'Trece Rosas' (Thirteen Roses) programme

AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

MALAGA. "I've learned how to look for jobs and use the internet. When I was up for parole I was afraid that as a gypsy I wasn't going to get a job." These were the words of Juana, the fictitious name of a woman who is one of 40 offenders serving prison sentences and participating in the social and market labour integration programme 'Trece Rosas'. It was set up by the Instituto Andaluz de la Mujer (IAM), which manages the Malaga-based Arrabal AID association. The latter receives a grant of 10,000 euros from the IAM which has helped them to work with around 400 women with an average age of 40 since 2007.

'Trece Rosas' is a programme designed for women with family responsibilities who are serving prison sentences or on probation and have limited financial resources.

"Women become potential victims of the biggest evils of inequality after they have served a sentence,



Some of the women taking part in the programme. :: ÁLVARO CABRERA

given the way society works and the stereotypes that exist within it, in addition to the inequalities that they already face as women," explained Rosa del Mar Rodríguez, the provincial coordinator for IAM.

Loli, 45, is a member of the programme who has been on probation since last year, after serving a decade behind bars before being given a 'tercer grado' (semi-liberty) sentence for two years.

"After 10 years in prison I was scared to cross the road," she acknowl-

edged. Today, by contrast, she is a self-assured woman who has new friends and a boyfriend. "To tell you the truth, I feel good now," she added.

To get to this stage however she has needed the support of the Arrabal association, which, through the initiative, offered her the opportunity to train, look for jobs and take part in workshops and courses designed to improve her people skills.

"They have changed my life, because they have supported me and given me stability, and as a result, I

have found friends," Loli stated.

She has found a job as a cleaner at Arrabal's headquarters and will work in a laundrette for four months in the summer. "I also obtained some experience working in a supermarket after taking a customer-service course," she said.

Fatima, 35, who spent four months in prison and is now serving a 'tercer grado' sentence, was initially hesitant, just like many fellow offenders, to participate in the programme set up by the Arrabal association, where she now works as a cleaner. "It has been fantastic for me, because I have always been very well treated here," she explained.

According to Pepi Reyes, the person in charge of social welfare at Arrabal and who manages the 'Trece Rosas' programme, women make up 10 per cent of the prison population.

"The Alhaurin de la Torre prison only has one unit for women and sometimes, depending on the year, 125 women can be in that same unit at one time. As a result, there has always been a group of them who have been given few or no resources. This is the reason why Arrabal was founded 25 years ago, to work with the female prison population," she explained.

Marbella town hall declares official mourning after death of 'people's priest'

SUR

MARBELLA. Although he had been retired for ten years, Francisco Echamendi was still very much in the hearts of the people of Marbella. The former parish priest at the main Iglesia de la Encarnación church in the old town even has a road and school in the municipality named after him. So it was with widespread sadness that the town's residents learnt of his death on Wednesday, aged 87 years. The council declared two days mourning for the respected religious figure known as 'the people's priest' during his 32-year tenure as head of the parish.



Francisco Echamendi. :: J-L



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Est. 1977



The Costa del Sol breaks into eastern Germany via Dresden

Tourism bosses attend an important regional travel fair and SUR published a special 'Viva Andalucía' supplement in German for the local newspaper

:: PEDRO LUIS GÓMEZ

MALAGA. Andalucía, Costa del Sol and Malaga city tourist board representatives were out in force at the Dresden travel fair last weekend, as southern Spain sought to increase the amount of visitors from the eastern German region of Saxony.

The event, which was open to the general public, is one of the most important in Germany and 40,000 visitors were expected to attend.

This was the second year that tourism representatives from Malaga city exhibited, thanks to a partnership deal with TSS, a network of 3,200 central European travel agents which is based in Dresden and headed by Malaga-born Manuel Molina.

Direct flights

Molina pointed out that Saxony was still a developing market for southern Spanish destinations as it is only 25 years since the fall of the old communist regime. However he added that having a direct flight now from Malaga to Dresden was key to future success.

To coincide with the fair, SUR published a full-colour 'Viva Andalucía' supplement that was distributed inside the main local newspaper, Sächsische Zeitung.



Molina (l) with the head of Malaga tourist board, Javier Hernández :: F. L.



The Andalucía region had a stand in Dresden too. :: FÉLIZ LORENZO

IN BRIEF



Tourists enjoy restaurants in Estepona old town last summer. :: L.P.

Benalmádena and Estepona shops' tourist-trading permits renewed

MALAGA

AG. / L.P. Two of the Costa's main beach resorts can continue to open their shops for business on Sundays and holidays during the summer and over Easter. The Junta de Andalucía has agreed to Estepona's and Benalmádena's requests to renew the special permits that are granted

every four years to towns that receive a large number of tourists. The permission runs over the 'Semana Santa' celebrations and from 1 July to 15 September until 2020. During that time businesses are free to determine their own opening times. Other areas of the Costa that rely on these 'important tourist zone' designations to boost income from visitors are: Fuengirola, small areas of Malaga city, Manilva, Marbella, Mijas, Nerja, Rincón de la Victoria and Torremolinos.

Five million tourists stay in Costa hotels in 2016

MALAGA

SUR. Costa del Sol hotels welcomed over 5.2 million visitors last year, an increase of five per cent on 2015, setting a new record. The official report from the Diputación de Málaga, the provincial authority, highlighted the importance of international visitors. Numbers from outside Spain going to hotels increased by 11.5 per cent in 2016. Just over one million of those hotel-staying tourists were from the UK.

BA to fly weekends from Manchester this summer

MADRID

AGENCIES. Starting in May, British Airways will run high-season weekend flights from Manchester to Malaga. It will also add flights to Alicante, Mallorca and Ibiza from the northern English city. This follows last summer's launch of high-season flights from London Stansted to the Costa del Sol. Meanwhile Ryanair has announced it will fly nine times a week from Brussels Charleroi airport next winter.



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THE EURO
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CONCERN?

There were no surprises this Monday, when Spain's National Statistics Institute (INE) released initial data on the country's economic performance in 2016. In the final quarter of last year, the Spanish economy posted growth of 0.7%; overall, it expanded by a widely-predicted 3.2% in 2016. The INE's final statistics are expected in March, but they are unlikely to differ significantly from those released this week. Spain, then, retains its position as one of the fastest-growing economies in the eurozone, even during a year in which it lacked a proper government for ten months.

The farcical political limbo was finally terminated at the end of October last year, when the Socialists agreed to abstain from voting against Mariano Rajoy's bid to form the new administration. They thus enabled the unpopular Galician to come back for a second term as prime minister - a move for which they were praised and denounced in equal measure. The ideological compromises of their decision aside, though, the Socialists can be credited with snapping Spain out of political instability - and at great cost to the cohesion of their own party.

Indeed, some now fear that civil war within the PSOE - a war that was sparked last autumn by its accommodation of Rajoy and the subsequent resignation of its leader Pedro Sánchez - threatens to derail Spain's economic recovery just as last year's political

deadlock did.

Paxti López, former head of the Basque regional government and a politician on the left of the PSOE's increasingly centrist stance, has announced himself as a candidate for its new leader (a post expected to be filled by June). López and Sánchez - who is standing again for the leadership - are appealing to those in the PSOE who were dismayed by its tacit support of Rajoy in October. The fear is, then, that if either of these two are at the helm of the Socialists come June, Rajoy's minority government will find it a lot harder to keep the country running smoothly.

It's certainly true that Rajoy would face greater opposition in congress if either Sánchez or Paxti take charge of the PSOE in a few months' time. Their unwillingness to cooperate would slow down the rate at which legislation is passed and new projects approved, both of which help to maintain economic growth.

Yet Monday's INE statistics on last year - for the majority of which Spain had no government - suggest that the impact of further political deadlock or limbo on the Spanish economy would be minimal. If Rajoy plays his trump card and calls another election in the spring, he risks tipping Spain back into the administrative vacuum that defined 2016; but as the precedent of last year indicates, Spain's GDP expansion would probably continue anyway, albeit at a slightly slower rate.

Top court seeks up to six years for
Costa-based timeshare 'fraudsters'

The Audencia Nacional has started hearing a case, which affects 651 people, involving an alleged holiday-ownership con worth six million euros

|| J. A. BRAVO

MADRID. The Audencia Nacional, Spain's central court, has started hearing its first-ever case of presumed timeshare fraud.

Normally it is a provincial-level court that hears this type of case. However the Supreme Court decided that in this instance, as those affected cover several provinces and as some banks are also in the dock for allegedly funding the scheme, that the national courthouse in Madrid should try the case.

The two accused in this long-running case are Antonio González and Paul Van Zill, heads of the Mundo Mágico travel agency, based in Malaga, which closed in 2003. They are facing six years in prison and fines for a "lengthy fraud", although lawyers acting for those who allegedly lost money are asking for stiffer sentences.



The nonexistent-property "fraud" goes back to 2003 (file photo). || EFE

The accusation centres
on the "increasingly
aggressive sale" of holiday
ownership packages

In addition, the prosecution is also asking for compensation for the 651 affected people, who lost on average between 9,000 and 11,000 euros.

The accusation centres on the "increasingly aggressive sale" of holiday ownership packages for apartments, which the company wasn't sufficiently solvent to fulfill, for periods of 15-20 years.

Government taking longer to
refund tax, say some advisers

|| NURIA TRIGUERO

MALAGA. The government had until 31 December to return any overpayments to taxpayers or be forced to pay them interest. Despite Hacienda, the tax revenue office, paying back most money over the summer as usual, tax advisers and accountants in Malaga have told SUR that it appears to be taking longer than usual for all refunds to come through. Tax consultant, Rubén Candela said: "Compared to other years, there are more taxpayers than usual who've had no news on their refund, even though the legal time limit has expired".

According to tax office statistics in Malaga, 10.45 per cent of money due had still to be returned at the end of 2016, compared to 5.95 per



Slower tax payouts in 2016. || SUR

cent across Spain. Tax officials have denied there is any special reason, citing routine checks on people's annual tax returns for the delay.

Days are
numbered for
phone roaming
charges across
Europe

|| SUR

BRUSSELS. The European Union has reached an agreement for phone companies that should end roaming charges between the 28 member countries from 15 June. The deal sets a fixed wholesale price, charged between different companies, of 0.032 euros per minute for calls and 0.01 for SMS.

For data, a gradual reduction is planned from 7.7 euros per gigabyte to 2.5 euros by 2022. The new costs between companies should be low enough to mean consumers aren't charged more than usage in their home countries.

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Bar Los Monaguillos, with its unusual notice. :: J. S.

Malaga bar causes a stir by banning customers wearing pyjamas

The bar has banned pyjamas and dressing gowns from its premises, citing "hygiene reasons"

by JON A. SEDANO

MALAGA. "No admittance in pyjamas or dressing gowns. Sorry for the inconvenience." This is the essence of a sign which has been displayed outside Los Monaguillos bar on Calle Mármoles in Malaga for the last two weeks.

"Hygiene is the main reason," staff say, adding that it is quite normal to see customers go in wearing night-clothes. They say that while a ban on swimwear and entering shirtless in the summer was widely accepted, they felt this latest measure was necessary given the extent that local residents were starting to wear pyjamas outdoors. "Some local businesses are taking much more serious measures, even reporting them," said a member of staff.

Juan Sánchez, a regular at the bar, said: "Going out in public wearing pyjamas doesn't seem right to me. It's very vulgar; it doesn't create a nice feeling around the area."

So how common is it? "About one in twenty come to buy bread in a dressing gown," said a baker in the area, while an employee in the local branch of Dia said: "Some come in jeans, some come in pyjamas - it's normal."

Other bars, including El Paponazo and Cafetería Guadalmedina have also reported a significant percentage of people wearing house clothes around the neighbourhood.

The tourist perspective

Many visitors to the bar come from the nearby Málaga Centro hotel and tourists have asked staff if there's a hospital close-by or if the clothes the people are wearing are the same as those they sleep in.

"This doesn't create a good image. This doesn't happen in all of Malaga - it's just very widespread in this part of town."

Walking down Calle Mármoles, we encountered a number of people wearing the controversial attire. Several refused to speak to us, but one woman, wearing slippers and a dressing gown with a bear pattern across it, said: "I've been running around doing errands and just flung this on. It's comfortable, quick to put on and, to be honest, I don't care what anyone else thinks of it."

Ever since our Spanish sister paper SUR broke the story on Monday, the bar has become the centre of a media storm. "It's been non-stop these last few days," said Darío Díaz as he cleared a table. But has business been affected? "It's been more or less the same. Some people have changed their clothes while others have actually stopped coming altogether."

What do you think?

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Andalucía health service bosses resign after protests against hospital mergers

Widespread discontent with the Junta in Granada is channelled through a doctor turned folk hero nicknamed Spiriman, as opposition criticises medical cutbacks

:: M. D. TORTOSA / SUR

SEVILLE. Growing criticism of the Junta de Andalucía's management of the public health service dramatically increased this week after the resignation of two key regional government bosses.

The deputy minister for Health, Martín Blanco, and the director of the Andalusian public health service, Servicio Andaluz de Salud (SAS), José Manuel Aranda, left their posts.

The move came after mounting street protests, particularly in Granada and Huelva, but also in other cities including Malaga, Jerez and Seville, against SAS plans to merge hospitals and other reorganisation.

Spiriman leads rallies

In Granada the protests have been particularly well attended in recent months, with as many as 43,000 taking part in a rally last October. The huge turnouts in that city have been largely attributed to a 40-year-old doctor, Jesús Candel, who has driven a campaign across social media, branding himself as a pseudo-superhero called Spiriman.

Speaking in support of the protests in Granada, Candel said, "We want [the Junta] to open its windows and let fresh air in to clean out some 'tricksters', as I call them".

Head of the Junta, Susana Díaz, has previously defended her record on public health provision, describing it as "the jewel in the crown",



Protesters over health cuts in Granada praise Jesús Candel. :: EFE

however the last straw for her health officials' positions appears to have come last Sunday, when 5,000 people protested in Jerez.

Not all budget spent

Díaz's PSOE-led government now faces a political fight to rebuild credibility in their management of SAS.

Opposition parties stated in a debate in the regional parliament this week that the resignations were not enough and that a change of model for the health service was needed.

The PP party has pointed out that of the 98 million euros of new investment planned in health services last year, only 27 million had been spent by the 30 November.

IN BRIEF

Sánchez to stand for PSOE leadership again

SEVILLE

:: **SUR.** The former leader of the Socialist party, Pedro Sánchez, has confirmed he will stand for leadership again. The announcement was made to supporters at an outdoor rally near Seville. Primaries for national PSOE leadership will be held in May with the election due at a party conference in mid-June. So far the only other candidate is former speaker of parliament, Patxi López. Sánchez's choice of location to announce his bid was symbolic as it is at the heart of the political power base of Susana Díaz, his possible leadership rival.



Sánchez on Saturday. :: AFP

Podemos policy split remains unresolved

MADRID

:: **SUR.** The deadline passed on Wednesday night for the leadership of Podemos party to agree a united platform ahead of a key upcoming conference. Leader Pablo Iglesias, and his number two, Íñigo Errejón, have failed to find enough common ground and now look set to compete against each other to run the radical left-wing party. Co-founder, Carolina Besansa, and economic spokesman, Nacho Álvarez, have resigned their top-level positions in the party to avoid getting involved in the likely split leading up to the 11 February 'Vistalegre II' event.

'We're ready to collect own tax', says Catalonia

BARCELONA

:: **SUR.** The Catalan government's separatist president Carles Puigdemont, further fuelled the political conflict with Spain's national government this week by announcing that the region's tax software will soon be ready to collect all taxation, should Catalonia vote for independence at a referendum planned by his regional government in September. The separatist vote has been declared illegal by national leaders in Madrid, who promised to take action to stop it happening.

ON HER MAJESTY'S CATWALK IN MADRID

The UK Embassy in Madrid organised British Fashion Night on Wednesday to promote the best of British style. Pictured arriving at the event are the UK's ambassador to Spain, Simon Manley, and the president of the British Fashion Council, Natalie Massenet. Also shown arriving is top-model Nieves Álvarez. It will have been a busy week for the ambassador as today (Friday) he will be on the Costa del Sol, where, among other engagements, he will speak at a British Chamber of Commerce event at the Marbella Golf and Country Club.



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“Gibraltar’s situation is unique,” chief minister tells Brussels

In an address to the European Parliament’s Constitutional Affairs Committee, Picardo said Gibraltar has always had a different EU status

BY DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. Chief minister Fabian Picardo was in Brussels on Monday to address the European Parliament’s Constitutional Affairs Committee on the constitutional relationship of the United Kingdom and the European Union, and the consequences of the results of the EU referendum.

With regard to the impact of Brexit on Gibraltar and the surrounding area of Spain, Picardo said this would be

difficult to assess until it is known what the new relationship between the UK and EU would be, but he highlighted the fact that, notwithstanding political difficulties with Spain, the relationship between Gibraltar and its surrounding region “is a European success story to be proud of”.

The chief minister described the relationship as a textbook example of two parts of the EU coming together to create economic growth, friendship and mutual prosperity, and said, “Nothing symbolises this success more clearly for both sides than a free-flowing border.”

He added that thousands of Spanish nationals cross the border to work in Gibraltar on a daily basis, and that “a frontier which lacks the necessary fluidity for people to be

able to access their places of work would therefore put directly at risk the jobs of 10,000 European citizens who live in one member state and work in Gibraltar.”

After giving statistics to demonstrate the importance of Gibraltar to the economy of the Campo de Gibraltar region, Picardo insisted that a “sensible” Brexit is needed, one which provides for Gibraltar to continue to be an engine of economic growth because that is in everybody’s interests. He said Gibraltar would like a special relationship with the EU after Brexit to keep the border free-flowing, and for access to the single market for services.

“Gibraltar’s situation is unique,” he stressed, “Its has always had a different status in the EU to the UK.”



Fabian Picardo and Dr Joseph García with new UK ambassador Sir Tim Barrow in Brussels. :: SUR

IN BRIEF



The problem was reportedly due to an electrical fault. :: TWITTER

Concern over emissions from CEPSA refinery last weekend

GIBRALTAR

BY D. B. Thick black smoke filled the air around the CEPSA refinery on the Spanish mainland last weekend, as the result of what was reported to have been an electrical fault. As the wind direction was east/southeast at the time the smoke and fumes were blown away

from Gibraltar, but local residents were concerned at the effects of this unprecedented level of flaring on the air quality. Environmental Agency experts immediately began to investigate the impact it may have had on Gibraltar.

Meanwhile, the Gibraltar government issued a statement to say that it is taking decisive action to follow the matter up at the highest levels, and would be raising the issue with the EU Commission as a matter of urgency.

New law will make ‘revenge porn’ a crime

GIBRALTAR

BY D. B. The Gibraltar government has published a bill under which ‘revenge porn’ will become a crime and could lead to a prison sentence of up to two years. The term refers to the disclosure of private sexual photographs and films without the consent of the individual who appears in them, with the intention of causing that person distress. Justice Minister Neil Costa says the bill gives a clear message that such behaviour will not be tolerated in Gibraltar.

Gibraltar represented at Berlin Money Show

GIBRALTAR

BY D. B. The 46th Berlin Money Show is taking place at the moment and Gibraltar will be represented there for the fourth consecutive year. Joe Bossano, the Minister for Economic Development, is due to address the Forum today, 3 February, on the theme of the Historical Significance for New Circulating Coins for Gibraltar 2017 and the Queen’s 90th Birthday Collection. He is accompanied in Berlin by Albert Poggio.

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The hope of a better life while adrift

Marine Rescue crew, Cruz Roja and lawyers are the contacts for those who have risked their lives at sea



ÁLVARO
FRÍAS

✉ En Twitter: @alvaro_frias

The numbers of boats carrying immigrants who are trying to reach the Spanish coast have increased considerably since last year

MALAGA. For a desperate person who crosses the sea from Morocco in search of a better life, there is only the hope that the movement of the waves will stop on the other side of the Mediterranean. This is like Russian roulette, in which the bullets are the small rubber boats and the barrel of the revolver turns with the marine currents. They take this risk with about 50 other people, crammed together as they await the consolation of solid ground. Their relief is almost audible above the engine of the Maritime Rescue boat. Its occupants are the first to extend a hand to the immigrants who risk their lives at sea. They are the first link in the chain of urgent attention which these people receive in Spain, and

as soon as they reach port Cruz Roja volunteers and lawyers from the Immigrant Representation Department take over.

