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FEATURE

A major passion for planes

Spotters from around the world set up their tripods on Malaga Airport runway **P26**



KNEE-DEEP IN HAIL

Thursday's downpour left wintry scenes in Malaga in a week that saw Storm Gloria cause destruction around Spain **P3&14**



A resident makes his way through hailstones in the Limonar area of Malaga city. :: GERMÁN POZO

Andalucía sets sights on quality and sustainable tourism in 2020

The Costa del Sol has joined the rest of the world's destinations at Fitur, Madrid's international tourism fair

Tourism officials and business owners have been in Madrid this week for Fitur, the three-day international tourism fair that opens the annual calendar of promotional events from the industry. The Andalusian tourism authority, with the biggest stand at the show, went armed with figures. In 2019, 32.5 million tourists

visited Andalucía, pointed out regional president Juanma Moreno and his deputy and Tourism minister Juan Marín. Forecasts for 2020 add an extra million to that total. This year, though, the region aims to attract more "quality" tourism, that is, higher spenders, and move towards making the industry more sustainable. **P6**



Spanish and Andalusian officials with Queen Letizia at Fitur. :: S. SALAS



:: NIÑO SALAS

Malaga CF's offices searched as part of case against Al-Thani

Police were at the stadium for 15 hours on a judge's orders **P39**

Landowner pleads guilty in Julen case and accepts a suspended sentence, avoiding the need for a painful trial **P2**

British man convicted in San Pedro hit-and-run case gets two years for manslaughter through negligence **P2**

Local PSOE official, María Gámez, becomes the first woman to head Spain's Guardia Civil force **P15**

Football's knock-on effect for the Costa. Last year 227 teams visited from across the world to use facilities in the area **P42-43**

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Landowner pleads guilty in Julen case, avoiding a long and painful trial

David Serrano, the owner of the land where the toddler fell down a borehole last year, has been given a suspended jail sentence after admitting manslaughter through negligence in court on Tuesday

:: **ÁLVARO FRÍAS / FERNANDO TORRES / JUAN CANO**

MALAGA. David Serrano, the owner of the land on which two-year-old Julen fell down a 100-metre borehole in Totalán in January last year, pleaded guilty to charges of manslaughter through negligence in a Malaga court on Tuesday morning.

The judge ratified an agreement reached on Monday between Serrano and the parents of Julen to avoid a painful trial due to start on Tuesday.

Serrano agreed to accept the suspended prison sentence of one year handed down by the judge and to pay damages awarded by the court to Julen's parents, José Roselló and Vicky García.

These damages were set at just under 180,000 euros (89,529.67 euros each). The judge also ordered Serrano to pay 663,982.45 to the Junta de Andalucía to cover the cost of the rescue operation.

Serrano's defence, LawBird Legal Services headed by lawyer Antonio Flores, paid the court 25,000 euros on Monday following the agreement.

According to the lawyers this sum was donated by another of the



David Serrano during Tuesday's court session, in the presence of Julen's parents. :: MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

firm's clients, an anonymous business owner. Serrano was then due to pay 50 euros a month - he is currently unemployed - until his personal circumstances change.

Antonio Flores said, however, that his client would not be able to foot the regional government's rescue bill as "it would take him several lives to be able to pay it".

José Roselló and Vicky García were present in court with their

lawyer on Tuesday morning to hear the sentence.

Serrano expressed his remorse for the events of 13 January 2019, admitting his responsibility for the toddler's death.

"I never wanted the boy to come to any harm," he pointed out in court.

The decision comes just one year after the tragedy when the two-year-old fell down a 100-metre-deep

hole that had been drilled in search of underground water deposits.

His fall sparked a 13-day rescue operation involving 300 firefighters, Guardia Civil officers, engineers and Protección Civil volunteers, and caught the attention of media around the world.

The family had been spending the day in the country with Serrano and his wife, who is Julen's father's cousin.

Brit who killed woman in hit-and-run gets two-year sentence

Westley Capper, who ran over Fátima Dorado, 40, on a pedestrian crossing in San Pedro in 2016, was under the influence of alcohol and cocaine

:: **ÁLVARO FRÍAS / JUAN CANO**

MALAGA. A British man who failed to stop after running a woman over in San Pedro on 9 May 2016 has been sentenced to two years in prison for manslaughter through negligence and a road safety offence.

Westley Capper, the son of millionaire John Capper, was driving his father's 500-horsepower Bentley at full speed along the boulevard in San Pedro Alcántara when he hit

40-year-old Bolivian chef Fátima Dorado who was on a pedestrian crossing.

According to the sentence, Capper, who was accompanied by his friend Craig Porter, was travelling at 75km/h in a 40km/h limit, under the influence of cocaine and alcohol.

The victim, who was with her husband and their 12-month-old daughter was thrown more than 30 metres after being hit by the Bentley. She was rushed to the Costa del Sol hospital where she died of her injuries.

Capper failed to stop, explains the sentence. He was located later that evening by police in a shopping area towards Estepona.

The custodial sentence has been

suspended on the condition that Capper commits no criminal offences in three years and takes a road safety course. He has also been banned from driving for two years.

In his sentence, passed after Capper pleaded guilty to the charges, the judge considers the Brit's remorse shown and financial compensation paid to the relatives as extenuating circumstances.

Previous conviction

Just days after the incident, Capper paid 10,000 euros to cover the cost of repatriating Fátima's body. He has also been paying her family 1,100 euros a month since June and previously deposited 300,000 euros with the court to cover civil liability.

This is not the first time Capper



Capper after his arrest in May 2016. :: SUR

has been convicted in a Malaga court. In May last year Capper and Porter were found guilty of coercion in the high-profile Agnese Klavina case.

After detailed analysis of CCTV footage, the court decided that the young Latvian woman had been forced into a vehicle by Capper against her will outside the Mar-

bella nightclub Aqwa Mist in September 2014.

Klavina has not been seen since. The court did not consider there to be sufficient evidence to convict the British men of kidnapping, as the public prosecution had requested.

Capper was sentenced to two years and Porter to six months.



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Freak storm causes traffic chaos and leaves Malaga residents knee-deep in hailstones

Commuters were trapped in 20-kilometre tailbacks on the eastern bypass on Thursday morning due to the heavy rain and hail

■ SUR

MALAGA. Malaga was woken on Thursday morning by a fierce hailstorm that left unprecedented wintry scenes in the east and central areas of the city.

At around 6.45am heavy rain and thunder and lightning gave way to hailstones that settled where they fell, covering streets, parks and beaches in white.

In Limonar, a residential area east of the city centre, the hailstones formed a layer of up to 30 centimetres deep, bringing traffic to a standstill and preventing residents from leaving their homes.

Parents were told not to attempt to take their children to the schools on this side of the city while residents struggled to free their vehicles or make their way on foot on icy pavements.

The storm caused chaos for commuters on the city's eastern bypass where tailbacks of up to 20 kilome-



Clearing one of the streets east of the centre. ■ MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

tres formed at the usual morning rush hour, between the San José tunnel and Rincón de la Victoria.

Traffic was also held up on the Guadalhorce A-357 motorway, especially near the exits for the university and the PTA technology park.

City buses became trapped in the

Cerrado de Calderón area, among others where roads were blocked.

The heavy rain in the early hours of Thursday morning caused flooding in the city as well as in the Guadalhorce Valley. The Maqueda and Cantos streams broke their banks in Campanillas and the road linking



La Malagueta beach and Calle Larios on Thursday morning. ■ NITO SALAS

this area with Cártama was closed. Several incidents due to flooding in Cártama Estación were reported.

The amber weather warning issued by the state meteorological agency Aemet for heavy rain was in place for the Costa del Sol area until midnight on Thursday. At the time

of going to press the yellow severe weather warning for rain was still in force for Friday and Saturday.

More information: Storm Gloria kills 11 as it batters Spain with high winds and waves. P. 14

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Plaza Mayor falls victim to cybercrime in 120,000-euro internet transfer fraud

Criminals obtained information of a pending payment and pretended to be an employee sending an email to a colleague ordering a transfer

:: JUAN CANO / ÁLVARO FRÍAS

MALAGA. Malaga's Plaza Mayor shopping and leisure centre has been defrauded of 120,000 euros that were due to be paid to a firm for works on the new outlet village.

The centre was the victim of what is known as the CEO fraud, where cybercriminals infect the computer of a top executive with spying tools to obtain information. In the case of Plaza Mayor, the criminals hacked an employee's computer and learned that the firm was about to transfer a certain amount of money.

They then created a new email address, very similar to the employee's, and contacted a colleague instructing them to make the transfer. This colleague was expecting to be told



The Plaza Mayor commercial centre. :: SUR

to pay that same sum so did not suspect foul play. The bank account that received the transfer, however, was the one provided by the criminals.

Plaza Mayor representatives reported the case to the National Police and the cybercrime unit opened an investigation. Four members of the gang, the owner of the bank account that received the transfers from the centre and three accom-

plices, were identified and arrested in Valencia. They are now under investigation for fraud, money laundering and belonging to a criminal organisation.

A parallel investigation to identify the perpetrators of the online fraud itself has reached the same dead end detectives often find in cybercrime cases. The IP addresses placed the criminals in Nigeria and

the United Arab Emirates although criminals normally use VPN-type mechanisms to disguise their real locations.

The accomplices transferred the funds to other accounts and withdrew cash; then the money was sent to the cybercriminals via firms such as MoneyGram or Western Union, but the identity of the recipient is difficult to ascertain.

While most firms that fall victim to this type of crime don't publicise the fact, two other local companies have said they have lost 38,000 euros through the same fraud.

One of them, NRSUR, which operates Burger King franchises, transferred 26,000 euros to an account that they thought belonged to a supplier.

Marbella-based Sol Sport, which organises training camps for sports clubs across Europe, was a victim in a different way.

The criminals sent an email in the name of an employee to one of the firm's clients requesting a transfer. A sum of 12,000 euros ended up in the wrong hands.

112 REPORTS

Italian father and son arrested for 800,000-euro jewel theft

A. F. / J. C.

:: **MALAGA.** An Italian father and son, 50 and 29, have been arrested by National Police in Benalmádena for allegedly being part of the so-called Buco gang (hole in Italian). The fugitives escaped to Spain as Italian police rounded up members of the gang, known for moving through sewers and emerging, armed and masked, from manholes to commit their hold-ups. The gang got away with 800,000 euros in jewellery from a shop in Naples last June. The arrested pair, A. C. and S. C. had been living in Benalmádena. Police seized fake IDs, mobile phones and 4,000 euros in cash during the arrests.



Pocahontas. :: F. BOCALÁN

Thieves steal dog being trained to accompany disabled teenager

ESTEPONA

:: **C. MÁRQUEZ.** A dog being trained to assist a disabled teenager from Estepona has been stolen at gunpoint, just a day before it was due to be collected. The dog's trainer, from the Bocalán foundation, was walking Pocahontas, a black Labrador, in the streets of Aranjuez, near Madrid, on Tuesday when four armed men got out of a van and demanded his wallet. After he handed it over, with 60 euros inside, they grabbed the dog and put her in the van. Pocahontas was being specially trained to be a companion for Estepona resident Clara, 15, who has spinal muscular atrophy. Clara and her family were due to travel to Toledo this week to collect her. A reward of 800 euros has been offered for the return of the dog.

Suspect arrested in Germany in connection with bullet-ridden body found near Marbella

:: Á. FRÍAS / J. CANO

MALAGA. Police in Germany, working in collaboration with their counterparts in Spain, have arrested a suspect in connection with the body found by the side of a road near Marbella in October.

The body, which had more than ten gunshot wounds, was identi-

fied as a 40-year-old Bulgarian.

The suspect, a 46-year-old man, also Bulgarian, was identified after the vehicle used in the crime was located in Germany.

As well as murder, he is under investigation for drug trafficking, forgery of documents and illegal possession of firearms.



:: SUR

A TRAGIC WEEK ON THE ROADS

Two people died in different accidents in the province of Malaga on Sunday. The first, a head-on collision between a car and a van, occurred at 9.20am on the A-356 near El Trapiche, Vélez-Málaga, (above). One of the occupants of the car died and six people were injured. Later that day a motorcyclist, 64, died after he crashed into a car parked on the hard shoulder of the A-7 near Torremolinos. On Thursday last week an 88-year-old man died in an accident on the A-393 near Benahavís, and on Monday morning a motorcyclist, 28, was the victim of a fatal crash in the El Viso industrial estate in Malaga.



Police at the spot where the body was found. :: JOSELE

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Brexit and pension transfers. A ticking clock?

Transferring your UK pension into a QROPS can provide significant benefits. With the Brexit transition period set to end on 31 December 2020, time may be running out to do so without paying the 25% 'overseas transfer charge'. The UK already imposes this tax on EU residents who transfer to QROPS outside the EU/EEA; after Brexit it could easily start charging EU transfers too.

Pensions paperwork takes time, so do not risk leaving it too late. Contact our specialist advisers to find out if a QROPS is suitable for you, what the benefits are, and what you need to do now.

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Local tourism industry goes in search of quality visitors and sustainability at Fitur

Andalucía has the largest stand as usual this week at the Madrid event, which was visited by Queen Letizia on Wednesday

By P. MARTÍNEZ / P. L. GÓMEZ

MADRID. Andalucía, including the Costa del Sol, is showcasing its attractions for tourists at the large Fitur travel fair in Madrid until Sunday. Fitur is one of the big three annual international tourism fairs in Europe, along with the World Travel Market in London and the ITB in Berlin. It is a key date in the promotional calendar, with more emphasis on Spanish and Latin American destinations.

As usual mayors, councillors and regional ministers, along with marketing bosses from hotels and tourist attractions, flocked to the Ifema centre on Wednesday for the first day.

The fair was officially opened by Queen Letizia, who spent several hours touring the national and international stands.

Andalucía, as usual, has the biggest stand, 5,300 square metres, reflecting the importance of tourism to the local economy. Regional president, Juanma Moreno, said in his opening address that 420,000 people



Juanma Moreno and Juan Marín boast of Andalucía's 2019 visitor figures at Fitur. By S. SALAS

are employed in tourism in Andalucía. He also spent part of Wednesday introducing the Queen to exhibitors from the region.

"Malaga province makes up over 50 per cent of Andalusian tourism, Your Majesty," explained Moreno, "Really?" said the Queen, surprised.

This year a key theme from

speeches and events held around the Andalucía stand has been the need to increase the amount tourists spend rather than volume, the so-called 'quality tourism'.

There was also talk of sustainability, with the regional minister for Tourism, Juan Marín, saying for the first time they were measuring the

carbon footprint of their presence at the show.

While regional bosses were optimistic about visitor numbers this coming year, the provincial tourist board, Costa del Sol Tourism, was more cautious. It suggested that the destination had to prepare for a possible slowdown in the economy.

Costa resorts promote their individual attractions

By SUR

MADRID. The Costa del Sol stand makes up a big part of the Andalusian space at Fitur this week. Here local town halls are working together to promote their destinations.

As usual, the city of Malaga had a separate stand, and this year Marbella and Nerja also chose to be independent of the Costa stand. "Marbella is a flagship of the Costa del Sol and we ought to have our own, personalised presence at Fitur," explained mayor Ángeles Muñoz. The resort announced a bid to be culinary capital of Spain in 2021.

The Malaga city delegation spent time on Wednesday meeting representatives of cruise companies and signing a deal with a major Chinese tour operator.

Meanwhile, back on the main Costa del Sol stand there was also an emphasis on presenting the area's resorts as off-season, winter destinations. Torremolinos stressed how it had regenerated itself and Estepona announced a new Italian-designed residential development for a vacant plot on the seafront.

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ADVERTORIAL Blevins Franks

Blevins Franks opens new Marbella office

The new Blevins Franks office on the Golden Mile, Marbella, is now open.

Demand from the international finance firm's Marbella-based clients was such that it was considered necessary to open a base there.

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You can find Blevins Franks Marbella adjoining the Marbella Club Hotel.

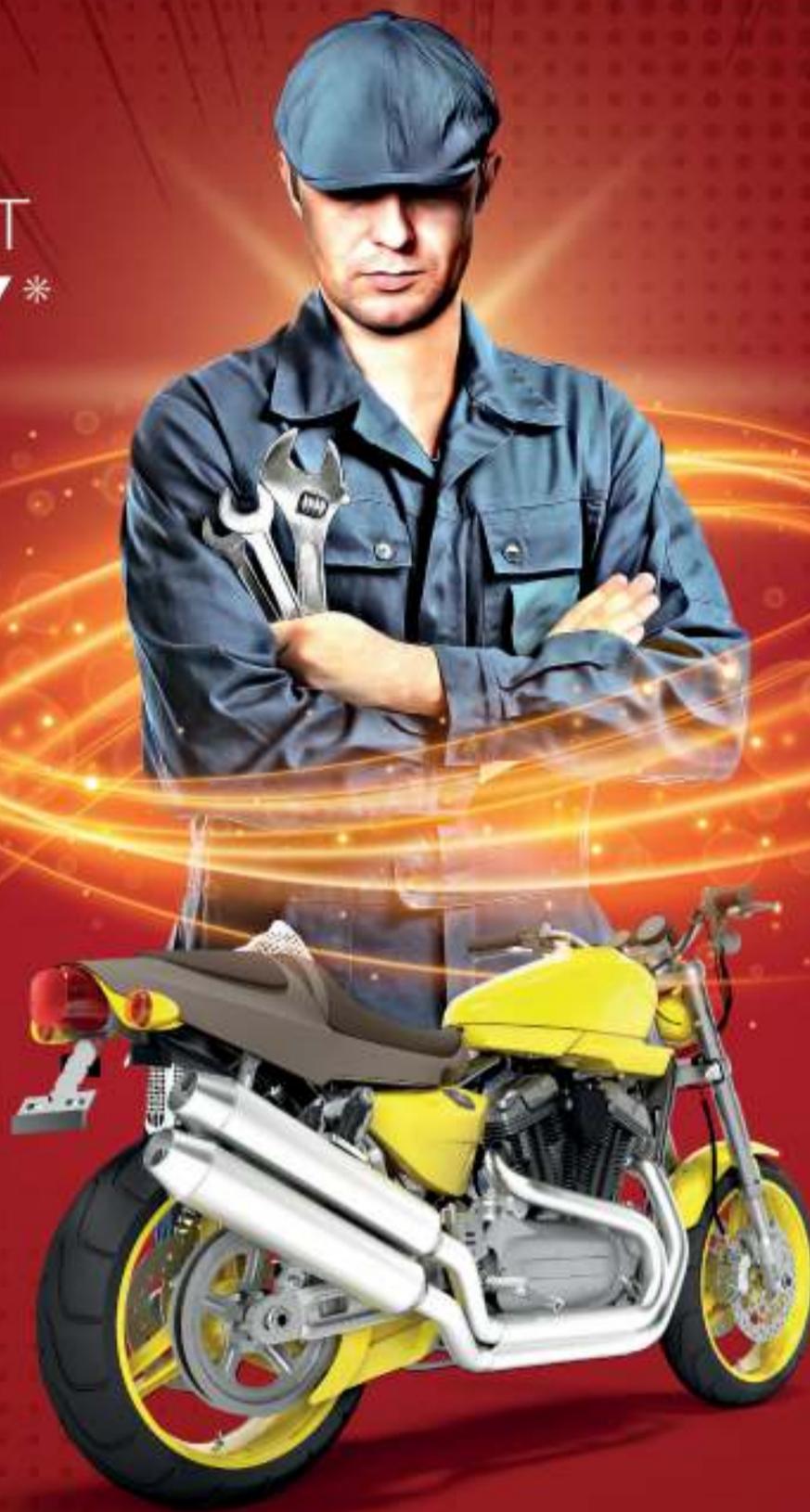


The new Blevins Franks Marbella office. Left: Chris McCann, Senior Partner, and Sarah Burke, Partner.



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Aena prepares to set new restrictions on the height of buildings near the airport

The Repsol, Portillo, Torre del Río, La Térmica, San Rafael and Manzana Verde projects could be affected by the new limits

:: JESÚS HINOJOSA

MALAGA. There are plans to construct several tall residential, hotel and office buildings in Malaga city but some of the designs may have to be changed because the aviation authority Aena is preparing new regulations which will affect the height of buildings in areas close to the airport.

The new building projects represent over 1.3 billion euros of investment in total, and in some cases construction has already started, but Aena's restrictions could mean the buildings will have to be lower than planned. Although the pending document has not yet been ap-



Malaga Airport's second runway is in more frequent use. :: SUR

proved, Aena has already recommended that Vía Célere, the developers of the 'Flex' residential complex in Avenida de Velázquez, should reduce their building from 15 sto-

reys to 12. The architect of that project, Ángel Asenjo, is frustrated at the prospect of having to change the design and says he thinks the aviation authority is being too

"conservative".

Aena says the new height restrictions are for safety reasons and are necessary due to the growth of Malaga Airport, which handled 19.8 million passengers last year. The present regulations regarding tower blocks date back to 2009, when the second runway had not yet come into operation, and the number of flights has increased exponentially in the past ten years.

Aena has not said when the new document will be ready, but it will be put on display to the public before coming into force.

Among the projects likely to be affected are developments on the land at Repsol, San Rafael, El Duende (part of the Manzana Verde project), Portillo, Torre del Río and La Térmica, some of which are 20 storeys high. None of these has been granted a works licence yet, although the 72.5-metre-high skyscraper planned in La Princesa area has.

Over 1,500 classic vehicles come to Salón Retro Málaga

:: IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. Over 1,500 classic and collectors' vehicles will be on display at the seventh Salón Retro which takes place at the Palacio de Ferias y Congresos in Malaga this weekend.

The fair begins today (Friday, from 4pm) and continues until Sunday. Around 300 cars and motorbikes are being exhibited by the

organisers, and the remainder, some of which are for sale, will be brought by their owners.

This is a hugely popular motor-ing event and around 20,000 people are expected to attend.

Tickets cost nine euros, or 13 euros for a combined entry to Malaga's Automobile Museum, who are collaborating with the event.



The fair was presented on Tuesday. :: EVA SÁNCHEZ



A view over Coín town centre. :: SUR

Coín urges British residents to register at the town hall

Councils receive funding according to the number of inhabitants and the council is missing out

:: FERNANDO TORRES

MALAGA. Official statistics show the current population of Coín to be 22,147 but, using the amount of rubbish collected in the municipality as a guide, the council is convinced the true figure is between 27,000 and 28,000 and is starting a campaign to encourage permanent residents who are not on the 'padrón', or population register, to go to the town hall and sign up.

The mayor, Francisco Santos, says the council is missing out on State and regional funding, because this is based on the number of registered inhabitants. "It's money we are not receiving and cannot use to improve

infrastructure, services and other projects which benefit the people who live here," he says.

The local authority believes a considerable number of British residents are not yet on the 'padrón' and has arranged a meeting with the British consulate next month to ask for their collaboration and support for the campaign. It is believed between 1,500 and 2,000 British people who live in the town or the nearby countryside have yet to register. A similar campaign in Marbella added a further 10,000 names.

In November, the provincial government of Malaga began its own campaign to encourage British residents to register at their local town halls, in response to Britain's withdrawal from the European Union. According to official figures, there are 50,000 British people living in Malaga province.

HERE AND THERE

4m-euro repairs for major Serranía road

MALAGA

:: V. MELGAR. The regional government is planning to spend nearly four million euros on improving the A-367 between Ronda and the connection with the A-357 Campillos-Malaga highway at Ardales. This is a very busy road and its condition has been deteriorating in recent years.

The works will be carried out in stages along almost the whole of the 40-kilometre stretch and will take approximately one year to complete. They will begin near Teba and end at Ronda.

Dolmens complex fulfils Unesco requests

ANTEQUERA

:: A. J. LÓPEZ. The museum associated with the Dolmens of Antequera looks rather different than expected. Works have had to be carried out in accordance with a request by Unesco in order to maintain the complex's World Heritage Site status, which it obtained on 15 July 2016. Among other demands, Unesco wanted the visual impact of the future museum building to be reduced, and this is now one storey lower than originally planned and has been painted white.

New bars restricted in certain city districts

MALAGA

:: J. SOTO. As part of its campaign to reduce noise levels in the city, Malaga council has restricted the opening of new bars and leisure establishments in the historic centre and Teatinos district and reduced the hours during which outside terraces can be used. Bars and restaurants in these areas will have to keep their doors and restaurants closed after 11 pm and are responsible for ensuring their clients do not disturb the neighbours. The rules affecting these Acoustically Saturated Areas will remain in force for five years.

New four-star hotel in Malaga city centre

MALAGA

:: J. HINOJOSA. The Catalonia hotel chain is to open a four-star establishment by converting three of the four buildings in Pasaje de Larios, which runs between Calle Martínez and Calle Alarcón Luján in the historic centre of Malaga city.

The hotel will have 68 double rooms or junior suites and four single rooms. The project will cost 3.6 million euros and will have to retain certain aspects of the Grade 1 listed buildings, which were built in the 19th century by architect Eduardo Strachan.

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Socialists retain mayor's office in last minute change of heart over Alcaucín confidence vote

Former Ciudadanos councillor Sara Matés said she regretted signing the motion on 7 January and had asked colleagues to withdraw it afterwards

:: A. PELÁEZ / E. CABEZAS

ALCAUCÍN. Mayor of Alcaucín Ágata González (PSOE) has retained her position following a failed vote of no confidence against her and her party on Wednesday. The vote was close, with six councillors voting against the motion and five in favour. It was the decision of former Ciudadanos councillor, Sara Matés, who requested on Tuesday to become an independent councillor, as well as that of former Por Mi Pueblo councillor Sebastián Navero, to vote against the motion, despite having agreed to abstain, which swayed the vote in González's favour.

Matés said on Wednesday that she later regretted signing the motion which was registered at Alcaucín town hall on 7 January by the Ciudadanos (C's) party with the support of the Partido Popular (PP). It was tabled due to a lack of dialogue between the PSOE and other parties, according to C's and the PP. After last year's local elections, C's and PSOE had formed a coalition with the latter taking the mayor's office.

"I regretted it because it is not what Alcaucín wanted," Matés said, adding that prior to Wednesday's council meeting she had been asking her former party to withdraw the vote.

Matés admitted that while originally from Alcaucín, she had not been "very aware" of what had been going on in the village as she lives in Malaga city and has been recovering from breast cancer. She denied being pressured into making any decision and said she had "all the sup-



Mayor Ágata González (standing) after Wednesday's vote. :: A. PELÁEZ

port" of her friends and father.

The former Ciudadanos councillor said that she had originally intended to abstain. However, after "considerable thought" she decided to "support the mayor as a feminist and as a woman".

Fernando Córdoba (C's), who would have become mayor had the vote been passed, spoke of the "harassment" Matés and her family had suffered.

Por Mi Pueblo (PMP) councillor Sebastián Navero has been expelled from his party for "a serious lack of discipline" for failing to keep his promise to abstain. PMP has requested he becomes an independent councillor.

González leads with a minority in Alcaucín and has not yet laid out plans to ensure stability in the council going forward.

HERE AND THERE

Frigiliana resident captures fox on video

FRIGILIANA

:: R. M. A Frigiliana resident was able to capture the moment a fox ran down one of the village's streets last week.

While foxes are not uncommon in the area, actually sighting one is rare. It is believed that the animal had come down from nearby mountains in search of food.

A video which can be seen on the Diario SUR website shows the fox running down steps before being startled by car headlights, turning round and running back up.

"I'm not sure who was more surprised," said the resident who recorded the video.



The Frigiliana fox. :: FACEBOOK

Danish woman saved by Local Police officers

TORROX

:: E. C. A Local Police officer who saved the life of an 81-year-old British man when he suffered a heart attack in Torrox town centre in December 2018, saved a 65-year-old Danish woman also having a heart attack last Sunday.

