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"Marbella FC is like a family to me. It's not for sale"

Club owner Alexander Grinberg confirmed his commitment to club after his release from prison **P48**



ON THE DRUGS ROUTE IN LA LÍNEA

Recent events have highlighted the town's growing trafficking problem **SPECIAL REPORT P2-4**



A 'punto', or lookout, guards the access to a hidden street in El Zabal, with Gibraltar in the distance. :: **LUIS MORET**

Justice in dead-man photo-hoax blackmail on Marbella woman

Five men are jailed for trying to con the German national out of one million euros by falsely accusing her of killing her ex-partner

The victim got as far as handing over 60,000 euros in the clever scheme that used posed photos of the former husband supposedly dead from a murderous attack. The ex-partner has still not been traced. **P6**

Sardine 'espetos' to go forward for Unesco status. The iconic culinary tradition could become protected **P40**

Centre Pompidou renews its commitment to Malaga. The French museum will stay in the city until 2025 **P14**

Five decades of ministry in Fuengirola. St Andrew's Chaplaincy in Los Boliches is celebrating its 50th birthday **P12**

State-of-the-art new hospital in Malaga could be a reality by 2024

The Health authority has approved plans for a new hospital but must first negotiate the use of the land

The Andalusian Health authority approved plans for a new hospital in Malaga on Monday and is hopeful it will be open for public use by 2024.

The proposal put forward by a panel of healthcare experts for a new 800-

bed hospital behind the city's existing Materno hospital was given official approval by regional Health minister Marina Álvarez, who must now negotiate the use of the land with the provincial authorities. **P32-33**

Experience the vibrant Hispanic heart of the Americas

Andrew Forbes takes us to the thriving cultural hub that is Miami for this month's Travel special

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The Miami skyline. :: **KIKOR.COM GMCVB.COM**

SPORT

Spain's athletes make history in the Winter Olympic Games, returning with a record two bronze medals **P49**

Chris Froome's season off to a bad start with a tenth-place finish in the Vuelta a Andalucía, won by Tim Wellens **P8**

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**SUSANA
ZAMORA**

It is early morning in La Línea de la Concepción. The air is clear and the African coast is visible on the horizon. On this side of the Strait, hundreds of vehicles line up in Avenida Príncipe de Asturias to cross the border to Gibraltar, where about 10,000 local people go to work every day. Others cross on foot. In Calle Real, in the town centre, some of the shops are beginning to open.

However, La Línea's other economy, tobacco smuggling and drug trafficking, is also waking up. These activities are becoming increasingly common in a municipality whose development is conditioned by its proximity to Morocco, the biggest producer of hashish in the world, and its economic dependence on Gibraltar, now under threat from Brexit.

In the past year, the mafia groups have become more violent. They now confront the security forces over packages of drugs, they recently attacked the local hospital to rescue a member of their gang who had been arrested and they harassed a female judge in the street just because they felt like it. This is the law of the strongest. They are fully aware that La Línea lacks police resources, but in addition they can count on the silence of a community which they enable to earn a living. With 35 per cent unemployment, part of the local population finds smuggling to be a lucrative way of life in the absence of other opportunities.

Many of these collaborators operate in the Levante district, where the lookouts, known as 'puntos' or

'aguadores', take up their positions mid-morning to spot anything unusual, and pass information about every police patrol that passes through the area. This is their everyday work, helping to ensure that nobody stops a haul being unloaded from a boat, and they can earn 1,000 euros a day.

"They have us marked. They know exactly where we are at every

moment, from the moment we leave the headquarters until we return. We can't work like this," says Alberto (not his real name), a Guardia Civil officer with 20 years' experience.

Strangers to La Línea may not notice the lookouts, but their 'uniforms' give them away: Adidas or Nike tracksuit; bag on the hip and phone in a pocket with the earpiece

always in place so they can give an immediate warning if necessary. Many of them ride motorcycles.

"They love Yamahas. There are about 50 of them in strategic positions. Look, some of them are over there," says Alberto, pointing towards one of the bars, where there is a constant coming and going. It is right opposite La Atunara beach, where boats loaded with

hashish arrive and the police chase traffickers on almost a daily basis, amid the fishing boats and local residents walking along the sea-front promenade.

Creating alarm

The other side of the road from the beach, which ought to be an enviable location, is lined with old fishermen's cottages. The police fre-

A hole in the border fence between La Línea and Gibraltar, used for tobacco smuggling :: L. MORET



La Línea - on the line

Drug trafficking is rife in this town, which is reliant on Gibraltar and lacks opportunities, and the authorities are calling desperately for more police officers to help them cope with growing violence from the mafia groups

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SMUGGLING STATISTICS

325

million euros a year are defrauded from the State coffers because of the smuggling carried out by over 30 mafia groups in La Línea.

2,200

National Police officers are assigned to Cadiz province, half of them in the Campo de Gibraltar. Another 25 per cent are needed. A similar number

of Guardia Civil officers are based in the headquarters in Cadiz and Algeciras.

Hierarchy

The 'army' of collaborators with the drug mafias include 'aguadores' (informers) who earn between 1,000 and 2,000 euros; 'paqueteros' (they unload drugs from a boat in less than four minutes) who earn between 2,000 and 3,000 euros, and those who pilot the launches and drive the 4x4s, who earn 30,000 euros.



The house on the right had one of the hidden radars. :: L. M.

Sophisticated radar

One of the most important operations carried out recently in La Línea de la Concepción took place in January, with the dismantling of a sophisticated radar system in two houses in La Atunara district. Camoufla-

ged by solar panels, they consisted of two antennae which enabled the drug traffickers to know exactly where the patrol boats and helicopters were and keep the boats bringing hashish to be unloaded on local beaches informed in real time.



An metal gate keeps police out of their boat store. :: L. MORET

member of Los Castañitas clan who had been arrested and taken for treatment for an injury.

Their modus operandi caused considerable alarm. They didn't need to try very hard, because the hospital can be easily accessed and there are hardly any controls over entry. There was an immediate reaction to the attack. "The very next day, we went from having three guards on each shift to eight," says a security guard from a private firm, standing in front of the entrance to the Emergency Department.

Many local people are wondering what will happen next, bearing in mind the impunity with which the drug traffickers act.

"Are they going to attack a police station, like in the Westerns when the outlaws confront the sheriff?" asks Francisco Mena, president of 'Nexos', the Campo de Gibraltar Federation of Associations against Drugs. He says the gangs feel confident because they know the police lack resources and that a lot of local people will protect them. With a low level of education and few job opportunities, they have made tobacco and drug smuggling their way of life.

"It is too big an enemy; it's like a seven-headed serpent, because no matter how often you cut one

off new ones grow," says Juan Franco, who complains that the government has "abandoned" La Línea.

"We need more security. We need a special plan for this area which involves all the administrations. It is as if to have a clean and beautiful Costa del Sol, there has to be a sewer and it's been decided that La Línea should be that sewer," he says.

To the astonishment of the whole country, the attack on the hospital was followed by another unprecedented episode when about 40 drug traffickers, many of whom had been involved in the hospital assault, surrounded and harassed a female judge as she left the court. It wasn't difficult. The court is on the ground floor of an apartment block and has only one door, which is used by detainees, judges and lawyers. Until this incident occurred, there was not even a reserved parking space.

"They have lost all respect"

In the past two years there has been a major difference in the blatant behaviour of those involved in hashish trafficking.

"As time has passed they have lost all respect for us. They don't run away when they see us any more. They confront us, instead. A

DANGEROUS WORK



April 2017. On the Tonelero beach, seven National Police and Guardia Civil officers were attacked by over 100 people when they were trying to seize a haul of drugs. The crowd started by hurling insults and then threw rocks and bricks. The result? Three officers were slightly injured, the windows of two patrol cars were broken, two people were arrested and the drugs disappeared. This incident was a turning point in the modus operandi of the mafias in La Línea.

June 2017. A Local Police officer in La Línea de la Concepción died after being accidentally run over by the police van in which he had been travelling. He and his colleagues were chasing a tobacco smuggler who fled after being ordered to stop.

February 2018. A well-known trafficker from Galicia, Sito Miñanco, was arrested in Algeciras in an operation in which two officers from the GEO squad were injured. He was working in a car park, but is believed to have returned to build the structure to run a team of drug traffickers and bring cocaine into Spain.

quently search them because of their links with drug trafficking. Many of them display 'For Sale' signs.

"We ought to have a seafront like the ones on the Costa del Sol, but we don't. Ours has social housing on it, and this is the best part of town. The Urban Plan needs to be changed, and we are working on that," says Juan Franco, the mayor, whose party La Línea 100x100 gov-

erns in coalition with the Partido Popular.

He stresses that not everyone in this area is a criminal: "There are very honest people here as well; my mother grew up in the San Bernardo district, next to La Atunara," he says.

It was there, very recently, that around 20 hooded men burst into the hospital to rescue a suspected

year ago, when about 100 people from La Atunara surrounded seven Guardia Civil and National Police officers who were trying to stop drugs being unloaded from a boat, we realised how serious the situation was and demanded more officers as a matter of urgency," says José Cobo, spokesman for the Spanish Association of Guardia Civil Officers



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> (AEGC). “They took no notice. All they did was assign reinforcements in the summer, but with the crisis in Catalonia that didn’t last very long at all. Time has shown that we were right; we weren’t crying wolf,” Cobo adds.

In the explosive cocktail formed by the San Bernardo district, La Atunara beach and El Zabal, more than 30 ‘collas’ (drug trafficking gangs) operate and they move more than 325 million euros a year, according to data from the National Police and the tax authorities in a report called ‘Socio-economic survey on the impact of Brexit on La Línea’, which was produced by the local council.

The mayor is due to attend an event at a home for the elderly in La Atunara. He travels in a Mercedes. “It’s 20 years old, and was bought at an auction organised by the National Anti-Drugs Plan,” he hastens to explain. “There are people who support the drug traffickers here, but I would hate us to end up in a situation where we all have to carry guns.... I go everywhere in this town, and I have hardly ever had a bodyguard,” he says.

Away from these conflictive districts, where everyone looks at people who aren’t local but leaves them alone if they don’t raise suspicions, life goes on as normal.

“This isn’t an unsafe town in terms of other crimes, but the drugs are a serious problem,” says David Montes, the general secretary in Andalucía of the Federal Union of Police (UFP).

Tobacco smuggling, because of the advantages of having Gibraltar next door, is a day-to-day activity in La Línea. Not everybody does it, but many don’t object to it even though it is illegal.

“People think it’s better to do that than steal in order to eat,” says Pablo, a 25-year-old who works for a legal firm in this town of 63,000 inhabitants. However, although some people don’t care, it has led others to ruin because in ten years La Línea has gone from having 12 tobacconist shops to just three.

“With the economic crisis, the tobacco smuggling reached intolerable levels. Nobody cares or does any-



An exit from the beach used by the drug traffickers. :: L. M.



Two Guardia Civil officers monitor the Strait of Gibraltar. :: R. RÍOS

thing about it,” says Salvador Vera, president of the Association of Tobacconists of Cadiz.

Hidden streets

These days, local people seem indifferent to the anti-drugs operations as well. They are no longer surprised at seeing major operations such as a recent one, when police, Guardia Civil officers and tax officials carried out raids and confiscated seven 4x4 vehicles and 3,000 kilos of hashish in a single day. That was in the luxury Santa Margarita development, which adjoins El Zabal. It is another hot spot for drug trafficking, and the

motorboats are hidden there.

In Santa Margarita hundreds of properties (some of them mansions which have been converted into bunkers) have been built illegally on rural land without the authorities doing anything to prevent it. At present, the town hall is dealing with 500 demolition orders.

“It is like a mousetrap when we’re chasing someone,” says Alberto. The roads are unsurfaced, there is no street lighting and it is a maze of haphazardly-built streets. One double-gated house follows another.

“They build a huge entrance so they can bring the launches in, and

VIEWS

Juan Franco
Mayor of La Línea

“It’s like a seven-headed serpent; no matter how often you cut one off, another one grows”

“If to have a clean and beautiful Costa del Sol there has to be a sewer, it’s been decided that La Línea should be that sewer”

Francisco Mena
Local resident

“What next? Are they going to raid a police station like the outlaws in the Westerns?”

José Cobo
Guardia Civil

“We warned of how serious the situation was and called for more officers... They took no notice”

another iron gate to make it difficult for the security forces to enter when carrying out a search. We can spend hours trying to knock those down,” he says.

A man is standing outside one of the properties. Someone comes out. “Quick, look, do you see? That isn’t the entrance to a house; it’s a gateway to another street with houses on both sides. When they are running away they go through there, shut the gate and there is no way of knowing where they are after that,” he explains.

Impunity at sea

Three officers from the National Police and Guardia Civil who work in La Línea tell us that every day, in this part of the Campo de Gibraltar alone, at least seven motorboats, or ‘narco-launches’, arrive, each carrying between 2,000 and 3,000 ki-

los of hashish.

“When they see our boats at sea they don’t even have to flee. They just move a mile away and wait. They know that with our engines we would never be able to catch them,” says one of the officers.

José Encinas, the spokesman in Cadiz for the Unified Association of Guardia Civil Officers (AUGC), says the problem is that the drug traffickers have become more defiant and moved the conflict up a step. Some officers have found their car tyres slashed or have been threatened when out with their families.

“They shop in other towns so they don’t bump into them. Some officers have even returned to La Línea after working elsewhere and, when they have seen what things are like here now, have gone to work in the Basque Country because they say it is preferable,” says Alberto.

Although José Encinas doesn’t believe the problem is irreversible, he does consider it “sufficiently serious for them to send us the extra officers we have been requesting”.

David Montes agrees: he says the drug traffickers “are crossing unacceptable boundaries and putting innocent citizens in danger, when they try to escape and during police operations”.

The people of La Línea seemed immune to all this, until the incident at the hospital “took our blinkers off. Although it was a dreadful thing to happen, at least it means that the authorities ought to take notice now,” says one local resident, Esperanza Valenzuela.

The problem is so serious that even the president of the Junta de Andalucía, Susana Díaz, has admitted that the drug traffickers “are roaming freely around the Campo de Gibraltar”.

The central government’s delegate in Andalucía, Antonio Sanz, recently met local politicians, police and members of local associations, who told him that La Línea needs to be given special attention. He then went on to meet the Minister of the Interior, Juan Ignacio Zoido, who promised to “continue reinforcing” the fight against drug trafficking. “La Línea is not going to have to deal with this on its own,” said Sanz.

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Fancy-dress blood - an image presented to the German lady as part of the one-million-euro extortion. :: SUR

Fake photos of 'dead' ex-husband used to blackmail Marbella woman

Court sentences a lawyer, an ex-Guardia Civil officer, a photographer, an IT professional and a dentist over a disturbing fraud

JUAN CANO / ÁLVARO FRÍAS MALAGA. The story reads like something out of an elaborate Hollywood hoax, but the shock and fear of a German woman resident in Marbella was only too real when two Guardia Civil officers turned

up on her doorstep with photos of her apparently dead ex-partner, saying they had "proof" that she was behind the killing. They demanded one million euros to keep quiet or she would face a 21-year prison sentence.

But the ex-husband wasn't dead and the set of photos, that included ones in a mortuary, were fake. A Malaga provincial court has recently sentenced a former Guardia Civil officer, a photographer, a lawyer, an IT worker and a dentist to 21 months each for organising the complex

fraud that saw the woman convinced for a time and hand over as much as 60,000 euros in early 2014.

According to court documents, the incident began when the former Guardia Civil member and the photographer posed as the police officers, handing the woman the same t-shirt from the photographs, with a small Tarifa logo and fake blood on, as proof of the crime.

In turn two friends of the woman, the dentist and IT professional, were used to spy on her so she would feel she was being watched. However these two accomplices, in an attempt to gain control of the money the woman had started to hand over, then involved a lawyer to "collect the money" for the conspirators.

The woman's ex-partner, who was in the photographs, was not arrested and still hasn't been found.

112 REPORTS



An ambulance outside the house in Benamocarra. :: SUR

Gunshot death in quiet Axarquía village

MALAGA
J. C. / Á. F. Guardia Civil are investigating the death of a man in his sixties in Benamocarra, near Vélez-Málaga, on Thursday morning. The man had a gunshot wound to his head. His brother was also found

with a gunshot wound to his arm. Residents in the quiet Axarquía village said that the brothers were well known and highly regarded locally. The dead man was said to have run a bar before retiring.

Emergency services were called to the house near the Plaza del Calvario at breakfast time. Two shotguns have been taken away for analysis.

Belgian resident held over child pornography

MARBELLA
SUR. A 36-year-old Belgian man resident in Marbella has been arrested at Malaga Airport on child pornography charges after returning from Thailand. According to sources, the inquiry began last August when two women in Spain complained that they had received obscene images over Whatsapp from an unknown number.

Two held over home attack on Estepona

ESTEPONA
J. C. / Á. F. National Police were able to find and arrest two people within 48 hours of the violent robbery of an 85-year-old woman at her home in Estepona. The incident happened on 13 February and investigations led police to a man and woman from the same local area as their alleged victim. Sources say they were looking for her pension.

Swinger wins payout for fall in dark at adult party

MALAGA
J. C. / Á. F. A man has won 12,565 euros in compensation for falling down some stairs during a partner-swapping party at an adult-only hotel in Malaga. According to the man's account, he and his wife had just arrived at the venue and he either slipped or fell in the "poorly-lit" room. His right leg was fractured in the accident and

he had to be operated on. The insurers representing the organisers said in their court submission that the venue was well lit and that the man had slipped after getting out of a swimming pool after a few drinks. The organisers themselves went further and said the couple had been in the club "a couple of hours" and knew their way round very well. The judge found in favour of the man after witnesses said guide lights on stairs were turned off and only candles lit the way.

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Developer includes electric train, new roads and cycle routes in mega leisure park plans

Intu has gone further in its proposals than the measures recommended by the council to cope with increased traffic

:: ALBERTO GÓMEZ

TORREMOLINOS. Councillors in Torremolinos are still looking for solutions to the projected growth in the town's traffic from planned new commercial developments and the subsequent increase in the number of vehicles on the road, especially with the proposed leisure park complex by developers Intu.

The developer plans to create the largest shopping and leisure centre in the Mediterranean near the Palacio de Congresos, but the current infrastructure in Torremolinos is not prepared to deal with the increase in traffic that this would bring.



Artist's impression of the proposed development. :: SUR

In addition to increasing the capacity of the roads off the motorway, as reported last week in SUR in English, Intu has put forward several other solutions, including

an electric train that will connect the town centre to the complex and new walking and cycling links.

Intu's plans are in addition to those proposed by the town coun-

cil, as they not only include ideas to reduce road traffic but also viable alternatives such as pedestrianised areas and roads built specifically for bicycle users. One of the most interesting aspects of the proposed development is that it will increase the interconnectivity of the town's current transport infrastructure by establishing strong links between the town centre and the shopping and leisure park.

Park and ride train

The developer will offer an off-site car park where visitors can leave their cars and ride an electric train instead of a more conventional park-and-ride bus. This innovative idea has already worked well at the company's Puerto Valencia centre in Zaragoza, which features an enormous car park with 11,000 spaces.

The promotor plans to invest 600 million euros in the project by the time of its completion.

HERE AND THERE

Mijas sports fees could be cut for local users

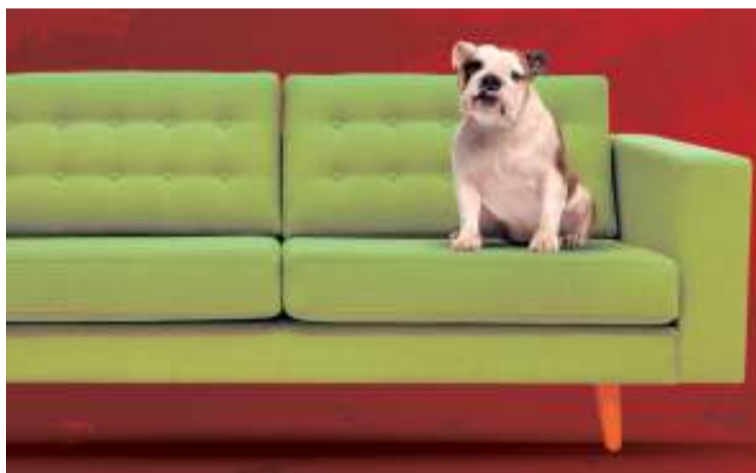
MIJAS

:: I. G. In a special meeting convened to discuss controversy over who runs the district's public sport facilities, Mijas's ruling councillors have said that they will aim for the fees for using the different installations and services to be cut by half for registered local residents.

Children encouraged to walk to school more

BENALMÁDENA

:: A.G. Officials promoting a healthy lifestyle in Benalmádena have announced that they will create a network of safe pedestrian routes to encourage children to walk to and from school and to reduce vehicle pollution in the municipality. Six initial routes are being published for Jacaranda and La Paloma schools, with plans to add more.



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Second phase of town centre pedestrianisation approved

:: ALBERTO GÓMEZ

TORREMOLINOS. The work to pedestrianise key parts of the centre of Torremolinos are so far meeting their expected timetable. Last week the council approved the second phase of the project which includes landscaping and street furniture designed by architect Salvador Moreno Peralta.

Work is currently going on to update drains and utility piping

near the surface, and once completed in May, work can start on the second phase.

Now plans are approved, the work to turn the architect's plans into reality can be put out to tender. Apart from the main work on the Plaza Costa del Sol, a small new square will be created in front of the run-down Maria Barrabino mansion.

The work is expected to be ready by December this year.



The first, preparatory phase will carry on until May. :: A. G.



Camping Fuengirola straddles the border of Fuengirola and Mijas. :: I. G.

Planning fix needed to turn campsite into shopping park

:: IVÁN GELIBTER

MIJAS / FUENGIROLA. Mijas council is to debate in next month's full council session the planning application for a shopping park on the well-known Camping Fuengirola site, near the A-7 and Sohail castle. The campsite sits across the boundary of Mijas and Fuengirola and special planning measures must be

adopted by both councils as a result.

The plan for shops on the 21,000-metre site will need to be presented for public consultation after approval before being passed to Fuengirola for that municipality to coordinate the split application and changes to its own planning zoning. Fuengirola has said that it doesn't expect building work to start before the summer.

Town hall takes close look at mayor's salary

BENALMÁDENA

:: A.G. The mayor of Benalmádena, Victor Navas, is coming under pressure to reduce the money paid on top of his mayor's salary for attending meetings of quasi-private municipal-owned companies. Nearby towns have already eliminated the extras and now councillors want to debate their continued existence in Benalmádena.

PP signs independent councillor as candidate

BENALMÁDENA

:: A.G. The local PP opposition party in Benalmádena has signed up the single independent councillor of the Vecinos por Benalmádena (VpB) party to head the PP electoral list and be mayoral candidate in next year's local elections. Juan Antonio Lara, who will not affiliate to the PP, has been praised for his one-man challenges to the PSOE-led coalition running the council.

Arroyo Primero boulevard due to be completed six months late

The town council has reactivated the project after losing 1.7 million in funding from the provincial government

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ

MARBELLA. The park boulevard which Marbella council is hoping to transform is finally starting to take shape. The area was previously used as a car park and for the market on Mondays but is now set to become part of the Arroyo Primero boulevard. The project was first announced at the end of 2016 and is nearly six months delayed in completion. A major factor in its delay has been the removal of 1.7 million euros of funding from the provincial government.

