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Malaga CF plunged into uncertainty

President Sheikh Al-Thani denied all knowledge of any pact as the 'BlueBay case' resumes **P45**



SALVADOR SALAS

THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

Malaga artist Darko has shown how far he has progressed with his latest work at the Centre Pompidou **P33**



The artist adds the finishing touches inside the Malaga gallery. :: NITO SALAS

British girl, 9, dies from allergic reaction on Mijas holiday

She had a reaction to an ice cream on the same day the family had arrived for their half-term holiday

A nine-year-old British girl died in Malaga's children's hospital on Monday after suffering a severe reaction apparently caused by an ice cream she tasted the previous Saturday. Sources said that the girl was allergic to milk and nuts which possibly caused an anaphylactic shock although the exact cause is still under investigation.

She had arrived in Spain with her parents and two siblings that same morning. **P3**

Junta to foot the 700,000-euro bill for Julen rescue operation

The 13-day struggle to recover the body of the toddler involved a huge amount of manpower and specialist machinery

The rescue operation for two-year-old Julen who suffered a fatal fall down a borehole in Totalán last month cost around 700,000 euros. The Junta de Andalucía regional government has said it will pay the bill.

The breakdown of the costs showed

the biggest item on the bill, some 260,000 euros, was for the excavation work on the mountainside.

The announcement came as the Junta also pledged to recognise the rescue teams as part of the Andalucía Day celebrations on 28 February. **P3**

Citizens' rights groups back amendment which would ensure the rights of Brits living in Spain post-Brexit **P19**

Surprising destinations in more way than one as we take a leap of faith in this month's Travel special **P22-26**

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Swiss synchronised swimming team poisoned by a chlorine leak

Nineteen of the girls were taken to hospitals and medical centres for treatment but were able to resume training the same afternoon

:: **ÁLVARO FRÍAS/JUAN CANO**

MALAGA. All was well in the end, but it will take the 24 members of the Meyrin synchronised swimming club from Geneva a long time to forget their trip to Torremolinos. Nineteen of the girls suffered slight chlorine poisoning after inhaling the chemical when a leak occurred as they were training at the municipal swimming pool.

The team arrived on Sunday, accompanied by their two trainers. This wasn't their first visit to Torremolinos; they also came last year to train before the start of the competition season.

They completed their first training session satisfactorily on Monday, and Tuesday began as usual, with breakfast at eight o'clock and exercises in the pool at nine.

Everything was normal until, after a few minutes, the water in the swimming pool began to bubble.

"It was like a jacuzzi," says Saskia Bossy, one of the trainers. "The girls were wearing goggles, and they said the bottom of the pool had gone yellow". Then, the youngsters began to have breathing problems. "They couldn't stop coughing, their throats were sore and some of them were



The two trainers who accompanied the girls to Torremolinos this week. :: **SALVADOR SALAS**

vomiting," she says.

The girls were in the outside pool, and the trainers made them get out of the water quickly, while staff called for help. Within a few minutes the police and ambulances arrived, and 19 of the girls, aged between nine and 17, were taken for medical attention. The two who had suffered the worst effects from the chlorine were taken by ambulance to the Clínico hospital, and the rest were treated at the Ma-

terno hospital and health centres in Torremolinos.

"The emergency services acted very quickly and effectively," says Saskia Bossy. "All the girls were able to return later that morning, so we had lunch together and then trained in the indoor pool in the afternoon. It was frightening for the girls at the time, but they were fine when they realised nothing awful had happened to them. We're not going to make a drama

over this. It won't put us off coming to Torremolinos again."

Torremolinos council and the National Police have begun investigations into the incident, but at first sight it looks as though the chlorine leak occurred as the result of a fault in the machinery for the outside pool. That pool has now been closed while the investigation continues and any necessary repairs are carried out so it can be used again.

Bones suitcase mystery solved as medical student declares ownership

:: **J. CANO / Á. FRÍAS**

MALAGA. An investigation has concluded that the suitcase filled with bones which was discovered in a Fuengirola lockup two weeks ago belonged to a medical student.

The more than 20 bones, individually wrapped in the English edition of a newspaper, were, because of the length of the femurs, found to have belonged to at least two humans - one man and one woman - after forensic investigations were carried out at the Instituto de Medicina Legal (IML).

The suitcase was discovered by an elderly couple who had just bought the lockup and were cleaning it out so that they could repaint it. They called the police once they discovered, some time later, what was inside.

The principal hypothesis at the time, given the way the bones were wrapped, was that the suitcase belonged to a medical student who had previously rented the lockup and had forgotten to remove them. However, given the the inability to gain more detailed forensic information, a multiple homicide could not be ruled out.

However, after tracking down the former owners, a Belgian family, the granddaughter of the owner, now deceased, who was a medical student at Malaga university, claimed ownership and was able to provide documentation from Fuengirola cemetery and the department of Anatomy and Embryology at the university.

Search operation ongoing for pilot of gyrocopter which plunged into Iznájar reservoir

Pablo Benthem was flying alone in the aircraft which is believed to have exploded after hitting high-voltage power lines

:: **E. CABEZAS / A. J. GUERRERO**

IZNÁJAR. The search for a 55-year-old gyrocopter pilot continues after the aircraft he was flying crashed into the reservoir at Iznájar.

Pablo Benthem, who is from Madrid but lives in Moclinejo, set off from Antequera airfield at 10am on Tuesday morning but police received a number of calls at around 11.20am that what was reported as a helicopter had plunged into the reservoir.

The principal line of enquiry at present is that Benthem, who is also

a diving, paragliding and paramotor instructor, was unable to avoid some high-voltage power lines and the resulting collision caused an explosion which resulted in the crash.

Drones and divers

The Guardia Civil have taken control of the operation and have been assessing the scene from the skies using both helicopters and drones, as well as bringing in specialist divers to survey the floor of the res-

ervoir which is in some parts 60 metres deeps.

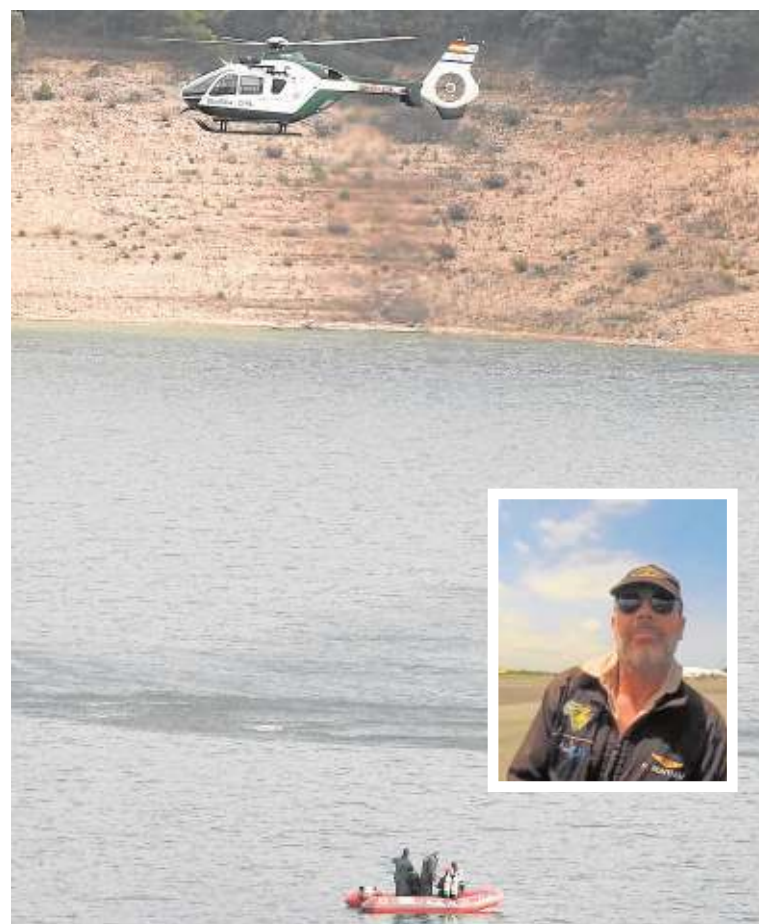
Antonio Quijano, in charge of the operation, said that the aircraft involved was a "two-seater gyrocopter", but that there was just one occupant at the time of the crash.

The gyrocopter has been located 45 metres below the surface of the Iznájar reservoir and Quijano says that rescuers are looking at ways to bring it back up to the surface as soon as possible but the search for Benthem continues.

An experienced pilot

Pablo Benthem, is an experienced gyrocopter pilot and was involved in the first flight in history between Europe and Africa, over some 12,800 kilometres, in 2014, accompanied by friend and fellow instructor Francisco Giménez and Ignacio Yuste.

Benthem is an experienced pilot as well as a paragliding and diving instructor



Helicopters and divers search for missing Pablo Benthem (inset). :: **EFE**

Junta to foot 700,000-euro bill for Julen rescue operation

The most expensive part of the 13-day struggle to reach the toddler who fell down a borehole in Totalán was the excavation work to level land before drilling

:: F. T. / J. C. / Á. F.

TOTALÁN. The 13-day rescue operation that began on 13 January when two-year-old Julen fell down a borehole near Totalán cost around 700,000 euros. The new regional minister and government spokesperson, Elías Bendodo, announced on Tuesday that the Junta de Andalucía would foot the bill with “no problem”.

The breakdown of the costs of the operation, which involved drilling down more than 70 metres and digging a tunnel to recover the boy’s body, reveals that the biggest item on the bill, some 260,000 euros, was for the excavation work on the mountainside. In order to lower the level of the platform from which a new hole was drilled, 170,000 tonnes of earth and rocks were cleared from an area of 15,000 square metres.

The drilling of the vertical shaft parallel to the hole the boy fell down cost more than 178,000 euros and the digging of the underground tunnel by the miners, 11,000 euros.

Medal

The regional government has announced that it will award its Medal of Andalucía to the rescue teams that took part in the Totalán operation. The medal, presented on Andalucía Day (28 February), will recognise the work of the around 300 people from different security forces, emergency services, volunteer organisations, engineering firms and the miners from Asturias involved in the operation.



Rescue workers carry out the perforation of the hole. :: SUR

Well-digger’s assistant says his boss told him he covered hole

:: J. C. / Á. F. / F. T.

MALAGA. Investigators working on the Julen case, in which the owner of the land in Totalán is under formal investigation for alleged manslaughter through negligence, have come across contradictions in their inquiries as to whether the borehole had been properly covered.

An employee of the firm that drilled the borehole told officers at the end of January that his boss had told him that he had covered the hole, but admitted that he didn’t

see it himself.

In previous statements the man’s boss, Antonio Sánchez, had said that he covered the hole with a 15-kilo stone on 18 December. The worker who went in on 5 January to dig a trench alongside the hole (apparently to build a contention wall) said that he saw how the landowner, David Serrano, pushed some stones with his foot to cover the hole. Serrano himself said that Sánchez didn’t cover the hole but that he put two concrete blocks over it. The inquiry continues.

British girl, 9, dies after ice cream causes allergic reaction on Mijas holiday

The child and her family had arrived for a holiday in Mijas on Saturday, the same day she tried the ice cream in a nearby shopping centre

:: ÁLVARO FRÍAS /JUAN CANO

MALAGA. A nine-year-old British girl died on Monday in Malaga’s children’s hospital after apparently suffering a severe reaction after tasting an ice cream the previous Saturday.

Sources said that the girl was allergic to milk and nuts which caused a possible anaphylactic shock although the exact cause is still under investigation.

The girl reportedly suffered the attack last Saturday when she tried the ice cream and started to feel ill. She had arrived in Spain for a half-term holiday with her parents and two siblings that morning. Sources told SUR that after leaving their luggage at their accommodation, they went to a nearby shopping centre in Fuengirola.

It appears that while they were there the girl tasted an ice cream which triggered the severe reaction. She started to feel ill and the family returned to their hotel.

There, they went down to the restaurant area for dinner, but the girl’s condition worsened, said the sources, and they left without eating. It was then that the youngster apparently suffered a cardiac arrest and received first aid treatment from hotel staff, until the arrival of the emergency services, who received the call just after 9pm.

Once stabilised, the girl was taken by ambulance to the Costa del Sol hospital, near Marbella, where she was admitted in a serious condition.

As she continued to get worse she was moved to the children’s hospital in Malaga. By that time her condition was critical. The health authorities confirmed that she died on Monday evening.

On Tuesday an autopsy was carried out and a judicial investigation has been started, although indications are that it was the extreme allergic reaction that caused the death. Full toxicology tests will be carried out at laboratories in Seville.

The Club La Costa World complex, where the family are staying, has passed on condolences and thanked the emergency services for their “fast and professional response”, as well as the hotel staff for their “continued support for the family at this difficult time”.



The holiday complex in Mijas. :: SUR

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HERE AND THERE

Cs threatens to end PP deal on west Costa group unless Nozal goes

COSTA DEL SOL
:: I. GELIBTER. The Ciudadanos party (Cs) has threatened to end its pact running the western Costa Mancomunidad.

The public authority provides pooled services es, such as water supply, to 11 municipalities on the western Costa and Cs, with repre-

sentatives on its board, wants to see the vicepresident, Ángel Nozal removed.

Nozal is a former mayor of Mijas for the PP party and currently has eight investigations against him running over alleged misuse of public funds and supposed bribery.

Spokesperson for Cs at the Mancomunidad, Andrés Ruiz, who is also a councillor in Mijas, has said that he doesn't want to be part of a public authority "where members are being investigated for corruption".

Former Malaga mayor to step down from politics

MALAGA
:: SUR. A former mayor of Malaga who is known for her outspoken character and who went on to be a high-profile minister and MP on the national-political stage is to step down. Celia Villalobos (69) has been an MP for Malaga province for 30 years and was city mayor from 1995 to 2000 before being called to Madrid as minister for Health. She was also deputy speaker in Congreso.



Celia Villalobos this week. :: EFE

45 days to decide on rules for private-hire vehicles

MALAGA
::SUR. With new bosses after the change of regional government and newly gained powers to regulate Uber-style car services in Andalucía, the Junta has disappointed the taxi sector by saying that it won't publish its draft regional regulations for their private-hire car competitors for 45 days. Taxi representatives spent four hours with Junta bosses on Thursday last week making their case.

Tyler resigns IU whip but keeps Manilva town hall responsibilities

Mayor Mario Jiménez has persuaded the IU to stay part of his ruling coalition despite initial upset that Tyler still has a role on the mayor's team

:: CHARO MÁRQUEZ
MANILVA. The mayor of Manilva, Mario Jiménez, has averted a crisis in the coalition he heads after the resignation of councillor Dean Tyler from the Izquierda Unida (IU) party, one of the coalition partners. Jiménez leads the Podemos-affiliated Compromiso Manilva (CM) party and heads the municipality with the IU and Partido Popular.

Last week, Dean Tyler, the IU councillor for Foreigners, Trade and Commerce, Consumers and the Environment, resigned the IU whip alleging that he felt undervalued by the party. However the mayor agreed that Tyler, who is well-known among the large foreign-resident community in Manilva and Sabinillas, could keep his town hall responsibilities while sitting as an independent councillor ahead of local elections in May.

This immediately caused upset within the IU who demanded that Tyler be relieved of his duties and these given to the IU, amid rumours, now denied, that Tyler had reached a private agreement with the CM for the future.

At a crisis meeting between the Manilva mayor and IU councillors on Tuesday, Jiménez convinced his



Dean Tyler at a recent meeting in the council chamber. :: C. M.

coalition partners to maintain their electoral pact at least until the end of the legislative period in three months' time.

Didn't feel wanted

In his statements on resigning from the IU last week, Tyler had said he didn't "fit in" with the IU group, and "that's why I've decided to leave somewhere I'm not wanted".

Recently Tyler stood to be the IU's mayoral candidate in May in an internal ballot, but received only one vote against the 43 votes for existing local IU leader, Antonio Barragán.

"When you're in a group, you have to feel part of it. They said that I was excluding myself, but I'm independent. They have not taken me into account in decisions. It's a pity," said Tyler, stressing that he didn't

have personal differences with Barragán.

The internal dispute within the local IU was brought to the fore recently over the removal of a palm tree that was reportedly damaging the pavements in front of businesses in Duquesa marina. Tyler had authorised its removal as councillor for the Environment and based on a technical report. Barragán, who is responsible for Public Works in the municipality, hit back, saying there was no need to remove it and criticised Tyler's action.

On Wednesday, as both CM and IU parties agreed Tyler could keep his roles as an independent, they said in a statement, "We reconfirm the pact signed two years ago with the sole aim of keeping working for the future of Manilva."

Support deal between Malaga council's ruling PP and Cs ends months before local elections

Two councillors are to be investigated over supposed political interference when trying to get fines for planning offences overturned

:: SUR
MALAGA. Support from Ciudadanos (Cs) for the minority Partido Popular (PP) control on Malaga city council collapsed this week because of disagreements over the mayor's handling of a long-running town-planning dispute.

On Monday, Juan Cassá, leader of Cs, withdrew support for mayor Francisco de la Torre after he refused to sack two PP councillors who are being investigated over political interference.

The case centres on 115 supposed town planning violations recorded in 2013 by council officials at the Villas del Arenal housing area, on the city's outskirts.

Councillor for Town Planning, Francisco Pomares, and councillor for the local area, Teresa Porras, are to be quizzed over allegations that they tried to interfere with council officers' work in order to reduce or remove fines. The chief planning inspector at the council was removed from her post at the time.

The mayor and the councillors say they have acted correctly at all times and that the fines for mild offences, such as building barbecue areas, were disproportionate.

Porras claimed this week that the break was part of electioneering by Cs ahead of local polls in May.



File photo of estate where planning offences were alleged. :: SUR

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Link to El Higuerón and Torreblanca from N-340 coast road ready in April

A tunnel has been built under the Cercanías train line at Carvajal in a four-million-euro project partly paid for by developers

IVÁN GELIBTER

FUENGIROLA. The new access route that will help people living to the north of Fuengirola to reach the coast road quicker at Carvajal is expected to be finished in April.

The new road will start at the so-called Lions roundabout on the N-340 and stretch 450 metres northwards. It will be a dual carriageway and will run underneath the newly-completed underpass below the Cercanías rail line from Fuengirola to Malaga. Work building the bridge-like structure under the tracks has been going on at night to avoid disrupting train travel too much.

The project has been on the drawing board for many years as the different developers and housing estates that are contributing to the construction cost reached an agreement. The total budget will be between four and 4.5 million euros



The bridge under the railway from the N-340 coast road. I.G.

and will improve access to the growing area of Fuengirola running up the hillside from Torreblanca to El Higuerón and Ladera areas.

Speaking about the project, Alfonso Haro, president of the group of developers funding the work, said: "Although it's right to say that we've had

to pay the costs, the goodwill generated and the improvement for development projects in the area is key."

Haro added that around 2,000-2,500 homes will see improved links and the upper access to El Higuerón off the A-7 motorway should see less congestion now.

HERE AND THERE

Contract to upgrade Torremolinos rail station awarded for 4.5m euros

TORREMOLINOS

A. GÓMEZ. The contract has been awarded at last to upgrade the Cercanías rail station in the Plaza de la Nogalera in Torremolinos. The work is designed to improve accessibility to the station and will include a lift, resurfaced platform areas and improved signage throughout. The station does not comply with current legislation.

The budget is 4.5 million euros and the contract has been awarded to Via y Construcciones after over 20 companies bid to carry out the work. Once work starts it is expected to take 18 months to complete.

The station, in the middle of Torremolinos, is the fifth busiest on the Malaga-Fuengirola Cercanías line. Last year 1.1 million passengers used the station. Not only does it lack a lift, but there is only an escalator for people travelling up from the ticket hall to street level, and not for those going down. Mayor José Ortiz has arranged to meet the contractors to ensure disruption to local businesses is minimised.



Councillors outside María Barrabino's home. SUR

Tender goes out to restore veranda roof of historic Costa home

TORREMOLINOS

A. GÓMEZ. Torremolinos council has put the contract out to tender to restore the roof of the terrace on

the historic María Barrabino residence. The 19th-century property is hidden behind shops in the heart of the resort and was home to local landowners who were behind the growth of modern Torremolinos. The contract is for 147,000 euros and is part of town hall plans to eventually restore the whole building.

Lost Roman past of Costa resort to be unearthed

FUENGIROLA

I. GELIBTER. A six-year project is to be started in the shadow of Fuengirola's Sohail castle to discover a lost ancient town. The Roman settlement

of Suel was at the mouth of the Fuengirola river and now a team of archaeologists and anthropologists, supervised by Malaga university, is to start a dig covering 1,600 square metres to uncover its past. The work will be carried out in six stages and special events and tours will be organised on the site as the dig progresses.

Quabit starts work on 700 new properties in La Cala de Mijas

IVÁN GELIBTER

MIJAS. Urbanisation work has now started to prepare for a development with 700 properties to be built in La Cala de Mijas by the firm Quabit.

The mayor of Mijas, Juan Carlos Maldonado, and the Planning councillor, Andrés Ruiz, announced the start of the work last week alongside the director general of Quabit Inmobiliaria, Javier Prieto.

Las Lomas del Flamenco, as the development is known, is aimed at residential tourists with high spending power.

The developers plan to spend 23.7 million euros on the project, which will start, alongside the urbanisation works, with the construction of a first phase of 240 properties.

While the majority of the 700 properties in Las Lomas del Flamenco are aimed at foreign residential tourists, part of the area is reserved for young people.

A sum of 12 million euros is being spent on 79 properties in El Lagar de Quabit, reserved for first-time buyers.

A discount of five per cent will be applied to purchases of the two and three-bedroom properties in this section, due to be completed in 2020.

"Young people are finding it hard to get their foot on the property ladder and this is a challenge we have to overcome. A lack of savings, difficult access to credit and high rents are leaving them out of the market," said the developer's president last week.



Juan Carlos Maldonado and Javier Prieto, with councillors. I.G.



Around 50 mobile homes have parked up near the beach. E.C.

Residents complain about popular motorhome stop on El Playazo beach

EUGENIO CABEZAS

NERJA. Although motorhomes are frequently spotted in coastal areas during the winter months, the influx this year at El Playazo beach in Nerja has attracted numerous complaints from both residents and business owners.

Last week, around 50 were counted on the westernmost point of the beach - a figure which has remained the same for more than a month.

The beach, where the Chanquete World Music Festival takes place every year, has been inundated with these vehicles, which unlike caravans are not illegal to park, since height restriction barriers were removed.

When asked about the situation, mayor Rosa Arrabal (PSOE) said that part of the land was privately owned and was the responsibility of the owner to control the vehicles.

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Rail line swept away in flood to reopen using unused AVE route

Engineers have hurriedly replaced the tracks for the traditional gauge service from Malaga to Seville along a 9.4km stretch of mothballed high-speed route; work should finish next month

:: IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. Inland Andalucía suffered some of its heaviest rainfall ever seen in October last year. One of the main consequences was damage to the traditional, wide-gauge slow rail line from Malaga to Seville. A section at Aguadulce, just inside Seville province, was badly hit as the Blanco river swelled, dragging down a bridge.

While rail links between Seville and Malaga haven't been disrupted, as the newer high-speed AVE line

running north then west via Córdoba is also used, communities along the slower, wider Iberian-gauge route faced a long wait for trains again and engineers were left scratching their heads over how best to replace the service.

A handy alternative was available for this damaged stretch as it ran near the unused track bed of the direct high-speed line to Seville from Malaga via Antequera. Work on this line was mothballed a few years ago when funds ran out to complete it and put it into service.

In all, 9.4 kilometres of the for-

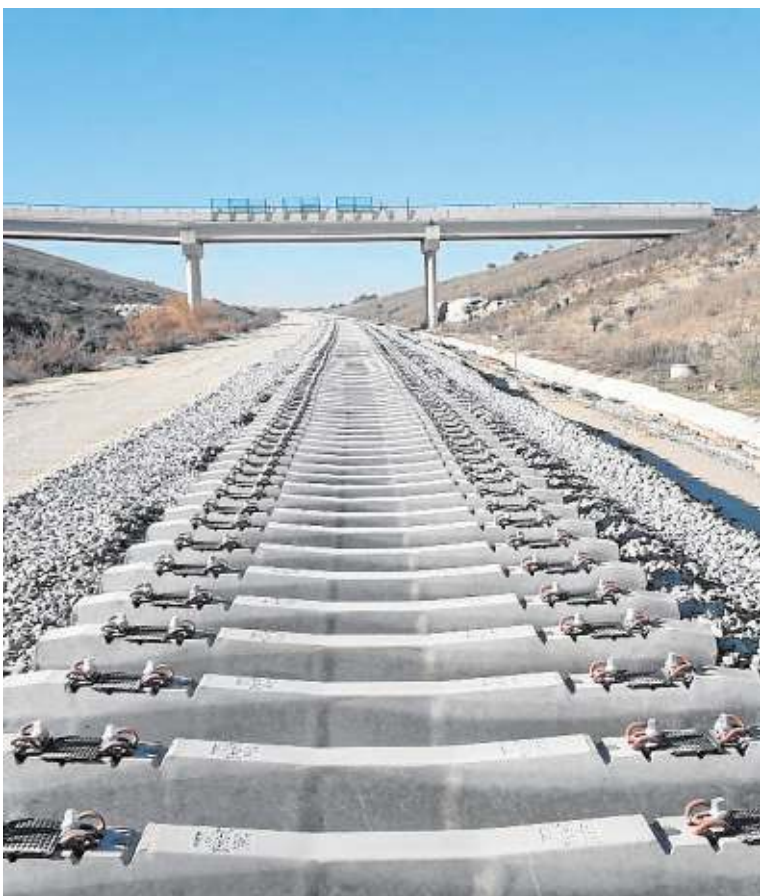
gotten high-speed line are being laid with the wider, Iberian-gauge track to replace the 11 kilometres damaged by the flooding and at a cost of 5.3 million euros. Work started in November and is due to finish sometime in March.