Maritime rescue is a difficult job and a busy one, because these boats are constantly being spotted close to the Malaga coast. In the first six days of January alone, 178 immigrants arrived in Malaga on board four small boats, when in the whole of 2014 the total only amounted to 89. This is a change which began last year, in 2016, when 750 people were rescued, an unprecedented figure in the past decade.

Alejandro Rubio has been working in Maritime Rescue for 25 years and he knows well how the situation has been changing.

"At first all the boats were made of wood and about 17 North Africans would travel in them, hoping we wouldn't spot them so they could reach the shore. Now they are rubber boats which are designed to take eight people at most. More than 50 travel in them, nearly all from the sub-Saharan."



Alejandro Rubio, Elena Crespo and Laura Corral, in the port.

:: SALVADOR SALAS

Alejandro works on the Salvamar Alnitak, the Maritime Rescue boat which is based in Malaga port. He was a captain in the merchant navy and salt water runs through his veins in conjunction with the adrenaline from every rescue. Alejandro explains that they are on duty 24 hours a day, waiting for a phone call which makes them swing into action. They then go out to look for the boat and, once they have located it, try to save its occupants.

That is the most dangerous moment. "They have been lost at sea for hours so they are pleased to see us. They stand up, and when we approach them they try to board our boat straight away," says Alejandro.

The rescuers try to calm everyone down so that, when they are able to clamber on board, there is no danger.

Then it is time to return to port, and the immigrants' joy at being rescued begins to mingle with other thoughts. "They are happy because they have survived, but sad because of the misery that led them to risk their lives at sea," says Alejandro.

When they arrive in the city a Cruz Roja first aid post has always been set up. Laura Corral is one of the volunteers. She has spent just over a year helping people who have risked their lives in a small boat, treating the minor injuries they have sustained, such as small burns or bruises, and giving them assistance kits. If their injuries are more serious, they are taken to a hospital.

Laura says the gratitude of these people makes her feel emotional. "It is very satisfying to give them a



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Ayoui and Pompidou arrived in Malaga recently on board a small boat. :: SALVADOR SALAS



THOSE WHO HELP

Alejandro Rubio Maritime Rescue

"I feel happy after a rescue, but also sad because you can sense the misery that leads people to risk their lives"

Laura Corral Cruz Roja

"It is very satisfying to help them, even though deep down you know you haven't solved their problems"

Elena Crespo Lawyer

"It is a privilege and great responsibility to assist these people right from the start"

partment who, every time one of these boats arrives in Malaga, set off to try to help the people on board in the best way they know: ensuring that their rights are respected.

"It is a privilege and a great responsibility to attend to these people from the first moment. You have to welcome them in the way they deserve, because they have been through a great deal," she says.

Elena knows that the vast majority of the immigrants she helps will spend some time in the Foreigners Internment Centres. "After all they have been through, they end up there... things should be organised differently," she says.

"I was only afraid of having to go back, not of dying in the boat"

Two immigrants from the sub-Saharan region talk of their experiences, as they tried to reach the Malaga coast and a better life on board one of these boats

:: ÁLVARO FRÍAS

MALAGA. Ayoui grew up watching films on television which frequently showed what life in Europe was like. He spent his childhood in the company of his best friend, whose family is better off than his own, and who has now gone to live and study in Paris. "Brother, you just have to see this," the young man from Ivory Coast told him after he arrived in the French capital.

Ayoui's dream is to meet up with his best friend again, to get away from the misery in which he lives in his own country, and to be able to study. That's why he risked his life at sea, crowded on board a small boat.

Protected by this fictitious name, Ayoui shares his story together with Pompidou (the name another young man has decided to use as a pseudonym). They were both in

the last boat to have arrived in Malaga. It was the end of a long journey which will forever remain etched in their memories and also in their skin, after the burns they suffered when petrol from the boat's motor came into contact with the salt water.

Pompidou can't remember anything about the journey. Just after leaving Morocco he lost consciousness from hypothermia. What he does remember, though, is his family. The 14 brothers and sisters who lived in a small house in the capital of his country -Yaundé-, where he used to sell ballpoint pens every day to earn some money and buy food.

With the small amount he managed to save, he embarked upon his dream of going to Europe. His long journey through African countries began nearly two years ago, but some of the hardest moments were in Morocco. There, he had to beg in order to eat.

Ayoui's trip to Morocco was quicker. His friend, who had been in Paris for a while, urged him to join him. He paid his air fare to the North African country and said that he would send the 1,000 euros he would need to get on the boat and

try to reach Spain. However, months passed before he was able to find a way to do that. "I used to sweep the entrances of houses and run errands so they would give me something to eat. I have been beaten up so badly I didn't think I would be able to go on," he explains.

Hope

The two companions insist that they have never lost hope. They say that is what has guided them in their journey and what has kept them alive at every moment of their ordeal. "I was only afraid I would have to go back, not of dying in the boat," says Ayoui.

Now, they have fulfilled part of their dream. Ayoui wants to meet up with his friend again. "It's difficult, because on the boat I lost everything I had. Clothes, mobile phone..." But his face lights up with a huge smile when he thinks of the fact that now, at last, he will be able to study IT and electronics.

Since he was young, Pompidou has dreamed of owning his own mechanical workshop. "Maybe now I'll be able to earn the money to do that one day. Somewhere close to home, so I can see my family again," he says.

hand, even though deep down you know you haven't solved their problems," she says.

Elena Crespo feels the same. She is one of the team of lawyers from the Immigrant Representation De-

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THERE IS A PRIZE FOR THE BEST
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Initiative against pollution

Barcelona has been one of the pioneers in standing up and doing something to fight pollution. The city has created a 'green card', valid from this last January.

Through this measure, anyone who hands in a car that is over ten years old to the scrapyards, is compensated with a card that gives them the right to use public transport in the city and its metropolitan area.

The only requirement is that the people who benefit from

this initiative must commit to not buying another motor vehicle for a period of three years.

I consider that this is a great initiative that should be extended to the rest of Spanish cities.

Nevertheless what we really need is to instil the idea as a philosophy of life.

We must not forget that with less pollution we all benefit.

JASETH RAMÍREZ
BY EMAIL

The enforcement of
non-smoking laws

Last week an ill wind blew through the corridors of power in the Moncloa (the official residence of the Spanish prime minister). It was the hot air produced by David Davies in his preposterous diatribe about Smoking In Enclosed Areas (see Letters to the Editor January 27th). To say the least David was more than mildly upset about the lacklustre implementation of the non-smoking laws in Spain and it is to be hoped that the government will now do as it has been told.

His letter showed that a little knowledge could be a dangerous thing and we may think ourselves lucky that David is only an annual winter visitor as I am sure he would find a lot more issues in the summer to be cantankerous about.

Were it not so comical one could argue that he has a rather peculiar view of the balmy air which normally is available all over the Spanish mainland and with or without a bit of cigarette smoke is certainly a lot cleaner than for instance St Mary Street in Cardiff or any other street in many a European town or city.

BERRY J. PRINSEN
MARBELLA

The rain in Spain -
gets into the telly

I refuse to accept that the rain in Spain, in particular Alicante, has such a detrimental effect on television reception south-

wards towards La Herradura, as has happened over the preceding weeks, or months.

My television service provider, Europa-Consorcio streams (how appropriate) the television signals from the UK to those of us wanting and paying for a 24 hour television service and it prompts me to wonder if I am alone in experiencing what happens when it rains along the coastline and the screen goes blank.

ERNEST BULTITUDE
LA HERRADURA

White philosophers

At a London university, a student union has proposed the exclusion of certain philosophers from the curriculum. They argue that there are "white and colonialist" philosophers. I have thought for some time that every day there is more and more stupidity in university lecture halls. And the scale of this stupidity influences - a lot - the progression of society. Wanting to veto someone who dedicated his life to philosophical thought - whether or not it be in line with your principles or values - is an attack on reason.

These youngsters have lost their way. This is an uncertain future, in which the youth aims to incinerate critical analysis at its purest. That's how far we've come - I can only hope that they don't stop playing on their PS4.

FRANCISCO GARCÍA
BY EMAIL

Momentary lapse
of reason

PETER EDGERTON
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

For some reason, we keep getting exhorted to "live in the moment". Social media, daily newspapers and quite a few radio programmes appear to be filled with people telling us that this would be a wise and productive thing to do. Self-appointed gurus go wild for advice of this kind and pepper their enthusiasm with words like "mindfulness" to add an air of esoteric knowledge. My mind's full of all sorts of tosh but I'm not convinced that's exactly what they're driving at.

Anyway, sorry to be a spoilsport, but living in the moment would have to be one of the worst possible choices anyone could ever make. After all, planning for and dreaming about the future is a large part of what makes us human. Animals live in the moment and, it's

no coincidence I think, that an Alsatian, a rabbit or a ginger tom never got round to planning or building anything in the style of the Taj Mahal. Goldfish also live in the moment and, pleasurable though it might be to swim in circles for twenty minutes or so thinking of precisely nothing, a whole lifetime of it would surely get a touch tedious rather rapidly for even the most tranquil of people.

Most of the beauty and wonder that humanity has brought to the world was created precisely by people who dreamed big about the future. Let's imagine Mozart living in the moment.

"Oh, E minor, that's a lovely chord! I suppose I should explore some other ones and maybe a melody to go with them but, you know what, I think I'll just stick with this one until my fingers drop off."

The neighbours would have killed him.

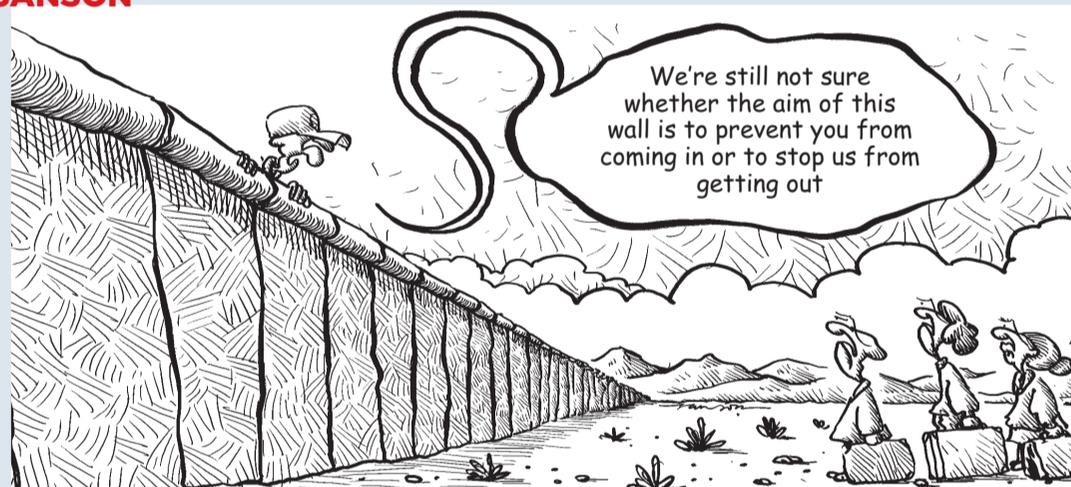
Similarly, the idea of Churchill being on a mindful kick.

"Good Lord, Winston. They've only gone and invaded Poland. Come quickly!"

"I'll be a little while longer in the garden, my man. Good Lord, have you ever noticed how the aura of your chakras blends with the tones of nature when you're living in the moment? Mine's the colour of those rather splendid begonias over there, don't you see?"

No, I'm afraid that planning for and dreaming about the future is clearly a far more attractive proposition than living in the moment, for all kinds of reasons. Actually I'd like to write a self-help book on the subject. It'd be called Advice On Living In The Moment. Page 1: Don't. Page 2: The End.

SANSÓN

Trump -
the mirror

HÉCTOR BARBOTA

Of all the political catastrophes that have rained down on the planet in recent months, it's possible that Brexit will be the one with the most repercussions on the Costa del Sol - not necessarily on the tourism industry, but on the thousands of fellow citizens and neighbours of British origin we live and work with every day.

If you look at it from a global perspective, Brexit will be a mere drop compared with the ocean of consequences the arrival of Donald Trump at the White House could have on

the world - but perhaps we shouldn't analyse them separately. Both phenomena originated the same way: the failure of traditional politics which paved the way for the penetration of populist discourse, the criminalisation of immigrants and minorities, the nostalgia for a prosperity enjoyed in unrepeatable circumstances. It's frightening to look at the map of Europe and see in how many countries the same scene is being recreated.

As well as the dreaded contagion effect, other common consequences are also foreseeable; it's possible that

in the future it will be hard to differentiate the repercussions of Brexit from the repercussions of Trump.

The arrival of a misogynist, supremacist and xenophobic president is a terrible moral blow. But we must take advantage of the situation to sit ourselves in front of the mirror and not on the pedestal of moral superiority that we adopt when we look at the United States. Because right now, while we condemn the wall on the Mexican border we continue to ignore the razor wire fence in Ceuta; while we criticise the conflict of interests involved in the arrival of tycoons in the American government, we fail to stop the magnates who bring ex-ministers and ex-prime ministers into their boardrooms; while we censure the absence of blacks and Hispanics in Trump's government we are not even capable of imagining a gypsy or a Muslim in the Spanish cabinet. There's nothing like looking elsewhere to avoid looking at ourselves.

SUR English

Published by: PRENSA MALAGUEÑA S. A.
Director General: JOSÉ LUIS ROMERO

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School Matters

A SENSIBLE GUIDE TO SCHOOL SELECTION

Which school sends **all** of its Sixth Form graduates to university, regularly preparing students for Oxford, Cambridge; Imperial College and King's College in London; and many American, European and Spanish universities?

✓

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✓

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✓

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✓

Which school's Year 6 consistently attain top UK SATs results (90%+ at levels 4 & 5)?

✓

Which school regularly attains **three times** the UK average of A/A* grades at (I)GCSE?

✓

Which school consistently attains top A*/A grades at A level across the academic range comparing favourably alongside **the elite schools in Britain?**

✓

Which school has retained the International Schools Athletics Championships for the past eight years?

✓

Which school gained 41 **highest marks In The World** at (I)GCSE and A level in 2015?

✓

Which school regularly sends its pupils **worldwide** in pursuit of cultural understanding?

✓

Which school has a **Sixth Form Information/Open Day on Wednesday March 9th**?

✓

Which school would you wish your child to attend?

?

School Matters? It really does!

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Taking the gospel to the streets of NYC

James Harper was just 19 years old when he first ventured into the poverty-stricken areas of Brooklyn



TONY BRYANT

✉ tonysureng@gmail.com

When 19-year-old James Harper told his parents that he had decided to work with a charity in New York, they had certain reservations about his decision.

James had volunteered to help dysfunctional families in areas like Brooklyn, Queens, Harlem and Coney Island. These areas are notorious for gangs, drug lords, daily muggings and shootings; a different world to what the teenager was used to growing up on the Costa del Sol.

To his parents' relief, James survived all this and returned to Spain after four-month internship with Metro World Child, a ministry that cares for the inner-city children of New York City.

On returning to Spain, he realised there was not much opportunity for this type of work in Andalucía, and so it wasn't long before he was making plans to return to New York.

His parents, originally from Walthamstow in East London, have lived on the Costa del Sol for almost 30 years. Although they at first had concerns, they now wholeheartedly support the work their son is doing.

James, now 27, was born on the Costa del Sol and lived the best part of his life in Fuengirola.

When he first considered his internship he was relatively new to the Christian faith, but he was fascinated by the work of Metro World Child. He had witnessed the poverty first hand and so he thought it would be rewarding job to do.

"When people think about New York, they rarely think about the poverty that exists there; they think about



James (top left) taking the church to the kids on the streets. :: SUR

the famous parts like Time Square. If you actually venture into the poor areas of Brooklyn, you will find a great deal of necessity," James told SUR in English.

The Metro World Child mission was started by an American called Bill Wilson nearly 40 years ago, and it has since expanded throughout the city and is now an international concern.

Wilson began ferrying the children to church by bus, but the organisation began to grow significantly and it became impossible, and impractical, to continue to provide transport for the children. Nevertheless, Bill overcame the problem by converting his bus so he could take the church to the children.

"When people think about New York City, they rarely think about the poverty that exists there"

The organisation now has 14 mobile churches that visit 200 sites in New York every week.

James began as an intern and he worked his way up and became a team leader. He now works in the administration department, while helping the 14 teams that operate in different neighbourhoods of the city. He also goes out into the streets to visit the children on a one-to-one basis.

James admits that it was a bit of a culture shock at first, because he missed the laid-back ambiance of sunny Spain.

"It was a bit scary in the beginning, because I live in a dangerous area and the people are very rough. It was a far cry from the tranquility of Andalucía,"

James says.

He currently cares for around 250 children every week and he has built up a good relationship with them.

The children call him Yogi Bear because of the uniform he wears.

His team occasionally takes the children out for a burger or a trip to the park, but their main aim is to provide the gospel to children in the poor areas of New York City.

"Something unique about our ministry is that we actually visit the kids that we work with, and they trust us because we have become part of their family," James explains.

The Metro sponsorship scheme helps provide the children's with necessities such as clothing and education. Supporters can sponsor a child and get a monthly update on his or her progress.

The organisation now looks after more than 20,000 children in New York; across the world in places like the Philippines, Romania, India and Kenya, Metro reaches over 200,000 children every week.

Aside from the work James does in New York, he has also been active in India, where he helped to set up a missionary. He has also visited Indonesia to help with training projects.

James returned to Spain last week in order to visit his parents, and while here, he has been busy promoting the missionary.

He aims to raise awareness and help to fulfil the works of the ministry, while developing other funding platforms to ensure that the work continues and grows.

"The work we are doing is unique, because we are helping people that need help," James says with a hint of satisfaction.

More information : Contact JHarper@metroworldchild.org or visit www.metroworldchild.org

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Joan Hunt and Suzy Rowe with Cudeca staff and supporters. :: SUR

Home visits teams get new wheels thanks to the Goldies

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

BENALMÁDENA. Cudeca's home visits teams had a boost this week with the presentation of two new cars to help them provide home care around the province.

The vehicles were purchased with funds raised by the Cudeca Goldies, a group of supporters who organise events throughout the year putting into practice their motto "putting the 'fun' into fundraising".

The presentation was attended by Cudeca's founder and honorary president, Joan Hunt, and financial direc-

tor and deputy chief executive, Rafael Olalla, who received the vehicles from Suzy Rowe, Tom Allan and other members of the Cudeca Goldies.

Joan Hunt thanked Suzy Rowe and her group of dedicated volunteers, who started their fundraising activities for Cudeca in early 2015.

In 2016, the group raised more than 60,000€.

The Cudeca home care teams, formed by doctors and psychologists, cover up to 20,000 kilometres each in a year, among them visiting an average of 1,300 patients.

LEGAL ADVICE



International Lawyers answers readers' queries

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REF. F.R.A.

I am the co-owner of a flat together with my ex husband. I want to sell the property, but he is living there and is not interested in finding a solution. Moreover, my salary is not enough to pay my half of the mortgage. I would like to know if there is a way to force him to pay the whole instalment.

If you two are holders of the mortgage, you are both responsible for the repayment with respect to the bank. If an agreement with your ex husband is impossible, you can ask the Court to divide up the common property, and if no one of the owners can buy the other's part, the property will be auctioned and once the mortgage is paid, if there is any balance over, it will be divided up between you both according to the contribution that each of you had made.

REF. P.I.C.

Last September I moved to another city and left the apartment that I was renting. I signed the cancellation of the rental contract, and with regard to the electricity contract, I was going to cancel it, but since the owner would have to pay an amount to subscribe to it again, I agreed to let him simply change the holder without having to pay

anything. To my great surprise, two invoices were charged to my bank account when I was no longer living there, and the electricity company has told me that I still appear as holder. If I want to cancel it I have to do it personally, but I do not live there anymore. What can I do?

Firstly, you should try to get the debits refunded, since with the cancellation of the rental contract you can prove that you do not live there anymore. If a refund is no longer possible, cancel the direct debit to avoid any more charges. In both cases, it would be advisable to send a registered letter to the owner demanding the change of the contract's ownership, and if applicable, the return of the amounts that you had paid. You should also say that if he does not do so, you will make a claim at court demanding also the payment of the interests and the court costs.

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FACTS & FACES



Selecting a winning ticket.

Mollina RBL celebrates January draw

MOLLINA.

Rather than having a prize draw over Christmas, the Mollina branch of the Royal British Legion saves its festive raffle for January. At the meeting last week 26 prizes donated by members were up for grabs. The event raised more than 700 euros for the RBL's Poppy Appeal. The branch meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month in Parque la Vina at 11am.



Lux Mundi friends admire the view from Capileira.