Several of the features of the urban park have been visible for weeks, including the steps of the open-air



Works being carried out on the new auditorium. :: JOSELE-LANZA

auditorium. Other features will include a kiosk bar with a terrace, children's play areas, umbrellas to create shaded areas and fountains. The

council also plans to include green spaces with bushes and trees and ample paving for the entire area, as well as sanitation facilities with drains.

40-million-euro apartment investment on the Golden Mile

:: HÉCTOR BARBOTTA

MARBELLA. Property investment group, Gailur Taldea, is planning a 40-million-euro apartment development on Marbella's luxury Golden Mile. The project will be called Benalús and consist of 27 high-end apartments. Prices will range from one million to three million euros.

The development, in three separate blocks with nine apartments in each and accompanying green spaces and facilities, will be on one of the few remaining free pieces of land at Cañada Real, near the Puerto Banús end of the famous avenue. Marbella council is currently considering the planning application.

Final days to apply to lease a street stall space in Marbella's Puerto Deportivo marina

:: NIEVES CASTRO

MARBELLA. Those interested in applying for a space for a stall in the central Puerto Deportivo marina of Marbella have until 28 February to submit the paperwork.

The council wants to breathe new life into the port area near the Old Town and is offering companies, associations or private individuals the chance to put up a stand on a yearly contract starting in March.

In total 25 spots for stalls will be available and the council will give priority to charities and social causes. The tenants will be expected to put up their stalls on Sundays and public holidays all year as well as Saturdays in the summer. More information is available from puertodeportivo@marbella.es or 952 77 55 24.



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Symbolic first stone laid at new accredited athletics stadium in Estepona

The Andalusian athletics federation has said that the venue will open the door for sports tourism with world-class athletes

:: CHARO MÁRQUEZ

ESTEPONA. On Wednesday the foundation stone ceremony took place for Estepona's new athletics stadium. The sports complex will be the only officially accredited stadium for athletics trials between Mijas and La Línea de la Concepción. It will also have support facilities, a seven-a-side football pitch and a large underground car park.

Attending the ceremony, which consisted of burying a steel cylinder, were the mayor of Estepona, José María García Urbano, president of the Diputación provincial authority, Elías Bendodo, and the



Wednesday's ceremony. :: C.M.

president of the Andalusian athletics federation, José Enrique López Cuenca.

It is hoped athletics championships will be held at the stadium in the future.



:: JOSELE-LANZA

MARBELLA CENTRE FOR THE HOMELESS

The Spanish Red Cross is opening a new centre in Marbella to help care for homeless people. The council spent 307,700 euros on the project, which will serve as an emergency centre, a hub for social inclusion and a home for those who don't have their own. It will be open every day from 9am to 9pm.

Marbella council asks Junta to speed up extra protection for El Pinillo dunes

:: NIEVES CASTRO

MARBELLA. Marbella town hall has asked the Junta de Andalucía regional government to speed up the inclusion of the El Pinillo dunes, east of the town centre, in the protected dunes system across the municipality.

The council voted in 2016 to ask for the Junta to add the 40,000-metre area and says the delay shows the regional government's "lack of interest". Councillors say that remedial and conservation work is necessary at El Pinillo but that these dunes need to be included in the master plan for the area's dunes for the work to be carried out.

Currently Marbella's formal protected dune reserve (Reserva Ecológica Dunas de Marbella) covers 220,000 square metres across different sites.

Broad spectrum of prize winners announced for Andalucía Day

February 28th is a public holiday in the region and is marked by a number of events and distinctions for local personalities and organisations

== MARIA DOLORES TORTOSA / JUAN SOTO

MALAGA. Andalucía will stop to celebrate its regional identity next Wednesday by marking 'Día de Andalucía', the anniversary of the 1980 referendum in which the electorate voted for Andalucía to be an autonomous community of Spain.

Every year on this regional public holiday, events take place in every town, including various competitions and celebrations. However, it is also a time to recognise the contribution of local citizens and organisations and today, Friday, 12 prizes



Adelfa Calvo and the Calle Larios Christmas lights. == EFE /



will be given out by the regional authorities, including to Goya-winning actress Adelfa Calvo, comedian Manolo Sarri and volunteer organisation AVOI.

However, the biggest honours are reserved for Wednesday when the Medallas de Andalucía will be awarded at a ceremony in the Teatro de la Maestranza in Seville.

Among the fourteen winners, is a posthumous honour for Malaga co-

median Chiquito de la Calzada who died in November, Cadiz singer-songwriter Niña Pastori, Cordoba-company Iluminaciones Ximénez (responsible for the Christmas light show on Malaga's Calle Larios), dancer Rafael Amargo and Plan Infoca, the organisation responsible for forest fire control in the region.

On the same day, the Andalusian football derby between Malaga and Sevilla will take place at La Rosaleda.

Ten flights per week to run between Malaga and Istanbul

A new agreement signed with Turkish Airlines will see an increase in flights between the two cities

== PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. Turkish Airlines has announced an increase in flights between Malaga and Istanbul, with hopes that it will facilitate the increasing number of visitors arriving to the city from Asia and the Middle East.

The company's director for Andalucía, Mehmet Akalin, confirmed that the route will operate ten flights per week from 25 March, up from seven currently, in light of the route's popularity.

Akalin highlighted that the company has been operating flights to Malaga-Costa del Sol Airport since 2011. "During the last seven years in this amazing city, Turkish Airlines has been awarded 'Best Airline in Europe' for the last seven years and 'Best airline in southern Europe' for nine consecutive years, according to the Skytrax customer satisfaction survey."

Turkish Airlines offers flights between 120 different countries and over 300 destinations, "more than any other airline in the world, uniting cultures and connecting the world through our hub at Ataturk Airport Istanbul, which is at the heart of three continents: Asia, Europe and Africa," Akalin said.

Pizarra mayor asks for improvements to A-357 to enhance connections in the surrounding area

== FERNANDO TORRES

PIZARRA. Félix Lozano, mayor of Pizarra, has called for improvements to be made to A-357 road between Malaga and Campillos in light of the increased traffic flow since the reopening of the Caminito del Rey.

He says that the road, which goes down to a single lane after Río Grande, is in a state of disrepair and has one of the highest accident rates in the province.

Improving the roads in this area would be beneficial for the whole area, says Lozano.

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The language of law in Spain

ANTONIO FLORES

We often hear statements relating to the implication of contracts and other legal documents that are in a language different from Spanish. One of those statements has, by its own right, risen to the category of legal myth/urban legend: I am referring to the belief that a contract signed in Spain in a language different from official Castilian (or for that matter regional languages) is null and void and thus, does not create rights or obligations.

There is an evolution of the above that is far more twisted: that if a person who does not understand Spanish signs a legal document in this language, they can challenge it in court where, incidentally (according to a minority of expats) the judge should - at the very least - know English but if not, a translator should always be provided at to ensure his/her rights are protected.

The following notes should help dispel any potential confusion as to what is correct from what not, "language-wise":

- A document of a contractual nature can be drafted in any language for which an official translation service is available. This implies that contracts in any language that is official somewhere in the world is legal, since a valid translation can be provided.

- Not understanding the content of a contract is not an excuse, as much as ignoring the law excuses no one, as the principle goes (save some exceptions, notably in financial or investment contracts).

- Pursuant to art. 142.1 of the Civil



Antonio Flores. SUR

Procedure Law, "In all judicial procedures, the judges, senior judges, public prosecutors, court clerks and other civil servants in courts and tribunals shall use Castilian Spanish, the official language of the State," but it also adds in 143.1 that "when a person who does not know Castilian Spanish, nor, in the event, the official language of the autonomous region, has to be questioned or make a declaration, or when it is necessary to personally let him know a decision, the court clerk may issue an order authorising any person who knows the language concerned to act as interpreter, in which case the said interpreter shall be required to swear or promise that the translation is true to the original."

- And finally, in accordance to art. 144.1, "any document worded in a language other than Spanish or, as appropriate, the official language of the regional authority in question, shall have a translation of such document attached thereto."

Antonio Flores is lawyer, founder and director of Lawbird, Marbella. Tel: 952861890. www.lawbird.com

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Five decades of ministry in Fuengirola

Services were held in people's houses when St Andrew's Chaplaincy was founded on the coast in 1968

TONY BRYANT

✉ tonybryant@gmail.com



FUENGIROLA. The Anglican Chaplaincy of St Andrew is celebrating 50 years on the Costa del Sol this month and a series of events have been organised to coincide with the anniversary.

Founded by the Reverend Arnold Hellicar in February 1968 - in response to the influx of tourists and foreign residents that occurred during that decade - the chaplaincy was originally based in Torreblanca. Weekly meetings were at first held in people's houses and, as the congregation gradually increased, a church building was acquired and a part-time priest employed.

Today the chaplaincy includes four worship centres along the Costa del Sol, extending from Benalmádena to the eastern side of Marbella and inland to Alhaurín el Grande.

San José in Benalmádena and San Miguel in Calahonda are Roman Catholic churches, rented for the Anglican chaplaincy's services. The Cemetery Chapel at Alhaurín El Grande is a municipal chapel which St Andrew's is allowed to use in return for a donation. All of these centres hold services every Sunday.

The chaplaincy's main headquarters is St Andrew's Church in Los Boliches, a multi-function building used also as a community centre and hired to other organisations, providing an essential source of income. St Andrew's is entirely self-supporting and also relies on the generosity of donations and fundraising events.

Serving as a centre of expat social life in the area, the building, purchased by the chaplaincy in 1989, is also used for coffee mornings and a

weekly bazaar.

The reverend of the chaplaincy is American-born Alaric Lewis, who is aided in his endeavours by a pastoral ministry team. These include Caroline Macfarlane (lay reader) and John Le Page (Church Army Captain and evangelist). In addition the chaplaincy has the ordinary structures of a parish in the Church of England, with an active church council and two churchwardens.

"At first, we didn't have proper worship centres. Originally our services would be held in hired rooms or people's houses, but now we have four centres, one of which we own," Reverend Alaric tells SUR in English.

Church of England

As members of the Church of England, the chaplaincy seeks first and foremost to offer praise to God, explains Alaric. However, St Andrew's is mindful that not all of its worshippers are Anglicans, and so it strives to make sure that Christians of all denominations find a warm welcome.

"Our mission here is to tend to the needs of the English-speaking Christians. It is almost exclusively British, although everyone is welcome so long as they understand that we are the Church of England, so every morning we pray for the Queen," Alaric explains.

The church has grown in the last few years, although the reverend admits that the younger generation are not overly represented in church, although he does organise special events aimed at attracting children, like the Mustard Seed Gang.

"The Mustard Seed Gang is a Christian play group that we hold around three times a year. The idea is to attract children with various activities. One of the challenges here is that the amount of British families with children moving to Spain has fallen, so we don't have many children in church on a Sunday," Alaric



▲ The church premises were bought in 1989.

✉ DARYL FINCH

◀ The Reverend Alaric Lewis.

✉ TONY BRYANT

▶ St Andrew's Church in the early days.

✉ SUR



50TH ANNIVERSARY

► **Saturday 24 February.** Afternoon tea party in the Reserva El Higuerón in Benalmádena at 5pm.

► **Sunday 25 February.** Special Sunday service attended by Bishop David. Service will be held at 11.30 in the Saint Andrew's Church in Los Boliches.

says apprehensively.

In addition to worship, St Andrew's organises numerous social activities that offer an opportunity for expats to meet new friends. Study of the Sacred Scriptures, twice-yearly prayer days, a chaplaincy retreat, Special Praise services, lectures on the history and liturgy of the Church, Lenten lunches with talks, and instruction for lectors and Eucharistic

ministers are just a few of the activities offered.

Unknown date

The actual date the chaplaincy started functioning is not known, however St Andrew's has several events planned to take place throughout this year, the majority of these events have not yet been finalised.

"It's a shame because we don't know the actual date of the anniversary. I checked old service registers but, for whatever reason, some are missing from this period so we just know that the anniversary is in February," Alaric says.

It has been difficult to organise some of the events because the reverend will not be there to see them through, as he will be leaving the parish at the end of March. Alaric, who is based in Rome, has been with St Andrew's for three years, but he is now set to take up another chap-

laincy post in Norwich.

"It will be a kind of double celebration, although I do not want my leaving to interrupt the anniversary celebrations. It will be sad to leave Spain, but I am also excited about working in England," he says.

Bishop's visit

For the meantime, the reverend will be kept busy with the fiftieth anniversary celebrations, which begin this weekend. On Saturday, St Andrew's will host an afternoon tea party in the Reserva El Higuerón in Benalmádena. On Sunday, a special service in Los Boliches will be attended by Bishop David of the diocese of Europe.

"The anniversary is a great testimony to the importance people place in their faith. The bishop is coming especially for the milestone anniversary, so it will be a significant celebration," the reverend concludes.

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The Pompidou Centre's president Serge Lasvignes with Malaga mayor Francisco de la Torre. :: NITO SALAS

The Pompidou and Malaga city hall formalise new agreement

The council and the French museum have signed a deal to extend the current arrangement by a further five years

:: ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

MALAGA. There are several crucial milestones in the development of any project, and for the Centre Pompidou in Malaga one was reached this week; the famous French museum will retain its presence in the city for a further five years after an agreement to prolong the existing deal until the end of 2025 was formalised.

The agreement was signed on Tues-

day by the president of the Paris-based Centre Pompidou, Serge Lasvignes, and the mayor of Malaga, Francisco de la Torre. "The words of his majesty the king touched me deeply," Lasvignes said in a speech, referring to King Felipe's praise for the collection's presence in Malaga on an official visit earlier this month.

He president continued: "With the agreement signed today, we can work towards improving and better understanding the cultural scene of Malaga, and at the same time better work with other museums to create a circle, a shared channel of communication."

The new, extended agreement replicated the conditions of the first. Malaga council will pay the Pompi-

dou 2.07 million euros per year, one million for the use of its collections and brand, and the rest for insurance, transportation and specialist consultation.

Lasvignes also spoke of the need to cater to two different demographics. The Centre Pompidou estimates that 60 per cent of its visitors are Spanish, with the other 40 per cent foreign tourists. "We'd also like to diversify the artwork that we show to better include the many artists operating in and around Malaga," he said.

The museum, which welcomed 168,143 visitors in 2017, is hoping to reach its target of 250,000 visitors this year.

ITV vehicle testing to get tougher from May

Computers will be installed in the testing centres to check for errors in cars' central computers

:: IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. From 20 May this year it will be more difficult to cover up faults that prevent inspectors from taking accurate readings during a vehicle's ITV (Inspección Técnica de Vehículos), the Spanish equivalent of a British MOT.

From then on there will be more stringent rules regarding compulsory vehicle testing, as a result of a modification of EU Directive 2014/45. This legislation was passed quickly in the light of the recent scandals involving the results of diesel emissions tests being manipulated to give lower readings.

The new procedure involves equipping all vehicle-testing centres with computers which con-

nect to the car's central computer in order to work out if there are hidden faults or if the system has been modified to give false information, especially about passenger safety and gas emission readings. Up to now ITV inspectors only check the dashboard lights for issues with the engine, airbag, ABS and other features.

There will also be more emphasis on checking exhaust pipes, especially for nitrogen oxides. There is a general belief that more people have been modifying or neglecting the filters in their exhaust pipes because their upkeep can be expensive and if they are not used the vehicle can become more powerful.

The new rules will disproportionately affect vehicles that are over 10 years old, as well as those with diesel engines. Older cars are more likely to have issues which are identified by the test, and diesel vehicles have greater emissions than their petrol equivalents, which worsen with age.



An inspector carrying out an ITV test. :: SUR

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Provincial authority grants Bernardo de Gálvez posthumous honour

It is hoped that the idea of making the Macharaviaya-born military leader a 'favourite son' would attract tourists to the area

AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

MACHARAVIAYA. A proposal put forward by the PSOE to make Bernardo de Gálvez a 'hijo predilecto', or 'favourite son' of the province was approved by the Diputación provincial authority on Tuesday. The idea is similar to giving an important figure the keys to a city in the UK.

The proposal was made during a visit by Socialist representatives to Macharaviaya last week, which is where de Gálvez was born in 1746. He was a military leader who fought against the British during the American War of Independence and played a key role in the Battle of Pensacola, Florida.



PSOE representatives at Macharaviaya's museum last week. :: A. P.

Mayor of Macharaviaya, Antonio Campos, said, "The figure of Bernardo de Gálvez is more alive than ever; he is recognised as an honorary citizen in the USA and in March 2018 a

statue of him will be unveiled in Pensacola."

The group hopes that giving de Gálvez the title would put the Axarquía area on the tourist map.

HERE AND THERE

"Car park should never have been built" - mayor

TORROX

E. CABEZAS. The only covered car park in Torrox Pueblo has been at the centre of complaints by residents in recent months due to its condition. The public parking area, which opened in December 2008, has been continually vandalised and the damage has not been repaired. In addition, the planned supermar-

ket which was to be built in the same area has never materialised and a café, which opened at the same time as the car park, closed just a few months later.

The town hall currently pays around 108,000 euros per year to rent the space and two attempts to buy it have not come to fruition. Mayor of Torrox, Óscar Medina, said this week, "The car park should never have been built there. It's a total ruin." He went on to blame the owners for its current state.

Adrián back in hospital days after going home

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

E. C. Adrián Martín, the young singer from Vélez-Málaga who suffers from hydrocephalus, is back in hospital having been sent home just 10 days before. Adrián, 13, underwent three operations to fit valves to drain liquid from his brain, which causes his condition, in January. He was readmitted last Friday once again with severe headaches and nausea.

Work restarts on Nerja sewage treatment plant

NERJA

E. C. Work finally started again to Nerja's sewage treatment plant on Monday. The long-awaited return of Isolux-Corsán-Corviam, who gave assurances that they would be able to complete the project, came after a series of protests in the town in January and February. No finish date has been given yet but the work has been 80 per cent complete since summer 2017.

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New National Police HQ should be ready by end of this year

The building will replace the existing premises in Torre del Mar, which had become too small

EUROPA PRESS

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. The central government delegate for Malaga province, Miguel Briones, stated during a visit to the town's new National Police headquarters, that work

should be complete by the end of this year.

"If they continue at this speed and there are no unforeseen circumstances, we will be able to open it and make it available for all citizens," he said.

The new building is situated in the Cuesta del Visillo area at the entrance to Torre del Mar and will replace the current headquarters on Avenida de Andalucía in the town.



The site for the new National Police headquarters. :: J. RHODES



UNITED BY ART AND LITERATURE

A group of Scottish poets visited the gallery belonging to local artists, Francisco Martín, in Nerja last week. The writers were inspired by Martín's works, which include the statue of King Alfonso XII on the Balcón de Europa. They wrote poems and short texts which will be made into a book by event organiser, Linda Jackson. Martín said that he was "satisfied" that his works had inspired the group.

Nerja town hall to host new holiday rentals law conference in English

J. RHODES

NERJA. Nerja town hall foreigners' department, together with the Pérez Parras law firm, will be holding a conference in English on holiday rentals and the new requirements introduced by the regional government, the Junta de Andalucía last year.

The conference will take place at Nerja town hall in the Salón de Actos meeting room, on the second floor, from 11am until approximately 12.30pm.

Nerja foreigners' office explained that the new law for renting holiday homes "has brought up many doubts and questions and there is great interest in learning about it."

Those interested are requested to confirm their attendance by emailing international@perezparras.com.

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New law will give people more of a say about their future care

The Lasting Powers of Attorney and Capacity Bill was passed unanimously by the Gibraltar parliament on 16 February

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. The Gibraltar government has just introduced a Lasting Powers of Attorney and Capacity Bill to give people the confidence of knowing that their wishes will be respected and protected if they lose the mental capacity to make decisions for themselves in the future.

The Bill was passed unanimously by Parliament. Once the law comes into force, individuals in Gibraltar who are over the age of 18, while they have mental capacity, will be able to record a statement of their wishes regarding financial and health matters, and this will be registered at the Supreme Court Registry.

Under this Bill, they can grant a Lasting Power of Attorney to a specific person whom they trust, who will then have the authority to act on their behalf if they lose mental capacity in future.

It means the attorney can make decisions about everything from everyday matters to serious life-changing decisions such as whether to move into a care home or have major surgery.

People can also register their preference regarding medical treat-



Neil Costa, Minister for Health, Care and Justice. :: SUR

ment, for example by stipulating their refusal to undergo certain types of treatment in the future, in case when the time comes they are unable to express that refusal themselves.

The new law carries safeguards to prevent it being abused, and new criminal offences have been created to deter people who have been appointed as attorneys from intentionally or recklessly ill-treating or neglecting the person they are empowered to represent.

Talking about the new Bill this week, the Minister for Health, Care

and Justice, Neil Costa, said: "Persons living, amongst other things, with mental disorders, who no longer have the mental capacity to express their wishes, should be able to receive such care and treatment as they need and want. It is this second part which is so crucial. A person has the right to choose what may be done with their body or their mind in the event that they lose their mental capacity in the future. The Act is recognition of a person's autonomy and their right to make choices and be protected."

IN BRIEF



The cigarettes were spotted in a car at the ICC. :: SUR

Cigarette haul confiscated by Customs

GIBRALTAR

D. B. Thanks to a sharp-eyed passer-by, the customs authorities in Gibraltar were able to confiscate a large haul of cigarettes from two Spanish-plated vehicles on Tuesday, 20 February. A member of the public noticed that a car which was parked at the ICC contained a large amount of ciga-

rettes, and rang the authorities to report the matter. When officers came to investigate, they searched two vehicles in the car park, both Spanish registered, and discovered that they contained 649 cartons of various brands of cigarettes. No arrests have been made yet, and the investigation is continuing. The customs authorities say they are always grateful for information of this type, and they can be contacted by phoning 20046731.

Beach Service Open Day on Saturday

GIBRALTAR

D. B. Anyone who fancies working on Gibraltar's beaches this summer should head down to John Mackintosh Square on Saturday 24 February, to the Beach Service Open Day, which is taking place from 10am to 3pm. The organisers are keen to meet anyone who is interested in being a beach or bathing pavilion lifeguard, beach accessibility attendant or bathing pavilion attendant.

Telecommunications conference

GIBRALTAR

D. B. Gibraltar has just hosted its first Commonwealth data event, the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation forum, at the University. The two-day conference took place on Wednesday and Thursday and is being followed today by a tourism and social programme for over 50 delegates from the ICT and telecommunications sectors of 12 Commonwealth nations.






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Top local speciality olive oil maker starts selling in Middle East

Antequera-based Finca La Torre currently exports to 25 countries and has tripled its sales in three years

AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ
MÁLAGA. An award-winning producer of high-quality olive oils from inland Malaga province has just sent its first consignment to customers in the United Arab Emirates.

Finca La Torre, based in Bobadilla in the municipality of Antequera, has won a prize for four consecutive years at national awards for food produce organised by the Spanish government and already sells its extra virgin oil label to 25 countries, including Britain, Germany and the United States.

The move into the UAE is seen as significant for the small-scale producer. Commercial director Borja Adrián said: "The Middle East is a very attractive market and has interesting potential as they recognise and value greatly the purity and sensory properties of our oils. For us it's a new area of business and we are very excited with our entry there."