As well as the track, cabling for communications systems is being put in place. There has been no need to install overhead electric cables as, unlike the AVE, the traditional gauge services still use diesel locomotives.

At the same time as taking advantage of the AVE ghost line for just over nine kilometres, state rail-infrastructure company Adif has been arranging for the removal of the old metal-frame bridge that collapsed over the Blanco river.

Adif is also planning to take up the old track on the 11 kilometres that won't now be needed and the old track bed may be converted for use as a footpath or cycle track.

The old track bed may be converted for use as a footpath or cycle track



The traditional, wider-gauge sleepers on the line originally planned for standard-gauge high-speed trains which was never finished. :: SUR



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Ex-footballer Demichelis wakes up to find burglars in Marbella home

The Argentinian said the hooded intruders, who had broken in while the family slept, fled when they realised he was there

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ

MARBELLA. Former Malaga and Manchester City defender Martín Demichelis, woke up in his Marbella home to find burglars coming up from his basement in the early hours of last Sunday morning.

"Strange noises woke me up," the Argentinian told SUR this week, explaining how he left his bedroom to find several hooded intruders, "Three, I think", who fled when they saw him.

The intruders had broken in, according to the footballer, via the basement, while Demichelis, his wife, model Angelina Anderson,



Demichelis and Anderson in a local restaurant. :: IG.AVANGELINAANDERSEON

and their three children were sleeping in their exclusive Santa Clara Golf villa. The burglars, however, did not leave empty-handed. "They had time to steal [things]. When I saw them they were coming up from the basement, which is where they got in."

"I want to thank [people] for all

their good wishes, concern and affection," said Demichelis in a post on Instagram, referring to the many followers who had sent messages after news of the break-in was revealed by someone close to the family talking on Argentinian television. A police investigation is under way.

HERE AND THERE

Costa hosts international travel agents' congress

MARBELLA

:: **M. PÉREZ.** Marbella's congress centre has been selected as the venue for the 2019 Traveller Made congress between 21 and 29 March. The event will bring around 1,000 professionals, among them delegates from the 360 travel agencies who belong to Traveller Made, a network of luxury travel designers, as well as more than 600 hoteliers from around the world.

Easyjet announces new Malaga-Porto link

TRAVEL

:: **P. MARTÍNEZ.** British airline Easyjet has announced a new route between Malaga and Porto (Portugal) for this summer season. From 1 April flights will operate four times a week, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. With this new addition Easyjet flies to 17 destinations around Europe from Malaga airport.

Western Costa towns increase recycling tally

MARBELLA

:: **C. MÁRQUEZ.** Figures released by the western Costa del Sol's Mancomunidad, which oversees refuse collection in eleven towns, show that recycling in the area increased in 2018. Paper and card collection was up 11% with nearly 10,000 tonnes; this works out at 20.65 kilos

per resident per year, while the Andalusian average is 11.2 kilos per inhabitant.

Plastic and packaging collection went up by 7% in 2018, with nearly 11 tonnes - an average of 22.7 kilos per inhabitant while the regional average is 10.6 kilos.

Glass recycling was up by 5.5% last year on the western Costa, with 12,300 tonnes, an average of 26.4 kilos per person, also more than twice the regional average.

Foul play suspected as second Costa chiringuito burns



The terrace area of Bounty Beach was gutted on Tuesday afternoon. :: JOSELE-LANZA

The authorities say that the Bounty Beach and Playa Padre fires were probably started deliberately but are not connected

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ

MARBELLA. Bounty Beach bar on El Pinillo beach in Marbella became the second 'chiringuito' to burn down in the town in eight days on Tuesday. Speaking this week, the government delegate in Malaga, María Gámez, said that both this fire and last week's Playa Padre blaze were thought to have been started deliberately but no link between the two cases had been found.

This Tuesday's fire destroyed the covered terrace area of the Bounty Beach bar and restaurant, but the fast action of firefighters prevented further damage.

On Monday last week Playa Padre, the bar and restaurant owned by Global Gift founder María Bravo, was burned down on nearby El Cable beach.

Both establishments were closed for the winter season and planned to open again at Easter.

Second phase of CCTV project brings another 111 cameras to streets of Marbella

:: HÉCTOR BARBOTTA

MARBELLA. Phase two of the town hall's street surveillance project will see another 111 CCTV cameras installed in public areas of Marbella and San Pedro. These follow the 85 cameras that have already been introduced in the first phase of the scheme; 55 are already operating in Puerto Banús and this week seven in the Virgen del Carmen marina were due to be switched on. Next month cameras in shopping centre car parks in Las Chapas and La Cañada will start to operate.

The new batch, explained mayor Ángeles Muñoz last week, will be installed in the old towns of Marbella and San Pedro Alcán-tara. This phase two, however, still has to be approved by the central government department for Andalucía.

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A taxi rank in Marbella town centre. :: J-L

Marbella taxi drivers to get in uniform in time for summer

:: M. PÉREZ

MARBELLA. Marbella taxi drivers have three months to start wearing the uniform agreed recently between town hall and taxi associations. According to the new regulations drivers will have to wear a white shirt or polo shirt, dark blue trousers or skirt, dark blue waistcoat, sweater or jacket, and dark blue or black shoes.

The shirts and sweaters will also

show the town's coat of arms and the word Taxi, as well as Ayuntamiento de Marbella.

The town hall said that by having its logo on the uniforms it wanted to show its support for the municipal service "which is the taxi, not VTCs", said councillor Félix Romero, with regard to the ongoing battle with Uber-style drivers.

There are currently 328 taxi licences in Marbella.



FANDANGO TRADITION IN CASARES

More than 250 people attended an event in Casares last week to recognise local people's work to keep the town's fandango tradition alive. The town hall awarded a Mención Honorífica (honorary mention) to singers, musicians and dancers from both older generations of 'fandangueros' and younger contemporary performers of this traditional dance style.

Three-million-euro improvements plan gets off the ground in El Mirador

:: CHARO MÁRQUEZ

MARBELLA. Residents in El Mirador are the first to benefit from Marbella town hall's new 'Plan de urbanizaciones' which will pump three million euros into residential developments in the municipality. After analysing the needs of numerous areas in the town, the plan will carry out improvements in 60 streets, ranging from surface repairs and the creation of wider pavements to improved street lighting and traffic calming solutions, among others. The first phase affects nine streets in El Mirador, an estate built in the 70s and 80s with "numerous deficiencies". The president of the local residents association and former IU councillor Enrique Monterroso, said that the improvements were the result of years of demands.

HERE AND THERE

Second stolen luxury vehicle recovered in Fuengirola**FUENGIROLA**

■ **SUR.** National Police officers in Fuengirola have arrested a 31-year-old Moroccan national in connection with the theft of a high-end motor vehicle.

This came days after a luxury 4x4, driven by a single man, was

stopped at a mobile checkpoint set up in the town last Friday, 15 February, and was found to be lacking insurance.

After it was impounded, further consultations then revealed that the car had been reported stolen by the authorities in the UK.

The car's driver was then located and arrested.

This was the second stolen luxury recovered in the town in the space of a week.

'Autónomo' discount extended to two years**SEVILLE**

■ **M. D. TORTOSA.** Regional president Juanma Moreno has announced that the discounted 50-euro rate for new 'autónomos' (self-employed) will be extended for the first two years. Moreno said his administration will be an "ally" of the self-employed, stressing further reductions for women and young people in rural areas.

Protests held over plans for electricity highway through Andalucía

Residents fear the pylons would not only ruin the image of the Lecrín valley and Alpujarra regions of Granada but also pose serious health risks

■ J. RHODES / J. PASTOR

ÓRGIVA. Up to 500 Spanish and foreign residents of the Alpujarra villages and Lecrín valley in Granada province turned out in force on Thursday last week to protest against plans to install a series of high tension electricity pylons in the area.

The protest, which took place in Plaza de Alpujarra in Órgiva, provided residents with the opportunity to hand in their objections against the pylons and to get further information about the project.

An opposition group, 'Di No A Las Torres (say no to the towers)', has formed since the plans were made public towards the end of last year and, according to the group's spokespeople, Miranda Mathias Baker and Rosemary Vargas, the towers, "won't improve the current electricity supply to the area" and will have "no advantage for residents, companies or industry" in the area.

If the scheme, which is included in the Junta de Andalucía's 2015 to 2020 electricity development plan (Plan de Desarrollo a la Red Transporte de Energía Eléctrica 2015-2020), goes ahead, a giant "electricity highway" will cut through the Lecrín valley and Alpujarra villages as well as parts of Almería, Málaga and Cadiz provinces.

Some 211 pylons are planned between the town of Benahadux in Almería and El Fargue in Granada, with a start date in 2019 and a view to completing that section of the work in 2022. 108 of the pylons would be installed in the Lecrín valley alone and will measure up to 79 metres high with 64 square-metre bases. The Plan de Desarrollo is due

to be extended to include a section of towers stretching along to the Montes de Málaga and down to Cadiz and work is expected to be carried out by the Red Eléctrica Española - REE (Spanish electricity network).

While a period of public consultation, which gives individuals, companies and institutions until 7 March to file any objections on the basis of damage or losses potentially caused by the pylons, the Junta de Andalucía will have the final say on the project. As the development plan is considered by the Junta and REE to be "in public interest" it is highly likely that the work will go ahead.

REE has said that while underground cables are more common in built-up areas, pylons are the most "economical" and "practical" system of transporting electricity. REE said that the plan aims to improve the quality and quantity of the existing electricity supply across Andalucía and allow them to increase the supply of renewable energy, especially photovoltaic plants and wind farms.

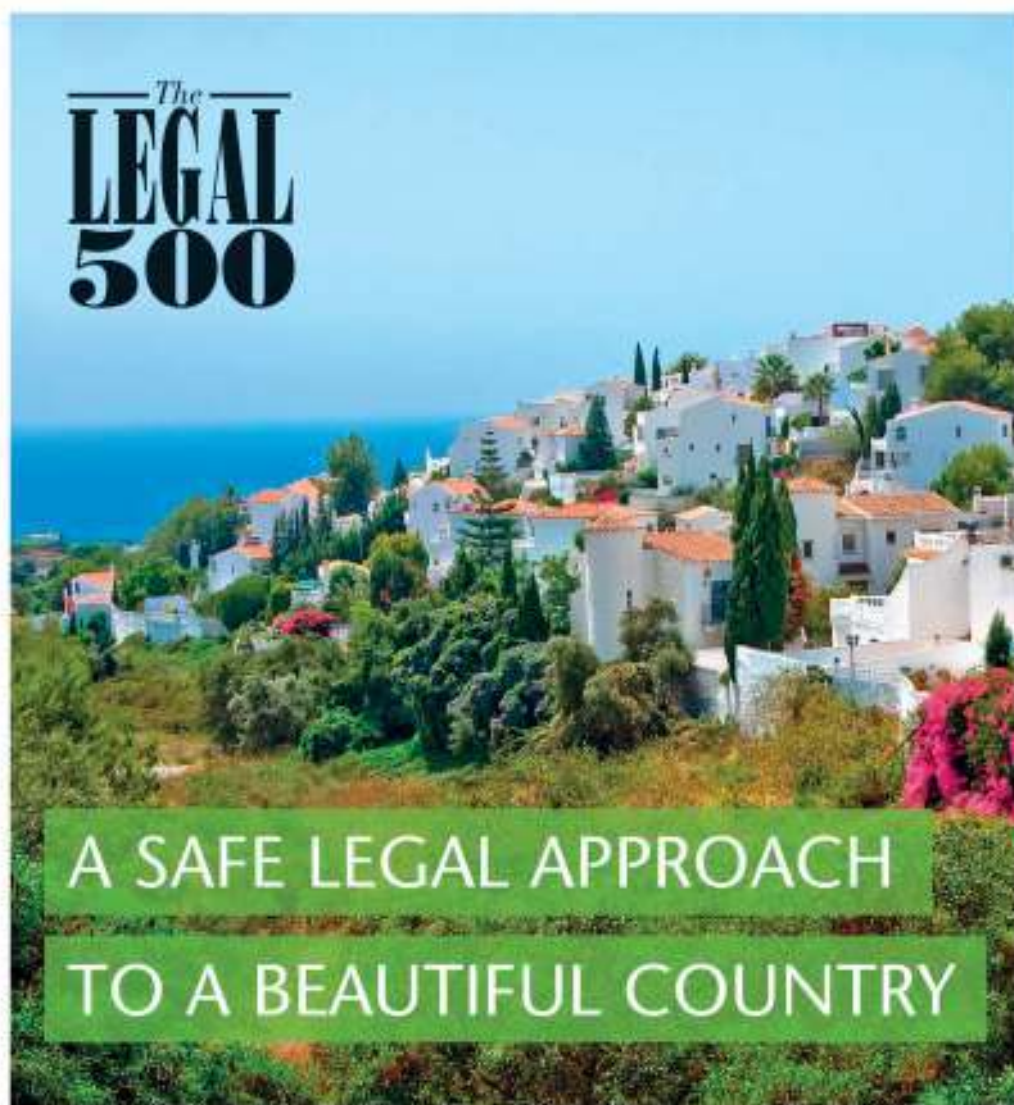
More protests planned

The Di No a Las Torres group believes radiation from the towers would have a "devastating effect" on health, agriculture, tourism and the general livelihood of the Lecrín valley and Alpujarra and could damage crops, including olives. They also say that the physical sight of the towers cutting through the Granada countryside will spoil the landscape.

The local protesters claim that they were not told about the plans until the public consultation period started, by which time, they argue, it could be too late to act.

Tanya Grenfell-Williams, who is also a member of the group says, "This situation will be happening in other parts of the country, so it is not an isolated problem."

The Di No A Las Torres group is planning to hold another demonstration this Sunday, 24 February, in Plaza Iglesia in the village of Cónchar from 11am.



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Residents protest against the electricity pylons in Órgiva. ■ T. G-W



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Part of Nerja coastal path to reopen 17 years after closure

Rockfalls forced the town hall to close the Paseo de los Carabineros, which connects Calahonda and Burriana beaches, in the early 2000s

:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

NERJA. Part of the Paseo de los Carabineros coastal walkway in Nerja is set to reopen in time for this year's summer season, 17 years after its closure, according to the town's councillor for Infrastructure, José María Rivas.

The cliff path, which connects the town's Calahonda and Burriana beaches, was closed in the early 2000s after authorities deemed it too dangerous following a series of rockfalls.

A further landslide in September 2018 caused a sewage pipe to



Paseo de los Carabineros has been closed for 17 years. :: E. C.

break and the town hall had to carry out emergency work to stabilise a 300-metre section of cliff, between the Mirador del Bendito and Burriana beach, the section

the town hall now hopes to have ready in time for this summer.

Speaking last Friday, Rivas said that the town hall had set aside 100,000 euros in this year's budget

to secure part of the walkway and that work was due to start "shortly", with a view to it being "open in time for the summer period".

Spot for the homeless

Speaking about the walkway last Friday, Rivas said, "We would like to be able to open the whole pathway, which measures 1,200 metres, but the state coastal authority tells us that it is necessary to stabilise the cliffs first."

He added that the town hall has given the coastal authority (Demarcación de Costas) "various technical solutions" and that councilors are "waiting to be able to meet with Costas to reach an agreement over the best option".

During the 17 years that the Paseo de los Carabineros has been closed to the public it has attracted a number of homeless people, who have regularly slept there. This in turn has resulted in complaints from residents about rubbish being left in the area. The closure also meant that residents and visitors have had to take a much longer route to walk from Burriana beach to the town centre or drive between the two areas.

HERE AND THERE

Pedestrianisation to start in early March

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

:: E. C. Work to pedestrianise the centre of Vélez-Málaga is expected to start in early March, once the contract has been signed with the company selected to undertake the project. Vélez-Málaga mayor, Antonio Moreno Ferrer, has assured residents and business owners that the work "will not affect Holy Week". Shop owners continue to express their concerns over the lack of parking spaces included in the plans.

Football pitch named after former mayor

EL BORGE

:: E. C. The Axarquía village of El Borge officially reopened its football ground last Sunday, renaming it the Campo de Fútbol Salvador Fernández after the village's former mayor, who was found dead at his family's estate last November. The decision to name the sports facility after Fernández, who took his own life, was passed unanimously by the town hall last December. The pitch had been closed for renovations including a new artificial grass pitch.

Vandals continue to set light to containers

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

:: E. C. After a brief respite, local police were called out to at least three separate refuse container fires in Vélez-Málaga and Torre del Mar last Saturday night and Sunday morning. One of the bins was near the Zona Norte primary school in Vélez, while a further two were set alight on Torre del Mar's promenade. In 2018, 68 containers were set alight in the two towns, which the mayor, Moreno Ferrer, says has cost the town hall one million euros to replace.

Islamic period well and wall found in Axarquía

A historian and lawyer have reported their discoveries to Arenas town hall and to the Junta de Andalucía

:: E. CABEZAS

ARENAS. A historian and a lawyer who are working on the translation into Spanish of a book of boundaries and distribution dating from the country's Islamic era have discovered the remains of a water well and wall, as well as a number of ceramics in villages in the Arenas and Corumbela

areas of the Axarquía that were abandoned after the Reconquista.

Valentín Fernández and Pablo Rojo have been investigating the area through their work with retired town hall archivist, Purificación Ruiz, on the Libro de Apeos y Repartimiento, (book of boundaries and distribution) which dates back to the 5th and 6th Centuries AD. The discoveries have been reported to Arenas town hall and the regional government, the Junta de Andalucía, "so that they can be enjoyed by future generations," said Fernández and Rojo. They hope the translation of the book will be complete by the end of this year.



Part of the well and wall which date back to the Islamic period. :: E. C.



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New property prices on the Costa reach 6,000 euros per m2

The majority of buyers are foreign with budgets of between 500,000 and a million euros who demand top quality, space and more services

:: IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. The price of new properties has reached 6,000 euros per square metre in some parts of the Costa del Sol.

The real estate consultancy firm CB Richard Ellis has released the results of a study regarding the features of new developments under way on the Costa del Sol. The change in trends and has led the authors of the study to talk about "a new construction model" in the local residential market with the latest revival in the industry.

Their general conclusion is simple: the properties under construction are of a higher quality with better design and communal services, and on sale at much higher prices.

The authors point out that in the past a lot of new properties were bought as investments and the buyers were less concerned about the quality of services, views or distribution of rooms.

Today's clients, most of them foreigners with a medium to high spending power, are buying for personal use and demand top quality characteristics.

The industry has moved away from the Mediterranean 'pueblo' architectural style, and the majority of the new developments have a more contemporary design, with straight lines and large windows.

Before the crisis properties were built without thinking of the client's needs or quality, because everything sold, explained Andrés Moreno, director of the CBRE's valuation department.



New developments are catering for a more demanding buyer. :: SUR

"Now a lot more care is being taken; everything is designed with the end buyer in mind; it's no longer a case of 'anything goes'," he said.

The higher prices are affecting areas where properties were traditionally in the middle on the table in terms of quality. In Torremolinos, Mijas, Estepona and Fuengirola, all the new developments arriving on the market have much superior conditions.

"There's a hardly a single project that doesn't offer luxury quality and contemporary design," said Moreno. In his opinion there is currently an "aspirational" market, accessible to buyers of certain nationalities with average spending power (but not people on average salaries in Spain).

In Torremolinos there are currently developments on sale at prices above 4,000 euros per square metre, while the average price of a resale property is no more than 2,500.

In Fuengirola (El Higuerón) new properties are on sale for more than

4,000 euros per square metre, with prices of 3,000 euros in La Cala de Mijas.

Meanwhile the most expensive properties on the Costa del Sol are in Nueva Andalucía (Marbella) and Benahavís (6,000 euros per square metre). The average budget of this type of buyer is between 500,000 euros and a million.

Moreno believes that the current scenario is good news for the Costa del Sol, which is becoming known as a "higher quality, more exclusive and less crowded destination".

The expert also reports an increase in Scandinavian buyers (Norwegians, Finns and Swedes), who are more demanding in terms of the projects, plans and quality.

The aim is for sales to continue to rise. The report reflects a year-on-year increase in sales of new and resale properties of 16 per cent. The areas with the greatest property sales growth are Benahavís and Manilva with around 40%.

THE EURO ZONE
MARK NAYLER

TAKE A (BACK) SEAT



The date for Spain's second early general election in five years is now set for April 28th.

Despite uncertainty surrounding the result, we can be sure of a couple of things: firstly, that the state of the Spanish economy won't be in the forefront of voters' minds when they head to the polls; and secondly, that the fraught issue of Catalonia - the political problem that seems immune to resolution - will be.

During Pedro Sánchez's term as prime minister, Spain's economy has rarely been the red-hot topic, whether in parliamentary sessions, media coverage or bar-room discussions. This is partly because it's doing fairly well, at least at the macroeconomic level: the country's GDP expansion has consistently beat the eurozone average since Spain emerged from recession in 2014.

One consequence of the economy being bumped off the top spot is that Sánchez's fiscal policies - as set out in the Budget That Never Was - have not received the attention that they should have done.

Although costly (PP leader Pablo Casado called the spending plan "suicidal"), a lot of the PSOE leader's economic proposals were aimed at improving the prosperity of Spanish households - a welcome change after years of Conservative and EU-imposed austerity. His inability to get the 2019 budget through parliament, though, was precisely the failure that

triggered an early election.

But it's not just because the Spanish economy is relatively healthy that voters' thoughts are likely to be elsewhere on April 28th. Instead, the issue of Catalan independence, as far from any kind of solution now as it was in October 2017, is likely to determine where on the ballot paper the cross is etched.

Vox, for example, can attribute their success in Andalucía last December largely to their hard line on Catalan secession. Fiercely opposed to the region's attempts to divorce the rest of Spain, the far-right party took the southerly region from the Socialists, who had controlled it for decades. The latest opinion polls agree that Vox will win seats in the national parliament on April 28th, but disagree on how many, with forecasts ranging from 16 to 46.

Opinion polls also put Sánchez's PSOE as number one come the end of April, but far short of a majority in the 350-seat congress. His party employs a different approach to dealing with Catalan secessionists from that favoured by Vox (and the PP and Ciudadanos) - namely, to try and establish a dialogue with them and, by doing so, achieve a result that works for both Madrid and Barcelona.

On April 28th, we'll see which of the two ways of dealing with Catalan separatists wins out. The economy, in the meantime, will take a back seat.

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New diplomatic incident over Gibraltar waters causes concern and controversy on the Rock

Spain insists it was within its rights, and the Gibraltar government issued a strongly-worded statement after a weak initial response from UK

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. The diplomatic hot-line between the UK and Spain must have been burning this week, after an incident on Sunday in which the Spanish warship Tornado ordered two commercial vessels anchored off the Rock to leave what it described as “Spanish waters”.

The incident was filmed and radio communications between the Tornado and the ships in question were recorded. The ‘Ivor Accord’ and the ‘Great Victory’ were anchored in the waters, which are recognised by every country but Spain as being British, when the Spanish warship, whose



The Spanish warship was filmed and the radio conversation recorded by watchers in Gibraltar. :: SUR

guns were uncovered, accused them of drifting and “obstructing innocent passage” and ordered them to sail away. The ships followed instructions from Gibraltar port to remain in position, and the Tornado left the area very slowly, shadowed by two small Royal Navy vessels.

Gibraltar had been expecting a robust response from the UK government, but the vague statement issued was disappointing, suggesting there had been no incursion and no threat to sovereignty because the waters are internationally recognised as being British. A similar statement from the Governor of Gibraltar’s office caused such outrage among some people in Gibraltar that there were calls for him to resign.

However, after the Spanish government confirmed the warship’s actions and said it had acted correctly in Spanish territorial waters, the British Ambassador raised the incident in Madrid and the UK government made a formal protest. Before that, though, the Gibraltar government issued a very strongly-worded statement, describing the incident as “another senseless provocation that achieves nothing except generating an atmosphere of mistrust and hostility which benefits nobody”.

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European Parliament rejects inclusion of the word ‘colony’ in draft legislation

D.B.

GIBRALTAR. The European Parliament has now refused three times to approve legislation which would exempt British citizens from the visa requirement post-Brexit, because Spain is still insisting on a footnote describing Gibraltar as a ‘colony’.

If the legislation is not passed, British travellers could have to pay £52 for a visa when travelling to continental Europe. The footnote, which has been agreed by the European Council, is unanimously rejected by MEPs and one, the Czech Republic’s Petr Ježek, says Spain is “playing with fire” at a time when as much as possible should be done to soften the impact of Brexit. British MEP Claude Moraes says he will never vote for a text which use the politically “unnecessary” term ‘colony’.

Exhibitions to mark 50th anniversary of border closure

Anybody with relevant material from the time the border was closed is invited to loan it temporarily to the Gibraltar archive

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. In June it will be exactly 50 years since Franco closed the border with Gibraltar, and events are being organised both sides of the border to mark the half-centenary. These will not be celebrations: the border was closed for over 13 years, splitting families and causing hardship for those on the Rock and the neighbouring town in Spain as well, but the Gibraltar government and La Línea council believe it is important that this difficult period in local history is remembered to avoid it happening again especially, as Juan Franco, the mayor of La Línea has said, “in a situa-

The border was opened for pedestrians after 13 years. :: SUR

tion that brings uncertainty, such as what will happen as a result of Brexit”.

There will be an exhibition in Gibraltar, and anyone with relevant material is invited to loan it for this purpose,

by emailing archivist Anthony Pitaluga in Gibraltar (anthony.pitaluga@gibraltar.gov.gi). La Línea’s website www.50yquenoserepita.com contains information about events there.

Details announced of the Gibraltar 2019 drama festival

D.B.