The woman asked for help when she was unable to breathe and a neighbour called the emergency services.

Alejandro Ortiz and his colleague Román Eloy were the first to arrive at the woman's house in the Peñoncillo area of Torrox where they performed CPR until medics arrived. She was taken to the Axarquía hospital.

Russian fugitive arrested in Nerja

NERJA

:: SUR. National Police officers in Nerja on Tuesday arrested a Russian fugitive with a European arrest warrant issued in Germany.

Investigations began in December 2019 when he managed to escape while being transported from prison to a hospital in the German town of Günzburg. He was located in Nerja, having moved around Malaga province.

According to the arrest warrant, the man was believed to be armed and violent and carrying infectious diseases thought to be a risk to public health.

Axarquía village offers financial help with driving licences to prevent depopulation

:: A. P.

ALMÁCHAR. Almáchar town hall announced last week that it has set aside 3,000 euros to help young people in the village obtain their driving licence. Anyone aged 18 to 25 may apply for 100 euros as long as they are registered on the local council's 'padrón'.

Mayor of Almáchar, Antonio Yuste, said the initiative would prevent young people from leaving the village and "make it easier" for them to get from A to B.

The village has a number of incentives including baby vouchers to stop depopulation.

Town hall plans yearlong programme of environmental awareness activities

Rincón residents are invited to help plant 200 trees in the Añoreta Golf area of the town this Saturday morning

:: E. CABEZAS

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA. Rincón de la Victoria town hall is inviting the public to participate in a tree planting initiative this Saturday, 25 January, to coincide with Spain's environmental education day.

The town's Environment councillor, Sergio Díaz, announced the event on Tuesday and said that they hoped to plant 200 trees, including carob, holm oak and olive, all of which are



A previous reforestation day in Rincón de la Victoria. :: SUR

native to the Axarquía.

Mayor of Rincón, Francisco Salado, said that this would be the first of a number of events to be organised throughout the year. Saturday's tree

planting will start at 10am in the Calle Bahamas area of Añoreta Golf.

For further information visit www.rincondelavictoria.es or Facebook (@earinconvictoria).

HERE AND THERE

Mijas' arts and crafts credentials are recognised by the Junta

MIJAS

:: I. GELIBTER. Several months after the town hall initiated the administrative processes, Mijas has been officially placed on the regional map for arts and crafts.

Regional minister Carmen Sánchez Sierra, accompanied by the town's mayor, Josele González, over-

saw the presentation of the 'Zona de Interés Artesanal' (artisanal zone of interest) distinction on behalf of the Junta de Andalucía regional government last Friday.

Mijas, with 11 artisanal workshops (which vary from ceramics and sculpture to jewellery and fashion), is the first municipality in Malaga province to receive this distinction.

"This is very important for the town's artisans as it will help to guarantee their financial viability," said mayor Josele González.

Benalmádena beach toilets to get a makeover

BENALMÁDENA

:: I. G. Beach users in Benalmádena will notice a major improvement when the high season begins after the town hall committed around 400,000 euros to the improvement of facilities.

Seventeen new units (toilets and changing rooms) have been purchased and will be installed, alongside new walkways, in time for summer.



Benalmádena's mayor. :: SUR

Mercadona to open new store and close two

TORREMOLINOS

:: J. SOTO. Spanish supermarket chain Mercadona has announced the reorganisation of its stores across Torremolinos.

A new shop (at a cost of four million euros) is expected to open in El Pinillo, next to the train station, in July.

This, however, will see the closure of the chain's two stores in La Carihuela and El Calvario

Parking to be regulated in tourist and shopping spots in Torremolinos

A new 'pay and display' display system is being proposed to improve availability of spaces

:: ALBERTO GÓMEZ

TORREMOLINOS. The council in Torremolinos is preparing to implement 'blue zone' parking restrictions in the town and last Friday announced that it would be carrying out a public consultation on the matter.

While the project is still in the early stages, town hall sources have said that the new 'pay and display' restrictions were planned for busy tourism and shopping hotspots, without specifying which roads would be affected.

Sources also said that the future regulations will "respond to the need and opportunity to establish adequate



Parking spaces are increasingly hard to find. :: NIÑO SALAS

distribution, given the lack of available space and the number of visitors which continues to increase".

The new system, it has been suggested, would prevent vehicles from remaining parked in busy areas for

the long-term.

The potential price has not yet been discussed but would give town hall coffers a much-needed boost as the council faces up to a debt of more than 140 million euros.

Benalmádena paper factory to become tourist centre

The new installation will include an exhibition area dedicated to the conservation and exhibition of the town's historical archives

:: TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. Benalmádena town hall has announced its plans to turn the old paper factory in Arroyo de la Miel into a tourist orientation centre. The new installation, located in Plaza de la Tribuna, will include an exhibition area dedicated to the protection, conservation and exhibition of the town's historical archives. The project involves the installation of a tourist information area, toilets, an external staircase, and an elevator and to give easy access to

those with limited mobility

The centre is expected to take 18 months to complete and will cost more than 375,000 euros. Mayor and councillor for Tourism Víctor Navas explained that the centre was made possible because of a grant received from ministry of Tourism and the regional government.

The 18th century building was in a rundown state until 2007, when emergency work was carried out on the supporting walls, and the upper floor, which had been virtually destroyed when part of the building collapsed.

"Originally the paper factory that led to the flowering of an urban centre in Arroyo de la Miel, the building will become a centre of orientation and interpretation of the heritage and history of Benalmádena," the mayor said.

Family appeals for news of British man missing in Spain

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. Relatives have stepped up their appeal for information about the whereabouts of 23-year-old British man Harry Stagg, who is thought to be in southern Spain after hitchhiking from the UK last year.

Harry, who is from East Cowes (Isle of Wight), was reported missing to the Guardia Civil in Álora last week by his aunt Paula Morris, who lives in the area. She had been expecting

him as he told the family that he would spend Christmas in Spain.

The last contact the family had with Harry, said his aunt, was on 29 November when he called home from a police station in Huesca, though no one was there to take his call.

"He managed to call his friend who he had been travelling with and they arranged to meet; this didn't happen," Paula said.

"Harry doesn't have a mobile phone and we are not sure if his bank card may have run out as a new one has been received at his home on the

Isle of Wight."

According to the missing persons report, he was spotted in Antequera on 13 December, hitchhiking with a sign reading Campillos. More recently, said his aunt, he is thought to have been seen in Gibraltar, juggling at traffic lights.

The family has urged anyone who sees him to ask him to get in touch with his family and to contact the Guardia Civil in Álora. Harry is around 1.85m tall with dark wavy hair. He wears black clothes and trainers and carries a black rucksack.



Harry Stagg. :: SUR



Former paper factory in Plaza de la Tribuna in Benalmádena. :: SUR

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OFFERS OF THE WEEK



THE ORIGIN MARKS THE DIFFERENCE

The Carrefour centres in Estepona, Mijas, Fuengirola, Torremolinos and Valle del Guadalhorce have butcher's departments that follow the brand's latest standards to guarantee the maximum freshness and quality

Fresh products are one of the cornerstones of the Carrefour centres in Estepona, Torremolinos, Mijas, Fuengirola and Valle del Guadalhorce.

That's why the butcher's sections in these stores have implanted Carrefour's meat blueprint 2.0. This means, among other things, that complete pieces are purchased and prepared on site on a daily basis. This new system allows for greater freshness as the cuts are made progressively in response to demand.

Thus, the system allows the pieces to be configured to optimise each part and adapt to demand and the customer's individual needs.

Moreover, with customers' comfort in mind, the meat can be purchased from the butcher's counter or in pre-packed trays. These products are prepared daily to offer customers who don't want to wait a wide range of meat products ready to pick up in an easy, comfortable way and as fresh as possible.

Along with their varied selection of top quality meats which include not only beef but also

pork, chicken, poultry, products made on site and of course Málaga goat, the Carrefour centres in Estepona, Mijas, Fuengirola, Torremolinos and Valle del Guadalhorce offer a selection of matured meats from the best sources. There is also a range of Bio products such as their famous free-range chicken, fed naturally and ecologically.

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It's worth stressing that this consumption system vastly shortens the production chain, lowers costs and increases the environmental benefits. This is due, among other things, to the reduction of the transport and distribution required to bring food products from other regions or even other countries.

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Work to resume on San Pedro health centre, says new SAS boss

While the San Pedro construction delay has been solved, work is unlikely to resume on the Costa del Sol Hospital extension this year

ÁNGEL ESCALERA

MÁLAGA. The new CEO of the Andalusian Health Service (SAS), Miguel Ángel Guzmán, told SUR this week that work would resume shortly on the new health centre in San Pedro Alcántara.

The construction had come to a halt two months ago due to differences over a budget modification. Guzmán announced that an agreement had been reached with the construction firm so that work can continue without having to put the contract out to tender again.

The centre will open either at the end of this year or the beginning of next, the new CEO explained.

Costa del Sol Hospital

There was less positive news, however, regarding the lack of progress on the extension work on the Costa del Sol Hospital in Marbella.



The future San Pedro health centre. **JOSELE**

“This issue is among our priorities,” he said, pointing out that the authority had solved the administrative deadlock causing the delay last year.

“In the first half of this year, for sure we will have concrete news about the schedule for the completion of the works,” he said.

When asked about when work would resume, he said it would all

depend on the awarding of the new contract, however it was unlikely to be this year, he said.

The new Estepona Hospital, however, will partially open this year, starting with specialist outpatient surgeries and diagnostic tests.

The next phase will see the opening of the accident and emergency department, followed by operating theatres and inpatient wards.

HERE AND THERE



döss Marbella hosted Saturday's event. **SUR**

Almost 500 attend Marbella Wedding Show

MARBELLA

A. JIMÉNEZ. More than 450 people, including some 200 couples, attended the Marbella Wedding Show on Saturday.

Restaurant döss Marbella hosted

the event, organised by the Da Bruno Group, during which two wedding ceremonies took place, lavished with the best in decoration and floral arrangements, fashion and even vehicles.

Attendees were able to visit a number of stands set up by local industry professionals who were ready to deal with any queries.

New lifeguard service needed in Marbella

MARBELLA

N. CASTRO. Marbella town hall must find, at short notice, a new company to offer lifeguard services on its beaches from Cabopino to Guadalmina. This comes after the current contract holder, Medios Acuáticos, turned down an extension. Interested parties have until the end of the month to present their offers, with the service needed in time for the start of Holy Week.

Work begins on new industrial estate car park

MARBELLA

A. J. Work to convert a site on the San Pedro industrial estate into a car park with 174 spaces is under way. The project, which will cost 260,000 euros, will see land next to Calle Chipre repurposed over the next month and a half.

The new car park will have places for those with reduced ability, as well as electric charging points.



SUR

PAN-EUROPEAN PROJECT REVIVES TRADITIONAL PLAYTIME

A group of teachers and pupils from the Almenara secondary school in Vélez-Málaga travelled to Poland recently to participate in an Erasmus+ project aimed at reviving traditional games to help motivate schoolchildren and tackle bullying and absenteeism. Schools from Poland, Turkey, Greece and Romania are also taking part in the cultural exchange. The Vélez-Málaga school will host the next meeting which will take place in March and the other three schools will receive the groups over the coming year.

British Consulate continues Brexit outreach with meetings in Malaga and Coín

SUR IN ENGLISH

MÁLAGA. The British Consulate has organised two events on the Costa del Sol for February as part of its Brexit outreach programme.

Those with questions about Brexit and its possible effects can visit the Consulate's pop-up desk at the Association of Language Schools in Andalucía (ACEIA) Malaga's sixth Annual ELT Conference in Malaga on 1 February.

The event will run between 9am and 2.30pm at the Hotel Eurostars Malaga (Calle Héroe de

Sostoa, 17). A member of the British Consulate team will be on hand to give information. Registration for the conference can be done online (through the www.aceia.es website).

Those who cannot make it to this pop-up will have another chance to have their queries answered at Coín's Casa de Cultura, (Plaza de Santa María s/n) on 19 February.

At this meeting, organised in conjunction with the Coín branch of the Royal British Legion, members of the Consulate team will give a talk on how British nationals in Spain can register correctly with the Spanish authorities, so that their rights can be protected by the Withdrawal Agreement. This will be followed by a Q&A session.

The meeting, which takes place from 10am to 12pm, is open to all those who are interested.



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A WINTRY BACKDROP ON PEAKS BEHIND THE COSTA

The mountain peaks looking down on the length of the Costa del Sol got a good dusting of snow in the early part of this week as Storm Gloria made its way across Spain. While there was rainfall on the coast, temperatures dropped turning it into snow on higher ground inland. As usual, the road from San Pedro to Ronda was affected, at about 700 metres above sea level onwards, while the Sierra de Mijas also had snowfall near the radio transmitter. White hilltops were also seen in the Axarquía. Forecasters said rain wouldn't make much difference to the area's low reservoir levels.



Serranía de Ronda. :: V. MELGAR



Upper Axarquía. :: A. PELÁEZ

Storm Gloria kills 11 as Spain is battered by high winds and waves

There were record-breaking waves in the Mediterranean on the east coast of the country and record rainfall at Barcelona Airport

:: CRISTIAN REINO

BARCELONA. Storm Gloria brought weather chaos to Spain for much of this week. Records were broken for the height of waves and amount of rainfall in several areas.

Worst hit were eastern areas near the Mediterranean, including the Valencia region, southern Aragón, northern Catalonia and the Balearic Islands.

At least 11 people were reported to have died as a result of the storm, most because of accidents in heavy winds or along the shoreline.

A spokesperson for Aemet, the state meteorological office said, "There's been an unprecedented maritime storm and its going to be one of the strongest ever recorded for sure. There have been very sig-



Tourists by the waves at La Barceloneta beach, Barcelona. :: REUTERS

nificant wave surges."

He went on to explain that off the coast of Valencia the wave height was two metres more than the previous record over several hours. The previous record height was 6.5 metres but earlier this week waves reached 8.45 metres.

Aemet also reported record rainfall in some places. On Tuesday, Barcelona Airport recorded 87.2mm of rain, the highest figure there since 1946 when 60mm fell.

In Tortosa, Tarragona, 137.2mm fell, almost double the previous record from January 1941.



Snow in the town of Gor, Granada, on Tuesday. :: FERMÍN RODRÍGUEZ

Andalucía suffers too with snow on high ground

:: SUR

MALAGA. From early this week there were alerts out for heavy snow in the high mountain areas of Andalucía, especially in Jaén, Granada and Almería provinces.

On Tuesday, parts of Granada province were hit by a thick blanket of snow, with some schools in the upland area north of the Sierra Nevada shut. The main A-92 motorway east of Granada was also closed to traffic for part of

the week.

Bad weather continued in Andalucía into midweek and on Wednesday morning a 77-year-old man died in the Níjar area of Almería province after being trapped in a plastic greenhouse during a sudden heavy hailstorm.

The local town hall advised residents over social media to stay away from certain areas of the municipality because of the hail and heavy rain that was falling.

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María Gámez, local PSOE high-flyer, becomes the first woman to head the Guardia Civil

The Malaga resident was until last week the government's official representative in the province and was once a candidate to be city mayor

:: SUR

MADRID. With a new government come fresh faces appointed to run the country's top institutions.

On Wednesday, history was made when the first woman director general took over the Guardia Civil. María Gámez is a well-known public official and former politician in Malaga province, affiliated to the PSOE party.

Fifty-year-old Gámez has held positions for the Junta de Andalucía in Malaga and until last week was 'Subdelegada del Gobierno', Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez's representative in the province. She was also once leader of the PSOE Socialist



Gámez next to the Interior minister at Wednesday's ceremony. :: EFE

group on Malaga city council.

Gámez was widely praised for her work coordinating the attempted rescue of toddler Julen, who died in a borehole last year. At the time, she caught the attention of the Interior minister, Fernando Grande-Marlaska,

who continues in the same role in the new government.

Grande-Marlaska is one of two ministers who appoint the civilian head of the Guardia Civil, Spain's most iconic police force. Gámez's nomination was made jointly with

the Defence ministry, as the Guardia Civil is also classed as being part of the military.

On hearing the news, Gámez said last week, "The important thing isn't being the first [woman], what's perhaps more important is not being the only one or the last."

In her speech on being sworn in on Wednesday, she listed among her challenges cybercrime and gender violence as well as combatting climate change and animal cruelty.

Gámez will also have to deal with union moves to have Guardia Civil pay increased to match higher-paid colleagues in other police forces.

Among the 175-year-old Guardia's Civil roles are: customs and border protection, patrolling trunk roads, the environment and crime fighting in rural areas and smaller urban centres.

María Gámez is daughter of a lighthouse keeper who once ran Marbella's lighthouse.

Alhambra palace makes it easier to buy visitor tickets at short notice

:: SUR

GRANADA. Managers of the Alhambra palace in Granada, one of Spain's most-visited historic attractions, are to make it easier to get hold of tickets. There has long been criticism that few are available to the public and are often sold out weeks in advance, instead going to tour operators who then resell at higher prices, some as much as 700 euros.

Now in a bid to help overnight citybreak tourism in Granada, the amount given out to tour operators will be scaled back and more released for sale close to the day.

Promising to increase transparency, bosses have said that 70 per cent of tickets will now be on general release; 36 per cent a year in advance, 22 per cent three months in advance and 12 per cent one month in advance.

Spain's hybrid government has already started splashing the cash, with Socialist premier Pedro Sánchez announcing another hike in the country's minimum wage this week.

This is in addition to a 22% increase in the minimum wage made last year, a new 2% raise in the salaries of the dreaded "funcionarios" - those overlords of pointless paperwork, always ready to deny you documentation for the most inane reasons - and the pensions boost of 0.9% announced last week.

It looks like Sánchez's minority administration, also comprised of leftist Podemos, is passing new laws with ease, despite being 21 seats short of a parliamentary majority.

But none of these decisions have had to go through or will have to go through congress. Instead, they have been or can be passed directly by royal decree after cabinet approval - a handy shortcut for a minority administration.

In other words, the new gov-

THE EURO ZONE MARK NAYLER

TAKING A SHORT CUT



ernment's ability to secure cross-party support for new legislation has yet to be tested.

The true test of how well the new Socialist-Podemos arrangement works will be passing a budget - a task which Sánchez, in his first TV interview as Spain's new president this week, promised would be completed "before the end of the summer". And his ability to do that, even to such a relaxed deadline, depends on how he gets on with Catalan premier Quim Torra.

Sánchez looked sharp in his first TV interview since reclaiming the helm of Spain's government, although his two ques-

tioners didn't throw many curve balls his way. They did, however, point out a couple of dramatic reversals of policy recently made by the Socialist leader, one regarding his attitude towards Torra and the other concerning his willingness to cooperate with Iglesias.

Towards the end of last year, courting votes from centrist voters hostile to the Catalan independence drive, Sánchez refused to answer Torra's phone calls. He also said that working with Podemos' leader would be unfeasible, as Iglesias is further to the left than the Socialist premier on many issues.

But Sánchez held his own when quizzed about the U-turn, revealing an apparently new-found belief in compromise.

"In politics, reality comes before your wishes," he said.

Up until very recently, it seemed to be precisely the other way around for Spain's politicians.

Sánchez has announced that he'll be visiting Torra in Barcelona next month to discuss possible solutions to the Catalonia problem.

That meeting will be watched very closely by the pro-independence Republican Left of Catalonia (ERC), which abstained at Sánchez's investiture session on the condition that the Socialist leader open talks with Catalan secessionists.

Now, the ERC's crucial budget votes - or abstentions, at least - depend on Sánchez's largely-untested negotiating skills.

Despite the public spending increases squeezed through by royal decree, the hard work is only just beginning for Spain's new government.

Hard-right party, Vox has its Twitter account blocked for "inciting hatred" in message

:: SUR

MADRID. Hard-right Vox had its Twitter account temporarily blocked this week in a row over a potentially harmful tweet that might "incite hatred". In recent days, politicians have been commenting on Vox's wish that parents have a veto on non-core curriculum in schools for their children in subjects dealing with sexuality and gender violence.

In a reply to a critical message from the PSOE on its policy, Vox said that it didn't tolerate public money being used to promote "paedophilia". Twitter said that Vox could reuse its account if it took the offending Tweet down, which it initially refused to do, suggesting that the new coalition government had applied pressure to get the account stopped.



Mercadona enters ranking of 500 most valuable world brands

Other Spanish firms in the annual report from Brand Finance include Santander, BBVA, Zara, Movistar, Iberdrola and El Corte Inglés

■ SUR

MÁLAGA. Mercadona has entered the ranking of the world's 500 most valuable brands for the first time.

Apart from the supermarket firm, other well-known Spanish names on the list include Santander, BBVA,

Zara, Movistar, Iberdrola and El Corte Inglés. Repsol and Caixabank have fallen out of the ranking this year.

Mercadona, which is the country's largest supermarket chain, has entered at number 464.

The annual report by consultants Brand Finance was presented at the World Economic Forum in Davos this week and sees US-giant Amazon heading the list.

Santander and Iberdrola are the only two Spanish brands in the ranking to have seen their value increase in 2020. Zara has seen the estimated monetary value of its

Zara has seen the estimated monetary value of its brand to its owners, Inditex, drop 21 per cent

brand name to its owners, Inditex, drop by 21 per cent, falling out of the top 100.

As well as brand value, Brand Finance also ranked the most valued CEOs in the world. Telefónica boss, José María Álvarez-Pallete, was rated the best from Spain this year.

High-street jewellers Tous investigated over "fake metal inside its products"

The Catalonia-based firm, which is in 50 countries, has denied the claim, saying all its pieces are independently certified

■ SUR

MADRID. Known for its jewellery featuring a teddy bear, high-street retailer Tous is a household name in Spain. However the firm is currently at the centre of an investigation that is far from cuddly.

A court is looking into whether

Catalonia-based Tous has sold jewellery filled with an amount of non-metallic material other than the quality gold and silver as advertised. The company has denied the claim, saying all its products are certified.

On Wednesday, a judge interviewed Tous representatives along with employees from Applus Laboratories, the firm responsible for the quality seal of approval. Tous, which sells in 50 countries, says the electroforming manufacturing process may lead to tiny non-metallic particles but is within the rules for 18 to 24 carat gold and sterling silver.

Tougher rules may be on the way for Spanish workers to claim their state pension

■ AMPARO ESTRADA

MADRID. The new Social Security minister has lost no time grasping the problem of a shortfall in the pensions budget which observers see as increasing in the future as the population ages.

José Luis Escrivá comes from a background in independent supervision of public expenditure and is well placed to deal with the headache.

Beside a series of short-term measures to reallocate spending within the government to shore up state pension finances, the new minister is suggesting some long-term changes. He has proposed that the average retirement date is delayed a year and that the amount of pension received is based on an average of 35 years salary, and not the final 25 years as now. Both measures would reduce the amount that has to be paid out in pensions by up to 1.7 per cent of GDP by 2048.

Currently, although the legal retirement age will be 67 by 2027, in reality the average age will be 64.5, as many have already paid in enough contributions. The minister wants to increase this age.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

JEREMY BLATCH

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THE PLACE OF GOLD IN AN INVESTOR'S PORTFOLIO



What image do we conjure up when we think of Gold? Elegance, beauty, wealth, risk, insurance, or just another shiny metal? But do we think of Gold as money? Money must be a store of value, a medium of exchange and a unit of account. The function of money in our financial system allows us to trade without needing to 'barter'. (Selling a jacket for a loaf of bread!)

Money has taken different forms during millennium from Gold, feathers, shells, coins, paper (FIAT), and now digital (Crypto). Confidence in the unit of exchange is what they have in common. Gold has performed this function for 5,000 years unlike crypto which has still to be tested in a crisis. But is this true today? What relevance can a lump of metal possibly have in a technologically driven 21st century marketplace? Markets are simply a reflection of human endeavour and behaviour. Scarcity, permanence and independence are attributes unique to gold lacking in our modern financial system.

Fear and greed drive markets and this can be seen by studying the historical movement of the gold price. When investors are fearful, they buy gold as an insurance against systemic loss. However if insuring against systemic risk in the financial system, gold must be held outside that system. No use plugging your backup generator into your mains when the power supply fails.

The USD has depreciated against Gold 98% from 1999 to 2019. Gold has retained its purchasing power over millennia. In this context it is not the price of Gold that matters but how the value of FIAT printed money depreciates against

Gold. All the Gold ever mined is held by someone and is approximately USD 7 trillion, of which Central Banks hold approximately 10%. Gold for the Central Banks is their liquid reserve for a financial crisis. In the US stored under armed guard in Fort Knox and West Point and in China guarded by PLA in a mountain somewhere. However, unlike paper money, which is a claim against the central bank, Gold is the only asset which is not someone else's liability and does not require a financial intermediary.

In addition to insurance against systemic risk, Gold is not correlated with other financial assets like bonds equities and commodities and acts as a diversifier of market risk in a portfolio. For example, the price of Gold moves inversely to the USD and acts as a hedge against inflation. In a time of excessive government indebtedness, erratic investor behaviour and a highly leveraged credit market as a result of the cheapest money for 100 years, prudent investors will follow the lead of central banks and include a holding of gold as part of their investment portfolio. The price of gold has appreciated 20.62% over the last 12 months and 493% since 2000. How we should own gold and how much is another question for another article.

The author is a member of the Society of Trustees and Estate Practitioners and an investment counsellor. The comments and observations by the author are a reflection of his opinion and do not constitute an offer to buy and hold securities, nor does he receive any remuneration of any kind from names referred to.



Shoppers in Madrid pass a branch of Tous this week. ■ EP

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Gibraltar Tourist Board advertises the Rock's attractions at Fitur

Recent innovations such as the Windsor Suspension Bridge and Skywalk are not for the faint-hearted but Gibraltar has a wealth of history and culture to explore

:: **DEBBIE BARTLETT**

GIBRALTAR. The Gibraltar Tourist Board (GTB) is currently taking part in Fitur, the international tourism trade fair in Madrid. Fitur, now in its 40th year, began on Wednesday and continues until Sunday.

Fitur is one of the most important events for the tourism industry around the world. Last year there were 10,487 countries or regions exhibiting and 142,642 trade participants. The fair was visited by 110,848 consumers and covered by over 8,000 journalists.

The Bland Group International, Sunborn Gibraltar, Parody Tours and Fonnafly Gibraltar are co-exhibiting with the Gibraltar Tourist Board at Fitur.

The Minister for Tourism, Vijay Daryanani, said: "Gibraltar must grasp every opportunity to sell its tourism products and services to a global audience. Fitur is one of



Gibraltar's dizzying Windsor Suspension Bridge. :: VISITGIBRALTAR

those activities that provide us with the chance to do this, alongside some of our industry partners. I'm grateful to our co-exhibitors for joining us in the sales drive at this event. We have a great number of visitors from Spain every year and aside from the global companies present at the event, this is also an opportunity for us to meet with those providing services to Gibraltar from the surrounding areas."

Gibraltar can be reached by air, sea or across the land border by Spain and it is already a popular tourist destination. By the end of October last year there had been 101,879 enquiries at the Tourist Information Office and 945,955 people had visited the famous Upper Rock Nature Reserve.

New tourist attractions which have opened in recent years include the Windsor Suspension Bridge and the Skywalk.

Customs officers come under attack in smuggling chase

After boarding the suspect boat, officers confiscated 1,500 cartons of cigarettes

:: **D. BARTLETT**

GIBRALTAR. Officers from the Customs Marine Section came under attack in the early hours of Wednesday morning after chasing a suspect vessel which turned out to be loaded with tobacco.