Víctor Pérez heads the team behind Finca La Torre's success. :: A.P.

Finca La Torre produces between 80,000 and 100,000 litres of oil a year and has increased its sales income from 400,000 euros a year in 2014 to around 950,000 in 2017.

"In 2018 we have budgeted on 1.2 million euros, a steady growth as the customers come to trust us more," added Adrián. He went on to explain that in 2014 hardly 2,000 litres of oil packaged in bottles for

the end consumer was sold, whereas this year they hope to sell 45,000 litres that way, some 50 per cent of the production.

The producer, which is owned by a Swiss company, is run by agricultural engineer Víctor Pérez and grows its olive crop on some 33,000 trees. The harvest is normally in October finishing a month later, when the olive is at its greenest and freshest.

Telefónica announces 3.1-billion-euro profit in 2017 at AGM

SUR
MADRID. Spain's leading telecom services company, Telefónica, which also includes the Movistar brand and Britain's O2, announced a 32.2 per cent increase in annual profits at its AGM on Thursday morning.

The multinational company told shareholders in Madrid that it had

made a 3.13-billion-euro profit in 2017. It added that despite the negative impact of exchange rates in some of the markets it operates in and less income from roaming charges now EU rules have changed, it was helped by the sale of assets, such as part of Telxius, a telco infrastructure operator, and fewer restructuring expenses dur-

ing the year.

Worldwide sales in 2017 were flat at just over 52,000 billion euros, hindered by the weakness of the British pound, Argentinean peso and Venezuelan bolívar. By market, only Brazil increased sales, by 8.4 per cent, while others fell: 1.3 per cent in Spain, 2.8 per cent in Germany, 4.7 per cent in the UK and 0.2 per cent in Ibero America. In Spain Telefónica had 40.9 million customers, down 0.6 per cent.

The dividend for 2018 has been set at 0.40 euros for every share held.

THE EURO ZONE
MARK NAYLER

IT'S ALL POLITICS



The inevitable has finally occurred. On Monday, after months of machinations within the EU's most obscure institutions, Spain's economy minister Luis de Guindos was named as the next Vice President of the European Central Bank (ECB). The perpetually tired-looking De Guindos was long-tipped as the favourite for the position and ascended when his only rival, Ireland's Philip Lane, stepped aside. In May, he will relinquish his role in the Spanish government and step into the shoes of Portugal's Vitor Constancio, thus taking one of the most important monetary roles in the European Union.

You might well wonder how he got the job. The outgoing Spanish economy minister will take second place to Italian president Mariano Draghi on the six-member Executive Board, who are chosen "from among persons of recognised standing and professional experience in monetary or banking matters by common accord of the Member States", according to the ECB statute. What the statute doesn't mention is the role played by favours in the selection process; certainly, in De Guindos' case, these were at least as important as his experience in "monetary or banking matters".

The Spanish economy minister gained Germany's vote on one condition: that Spain back the German candidate for the presidency of the ECB, which becomes vacant when Draghi's term expires late next year. France also backed De Guindos,

saying that he possesses the "relevant experience and personal merits for the role". Anything else? Oh, yes: Spain will vote for Paris as the next base of the European Banking Authority.

De Guindos - who worked for Lehman Brothers and BMN before moving into politics - also received Portugal's blessing, in return for Spain having backed Mario Centeno as president of the eurozone's finance ministers, a role the Portuguese duly took up last month. Italy was one of the few countries to oppose the Spaniard, thus taking sweet revenge for Spain not endorsing Milan's bid to be the new base for the European Medicine Agency. It's all politics at the ECB.

The Spanish minister clearly can't wait to leave his current role. In the spring, De Guindos will move from his office in Madrid to one in the ECB's glinting skyscraper in Frankfurt - the EU equivalent of a book-lined study in an ancient English university. He recently said in an interview that his six years as economy minister in Mariano Rajoy's conservative government "have felt like 60".

His successor will take up a challenging portfolio. This year, Spain maintained 8th place in Bloomberg's ranking of the world's most "miserable" economies, in part based on an unemployment rate of 17%. And Rajoy's minority government is hamstrung in congress, unable to do anything without the support of hostile parties. Whoever replaces De Guindos is in for a hell of a sixty years.

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ART WORLD RAGE AT 'CENSORSHIP' OF POLITICAL WORK

A piece of art at Madrid's annual ARCO contemporary art fair has been controversially withdrawn by the exhibitor at the request of the venue's owners. The work is a collection of 24 photographs of people currently in jail in Spain with their faces pixelated, who the artist, Santiago Sierra, has labelled as political prisoners.

Radical Catalan separatist seeks refuge in Switzerland

Anna Gabriel was due to appear in Madrid's Supreme Court and Swiss legal experts say she cannot be extradited

:: SUR

MADRID. A leading member of a radical separatist party in Catalonia failed to appear before a judge at Madrid's Supreme Court on Wednesday, where she is being investigated for alleged offences including sedition and rebellion in last autumn's declaration of independence by secessionist Catalan politicians.

Anna Gabriel, of the left-wing CUP party, had moved to Switzerland some days before her expected court appearance in an attempt to



File photo of Gabriel. :: AFP

avoid possible detention in a move that mirrors ex-president of Catalonia, Carles Puigdemont, who is still in Belgium.

As with Belgium, Switzerland

doesn't recognise the same crime of rebellion as Spain does so extradition will not be possible, say experts on the law there.

In response to Gabriel's move and the Swiss response, the Supreme Court's investigating judge, Pedro Llarena, has issued a detention order which is only valid if the former regional MP returns to Spain.

Speaking from Geneva this week with her lawyer, Gabriel said she realised that she couldn't return and that "it was a big change in her life".

Amnesty International

Meanwhile Amnesty International has criticised Spain for what it calls "excessive force" in trying to prevent the illegal independence referendum in Catalonia on 1 October last year.

IN BRIEF

10k pound reward for suspect said to be in Ibiza

MALAGA

:: **SUR.** A 10,000 pound (about 11,300 euros) reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest of murder suspect Bradley Blundell who may be in hiding in Ibiza. It comes as a teenager was cleared by a jury of killing a man outside a petrol station in Essex, England. British police still want to trace 18-year-old Blundell and anyone with information can contact Crimestoppers in Spain anonymously on 900 555 111 or via crimestoppers-uk.org.



Bradley Blundell. :: SUR

New words to national anthem stir emotions

MADRID

:: **SUR.** Spain's national anthem is known for being one of the few in the world without any words. So when popular singing 'diva' Marta Sánchez sang a version with her own emotional lyrics last weekend it caused a social media storm. Conservative politicians, including the prime minister, said how rousing they were. But left-leaning ones said they didn't see that adding words to the anthem, known as the Royal March, was a priority, as the debate over what lyrics would suit it was ignited yet again.

More seats on AVE at 25 euros to go on sale

MADRID

:: **SUR.** Train operating company Renfe has announced that it will be offering 25,000 tickets at 25 euros each way on its AVE high-speed trains across Spain for journeys in the next three months. The promotion coincides with the tenth anniversary of the high-speed service from Madrid to Barcelona. The tickets will be on sale online at midnight on Saturday night/Sunday morning, 24/25 February and, as with similar promotions last year, are expected to sell out very quickly.

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LETTERS TO
THE EDITOR

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**THERE IS A PRIZE FOR THE BEST
CONTRIBUTION TO THIS PAGE**
SO PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR ADDRESS

Is this an old man?

With reference to your article Is This an Old Man? (SUR in English, January 26th), it's hopefully worth a mention to your readers that if they wish to keep mentally and physically fit I suggest they consider the following: Masters swimming and ASC.

Masters swimming is for people between 25 and 100 plus years of age, from local events to World Masters. I have been competing at European and world class level since 1987. I became World Champion at 75, after trying for 23 years, in 2010 in Sweden. Never give up. I am 83 this year. I became European Champion in London 2016 at 81. I have

three gold, one silver, and British and European records. I have parachuted from aeroplanes 13 times, travelled in a hot air balloon and done white-water rafting. I've even done a wing walk (best of the lot, but expensive), not to mention the longest zip wire in UK in Snowdon (2017), as well as climbing Snowdon.

ASC stands for Association of Speakers' Clubs, on a par with Toastmasters. It's the best but most frightening thing I have ever done. I shook myself off stage during my first speech.

I recommend both pastimes, highly.

ARTHUR LOWE
FUENGIROLA

**THIS
WEEK'S
WINNING
LETTER**

Dog concern

The coming few months will see the arrival at animal rescue centres of all those cute puppies, kittens and pets, that were Christmas presents, but have now become older, bigger, require training and regular walks, and are no longer quite so welcome around the house.

Adana has already had to take back dogs that were adopted, had enjoyed the comfort and care from a warm, safe home, and now find themselves unwanted, and back in the shelter. Like most shelters, Adana will give the best possible care to these dogs, but it is nearly always a traumatic experience for them, and it often makes it harder to find new homes for them.

If you are thinking of adopting a dog, please consider the following; if you rent, does your contract allow pets? Have you considered that you or your partner may have allergies or might become pregnant? If you have young children, have you thought carefully about the breed and size of the dog?

A dog is for life. It is part of your family. It is not a toy or a object to be casually discarded. So whilst we are happy to see our dogs leave the shelter to go to new homes, we, and most importantly, the dogs, are not happy to see them brought back.

So our message is simple; a dog

is for life. Think before you adopt. And ALWAYS adopt - never buy.

SUSIE BROWN
ADANA VOLUNTEER

The padrón

The padrón is the list of people resident in the town, however, for many years town halls have been encouraging all property owners to register, many of them offering a discount on local taxes to those who do so. The towns get a substantial subsidy from central government for each person registered which is a considerable help towards paying for local services. There has been considered publicity recently that the number of foreigners on the padrón is falling.

Until a few years ago once registered it was practically impossible for a town hall to remove anyone. The law then changed, now true residents must re-register every five years, other owners every three years. Many do not realise this or, having registered once, do not want to make the effort to do so again. There is also a possible tightening-up of the law which says only residents can register and that it is the responsibility for the person registering not to do so if they are not resident, not the town hall.

As I said, no mystery.

JULIAN WARD
BY EMAIL

Crazy paving

PETER EDGERTON
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

They're digging up the street outside the The Shakespeare. Right outside - inches away, in fact and it's a big operation. They'll be replacing pipes and drains and Lord knows what else before laying down some brand new and - we hope - really beautiful paving.

The work was originally scheduled for last October and we'd had the archaeologists rooting around all summer so that they would be sure not to disturb any ancient artefacts when they brought the big guns a bit later on. To tell the truth, they did wake me from a nap at one point but I don't suppose that was the kind of disturbing of ancient artefacts they were talking about.

The great thing is that the whole operation will need to be finished by Holy Week since the area of town where we are located becomes a heaving mass of human-

ity for eight days solid and it wouldn't be too good for the city's image for old women and children to be seen randomly disappearing down pot holes. Actually, I watched my brother fall down a pot hole once; well, not fall so much as disappear vertically, arms pinned to his sides like an Irish dancer, long hair extended upwards in a cartoon fashion. To this day it remains the funniest thing I've ever seen in real life. He must be very proud.

Anyway, sorry, I digress. Ah, yes, the roadworks. The thing is, for the first few days, there didn't seem to be any progress being made at all. Machines lay conspicuously idle while, from time to time a couple of (always different) blokes would pop along for five minutes, point at things, chew on their pencils and then toddle off again. Two or three days ago, a stern-looking man wearing the

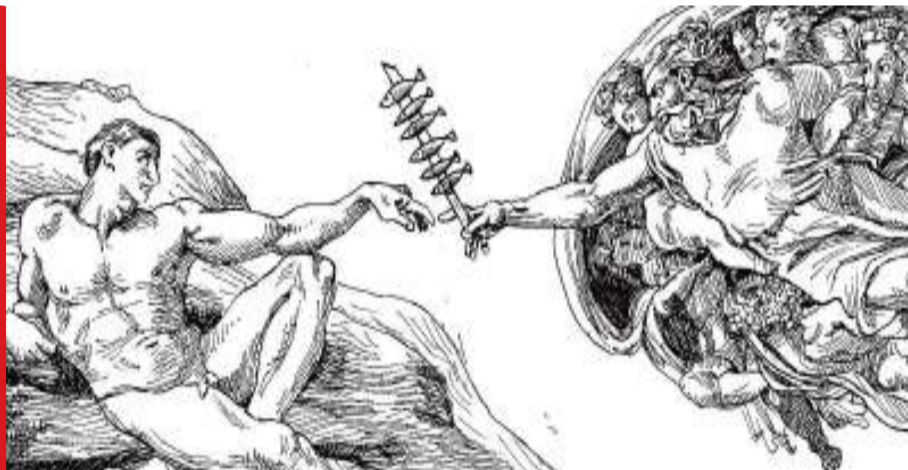
type of spectacles which say 'I mean business' stepped into the fray. Suddenly the whole street was a hive of activity, machinery was actually switched on and myriad tools appeared from nowhere as the whole team swung into frenetic action.

I don't know if it was the case, but it appeared very much as if a quiet word from the town hall had played some part in proceedings and the company under contract had been - mmm, how might we put this? - strongly advised to get a move on. The whole thing has come on in leaps and bounds; if they keep it up at this rate, never mind Holy Week, we'll have our exquisite paving design (come on, you have to dream) ready in a couple of weeks.

In the meantime, I might buy a pair of serious spectacles for the next time we need some work doing in the pub.

IDÍGORAS

THE
PROPOSAL FOR
UNESCO TO
MAKE THE
COSTA DEL
SOL'S
SARDINE
'ESPETOS'
INTANGIBLE
HERITAGE OF
HUMANITY



Wordless legacy

HÉCTOR BARBOTA

If anyone had the crazy idea of picking the best Spanish artist of all time, they would be stepping into a fascinating maze, but one with no way out. If they went in through the door marked painting they would get lost choosing between Murillo, Velázquez, Goya, Dalí, Picasso, Miró... If they went down the literature route the dilemma would be even greater. For many, Cervantes would be the obvious way, but what about Quevedo, Calderón, Lope de Vega, Pérez Galdós, Blasco Ibáñez, Unamuno, Valle Inclán, Pío Baroja, Góngora, Machado, Lorca...? In any other country any one of these could be considered the best in history, the writer who alone

could define the cultural legacy of an entire nation. Round other corners of our maze we might come across Buñuel, Gaudí, Camarón, Plácido Domingo...

History has been generous with Spain, giving it one major landmark achievement. Some might call it discovery and others call it invasion; some call it colonisation and some claim it to be a civilising gesture. Depending on which side of the Atlantic you're on, Spain's history in America means either the systematic looting of wealth, or a great cultural legacy that lives on today. On neither side, however, is there any doubt that this was the event than allowed humanity to become fully aware of itself and its

surroundings. Putting a man on the moon was nothing in comparison.

There have also been terrible episodes, but history has not been mean with this country.

Part of its legacy is a national anthem with no words. Some think this is a disadvantage, because our sports teams don't have the motivation their rivals get from shouting their way through war songs - which is what most anthems are. Recent sports results, however, prove this theory wrong. On the other hand it is a significant advantage that our children are not forced to learn verses that speak of recruiting battalions, dying in glory or putting one's country before and above everything. Especially bearing in mind that this is a country where symbols get caught up in internal battles aimed more at separating those who think differently than uniting.

Spain's national anthem has no words and that's that. It's not a good idea to try to correct history. It would be impossible and fruitless. And the risk of looking ridiculous is enormous.

SUR English

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Bruce Reynolds Professional musician

The guitarist first discovered his love for the instrument when he heard his cousin playing

Bruce Reynolds, 58, has lived in Malaga for three years and says that what brought him and his mezzo-soprano partner, Simona Mango, to the city was "a lucky accident". The pair had been visiting Granada when their plane from Malaga was cancelled so they spent the time waiting for the next available plane in the city. "We had no plans to visit Malaga so it was predestined," Bruce says.

Apart from the weather, the musician explains that he likes Malaga "for the history, the flamenco culture, the food, the Arabic influence, the people - both Spanish and the huge international community". "It's just a great place," he adds.

After two years in the centre of Malaga the musical couple moved out to the countryside and now live near Alhaurín de la Torre.

Discovering music

Bruce is no stranger to living abroad. Although he is British he was born in the Persian Gulf and then lived in the Caribbean as a young boy before moving to London at the age of ten as his father worked for Cable and Wireless as a member of their foreign staff. He has also lived in France, Germany, Holland and Switzerland, where he met Simona.

Bruce explains that he first discovered his flair for music at the age of 14 when his cousin played the guitar. "I liked the sound of it," he says.

He found out that his school offered free lessons and spent the



Bruce at a recent concert. :: SUR

"Nick came up with the name of the duo"

J. RHODES

MALAGA. Bruce Reynolds will be performing at El Molino de Cajiz near Vélez-Málaga on Sunday 4 March along with Nick Graham as part of the Paradise Blues duo. "Nick came up with the name after a few days at our place. I think he quite likes it there," Bruce says. They will be playing songs by Muddy Waters, Elmore James, Taj Mahal and other

blues artists. The duo also play rock and roll and as well as two original songs - one by Bruce and the other by Nick. They are planning more gigs for March 2018 with dates to be confirmed.

For more information about the Molino de Cajiz gig visit: www.elmolinodecajiz.com and to find out more about Bruce visit: www.bruce Reynoldsmusic.com

money he had saved from washing cars on a classical guitar. "It was either that or a Phillips cassette recorder," he laughs.

His father gave him some good advice about playing music. "He told me that if I learned an instrument I'd always have friends". How-

ever, Bruce admits that he doesn't think his dad meant for him to become a professional musician.

Busking around Europe

The road to becoming professional wasn't completely straight; Bruce explains that he was a busker for

three years before getting his first break.

"I busked in Paris, Munich, Cannes, Zurich, Bern, Stuttgart and London in Covent Garden. The busking was down to the fact I spoke no French so couldn't get a job in Paris back in 1979," he says.

Bruce adds that he has played most styles of music professionally but always comes back "full circle to the blues, rock, and Arabic and Spanish style guitar".

He says that when he improvises all these styles appear in his own music, which he mainly performs on either the Spanish or bass guitar. He also plays percussion and the harmonica. On singing Bruce admits that "everyone can sing, some better than others. I belong firmly with the others".

Bruce performs with Simona, in their Luna Llena duo as well as with Nick Graham, who he will be playing with at the Molino de Cajiz on Sunday 4 March.

Other projects

As well as the two duos, Bruce runs an international project he started in Switzerland called Harissa Boudoir Orchestra. "We play classical music such as Rimsky Korsakov, Saint-Saëns, Tchaikovsky and original music - with a belly dancer."

As if that wasn't enough, Bruce has also extended his creativity into writing since being in Spain; his first book is called 'The Gift - a story of friendship, heroism and rock and roll'. He explains that the idea came when he was on tour in Belgium a short time after his father died in 2004.

"I was unwittingly led to one particular grave in a World War Two military cemetery and I found out only later that he was my dad's best friend. The incident changed my life." He is currently writing a second book based on his experiences of being a busker.

Bruce says that he and Simona can see themselves staying here. "The world is going slowly crazy at the moment and I'm happy we have a home somewhere where we can get on with our lives and focus on the important things such as making music and being happy," he concludes.



"I'm happy we have a home somewhere where we can get on with our lives and focus on the important things"

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The Costa Press Club listen to Juan Antonio O'Donnell. :: SALLY HARRISON

Trips inland, cruise plans and a word from the police

SOCIETY SCENE

Both Torrox History Club and Lux Mundi have been visiting towns inland and the RBL are planning a cruise

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

Costa Press Club

The work of a media relations officer in the National Police

Thirty members of the Costa Press Club and invited guests attended the association's February meeting held in Restaurante El Gusto last week in La Cala de Mijas. The speaker was Juan Antonio O'Donnell Gallego, honorary chief inspector of the National Police Force (Policía Nacional) and former chief of the Press Office in Malaga, who gave an interesting talk about the daily work of media relations officers and the procedure for keeping the media informed about cases considered to be of public interest. The guest speaker, who has now retired, shared some of his personal experiences and impressions, based on over 40 years of service. He put the part played by communications into context, and explained in detail the sort of work undertaken by press officers, saying that in addition to reporting on current cases, they actively participate in the preventive work done by the police. The journalists present at the meeting showed particular interest in the role of social media in present day policing, and in restrictions to the publication of images of police officers on active service.



Torrox History Group. :: P. SHAW

Torrox Spanish History Group Trip to Macharaviaya

The Torrox Spanish History group meets every first Tuesday of the month at El Parquesol, El Morche. Members give talks and the group also enjoys trips to local historical sites of interest. This month members visited Macharaviaya, known for its connection to the Gálvez family. A guide from the museum showed the group around the village, the church and the crypt where some of the Gálvez family are buried.

Lux Mundi

Zahara and Ronda visit

Friends of Lux Mundi went on an excursion to Zahara de la Sierra recently. The group visited the Santa María de la Mesa church and a few climbed up to the castle to enjoy the view of the lake and surrounding countryside in what is described as one of the ten most picturesque white villages in Andalucía. The coach then took them to Ronda for lunch and a chance to see the famous gorge, bridge and bullring as well as visit the museums.

Royal British Legion Mollina Cruise around the Med

RBL Mollina branch are launching their next fundraising event: a cruise around the Mediterranean in November. They are offering the seven-night and eight-day trip in conjunction with Halcón Viajes and Pullmantur. Prices range from 850 to 955 euros depending on choice of cabin. If more than 40 people book, a sizeable donation can be made to the Poppy Appeal. The offer is open to everyone and more information can be obtained from jfloresmolina@halcon-viajes.es

What are you up to?

If you are involved in a club or association and planning events, trips or activities that would be of interest to other readers of SUR in English, we would love to hear from you:

Email: surinenglish.su@diariosur.es

LEGAL ADVICE



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REF. L. O. F

Just two months ago I bought a second hand car, quite new and with just 25,000 km, but the engine has suddenly broken down and the repair is going to cost a lot of money. I have tried to speak with the former owner for him to pay the repair, as it is obvious that the car was not fine when I bought it, but he refuses. What can I do?

In principle, the seller is responsible for any latent defect in the car for six months after the sale, but in order to consider him responsible, it is necessary to prove that the defect already existed before the sale, and this is not always possible. Therefore, even if the seller is responsible for hidden defects for six months, when these cases come up it is almost always impossible to claim.

REF. R. E. D.

I have recently separated. We are trying to get to an agreement regarding the distribution of our assets, but there is a point that my partner does not want to discuss: five years ago we adopted a dog, and I want to continue seeing and spending time with it, but my partner does not want me to. I know it seems strange, but we have no children, and for me the dog is like a son. Could I ask for a kind of contact regime to see the

dog, or any other way to oblige my partner to allow me to see it?

Anyone who has a pet feels that he is like any other member of the family, and that therefore, he should also have certain rights, but the truth is that from a legal perspective, and according to the current civil code, pets are considered as "objects" and therefore have no rights. The parliament approved last December to modify the civil code in order to consider animals as "living beings endowed with sensibility" and not "objects", but regrettably those changes have not materialised yet. Therefore, judges abide by what is established between the parties in the divorce agreement. Consequently, if you do not manage to convince your ex partner to voluntarily allow you to visit the dog, there is nothing that can be done legally, at least at the moment.