GIBRALTAR. The Gibraltar Drama Festival has grown over the years into an important and hugely popular event, and this year’s will be taking place from Monday 18 to Saturday 23 March at Ince’s Hall. There will be 13 performances in total.

There is a wide mix to delight audiences of all ages this year, including comedy, dramas, poetry, a fable and even a television drama. The competitors are GAMPA Seniors, Trafalgar Theatre Group, White Light Theatre, Medway Little Theatre Youth Company, Bayside and Westside Drama Group, GAMPA Infants, GAMPA Juniors, GAMPA Teens and The Magazine Studio. Saturday will be Gala Night, including the awards ceremony.

What it takes to be Spanish

As well as proving length of residence, foreigners applying for nationality have to take a citizenship test and a Spanish language exam

ANA
PÉREZ-BRYAN

Twitter: @anaperezbryan

Since 2015, when the tests were made obligatory for all candidates, nearly 7,000 people have taken them in Malaga province

MALAGA. A Spanish person with an average level of education would almost certainly be able to answer questions such as “What is the highest peak on the Iberian peninsula?”, “Who was Francisco de Goya?” or “How long does a product guarantee last?” The answer would be automatic if the question asked where you would eat a “tarta de almendra” or Penélope Cruz’s profession. However, it all becomes more complicated when the questions are “How many senators are elected by Ceuta and Melilla?” or “Which elections can someone from the EU vote in?”

All these questions form part of the exams which now have to be passed by foreigners who want to apply for Spanish nationality, and there is no escaping them.

It is obligatory for all those who want to take Spanish nationality to pass a citizenship test, to prove that they know enough about the country of which they wish to become a citizen. The two exams which foreigners have to take are created and administered by the Instituto Cervantes.

The first is the DELE (Level A2) diploma in the Spanish language. Everyone has to take it, unless Spanish is their mother tongue or they already have at least a Level A2 diploma in Spanish.

The second, the citizenship test known as the CCSE (proof of constitutional and sociocultural knowledge of Spain) is obligatory for all candidates. It evaluates their understanding of the political, geographical, historical, cultural, social and economic reality of the country. There are 25 questions, and 15 of them have to be answered correctly to pass. They are arranged in five different blocks, or sections. This exam needs careful preparation, because vague ideas acquired during the time one has lived in Spain will not be enough to pass.

However, the Instituto Cervantes provides a manual which can be downloaded from its website, and if candidates make the effort to study in advance, the pass rate is high.

In the past four years, according to the Institute, 96.45 per cent of those who took CCSE citizenship exam in Malaga province in the past



A group of foreigners take the CCSE citizenship test at the Debla academy in Malaga city. :: M. FERNÁNDEZ

four years passed, and 80.1 per cent passed the DELE language test.

It is noticeable that more people have taken these exams in recent years. In 2015, the year in which they became obligatory, 224 candidates in Malaga took the CCSE and 15 took the DELE, but last year 1,980 took the citizenship test and 903 sat the language exam.

The year with the highest number of applications in Malaga province was 2016, when 2,773 foreigners took the CCSE and 1,547 took the

DELE. Official figures show that since this exam became obligatory, 6,964 candidates have taken the citizenship test, and 3,412 the language exam.

Moroccans top the list

By nationality, Moroccan citizens were by far the most numerous among people who registered for the exams organised by the Instituto Cervantes in Malaga province between 2015 and 2018 (1,664 took the CCSE and 1,521 the DELE).

For the citizenship test, they were followed by Paraguayans (623), Argentinians (623) and Colombians (516), while for the language exam - which people from Spanish-speaking countries do not have to take - it was Brazilians (304), Ukrainians (299) and Nigerians (208).

The CCSE test is held ten times a year, on the last Thursday of a month, during a two-hour period in the evening. It lasts 45 minutes and can be taken at any of the 200 centres authorised by the Instituto Cervantes. There

are 13 altogether, eight in Malaga city, two in Marbella, two in Benalmádena and one in Rincón de la Victoria.

Candidates can study the manual with information about the content of the tests in advance and there is even a mobile app with practice tests, but many still find it a challenge to prepare for the exams. A lack of time, the language barrier and even the cost are a drawback in many cases. Since it became obligatory to take these exams when applying for Spanish nationality, candidates have to pay around 300 euros.

It was free until 2015

“This used to be free, and you did it at the Civil Registry. It was a test on general culture and to make sure you spoke sufficient Spanish,” says Arantxa Triguero, president of Málaga Acoge and a lawyer who specialises in foreigners’ affairs. Her firm receives numerous applications for help with nationality, even though for the past four years there have been costs involved: 102 euros to apply, 100 euros for the Spanish language test and 85 euros for the citizenship exam; applicants are allowed two attempts at the citizenship exam.

However, the process of applying for Spanish nationality involves more than just passing these tests. As a general rule, the candidate has to be able to prove that they have lived in Spain for at least ten years, without interruption. For some countries which have “a special link with Spain”, such as South American countries, Portugal, Equatorial Guinea and the Philippines, the residency period is reduced to two years.

Arantxa explains that there is another difference: “People from Ibero-American countries, including Brazil, don’t have to renounce their original nationality to become Spanish; in other words, they are allowed dual nationality, but people from other countries are not. They are only allowed to be Spanish.”

Rosa Ángela Oliveira, a 37-year-old Brazilian, moved to Antequera in 2013 and since September last year she has been going to classes once a week in order to pass the CCSE. She speaks fluent Spanish and is confident that she can pass the language test, but realises that she still has a lot to learn about customs and culture in Spain.

“Everything I am learning is interesting, and the teachers are very good because we start with general lessons in politics, geography and history, and that makes it easier to tackle the questions. We even watch TV news programmes with the volunteer, to keep up to date with what is happening in Spain, because I think it is essential to learn everything you can about a country if you live in it and want to part of it,” says Rosa.

She studied Pharmacy in her own country but “because of the lack of opportunities for foreigners” currently earns her living as a cleaner. That’s why she wants to “pass the test as soon as possible and start the ball rolling”.

IN CONTEXT

6,964

foreigners took the constitutional knowledge test (CCSE) in Malaga province between 2015 and 2018. Of them, 3,412 also had to take the Spanish language exam (DELE). By nationality, more Moroccans took the tests than any other foreigners.

The requirements

To become Spanish, as well as passing the two Instituto Cervantes exams, you need to prove ten years’ legal and uninterrupted residence in Spain (two years for those from countries with links to Spain, and one year in the case of being married to a Spanish national). Applicants also have to obtain a certificate

to prove that they do not have a criminal record.

The tests

The CCSE exam (Conocimientos Constitucionales y Socioculturales de España), which has to be taken by everybody, is organised in five blocks, or sections, and consists of 25 questions to evaluate the applicant’s knowledge of Spanish government, legislation, culture, history and society. The Spanish language test (DELE) has to be taken by all applicants unless Spanish is their mother tongue or they already hold the diploma.

96.45%

of the candidates who took the

CCSE exam in Malaga province between 2015 and 2018 passed. Of those who took the language test, 80.1 per cent were successful.

The fees

It costs about 300 euros to become Spanish. This includes the application process (102 euros), the language test (100 euros) and the CCSE exam (85 euros).

Where and when to take the tests

In Malaga province there are 13 academies accredited for the CCSE and ten for the DELE. The CCSE exams take place ten times a year, on the last Thursday of a month, during the evening.

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IN BRIEF

Mushrooms "kill" diner at Michelin-star meal

VALENCIA

■ **J. MARTÍNEZ / I. DOMINGO.** An investigation is under way into the death of a 46-year-old woman from alleged food poisoning at a Michelin-starred restaurant in Valencia last Saturday. The exclusive Riff has voluntarily closed for the moment.

According to the investigation, the woman ate a rice dish from the

lunchtime tasting menu with the more variety of mushrooms in it, which are a likely source.

The woman's husband and 12-year-old son were also taken ill but are making a good recovery, said reports, however the woman's condition worsened and she died early on Sunday morning.

The Valencia regional health ministry has said sixteen other mild cases of food poisoning have been identified, "probably related to the same restaurant".

Good friend of dead councillor arrested

ASTURIAS

■ **SUR.** Police say they have solved the mystery of the violent death of a councillor in the Asturias town of Llanes six months ago. This week a friend of the victim, Pedro Nievas, was arrested at his Basque Country home and a property he owned in Llanes searched. He is said to have masterminded the killing of Javier Ardines with a hit squad over a possible love interest with Nievas's wife.



Nievas with police. ■ D. MORA

43 drug pellets found in heavily pregnant woman

BADAJOZ

■ **SUR.** A woman who is seven months pregnant was arrested this week and taken to hospital where medics recovered 43 pellets of hashish from her stomach. The pellets had a market value of some 2,500 euros.

Police had been alerted to the Moroccan woman's movements and were waiting for her to arrive in Badajoz (Extremadura).

Parties go into preelection mode ahead of national vote on 28 April

There were fierce exchanges between leaders at this week's PM's questions, one of the last before the Congreso is dissolved

■ **SUR**

MADRID. Spain started to gear up this week for a general election on 28 April. The national poll will come just a month before municipal and European elections, as well as a vote in some autonomous regions, on 26 May. It means that councils and government alike will slow down in coming weeks as politics takes over.

Pedro Sánchez set the April date for the general election last Friday,

following the defeat of his minority PSOE-party government over the 2019 budget earlier last week.

Immediately after the announcement, in one of the last cabinet meetings of his nine-month government, ministers sought to push through as many reforms as possible, although the government is said to be frustrated with a failure to carry out more changes to labour laws. Ministers did approve the plan to rebury the body of dictator General Franco, although his family is expected to formally appeal.

During the last-but-one prime minister's questions session in the Congreso on Wednesday, Sánchez, in precampaign mode, said, "I hope that on 28 April lies, stress and stain will be banished from political life."

Since calling elections, Sánchez has been emphasising the government's record on social reform in its short time in power.

Pablo Casado, leader of the Partido Popular, the largest opposition party, referred to Sánchez's negotiations with separatist parties in Catalonia and accused him of "selling the nation to those who want to do away with it", of "bursting growth", and "embarrassing allies", with policies in Cuba and Venezuela. "Nobody has done so much damage to Spain in such a short time," Casado added.

No party has a majority of support and this week centrist Ciudadanos, seen as 'kingmaker' after the election, ruled out any possible pact with the PSOE, which is still the largest party according to polls.



Josep Rull speaking in the Supreme Court on Wednesday. ■ EFE

Trial of Catalan leaders who backed independence continues into second week

Former ministers have been denying they encouraged violence and said police action against separatists had been disproportionate

■ **SUR**

MADRID. The trial of the twelve Catalan politicians and civic leaders, who are accused of organising an illegal independence bid in the region in 2017, continued this week. After last week's start, more of the 12 have been called by presiding judges to give their version of events and respond to questions from both the defence and prosecution.

On Tuesday it was the turn of

former regional minister and spokesperson, Jordi Trull and former regional minister for Foreign Affairs, Raül Romeva. Trull told the judge that "the people of Catalonia are not sheep nor militarised", saying police action during the banned referendum in October 2017 had been "disproportionate". Romeva refused to answer questions from the prosecution.

On Wednesday another former regional minister in the separatist government, Josep Rull, was asked to explain why he had stopped a hotel-boat docking in Catalonia designed to house extra police drafted in to control disturbances in the region. Former prime minister, Mariano Rajoy will testify as a witness in the trial next Tuesday.



Sánchez (c) in the cabinet room last Friday trying to salvage some of his legislative programme. ■ MONCLOA



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Eleventh-hour amendment would ensure rights of Brits living in Spain

UK MP Alberto Costa is hoping to get cross-party support in the House of Commons next Wednesday regardless of a no-deal Brexit

by JENNIE RHODES

MALAGA. Groups campaigning for citizens' rights post Brexit are encouraging Brits on the Costa to write to their UK constituency MPs to ask them to support an amendment to the Withdrawal Agreement that would secure their rights regardless of the outcome of Brexit.

The amendment, which has been tabled by Alberto Costa, Conservative MP for South Leicestershire, would secure the rights of British people living in other EU countries; he wants the UK and the EU to agree to respect part two of the Withdrawal Agreement which focuses on citizens' rights, even if the rest is rejected.

Speaking to SUR in English on Thursday, Clarissa Killwick, Brexipats - Hear our Voice Media Spokesperson, said, "The Costa Amendment may find its place in history. It is very significant that this amendment comes from Alberto Costa MP, born in Scotland to Italian parents. Across

the channel, 1.2m Brits in other EU countries are extremely grateful to him. For those whose lives depend on their continued healthcare getting a positive signal next week could literally make the difference between life and death."

The amendment is expected to be heard in the House of Commons on Wednesday 27 February, a day after Theresa May's latest deadline to secure a deal with Brussels. She is expected to deliver a statement on Tuesday.

Mr Costa's amendment reads, "This House considers the Prime Minister's statement of 26th February and re-

quires the Prime Minister to seek at the earliest opportunity a joint UK-EU commitment to adopt part two of the Withdrawal Agreement on Citizens' Rights and ensure its implementation prior to the UK's exiting the European Union, whatever the outcome of negotiations on other aspects of the Withdrawal Agreement."

The anti-Brexit Conservative MP is calling on the Prime Minister to ensure that rights such as pensions, residency and health remain unchanged, regardless of the outcome of Brexit, in the same way that the UK government has guaranteed the rights of EU citizens living in the UK.

The amendment is believed to have cross-party support and according to Ian Dunt, author of an article on the Politics.co.uk website, even has the backing of the Conservative party's pro-Brexit European Research Group (ERG).

John Moffett, Vice Chair of Bre-main in Spain, said on Thursday, "Citizens' rights should never have been part of a trade negotiation and they should have been ringfenced right from the start. The Costa amendment, if passed, would give us the legal protection for which we been campaigning for the last two and a half years. That's surely a positive thing."

Alberto Costa wants the UK and EU to adopt the part of the Withdrawal Agreement that concerns citizens' rights, even if the rest is rejected

IN BRIEF

Catalan nationalist group calls for Spanish government to approve Brexit contingency plan

MADRID

:: **EFE.** The Catalan nationalist party PDeCAT has called for the Spanish government to approve its decree that contains its contingency plans for a no-deal Brexit at its Cabinet meeting this Friday.

This would mean that it could be put to Congreso next week, in the last session of this term of office, now that a general election

has been called for 28 April.

Spokesperson Jordi Xuclà told Efe on Wednesday that this would be the culmination of weeks of talks the government and parliamentary groups have been holding to agree on the content of the decree. The measures include the protection of the rights of British citizens resident in Spain in the case of a no-deal Brexit.

On Thursday the Portuguese government approved its set of measures in a similar contingency plan which will protect British residents there in a no-deal Brexit. This will go to the parliament in Lisbon next week.

Nerja Brexit meeting to be repeated in March

NERJA

:: **J. R.** Following the overwhelming interest for the Blacktower and Brexipats meeting on Brexit in February, a further event will be held on Wednesday 6 March. The presentation will include an update on Brexit and the implications for Brits in Spain, the importance of Residency and registering on the town hall Padrón and how to prepare for Brexit. Registration for the meeting is essential. To do so email: ilse.liebrechts@blacktowerfm.com or call 952 816 443. The meeting will take place at the Salon de Actos, Nerja town hall, at 11am.

UK in EU Challenge appeal rejected

MALAGA

:: **J. R.** The UK in EU Challenge team were back in court yesterday to hear that they were refused permission to appeal their case against Theresa May over the Leave campaigns' spending limits during the 2016 referendum. Their aim had been to overturn the High Court's decision last November which refused permission for the case to proceed. Sue Wilson, leading the case, also said in a press release that a letter has been sent to May to question the legitimacy of the referendum, consider extending Article 50 and or hold another referendum.

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LETTERS TO
THE EDITOR

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**THERE IS A PRIZE FOR THE BEST
CONTRIBUTION TO THIS PAGE**
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Chinese cat and mouse

Years ago I had a business in Puerto Banús where I daily observed the sad game of the local police chasing the guys selling their fake goods.

Twenty-five years later this is still going on, giving these poor (but very friendly) guys a miserable time. Monthly we can read in the newspapers how illegal this “fake goods sales business” is. Recently “one” Nueva Andalucía market dealer got his goods confiscated while hundreds are doing the same and thousands of containers of fake merchandise enter the country daily.

In the last 20 years the industrial estates of Malaga have changed in to Chinese hands; warehouses are stocked up with those fake goods but not

one has been closed down.

One would think a lot more is happening behind the curtains. Who protects this international junk sales business?

The Marbella and Puerto Banús chasing is only pretense. It would be a lot easier to take the salesmen to where the goods come from and start the investigation there, but for some reason this is never done. Just go whatever day to Puerto Banús and the Marbella paseo marítimo and witness the absolute ridiculous game.

Is 20 or 25 years of this business not more than enough? Or maybe I have seen too many Netflix or narco series to see it a different way...

DIRK VANDENDRIESCHE
BY EMAIL

Collateral damage

In reply to Mark Nayler's opinion on 'Collateral damage' of 8 February 2019, I wish to comment as follows:

I am surprised that Mark Nayler does not say a word about the unreasonably long period of time the separatists like Oriol Junquera have been detained in prison since October 2017 without any official condemnation forthcoming from the other supposedly democratic countries of the EU, nor Britain for that matter.

The separatists in jail did no more than organise a referendum in Catalonia after the decision to call one was the outcome of a majority vote in the democratically constituted Catalan government.

Polls carried out in Catalonia show that about 80 per cent of Catalans are in favour of a referendum being held to determine Catalonia's status. It is the rest of the country's intransigence that is so surprising.

R. J. COELHO
BY EMAIL

SUR English

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If the horizon for the tourism industry wasn't cloudy enough, the snap general election called for 28 April, combined with the municipal and European ballots on 26 May, create a scenario of uncertainty. In fact you could say that it goes beyond uncertainty to border on paralysis.

This calendar of dates with the polling station will have its effect on the Spanish tourist, in whom the industry has placed all its hopes. The industry was relying on the Spanish tourist to save a season when it is expected that international visitor figures will be struggling again.

Experience shows that election years always bring a slump in de-

mand, not only because of the doubts concerning what political strategies are around the corner, but also because we have a tendency to be more careful with our spending and even make cuts in household and business economies - and

all this takes its toll on people's holiday budgets.

But the usual slowing of demand is not the worst part of an election year. The real problem comes from the paralysis that hits the different authorities and administrations,

Facts machine

PETER EDGERTON
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

In the twenty-one years that I've been presenting pub quizzes in Malaga, I've picked up a few interesting facts. Only

last night we learned that an adult male horse typically has forty teeth. Knowing this gem may not mean that you're suddenly invited to a swathe of parties (unless you count equine dental conferences, of course), but it does mean that you can usually come up with some distracting snippet of information if people start talking about house prices or something equally dull.

"Is yours a fixed rate or variable mortgage, Dave?"

"Oh, fixed rate all the way, Clive. What with Brexit and ev.."

You're compelled to interject at this point.

"Anyway! Anyone know what colour Yogi Bear's tie is? Clive?"

"Er, blue, I think. Dave?"

"Yeah, light blue. I remember

watching it with my dad who extolled the virtues of fixed rates. That's why..."

"Wrong! Green! And to the nearest day, how long did it take Armstrong to get to the moon from take-off in Apollo... er, and while we're at it what number Apollo was it? And another question - whose round is it? And another - can't you belt up about housing costs, for heaven's sake?"

I find that this passive aggressive scattergun approach works perfectly. Hammer them with three or four zingers on the volley and they'll soon lose interest in, er, well, interest rates.

The down side to presenting quizzes is that lots of people genuinely think you know loads of stuff. It's true that a few bits and bobs stick to the old grey matter from time to time but when I present a quiz I'm not delving into a rich

seam of general knowledge stored away in my head, rather reading it all from a bit of paper. Many's the time someone's approached me in a bar or even on the street with a query.

"Excuse me, you do the pub quizzes don't you?"

"Er, hi - yes. Yes I do but..."

"Well then, will you please tell my halfwit of a husband that Audrey Hepburn was over sixty when she died? Daft oaf, thinks she was eternally young."

"Well, I don't kn..."

"See! See! The quiz man agrees with me. Told you. Sixty odd. You didn't believe me, you silly old fool. That'll teach you. Thanks, quiz man."

"Er, that's ok - bye."

Oh, four and eleven by the way. Four days getting to the moon on Apollo 11 - you might need those facts next time you're at a boring dinner party.

IDÍGORAS



Paralysis

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

from the moment that elections are called until the new governments have been formed and sworn in. This, in these times of political squabbling and fragmented parliaments, is not something that is achieved so quickly or easily.

The proof lies in the situation of tourism in Andalucía, which since last November until just a few days ago (the regional elections and their aftermath) has suffered significantly from important projects being stuck in administration.

The Plan de Acción 2019 is the route map to promote the region and maintain its national leadership and quota of the international market. Andalucía went to the International Tourism Fair (Fitur) in Madrid, the

most important in Spain, in January without this project, and the same is about to happen with the ITB tourism fair in Berlin next month. The latter fair is the one that generates the most tourism business in the world, and comes at a time when the German tourism market in Andalucía is in delicate health.

Setting up the new structures of the different administrations demands time that tourism, the driving force behind Andalucía's economy, doesn't have.

This industry moves and evolves at a rate of knots, and can't wait for slow administration. Either tourism is left to one side of political colours or this paralysis will cost us dearly.

Malaga's Rocío Molina wins the UK Critics' Circle award for Fallen from Heaven

The flamenco dancer will be performing the show at the Flamenco Festival at Sadler's Wells Theatre in July as well as touring other European capitals

REGINA SOTORRÍO

MALAGA. Rocío Molina has received further recognition in her career. The versatile dancer from Malaga, who is now 34 years of age, has been distinguished in Britain's National Dance Awards, the equivalent to the Laurence Olivier awards for theatre.

The Critics' Circle awarded Rocío the prize for her show 'Caída del cielo' (Fallen from heaven), which she premiered at the Chailot National Theater in Paris in 2016, and for which she won best dancer and best choreography at the Max awards in Malaga in 2017.

The exciting show contains all the signs of identity for which Rocío is famous: risk, daring, modernity and flamenco essence, and she will be returning to London again on 9 July to perform it as part of the Flamenco Festival at Sadler's



Rocío is one of Spain's most internationally famous flamenco dancers. :: SUR

Wells Theatre.

Career

This is not the first time the UK had paid tribute to the professional career of Rocío Molina, who has become one of the best-known Spanish dancers in the world. In 2016 she won the Special Prize in the Dance Awards for her "exceptional artistic skills."

Rocío began dancing flamenco when she was just three years old, and began to choreograph her own dances when she was seven. She graduated with honours from the Royal Dance Conservatory in Madrid at the age of 17, and then toured the world with professional companies with international tours. At 22, she created her first full-length production, 'Entre paredes' ('Between Walls').

She will be returning to the stage with 'Caída del cielo', her most physically demanding show, after giving birth to her first child. During her pregnancy, she reflected the experience in the highly-praised 'Grito pelao' (a favourite for the Max awards).

Rocío's diary is already becoming full for this year, with Germany, Austria, France, Portugal and the UK just some of the countries in which she will be performing in the coming months. For those who want to see her in Spain, on 9 March she and other guests will be accompanying guitarist Rafael Riqueni at the presentation of his latest disc 'Parque de María Luisa', at the Cartuja Center in Seville.

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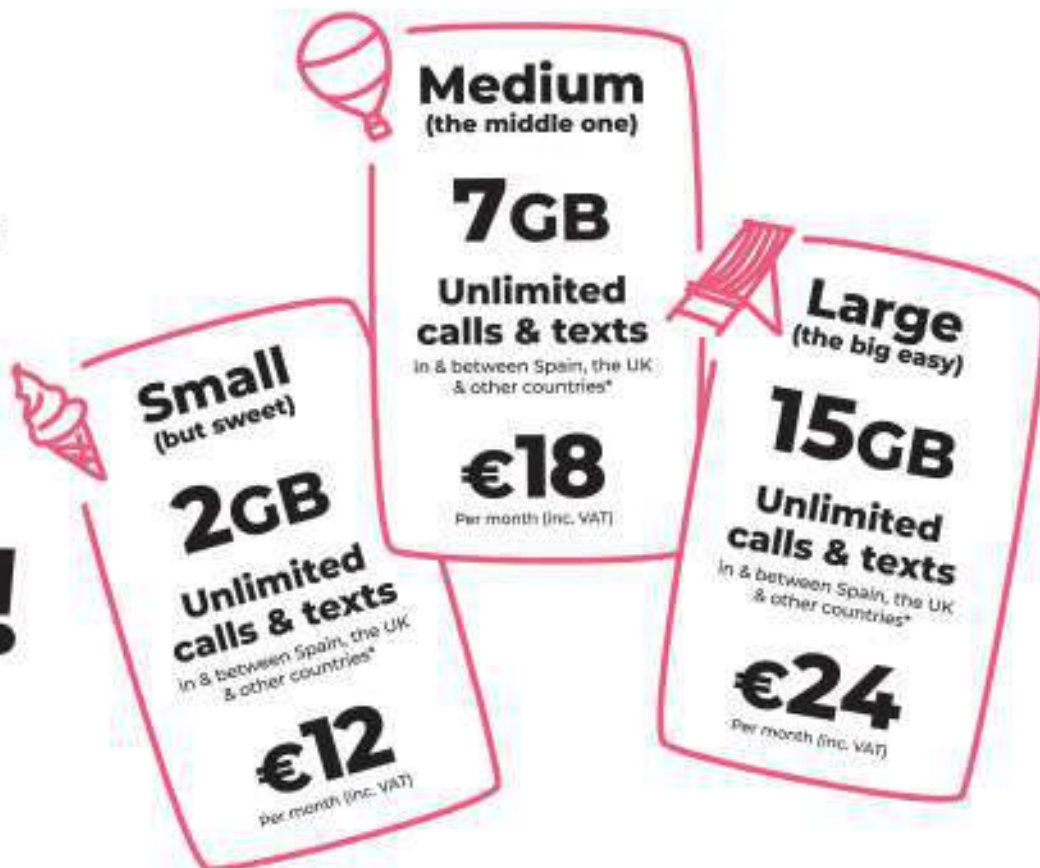
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Travelling blind

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SUSANA ZAMORA



Their flight was due to leave in a couple of hours and Óscar Fernández still didn't know where they were going. The answer had arrived in his email inbox 48 hours earlier, but he refused to open it. He only looked to see whether it was going to rain or not (there is a specific link for weather information). He only had to pack a small case with necessities and set off with his partner on a blind trip, knowing their travel dates and flight number, but not the destination. Who hasn't dreamed at some time of turning up at an airport and booking the first flight they see?