The boat, which was about 5.5 metres in length, carried out numerous evasive manoeuvres before the Customs vessel was able to intercept it. Two other boats which

were also suspected of being involved in tobacco smuggling tried to help it to make its escape.

When the Gibraltar officers boarded the boat, the other two vessels rammed it and the occupants attacked them, hitting one officer on the shoulder. An individual on one of the boats also threatened them, making comments about a weapon and acting as if he had retrieved a firearm by pointing both his hands towards them. The two other boats collided and one occupant fell overboard but was rescued by his companions. The officers seized 1,500 cartons of cigarettes and investigations continue.

Officials from Gibraltar, UK and Spain hold Brexit technical talks in Madrid

:: **D. BARTLETT**

GIBRALTAR. Officials from Gibraltar, Spain and UK began technical talks in Madrid on Thursday in preparation for Brexit. The eight-strong Gibraltar delegation was led

by Attorney General Michael Llamas. The discussions, which were originally scheduled for 13 and 14 January but were postponed while the new Spanish government was formed, were about practical questions on implementation of the Memoranda of Understanding which were agreed in 2018 as part of the Withdrawal Agreement.

The MoUs established a series of committees with representatives from Gibraltar, UK and Spain, which in general are due to come to an end on 31 December, at the end of the transition period.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A year in flames

2019 will certainly go down in history, among other things, for the forest fires that have razed the planet.

We've seen the terrible images of flames in all hemispheres, fuelled undoubtedly by climate change. We have the devastating fires in Australia, with thousands of people evacuated and millions of dead animals, engraved on our retinas. We also saw how the Amazon burned,

before the indifference of many. Areas of the US such as California, and even Siberia suffered significant fires last year. Neither was this area spared. The Canaries, Galicia and our Portuguese neighbours saw how their parks and mountains burned. Our planet is in flames. We need real solutions now, not just promises.

OLGA SANTISTEBAN
BY EMAIL

Forest interest

We look forward to the content and valuable journalistic contributions in SUR in English every week, thanks to an editorial culture that stimulates it.

For example this week's article about the Mijas food forest project by Tony Bryant (January 17th to 23rd, page 10) is a good example of the high level of the content of SUR in English.

We read it with great interest.

ANITA NOORDZIJ
CALAHONDA

Where's my phone?

A study in the journal Adolescent Health links mobile phones to depression among adolescents. Cases of depression have increased massively with new

technology to the point that social media are thinking of removing 'likes' and follower figures to prevent obsessive behaviour.

There is even now a thing called nomophobia, an irrational fear of leaving home without a mobile phone.

When it was first invented, technology was meant to be there to help us, not to undervalue everything that already existed, including ourselves.

Technology has seen some great steps forward in scientific fields, but at times it makes us less human.

That's why we must curb our dependence and relegate technological devices to their place, as simple aids to support our everyday lives, not something we can't live without.

ALBA AGUILERA
BY EMAIL

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Thank you for the daze

PETER EDGERTON
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

A swivel-eyed chap sporting a rictus grin propped himself up against the nightclub bar and began to stammer.

"I... I... I'm too old for this," he managed to whisper to nobody in particular before slumping defeated to the floor semi-conscious, much to the unbridled glee of his chums.

For reasons which baffle me to this day, about twenty five years ago, I found myself taking a two-week holiday in Magaluf, Mallorca, a town allegedly twinned with Gommorah. This resort, even then, was renowned as a den of iniquity but, hey, it was cheap and I was skint. What could possibly go wrong?

Oh my word - it was mayhem from start to finish. Let's just say, the concept of a quiet pint wasn't high on the agenda for any one present. 'Public relations reps'

(girls in miniskirts) would drag you into dingy rooms where a slightly too old bloke in a baseball cap would be playing records you'd forgotten were so terrible. A constant blur of cheap shots, strobe lighting and semi - and not always semi - naked debauchery is all I can recall passing before my incredulous eyes except for one evening when I escaped alone to the capital Palma and enjoyed a civilized tapa or two in the old town.

The locals looked at me with a mixture of fear, suspicion and pity and I can't say I blame them. British tourists in their thousands had been leaving their calling card on the island every year for decades and, suffice to say, it rarely involved a small glass of Rioja and a Manchego cheese and jamón serrano tapa.

No, let's face it we've spent years behaving shamefully over there and while the local authori-

ties must share some of the blame for turning a blind eye in return for sales of lager equivalent to the world GDP, the cavorting UK masses remain the prime culprits, I'm afraid to say.

In the last few days - better late than never - the local powers that be have decided that enough is enough and have introduced a series of small measures, such as reducing the hours alcohol can be sold in shops and prohibiting free or cut price drinks in bars thus eliminating all oxymoronic happy hours in one fell swoop. This can only be a good thing.

Whatever the loss in terms of bawdily named cocktail sales, surely the reduced need for emergency and medical services will go a long way towards compensating.

You never know, there might also be a spike in Rioja wine and Manchego cheese consumption.

SANSÓN



SUR in English

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Natalia unexpectedly interrupted the group of friends who were enjoying a birthday celebration on an open-air terrace. A touch of sadness embedded itself in their jollity and hearts started beating faster.

The first words spoken by this skinny middle-aged woman with haggard features and even a gaunt look in her eyes, froze the spirits of the group on that chilly January evening, in a city that was still recovering from the excesses of the Christmas season.

Her high tone of voice caught the attention of even the distracted diners: she was asking for help from the invisibility that plagues the lives of people who have been uprooted from their homes and

whose existence goes unnoticed as we go about our daily routines.

Then Antonio arrived and started singing in the hope of gaining a few coins for his improvised concert; the chorus and intonation

were not important, what mattered was the strength of his spirit before he went off, taking his music elsewhere.

Later more came; they didn't introduce themselves but they have

names, stories, a past and a future - although I doubt their present is a gift lost in so much consumerism and deliveries from one side of the planet to another - and they all demanded their share of solidarity.

These are daily scenes that find no frame, or place on the postcards that form the album of our memories. These scenes bring us back down to earth with a bump.

We are losing sensitivity, an element of cohesion for the human race; and we mustn't forget that this is what makes us different from animals.

It seems that now not everyone is capable of being affected by violent scenes involving less fortunate beings, of weeping before a situation of injustice or simply being saddened by someone else's

misfortune. Yet these scenes can be found around every corner, in every neighbourhood, in the doorway of an elegant building.

Sensitivity appeals to our primitive emotion, one that tells us that humanity exists beyond our closest surroundings, beyond our comfort zone...

It's as if all the enthusiasm and goodwill to others that we display in December is wiped from our calendar of affections in January.

It ought to be Christmas all year round to preserve that attraction towards people who ask for more than charity, because philanthropy never appears on the calendar as it has no expiry date.

Life goes on and we have to realise that so many people have a need, at least, for some affection.

Where's the sensitivity?

JOSÉ MIGUEL AGUILAR

London's view of Picasso through paper

The Royal Academy of Arts in London is hosting a major exhibition sponsored by Malaga council, the Diputación, Unicaja Banco and Fundación Unicaja

¿ IÑIGO GURRUCHAGA

LONDON. The Royal Academy of Arts in London is about to open the most complete exhibition ever to have been organised about Pablo Picasso's use of paper. There are more than 300 works, most of them on loan from the Paris museum dedicated to the Malaga-born artist, and the secretary of the Royal Academy, Axel Rüger, says this is a way of focusing on the prolific imagination of an artist about whom "it would be impossible now to display a complete retrospective".

The main sponsors of this exhibition are Malaga council, Unicaja Banco, Fundación Unicaja and Turismo Costa del Sol. It begins with two silhouettes, one of a dove and the other of a dog, cut from paper, which Picasso did in 1890, before he was even nine years old, and it ends with a pencil sketch on paper of his last self-portrait, which he finished months before his death in 1973.

The structure of the display, whose official presentation was attended by over 700 guests including institutional representatives, cultural agents and directors of major businesses in the UK and Spain, is chronological. Each room reflects a period of Picasso's career, accompanied by one or two important pictures or sculptures to underline the context. Picasso used to keep everything, say the organisers, and that resulted in there being thousands of items, including pages of newspapers upon which he used to draw when he had no other materials to hand.

For his portrait of Josefa Sabastia in Horta de San Juan, in 1898, he used



Women at their Toilette and, right, Bust of a Woman or Sailor.

© Sucesión Pablo Picasso, VEGAP, Málaga, 2020



Representatives and sponsors at the preview in London. :: SUR

Conté pencil on parchment, which gave it density and definition. When he went to the small village of Gósol in Lérida in 1906, he took Ingres paper and charcoal, watercolours, quill and inks with him and experimented with polyhedral shapes. At that time he was also exploring printing techniques in his Paris studio.

To the experiments in collage

which were being carried out by fellow artist Georges Braque, with the shapes of what would be called cubism, Picasso added fragments of card or newspaper. With oils on cardboard, he worked on progressive sketches which would become The Young Ladies of Avignon, where he showed his liking for primitive African art and its colourful vitality.

play shows, Picasso slid from cubism towards a realism of line, inspired by the work of Ingres, and produced portraits of Stravinski, his first wife, Olga Jojlova and Renoir, in ink, pencil or charcoal. He then embraced surrealism and, when the Civil War began, drew sketches on paper of elements of what would become his Guernica.

In the Second World War he stayed in Paris, with the blinds of his studio closed to protect himself from those who classified his work as degenerative work, paid "an arm and a leg" for sheets of Japanese paper and continued to draw and paint with watercolour and gouache.

The display comes to an end with the documentary The Mystery of Picasso and the rapture of colour and eroticism in his final years. He was, say the organisers of this exhibition, "one of the most important artists of the 20th century". In fact, a few metres from the Royal Academy, the Art & Language collective is showing The Art of Picasso in the Style of Jackson Pollock at the Sprovieri gallery, with a superimposition of his forms and text. Not far away, the Gagosian completes the scene with the fantasy of Salvador Dalí in a hyper-realistic portrait of life in Hollywood.

Promoting tourism

This ambitious display is part of a major tourism and cultural campaign organised by Malaga in London this week in synergy with the prestigious Royal Academy of Arts.

The signing of the agreement was attended by the CEO of Turismo Costa del Sol, Margarita del Cid; the mayor of Malaga, Francisco de la Torre, and the president of the Royal Academy of Arts (RAA), Rebecca Salter, with Cristina Rico on behalf of Fundación Unicaja and Juan de Mata Sanz representing Unicaja Banco.



© Sucesión Pablo Picasso, VEGAP, Málaga, 2020

The exhibition includes a video of a performance of the ballet Parade, an idea by Jean Cocteau to be executed by Serge Diaghilev's Russian Ballet, with music by Erik Satie, to which the Spanish painter contributed the backdrop and costumes. The attire of one of the leading characters, the French director, was made from cardboard.

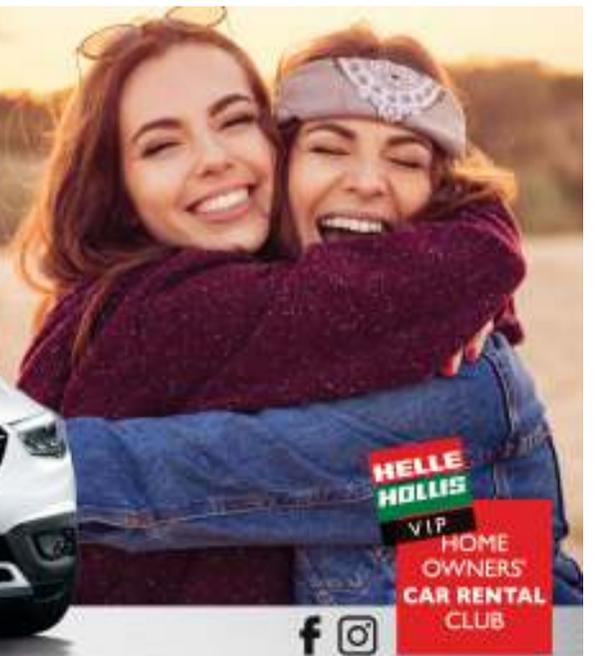
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The tales of two Madrid correspondents

Both Matias Buck and Raphael Minder have written books on Spain, its politics and culture, while reporting from Madrid for the Financial Times and the New York Times respectively



MARK NAYLER

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The 2008-2013 global economic crisis is the focal point of *After The Fall*, a gripping book released last year by Tobias Buck, the Financial Times' (FT) Madrid correspondent from 2012 to 2017.

In elegant, compelling prose, Buck documents the causes of the crisis, starting with Spain joining the eurozone in 1999, and explores both its negative and positive effects, such as soaring unemployment and the emergence of new political forces, whose success has been fuelled by dissatisfaction with the status quo. One of the best chapters - *Storming The Heavens* - charts the rise of leftist Podemos ("We Can") and is especially interesting in light of recent events.

Buck has a great eye for colour and detail, for touches that really bring a story to life. Podemos was conceived in the left-leaning Faculty of Political and Social Sciences in Madrid's Complutense University, where "the atmosphere is cheerfully anarchic: students light up cigarettes despite a university-wide smoking ban. Amidst the thick tobacco smoke, the pungent scent of marijuana is unmistakable."

After studying and working as a professor in this rebellious environment, Iglesias formed Podemos in 2014, on the back of the "indignados" anti-austerity movements in Madrid. Now, just six years later, he is one of Spain's deputy prime ministers and sits next to sharp-suited Socialist leader Pedro Sánchez at the cabinet table.

Buck shows that Iglesias' rapid ascent, from indignant outsider to national lawmaker, would have been inconceivable without the crisis, which set the scene for newcomers unafraid of challenging a discredited and corrupt political class.

In his final chapter, the author rightly praises Spain's new parties for terminating the dual hegemony of the Socialists and the Conservatives, who up until recently were accustomed to swapping parliamentary majorities back and forth.

But as he also points out, the political fragmentation inaugurated by the 2015 general election means that "a party that cannot strike deals across the aisle... will have little hope of ever leading the Spanish government".

Up until a couple of weeks ago,

when Iglesias and Sánchez finally ended the latest governmental deadlock, none of Spain's top politicians seemed able or willing to compromise. Now that the Socialist and Podemos leaders have made their historic deal, they must learn to shun their "tribal" instincts, as Buck puts it, in order to govern together effectively.

A love of Spain

Although it's not made explicit until the closing pages, a deep love of Spain informs Buck's writing. He describes it as an inherently "social country. It is not for people who want to be left alone".

Like me, you will surely be in agreement when the FT veteran says that Spaniards possess a "basic human decency that cut[s] across... prejudices and preconceptions" and that Spain itself is "tolerant, helpful, open, vibrant, creative and endlessly surprising". This essential book chronicles that diversity, as well as showing that despite the setbacks and hardships of the last decade, Spaniards have not been beaten by the crisis.

A frequent guest at Buck's home in Madrid was Raphael Minder, currently the New York Times' (NYT) correspondent for Spain and Portugal. Minder, who enjoyed evenings watching football and drinking beers with his fellow journalist (who is now stationed in Berlin for the FT), has also made a huge contribution to the international understanding of Spain, with a 2017 book entitled *The Struggle For Catalonia*.

Drawing on over 200 interviews, Minder's book is characterised by exceptional balance, in accordance with his high intellectual standards.

"I am...dumbfounded by those who decry an opinion without first seeking to understand it," he says - a quality that many of today's politicians seem unhindered by.

Yet despite his erudition, the Swiss journalist argues that it would be "foolish to predict" what will come next in the Catalan government's divisive, chaotic project to divorce Madrid. That's just as true now as it was three years ago; indeed, there have been momentous developments since Minder was finishing his book in early 2017.

During his reporting, the NYT journalist met all the key players in the Catalonia drama, one of whom hadn't taken centre stage at the time of being interviewed. Quim Torra is introduced first as the former director of a Barcelona-



Tobias Buck. The Financial Times correspondent's book *After The Fall* was released last year.

Raphael Minder. The *Struggle For Catalonia* by the New York Times journalist was published in 2017.

AFTER THE FALL

Tobias Buck's book chronicles the diversity of Spain as well as showing that Spaniards have not been beaten by the crisis

THE STRUGGLE FOR CATALONIA

Minder's work lays bare Spain's fascinating complexity and invites us to consider what changes lie ahead

based cultural organisation, and subsequently referred to as a lawyer and publisher. Now, of course, he is president of the Catalan government - and faces an eighteen-month ban from public office for failing to remove pro-independence banners from the streets of Barcelona during electoral campaigns last March.

Torra's appeal is in the hands of Spain's Supreme Court, but he has said in recent interviews that he doubts it will be approved. Sadly, he's probably right.

It's particularly poignant to read Minder's interviews with Carles Puigdemont, Torra's predecessor as Catalan president, and Oriol Junqueras, leader of the pro-secession Catalan Republican Left (ERC). Puigdemont, with whom Minder dines at the Catalanian government's HQ in Barcelona, confesses that the only reason he is sitting in what he calls the "electric chair" of the regional presidency is to achieve secession.

With extraordinary frankness, he tells Minder that he "doesn't have a vocation for political leadership at this level".

One can't help wondering if Puigdemont, who led a peaceful life as a journalist before entering the furnace of Catalan politics, wishes he'd never sat in the "electric chair". After orchestrating an illegal independence referendum in Catalonia in October 2017, he fled to Belgium to avoid arrest by Spanish authorities, where he has remained ever since. Last October, Spain's Supreme Court sentenced nine of Puigdemont's colleagues to between nine and thirteen years in prison for their roles in organising the referendum.

Junqueras was already leader of the ERC when he met Minder.

"We, the Catalans who want independence, 'estamos independistas'," he tells the author. Junqueras' use of "estar" rather than "ser" seems incorrect in this context, but he uses it deliberately to con-

vey his belief that the current setup, which sees Catalonia mainly ruled from Madrid, is only temporary.

Last autumn, Spain's Supreme Court sentenced Junqueras to thirteen years behind bars for his role in organising the 2017 referendum - the lengthiest of the terms it gave to leading secessionists. Yet judging from remarks he's made in interviews and on social media since, the ERC president's pro-independence fervour is undiminished.

When I asked Minder what he loves most about being a reporter in the Spanish capital, he revealed an affection for Spain very similar to Buck's.

"Being a correspondent anywhere gives a wonderful license to ask questions and learn," he told me over email this week; "but in Spain, it comes with the added bonus that people are open, friendly and generally more than proud and happy to share their time and knowledge... I've never had a boring taxi ride in Madrid, nor have I often sat on my own in a bar without soon enough striking a random and fun conversation."

Minder's book lays bare Spain's fascinating complexity and invites us to consider what changes lie ahead, especially for Madrid's stormy relationship with Barcelona. And whatever's around the corner, it won't be boring - just like a taxi-ride or bar-room chat in the Spanish capital.

"People come to Extremadura looking for an unspoilt Spain"

Marco Mangut Tour guide in Extremadura



FRANK GAVURIN

✉ english@diariosur.es

Ahead of a talk at the Benahavís Arts Society, Marco Mangut spoke to SUR in English about his background and his home region of Extremadura

MALAGA. Cáceres native Marco Mangut has been showing visitors from around the world his home region of Extremadura almost half his life. Two years after guiding visitors from the Benahavís Arts Society around Mérida, it is now the Costa del Sol's turn to welcome him, when he visits the Arts Society on 28 January.

–How did you get into doing guided tours?

–My father was a tour guide here in Extremadura, so since I was a kid, I remember walking around with him in the old town of Cáceres and liking it. I studied History and Geography here at the local university, and also in St Andrews in Scotland.

–The Scottish accent must have taken some time to get used to...

–I still remember my taxi ride from the airport in Edinburgh; I couldn't understand a word the driver was saying. I thought he was speaking Norwegian or something! I was 20 years old and I thought, "This is not the language I've been learning for the last 10 years". But St Andrews was very international, and most of my friends and teachers were from England or Ireland, so apart from the local people, things weren't as hard as I was worrying when I got there.

–How long have you been working as a tour guide?

–20 years.

–In terms of tourist destinations in Spain's south, Andalucía arguably overshadows Extremadura; people think of Granada or Cordoba first. Do you think your region faces challenges as a tourist destination?

–Well, from the moment I began to work as a tour guide, I've seen great changes in local tourism, although we're not one of the main destinations in Spain. We're a bit off the beaten track, and even now, we don't have great flight connections or good trains – in fact we're famed for having the worst trains in Spain – so that makes things really hard. But this may be the reason why there are a lot of people coming over to the region, looking for the essence of Spain, an

unspoilt Spain. In a way, I think it's a blessing too. It's true that tourism is growing a lot; when I started, I could only work weekends, long weekends and holidays. Now, this is my full-time job from the end of February to the beginning of December.

–What do you think this change is down to?

–I think those who know Spain and have been here a lot are looking for something different, and also, in a region like this one, where around 85 per cent of tourists are from Spain, it's a way for Spaniards to discover the unknown Spain. In fact, I think the economic crisis was one of the best periods for us, because people stopped going to Vienna, or London, or Paris, and they stayed closer to home.

–Your website says you speak five languages – what are they and how did you pick them up?

–I also do tours in French, Portuguese, Italian, German and Spanish, of course. I mainly picked them up at language schools. My year in St Andrews is the only time I've lived abroad. My father was a French teacher, so he taught me the language when I was a kid, and I spent my summers in France. Living so close to the border helps with Portuguese, and knowing these languages already helps with Italian. The real nightmare is German, which I'm still learning.

–Where are the non-Spanish 15 per cent of your audience from?

–I mainly work with Portuguese, French, Germans, Dutch and Brits. I don't really work with Spanish clients, because unfortunately we don't have many others who speak foreign languages.

–Do you notice any differences between what the different groups want to see, or what they ask?

–People coming to a region as obscure as Extremadura from France, Britain or Germany, they're really interested in local history. There are more and more groups coming from Britain to learn about the Peninsular War – they want to visit the sites of the Battle of Badajoz and the Battle of Albuera.

–Is there interest in the Civil War as well?

–There's more on the Peninsular War, but you obviously mention spots re-

lating to the Civil War, though not with Spanish groups. At the beginning, talking about Franco with Spanish visitors wasn't that delicate, but now it's something you can't even mention. Things have become worse as the years have gone by, and there are certain topics that it's best not to talk about.

–On a lighter note, do any silly questions you've been asked come to mind?

–Well, you know we've got lots of storks in the area. People have often asked me, "Are they real or just statues?", or commented on how many seagulls we have in Extremadura! You hear so many silly things, sometimes you just have to take a deep breath and say, "Okay, never mind."

–How did the idea of your talk at



Marco Mangut. :: SUR

the Benahavís Arts Society come about?

–I was their guide in Mérida a few years ago. They loved what we were doing, and they said "We have a group on the Costa del Sol; maybe you could come and do a lecture on the Roman remains in Mérida?" I said "Why not?", and they said "Okay, in two years time". So now those two years have passed and here we are. I'm really honoured that they chose me. It's also a great way to get to know an area of the Costa del Sol I've never been to. Killing two birds with one stone.

–Finally, what can people attending expect from your talk?

–I'll try to talk about the unknown Mérida. People will already know about the Roman theatre, the amphitheatre, the Roman bridge... Mérida is probably the biggest archaeological site from Roman times in all Spain, and I would say it's the most important one outside of Italy in Europe, which is the reason it's now a World Heritage Site. They're still excavating now, so there are many things that have been discovered recently which people might not know about. I want to bring people's knowledge up to date, and also talk about the things we can't see, because there's no way you'd cover it all in one day.



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SOCIETY SCENE

Donations and celebrations

Mijas Lions, TOPS and Age Care present cheques to local charities and the RBL Coín cut their birthday cake

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

La Cala de Mijas Lions Helping the environment

At their recent meeting, La Cala de Mijas Lions had an informative talk by members of MiMoana, a volunteer organisation that undertakes the cleaning of beaches and the sea bed. Lions president Anita Humphreys presented the organisation with 1,000 euros to help them in their work. Also at the meeting, the club received a visit from the Lions District Governor, Fernando Juanes, who presented long service awards to Janet Watson, William Oliver, Rosalyn Rowley, Anne Bowles and Brenda Meredith. For more information visit the Lions Charity Shop in Calle Torremolinos, La Cala de Mijas or call 637 185 533.

TOPS Donation to Cáritas

TOPS, The Occasional Performing Society, have put on shows and other events during 2019 in order to raise money for local charities. On Wednesday last week the chairman of TOPS, Keith Johnston Harris, and the secretary, Maggie Parker, met with the Alhaurín el Grande Cáritas committee, to hand over 1,000 euros. Cáritas helps those in need throughout the south of Spain and in other countries. Donations are used to buy food, clothes and health products, among other items, for those in need.

Royal British Legion Coín Many happy returns

Members and guests of the Coín branch of the Royal British Legion met at La Parrilla de Pepe last week to celebrate the branch's 14th birthday. The next event features a Brexit Outreach presentation by Charmaine Arboin, the British Consul in Malaga, held in the Salón de Actos in the Casa de Cultura in Coín, at 10am on 19 February.



Members of La Cala de Mijas Lions hand over cheque to MiMoana. :: SUR



TOPS present Cáritas Alhaurín el Grande with 1,000 euros. :: SUR



RBL Coín branch birthday. :: SUR

Age Care Association CAB Spain donation

The Age Care Association vice president Tom Tar, along with Lesley Berridge, the Calahonda welfare officer, recently presented a cheque

for 1,000 euros to Myra Azzopardi of Citizens Advice Bureau Spain. Age Care's yearly donations have enabled the CAB Spain to buy a car to help with its work around the region.

What are you up to?

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

Email: surinenglish.su@diariosur.es

LEGAL ADVICE



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REF. N. O. C.

My son has been fired from his job because, according to his boss, he was seen stealing on a video from one of the security cameras. He insists that he did not steal anything, but admitted that he did not know there were security cameras recording, so I do not know what to think. His boss told him that he was

fired, but that he was not going to report him. I have heard something about recordings obtained without consent not being valid in court, so I would like to know if they could be invalidated in the event that my son is reported.

In principle, in the case you are relating, the recording could not be used as evidence, but moreover, the dismissal could be wrongful if it is true that your son was not informed that there were security cameras recording. It all depends on whether there are any signs in the workplace indicating the presence of video cameras, as such signs would be enough to consider that the worker has been informed. Otherwise, if there are no signs and there is no evidence that your son was informed of the installation of cameras, there would be a breach of the Data Protection Act, the video would be illegal (so it could not be used as evi-

dence in any case), and dismissal would therefore be wrongful.

REF. R. I. A.

In January last year I established my holidays at work and chose the last two weeks of the year. But that month, I got pregnant, and during those two weeks of vacation I was on maternity leave, so I asked for the holidays to be transferred to the next year, to take them just after my maternity leave. However, the company said that I could not have holiday because by law they could not be transferred to the next year. Is that correct?

In general it is, but not in your case. Article 38.3 of the Workers' Statute clearly states that if the period of leave coincides with maternity leave, the worker shall be entitled to take holidays on a different date from that of the leave, even if the calendar year to which they relate has ended.

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PET CARE

PETER HARRISON



Road accidents with dogs

I was driving very slowly through Álora, because the traffic ahead was approaching a roundabout, when a black and white dog on the pavement suddenly chose to dart across the road ahead. The bump alarmed me and told a sad tale, or so I feared as I went to investigate.

My mind flashed to when I was nineteen and driving through Alton in UK and a spaniel jumped from a hedge and was killed instantly. Looking back now there was nothing I could have done but as an animal lover I was deeply shocked. Had it happened again?

To my intense relief I saw a bent number plate and a black and white dog tearing away with no apparent injury apart from a raging headache and having learned, I hope, a bitter lesson.

Some dogs have road sense, usually because of good training by the owner. Most do not. Make

sure you train yours. Not only is it fair to the dog but bear in mind you are financially responsible for any damage done by your dog wandering loose.