Lux Mundi on the road

TORRE DEL MAR. Friends of the Torre del Mar branch of Lux Mundi recently enjoyed a day trip to the Alpujarra region of the province of Granada. The group took in the mountain villages of Trevélez, Pampaneira and Capileira, admiring the almond blossom and the snow-capped peaks

of the Sierra Nevada as well as local arts and crafts.

Lux Mundi has also sent out thanks this week to those who helped with fundraising activities over the Christmas period. A total of 2,226€ was collected in the Torre del Mar and Fuengirola centres to help people in need.

A 21-kilometre fundraising venture

TORREMOLINOS.

This Sunday, 5 February, Carlos White of the Cudeca Goldies will be taking part in the Torremolinos half mara-

thon to raise funds for the hospice charity.

He explains how he aims to "speed walk", covering the route in under three hours and raise 500 euros for Cudeca. Anyone wishing to sponsor Carlos should visit www.cudeca-eventos.org

Fuengirola Scouts send their mascots around the world

FUENGIROLA.

Chief Scout and adventurer Bear Grylls had some competition last year when members of the Fuengirola Scout Group sent out their own additions to the Grylls family of intrepid explorers.

Each section, the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers, chose a mascot and dressed it in the group's red and yellow scarf before sending it out into the world.

Labels explained that Bunny, Teddy Bear, Hippo and Monkey Grylls were on a mission to travel and asked anyone who found them to take them on a fun adventure. The only request was to post photos on the mascots' Facebook pages so that the Scouts could follow their progress.

All four travelled long distances, between them reaching destinations such as Australia, Canada, the Dominican Republic and Vietnam. While the Scouts look forward to following the further travels of Monkey and Teddy, they are more concerned about the other two. Hippo got lost after travelling to Poland and the Beavers lost track of Bunny between



Monkey Grylls in Canada.



Missing - Bunny Grylls.



Hippo, last seen in Poland.

New Zealand and Canada.

For more information visit www.fuengirolascouts.com or call 610755995.



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EASY PARKING

Belgian mother on 1,000km barefoot walk for charity

Ilse Longuet has suffered blisters, cuts and excruciating cramps during her sponsored walk from Barcelona to Gibraltar

BY TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. An energetic Belgian mother has embarked on a 1,000-kilometre barefoot hike in order to raise awareness of poverty in Kenya.

Ilse Longuet began her gruelling sponsored hike on 11 November. She decided to walk barefoot from Barcelona to Gibraltar to raise money for the underprivileged children in and around the Kibera slums of Nairobi in Kenya.

Ilse, 33, is accompanied on the journey by Helinah, her two year-old daughter.

Helinah is travelling in a traditional African 'Kitenge'; a cloth sling used by African women to carry their

babies.

Besides carrying more than 8 kg of camping gear, Ilse also has the extra load of her daughter on her back.

Ilse has been walking between 10 and 15 kilometres every day and she anticipates that the journey will take approximately 100 days to complete.

There are no comfortable hotels or cosy guest houses; instead, Ilse and Helinah camp out on the land of generous well-wishers.

This way, every penny they raise will go to help the children in Kenya.

Besides raising funds, Ilse, who is a regular visitor to Kenya, intends to raise awareness of the fact that almost half of the population lives under the poverty line.

No shoes

She is appalled by the fact that the children have to walk barefoot to school along roads that are not paved. This is the reason she decided to embark on her journey without shoes.

The funds raised will be used to

buy food, children's shoes and clothing. It will also supply water filters; an essential necessity in these poverty-stricken areas.

Once Ilse has completed her marathon trek, she will personally deliver the goods to Nairobi and the rural areas of Kenya.

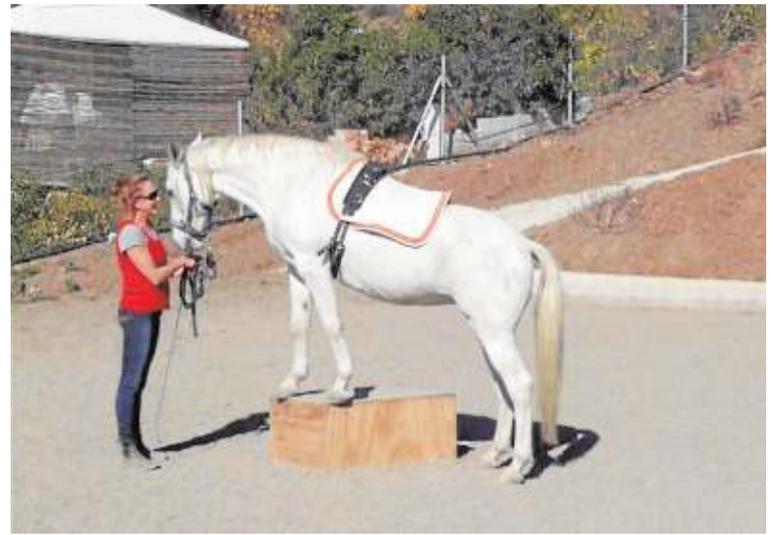
At present, Ilse has about 250 kilometres of her journey to go, but it has not all been plain sailing.

She has experienced torrential rain and storms, trampled over stinging nettles and rock strewn mountain passes, and suffered from blisters, cuts and excruciating cramp.

However, she has not been deterred. She has recently passed Almeria and should arrive in Malaga within the next ten days. She will then have the rock of Gibraltar firmly in her sights.

For more information, see the Facebook page - The 1000 km barefoot walk.

Ilse updates the page each day so her sponsors can follow her journey.



Silvia Willers and her rescue horse, Edina. :: SUR

Help and advice for a complete horse novice

A group that meets once a month in Algarrobo Costa has helped Silvia Willers to adopt and train an abandoned horse

BY JENNIE RHODES

ALGARROBO COSTA. Members of a group that meets monthly to share advice and information about horses has been able to help someone with no experience to rescue and adopt an abandoned horse.

Silvia Willers, 62, originally from Germany, explains that when she heard about a herd of horses that were roaming wild near Marbella in 2012, she felt she had to help out adopt one, despite having no experience of the animals and a self-confessed fear of them.

Silvia, who lives in Sayalonga, said that if nobody took on the horses they were going to be destroyed; that was when Edina came into her life. However, little did Silvia know at the time that her newly acquired pet was pregnant. A few months later Edina gave birth to Francisca, named after

Saint Francis of Assisi.

Silvia says she has received an enormous amount of help from the group about training and teaching the two horses to trust humans, using techniques similar to the 'positive training' method more and more dog owners and behaviourists are turning to.

"Horse friends and riders, horse whisperers and owners, who support each other in any questions we have about horses in general," is the definition members give of their group.

Anyone interested in joining their meetings does not have to own a horse, but should describe themselves as a "horse-lover," explains Angelika Rieger, who leads the group. The meetings are held in La Barca restaurant in Algarrobo Costa and are generally held in German, English or Spanish, depending on the attendance.

i For further information : About the group, contact Angelika Rieger at tierdressur@aol.de To see the methods used by Angelika and Silvia visit: www.haute-ecole.ru Facebook: NevzoroHauteEcole



Ilse and daughter taking the coastal roads on their 1,000 km journey from Barcelona to Gibraltar. :: SUR

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DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

Silver Loosestrife

Silver Loosestrife is a bushy, non-invasive perennial with narrow grey-green leaves and tapering spikes of star shaped, white flowers in summer

Lysimachia ephemerum, also called Willow-leaved or Silver Loosestrife, is a member of the Primulaceae family and native to Southwest Europe. It grows wild in some parts of Spain, usually on banks of streams.

Unlike Purple Loosestrife (*Lysimachia clethroides*) which is classed as a noxious weed due to its inva-

sive nature, Silver Loosestrife does not spread itself around the garden. The genus *Lysimachia* has around 193 species, most needing moist growing conditions and the majority with yellow flowers. Exceptions are the beautiful *Lysimachia atropurpurea* which

has deep red or purple flowers and white 'gooseneck' *L. clethroides* and *L. ephemerum*.

Silver Loosestrife forms a bushy, upright clump which will take between three to five years to reach maturity. Maximum height is a metre by about half a metre wide and in windy areas it may need staking. It has attractive grey-green foliage; the leaves are long and narrow and can grow to about 15cm long by 2cm wide.

The pretty spikes of white flowers with pink stamens open throughout the summer and make an excellent cut flower.

They also attract pollinating insects into the garden. Some varieties are grown commercially specifically for the florist industry.

The flowers are followed by seed heads of round brown seed capsules, the seeds are usually viable but the easiest way to propagate Silver Loosestrife is by division. The clumps can be lifted when dormant (it is not an evergreen and in cold areas may die back to the ground) in the winter and split into separate, smaller pieces before being replanted. Although it can be grown at the back of cottage garden style plantings it can also be grown in containers or as a specimen plant.

It is not fussy about soil but is not drought tolerant and the compost should never be allowed to dry out completely between waterings.

Loosestrife apparently got its name from 'Art of Simpling' written by William Cole in 1656 where he described the plant being fed to oxen to stop them fighting.



Lysimachia ephemerum and *L. atropurpurea* (inset). :: SUR

READER'S PHOTOS



:: JOHN MCDONAGH

A MAGNET FOR BEES

John McDonagh sent in this photo and says, "This little honey bee come to collect pollen as soon as I put this nice plant out on my terrace; I live on the 6th floor." Identifying the plant is not straightforward as the genus *Cineraria* and the *Pericallis* hybrids are indistinguishable from one another. It is also sometimes called *Senecio*. Whatever it is, the bees love it!

GARDENING HINTS FOR FEBRUARY

Getting motivated

If you haven't felt like getting out in the garden due to the cold winds (and even snow in some areas) then the return of the sunshine should give you the motivation to get out there and start preparing beds for the spring. Digging is the best way to improve the soil; breaking up solid clumps to make it easier to rake over before planting. At the same

time adding bucket-loads of well composted organic material will also improve the structure of the soil and add important nutrients. If wielding a fork is too much for you then an alternative method used by many is to lightly fork over the top layer of soil, add organic material on the top and let the worms do the rest.

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

We know that many of our readers have lovely gardens, or enjoy growing plants on their terraces or balconies, so why not share them with others?

Email your photos to english@diariosur.es or send them to SUR in English, Avda Dr Marañón 48, 29009 Malaga, with a caption and a few words of explanation, or send them via Twitter @SUR_English or Facebook @surenglish and we'll do the rest!

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THE NIGHT SKY

KEN CAMPBELL



A close encounter

The Sun, Moon and all the planets travel across the sky in a very narrow band called the ecliptic plane making it is possible for two or more objects to come very close in what is known as a conjunction. Over the next few nights there will be a very nice conjunction between Venus and Mars with Uranus a little farther away and tonight the crescent Moon joins the trio.

Venus is shining so brightly after sunset that it is often mistaken for an aeroplane landing lights. Venus has passed greatest elongation (its most distant point away to the Sun) and is now moving closer, passing between the Sun and the Earth on 25th March. Although it is past elongation it will continue to grow brighter in the sky until February 17th when it will be at maximum brightness.

When viewed through a telescope Venus displays phases similar to the Moon which change as it orbits around the Sun.

Mars can be seen slightly above and a little to the left of Venus, its distinct red colour making it stand out amongst the stars. Mars is fading fast now as it's almost on the far side of the Sun. It will disappear behind the Sun during July this year. We are in for a treat on July 27th, 2018 as Mars will

be closer to the Earth than it has been since 2003 at less than 36 million miles away. It will make a dazzling spectacle in the night sky although it will never appear as big as the Moon as some web sites are claiming. There also just happens to be a total eclipse of the Moon on that same night!

You will need binoculars or a telescope to spot Uranus as it is just too faint to be easily seen with the naked eye. Tonight (Friday 3rd February) it can be found exactly half way between Mars and the Moon in the constellation of Pisces. You will know when you have found it as it will appear as a tiny blue coloured disc separate from the stars that only ever appear as a tiny pinpoint of light. Uranus is a very long way away, over twenty times farther away than the Sun is.

Now that you have located all three planets keep watching them over the rest of February as they all appear to move closer together. By the end of the month Mars and Uranus will be closer together than the diameter of the full Moon during a very close conjunction indeed.

More information :
www.costadelstars.com

PET CARE

PETER HARRISON



Chilly pets

Spain is usually associated with sun and warmth. Recent events prove otherwise. We humans can stoke up fires, turn up the central heating or air-conditioning or add extra blankets to keep warm but our pets need our cooperation.

Pets tend to seek out a warm place and this may mean snuggling on armchairs or even our beds. This is certainly not a good idea. They have their place and we have ours. We have responsibility to look after them but not allow them to "rule the roost".

Dogs moult, some more than others, and hair is very difficult to remove from soft furniture, especially those spiky hairs of certain breeds. Dogs do not differentiate between being dry and being muddy so do not chastise your dog if he leaps up on your furniture when he is filthy if he is normally allowed there.

The main problem facing pets is draught. At a low level they really feel draughts. Gaps under the doors are the main culprits and good draught excluders are available at

most 'ferreterías'.

Pets shops have a variety of pet beds. I recommend the type that is made of pre-formed plastic, is chew-proof, easy to clean and, providing it is the right size, popular with dogs. Never mind if he or she still prefers your chair. You are the boss and insist that their bed is the place to sleep. It is a good idea to line the box with newspaper which is an excellent insulator and keeps the dog warm.

At this time of the year pets find odd places to keep warm. Dicky, our cat, was asleep in the bag we use to carry wood from the shed to the house and Suki was tucked up in the engine compartment of the car we had used that evening.

PRIMARK CHIEF ENJOYS THE SUNSHINE ON THE COSTA DEL SOL

Malaga province has attracted tourists for decades and in some cases important ones. We know that business magnates such as Primark founder Arthur Ryan (right, in Puerto Banús) spend a lot of time on the Costa del Sol, most of them discreetly. It is their presence as tourists, though, that the province hopes to take one step further in its bid to become a destination for international investment.



:: F. LORENZO

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IN THE FRAME

JENNIE RHODES
✉ rhodes_jennie@hotmail.com

The need to feel useful after retirement

Jenny Mahimbo MBE Former social worker and Children's Society manager

After 40 years of helping those in need, a quiet, relaxing retirement was not an option

When Jenny Mahimbo retired and moved to Spain in 2015 she felt restless and couldn't get used to life in the slow lane. "I needed to feel useful," says the retired social worker, who received a MBE for services to children in the Queen's birthday honours list in 2015. "I couldn't believe it when I received the letter," Jenny explains. "I saw this official looking envelope and I honestly asked myself if I had done something wrong. Then I misread it and thought they were asking me to comment on someone else until I realised there was no other name mentioned in the letter," she laughs.

She speaks openly about her dilemma over whether to accept her MBE or not. "It didn't really sit with my beliefs and values. I am a socialist and am not comfortable with the meaning of the British Empire." Although on reflection Jenny did decide to accept it as she felt it may help in her work. She is still involved in charity work, has written many funding bids since receiving the MBE and feels that adding the letters 'MBE' at the end of her name on an application, "helps subliminally."

Although Jenny has no idea who nominated her for the award, it is easy to understand why someone thought that she deserved it. For 40 years Jenny worked as a social worker and project manager on what are arguably some



Jenny Mahimbo (centre) with two colleagues at the Queen's honours ceremony in November 2015. :: SUR

Facebook's phone credit for refugees

✉ JENNIE RHODES

TORROX The Facebook page, Phone Credit for Refugees, started as a response to the Calais refugee camp crisis in 2016 and allows users to phone home and stay safe. It is completely reliant on donations from the public, but Jenny is hoping to attract funding from trusts and other organisations. "With 20

years' experience of writing funding applications and now the MBE addition I hope that we will be able to get funding," she says. Users are able to leave a message on the page saying simply, 'I need top up' and a volunteer will carry out a series of checks and eventually get credit to the solicitor. The page is always looking for volunteers.

of the toughest challenges in society; missing and sexually exploited young people, young unaccompanied asylum seekers and undocumented migrants in the Birmingham and Coventry area.

Her work even led to the breaking up of a sexual exploitation

gang in Coventry and during her 40 years she worked for Birmingham City Council, Sure Start and The Children's Society.

"I was working with teenagers that were being sexually abused in the 1970s and 1980s, so when the whole Jimmy Saville thing

hit the news it was like déjà-vu."

Jenny retired and moved to Torrox Pueblo in August 2015, having holidayed in Nerja for a number of years previously and fallen in love with the area. Although she is a keen traveller and has spent time in Africa, both as a volunteer and tourist, it was the, "similarities with Cornwall," where she was born, that attracted her to the Axarquía.

Jenny says she feels, "very much at home," in Torrox Pueblo and has the opportunity to learn about the Spanish way of life from her neighbours and people she has met since she moved there.

"I saw this official looking letter and thought I had done something wrong"

"I still feel the need to be useful," Jenny says. She now spends three or more hours a day as a volunteer on a Facebook page dedicated to providing phone credit for refugees, called Phone Credit for Refugees.

Jenny also hopes to offer her home to a refugee. "I bought the house with that intention of offering sanctuary to a refugee and it has a bedsit facility for that purpose. There's a real sense of community in my street too and I think it would be a good environment for someone who needs help."

Jenny has also joined a number of local volunteer organisations, including the Lions' Club and set up a Labour International group for the east of Malaga area.

Far from enjoying a relaxing retirement, after 40 years of helping those in need, for Jenny, the need to feel useful is clearly not going to leave her just yet.

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TONY BRYANT



WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

3 FEBRUARY 1937

The Battle of Malaga

The Battle of Malaga, which began in Ronda on 3 February 1937, was an offensive carried out by the Nationalist and Italian forces during the Spanish Civil War.

The assault was a combined effort to eradicate the Republicans' hold over the province of Malaga.

The force of 15,000 Nationalist troops was commanded by the notorious Queipo de Llano. They were backed by nine mechanised Italian battalions of around 10,000 soldiers.

On 3 February, the pro-Franco forces were met by heavy Republican resistance in Ronda, but the defensive efforts were quickly squashed.

Arms and ammunition were short in Malaga, moral was very low and panic developed because of the fear of being cut off.

The Nationalist campaign to conquer Malaga continued at great speed and they soon reached the heights around the city.

Nationalist troops infiltrated Malaga with artillery and tanks,

while Italian and German aerial and marine forces bombed and devastated the city. Because the Republicans were unprepared for armoured warfare, the battle for Malaga was over in less than a week.

The city of Malaga was besieged and burning, forcing a general evacuation of civilians from the city.

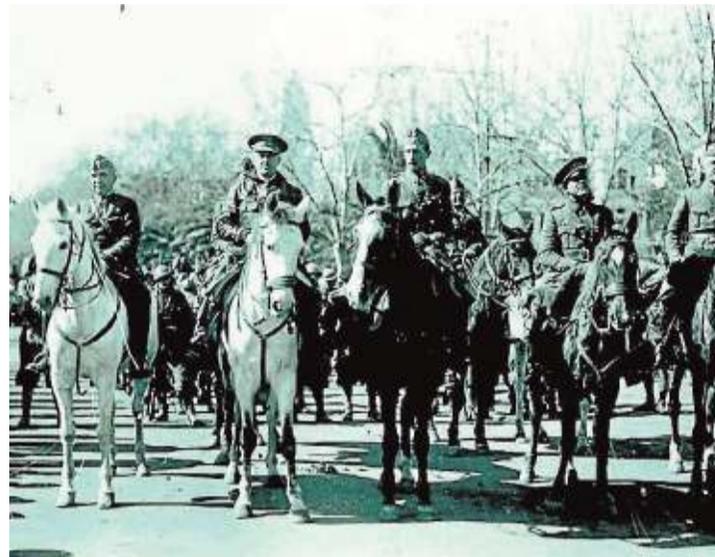
The Republican high command, which feared the consequences of a nationalist occupation, had already left.

The fortunate fled in the few available cars, the rest on foot, and Republican sympathisers who were left behind were shot or imprisoned.

The Italian military authorities are said to have been horrified by the number of executions that took place.

Witness accounts claim that more than 4,000 Republicans were shot in the first week of the occupation.

Thousands of Republican refugees had attempted to flee Malaga along the coastal road, but Nation-



Nationalist troops parade triumphantly through Malaga. Below, a march to remember the deaths on the road to Almeria. :: SUR

alist troops soon caught up with them.

The refugees faced a 200km journey along the N340 in search of a safe refuge, while being pursued by Italian tanks, bombed by German aircraft and shelled by rebel Nationalist ships.

The civilians were left defenceless and completely unprepared for the attacks.