So Óscar, full of nerves and uncertainty and with the adrenalin flowing, got ready to read his email at Madrid's Barajas airport. He clicked on the link and...

Óscar, a nurse, whose mother has been suffering from long-term illness, needed to get away for a few days and have a change of scene. "I'm a very precise person, I like to have everything very well organised, but at that moment I needed to do something totally different

for a change. The price was affordable, I was in a difficult personal situation which meant I didn't have time or the energy to organise a trip, and the range of destinations was very attractive," he says. Where would they send him? Would it meet his expectations?

Those doubts are typical among tourists who place their destination in the hands of agencies who specialise in surprise trips and let them choose on their behalf. It's a business which has grown considerably in Spain in recent years. It is a new, entertaining and exciting way of low-cost travelling and it is changing traditional concepts.

For several years, everyone seemed to want cruises and exotic destinations, but now they want something totally different in the form of experience tourism. Travellers want sensations and this, combined with the fact that many people find organising a trip boring, has led travel companies to reinvent themselves. They have seen that it isn't so much the destination that's important to clients these days; they are more interested in the before, during and after.

The company chooses

With the destination taking second place and the company making the decisions, the travellers only have to think about what to pack and enjoy what has been

planned for them.

"When I'm the one responsible for choosing where someone goes, my mission and my duty is to surprise them, so the quality has to be above their initial expectations," says Pau Sendra, the founder of Waynabox, a pioneering company in surprise trips in Spain.

About a dozen platforms operate in this sector, "although only three of us are highly active", says Sendra. Ever since Waynabox erupted onto the market in 2015, it has not ceased to grow: it now has more than 60,000 clients and after a turnover of one million euros the first year, it is almost certain to close this one with two digits before all those noughts.

Within the sector, everyone agrees that travellers have become accustomed to being their own travel agents, booking their own tickets and hotels, excursions and museum visits. They spend days or even weeks looking for information, so much so, that they almost know everything about the destination before they arrive.

"All that organisation can be very stressful because people don't have a lot of time to spend on it; they may feel insecure and then frustrated if things don't go as planned. We suggest that they forget about all that and just enjoy the surprise experience of discovering where they are going at the airport, a few

THE DETAILS

'Low cost' travel

The websites of the principal operators offer trips to European destinations, including return flights and three star or four star hotels in city centres. There is a charge to rule out any cities or to specify travelling times.

60,000

clients have travelled with Waynabox, a pioneer in surprise trips in Spain which began in 2015. In the first year it had a turnover of one million euros.

Real excitement

The operators email all the documentation to the client 48 hours before their trip. Some, like WowTrip, hide the destination in a separate link so the client has the option of not opening it until they arrive at the airport.

minutes before the flight takes off," says Alberto Alcolea, the director of WowTrip, the only operator to maintain the intrigue until just before boarding the plane.

"We believe that makes the experience more exciting, although if the client wants to know beforehand, they can find out up to two days earlier when we send them all the documentation. For us, though, those 48 hours are a long time and if the client uses them to plan part of their trip, they are losing part of the charm of the experience. We recommend that they only open the information about the weather, so they can pack suitable clothing, but don't click on the link where we reveal their destination until they get to the airport," he explains.

Surprise at the airport

Óscar did this a year ago, with WowTrip. Amid all the bustle at the airport and the anxiety which had built up over a month before he travelled, he discovered that they were going to Paris. "We loved it," he says. He did it again recently, with a group of four friends. The destination this time? Basel.

"You feel like a small child who is told they are going on an excursion to a farm school with all their schoolfriends. The kid doesn't know what it is or what it will be like, but the excitement beforehand, the nerves and sleepless nights are the same that we are experiencing now," Óscar says.

Sometimes the temptation is too great and people can't resist finding out which city they are going to in a couple of days' time. They want the surprise and excitement, but not too much. Midela Pencheva did that last summer, when in July she booked a trip to a capital city for the following month.

"When the email arrived with

all the documentation, I called my boyfriend and we arranged to open it together that evening. It was almost like waiting for the result of a pregnancy test!" says Midela, who ended up flying to Geneva.

"I only wanted it to be somewhere I liked, and although Geneva sounded nice I knew it was very expensive and thought I would end up spending more than I had planned. Despite that, we stuck to fast food and when it was time to come home we were pleased we had gone there," says Midela.

That is another of the attractions of this way of travelling, because "as well as the price, the facilities for visitors, the interesting destinations and the quality of the hotels, the client ends up discovering cities they might otherwise never have thought of," says Alberto Alcolea of WowTrip.

"Of the 7,000 clients we have had since we started a year and a half ago, only two rang us to say they didn't like their destinations, but when they came back they apologised."

More and more people are taking their chance on this type of roulette which anyone can 'play' via the websites of the operators who offer surprise trips. In the case of Wayna box and WowTrip, costs start at 150 euros including direct return flights and stays in three star or four star hotels in the city centre.

That is what led Rafael Carrasco to experiment with this new way of travelling. He went with a friend a few weeks ago. They are both in their 20s, and they paid 280 euros for four days in Brussels.

"Really, we didn't mind where we went because neither of us had travelled in Europe before and we liked the idea of others deciding for us," says Rafael, who is a student in Madrid.

That is what most of these op-

Óscar Fernández only found out that he was going to Paris after he arrived at the airport. :: R. C.



Óscar Fernández
Nurse

"You're as excited as a small child who is going on a school trip"

Rafael Carrasco and a friend went to Brussels and took the opportunity to visit Bruges as well. :: R. C.



Rafael Carrasco
Student

"We had never been anywhere in Europe so we didn't mind where we went"

erators focus on, although others, like Flykub, have a range of possibilities and allow the clients to choose between a hotel and an apartment. There is also a 'total surprise' option, when people choose the month in which they want to travel, but the place and the date are a mystery until a week beforehand.

In general, prices barely vary between these platforms. Clients only have to say where they want to leave from, how many people will be travelling and the dates, and if they like they can rule out some destinations (from the dozens on offer) because they have been there before or they don't find the idea of them attractive.

On WowTrip and Waynabox, there is no charge the first time a destination is ruled out but it costs five euros from the second time. Other platforms such as Flykub let clients rule out three destinations free of charge, and Drumwit does the same, although only with their 'deluxe package'. There is also an extra charge if the client stipulates times of day they are available to travel.

"We have to penalise greater personalisation, because we have less margin to manoeuvre when it comes to booking flights and hotels at the best prices," says Alberto Alcolea.

Most of these operators only offer European destinations although WonderTrip also includes Tangier and Waynabox has featured Marrakech and some USA cities since 1 September. "It is a product that has aroused a lot of interest and within two weeks we already had several bookings," says Pau Sendra.

This new form of adventure is not only designed for young people. Families, groups of friends and middle-aged travellers have also shown an interest. "The difference between this method and the traditional way of travelling is that with this you always win," says Alberto Alcolea.

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The view from the top - the stunning views down towards the coastline are part of what makes Sierra Nevada special. :: ASH BOLTON

It's not all about the slopes

After a hard day's snowboarding, Ash Bolton takes a look at some of the après-ski on offer at the Sierra Nevada ski resort

ASH
BOLTON

✉ ashbolton@hotmail.com

GRANADA. Many a seasoned skier or snowboarder will often tell you that the Sierra Nevada is the best ski resort in Spain. And why is that you ask?

Well, for starters, it is officially the sunniest ski resort in Europe with more than 320 days of sun a year.

It's also one of the highest resorts in Europe, meaning the slopes are usually open from late November until early May.

Then there are the stunning views of the Costa del Sol, Gibraltar and the Moroccan coastline for those brave enough to venture up to the top of the highest run.

As for the all important slopes, the Sierra Nevada has a total of 107 skiable kilometres, including 115 runs made up of 40 blue runs, 9 black, 50 red and 16 green.

What's more, it's home to Europe's largest freestyle snowboard park and



A beer with a view - the terrace close to Plaza de Andalucía. :: A. B.



El Lodge boasts an outdoor heated pool with mountain views. :: SUR

you can do night skiing on Thursday and Saturday nights as the main slopes are floodlit.

But more importantly, where can you go to relax after a hard day throwing yourself down the slopes?

The après-ski aficionados among us will be interested to note that there are a large number of luxurious Alpine-style hotels, cozy log cabin bars and lip-smacking restaurants to spend your evenings in.

In fact, there are 30 restaurants and 28 bars around the village, which is called Pradollano.

One of the best places to enjoy a well-earned drink as the sun goes down is on the terraced area that hugs the valley side of the Plaza de Andalucía.

There are a number of great little watering holes here including Tía María, La Visera and Vertical, where you can soak up the stunning views of the snow covered valley.

Or if you don't fancy sitting outside, there is a snug bar in Hotel Ziriyab that features comfy armchairs, several roaring log fires and some eye-waveringly beautiful views.

Another iconic bar is the Crescendo, which has a roaring fireplace in its centre and is rumoured to have one of the best hot chocolates in the resort. Located in Pradollano Square at the base of the Parador chairlift, the drinks are a little on the expen-

IN DETAIL

► **La Muralla.** Calle Virgen de las Nieves, 677 41 33 31, www.lamurallasierranevada.com

► **El Lodge.** Calle Maribel, 8, 958 48 06 00, www.ellodge.com.

► **Antorcha restaurant.** Calle de la Virgen de las Nieves, 8, 654 34 51 17.

► **Crescendo restaurant.** Calle de la Virgen de las Nieves, 3.

► **More information.** www.sierranevada.es

sive side, but it's worth popping in for one.

As for restaurant recommendations, there are more than you can shake a ski pole at.

One of the most popular is the family-run La Antorcha Restaurant, which offers a mixture of Spanish and Alpine cuisine.

Specialities include succulent steaks that you cook on hot stones brought to your table, and, what can only be described as a meat tree, where various chorizos, black pudding and spicy sausages are hung on a small tree on your table.

However, the best restaurant according to Trip Advisor, is La Muralla. This cosy, locally run eatery offers free tapas to customers, but is best known for its mouth watering steaks.

And once you've filled your ski boots, you're spoilt for choice in terms of accommodation, as there are places to suit all budgets.

However, if you're looking for an authentic alpine style place to stay, El Lodge Ski and Spa comes highly recommended.

This sumptuous, cosy hideaway is one of few hotels where you ski in and out from the hotel.

Built in Finnish wood and boasting the only outdoor heated pool in the resort, there's also an outdoor sauna and whirlpool for those wishing to pamper themselves.

What's more, the hotel's Grill restaurant makes a hearty fondue to add to that alpine resort feel.

And as the end of the season approaches faster than a runaway snowboard, don't forget about the annual Bañador (date to be announced but usually in late April), where skiers and boarders are invited to descend the mountain in their swimsuits.

It's certainly an eye opener - just make sure you wear plenty of sun cream!



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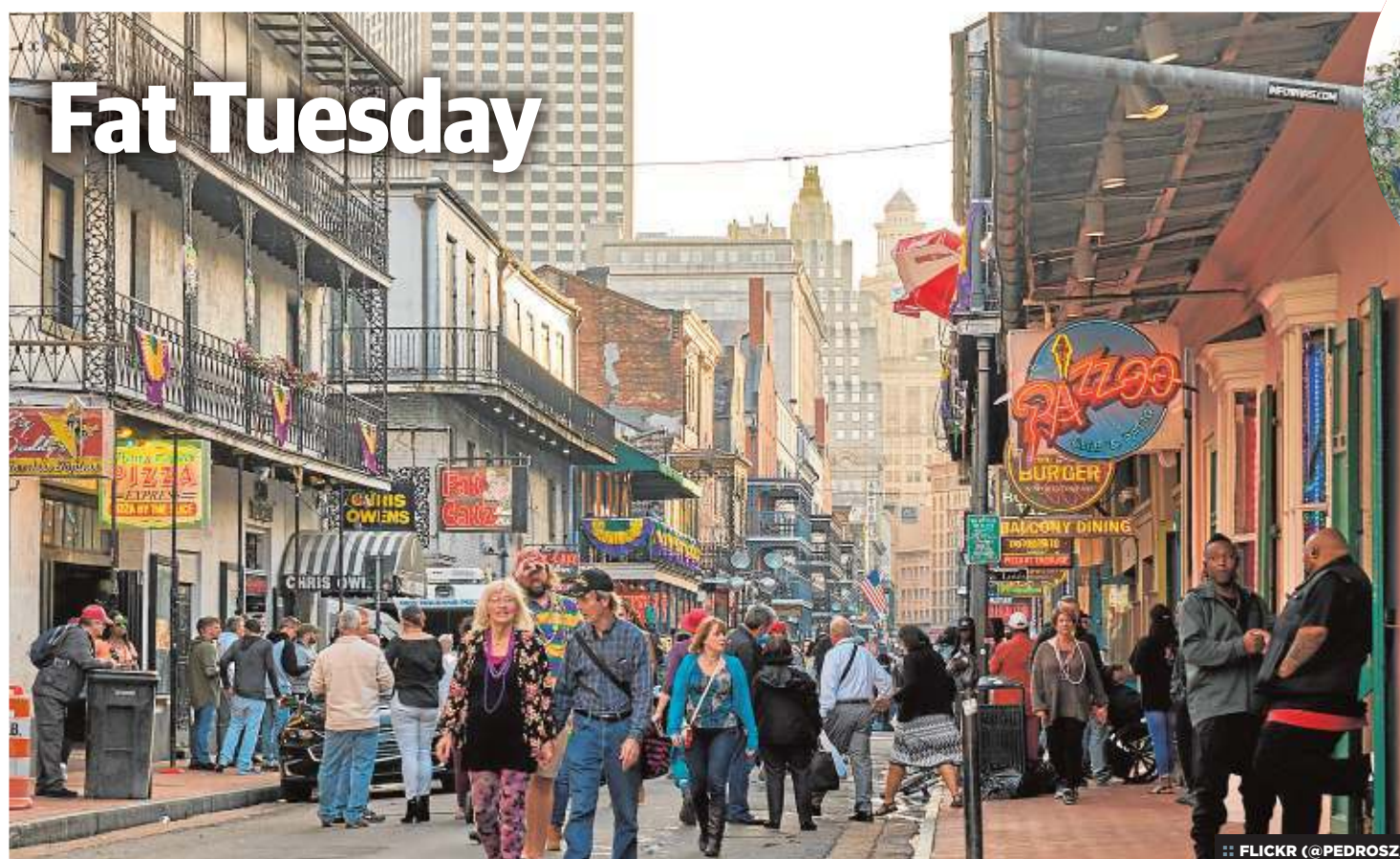


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WHERE IN THE WORLD?



Fat Tuesday

With Lent fast approaching, many of us will now be trying to narrow down what we're willing to give up for forty days. This is just one of a num-

ber of traditions that have lasted the test of time. Another takes place in the district pictured above and is celebrated with increased vigour with the passage of time.

Here, the festivities, which origi-

nated in medieval France (therefore making them older than the state in which they are celebrated), take place every Shrove Tuesday - this year on 5 March.

Translated into English as 'Fat

Tuesday Run', communities across this state set off on pilgrimages, often more than ten kilometres long, singing and dancing to collect ingredients (including chasing and catching a chicken) to make a com-

JANUARY'S PHOTO



munal stew. They drink and eat heavily, and dress in special costumes, especially masks and capuchons, to protect their identities. If you know where this is, you could win a prize.

Please send the name of the city pictured, the name of the event and of the stew to english@diariosur.es. Only entries with your full name, delivery address and telephone number will be considered.

Last month's photo showed Pingxi in Taiwan where the annual lantern festival takes place. February 19 was chosen as the day because it was the first full moon of the Chinese Lunar New Year.

Congratulations to Marcelo Solsona Navarro in Chiclana who answered correctly. Your prize will be on its way to you soon.

Send your answer to english@diariosur.es

LEGAL ADVICE



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REF. D. A. P.

A couple of weeks ago I went to a travel agent to book a trip to Egypt, for next June. However, I will not be able to attend, as that month I will be at a couple of fairs in Europe for work, so I have to cancel the trip. Before contacting the travel agency, I would like to know if I have the right to a full refund of what I have

paid on account, or if they could refuse to return it to me?

Information about cancellations should appear in the travel brochure and in the contract you had to sign with the travel agent. If you cancel a good time in advance, it is usually the case that the deposit is returned in full, but sometimes if you cancel, only a percentage of the deposit is returned, because the travel agency can deduct the costs of management and cancellation, as well as a penalty amount.

REF. W. A. P.

I contracted an internet service by telephone, and at that time, everything was easy, but I do not even have a written contract or any documentation at all. Now I want to unsubscribe from the service, and I am required to request

it in writing and to send the request by fax, when nobody uses faxes anymore. There is no possibility of doing it by email or anything similar. I think this situation is abusive, because when I hired the service I did not have to do any of this. Can they really oblige me to do it that way?

Services contracted by telephone are usually recorded, so both parties are bound as if it were a written contract. In any case, the company may have its own rules as to how to request the termination of their services, and if the company requires it to be done by fax, it is their right. However, you should bear in mind that having evidence of the cancellation request is extremely important, and with a copy of the fax sent it is very easy to prove that you have requested the cancellation in the event that your request is not processed.

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Artworks left behind in the village after last year's event. :: SUR

Genalguacil listed among top cultural destinations

:: A. J. LÓPEZ

MÁLAGA. Genalguacil, a village in Malaga province's Genal valley with barely 400 inhabitants, has been included in a list of Spain's top 100 cultural hotspots. The Culture Observatory, carried out by Fundación Contemporánea, is based on survey responses from 1,000 professionals in the cultural sector in Spain.

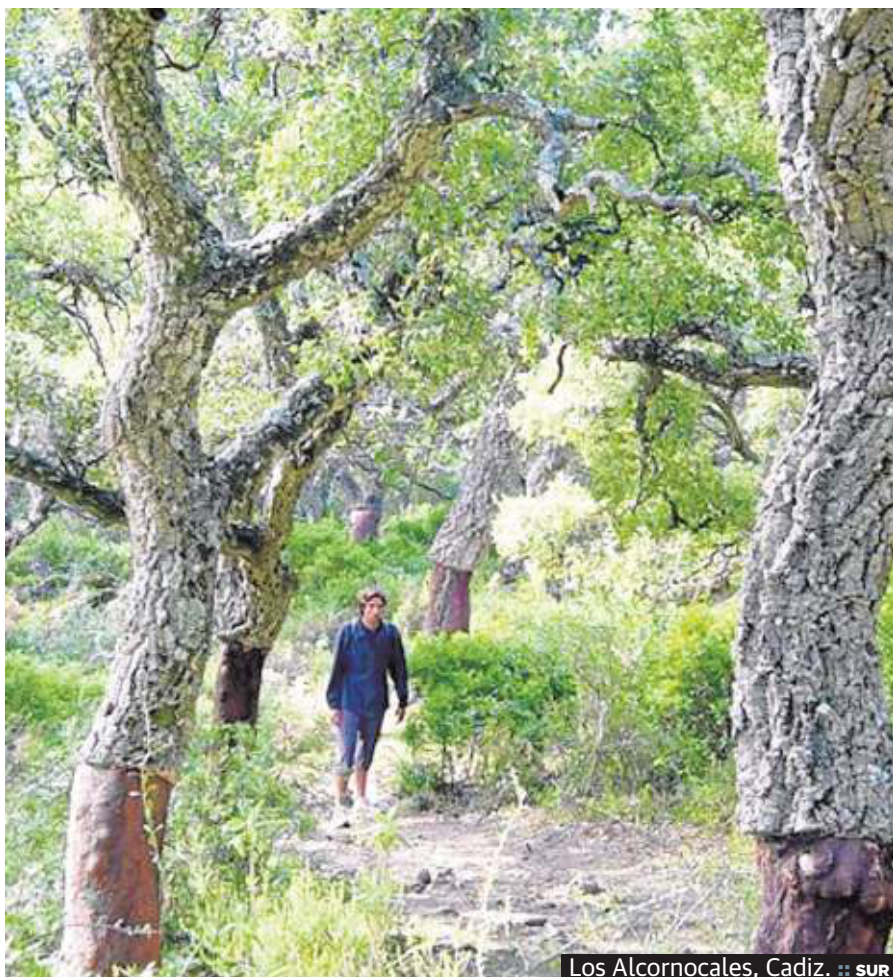
Genalguacil's cultural attraction is its Encuentro de Arte, held for two weeks in August every two years. Selected artists travel the

winding mountain roads to create their artistic projects in the village, among the locals. They leave the results behind them as part of the village's artistic heritage.

Genalguacil was in 15th place on the Andalusian top 20 cultural projects list, which was headed by Seville's flamenco festival and Malaga's Picasso museum.

Malaga came fifth in the national list of cultural cities and the Picasso Museum was 16th in the overall top 60 cultural projects for Spain.

DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA



Los Alcornocales, Cadiz. :: SUR

JAVIER
ALMELLONES



A wonderfully Andalusian holiday weekend

**1 week in
Andalucía**

7 days to enjoy.

National Parks: 2 days.

Historical cities: 3 days.

Sierra Nevada: 2 days.



As the end of the warm Andalusian winter draws to a close, there is a great opportunity to enjoy the winter sunshine on 28 February, as Andalucía Day is celebrated throughout the region.

This holiday, which for many will be a 'puente' or 'bridge' (when a holiday falls on a Thursday it is not unusual for people to take the Friday off as well), is the perfect time to learn

more about Andalucía.

Take some time next weekend to enjoy, for example, the beautiful and rich landscapes that Andalucía has to offer. The weather in the last few days of February is usually conducive to outdoor activities, such as hiking in some of the vast woods and forests that the southern peninsular boasts.

Andalucía is also one of the best European regions for protecting nature and wildlife. It currently has

two large national parks; Sierra Nevada and Doñana, but will hopefully soon have a third. Sierra de las Nieves, which is in the province of Málaga, is in the last phases of upgrading to national park status.

However, in each Andalusian province there are other protected spaces and parks. These include the aforementioned national parks and also the natural parks of Sierra de Grazalema, Alcornocales, Sierra de Aracena, Sierra Morena or Cazorla, Segura and Las Villas, among others.

If long walks aren't really your forte there are endless cultural sights to experience in the region. Cathedrals, castles, mosques, alcazabas, museums and historical gardens are scattered around Andalucía, ready for you to explore. Many great monuments can be found throughout the region's big cities and other towns such as Jerez de la Frontera, Antequera, Ronda and Carmona. The different cultures and heritage that are woven into Andalucía show the many contrasting civilisations that have made the region so special. Thanks to this unparalleled character and essence, Andalucía is one of the most unique cultural destinations to visit in the world.

In these last days of winter Sierra Nevada may seem like the best bet, as the area's national park and ski resort combined. After a great winter tourism season, Sierra Nevada is there to enjoy all year round. The beautiful surroundings, well equipped slopes and the insurance of having snow for a good part of the year, makes it an extremely popular destination for families.

Whatever you enjoy doing on the upcoming holiday weekend, Andalucía is sure to cater to it.



BASIC GUIDE

What to see over the weekend

Doñana national park.

Explore marshes and Mediterranean forests, while looking at beautiful plants, in the home of the Iberian lynx and Imperial eagle.

El Acebuche visitor centre. Highway A-483, Km.38.7, 21760 Almonte (Huelva).

Sierra Nevada. Enjoy all this national park has to offer, with snow most of the year, the season never has to end.

Andalucía Plaza. 18196 Pradollano (Granada).

Córdoba. The mosque (La Mezquita) and the Medina Azahara are some of the most famous Andalusian monuments.

14003 Córdoba.

Los Alcornocales. Considered as the great 'green lung of Andalucía' for its thick groves, this natural park is mostly in the province of Cadiz, although it also covers part of Málaga.

El Aljibe visitor centre. 11180 Alcalá de los Gazules (Cádiz).



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TONY BRYANT



WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

22 FEBRUARY 2000

ETA kills leader of Basque socialist party

The politician and his bodyguard were walking through the university campus in Vitoria-Gasteiz when a van packed with 20 kilogrammes of explosives was detonated

On Tuesday 22 February 2000, the separatist terrorist group, ETA, murdered Spanish politician Fernando Buesa Blanco. At the time of his death, Buesa was leader of the PSE-EE (Basque Socialist Party) in Álava. He died while walking through the university campus in Vitoria-Gasteiz, when a van packed with 20 kilos of explosives was detonated, killing Buesa and his 26-year-old bodyguard, Jorge Díez Elorza.

Considered one of the top players and most influential members of the Basque Socialist Party, Buesa initiated an important political and social agreement that laid the groundwork for the final reorganisation and standardisation of the educational system of the Basque country.

Born in Bilbao in 1946, Buesa studied law in Madrid and Barce-

lona and practised from 1970 to 1986 in Vitoria-Gasteiz. He was a councillor in Vitoria-Gasteiz (1983-97), a member of the parliament of the Basque Country (1984-2000) and leader of Álava provincial council (1987-91). He was also deputy president of the Basque government and minister of Education in a coalition PSE-Basque Nationalist Party Basque government from 1991 to 1994.