If you live anywhere near a road it is a very good idea to fence in your garden. Fencing need not be unsightly. Nursery gardens have colourful, attractive climbing plants to cover the wiring which need not be high. Just have the poles sloping inwards so, however large your dog, it cannot jump over it. If you bury the lower edge of the wire netting in concrete and breeze blocks that will curb any tunnelling ambitions too.

Some tradespeople, including postal workers, may leave gates open, so make sure you have each gate fitted with a strong self-closing device.

Do it now... do not think about it and let your dog be a victim of your delay.

JENNIE RHODES



WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

24 JANUARY 1976

USA and Spain sign friendship treaty

The Spanish foreign minister and US secretary of state both referred to the treaty as an important and historic step as Spain entered a new era

As Spain started to make its first steps as a democratic and open country after 36 years of Franco's dictatorship, the treaty of friendship and cooperation with the USA was signed on 24 January 1976. Diario SUR's front page headline the following day simply read, 'The Treaty Was Signed'.

The newspaper reported that at 12.30pm, then American secretary of state Henry Kissinger's plane landed at Madrid's Barajas airport, where he was met by the Spanish foreign minister, José María de Areilza.

From there the two men, accompanied by other government representatives from both countries, travelled to the

Zarzuela palace where Kissinger met and had lunch with King Juan Carlos I.

The party went on to the Santa Cruz palace where, at 6pm, Areilza and Kissinger signed the treaty. Once signed, the two men exchanged the fountain pens they had each used.

Fifteen minutes later, international journalists were allowed into the palace, where the two men gave a press statement and answered questions.

Both politicians alluded to the importance of the treaty at a time when Spain was entering a new era of democracy and opening its doors to the rest of the world.

"I consider this act to be of great



Henry Kissinger and José María de Areilza during their meeting. :: SUR

importance for the political and diplomatic history of Spain," said Areilza.

He went on to say, "This treaty represents the firm will of Spain to no longer live in international isolation, but to live in the interconnected world of today, an interdependent world which obliges us to maintain international rela-

tionships with the rest of the world."

Kissinger echoed Areilza words, saying, "Today's events have happened at a time in which Spain is experiencing the emotion, inspiration and challenge of a new era."

He ended his speech by saying that the treaty showed Spain the "support of the USA" as it entered

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Tratado	Treaty
Firmar	To sign
Pluma	Fountain pen
Amistad	Friendship
Secretario	Secretary
Estado	State
Comunicado	Statement
Cooperación	Cooperation
Discurso	Speech
Almorzar	To have lunch
Séptimo	Seventh
Relaciones	Relations
Abrir	To open
Aislamiento	Isolation
Enero	January
Aeropuerto	Airport

a new era.

While the treaty signed on 24 January 1976 was the seventh of its kind between the two countries since the USA gained independence in 1776, both men considered it to be the most "far reaching and comprehensive".

The historic day ended with a dinner at the Viana palace which was attended by Areilza, Kissinger, the Spanish and US ambassadors and other representatives from both delegations.

Bilingual crossword inside back page



Kissinger. :: SUR

VETERINARY Clínica Felina Malagat are specialists in the integral care of these animals, with medical equipment adapted to their needs and a place created especially for them

Preventive medicine, essential for cats' health

TORREMOLINOS

As is the case for humans, cats require periodic health checks. Preventive medicine is especially necessary in the case of cats as their characters tend to lead them to conceal symptoms of illnesses and quite often, by the time their owners realise something's wrong and take them to the clinic they have reached a point where treatment is less effective.

Specialising in cats and focused on their health and wellbeing, Clínica Felina Malagat is an innovative centre committed to providing these animals with an exclusive place to take care of their health and ensure they feel comfortable and relaxed. Equipped with the latest technology, the clinic can provide services in all medical specialities and has a team of veterinarians trained specifically



ly to tend to their needs.

As well as general services such as Internal Medicine, Surgery, Dermatology, Anaesthesia or Nutrition, among others, Clínica Felina Malagat has one of the most comprehensive odontology units in Andalusia. "Oral care is very important in cats because certain problems can make them stop eating or even lose teeth. That's why our clinic is committed to an exhaustive treatment supported by dental x-rays and the most innovative techniques," explains Elyzabeth Martin, medical director at the centre.

To enhance consultations, Clínica Felina Malagat staff provide attention in English and German, and the clinic is located in an area with easy, free parking. All because our beloved pets' health is of the greatest importance.

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DENISE BUSH

GARDENING

Chasmanthe floribunda

A tall, striking member of the freesia family with sword-like leaves and reddish orange tubular flowers

Chasmanthe is a genus with just three species native to South Africa, *C. floribunda*, *C. aethiopica* and *C. bicolor*. The genus is in the Iridaceae family and is often confused with a relative, the less vigorous *Crocsmia* genus which includes *montbretia* and *freesia*.

Common names include African flag and cobra lily and it is found growing in its native country in rocky outcrops along the coast. *Chasmanthe floribunda* grows from a flattened papery corm and, over

time, forms a large clump over a metre wide by up to one metre twenty centimetres high.

The leaves are sword-shaped with a prominent central vein; branching purplish flower spikes, bearing up to 40 tubular flowers in shades of deep or bright orange, appear in autumn. There is

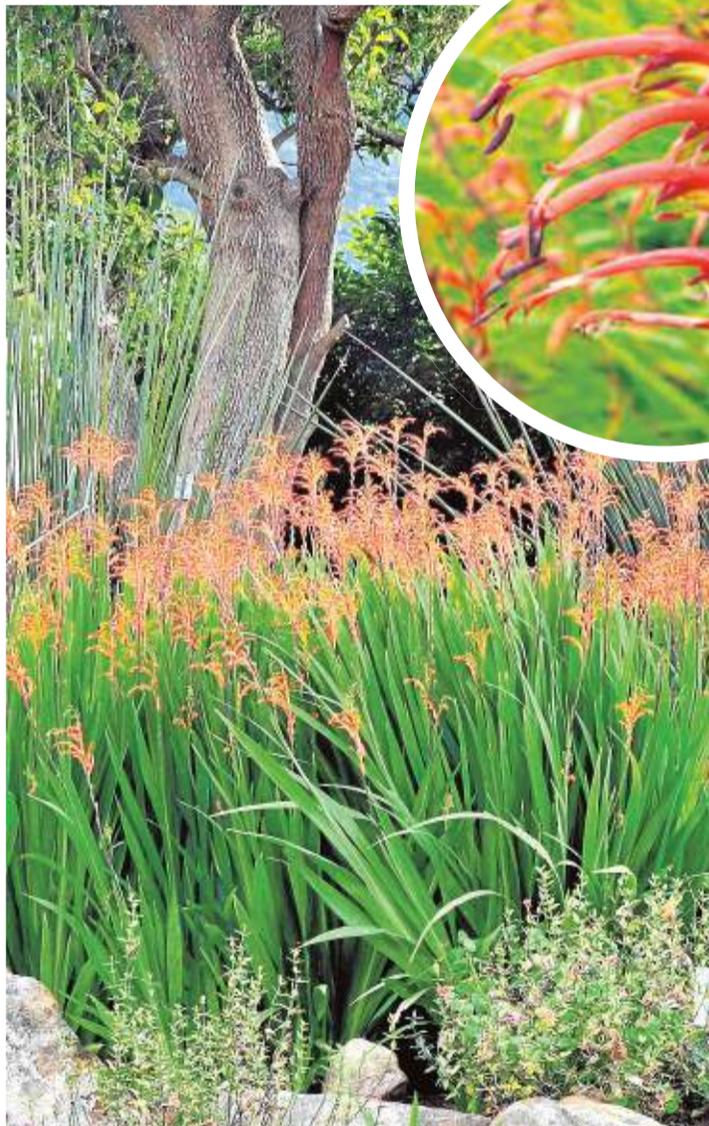
a yellow flowered species, *C. floribunda* 'Duckittii' which was discovered on a farm belonging to the Duckitt family in South Africa.

Chasmanthe floribunda is deciduous and flowers during the autumn with the first rains, remaining dormant throughout the hot summer months. It is not drought resistant and will need occasional watering nor is it frost tolerant and may have to be lifted in the winter and stored under cover until spring.

After three to four years *Chasmanthe floribunda* will have formed a large clump and dividing it while it is dormant will invigorate the plant although it may not flower the first year.

After flowering has finished capsules form containing hard, bright orange berries, up to 12 per capsule. These can be sown but the new plants may take up to three years to flower. Corms removed from around the base of the clump can also be potted up although these too will take a while to flower.

The flowers provide plenty of pollen and nectar for bees and other pollinating insects.



Chasmanthe floribunda and its flowers (inset). :: WIKIMEDIA

READERS' PHOTOS



:: WARREN FAULKNER

UNKNOWN PLANT

Warren Faulkner took this photo of a plant at Aloha Golf Club and would like to know what it is. It looks to be an Agave but can anyone identify the species from the photo?



:: ANDREW SLOAN

SOUTH AFRICAN ALOE

This photo is of *Aloe ferox*, grown from seed by Andrew Sloan. Andrew has an extensive collection of Aloes which he has grown from cuttings and seeds.

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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A passion for planes

Malaga Airport is a popular destination for spotters whose hobby is taking photos of aircraft

MATÍAS STUBER

✉ mstuber@diariosur.es



MALAGA. Montserrat Pin is wearing a heavy rucksack on her back. Her left hand is holding a small folding chair and there is a professional camera in the other. It's 8am on a Saturday in November. The sky is bright blue and cloudless, but it isn't a day for the beach because there is an icy, cutting wind.

Montserrat starts to put a high visibility vest on, but it gets stuck because of her heavy coat. A few twists of the body, and she is able to close the velcro straps at the front. It is her first morning in

Malaga, and if anyone asks her why she has come here from Madrid, she just answers laconically "to see planes".

Not many people are aware of this, but there is a security entrance in the part of the airport beside the San Miguel beer factory, with a guard post manned by two Guardia Civil officers. That's where we are right now. Anyone who passes through here has direct access to the runway.

It soon becomes apparent that Montserrat is not the only one waiting here to be checked for security. Around 50 people have gathered and they all share the same hobby. Some know each other, others don't.

Luis Álvarez is also from Madrid and considers himself a "hunter" of aircraft. Luis Vaz, who has come

from Lisbon, is more interested in taking a good photo and doesn't mind if the registration of the plane can't be seen clearly. There are people here from Austria and China. Shery Shalchian, a tall, robust man with a curving moustache, is from Iran.

The hobby they share is not very common. They are planespotters, enthusiasts who take photos of planes with their own cameras. Some people like to run marathons. Others enjoy fishing. These are pas-

sionate about seeing an Airbus 320 take off or land yet again.

All of those here today are keen to take more photos for their personal archive. They are individuals for whom the most exciting plans in life are flight plans. Luis Álvarez is one of them.

Luis is a well-built chap who speaks with a Madrid accent. From Mondays to Fridays he works in a bank. He fondly recalls his first camera, a Minolta X250. "The word airborne could have been invented just to describe me," he says, boasting that he has taken photos of planes all over the world.

It's true that Luis has travelled to a great many countries, but he hasn't seen much of them. With the odd exception, the only trip he makes is from the airport terminal to the runway and back. "I

have all the Iberia fleet, and Air Europe's too. Well, actually, nearly all the European airlines," he says, proudly.

He starts to talk about his travels. Or, rather, the "hunting trips" he says he takes with his camera. A short while ago, for example, he was in London for a flight exhibition. From there, he went straight on to Amsterdam. At Schiphol airport, there is a special platform specifically for 'spotters', from where they can take their photos. Luis says he believes Amsterdam city centre is meant to be very beautiful, but he doesn't know. He didn't leave the airport.

For Luis and others like him, the road to happiness is marked by names such as Emirates or Quantas. Iberia and the other European airlines are boring. Alitalia, how-

Planespotting is not such a common hobby; the cameras used cost at least 10,000 euros

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ever, once broke with routine and started to display a McDonald's logo on the fuselage. For these enthusiasts, having one of those aircraft in front of a camera is like an astronaut landing on a star which has been named after him.

After exhaustive security checks, half a dozen of us, all wearing high visibility vests, are put on a bus and taken to runway 13-31. That's the code for the old runway at Malaga airport. The new manager, Pedro Bendala, is also on board the bus and is obviously very happy with his new post.

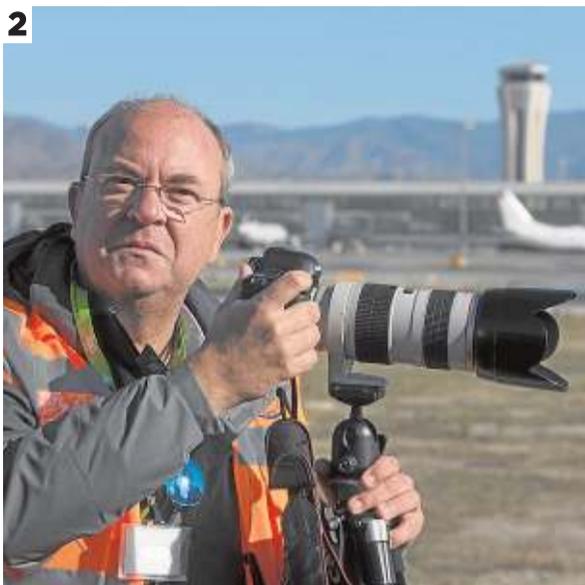
When the bus stops, after a longer journey than expected, the group get off and stand on the tarmac. When looking at an airport from an incoming plane, it seems miniature, but from here everything looks gigantic.

The planespotters line up and start setting up their tripods and cameras. The photographic equipment here must be worth 100,000 euros in total, at least. People are chatting. Unlike birdwatchers, they don't need silence in order to spot their prey.

A blue and white giant appears out of nowhere in the sky and starts to descend. José Antonio Monago falls silent. The former president of the Extremadura regional government has been taking photos of planes for 30 years and says it is his "secret passion". Today he is just one of the group.

Behind his sunglasses, he squints and presses the button on his camera. When the plane turns out to be a Ryanair Airbus, he doesn't think it is anything special, but he still religiously takes photos of it.

The planes take off and land every five minutes. Now a private jet arrives. Is it a Gulfstream or Learjet? Nobody's sure. "It's lovely, anyway," says José Antonio. The



2



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4



5

THE PHOTOS

1. A small group of planespotters are positioned just a few metres from the runway at Malaga airport to take photos of the planes. :: **ÑITO SALAS**

2. The former president of the Junta de Extremadura, José Antonio Monago, in Malaga on a planespotting trip. :: **ÑITO SALAS**

3. This hobby takes people all over the world. In this picture, two international visitors study a catalogue of planes. :: **ÑITO SALAS**

4. The En Aire group poses for a family photo in Malaga. :: **ÑITO SALAS**

5. Three spotters photograph an Easyjet Airbus as it lands at Malaga Airport. :: **ÑITO SALAS**

politician who is accustomed to addressing the Extremaduran parliament now turns his body, very slowly, to follow the plane. After 90 degrees, he takes several shots. In the background, you can hear everyone else doing the same.

José Antonio always looks at the photos he has taken straight away. "It's not bad. I'm getting better at this now. I look for the right moment, and the right light," he says. He's not keen on Photoshop. "It's a tool for bad photographers," he says. Once home, he downloads the photos he has taken and discards those that are no good. The rest are saved in a file, each aircraft carefully labelled. If any picture is particularly good, he shares it on internet forums.

At the end of the day, the group of planespotters have spent more than ten hours taking photos. Cristian González, a 20-year-old from Malaga, is thrilled and he has great plans for the future. "I want to be a pilot one day," he says. "What else?"

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Gary Player DESIGN

EXHIBITIONS**Photograph exhibition.**

San Pedro de Alcántara. Until 14 February. Centro Cultural Trapiche de Guadaiza.

Thirty five photographs taken by students at the Arte and Culture workshop in San Pedro will be on display.



Photographs, San Pedro

Manuel Viola Figueras

Mijas. Until 3 February. Casa Museo de Mijas.

The exhibition of photographs is entitled Etiopía, Ortodoxia Inmóvil and consists of a series of monochrome photographs taken by the artist in Ethiopia.

Emmanuel Lafont

Marbella. Until 29 February. Galería Yusto /Giner, C/Madera. La Gran Luz is the title of this exhibition of recent photographs in large format by Argentinian artist Emmanuel Lafont at the Yusto/Giner gallery.

Art in Action

Benahavis. 2 February, 12-5pm. Gran Hotel Benahavis.

This year the art exhibition will be in the reception area and in the covered walkways. It will include works by thirty artists with different styles and media. There will also be a Young Artists Competition and Art Workshop led by professional artist Paco Alarcón for younger children. All ages can take part in the Start A Novel competition and there will be music and dance and virtual reality rides. www.theartssocietybenahavis.com

First Round The World Trip

Mijas. Until 3 February. Patio de las Fuentes, Mijas Town Hall.

Twenty-nine information panels and seven model ships reconstruct the journey that Magellan and Elcano made around the world. The exhibition underlines the importance of 16th century Seville as an Atlantic port and how the first round-the-world trip changed the course of world history.

The use of space, Calder-Picasso

Malaga. Until 2 February. Museo Picasso Málaga.

A joint exhibition explores the use of space by two famous artists, the American sculptor Alexander Calder and Malaga's Pablo Ruiz Picasso.

Exile and Nostalgia

Malaga. Until 2 February. Museo Casa Natal Picasso.

'Exilo y nostalgia. Dibujos inéditos y libros ilustrados de Picasso en la Colección de la familia Arias' con-

A chance to learn about the Axarquía's olive oil in English

Riogordo town hall is organising a tour of the town's mill as well as a tasting and a visit to some of the oldest trees

:: JENNIE RHODES

RIOGORDO. The annual La Molina de Riogordo in English olive oil day will be taking place on Saturday 1 February. The event is now in its third year and provides English speakers with the opportunity to learn about one of the Axarquía's most important products.

The day will start at 10.30am with a traditional olive miller's breakfast, followed by a tour of the town's Agro-olivarero olive oil cooperative.

This year organisers are including new activities which include a short walk through nearby olive groves, giving participants the opportunity to photograph some centenary and monumental olive trees and learn more about their importance in the area.



A previous Riogordo olive oil tasting event in English. :: J. RHODES

INFORMATION

► **When.** Saturday 1 February, 10.30am onwards.

► **Where.** Agro-olivarero olive oil cooperative, Paraje El Campillo, A356, Riogordo.

► **More information.** lamoliendariogordo@gmail.com

The walk will be followed by a short introduction to tasting olive oil by Daniel García Peinado, extra virgin olive oil chef and captain of the Spanish national cooking team.

The event is free, but bookings must be made in advance as places are limited. For further information and to reserve a place for all or some of the activities, send an email to lamoliendariogordo@gmail.com.



First trip around the world, Mijas

sists of a collection of writings, paintings and drawings, many of them on newspaper pages, that form part of the legacy left by Eugenio Arias. Arias and Picasso met and became friends while both were in exile in France and shared a common interest, bullfighting.

Art School exhibition

Torremolinos. Until 30 January. Cafe in the Centro Cultural Pablo Ruiz Picasso.

An exhibition by students (aged 12 to 82) of the Escuela de Pintura. It will include oil paintings, watercolours, acrylics and pastels.

Gallery Art Club

Fuengirola. Until 20 February, Mon, Wed, Fri, 11am-2pm. Tues, Thurs, 5-7pm. Calle Quemada. Five local artist will be exhibiting their art works. www.galleryartclub.com

Marcos Barrientos Soriano

Marbella. Until 31 January. Galería Columna JM

The gallery is hosting a collection of works by artist Marcos Barrien-

tos Soriano

Modern Utopias

Malaga. Until 26 January. Centre Pompidou, Muelle Uno.

'Modern Utopias' is an exhibition reflecting the historical events that have defined our time and fed the imagination of modern and contemporary artists.

Smile

Malaga. Until 24 January. La Casa Amarilla.

Rebecca Vilches takes us on a journey for the senses in which we follow the protagonist on their escape from negativity.

Sorolla Tierra Adentro

Malaga. Until 30 January. Palacio Episcopal.

A display of more than 100 works by Joaquín Sorolla featuring landscapes and characters far removed from his usual seaside scenes.

Gustav Klimt

Malaga. Between Muelle Uno and Muelle Dos.

El Oro de Klimt is an exhibition of

the works of the Austrian artist Gustav Klimt. Using sound and lighting techniques the spectator is drawn into the painting in the 'illusion room'. Tickets: www.tickets.janto.es/klimt

Fortuny

Malaga. Until 2 February. Sala Noble, Museo Carmen Thyssen Málaga.

Around 30 images by Mariano Fortuny created when he was experimenting with different techniques. Many have never been catalogued before.

Éxodus

Malaga. Until 25 February. Sala Alfajar, C/Císter.

The exhibition entitled Éxodus consists of ceramics created at the first symposium of Hispanic Russian Ceramicists in August 2018. The exhibit has previously been taken to Alhaurín de la Torre and Granada.

The Butterfly Effect

Malaga. Until 31 January 2020. Museum Jorge Rando, C/Cruz del Molinillo.

'Mariposas' is the title of this exhibition of works by Malaga artist Jorge Rando. The majority of the the around 100 works are in small format and were created after a visit to the mountains around the Qi Baishi Memorial Museum in China.

Drácula X Drácula

Malaga. Until 2 February 2020. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.

Open Tues-Sun 9am-9pm and third Monday of each month.

This exhibition consists of 61 works by 56 artists around the theme of a legendary ice-lolly.

Teatro Cervantes

Malaga. Until 19 June. Centro de Cultura Activa Pedro Aparicio.

The exhibition commemorates 150 years of the Cervantes theatre in Malaga. It includes everything from signed photos by Conchita Piquer, Imperio Argentina and Lola Flores, a contract to paint the ceiling to a receipt for the hiring of a dog for an event in the 1920s as well as an autograph book containing the signatures of Alfonso XIII and Victoria Eugenia among many others.

Exhibition

Vélez-Málaga From 5-29 March. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo Francisco Hernández. The exhibition entitled El Mundo Fluye. Dos Miradas Sobre Una Misma Realidad consists of works of art loaned by the ONCE foundation.

Fernando de la Rosa

Vélez-Málaga. Until 20 February. Sala El Pósito.

Archidona-born artist Fernando de la Rosa is displaying his latest works in an exhibition entitled Transcurso.

CHARITY**ADANA Coffee Mornings**

Malaga. First Friday of every month, from 11am-3pm. Bar Restaurante Luna Nueva, Paseo de Sabinillas.

Breakfast with coffee to raise money for ADANA.

Age Concern Estepona and Manilva Lunch

Estepona. 5 February, 2pm. Thapa Thai, Estepona port.

Age Concern Estepona and Manilva has arranged a 'menu del día' lunch, to bring volunteers, friends and supporters of Age Concern Estepona y Manilva together. Reservations by 1 February: 951318234 / 608458555



Signed photo, Teatro Cervantes

Ice Skating for Cudeca

Benalmádena. 22 February, from 12.30 to 2.30pm. 7€ adults, 5€ children up to 12.

The traditional ice skating charity event "Patina por Cudeca", is organised by the Benalmádena Ice skating Club and Benalmádena Town Hall, in aid of Cudeca Cancer Care Hospice. 100% of ticket price

goes to Cudeca and includes skate rental (but bring gloves).

MUSIC & DANCE

Louie Louie Rock Bar

Estepona. Avda Luis Braille.
25 January, 12am. La Tarambana.
30 January, 12am British Comedy.
31 January, 12am. Raw Soul Jam.
1 February, 12am. Álvaro Suite.

Posada Food and Living

Malaga. Hotel Vincci Posada del Patio, 10pm, entry free.
24 January, 9pm. Tony Caballero. JR&B, blues, soul, pop.
25 January, 10pm. Iris Nieto. Oboe and acoustic guitar play adapted jazz, soul, rock and pop music.
31 January, 9pm. Javier Palomo, vocals and guitar. Jazz, blues etc.
1 February, 10pm. Susan Valery & Adrian Lombardi. Voice and guitar. Jazz style.



Aurea and Cornelia, Malaga.

Arcos de Buenas Aires Tango

Nerja. 24 January, 9pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. 10€.
The new show by the Arcos de Buenas Aires tango company is entitled Reliquias Porteñas. Bookings through Nerja town hall.

Classical Guitar concert

Malaga. 24 January, 8.30pm. The Edipsa building, Puerta del Mar. Guitarrist Luis Alejandro García will play adaptations of pieces by Ernesto Lecuona, Joaquín Turina and Manuel Ponce.

Clarence Jazz Club

Torremolinos. Calle Danza Invisible, 8.
24 January, 10.30pm. José Ignacio Hernández Trio.
25 January, 10.30pm. Javier Colina & Alberto Sanz.
26 January, 10.30pm. Piano Jazz concert.
30 January, 10.30pm. Jazz jam session.

www.clarencejazzclub.com

Costa Jazz Quartet

Almuñécar. 24 January, 7pm. Casa de la Cultura.
The Costa Jazz Quartet will be performing.

Paco Ventura

Malaga. 25 January, 10pm. La Cochera Cabaret.
Guitarist for Black Moon and Medina Azahara, Paco Ventura goes back over the 30 years of his career in a two hour concert. Tickets: www.entradium.com

Mediterranean Brass Ensemble

Almuñécar. 26 January, 7pm. Casa de la Cultura.
Five trumpeters, two horns, three trombones, a tuba and a drummer make up the ensemble which will be playing works by Bach, Handel, James L. Hosay, Bizet, Manuel de Falla, Chueca and Manuel Cebriá.

Municipal band

Malaga. 26 January, 12pm. Museo de la Aduana. Free.
The Municipal band, with conductor Francisco Miguel Haro Sánchez, will play pieces by Grieg, Beethoven, Clark, Giménez, Soutullo and Vert finishing with the procession from the opera La Dolores by Tomás Bretón.

Soprano and piano concerts

With soprano Aurea Marston and pianist Cornelia Lenzin playing a programme of musical works including Debussy's Fêtes Galantes, Richard Strauss, sonnets by Turina, Zemlinsky's waltzes and Ravel's Enchanted Flute. www.sociedadfilarmonicademalaga.com

Cajiz. 25 January, 7.30pm. Molino de Cajiz, Calle Barrera.

Almuñécar. 27 January, 8pm. Casa de la Cultura, Calle Puerta de Granada.

Malaga. 30 January, 8pm. Sala María Cristina, Calle Marqués de Valdecañas. With the Sociedad Filarmónica de Málaga.

Pianist Cahal Masterson

The young Irish pianist will be performing two concerts to mark Beethoven's 250th birthday. A percentage of the sales from each will go to Knitted Knockers charity.

Elviria. 26 January, 8pm. Truffels restaurant. 35€ (includes welcome drinks and canapés).

Marbella. 28 January, 7.30pm. D-Wine Restaurant. 60€ (includes welcome drink, canapés and a three-course meal).



Some of the 1,924 seedlings sown in November. :: J. RHODES

Help plant trees for a greener Andalucía

:: J. RHODES

PERIANA. Colectivo Crece-T is holding its second tree-planting day just outside Periana on Sunday 26 January.

The event, which is organised by Enrique Díaz who is a teacher at Periana's secondary school, will start at 10am.

Díaz hopes to beat the record of 1,924 carob tree seedlings which were sown by around 75 volunteers in November. This time the team will be planting

holm oaks and are inviting people to join them.

Colectivo Crece-T's objective is to "create a wall of trees from Huelva to Almería". While Díaz isn't planning to literally create a wall, he wants to "fill Andalucía with trees".