It is believed that between 3,000 and 5,000 citizens, who were

mostly mothers carrying children, the old and the sick, were killed.

In his book, 'The Spanish Holocaust', Paul Preston claimed that the "scale of the repression inside the fallen city explained why they were ready to run the gauntlet".

An eyewitness depiction of the Battle of Malaga is given by Arthur Koestler, the Hungarian-British writer who was in Malaga at the time.



LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Batalla	Battle
Guerra	War
Civiles	Civilians
Asedio	Siege
Éxodo	Exodus
Supervivientes	Survivors
Simpatizante	Sympathiser
Fusilar	To execute by firearm
Armas	Weapons
Brigada	Brigade
Bombardear	To bomb
Huir	To flee
Carretera	Road
Víctima	Victim
Munición	Ammunition
Encarcelado	Imprisoned
Fuerzas	Forces
Caer	To fall

Koestler had come to Malaga as a journalist and narrowly avoided being put to death.

Koestler recalls the attack in his book, *Dialogue with Death*, in which he describes the agonies he endured while incarcerated in a Nationalist jail in Malaga.

In 2005, a memorial was initiated in Torre del Mar (approximately halfway between Malaga and Almeria) to honor the victims of the massacre.

i Bilingual crossword inside back page

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A guide to new fitness

The simplicity of group activities makes it easier to learn quickly how to train well.
:: DANIEL GARRIDO

Simple choreography to generate confidence, high intensity group classes, cycling in a virtual world and body combat with a touch of Brazilian ju-jitsu, are the shape of things to come in 2017

:: RUBÉN CAÑIZARES

The ACSM (American College of Sports Medicine), the holy grail of fitness, says 2017 is a year in which people are looking for simplicity. The reason it gives is also simple, and it makes sense. Simplicity in the choreography of group classes makes a person who practises some type of fitness activity feel more confident, and that produces better results in the short and medium term.

If someone starts from scratch, they learn more quickly thanks to a series of exercises that are not at all complicated. And if they've al-

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ready reached a certain level, they will carry out their exercise routine much more effectively if it is simple.

“Someone who trains well trains hard, and does so with no unnecessary barriers. Fitness is meant to be fun. Some people may prefer BodyCombat or BodyAttack, others Bodybalance, FullCycle or BodyPump, but the objective is always the same. To enjoy yourself and generate healthy lifestyle habits,” explains Óscar Peiro, one of Spain’s greatest fitness experts.

As well as owning SmartClub, one of the most highly-rated sports centres in Madrid, Peiro is Reebok’s principal ambassador in this country and one of the main actors in Les Mills, the most successful group fitness activities programme on the whole planet.

Since beginning in New Zealand in 1987, Les Mills has produced about 20 pre-choreographed programmes for classes which have revolutionised the fitness market and transformed the lives of thousands of people. It is now present in over 100 countries.

“Course after course, the progress is constant and 2017 will be



BodyCombat, BodyAttack, Full Cycle... the training programmes produced by Les Mills are spreading around the world.
:: ALBERTO FERRERAS

no exception. Some important new things are happening this year,” says Peiro.

One of these is the growing interest in the GRIT programmes, activities which are being rein-

vented as a form of training. “These are high intensity group classes which last approximately 30 minutes, and they consist of exercises at intervals, performed in a short space of time. This raises the pulse

rate to the maximum. Also, the breaks are only short and all that takes the body to the limit,” explains Óscar, who also stresses the importance of warming up before starting

“Before starting a GRIT activity, it is best to do a short warm-up which combines mobility and stretching. We are talking about explosive exercises which need the body to be alert, or 

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> you could suffer some type of injury. These exercises are about strength and resistance. They are working routines which get straight to the point, and that carries a bit of 'background' with it," he says.

There are three types of GRIT exercise: Plyo, Strength and Cardio.

"Plyo focuses on jumps, with the help of step and the discs. Strength is based on range and weight, using the bars and discs, while Cardio uses the weight of the body and the speed of movements as a basis. The ideal is to do three GRIT programmes a week. And, if possible, combine them to achieve a balanced body," says Óscar.

The benefits of GRIT are quickly apparent. The high-intensity exercises make the contraction fibres work faster, so you burn more calories, gain more muscle mass and achieve a more defined and toned body.

Oscar Peiro explains this perfectly: "The classic training people do tends to be slow. GRIT offers a resistance factor which raises the pulse rate to the limit, and that means you are burning calories not only during training but also dur-



One type of GRIT focuses on strength, using bars and discs. :: S. R.

ing the following 12 hours. It produces an EPOC effect (an excess of post-exercise oxygen) in which your body demands a great deal of oxygen and, even when it returns to rest, the longest process, the metabolism is accelerated for longer and during those 12 hours you burn more calories than usual. Also, the GRIT programmes are very good for removing visceral fat, the type that sits around the organs and can't be seen. It is very damaging for our bodies."

New on two wheels

Group classes on bicycles will also be modified this year. The FullCycle programme will take high intensity exercise to two wheels. "This has never been done before. This type of work is only done in the fitness room, but now it will be done on the bike and as getting on a bike only means pedalling and not needing any particular knowledge of the working technique, it is guaranteed to be successful," says Óscar.

The programme called 'FullCycle The Trip' is the principal novelty this year. It consists of a 30-minute class which takes you into a virtual world.

"It's as if you were in the mid-

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Soon to be introduced is SurfSet or DrySurf, which is done on a surfboard with a spring underneath and can help with rehabilitation

BodyPump is the most practised fitness class in the world, with eight million people doing it every week

FullCycle The Trip is one of the latest innovations, a 30-minute virtual journey guided by a monitor with his or her back to the group

dle of a videogame. For example, your journey could begin in San Francisco, then you go through a tunnel and come out in Los Angeles, and after that you come to a coloured tube with uphill and downhill slopes and end up in a field full of wild mushrooms. The class takes place in front of a film screen and the instructor has his or her back to the cyclists to guide the audio-visual experience as if he or she were just one of the group. It is an explosion of light, image and sound and people are going to love it," he says.

BodyPump, Les Mills' star programme, which has become the most practised fitness class in the world (eight million people do it each week) also has something new for 2017.

January 14th marked the start of choreography 100: "BodyPump has been on the market for 25 years. It started as an exercise routine in a room, carried out with bars, weights and dumbbells, and over the years it has evolved but without losing its original aim. On 14 January the world premiere of BodyPump 100 took place. It was a major event, with the presentation of the new exercise and music routine. That was a really important occasion,"

says Óscar.

Another activity which has undergone modification is BodyCombat, a programme which is closely linked with martial arts.

"This activity is based on strength and cardio work. We have just introduced the choreography 70, which focuses on mixed martial arts. There are some new elements such as 'sape', which is a Brazilian jujitsu movement. That is a Brazilian martial art which consists of tackling your opponent and getting them on the ground. I'm sure people are really going to like it," he explains.

Finally, Peiro reveals a new activity which is still being prepared. It may not be ready for the market in 2017 but is not expected to delay much longer after that.

"SurfSet or DrySurf is coming. It is a full-size surfboard with an enormous spring placed underneath the middle and, at the same time, that spring is anchored onto a base. The exercise involves getting onto the board and doing the movement that surfers would do. Apart from being great fun, it is useful in the process of rehabilitation because it involves a great deal of work on balance and stability," he explains.



File photo of a MRI scanner in use. :: SUR

Three new MRI scanners among new kit expected for Malaga hospitals

The investment will total around five million euros, while 3.5 million will be spent on the casualty department at Carlos Haya hospital

:: **ÁNGEL ESCALERA**

MÁLAGA. The Andalusian public health service has announced that it will be installing three new MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) scanners in Malaga's hospitals this year. One will be placed in the children's

hospital, Hospital Materno, so that patients no longer need to travel to the nearby Carlos Haya hospital.

The other two scanners will be installed in the Hospital Clínico, to add to the one already there, and in the new Guadalhorce district hospital, which currently doesn't have one. The total cost will be around five million euros and the scanners are expected to be operating by the end of the year.

Among other measures for this year is a 3.5-million-euro improvement to the casualty department at Carlos Haya.

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Aloe Vera, the healthy soft drink of the future

This plant already used in herbal medicine is gaining popularity among seekers of a healthy lifestyle

▣ RUBÉN CAÑIZARES

In creams, makeup products, wet wipes, multivitamin complexes, deodorants, mouthwashes, toothpaste... in recent years aloe vera has become one of the star products in cosmetics, natural medicine and personal hygiene. It only takes a quick glance around any supermarket to realise that this plant has become important in our everyday lives. So much so, in fact, that it is now available in the form of a drink.

"If it continues to be this popular it is possible that it will become the soft drink of the future. It has antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties, and it isn't expensive. Also, we are talking about a product which is nutritionally natural - it is not a drug. All this means that now, in the type of society in which we live, when peo-

ple are aware of the importance of a healthy lifestyle, aloe vera sales are booming," said Dr Julián Álvarez, a specialist in sports medicine who also collaborates with Herbalife on nutritional matters.

Among the principal benefits of aloe vera is its ability to stimulate intestinal bacterial flora, which is very important in the digestive process.

"At a scientific level, aloe vera has been shown to have anti-in-

flammatory power over the digestive epithelium, an epithelium which withstands a number of chemical and physical aggressions. That's why it was considered a good idea to use the aloe in a drink. It's like a cactus juice with powerful anti-inflammatory properties, which also has a stabilising and stimulating effect on the immune system," explained Dr Álvarez.

Both the small and large intestines suffer, at times, from inflam-

When trying aloe vera for the first time, a maximum of two glasses a day are recommended to begin with while the body gets used to it

Although there is no evidence in this respect, pregnant women are being advised not to drink aloe vera until more is known about its effects

matory conditions which aloe vera helps to control, heal and eradicate. For that reason it is a product taken for stomach and intestinal ulcers. It also helps to control irritable intestine syndrome and other problems which involve an inflammatory process, such as colitis. What's more, it rapidly eliminates toxins and undesirable substances from the organism because of the major stimulus it causes to the digestive system in general.

Results with athletes

"Because it normalises digestion, it prevents constipation as well as diarrhoea. I have worked for the Estudiantes [basketball] team, the Spanish Triathlon Federation and the CAR in the Sierra Nevada, and when I have been consulted by a nervous athlete I have recommended that they drink aloe vera for two or three days before the match or the competition to prevent stomach and digestive problems. The result has always been satisfactory," said Dr Álvarez.

There is no exact measurement for the daily consumption of aloe vera.



A drink made with aloe vera. ▣ S.R.

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We speak 



As it is a product with no chemical components, there are no restrictions regarding quantity, but for people who are wary of this type of thing a maximum of two glasses a day is recommended at first, while the organism becomes accustomed to it. Later, when the body is used to it, the amount doesn't matter.

"Aloe vera prevents acidity thanks to its alkaline agents. It is also very refreshing so it means we don't consume as many drinks which are more damaging to our bodies, such as sugary soft drinks or coffee," explained the doctor.

Other collateral benefits of drinking aloe vera are the reduction of bad cholesterol (LDL); the multiplication of the effects of vitamins, especially C and E; a reduction in oxidative stress; better oxygenation and circulation of the blood, which leads to more robust cardiac health; and help to relieve the symptoms of seasonal allergies: "This plant gives us a lot of small, beneficial things, and that's why it is so good for us," said Dr Álvarez.

Contraindications?

Nevertheless, what about risk groups such as people with diabetes or pregnant women?

Scientific research is being carried out to come up with a conclu-

TEN BENEFITS OF ALOE VERA AS A DRINK

- 1** It stimulates intestinal bacterial flora
- 2** It helps to heal stomach and intestinal ulcers
- 3** It prevents acidity thanks to its alkaline agents.
- 4** It improves blood oxygenation and circulations, leading to more robust cardiac health.
- 5** It multiplies the effects of vitamins, especially C and E.
- 6** It can help as part of a slimming diet.
- 7** It reduces bad cholesterol (LDL).
- 8** It eliminates toxins and undesirable substances from the organism.
- 9** It relieves the symptoms of seasonal allergies.
- 10** It reduces oxidative stress.

sion that is 100 per cent reliable, and in the case of diabetics there has been significant progress.

"First indications are that aloe vera helps to regulate blood sugar levels. There is no evidence that it is an anti-diabetes product, but it does help to control glucose levels and can therefore be a great help for diabetic people," said Dr Álvarez.

With regard to pregnant women, some theories say they should not ingest aloe vera because it could stimulate the uterus and cause contractions. The same applies to breastfeeding mothers, because it could affect the baby through the milk, although Dr Álvarez said there is no cause for alarm.

"There are no scientific conclusions about these theories, so we can't be categorical about it. Nobody has shown that aloe vera could be bad for women who are expecting a baby. What is true is that we always need to be cautious when it comes to pregnant women, and use common sense.

"In this case, while we're waiting for science to give us reliable information, it is only common sense not to drink aloe vera during the nine months of pregnancy," he added.

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The number of cancer cases in Malaga province increases by 10 per cent in a decade

The ageing of the population and earlier diagnosis are among the factors behind this increase

ÁNGEL ESCALERA

MALAGA. Within Malaga province, the number of cancer cases has increased by 10 per cent in a decade. This is according to Emilio Alba, director of the intercentre oncology unit in Malaga which covers the Carlos Haya regional hospital, the Hospital Civil and the University of Malaga.

This growth, he says, is currently registered at between 1 and 1.5 per cent each year and is down to two principal factors: the progressive ageing of the population and earlier



The most commonly diagnosed cancers are colon, prostate, lung and bladder. :: SUR

diagnosis of tumours.

The Spanish Society for Medical Oncology (SEOM), overseen by Miguel Martín, on Monday released

a study which explains the dangers of the ageing of the population. According to the study, in 2015 there were 247,771 new cases of cancer, 1,000 more than the forecast level for 2020. This figure, says Martín, shows that there is a shortfall in the number of oncologists as well as the funding that will be needed to pay for this increase in treatments.

Currently there are around 7,000 new cases found in Malaga province each year, according to statistics

from the Spanish Statistical Office (INE). The most commonly diagnosed are colon, prostate, lung and bladder. Among men, the cure rate is at 50 per cent, while the figure is at 60 per cent among women. For some cancers, including breast cancer, the cure rate is much higher: 82 per cent in Malaga.

Age plays a big role in incidence of cancer; those aged between 45 and 49 have a 3.2 per cent and 2.4 per cent chance (men and women

Petition for cancer research to be added to tax forms gathers 600,000 signatures

Estepona resident Inocencio Alarcón presented a petition containing more than 600,000 signatures to the Ministry of Health on Thursday, asking for income tax return forms to contain a box for cancer research. He and his wife, Nieves Gil, started the campaign after losing their daughter Paula to the disease.

“We did all we could for her,” he said, “but sadly the mortality rate is still high because funding is so low.”

At present, 0.7 per cent of income tax is given either to the Catholic church or ‘social objectives’, depending on the box you tick. Alarcón hopes that a third will soon be added.

respectively) of being diagnosed with cancer, while those numbers increase to 42.2 and 23.5 percent in the over 80s.

What this means, according to Dr Alba, is that with such a high life expectancy in Spain, half of men and a third of women will be diagnosed with cancer during their lives. That’s not to say that there is a cancer epidemic, but rather that people are living longer and that favours the development of cancer.

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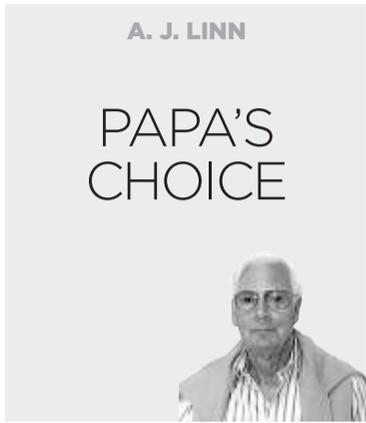
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A brief conversation with any wine waiter will confirm there are three main types of customer. The first will glance at the list and then order what he always drinks. The second will choose something marginally out of the ordinary, like a Bierzo or a Navarro. The third will leave everything to the wine waiter, even the tasting.

I witnessed the validity of this concept last week, at a lunch where, notwithstanding the extensive selection of Andalusian wines,



my Spanish friends insisted on ordering one of the classic Riojas they always drink. The following day, lunching with a Californian couple I had met previously in Pamplona, we enjoyed an amazing red Somontano and a silky white Godello. Jim and Mary had already explained how they choose wines when travelling, which, as it happened, has one of Mary's progenitors to thank for it. Indeed, they had been visiting Pamplona precisely owing to the Papa Hemingway connection. I remember them being surprised

and pleased at the number of bars in the town displaying photos of the bearded writer, with a red handkerchief around his neck and drinking tinto from a wineskin.

Hemingway had a reputation for being a heavy drinker, even an alcoholic, but he never drank while working, and criticised writers like William Faulkner who did. He was not knowledgeable about wine, and during Pamplona's Sanfermin Feria drank only Navarra red and the occasional dry Martini- for which his recipe was 15 parts gin to one of ver-

mouth! But wherever he was he always drank local products. In other parts of Spain he would choose aguardiente, amontillado and Fundador brandy. In Italy, grappa, Campari and Valpolicella. In France, cognac, Armagnac, Pernod and marc. As a diabetic, many drinks were off limits, making the signed dedication to mojitos on the wall of La Florida bar in La Havana, signed by Hemingway (his alleged record was 14), highly questionable. Indeed, graphologists have confirmed it is not even his handwriting.



The thousand-year-old olive tree in Casabermeja. :: SUR

A waiting list for the oil from a thousand-year-old olive tree

Only 40 litres of the premium extra virgin olive oil (AOVE) is produced each year and is in much demand with orders from all over the world

:: AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

MALAGA. Molino de Hortelano is a small family smallholding in Casabermeja which specialises in producing quality extra virgin olive oils. There are three types of olives grown, Verdial, Picudo and Manzanilla from trees over 300 years old and a unique one thou-

sand year old tree still producing olives and which was recognised in 2013 as the Mejor Olivo Monumental de España. This tree, situated in the Arroyo Carnicero area of Casabermeja, is the only one in Andalucía to be awarded this title. The oil is in great demand and as only an average of 40 litres are produced each year (80 half litre bottles), there is a waiting list.

The tree is believed to be more than a thousand years old. The olives are collected by hand as soon as they are ready and the family cease work making oil from the other trees while the olives from the thousand-year-old tree are cold-

pressed and the liquid stored in stainless steel containers. The result is "very special" according to the manager of Molino del Hortelano, Juan Cabello. He explained how it has notes of pepper and clove, something not found in any other extra virgin olive oil and a fruity aroma, medium intense, with green notes and similar to freshly cut grass. On the palate it has an agreeable bite and slight bitterness accompanied by a soft astringency.

A half litre bottle sells for around 25€ and is sold under the Centenario brand. Bottles have been sent to Australia and Indonesia as well as most of Europe.

The hidden treasure of the ornamental pecan tree

The pecan was first grown in Malaga capital as a specimen tree by the Larios family

:: AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

MALAGA. Most people have heard of the Jardín Botánico Histórico de La Concepción, once owned by the Larios family but few will know that it is that family that is believed to have brought the first pecan tree (*Carya illinoensis*) to Malaga from the US.

It was planted as a beautiful ornamental tree and was soon being planted in many residential gardens in Malaga city.

The value of the fruit was not recognised in Spain until about thirty years ago when the pecan was planted to replace the citrus trees that were no longer profitable.

The nut itself is similar to the walnut (*Juglans regia*) and both belong to the same family but while the walnut comes from

China and was taken to Germany in Roman times, the pecan (or American walnut) is native to the southern US and northern Mexico. The only places in Europe where it has been grown successfully are the province of Malaga, the Ukraine and Malta.

Outside of Europe it is grown in many countries including China, South Africa, Argentina, Australia and Brazil. Nowadays over 300 hectares are cultivated to produce around 200 tonnes of pecans a year in Andalucía.

The nut is harvested at the end of November and the pecan is separated from the capsule that protects it and left to dry in the sun for 4-5 days before going on sale.

With a high energy value (around 700 kcal / 100 g), the pecan is highly prized from the nutritional point of view for its richness in proteins and fatty acids. It is also rich in vitamin A, folic acid, vitamins K and E and minerals such as potassium, phosphorus, magnesium and calcium.



Delicious pecan pie. :: SUR

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EXHIBITIONS

Ernst Kraft

Malaga. Botanical gardens 'La Concepción'.