In his tireless capacity for work, he defended the position of the Socialists on the violations of fundamental rights in the Basque Country, such as the right to life and freedom. Like other political figures in the Basque Country, Buesa was being protected by the Interior Ministry in anticipation of a possible ETA attack.

ETA had killed hundreds of people since starting its fight for



The van moments after it exploded. :: SUR

Basque independence in 1968. Buesa, who was 53, was the first of two Spanish politicians killed by the terrorist group in 2000. The second was Ernest Lluch, a former cabinet minister shot dead in Barcelona on 21 November.

The terrorists, who were waiting for Buesa as he left his home at around 4.30pm, triggered the explosion just seconds after he had said goodbye to his son.

The murder caused outcry among the Spanish politicians. Prime Minister José María Aznar, said at the time, "We will fight terrorists with the weapons of the law and democracy. Citizens want answers that will bring those who committed this crime



Fernando Buesa. :: SUR

to justice."

Following his death, the Araba Sports Arena in Vitoria-Gasteiz, home of Baskonia, Buesa's favourite basketball team, was renamed the Fernando Buesa Arena.

His killing inspired a documentary by Basque filmmaker Eterio Ortega Santillana. The 90-minute film, titled Assassination in February, premiered in Cannes in 2001 and reflected on the problems of Basque society. Buesa was married and had three children.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Universidad	University
Democracia	Democracy
Político	Politician
Guardaespaldas	Bodyguard
Aprendizaje	Learning
Terrorista	Terrorist
Dirigente	Leader
Atentado	Attack
Muerto	Dead
Vasco	Basque
Furgoneta	Van
Asesinato	Murder
Documental	Documentary
Estallar	To explode
Despedirse	To say goodbye
Armas	Weapons
Acuerdo	Agreement
Baloncesto	Basketball

Glorious start for the first English-speaking Lions Club in Marbella

Marbella Global Lions Club was launched by its more experienced godfather, the German-speaking Lions Club Marbella

:: GABRIELA BERNER

MARBELLA. Probably no other Andalusian town can boast of so many local, regional and international charities as Marbella. Since last Saturday, another, very important, one was launched: the fifth Lions Club. The Marbella Global Lions Club is the first English-speaking in town.

On its foundation day, it already had 27 members of different nationalities, most of whom are still active in their profession. For the other Costa del Sol Lions Clubs, it was an honour to join their English-speaking companions on this important event.

Nearly all of them were represented by their presidents, but the German-speaking Lions Club Marbella could not resist to show up with more than 20 members to this important charter celebration. They had good reason; they are the founding godfathers of the new club and have accompanied the future members from the very beginning on their not-so-easy and not-so-short way to



The moment when the president took over the banner. :: G. BERNER

the official foundation.

Gerhard Steinruck, the president of the Marbella Global Lions Club, thanked everybody for their support and friendship that came to him and his colleagues from all sides. Officials from key Lions offices had come up with important documents, and there were high-ranking representatives from the Town Hall. The disability organisation Aspandem, which was to receive the proceeds of the gala evening, was also represented by two female staff members.

After receiving the founding deed and the flag with the lion's head and the name of the club which had arrived just in time from Lions International in America, the proud and happy president declared the official act ended and invited the approximately 100 attendees to enjoy the party.

There was a lot of dancing until well after midnight, and it is likely that this beautiful gala night was the beginning of a wonderful friendship, possibly even more than just one.

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Rocío Pilgrims Choir "Aires de Torremolinos"
Centro de Arte y Flamenco de Torremolinos (CAFT)



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Cudeca's loyal golden army

The Goldies raised over 29,000 euros from various charity events organised on behalf of Cudeca last year

TONY BRYANT

✉ tonybryant@gmail.com

BENALMÁDENA. The Goldies, the Cudeca Foundation's volunteer fundraising arm, held a meeting in Benalmádena last week to announce its schedule of fundraising events for 2019. During the gathering, which was attended by medical director Marisa Martín and financial director, Rafael Olalla, The Goldies presented founder Joan Hunt with a cheque for more than 29,000 euros, which was raised during last year's charity events.

The Goldies, whose motto is 'Putting the Fun into Fundraising', organised more than 25 events last year, and these included a Royal Ascot Ladies Day, a gala dinner night with The Jersey Boys and a festive mask ball.

Along with the amateur theatrical group, A Touch of Class, the volunteers also arranged a collection-tin day outside the Iceland Supermarket in Mijas on the first Friday of each month.

The calendar of fundraising events for this year will begin on 17 March, with a St Patrick's Day



The Goldies presented the cheque to Joan Hunt last week. :: SUR

party, followed by a Grand National Day gathering on 6 April and a traditional Easter Sunday dinner at the Tamisa Golf Hotel on 21 April. There are several other events planned to take place throughout the summer and details will be announced on The Goldies Facebook page. The volunteer group will also continue to raise funds with its distinctive green collection tins.

Joan Hunt expressed her grati-

tude saying, "The Cudeca Hospice would like to sincerely thank The Goldies for their important support throughout the years. Thanks to their enthusiastic commitment, we can continue to assist many people who are at the end of life."

The Goldies are a group of English-speaking volunteers who organise charity events with the goal of assisting the Cudeca Hospice to continue its special kind of caring.



The Goldies and A Touch of Class in Mijas last week. :: SUR

Shoppers enjoy fundraising St Valentine's Day concert

TONY BRYANT

MIJAS. Continuing with this year's collection-tin campaign outside the Iceland supermarket in Mijas, the Goldies joined forces once again with A Touch of Class for a special St Valentine's Day fundraising event last week. Dressed in red especially for the occasion, the Mijas-based amateur theatrical group entertained shoppers with a collection of classic songs from the stage and screen, as well as popular chart hits.

Long time volunteers Caroline and Suzy said, "A Touch of Class were absolutely fabulous on Valentine's Day. They sang all our favourite songs. Thank you all so very much."

The dedicated Goldies team will be active at the entrance to Iceland on the first Friday of each month throughout the year. More volunteers are needed and those interested in joining the team should see The Goldies Facebook page or www.cudeca.org

A NEW PRESIDENT FOR MOLLINA RBL

Chairman Austin Tansley of the Mollina branch of the Royal British Legion recently presented newly installed president Colin Lamb with his badge of office. Colin, who served in the RAF, was branch standard bearer before retiring due to ill health. A certificate of merit was presented to branch founder member Chris Roddis who is moving to the UK.



:: SUR

Lux Mundi brings in changes to keep both centres going

J. RHODES

TORRE DEL MAR. Lux Mundi ecumenical centre has introduced a Friends of Lux Mundi card in an effort to raise money to keep its two centres open. The scheme was introduced last Monday in Torre del Mar, while a date for its roll-out in the Fuengirola centre is yet to be confirmed.

President, Gloria Uribe, said, "We have had to consider ways to raise money for Lux Mundi. It would be

a shame if after many years we had to close the centres, but no organisation can keep itself going while it makes losses."

Uribe added that the Fuengirola building is in need of urgent work and that the card scheme is also a way to try to raise money to go towards the repairs needed.

A suggested minimum donation of 12 euros per year for the card allows the holder to get reduced-price activities and money off the regular and longer distance trips organised. There is no obligation to have a card to participate in activities and trips, but the price will be more for non-card holders. Lux Mundi Torre del Mar is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

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DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

Plant intelligence

This amazing Ceropegia has developed the ability to attract flies to its flowers, ensnaring them for pollination

Ceropegia is a member of the Apocynaceae family (milk weed) and is native to Africa, Madagascar, Asia, the Arabian peninsula, Australia and the Canary Islands. There are around 180 species in the genus which is composed of perennial trailing or twining vines with heart shaped leaves. Some species are more succulent than others

and they have a variety of unusual flower shapes and colours, ranging from red to yellow, purple and green. The flowering period is relatively short, starting from mid to late summer and continuing until the temperature begins to drop. The tubular flowers are unusual in appear-

ance; each one has a structure which resembles a small umbrella or a cage which traps flies drawn in by the odour that the flower emits. The scent is believed to mimic the pheromones given off by a bee when under attack, however, instead of finding a tasty snack inside, the fly becomes trapped and in its struggle to escape it pollinates the flower.

Ceropegia has many common names including lantern flower, parasol flower, parachute flower, bushman's pipe, string of hearts, snake creeper, wine-glass vine, rosary vine (in Spanish enredadera rosario) and necklace vine.

The majority of Ceropegia species are trailing although the species found in the Canary Islands are more erect. With support, Ceropegia can climb to about one and a half metres. The roots are generally fibrous although some species have tuberous roots and are more susceptible to rotting; all of them need a free-draining soil, preferably with some perlite mixed in. Ceropegia grows best in bright light but not in full sun which may fade the flowers.

In the wild it grows through shrubs and other plants with its roots in the damp shade and its flowers in the light. The soil should not be allowed to dry out and regular watering is necessary during hot, dry spells. During the winter watering should be reduced and, as Ceropegia is not frost-hardy, the whole plant should be moved to a warm sheltered spot.

Propagation is by cuttings or by layering and the more fleshy species can be propagated by removing the small tubers that form in joints along the stem.



Ceropegia woodii and C. haygarthii (inset). :: FLICKR AND WIKIPEDIA

READER'S PHOTO



:: CAROLINE SELLERS

BURSTING WITH COLOUR

This photo sent in by Caroline Sellers is of a Japanese quince in full bloom. Its botanical name is Chaenomeles japonica and the fruits, although very acidic, are often made into jams and jellies.

GARDENING IN FEBRUARY

Preparing for spring

With the spring well on its way, jobs in the garden start to pile up and one of the ones that is best done early is replenishing pots. Over time your containers lose soil through the drainage holes in the base and the compost becomes a bit tired and lacking in nutrients. Some plants may need repotting completely, especially if there is evidence of the roots growing out of the bottom, others may benefit from a layer of new compost on top of the existing soil. To repot choose a pot that is only a little bigger than the original.

Ease the plant out of its pot and gently knock off any loose soil. Repot with fresh compost and water in well. For plants that are already too big to plant in a bigger pot, gently slide them out and tap off what soil you can without disturbing the root ball too much. Tease out a few roots all the way around and on the base. Place back into the same pot with new compost making sure the plant is well watered in and no air pockets remain. This is a job worth doing every two years to keep your biggest specimens looking their best.

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))

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Darko: light at the end of the Pompidou tunnel

The graffiti artist from Malaga shows how he has progressed with an impressive work as part of the Malaga de Festival event



ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

@ajavierlopez

MALAGA. From the wireless loudspeaker comes the thunderous voice of Zack de la Rocha spitting out the songs on his first disc with Rage Against the Machine. It sounds like the collapse of a cathedral might, a stampede of buffalos or the Hiroshima atomic bomb, which Darko would follow with a slightly vague gaze, polite but absent, his mind on other things. For example, the image in his head. It has been there for several months and, bit by bit, is being profiled on the interior staircases of the Pompidou Centre in Malaga, which are no longer their usual brilliant white but black as a wolf's mouth. This artist from Malaga is creating a colossal work of art, a physically and mentally forceful piece, a light at the end of the tunnel.

There is much more at play here than a powerful artistic event. Here, Darko reaches a new level. The self-taught creator convinced the board of the Pompidou in Paris to let him paint the walls of its Spanish branch. The wild graffiti artist has matured between the street and the museum, from rage to powerful restraint. Darko has also become the first artist to work in the Russian Museum and the Pompidou Centre in Malaga, both times as part of the Malaga de Festival (MaF) event.

These two projects now represent both sides of the same coin, because



Darko, creating his piece on the staircases at the Pompidou centre. :: ÑITO SALAS

last year at the Russian Museum Darko created 'Primer movimiento' ('First movement'), a legacy of the formal restraint of the Russian avant-garde, created with black spray paint on a white background, pure geometry. Now, however, Darko has loosened the reins without getting go of them completely with this 'Segundo movimiento' of black wall and white spray, with brushes to add to the equation. The result can be seen for the next year, free of charge, at the Pompidou.

Darko's walls are each 33 metres long with a slope which starts at a height of three metres and reaches nine at the end of the staircase. "There, in the background, the wall seems to eat you up," says Darko in a voice as loud as Kurtz in 'El corazón de las tinieblas'. "Other artists have used scaffolding, but this method saved

me a lot of time". He only had 24 hours in which to begin and finish his work, hence the diffusers, extensions for the brushes, the tension, the effort.

"This 'Segundo movimiento' is based on two essential aspects. One came from the recent Jean Dubuffet exhibition at the Pompidou, that traveller with no compass which the title of the exhibition talked about, and also some of the works in the montage 'Utopías modernas'. If you look at Stella or Saura, they have this type of brushstroke. And for the other, as this is a French museum, I used tachism as a base, especially Hans Hartung, a German artist who became nationalised French and fought against the Nazis".

Achieving the goal
"They put him in jail", continues

Darko, "with red walls to destroy his sight. If you Google his name you will see pictures of a very elderly man, sitting in a wheelchair, painting with a fumigator like I do now. He wanted to work in large format but because he couldn't, he looked for another way to achieve his goal. I thought a great deal about that when preparing for this work..."

Darko thinks a great deal, these days. He always has, but even more so now. His life is changing, his family is growing and looking back, he can see how he has progressed. From waste ground to art galleries, trains to exhibition rooms, clandestine walls to famous museums. "It's a very big responsibility, but also something to be proud of. I'm here painting, and I'm seeing pictures by Equipo Crónica...that's amazing," he says.

So, on the left wall you can see a

nebula of spray, a type of illumination, while on the right a subtle trail awaits its turn, barely a flash. "When I work, I try to look at it as an outsider, and I liked the contrast between one wall covered in paint, and the other lighter. It had to be on a black background, though, because I liked the idea of having worked the first movement in white on black and the second one the other way round, says Darko. "I had done that in run-down areas, it was already in my head".

That's why Darko doesn't mind the howling of Zack de la Rocha coming from the cylindrical loudspeaker. "I listen to them because of their energy. The first disc reminds me of my beginnings, in the street... I don't know... sorry, mate, I'm getting a bit emotional," he says. That emotion marks the rhythm of this 'Second movement'. Long may it continue.

Charity organises hike to help local street cats

Animal lovers will raise vital funds for Manilva street cats next month

:: ASH BOLTON

MANILVA. Scores of walkers are needed to take part in a 9 km walk in aid of the charity Gatos de Manilva on Sunday 3 March.

Organisers are hoping that around two dozen people will join them on the three-and-a-half-hour jaunt around the Casares countryside.

The event will help buy traps to capture, neuter and release stray

cats in the Manilva area.

Melissa Vaughn, from Gatos de Manilva, said: "Everyone including kids and dogs welcome! All funds will go to purchasing good quality, humane traps which allow us to trap street cats in the Manilva area in order to neuter, then release them.

"The charity also seeks volunteers for fostering socialised cats and kittens while a permanent home is sought, people who are interested to assist with fundraising, those that can make donations of money, food or used cat carriers."

CHARITY WALK

► Distance. 9km

► Start time. 9.45am

► Duration. 3.5 hours

► Difficulty. Moderate

► Cost. 10 euros

► Start. Arroyo Hondo, Casares

► Info. Facebook funandfund

The event is being organised by Brit Michele Yanez-Bowker, who has organised a number of charity walks in the past few months.

Race night to raise funds for safe house for women

:: A. BOLTON

MANILVA. A Duquesa bar hopes to raise several hundred euros for charity by organising a horse racing night on Saturday 2 March.

A number of races from the 1990s will be played on TVs within the Mirror Mirror Lounge Bar during the event that will also feature a raffle and tombola.

The event will raise much needed funds for a new women and children's safe house in La Línea, run by the homeless charity Hogar Betania. Specifically the funds will buy

furniture and kitchen equipment for the safe house.

Christian Lee Dun, 34, who owns the Mirror Mirror Bar, told SUR in English: "We hope to raise a large amount of much needed funds for this very important charity who work tirelessly to provide safe houses for women and children who find themselves with nowhere to turn after being in an abusive relationship. The funds raised on the evening will go directly towards the new house which requires the basic necessities."

Hogar Betania is run by volunteers and provides food to about 520 poor families in the area, as well as putting young people into apprenticeships. The event starts at 8pm. For more information visit Mirror Mirror Lounge Bar on Facebook.



Karen Schriesheim. :: SUR



Seung-Ju Lee. :: FACEBOOK

Marbella welcomes celebrated soprano

:: TONY BRYANT

MARBELLA. International soprano Karen Schriesheim and award-winning pianist Seung-Ju Lee will perform two concerts in Marbella this weekend. The shows, under the banner of Somewhere Over the Rainbow, will include a mixture of opera, classical music and scores from top theatrical productions. The shows will be held in the Real Club de Golf Las Brisas in Nueva Andalucía on Saturday 23 and at the La Veranda Verde Tennis Club on Sunday 24 February. Both shows will begin at 8pm.

Tickets for Saturday's show cost 55 euros and include a welcome drink, canapés and a three-course dinner with wine. Tickets for Sunday's performance cost 30 euros and will include a complementary drink on

arrival.

Karen Schriesheim grew up in Chicago, Illinois, where she began performing opera with the Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Having graduated from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where she studied with Yvonne Kenny, her operatic roles have included works by Handel, Mozart and Verdi.

In addition to opera, Schriesheim has performed in numerous prestigious classical music festivals in Berlin, Munich, London and Chicago.

Born in South Korea, Seung-Ju Lee is a talented young pianist who graduated from the prestigious City of Edinburgh Music School in 2012.

For more information, call Anita Noordzij 644 24 23 65

EXHIBITIONS

The Russian museum

Malaga. Edificio Tabacalera, Avda Sor Teresa Prat. Tues-Sun 9.30am - 10pm. From 27 February. There is free entry to the new exhibitions from 9.30am until 8pm on 28 February. The new annual exhibition is entitled 'Santas, reinas y obreras. La imagen de la mujer en el arte ruso' and the new temporary exhibitions 'Modernas y decisivas. Artistas rusas entre tradición y vanguardia' and 'Colección Krystyna Gmurzynska'. 'La Mirada Lateral' by Emmanuel Lafonte on the staircase to the exhibition rooms will be inaugurated today, Friday 22 February and will be on display until February 2020.

Alessandro Lando

Malaga. Until 25 February. Sala Manuel Barbadillo. The exhibition consists of works by hyper-realism artist Alessandro Lando. It is entitled 'Nature, Morte y Un Gato' (Nature, death and a cat)

Malaga Cathedral

Malaga. Until 28 February, 10am - 6pm. 'Unfinished Symphony' is the title of the exhibition at Malaga Cathedral. It demonstrates the development process of the cathedral which has been in construction through several periods of history from the Renaissance, from 1527 to 1588; and the Baroque, from 1721 until 1782. This architectural treasure is yet to be completed.



El Jardín Secreto, Malaga.

A trip to New Guinea

Malaga. Until 2 March. The Rectorada de la Universidad de Málaga. Artist Ángela Calero is exhibiting a collection of souvenirs, photos and works he amassed during his 15 years in Papua New Guinea. The majority of souvenirs are pieces of jewellery.

La Furia del Color

Malaga. Until 3 March. Carmen Thyssen Museum. The museum is exhibiting a selection of works by Francisco Iturrino commissioned by Lourdes Moreno.

El Jardín Secreto

Malaga. Until 30 April. Salas de la Coracha, Museo del Patrimonio Municipal, C/Reding. Over 300 pieces have been lent by private collectors for this exhibition. It includes works by Malaga artists Enrique Brikkmann and Francisco Peinado as well as international recognised artists such as Anish Kapoor, Per Barclay and David Hockney.

José María Báez

Malaga. Until 10 March. Centro de



Lafonte, Museo Ruso

Arte Contemporáneo.

Around 150 works by artist José María Báez (Jerez de la Frontera, Cádiz, 1949), are on display.

Dionisio González

Malaga. Until 17 March, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo. Parresia y Lugar is the latest exhibition at the CAC in Malaga. It is the most important solo exhibition by Dionisio González in Spain in recent years. Around a hundred works are on display, among them photographs, videos, holographic prisms and scale models.

Olga Gorbunova

Mijas. Until 14 March. Centro Cultural La Cala de Mijas. 'Entre Pétalos de Seda' is the title of this colourful exhibition of art by Russian artist Olga Gorbunova

Juan Antonio Pérez

Mijas. Until 25 February. Casa de la Cultura. Las Lagunas. An exhibition of works by Juan Antonio Pérez entitled Re_Plegado.

Photo exhibition

Torremolinos. Until 27 February. Centro Cultural Pablo Ruiz Picasso.

The exhibition 'Vecinos de Torremolinos' is a collection of photographs owned by José Díaz Jiménez. The photos depict the historical development of the town and its citizens.

Artists' Network Alpujarra

Vélez de Benaudalla. Until 24 March. Jardín Nazari. Curated by Orgiva-based artists, Maxine Friday and Klaus Schumacher, the exhibition will feature a diverse range of works from local talents. One exhibiting artist is Nicholas Fudge, a peer of Damien Hirst and Michael Landy. Mediums include painting, sculpture, photography and installations. The inauguration is on 22 February from 7pm. <http://www.artistsnetworkalpujarra.com>

CHARITY

Age Concern Estepona and Manilva

Estepona. 22 February, 7.30pm. Centro Cultural Padre Manuel. 10€ A concert, 'Classical Fantasia', is being given by the '3 Divas', namely Marika Rauscher, soprano; Sonia García Quintero, soprano and Clarice Williams, mezzo soprano. The pianist Vera Sonia, is a professor in piano at the University of Jaen. The CantoLibre choir will also be performing. Tickets available from the Age Concern shop in C/

Zaragoza, Estepona or call Tony: 608458555. Facebook: Age Concern Estepona and Manilva

Football Tournament

La Cala de Mijas. 22 February, 7pm. Football ground. The La Cala Lions Club has organised a charity football match with local veteran players from Spain, UK, Germany and Denmark. Spectators entry is by donation and there will be food and drinks available as well as a tombola. Funds raised will go to local causes as needed.

Benefit concert

Estepona. 22 February, 7.30pm. Centro Cultural Padre Manuel. 10€ The concert in aid of Age Concern Estepona and Manilva is 'A Classical fantasia' with Clarice Williams, Marika Rauscher and Sonia García Quintero and special guests the CantoLibre choir. It will include pieces from Turandot; Signore Ascolta; Trios from The Mikado, The Magic Flute and Carmen; Manuel de Falla Songs; The Merry Widow and Con te Partiro. Tickets from the Age concern shop in C/Zaragoza or on the door from two hours before concert starts. Tel: 650 163 928 or email: ageconcernestepona@gmail.com

Andalimpia flea market

Malaga. 2 March, from 2 until 7pm. Drunk-O-Rama Cafe Bar, C/Ramón Franquelo, 7. Items can be selected from the flea-market for a donation of just one euro. Money raised goes to Andalimpia (for a cleaner world) and Propeludos animal protection association. Both societies are on Facebook.

MUSIC & DANCE

The Wall Bar

Malaga. Hotel Vincci Posada del Patio, 11pm, entry free. 23 February. Susan Valery & Adrian Lombardi. Voice and guitar. Jazz style.

Louie Louie Live

Estepona. Louie Louie Bar. 22 February, midnight. The Buzz Lovers, Nirvana tribute. 10€. 27 February, 10pm. Warrior Soul. Back On The Lash tour. 13€ in advance, 15€ on night. 1 March midnight. La Perra Blanco. Authentic Rock'n'Roll. 5€.

Danza Reina Sofía

Almuñécar. 22 February, 8pm. Casa de la Cultura. Más Tiempo Que Vida is a flamenco inspired dance



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Danza Reina Sofía, Almuñécar

performance choreographed by Eva Yerbabuena. It is followed by contemporary dance 'Clowns'. Both are performed by student of the the Conservatorio Profesional De Danza Reina Sofía.

No Me Pises

Malaga. 27 February, 10pm. *La Cochera Cabaret* 10€
The Seville band No Me Pises Que Llevo Chanclas was formed in the 80s and is influenced by pop, rock, reggae and flamenco. <https://entradas.lacocheracabaret.com>

Lady River Jazz Band

Nerja. 15 March, from 9pm. *Nerja Cultural Centre*. 10€.
Granada. 16 March, from 11pm. *Eshivira Club*.
The seven piece Lazy River Jazz Band are on tour playing old style New Orleans and classic jazz. Their repertoire includes vintage numbers from the 1920s and 30s as well as later numbers from the 40s and 50s with elements of blues, gospel, ragtime, stride, boogie and stomps.

Joven Orquesta Mediterránea

Almuñécar. 24 February, 7pm. *Casa de la Cultura*.
Concerto for orchestra and cello by Elgar and Symphony n°3 by Brahms. Conducted by Michael Thomas. Tickets: www.bravotrasadas.es or Casa de la Cultura, Viajes Ecuador.

Carles Pons i Altés

Nerja. 22 February, 9pm. *Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja*. 10€.
A guitar recital with award winning Carles Pons.

Jazz night

Estepona. 23 February, 8.30pm. *Centro Dolménico de Corominas, Parque de los Pedregales*. 15€.
A jazz concert with David Lenker (pianist and composer) and Vicente Solsona (guitarist). Tickets: 675942975.

Dina Bello

Almuñécar. 26 February, 8pm. *Casa de la Cultura*.
Dina Bello performs a repertoire of hits of blues and soul music.

Processional Marches

Almuñécar. 28 February, 8pm. *Nuestra Señora de La Encarnación church*.
A concert of processional marches. Free entry but limited seating.

Rob Sas band

Estepona. 2 March, 7pm. *El Padrón (formerly the Eden Bar)*.
The Rob Sas band will be performing.



