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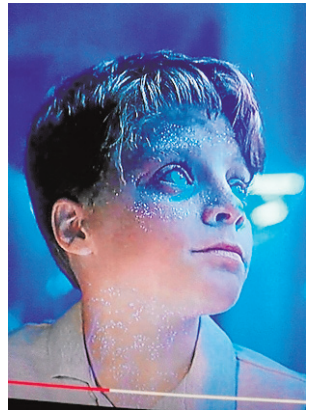
July 10th to 16th 2020
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CULTURE

THE LOCAL BOY ON SCREENS AROUND THE WORLD

Lope Haydn Evans speaks
about his role
in Netflix hit
Warrior Nun **P15**



Covid-19 cases stay under control on the Costa del Sol

The Spanish government has expressed concern over spikes in some regions

Despite three clusters of Covid-19 cases still being monitored in Malaga province, the numbers of new positive tests remain low, with three reported on Thursday. Nationally, the Health Ministry has said the rise in new case figures

(241 on Thursday) is a concern and has urged the public to remain cautious. The regional authority in Catalonia has toughened regulations on mask-wearing and the Andalusian president has not ruled out following suit. **P3&11**

**New process launched
for Britons who register
for residency in Spain
for the first time** **P4**

**Fugitive tracked down
in Fuengirola four years
after fatal shooting in
Blackburn, UK** **P6**



SALVATION IN SIGHT

An unremarkable yet productive week of action sees Malaga take a huge step away from the relegation zone **P30&31**

The players celebrate a crucial win over Deportivo on Wednesday night. **ÑITO SALAS**

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Capacity control measures imposed on 29 beaches on the Costa del Sol last weekend

The regional government has called on beach users to act responsibly following 8,000 incidents on the Malaga coastline last weekend

ANTONIO M. ROMERO / CHARO MÁRQUEZ / EUGENIO CABEZAS

MALAGA. Police in coastal municipalities across Malaga province had to stop access to 29 beaches at various points on Sunday when the capacity outlined in the local councils' contingency plans to combat the coronavirus was exceeded.

As temperatures soared on the first Sunday of July, 55 beaches across the region as a whole saw restrictions imposed at some point, according to official data from the Junta de Andalucía. Malaga led the ranking with 29, followed by Cadiz (14), Huelva (9), Almeria (2) and Granada (1).

The avalanche of people returning from the beaches also created tailbacks of up to 18 kilometres at Las Pedrizas and on the A-7 in the western and eastern parts of the city during rush hour.

In Benalmádena, at peak times (around 12.30 and 4.30pm) access was limited at Torre Muelle, Fuente de la Salud, La Morera, Viborilla and Torre Vigia, according to sources consulted.

Five beaches also reached one hundred per cent in Nerja (Calahonda, Caletilla, Carabeo, Carabeillo and Maro), while there were warnings of high occupancy rates at peak times in Torremolinos, Rincón de la Victoria and Marbella but no reported closures.

In the case of Malaga city, the beaches at Baños del Carmen and the one near the Astilleros Nereo

shipping yard people were turned away or made to wait for a period of time during a period of around three hours in the early afternoon.

Also in Malaga, there were also warnings of high occupation on Guadalmar, Sacaba and Misericordia beaches.

Use of technology

David Domínguez, one of the new beach monitors hired to enforce capacity control around Baños del Carmen, explained that not everyone took the news well. He explained that access to the beach was closed at around 1.15pm and did not reopen until 4.15pm, when many swimmers left. During all this time, Local Police regulated access and the monitors were responsible for redirecting bathers



Beach monitors patrol the sands in Malaga city. SALVADOR SALAS

to other less-crowded beaches nearby. "It's a nuisance for people, but almost everyone understood

it," he said.

The decision to close a specific beach is taken at the 112 control centre after analysing the information that these monitors, hired by the Junta, provide. They work with a mobile application in which they log all incidents. When they consider that there is overcrowding, they take a photo and send it to the control centre, which is responsible for coordinating action with the Local Police.

A time to be "responsible"

Over the course of the weekend, over 8,000 incidents were reported on the Malaga coastline alone (4,500 on Sunday) by monitors and lifeguards. The majority of these incidents, according to those consulted by SUR, were people not re-

specting the minimum distance of two metres, the use of balls and other inflatables and a disregard of monitors by repeat offenders.

In response to the weekend's scenes, spokesperson for the Junta de Andalucía regional government, Elías Bendodo, this week appealed to Andalusians and visitors alike to act responsibly when using beaches to avoid the further spread of the coronavirus.

Bendodo stressed that while the relaxing of limitations to freedom of movement would encourage the reactivation of the local economy, it can also facilitate the circulation of the virus. Therefore, he said, it was important not to let down your guard.

In order for there to be "responsible" tourism, Bendodo insisted not only on the need for beachgoers to comply with safety standards regarding the use of masks, hydro-alcoholic gel and social distancing, but also on going to beaches "with responsibility and knowing how to choose" not to overcrowd the busiest and most popular spots.



SALVADOR SALAS

Junta resumes Aula del Mar collaboration

Regional minister for Fisheries and Sustainable Development, Carmen Crespo, (2l), announced on Monday that the Andalusian government would resume the collaboration agreement with the Aula del Mar in Malaga to step up the work of protecting endangered species and spreading awareness of the future of the fauna living in Andalusian waters. In a ceremony with Junta spokesman Elías Bendodo (r) and Malaga mayor Francisco de la Torre (2r), a sea turtle which had been rescued by the association was released back into the water.

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Low numbers of new positive Covid cases reported in Malaga province so far this week

There had been three localised outbreaks since lockdown in the province by Thursday and 15 others across the whole Andalucía region

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MALAGA. A further death because of Covid-19 was recorded in Malaga province on Thursday this week, in addition to three more positive PCR tests on locals in the previous 24 hours.

The three localised outbreaks in the province - at the Red Cross centre in the city, Casabermeja village and a Ronda seniors' home - all remained stable with no new cases recorded. The first still had 109 existing positive cases, the second had seven and, in Ronda, one deceased care home resident had tested positive.

On Thursday this week, there were eleven people in the province's hospitals with coronavirus, but none were in intensive care.

Among new reports of possible Covid-19 was the self-isolation of a local family who had



Sixteen people linked to a Ronda care home were in isolation. **SUR**

been at a funeral wake in Granada province where various people have tested positive. A standard health protocol was activated after tracing all the people who were at the wake.

Precaution in Ronda

Meanwhile bosses at a senior citizens' home outside Ronda denied that they had a case of Covid-19 after the death of one resident this week, although 16 people, including some staff were being kept in isolation.

Despite the owners' assurances,

the regional Health ministry classified the Ronda incident as an outbreak. However no further cases have been identified in Ronda so far after testing. Regional government sources said that this classification was standard practice as the case was identified inside a seniors' resi-

In regional hospitals there were 46 people with Covid-19 on Thursday, three more than Wednesday

dence and as the testing in Ronda had given conflicting results. Therefore an outbreak couldn't be ruled out as yet.

Eighteen regional outbreaks

With a new localised outbreak in Almeria province, there were 18 active clusters in the whole Andalucía region on Thursday, with 289 people affected, 25 more than on Wednesday.

Two more people had died in Andalucía in the 24 hours up to Thursday, bringing the regional total of decreased to 1,446 since the start of the outbreak.