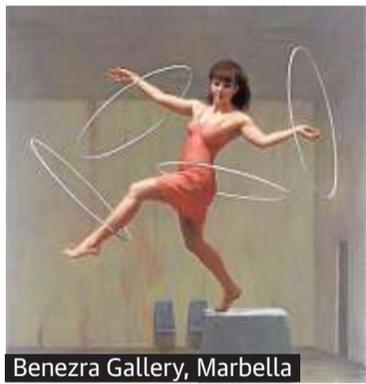
A sculpture 'The Tree of Life' by Ernst Kraft will be on permanent display in the gardens on the lawns next to the pond. The minimalist structure of iron rods is five metres tall and is based on the pre-pharaonic pictogram representing the union of heaven and the underworld.

Biennial Contemporary Art

Marbella. Cultural Centre Kunsthaus Berlin, Poligono Nueva Campana local 2 Nueva Andalucía. In collaboration with the Fred Friedrich Foundation, Marbella Town Hall and the Mexican Ambassador in Spain, Don Raphael de la Madrid. Fifteen local and international artists are exhibiting their work. info@redaktionkhbm.de.

Chagall and his contemporaries

Malaga. Edificio Tabacalera, Avda Sor Teresa Prat. Tues-Sun 9.30am - 10pm. The museum currently has three exhibitions. 'Chagall and his Russian Contemporaries' contains over 50 works of which a quarter are by Chagall. 'Resistance Tradition and Opening' looks at Russian contemporary art from the last four decades. 'Cervantes in the Russian museum collection', 61 pieces including paintings, prints and books. These three exhibitions are open until 5 February. The new exhibition from the 21 February until July will be 'Kandinsky Russia'.



Benezra Gallery, Marbella

Malaga Glass Museum

Malaga. Permanent exhibition. Plazuela Santísimo Cristo de la Sangre. The glass museum has two new glass panels on display that have been painstakingly restored. They

Reality, Fantasy, Abstraction

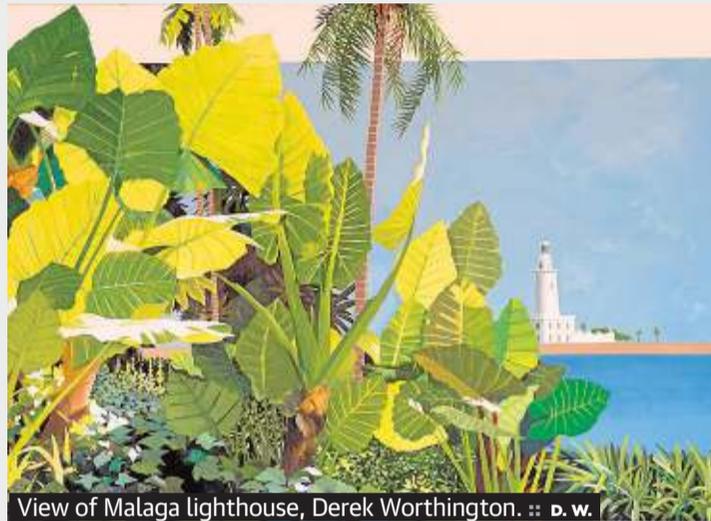
▄▄ **JENNIE RHODES**

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA. Local British artist Derek Worthington has returned after a long break with his new exhibition, 'Reality - Fantasy - Abstraction', which will be open until 17 February at the Casa Fuerte Bezmiliana in Rincón de la Victoria.

This is Derek's second exhibition in conjunction with Rincón de la Victoria Town Hall and comprises around 40 works of paintings and collage. Derek says; "The exhibition reflects my love of Malaga and it's surroundings," and has taken the artist in a; "new direction in abstract constructions," partly inspired by the work of British artist Ben Nicholson.

Derek Worthington was born and educated in Manchester and attended Manchester College of art. He went on to enjoy a long and successful career in advertising, working in major London advertising agencies on a number of famous brands.

His work took him to Madrid as Creative Director of a multinational group and as a result fell in love with Spain. He and his wife moved



View of Malaga lighthouse, Derek Worthington. :: D.W.

to La Herradura which is where Derek started painting and holding exhibitions. In 2007 the couple moved to Cerrado Calderon in Malaga. Sadly Derek's wife died in 2014 and this is the first time that he has exhibited since then.

Visitors to the exhibition will easily recognise a number of well-known sights, including Malaga's lighthouse, docks and the long, tree lined Paseo del Parque.

INFORMATION

▶ **When:** Until 17 February, Tuesday to Saturday 11am - 1.30pm, Sunday 11am - 10pm

▶ **Where:** Casa Fuerte Bezmiliana, Avda. Mediterráneo, 194 Rincón de la Victoria

were both made by the Spanish company Mauméjean.

Ruiz de Luna

Malaga. Museo Municipal del Patrimonio (MUPAM), Paseo de Reding. An exhibition dedicated to the Ruiz de Luna ceramic dynasty. Around 300 pieces are on display including ceramics, drawings, watercolours and sculptures.

José Hernández

Villanueva del Rosario. Casa de la Cultura. An exhibition of art work and letters belonging to artist José Hernández. The artist gifted around 20 works to the town shortly before his death in 2013.

'Neighbours III'

Malaga. Permanent collection. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo, Calle Alemania. Works by local Malaga artists are on display in 'Neighbours III'.

Many different techniques and subjects are included.

Museum Jorge Rando

Malaga. Cruz del Molinillo, 12 The works of contemporary artist Jorge Rando are on permanent display. The museum also holds poetry and musical events.

Revello de Toro

Malaga. C/Afligidos, 5. A new season's exhibition entitled 'Damas, Retratos Femeninos' consisting of eight paintings of sensual women by Félix Revello Toro. Until 2 April.

Arne Haugen Sørensen

Vélez-Málaga Until 15 February, Centro de Artes Contemporáneo. An exhibition entitled 'La Gran Narración' (The Greatest Story). The painting is a huge mural consisting of five panels depicting a complete series of Bible stories. It is on display for only a short time be-

fore being taken to the Congregational Church in Aarhus, Denmark.

Cruz Herrera Museum

La Linea. Permanent exhibition in La Linea de la Concepción. The museum has a gallery for Hererras' works plus conference room and classroom.

'Under 35'

Malaga. Until 25 February, Galería



The Greatest Story, Vélez-Málaga

GACMA, C/Fidias, 48.

Thirty artists under the age of 35 and with links to Malaga will be presenting their work in this exhibition aimed at promoting emerging new talent.

The body, window to the soul

Malaga. Until 4 February, Sala de exposiciones La Térmica. The American photographer Ryan McGinley is exhibiting more than 400 photographs of young nudes. The exhibition entitled 'Yearbook' attempts to communicate the values of youth: freedom, optimism, sensuality, emotion and freshness.

Eugenio Chicano

Malaga. Until 5 February, Salas de La Coracha, Museo del Patrimonio Municipal, Paseo de Reding. The exhibition includes thirty two canvases completed over the last five years and which are bucolic scenes from across the province.

Joaquín Torres-Gracia

Malaga. Until 5 February, Museo Picasso Málaga. A retrospective exhibition of work by Joaquín Torres-García; from his early work in Barcelona at the end of the 19th century up to his last paintings finished in the 40s.

38 Picassos

Malaga. Until 26 March, Museo Picasso Málaga. This exhibition features a selection of the works by Pablo Picasso that have enriched the museum's permanent collection over the last six years courtesy of FABA, now exhibited together and independently for the first time.

Sebastián González

Malaga Until 9 February, Diputación de Málaga. Photographer Sebastián González is holding an exhibition of photos taken around the Caminito del Rey to help promote the area as a tourist destination.

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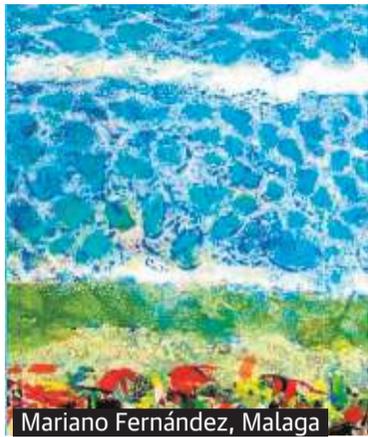
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Mariano Fernández, Malaga

María Vera

Malaga. Until 11 February, *Columna JM, Duquesa de Parcent*. An exhibition entitled 'Luz Silenciosa'. galeria@galeriajm.com

Mariano Fernández Cornejo

Malaga. Until mid February, *Sala de Exposiciones, Colegio de Dentistas de Málaga, Pasillo de Atocha*. 'Digitalario Marino' is the title of this exhibition by Mariano Fernández Cornejo.

Japanese art

Malaga. Until 23 April. *Museo Carmen Thyssen, C/Compañía, 10*. The exhibition 'Japon. Grabados y objetos de arte' includes 24 drawings, one painting and around twenty other objects.

Fernando Robles

Malaga. Until 27 February, *Alfajar Galería C/Cister 1*. 'Suite para cielo-infierno' is an exhibition by Madrid artist Fernando

Robles Vásquez.

Jesús González de la Torre

Malaga. Until 28 February, *Sala Unicaja Siglo, Plaza del Siglo, first floor*.

'A no entender entendiendo' is an exhibition of paintings in large format by recognised Madrid artist Jesús González de la Torre.

Mark Ryden

Malaga. Until 5 March, *Centro de Arte Contemporáneo*.

'Cámara de las Maravillas' is the name of the surreal exhibition by Mark Ryden. His art features angelic faces with macabre undertones.'

'From city to museum'

Malaga. Until 5 March, *Centro Pompidou*

The new exhibit at the Pompidou consists of 40 models of buildings in Paris built in the last 70 years. It is entitled 'De la ciudad al museo. Arquitecturas parisinas 1945-2015'.

Lawrence Weiner

Malaga. Until 12 March, *Centro de Arte Contemporáneo*.

Lawrence Weiner first exhibited in the CAC Malaga in 2009. He returns with four works entitled 'There are Things that Move Outside of Motion, 2001'

Marcel Van Eeden

Malaga. Until 26 March, *Centro de Arte Contemporáneo*.

Dutch artist Marcel Van Eeden is displaying around 250 works in

charcoal, watercolour and pastel which depict scenes from the 16th century.

La Térmica

Malaga. Until March, *La Térmica, Av de los Guindos*.

A collection of 40 photos in an exhibition entitled 'Retratos' (portraits) taken by Swiss photographer and film maker Michael Comte.

Rando y Ciriza

Malaga. Until 30 April. *Cruz del Molinillo, 12*

The Malaga artist and the sculptor from Pamplona are holding a joint exhibition entitled 'Encuentro Jorge Rando - Carlos Ciriza'.



Japanese art, Malaga

Travis Somerville

Malaga. From 17 February until 7 May, *Centro de Arte Contemporáneo*.

American artist Travis Somerville gives voice to the immigrants in

the US and also stands up for the indigenous Indians with powerful art works that incorporates disturbing images such as the capes of the Klu Klux Klan.

Ángeles Agrela

Marbella. Until 4 February, *Galería Yusto /Giner, C/Madera*. 'El favor de las Bellas' is the first individual exhibition by Ángeles Agrela. Combining sketching, painting, video and photography, Agrela explores the human form.

Cecilia Noriega-Bozovich

Marbella. Until 13 February, *Cortijo Miraflores, C/San Pedro Alcántara*

'Kuu: Poéticas de la luna' is the title of the exhibition by Peruvian artist Cecilia Noriega-Bozovich, It comprises 21 canvases.

Benezra Gallery

Marbella. Until 31 March. *La Quinta, between Marbella and San Pedro*.

This new contemporary gallery "specialises in contemporary art and sculpture as well as fine art. It also supports emerging artists. The opening exhibit highlights the works of eight contemporary artists

Shutterbugs exhibition

Mijas. Until 6 February, *Centro Cultural La Cala*

The exhibition of photographs are taken by the Shutterbugs camera club. Inauguration 13 January at 8pm. 

CULTURAL FEBRUARY

Musical classics from Harry Potter to Tosca

MALAGA

:: **SUR IN ENGLISH.** The Cervantes theatre in Malaga has three great concerts this month starting with a selection of famous film sound tracks by composer John Williams on 19 February. The Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra will be playing themes from many films including Harry Potter and Indiana Jones.

On 25 and 26 February opera comes to the Cervantes with Tosca and on the 27 February, one of the world's most talented violinists, Guy Braunstein, will be playing pieces from Beethoven, Brahms and Mendelssohn accompanied by the Hispanian Symphony Orchestra.

Tickets from www.unientradas.es

Open doors weekend

MALAGA

:: **SUR IN ENGLISH.** The Russian Museum is offering the last chance to see The Four Seasons and Chagall's exhibitions by allowing free entry this weekend 4 /5 February only.

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EXHIBITIONS

Margaret Riordan

Torrox Costa. Bar Choto Playa, Peñoncillo Beach.

Nerja. Restaurante Sevillano, El Rincón, C/Gloría

Both exhibitions run until the end of April 2017.

Christmas exhibition

Frigiliana. Until 25 February, Galería Krabbe, C/Rosario La Joaquin. A collective exhibition. Email gale-riakrabbe@gmail.com

Economistas en el Arte

Nerja. Until 5 March, Museo de Nerja.

The exhibition comprises works by different arts that combine a disparate theme, art and economy.

Marcos del Cid

Torremolinos. Until 17 February, Centro Cultural Pablo Ruiz Picasso. An exhibition of colourful paintings by local artist Marcos del Cid.

Magpie International Gallery.

Marbella. Until 23 February. C/Virgen del Pilar. 200m from port.



Relations, Marbella

An exhibition of art work entitled 'Relaciones' (Relations) by Austrian artist Dana Nowak.

Colours of Hope

Arroyo de la Miel. Until 9 February. Fogga de Málaga, Blas Infante 31, Urb. Bello Horizonte.

A collection of art work by Anne Engholm, Henri Kivioja, Kristina Lähteenmäki-Hein, Pirjo Ouvinen and Victoria Rodriguez Castillo. www.facebook.com/foggamalaga

Mercedes Llamazares

Los Bolichos. Until 23 February. Sala de Exposiciones, Los Bolichos

town hall.

A selection of water colour paintings by Mercedes Llamazares.

José María Córdoba

Fuengirola. Until 28 February, Patio-Top Garden Centre.

"The paintings of José María Córdoba work as a window open to the world" commented the art critique Ángel Luis Pérez Villén. The exhibition entitled 'Confluences' runs until the end of February.

Ramce

Fuengirola. Until 16 March, Double Tree by Hilton Resort & Spa, Reserva del Higueron.

An exhibition of art work by Cuban artist Ramce.

Itinerarte

Benalmadena. Until 19 March, Centro de Exposiciones, Av Antonio Machado, 33

Paintings, photography and graphic art created by 35 artists of different ages and styles.

Contemporary art

Ronda. Until March, Museo Joaquín Peinado.

Malaga artists José Medina Galeote and Juan Manuel Rodríguez are

Summer preview



The Foreigners.

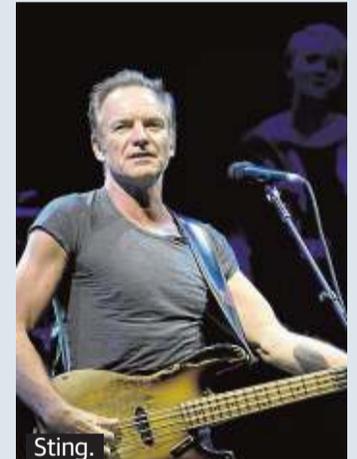
MALAGA. The entertainment on the Costa del Sol planned for this summer is starting to 'hot up' with both Sting and The Foreigners signed up to perform at venues on the coast.

The Foreigner, famous for I Want To Know What Love Is, Hot Blood, Juke Box Hero and Cold As Ice among others will be on stage at the Club de Tennis, Puente Romano, Marbella on 11 June.

The event which is expected to sell out, is being organised by the Crazy Music Productions. Tickets are priced at between 35 and 275€

Another concert which is guaranteed to cause a stir is by Sting, the enigmatic founder of 'The Police'. This will be his third performance in the province. He will be presenting his new album '57th & 9th' at the Marenostrum Music Castle Park at the foot of Sohail on 17th July.

Tickets are on sale from 6 February.



Sting.

CONCERTS

► **Foreigner:** Marbella, 11 June. Tickets from www.http://crazymusicproductions.com

► **Sting:** Fuengirola 17 July. Tickets from www.http://marenostrumcastlepark.com or www.riffmusic.es

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both exhibiting in the museum until March.

Richard Wood

Mijas. Until 13 February, Casa Museo de Mijas.
Exhibition of paintings by this local artist.

'The Edge of Forever'

Granada. Until 18 February, Biblioteca de Andalucía, C/Profesor Sainz Cantero, 6.
International art photographer Tariq Dajani is exhibiting a collection of his work inspired by the ancient muslim civilisation of Al-Ándalus.

CHARITY

Timeless with A Touch of Class

Benalmádena. 6/7 February, 7pm. Casa de la Cultura, Arroyo de la Miel. 10€
Decades of song and dance performed by A Touch of Class with guest performances by pupils from the Academia de Baile de la U.P based in La Cala. The concert is in memory of the late Ann Bowles and to raise money for the AECC (Asociación Española Contra Cáncer)

Cudeca Valentine's Market

Marbella. 12 February, 11am - 5pm. Farmacy Yoga centre, Centro Comercial El Capricho.
Health products, soaps and creams, natural food products, fruit and vegetables, vintage clothes and accessories, handmade jewellery, ve-



Richard Wood, Mijas

gan food and cakes etc. iTel: 650 848 956 / 674 298 823 for stand information or email: nfo@farmacy-marbella.com

Triple A Valentine dinner

Marbella. 11 February, 7pm. Conrad's Ristorante, Nueva Andalucía.
Chef Renee Conrad, whose food earned a Michelin star, is preparing the three course meal. Live entertainment will be provided by 'Miss Thang' one of the great performers on the coast. There will also be a raffle with many excellent prizes. Reservations: events@tripleamarbella.org / info@conrads-ristorante.com or tel: 622910214 / 951 319554

MUSIC & DANCE

The Wall Bar

Malaga. Hotel Vincci Posada del Patio, 11pm, entry free.
3 February. Eva Jimenez and Joan

Masana

Echoes of the Sixties

Fuengirola. 4 February 8pm. 5 February, 7pm. Salon Varietés Theatre
A journey through the 1960s starring three of the coast's top artists Ron Howells, Michelle Daniels and Mark Connor. tickets: <http://www.salonvarietestheatre.com/>

Juventudes Musicales

Almuñécar. 6 February, 8pm. Casa de la Cultura.
'La Flauta Francesa' is the next concert by the JJMM with Javier Castiblanque on flute and Muñoz Cañivano on piano.

Chamber Jazz

Nerja. 11 February, 9pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. 10€
Pure jazz by the Chamber Jazz duo, piano and double bass.

Pablo Alcázar

Nerja. 11 February, 9pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. 10€
Classical guitarist Pablo Alcázar will be in concert playing pieces by Tárrega, Albéniz, Villalobos and Carlo Dominiconi.

'Rockin Race Jamboree'

Torremolinos. 2-5 February, Auditorio Municipal Príncipe de Asturias.
The town hall are expecting around 3,000 people to attend this year, the 23rd edition of the event. Musicians from all over the world will be performing. Tickets from www.rockinrace.com

The Fiesta de Candelaria



The festival is celebrated with a huge bonfire. :: SUR

ANDALUCÍA. The Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria also called Fiesta de las Candelas or Fiesta de la luz, is a popular Catholic festival in honour of the Virgen de la Candelaria that has been celebrated in Spain since the tenth century.

The date of the festival traditionally coincides with the lengthening of daylight hours or the

Winter solstice

The festival originated from the Orient and was called the 'Encuentro'. The tradition extended to the West in the VI century and was celebrated in Rome although with a more penitente theme. The origin is also sometimes attributed to the Roman festival 'Lupercales'.

The festival in Spain usually

starts on 2 February which according to the Bible is the day in which the Virgin Mary was purified following the birth of Jesus.

In Andalucía, events vary from town to town but a huge bonfire is always at the centre of the celebrations with processions, dancing, eating and drinking.

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Paloma by Pablo Picasso features in the exhibition :: SUR

Gálvez & Picasso

:: JENNIE RHODES

MACHARAVIAYA. From Saturday the Museo de los Gálvez in Macharaviaya will once again be open to the public. The inaugural exhibition is a collection of 31 portraits of women by the artists Pablo Picasso and Alfredo Opisso.