No Me Pises, Malaga

FLAMENCO

Sentir Que Sueño

Almuñécar. 27 February, 8pm. *Casa de la Cultura*. 12€.
Flamenco music and dance with El Turry (vocals), Vero La India (dance) and Jesús de Rosario (guitar).

Flamenco in the Museum

Malaga. *Museo de Arte Flamenco Peña Juan Brea, C/Ramón Franguelo*. 8.30pm.
23 February. Luisa Chicano and flamenco group.
27 February. Carrete de Málaga and flamenco group.
28 February, 2pm. Fiesta Calle Los Negros. Aroa Soto, Bastián Soto and Miguel Astorga vocals, Rubén Portillo and Dani Heredia on guitar and Isabel Soto, Luisa Chicano, Bastián Jmenéz dance..
For information and bookings call 687 607 526 or email: info@flamenka.com

LECTURES

Magpie Gallery Talks

Marbella. C/Virgen del Pilar. 200m

from port.

22 February, 7pm. Professor Juho Ahava will be talking about Kazimir Malevich, his life, work and aesthetic vision. What is the appeal of paintings with only squares, crosses and other simple forms? And what is the whole idea behind Malevich's work and his art movement, Suprematism? Why did he paint all these geometric figures over and over again?

U3A Lectures

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

History:

The Hanoverian Kings

26 February 10.45am-12.15pm.
Grandson George William Frederick (George III) and madness. Lecturer is Kay White.

Art History:

Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec

27 February, 11am.
An illustrated talk.



Joven Orquesta Mediterránea

A Mixed Bag:

The War of 1812: Britain's Forgotten War

1 March 10.45am-12.15pm.
Setting the record straight Mr Trump! This will be the final presentation for Spring Term 2019. Presented by Lillian Joyce Lewis.

The Natural History of Australasia

1 March 10.45am-12.15pm.
New Zealand, exploring the North Island.

The Arts Society Benahavis

Benahavis. 26 February, 6.30pm. *Benahavis town hall*.

'Rembrandt: businessman or Bohemian, rebel or romantic'

Lecturer Jane Choy. Rembrandt is considered to be Holland's greatest artist. Unlike Van Gogh, he has not left much written material on his art. What he has left is a unique visual autobiography in his many self-portraits from the age of 20 to 63.
www.theartsocietybenahavis.com

FESTIVALS

Sopa de los Siete Ramales

El Burgo. 28 February.
Coinciding with Día de Andalucía, this gastronomic festival is all about the traditional soup which among other ingredients, contains wild asparagus.



MOVIE LISTING

From Friday 22nd to Thursday 28th February

ORIGINAL VERSION SUBTTLED SPANISH



HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD

Director Dean DeBlois
Voice Jay Baruchel, America Ferrera, F. Murray Abraham
ANIMATION - 104 min.

When Hiccup discovers Toothless isn't the only Night Fury, he must seek 'The Hidden World'.

Friday 22: 18:00, 20:30
Saturday 23: 15:45, 18:00, 20:30
Sunday 24: 12:00, 15:45, 18:00, 20:30
Monday 25 and Tuesday 26: 15:45, 18:00, 20:20
Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28: 15:45, 18:00, 20:30



MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS

Director Josie Rourke
Starring Saoirse Ronan, Margot Robbie, Joe Alwyn
BIOGRAPHY - 124 min.

Mary Stuart's attempt to overthrow her cousin Elizabeth I, Queen of England, finds her condemned to years of imprisonment before facing execution.

Friday 22: 20:30
From Saturday 23 to Wednesday 27: 15:40, 20:30
Thursday 28: 15:45, 20:30



TOTAL DHAMAAL

Friday 22 and Saturday 23: 22:00
Sunday 24: 16:00



ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL

Friday 22: 18:00
From Saturday 23 to Thursday 28: 15:40, 18:00



DESTROYER

Director Karyn Kusama
Starring Nicole Kidman, Toby Kebbell, Tatianna Meslany
ACTION - 121 min.

A police detective reconnects with people from an undercover assignment in her distant past in order to make peace.

Friday 22: 18:00, 22:30
From Saturday 23 to Thursday 28: 15:40, 18:00, 22:30



THE FAVOURITE

Friday 22 and Thursday 28: 22:45
Saturday 23: 15:30, 22:45
Sunday 24: 11:45, 15:40, 22:45
Monday 25 and Tuesday 26: 15:45, 22:45
Wednesday 27: 15:30, 22:45



GREEN BOOK

From Friday 22 to Wednesday 27: 18:00, 20:05
Thursday 28: 15:30, 18:00, 20:05

FESTIVALS

La Molienda

Riogordo. 22-24 February.
The local olive oil or 'liquid gold' is the protagonist of this annual festival.

Romería del Santo

Pizarra. 28 February.
The village of Pizarra celebrates its traditional Romería del Santo on Andalucía day every year.

EVENTS

Night garden visits

Malaga. 23 February, 8pm. *Jardín Botánico La Concepción.* 7.50€
A guided tour of the gardens at night lasting 1.5 hours. Limited places. Bookings: 951926180.

Curtain Up Productions

San Pedro de Alcántara. 25 February, 7pm. *Salón Las Adelfas, Avda Carlos Caño.*
'84 Charing Cross Road' is the name of the play. Act one is performed before dinner and act two after. Glass of cava on arrival and wine at the table. Bookings: 952814145 or email:reservations@LaSalaBanus.com

Thespa

Los Boliches. 27 February, 7.30pm. *Masonic Hall, Edf Bougainvillea.* Members 16€, guest 18€.
The first one-act play will be 'The Last Word' by Rex Baker. This will be followed by dinner. The second play will be 'The Visitor' by Maureen Lee. Reservations: thespabooking@gmail.com or call: 652726623

Faulty Towers dining experience

Officially the world's longest running dining experience. www.torquaysuitetheatre.com
Gibraltar. 22 February, Sunborn, 35 Ocean Village Promenade.
Benalmádena. 23 February, Sun-set beach Club.
Gibraltar. 24 February, Sunborn, 35 Ocean Village Promenade.

Fuengirola. 27 February, Sea Breeze Bar and Restaurant, Puerto Deportivo.

Mijas Costa. 28 February, CLC Marina Dorada, Ctra de Cádiz.

Fuengirola. 1 March, Tamisa Hotel, Camnio Viejo de Coín.

Trip to Puente Genil

Fuengirola. 22 February Various departure points. 27€

Visit the historic centre, famous Roman Arch, Medinaceli, museums etc. Lux Mundi Fuengirola, C/Nueva 3. Tel: 952474840. www.lux-mundi.org/

Circo Mágico

Malaga. 1 March, 6.45pm; 2 March, 4.30 and 7.30pm; 3 March, 12 and 4.30pm. *Palacio de los Deportes Martín Carpena.*
Thirty artistes give life to a fantasy parallel universe with magic, thrills and humour. www.circomagico.es

Capoeira dance classes

Estepona. 2 March, midday until 2pm and 5 March 7-9pm. *Centro Cultural Padre Manuel.* 15€.
Rodrigo Oliveira Feitosa (instructor ABADÁ-Capoeira and president of the Asociación Cultural y Deportiva Artes de Brasil) will be teaching the Brazilian capoeira dance. Prior registration www.latermicamalaga.com.

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 www.cinealbeniz.com
Destroyer: 16.20, 18.10, 20.15 (everyday).

The Favourite: 20.40 (everyday).

How to Train your Dragon: The Hidden World: 16.50, 19.00 (Mon, Tues).

Can You Ever Forgive Me?:

16.20, 20.20, 22.45 (everyday).

Green Book: 18.15, 20.30 (everyday).

The Piano: 22.55 (everyday).

Cinesur El Ingenio

Avda. Juan Carlos 1, Vélez-Málaga. Tel. 667 77 31 87.

How to Train your Dragon: The Hidden World: 16.50, 19.00 (Mon, Tues).

On the Basis of Sex: 16.35, 19.05, 21.35 (Tues).

Cinesur Miramar

Avda. de la Encarnación, Fuengirola. Tel. 952 19 86 00.

How To Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World: 12.15 (every day); 17.00, 19.30 (Mon, Tues).

Alita: Battle Angel: 12.00, 16.45, 19.20.

Alita: Battle Angel 3D: 22.00, 0.30.

Mary Queen of Scots: 12.05, 16.20.

On The Basis of Sex: 12.10, 16.15, 18.45, 21.20, 0.10.

Van Gogh: 16.00 (Tues); 20.05 (Mon).

Cines Teatro Goya

For tickets and information call 951196665. www.cinesteatrogoya.com

Mary Queen of Scots: 15.40 (Sat-Wed); 15.45 (Thurs); 20.30 (every day).

Green Book: 15.30 (Thurs); 18.00, 20.05 (every day).

Destroyer: 15.40 (Sat-Thurs); 18.00, 22.30 (every day).

The Favourite: 11.45, 15.40 (Sun), 15.30 (Sat, Wed); 15.45 (Mon, Tues); 22.45 (every day).

How To Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World: 12.00 (Sun), 15.45 (every day except Fri); 18.00



Capoeira classes, Estepona

(every day); 20.20 (Mon, Tues); 20.30 (every day except Mon, Tues).

Alita: Battle Angel: 15.40 (Sat-Thurs), 18.00 (every day).

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

Centro de Ocio Plaza Mayor, Avda. Alfonso Ponce de León.

Tel: 902 902 103 or visit www.yelmocines.es

Alita: Battle Angel: 13.20 (Fri, Sat, Sun, Thurs), 16.15, 20.15 (everyday).

Bohemian Rhapsody: 19.40 (Tues).

How To Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World: 17.30 (Fri-Thurs) 12.30 (Sat, Sun, Thurs).

Creed II: The Legend of Rocky: 18.45 (Tues).

Happy Death Day 2: 22.25 (Tues).

Glass: 19.20 (Tues).

Green Book: 13.30 (Sat, Sun, Thurs), 19.10 (Tues).

Holmes and Watson: 12.15 (Sat, Sun, Thurs) 20.05 (Tues).

Second Act: 16.40 (Tues).

Mary Queen of Scots: 22.35 (Tues).

On the Basis of Sex: 16.10 (Fridays), 18.40 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Rincón de la Victoria

Calle Arroyo Totalán
Tel: 902 220 922 or visit www.yelmocines.es

Alita: Battle Angel: 18.45 (Tues).

How To Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World: 19.10 (Tues).

Glass: 21.15 (Tues).

Green Book: 19.45 (Tues).

The Favourite: 22.35 (Tues).

Mary Queen of Scots: 17.45 (Tues).

On the Basis of Sex: 19.40 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Vialia

Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902 220 922 or visit www.yelmocines.es

Alita: Battle Angel: 18.45 (Tues).

Bohemian Rhapsody: 20.00 (Fri), 21.45 (Tues).

How To Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World: 19.00 (Tues).

Destroyer: 18.50 (Tues).

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof: 20.00 (Thurs).

Green Book: 19.05 (Tues).

A Star is Born: 20.00 (Sun).

BlacKkKlansman: 20.00 (Sat).

The Favourite: 21.25 (Tues).

Mary Queen of Scots: 18.30 (Tues).

On the Basis of Sex: 19.35 (Tues).

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Philip Glass, Portrait in Two

Parts : 23 February, 8pm. Vasari Centre. A documentary by Scott Hicks. 12€. musicaconencanto.org

Welsh community hold double celebration for St David's Day

:: TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDEN. The Welsh Society of the Costa del Sol is holding a double celebration to honour its patron this year. As in previous years, the traditional St David's Day party will take place in CJ's Karaoke Bar in Benalmádena on Friday 1 March, while a special St David's Day concert will be held in the Moonlight Lounge Bar, also in Benalmádena, on Saturday 2 March. Proceeds from both events will be donated to charity.

This is the seventh year that CJ's has hosted the St David's Day party and, as has become traditional, the proceeding will begin with the singing of Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau, the national anthem of Wales. The event starts around 1pm and will include live entertainment and karaoke. The talented young performers of the Banana Studios have become a favourite attraction at this event and they will be presenting their latest production, while local entertainers such as Jack Daniels, Cath John and Siobhan will offer



Welsh community of Benalmádena at last year's party. :: SUR.

a variety of music from the 1950s to present day. There will also be special tribute acts honouring Elvis, Cliff Richard, The Carpenters and Take That.

Saturday's St David's Day concert will begin at 8pm and will include performances by the Costa Sol Singers and the Banana Studios Seniors, along with Martin Broad, Laura Elen and Karen Richy. Tickets for the concert are 12.50€ and include free Welsh

cakes during the interval.

The Welsh Society Costa del Sol began in 2011 and each year they use St David's Day to raise money for a chosen charity. They have so far raised over 10,000 euros for local NGOs and this year they have chosen to support the Mijas-based canine charity, FAMA; and the Last Chance Animal Rescue in Malaga.

For more information, contact the Welsh Society on 626292707.

From a protein source for the poor to a jewel for vegans

The chickpea is deeply rooted in Spanish traditional cookery and has been resurrected as a star vegetable for vegans with many new uses

:: ESPERANZA PELÁEZ

MÁLAGA. Times change and prestige often returns to foods that were relegated or spurned by new trends in the past.

In 1929, Julio Camba published 'La casa de Lúculo o el arte de comer'. It was a time of technological revolution, a time of avant-garde artists and authors. This new world had no room for old customs and that even extended to the Spanish diet, including chickpeas. "A fossil food", "a vegetable that has been in Spain since the Carthaginians tricked us into planting it." Camba's opinions show how regard for this food which was associated with poverty, was deteriorating, and how, in spite of being an important ingredient in many of the most traditional dishes in Spain's gastronomy, it became more and more relegated.

The development of intensive cattle farming methods made meat more accessible until it became part of the daily diet and vegetable protein was no longer needed.

However, nothing goes out-of-date as fast as the radically modern, and at a time when people are concerned about our natural resources and sustainability of foods, the chickpea has once again become a star product although not in the traditional way.

An example of this is hummus, a traditional Eastern dish which is a thick paste made chickpeas, sesame, garlic and lemon juice. Who would have thought it would be as easy to find on a supermarket shelf as Nutella?

The Vegan revolution

Well if you think you have seen it all just wait, the new vegan revolution is suggesting many new uses for this humble vegetable. A recipe for raw chickpeas, soaked, liquidised with water and then boiled to make the base of a vegan cheese (although it is probably more correct to call it tofu which is more familiar to most) is presently circulating social media sites on the internet.

Chickpea flour, besides being used to make bread, sponges, pancakes, bechamel sauces has been shown

to be the best substitute for eggs in the vegan version of the well-loved Spanish potato omelette.

One of the most surprising discoveries is using chickpea water (from tins or jars of chickpeas) to make vegan meringue.

After various experiments by vegan chefs, the young American computer engineer Goose Wohlt found that the cooking liquid from chickpeas which is full of starches (amylose and amylopectin) and proteins (albumins and globulins), has many similarities with egg white and the liquid in which chickpeas are packed in jars and tins, is the perfect consistency to whip. Voila!

On Goose's web page which he created in 2015 www.vegancookery.net are various recipes and uses for this chickpea liquid, including meringues, vegan mayonnaise, and light, airy waffles.

Of course industries have leapt enthusiastically onto the bandwagon and have developed other uses for the liquid, from margarine to creamy vegan ice-cream.

The oldest vegetable

The chickpea has been cultivated in the Mediterranean for more than 9,000 years and, along with lentils, is the oldest vegetable in the region. They also are an important basic food in India.

In a world worried about sustainability of resources, chickpeas have an advantage that they can be grown in arid zones, and they fix nitrogen in the soil where they grow. Above all they have a high nutritional value with 179 calories per 100 grammes. They provide carbohydrates, protein, fibre and a small percentage of fat.

Spain is a perfect place to grow chickpeas although nowadays, the majority of chickpeas in the shops are imported from Mexico and the US. For quality, variety and convenience, investing a little more money and it is possible to buy the famous chickpeas from Fuentesauco (Zamora), little ones from Pedrosillo (Salamanca) or the creamy ones from Escacena del Campo (Huelva).

In reality it is a vegetable that is well-rooted in Spanish culture with many different varieties and qualities across the whole of Spain. From the gastronomic point of view, although there seems to be new uses for chickpeas published daily, few developments compare with the quality of the traditional one-pot recipes of Spain.



New uses for an old favourite. :: DANIEL MALDONADO

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ANDREW J. LINN

CANNABIS WINE



There have always been people who make lots of money dealing in drugs, but only recently has it been possible to do it legally by investing in companies that manufacture consumer products from marijuana.

Ever since the cannabis plant was discovered to generate strange effects, it has been used for a variety of practices other than rolling joints. Infused with tea is a long-time favourite and is what many people would consider 'harmless', but the spotlight has been turned on potentially more profitable (for business) options, such as the latest craze to hit - cannabis wine.

There is currently a lot of noise around its promotion and consumption, but the drink is really nothing more than cannabis-infused grape juice. The reason for this is to sidestep the so-far undefined effect on the human body of a mix of stimulants and relaxants. In the States, particularly on the West Coast, bars serving marijuana cocktails are ten a penny, but the iron rule is drugs or alcohol - never a mix of both.

It will be difficult to see how the whole thing turns out as long as each US state is allowed to make its own laws, an issue that encourages illegal activity and mafia involvement. But it is precisely these federal-created statutes that have allowed New York,

for example, to permit the setting up of a huge 80-million-dollar project for making marijuana-derived products. Although the New York initiative will create hundreds of jobs, the state of Michigan takes a different view and has banned drinks that contain marijuana.

In states where cannabis consumption has become routine, studies indicate that people are drinking less wine. While this may concern winemakers, what has to be avoided is the flight of the USA's greatest wine-consumers - middle-aged women - to hash for their enjoyment. Some predictions indicate that reaching for a joint while watching TV might be less trouble than getting up to open a bottle of wine.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Robles Organic Fino

In what is known as the secondary sherry area, Montilla, wines are usually made from the Pedro Ximénez grape, although not all are sweet. This delightful dry fino comes from a bodega that went completely organic 20 years ago, and also offers an excellent selection of marmalades and vinegars. Around 8 euros.



An alternative packed lunch

Three Malaga friends are developing an app called Yami.es which will allow office workers to order freshly cooked meals

:: MARINA MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. It was when Ismael Cruces was visiting New York that the light bulb went on in his head. A company that was offering cheap packed lunches had given him an idea.

Later, when he returned to Malaga he realised that his idea was in fact a good one. In November, with the help of two close friends, Guillermo Morcillo and Cristóbal Froufe, and developed by the national business startup group Demium, Yami was born.

The objective was to replace office workers' packed lunches by way of an app (yamiapp.es) which allows clients to choose food from a selection of dishes offered by local restaurants; Yami arranges payment and collection of orders.

For just 5.25 euros, clients can choose from around fifty establishments. At the moment this system is only operating at lunchtimes although the group plans to extend the timetable.

For people who want to repeat the experience there are other options.

"It's like Netflix, but with food," explained Cruces, referring to the subscription which offers a discount. Subscribe for six meals and pay 4.95 euros per meal; subscribe for 12 and pay 4.75 euros.



Morcillo, Froufe and Cruce. :: SUR

However this is not a home delivery service, you have to go to the restaurant to pick the meal up. For that reason the restaurants have to be within a tight radius. At the moment the area is centred around Malaga's Soho and Perchel, which is where there is a large concentration of businesses, restaurants and offices.

However the friends intend to extend Yami outside of Malaga, to Madrid and Barcelona, depending on how the idea is received.

"When people think about it they usually like the idea because it means they can have access to freshly cooked food and don't have to rely on sandwiches or ready meals," says

Cruces.

"It is surprising how many people discover restaurants they didn't know existed," admits the 24-year-old digital marketing expert who has worked on various start-ups in Spain as well as other countries such as Holland, the US and Malaysia.

Guillermo Morcillo has founded different technology-based companies and Cristóbal Froufe is a web designer with ten years' experience. For the moment they are all concentrating their efforts on Yami Malaga and working on the app for mobile phones. They have only been in business three months and already things are taking off.

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Scabies, alive and itching

There are regular outbreaks in homes for the elderly, prisons and hospitals. Experts say the parasite “has never gone away” and the number of cases is far higher than estimated

ANTONIO CORBILLÓN

We tend to think of scabies as a disease of the past. We associate it with a lack of hygiene, and poverty - a time when people didn't wash themselves or their clothes very often. We think of children crowded into classrooms, sharing nits, bed bugs, fleas and this itchy parasite which cannot survive without us. And because we think all that, scabies has never disappeared and if things continue as they are, it is never likely to do so.

“Scabies has been around for thousands of years, and it is not associated with any country, race or climate,” said Beatriz Martínez, a GP and researcher at the National

Epidemiology Centre.

In fact, it appears to be more active than ever. There have been several outbreaks in recent weeks, especially in hospitals in Catalonia.

“This isn't something that surprises doctors. It's rare for a week to pass without a few cases being diagnosed,” said Dr Rosa Taberner, a member of the Dermatology and Venereology Academy and the author of the DermaPixel blog.

In Catalonia last year there were 117 outbreaks of scabies, affecting around 700 people. That figure is high compared with the period 2010 to 2017, when there were 115 outbreaks and nearly 1,000 people were affected. Some cases were especially striking, as they always seem to occur in the



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Scabies

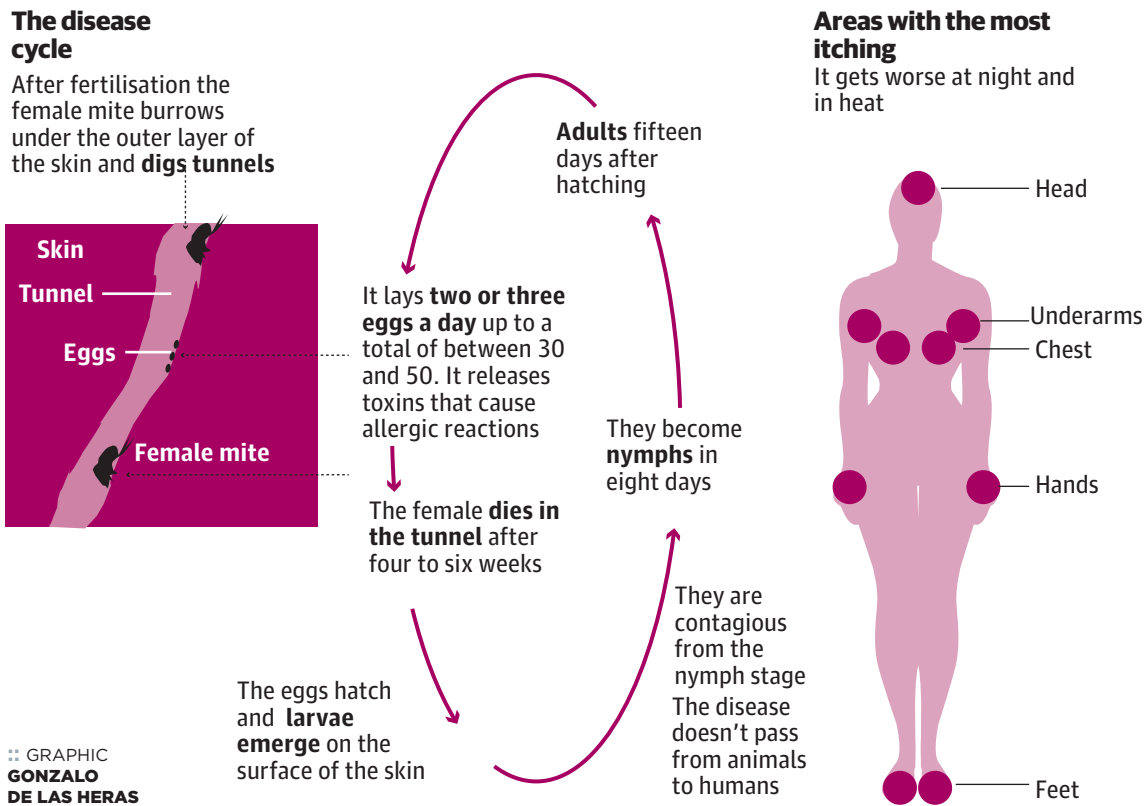
This contagious itchy skin disease is caused by the tiny mite *Sarcoptes scabiei*



A microscopic image of the mite

same places. In the Sant Joan de Reus hospital (Tarragona) 35 people, most of them medical staff, suffered an outbreak in mid-January. At exactly the same time of year in 2018, another 35 staff in the Emergency Department at the same hospital had a similar experience. The situation has created conflict because the health authorities refused to let the doctors take time off work, even though they had warned of the risk of spreading scabies to their patients. In Vigo, part of the Povisa hospital (which works with the Galician health service) had to be isolated last week because another scabies crisis was detected. In Madrid, there was an outbreak at a children's home in the Hortaleza district.

There have been several outbreaks in the Cordoba prison since Christmas, and the most recent one resulted in an entire wing of the prison being isolated. Unions have complained that scabies is the result of the prisoners' "chaotic and overcrowded" living conditions. In Murcia, the number of cases multiplied fivefold in 2018. In Extremadura, in March last year alone, there were 16 cases in homes for the elderly; in Andalucía, in 2017, there were outbreaks at the Virgen del Rocío hospital in Seville, Huelva university and some schools in the Valle del Lecrín, in Granada. In Toledo several children caught scabies at a primary school last May, and a secondary school in Alicante had to control a series of outbreaks last year. In homes for the elderly in Galicia, cases of scabies were reported in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. The list seems almost endless, and no region of Spain has been immune. However, the figures do not reflect the real incidence of the problem. "Scabies is not an illness which



GRAPHIC GONZALO DE LAS HERAS

Rosa Taberner Academy of Dermatology and Venereology

"It doesn't have to be notified by law, so nobody knows how many cases there are"

Beatriz Martínez National Epidemiology

"Scabies has been stigmatised, but it occurs in crowded conditions with shared areas"

has to be notified to the health authorities by law, and that means there is no way of knowing exactly how many cases there are," said Rosa Taberner, who also works in the Dermatology Department at the Son Llàtzer hospital in Palma de Mallorca.