Of the 18 recorded localised outbreaks in Andalucía since the end of lockdown, eight are still considered to be under investigation, meaning testing of possible infections and tracing of contacts is still under way. In contrast, ten of the outbreaks are now deemed as under control.

In regional hospitals there were 46 people with Covid-19 on Thursday, three more than on Wednesday.

Concern over infection spikes at a national level. See page 11

Junta isn't thinking of local lockdowns but may widen the use of face masks

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GUADIX. The president of the Junta de Andalucía regional government, Juanma Moreno, said on Thursday that, although he didn't rule out partial lockdowns locally in the future over coronavirus, "this isn't necessary" at the moment.

However the Andalusian leader did not rule out extending the compulsory use of face coverings to public spaces even where social distancing is possible, in an echo of what Catalonia and the Balearics have so far done.

Since the end of the state of alarm, each regional government is responsible for its own public health policies again, with the exception of the national rule on social distancing and wearing face coverings where this isn't possible.

Speaking on a visit to Guadix, in Granada province, Moreno said that local outbreaks in Andalucía are "very much under control" and "limited".

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MARBELLA - FUENGIROLA - MANILVA

New process launched for Britons who register as resident in Spain for the first time

TIE cards will be given out instead of the green cards or certificates to fresh applicants, but those already with a green document do not need to do anything

NEIL HESKETH

MALAGA. The Spanish government has launched a new process for UK citizens who have still to register their residency in Spain to protect their rights under Britain's Withdrawal Agreement with the EU.

From 6 July, instead of the green certificate or card that Britons living in Spain used to receive to prove residency, a new photo ID biometric card, known as a TIE (tarjeta de identidad de extranjero), will be handed out to those who meet the requirements.

The British Embassy in Madrid welcomed the introduction of the new system, but also stressed that the some 360,000 Britons already registered in Spain do not need to change from the green certifi-



HMA Hugh Elliott. FSUR

cate or credit-card sized card they already have.

The Embassy said this week, "We want to confirm again that there is no obligation for those people who already hold the green residency certificate (small card or A4 version) to exchange it for the TIE. Both documents will be valid in demonstrating your residency status and rights under the Withdrawal Agreement, even after the end of the transition period [31 December 2020]."

In a video message, UK Amba-

sador Hugh Elliott explained, "There is one group of people who must take action. If you live here, but don't already have a green residency certificate [or green card], you must apply for the new TIE as soon as possible."

Compulsory for new applicants

For new residency applicants, without the green documentation, a new step has been introduced.

Those applicants must now submit the paperwork proving their rights to residency to the provincial Immigration office (Oficina de Extranjería) in Malaga city for it to be checked and approved before then arranging a separate appointment at the nearest approved National Police station to get their TIE. Documentation can be submitted to the Immigration office in person, via a representative or via an online platform.

The process was still being rolled out this week by the Spanish authorities and British nationals trying to make appointments or find the online platform commented that it was still un-

clear where to look on the Spanish government's websites.

The British Embassy held a video Question & Answer Session on Wednesday which is available to view on its Brits in Spain Facebook page (www.facebook.com/britainspain).

The Embassy added that updates on the new process will be published on the UK Government's Living in Spain information page (www.gov.uk/livinginspain), and users can sign up to receive email alerts as it is updated.

In a further reassurance to existing residents, Hugh Elliott concluded, "Whilst you may choose to exchange your current [green] certificate for a TIE at some point in the future, there is no requirement to do so. The green residency document gives you the same rights as the new TIE card. So please be assured on that point."

The Embassy team also stressed that each individual qualifying family member needs to have the green documentation (or the new TIE if still applying) and that children are not covered by their parents' paperwork.

Travellers from Spain to England and Wales will not have to quarantine from today

DARYL FINCH

MALAGA. People travelling from Spain to England or Wales will not have to undergo a 14-day quarantine from today, 10 July.

Spain was included on a list of 59 countries and 14 British overseas territories considered "lower risk" by the government in England last Friday, but it was unclear whether this would apply to Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland.

However, on Thursday, the devolved government in Wales published the same list and first minister Mark Drakeford said the new regulations would also apply from today.

In contrast, however, Scottish first minister Nicola Sturgeon announced a modified list on Wednesday from which Spain and Serbia were omitted. This means those travelling from Spain into Scotland will still have to self-isolate for a fortnight.

At the time of going to press, the NI administration hadn't yet announced any changes.

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Will UK assets invite a bigger tax bill after Brexit?

By Sarah Burke, Partner, Blevins Franks

In preparation for Brexit, most UK expatriates in Spain have secured residence or put plans in place to settle before the transition period ends in December. While that's entirely appropriate, the planning should not end there, especially if you still have assets and investments in the UK.

Brexit itself will not affect the double tax agreements that determine which country has the right to tax expatriates. However, two key changes are set to happen from 2021 that may change your tax treatment.

First, UK assets will no longer be EU/European Economic Area (EEA) assets. In some cases, this means they may stop receiving favourable tax treatment in Spain. Second, the UK government will no longer be bound by EU freedom of movement rules for capital, potentially giving them more scope to tax non-residents.

Even without Brexit, once you are living in Spain it is a good idea to review whether holding on to UK assets is still in your best interests.

UK property

The UK has gradually increased the tax burden on property for overseas

residents. For example, after years without capital gains tax liability, 'non-resident capital gains tax' (NRCGT) started applying to non-UK residents selling UK residential property from 2015, and most commercial UK property and land from 2019.

If you are Spanish resident, you may also attract capital gains tax here (but can usually receive a credit for UK tax paid).

From April 2021, non-UK residents face a new 2% stamp duty surcharge when buying property in England and Northern Ireland. If you are resident in Spain and already own a home, you could face up to 17% UK stamp duty costs on UK purchases.

When considering UK property as an investment, also remember that worldwide property counts towards wealth tax liability for Spanish residents.

Non-UK residents remain liable to UK income tax on all rental income earned there. Although not taxed directly in Spain, you must declare it as part of your taxable income, potentially pushing you into a higher income tax bracket.

UK investments

While the tax rules that apply to British expatriates today should not change after Brexit, watch out for situations where non-EU/EEA assets are taxed differently to domestic/EU assets.

For example, there is no capital gains tax if you sell a property in Spain to reinvest in a new main home within the EU/EEA. In January, once the UK leaves the EU/EEA, expatriates reinvesting gains into UK property may no longer be eligible for this relief.

Remember too that once you are non-UK resident, UK investment products such as ISAs become taxable in Spain. If you cash-in these investments, local capital gains tax can apply.

Explore alternative investment vehicles available for Spain residents that may offer better tax-efficiency as well as potential estate planning benefits.

UK personal tax allowances

Currently, non-UK residents receive the same allowances for income and capital gains tax as UK residents, provided they hold a British passport

or are an EEA citizen. However, a few years ago the government seriously considered restricting the personal income tax allowance for non-residents. It is possible these allowances could again become a target for the government to increase tax revenue from non-residents after Brexit.

UK pensions

Most retired British expatriates have pension funds in the UK and benefit from leaving them there and drawing income as needed. But, depending on the type of pension and your circumstances, it may be worth weighing the pros and cons of transferring it out of the UK.