To sign up, send a WhatsApp (in English or Spanish) with your name to 658 442 913.ç

For further information visit: www.colectivocrecet.com.

Amigos de la Música

Marbella. 30 January, 8pm. Gran Hotel Melía Don Pepe.
Pianist and teacher Paula Coronas will be holding a recital featuring works by P. Soler, Beethoven, Lehmborg, Ocón and Granados.

Eva Jiménez Quartet

Nerja. 31 January, 8pm. Hotel Plaza Cavana.
An evening of jazz with the Eva Jiménez Quartet.

New Riga String Quartet

Nerja. 4 February, 8pm. Convent Ballroom. £20
Tickets from Sacarello's coffee shop



and the Silver Shop or www.buytickets.gi Senior citi-

zens/Student tickets £10 from John Mackintosh Hall Reception. 18 and under free, tickets from Gibraltar Philharmonic Society Office, email tgpsociety@gmail.com or 00350 20072134.

Rockin' Race Festival

Torremolinos. From 6 until 9 February. Torremolinos municipal auditorium, Hotel Barracuda and Playamar.
The popular Rockin' Race Festival returns another year with a varied line-up of musicians including American fiddler Doug Kershaw, Las Mambo Jumbo from Barcelona, The Blue Cats from Britain and a host of others. More information and ticket sales on The Rockin'Race Facebook page.

Noches de Tango

Nerja. 7 February, 8pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. 18€.
The Lastra tango dance company present their new show 'A Puro tango'. Tickets: www.mientrada.net More information: http://nochesdetango.com

Arco

Malaga. 8 February, 8pm. Sala Cochera Cabaret.
Granada singer and composer Arco will be presenting his new track Debo along with his band as part of a national tour.

'El Turry' flamenco

Almuñécar. 25 January, 7pm. Casa de la Cultura.
Antonio Gómez, better known as 'El Turry', will be performing.

THEATRE & COMEDY

Thespa

Los Boliches. 29 January, 7.30pm. Masonic Hall, Edf Bougainvillea. Members 16€, guests 18€.
'Have You Any Idea What Time It Is?' is the title of the short play by Michael Law, directed by Wendy Smith. Reservations (by 19 January): thespabooking@gmail.com or 652726624

Opera recital

Nerja. 8 February, 7pm. Nerja Parador, C/Almuñécar. 50€.
Songs from various operas including Don Giovanni and Madam Butterfly. Price includes a welcome aperitif and full buffet dinner. Drinks not included. Reservations: 690073871 / ventana.abierta.acp@gmail.com

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THEATRE & COMEDY

Actors needed

Malaga. Apply until 27 January, Teatro Cervantes. The Cervantes theatre in Malaga needs nine actors to take part in the opera La Favorita. Wanted are an older male, an older female, three young girls and four young boys for the Donizetti opera. Auditions 29 January in the Salón Rossini in the theatre. Rehearsals start 17 February. CV and photo: patricia@teatrocervantes.es

Theatre Festival

Malaga. Until 9 February. The Cervantes and Echeragaray theatres in Malaga will be holding a series of theatrical performances and musicals to celebrate the 37th Theatre Festival.

LECTURES & TALKS

Brexit presentation

Coín. 19 February, 10am. Salón de Actos, Casa de Cultura. British consul for Andalucía Charmaine Arboutin, will be hosting a presentation about Brexit to explain what it means for those living in Spain or owning property here.

USA Lectures

Fuengirola. Lux Mundi. free to members, guests 5€. www.u3a-fuengirolacostadelosol.com
Science And Technology - 'Understanding the Earth' 29 January, 11am. The development of geology and the end of the 18th century paved the way for Charles Darwin and others to understand the Earth's place in the Universe
Group Leader: Ian Phillips

History: 'The renaissance: The glory years of Florence and the Medici family.' 28 January, 12.30pm. Room B3-R4 Group leader Kay White with guest speaker Sheila Wohlmuth.
Africa and Arabia: Africa. 24, 31 January, 11am. A series of DVDs exploring the



Copenhagen lecture, Nerja

natural history and wildlife. Group leader Kay White.

The Arts Society

Nerja. 28 January, 6pm. Cultural Centre, C/Granada. Visitors 10€. www.theartsocietynerja.com
'Copenhagen - City Of The Future' "Copenhagen is ahead of much of Europe in developing principles of sustainability, creating ecosystems that are whole, using technology for harmonisation. Copenhagen is setting an example for others to follow. The city is a soundbox of ideas, many as yet unrealised, that will give us hope for our collective future." Illustrated lecture by Rafael Anderson.
Benahavis. 28 January, 6.30pm. Benahavis town hall. 12€ includes glass of wine.

The Roman Legacy of Mérida' English speaking Spanish guide Marco Mangut Rodriguez, from Extremadura, will talk about the wealth of Roman artefacts discovered in Mérida. www.theartsocietybenahavis.com

'The Rise and Fall of Napoleon Bonaparte' 25 February, 6.30pm. Napoleon was the son of a Corsican lawyer. This is the story of his sensational rise to power to become French Emperor. The talk will cover his marriage to Josephine, his relationship with the Duke of Wellington and his remarkable place within history. Speaker: Stephen Duffy. www.theartsocietybenahavis.com

FESTIVALS

Día del Almendro

Guaro. 26 January from 10am. With the almond trees starting to flower, Guaro town hall have organised walking routes to enjoy the beauty of the blossoming trees. In the village there will be an exhibition in the Olive Oil museum, tastings and a market of local products and crafts. If weather is bad, the events may be moved to following Sunday. Reservations for walks contact: www.guaro.es

Fiesta de San Antón

Salares. 26 January. Although this saint's day falls on 17 January, Salares celebrates the festival a week later so as not to coincide with other nearby villages.

Fiesta de San Sebastián

Casabermeja. 26 January. Casabermeja celebrates the festival of its patron saint on Sunday with a procession and other events.

Olive Oil

Vélez-Málaga. Until 25 January. The Museo de Vélez-Málaga is celebrating their Olive Oil month with various events related to the cultural, natural and gastronomic importance of olive oil.

EVENTS AND TRIPS

Weekend market

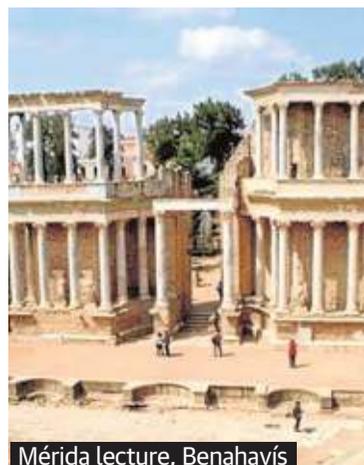
Coín. Behind Bar Los Arcos. Goods including artisan products, fresh vegetables, British food products, craft beer, wine, cheese, baker and general bric-a-brac. Food and drinks available from the venta. Stalls have to be booked in advance on the Facebook page Los Mercado.

Gibraltar Dyslexia Support Group AGM

Gibraltar. 12 February, 6pm. John Mackintosh Hall, Charles Hunt Room. The AGM is open to members and prospective members. Call Gibraltar 54007924 or email info@dyslexia.gi

Trip to see thousand-year-old olive trees

Periana/Mondrón. 25 January, 10am. The Museo de Vélez-Málaga is organising an excursion to see some of the oldest olive trees in the province. Reservations: mvvel@velez-malaga.es



Mérida lecture, Benahavis

Family activities in the museum

Malaga. 25 January. Museo Picasso de Málaga. 5€ per person. El Museo en Movimiento is a workshop parents and their children (aged 4-12 years) to develop their artistic skills. Ticket includes visit to seasonal exhibition. www.museopicassomalaga.org

Vintage Cars and Motorcycles

Malaga. 24-26 January. Palacio de Ferias y Congresos. 9€. The three-day Retro Auto & Moto Málaga exhibition will include vintage vehicles from across Europe plus stands from body work restorers, specialists products and accessories, tools etc. www.eventosmotor.com

Walking Routes

Almuñécar. From 26 January, 7.30am leaving from bus station. The programme of guided walks starts on 26 January with a coastal route between Maro and Nerja of average difficulty and taking 5-6 hours. Sign up (limited places) at the Área municipal de Deportes office in the Francisco Bonet Stadium. www.almunecar.info

Trip to Tarifa

Fuengirola. 29 January. Various departure points. 27€. Visit monuments, churches and do some shopping. In the afternoon trip to Bolonia and the Roman ruins of Baelo Claudia. Full details contact Fundación Lux Mundi Fuengirola, C/Nueva 3. 952474840. www.lux-mundi.org/

Trip to Montilla

Torre del Mar. 28 January. Various departure points. 36€. Lux Mundi Torre del Mar. 952 543 334 or luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

Cáceres, Trujillo, Mérida

Fuengirola/Torre del Mar. 17-20 February. Various departure points. Full details, contact Fundación Lux Mundi Fuengirola, C/Nueva 3. 952474840. www.lux-mundi.org

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
Little Women: 18.20, 2.15

Cinesur El Ingenio

Avda. Juan Carlos 1, Vélez-Málaga. Tel. 667 77 31 87.
Jojo Rabbit: 12.25, 15.50, 22.30, 0.35.
Bad Boys for Life: 22.30.
1917: 20.05.
Dark Waters: 12.00, 16.30.
The Adventures of Dr Dolittle: 12.05 (every day); 17.05, 19.15, 21.25 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).

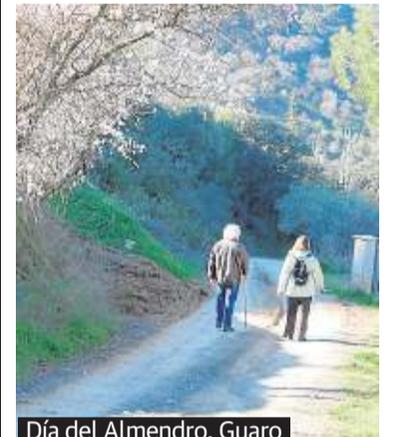
Cinesur Miramar

Avda. de la Encarnación, Fuengirola. Tel. 952 19 86 00.
Richard Jewell: 21.15 (Tues).
The Adventures of Dr Dolittle:

17.55; 20.05; 22.15; 0.25.
Jojo Rabbit: 12.00, 15.45.
Jumanji: 12.00, 16.15.
1917: 12.00, 15.45, 18.10.
Dark Waters: 12.00, 16.30.
Bad Boys For Life: 12.00, 16.00. (every day)
Opera: La Boheme, direct from the London Royal Opera House: 29 January, 20.45.

Cinesur Málaga Nostrum

Parque Comercial Málaga Nostrum, Calle Jaén 1. Tel. 952176318
Opera: La Boheme, direct from the London Royal Opera House: 29 January, 20.45.



Día del Almendro, Guaro

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

Centro de Ocio Plaza Mayor, Avda. Alfonso Ponce de León. Tel: 902 902 103 or visit www.yelmocines.es
Little Women: 17.40 (Tues).
Jojo Rabbit: 12.40 (Sat, Sun); 15.45 (Mon-Thurs); 19.55 (Tues).
Richard Jewell: 23.30 (Fri, Sat).
Knives Out: 22.10 (Tues).
1917: 13.00 (Sat, Sun); 19.50 (Tues).
Joker: 21.15 (every day).
Bad Boys For Life: 21.00 (Tues).
Dark Waters: 16.35 (every day); 19.05 (Tues).
Star Wars The Rise of Skywalker: 18.35 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Rincón de la Victoria

Calle Arroyo Totalán. Tel: 902 220 922 or visit www.yelmocines.es
1917: 13.00 (Sat).
Dark Waters: 20.15 (Tues).
Jojo Rabbit: 19.40 (Tues).
The Adventures of Dr Dolittle: 22.10 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Vialia

Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902 220 922 or visit www.yelmocines.es
1917: 13.15 (Sat, Sun); 19.10 (Tues).
Dark Waters: 19.25 (Tues).
Bad Boys For Life: 22.00 (Tues).
Jojo Rabbit: 13.00 (Sat, Sun).
Joker: 12.55 (Sat).
Little Women: 12.50 (Sat, Sun); 18.50 (Tues).
Knives Out: 21.35 (Tues).
Star Wars, The Rise of Skywalker: 22.05 (Tues).

Musica Con Encanto

Urb La Alzambra, Puerto Banús Marbella. Bookings: 689 000 944. Film documentary: **Callas Assoluta:** 25 January, 8pm. Vasari Centre. A film by Philippe Kohly. 15€. English with Spanish subtitles. www.musicaconencanto.org

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DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA



At the Fiesta de la Matanza scenes related to the traditional killing of the pig will be recreated. :: TURISMO ANDALUZ



Surrounding countryside. :: T. A.

Iberian pork in Cordoba

JAVIER
ALMELLONES

2 days en Vva. de Córdoba

Car and walking.

Duration of journey: 2 hours 30 minutes from Malaga.

Events: 6 hours.

Visits to monuments and museums: 5 hours.



Lovers of the flavour of Iberian pork have a double gastronomic appointment in February in the village of Villanueva de Córdoba, in the Valle de los Pedroches region.

Next weekend, the Cordoba town will host a tempting tapas route with Iberian pork as its theme. It will be an unbeatable prelude to one of the most important gastronomic

events of the winter in Andalucía, The Fiesta de la Matanza y la Artesanía Popular, which takes place 15 February. Attendees of the weekend tapas route will be amazed by the variety and quality of what the bars and restaurants in the town have to offer.

From Friday 31 January until 2 February, over one hundred establishments will offer tempting tapas such as Iberian pork burger

in a brioche roll or pigs' cheeks in red wine sauce among other options.

With a drink, diners will only pay 2.50 euros for these culinary delights in which the star product of the area will play the leading role. In addition, and as an incentive to draw people to this Cordoba town that weekend, there will be a raffle among the tapas routers to win an Iberian cured ham.

Also, during the weekend, attendees can go on a guided visit around the town, including the Granite Route and other walking routes.

On the other hand, you can visit the most emblematic sites such as the Civil War air raid shelter (Refugio Antiaéreo), the Centro de Interpretación de la Dehesa, and the San Miguel church. Just two weeks later, the same village is holding a festival which revolves around the winter tradition of the pig killing, once common in many Andalusian villages. On that Saturday, the killing of the Iberian pig will be recreated, beginning with the humane killing and continuing with tastings of various pork products. The rest of the day is taken up with dancing and folk songs from this region in Cordoba.



View of Villanueva de Córdoba. :: T. A.



QUICK GUIDE

What to see in Vva. de Córdoba

Centro de Interpretación de la Dehesa. Historical building where the farmland is explained as a natural and economic environment.

C/. Pozoblanco, 3. 14440 Villanueva de Córdoba.



Iglesia de San Miguel.

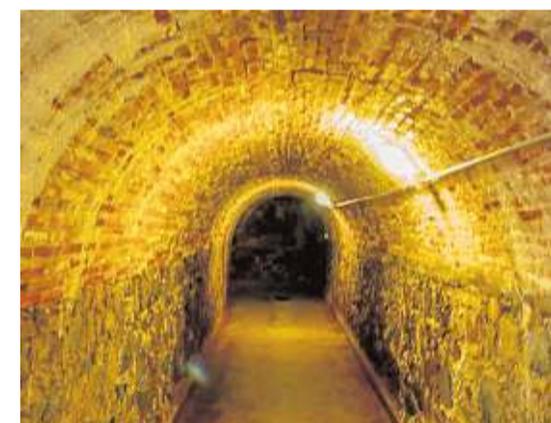
The main church in the area built in the sixteenth century.

Plaza de España, 13. 14440 Villanueva de Córdoba.

Air Raid Shelter.

Underground shelter built in 1937 to avoid Civil War bombing raids.

Plaza España, s/n. 14440 Villanueva de Córdoba.



Local History Museum.

A valuable collection of archaeological artefacts from the region.

Paseo de Andalucía, s/n (the old station). 14440 Villanueva de Córdoba.

Iglesia de San Sebastián.

Church originally built in the sixteenth century but completely restored in the twentieth century.

C/. San Sebastián. 14440 Villanueva de Córdoba.

The increase in the age of donors is affecting the number of transplants

Malaga's Hospital Regional carried out 200 transplants in 2019, 46 fewer than the previous year, and is third in Andalucía in terms of this type of operation

ÁNGEL ESCALERA

MALAGA. Organ donors are getting older (the average age is now 66) and this means that sometimes their organs are not suitable for transplant. Even so, Spain is still the world leader in terms of donations and transplants.

Last year the Hospital Regional in Malaga (formerly the Carlos Haya) carried out 200 transplants (141 kidneys, 48 livers and 11 pancreas). This total, however, was 46 fewer than in 2018, an exceptionally good year in which 176 kidneys, 57 livers and 13 pancreas were transplanted.

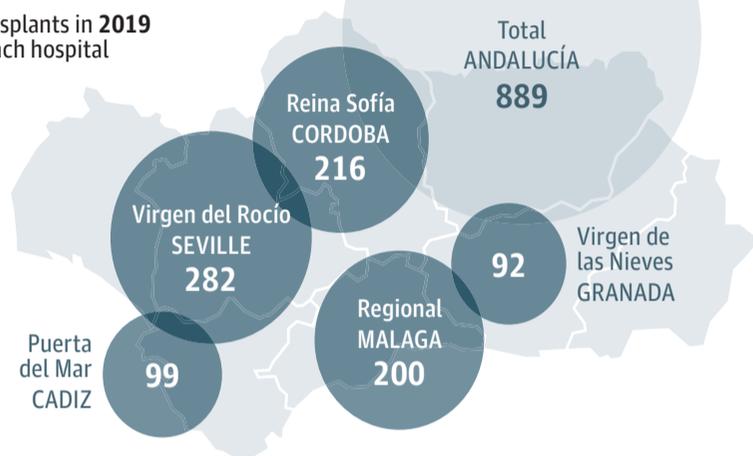
The 200 operations of this type last year were possible thanks to 176 donors.

These figures were announced recently at a press conference attended by the Junta de Andalucía's provincial delegate for Health and Families in Malaga, Carlos Bautista; the transplant coordinator for Malaga, Domingo Daga; the manager of the Hospital Regional, María del Mar Vázquez; and Remedios Romero, the mother of Pablo Podadera, a young man who died in 2017 and whose organs were donated.

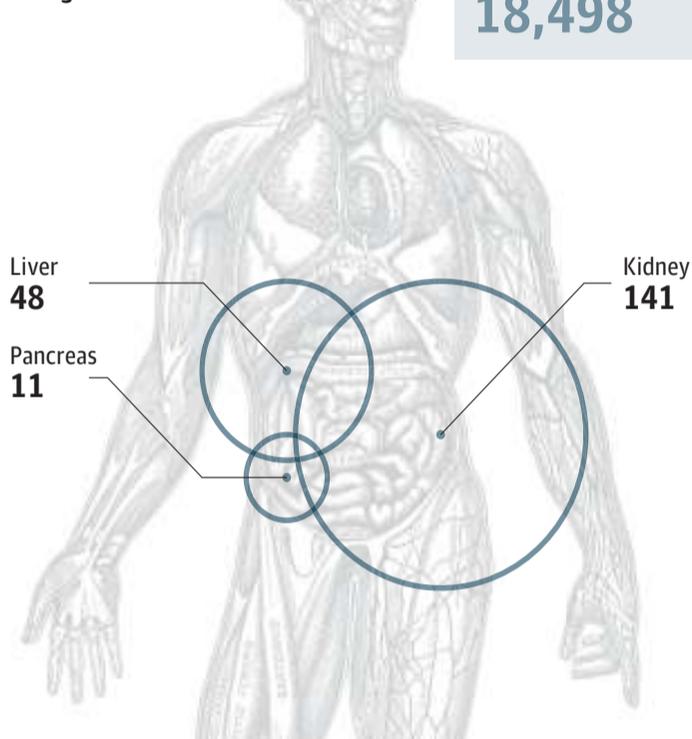
Domingo Daga, who expressed his gratitude for the altruism of

Transplants in Malaga and Andalucía

Transplants in 2019 in each hospital

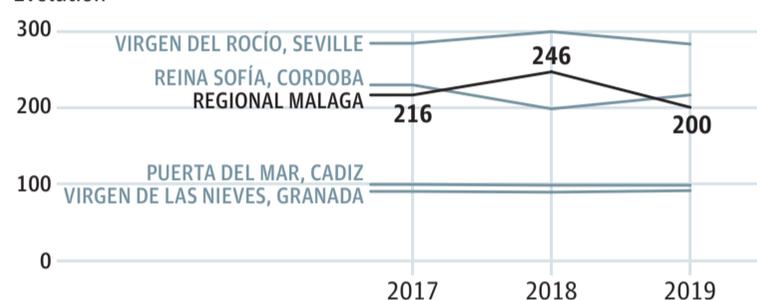


Types of transplant in Malaga en 2019



Total transplants in Andalucía since 1978
18,498

Evolution



Source: Regional Transplant Coordination, Andalusian Ministry of Health and Families

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“When we donated Pablo’s organs we knew we were doing the right thing”

■ A. ESCALERA

MALAGA. Pablo Podadera Romero died in Malaga in 2017 from a blow he suffered when he was involved in a fight. He was 22 years old. His family decided to donate his organs, to help others. At the press conference his mother, Remedios Romero, sent a positive message to families

who lose a son or daughter.

“Despite the pain we were suffering and the fact that we were going through hell at first, when we donated Pablo’s organs we felt satisfied that we were doing the right thing,” she said.

Before Pablo died, Remedios lost another son, José, through an ill-

ness whose cause was not known, and the family donated his brain for science.

Remedios Romero also launched the third edition of the Pablo Podadera literary competition for secondary school pupils, which aims to encourage organ and tissue donation.

families of donors, said that the 200 transplants carried out at the Hospital Regional last year was a positive figure and it showed the solidarity of families in donating the organs of a loved one who had just died.

With regard to the drop in the number of transplants last year compared with 2018, Dr Daga said this is because the average age of donors is now 66 and most die from age-related illnesses.

On many occasions, because of the age of the donors, their organs are not suitable to be transplanted.

He also explained that the number of brain deaths in young people has dropped significantly, mainly due to the reduction in the number of deaths in traffic accidents, and as a consequence doctors are removing more organs from donors who have died from cardiac

arrest. At present in Spain, only four per cent of organ donors are below the age of 30.

Dr Daga also explained that over 60 per cent of tissue donations in Andalucía are from Malaga hospitals, and that in Malaga last year 101 cornea implants were carried out. Spain has been the world leader in organ donation and transplants for 28 years now, and in this country there are more patients who have had a kidney transplant than are undergoing dialysis treatment.

The Health delegate and transplant coordinator praised the altruism of donors and their families

Overall, the Hospital Regional was the third in Andalucía in the number of transplants carried out last year. In first place was the Virgen de Rocío in Seville, with 282, followed by the Reina Sofia in Cordoba, with 216.

Carlos Bautista described organ and tissue donors as “anonymous heroes”, and said the excellent transplant figures in Andalucía are due to the fact that nine out of ten people in the region agreed to donate the organs of a relative who had just died.

He also praised the work done by medical professionals who coordinate transplants in hospitals and who talk to grieving families to explain how the donation of their loved-ones’ organs could save many lives.

“We have very highly qualified professionals,” he said.

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Experts warn that adult obesity continues to increase at an unstoppable rate



ÁNGEL ESCALERA

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Statistics show that over half of the population of Andalucía is overweight and one in every four people is obese

MALAGA. "Obesity in adults is still increasing at an unstoppable rate in developed countries," warned the president of the Spanish Society for the Study of Obesity (SEEDO), Francisco Tinahones, recently. He is also the director of the endocrinology and nutrition department at the Clínico hospital in Malaga, and he says obesity "is a worrying problem"



Obesity is a worrying public health problem. :: SUR

their weight. The reason the health system does not cover this medication is its cost: around 300 euros per patient per month.

Dr Tinahones said, however, that if the authorities carried out an analysis into the cost and the benefit, they would realise that it would save money, because when the patients lose weight their health and quality of life improve and they would no longer have to take medication to combat the problems caused by their excess kilos.

In Spain, the costs associated with excess weight represent seven per cent of total spending on health.

Reducing weight

When someone wants to lose weight, the first thing they need to do is realise that they undoubtedly weigh several kilos more than they think. "There is always a way to lose weight. It's just a matter of finding the one that suits you and sticking to it," he said.

He stressed that a change of lifestyle will also be needed. On one hand, by following a healthy diet and on the other, by taking regular physical exercise.

By restricting calorie consumption (in other words eating less, and better) and getting off the couch, the kilos will disappear.

Three key factors in achieving this target are to sleep well (restorative sleep prevents obesity), don't snack between meals and take exercise (go for a walk, swim or ride a bicycle).

Obesity can be reversed, but in order to do that the person who suffers from it must not see themselves as slim, insisted this expert.

Dr Tinahones points out that obesity is a problem which affects all developed countries, so common strategies for prevention are needed and governments need greater awareness so that excess weight starts to be treated as a chronic illness.

"People should stop treating obesity as an attitude, because it involves many factors which are not voluntary. These include biological mechanisms where those who suffer from them never feel as if they have eaten enough," he said.

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because one in every four adults in Andalucía is obese and more than half of the region's population is unhealthy overweight.

"This is the most important health problem of this century," he added.

Numerous health problems are associated with being overweight, including Type 2 diabetes and cancer. Being obese is a risk factor for tumours in the endometrium, the digestive tract and breast, among others, says Dr Tinahones.

It also favours cardiovascular illnesses, dyslipidemia (alterations in the body fats) obstructive sleep apnea, gall bladder problems and pain in the joints.

This specialist also stresses that child obesity is a worrying problem, because more than 45 per cent of children in this country are carrying an unhealthy amount of weight.

There is some good news in that respect, as the prevention and awareness campaigns which have been

carried out in schools to encourage youngsters to take physical exercise and eat a healthy diet have had some effect, but this has not been the case with adults.

"Some people are doing things to try to combat their excess weight, but there is still considerable room for improvement in terms of prevention," said Dr Tinahones.

He believes politicians need to become involved in the matter of obesity, and added that one of the things that needs to be tackled is that being overweight should be considered a chronic illness and receive the same consideration as cholesterol, diabetes and high blood pressure.

"Politicians should take this subject more seriously, because obesity is an illness and it should be treated as one," he said.

He also wants the public health system to finance a pharmaceutical treatment which can help obese patients to lose up to 15 per cent of

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NERJA

Leaving vegetables out at meal times can increase risk of obesity

More Spaniards are opting to eat out and are consuming fewer vegetables and more sweet desserts than they would at home

ALFONSO TORICE / ÁNGEL ESCALERA

MADRID. Obesity has become an epidemic in developed societies and one of the main health problems. In Spain, six out of ten adults are overweight and as much as 20% of the population can be defined as obese. It is a disease that has landed in all its ugliness in the last two decades - in which the proportion of overweight Spaniards has doubled - and which is closely linked, in addition to the increase in sedentarism, to the widespread abandonment of the traditional Mediterranean diet, rich in vegetables, fruit and fish.

A study carried out by the Spanish Society of Obesity (SEEDO-SEO), chaired by Francisco Tinahones, states that this increase is largely explained by a pernicious change in the diet of Spaniards, who are eating more and more meals outside the home and

are opting for less healthy foods. The report points out that eating out, far from being an exception, has become a habit. 77% of Spaniards eat one of the three main meals outside the home every day, far from the benefits of family cooking.

The analysis warns that widespread bad eating habits outside the home have an impact that is far greater than the genetic and hereditary factors which pose a 10% risk of suffering from the disease.

Experts have identified three particularly risky eating habits, the most dangerous is not regularly eating vegetables or salads. This alone increases the risk of obesity by 43% compared to those who maintain healthy eating habits.