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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

23 FEBRUARY 1981

Antonio Tejero leads a coup d'état against Spain's government

The events of 23 February 1981 still weigh heavily in the collective Spanish mind today, as a resurgence of strong-arm politics that posed a direct threat to the fledgling democracy in Spain that had only emerged following the death of the dictator Franco six years previously. The army, which had played a crucial part in government during Franco's military regime, was concerned about the shortcomings of democratic politics in solving some of the problems that Spain faced. Economic crisis in the country saw unemployment at 20 per cent and inflation at 16 per cent, there were difficulties in forming devolved governments for some of the Spanish regions, and the Basque terrorist group ETA was viewed as a growing threat.

In 1978, Antonio Tejero, who was originally from Alhaurín el Grande, and two co-conspirators plotted a coup for November of that year, codenamed Operation Galaxia, which would see an effort to prevent the establishment of Spanish democracy. Two military personnel informed their superiors of the plot, and soon all three were arrested. However, they were given the minimum sentences; Tejero served just seven months and did not lose his military rank. On 10 February, Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo was named candidate for prime minister. Just three days later, a series of protests erupted in the Basque region after it became known that Jose Ignacio Arregui, a member of the terrorist movement ETA, had been tortured and killed. The revelations led to the dismissal



Antonio Tejero brandishes a pistol in the Congreso. **sur**

of several police chiefs and resignations in the Interior Ministry. Meanwhile, Calvo Sotelo attempted to inaugurate his new government, but he failed to gain enough votes to be sworn in. A new vote was scheduled for 23 February. Just after 6pm that day in the Congreso (lower house of parliament) in Madrid, the voting process for Calvo Sotelo was interrupted as 200 Guardia Civil officers armed with submachine guns, under the command of lieutenant colonel Antonio Tejero, burst into the parliament, shouting “¡Quietos todos el

¡Mundo!” (“Hold it everybody!”). Both the army general, Manuel Gutiérrez Mellado, and Adolfo Suárez attempted to reason with Tejero, who only shouted patriotic slogans. The coup was condemned by members of the EEC, which Spain had applied to join, as well as UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who called it a “terrorist act”. Shortly afterwards, Jaime Milans del Bosch, an army Captain General supportive of Tejero, deployed 2,000 soliders and 50 tanks in Valencia. In response, King Juan Carlos

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Golpe de estado	Coup d'état
Ejército	Army
Arma	Weapon
Asaltar	To storm
Irrumpir	To burst in
Insostenible	Unsustainable
Disparo	Shot
Gritar	To shout
Candidato	Candidate
Uniforme	Uniform
Malestar	Unease
Desalojar	To evacuate
Tanque	Tank
Investidura	Investiture
Fallido	Failed
Tentativa	Attempt
Teniente	Lieutenant
Coronel	Colonel

dressed as the highest rank in the military, Captain General of the Armed Forces, and publicly condemned the insurgents, highlighting the need to defend the new Spanish Constitution. It was then that it became clear that the coup had failed. Del Bosch's forces stood down at 5am. Tejero resisted until midday on 24 February, but was soon taken into custody by the authorities.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

PET CARE

To neuter or not to neuter?

Neutering of pets is a topic that can lead to long discussions. I am all in favour of it. A good friend of mine with two lovely, but big and boisterous dogs took years to decide. Whenever I pointed out the advantages: they would be much easier to handle and how more pleasant walks would be with well behaved dogs, the answer was always: “It is not natural.”

Of course she is right: it is not natural. But our pets do not live in a natural environment. If they were still living in their natural habitat their kittens and puppies would not all survive. The survival of the fittest would certainly apply. Even the parents would not live to the old age our domesticated pets do. With our regular visits to the vet for yearly vaccinations against all

kind of diseases, well balanced food and healthy exercise our pets live much longer than they would do in the wild. Neutering does not change the character of our dogs and cats: it only makes them more relaxed. Male dogs no longer have the desire to run away from home to answer the call of a female, often miles and miles away, with the added danger of getting involved in a road accident. Personally I do not believe that your bitch or queen looks forward

to having two or more litters a year. The first birth may well be exciting for all involved and you may even be lucky enough to find homes for all of them, but we all know that animal charities are always desperately looking for homes for the animals in their care. There are simply more pets looking for homes than there are homes looking for pets. As far as the reproduction of cats is concerned I have some sobering and chattering statistics for you: If a male and female cat get together whenever nature determines

they and their first year offspring will produce 42 cats in the first year, 66 in the second, 1,382 in the third, 2,220 in the fourth and 73,041 in the fifth. If all of them keep going and keep reproducing then in the tenth year they have managed to produce 80,399,790 new lives. Of course in reality that number will be much lower, because the death rate will reduce the overall outcome, but still... Can you think of a better reason to have them neutered?

ERNY HARRISON



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READER'S PHOTO



:: MARIA HILLEN

HALF HARDY BOUGAINVILLEA

Some species of Bougainvillea are hardier than others as this photo sent in by Maria Hillen proves. None are completely frost hardy, but the purple and magenta-coloured forms seem to be more resistant to the cold.

GARDENING HINTS

Fascinating facts about trees, part 2

Contrary to common belief, most trees don't have a tap root; the majority of the roots are in the top 10-15cm of soil. Those trees with a tap root, such as oaks, pines, hickory and walnut, can go down over six metres in ideal soil conditions.

It is said that planting one tree in an open field will increase bird diversity by 80%. The rate is not maintained by subsequent tree planting though, and gradually levels off. One tree will also provide

a habitat and food for a variety of creatures including, bats, bees, insects, rodents etc.

Trees are very long lived. In the USA there is a Bristlecone pine that is over 5,000 years old; it was lucky not to have been trodden on or eaten by a mammoth when it was a seedling. Trees in urban areas are effective at removing pollution from the air and absorbing carbon dioxide replacing it with oxygen. They also can remove poisonous chemicals from the soil.

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. Alternatively, you can send them to us via Facebook ([surenglish](https://www.facebook.com/surenglish)) or Twitter ([@SUR_English](https://twitter.com/SUR_English))

GARDENING

Beschorneria rigida

A member of the agave family with architecturally stunning leaves and spectacular arching, magenta stems and tubular red and chartreuse-green flowers

Beschorneria is a genus of plants in the Agavaceae sub family. Unlike many agaves, this stunning architectural plant has no nasty terminal spines on its leaves to make gar-

dening around it difficult. The leaves on B. rigida are around 50cm long and have slightly serrated edges. Another advantage with this genus is that, while many of the

agaves die after flowering, Beschorneria continues to flower year after year.

The foliage of Beschorneria is perennial and forms an attractive, rounded clump. Size depends on species (as does leaf colour - some are bright green, others grey-green) but B. yuccoides, for example, can form a huge rosette of more than 1.5 metres across.

The leaves are evergreen but older leaves may start to look a bit tatty after the winter. They can be removed with a sharp tug from the base.

Of the seven to ten species in the genus, the most popular one for the average sized garden is B. rigida. It is smaller than the other species and has the most flowers, especially if planted in a sunny spot. It will flower in partial shade but less prolifically.

The magenta flower stems can be over a metre long and have pendant tubular flowers with magenta sepals and chartreuse-green petals.

The flowers open in late spring and last for several weeks. They are followed by striking red seed pods, sometimes striped with pale green or cream, which open to reveal shiny black seeds. The seeds are rarely viable and propagation is best carried out by dividing the clump in spring or summer.

The Beschorneria genus is not frost hardy and, although fairly drought resistant, will benefit from watering in the summer.



The arching stems of B. rigida and close-up of blooms. :: WIKIPEDIA

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"What you'll see is a lifetime's work"

Sean Meo Comedian and writer

Originally a full-time snooker player, Sean Meo has been a professional stand-up comedian since 1989

TONY BRYANT

MALAGA. The Salon Varietés Theatre in Fuengirola is to host two nights of stand-up comedy this weekend. The shows will present some of the UK's top comedians, including Dave Thompson, Geoff Whiting and Sean Meo.

Originally a full-time snooker player, Sean Meo has been a professional stand-up since 1989. Since then, he has risen to the very top of the UK comedy scene. Sean's impressive wealth of material sets him apart from many of his contemporaries and he intends to demonstrate this in the Salon Varietés this weekend.

SUR in English caught up with the comedian this week when he revealed his surprise at learning that his surname means "I pee" in Spanish.

–What made you give up snooker in preference of a career in comedy?
–I wanted to quit while I was ahead. Snooker is a sport and by its nature competitive. Snooker was all about trying to beat the opponent. I'd

rather make him laugh.

–You wrote some material for Bruce Forsyth; was he an inspiration/hero?

–Yes. Bruce knew the scripts so well he could do them backwards. What looked spontaneous on screen was meticulously planned. He was the ultimate professional and a lovely man to know.

–You have been described as "surreal, sexy and very, very funny". Do you consider your show or yourself sexy?

–[Laughs] No, not really. People find power sexy. I don't do sex material in my act and I don't swear either.

–You have also been accused of dressing like someone from a Kay's catalogue. Are you style conscious?
–Who cares what I look like? I think there are more important things happening in the world to spend too much time ironing.

–Have you performed in Spain before?

–Is Gibraltar in Spain? [SUR: No.] In that case, I haven't performed in Spain.

–You were voted comic of the year by Time Out. Were you deserving of this recognition?

–[Laughs] That's for the audience at the Salon Varietés to decide. As long as I do my best, I don't judge myself.

–Dave Thompson refers to your act as "brilliant". How would you



Sean Meo will unleash his humour in Fuengirola this weekend . :: SUR

describe him?

–I've known Dave for years. We have different personalities. He's more of a clown. We've had great times together, scuba diving in Thailand. We make each other laugh a lot, but not when we're underwater.

–Does it bother you that your surname means "I pee" in Spanish?

– (Laughs heartily) I didn't know that. There goes my plan to retire to Spain. Lucky I'm a comedian and not a teacher in a Spanish secondary school!

What can the audience expect at the Salon Varietés?

– I think our two nights at the Salon Varietés will be very entertaining. What you'll see on stage is a lifetime's work.

Two nights of comedy: 24 and 25 February at the Salon Varietés theatre, Fuengirola.
www.salonvarietestheatre.com

ABBA TRIBUTE SHOW TAKES COSTA AUDIENCES BACK IN TIME

The Abba Reunion tribute group played to packed houses along the Costa del Sol last week. The show, created by the director and choreographer of the ABBA Mania musical, had audiences dancing in the aisles to iconic disco hits of the 70s and 80s, such as Dancing Queen, Waterloo and Take a Chance on Me. The shows were organised by BigM Promotions.



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Miami vibe

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ANDREW FORBES



✉ Twitter: @andrewaforbes

As I walk out of the private lift, my eyes take a moment to adjust to the bright light. The polished marble floors and immaculate white walls seem to intensify the brilliant Miami sunshine that floods in through the three-and-half-metre-high floor-to-ceiling windows. I'm being a little cheeky, having a tour of an elite corner penthouse in 'Rise', one of the sparkling new condominium towers in Brickell City Centre. It is an upscale commercial and residential development that's an example of Miami's revived and booming economy. I'm not a potential property investor, but the temptation to see how the other half can live was irresistible.

The wraparound terrace balconies were breathtaking, especially when catching a downward glimpse of the beautifully landscaped pool deck with tropical gardens, some 40 floors below. I began to fall in love with

the promise of this luxury lifestyle; yet these exclusive residences are not particularly aimed at European holidaymakers. Instead they are being snapped up by wealthy buyers from South America.

Nexus of the Americas

The real estate agent explained some of the buyers' varied motivations - investments to protect against domestic currency devaluation; a sophisticated base while visiting business interests in the city; or an additional home in Miami for parents of students studying in the States.

Miami has become the global meeting place for the movers and shakers of South America, but not just business people and professionals but artists from all disciplines too, including of course music and acting. This is a trend that has built upon the city's established connections with the Spanish-speaking world, and one that has made Miami a culturally rich and compelling US city destination.

Miami is the nexus of North and South America; not only a commercial hub, but a place of cultural exchange too. In 2002 Miami hosted the Art Basel Festival Miami Beach, giving this world-leading contemporary art fair a perspective from

the Americas. Art Basel Miami has since become a regular fixture in the city's cultural calendar. In addition to the art in the main exhibition hall, Collins Park and Sound-scape Park become open air galleries for large-scale artworks, performances, and film-showings. Over the past decade and a half, the city has continued to bolster its cultural credentials, making it a destination that is so much more than just beaches. World-class galleries and festivals complement neighbourhood arts centres and events.

Like a local

Discover the districts of Miami and you will be embraced by art, music and food from across the Americas. Little Havana is amongst the best known, a hub of Cuban art galleries, salsa clubs, street cafés, and the Walk of Fame on Calle Ocho, paying tribute to Latin cultural figures. Little Haiti (Lemon City) is well-worth discovering too; it's the district for Afro-Caribbean culture and flavours.

Wynwood, once known as El Barrio, was settled by Puerto Rican immigrants. It has evolved into a centre for art with both established and



Ceviche, a typical Peruvian dish. :: GMCVB.COM

pop-up galleries; and is renowned for its Wynwood Walls street art park. The post-industrial city block on NW 2nd Avenue between 25th and 26th Streets is an ever-changing canvas for graffiti artists - with many new works emerging to coincide with the Art Basel Miami festival in December.

Although Wynwood, like many of Miami's neighbourhoods has undergone significant redevelopment, you can still find its Puerto Rican flavour in family-run cafeterias and restaurants where you can eat authentic homemade alcapurrias fritters and other specialities.

Without walls

Miami has had a strong Hispanic influence since the era of the Cuban revolution, and now the city has emerged as a thriving international business and cultural hub for ambitious people, many from the Spanish-speaking world, who see Miami as a 'capital' of Latin America.

After the Cuban revolution in 1959, thousands of children were sent to the United States from the island under Operation Pedro Pan. In the 1960s the US-sponsored 'Freedom Flights' led to the resettling of

The city has emerged as a thriving international business and cultural hub for ambitious people



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Miami skyline. :: KIKOR.COM GMCVB.COM



Wynwood Walls street art park. :: GMCVB.COM

hundreds of thousands of additional Cuban refugees in the US, changing the demographics of Miami forever, and beginning its transformation into what is now a growing metropolis where more than 70 per cent of residents are Hispanic. Many have origins from across the Caribbean and South America, including Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina and central American countries.

For me, this makes Miami special. It is a captivating mix of the American continents. There is the striking all-American architecture, from Art Deco to glistening skyscrapers; the Caribbean-style beaches lined with swaying palms; and the day-to-day life of the city that conveys an undeniable Latin vibe. Music from the Americas is everywhere for example; reggaetón, merengue and salsa spill out from bars and passing cars, sounds that are now part of mainstream popular culture.

Miami bites

Miami's transition from a relatively small South Florida city to a multicultural, predominantly Hispanic metropolis has not been without controversy and issues. Yet as a visitor to 21st century Miami is to experience a city that pulsates with energy, enthusiasm, art and great food!

Enjoying bites from local hole-in-the wall eateries, and family-cafeterias are often the best travel memories. There are few better ways to immerse yourself in a destination than through eating local food, and in Miami that means immersing yourself in the Americas. The Cubanos, Puertorriqueños, Dominicanos, Colombianos, Venezolanos and Peruvianos brought more than just their language, music and art to Miami - they brought their family recipes too. A day in the Magic City might include an all-American breakfast; lunch with the zest and spice of the finest, fresh Peruvian ceviche; sunset cocktails of an authentic Cuban mojito or tropical daiquiri; and dinner at a salsa club.

That's the diversity of Miami. It's so compelling you might be tempted to make it home too - but if you're thinking of acquiring a sleek corner penthouse, well, you'll need a cool four million US dollars.

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ANDREW FORBES

THE INSIDER GUIDE

Miami

Add South American & Caribbean swing to your next Stateside trip with a stay in the Magic City, 'capital of Latin America'



South Beach.

STAY:

The Meridian Hotel

Close to the buzz of the iconic Ocean Drive, South Beach, yet within the authentic, quieter residential district of 'SoFi', this new budget hotel offers a cool Miami vibe with its brilliant white, mid-century architectural style, courtyard of tropical palms, and café lobby where arriving guests are greeted with a welcoming Cuban mojito. Rooms are simple yet comfortable and well presented. The hotel is a 10-minute walk to the ocean, but you can borrow one of the guest-use bicycles to get around.

UrbanicaTheHotels.com

East, Miami

East Miami is the strikingly modern hotel within the revitalised Brickell district of downtown, one of the most on-trend places to eat, drink, party and stay. The hotel has genuine swank; with a sleek pool deck and bar area, and signature restaurants. Also, it's home to Sugar Miami, the award-

winning 40th floor rooftop bar and garden - a place to enjoy cocktails and tapas over-looking the city's skyline.

East-Miami.com

EAT:

Puerto Sagua Restaurant

You can see, feel and hear the influence of Miami's Cuban American residents across the city. You can taste it too, in the many Cuban restaurants, of which Versailles, in Little Havana is probably the most famous.

Yet at Puerto Sagua, the simplicity is the restaurant's charm; with a menu of home-cooked dishes like 'Picadillo a la Criolla' (seasoned ground beef with olives, raisins and spices, served with rice, black peas and sweet plantains); or 'ropa vieja' (pulled pot-roast beef with vegetables). There are generous authentic Cuban sandwiches and homemade soups too.

Search Puerto Sagua Restaurant on Facebook



Ball & Chain.

El Bajareque

Puerto Rican eats in a friendly, family café in trendy Wynwood. It gets busy, so arrive early to get a table.

ElBajarequeRestaurant.com

Joe's Stone Crab

For more traditional flavours of Miami, head to this renowned family eatery in Miami Beach's SoFi district to try the seasonal crab claws; as well as homemade Key Lime Pie. Reservations are not taken, so expect to wait for a table.

Facebook.com/JoesStoneCrab

Panther coffee

Expect great coffee in Miami - and this local gourmet coffee roaster has locations across the city, including in artsy Wynwood, romantic Coconut Grove and colourful Little Haiti.

PantherCoffee.com

Restaurant Quinto la Huella

This smart Uruguayan restaurant is a homage to Parador La Huella, the famous seaside South American eatery. Interiors of chic chiringuito design, with an outside terrace. Wood-burning oven and South American style grill for authentic South American flavours.

East-Miami.com

Estefan Kitchen

Gloria Estefan and her husband, Emilio are the names behind the trendy beach restaurant, Larios on the Beach, as well as this new upscale restaurant, Estefan Kitchen. Found in the exclusive Palm Court pedestrianised mall, in the Miami Design District, the restaurant offers sophisticated interpretations of family Cuban recipes.

EstefanKitchen.com

Miami Design District.net



East, Miami Hotel.



Meridian Hotel.



Sugar Miami Bar.



Ball & Chain.



Ocean Drive.

DO:

Ball & Chain

Dine, drink and dance with live salsa, jazz and DJ sets at this reincarnation of the renowned bar and lounge that opened in 1935 on Calle Ocho, in Little Havana.

BallAndChainMiami.com

The Ancient Spanish Monastery

Take a free weekend tour of a 12th century Spanish monastery, in North Beach Miami! Randolph Hearst, the entrepreneur and newspaper publisher, purchased, and then shipped the ancient cloisters from Segovia to the USA.

SpanishMonastery.com

Museums and galleries

The Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science is a must for families; it has interactive exhibitions, and a full-dome planetarium offering 3D presentations. Opposite is the Pérez Art Museum Miami, with its world-class collection of contemporary art from the perspective of the Americas. See a full list of Miami's diverse cultural centres on the city's visitor website.

MiamiAndBeaches.com

Road trip

Miami is a good base for a fly-drive holiday. The Florida Keys, an archipelago of coral islands linked by a highway, makes for a classic road trip from Miami, ending in picturesque Key West. For further road trip inspiration, look at the Hertz Road Trip Planner and discover iconic and off-the-beaten track routes, maps and guides.

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Cruise

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WHERE IN THE WORLD?



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If you like your beer and you like it strong, then this may well be the destination for you next month.

Pictured is the tranquil setting of the city's West Park which could be the only bit of quiet you get from

2 to 25 March when the city, and especially its beer halls, fills with punters eager to sample the strong, dark beers.

These beers were originally brewed by monks to help them through the arduous fasting of Lent.

The so-called "liquid bread" helped keep up their strength and spirits as they abstained from food for 40 days but many have an alcohol content of more than seven per cent so with standard litre servings, this is not for lightweights!

The monks' tradition is maintained through this festival which is considered the little brother of the main show which is world famous and occurs later in the year. This one, however, is considered the version for insiders who will



JANUARY'S PHOTO

enjoy beer for a lower price and without the crowds.

If you know where this is, you could win a prize.

Please send the name of the festival in its original language, plus the name of its more famous brother and the city in which both occur to english@diariosur.es. Only entries with your full name, delivery address and telephone number will be considered.

Last month's photo showed the Montréal en Lumière festival in Canada, gaining a reputation globally for its way of bringing light and warmth to the winter months.

Congratulations to Norma Artist in Molina who answered correctly. Your prize will be on its way to you soon.

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**DIGIT. X - RAYS | BONE DENSITY
ULTRASOUND SCAN**

New hospital in Malaga a “top priority” for the regional health authorities

The Junta has announced its intention to build a new 230-million-euro, state-of-the-art hospital behind the existing Materno hospital

:: **ÁNGEL ESCALERA**

MALAGA. The Junta de Andalucía, responsible for healthcare across the region, has given its backing to proposals for a new public hospital in Malaga.

Regional Health minister Marina Álvarez announced on Monday that the Junta would push ahead with the project after meetings with healthcare experts who have spent the past year assessing the area's needs and considering possible sites for new facilities.

The project which they have settled on is an 800-bed hospital in Malaga, on the land behind the existing maternity and children's hospital, where the La Noria social centre, the nursery school run by the provincial government, the Casa Ronald McDonald centre for family members of sick children and the Virgen de la Esperanza centre for the



Marina Álvarez (left) with the healthcare professionals who proposed the project. :: **FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ**

physically disabled currently stand.

Álvarez described the project, which is expected to cost 230 million euros, as “innovative and good” as it would be at the cutting edge of healthcare provision, with the latest technology and capacities to train new staff and carry

out research. She also said that it would be given “top priority” given the current needs of the city and its projected growth.

“This is the hospital that Malaga needs - of a high level, with the latest technology, so that we can go into the future with certain guaran-

tees as we're faced with a growing and ageing population,” said healthcare sources consulted by SUR.

Ready by 2024

Marina Álvarez said on Monday that the hospital could be completed by 2024. It is expected that the con-

tract to draw up the plans for the construction will be put out to tender before the end of the year and that construction could start in 2019, with a timescale of five years.

However, the provincial government (Diputación, headed by the conservative PP party) owns the land where the new hospital will be built and the Health Department (part of the Junta, run by the social PSOE) is yet to negotiate its use.

Meanwhile other improvements would be made the existing health facilities, explained Álvarez, including the opening of a stroke unit and the expansion and improvement of the A&E department at Carlos Haya hospital (works will go out to tender next month), the purchase of five new MRI scanners and improvements to primary care.