Transferring into a Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Scheme can provide various advantages for Spain residents. Transfers to EU/EEA-based QROPS are currently tax-free for EU residents, but there is a 25% 'overseas transfer charge' for other transfers. The UK government could easily extend this to EU transfers once no longer bound by the bloc's rules. If you're considering this, take personalised advice now – pensions paperwork is a lengthy process and there is limited time before the

transition period ends.

Another option may be to use the pensions freedom to take your fund as cash and re-invest in a tax-efficient arrangement in Spain. Seek regulated advice and take care not to jeopardise your retirement savings.

Financial planning should be based around your circumstances, objectives and risk profile, and the decision whether to retain UK assets is no exception. There are various issues to weigh up, taxation being just one of them, but it's worth considering if moving assets out of the UK may be beneficial. Do your research and take personalised cross-border advice to establish what would work best for you.

The tax rates, scope and reliefs may change. Any statements concerning taxation are based upon our understanding of current taxation laws and practices which are subject to change. Tax information has been summarised; individuals should seek personalised advice.

Keep up to date on the financial issues that may affect you on the Blevins Franks news page at www.blevinsfranks.com

Where are you better off being tax resident? Spain or UK?

Many people think the Spanish tax regime is worse than the UK's, but much depends on your personal situation and how you hold your assets.

Blevins Franks has 45 years' experience advising UK nationals in Spain, with in-depth knowledge of the tax planning opportunities available here. We have helped thousands of clients significantly improve their tax position.

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British fugitive caught in Fuengirola four years after fatal shooting of 19-year-old student

The UK authorities had issued a European Arrest Warrant for the man in connection with the killing which occurred during a gunfight between rival gangs in Blackburn in 2016

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FUENGIROLA. National Police in Fuengirola have arrested a fugitive, subject of a European Arrest Warrant issued by the British authorities in connection with the murder of a 19-year-old in 2016 and another attempted murder.

The incident, which took place in Blackburn (Lancashire, UK) on 17 May 2016, saw the student caught in the middle of a gunfight



The man was tracked down to a hotel in Fuengirola. **SUR**

between two rival gangs and was allegedly shot by the suspect from the passenger seat of a car. He has been on the run ever since.

In June the National Police learned that this individual could be in Spain after fleeing from the

UK to Portugal. Through collaboration with the British authorities, it was suspected that the fugitive had taken refuge in a small town in the province of Huelva, where he was staying in a hotel with his partner, using his brother's passport to avoid being located.

After further investigation identified the vehicle he was using, this allowed police to track him across southern Spain to Mijas. As a result, a series of checks were carried out on hotels in nearby towns, eventually locating him in a hotel in Fuengirola where he was arrested.

Despite warnings from British police that the man could have been carrying firearms and is known to behave in an extremely violent manner, the arrest was carried out quickly and safely.

Well-known local cyclist killed in hit-and-run incident

FERNANDO TORRES

ESTEPONA. A well-known local man, Mario Zumaquero, has died after being run over while cycling in an apparent hit-and-run incident in Estepona on Saturday morning.

The events took place at 6.50am, when several drivers called the emergency 112 hotline to say that a cyclist had been run over at kilometre 167 of the A-7 motorway in the direction of Cadiz. Emergency services who attended the scene could only confirm his death.

The bike which Zumaquero

was riding was found several metres away from the body, suggesting it has been dragged along by the vehicle.

The vehicle involved in the crash, a silver Mercedes with damage to its lights, was located and seized on Monday but its owner insists that she was in the passenger seat at the time. The search for the driver continues.

Zumaquero, 44 from Ojén, owned a feed shop for pets and was a crossfit trainer, widely known for participating in various fun runs and sporting events in the area.



Mario Zumaquero

18-year-old sent to prison after stabbing his stepfather in Mijas

F. TORRES

MIJAS. An 18-year-old Moroccan man has been sent to prison pending trial following an incident in Mijas last Friday when he allegedly stabbed his stepfather before barricading himself inside the home with a firearm.

Several calls were received by

the emergency services, for both the stabbing itself and the attacker's violent actions.

After a stand-off with the police, the alleged attacker handed himself over to the police.

When he was escorted to court in Malaga on Monday, officers had to restrain him as he made an attempt to flee. Once inside the court, the judge ruled that he would be held in prison until the trial begins.

The attacker is known to the authorities, having threatened his mother with a knife while he was still a minor. The victim, his step-father, is the owner of a popular restaurant in Mijas Costa.

112 REPORTS

MALAGA

Couple having sex on busy beach arrested

J. CANO. A Spanish couple were arrested on Saturday afternoon after several people called the police to report them having sex on a busy beach in Malaga in broad daylight.

The couple, from Cordoba, started having sex on the sand at Huelin beach, before continuing in the shower area after being reprimanded by beach monitors.

There, the woman, 44, was seen fondling the man, 40, in full view of children and customers at a nearby beach bar.

MARBELLA

Arrests made over town centre shooting

J. C. / Á. F. The National Police have got to the bottom of the murder of Milos Perunic, the 41-year-old Montenegrin shot dead with a sub-machine gun in Marbella town centre in the middle of the day on 2 June.

The investigation, led by the special team set up specifically to deal with score-settling incidents at the provincial police station, has so far resulted in four arrests, two of whom are alleged to have been directly involved in the incident - the shooter and his accomplice on a motorcycle. The pair were tracked down to Catalonia.

Hilton's first luxury hotel in Spain to open in Casares

The hotel will be part of the Conrad label and will be located on the site of the planned Doña Julia hotel where the building will now be completed

CHARO MÁRQUEZ

CASARES. Despite the uncertainty caused as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, the Costa del Sol continues to be an attractive proposition to international hotel companies. Hilton has this week announced that it will take over the former Doña Julia hotel project in Casares, owned by the Platinum Estates Group which is also developing the Hotel W project in Marbella.

The hotel, which will be called Conrad Costa del Sol, is expected to open its doors in early 2022 following works likely to last 20 months. Once Casares council grants the licence, which it is expected to do in August, the works will be put out to tender before getting under way in the autumn.

Conrad Costa del Sol will be Hilton's first luxury hotel in Spain, with 194 rooms, of which 12 will be luxury suites, a large spa with an indoor pool, multiple outdoor pools, two bars and a high-end restaurant.

The hotel will have a main building, with the main common areas, three restaurants, gym, underground parking for 120 vehicles and eight villas that will

surround a central pool.

During the project's presentation on Tuesday, the managing director of Hilton's Development for Spain and Portugal, Carlos Miró, highlighted that of the 6,162 hotels that Hilton has around the world, only 39 carry the Conrad brand, the name of the company's founder, "because a series of very special circumstances have to be met for an establishment to be given the Conrad brand".

Hilton has 13 luxury brands, and Conrad is known "for its con-



The exterior of the site in its current state. C. MÁRQUEZ

temporary design, intuitive, personalised service and state-of-the-art technology".

The unfinished and abandoned Hotel Doña Julia will serve as the

base for the future Hilton. José García, the project manager, said that the architectural style will be adapted to Hilton's requirements in terms of image.

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Works to restart on San Pedro health centre in the next few weeks

C. MÁRQUEZ

MARBELLA. Works to expand the health centre in San Pedro will resume in the next few weeks, according to the mayor of Marbella, Ángeles Muñoz, and the manager of the Andalusian Health Service (SAS), Miguel Ángel Guzmán, who visited the facility last week.