The museum also offers the opportunity to learn about the Gálvez family and the connections that Macharaviaya still has with the city of Pensacola in Florida, where the town's 'son', Bernardo de Gálvez led the Battle of Pensacola during the US War of Independence against Britain, including a collection of

INFORMATION

► **When:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11am to 2pm, Saturdays and Sundays, 11am to 1pm

► **Where:** Macharaviaya

► **More information:** www.macharaviaya.es

original stamps and envelopes which were used in correspondence by the Gálvez family, as well as a Playmobil representation of a play about the battle and other artefacts.

MUSIC & DANCE

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

Malaga. Teatro Cervantes
9, 10 February, 8pm. Concerto n°1 for piano and orchestra in E minor by Chopin, Symphony n° 36 in C major 'Linz' by Mozart. Der Rosenkavalier by Strauss
www.orquestafilarmonicademalaga.com

19 February, 12 midday. Magic and adventure at the hands of John Williams. The concert will include sound tracks from Indiana Jones and Harry Potter.

Auditorio Edgar Neville.
3 February 8pm. Concerto n°1 in A minor Op 77 for violin and orchestra by Dimitry Shostakovich and Peer Gynt suites n° 1 and 2 by Greig.
Auditorio Museo Picasso de Malaga.

14 February 8pm. The Mainake quartet and Luis Pacetti (tenor) will be performing 'Letters to Juliet' by Elvis Costello.

Mary Van Der Lent

Torremolinos. 9 February 9pm. Casa de Los Navajas. Free. Spanish musician and singer Mary Van Der Lent will be in concert singing well known songs such as I Will Survive, Beautiful, What's Up, Rolling in The Deep accompanying herself on guitar.

Old time musical hall

Fuengirola. 10 - 14 February, 8pm except Sunday 7pm. Salon Varietés Theatre
"Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen!" All the best musical hall tunes of yesterday.

St Valentine's Concert

Fuengirola. 14 February, 7.30pm. Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre. 5€ A romantic concert by A Touch of Class. price includes tapa and a drink. Tel: 952 474 840, e-mail lux-mundif@gmail.com Web. www.lux-mundi.org

Noches de Burriana

Nerja. 17 February, 24 March. Playa & Sol Restaurant, Burriana beach A new season of opera on Burriana beach. Tel: 690073871 or email: ventana.abierta.acp@gmail.com

Tangos de Siempre

Torremolinos. 19 February, 9pm. La Casa de Los Navajas. The most famous tango music performed by Gabriela Loria and Juan



Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

Seles.

Symphonic Rhapsody of Queen

Malaga. 8 February, 8pm. Teatro Cervantes.
The Queen tribute band, Symphonic Rhapsody of Queen, and the One World Symphonic orchestra will be performing Queen's most iconic songs in a three hours concert. Tickets 15 - 45€ from www.unientradas.es

John Mayall

Malaga. 11 February, 8pm. Teatro Cervantes.
'Livin' and lovin' the Blues Tour 2017' with the 84 year old Blues legend, John Mayall who will be presenting his new album, 'Talk about that'. Tickets 14 - 42€ from www.unientradas.es.

Dance championships MueBT

Torremolinos. From 27 February until 4 March. Auditorio Municipal Príncipe de Asturias. 5€ Dance competition with cash prizes. Categories include Artistic dance, Spanish dance, Formation dance, and Urban Hip Hop. Tickets in advance www.unientradas.es or from the box office 10€. Participants must register before 15 February info@torremolinosbailando.com.



Mary Van Der Lent, Torremolinos

Copla Sketches

Almuñécar. 4 February, 8pm. Casa de la Cultura. 10€ Rosa Lazar performs a fusion of coplas and jazz. Tickets from Viajes Ecuador or the Casa de la Cultura. Tel: 603 822 827

Los Chicos del Coro

Almuñécar. 5 February, midday. Casa de la Cultura.
The child choirs 'Los Arcos'; Niños Cantores del Valle; Coro Infantil de Álor and Coro Cardenal Belluga will be performing accompanied by Álor municipal band.

FLAMENCO

Cristina Aguilera

Almuñécar. 3 February, 8pm. Casa de la Cultura
Cristina Aguilera presents 'Corazon abierto'.

Kika Quesada

Nerja. 10 February, 9pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. 10€ The Kika Quesada flamenco company will be performing.

LECTURES

U3A Lectures

Fuengirola. Lux Mundi reference Library, free to members, guests 5€. www.u3acostadelsol.org
History and all that. part 3. 3 February, 11am-12.30pm. Before 1066-William the Conqueror. Course Leader: Kay White.
History and all that. part 4. 10 February, 11am-12.30pm. The Battle of Hastings: Kay White.

China. 7 February, 11am-12.30pm. The Last Empire presented by Kay White.

Science and Technology. A Century of General Relativity: Part 2 Black Holes, Dark Energy and Gravitational Waves. 8 February,

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11am-12.30pm. Black Holes are so powerful nothing can escape from them.
How do they form and what would happen if you fell into one? What is the ultimate fate of the Universe?
Speaker: Ian Phillips.

Freethinkers

Fuengirola. *Café Manila, Paseo Marítimo Rey de España, 77, Los Boliches.*
Worldwide chaos and confusion ahead - Is there a solution? 10 February, 6.30-8pm. Introduced by Alan Jones.
www.facebook.com/groups/costadelsolfreethinkers/

Science and Christian Faith

Estepona. *Anglican chaplaincy house, C/Juan de Fuca, Beverly Hill. 6-7.30pm.*
www.costachurch.com
Quantum mechanics and the activity of God. 10 February.
Fractals and chaos, a window on infinity. 17 February.
Evolution, genetics, creation and design. 24 February.
Space, time and the end of the universe. 10 March.
Humanity, ethics, Frankenstein and redemption. 31 March.

FESTIVALS

Carnaval

Malaga. *Until 26 February.* The main attractions are the fancy dress competition and parade on the 19 February, the battle of the flowers and more fancy dress on 25th and finally the burying of the anchovy on the 26th.
www.carnavaldemalaga.es/

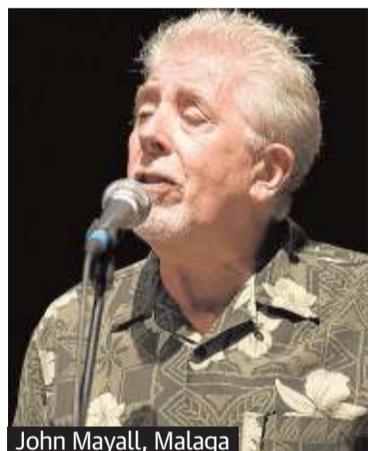
Candelaria

Andalucía. *Until 5 February.* Towns and villages in Andalucía celebrate with a huge bonfire, live

music etc.

Fiesta de la Matanza

Ardales. *5 February.* A festival to celebrate the annual killing of the pig. Tastings of various pork products served in 'botones', Ardales' traditional small bread roll. Also a market and live music.



John Mayall, Malaga

EVENTS

Star Gazing

Malaga. *3 February, 8-10pm.* Centro de Ciencias Principia, Av. de Luis Buñuel
The observatory at the science museum is offering a free tour of the heavens from their 3.5m moving dome. There are only 100 places. Reserve a place by calling 952 070 481, your NIE number will be needed or call in at the museum.

Trip to Guadix

Fuengirola. *8 February.* Various departure points. 38€
Coach trip to Guadix visit the Cave Museum, Mirador, Hermitage Cave Church and habited caves. Lunch is included. Tel: 952 474 840, e-mail luxmundi@gmail.com or go to www.lux-

mundi.org

Malaga Theatre Festival

Malaga. *Until 12 February, various venues*
The 34 Festival de Teatro de Málaga consists of a huge variety of theatre performances in venues around the city including Teatro Cervantes and Echegaray, and the Hotel Vincci Selección Posada del Patio.
'Miserere. Cuando la noche llegue se cubrirán con ella.' 5 February, 7pm. Teatro Cervantes. The Full details of performances can be found at <http://www.teatrocervantes.com/>

St Valentine's Day Dinner and Dance

Torre del Mar. *14 February, 7pm.* Salon del Mar, C/Los Fenicios. 32€
Lux Mundi, the Royal British Legion and other groups are having a combined event to raise funds. Price includes meal and live entertainment from Hector Bannon. Tickets from: 952 543 334 www.lux-mundi.org / luxmundi@lux-mundi.org or the RBL

Special St Valentine's show

Alhaurín el Grande. *11 February, 8pm.* Alhaurín Golf. 35€ with dinner. 8€ show only.
A romantic evening with tribute acts by Dave Parker, 'Sinatra to Buble' and Vicki with a tribute to Whitney Houston. Booking essential tel: 609488572 after midday.

Trip to Casares and Estepona

From Torre del Mar. *23 February.* Various departure points. 20€
Coach trip to Casares and Estepona. Tel.952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org. Web-page: www.lux-mundi.org

Trip to see 'Stars of the West End'

Mijas Costa. *24 March, Las Lagu-*

nas Theatre. Various departure points. 32€
Price includes concert ticket, coach fare and driver's gratuity. Payment required on booking please. Information tel Gail on 951067723, email phoenixsocialclub@yahoo.co.uk or go to www.phoenixsocialclub.co.uk.

O. V. FILM

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Cine Albéniz

C/Alcazabilla 4, Malaga. Tel: 902 36 02 95 or visit www.cinealbeniz.com or www.unientradas.es
La La Land: 17.50, 20.05, 22.00
Dog Eat Dog: 16.30
Loving: 22.00
Hell or High Water: 16.00
Paterson: 20.00

Cinesur El Ingenio

Avda. Juan Carlos 1, Vélez-Málaga. Tel. 667 77 31 87.
Resident Evil: the Final Chapter: 12.15 (Sat, Sun); 15.55, 18.00 (every day)
Hidden Figures: 19.00 (Tues)
Melanie: 16.30 (Mon-Thu)
Lion: 16.15 (Tues)
La La Land: 12.15 (Sat, Sun); 16.40 (Tues); 16.50 (every day)
Live by Night: 16.30 (Tues)
Ballerina: 20.00 (Tues)



Pork stew, Fiesta de la Matanza

Split: 16.50 (Mon-Thurs)
Sing: 17.00 (Tues)

Cinesur Miramar

Avda. de la Encarnación, Fuengirola. Tel. 952 19 86 00.
Manchester By The Sea: 12.00, 16.20, 19.05
Split: 12.00, 16.00
La La Land: 12.15; 16.00; 18.30
Resident Evil: The Final Chapter: 17.00; 21.45; 00.00
Passenger: 21.00 (Tues)
Sing: 17.00 (Tues)
Moana: 18.25 (Tues) (**Hidden Figures:** 19.00 (Mon-Thurs)
Live by Night: 21.30 (Tues)
Lion: 16.10 (Mon-Thurs)
Ballerina: 16.30 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)

Cines Teatro Goya

For tickets and information call 951196665. www.cinesteatrogoya.com
La La Land: 11.45 (Sun); 17.45, 19.30, (Every day); 21.30 (Sat, Sun); 22.30 (Frid, Mon-Thurs)
Split: 15.45, 20.30 (Sat, Sun); 20.15 (Frid, Mon-Thurs), 16.00
Ballerina: 12.00 (Sun); 16.00 (Sat, Sun); 17.45 (Frid, Mon-Thurs)
Hidden Figures: 20.15 (Every day); 22.30 (Every day except Wed)

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

Centro de Ocio Plaza Mayor, Avda. Alfonso Ponce de León. Tel: 902 902 103 or visit www.yelmocines.es
Manchester by the Sea: 20.50
Melanie: 21.30 (every day except Friday and Saturday)
Silence: 19.40 (Tues)
Ballerina: 14.00 (Sat, Sun)
La La Land: 20.20 (every day); 12.00, 15.15 (Sat, Sun); 17.45 (Sat-Thurs); 23.00 (Fri, Sat)
Lion: 14.00 (Sat, Sun)
Split: 21.30 (Fri); 00.15, 21.30 (Sat, Sun); 19.00 (Mon-Thurs)



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Andalucía

Celebrating tradition with fire

The festival of Candelaria or Luminaria is celebrated from tonight until Sunday in towns such as Belalcázar

by JAVIER ALMELLONES

MÁLAGA. Although the night of Las Candelarias is officially marked on February 2nd each year, for decades many villages in Córdoba province have postponed their celebrations until the following weekend to try to ensure that this ancient religious celebration, which is based around fire, doesn't die out.

This evening (Friday 3rd) and tomorrow evening, several places in that province will be lighting huge bonfires on which to burn 'el viejo', or 'the old'.

These same fires also serve to stave off the cold weather and to cook some of the traditional dishes which are popular at this time of year.

The origin of La Candelaria is associated with the Virgin Mary's act of purification after giving birth to Jesus, although in many villages this religious connotation has been lost nowadays and the event is focused more on fun and food.

Places such as Priego de Córdoba and Aguilar de la Frontera did hold their Candelaria celebration yesterday evening, on the official date, but today it will be the turn of several others, including Torrecampo, in the Valle de Los Pedroches area.

In this pretty Andalusian village the religious aspect of this festival has almost been forgotten and it is now a good reason for a party.

Local residents look forward to spending a very special evening, which coincidentally takes place at around the halfway point of the coldest season of the year.

Bonfires will be lit in different districts of the village, and people of all ages will gather round them.

There will also be a big fire in the central district, thanks to the collaboration of the local Belén Viviente (living nativity) association and the town hall.

People will be able to keep warm, listen to traditional songs and enjoy some delicious 'migas', a spicy fried breadcrumb dish whose ingredients include some of the products from the traditional pig slaughter which also takes place around this time of year.

Not far from Torrecampo, in the same area, the people of Dos Torres will be holding their celebration tomorrow, Saturday. In this village, it is customary for the fire to be lit in the evening and sardines and pieces of pancetta to be placed into it to cook overnight.

The fire will be laid in the main square of the village, and over the



'Candelaria was celebrated in Priego de Córdoba and other towns in Andalucía last night. :: TURISMO ANDALUZ



Castro del Río, in the Subbética. :: T. A.

weekend there will be a busy programme of activities featuring folklore, traditional games, mediaeval and street markets, artisan craft demonstrations and even theatrical tours of some of the historic buildings and places of interest.

One interesting tradition here is that this weekend people can pay at the market stalls and bars in 'cuar-

tos de la Candelaria', symbolic coins which allude to the village's mediaeval past. These can be obtained in exchange for conventional money between today and Sunday at a stand in the village centre which acts as a type of bank and is known as 'La Banca'.

The gastronomic aspect also plays an important role in the Candelaria

celebrations in Dos Torres. In fact, for the past five years the Gastronomy Route of La Candelaria has taken place at this time of year, to promote local products and some of the most traditional recipes of the Valle de los Pedroches region.

From today until Sunday local bars and restaurants will be offering an extensive range of dishes, and plenty of them will reflect the tradition of pig slaughtering in this area.

This year, for the first time, the municipality of Pozoblanco has been invited to join in with this event by having a stand in the market to showcase its principal tourist attractions.

Elsewhere in the same region, the Candelaria celebrations in El Viso are also interesting. There, local people will be going out into the countryside en masse tomorrow to collect the wood which will later be burned on the fire in the main square of the village.

There is also an unusual doll competition, for adults as well as children. The most original ones will be awarded prizes. However, nobody should become too attached to their doll, because tradition dictates that these too will be put on the bonfire.

Las Luminarias

The Candelaria tradition will also be celebrated in the village of Belalcázar this weekend, but in this case it is known as Las Luminarias, although the form it takes is very similar to that in other places in the region.

For example, there will be bonfires in different parts of the village to light up the chilly winter night. There will also be traditional music, and sardines, chorizo sausages and other products which are typically eaten at this time of year will be cooked in the heat of the fire.

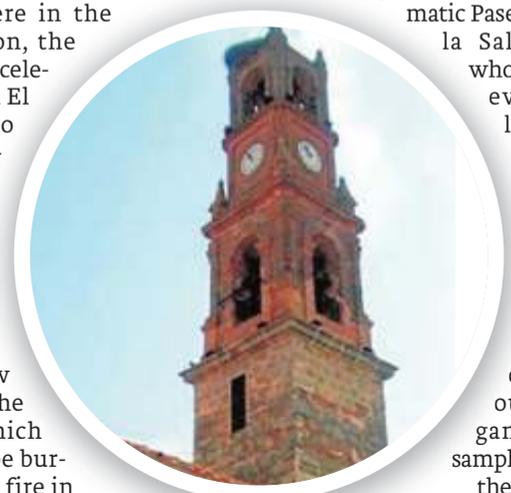
As usual in this hospitable Córdoba village, all the food - and also the drinks - are free of charge for visitors.

As well as the Valle de los Pedroches area, other regions also mark this traditional winter celebration.

One is Castro del Río, in the Subbética area. There, each district holds its own festivities and local children build a huge bonfire, or Candelaria, with wood and old tyres. On the top they place a figure made of cloth, which is burned as a symbol of the negative, or the old.

This celebration, which takes place tomorrow, is organised by the Pozodulce Residents Association and the local council, the provincial government and the provincial tourist board.

The principal bonfire in this village will be on the emblematic Paseo Virgen de la Salud. Those who attend the event can look forward to some traditional folk songs, many of which are in danger of dying out, popular games and sampling some of the typical products of Castro del Río.



The church of the Encarnación is in the centre of El Viso. :: T. A.

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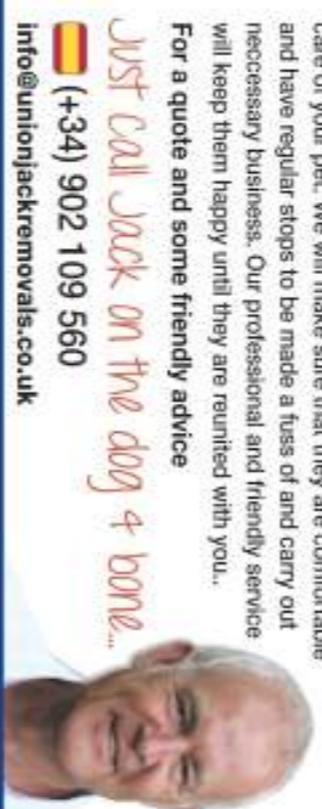
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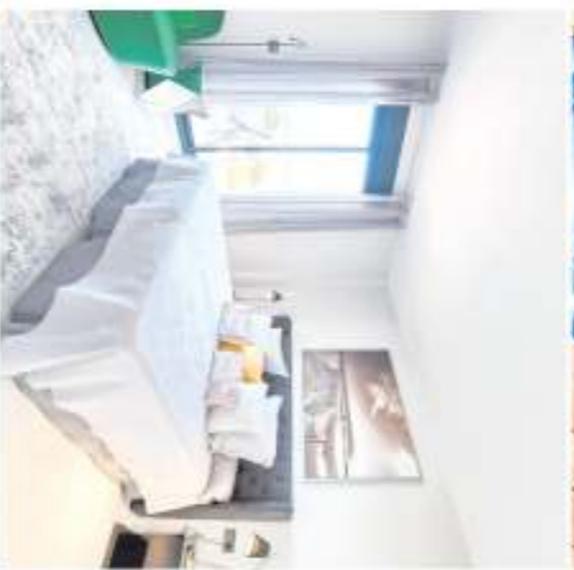
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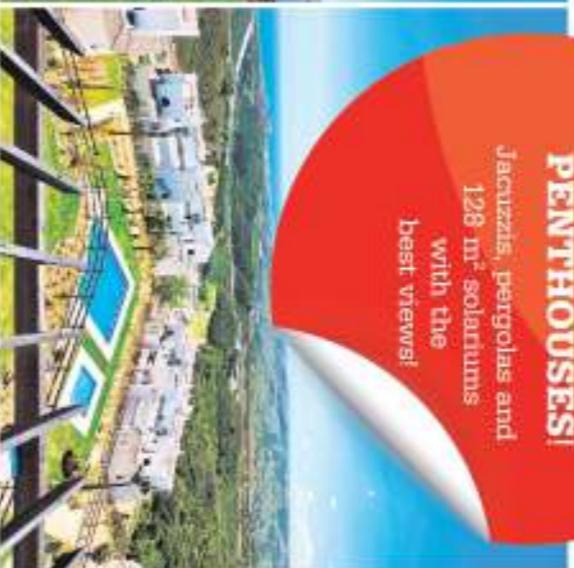
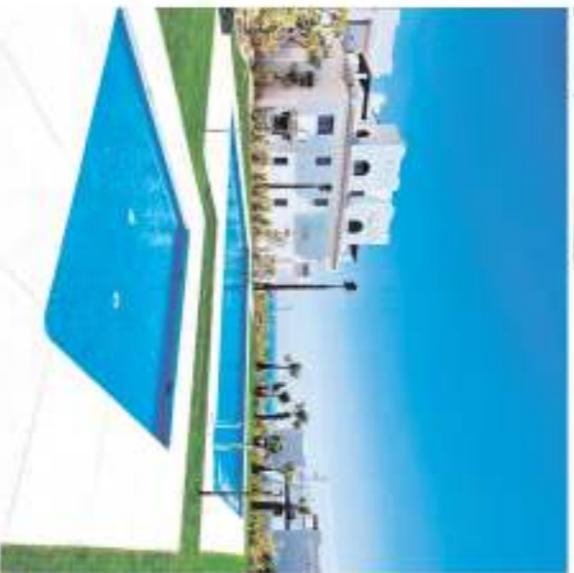
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Australian Open final heartache for Nadal at the hands of old rival Federer

The Spaniard was defeated in five sets by the 35-year-old Swiss, who claimed his fifth Australian Open title 6-4 3-6 6-1 3-6 6-3

by KISHAN VAGHELA

MALAGA. Rafael Nadal's dream of a first major title since 2014 were crushed by Roger Federer on Sun-

day, who defeated the Spaniard in the final of the Australian Open.