Under-diagnosed

Health professionals talk about scabies being "under-diagnosed" in the sense that only the most striking cases reach public opinion. The condition "has been stigmatised", admits Beatriz Martínez. "It quite often occurs within families, especially at the two extremes of the population pyramid, children and elderly people," she said, "but when it doesn't occur within a family, it remains private between doctors and patients. It is only announced when public places are affected and measures have to be taken." In other words, we find out when scabies occurs in homes for the elderly (41 per cent of all cases), schools, hospitals and prisons, all places where it is easily spread because there are so many communal areas and shared sofas, chairs, blankets... "Crowded conditions and close coexistence are scabies' best allies," said the experts.

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THE EFFECTS



A rash on the skin

The scabies parasite needs human skin to survive. It burrows below, and the female lays eggs there. It causes a rash of spots with a centre point, and is treated with fast-acting creams.

We don't know how many people's skins are invaded by this unpleasant parasite in a country such as Spain, but the health authorities at the UN calculate that over 300 million people are affected by it globally every year. No matter where you look, this invisible nuisance is present. It doesn't know how to survive without being beneath our skin. "It wouldn't last a single day without us," said Taberner.

Scabies is an infestation of a mite from the Sarcoptidae family which, seen under a microscope, looks very nasty. These tiny mites are authentic 'cultivators' of our epidermis. They penetrate the skin and create a furrow where they copulate, and the male dies. The female frenetically burrows and lays eggs, normally two or three a day, for the rest of her life, which is normally no longer than a month.

One of the difficulties in combating scabies is that it is hard to diagnose. Sources at the Spanish Ministry of Health say the incubation period before the first symptoms (unbearable itching and stinging) appear, in people who have not previously been exposed to the illness, ranges from two to six weeks. However, those who have

been infected before will notice the effects after one day, or certainly no longer than four.

This unwelcome visitor to our body, with its ability to spread rapidly, is well-known to specialists. "It's rare for there to be any side effects to scabies," said Beatriz Martínez. "There are a very few cases of over-infection through lack of treatment and interaction with certain bacteria, but it is rare for the patient to be hospitalised."

Scabies is treated with anti-parasite creams and compounds such

AN UNWELCOME VISITOR

Under the skin

The scabies parasite (from the Sarcoptidae family) burrows under the skin, where it becomes stronger and reproduces. Early diagnosis is the best way to stop it spreading, but at times it can take weeks or even months to detect.

41%

of cases detected in Spain occur in homes for the elderly. It is more difficult for elderly people to feel and detect the mite. Scabies spreads rapidly through proximity or shared spaces and objects, so once it occurs a large number of people can be affected. The movement of people within hospitals, where some patients have low defences or immune systems, makes them potential hotspots for scabies to thrive.

Symptoms

The scabies parasite needs the human body because we are part of its life cycle. The first symptom is often a skin eruption. It sometimes looks like a groove with a grey point in the middle. They occur on the head, neck, elbows, armpits, hands, between the fingers,

groin, genitals, buttocks and feet. They cause extreme itchiness which gets worse at night, when the female comes out from below the skin and releases toxins which cause an intense itching all over the body. Despite what some people think, scabies cannot be caught from animals, because the varieties which affect them are different.

60°C

is the temperature at which the clothing of an affected person should be washed. Body hygiene and topical treatments (especially applied to the skin) are usually very effective at getting rid of the parasite.

Treatment

Scabies is very easy to cure: a cream containing five per cent of a compound called permethrin is applied for just one night. The next day, the affected area is washed, and a week later the cream is applied again as a preventive measure (to stop the mite's reproductive cycle). In 99 per cent of cases, the mite dies the day after starting the treatment.

as permethrin, which are immediately effective. To ensure that it is eliminated, a second dose is recommended a week later, to reduce any risk of the larva eclosion cycle being repeated.

False ideas

The alarm caused by news of outbreaks in public places has produced erroneous ideas such as those which associated the scabies crisis with the arrival of illegal immigrants or the Mediterranean climate.

The Spanish Ministry of Health doesn't produce statistics about the cases treated, but after consulting official medical literature Dr Beatriz Martínez said that "90 per cent of cases are generated within the native population".

Also all western countries, rich or poorer, from Sweden to Greece, have outbreaks of scabies. The only variant, say researchers, is Norwegian scabies, a parasite which is "very contagious and normally found in hospitals in people whose immune system is depressed".

Another error is to associate scabies with animals, because this is a specifically human mite. Animals develop their own, also uncomfortable, versions of these unwelcome visitors in their bodies.

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An eye opener in Ghana

Jane Machin talks to SUR in English about her return to Africa to help train a new generation of eye doctors

by ASH BOLTON

ESTEPONA. "I think we've made a difference."

Those are the words of optometrist Jane Machin who returned from a teaching project in Ghana last week.

The 61-year-old Brit spent two weeks at KNUST University teaching optometry skills to 5th year students who will soon be starting their careers in the West African country.

The Estepona-based eye specialist was one of six British experts who visited the university to help pass on their knowledge to students.

Organised by the UK charity Vision Aid Overseas, the charitable trip also saw Jane and her colleagues treat local people with a host of eye related problems, including cataracts, eye traumas and long and short sightedness.

In total, the team screened 606 children, 42 local villagers and 21 teachers at a deaf and blind school in the Ashanti region of central Ghana over three days.

Jane, 61, who works at Optica Machin in Estepona and has lived in Spain since 1987, told SUR in English: "I haven't actually done any teaching before. So that was a challenge."

"We were teaching clinical skills to the university students. This included examining the eye, how you deal with the patient and how to get an objective assessment of what's wrong with the eye."

"The students don't have a lot of equipment, so we brought our own with us, which allowed them to brush up their skills. The students



Jane Machin at the deaf and blind school in Ghana. :: SUR

were very well educated and understood their topics, but they hadn't had practical experience and that was why we were there."

"We let them examine us and we examined them. It was an experience for them as they had never seen European eyes before, which are a bit different. They hadn't seen blue or pale eyes."

For Jane, this is the fifth trip to Africa she has done with the charity, having already flown out to Uganda, Ethiopia and Sierra Leone twice.

She noted Ghana was more of an advanced country than Sierra Leone or Ethiopia and recommended a visit.

While there the team spent three days at the Ashanti School for the Deaf, which is a boarding school for hundreds of deaf and blind children.

She said: "It was quite challenging working with children who are completely deaf. We took some students from the Disability Department at the University, who are studying sign language and Braille. So they got practical experience in interpreting."

"We screened over 600 children. So basically we saw how many of them had good vision and checked their eyes. The ones who had issues we investigated further to see if they needed glasses. There were quite a few who were very short or long sighted, and of course, if they can't

see, they can't actually communicate, as they can't see sign language or the board at school."

"The students appreciated us being there. One of the things we have done at the school is we have taught the teachers how to screen the children's eyes, so that the teachers can screen the children when they come in. So when we come and do outreach again we don't have to screen 600 children, we can just see the children that have issues, so it makes it a lot more efficient."

Jane added that the trip has been an eye opener for her in terms of the colonial past of the country, which got its independence from the UK in 1957.

She added: "If you make things better for people in their own country and give them some sustainable system of working, I think you would solve the migrant issue. They don't really want to leave their countries and cross the Sahara and the Mediterranean to look for work."

"They have got beautiful countries to live in and resources; they just don't have the ability to use them. And the reason for that is because it's an ex-colony. We've taken everything, and now it's time to give something back - that's how I feel anyway. These students are very well educated and they are going to build their country up and make it wonderful to live in and they won't need to risk their lives travelling across the Med. This is what we should be doing in all these countries."

Vision Aid Overseas was founded in 1985 after a group of British eye specialists spent two weeks trying to establish eye clinics in Tanzania.

They tested the eyes of local people and dispensed second-hand spectacles collected in the UK. The charity now operates clinics in more than 23 countries and has helped hundreds of thousands of people in developing countries to see.



A deaf and partially blind pupil in his new glasses. :: SUR

More information:
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The health benefits of sex

Men who have intercourse twice a week are less at risk of a heart attack, say experts



ÁNGEL
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A healthy sexuality reduces stress, improves blood pressure, the immune system and the skin and strengthens the pelvic floor, say medical specialists

MALAGA. Sex isn't just pleasurable, it is also good for health. For example, men who have intercourse twice a week are half as likely to suffer a heart attack than those who do so once a month. This information, which is part of a study published in The American Journal of Cardiology, was explained recently by the head of cardiology at the Quirónsalud Málaga hospital, Antonio Esteban, during a conference to mark European Sexual Health Day on 14 February.

Dr Esteban said that sexual activity in healthy people is advantageous in combating cardiovascular illnesses.

"This type of exercise reduces stress and improves blood pressure, and those are two of the main risk factors for cardiovascular prob-



Enjoyable sexual relations are good for physical and mental health . :: J. V. ARNELAS/FILE

lems," he said.

Having sex also improves the immune system and the skin, as well as strengthening the pelvic floor. From a psychological point of view, satisfactory sexual relations favour wellbeing and facilitate creative thought.

"The release of hormones such

The WHO issued a reminder about the need for safe sex on European Sexual Health Day last week

as endorphins, oxytocin, serotonin and prolactin acts directly on the cerebral compensatory circuits and generates tranquility, euphoria and even analgesia," commented Antonio de Dios, who is the head of psychology at Quirónsalud Marbella.

Sexual contact also has a positive effect on the skin because of

increased hydration to the immune system, which prevents certain illnesses through the increased production of white blood cells. Sex is also good for strengthening the pelvic floor, said the head of gynaecology and obstetrics at Quirónsalud Málaga, Andrés Carlos López Díaz. Intercourse works the muscles which support the uterus, bladder and intestine.

"A strong pelvic floor provides us with pleasure, safety and quality of life, whereas if it becomes weak problems can arise with urinary and bowel incontinence, wind, sagging of the pelvic organs and difficulty in having sexual relations," stressed Dr López Díaz.

Sex has many benefits for health, but it must be practised safely in order to avoid the spread of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) such as syphilis, chlamydia, genital herpes and human papilloma virus (HPV). Using a condom prevents contagion of sexual infections.

It has been shown that venereal diseases are continually increasing in Spain, especially among younger people. Untreated sexually transmitted infections have very negative repercussions on the general health of those affected and can even result in death, above all through cancer of the neck of the womb, anus, vulva and vagina in women, while in men the risk of death is associated with anal, genital, penile and oropharyngeal tumours.



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A life on the wall

A psychology student at Malaga university uses 'walls' of photographs as a therapeutic tool

The project has been selected by the Fundación Mutua Madrileña for its volunteering awards

by FRANCISCO GUTIÉRREZ

MÁLAGA. When elderly people's memories start to fail, or illness prevents them knowing who they are, reminders can help them to stay in contact with life, forming a sort of umbilical cord to events

which have marked them as people over time: their early childhood, first love, marriage, children, happy days in the countryside, holidays, grandchildren...

Murales de Vida, meaning Walls of Life, is a project taking place at the San Juan de Dios mental health centre, which Dolores Podadera, a psychologist in the psychogeriatric department, has been developing since 2007.

Lorena Sánchez, who is studying for a masters degree in general psychology at Malaga university has also joined the initiative as a volunteer. She submitted this project for the Fundación Mutua Madrileña university volunteer prizes and it has been one of those selected, from 81 candidates from all over Spain.

Lorena finished her psychology degree in 2017. While studying, she did work experience at the San Juan de Dios centre for a year and then stayed on afterwards as a volunteer. With the prize money, the centre will be able to improve the existing "walls of life" and extend them to other departments, because at present they are only in one.

Lorena says that when she first came to the centre she had "reservations, because I didn't know what I was going to find". After finishing her work experience, however, she found she didn't want to give it up.

"It's very enriching, on a personal and professional level. You realise that these are people who

have had a life, who have a whole history behind them, filled with memories. You give, when you come here as a volunteer, but you receive twice as much back," she says. Lorena has even used this project in a classroom activity with her fellow students, all imagining what their own wall of life would look like.

Lorena, who considers herself "quite creative", helps the patients to make their walls. They each choose a theme, such as the sea, the universe, woodland etc., which she draws and helps them to colour, and which will be the background to the mural. Then, together, they choose the photos and the captions which will accompany them. When they are finished, they

serve as a talking point, says Dolores Podadera.

"They show them to their companions, comment on the photos and remember those happy moments," she explains. Those who don't have a wall of their own yet, "ask when we're going to do theirs". In an institution where many areas and spaces are communal and many rooms are shared, these murals "give them a sense of security and a certain privacy", says Dolores.

Volunteers

Lorena is one of ten volunteers in the Psychogeriatrics unit at San Juan de Dios. About 350 people attend the centre, of whom around 100 are resident. There are four departments: psychogeriatrics, mental health, intellectual disability and palliative care, and around 60 volunteers in total.

When she is there, Lorena usually spends some of the time talking with one of the patients in particular. On her table is a rosary and an image of the Virgin Mary. On the wall there is a mural with the name of the patient, a lady who, from her wheelchair, comments on the photos Lorena shows her.

They start their daily routine when this lady comes back from breakfast and while the auxiliaries finish cleaning the rooms.

"Who is this, in this photo? And where were you in this one?" Lorena asks. And the lady replies: "That was my wedding day. And look, those are my grandchildren, we were at a christening". And as she relives those moments, she gives a big, happy smile.



Juan José Guzmán, a nursing auxiliary, with a resident.
by GERMÁN POZO



Lorena Sánchez with a patient in the San Juan de Dios mental health centre. by GERMÁN POZO

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Sheikh Al-Thani denies all knowledge of pact as BlueBay case resumes

The Malaga CF president repeatedly denied any knowledge of a deal with the hotel group as the trial resumed on Thursday

✪ ANTONIO GÓNGORA

MALAGA. The long-delayed 'BlueBay case' resumed on at the Ciudad de Justicia in Malaga on Thursday with Malaga CF president Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani facing questions from lawyers representing BlueBay.

The hotel group is demanding that the conditions of a contract, which they say was signed with the sheikh and his associates in 2013, be honoured. They are calling for 49 per cent of shares in the club as well as control of its running.

However, when questioned on Thursday, the sheikh repeatedly denied any knowledge of any deal at the time: "I don't know anything about this. They never told me anything," he said repeatedly with the help of a translator.

Financial difficulties

With BlueBay's lawyers aiming to highlight Malaga CF's financial difficulties at the time, Al-Thani insisted that he knew nothing about this, nor the arrival of Gonzalo Hervás and his team to run the club. Al-Thani also denied knowledge of the existence of NAS Spain, the company which controlled the club's shares for a period of time.

When presented with documents which purportedly showed a written agreement, Al-Thani said: "I have never seen these documents and I never signed them."

He went on to say that at the time of the deal, in 2012, that he never authorised any such deal and that Moayad Shatat, club director at the time, only had administrative powers.

Several delays

The trial was postponed two years ago when Al-Thani's lawyers lodged a criminal complaint for falsehood and misappropriation against former



Sheikh Al-Thani, centre, with his lawyers at the trial on Thursday. ✪ SALVADOR SALAS

Malaga CF directors Abdullah Ghubn and Moayad Shatat, and the head of BlueBay, Jamal Satli Iglesias, a day

prior to the preliminary hearing.

With these complaints officially shelved, the trial was set to resume

in December but on that occasion, however, it couldn't go ahead for procedural reasons with Ghubn not

in attendance. Sources say that he never received notice that he needed to attend.

Malaga could take a dip into the transfer market for Mamadou Koné replacement

✪ ANTONIO GÓNGORA

MALAGA. Malaga are looking at all of the options available to them after receiving the news that on-loan striker Mamadou Koné will miss the rest of the season after undergoing surgery to repair damage to a torn quadriceps muscle in his left leg last week.

La Liga rules say that players can be signed outside the transfer window (from other Spanish clubs only) to replace players who have been ruled out through injury for five

months or longer.

However, at this moment in time, with the surgery having only just taken place, the club must wait for the official medical verdict on how long the lay-off is expected to be before making a petition to the league authorities.

"The situation is complicated," said head coach Juan Ramón Muñoz at a press conference this week. "He could be out for four or five months but we cannot say for sure at this time."



Koné picked up the injury against Nàstic in November. ✪ NITO SALAS



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Adrián celebrates his 78th-minute strike - his fourth goal in his last six games. :: AGENCIA LOF

LA LIGA 123

Results	Next match day
Reus - Almería 0-1	Tenerife - Mallorca
Córdoba - Granada 1-2	Albacete - Oviedo
Deportivo - Gimnástico 1-1	Gimnástico - Cádiz
Zaragoza - Albacete 0-0	Alcorcón - Las Palmas
Elche - Extremadura 2-0	Osasuna - Zaragoza
Oviedo - Alcorcón 1-0	Sporting - Majadahonda
Cádiz - Tenerife 2-0	Almería - Córdoba
Mallorca - Lugo 3-0	Granada - Reus
Numancia - Osasuna 1-1	MALAGA - Deportivo
Majadahonda-MALAGA 0-1	Lugo - Elche
Las Palmas - Sporting 1-0	Extremadura - Numancia

Table	TEAM	PT	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
★	1.Albacete	49	26	13	10	3	36	21
★	2. MALAGA	48	26	14	6	6	28	18
■	3.Osasuna	48	26	14	6	6	34	25
■	4.Deportivo	47	26	12	11	3	37	19
■	5.Granada	47	26	13	8	5	32	18
■	6.Oviedo	42	26	12	6	8	31	30
	7.Cádiz	41	26	11	8	7	34	21
	8.Mallorca	40	26	11	7	8	32	24
	9.Alcorcón	38	26	11	5	10	25	23
	10. Almería	37	26	9	10	7	28	23
	11. Las Palmas	37	26	8	13	5	31	27
	12. Sporting	33	26	8	9	9	26	23
	13. Numancia	31	26	7	10	9	31	32
	14. Zaragoza	31	26	7	10	9	29	32
	15. Elche	31	26	7	10	9	26	31
	16. Tenerife	27	26	5	12	9	20	29
	17. R. Majadahonda	27	26	7	6	13	22	33
	18. Lugo	26	26	6	8	12	24	33
▼	19. Extremadura	23	26	5	8	13	29	38
▼	20. Córdoba	21	26	4	9	13	31	47
▼	21. Gimnástico	21	26	5	6	15	15	38
▼	22. Reus	0	26	5	6	15	16	32

Adrián gets Malaga back on right track

After two home draws, the Blue and Whites claimed all three points in Majadahonda

MALAGA. Smiles returned to Malaga fans' faces on Sunday night after the side overcame a tough test and came away with all three points in front of just 3,137 spectators at the partially-closed Cerro del Espino in Madrid.

Rayo Majadahonda, with the recently-arrived Héctor Hernández in their ranks who was discarded by Malaga in January, have started



DARYL FINCH

✉ dfinch@diariosur.es

to find their feet in Segunda after a spending spree last month and a return to their spiritual home.

This showed early on as the hosts controlled the possession (they finished the game with 64 per cent) and carved out the early chances.

As fate would have it, it was Héctor who had the best early openings for the hosts. First, he made the most of Diego González's reluctance to hold the line but the angle worked against him and Munir got down well to make the block on the stretch. Then, he beat

Erik Morán to the ball to acrobatically meet Verza's freekick from the right but again Munir was alert and held on, on this occasion.

At the other end, Yevhen Seleznov, making his first start in place of the suspended Gustavo Blanco Leschuk, thought he had given his side the lead when he headed home Dani Pacheco's freekick, but the referee had already blown up for some off-the-ball tugging by Pau Torres.

Change of shape
With the run of play against his side, Malaga coach Juan Ramón Muñiz decided to revert to 4-4-2 early in the second half with the introductions of Jack Harper and Renato Santos.

It was the latter who forced the opening goal of the game; his cross from the right was cleared to the edge of the area where Adrián was

0-1 RAYO MAJADAHONDA-MALAGA

Rayo: Basilio; Luso, Verdés, Rafa (Morillas, 20'); Isaac, Óscar Valentín, Manu del Moral (Romero, 40'), Verza, Benito (Varela, 75'); Héctor, Ruibal. Unused substitutes: Cantero, Andújar, Enzo, Romero.

Malaga: Munir; Iván, Diego González, Pau Torres, Ricca; Iván Alejo (Luis Hernández, 90'), Adrián, Erik Morán (Harper, 57'), N'Diaye, Dani Pacheco; Seleznov (Renato Santos, 72'). Unused substitutes: Kieszek, Cifu, Lombán, Mula.

Goals: Adrián (78').

Referee: Javier Iglesias Villanueva. Yellow cards for Verdés, Erik Morán and Luis Hernández.

Ground: Estadio Cerro del Espino. (3,137 spectators)

on hand to volley home - with the help of two deflections.

With stoppage time approaching, Harper ought to have doubled his side's lead when he received the ball just ten yards out but the forward rushed his shot and hit it straight at the goalkeeper.

That goal would have calmed the nerves which had been starting to build, cueing the introduction of Luis Hernández, making his return from injury to form a back five. But instead of helping to see out the game, this new shape invited more pressure and almost resulted in an equaliser.

When Isaac Carcelén was pol-laxed by keeper Munir in the area and the ball fell for Héctor to smash into the roof of the net, Malaga's travelling fans thought that their side had thrown away yet another two points in the closing phases. However, much to the

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Up next

DEPORTIVO (H)

La Rosaleda this Sunday plays host to what could be a defining showdown in the chase for promotion this year as arguably the league's two biggest teams, Malaga and Deportivo La Coruña, face off (kick off 6pm).

The teams, separated by just a single point, were both relegated from La Liga last season (alongside Las Palmas) and are hoping for a return at the first time of asking.

With just two points between Granada in fifth and Albacete at the top, a win in this fixture could be crucial in the chase for automatic promotion and avoiding a late-finishing season by having to contest the play-offs.

One-time La Liga champions (2000) Dépor come into the game unbeaten in their last five, though two of those were draws, including on Saturday when they threw away two points in the closing stages against Gimnàstic at the Riazor (1-1).

surprise of the Rayo players, the linesman judged, correctly, that Carcelén had beyond the last man from Héctor's flicked header.

A level playing field

"It wasn't easy out there," said Muñiz after the game. "We're seeing time and time again how level the playing field is in this division. But today we weren't helped by the state of the pitch. It made things difficult... that's why I value this win so much."

For his part, Majadahonda coach Antonio Iriando said: "I don't think the result reflected what happened on the field. Fortune was on one team's side and all we can do is congratulate them."

After three draws, two of which were back-to-back at home, the win pushes Malaga into second, a point behind leaders Albacete.

Joint top scorer Adrián signs contract extension with Malaga until 2021

:: PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

MALAGA. Malaga midfielder Adrián González on Tuesday signed a new contract with the club which will keep him on the Costa del Sol until June 2021.

The 30-year-old is the club's joint top goalscorer this season with six goals, level with striker Gustavo Blanco Leschuk, and has featured in 24 of the 26 matches played so far.

His versatility and energy have been valued by every coach since his arrival from Eibar in the summer of 2017 and under Juan Ramón Muñiz, he has been an automatic starter, whether as a holding midfielder, a second striker or, more recently, a left winger.



:: GERMÁN POZO

IN BRIEF

Malagueño lose ground in fight for survival

MALAGA

:: P. L. ALONSO. Atlético Malagueño suffered a near fatal blow to their chances of survival on Sunday as they lost 2-0 to Don Benito - a direct rival in the Segunda B IV league battle at the bottom.

Goals from Sillero and David Ordóñez sealed what was Malaga reserves' third home defeat in a row, leaving them with very few options to escape trouble.

They currently sit bottom of the table, 10 points from safety with just 13 games remaining of the league campaign.



Samu Delgado applies pressure on the defender. :: OPTA

Chances few and far between for Marbella in 'bore draw'

A draw was the right result as neither side did enough to claim all three points in Badajoz on Sunday

:: OPTA

VILLANUEVA DE LA SERENA (BADAJOZ). Villanovense and Marbella played out a goalless draw on Sunday in a match that will not last long in the memory of the 1,600 people inside the Estadio Municipal Villanovense.

Besides the lack of goals, the quality of the football was low, there were few attempts on goal, and even when the hosts stepped on the gas in the closing stages, the Marbella defence stood firm.

The hosts carved out the first chance of the game when Xavi

0-0
**VILLANOSENSE-
MARBELLA**

Villanovense: Isma Gil, Sergio Domínguez, Álex Romero, Javi Sánchez, Espín, Pajuelo, José Ramón, Xavi Puerto, Borja García (Poley, 61'), Braim (Mussa, 78'), Carrasco (Rallo, 65').

Marbella: Wilfred, Rafa Muñoz (Isma, 16'), Lolo Pavón, Dani, Marcos, Juergen, Álex Bernal (Añón, 71'), Faurin, Samu Delgado (Montero, 85'), Paulo Vitor, Juanma.

Referee: Ortiz Arias. Yellow cards for Álex Romero, Javi Sánchez, Samu Delgado and Álex Bernal.

Ground: Municipal Villanovense. Around 1,600 spectators.

Puerto met the ball at the back post but couldn't get his effort on target.

Just before half time, at the other end, Juanma was left appealing for a pull as he failed to get on the end of a cross from the left.

The dynamic of the game slowly started to change after the break as both coaches started to tweak their lineups.

The result was more shots but very few were in danger of troubling either goalkeeper until the final 15 minutes when both sides took a more direct route to goal.

The best chance fell to Xavi Puerto after Marbella keeper Wilfred had to intervene to cut out José Ramón's cross, but the forward couldn't apply the finishing touch.

This brought an end to a game that neither side deserved to win.