Work on this project began in October 2018 but was halted in November 2019 due to differences between the SAS and the construction company with respect to the project's budget. However, an agreement was reached in January that prevented the construction company going bankrupt and the need to put the project out to tender again.

A plaque and a telegram from the Queen mark Cecilia's 100th birthday

Cecilia Craven-Bartle is well-known in San Pedro and has marked her centenary in style this week

CHARO MÁRQUEZ

MARBELLA. The family of Cecilia Craven-Bartle have been celebrating this week as the San Pedro Alcántara resident turned 100.

For this reason, the town's mayor, Ángeles Muñoz, paid her a visit at her home to present her with a commemorative plaque. However, this was not the only recognition she received. Cecilia received a telegram from Queen Elizabeth II herself to mark her



The Mayor of Marbella visits Cecilia at her home. SUR

centenary.

Cecilia was born in Jerez in 1920 but went to the United Kingdom with her husband in

1958. After retiring there more than 35 years ago, the couple moved to San Pedro, where she is very well known in the town.

HERE AND THERE

TORREMOLINOS

Tourist offices reopen doors to the public

T. BRYANT. The three tourist offices in Torremolinos reopened their doors to the public this week after more than three months in lockdown. The re-opening of the offices, located in Plaza de Andalucía (also the Foreign Resident's Office), Avenida del Lido and Plaza del Remo, coincided with the arrival of international tourism this week.

The offices open from Monday to Friday from 10am to 2pm.

COSTA DEL SOL

Age Concern social meetings return

T.B. Age Concern have announced that its social clubs in Los Boliches, Mijas Pueblo and La Cala de Mijas have now reopened. The association's Benalmádena branch has relocated to the El Elephante bar in Bonanza Square and will open on Monday 20 July.

Secretary Steve Marshall said, "The clubs offer a comprehensive range of social activities and welfare support and are at the heart of our communities."

MARBELLA

Language school set to be ready by next term

H. B. The new Official School of Languages (EOI) on Avenida Alfredo Palma in Marbella will be ready for use in time for the start of the next academic year.

The works, with a budget of 1.3 million euros, began in November last year and were funded by assets seized from Juan Antonio Roca.

The school, which has 12 classrooms, is already 95 per cent complete and will be furnished by the Junta de Andalucía regional government.

MARBELLA

Town hall gives PPE to elderly residences

C. M. Marbella town hall has begun distributing 20,000 items of PPE across the town's five old people's homes (Orpea, El Carmen, Séniors, La Quinta and Domusvi Azalea).

Councillor for Health Enrique Rodríguez, stressed that "since the beginning of the crisis we have been paying special attention to these homes" adding: "They can be extremely susceptible to Covid-19."

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Key part of the Malaga and Granada high-speed rail link will be ready by the end of the year

The works at the new Antequera-Ciudad AVE station, for which the previous contract had to be cancelled, are now around 80 per cent complete

IGNACIO LILLO



MALAGA. The cities of Malaga and Granada could be connected by AVE high-speed train by the end of this year, or early 2021 at the latest. The key part of the works which will enable the service to begin is the new Antequera-Ciudad station, which is now around 80 per cent complete. The contract with the previous constructor was cancelled (which led to a three-year delay) and reassigned in April 2019. The works were expected to take about 12 months to complete.

The Administrador de Infraestructuras Ferroviarias (Adif) organisation, which is behind this project, has confirmed that the main elements are now at an advanced stage: the station building, platforms, access roads and parking areas. The structure, roof, panelling, lifts and escalators in the passenger building are finished, and the curtain wall of the front and granite flooring will be completed soon. All the installations are progressing well and some, like the heating and air conditioning, are already finished.



A view of the new Antequera-Ciudad AVE station at present. **SUR**

The structures and cement paving of the platforms are ready, and the finishes and outside painting is almost done. The plate tracks have also been installed for each platform.

In terms of urbanisation, all the earth movement and digging works are complete, and so are the roads and car parking area. The structures of the ventilation shafts have been built, as have the stairways, and the pedestrian access is very advanced. An underpass has also been built so passengers can cross from one platform to another beneath the tracks.

Renfe says the station will open and the Avant, the medium-distance service between Malaga and Granada, will start running very soon, once all the necessary safety permits have

been granted. The rail operator has decided to wait for those before selling tickets, although officially it could do so now, with a model similar to that for the Malaga-Seville connection, which calls at Cordoba and Santa Ana station in Antequera on the way. This makes the journey time uncompetitive when compared with the time it takes to do the same trip by car or bus.

When this new Antequera-Ciudad station is ready, however, the trains will be able to run directly along the Gobantes bypass and that will shorten the journey time between the two provincial capital cities to one hour and 20 minutes.

The service will be using series S-114 (Alstom) trains and there are expected to be three a day in each direction.

Work begins on bypass which will link Malaga and Seville by AVE in an hour and a half

The first topographical works for the project began at Almodóvar del Río this week and the machinery is scheduled to move in very soon

IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. Five months after the final contract for technical support was signed (the one for the construction was awarded last November), and with the coronavirus pandemic in-between, work officially began this week on the AVE bypass at Almodóvar del Río. This will connect the high-speed

lines between Malaga and Seville so the trains do not have to go to Cordoba and then reverse direction, thereby reducing the journey time between the two main cities to around an hour and 35 minutes.

Adif confirmed this week that the topographical works will be carried out by the contractors, Pavasal Empresa Constructora y Sociedad General de Obras (Sogesa), with Eptisa Servicios de Ingeniería y GIS Ingeniería Civil providing technical support.

This project is expected to cost nearly 12 million euros and take 20 months to complete, so it should be complete in March or

April 2022.

The Almodóvar bypass, which caused controversy because of the small turning area and absence of elements such as flying junctions, which means the trains have to travel at very low speeds, is a 1.7-kilometre connection between the Madrid-Seville and Cordoba-Malaga lines, which will take advantage of the escape tracks which already exist in Almodóvar and La Marota. The minimum turning radius will be 500 metres and 28.8 thousandths of incline.

This project is being co-financed with the European Regional Development Fund (Feder) for sustainable transport projects.



Sewage pipes blocked up with wet wipes. **SUR**

Water company calls for responsible disposal of PPE

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

J. RHODES. Public water company Axaragua has warned of the environmental and economic impact of wet wipes, masks and gloves ending up in sewage systems.

The company has started a

campaign for the “responsible disposal of wet wipes, masks and gloves” which it says will be rolled out via social, radio and digital media over summer.

Wet wipes account for 50 per cent of all solid waste it deals with.

Temperature checks and masks obligatory for visitors to Torrox heritage sites

TORROX

E. C. Torrox town hall reopened the interpretation centre museum, located by the town’s lighthouse, on Tuesday.

Torrox councillor for Heritage, María de los Ángeles Ruiz, said that the museum will be open from Tuesdays to Saturdays from 10am until 2pm. Temperature checks will be carried out on all visitors to the centre, who are also obliged to wear a mask. Visitors must follow the route marked out in the centre.

The Roman settlement, which has artefacts dating back to the third century DC, is also open to visitors.

HERE AND THERE

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

Red Cross to prioritise those on no income

J. R. Vélez-Málaga’s Red Cross office is changing its focus from “supplying basic necessities to people in need and helping vulnerable people” during the lockdown, to helping people who are “struggling due to reduced or no income” according to English-speaking volunteer, Richard Weale. The charity is working with local authorities, the Andalusian government and the British Consulate.