The other two most negative habits are eating breakfast outside of the home and regularly eating desserts. In the first case, the risk of obesity increases by 17.8% compared to those who eat breakfast at home. In the second, the possibility of developing this disease is 20% higher than those who opt for fruit.

These habits are widespread. /3% of those that eat out are not inclined



to eat vegetables or salad as their main course and 63% don't even choose these healthy foods to accompany their main meal. But these figures go even higher with overweight persons. 60% of obese people never, or hardly ever, ask for vegetables as their main course and 35% never have them as an accompaniment, twice as many as normal-weight persons.

Breakfast is the daily meal most often eaten outside the home. As for

desserts, only 18% of those who eat out choose to end their meal with fruit (8% among the obese). On the other hand, 25% of Spaniards of normal weight and 40% of the obese nearly always ask for a dessert.

The Spanish Obesity Society's report also warns of two other risk elements. The first is that most people with a weight problems are not aware of it, which makes it difficult for them to understand the need to treat the disease which causes high blood pressure, diabetes, fatty liver and heart disease among other problems. 54% of overweight persons think they have a normal constitution and also, 7.3% think they are thin. Obese persons are more conscious of the problem and only 14% deny or ignore it.

It appears that people from less affluent classes have an obesity rate almost double that of the affluent classes, according to Francisco Tinahones. This expert made it clear that "the healthiest foods are more expensive."

The head of the esophagogastric surgery and obesity unit at the Regional Hospital (formerly Carlos Haya) and an expert in bariatric surgery at the Quirónsalud Hospital in Malaga, Javier Moreno, told SUR that "eating well is expensive," it is cheaper to buy precooked products, rich in sugars or industrial bakery products than quality meat and fish, natural and seasonal products. It also costs less to eat in a fast food restaurant than in a traditional restaurant," said Dr Moreno.

La Cala Lions diabetic group will be holding its first meeting of 2020 at a new venue

SUR IN ENGLISH

FUENGIROLA. The La Cala Lions Diabetic Support Group experienced some problems at the end of last year when the venue for their meetings closed down. Thankfully, after help from many quarters, including an offer of use of the rooms at Lux Mundi, the group are moving back in to Hogar in Calle Paloma in Fuengirola.

The first meeting of this year for those with diabetes, their friends and family, will be on 31 January at 10.30am and diabetes specialist nurse Finola will be there to help. This is a good opportunity to review diabetic procedures, medications and look at new ideas.

The group encourages people to ask questions about new techniques and medications and would love to hear if there are any subjects that you feel should be covered in future meetings.

The La Cala Lions Diabetic Support Group will also look into health and travel insurance for diabetics. There are now also new guidelines for HbA1c test results.

To contact the group, call 607 879 450.

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Gibraltar's eco-friendly gin distillery

The Spirit of the Rock craft gin distillery is encouraging locals to recycle and look after the environment



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EARTH MATTERS

GIBRALTAR. A new micro gin distillery is leading the way in recycling on the Rock thanks to several green initiatives.

The eco-friendly business on George's Lane now produces "virtually no waste" according to the owners.

And now the distillery is celebrating after their tipples was voted one of the best in the world at the World Gin Awards in London last month.

The Spirit of the Rock opened last May and is the brainchild of Peter and Stella Millhouse, who are both passionate about gin and looking after the environment.

Peter, 65, who is originally from Bristol and previously worked as a professional golfer, told SUR in English that their motto is: "Respect, reduce, return, reuse and recycle."

"We recycle the cooling water, which in a distillery would normally go down the drain, but we trap it, cool it and reuse it, which saves half a million litres of fresh water a year. We thought that if Gibraltar has gone to the trouble of desalinating the water, we don't want to throw it down the drain."

Peter, who trained with a mas-



Peter Millhouse at the distillery just off Main Street in Gibraltar. :: A. B.

ter distiller in London prior to opening the Spirit of the Rock distillery, added that they also give customers £2 off their next purchase if they return the bottle.

He explained: "We get a few back from businesses and people, but people have got into bad habits, so that has to change."

"We've also ordered an electric bicycle, so we will be like the old

milkman picking up and delivering bottles. We also compost all of the botanicals afterwards, which we use to grow new ingredients for the gin, so there's no waste there."

He added: "Even on the tasting tours we don't use plastic cups, we use glassware, so they can fill up with a sample and re-use at home. And the pallettes that our orders

arrive on get turned into units within the distillery to store our bottles on."

The Spirit of the Rock also produces a vodka called Moon Lizard, as well as six types of gin on the premises using local ingredients, some of which only grow in Gibraltar.

Peter, who has lived in Gibraltar since 2002, said that they want to eliminate the use of single-use plastic.

Choose to change

He said: "We are trying to get people to think if they actually need a plastic bag or plastic bottle. If everyone makes a choice then there will be change, but if everyone just keeps muddling along doing what they have always done, the industry will serve that need. So that's the problem, we think. The reason that China is churning out all that rubbish is because we keep buying it. If we stop buying it, it's going to solve the problem."

The couple decided to open a gin



The bottling process. :: A. B.

"Recycling the cooling water saves half a million litres of fresh water a year," says business owner Peter Millhouse

distillery after Stella watched a programme on booming micro-distilleries and quality gin.

Peter said: "The gin that you buy in the shops is not really very good and is mass produced. It's full of nasty chemicals and gives you headaches. If you get something from a small distillery, the quality is so high. Even though it's a lot more expensive, it's worth having something that's made locally and is good quality. I mean, we've just been voted one of the best gins in the world at the World Gin Awards."

"We thought Gibraltar deserved to be premiumised and it was time it had something to be proud of to send out to the world, prouder than another stuffed monkey."

Next month Campion gin will be up among 19 other gins at the World Gin Awards in London, where a panel of gin experts will vote to decide the best gin of 2020.

For more information visit www.spiritoftherock.gi, email info@spiritoftherock.gi or call 00 350 22501294.

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Celebrating a poet with a plate of offal

Haggis, eaten on Burns Night, is a traditional Scottish dish made with sheep's heart, liver and lungs



TONY BRYANT

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MALAGA. Scottish communities around the world are currently preparing for one of their most popular customs, Burns Night.

Traditionally a supper is held in January in celebration of the life and poetry of Scotland's favourite bard, Robert Burns - also known as Rab-bie Burns, the Bard of Ayrshire and the Ploughman Poet.

Author of numerous celebrated Scottish poems, Burns is regarded as a pioneer of the Romantic movement and after his death he became a cultural icon in Scotland.

However, it is his poem Address to a Haggis, which Burns wrote in 1787, and the meat dish this refers to, that will take centre stage during the celebrations on Saturday 25 January, the anniversary of the poet's birthday.

The first Burns supper was held by a group of the bard's friends in 1801, five years after his death. Tradition dictates that the meal is preceded by the Selkirk Grace, so-called because Burns was said to have delivered it at a dinner given by the Earl of Selkirk.

This is followed by the piping in of the haggis and the recital of Address to a Haggis. During the poem, the speaker will plunge a knife into



Haggis and the traditional accompaniment of neeps and tatties. :: SUR

the haggis and cut it open, and a whiskey toast will be proposed in the dish's honour.

Scotland's national dish

Traditionally served with mashed neeps (swede) and tatties (potatoes), haggis is a savoury pudding made with sheep's heart, liver and lungs stuffed into an animal's stomach, although today an artificial casing is normally used.

The dish, which is cooked with spices, mutton fat, minced onion and oatmeal, has a nutty texture and a spicy flavour. However, although it is the national dish of Scotland, it is not immediately appealing to outsiders; it is sometimes referred to in Spanish as 'embutido de vísceras'.

It is believed that a dish similar to haggis has been eaten since ancient times. The name 'hagese' was

The wild haggis: a fictional creature of Scottish folklore

Given the humorous designation of Haggis Scoticus, a wild haggis is a fictional creature of Scottish folklore that is said to live in the steep hills of the Highlands. It is claimed that this small animal is the source of authentic haggis. According to legend, the wild haggis' left and right legs are of different lengths, allowing it to easily move around its natural habitat. It is claimed that there are two varieties of wild haggis. The two co-exist peacefully, but are unable to interbreed. The notion of the wild haggis is often believed by tourists. According to an online survey commissioned by one of Scotland's leading haggis manufacturers, one third of American visitors to Scotland believed the haggis to be a real creature.

first recorded in England during the first half of the 15th century, although the dish is traditionally considered of Scottish origin.

The actual origins of haggis are unknown, but it is commonly believed to have been a dish that was eaten by the Highland cattle drovers. The women would prepare the dish using offal and ingredients that were most readily available in their homes, which were then stuffed

into a sheep's stomach.

During the 18th century, haggis was a common dish of the poor. It was nourishing, yet very cheap, as it was made from leftover parts of sheep otherwise discarded.

Another theory as to the origins of haggis have been based on Scottish slaughtering practices. When a laird required an animal to be slaughtered, it is said that the workers were allowed to keep the pluck (offal) as their share.

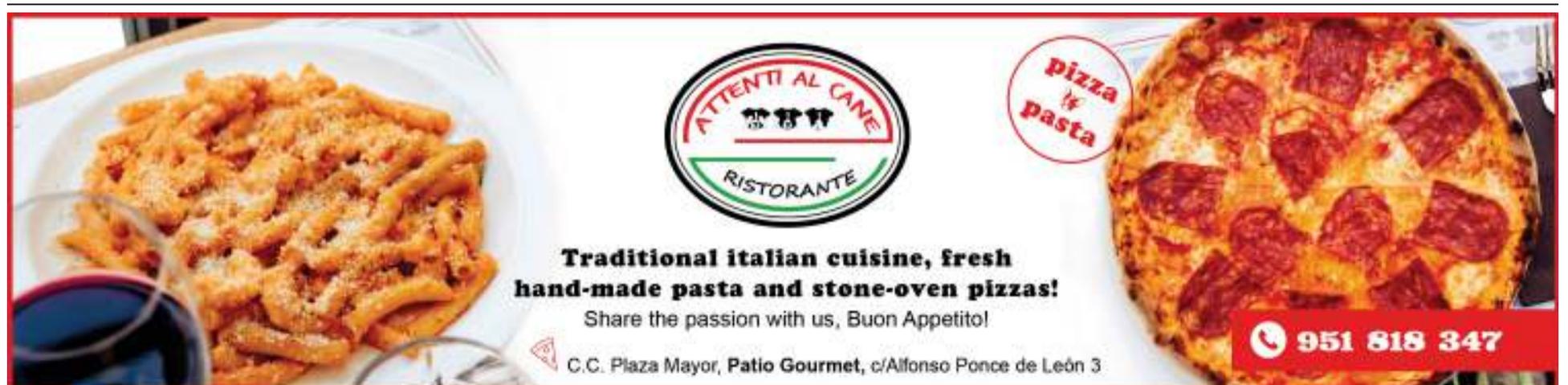
On the Costa del Sol

Haggis remains popular with Scottish residents along the Costa del Sol owing to the strong influence of Scottish culture, especially on Burns Night. It can easily be made in any country, but many butchers now import it from Scotland.

The Scottish Butcher in Fuengirola has been supplying haggis to local expats for 37 years, but he too now imports it direct from Scotland. Proprietor Scott sells the product all year round when it is available, but admits he usually sells more around Burns Night; this year, he has struggled to meet the demand.

"There are a lot of Scots on the coast and most will be celebrating Burns Night with haggis and whiskey. I buy haggis from a specialist supplier in Scotland as it would be very time-consuming to make my own.

"When I arrived here, Burns Night wasn't celebrated, but it has become popular among the expat Scots," Scott told SUR in English.





:: SUR

WHISKY CREAM NOW WITH GOAT'S MILK

The first whisky cream made with goat's milk was launched by the Gin Alborán company last month at the Sabor a Málaga fair. The 17º proof liqueur called Amaltis is sold in 700ml bottles at around 16 euros and can be drunk chilled or added to coffee at any time of the year. The goat's milk comes from goats native to the province of Malaga, the 'cabra malagueña'.

ANDREW J. LINN

AUSTRALIA ON FIRE



It wasn't the first time that Australian winemaker James Tillbrook had seen his future hanging by a thread, dependent on what would happen in the next few hours.

Over the last 20 years he had watched on three occasions as flames from bush fires came close to his vineyard, threatening everything he owned. In December, when he first saw the black smoke on the horizon, he was confident that he would once again be fortunate, but that day was to be unlike the others.

As he uselessly tried standing his ground with a small hosepipe, he soon concluded that his only option was to get out of there. No time to lock up the winery.

Later, on receiving the all-clear from the emergency services, Tillbrook returned to a devastated landscape. He remembers it as an apocalyptic

scene.

"Everything was black. I was in a state of shock, just as if all my family members had suddenly ceased to exist."

In a matter of a few hours he had lost his living, his way of making a living, and everything that mattered for him except life itself.

Now faced with the cost of creating another vineyard, acquiring machinery, and waiting years until the grapes would be mature enough to make a wine that could be sold, the economic effects, probably around 650,000 euros, did not bear thinking about.

In the Adelaide Hills region a third of the vineyards have been lost, representing an economic disaster without precedent. Most of Tillbrook's neighbours have seen their livelihoods ruined, including those who breed cattle.

The questionable, but normal practice of leaving the livestock

exposed to the advancing fires, meant that returning farmers had the unpleasant job of counting their dead and finishing off those that were so badly burnt they could not survive.

Questions are being asked about the fundamental viability of producing wine in what is certainly becoming the hottest area of the world where grapes grow.

But wine is huge business, and apart from consuming 30 litres per head annually, it is produced in every state in the 60 designated regions, most of them in Southern Australian locations.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Monte Real Reserva

Bodegas Riojanas was one of the very first wineries of the región to market quality Rioja in the rest of Spain. This Reserva has a lovely nose with a very deep colour and a clean taste and a long finish. It is certainly worth the 14 euros



HOMELY Pepe and Javier have been working for almost fifty years to offer their customers the best experience at this establishment in Estepona

FOOD, ATMOSPHERE AND SERVICE: THE KEYS TO RESTAURANTE PLAYABELLA'S SUCCESS

ESTEYONA

For a meal to be a true gastronomic experience, it needs three things: good, well-made food; a pleasant atmosphere and superb service. All of this is what customers have been finding at Restaurante PlayaBella for almost five decades.

This establishment, located in Estepona, stands out for its remarkable culinary offer. The kitchen serves dishes that combine the best local cuisine with international tones, such as the spinach crepes au gratin, their famous onion soup or the melon in port with grated coconut.

Where fish is concerned, the fresh salmon with orange sauce, skewers of grouper with prawns and Indian curry and the grilled Menier sole are of particular note.

For fans of meat, the PlayaBella shoulder of lamb, beef tenderloin with fresh foie and Pedro Ximénez



sauce and the beef tenderloin meatballs in homemade tomato sauce and chips are some of the essentials.

The main dishes are complemented by a substantial wine list and their homemade desserts, the great stars on the menu. All in a pleasant, homely setting both in the indoor dining rooms and on the terrace.

In essence, excellent results of the work of Pepe, founder and owner of the restaurant, and his son Javier, who together with the

rest of the team have managed to make their slogan "quality and service at a good price" their hallmark and earn a place as one of the best restaurants, even at an international level. Customers, who they say are "their life", come from all over the world time and time again.

It's hardly surprising therefore that Restaurante PlayaBella has become the best eatery in the Estepona's Cancelada area, according to customer reviews on Restaurant Guru. A recognition that shows the value of their work and quality.

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ADVERTORIAL



Several police officers as they left La Rosaleda stadium close to midnight on Wednesday. :: NITO SALAS

Police carry out 15-hour search of Malaga CF offices under judge's orders

Wednesday's search of La Rosaleda relates to a case launched by the Association of Minority Shareholders against club president Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani

:: SUR

MALAGA. Officers from the National Police's Financial Crimes Unit searched the offices of Malaga's La Rosaleda stadium on Wednesday in connection with a court case against the club's owner, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani.

In the ongoing criminal case, the Association of Minority Shareholders are attempting to have Al-Thani removed from control of the club and replaced with a judicial administration. They accuse Al-Thani of several crimes, including improper management and mis-

appropriation of funds.

More evidence required

The presiding judge initially rejected the Minority Shareholders' requests, insisting that there was not yet enough evidence to indicate any crimes having been committed.

However, on Tuesday, she issued a summons to owner Al-Thani and his children Nasser, Rakan and Nayef - the three also sit on the club's board - to appear in court on Tuesday 18 February and respond to the allegations against them. The family are currently in Qatar.

This was followed the next day by the search of La Rosaleda. The judge had previously stated that she needed more evidence to be presented, to which the Minority Shareholders responded that they had offered up all the documentation at their disposal, and that it was the club's intransigence that was the problem. The court had already re-

quested a good deal of information from the club, including the list of shareholders, confirmation of who made up the board and what its members' precise duties were, and the original contract of the 4.4 million euro loan made by the club to Al-Thani and his children.

Computers checked

Police arrived early in the morning and stayed around 15 hours, leaving near midnight. Sources at the regional High Court confirmed that the officers were there in order to collect "financial documentation", downloading data from computers. Since there are strict rules regarding this 'data dumping' and what can serve as evidence in a trial, it was this process which made the police presence last so long.

The club sought to play down the significance of the incident, and stressed that it has always sought to assist the authorities: "The club

has always worked in good faith with the authorities, seeking to comply with all their requests. These events have not impeded the normal functioning of the club. We want to thank the officers who were at the stadium today for their professional attitude and friendliness."

Adding to Malaga's woes, La Liga chief Javier Tebas, speaking on Wednesday, warned the club that it will have serious financial problems by the beginning of March "if there are no sales or an investment". If the club did not deal with its financial imbalances, he warned that it would have "serious problems" with La Liga.

Tebas also seemed to offer support to the Minority Shareholders: "You're never the only shareholder in football, and that means you can't do whatever you want. Even if you own 95 per cent of the club, others will own the five per cent, and they have rights you have to respect."

Right-back Iván leaves the club on loan and more could soon follow him out the door

:: BORJA GUTIÉRREZ

MALAGA. After the recent departure of Alex Mula, who was loaned to Alcorcón, Malaga have cut their bloated wage bill again, with Iván Rodríguez departing to Ponferradina until the end of the season. An academy product, the right-back made his debut against Real Madrid in 2018, becoming a regular during the 2018-19 season.

Mula and Iván were two of the three players who were on Malaga's books without officially being registered this season, after a disastrous summer transfer window. The third was José Rodríguez, whose future remains up in the air. Numancia and Fuenlabrada are interested, but the player is said to remain hopeful that a future can be found for him at Malaga.

However, two obstacles stand in the way. Firstly, his wages are well above the maximum that La Liga would permit any of Malaga's signings, which is the Segunda Division's minimum wage: 40,000 euros per half season. Secondly, a space would need to be found in the squad.

This space may be freed up with the departure of Lorenzo González to Swiss side St Gallen. Lorenzo arrived from Manchester City on a free transfer in the summer, but his Malaga career has not yet taken off. He is likely to depart for free as well, although it remains to be seen whether Malaga will earn a percentage of any future transfer fee.



Iván in training. :: SUR

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Goalless draw preserves Pellicer's undefeated start as interim boss

FRANK
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Each side had a goal ruled out by VAR in a cagey encounter, which also saw Armando Sadiku miss a glorious late chance

MALAGA. For the 12th time this league campaign, Malaga drew last Friday, this one coming away to promotion-chasing Fuenlabrada. The stalemate will have left a bitter-sweet taste in Malaga fans' mouths; while a point at the Estadio Fernando Torres is not to be sniffed at in a relegation battle, the visitors could have grabbed a win at the death.

Despite a few moments of drama, the encounter was ultimately one to forget, much like the reverse fixture earlier this season, which also ended goalless. One struggles to think of a clear-cut chance in the first half, as both sides were cautious and lacked the ruthlessness to find the final ball.

For a moment, Malaga thought they had the lead, after Sadiku had emphatically headed home an excellent delivery from Juanpi. However, VAR correctly ruled the Albanian offside and the sides went

0-0

FUENLABRADA-MALAGA

Fuenlabrada: Biel Ribas; Iribas, David Prieto Juanma, José León; Iván Salvador, Ciss (Cristóbal, 70'), Clavería, Anderson; Oriol Riera (Quintana, 61'), Nteka. Unused substitutes: Pol Freixanet, Jeisson, José Fran, Sotillos, Alberto.

Malaga: Munir; Cifu, Luis Hernández, Diego González, Juankar; Benkhemassa (Dani Pacheco, 55'), Luis Muñoz; Hicham, Juanpi, Antoñín (Buenacasa, 70' (Boulahroud, 82')); Sadiku. Unused substitutes: Kellyan, Renato, Keko, Juande.

Referee: López Toca. Yellow cards for Benkhemassa, Antoñín, Ciss, Juankar, Hicham, Clavería.

Ground: Estadio Fernando Torres (4,563 spectators).

in level at half time.

Fuenlabrada generated a few scrappy opportunities from set pieces after the restart, Juanma blazing over from just inside a crowded six-yard box, and José León seeing his header cleared off the line by Sadiku. The hosts then had their own header ruled out with around 10 minutes to go, Randy Nteka having been just offside when he beat Munir.

Late chance squandered

The chance of the game fell to Sadiku with minutes to go, but he couldn't convert substitute Badr Boulahroud's pinpoint delivery. But while Malaga could have



Malaga's Juankar runs with the ball. :: SUR

snatched all three points, interim coach Sergio Pellicer is off to a steady start, and the Blue and Whites are now unbeaten in eight. "If asked, I think anyone would

have taken four points from these two games at the start of the week," Pellicer said after the game. "I'm proud of the players." Nevertheless, he did question whether

SEGUNDA DIVISIÓN

Results	Match day 25
Fuenlabrada - Malaga 0-0	Cádiz - Racing
Numancia - Sporting 2-0	Huesca - Lugo
Lugo - Albacete 1-0	Sporting - Fuenlabrada
Ponferradina - Rayo 1-1	Las Palmas - Tenerife
Mirandés - Zaragoza Susp.	Zaragoza - Numancia
Elche - Alcorcón 1-1	Malaga - Mirandés
Deportivo - Cadiz 1-0	Albacete - Deportivo
Racing - Las Palmas 1-1	Almería - Elche
Oviedo - Huesca 1-1	Alcorcón - Ponferradina
Extremadura - Almería 1-2	Rayo - Extremadura
Tenerife - Girona 1-0	Girona - Oviedo

League table

TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT
1. Almería	24	12	9	3	43	23	45
2. Cádiz	24	13	6	5	34	23	45
3. Huesca	24	12	4	8	29	21	40
4. Zaragoza	23	11	6	6	34	24	39
5. Fuenlabrada	24	9	10	5	29	24	37
6. Numancia	24	9	9	6	30	24	36
7. Girona	24	10	4	10	31	30	34
8. Las Palmas	24	9	7	8	29	28	34
9. Elche	24	8	9	7	29	26	33
10. Mirandés	23	8	9	6	31	32	33
11. Rayo	23	7	11	5	31	26	32
12. Ponferradina	24	7	11	6	30	26	32
13. Alcorcón	24	6	12	6	26	27	30
14. Sporting	24	7	7	10	21	25	28
15. Albacete	23	8	4	11	17	27	28
16. Malaga	24	5	12	7	19	20	27
17. Tenerife	24	6	7	11	28	32	25
18. Lugo	24	5	10	9	22	34	25
19. Oviedo	24	5	9	10	28	36	24
20. Deportivo	24	5	9	10	21	36	24
21. Extremadura	24	5	7	12	20	32	22
22. Racing	24	2	14	8	25	31	20

VAR might have spotted a late foul on Juanpi in the Fuenlabrada box.

The draw means Malaga remain in 16th place on 27 points, three clear of Oviedo, who occupy the last relegation spot.

Malaga's next challenge is Mirandés this Sunday at noon.

Win in Tenerife makes it three away victories on the trot for Femenino

A second-half goal from Ayano was enough to guarantee all three points

GRANADILLA B 0 MALAGA 1

:: IGNACIO PÉREZ. ADG

SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFE. After drawing their last two games, Malaga Femenino picked up an important three points away to Granadilla B on Saturday, their third away win in succession.

Aware of the home side's offensive prowess, Malaga started cautiously, getting bodies back to stem the flow of the hosts' attacks. Marta sent the visitors a warning shot when she hit the post with 25 minutes gone. However, Malaga's excellent defence was largely unfazed, and the Blue and Whites began to control the game.

They could have gone ahead when María was sent through by a ball which Granadilla defender Cindy failed to deal with, but the forward's shot was too weak to trouble the keeper.

Both sides were more free-flowing in the second half and Malaga



Malaga's Postigo challenges for a header. :: ADG MEDIA

made good use of their fullbacks in attack. After various speculative efforts from distance, the visitors took the lead just before the hour mark. When a free kick from wide was whipped into the box, the defence couldn't deal with it, and Ayano was at hand to beat keeper Nay Cáceres.

After this point, the attacking impetus came from the hosts. Adamek had a chance that Noelia dealt with in the 81st minute and Malaga

were made to suffer with eight minutes of added time. Noelia was again at hand when Cindy had a late chance, ensuring all three points for a Malaga side who have now gone 10 games unbeaten.

Occupying fifth place in the Segunda División Femenina Sur, José Herrera's side now sit 11 points behind leaders Albacete, and three behind fourth-placed Villarreal, who have a game in hand.

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A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports
@robopalmer



The bargain basement

This time of year always sees increasingly desperate clubs take a gamble or two

It's that time again when football has a garage sale and the forgotten items are given a dusting, a modicum of marketing and then auctioned off to buyers who are desperate for a bargain.

There's the curious case of Willian José's link to Tottenham, Javier Hernández receiving a Hollywood A-lister reception in Los Angeles and Dani Ceballos looking for yet another new club to showcase his talents.

When £59 million was quoted for Willian José in the English newspapers, I thought there had been a typo and they'd missed out the decimal point? The Brazilian is a decent striker but if his agents can persuade Spurs to shell out that kind of money, they are geniuses.

Mind you, he is the player who signed for Deportivo Maldonado

in 2011 yet never played a single game for the tiny Uruguayan club. They loaned him out seven times, presumably for a fee, before Real Sociedad finally bought him for around six million euros in 2016.

Ironically, he's followed the path of Jonathan Calleri from Maldonado to five different club, including West Ham. Hammers fans would be forgiven for not remembering him as he played only 725 minutes for the £4.25-million loan fee.

Talking of West Ham, former striker Javier Hernández was made to feel like David Beckham when he arrived in Los Angeles to sign for LA Galaxy. He's perfect for MLS football, there's a massive Mexican heritage and South American presence in the city. He even has a nickname, Chicharito, which the American marketing men will

absolutely love.

He's one of those players who gets better as the transfer market edges towards a close. His moves to Real Madrid, Bayer Leverkusen and Sevilla all occurred as the windows were close to closure. His stay in Andalucía was marked by just four Liga starts and a single goal against Getafe. With a resigned air, he agreed to be a 'designated player' who can break the salary cap - a Galaxy Galáctico!

Dani Ceballos will be looking enviously at Chicharito finding a new home. The talented 23-year-old left the Spanish capital for London to seek fame, and probably a small fortune too. His motivation for leaving Real Madrid for Arsenal was to get game time. Initially it was swell, but he's now a forgotten man who hasn't kicked a match ball since 2 November. He's desperate for a club after going the full 90 minutes only twice in an undistinguished Premier League career.



Willian José's been in good form but his price-tag is a surprise. :: EFE

His experience is similar to another youngster who left La Liga for the Premier League. Giovani Lo Celso has made little impression on Spurs supporters after a bright year at Real Betis. He's only started four Premier League games and made ten substitute appearances. Now Spurs must decide

whether to pay a discounted £27 million now or wait until the summer to sign him with a price hike to a reported £34 million.