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Óscar Husillos and Lucas Búa are on their way to Glasgow. :: ANTONIO J. GUERRERO



María Vicente, 18, broke three records overall. :: A. J. GUERRERO



Olympic jumper Eusebio Cáceres. :: A. J. G.



Laura Bueno with her nephew. :: A. J. G.

Antequera hosts most successful indoor championships of the last decade

MARINA RIVAS

✉ Twitter: @MarinaRivasG

The Spanish contingent for the European Championships in Glasgow is now close to completion after eight athletes sealed their participation

ANTEQUERA. In statistical terms, the success of the Spanish Indoor Championships held in Antequera over the course of the weekend, was one of the most successful in the past decade. With seven new Spanish records being set, the qualifying standard for the Glasgow European Championships being met six times and eight athletes overall sealing their qualification, the town's athletics complex was filled with positivity.

The first joy came early on the Saturday morning when Olympian Eusebio Cáceres reached the standard for Glasgow with a 7.99 in the long

jump. He was quickly followed by Maialen Axpe in pole vault with a 4.50 (the second highest in Spain); Carlos Tobalina 20.39 in shot put (also contested by Borja Vivas from Malaga as he made his return from injury); and Cristina Espejo, who became Spanish champion for the first time in the 3,000 metres with a time of 9:02.45.

It was a day in which the biggest names all lived up to expectations. Olympic silver medallist Orlando Ortega came away with the title in the 60-metre hurdles. The following day, national record-holding sprinter Óscar Husillos also came away with gold as expected.

A podium finish at just 15

Two young athletes grabbed the biggest headlines over the weekend. Catalan María Vicente came into the championships as an overwhelming favourite but no one expected her to break three national records: under-20 60-metre hurdles (8.35), the best long jump score ever in pentathlon (6.36) and the overall Spanish record for pentathlon (4,412 points), breaking the record set by Bárbara Hernando in 2011.

Salma Paralluelo went one better. The world under-17 football champion, aged just 15, beat the under-16 and under-18 national records

with 54.10 in the 400 metres on Saturday. The following day, she bettered her own score and won bronze in the final (53.83), setting a new under-18 and under-20 record.

This time ensured she reached the qualifying standard for the under-23 category and picked up a medal which had not gone to an athlete so young in 46 years. On that occasion, it was Olympian Isabel Mozún, who won the high jump in 1973, aged 13 and 10 months.

Another ticket to Glasgow went to Úrsula Ruiz, with a score of 17.14 in weightlifting, the fifth full qualifying standard and sixth in total.

IN NUMBERS

► **Spanish champions:** Sergio López and Jaël Bestué (60m), Orlando Ortega and Cari Jerez (60m hurdles), Daniel Rodríguez and Patricia Urquía (200m), Óscar Husillos and Laura Bueno (400m), Mariano García and Zoya Naumov (800m), Jesús Gómez and Esther Guerrero (1,500m), Artur Bossy and Cristina Espejo (3,000m), Carlos Tobalina and Úrsula Ruiz (weightlifting), Marc Sánchez and Cristina Ferrando (high jump), Euse-

bio Cáceres and Leticia Gil (long jump), Pablo Torrijos and Patricia Sarapio (triple jump), Maialen Axpe and Adrián Vallés (pole vault), and María Vicente and Jonay Jordán (combined).

Surprise packages

There was also room for surprises on

the final day. Among others, Andalusian Daniel Rodríguez became champion of Spain in the 200 metres with a time of 21.08.

In the 60-metre sprint, Sergio López came out on top after beating the record-holder Yunier Pérez, who started the final as favourite after three-time Spain champion Arian Olmos Téllez was disqualified for a false start.

A new 800-metre champion was also crowned in Antequera. Just a week after receiving the Spanish under-23 title, Mariano García, one of athletics' biggest promises, entered onto the biggest stage in style by winning in the 800 metres.

Similarly, Jesús Gómez surprised everyone by winning the 1,500 metres, having seen off Saúl Ordoñez, ranked third in the world.

The next generation

With records broken, big results secured and the Spanish contingent for the European Championships almost set in stone, these championships in Antequera put the potential of Spain's young athletes into sharp focus.

Up against some of the most experienced professionals in the field of athletics, the next generation gave plenty for the 4,000-strong crowds to get excited about.

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Jiménez kisses the Chubb Classic trophy on Sunday. :: AFP

Jiménez picks up his first title of the season in Florida

"I'm working hard, practising and going to the gym... as well as smoking and drinking," he said after winning the Chubb Classic

:: EMILIO MORALES

MALAGA. Charismatic Malaga golfer Miguel Ángel Jiménez extended his run on the Champions Tour by winning for a sixth successive year, claiming the Chubb Classic trophy on Sunday.

Jiménez finished top of the pile on The Classic course at Lely Resort in Naples (Florida), 13 under par with scores of 68, 66 and 66 across the three rounds.

The golfer from Churriana climbed fourteen positions in a memorable final round to share top spot with old foe Bernhard Langer and Olin Browne, forcing a play-off. Jiménez showed precision on the

final hole, finishing in four, while Langer and Browne did it in five.

His friend José María Olazábal, who also took part in the tournament, was the second-best Spanish player, finishing in 25th place on seven under.

"I'm working hard, training and going to the gym... as well as smoking and drinking," explained Jiménez when asked what was his recipe for success at the age of 55. "That

is what I love to do. I love playing golf; competing is my life. I will go to any tournament and try to win. This is what we work for."

This was just Jiménez's third tournament of the season and the golfer admits that an early win "gives energy and confidence".

Victory was his seventh on the PGA Tour and is in addition to his two major wins last year in the Regions Tradition and the Seniors Open.

Muñoz's strong start continues with sixth place in Australia

:: ENRIQUE MIRANDA

MALAGA. Azahara Muñoz's start to the season continued on a positive note with her second top-ten finish in as many tournaments.

On Sunday, the golfer from San

Pedro Alcántara finished in sixth place in the Women's Australian Open - the highest-placed European.

"I always said that Australia was my favourite country," Muñoz said on her Instagram page.

IN BRIEF

Silver for Damián Quintero in Dubai

MALAGA

:: E. M. Karateka Damián Quintero once again fell at the final hurdle as he claimed silver at the karate Premier League held in Dubai over the weekend.

Quintero met old foe Ryo Kiyuna in the final, to whom he lost in the World Championships in Madrid, and once again was unable to meet the standard set by the reigning world champion.

However, the Torremolinos-born martial artist was positive having claimed his second medal of the year



With his medal. :: TWITTER

as Tokyo 2020 approaches: "Two out of two... I'm very happy with my performance in the final and in the competition in general," he wrote on Twitter. "But there's always room for improvement."

Beach rugby to come to Manilva this June

MANILVA

:: C. MÁRQUEZ. The beaches at Sabinillas in Manilva are to play host to a series of rugby games on Saturday 22 June.

The Spanish Beach Rugby 5s tour will make a stop in Manilva before heading on to Barcelona.

This mode of the sport is recognised by the International Rugby Federation and Rugby Europe and is considered a faster form of the game.

Currently, beach rugby is under consideration as a new exhibition sport for the 2024 Summer Olympic Games in Paris.

Just 600 places left for this year's Malaga Half Marathon

The event, which will take place on Sunday 24 March, is expected to bring together around 7,500 participants

:: E. MORALES

MALAGA. Demand for subscriptions for the Malaga Half Marathon, officially called the Media Maratón Teatro Soho CaixaBank Ciudad de Málaga, is higher than ever this year after a change in route was announced by organisers.

Instead of leaving from the athletics stadium, the race will start and end in the city

centre, in the Parque de Málaga, and take in a flatter route than in previous editions.

Organisers announced this week that just 600 places were left for this year's edition on Sunday 24 March.

Places have been filling up faster than usual and it is expected that the remainder will be taken up in the final days before the event.

A total of 7,500 people are expected to take part in the 21-kilometre race, this year in its 29th edition, around the city centre

Those who want to take part can sign up through the official website (www.mediamaratónmalaga.com).



Runners taking part in last year's edition. :: FRAN ACEVEDO



:: EFE

WELLENS FLIES OUT THE TRAPS

The Vuelta a Andalucía cycling tour, known as the Ruta del Sol, got under way in the Cadiz municipality of Sanlúcar de Barrameda on Wednesday. The first stage, which ended in Alcalá de los Gazules, was won by reigning champion, Belgian Tim Wellens (pictured), who remains in the lead despite Matteo Trentin claiming victory on day two (Seville-Torredonjimeno). The competition concludes this Sunday with the fifth stage from Otura (Granada) expected to arrive in Alhaurín de la Torre just before 4pm.

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THE STARS



Aquarius
January 21 - February 19
Know that what you don't succeed in now will come around again. What is important is that, next time, you are ready for it.



Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Keep your feet on the ground when it comes to the cash in your pocket. You will want to hold onto as much as possible.



Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Something or someone that grabbed your attention earlier is once again in your mind. This time you need to be more determined to make the most of what could be an exciting situation..



Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Never forget the value of someone with more experience. Those willing to listen have a smoother ride in life. Now you have insight.



Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Until you are more sure of what you want, drag your feet as much as you need to. As the week progresses you begin to see things more clearly.



Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Feeling a bit defensive? Nobody likes to be told what to do or think. However, those who have an opinion on your current path seem to have your best interests at heart.



Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Do you really have so many choices that it is impossible to make just one? As you scan the surroundings for a possible answer, look a bit closer to home.



Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Sometimes it is possible to just drift. It may cause less stress at first but it can be frustrating when it goes nowhere. Think hard and ask yourself if you will still be happy with it in five years' time.



Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Working together with someone else can be twice as effective but choose your moment carefully. Success on a domestic matter comes down to being a little bit more flexible.



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Getting behind a domestic issue and trying to move forward is hard. Is someone trying to hide something? Give them the benefit of the doubt and listen to what they say.

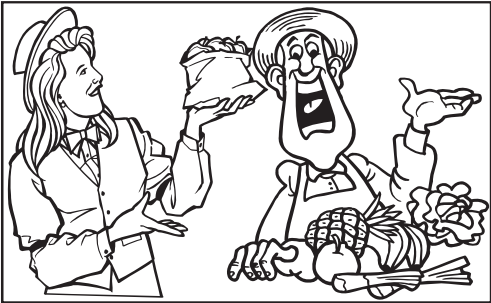


Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Where the feelings of others are concerned a lot of damage can be done to relationships. Does someone think you cannot be bothered with them? Take no-one and nothing for granted.

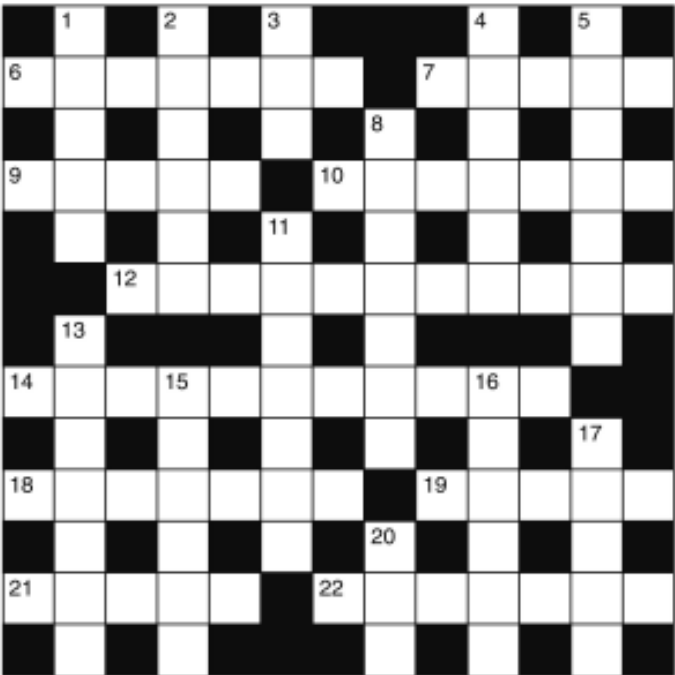


Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
Showing and telling others how you feel about them should not be avoided this week. Your will be surprised how much this can push your life forward.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 113345



Across

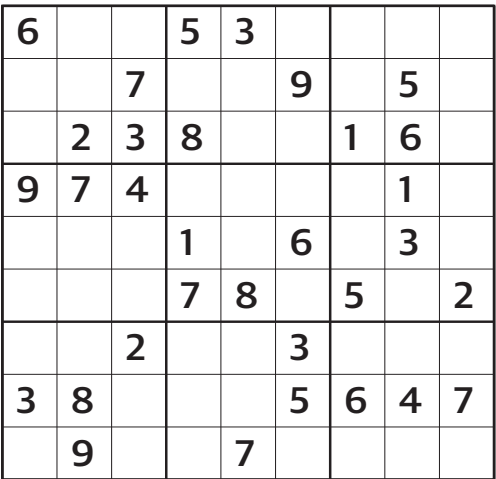
- 6 See 15 Down
- 7 & 3 Dn Insurance allowed for bed linen (8)
- 9 In the scheme I will be outspoken (5)
- 10 They establish connections for carpenters (7)
- 12 Present at the sports stadium, lying down! (2,3,6)
- 14 Certain facts are not exposed in this way (4,2,5)
- 18 Sounds like a quartet of overseers (7)
- 19 Pieces of tackle for the right fish (5)
- 21 Shape of penicillium, for instance (5)
- 22 As a hobby, I'm involved in cheap jewellery (7)

Down

- 1 To blame for bad service (5)
- 2 See 4 Down
- 3 See 7 Across
- 4 & 2 Dn Don't be passive - enter a lawsuit ..(2,4,6)
- 5 .. being informed of a trial (7)
- 8 Taken by the archer who gets protracted applause? (7)
- 11 See 17 Down
- 13 In reference to a poor sap all confused (7)
- 15 & 6 Ac Keenly contested knitting contests (6,7)
- 16 Noised from the stable? (6)
- 17 & 11 Dn Light pitcher used in action (12)
- 20 This stops one telling a joke (3)

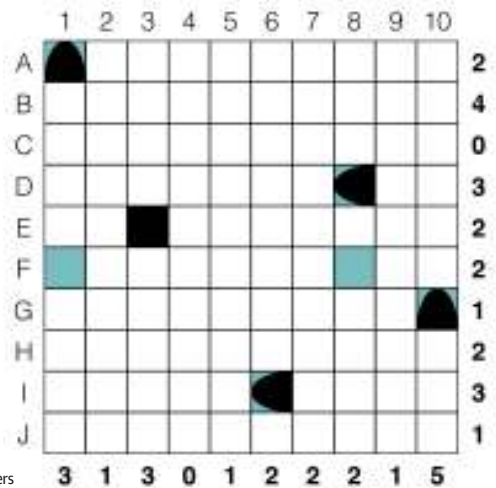
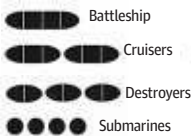
SUDOKU BY HANZO

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



BATTLESHIPS

Instructions Find where the fleet of ships (1 battleship, 2 cruisers, 3 destroyers, 4 submarines) are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some have been filled in to start you off.



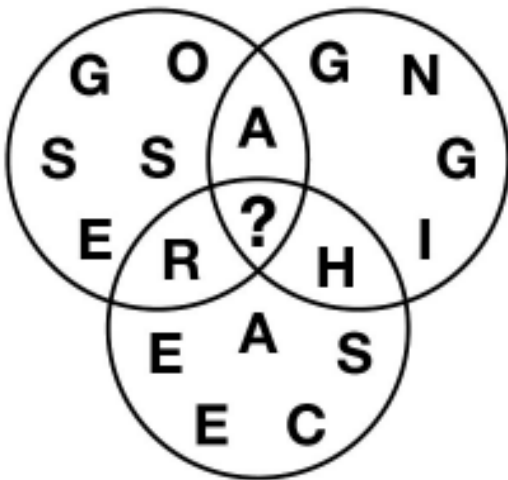
THE WORDPUZZLER



Can you identify the places in Italy from the anagrams listed below?

- 1. Omega
- 2. More
- 3. Raamp
- 4. Arise
- 5. Evince
- 6. Planes
- 7. Uplax
- 8. Amén
- 9. Iipa
- 10. Urrit

CIRCLEGRAM



Instructions
Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters in each circle can be arranged to form words, names or terms on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

Across

1) Democracy (10)

5) Learning (11)

11) I beg (5)

12) He breaks (5)

13) University (11)

16) Lectern (5)

17) You occupy (pl) (7)

20) Us (3)

21) Tireless (10)

22) Harassment (5)

24) Age (4)

26) Window blind (8)

31) I argue (7)

32) Bodyguard (14)

34) Signatures (6)

35) Envelopes (6)

37) Terrorists (11)

39) Common (5)

41) Destiny (7)

43) To say goodbye (10)

45) To reflect (11)

46) Basketball (10)

Down

1) Leader (9)

2) Dead (pl) (7)

3) Attack (8)

4) To go (2)

6) Politician (8)

7) Nard (5)

8) Slipper (9)

9) To explode (8)

10) Directed (8)

14) Basques (6)

15) Cot (4)

18) Defenceless (f) (9)

19) Porpoises (8)

23) They answer (9)

25) Documentary (10)

27) To swim (5)

28) Van (9)

29) You hated (7)

30) Murder (9)

31) To defend (8)

33) Another (4)

36) Eleven (4)

38) Deaf (5)

40) Mine (pl) (4)

42) I smelled (3)

44) Day (3)

ANSWERS

Quiz answers

Answer: Astor.
Of interest: Of the reported 57 millionaires who were on board RMS Titanic when it sank, J. Astor is believed to be the richest. Astor was the heir to a huge fortune made in real estate, locomotive manufacture and gold mining. He was crushed when one of the ship's funnels fell on him as it sank.
Answer: The sparrow.
Of interest: "I," said the sparrow, "With my bow and arrow." The rhyme is believed to date back to the 15th century and in some illustrated versions the sparrow is hanged for the crime.

Language Crossword

Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 6 Matches: 7 Cover; 8 Plain; 10 Joiners; 12 On the ground; 14 Open to doubt; 18 Foreman; 19 Reels; 21 Mould; 22 Pastime; Down: 1 Fault; 2 Action; 3 Left; 4 Go into; 5 Hearing; 8 Longbow; 11 Thrower; 13 Aprons; 15 Needle; 16 Bleats; 17 Flame; 20 Gag.

Wordpuzzler solution

Sudoku solution

Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is M.
Gossamer, Gingham, Cashmere, all types of fabric.

Battleships

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN THIS?

Last week:
Las Lagunas Mijas

The two steel and bronze structures, works of the sculptor José Antonio Barrios Ibáñez, are in memory of Las Lagunas victims of terrorism.

THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

Talent by email

This is a very special time of year, not just because we're about to get a day off for Andalucía Day or because spring is not that far away. It's at this time of year that we prepare the SUR in English Education and Learning supplement.

As usual the young people in our community are the stars of the publication, and their artwork, poems and short stories have been popping into the SUR in English mailbox over the last couple of weeks. Our panel of judges now have

the hard but pleasant job of selecting work for publication.

Meanwhile readers can prepare to be impressed by the standard of work produced by students at local international schools in the coming special supplement.

Unfortunately the deadline for children's work was Monday, but don't forget as always you can send us your letters, thoughts and comments. Email us at surinenglish.su@diariosur.es

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Following in Norman Bethune's footsteps

DARYL FINCH

✉ dfinch@diariosur.es

Colin Old, a Canadian retiree, has been compiling a map devoted to the man who brought a dark chapter of Spanish history to wider attention

MÁLAGA. "It was nice knowing that I was standing where he would have stood." The excitement and enthusiasm in Colin Old's voice is notable as he recalls last week when he, alongside up to 500 people at some stages, took part in a hike to commemorate La Desbandá - the Málaga-Almería road massacre at the hands of Nationalist troops which took place on 8 February 1937.

The 'he' in question is Norman Bethune, a Canadian medic who saved countless lives during the Spanish Civil War with his "revolutionary" methods, including bringing blood to the frontline and performing transfusions in the field.

For Colin, being able to follow in Bethune's footsteps was "the icing on the cake", having devoted much of his time since retiring in 2010 to preserving and promoting his compatriot's legacy.

"I'm doing it out of personal interest," he says, "I get no financial backing from anyone else. I used to work for Parks Canada at the birthplace of Norman Bethune in Gravenhurst, Ontario. I just found his story fascinating. There's no family connection, nothing. This is one of my hobbies now."

Legacy

Though Norman Bethune's legacy

is a bone of contention in his native Canada because of his "radical left-ist views" at that time, things couldn't be more different on the other side of the globe in China where he is a "national hero". "He is maybe the most famous Canadian ever because he is still taught in Chinese schools to millions of children."

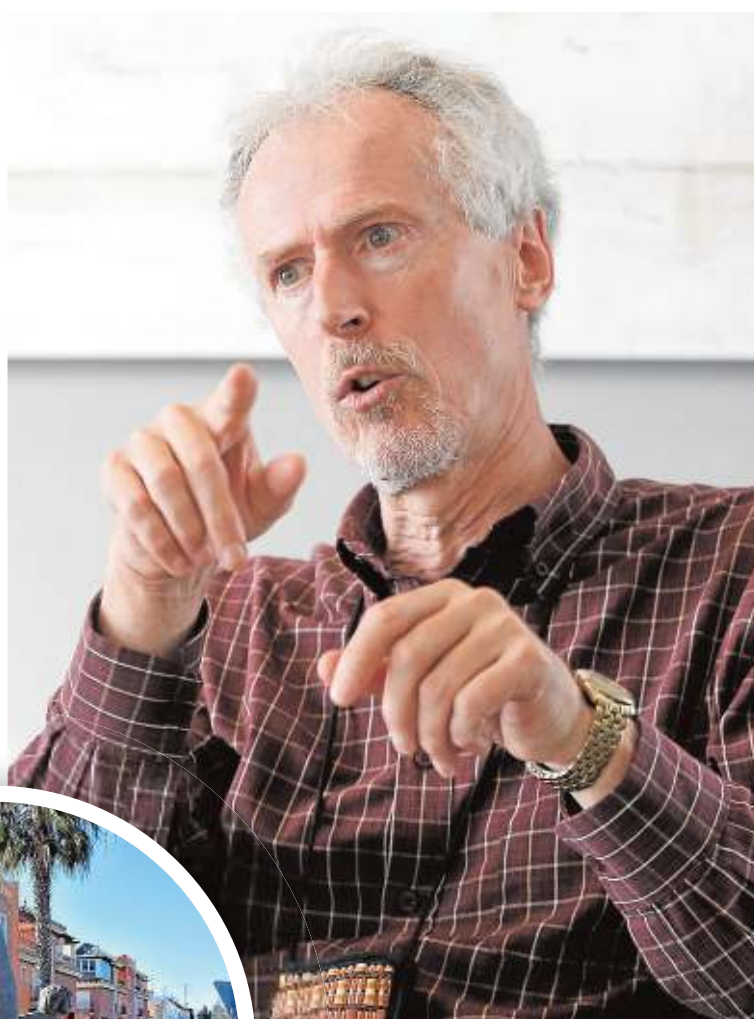
However, Colin believes that Bethune's service with the Communist Eighth Route Army during the Second Sino-Japanese War may never have happened if it wasn't for his "Spanish experience". "Norman was always someone who was at the right place at the right time. In fact, he was always in the place where the ball was heading."

Spain preceded China, he says. "Norman first came to study in Motril in the 1930s but then returned years later given his sensitivity to political causes. He saw the Spanish Civil War as 'the' fight against fascism at that time and wanted to make a contribution."

It was in Spain that he started to implement his "revolutionary" medical techniques, such as was the case with transfusions, but also in treating tuberculosis.

"He suffered from tuberculosis himself and he invented something called the pneumothorax in which you inserted a needle into the lung which would make it collapse and allow it to recover. It was a major advance."

Bethune also invented a number of medical tools which are still being used in the field today: "He adapted



Colin Old at the SUR offices in Malaga on Wednesday. :: NITO SALAS



A statue of Bethune in Caleta de Vélez. :: C. OLD

A Bethune map

As well as taking part in various round table and other commemorative events during the last few weeks, Colin has been compiling a map of monuments and other spots

of interest concerning Norman Bethune which, though not yet complete, he is already sharing with people to spread awareness: "It was nice to go to places where I was almost certain that Norman had been as well as places that commemorate him. There's an Avenida near the [Málaga] university named after him, Almayate has a Red Cross training centre and there's a statue in Caleta de Vélez... And in Almería until 3 March there is a brilliant photo exhibition called 'Norman Bethune.'

El crimen de la carretera Málaga-Almería."

This exhibition contains the only photos, 26 in total, of La Desbandá in existence. These photos, credited to Bethune's colleague Hazen Size (though "it's possible Bethune's finger was on the button", concedes Colin) have ensured that our understanding of what happened is much greater than it might have been.

However, few of the spots where the photos were taken exist anymore. "Too much has changed; they would be almost unrecognisable but the old winding road still exists."

Still in living memory

While the events of 82 years ago are still in living memory for a lot of people, Colin believes that a "fear" of opening up old wounds is still preventing a lot of people from sharing their experiences. Because of this, and despite it being one of the darkest chapters in Spanish history in which between three and five thousand people died, La Desbandá "is hardly known at all outside Spain", especially when compared to the atrocities at Guernica.

However, things are improving on that front, with events such as those last week. "I didn't do all of the hike," he says. "I'm quite fit but I did half a stage then caught up with them later and did another one. One woman was limping halfway through, but she did the whole 240 kilometres in ten days. It's certainly less political and more inclusive now."

Colin, a geographer by training, has just returned to Canada after two weeks in the south of Spain to continue working on his map. "It's great that more and more people are getting involved and a lot is being done to ensure that Norman's legacy and La Desbandá are not forgotten."

Colin Old's Norman Bethune map can be viewed on www.surinenglish.com

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