The office provides a drop-in service from Monday to Friday from 11am to 1pm. However, those who want assistance in English should contact the office to ask for an English-speaking volunteer, either via email (29094social@cruzroja.es) or phone (952 50 03 21).

NERJA

Charity shop reopens following renovation

J. R. Nerja charity shop Pocapecunia reopened on Monday after a full renovation. Nicole Brouwers, who has run the shop at Calle Bella Vista, 6 for 11 years, said that donations were welcome and that the money raised goes to different local and international charities.



Inside Pocapecunia. **N. B.**

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Around a hundred people joined the protest on Wednesday. **SUR**

Residents protest in La Cala de Mijas in bid to save pine woods

MIJAS

Around a hundred people gathered outside the town hall office in La Cala de Mijas to protest against plans to build homes in El Chaparral

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

The Salvemos el Bosque Chaparral association (Save Chaparral Woods) staged a protest on Wednesday outside the district town hall offices in La Cala de Mijas in a bid to stop the felling of pine trees for a property development in the area.

Around a hundred people attended the demonstration, calling for protection for the pine trees in El Chaparral. Slogans chanted included, “Se nota, se siente, el bosque está presente” to reflect the sensation that the trees’ presence can be felt and is important for the area.

The association maintains

that the town hall is in the process of finalising its approval of a project to subdivide the land which would allow trees in Chaparral woods to be felled to build five-storey high buildings.

“The people of Mijas don’t want to lose this natural asset of the Costa, which is enjoyed by different sports-related associations and where there is a great biodiversity of animals and plants that would be affected by the works,” the president of the association, Alejandro Sánchez, told **SUR**.

The protesters called for the Mijas PGOU (master town plan) to be revised. Sánchez stressed that the Mijas of today and its society have “little in common” with that of 1999, when the current town plan was approved.

He called for the local government to improve and enhance the forest area so that more people know about it and can enjoy it. The association is working with the town hall to try to “reach agreements” which will allow a modification of the PGOU to change the land’s designation, he said.

“We want a life-green Mijas, not a cement-grey one; we’ll continue to give the woods a voice,” added Sánchez.

Councillors from local opposition parties also took part in the demonstration, including Mario Bravo (PP) and Remedios Leiva (Podemos).

More than 3,550 people have already signed the association’s petition on change.org, which calls for protection for the Chaparral woods and for construction to be prohibited due to its environmental value.

HERE AND THERE



Langford and volunteers. **SUR**

NERJA

Foundation donates to local food bank

SUR IN ENGLISH. Nerja Solidaria de Alimentos, the local Nerja food bank, has recently welcomed a donation from the Blevins Franks Charitable Foundation. Nominated by Steve Langford, local partner and member of the foundation committee, the donation covers Nerja Solidaria’s running costs for a month, allowing them to continue providing food parcels and social assistance to the most disadvantaged families.

Nerja Solidaria, funded by donations from local businesses and individuals, as well as food donations from the European Aid Fund, currently supplies 56 families with weekly food parcels, with many more families in need.

MALAGA

Search on for Ulises’ owner using DNA

I. LILLO. The DNA profile of Ulises, the mastiff that was found in a sack of rubble in Malaga last month, is being used to try and find the owner responsible for abandoning him. For the first time in Spain, the company ADN Canino, which manages the genetic census of pets in the city, is investigating the profile of the dog and comparing it with the thousands of samples registered, with the aim of finding a match.

MALAGA

Domestic violence reports went up 65%

F. TORRES. Calls to the 016 domestic violence hotline increased by 65.6% in the province of Malaga in May, at the height of the coronavirus lockdown. The increase in calls in the province is fifteen points higher than the 50% experienced across the region, where it went from 954 calls in May 2019 to 1,433 during the same month this year.



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Concern grows over surge in local infection spikes across Spain

Catalonia has decreed that face masks must be worn in public even if 1.5-metre social distancing is possible and the Balearics is set to follow suit

SUR

MADRID. The minister for Health, Salvador Illa, admitted on Wednesday that the 67 recorded local coronavirus outbreaks across Spain that had yet to be fully controlled were “worrying”.

On Wednesday 257 new positive PCR tests for coronavirus in the previous 24 hours were announced, double the previous day and the highest figure since the end of May.

Although the government continues advising “don’t be afraid



Palma airport this week. Masks will soon be compulsory in the Balearics. EFE

but do take care” and most of the clusters of infection affect fewer than ten people, three were especially worrying the authorities this week, in the

provinces of Lleida, Lugo and Guipúzcoa.

In the first two provinces, 300,000 people have been under local lockdown since last week.

By midweek the hospitals in Lleida province, in Catalonia, had 69 patients with Covid-19, nine of whom were in intensive care. One centre there had sent out a call for extra critical care staff.

Stricter mask rules

From Thursday this week, the Catalan government has made it compulsory in all its region to wear a face covering outdoors as well as indoors, even if it is possible to meet the 1.5-metre social distancing rule. Fines of 100 euros will be given out for noncompliance.

The Balearic Islands regional government has also said it will adopt these same, stricter measure than the national rules from this weekend. Here people will still be exempt from wearing masks on beaches, by pools, when eating or drinking, or when doing sport.

Salvador Illa at the national Health Ministry in Madrid, has not ruled out a return to a countrywide lockdown, but only as “a last resort”.

5.2% of people nationally have Covid antibodies, study concludes

SUR

MADRID. The third and final wave of the national Covid-19 antibodies study, carried out over the last two months, has concluded that 5.2 per cent of the population of Spain has antibodies. This is the same figure as the second phase, published a month ago, and means that Spain is a long way from the so-called herd immunity. Almost 55,000 people across the country took part in the three phases.

In Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol, the results showed that 3.6 per cent of the local population have antibodies that give them immunity at the moment.



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Ask me no questions



Where would Pedro Sánchez’s minority government be without Royal Decrees? These allow Spain’s administration to pass legislation without having to gain, at least initially, the support of other parties in Congress. One of the most recent of these Decrees, pushed through by the prime minister this week, aims “to support the reactivation of the economy and employment”, and approves €50 billion in loans to help companies both within and outside of the financial sector cope with the pandemic’s economic impact.

Section 86 of the 1978 Spanish Constitution allows

the government to pass legislation without going through the usual parliamentary procedures, but only in “case of extraordinary and urgent need”; after being provisionally passed, a Decree then has to be debated and voted on by Congress within thirty days. Sánchez’s minority government, 21 seats short of a majority even with coalition partner Podemos, has used these emergency measures several times since coming to power in June 2018. In some cases, such as the Decree that led to the relocation of Francisco Franco’s remains last year, it was questionable whether the legislation passed was urgently needed. You might ar-

gue, though, that Covid-19 has inaugurated extraordinary times, making it justifiable for Sánchez to push through Royal Decrees without the prior consent of congress.

But a closer look reveals some intriguing details about the loan agreements announced this week - ones that make you wonder why the government is in such a hurry to extend its already overburdened credit lines. The conditions attached to the loans stipulate that Sánchez’s administration receives “dividends, interest and capital gains” (according to the press release) in return and that the money thus raised “be deposited in the public treasury”. So, is Sánchez’s executive rushing because it wants to bolster and “digitalise” badly-affected sectors such as tourism, or because it wants to generate profits from lending businesses money (or both)?