Cutting waiting times is also a priority, said Álvarez, who recognised that many healthcare professionals says that the current infrastructure is insufficient.

“Reasonable” stipulations

Sources from the Diputación reported on Monday that they had not yet received an official request from the Junta, but provincial president Elias Bendodo formally responded on Tuesday, saying he would be willing to give up the land, offering his “complete collaboration” in the project. He also went as far as offering a “vote of confidence” to regional Health minister Marina Álvarez.

Bendodo, however, insisted that permission for use of the land would

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How the land currently looks. :: FRANCIS SILVA

Malaga's current healthcare shortfalls; the construction of a CHARE "high-resolution" hospital on the eastern side of the city in the El Palo district; and that the current services on the planned site are relocated elsewhere in the province and not scrapped.

The provincial chief said that these conditions were "not unreasonable". "We're not asking for anything that is out of this world," he said, and insisted that the stance over the CHARE would not alter.

He said that they could not accept "a small change to the health centre in El Palo", with reference to Álvarez's proposal the previous day. She insisted that a CHARE was not necessary but that improvements could be made to the existing building, by adding emergency and specialist departments and facilities to carry out diagnostic tests.

Bendodo insisted that rejection of this was not a matter of politics: "It's not the PP or the Diputación saying this, health professionals and the College of Physicians all say that it is crucial to have another centre in this area."

only be given should the Diputación's conditions be met. He called for an "urgent" action plan to be implemented as soon as possible to attend to

Marbella council implores the Junta to finish expansion of the Hospital Costa del Sol

:: HÉCTOR BARBOTTA

MARBELLA. The town hall in Marbella has appealed to the Junta de Andalucía to finish the expansion of the Hospital Costa del Sol, a project which has stalled since 2010.

Spokesman for the council, Félix Romero, has responded following the announcement of a new hospital for Malaga. Though he was pleased by the news, he expressed his "doubts that the Junta would keep its word given what has happened in Marbella".

"We are really pleased that Malaga will get the new hospital it really needs but it seems shameful

that the Junta can make these promises while no work has been carried out on the Hospital Costa del Sol for the past seven years," he said.

Romero also insisted that, in his view, the hospital expansion was "another example of the Junta trying to avoid paying a single penny in our municipality, putting the work in private hands while the residents of Marbella pay twofold - first with their taxes then to park their cars there".

He implored the regional government to "for once fulfil all its promises" so that "Marbella can have the hospital it really needs".



The Hospital Costa del Sol in Marbella. :: JOSELE-LANZA

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We speak

Acute leukemia in children is being cured in 90 per cent of cases

Bone marrow transplants and improved chemotherapy treatments are enabling young patients to beat this illness

by **ÁNGEL ESCALERA**

MÁLAGA. About 90 per cent of cases of acute lymphoblastic leukemia in children are being cured, thanks to bone marrow transplants and more effective chemotherapy treatments. This positive news was given recently by the head of the paediatric haematology unit at the Materno Infantil hospital, Ángeles Palomo, at a demonstration held on the main steps outside the hospital to mark International Childhood Cancer Day.

Last year 76 new cases of tumours were diagnosed in children at the hospital (22 acute leukemias and 54 solid tumours), in patients from Malaga, other provinces in Andalucía and Melilla.

The demonstration, which was led by the director of the provincial board of the Spanish Association



Those who took part in the demonstration held up cardboard smiles as symbols of hope and optimism. **by F. S.**

tion against Cancer (AECC), Pedro González, was organised by the associations and foundations which form the 'Agrupación Unidos con-

tra el Cáncer' platform.

A statement was read out, calling for more support for research and public health facilities, and cam-

paigns to promote a healthy lifestyle. Those attending held up cardboard 'smiles' as a symbol of hope and optimism. "This is the se-

venth consecutive year that this event has taken place," said Ana Isabel González, the provincial Health delegate, who was accompanied by the manager of the Carlos Haya regional hospital, Emiliano Nuevo, and members of his team.

Dr Palomo spoke about the advances which have been made in curing acute lymphoblastic leukemia, which is the most common type in children with an annual rate of four cases in every 100,000 children. Leukemias are the most common neoplasms in childhood, followed by tumours of the central nervous system.

Bone marrow transplants are effective in beating leukemia. In 2017, about a dozen of these were carried out on children under the age of 15 at the Materno hospital. Of those, seven were autologous (the cells used were from the same patient) and five were allogeneic (the cells came from a donor).

Worldwide, the survival rate of children with cancer is about 80 per cent, said the head of the paediatric oncology unit at the Materno, Ana Benito. The great challenge for doctors is the number of paediatric patients who don't respond to treatments or who relapse. In these cases, hope lies in immunotherapy, a method which combats the cancer, has fewer side effects and works in such a way that once the initial neoplasia is cured, there is no second tumour. "In the future, 80 per cent of child cancers will be treated by immunotherapy," explained Dr Palomo.

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Young graffiti artist and leukemia sufferer Julione designs a pair of sunglasses to raise funds for research

Hawkers, in collaboration with Unoentrecienmil, has launched a campaign to help bring an end to the illness in children

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. The young graffiti artist from Seville who goes by the name Julione Tapas has joined up with sunglasses retailer Hawkerc in its new campaign aimed at tackling childhood leukemia.

Julione (real name Julio Rosa), who himself has leukemia, has designed a pair of sunglasses for the company's new campaign, in collaboration with the Fundación Unoentrecienmil, called #Fuck-Leucemia.

Money raised from the sale of these limited edition sunglasses will go towards the foundation which has raised more than 500,000 euros in the past four years through various campaigns.

It is hoped that the marketing expertise of Hawkerc, which has model Paula Echevarría and superstar footballer Lionel Messi as the faces of its brand, will bring the



Julione, in an image to launch the sunglasses campaign. :: SUR

campaign and the foundation to a wider audience.

The glasses, called 'Unoentrecienmil X Hawkerc by Julione', were designed by the 11-year-old himself and their sale goes hand-in-hand with a social media campaign aimed at raising awareness.

They can be bought from the Hawkerc website and cost 30 euros, with all money going to the Fundación Unoentrecienmil. You can also

support the campaign by texting UNO to 28014 at a cost of 1.20 euros.

Since its creation in 2012, the objective of Unoentrecienmil has been to support research into this illness so that one day doctors can say to patients: "Don't worry, it's just leukemia."

In Spain each year more than 300 new cases of leukemia are diagnosed in children and two in ten do not make it through treatment.

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New surgery to enable transsexual women to sound more feminine

The co-director of otorhinolaryngology at the Quirón Marbella hospital, Juan Carlos Casado, has written a book about the operation

ÁNGEL ESCALERA

MALAGA. For transsexual women, it is very important for their voice to sound as feminine as possible. This can be achieved through surgery: the operation is called Wendler glottoplasty and it increases the tension, alters the consistency and reduces the mass of the vocal cords to make a shorter larynx which emits more penetrating and feminine sounds, as Juan Carlos Casado, co-director of the otorhinolaryngology department at the Quirón hospitals in Marbella and the Campo de Gibraltar, explains.

Dr Casado has co-authored a book with Enrique Maraví Aznar, called 'Feminización de la voz. Abordaje multidisciplinar de la mujer transgénero', a guide to understanding the transition which transsexual

women undergo at a surgical level. The book was presented earlier this week at the Cultural Hospital Real de la Misericordia (known as the Hospitalillo) in Marbella, in the presence of the mayor of Marbella, Ángeles Muñoz, and the manager of the Quirón hospitals in Malaga and Marbella, Tomás Urda.

Dr Casado says 40 voice feminisation operations have been carried out so far at the Quirón in Marbella, and another 20 at a hospital in Barranquilla (Colombia). He explains that Wendler glottoplasty enables

transsexual patients to complete the final stage in a series of changes to become completely female in body and soul. "Acquiring a feminine voice gives our patients the confidence they need to incorporate themselves into their new life without fear and without any type of complexes," he says.

Endoscopy

Juan Carlos Casado explains that the method applied is technically complex but because it is done via endoscopy through the mouth it leaves no

external scars. The operation takes approximately an hour and a half and afterwards the patient has to rest their voice for two weeks. Later, they are given speech therapy.

Dr Casado says there was a need for his book because there are very few up-to-date manuals which explain the process of feminising the voice of transsexual women in a straightforward way.

The book contains several chapters which help people to understand the process of this type of operation and other aspects of becoming a transgender woman, such as hormone treatment, facial feminisation surgery and sexual reassignment surgery.

"Many patients are worried that their voice doesn't match their appearance, in other words it doesn't sound feminine enough," he says. ENT specialists and speech therapists also play an important part in the process.

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The presentation of Juan Carlos Casado's book was very well attended. :: JOSELE-LANZA

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Foods that help boost energy and vitality

Eating the right things every day can make us feel less tired, more optimistic and cheerful

AMIL LÓPEZ VIÉITEZ

How many times have you felt unable to follow your normal routine? Sometimes our bodies rebel and we feel more tired than usual. It could be due to the time of year, or too much stress; maybe the children are on holiday or you're convalescing from an illness, worrying about a backlog of work, losing sleep over a family problem... Whatever the reason, everything just seems more complicated.

When this happens, the following advice can help you to feel more energetic, good-humoured and optimistic.

The first thing to do is plan your food all through the day and try not to eat between meals. You can have three main meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) and two or three snacks a day. Your body needs to eat something every four hours. Make sure you get all the necessary nutrients,

vitamins, minerals, trace elements and fibre so your organism functions as efficiently as a Swiss clock.

A healthy and balanced diet and good hydration will help to eliminate toxins, give you the energy you need and you will feel more cheerful. Physical exercise is a great ally too, because it activates serotonin and dopamine, the neurotransmitters which boost happiness and ability to concentrate.

Your diet should include these foods to activate vitality:

Eggs. They contain choline, which feeds the nerve cells (neurones).

Nuts and dried fruit. They provide good fat, make you feel full, improve vitality and memory. Their magnesium content activates serotonin. They have numerous beneficial properties.

Leafy green vegetables (watercress, spinach...). These are depurative, contain tryptophan, are antioxidant and provide vitamins and minerals. They can be taken as green smoothies, to boost vitality.

Cabbage, broccoli and Brussels sprouts. The vitamins from the B group which they provide help to turn carbohydrates into energy.

Wholemeal cereals and pulses. They are a magnificent source of magnesium, potassium and zinc.

Germinates. These are soft sprouts which provide energy and youth because they have proteins of high biological value with detoxifying effects. They contain trace elements and enzymes which protect the organism.

Dark chocolate. An antioxidant treat which gives you some extra energy.

Oranges, lemons, mandarins and red fruits. A source of antioxidants. Drinking diluted lemon juice on any empty stomach regulates pH and is depurative.

Lean meat and fish. Contain tryptophan and help to preserve muscle mass. Fish is a source of Omega 3.

Thermogenic foods. The thermogenic foods activate your metabolism and boost energy. Try adding a little spice to your meals and you'll see how the energy flows.

Avoid energy thieves

"Energy thieves" such as sugar (and sweeteners), caffeine and alcohol sap your vitality and lower your defenses, leading to anxiety, accumulation of body fat, inflammation and mood swings.

A healthy diet eliminates toxins and improves mood. :: SUR



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The return of the flours of yesteryear

Old varieties and ecological grains are now being grown locally and milled in the traditional way

ESPERANZA PELÁEZ

MÁLAGA. Since humans discovered that the process of grinding, and the subsequent cooking (in water or fire), of cereals and grains could be converted into palatable and nutritious food, flours transformed into the basis of our diet and food culture: breads, porridge, biscuits and cakes.

But in recent years, as with so many other products in the opulent world, there has been concern for the nutrition and sensorial quality which could affect a basic product such as bread and its primary component, flour.

Andrés Bonilla found unexpected treasure when he returned to his home region of the Guadalhorce valley: "My wife and I decided to come back. I found myself unemployed and with the need to do something. I made bread at home, it started as just a hobby, then I discovered the mills in the area and the extraordinary quality of the flour that was produced. We also saw that there was already a community of home bakers on the internet, so there was a fantastic opportunity to provide a service to them."

Today, El Amasadero (www.elamasadero.com), Bonilla's company,

is a point of reference within the 'panarra' movement (home bakers), and sells high-quality local flours and accessories online, in addition to having an app for mobile phones, 'Porcentaje de Panadero', which helps to calculate the exact proportions of ingredients to obtain a perfect dough.

Three main suppliers

Three mills in Coín are his main suppliers, the Harinera San José, the Molino Eco-Coín and La Fuensanta, all descendants from when the currents of the tributary network of the Guadalhorce river were used to grind not only cereals, but olives for oil and even cork for the conservation of food when there were no fridges.

"The fact that 90 per cent of the flour that we sell is produced less than eight kilometres from us is very important to us," says Bonilla, who lives in Alhaurín el Grande.

José Antonio Méndez, from La Fuensanta, who, like

Bartolomé Méndez, from Molina Eco-Coín, comes from a family which has been millers since 1790, is pleased that the demand for his organic flours, both for bakeries and private individuals, has not stopped growing in recent years.

Today he sells to customers throughout Spain. "We have an old stone mill and factory, and only make flours without pesticides and ground without losing the wheatgerm," he explains.

Wheatgerm included

And what is wheatgerm? A grain of wheat is composed of three elements: the bran, which encases the grain and represents 14 per cent of the total weight; the germ or embryo, the reproductive part that germinates to create a new plant and accounts for three per cent of the weight of the grain; and the endosperm, where the nutrients necessary for germination are stored and which, with 83 per cent of the total weight, is the main component of flour (and the only one found in refined flours).

María Teresa, Bar-

tolomé Méndez's wife, from the Molino Eco-Coín, explains that the process of using a grinding stone has two main advantages: "One is that it generates less heat, and therefore does not burn the grain, and the other is that the wheatgerm is not lost". This translates into "a creamier colour and a richer and more intense flavour, as well as the added nutrients from the wheatgerm".

Although preserving traditional milling methods, the artisan mills of Coín are constantly innovating, aiming for a greater diversity of grains while concentrating on ecological production, in which Rafael Bermúdez, from Harinera San José, was a pioneer.

Nowadays the old varieties of wheat (spelt) are in great demand, as well as cereals and grains without gluten, such as buckwheat, quinoa, soy, chickpea and chestnut. However, flour suitable for coeliacs is not



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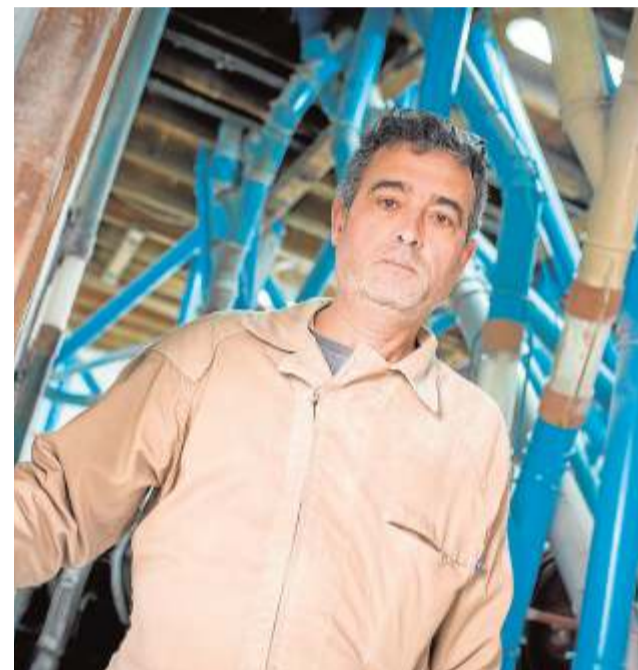




Bartolomé Méndez, Molino Eco-Coín. :: D. M.



José Antonio Méndez, La Fuensanta. :: D. M.



Rafael Bermúdez, Harinera San José. :: D. M.

available because the milling process always leaves traces of gluten.

But one of the most interesting effects that the 'panarra' movement and the quality commercial bakeries is having, is the recovery of local crops.

"People demand quality and more variety," explains Maria Teresa. "We even have clients from away who come to Coín to visit the mill to see how we work. This demand has led us to investigate the environment and reach agreements with farmers in the province to recover old crops such as the 'scaña' (spelt), which we are cultivating in Ronda.

Added to that, we try to introduce innovating flavours such as flour with spinach that we have launched recently," she adds. A return to the old ways that has taken local milling to unexpected heights.



Old varieties of cereals are being reintroduced to meet growing demand. :: D. M.



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Sardine 'espetos' to be put forward for special Unesco status

The Spanish Cultural Commission is aiming to "protect and improve awareness of an element that forms part of the cultural identity of Malaga"

SUR
MÁLAGA. The Cultural Commission of the Spanish Senate has approved a move to push for the inclusion of the famous 'espeto' (sardines threaded onto a skewer) onto the Unesco list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
"We want to protect and improve awareness of this element which forms a part of our cultural identity and unites the people of Malaga. It is vital that we get the espeto included in the Unesco list," explained sena-

tor Manuel Marmolejo.
As Marmolejo explains, the espeto is a typical dish along the Malaga coast, associated with the towns with seafaring traditions, "although it's fair to say that Malaga can lay claim to it".
The recipe for an espeto is just fish, salt, cane and fire and its inclusion in the Unesco list would recognise it internationally as a "unifying project" that is part of the "cultural identity" of Malaga and that unites all Malaga. "It is vital that we achieve it," said the senator.
The espeto would join a long list of arts and traditions such as flamenco, the 'castells' (human towers), the 'silbo gomera' (a way of communicating by whistles used by inhabitants of La Gomera in the Canaries) and many other cultural elements unique to Spain.



It is hoped that the traditional 'espetos de sardinas' will be recognised by Unesco. **SUR**

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ANDREW J. LINN

WEIGHT HANDICAP

The other day a sample bottle of wine arrived from one of Spain's top producers. Apart from the unusual blend of grapes, what caught the attention was the sheer weight of the bottle. Empty (easily achieved) it weighed in at nearly a kilo. Distressingly, the trend that is currently for overweight bottles for red wine is apparently spreading to whites.
Recent market research shows that the impulsive wine buyer, as opposed to the knowledgeable one, believes a heavy bottle signifies that the contents are of a higher quality. Offer him or her an identical wine at the same price in bottles of different weights, and they will always choose the heavier bottle. This is of course the effect the winemaker wants to achieve, but in many people's opinion it is ethically offensive.

Perfume has been sold in overweight flasks for years, and olive oil is following the trend, all on the basis of how first impressions can be used in the marketing of any product. When a car door closes with a satisfying clunk, it signifies quality. A lightweight click signifies a Trabant.
For decades a case of wine (12 bottles) weighed 15 kilos. Often this is now 30 kilos, so apart from increased transport costs, recycling costs have spiralled. Nor do sommeliers like obese bottles. They complain that serving a large gathering can be a real physical effort, and when badly-mannered diners hold up their glasses to be filled from the other side of the table, the possibility of a sprained wrist is not a joke.
The Regulating Councils (Consejos Reguladores) in each wine region can dictate bottle size but

not weight. But why should they? It is a free market, and even when Spain's record obese bottle, Marqués de Murrieta Dalmat Reserva, weighs in at 1,22 kilos, the tiny sales volume ensures there is no effect on the environment. The principal danger is that overweight bottles will become standard practice to be used by immoral marketers who rightly believe that by spending an additional 10 cents on the bottle, buyers will think the wine is better.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Manzanilla La Guita

Every sherry aficionado knows sherry comes from Jerez and Manzanilla, its once-poor cousin, from Sanlúcar, although today most of the big bodegas have a foot in each town. Grupo Estevez's flagship manzanilla, La Guita, is far and away the leading brand, and at a tempting six euros, offers the opportunity to taste a classic.



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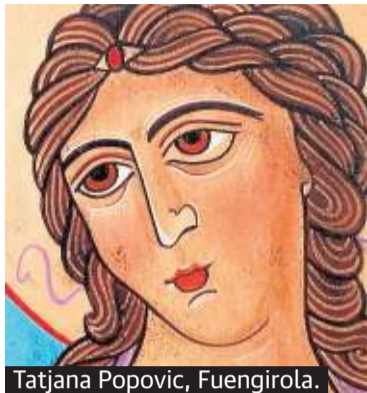
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EXHIBITIONS



Tatjana Popovic, Fuengirola.

Holocaust Remembrance

Marbella. Until 3 March. *Galería Yusto / Giner, C/Madera 9.* Daniel Solomons' 'Olam haba / The World to Come' is an exhibition to mark the International Holocaust Remembrance and Prevention of Crimes Against Humanity Day. It is a series of photographs, autobiographical and some architectural, that highlight the Jewish cultural image in and around London.

The "Indaliano" Movement

Antequera. Until 16 March. *Centro Unicaja de Cultura.* The exhibition will display works by several artists from this mid-twentieth-century movement, including José Gómez Abad, Antonio López Díaz, Miguel Cantón Checa and Jesús de Perceval.

Museum Jorge Rando

Malaga. Until 16 March. *Cruz del*

Molinillo, 12

A temporary exhibition entitled 'Nacerán Nuevas Auroras' (the Birth of Colour) is currently on display. The museum also holds poetry and musical events. kontakt@museojorgerando.org.

Rafael Heredia

Malaga. Until 27 February. *Alfajar Sala, C/Cister.* An exhibition entitled 'Mediterráneo' by Rafael Heredia.

Axel Miret 'Paso'

Malaga. Until 2 March. *El Retorno de Lilith, C/Cobertizo del Conde 6, behind Picasso's birthplace in Plaza de la Merced.* Belgian artist Axel Miret will be exhibiting a selection of his works.

Juan Antonio Ramírez

Malaga. Until 17 March. *Sala de Exposiciones, El Rectorado, Malaga University.* Free.



Juan Antonio Ramírez, Malaga

'El Bricoleur y la Ciudad. Juan Antonio Ramírez y el Ecosistema del Arte en Málaga 1980-2000' is the title of the new exhibition at the Rectorado of Malaga University. The works consist of vibrant paintings, sculptures and pieces of office furniture turned into art by Ramírez.

Nature and Perception

Malaga. Until 23 March. *Ateneo de Malaga, C/Compañía.* Luis Bujalance started his career in the 90s and has exhibited regularly in US and Norway.

Blackness

Malaga. Until 16 April. *Café de Estraperlo, Plaza Poeta Alfonso Canales.* The artists Siobhan Riordan (UK) and Daysury Valencia (Sweden) are two black artists living in Malaga. In this exhibition, the artists celebrate black cultural heritage to project a positive image of black people throughout history. Facebook: 'Café de Estraperlo'.

Stephan Balkenhol

Malaga. Until 22 April. *Centro de Arte Contemporáneo, Calle Alemania.* The exhibit consists of around thirty sculptures from the German artist's collection representing his most significant works in recent years. www.cacmalaga.eu

Great Masters recreated

Malaga. Until 15 April. *Casa Sostoa, C/Héroe Sostoa.*

The ten paintings in the exhibition were created by Julio Anaya Cabanding and Rafael Jiménez and are recognisable as skillful copies of great master's works, albeit with the artist's own twist.

Homes Real Estate and Art

Fuengirola. Until 6 April. *Avda Los Boliches, 86.*

Tatjana Popovic Mímica is a Serbian/Chilean artist living in Mexico. She will be holding an exhibition of her works entitled 'Iconos Bizantinos'.