Doubts over Nadal's fitness plagued the Mallorcan before the tournament after persistent wrist problems saw him withdraw from Wimbledon and the French Open last year.

Nevertheless, the Spaniard managed to avoid injury this tournament and, seeing off Bulgarian Gigor Dimitrov in an enthralling five-set semi-final on Friday, also took his

Federer needed treatment before and during the final set but powered through to win

Swiss counterpart to five sets despite having one fewer rest days.

However, it was Federer who emerged victorious; the 35-year-old, widely acknowledged to be past his best, turned back time to claim his fifth Australian Open title and his 18th overall with a 6-4 3-6 6-1 3-6 6-3 win.

The Swiss struggled with the intensity of Nadal's game and needed a lengthy medical time-out before gathering himself to win the final set.

This was the Nadal's first defeat to Federer in a major final since their clash at Wimbledon in 2007.

Nadal was graceful in defeat, admitting his rival was the better player on the night.

"It is amazing how he [Federer] is playing after all this time away from the tour. He deserved it a bit more than me," the Spaniard stated.

Nevertheless, the 30-year-old vowed to continue battling on following a frustrating few years.

"I feel I am back to a very high level, so I am going to carry on fighting the whole season," he added.



Federer consoles Nadal after the Swiss' victory on Sunday. :: AFP

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Nadal withdraws from Davis Cup in Croatia

The 30-year-old is fatigued after the Australia Open and his place in the squad will be taken by Feliciano López

by COLPISA

Rafa Nadal won't be playing in the first qualifying stage of the

Davis Cup which will see Spain take on Croatia in Osijek from 3 to 5 February.

The Mallorcan is feeling fatigued after his run to the final of the Australian Open and his place will be taken by Feliciano López.

Nadal completed three five-set games in the Open and will spend the next week resting ahead of the OPEN Rotterdam on 13 February.

"Rafa has exerted himself a lot over the last month so it is important that he gives himself time to recover. For sure he will be back with us for rounds to come", said Spain's Davis Cup captain, Conchita Martínez.

The Spanish team to compete in the first round will be made up of Roberto Bautista, Pablo Carreño, Feliciano and Marc López.

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José Rodríguez joins to reinforce Malaga's midfield

The 22-year-old joins from Mainz on a loan deal until the end of the season with an option to buy for three million euros

BY DARYL FINCH

MALAGA. José Rodríguez is now a Malaga player. His signing was confirmed on Tuesday, transfer deadline day, after the player passed his medical on Monday morning. The midfielder joins until the end of the season on a loan deal from German club Mainz, with an option to buy for three million euros.

The former Real Madrid academy graduate is a versatile operator in midfield, but plays primarily as a number 10, contrary to the type of player the club had identified as a priority.

With a season-ending injury to Zdravko Kuzmanovic and Recio going under the knife for an elbow injury, a holding midfielder became a priority for the Blue and Whites this January window. Alfred N'Diaye was identified as the man to fill the void,



Rodríguez with Sheikh Al-Thani. :: MALAGACF.COM

but the player's indecision put paid to any deal and he joined Premier League strugglers Hull City instead.

Rodríguez, 22, found his playtime limited at Mainz, whom he joined in the summer after a season at Galatasaray. Prior to that, he played for Deportivo, on loan from Real, featuring 25 times in the top flight, scoring two goals.

The former Spain under-21 international joined training with his new side on Wednesday and is likely to be included in the matchday squad for the clash against Espanyol on Saturday (1pm kickoff).

He is Malaga's fourth signing of the window, after Adalberto Peñaranda, Martín Demichelis and Luis Hernández.



BY FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ

UEFA'S TOP OFFICIALS COME TO MALAGA

UEFA's top referees and officials have been in Malaga this week for a training camp, overseen by former pro Pierluigi Collina (centre). The officials were only allowed a 30-minute break once a day and were otherwise confined to the Malaga football federation's facilities or the Miramar hotel.

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LINE-UPS

OSASUNA **1** **MALAGA** **1**

OSASUNA (5-3-2): Clerc, Unai García, Torres (De las Cuevas, 76'), Oriol Riera (Kodro, 46'), Mario, Oier, Imanol García, Sergio León (Jaime, 82'), David García, Čaušić, Berenguer.

MALAGA (4-4-1-1): Rosales, Juanpi (Keko, 55'), Luis Hernández, Santos (Ontiveros, 79'), Camacho, Kameni, Pablo, Demichelis, Recio (Charles, 46'), Chory Castro, Juan Carlos.

Unused substitutes: Osasuna: Álvaro (GK), Tano, Fuentes, Olavide. Malaga: Boyko (GK), Mikel, Duda, Jony.

STATISTICS

BALL POSSESSION

46% / 54%

OSASUNA MALAGA

	OSASUNA	MALAGA
1	Goals	1
9	Total shots	11
2	On target	5
7	Off target	6
4	Corners	6
4	Offsides	3
8	Fouls committed	16
1	Yellow cards	0
0	Red cards	0

Goals: 1-0 Goran Čaušić (76'); 1-1 Ignacio Camacho (79').

Referee: De Burgos Bengoetxea. Yellow for Mario Fernández.

Venue: Estadio El Sadar (14,262 spectators).

TABLE & FIXTURES

MATCHDAY
20

LEAGUE TABLE

★ Champions League ■ Europa League ▼ Relegation

TEAM	PT	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
★ 1. R. Madrid	46	19	14	4	1	51	17
★ 2. Barcelona	42	20	12	6	2	52	18
★ 3. Sevilla	42	20	13	3	4	43	28
★ 4. At. Madrid	36	20	10	6	4	34	16
■ 5. Real Sociedad	35	20	11	2	7	31	28
■ 6. Villarreal	34	20	9	7	4	28	14
7. Athletic	32	20	9	5	6	26	22
8. Celta	30	20	9	3	8	31	33
9. Espanyol	29	20	7	8	5	28	27
10. Eibar	29	20	8	5	7	28	29
11. Las Palmas	28	20	7	7	6	31	31
12. Alavés	24	20	5	9	6	17	20
13. Betis	23	20	6	5	9	21	31
14. MALAGA	22	20	5	7	8	28	34
15. Valencia	19	19	5	4	10	29	36
16. Deportivo	19	20	4	7	9	25	32
17. Leganés	18	20	4	6	10	15	33
▼ 18. Sporting	13	20	3	4	13	20	39
▼ 19. Osasuna	10	20	1	7	12	21	43
▼ 20. Granada	10	20	1	7	12	16	44

Results

Eibar - Deportivo	3-1
Villarreal - Granada	2-0
Las Palmas - Valencia	3-1
Betis - Barcelona	1-1
Espanyol - Sevilla	3-1
Osasuna - MALAGA	1-1
R. Madrid - Real Sociedad	3-0
Athletic - Sporting	2-1
Alavés - At. Madrid	0-0
Leganés - Celta	0-2

Fixtures

At. Madrid - Leganés
Valencia - Eibar
Real Sociedad - Osasuna
Sevilla - Villarreal
Granada - Las Palmas
Celta - R. Madrid
Deportivo - Betis
MALAGA - Espanyol
Barcelona - Athletic
Sporting - Alavés

Malaga's winless away run continues

Camacho equalised for the Blue and Whites three minutes after Goran Čaušić had given the bottom side the lead

:: KISHAN VAGHELA

MALAGA. Malaga's winless run on the road this season continued following a 1-1 draw against relegation candidates Osasuna at El Sadar stadium on Friday night. It was a substandard performance from both sides until Goran Čaušić gave Osasuna the lead in the second half, before captain Ignacio Camacho rescued a point for the visitors.

Marcelo Romero's side were the better team in the first half, but they spurned some glorious opportunities to take the lead, the best of which came in the 18th minute when Michael Santos saw his penalty saved by Osasuna goalkeeper Mario Fernández, after the latter had brought down the former in the penalty area.

Despite his failure from the spot, the 23-year-old Uruguayan was at the heart of every attacking move for Malaga. His through ball ten minutes in set up Chory Castro, but his fellow Uruguayan only managed to slash the ball into the side netting



Camacho celebrates netting the equaliser. :: EFE

from a tight angle. Twenty minutes later, Santos was involved again, this time seeing his own effort saved by Mario after shrugging off the challenge of David García.

The flanks proved to be the area of the pitch where Malaga were finding most of their joy, and where two other excellent opportunities came from.

Juanpi was unable to head right-back Roberto Rosales' cross goalwards on the stretch fifteen minutes in, before Luis Hernández, who was making his debut for the Blue and Whites after signing from Leicester City in January, could only direct Chory's low cross straight at the goalkeeper on the half-hour mark.

Osasuna rarely threatened in the first period, with Unai García's wild effort from a corner the closest they came to testing Carlos Kameni.

Although the hosts were much improved in the second half, the 32-year-old Cameroonian was still very much a spectator as he saw efforts from Álex Berenguer and Sergio León pass harmlessly wide.

Despite Osasuna's rather feeble efforts going forward, Hernández and Martín Demichelis, who returned to the club after his contract with Espanyol was terminated,

seemed to be suring up the defence. However, their resilience was broken when Miguel de las Cuevas' cross reached substitute Kenan Kodro, whose cut-back was coolly converted by Čaušić with just under fifteen minutes remaining.

The goal had put the hosts on course to end a winless streak of their own at home, but three minutes later Malaga were level. Luis Hernández's attributes include the ability to deliver long throw-ins, and it paid dividends when Camacho scored his fourth goal of the season by heading into an empty net from such a set-piece, leaving Fernández completely stranded after he misjudged the flight of the ball.

A lack of technical quality had prevailed throughout the whole game, but both teams began to look extremely nervous as they entered the final ten minutes of the match.

Such nerves may have cost Osasuna a result, but substitute Javi Ontiveros could only poke wide of the goal after hesitation in the home side's defence.

The result temporarily moved Malaga up one place to 13th in the table, before Real Betis' controversial 1-1 draw with Barcelona at the Benito Villamarín saw Romero's men fall back down into 14th.

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A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports
@robopalmer



Leagues apart

The Spanish league has the superstars and the panache, but the goal-line technology debacle at Real Betis serves to demonstrate that there is a lot of work still to do

Anyone who has tried dealing with a bank or local authority in Spain will appreciate that not all methods in this beautiful country are modern!

This vividly translated to football last week when the need for goal-line technology became glaringly apparent. Our Sky commentators were a thousand miles away and they could see the ball had crossed the line at Real Betis.

Unfortunately, the linesman at the game was peering into the noon sunshine through a glut of bodies and couldn't be certain enough to award what would have been a vital goal to Barcelona.

In the English Premier League, or top European football, the chap's blushes would have been spared by a bleeping on the referee's watch, triggered by the seven cameras trained on the goal-line.

The reaction in Barcelona was understandably bitter given the wasted two points. The reaction from the Spanish FA was a shrug of the shoulders!

Apparently the technology costs 300,000 euros per stadium and this is too steep to install around the country.

The authorities did react by saying that they will have video referees by 2018 although they didn't



Replays show that the ball was clearly over the line. :: SUR

reveal how this would be funded. It does once again underline the glaring difference between La Liga and the English Premier League. The Spanish league has more colour, panache, superstars and unpredictability; back home the marketing, organisation and structure

is far superior.

So many times I get asked by football tourists planning to head to Spain on what day and at what time a game will take place. They look gone out when I explain the fixtures are only confirmed a few weeks in advance.

I'd love to commentate from the stadia for every Spanish game but the late listings make it logistically a nightmare to arrange, so we commentate off-tube - not unusual for foreign broadcasters. However, what is unusual is having to rely on Twitter and club websites for confirmed lineups when EPL commentators get them emailed directly to them 75 minutes before kick-off.

I confess there have been games in the past when Gerry Armstrong and I have ticked players off as we see them in a game and not got the full 22 by half time!

The lack of gentrification is part of the charm and it does reflect the distinctive 'mañana' mentality. It will take time for a coming together but I'm sure it will happen. It will just need some rubber stamping, and knowing our Spanish cousins... even more stamping and copying in triplicate.

It's a little like comparing the league sponsors, Banco Santander, to the Bank of Santander back home. They're related, but they follow different rules!

Nervy Marbella survive manic finish to secure all three points

Despite cruising 3-1 going into stoppage time, Mancha Real almost escaped with a point

MARBELLA 3 MANCHA REAL 2

:: JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

MARBELLA. Marbella stayed in the hunt for automatic promotion with a nerve-jangling home win over Mancha Real on Sunday. Mehdi Nafti's side are just three points off top side Cartagena, sitting in third on 44 points, after a clash which had fans on the edge of their seats.

True to their philosophy, Marbella dominated the ball and, true to form, Kike Márquez was his side's biggest threat, cutting in from the left with a number of efforts on goal. To try and counter his threat, the away team tried to hold a high line to compact the space available to Marbella's midfield creators. This tactic seemed to work, with Delmonte forced to play the ball long to avoid the press.

For their part, Mancha Real only had one effort from range by Romero which was stopped well by Guille Lara.

The breakthrough, after 41 minutes, came from an unlikely source. With the flair players subdued, it was Lolo, breaking from deep, who controlled before firing in the opener.

There was no one in the ground more surprised than the midfielder himself, who had seemingly forgotten how to celebrate.

The outlook, however, changed quickly after the break when the 'blanquillos' needlessly conceded a penalty, converted by Airam. Guille Lara guessed the right way but the ball squirmed underneath his body.

Just 12 minutes later, though, and Marbella had their lead back. Kike Márquez got his head onto Andrés Sánchez's freekick from the left, flicking the ball past Emilio who came for the ball but got nowhere near it.

Marbella then extended their lead, Kike Márquez again the scorer, converting Luis Rioja's cutback from the right wing. 3-1.

Just when it seemed that the home side were in control, they conceded yet another needless penalty, this time courtesy of Carlos Julio. Airam again stood up to convert, but needed a strong helping hand from keeper Guille Lara. The striker chipped the ball straight down the middle and despite getting two hands to it, the keeper only managed to help it on its



The Marbella players celebrate the goal that gifted them victory. :: J. R.

way into the back of the net.

With only two and a half minutes stoppage time remaining, Mancha Real went for it. Keeper Emilio went up for a corner with seconds remaining and found himself in the centre of the mêlée which resulted in the

ball being scrambled over the line. Luckily for Nafti's side, the equaliser was chalked off for a shove in the box.

Next up is a trip to Almeria on Saturday where relegation-threatened El Ejido will provide a tough test. Kick off is at 5pm.

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SIS MAKES HISTORY IN CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sotogrande International School students made history last week as they secured the overall championship trophy at the International Schools Cross Country Championships, hosted by Novaschool Sunland. The win was the first in over 30 years, almost doubling their points total from the previous year.

:: SUR

IN BRIEF

Maté suffers broken collar bone in first day of Challenge de Mallorca

CYCLING

:: **SUR.** Luis Ángel Maté broke his right collar bone after falling off his bike on the first day of the Challenge de Mallorca.

The cyclist from Marbella was just 300 metres from the finish line when a pile-up occurred just in front of him which he was not able to avoid.

Maté suffered the same injury in 2010, when he participated in the Gran Premio Bruno Beghelli with the Androni cycling team.

World number one Quintero knocked out in Paris Open first round

KARATE

:: **SUR.** World number one Damián Quintero has been knocked out in the first round of the Paris Open in the Karate1 Premier League.

The fighter from Torremolinos was controversially eliminated 3-2 by Arata Kinjo from Japan, who is ranked 81st in the world.

Quintero will retain his position in the world rankings despite his inability to fully consolidate his position as the best in the world in Paris.

Fuengirola teams sit pretty at the top of regional league

INLINE HOCKEY

:: **SUR.** Teams from Fuengirola occupy the top two spots in the Andalusian league after last weekend's games in Sevilla. Barona Fuengirola currently occupy top spot, one point ahead of the Fuengirola Lions. Malaga HL current sit fifth in the eight-team division.

As it stands, the MVP points leader after five games is Barona's Miika Suntinen with 24+9.

The next set of fixtures take place in Fuengirola on 12 February.



Runners participating in last year's half marathon. :: FRANCIS SILVA

Foreigners make up a fifth of those already signed up for the Malaga half marathon

The 21-kilometre run takes place on 26 March; those wishing to participate have until 10 March to register

:: MARINA RIVAS

MALAGA. More than 5,000 people have already signed up for the Caixabank City of Malaga half marathon, due to take place on 26 March: proof of the growing popularity of running in the region.

The figure continues to increase year on year, getting closer to the maximum quota of 7,500 participants that can be accommodated on the day.

This will be the 27th edition of the marathon, which every year invites participants to enjoy the freedom of the streets and roads of the city throughout the

21-kilometre run.

Although the majority of people who have signed up are from Malaga, a thousand foreign athletes are also expected to take part, some who live in Spain and others who come to the country especially for the event.

"The majority of foreign runners are Italian and English, although there is also a decent number of Portuguese and, outside of Europe, American participants too," explained Manolo Sarría, the president of the sporting association Malaga Sport, who has organised the run.

Those wishing to participate have until 10 March to register, with the fee for non-federated athletes at 22 euros.

Caixabank, the official sponsors, will give 18,000 euros of money raised to three non-profit organisations.



The ball crosses the line in the match between Spain and France. :: AFP

Hockey fever sweeps the Costa

Malaga and Benalmádena have been treated to friendlies featuring Spain, France and Ireland's national sides

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. The men's national sides of Ireland, France and Spain have this week come together to compete in a triangular series of friendly matches on the Costa del Sol.

Spain took on France in the opening game in Benalmádena on Sunday which ended in an entertaining 4-4 draw. The side, managed by Fred Soye, then managed to thrash the French 6-0 in a rematch held on Wednesday.

This came a day after the 'home' team put Ireland to the sword, by two goals to one, in their tie in Malaga.

This tournament has been followed closely, with enthusiastic crowds packing out both Benalmádena's Retamar pitch and Malaga's Carranque

sports centre.

The teams took time out to greet the spectators, giving autographs to young fans. Open training sessions were also held and the teams organised visits to schools during the week.

Organised by the Royal Spanish Hockey Federation and On Sports Consulting, the series concludes today when Spain and Ireland play out the final game at Benalmádena's Retamar pitch at 1pm.

Spectators are welcome and entrance is free.



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Unicaja progress to the EuroCup quarter finals

Bayern Munich are the likely opponents in the next round of the competition

:: JUAN CALDERÓN

MALAGA. They couldn't afford to slip up... and they didn't. Unicaja are through to the quarter finals of the EuroCup after beating Alba Berlin by 83-77 at the Martín Carpena on Wednesday night.

Their opposition in the next round is yet to be confirmed, but barring a surprise defeat for Bayern Munich, they will face up to the German side once more in a 'best of three' clash which will be wrapped up by 28 March. Unicaja won't have the home advantage but there were plenty of positive signs on Wednesday that suggests they have every chance of progression.

Their opponents are a of Euro-

83
77
UNICAJA
ALBA BERLIN

after four minutes with his side trailing 10-18.

By the end of the first quarter, they had a lead of three points at 23-20.

With the ascendancy, Unicaja wanted to drive home their advantage and kept shooting for three-pointers, scoring seven out of 14 attempts and went into the break with a comfortable lead and confidence throughout the side.

This was soon shattered when Alba Berlin fought back in the third quarter with a partial score of 0-5 but the hosts were able to hold them off sufficiently to retain their lead going into the final quarter (65-58).