There’s nothing necessarily wrong with a government, in

its role as lender, wanting to make a return on loans - although if you were being even more cynical than I am, you could ask whether this is an attempt to partly nationalise some of the companies due to receive funds.

The manner in which they were announced, however, marked a suspect departure from normality. According to a tradition that’s been adhered to by successive Spanish governments for forty years, a press conference is held immediately after its weekly cabinet meeting, but this time it was just photographers who were invited to witness the signing of the agreements - i.e. no one who might ask difficult questions, or indeed any questions at all.

In passing yet another Royal Decree, then cancelling the Q&A session that should have followed its announcement, Sánchez lays himself open, once again, to the charge of insufficient transparency.

PM says the reports of the business affairs of emeritus King Juan Carlos are “worrying”

SUR

MADRID. Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has said that information emerging about the business affairs of Juan Carlos, the King Emeritus, are “worrying” and are “concerning for everyone”.

However he also stressed that certain action had been taken to manage the situation, in particular that the Royal household of King Felipe VI, Juan Carlos’ son, had distanced itself from the former monarch’s alleged actions.

The Royal family has so far not commented on the latest accusations that banking arrangements were made in Switzerland for King Juan Carlos to receive donations from foreign governments. An initial investigation is expected to be finished by the end of the summer.



Rental prices in Malaga province increased by 20% in just three years

The price index drawn up by the government shows that between 2015 and 2018 the median average in the province rose from 500 to 600 euros a month

NURIA TRIGUERO



MALAGA. Property experts had been warning us for some time: the cost of renting a property in Malaga has shot up in the past few years. Now, there are official figures to support it. The first report has been drawn up by the government and it looks at how rents have been evolving. This index is based on information from tax declarations in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018

corresponding to over 11.2 million properties which have been rented out as a main residence.

It shows that Malaga is the province in which rents went up most between 2015 and 2018, by 20 per cent, because the median average price has gone up from 500 to 600 euros a month.

Next come Barcelona and the Balearic islands, with an increase of 15 per cent.

Malaga is now placed as the sixth most expensive place to rent a property in Spain, after Madrid, Ceuta, Barcelona, Melilla and the Balearics. This seems unrelated to the wealth of the inhabitants, because Malaga (like the rest of Andalucía) is low down on the list of salary levels.

When presenting this information the minister, José Luis Ábalos, mentioned Malaga as one of the "stressed" areas together with Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia and

Change in rental prices

Euros per month (average)

SPANISH PROVINCES, WITH BIGGEST AND SMALLEST INCREASES

	2015	2018	Increase
Malaga	500	600	20%
Barcelona	600	694	15.67%
Balearic Islands	540	624	15.57%
S. Cruz de Tenerife	437	500	14.4%
Albacete	400	450	12.5%
Murcia	388	400	3.23%
Huesca	400	413	3.13%
Zamora	370	380	2.7%
León	390	400	2.56%
Lleida	397	400	0.71%

TOWNS IN MALAGA PROVINCE

	2015	2018	Increase
Benahavís	700	899	28.43%
Coín	280	350	25%
Estepona	450	550	22.22%
Fuengirola	500	600	20%
Alhaurín de la Torre	420	500	19.05%
Casares	450	531	18%
Marbella	600	700	16.67%
Mijas	450	525	16.67%
Malaga city	520	600	15.38%
Benalmádena	500	575	15%
Alhaurín el Grande	350	400	14.29%
Rincón de la Victoria	500	567	13.4%
Ojén	450	510	13.33%
Vélez-Málaga	398	450	13.07%
Cártama	410	462	12.68%
Manilva	450	500	11.11%
Archidona	263	290	10.27%
Nerja	500	550	10%
Torremolinos	500	550	10%
Ronda	350	380	8.57%
Arriate	410	440	7.32%
Algarrobo	425	450	5.88%
Torrox	400	418	4.5%

the islands. The average value per square metre of a rented property in the province is 7.7 euros.

The increase was concentrated over just three years (2015 - 2018) and as a result Malaga knocked Seville off its position as the most expensive province in Andalucía for rentals. In Malaga the price went up from an average of 500 to 600 euros a month in that time, and in Seville from 508 to 561 euros. The median average for Andalucía is 467 euros, due to lower rents such as Almería and Jaén, at around 400 euros a month.

In Malaga province, the most expensive place to rent a home is Benahavís, with an average rent of about 899 euros a month. It also saw the greatest increases: rents rose by 28 per cent over three years. Next comes Marbella, at 700 euros a month and an increase of nearly 17 per cent; and Malaga city and Fuengirola, at 600 euros and 15 and 20 per cent rises respectively.

Inland towns have also been affected. Coín has seen a 25 per cent increase, and 19 per cent in Alhaurín de la Torre. In Malaga city, the most expensive areas are the eastern district (800 euros), city centre (695) and Churriana. (669). The cheapest are Carretera de Cádiz, Cruz de Humilladero and Palma-Palmilla (500, 500 and 505 euros respectively).

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The McArthurGlen Designer Outlet opened earlier this year. SUR

Prada to take prime spot in outlet village by Plaza Mayor as new brands are added

MALAGA

JUAN SOTO. The McArthurGlen Designer Outlet, part of the Plaza Mayor shopping complex near Malaga Airport, has announced that Prada is among the new brands signed up to open a store. Silbon and Bimba y Lola will also be opening outlet branches on the site.

Because of the prestige of its international name, Milan-based Prada will take one of the vacant units in the central square of the shopping development which

opened in February this year. There are various empty sites in this part of the mall still and as yet no opening date has been set for Prada or the other new designer brand names.

At the moment Prada only has stores in Madrid and Barcelona in Spain so its opening at McArthurGlen is a particular coup.

The MacArthurGlen Designer Outlet is British-owned and part of the group that runs sites such as Cheshire Oaks and York Designer Outlet. Malaga is its first centre in Spain.

Inspectors gear up to check that firms are following Covid health and safety rules

MADRID

LUCÍA PALACIOS. A total of 965 inspectors and 85 subinspectors will be in charge of checking nationally that companies are following new health and safety practices for their workers in the light of coronavirus. This will be on top of officers working for each of the regional authorities.

As more people head back to their workplaces, firms can be fined up to 41,000 euros for not following the new rules to keep workers safe.

Among the responsibilities of the extra inspectors will be to make sure companies are doing the following to comply with regulations: cleaning, disinfecting and ventilating the workplace; making soap and water or approved hand sanitiser available to employees; organising work stations and staff rooms to comply with social distancing where possible; and staggering work times if appropriate.

EU Commission approves Gibraltar business measures

Although Gibraltar left the EU alongside the UK in January, it is being treated as part of a member state during the transition period

DEBBIE BARTLETT



GIBRALTAR. The European Commission announced this week that it had approved the umbrella measures taken in Gibraltar to support business and employment during and after the coronavirus pandemic, a move

which was welcomed by the Gibraltar government.

The Gibraltar authorities were required to notify the Commission of the details of the scheme under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), and the Commission found the measures to be compatible with the TFEU under the terms of the Temporary Framework which it has adopted to facilitate the clearance of State Aid measures for the purposes of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The amount involved is an estimate of the cost of the measures to be adopted. It includes the £ 24 million guarantee taken by the Government to Parliament recently. It is not, the

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MINISTER



Picardo says the approval underpins the work done in Gibraltar. **SUR**

authorities have stressed, a grant of £100 million awarded by the EU to Gibraltar.