It's called a market for a reason, January is the time when there's a clearance of the clubs' bric-à-brac. "Roll up, roll up... get your bargain here!"

Marbella thrash minnows Villarrobledo to move two points behind league leaders Cartagena

VILLARROBLEDO 1 MARBELLA 4

:: FELICIANO MOLINA. ADG

VILLARROBLEDO. Last weekend was an excellent one for Marbella, who recorded a thumping 1-4 victory away at Villarrobledo and saw all of their closest rivals slip up.

The Costa del Sol side got off to a characteristically fast start in Sunday's game, Mustafá tapping into an empty net after his side had sliced through the Villarrobledo defence.

However, they squandered a few chances to double their lead, and were punished when José Rodríguez levelled from a corner with half an hour gone.

It only took four minutes after the break for the visitors to re-establish control when Saúl nodded home a free-kick at the far post.

With less than 20 minutes to go, Manel made sure of the victory with another header, before Añón's injury-time free-kick rubbed salt in the wounds.

Marbella coach David Cubillo was effusive in his praise for his side. "It was a tough week because we had three matches. Despite this, the group never changed its mentality. We worked hard and we had a clear



Marbella's Samu Delgado faces a Villarrobledo opponent. :: SUR

gameplan. Winning here is a really good sign. If Villarrobledo weren't at their best today, it's because of the quality we showed."

After defeats suffered by Yeclano and San Fernando, and draws for Ba-

dajoz and Cordoba, Marbella move up to second place, just two points off leaders Cartagena, who also drew this weekend.

They next face 12th-placed Murcia at 5pm on Sunday.



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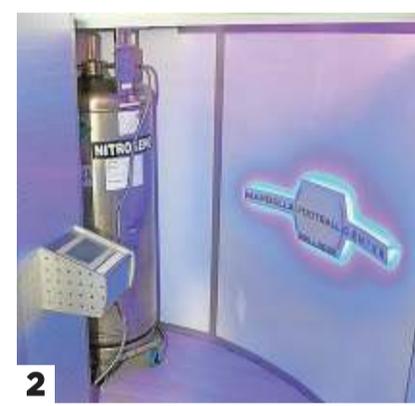
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Norwegian side Rosenborg trained on one of the pitches on the rear side of the Marbella Football Center. :: JOSELE



Football has an impact on the Costa

A Marbella company organised 227 team visits in 2019, resulting in a knock-on effect of numerous indirect benefits for other sectors in the area



PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

Twitter: @Plalonso27

MALAGA. It was a January morning like any other, Friday 17th to be exact, and some well-known names in the three European leagues are to be found on three of the four pitches at the Marbella Football Center (MFC). On one side of the principal building of the complex, Rosenborg BK, who have dominated Norwegian football in recent years, were training; on the other, Hungarian side Videoton, currently second in their country, were training too. To the

south were Lokomotiv Moscow, who has competed in the group stages of the Champions League with Atlético. It is nearly 20 degrees in Marbella, despite it being winter. Neither in Trondheim nor in Székesfehérvár, and even less the Russian capital, would the temperatures come anywhere close to that.

Football Impact, the company run by the MFC, doesn't hesitate in reinvesting its profits and heads straight to the top of the range in each sector to equip its facilities, but nothing would make any sense if it had not planned its existence in the climatic paradise of the Costa del Sol. The area is also justifiably known as the Costa del Golf because of the number of golf courses in the area, but until now it has never been la-

belled the Costa del Goal; that might change in the future, though, because this complex in Marbella, almost on the boundary with Benahavís, is the most important of its type in Spain and, probably, in Europe.

Everything at the MFC is top of the range. Not only the grass, an essential feature to keep elite clubs happy, but also the facilities, which improve year after year. Above all, the new gymnasium - where Fernando Llorente worked out every day last summer (when he was without a club before joining Napoli) - is adapted for top level competition with latest generation machines (from Iberian Sportech, which has also fitted the gyms for Real Madrid and Manchester City), the most ad-

FOOTBALL IMPACT, THE FACTS

Pitches where they work at present:

- Marbella Football Center:** Four.
- La Quinta Pitch (Benahavís):** One.
- Dama de Noche (San Pedro Alcántara):** Four.
- Alhaurín Golf (Alhaurín el Grande):** One.
- La Cala Resort (Mijas):** One.
- Municipal de Benahavís:** One.
- Doña Julia (Casares Costa):** Two.
- Arroyo Enmedio (Estepona):** One.
- Santa María Polo and Ayala Polo (Sotogrande, Cádiz):** Eight.
- Montecastillo (Jerez, Cadiz):**

- One.
- Torremolinos:** One.
- Villaitana (Benidorm, Alicante):** One.
- Atalaya Park (Estepoma):** One.
- Municipal Antonio Lorenzo (Marbella):** One.
- Sheraton Hacienda del Álamo (Murcia):** One.
- Villaitana (Benidorm, Alicante):** One.

Hotels with which they have agreements:

- Costa del Sol:** La Cala Golf Resort (Mijas), H10 Palace, Kempinski, Elba, EXE, and Ona

- Valle Romano (Estepona), Alanda, Westin La Quinta, Guadalpin Banús, Los Monteros Meliá Don Pepe, Guadalmina Meliá Banús, Barceló and PYR Banús (Marbella), Gran Hotel Benahavís and Alhaurín Golf (Alhaurín el Grande).
- Murcia:** Thalasia, La Manga Club and La Manga Hotel.
- Alicante:** La Finca Golf and Meliá Villaitana (Benidorm).
- Cádiz:** Montecastillo (Jerez), Barrosa Palace (Chiclana), Elba Costa Ballena (Rota) and Almenara Golf Resort (Sotogrande).





1. The impressive high-performance gymnasium, with a Lokomotiv Moscow player working out. :: JOSELE
2. The cryotherapy machine for muscular recovery. :: JOSELE
3. The sauna room at Marbella Football Center. :: JOSELE
4. One of the changing rooms, used by Lokomotiv. :: JOSELE

Joachim Löw), and offices for the different Football Impact departments. Anything new is adopted instantly for the benefit of future visitors, such as a system of fixed cameras around the two main pitches so matches can be filmed and the images exported in a short time without analysts from the corresponding clubs having to work on them.

MFC is the 'favourite child' of Football Impact, which in reality has created an emporium to host prestigious football teams all over the Costa del Sol and in nearby areas such as Cadiz or even Murcia and Alicante

Among the different facilities they use, La Dama de Noche sports complex in San Pedro (and close to Puerto Banús) is equipped with almost the same attention to detail, as is La Quinta Football in Benahavis.

No fewer than 227 stays (from three days to three weeks) were managed by this company in 2019. It is growing fast and now has more than 100 employees, around 60 of whom work on pitch maintenance. The business is starting to attract custom all year round and has expanded to other towns in the province and elsewhere, although to a much lesser extent outside Malaga province.

In the summer the facility attracts a good number of Spanish clubs and in winter the clients are mainly German, but also Russian, Scandinavian, Dutch and even Asian. Most are top level and 70 per cent return.

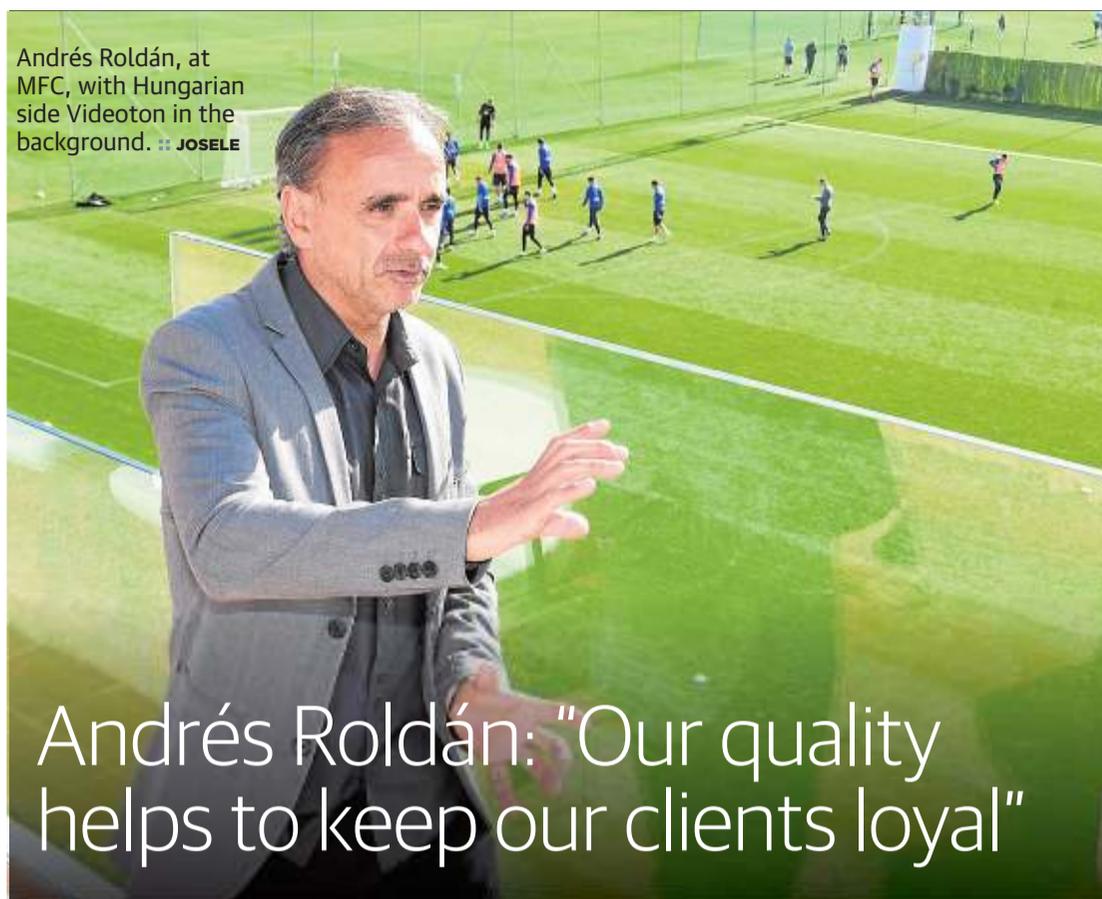
The best team of the moment in terms of clubs, Liverpool, champions of Europe, have come for the past two years and took over Las Dunas hotel in Estepona each time. The five-star establishment converted itself into a type of bunker, providing private security as well as the club's own.

The presence of Jürgen Klopp (who is buying a house on the Costa) and his star players caused great excitement, similar to that when Erling Braut Haaland of Borussia Dortmund came. The young Norwegian forward won the Golden Boot in the 2019 FIFA under-20 World Cup, and Borussia Dortmund paid a reported 20 million euros to sign him up.

vanced technology for recuperation, and a software which means that any individual muscle group can be micromanaged.

There is a sauna with three pools, one cryomassage, another with contrasting high temperatures and one for recuperation with underwater equipment. However, the jewel in the crown is a cryotherapy machine (the same type Cristiano Ronaldo uses in his home) which intensifies the processes of muscular recovery.

There are also five fully fitted changing rooms, a cafeteria (with free catering for the employees), a media room with framed shirts of visiting clubs, a meeting room where many footballers have signed contracts in recent years (and with an artificial fireplace, the idea of Germany coach



Andrés Roldán, at MFC, with Hungarian side Videoton in the background. :: JOSELE

Andrés Roldán: "Our quality helps to keep our clients loyal"

The commercial director of Football Impact says he would like to see closer cooperation from the Tourist Board

:: P. L. A.

MALAGA. How did Football Impact start? It was created in 2005 by founding partners Andrés Roldán (who was born in Gelsenkirchen to Spanish parents and returned to Spain when he was 26), who is the commercial director, and Enrique Pérez Serichol, who was born in Madrid and grew up in Tenerife and is the business' operations director.

"I joined Marpafut [the previous name of MFC] in 2002 [it was created in 2001], but it wasn't working and there were heavy losses," admits Roldán. After leaving there in 2005, he returned and then the momentum began. In the first year they organised 18 stays, and 38 in the second year. In 2019, there were 227.

MFC's main rival in Spain is Pinatar Arena (Murcia) and, world-

wide, Turkey. In the summer, it is Austria. However, Roldán points out something that makes his business different: "Our quality helps to keep our clients loyal to us. The teams come here because they are going to have to face good competitors and also because there is a lot for them to do in their free time, especially shopping."

The firm arranges fixed prices with the hotels and then offers a package to the clubs. Each team normally takes around 40 rooms if they are not travelling with sponsors or groups of fans. The indirect economic impact on the Costa del Sol is enormous. Football Impact calculates the benefits for the area in low season are around ten million euros,

MFC organises 65,000 overnight stays a year; the economic impact on the area is ten million euros in low season

and they organise about 65,000 overnight stays a year in the hotels with whom they work. As an example, they quote the famous German team Nuremberg who held a barbecue with 150 fans at Dama de Noche one night. "We can also offer conferences or incentive trips to the sponsoring companies," says Pérez Serichol. "Some hotels only open for us at this time of year, and that means 300 people don't have to go on the dole," says Roldán. "Not only do we arrange accommodation and full board, but other intangible advantages as part of the package, such as flexibility and adaptation," explains Pérez.

Numerous other sectors also benefit from these football training camps, from coaches (at times they need 15 a day), rental vans, catering and the sale of items from designer shops. For this reason, Roldán is calling on the institutions to work more closely with the firm.

"We wish the Costa del Sol Tourist Board would support this initiative and work with us more. We are the perfect tool to attract year-round tourism," he says.

Principal teams they worked with in 2019 and will work with 2020:

- Germany:** Hoffenheim, Schalke 04, Fortuna Düsseldorf, Cologne, Borussia Dortmund, Borussia Moenchengladbach, Mainz, Freiburg, Stuttgart, Arminia Bielefeld, Karlsruher, Bochum, Dynamo Dresden, Nuremberg, Darmstadt, Hannover, Kaiserslautern, Hamburg and Union Berlin.
- Belgium:** Standard Liège, Genk and Zulte Waregem.
- Bulgaria:** CSKA Sofia.
- Czech Republic:** Slavia Prague, Jablonec, Sparta Prague and Vik-

toria Plzen.

China: Beijing Guoan, Wuhan Zall, Dalian Yifang, Tianjin Teda, Shenshua Shanghai and Beijing Renhe.

South Korea: Jeonbuk Hyundai.

Denmark: Aalborg.

Scotland: Hibernian.

Spain: Cordoba, Cartagena, Deportivo, Extremadura, Rayo Vallecano, Malaga, Badajoz, Eibar, Alcorcón, Las Palmas, Granada, Almeria, Sevilla, Mallorca, Valladolid and Getafe.

USA: New England Revolution.

France: Lens.

The Netherlands: NEC Nijmegen, De Graafschap, Emmen,

Heracles Armelo, ADO Den Haag, Twente, Willem II, Feyenoord, Zwolle and Excelsior Rotterdam.

Hungary: Videoton, Puskas Academy and Ferencvaros.

England: West Ham United, Brighton, Hull, Reading, West Bromwich Albion, Liverpool and Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Finland: Honka and Inter Turku.

Japan: Shonan Bellmare.

Latvia: Ventspils.

Norway: Rosenborg, Bodo, Molde Glimt, Haugesund, Mjondalen, Valerenga, Sromgodset, Viking, Aalesund, Brann Bergen, Stabaek, Sarpsborg, Kris-

tiansund and Tromso.

Poland: Legia Warsaw.

Romania: Gaz Metan, Steaua Bucharest and Dinamo Bucharest.

Russian: Lokomotiv Moscow, Krasnodar, Zenit, Orenburg, Rostov, Krilya Sovetov and UFA.

Sweden: Malmö, Örebro, AIK Solna and Östersunds.

Switzerland: Sion, Basel, Winterthur, Lucerne and Lausanne.

Ukraine: Dinamo Kiev.

National teams:

Germany women, Norway, Denmark, Malta, Congo, Burkina Faso, Spain under-21, Scotland, Romania, Denmark, Sweden and Russia, Argentina un-

der-20.

Main upcoming friendlies:

CSKA Sofia-Viktoria Plzen: Thursday 30 January (4pm), Arroyo Enmedio.

Krasnodar-Malmö: Sunday 2 February (4pm), Municipal Antonio Lorenzo (Marbella).

Malmö-Sparta Prague: Thursday 6 February (4pm), MFC.

Viktoria Plzen-Krasnodar: Friday 7 February (12pm), Municipal Antonio Lorenzo.

Krasnodar-Rostov: Sunday 23 February (4pm), La Quinta Football.

Davidovich falls to Schwartzman after making history in Australian Open

The 20-year-old star from Rincón de la Victoria beat Norbert Gombos in five sets before losing to Diego Schwartzman

:: PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

MALAGA. Alejandro Davidovich is out of the Australian Open, but he managed to make history before being eliminated by 14th seed, Diego Schwartzman.

The tennis prodigy's victory over Slovakian Norbert Gombos, a thrilling five set encounter (4-6, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2) that lasted over three hours, made him the first Malaga-born player to win a match in the finals of the Australian Open.

Davidovich started Tuesday's game slowly, with 29-year-old Gombos taking the first set. The youngster did, however, save three set points, and this gradual improvement continued into the second set, which the world number 85 took to level matters.

He was again on the ropes in the third, a convincing victory for his Slovakian opponent, but he rallied again to take the last two, the win setting up a clash with Diego Schwartzman. "It was a tight game," Davidovich reflected after his win. "Gombos played a very direct game and I had to stay focused in order to win."

Tuesday's match was the first time that Davidovich had played five sets, and his encounter with Schwartzman was another milestone: the Argentinian is the highest ranked player he has faced on



Davidovich during his game against Gombos. :: EFE

the ATP circuit.

Schwartzman went in as the clear favourite, and there were no real surprises, as he took the match in straight sets (6-1, 6-2, 6-4). Davidovich struggled against his experienced opponent, committing 53 unforced errors to Schwartzman's 29, and the first set was something of a washout.

The 20-year-old showed some improvement in the second set, moving his opponent around the court more, and the score reached 4-4. However, here Schwartzman broke him, and held his nerve in the final game to carry the set.

Perhaps disheartened by his second-set loss, Davidovich's play waned somewhat in the third, as he was broken in the third game, and failed to take several chances to break Schwartzman back.

Despite Davidovich's disappointment, there were clear positives to be taken, and he seemed to be aware of them. "Diego was more solid than I was. I made more errors, but I still leave with a positive feeling. Diego showed me that I've got a lot to learn. I thank him for giving me this lesson."

Only two Malaga-born players have ever previously won a match in the finals of a Grand Slam tournament. Emilio Álvarez won two first-round matches at the French Open, in 1995 and 1998, and one at Wimbledon in 1997, while Adrián Menéndez beat Patrick Kypson at the US open in 2017.

Despite his defeat at the hands of Schwartzman, then, the fact that he has joined this list at such a young age suggests the future is bright for Alejandro Davidovich.

IN BRIEF

Nerja Rugby suffer a setback on the road in Algeciras

MALAGA

:: **SUR.** Nerja Rugby Club were defeated by Bahía 89 in Algeciras last Sunday. The scoreline of 33-52 flattered the home side, and Nerja played far better than in their last game at the end of 2019.

Nerja conceded two tries within the first ten minutes, both coming from an inability to tackle the ball carrier on their left flank. A conversion and a pushover try in the opposite corner saw them on the wrong end of a 17-0 scoreline midway through the half.

They rallied to bring the score to 17-14, before the opposition scored two more converted tries to go into the interval with a more comfortable 31-14 lead.

Nine minutes into the second half José added Nerja's third try, and Rogelio added the conversion. Nevertheless, the home side reacted; three tries in ten minutes increased their lead to 52-21.

Nerja were to add another try before the end when a quick tapped penalty five metres out from the opposition line resulted in José again powering over. Rogelio added the conversion to leave the final score 52-33.



Mark Clattenburg. :: SUR

World Cup final referee regales walking footballers

MALAGA

:: **SUR.** Sunday 19 January saw referee Mark Clattenburg entertaining guests at the Bar Tua in La Cala de Mijas.

Clattenburg, who has refereed World Cup, Euros and Champions League Finals, was the guest of honour at the Blue Sky Marbella Walking Football League's Sportsman's Lunch. Those in attendance managed to raise over 1,800 euros for Prostate Cancer Research.

Aston Viñuela are currently leading the pack in the league. On Wednesday 29 January, WFS take on The Walking Dead in the cup first round at the Finca Naundrup. The two sides' A teams will face off at 6.30pm, and the B teams will play an hour later.

Those interested in joining a team should visit www.walkingfooty.com.

Dakar Rally veteran Carlos Sainz picks up his third victory

Alongside co-driver Lucas Cruz, Sainz won comfortably, while Fernando Alonso did well on his debut and hasn't ruled out a return

:: D. SÁNCHEZ DE CASTRO

MADRID. Two years after becoming the oldest driver to win the Dakar Rally, 57-year-old Carlos Sainz is the competition's victor again, winning in Saudi Arabia.

Sainz's closest competitors, Stéphane Peterhansel and Nasser Al-Attiyah, the latter of whom won

last year's edition, did not put up much of a challenge; the final 166-kilometre stretch was fairly straightforward for Sainz, who nevertheless remained focused and did not celebrate until his victory was confirmed.

"I'm really happy. Thanks to Lucas, to the team, to all the fans, to my family. And to Red Bull and Bahrain. It was a really tough rally from the start, and I'm delighted with the win," Sainz said after the race.

Sainz was not the only Spaniard to put in an impressive performance. Fernando Alonso, twice Formula One world champion, fin-



Carlos Sainz (r) and Lucas Cruz celebrate their Dakar victory. :: EFE

ished in 13th place, making him the highest-placed debutant. He did not rule out a return: "I'm happy at how this first attempt

went. If I come back, it'll be to win it. But in order to do that I'll have to prepare well, think it out, and have a great team and vehicle."

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Vélez-Málaga, La Antigua Capilla de S. José, C/. Linares 7. Sundays 10.30am
Anglican Chaplaincy of St. Andrew, Costa del Sol (East)
Chaplaincy Office 952580600.

Los Boliches, St. Andrew's Holy Communion 1st, 3rd Sun. Morning Worship 2nd, 4th Sun. Morning Prayer Mon, Tues, Thurs 9.30am. Holy Communion (BCP) Wed. 9.30am.

Benalmádena Costa, San José chapel, 9.30am; Morning Worship 2nd, 4th Sun; Holy Communion 1st, 3rd Sun.

Calahonda, Ermita de San Miguel, 9.30am. Morning Worship 1st, 3rd Sun; Holy Communion 2nd, 4th Sun.

Alhaurín el Grande: Cemetery Chapel Sun. at 11.30am. All age service 1st Sun; Morning Worship 3rd Sun; Holy Communion 2nd, 4th Sun.

Costa del Sol (West)
San Pedro, Sunday 10a.m. (Holy Communion) Parroquia Virgen del Rocío.

Sotogrande, Sunday 12 noon. (Holy Communion 2nd & 4th Sundays) La Iglesia de Nuestra Sra. de la Merced. Chaplaincy House. www.costachurch.com

Nerja: Sun 12 noon, San Miguel church, Wed. 9.30am. (Church shop, C/Malaga 952 522 460.) Rev. Geoffrey Johnston, 952521339.

Almuñécar: Capilla de Nuestra Señora del Carmen, (Fishermen's chapel) Chinasol. Sun. 9.30am. (not August) Priest as Nerja.

Torre del Mar: St Barnabas IERE, 11am. Morning Prayer 1st and 3rd Sunday, H.C. 2nd and 4th. Lux Mundi centre. 952030461.

Gibraltar: Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Sun 10.30. Tel. 78377.

MUSLIM

Marbella: Mezquita del Rey Abdulaziz. Friday 2.30pm. 952774143.

Fuengirola: Mezquita del Centro Cultural Suhail, Parque Doña Sofía. Friday worship 2.30pm. Tel 952473916.

Malaga: Mezquita, C/San Agustín 11. Friday 2.30pm. 952228595.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Marbella: Santo Cristo del Calvario Church, Avda. del Calvario: Holy Mass in English, 11am. every Sunday. Tel: 952774 899.

Fuengirola: Capilla San José, Las Rampas (Upper Level), Daily Mass (in English): Mon-Fri 11am. Sat 7pm. Sun 11am.

Fuengirola: Lux Mundi, C/ Nueva, 12 Sun. **Arroyo de la Miel**: Mass in English Parroquia de la Inmaculada, Sunday1.30pm.

Calahonda: Ermita de San Miguel, 12 Sun. **Benalmádena Costa**: Parish Church of La Virgen del Carmen, Avda. Bonanza. Bilingual mass English/Spanish Sundays 10.30am.

Torre del Mar: Lux Mundi, Avda. Moscatel, 1-11. Saturday. Winter 5pm, summer 6 pm. 952543334.

Chiclana (Cadiz): Nstra Señora de Europa church, Urb. Novo Sancti Petri, RC Mass in English and German, Sunday 10.30am

Pueblo Nuevo de Guadiaro - Sotogrande (Cadiz): Mass in English, Saturday 7pm and Sunday 10.30am at Santuario de la Divina Misericordia

Malaga: Catholic mass in English, Avenida Santiago Ramón y Cajal, Ciudad Jardín. 11.30am Sunday. 952260760.

METHODIST CHURCH

Gibraltar: Methodist Church, 297 Main Street. Sun 11am and 8pm. +350 200 77491/+350 200 40870. Rev. Fidel Patron.

Sotogrande: La Iglesia de Nuestra Sra. de

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Malaga: Sun 10.30 am, C/Babel 1.

Algeciras: Sun 10.30 am. C/Sevilla 43. Tel. 956630894.

Nerja: Sun. 10.30 a.m. C/Granada, 83. Tel. 607 522 671

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Arroyo de la Miel: Avda Del Cerro de Viento, s/n. Tues. 7.30pm. Sat. 4.30pm. Tel. 952561170.

Fuengirola: Kingdom Hall, Plaza Hispanidad, Service Meeting, Fri 7.30pm. 952469082.

Malaga: C/José Palanca, 20. Service Fri 8pm. Tues 7.15pm.

San Pedro: C/ Amor 6, Fuente Nueva. English: Sun 11am & Wed 7.30pm.

Tagalog: Sun 1.30pm & Tues 7.30pm. Kingdom Hall 952788855.

Torrox Costa: Local 17, Urb Costa de Oro. Sun 11 a.m., Weds 7pm. Tel. 952526740.

Torre del Mar: Calle Infantes, Conjuntos Islas del Sol. Scandinavian Sun 6pm, Thurs 7pm. German Sun 11am and Fri 7pm.

Coín: Calle Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente. Weds 7.30pm, Sun 11.30am. 952499239.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH / BAPTIST CHURCH

Los Boliches: Evangelical Church, Paseo Marítimo 77. Sun:Worship and Bible teaching, 4pm. Weds: Bible study and prayer 7.30pm. Tel 952460728

Torremolinos: Evangelical Community Church. Sun service 11am. C/Gregorio Marañón 4. 952384706

Torremolinos: Gloryhouse International Christian Center. African Pentecostal style. Sun 11am C/ Danza Invisible, 7/8, Bloque D, Nogalera. Pastor Moses. 679740825, 951210300

Nerja: Fellowship of the King, Pasaje San Miguel, Sundays at 10.30am. 952 969 058 / 958 658 439.

Nerja: Community Bible Fellowship, C/ Pintada 35, 2nd floor. English/ Spanish Worship, Sunday 10am. 952521776.

Torre del Mar: Cornerstone International Church. C/Solera 2. Sunday 11.30am. Wednesday 6.30pm Bible study.