Salvador Madueño

Mijas. Until 26 February. *Casa Museo de Mijas.* An exhibition of sculptures.

Asociación Artística Argot

Mijas. Until 5 March, *Casa de la Cultura, Las Lagunas.* A group of artists from France, Iceland, Sweden, US and Spain will be exhibiting their work.

ArtFest

Calahonda. Until 30 March. *Atlantis PMR, CC Los Olivos.* The ArtFest is an art competition initiated by The Arts Society for all affiliated societies worldwide. Ten of the Costa del Sol branch members are participating. This exhibition is by appointment only. Call 952933870 / email Teresa@atlatinspmr.com www.theartsociety-costadelsol.org

Robert Hardy

Mijas. Until 6 March. *Centro de*

Arte Contemporáneo. 'Robert in Sepia' is an exhibition of works by Robert Hardy.



Bajalance, Ateneo de Málaga.

Prisca Sinay

Vélez-Málaga. Until 27 February. *Sala El Pósito, Plaza de la Constitución.* Dutch artist Prisca Sinay will be exhibiting a selection of her mixed media works.

D-Espacio

Nerja. Until 4 March. *Museo de Nerja.* Paco Martín Cobos will be exhibiting a selection of his photographs.

Women and Weird Things

Nerja. From 15 until 30 March. *Sall Municipal de Exposiciones, C/Cristo 14.* Dutch artist Coby Bloemsma is exhibiting a collection of her paintings and sculpture.



MOVIE LISTING

From Friday 23rd February to Thursday 1st March

ORIGINAL VERSION SUBTITLED SPANISH



THE SHAPE OF WATER

Director Guillermo del Toro
Starring Sally Hawkins and Michael Shannon
FANTASY · 123 min.

Friday 23 and Saturday 24: 17:45, 20:20
Sunday 25: 11:45, 18:00, 20:20
Monday 26 and Thursday 1: 18:00, 20:20
Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28: 20:20



EARLY MAN

Friday 23: 18:10
Saturday 24: 15:45
Sunday 25: 11:45, 15:45, 18:10
From Monday 26 to Thursday 1: 15:45, 18:10



THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBING, MISSOURI

From Saturday 24 to Thursday 1: 15:50



PHANTOM THREAD

Director Paul Thomas Anderson
Starring Vicky Krieps and Daniel Day-Lewis
DRAMA · 130 min.

Friday 23, Monday 26 and Thursday 1: 17:45, 20:00, 22:30
Saturday 24: 17:30, 20:00, 22:30
Sunday 25: 15:45, 17:45, 20:00, 22:30
Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28: 15:45, 20:00, 22:30



BLACK PANTHER

Friday 23: 17:45, 22:30
Saturday 24: 15:45, 17:45
Sunday 25, Monday 26 and Thursday 1: 15:45, 17:45, 22:30
Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28: 15:45, 17:45



FIFTY SHADES FREED

Friday 23: 18:10
Saturday 24: 15:45
Sunday 25, Monday 26 and Thursday 1: 15:50, 17:45
Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28: 17:45



LE SENS DE LA FÊTE

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Version originale en français

Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28: 16:30



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Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28: 16:30





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CHARITY

Charity dance performance

Las Lagunas. 24 February, 7pm.
Teatro Las Lagunas. 3€ in advance,
5€ on the door.

In benefit of the AECC (Spanish
Cancer Association) the dance
academy Expresión, will be
performing.

American Club table top sale

Estepona. 25 February, From noon
until 4pm. C/San Roque, 69. Free
entry.

Table reservations 5€. Informa-
tion, or to reserve a table call
952 793 059



Pablo and Alberto Martos.

A tribute to Roy

Benalmádena. 9 March, 8pm. The
auditorium, Club Náutico. 10€.
A special musical evening to cele-
brate the life of Roy Alan with A
Touch of Class and Costa Soul
Singers. Proceeds from the night
will be shared between Lux Mundi
and Cudeca Hospice. For tickets,
call or email Debbie Geater: 637
986 516 / debbiegeater@gmail.com

Age Concern Concert

Estepona. 6 March, 7.30pm. Hu-
ber Plataforma del Arte, C/San
Antonio. 10€.



Last year's event attracted more than 4,000 people. :: SUR

Torremolinos hosts second Drag Queen Gala

:: TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. Following the success of last year's edition, Torremolinos is gearing up for its spectacular Drag Queen Gala, which will take place on Saturday 3 March. The flamboyant extravaganza will be held in Plaza La Nogalera from 8.30pm until midnight and will present more than 20 outrageously attired drag artistes.

The drag queens, which will come from all over Spain, will be competing in three different categories and the winner of each will be invited to participate in the town's Gay Pride parade in June. There is a cash incentive also, with prizes of between 250 and 1,200 euros.

The jury, composed of profes-

sionals related to the fashion industry in Torremolinos, will select the winners based on originality, imagination and the ease and grace with which the drag queen is able to walk in their outfit. Last year's event, which attracted over 4,000 people, presented some of the gaudiest costumes imaginable and this year promises to be equally as spectacular. Lacquered wigs, shocking make-up, ostentatious costumes and fast-fire, brazen humour is certain to make this a night to remember.

The event, which is organised by the Gay Traders Association of Torremolinos (ACOGAT) and the town hall, will be hosted by the outrageous drag artiste, Kelly Rollers.

Clarice Williams and her choir - The Good Vibrations Singing Sessions will be performing. Reservations: Tony 654 179 279 / 951 318 234

MUSIC & DANCE

The Wall Bar

Malaga. Hotel Vincci Posada del
Patio, 11pm, entry free.

24 February. Susan Valery and
Adrian Lombardi. Jazz and vocals.

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

Malaga. Teatro Cervantes
2 March 9pm, 4 March, 7pm.

Così Fan Tutte. The operatic
production will include Berna
Perles as Fiordiligi, Carol García as
Dorabella, Beatriz Díaz as
Despina, Damián del Castillo as
Guglielmo, Pablo García as
Ferrando and Enric Martínez
Castignani as Don Alfonso. The
Malaga Opera Choir will also be
performing. Tickets:
www.teatrocervantes.com

Murgas and comparsas

Torremolinos. 23 February, Audito-
rio Municipal Príncipe de Asturias.
Free.

The final of the murgas and com-
parsas competition. Performance
starts at 9pm.

Children's choir concert

Almuñécar. 24 February, 8pm. La
Encarnación church. Free.

The Festival Coral de Voces Blancas
and the Escolonia del Real
Monasterio del Escorial Madrid will
be in concert.

La Psicología del Color

Vélez-Málaga. 25 February,
12.30pm. Teatro del Carmen. 6€ in
advance, 8€ box office.

Beyond Dance with David Se-
gura will be performing a dance
spectacular.



Cuarteto Granada, Malaga.

Cuarteto Granada

Malaga. 23 February, 8pm. Sala
Unicaja de Conciertos María Cris-
tina. 10€.

A recital dedicated to composer
Dmitri Shostakovich featuring
symphonies n° 3 and 15.
www.unientradas.es

Violin and cello concert

Malaga. 24 February, 8pm. Sala
Unicaja de Conciertos María
Cristina.

Drop Artists presents the violin
and cello duo Pablo and Alberto
Martos from Granada. They will
be performing works by Haydn.

Pasión Tango

Nerja. 23 February, 9pm. Centro
Cultural Villa de Nerja. 15€.
A show of pure Argentine Tango.
Tickets: www.mientrada.net

Ho Down with TOPS

Alhaurín el Grande. 24 February,
8.30pm. Venta La Recta. 8€
Food is available before the show
from 7pm. Songs from artists such
as Willie Nelson, Charlie Rich,
Dolly Parton, The Eagles, Glen
Campbell, Patsy Cline, John Den-
ver and more. There will also be a
saucy saloon girls' dance routine
from the "Boston Belles". Tickets

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from Martins or Cristina's paper shop. Two chosen local charities for 2018 will benefit from this special night. Reservations: 952112057

Los Salustianos

Mijas 27 February, 9pm. *Teatro Las Lagunas*. Free.

A tribute to Carlos Cano, an Andalusian poet and singer who resurrected the copla in Spain and introduced Latin American and other genres of music into his performances.

Ancient and sacral music

Frigiliana. *Casa de Aperio*.

10 March, 8pm. Cuarteto con Fuoco.

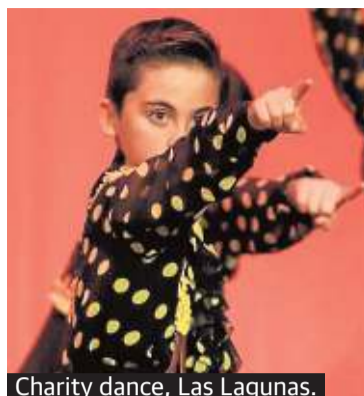
17 March, 8pm. Coro Joven Cármina Nova.

Reservations call 690073871. www.ventanaabierta.es

FLAMENCO

Flamenco abierto

Vélez-Málaga. 28 February, 8pm;



Charity dance, Las Lagunas.

2 March 10pm. *Peña Flamenca Niño de Vélez*, C/Tejeda 10. Carmen Camacho.

Flamenco in the Museum

Malaga. *Museo de Arte Flamenco Peña Juan Breva*, C/Ramón Franquelo.

24 February, 8.30pm. Mariola Martín.

For information and bookings call 687 607 526 or email info@flamenka.com

Tres Formas Distintas

Almuñécar. 23 February, 7pm. *Cultural Centre La Herradura*.

A charity concert for 'Proyecto Hombre' with Carmen García (vocals), Esther Crisol (vocals flamenco) and José Manuel Cano (guitar).

LECTURES

U3A Lectures

Fuengirola. *Lux Mundi reference Library*, free to members, guests 5€. u3afuengirola@gmail.com

Treasures of the World 'Jordan to Ethiopia'.

23 February, 11am.

Including Petra and Jerusalem.

A Mixed Bag: 'Globalisation'.

27 February, 11am.

Bob Henman talks on how the political economy affects globalisation.

Red Cross Informative talk

23 February, 11am. *Restaurante*

Parquesol, El Morche, Torrox Costa. Richard Weale is a volunteer with the Spanish Red Cross and will be speaking about their work across the Axarquía, together with the services they can provide, irrespective of age or nationality.

What is Art?

Marbella. 23 February, 7pm. *Magpie International Art Gallery*, C/Virgen del Pilar.

Professor Juho Ahava from Finland will be introducing the first topic of this new initiative by the gallery. www.magpie.international

ACEIA ELT conference

Malaga. 28 February. *Hotel Serco-tel, Calle Héroe Sostoa*, 17.

The Asociación de Centros de Enseñanza de Idiomas de Andalucía's annual conference for English Language Teaching professionals from all over the region to get together for a morning of training workshops given by ELT professionals from all over Spain. www.aceia.es

Language School lectures

Malaga. *Paseo Martiricos*.

A series of lectures (in English) to introduce the new language exchange meetings which will be held weekly between 10am and 12pm. Volunteers are needed.

7 March 10.30 - 11.30am. Tony Bryant presents his latest book: *Andalusia: Between Dream and Reality* and talks about the world of flamenco.

Rugby and reggae day

TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. Cudeca has organised a new monthly fund-raising event that will be held in Frederick's bar in Benalmádena Pueblo. The first instalment, which will take place on Saturday 24 February, will present an afternoon of sport, followed by live music and karaoke.

Kicking off at 2.30pm, the event will offer the Six Nations Rugby matches between Wales and Ireland, followed by the clash between Scotland and England. Free nibbles will be served and there will be a raffle with the prize of a food hamper in aid of Cudeca. The music begins around



Reggae star Jens Malling. :: SUR

7.30pm, when international reggae star, Jens Malling, will perform songs from his latest recording, *Simple Pleasures*. He will also perform popular hits of cele-

brated reggae musicians. With the recent release of his first album and the official launch of his music video for the song *Sunny Day*, Jens is about to embark on a European tour. Originally from Denmark, the Malaga-based musician is one of the most celebrated performers on the reggae scene and this gig will be a must for the lovers of the Trench Town sound.

Throughout the night there will be a charity karaoke session, where singers donate 50 cents to Cudeca for each song they perform. Further events are planned for Saturday 24 March and Saturday 28 April.

MARBELLA AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

An Inconvenient Sequel TRUTH TO POWER

Premiere in Marbella of Vice President Al Gore's latest movie
www.marbellaclimatechange.com

Tuesday, March 20th
Teatro Goya
6.30 pm



The Climate Reality Project



ADVANCED LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

FESTIVALS

Virgen de la Paz celebration
Mijas 28 February. *Parroquia San Manuel González*. Mass at 12pm, followed by a procession around the town.

Olive milling festival
Riogordo. 24, 25 February. Riogordo's annual olive oil milling festival with a free tour and traditional breakfast.

Sopa de los Siete Ramales
El Burgo. 28 February, from 11am. Every Día de Andalucía, El Burgo pays tribute to its traditional gastronomy with the Sopa de los Siete Ramales. It contains among other ingredients, wild asparagus, tomatoes and peppers. There will also be a craft market and live music.

Gastronomy Fair
Benarrabá. 25 February, Plaza Veracruz. The Feria Gastronómica de la Seranía de Ronda is in its seventeenth year and features dishes and produce from around the region. There will be a live demonstration on how to make the town's most famous food, the Salmorejo de Carne and a competition to cut jamón.

EVENTS

Thespa
Fuengirola. 28 February, 7.30pm. *Los Boliches, Masonic Hall*. 16€

members, 18€ guests. Includes set meal. The Kingfisher by William Douglas Home. Directed by Wendy Smith. Reservations: 622 454 422 /thespa-booking@gmail.com / www.theatrecoastadelsol.com

Bollywood Dance Classes
Torremolinos. 24 February, 10 March, 24 March. 6pm. *Caseta Fitness*. Indian dance classes. Sign up in the office of the Palacio San Miguel Sports Centre. www.torremolinos.es

Invasion of the jelly fish
Benalmádena. Until 28 February, *Sea Life*. The lifecycle of the jelly fish, its incredible diversity of colours and forms and the necessity of its conservation is explained in this special exhibition of these curious creatures.

Women's World Day of Prayer
Fuengirola. 2 March, 4.30pm. *St Andrew Church, Av Nuestro Padre Jesús Cautivo*. St Andrew's Chaplaincy invites everyone to the Women's World Day of Prayer Service. This interdenominational movement of the Women's World Day of Prayer service is one of over 5,000 services being held worldwide. Entitled 'All God's Creation is Very Good!' An estimated three million people around the world will be taking part in the service which has been written this year by the women of

Suriname in South America.

O. V. FILM

SUR in English advises calling cinemas to check for any last minute time changes. Lunchtime and late night screenings weekends only.

Cine Albéniz
C/Alcazabilla 4, Malaga. Tel: 902 36 02 95 or visit www.cinealbeniz.com or www.unientradas.es
Three Billboards Outside Ebbing: 20.10 (every day).
Call Me By Your Name: 19.50 (every day).
The Pentagon Papers: 16.05 (every day).
The Florida Project: 16.00, 22.10 (every day).
The Shape of Water: 18.15, 20.25, 22.35 (every day).

Cinesur El Ingenio
Avda. Juan Carlos I, Vélez-Málaga. Tel. 667 77 31 87.
The Shape of Water: 17.00 (Mon, Thurs).
Black Panther: 16.30 (Mon, Thurs).
I, Tonya: 16.45 (Mon, Thurs).
All The Money In The World: 16.00 (Mon, Thurs).
50 Shades Freed: 18.00 (Mon, Thurs).

Cinesur Miramar
Avda. de la Encarnación, Fuengirola. Tel. 952 19 86 00.
Black Panther: 12.15, 17.00 (every day); 19.45, 22.30 (Mon,



Jellyfish, Benalmádena.

Thurs).
I, Tonya: 16.45, 21.45 (Mon, Thurs); 21.40, 00.20 (every day).
All The Money In The World: 12.00, 16.20, 19.00 (every day).
Lady Bird: 16.20 (Mon, Thurs).
Matisse: From The Tate Modern and MOMA: 16.00 (26 February).
Romeo and Juliet opera: 19.45 (27 February).

Cines Teatro Goya
For tickets and information call 951196665. www.cinesteatrogoya.com
Phantom Thread: 15.45 (Sun, Tues, Wed); 17.30 (Sat); 17.45 (Fri, Mon, Thurs, Sun); 20.00, 22.30 (every day).
The Shape of Water: 11.45 (Sun); 17.45 (Fri, Sat); 18.00 (Sun, Mon, Thurs); 20.20 (every day).
Fifty Shades Freed: 15.45 (Sat); 15.50 (Sun); 17.45 (Sun-Thurs); 18.10 (Fri).
Black Panther: 15.45 (Sat-Thurs); 17.45 (every day); 22.30 (Fri, Sun, Mon, Thurs).
The Greatest Showman: 11.45 (Sun), 18.00 (Fri-Sun); 17.45

(Mon-Wed).
Ferdinand: 11.45 (Sun); 15.50 (Mon, Thurs); 16.30 (Tues, Wed).
Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri: 15.50 (Sat-Thurs).
Early Man: 11.45 (Sun); 15.45 (Sat, Sun); 18.10 (Fri, Sun-Thurs).

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor
Centro de Ocio Plaza Mayor, Avda. Alfonso Ponce de León. Tel: 902 902 103 or visit www.yelmocines.es
Early Man: 13.50 (Sat, Sun, Wed).
The Shape of Water: 15.00 (Sat, Sun, Wed).
All The Money in the World: 12.10 (Sat, Sun, Wed); 21.50 (Tues).
Black Panther: 17.45 (Fri, Sat, Sun, Wed).
I, Tonya: 13.30 (Sat, Sun, Wed); 19.15 (Tues).

Marbella 'The Other Side of the Camera'
Instituto Río Verde Calle Notario Luis Oliver 20.00, 22.15 and Centro Municipal de Música, Plaza de la Libertad, San Pedro, 21.00.
Hitchcock / Truffaut: Marbella 12 March, San Pedro 13 March.

Musica Con Encanto
Iglesia de La Virginia, Urb La Virginia, Marbella. 689 000 944 www.musicaconencanto.org
Leonard Bernstein: The Gift of Music: 25 February, 7pm. 12€ A film, narrated by Lauren Bacall, about the life and career of one of the most important directors of the twentieth century.

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Celebrating St David's Day

TONY BRYANT
BENALMÁDEN. The Welsh Society Costa del Sol will be holding its annual St David's Day celebrations at CJ's Karaoke Bar in Benalmádena on Thursday, 1 March.

The Welsh Society began in 2011 and each year they donate the proceedings of their St David's day celebrations to a particular charity. This time they have chosen to support the Ty Olwen Hospice in Swansea.

More than 20 musicians will perform at the event, which will offer traditional Welsh food, like leek and potato soup, cawl, faggots and Welsh cakes. The food will be supplied by members of the Welsh Society and sold to raise money for the charity.

There will also be a fundraising auction offering various items, such as a signed Swansea City football shirt, and rugby boots signed by James Hook.

This is the sixth year that CJ's has hosted the event and, as is traditional, the party will begin with the singing of Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau, the national anthem of Wales. This will be followed by an afternoon of



The national anthem will be sung again in CJ's this year. **T. BRYANT**

live entertainment, children's events and karaoke.

There will be shows by the Costa Soul Singers and the talented young performers of the Banana Studios, as well as a variety of musical genres from local favourites Laura Carter, Lenny Dee, Siobhan and Orla.

Other acts to appear at the party are Gary Benham, who performs a tribute to Welsh funny-man, Max Boyce; and

Take That Tony. Also known as West Life Tony, this talented vocalist was once part of the Costa del Sol's Westlife tribute act. He now performs solo and his repertoire includes some of the most popular hits of the boy band era, as well as classics of the Rat Pack.

For more information, contact the Welsh Society's secretary, Debbie Benham, on 626292707.

DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA



A panoramic view of Carmona. :: SUR

Carmona, a 'shining star'

TWO DAYS IN CARMONA

Car + walking

Journey time: 2 hours from Malaga.
Visits to monuments and museums: 6 hours. **Exploring the town:** 2 hours



JAVIER ALMELLONES

There is a saying which is attributed to King Fernando III: "As a bright star shines in the dawn, so in Andalucía does Carmona." The phrase, which is now incorporated in the official coat of arms, gives an idea of the historical importance and beauty of this town in the countryside near Seville.

The fertile lands around the town, irrigated by the Corbones river and its tributaries, and its location upon a hill with excellent views over the surrounding area, meant that Carmona has been coveted by many different civilisations which left their mark on the Iberian Peninsula. This is evident from numerous remains which have been found, including prehistoric settlements (Paleolithic and Neolithic) and Carthaginian remains around the Puerta de Sevilla gateway.

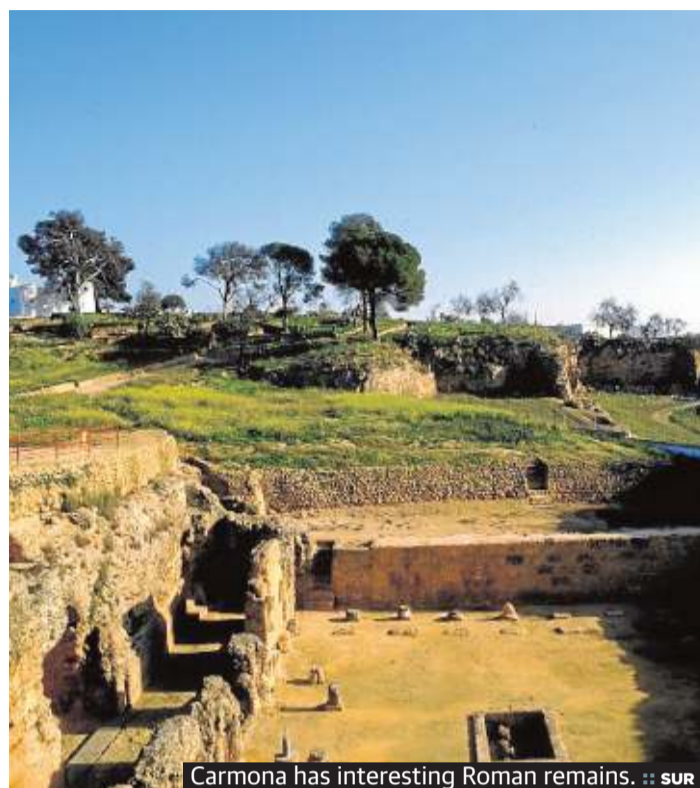
The Romans, however, left more obvious remains, such as a necropolis and an amphitheatre, among others. During this period, when it was known as Carmo, this was one of the most important towns in the whole of Bética and had the privilege of minting its own coins.

It continued to be important during the Middle Ages, and in fact its urban layout today has been directly inherited from the time of Al-Andalus, when it was the capital of one of the Taifa kingdoms (in the 11th century).

Dating back to the same period are the two castle-palaces which were originally Carthaginian and Roman fortresses and were later remodelled by the Christian monarchs. The most important of these is that of the Puerta de Sevilla, which is very well preserved, while the other, King Don Pedro, fell into disrepair after an earthquake in the 18th century. Nowadays it is part of the Parador hotel in Carmona.