Member States of the European Union have taken emer-

gency measures to assist businesses as a result of COVID-19, and although Gibraltar left the European Union alongside the UK at the end of January, it is

currently in the transition period which will continue to the end of this year so is being treated in the same way as an EU member state for this purpose, something the Commission stressed in its report.

The Commission said that after analysing the Gibraltar measures it found they are "necessary, appropriate and proportionate to remedy a serious disturbance in the economy".

The chief minister of Gibraltar, Fabian Picardo, said after receiving the notification earlier this week: "The approval of these measures is an important underpinning of the work done in Gibraltar to secure our businesses and their employees in this difficult period. The work we have done now enjoys the approval of the EU Commission."

He went on to thank "everyone in the office of the Financial Secretary, particularly Mr Albert Mena, and the teams working with us round the clock on these issues for helping us to deliver this important and very positive result."

IN BRIEF

CRIME

Two arrested over suspected money laundering

D.B. Gibraltar police, in a joint cross-border operation with the Spanish Guardia Civil, arrested two local people on suspicion of money laundering earlier this week.

The suspects, who are husband and wife, have been released on police bail.

The arrests came after officers from the RGP's Money Laundering Unit obtained a warrant and carried out a search of a property, during which they found a very large amount of cash.

They also impounded a £200,000 luxury yacht which was berthed in Gibraltar, and several



Police impounded a luxury yacht berthed in Gibraltar. **RGP**

items of computer equipment.

The couple are believed to have close links with organised crime groups in Spain.

BREXIT

MoU committee meeting in Gibraltar on Thursday

D.B. There was a meeting of one of the committees set up as part of Gibraltar's withdrawal from the EU on Thursday, to discuss technical aspects of citizens' rights after Brexit.

The first committee meeting was in Algeciras in February, and it was announced at the time that the next one would be in Gibraltar.

In fact, the Police and Customs cooperation committee and the environment committee will also be meeting in Gibraltar in the near future.

TOURISM

Upper Rock attractions reopened this week

D.B. Most of Gibraltar's attractions reopened this week following the coronavirus lockdown, including the famous cable car.

The Nature Reserve and Upper Rock attractions are open from 9am to 7.15pm, and the Skywalk is open from 9am to 9pm.

Visitors are required to wear masks and use the hand sanitiser which is provided at the entrances upon arrival and when leaving.

The Second World War Tunnels are not yet open, but will resume activity on Monday 20 July.



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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Statistics and reality

It seems that the economists have blown a fuse in these unstable times and they can't agree on the general increase or decrease of prices as a consequence of the loss of spending power brought about by coronavirus.

Some clearly believe that prices will rise and others say the exact opposite will happen, while the general public suffers the effects of either of the two scenarios in silence.

After all, both circumstances end up being just an accounting point of no real value other than for the sake of statistics. This amounts to the same as saying that the average citizen cares little due to the total uselessness of the figures.

The experts would do their jobs better if they looked at all the possible solutions in both of the cases and devoted all their wisdom to searching for a remedy for our problems.

It does no good just boring us with so many figures about the GDP, public debt, the fall in economic activity, the recession, inflation, deflation and other etc's, if there is no solution to unemployment, the real social problem.

Stop messing around and get to the point. Let's have fewer figures and theoretical studies and more solutions, which is the only thing that interests the people who are more concerned about how they're going to make their money stretch to the end of the month than about any statistic.

ENRIQUE STUYCK

New police officers

It's good to know that there are new police officers now working in this area (SUR in English, July 3rd).

And so many of them - 203, just for the province of Malaga. But then much of the rest of

the news is usually all about drugs raids, shootings, killings, etc.

I hope while they're busy risking their lives to arrest the scum of the Costa del Sol, they don't regret that graduation day.

B. MICHAELS

We accept letters by email -surinenglish.su@diariosur.es - or ordinary post. They must include identification and a telephone number and be exclusive to SUR in English. We do not publish anonymous letters. Opinions expressed by contributors to this and other pages of SUR in English do not necessarily reflect those of the publishers. No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission from the publishers.

THE MUSIC MAKER
PETER EDGERTON
www.e-peter.com

Don't get me wrong

There's a vague whiff of general madness in the air, wouldn't you say? Whether its cause is to be found in the three months we spent contemplating our own belly buttons, the exaggerated uncertainty of what comes next or Lady Gaga releasing another album while we were distracted, I'm not really sure, but it's all gone a bit weird, don't you think? Jangled nerves are rife, causing odd little cameos between strangers that you used to see once in a blue moon to pop up at least a couple of times daily.

Just this morning, in the supermarket I witnessed a normal-looking chap insisting forcibly that the cashier change a ten euro note because the one she'd given him was damaged. There was clearly nothing wrong with it, but the restrained anger in his tone ensured he got his own way before he disappeared into the simmering heat presumably

rejoicing in his perceived little victory.

Maybe it's because we've just been shown in no uncertain terms that no matter how much we like to delude ourselves that we're in control of things, we're patently not. Ergo, if you can demand an unnecessary fresh ten euro note from a stranger for no apparent and be indulged, that surely proves you have some autonomy again, doesn't it? No, not really. The problem is exacerbated by how polarised we've become - so absolutist in our beliefs and convinced of how right we are about everything, clinging like limpets to people of the same stripe in order to justify our views.

So, what's to be done about all of this? Fear not, I've got a plan.

What we need is a law that makes it compulsory for anyone expressing an opinion on anything either in real life or on the interweb, to include a

remark that finds something positive in what they're criticising or something negative in what they're praising. It goes like this.

"I love the European Union but I haven't got a clue who those blokes in glasses are who make the laws."

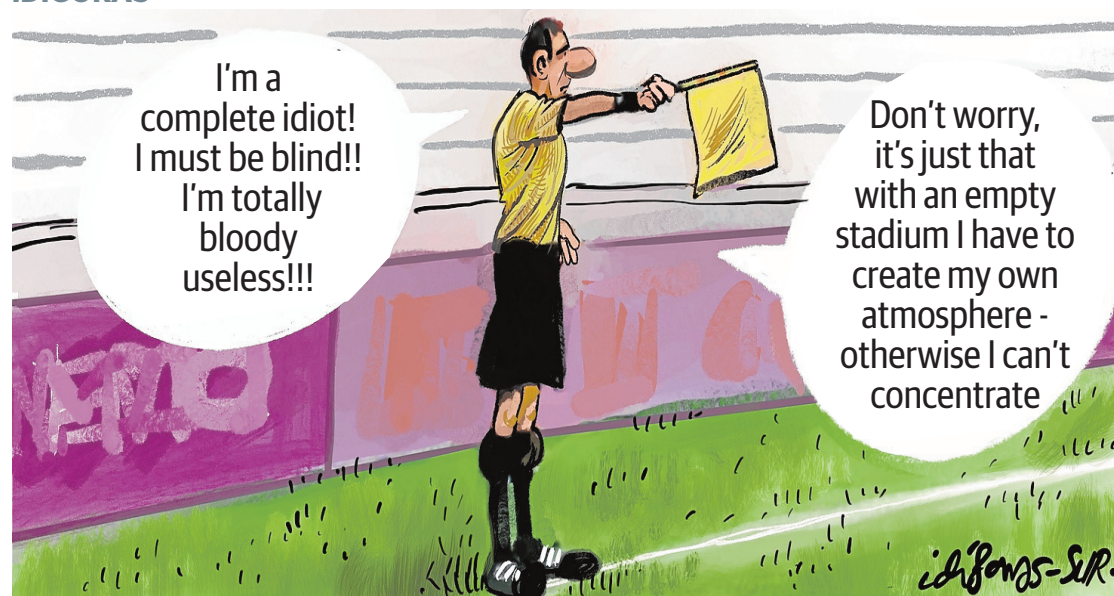
"Blimey, that Donald Trump is a vacuous, crass and vulgar man isn't he? Tell you what though, he's deported fewer immigrants than Barack Obama."