Alba were not out of it and levelled the scores of 68. However, with three-pointers from Nedovic and Waczynski and the influential Omic holding the side together, Unicaja were able to overcome a dreadful period when they struggling to retain possession, losing the ball on 21 occasions.

League calibre in every sense and yet the side from Malaga were more than a match, with a 54 per cent conversion rate from the three-point line and looking solid in defence.

As was the case in the league game against Fuenlabrada, Omic was at the centre of all things positive for Unicaja, giving the side much-needed drive. It was his introduction which turned the game in his side's favour after coach Joan Plaza called time-out

The jubilation was visible as EuroCup progress was confirmed. :: Ñ. SALAS

Easy league win grants confidence boost

Díaz and Nedovic were in fine form and led the home side to a comfortable 89-73 over Fuenlabrada

:: J. CALDERÓN

MALAGA. Following the mid-week capitulation against Valencia in the EuroCup, Unicaja put in a much-improved performance against Montakit Fuenlabrada on Sunday in a match that served as a confidence boost not just for the players, but also for the fans.

While Joan Plaza's team's level may not be up to the standard of the

league's big boys, this win showed that the gap may not be so large.

Unicaja started with a noticeable increase in energy, but it wasn't until the introduction of Díaz and Nedovic that the game settled completely in their favour, ending the first quarter on 26-20. The base from Malaga controlled the game from defence, while new signing Omic added extra steel to the side. In fact, the second quarter was probably the best we've seen from Unicaja all season. Fuenlabrada couldn't handle Nedovic who scored 13 points in eight minutes, taking the hosts' lead to 42-20 after 15 minutes.

At this stage, though, Plaza decided to give a breather to the Serbian, Díaz

and Omic, allowing the visitors to narrow the deficit at half time (53-35).

Those inside the Carpena were expecting an onslaught from Fuenlabrada after the break but, in truth, it never materialised. They improved their play, but only managed two baskets in the first seven minutes. This left the score at 66-39 and the game all but over.

The advantage allowed Unicaja to relax, entering the final quarter with the scores at 72-47. Plaza took advantage of the margin to give minutes to Lafayette whose confidence has been shattered recently, but also reintroduced Díaz and Nedovic to ensure there wasn't a sting in the tail.



Nedovic was instrumental in his side's victory. :: ÁLVARO CABRERA

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THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



THE STARS

Aquarius
January 21 - February 19
The planets are stirring up your emotions, losing your temper would be a mistake even though you need to say your piece!

Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Sort out any situation this week that you know to be tricky as leaving it until later may not help.

Aries
March 21st - April 20th
This is a week for high spirits and grand ideas. Something you thought out of the question now seems possible.

Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
News regarding a lover or partner can be a bit too revealing and could cause a stir midweek.

Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Taking things too much to heart is a mistake as things can change for the better in a flash.

Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
From midweek your attention is drawn to money and moody partnerships. When speaking your mind, fish out some bright ideas.

Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Someone wants to show how much they appreciate you. This could cause friction if you are busy elsewhere.

Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
A current partner may have set ideas about what you should do. This may not tally with your own. Be prepared for sparks to fly.

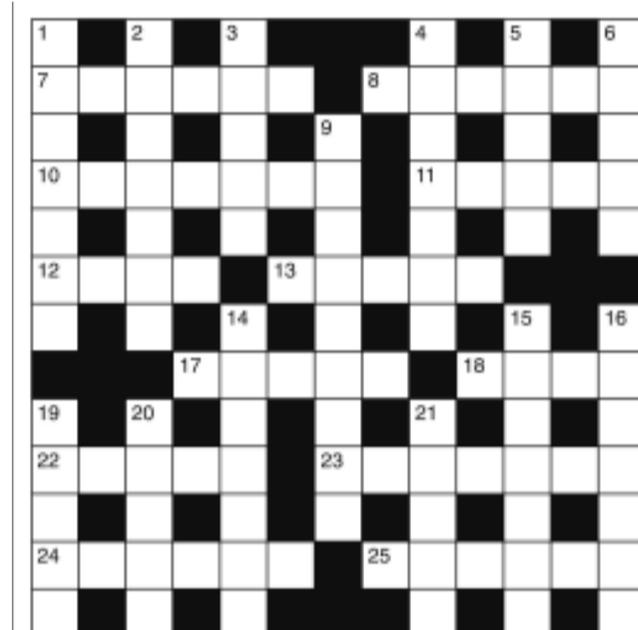
Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
In a changeable and volatile week, avoiding arguments is better than firing on all cylinders.

Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Taking a practical approach means that it is hard for anyone to argue against you.

Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
If someone isn't listening to your ideas, maybe a more relaxed and charming approach is necessary?

Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
Something that has held you back comes to a head. This could be your chance to make big changes.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11227



Across

- 7 It's imperative to run and get out (6)
- 8 Get the better of teacher (6)
- 10 But tire of tax (7)
- 11 Defile and eat greedily (5)
- 12 Do they throw away their lines? (4)
- 13 Miss an empty space (5)
- 17 Mother and boy meet craftsman (5)
- 18 Does he make holes in one's interest? (4)
- 22 The outcome of a regular letter (5)
- 23 Stretcher (7)
- 24 Builder's weapon? (6)
- 25 Time for additions? (6)

Down

- 1 In fairness, it's merely frozen water (7)
- 2 Sat around taking in profits, being opposed to change (7)
- 3 Get a bit of strain, curiously enough (5)
- 4 Lauding listless arrangement (7)
- 5 Shop in West or East Germany (5)
- 6 Raw colour? (5)
- 9 Postpone it; the holiday has finished (5,4)
- 14 Biased, but not completely (7)
- 15 The price a backward bird gets for clothing (7)
- 16 They fight, and possibly rail (7)
- 19 Conditions in school? (5)
- 20 Equals in nobility (5)
- 21 Five have a shivering fit? It's doubtful (5)

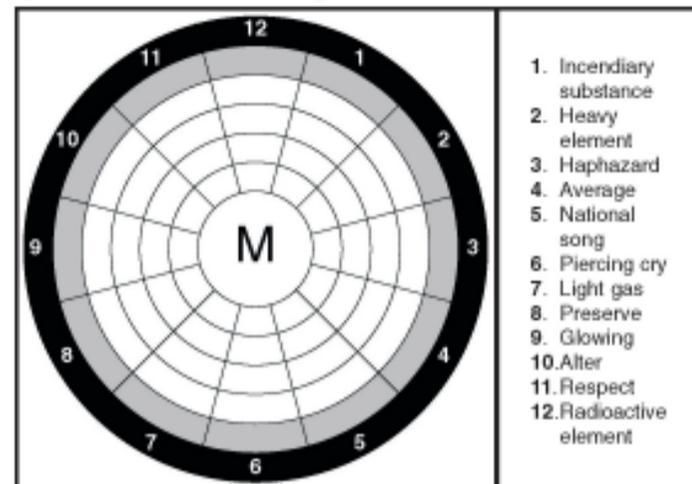
SUDOKU BY HANZO

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

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

CLOCKWORD

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter M in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a late Hollywood actress.



- 1. Incendiary substance
- 2. Heavy element
- 3. Haphazard
- 4. Average
- 5. National song
- 6. Piercing cry
- 7. Light gas
- 8. Preserve
- 9. Glowing
- 10. Alter
- 11. Respect
- 12. Radioactive element

THE WORDPUZZLER

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

CAN you identify the words missing from the titles of the Elton John songs listed below?

- 1. Goodbye Yellow Brick ---
- 2. I guess that's why they call it the ---
- 3. Don't go breaking my ---
- 4. Song for ---
- 5. Crocodile ---
- 6. Rocket ---
- 7. --- in the wind
- 8. Pinball ---
- 9. Healing ---
- 10. Your ---

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91.9 Costa del Sol West
98.7 Gibraltar/Sotogrande
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Radio Radio Network (96 and 98.3 FM). Music 24 hours.

Central FM (98.6 FM, 103.8)
All week, classic tracks and today's music broadcast to the Costa del Sol

ACE FM (106.8 FM)
Inland radio, news and music
The Beat fm (106 FM)
24 hours, music and entertainment

Spectrum (105.5 FM, Costa Almeria/Mojácar 92.6 FM)
24 hour music and entertainment

Radio Mijas (107.7 FM)
3 p.m. News, views and music

Radio Sol Almirajara (99.1 FM)
Nerja radio in English and German and night time World Radio Network

Heartfmspain (88.5 FM Costa, 96.1 FM inland) Music, entertainment, news

Lick FM (103.6 FM Marbella)
Urban music broadcast between Gibraltar and Calahonda

Rtv Puebla (107.7 FM)
Monday evenings, Rock music memories. 7 - 9pm. email: radiopuebla.musicmemories@yahoo.com
Fb: Radiotelevision Puebla de Cazalla

QUIZ

QUESTION 1
Which golfing term means scoring three under par?
1. Birdie
2. Bogey
3. Eagle
4. Albatross

QUESTION 2
The 'Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui' is a statirical allegory of whom?
1. Joseph Stalin
2. Adolf Hitler
3. Donald Trump
4. Fidel Castro

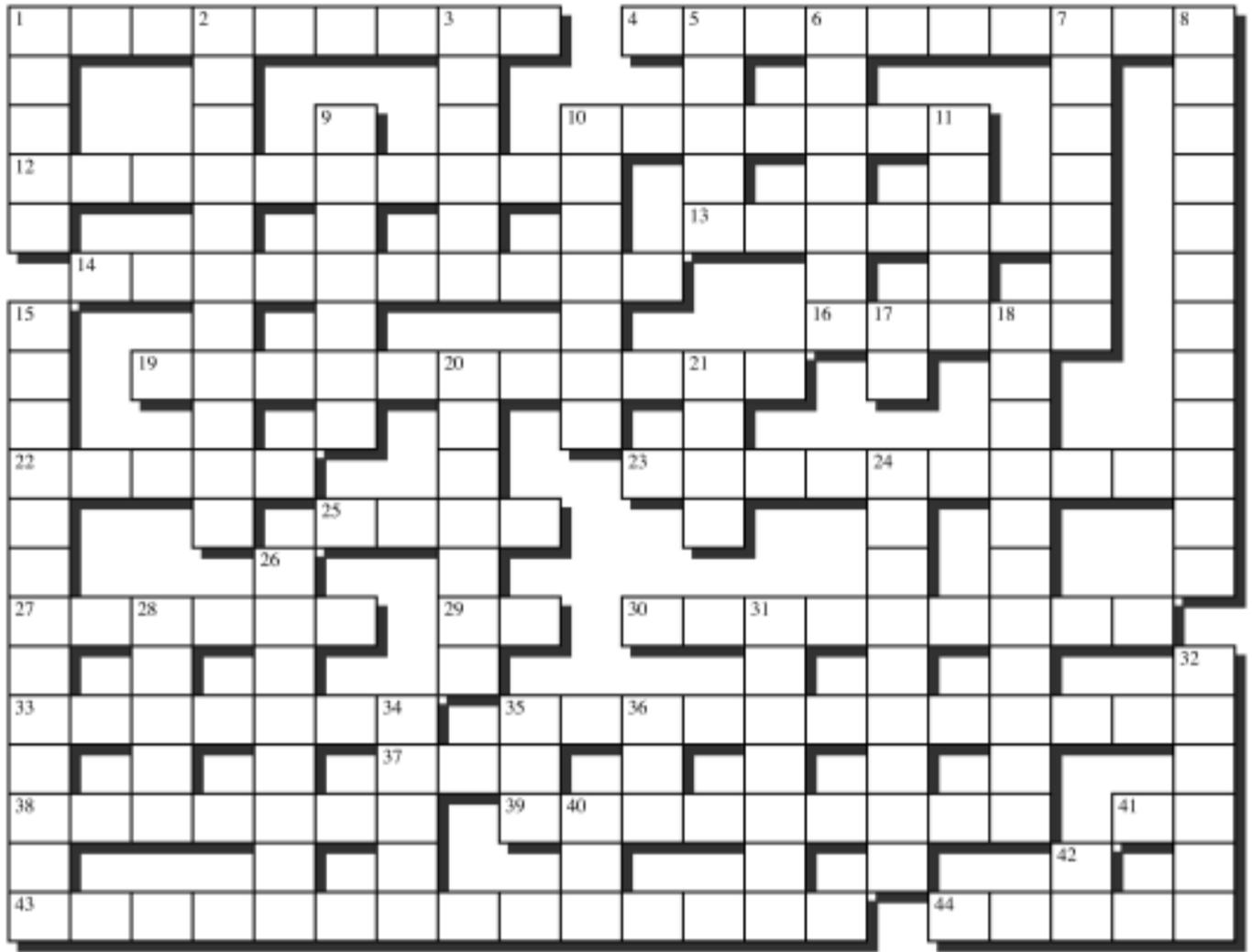
LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

Across

- 1. Armoured (9)
- 4. Citizens (10)
- 10. Brigade (7)
- 12. Artillery (10)
- 13. Aircraft (7)
- 14. Motorcyclists (10)
- 16. Slip (5)
- 19. Imprisoned (11)
- 22. You were going (pl) (5)
- 23. They were describing (10)
- 25. To flee (4)
- 27. Sairt - with flying colours (6)
- 29. It is (2)
- 30. Executed by firearm (9)
- 33. Church (7)
- 35. Republicans (12)
- 37. It falls (3)
- 38. Triumph (7)
- 39. Dramatic (9)
- 41. Got (pl) (2)
- 43. Survivors (14)
- 44. Exodus (5)

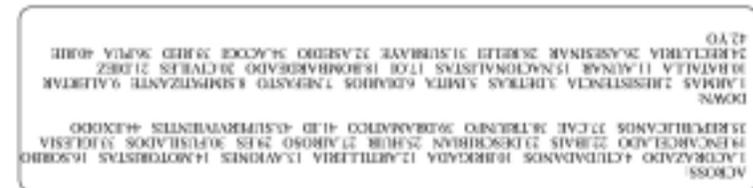
Down

- 1. Weapons (5)
- 2. Resistance (11)
- 3. Behind (6)
- 5. He imitates (5)
- 6. Diaries (7)
- 7. Disastrous (7)
- 8. Sympathiser (12)
- 9. To warn (7)
- 10. Battle (7)
- 11. To combine (5)
- 15. Nationalists (13)
- 17. I heard (2)
- 18. Bombed (11)
- 20. Civilians (7)
- 21. Ten (4)
- 24. He would look up (9)
- 26. To murder (8)
- 28. I reread (5)
- 31. I underlined (7)
- 32. Siege (6)
- 34. I look in (5)
- 35. Network (3)
- 36. Spike (3)
- 40. He laughs (3)
- 42. I (2)

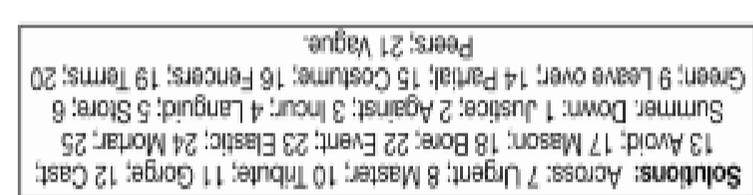


ANSWERS

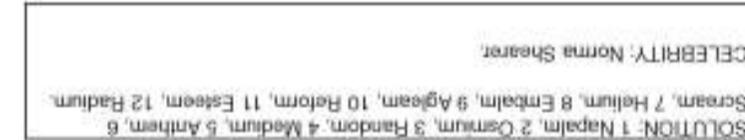
Language Crossword



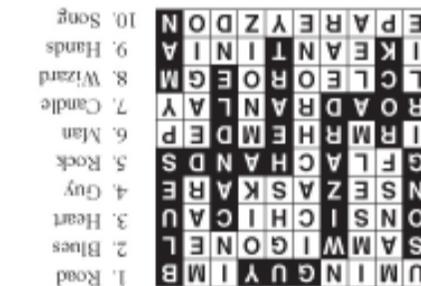
Cryptic Crossword



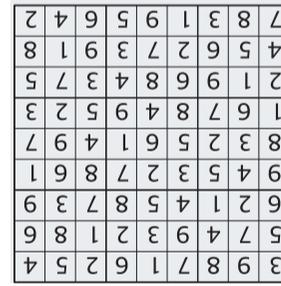
Clockword solution



Wordpuzzler solution



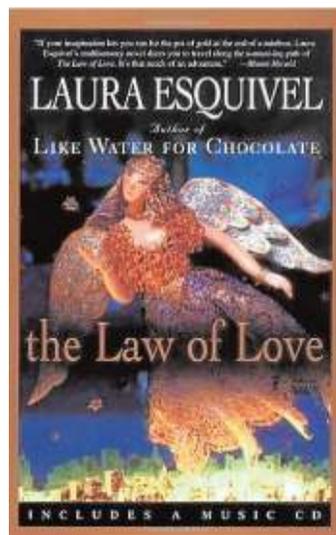
Sudoku solution



Quiz answers

Answer 1: Albatross
Of interest: Three under par is a very rare score and the exact origin of the term 'albatross' to describe it is unclear. The first known reference was in 1929 but it had been in use for some time before then. Another name for it is a double eagle.
Answer 2: Adolf Hitler
Of interest: The 'Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui', subtitled 'A Parable Play' was written by Bertolt Brecht, a German playwright. It chronicles the rise of Arturo Ui, a fictional 1930s Chicago mobster. The play is a satirical allegory of the rise of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party.

BOOK OF THE WEEK



The Law of Love
Laura Esquivel

It's the year 2200, and Azucena Martinez is a lonely astroanalyst living in Mexico City. She has finally repaid the karmic debts she accumulated during her previous fourteen thousand lives, and will at last be permitted to meet her twin soul, Rodrigo Sanchez. But their perfect union is limited to just one night of bliss, as Rodrigo is framed for murder soon after and banished. As Azucena sets off in search for her lost love, she will trigger a chain of events that puts her in the midst of an intergalactic political uproar.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Happiness is an inside job, don't assign anyone else that much power over your life

MANDY HALE

MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
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Norwegian Spirit	21/02	Funchal	Alicante	07.00	17.00





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Walking 700 miles for the love of a dove

A group of young conservationists are raising funds to protect the turtle dove, an endangered species

by **DEBBIE BARTLETT**

CADIZ. Most people would probably recognise a turtle dove if they saw one, but it has to be said that many are unaware that this pretty bird is an endangered species. Some of those who do know, however, feel very strongly about protecting them, such as a group of young men who are campaigning to raise thousands of pounds through their own heroic efforts.

Jonnie Rankin and his 'Dovestep' team will be setting off on their third fundraising initiative at dawn on 5 February, leaving from Tarifa beach and planning to follow the third leg of the turtle dove's migratory journey by walking all the way to the northern coast of Spain, a distance of some 700 miles.

The lads will cover back-to-back marathon distances each day and expect to complete their challenge in one month. They are being provided

with logistical support at the start of this 'Dovestep3' campaign by the local Inglorious Bustards birding and wildlife tours team. But why do turtle doves need protecting?

"These birds, which cross the Straits of Gibraltar during their migration, are endangered everywhere in northern Europe, but especially so in the UK, where 96 per cent of them have been lost in the past 30 years and they are likely to become extinct within 20 years," explain the Inglorious Bustards team.

The birds do a 7,000 mile return trip to Africa every year, crossing the Sahara and running the gauntlet of legal and illegal hunting on the way. Unfortunately, when they return to their north European breeding grounds they are faced with intensive agriculture, disease spread by non-native birds and lack of food from the wild plants they need to regain their strength.

The Dovestep supporters greatly admire the turtle doves' stamina and determination in travelling such huge distances, and are enthusiastic in attempting to ensure that the species does not die out through the hand of Man.

In 2014 Jonny Rankin, Robert Yax-



Jonny Rankin and Robert Yaxley, walking for a good cause. :: SUR

ley and Andrew Goodrick decided to raise awareness of this plucky species of bird and the danger to its existence by organising the first Dovestep Journey, walking from Lakenheath Fen RSPB to Saltholme RSPB.

Their second fundraising event took place in May 2015, and was even more of a challenge: a triathlon which included sea kayaking for a distance equivalent to crossing the Channel, cycling 570 miles and walking 140 miles. It was extremely tough going, to say the least, but as Jonnie explains: "It is the ability to carry on despite considerable discomfort that epitomises the Dove Step ethos. We didn't know we could do any of this, until we tried!"

Now, Dovestep 3 is about to take place, covering the Spanish leg of the turtle doves' annual journey. These brave men have already raised £9,000 for Operation Turtle Dove and hope their endeavours this year will raise a further £10,000 to help the birds they love so much.

More information :

Donations may be made via the Just Giving page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/DoveStep3>

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