After the Andalusian period, the town's historical heritage was enhanced by new buildings which reflected its strategic relevance for trade. In 1630 it was awarded the title of 'ciudad' (town) by King Felipe IV.

Carmona has numerous interesting buildings, but among the most notable are the priory church of Santa María, and the house of the Marquesses de las Torres, which is now the museum.



Carmona has interesting Roman remains. :: SUR



QUICK GUIDE

What to see in Carmona

Priory church of Santa María.

The main church, built between the 15th and 16th centuries. Plaza Marqués de las Torres, 41410 Carmona.

Alcázar de la Puerta de Sevilla.

The ancient access to a small fortress, also known as the 'Alcázar de Abajo'. Plaza de Blas Infante, 41410 Carmona.

Alcázar del Rey Don Pedro.

The remains of a fortress in the upper part of the town. Calle Los Alcázares, 41410 Carmona.

Archaeological site.

The remains include a Roman necropolis and amphitheatre, from the 1st and 2nd centuries. Avenida de Jorge Bonsor 9, 41410 Carmona.

Municipal museum: In the Palacio Marqués de las Torres. Calle San Ildefonso 1, 41410 Carmona.



A street in the oldest part of the town. :: SUR




Alcázar del Rey Don Pedro. :: SUR

LINE-UPS

MALAGA

1



4-4-2

Diego González

Chory (Rolán, 82')

Miquel

Recio (Lacen, 73')

En-Nesyri

Roberto

Iturra

Ideye


Hernández

Rosales

Lestienne (Keko, 68')

VALENCIA

2



4-4-2

Soler (Ferrán, 79')

Vezo

Vietto (Rodrigo, 60')

Parejo

Paulista

Santi Mina (Zaza, 60')

Coquelin

Neto

Murillo

Guedes

Gayá

Unused substitutes:

Prieto (GK), Miguel Torres, Adrián, Bueno.

Unused substitutes:

Jaume (GK), Montoya, Lato, Maksimovic.

STATISTICS

BALL POSSESSION

46%

54%

MALAGA

VALENCIA

1

Goals

2

9

Total shots

8

4

On target

3

5

Off target

5

7

Corners

2

1

Offsides

2

19

Fouls committed

18

2

Yellow cards

4

1

Red cards

0

Goal:

1-0 Ideye (27'); 1-1 Coquelin (80'), 1-2 Parejo [pen] (85').

Referee:

Daniel Trujillo Suárez.

Venue:

La Rosaleda (21,134 spectators).

TABLE & FIXTURES

MATCHDAY

24

Results

MALAGA - Valencia

At. Madrid - Athletic

Las Palmas - Sevilla

Girona - Leganés

Eibar - Barcelona

Espanyol - Villarreal

Alavés - Deportivo

Betis - Real Madrid

Real Sociedad - Levante

Getafe - Celta

1-2

2-0

1-2

3-0

0-2

1-1

1-0

3-5

3-0

3-0

Fixtures

Athletic - MALAGA

Sevilla - At. Madrid

Leganés - Las Palmas

Barcelona - Girona

Celta - Eibar

Villarreal - Getafe

Deportivo - Espanyol

Real Madrid - Alavés

Levante - Betis

Valencia - Real Sociedad

LEAGUE TABLE

★ Champions League ■ Europa League ▼ Relegation

TEAM

PT.

P

W

D

L

GF

GA

★ 1. Barcelona

62

24

19

5

0

62

11

★ 2. At. Madrid

55

24

16

7

1

36

9

★ 3. Valencia

46

24

14

4

6

47

28

★ 4. Real Madrid

45

23

13

6

4

55

26

■ 5. Sevilla

39

24

12

3

9

31

35

■ 6. Villarreal

38

24

11

5

8

35

29

7. Eibar

35

24

10

5

9

32

36

8. Girona

34

24

9

7

8

34

30

9. Getafe

33

24

8

9

7

29

21

10. Betis

33

24

10

3

11

41

50

11. Celta

32

24

9

5

10

41

37

12. Real Sociedad

29

24

8

5

11

46

45

13. Leganés

29

23

8

5

10

20

25

14. Athletic

28

24

6

10

8

24

27

15. Alavés

28

24

9

1

14

22

33

16. Espanyol

27

24

6

9

9

22

32

17. Levante

20

24

3

11

10

21

38

▼ 18. Las Palmas

18

24

5

3

16

18

52

▼ 19. Deportivo

17

24

4

5

15

24

53

▼ 20. MALAGA

13

24

3

4

17

15

38

Even on a good day Malaga can't buy a win



DARYL FINCH

dfinch@diariosur.es

Despite taking the lead early on, Malaga came away with nothing and finished the game with ten men

MALAGA. It was again a case of what could have been at La Rosaleda on Saturday night as Malaga threw away their lead against title-chasing Valencia.

Maxime Lestienne made his debut on the right-hand side and provided an element that the side has been missing for much of the season: pace. He linked well with Brown Ideye in the early phases - another player who has started to deliver on what he was brought in to do. The Nigerian held up the ball well and provided a threat from set pieces.

Whether Recio from the right or Chory Castro from the left, he was clearly the man that worried the Valencia defenders most and despite being closely martialled, Ideye won his fair share of headers, though



It is yet another defeat for the Blue and Whites. :: NITO SALAS

none on target.

However, when Recio's corner came in low, the defenders in black and orange were caught on their heels and Ideye was on hand to poke his toe at the ball which crept in just inside the far post.

José González's men were comfortable during a half with very few chances for either side. Gonçalo Guedes, normally so deadly this campaign, had two half chances, neither of which troubled Roberto. The

first, a toe poke from the corner of the box, the keeper caught from just under his crossbar. The second was dragged wide as Roberto Rosales and Luis Hernández rushed out to close him down.

Malaga started the second half with more energy. First, Youssef En-Nesyri tried his luck from the half way line when keeping possession would have spared his blushes - the ball went out for a throw-in.

Moments later, though, came the

turning point. After Diego González's goal was controversially ruled out for a push by Ideye, Valencia boss Marcelino made a double change in an attempt to pull the match back in his side's favour. Both forwards, Luciano Vietto and Santi Mina, were removed for the more robust pairing of Simone Zaza and Rodrigo.

The former came close to leveling the scores when he neatly turned and shot just inside the area,

dragging his effort inches past the right-hand post.

Now committing more men to the attack, the visitors forced Malaga onto the back foot for the first time in the game. The pressure eventually told with ten minutes to go when former Arsenal man Francis Coquelin headed home Dani Parejo's corner kick at the near post to almost dead silence inside La Rosaleda.

With the side struggling for goals all year, both team and fans were resigned to yet another three points escaping them.

However, this was to get much worse when Rodrigo was body checked in the area by Ignasi Miquel, who received his marching orders. Roberto guessed the right way, but Dani Parejo tucked his penalty into the side netting.

There was still time for late drama: Rosales' freekick was headed over in front of the keeper by González. With the final action of the game, keeper Roberto, urged up by the crowd, leapt highest to head Rosales' freekick wide of Neto's left post.

A game of two halves if ever there was one. It felt like the days of old when the Blue and Whites threatened an upset in the first 45; but that capitulation in the second half, which surprised no one, served as a reminder that this side is headed for the second division.



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Work on Malaga Academy project finally gets under way

After seven years of delays, the first stone was laid at the new sports complex in the Arraijnal district of the city last week

■ ANTONIO GÓNGORA

MALAGA. The Malaga Academy project finally broke ground this week, bringing an end to more than seven years of posturing and red tape.

Politicians and representatives from all levels of government, as well as club directors, attended the ceremony last Thursday where the symbolic first stone was laid.

The first phase of the project, of which there are three, got under way this week, but the construction company responsible for the project, Bilba, insists that completion before

the start of preseason is an unrealistic target. Instead, the Academy should be ready by the start of 2019, but sources inside the club are hopeful it can be done before then.

Club advisor and former player and manager Abdullah Ben Barek gave the 'starting pistol' on the project located on land in the Arraijnal district of Malaga, close to the city's airport. It will cost more than six million euros, 4.5 of which will come from the sale of land at El Viso - the club's only current site for youth development.

Barek thanked all of the local teams who have helped to accommodate Malaga's young players over the years and he, alongside fellow advisors Francisco Martin Aguilar and Antonio Benítez, as well as Nayef and Hamyan Al-Thani, all signed a shirt which was placed into a monument to this landmark day.



A special Malaga shirt was signed to mark the day. ■ SALVADOR SALAS



A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER

Commentator, Sky Sports
@robbopalmer



Refreshingly different

With a whole raft of fringe players shipped in in the summer, I feared the worst for Girona FC

Time to hold my hands up and admit that Girona have confounded my expectations and, refreshingly, brought the opposite of what I feared they'd bring to La Liga.

When you hear that the ownership of a team is shrouded in mystery and they are shipping in a cargo of players from a richer club in another country, you fear the worst.

Much was made of Pep Guardiola's brother, Pere's, connection with the Abu Dhabi money men who were reported to have bought 88 per cent of the club. To add to the concern, five players not considered for the Manchester City first team arrived on loan.

There were shades of Granada last season who had so many players on short-term deals it resembled a holiday camp. It was a shambles and when the club was relegated the players headed back to their parent clubs. Things were so bad they brought in Tony Adams, an associate of the owners, and they dropped like a stone.

Girona FC is so different. The young lads from Manchester City are doing the equivalent of a gap year. They've taken in the sights of the historical city but not seen a lot of the actual football pitch. The only regular has been Pablo Maffeo, who is a local anyway.

Coach Pablo Machín has remained single-minded and not bro-



Pablo Machín (r) has been rubbing shoulders with the best. ■ EFE

ken his resistance to using the players who've been landed on him by the owners. He's either bloody-minded or ignorant of his owner's wishes.

Nobody can argue with his methods. I saw them play an unorthodox back three when they played at Oldham in their summer tour and he stuck with that as he's taken on the might of La Liga, famously beating Real Madrid back in October.

I always believe a club thrives if it has a strong local accent in the changing room; think the Nevilles at Manchester United, Gerrard and Carragher at Liverpool, Terry and Lampard at Chelsea. At Girona, Machín has stuck with those who have been on the mystery ride from the lower leagues like Álex Granell, who combined teaching at a primary school with part-time football. There's local pride in Eloi Amagat who was at the club in the third tier a decade ago and rejoined as they were on the rise.

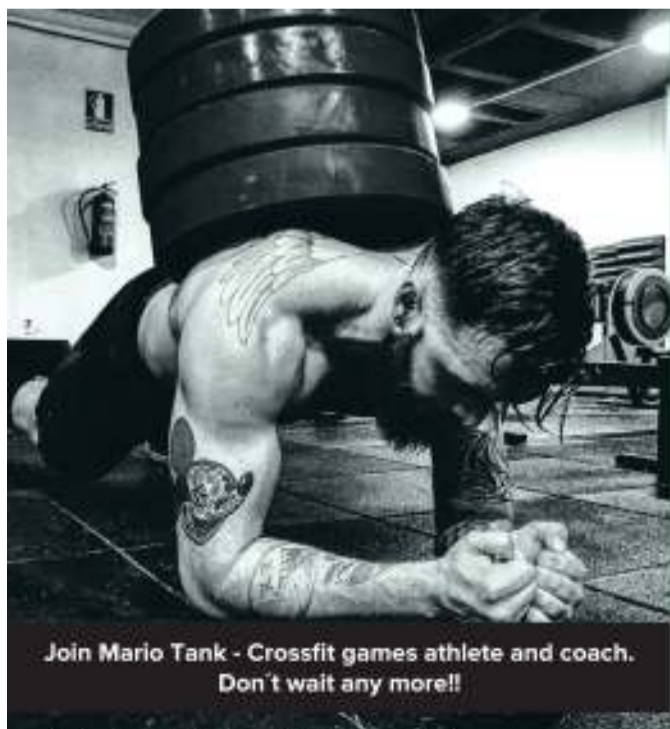
Portu moved up the coast after Valencia deemed him not good enough after just two top-flight games. Now he is the driving force of this emerging team.

Twenty years ago they were playing in the Primera Catalana, the regional league, and now there's a strong possibility they will be qualifying for the Europa League.

Going into round twenty-five they're one point and one place from the position that should guarantee European football.

The lazy description is to label them as part of the growing Manchester City Empire that stretches as far as Australia and America but in truth they are very independent and have a coach who defies the convention thrust upon him.

Girona are making many of us sit up and take notice with their cavalier approach. Many scenes from A Game of Thrones were filmed in the city; the difference is that was fantasy and this is reality.



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"Coming from Eastern Europe doesn't make you a criminal"

Marbella FC owner Alexander Grinberg held a press conference last week after his release from prison and reiterated his commitment to the club



JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

@1JulioRodriguez

MARBELLA. Wearing a shirt two sizes smaller than the one at his last public press conference, freshly shaven, with the Marbella FC badge on his lapel and the look of disorientation of someone returning home from a long holiday: this is how Alexander Grinberg looked last week when he appeared at the club's headquarters to make a statement, declaring his innocence in the so-called 'Caso Oligarkh' and stressing his intention to continue with the project he started five years ago.

Accompanied by one of his lawyers, Roman Bazoev, and the club's marketing director and translator, Yulia Sadovskaya, the president appeared publicly for the first time since leaving prison, where he spent four-and-a-half months accused of money laundering, allegedly in the region of 30 million euros.

"I will prove my innocence," he said. "Five years ago, when I arrived in Marbella, I wanted to show



Grinberg poses at the Marbella FC headquarters. :: JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

Spanish people that Russians are hardworking and humble."

"The truth always wins"

However, he also stated his belief that there is a certain stigma around peo-

ple from former Soviet Union countries: "Being from Eastern Europe doesn't make you a criminal. It's horrible to have to say this in the 21st century; we are all equal." He added: "In Alhaurín de la Torre prison there

Grinberg insisted that the club was not for sale as it was "like a family" to him

are more than 1,600 inmates but I didn't see a single Russian there."

Grinberg also took the opportunity to criticise the media outlets who published images which alleged to show firearms found in his home, which he says were toy airsoft guns.

"I am about to turn 50 and never in my life have I disobeyed the law," he said. "The decision to release me shows that justice exists. I'm sure everything will end well because the truth always wins."

Commitment to the club

Grinberg spoke to the press for an hour and a half, reiterating his commitment to the town and the team, currently second in group IV of Segunda B.

"Marbella is not for sale," he said. "This is my family and family is the most important thing."

He repeated a number of soundbites he has frequently used since taking over the club in 2013: "We

are on a journey. I said that my dream was to one day be competing with Barcelona and we've not reached that yet."

However, he didn't rule out the possibility of bringing in other investors: "Football is a business but it is magical because it is not like any other. I am always open to the idea of new investors. I have received a lot of offers for the club in recent years but it has never entered my mind to sell the club because Marbella is part of my life."

Grinberg gave thanks to his family, the players, the technical staff, the club employees and investors such as Antonio Decoz. The sponsor paid the wages for everyone at the club for at least two months and will meet with Grinberg soon to discuss paying the money back. "He is a wonderful person and we'll meet soon to discuss different options," he said.

Also on his agenda is tying down trainer Fernando Estévez to a new deal and to make life easier for the staff who have brought to club forward in these last months: "The club works like a clock; everyone knows the role they have to perform. We have made mistakes, but eventually we have got ourselves on the right path thanks to the hard work of everyone around here."

In this respect, Grinberg expressed his regret at not having current sporting director Jorge Rodríguez de Cózar in sooner. "Three or four years ago we spoke about him coming back to the club but it didn't work out then. Luckily we have him with us now."

Grinberg showed emotion at some points, taking long pauses, but also showed his sense of humour: "They told me that I should stay in prison and have my wife stay as president so we could go to the playoffs. They're superstitious like that!"

Marbella warm up for key showdown with hard-fought win

The Costa side ground down their opponents and won thanks to goals from captain Añón and Juanfran

MARBELLA 2 JUMILLA 0

:: JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

MARBELLA. Marbella have really given league leaders Cartagena something to think about ahead of their match-up next week after an emphatic 2-0 win over Jumilla.

Following a tightly-contested first half, two goals in eight minutes in the second was enough to bring the side's points haul to 48.

Coach Fernando Estévez made just one change to the side that got a goalless draw away to Las Palmas but did name three youth players on the bench after injuries to striker Ferrón and midfielder Álex Bernal.



Añón and Sánchez celebrate the match's first goal. :: J. RODRÍGUEZ

In the first half Marbella struggled to make an impact due to the rigid formation of Jumilla, which stifled Marbella's attacking trio of Indiano, Añón and Corpas. Meanwhile Caye Quintana po-

sed a headache for the Marbella defence. He put a lot of pressure on the home side's backline and Wilfred had to save several of his shots at full stretch. Marbella went into the dressing room looking like a team with few ideas.

In the second half the players really came into their own. Corpas and Indiano found their passing rhythm and Marbella remained the dominant side throughout the entire half.

At 66 minutes a long ball from Corpas fell to Añón, who caught Jumilla out with an effective counter-attack, slotting the ball into the bottom left corner. Just six minutes later Juanfran struck a cross on the edge of the box with a powerful right foot that flew past Jaume Valens.

This win comes as a welcome boost for Marbella who go into their biggest game of the season on Sunday as they take on league leaders Cartagena.

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Spain's two Winter Olympics medallists return home

Figure skater Javier Fernández and snowboarder Regino Hernández both picked up bronze in Pyeongchang

:: MARINA RIVAS

MALAGA. Regino Hernández and Javier Fernández will go down in Spanish sporting history after winning a bronze medal each at this year's Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang. This is Spain's best ever performance in the competition, the first time that its team has won multiple medals.

Spain's first medal came from Regino Hernández, from Mijas, who came third in the men's snowboard cross. He came back to Spain to a hero's welcome from his girlfriend Elena Aragón and close friends Francesca Occelli and Álvaro Aragón. Regino was sporting his characteristic style, with a smile from ear to ear, a woolly hat and a large beard, which his friends paid tribute to with their own imitations.

Regino and his girlfriend have received a lot of attention from the press following his return. Elena said: "It's been very emotional, we were very nervous and in the end I cried a little bit. Now everything has calmed down a bit and I'm very excited to celebrate with him."

Javier Fernández has long been known as a world-class figure skater. He was world champion in 2015 and 2016, and has been European champion for six consecutive years, since



Fernández during his medal-winning performance. :: EFE



Regino was greeted at Barajas airport by fans and friends. :: M. RIVAS

2013. His dream is now complete: "I feel amazing. It's the first Olympic skating medal that Spain has ever won, and although it isn't a gold or a silver, for me it's enough. All of the work that I have put into skating has

let me achieve my dream, which was to win an Olympic medal."

He was beaming on the medal podium alongside Japanese skaters Yuzuru Hanyu and Shoma Uno, both close friends of his.



Vuelta a Andalucía winner Tim Wellens on the podium. :: EFE

Wellens comes out on top in the Ruta del Sol

The Belgian finished nine places ahead of the Chris Froome whose puncture in the penultimate stage ruled him out the running

:: DARYL FINCH

MALAGA. Belgian rider Tim Wellens picked up his first general classification victory of the year as he ran out overall winner of the Vuelta a Andalucía on Sunday. The 26-year-old stole the crown from under fire Brit Chris Froome, whose first race of the season ended in a tenth-place finish.

Wellens (Lotto-Soudal) managed to stave off the challenge of Mikel Landa (Movistar) and Wout Poels (Team Sky) (who started the day seven and 11 seconds behind, respectively) despite finishing 14 seconds behind stage winner David De La Cruz (Team Sky) in the final-day time trial in Barbate.

Team Sky's Chris Froome dropped out of overall contention during Saturday's tough uphill finish after a puncture toward the end of the stage from Seville to Alcalá de los Gazules (Cadiz) but despite this, the Brit was still the favourite for the final stage. However, he looked well off the pace and finished outside the top 10, but did enough to maintain tenth place in the overall standings.

"Expecting a bit better"

"Obviously I was coming here for my first race of the season and didn't know where the form was at," said Froome, who had to endure a fair share of the spotlight given his ongoing investigation into his use of asthma drugs during last year's Vuelta a España. "This is all part of my build-up now towards my Giro d'Italia but I was probably expecting a little bit better."

Wellens was joined on the podium by Wout Poels (Sky) and Movistar's Marc Soler.



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SPORT IN PHOTOS



▲ **Basketball.** Unicaja must now refocus their efforts on the Euroleague after their Copa del Rey elimination at the hands of Real Madrid last week. The Malaga side travelled to Gran Canaria knowing that they faced an uphill struggle against the reigning champions but pushed them all the way, losing by just five points (89-84). The eventual competition winners were Barcelona who saw off Real 92-90 in the final on Sunday. :: **AGENCIA LOF**



▲ **Inline hockey.** The latest round of the junior Liga Andaluza was played in Fuengirola at the weekend and the Lions team won four out of five games. The tightest matches were the morning match against Sevilla Dragons (4-3) and the last game of the day where the alevins lost to Sancti Petri 2-3. However, the Fuengirola Lions still lead all the three categories. The next round of games will be played in Sevilla this weekend. :: **SIMO TYNYS**



◀ **Judo.** RK Judo club in Estepona enjoyed a trophy-laden weekend at the recent Southfields Open in the UK. Eleven youngsters aged 6 to 16, some fighting for the first time abroad, competed. The results were (from top left): Ryan Whitehead (gold), Tom Whybrow (gold), Adrian Navarro Vallejo (bronze), Harry Williams (5th), Lisa Lindberg (gold), Ben Barkby (gold), Gonzalo Terol de Carvalho (7th); Kate Chisholm (silver), Lucy Chisholm (gold), Natalia Pazos Ruiz (gold) and Alejandro Pazos Ruiz (bronze). :: **SUR**



▲ **SuperEnduro.** Malaga's Palacio de Deportes was filled with the sound of engine noise and spectacular scenery on Saturday as the SuperEnduro World Championship returned to the city for another year. Thousands attended the third round of the championship which saw riders in three different categories compete. :: **FRANCIS SILVA**

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▲ **Shot put.** Malaga shot putter Borja Vivas (centre) came away with the gold medal from the Spanish Championships in Valencia on Saturday. The athlete from Club Atletismo Málaga returned to the top of the podium after his silver last year, doing so with a season-best score of 20.27 metres. The score wasn't quite enough to earn him qualification for the World Championships held in Birmingham, but sits him top of the Spanish rankings for the year. :: **SUR**

my home SUR

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Removals page 52

Glass curtains page 53

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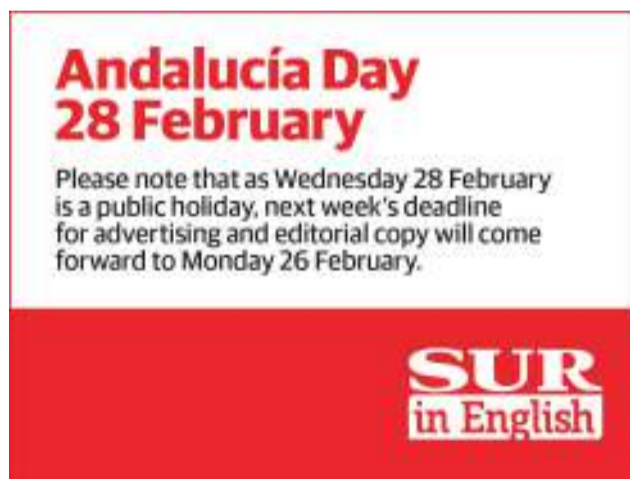
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ATTRACTIVE elderly male WLTm a tactile shapely ladyfriend 50+ who maybe has a penchant to be the regular and exclusive dish on his menu. cunnilingus4u@yahoo.co.uk

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THE STARS




Aquarius
January 21 - February 19
Be picky about how you spend your limited energy and avoid distractions if you have promised to get a job done.




Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
As the week begins a lack of action may lead to frustration as an ambitious plan slows down. Patience is needed.




Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Being open and honest at home may also see you dodging barbs, but that will pass. Someone who slips quietly out of your social circle may not be missed.




Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Someone who is well known for their passionate attitude crosses your path this week. Think before you speak!




Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Check out anything you are told to do with your finances. Are you covered twice on an insurance deal?




Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Taking a positive attitude today can bring someone out of the doldrums. Maybe they feel neglected?




Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Be adventurous without being risky. It is really important that when sending mail or chatting on the phone you stick to the facts.




Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Flexibility is your best friend this week, which is not a time to make sudden and startling changes.




Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
All you have to do really is take the tried and tested option. It may seem a dull choice but you know that it works!



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Not taking what a loved one wants seriously could cause ructions. Still, is there something that you want? Could this be the time to ask for it?

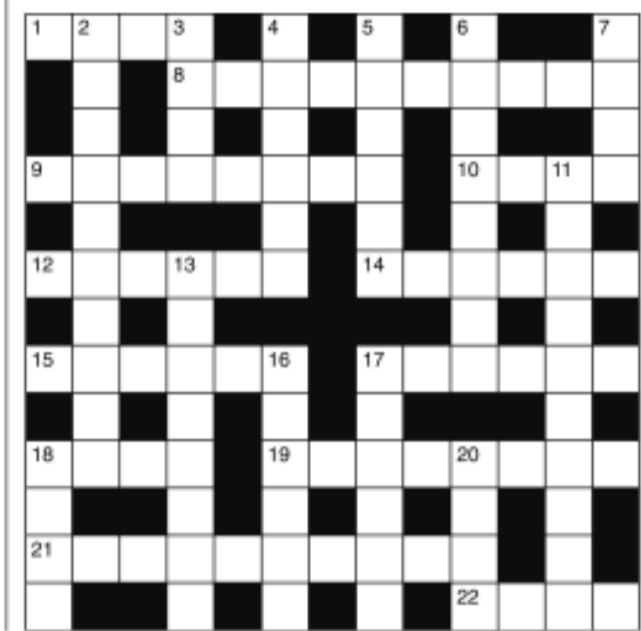


Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Everyone has their opinion. They intend to let you know it, too! Still, there is no need to look for allies or backup.



Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
Lack of energy as the week begins soon changes to a determination to get things moving.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11283



- Across
- Down
- 1

Once attire for father in the street (4)
- 8

In poor health, like an ill-equipped typesetter (3,2,5)
- 9

A certain bearing required for conveyance (8)
- 10

Passive stage of insect raised in Pennsylvania (4)
- 12

An accommodating place to somehow teach about 50 (6)
- 14

Bound to be a growing time (6)
- 15

The first of the postmen with unusually clear package (6)
- 17

Slavonic refinement (6)
- 18

Put up with a sort of baiting (4)
- 19

Disorderly rise in volume is irritating (8)
- 21

Military action intended, we hear, to get part of the fortress (10)
- 22

Adversely affects theatrical successes (4)
- 2

To express things differently could appear rash! (10)
- 3

Travel in the direction of Chaldean city (4)
- 4

Allowing little breadth for a struggling artist! (6)
- 5

Expresses willingness to remove the top from the money boxes (6)
- 6 and 11Dn

Could it be demotion of a N.C.O.? Certainly stripes are involved! (8,10)
- 7

Much land is brought up in two articles (4)
- 11

See 6 Down
- 13

Ale crate to tear apart (8)
- 16

Young animals will produce a state of untidiness (6)
- 17

He's used to carrying strong drink (6)
- 18

The bachelor beside the infant (4)
- 20

These things could reveal a biblical character (4)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

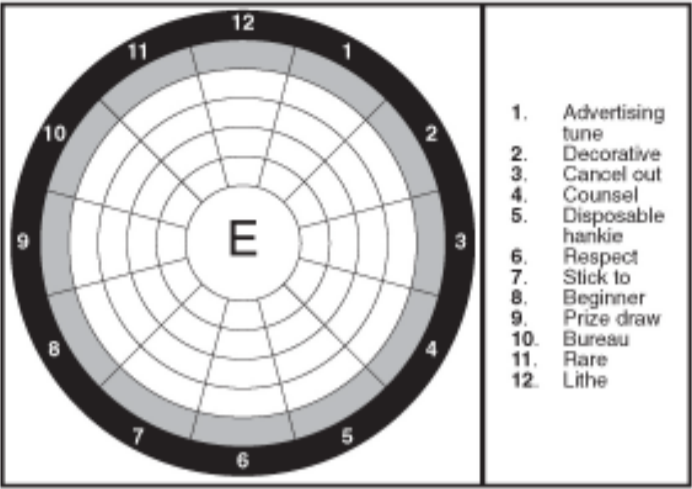
Instructions

Complete the square making sure that every row of nine numbers includes all digits from 1 to 9, every column includes all digits from 1 to 9 and every 3 by 3 subsection includes all digits from 1 to 9

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

CLOCKWORD

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter E in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a TV presenter and film reviewer.



THE WORDPUZZLER

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

CAN you identify the palindromes from the clues listed below?

1. Even

2. Canoe

3. Look furtively

4. Note value

5. Midday

6. Principle

7. Regards

8. Of the city

9. Action

10. Helicopter blade

INTERNATIONAL RADIO

Talk Radio Europe
105.5 Axarquía
91.5 Costa del Sol East
91.9 Costa del Sol West
98.7 Gibraltar/Sotogrande
News, interviews, lifestyle, sport and BBC World Service.

Spectrum (105.5 FM, Costa Almeria/Mojácar 92.6 FM)
24 hour music and entertainment

Global (93.6 and 96.4FM)
All week round the clock music and entertainment

Radio Mijas (107.7 FM)
3 p.m. News, views and music

Radio Radio Network (96 and 98.3 FM). Music 24 hours.

Radio Sol Almjara (99.1 FM)
Nerja radio in English and German and night time World Radio Network

Central FM (98.6 FM, 103.8)
All week, classic tracks and today's music broadcast to the Costa del Sol

HeartfmSpain (88.5 FM Costa, 96.1 FM inland) Music, entertainment, news

ACE FM (106.8 FM)
Inland radio, news and music
The Beat fm (106 FM)
24 hours, music and entertainment

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 Peubla de Cazalla

QUIZ

QUESTION 1

If ‘canine’ describes a dog, what does ‘vulpine’ describe?

1. A vulture

2. A wolf

3. A civet or mongoose

4. A fox

QUESTION 2

In which part of the human body does mydriasis occur?

1. The eye

2. The liver

3. The heart

4. The skin

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across
- Down
- 1) Unsustainable (12)

7) Failed (7)

10) Voting (8)

11) Authority (9)

14) Ground (5)

15) Colonel (7)

16) Madness (6)

17) He ties up (3)

19) Outside (8)

20) I went back (5)

21) To direct (7)

23) They stormed (9)

25) I gave (2)

26) Weapon (4)

27) North (5)

30) Shot (7)

33) Involved (9)

37) They give (3)

38) Lieutenant (8)

40) To go (2)

41) My (2)

42) Semicircle (9)

43) Attempt (9)

44) Remainder (5)

45) I operate (5)

48) Army (8)

49) Evacuated (pl) (11)
- 1) Investiture (11)

2) I placed (5)

3) Sociology (10)

4) That (3)

5) Go! (pl) (2)

6) Interviewee (12)

8) Ring (6)

9) Occupation (9)

12) Anchovy (6)

13) Shouts (6)

15) To fall (4)

18) I burst in (7)

22) Coup d'état (5, 2, 6)

24) Bird (3)

25) Where (5)

28) Hole (8)

29) Scheming (9)

31) Candidates (10)

32) Uniform (8)

34) Unease (8)

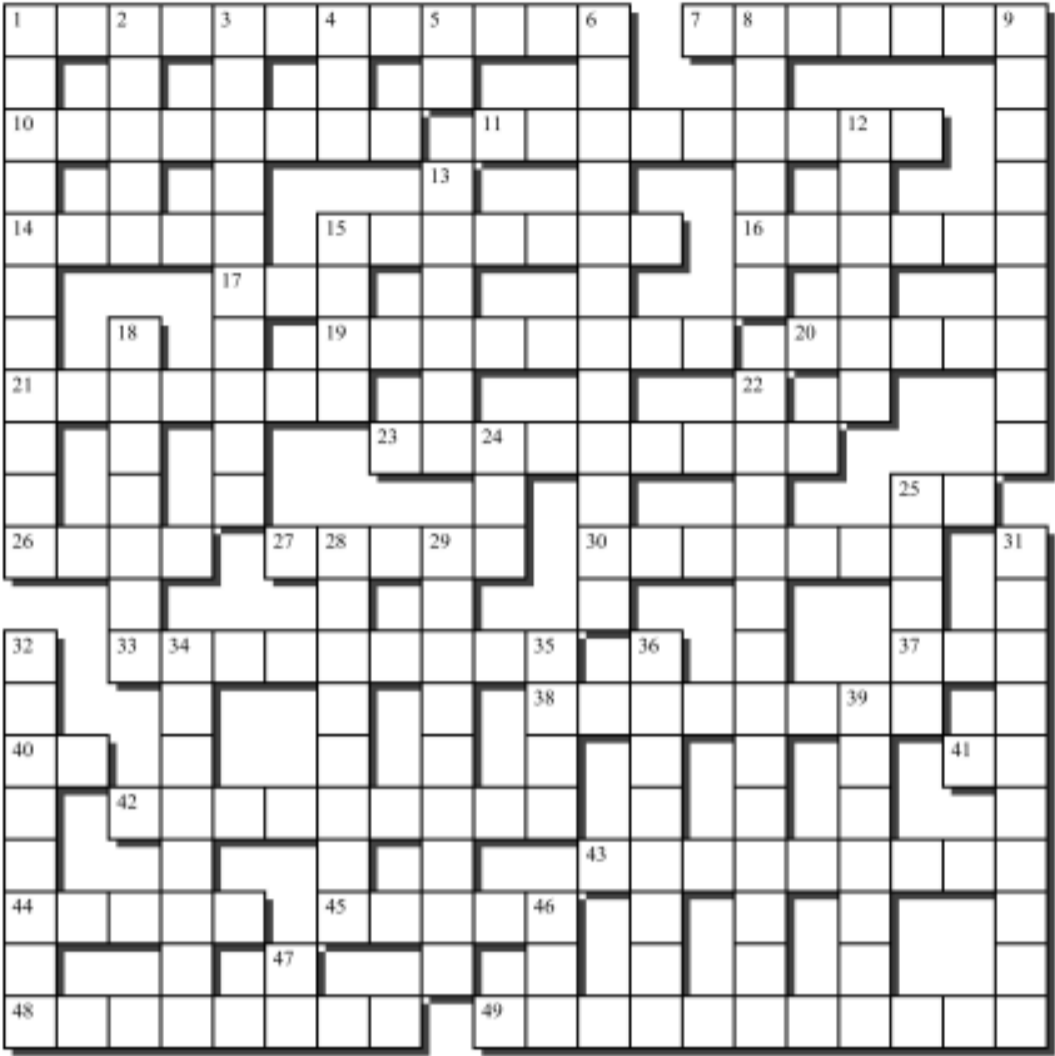
35) Other (4)

36) He locks up (8)

39) Strategy (7)

46) Hey! (3)

47) I saw (2)



ANSWERS

Quiz answers

Answer 1: A fox
Of interest: From the Latin vulpinus ("foxy, fox-like"), vulpine refers to any fox (including the true foxes, the arctic fox and the grey fox); distinguished from the canines, which are regarded as similar to the dog and wolf.
Of interest: Mydriasis is the dilation of the pupil, usually having a non-physiological cause, or sometimes a physiological pupillary response. Non-physiological causes of mydriasis include disease, trauma, or the use of drugs.

Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 1 Spat; 8 Out of sorts; 9 Carriage; 10 Pupa; 12 Chai; 14 Spring; 15 Parcel; 17 Polish; 18 Bear; 19 Tiresome; 21 Battlement; 22 Hits. Down: 2 Paraphrase; 3 Tour; 4 Strait; 5 Offers; 6 Corporal; 7 Asia; 11 Punishment; 13 Lacerate; 16 Litter; 17 Porter; 18 Baby; 20 Seth.

Clockword solution

SOLUTION: 1 Jingle, 2 Ornate, 3 Negate, 4 Advise, 5 Tissue, 6 Homage, 7 Adhere, 8 Novice, 9 Raffle, 10 Office, 11 Scarce, 12 Supple.
PRESENTER: Jonathan Ross.

Wordpuzzler solution

1. Level
2. Kayak
3. Peep
4. Minim
5. Noon
6. Tenet
7. Seas
8. Civic
9. Deed
10. Rotor
PIERONTNL
ULMIGGOIO
SCIVICHORP
LONUPRLNCL
IRIDSPATGOK
VGMASSTIKA
ODELEVLSY
REVISHNPFA
PEEPLEEREK
EDNYROTORE

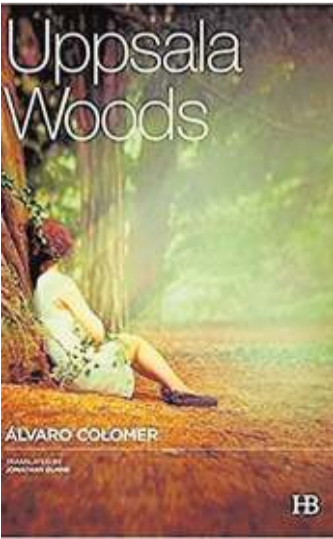
Sudoku solution

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

Language Crossword

ACROSS:
1. INOSTINBLE 7. ALIADO
10. OTACION 11. AUTORIDAD 14. SUELO
15. CONOMEL 16. ACURIA 17. IJA
19. EXTOROR 20. VOCI 21. DORIGIR
22. ASATIBOR 23. DE 24. ARMA
25. NORRE 26. ORRABO 31. IMPICADO
37. DAN 38. TENENTE 40. IR ALMI
42. ENACIO 43. TENTATIVA 44. AESTO
45. OERO 46. ERCTO
49. DESALJADOS
DOWN:
1. INSTRIBURA 2. STUE 3. SOCIOLOGIA
4. SO 5. ID 6. ENTREVISTADO 8. ANILLO
9. OCUPACION 12. ANCHOA 13. GRITOS
15. CAR 16. RUBUM
22. GOPEESTADO 24. AVE 25. DONDE
26. ORFICIO 29. TAPCHHO
31. CANDIDATOS 32. UNIFORME
34. MATALISTAR 35. OTRO 36. ENCHIBIA
39. TACTICA 40. OYE 47. NI

BOOK OF THE WEEK



Uppsala Woods
Álvaro Colomer

When, on his fifth wedding anniversary, Julio gets back home and his wife is nowhere to be found, he feels an omen of doom. From this point forward, he engages in an increasingly frenzied search for his wife and goes through the searing abyss faced by one attached to somebody who has grown tired of living. The underlying themes of this humor-ridden drama are loneliness, shame, fear and particularly anger at an impassive society that is unwilling to reflect on one of its worst ailments.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

He who cannot be advised can also not be helped

LATIN PROVERB

THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

Getting organised

Next Wednesday 28 February is a public holiday for Andalucía Day so if you're out and about you might find more green and white flags flying than usual. At SUR in English we also like to enjoy our days off if we possibly can (although we are all aware that news doesn't stop happening) so we have brought forward our usual deadline for advertising and editorial copy. Please make sure we have your advertising orders, society news or letters to the editor on Monday 26 February. Once next week's

holiday (a full week in the case of schools) is over it won't be long before we start thinking of another one as Easter comes early this year. Semana Santa falls in the last week in March, with the official public holidays in Andalucía being on Maundy Thursday (29 March) and Good Friday (30 March). Again, we will be bringing forward the usual Tuesday deadline by a day. Contact us by email at surinenglish.su@diariosur.es, by Twitter @SUR_English or find us on Facebook @surenglish







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In search of wild orchids

Jimera de Líbar now has seven walking routes along which people can see up to 20 different species of orchid

JIMERA DE LÍBAR

The walks, which are unique in Malaga province, are also accessible from the Great Trail and the Fray Leopoldo Route

■ VANESSA MELGAR

Jimera de Líbar is in the Guadiaro Valley in the Serranía de Ronda; it may be small, with only 400 inhabitants, but the surrounding countryside is spectacular, not least because it is home to 20 different types of wild orchid. Until now, very few people other than local residents have been able to enjoy them, but the council has recently set up seven walking routes to make it easier to see these beautiful treasures of nature, which have existed for 20 or 30 million years.

Orchids are normally associated with exotic countries, but nobody from this region needs to go to Madagascar, Thailand or Peru to discover them. Manuel Becerra, the author of a guide to the wild orchids of Andalusia

(‘Guía de campo de las orquídeas silvestres de Andalucía’) says this area contains 45 per cent of all the species catalogued in Spain and 60 per cent of all those in Andalucía. Orchids belong to the Orchidaceae family, which contains 850 genera and about 20,000 species, although different experts put the figure between 17,000 to 30,000. Orchids have spread over most of the planet, apart from the Poles and deserts.

“In our region you can see as many as 20 species at different times,” says the mayor of Jimera, Francisco Javier Lobo. None of the orchid routes are more than two kilometres long. “They are accessible and unchallenging, have been officially approved and make it easy to photograph these beautiful, highly protected orchids. You can join the routes from the village, because they are all in the surrounding area,” he explains.

The routes are called: La Vereda del Tesoro, La Trocha, La Cañada del Olivar, La Cuesta de la Barca, La Dehesa, El Camino de Atajate and La Vereda de las Huertas. “If someone is doing the Great Trail of Malaga (Gran Senda)



There are information panels on the walking routes. ■ K. S.



Ophrys tenthredinifera. ■ C. G.



Cephalanthera longifolia. ■ C. G.

ORCHID WALKS

► **Species.** Principal species in the spring: Ophrys apifera, Ophrys bombyliflora, Ophrys speculum, Ophrys scolopax, Ophrys lutea, Serapias parviflora, Anacamptis pyramidalis, Limodorum abortivum, Neotinea maculata, Orchis italica...

► **Starting point.** The routes can be joined from the village.

► **Length.** Between 500 metres and two kilometres.

or the Fray Leopoldo route, they could make a diversion and see our wild orchids,” says the mayor.

The idea of creating the orchid walks came from a local resident, Pedro Sánchez, and the Saepo Association of nearby Cortes de la Frontera. “Pedro is very interested in wild orchids and has studied them. He and the Saepo Association suggested that we make it easier for people to see them. So we set to work,” he says.

Attracting tourism

Jimera de Líbar lies within the Sierra de Grazalema natural park, but is in Malaga province. The council is interested in attracting more tourism to boost the local economy. “There are no other orchid routes like ours in Malaga province, so we are sure they will bring many more people to Jimera,” says Francisco Javier Lobo.

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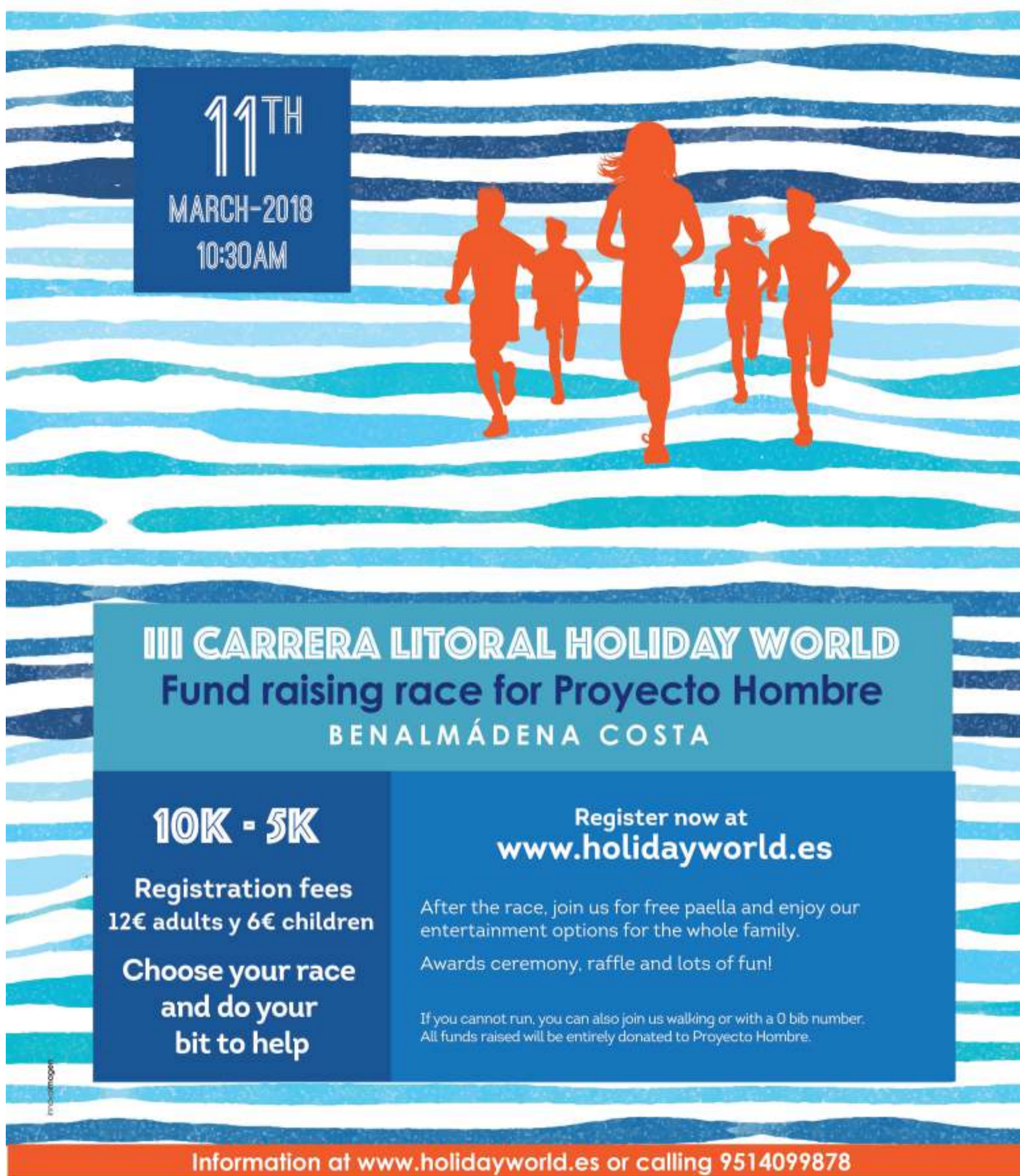
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