Calahonda: The Evangelical Christian Fellowship, Ermita San Miguel. Sun 4.30pm. Rev. Peter Riggall, 952 588 160.

Arroyo de la Miel: Arroyo Baptist Church, Sun 4pm. Conjunto Zodiaco, Edif. Aries, C/ Sagitario. Tel. 95244796/952386716.

Calahonda: Baptist Church, Calle San Jerónimo 1, Worship Sunday 11 am with Sunday School. 952832533.

La Línea: Asambleas de Dios. C/San José, 41. Thurs 9pm. Sun 11am & 8 pm.

Marbella: Int. Christian F'ship. Sat, Tues, Wed 6pm. Upper room, Congress Centre. 952810391/640378551

Mijas Costa: Iglesias International Costa del Sol, C/José de Orbaneja 10. Sun 11am and 7pm; Thur 7pm Tel:636 422 7

Puerto Banús: Christian Church (The Wave) Worship Service: Sun 11am. The Wave Café: Wed 11am. Prayer: Fri 12pm. 637408194/5 puertobanuschurch.com

Salobreña: Fellowship of the King. Various locations. Sundays at 10am Tel.635 358 808 / 958 645 027

La Viñuela: El Puente Christian Fellowship. Sundays 11am. Under Maroma Inmobiliaria. 952117145 / 952518185

Fuengirola: Living Waters Community Fellowship. C/Pintor Nogales, Las Rampas. Sundays 11am.

Torremolinos: Christian ministry. Healing of traumatic memories. Tel.604199751

Gibraltar: Brethren Assembly, Queensway Quay. Sun 11am, Minister F. Baldachino.

Benalmádena Costa: Elim Family F'ship. Sun 11am. Pastor Howard 647379564 www.elimfamilyfellowship.com

San Pedro: Elim Family F'ship. Sun 3.30pm. 695115496

San Pedro: Faith Baptist Church. Sun 6.30pm, Edif Manantial. Tel: 911820806.

Fuengirola: Ark Christian F'ship Family Worship. Sun 11am, C/Rio Darro 2, Plaza Juncal. Tel.: 952592171.

Fuengirola: Costa del Sol Bible School, Healing Clinic and "The Beauty of Holiness". Rev. Joyce McNaughton 663706806.

Fuengirola: The Way, Christian Counselling Ministry. Tel. 634369414/ 951135441.

Malaga: Believers Loveworld Inc.(Christ Embassy) Sunday11am, Wed 7pm, Sat 5pm. C/Cantimpla 11, Av. de Europa 951955354/672805789.

Marbella: House of Judah (Jewish & Gentile Believers) Bilingual Fri. Worship 7.30pm - NH Marbella Hotel Tel: 605924555.

Mijas Costa: Baptist, Bi-Lingual services Sun 11.30am and 7pm; Thur 7pm Tel:636 422 717 www.libertadmijascosta.com

Heaven's Gate Pentecostal Church Int: Benalmádena: Carril de Sirocco 1, Worship- Sun 11am- 6pm, F'ship- Friday 7.30pm, 602392139

Fuengirola: Christian Family Centre Int. Worship Sun 1pm, Fellowship Tue 7pm Church auditorium, C/Jacinto Benavente, 10. Tel: 605329074

Granada: Avda Andalucía, 53, La Chana, Worship- Sun 6pm, 605329074

Malaga: Avda de Europa, 69, Worship- Sunday 9am, Fellowship- Wednesday 7.30pm, 605329074

DUTCH EVANGELICAL

Fuengirola: Skandinaviska Turistkyran. Ed. M del Carmen. Paseo Marítimo 77 Los Boliches, Sundays 9.30.

Torremolinos: Sun 11.30 in Holland Huis. Avenida Carlota Alessandri 12.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (PRESBYTERIAN)

Fuengirola: Sun 10.30am at Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, C/Nueva 3. Tel 952638245 or 952475474.

Gibraltar: St. Andrew's Church, Sun 10.30am. Tel 20077040.

Torre del Mar: Sun 11am, Legend's Bar, C/Don Cipriano Maldonado Jiménez.

BAHAI

Bahai Information Office, C/Ricardo Soriano, 35, Marbella.

Marbella: 952 90 21 21
Fuengirola: 951 259 742.

Malaga: 952 214 052.
Benalmádena: 952 442 424.
Alhaurín de la Torre: 952411496.

Rincón de la Victoria: 952 402 870.
Gibraltar: +350 200 73287.

SYNAGOGUES

Torremolinos: Beth Minzi, Av. Palma de Mallorca 55; Castillo San Luis, Local 14. Daily services. 952052550.

Marbella: Beth El, Urb. El Real, Km 184. Services winter 7pm Sat & holidays 10am 952859395

QUAKERS

Malaga: Quakers (Society of Friends). Info: zvi@gotadsl.co.uk

NORWEGIAN SEAMEN'S CHURCH

Calahonda: El Campanario, Av del Cortijo 3. Sun 4 pm, 952939800 www.sjomannskirken.no/costadelsol

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Fuengirola: Sat 10am. Bible study, worship Calle Palangreros, 60. 952456672 / 633716651 ww.adventistasfuengirola.es.

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Denmark	Calle Córdoba 6 404, Malaga	952211797
Norway	Avda Los Boliches, 60, Edf Rosenkranz, Fuengirola	952667955
Canada	C/Cervantes, Edif. Horizonte, Malaga	952223346
Germany	Mauricio Moro Pareto 2, Malaga	952363591
Sweden	Calle Córdoba 6, 5th floor, Malaga	952604383
Ireland	Avda. Los Boliches, Fuengirola	952475108
France	1, Plaza de Santa Cruz, Seville	954293200
Italy	Calle Lagasca, 98, Madrid	912106910
Austria	Alameda de Colón 26, Malaga	952600267
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Iceland	Paseo Marítimo 91, 29640 Fuengirola	952661200
Philippines	C/Marqués de Larios 4, 2º, Malaga	952222757
Hungary	Av. de Andalucía 26 29007 Malaga	952308393

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCIES		
Emergency operator	112	
National Police	091	
Local (municipal) Police	092	
Medical	061	
Fire	080	
Guardia Civil	062	
Sea Rescue	900202202	
Crime report	902102112	

ENGLISH-SPEAKING HELP		
Samaritans in Spain	900525100	
Alcoholics Anonymous	600379110	
Age Care	952933409	
Age Concern (Estepona)	608458555	

ANDALUSIAN HEALTH SERVICE		
Salud Responde (doctors' appointments & advice)	955545060	

ESTEPONA		
Bus Station	955038665	
Taxi Service	952802900	
Tourist Office	952802002	
Town Hall	952801100	
Foreign Residents Dept.	952809031	

FUENGIROLA		
Bus Station	952475066	
Taxi Service	952471000	
Tourist Office	952467625	
Town Hall	952589300	
Foreign Residents Dept.	952589440	

MALAGA		
Bus Station	952350061	
Railway Station	902240202	
Taxi Service	952345693	
Tourist Office	951926020	

MARBELLA		
Bus Station	955038665	
Taxi Service	952774488	

NERJA		
Tourist Office	952768760	
Town Hall	952761100	
Foreign Residents Dept.	952768766	

MIJAS		
Town Hall	952485900	
Town Hall Las Lagunas	952473125	
Taxi	952478288	
Tourism Office	952589034	
Foreign Resident Dept.	952589010	

NERJA		
Bus Station	902422242	
Taxi Service	952520537	
Tourist Information	952521531	
Town Hall	952548400	
Foreign Resident Dept.	952548401	

TORREMOLINOS		
Bus Station	902143144	
Taxi Service	952380600	
Tourist Office	952371909	
Town Hall	952379400	
Foreign Residents Dept.	952374231	

BENALMADENA		
Bus Station	902450550	
Taxi Service	952441545	
Tourist Office	952442494	
Town Hall	952374231	
Foreign Residents Dept.	952442494	

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA		
Bus Station	952503162	
Taxi	952540016	
Town Hall	952559100	
Tourist Office	952541104	

GIBRALTAR		
General emergency	199/112(mobiles)	
Fire/ambulance (emergency)	190	
Tourist Office	(00350) 20074950	
Taxi	(00350) 20070027	

MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)					
Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
MSC Opera	28/01	Genoa	Funchal	13.00	18.00
Mein Schiff 4	29/01	Gibraltar	Valencia	07.00	23.00
Aidamar	04/02	-	-	10.00	19.30
Oceana	07/02	-	-	08.00	18.00



THE STARS

Aquarius
January 21st - February 19th
The changes that have happened around you can be both confusing and upsetting. Don't look for quick and easy answers.

Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Long and drawn-out discussions on a plan or move are well worth the time spent. Being strong and willing to grasp life and run with it now spells success.

Aries
March 21st - April 20th
The last few weeks have seen a certain amount of turmoil. This was unavoidable but now the status quo needs to be restored.

Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
In the here and now reality has to be faced. Looking ten years ahead rather than ten months is sure to help clear your mind and lead the way forward.

Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Not sure if you are ready to move on to something new? A few months down the line there may not be a choice, so at least consider it.

Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Recent events may have been a big blow to your usual feelings of stability. Even emotions seem to be up and down. Sudden changes can affect you this way, it is natural.

Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Please allow yourself the luxury of a bit of pampering. It could be as simple as taking a long walk or sinking into a bubbly bath. Just do it! You are too precious to neglect.

Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Although you relish the thought of more freedom you also realise the value of the tried and tested. Be ready to get out of your comfort zone and move forward, maybe just not now!

Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
What seems like a big setback as this week begins turns into a challenge relished. With your comfort zone slipping away it is now time to put yourself and your own needs first.

Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
In an emotionally seismic week there are lots of ifs and buts. Forget those if you are going to get anywhere at all. What you need is a plan. Where do you want to be in five years' time?

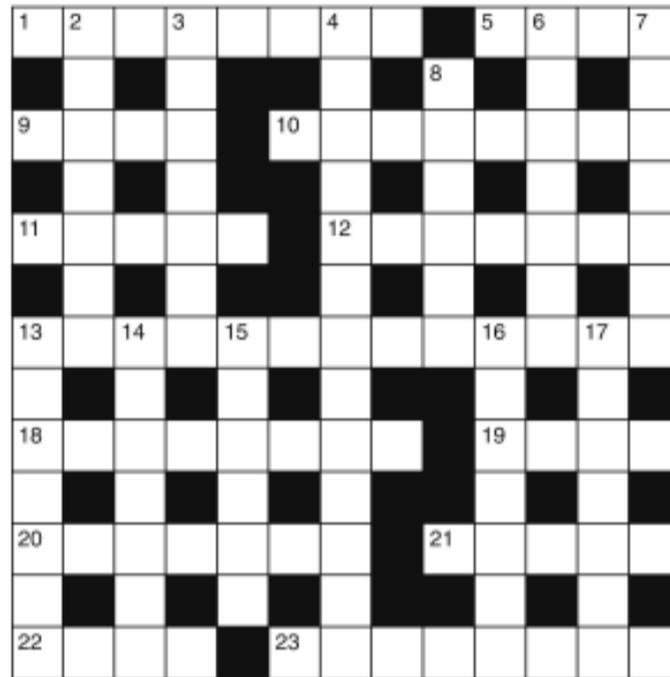
Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Many of us feel that we are on shifting sand at the moment. Does that ring a bell with you? Never before have we needed more courage. Never before have we needed such optimism.

Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
Something seems to be slipping away from you. Have you considered that it could be the right time to let it go? As much as we may wish things to stay the same, eventually they do change.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11393



Across

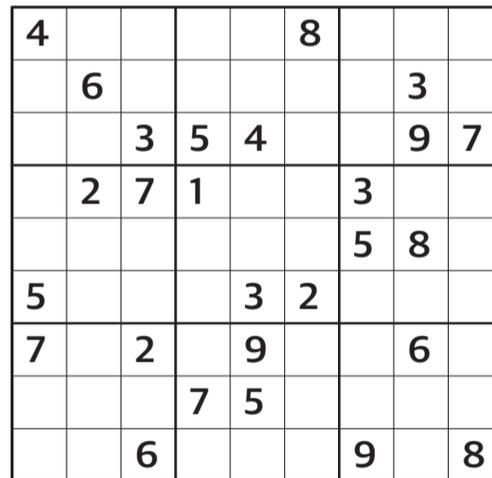
- 1 Leading transport situation (2,3,3)
- 5 Stockings used in dry weather? (4)
- 9 Almost an opening for a popular performer (4)
- 10 Vagrant went first and got trodden on (8)
- 11 Hybrid ape is brown (5)
- 12 Unusual sort of cat - i.e. a mess! (7)
- 13 The very best rings from exclusive company? (6,7)
- 18 Share accommodation and be convulsed with pain! (6,2)
- 19 She's a gem (4)
- 20 Rat's leg couldn't be bigger (7)
- 21 She's wildly excited in the morning (5)
- 22 The others aren't moving (4)
- 23 Not thoroughly through the result of bisecting? (2,6)

Down

- 2 Observe her entry in some other place (3,4)
- 3 Main character takes drug out East (7)
- 4 Not following the roads in an angry state? (6,7)
- 6 Use plenty of lubricant at its source (3,4)
- 7 Not stopping without a purpose? (7)
- 8 Damage the two I am on (6)
- 13 Leather worker is less happy about leamer (7)
- 14 French art gallery's window-slits (7)
- 15 Not a visitor to keep quiet evidently (6)
- 16 Canine appendage cut short (7)
- 17 Hug pair after picking me up (7)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

Instructions
Complete the square making sure that every row of nine numbers includes all digits from 1 to 9, every column includes all digits from 1 to 9 and every 3 by 3 subsection includes all digits from 1 to 9



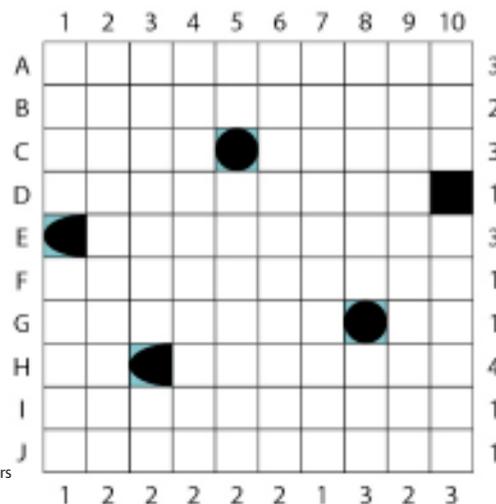
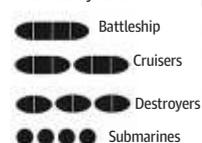
THE WORDPUZZLER



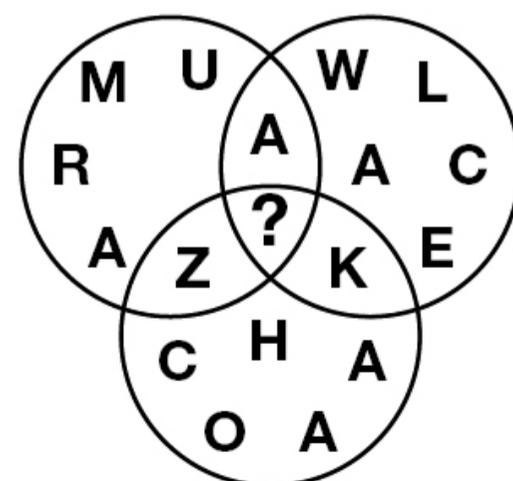
- Can you identify the connecting words in the clues listed below?
- 1. Blue () Light
 - 2. Tortoise () Shock
 - 3. Heaven () Packing
 - 4. Time () Meal
 - 5. Water () Tennis
 - 6. Last () Office
 - 7. Bucket () Belt
 - 8. Double () Courage
 - 9. Fall () Breaking
 - 10. Back () Hand

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.



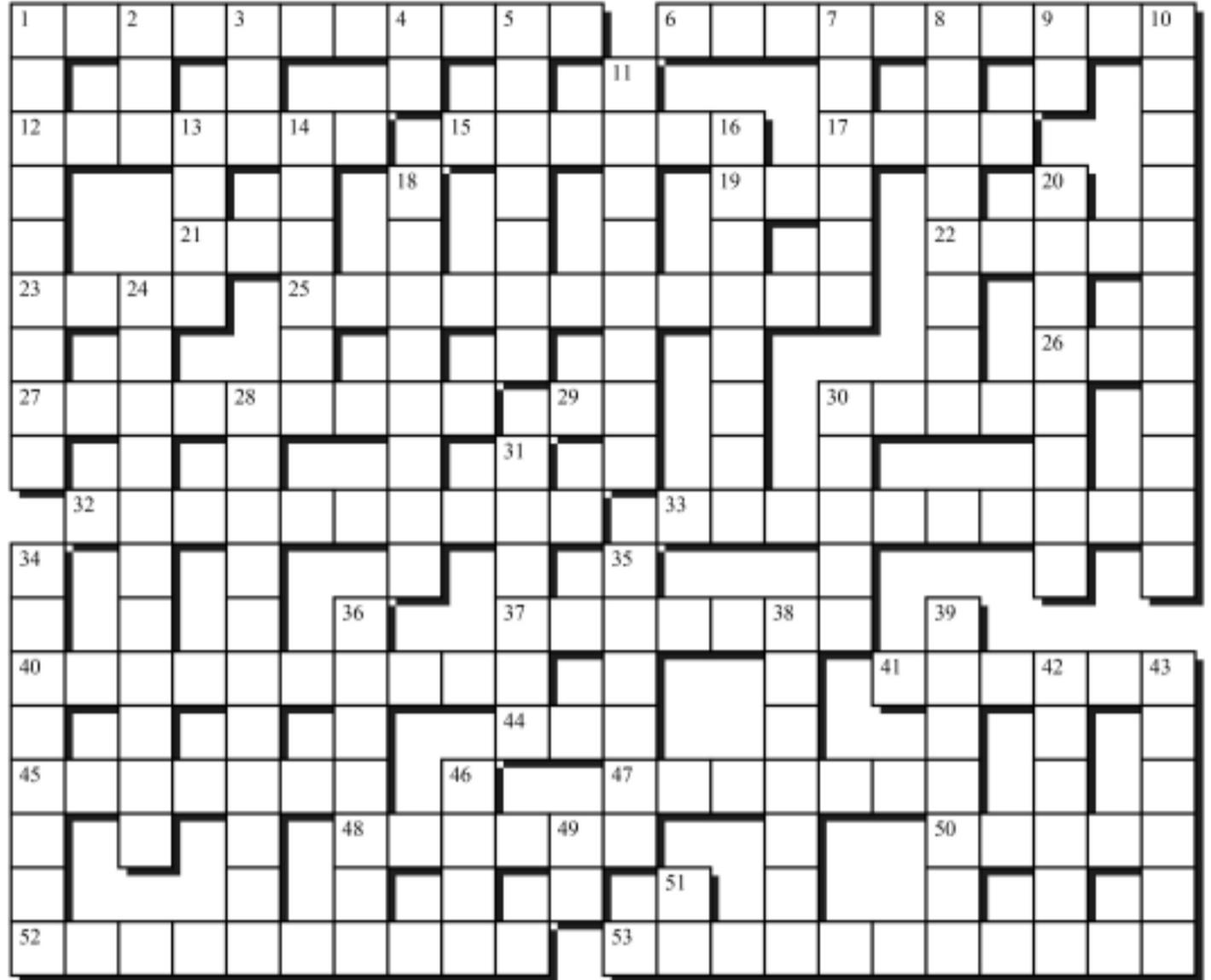
CIRCLEGRAM



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) Journalists (11)
 - 6) Relations (10)
 - 12) Emotion (7)
 - 15) To sign (6)
 - 17) Glass (4)
 - 19) That one (3)
 - 21) I read (3)
 - 22) Curlers (5)
 - 23) Nape (4)
 - 25) Isolation (11)
 - 26) He hears (3)
 - 27) To accompany (9)
 - 29) My (2)
 - 30) To open (5)
 - 32) Airport (10)
 - 33) Statement (10)
 - 37) Dispute (7)
 - 40) Secretary (m) (10)
 - 41) Strong (6)
 - 44) Cathedral (3)
 - 45) Utopian (7)
 - 47) Seventh (7)
 - 48) Discount (6)
 - 50) Fountain pen (5)
 - 52) Western (10)
 - 53) Democratic (11)
- Down**
- 1) Questions (9)
 - 2) River (3)
 - 3) I smelled (3)
 - 4) If (2)
 - 5) Friendship (7)
 - 7) Access (6)
 - 8) To import (8)
 - 9) Neither (2)
 - 10) Satisfied (m.pl) (11)
 - 11) To print (8)
 - 13) Bay (4)
 - 14) I hated (6)
 - 16) Restart (8)
 - 18) To undo (8)
 - 20) To have lunch (8)
 - 24) Cooperation (11)
 - 28) Prosperity (11)
 - 30) Help (5)
 - 31) Tied up (m.pl) (6)
 - 34) Speech (8)
 - 35) Wife (6)
 - 36) They value (7)
 - 38) Treaty (7)
 - 39) European (f) (7)
 - 42) I reduced (6)
 - 43) State (6)
 - 46) Work (4)
 - 49) Ha! (2)
 - 51) Faith (2)



ANSWERS

Quiz answers

The cause is unknown.
generating capacity was disabled.
estimated 32 gigawatts of
of the world population. An
than 620 million people, about 9%
outage in history. It affected more
July 2012 is the largest power
Of interest: The blackout on 31
Answer: India.
of around 29.7 km.
over Chelyabinsk Oblast, at a height
the meteorite exploded in the air
its speed and shallow angle of entry,
Russia on 15 February 2013. Due to
entered Earth's atmosphere over
meteor was a superbolide that
Of interest: The Chelyabinsk
Answer: Meteorite

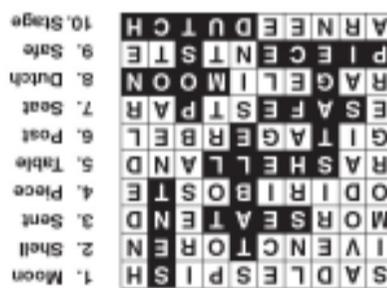
Language Crossword



Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 1 In the van; 5 Horse; 9 Star; 10 Trampled; 11
Sepia; 12 Siamese; 13 Select circles; 18 Double up; 19 Ruby; 20
Largest; 21 Madam; 22 Rest; 23 By halves; Down: 2 Not here; 3
Heroin; 4 Across country; 6 Oil well; 7 Endless; 8 Impair; 13 Saddle;
14 Lowres; 15 Call; 16 Curtail; 17 Embrace.

Wordpuzler solution



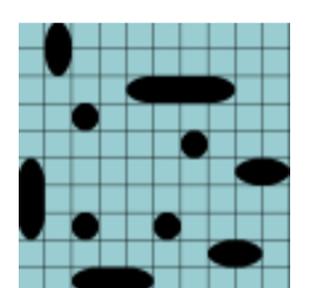
Sudoku solution

4	7	9	3	6	8	2	5	1
1	6	5	9	2	7	8	3	4
2	8	3	5	4	1	6	9	7
9	2	7	1	8	5	3	4	6
6	3	1	4	7	9	5	8	2
5	4	8	6	3	2	7	1	9
7	1	2	8	9	3	4	6	5
8	9	4	7	5	6	1	2	3
3	5	6	2	1	4	9	7	8

Circlegram

The letter represented by the
question mark is K.
Mazurka, Cakewalk,
Kazachok, all dances.

Battleships



WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN THIS?



The remains of an old industry

Last week:
Antequera

The original Puerta de Estepa (or Arco de Estepa) in Antequera allowed for riders to pass through the lateral arches and carriages to pass through the middle. It was rebuilt in 1998 to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Real Feria de Agosto.



THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

Put someone 'In The Frame'

One of the most interesting aspects of living in this part of the world is that it is a real melting pot of different nationalities and cultures.

People come here from all over the world and bring with them fascinating stories about how they ended up here. Others, meanwhile, lived quite ordinary lives beforehand and used moving to Spain as an opportunity to do something quite extraordinary.

At SUR in English, we are always interested to hear about the unique in-

dividuals who form part of our community. Whether they have an incredible talent, do valuable community work or are simply a well-known 'character' - if you know someone who fits the bill, get in touch! They might be suitable for a profile in our In the Frame section.

You can send us an email at surinenglish.su@diariosur.es or get in touch with us via social media. We



are on Facebook (surenglish) and Twitter (@SUR_English).

From sports arena to major film awards venue

Malaga puts the finishing touches to the Goyas, the Spanish equivalent of the Oscars, which will take place on Saturday night

:: SUR

MALAGA. Movie magic descends on Malaga this weekend as the city hosts the 2020 Goya awards. These are the Spanish equivalent of the American Oscars or UK Baftas.

Local authorities and businesses have sponsored the move to the city for this year. The prestigious prizes for Spanish-language film will be handed out on Saturday night, (25 January). This is the 35th year of the gala ceremony, which is a major televised event for Spanish households - all eyes will be on Malaga.

The venue is the transformed Martín Carpena stadium on the edge of the city, close to the airport. The copper-domed building is normally home to the city's successful basketball team, Unicaja. For the past ten days a team of 350 has been working in three shifts around the clock to get it ready. Outside, a striking new entrance with a design based on pyramids has been set up eight metres high, providing a backdrop for the red-carpet arrivals and two large screens that will relay the gala to the crowds outside.

A 580-square-metre stage

Inside, the space is larger than normal Goya venues, (last year the ceremony was held in Seville but has traditionally taken place in Madrid). The stage area will cover 580 square metres with gantries supporting 15 tonnes. A temporary VIP stand has also been added and space made for about 3,200 guests in total.

As all years, there is almost as much excitement around what the awards' presenters will say and do as there is about possible award winners. This year, popular comedians



350 people have been working in three shifts around the clock to get the Martín Carpena venue ready for Saturday. :: SALVADOR SALAS

and entertainers, Andreu Buenafuente and Silvia Abril will repeat the hosts' role for the second year. Speaking at a press conference this week, the married couple made jokes about the size of the venue.

"Malaga is a cinema-friendly city but we've moved to a place that isn't very cinema-friendly, a sports pavilion with immense possibilities, so we've wanted the show to grow and be powerful," explained Abril. "Every morning I'm on the exercise machine for the kilometres we are going to cover for the gala."

Tickets have not been on general sale, instead going to Spanish Film

Academy members, nominees, local dignitaries and sponsors. However, one ticket did appear valued at 1,600 euros in a promotion organised by a sponsor, the sale of which has been frowned on.

Awards will be presented in 28 categories and stars from the Span-

Among favourites to win awards is *Mientras dure la guerra, (While at War)*, with 17 nominations

ish screen will be presenting the awards, including Penélope Cruz, Maribel Verdú, Fernando Tejero, José Coronado and Belén Rueda. Celebrities from other walks of life will also take part and, as part of the entertainment, Antonio Banderas will perform a routine from A Chorus Line, his production at Malaga's new Teatro Caixabank Soho.

Favourites to win

Among the favourites to win awards is *Mientras Dure la Guerra, (While at War)*, directed and co-written by Alejandro Amenábar, with 17 nominations across all categories. The

film is set during the Spanish Civil War and follows the last days of literary giant, Miguel de Unamuno

Dolor y Gloria, (Pain and Glory), Pedro Almodóvar's autobiographical work starring Banderas is up for 16 possible Goyas.

The biggest secret of the night is whether an iconic former child star from Malaga will personally collect her "Goya de Honor" lifetime-achievement award. Seventy-one-year-old Pepa Flores, known to generations as Marisol, has not been seen in public for many years. "It is a decision for her," said Academy president, Mariano Barroso, this week.

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