"I can't stand that Pedro Sánchez with all his flip-flopping and hypocrisy; looks good in a suit though."

"Manchester United - no supporters from Manchester, darlings of the press and vastly overrated on every level. Mind you th..." Ok, that one's more difficult but, in general, this could be the perfect way to awaken our oxidised sense of empathy.

Anyway, that's my opinion. I might be wrong, though.

IDÍGORAS



SUR in English

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THE BOTTOM LINE
HÉCTOR BARBOTA

Despite the beaches

Marbella was the setting recently for the launch of the regional government's Safe Beaches Plan, in which it is investing 35 million euros. Never before have our beaches played such an important role at the start of a tourist season.

Of course, it is true that this is not a normal season by any means. The pandemic has obliged the authorities to put

strict safety measures into effect so potential visitors can be reassured that if they come here on holiday they will be safe. Or at least as safe as they can be in their own countries, or the cities in which they live. Perhaps even a bit safer.

It is precisely this exceptional situation that has focused all eyes on our beaches and obliged us to really think seriously about them for once.

Our destination is, above all, about sunshine and beaches, although that is something we tend to forget too often. Because if we are honest, we have to admit that the Costa del Sol is not actually a tourist destination par excellence because of its beaches, but rather despite what its beaches are like.

Our excellence can be found in our remarkable variety of hotels, our gastronomy and restaurants, the communications (despite the lack of a local train), the airport, the high-speed AVE rail service, the golf, the security, the healthcare which is available to everybody, the options for leisure and recreational activities, services of just about every type, our historical heritage, our countryside, but not our beaches.

This isn't how things ought to be, but it is how they are. The sea water off beaches in this province is often affected by layers of scum, there have been invasive town planning measures and chronic delays in building functioning sewage treatment plants, and there are algae and jellyfish, wooden beams and cement, whose owners seem to have forgotten that only structures which can be dismantled are supposed to be built on the sand...

Nevertheless, the challenge caused by the pandemic has served to remind us that our beaches are essential, because if people can't go to the beach the rest isn't really of much use.

We really need to keep that in mind, when all this is finally over.

"I just love acting, so I don't mind what type of series or film it is"

Lope Haydn Evans Actor

The young actor from Malaga has appeared on screens around the world this month in the Netflix fantasy drama *Warrior Nun*, which was filmed locally last year

TONY BRYANT



MALAGA. An up-and-coming child actor from Malaga has recently fulfilled his dream of securing a role in a major web-television series. The Netflix production, *Warrior Nun*, is based on the comic book character *Warrior Nun Areala* and focuses on an orphaned teenager who discovers she has superpowers after mysteriously waking up on a slab in the morgue. The girl soon realises that she is the chosen Halo-Bearer for a secret sect of demon-hunting nuns.

Filming of the series, which premiered earlier this month, took place on location in Marbella, Ronda, Antequera, Malaga and Seville, and it features local 11-year-old Lope Haydn Evans, who plays Michael Salvias, the ailing son of a scientist.

Lope was born in Malaga to a Spanish father and Welsh mother, and, even though he loves Malaga, he is proud of his Welsh roots: he enjoys visiting his relatives in Wales, especially as he gets the chance to enjoy "real sausages and play football on soft grass".

He has been a student of Novaschool Sunland International (in Cártama) since he was three. His mother, Rachel Evans, is the principal of the school, and she is also the drama teacher, so Lope has always been encouraged to sing and act. Rachel explained how his first preschool teacher told her that her son had incredible stage presence and charisma, and from an early age he was often chosen for lead roles in school productions.

Lope is bilingual, so he can perform in both Spanish and English productions and, as he points out, the person who inspires him the most is Antonio Banderas.

"I think Antonio Banderas is an amazing actor who can play serious roles and funny ones. I like him in *The Mask of Zorro*, *Shrek* and *Spy Kids*. I think he is special because he is a big Hollywood star, but he hasn't forgotten his roots," Lope told SUR in English.

The young actor was selected for the part in *Warrior Nun* after his mother sent in a video. He was invited to take an audition - although he admits that he was a little confused with the storyline at first.

"I was given some lines to learn, but they were a bit strange because I didn't really understand the story. I did my best to figure out how I should play the part; I pretended to be sad, because the character I play is very lonely," Lope said.

Relaxing affection

Lope soon began to relax on set, especially because the other actors treated him with affection. Re-



▲ With co-stars Thekla Teuten and Peter de Jersey during a break from filming. SUR

◀ Lope as Michael Salvias in the Netflix series. SUR

▼ Lope, as himself. SUR



cording was long and tiring, he recalls, and when not needed on set, Lope would go through his lines with his mum.

"The production company were great: they would let me know when Lope was needed on set and they tried to avoid long waits," Rachel said.

Lope added, "The other actors were great, especially the *Warrior Nun* [Alba Baptista], who was really nice to me. I also enjoyed being with Peter de Jersey [the British actor who plays Kristian Schaefer in the series]. He really likes superhero films like me; we decided that my superhero name would be Bubble Boy because my bed on set was like a bubble."

Special effects

There has been no word concerning a second series yet; however, the ending of series one and the part which Lope's character plays in it suggests it will be continued. Lope is keen to get back to the role if the chance arises, and he longs to return to special effects and makeup.

"I loved having my makeup done because they sprayed my face white to make me look ill. I also loved it when they made me glow blue, because I look like someone from *Avatar*," he said.

Lope is now represented by an agent and he is hoping he will have more exciting opportunities soon. Even though he intends to consider genres outside the fantasy world, the charismatic actor does have a few stipulations regarding future contracts.

"I just love acting, so I don't mind what type of series or film it is, just so long as they have an eat-as-much-as-you-want buffet on set," he added.

Lope's mum is hoping a second series will materialise.

"I couldn't be prouder of Lope; he was only 10 years old when the series was filmed. To be able to convey the emotions of the character with such conviction, I find remarkable," she concluded.

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REF. D. R. A.

I live with my partner in a rented property, and the contract is just in my name, as when I signed it I had not met my partner yet. We are not married and we are not registered as civil partners. If something happens to me, could she keep living here, if

she is not in the contract and we are not married? I have asked the landlord to modify the contract to include both our names, but he says it is not necessary and refuses. If the owner refuses to modify the contract, bear in mind that it is not necessary to be married for your partner to keep living in the property. If you had a relationship similar to marriage, it is enough to prove that she has been living with you permanently for two years prior to your demise. If you were simply friends, you would not have this option.

REF. O. B. Y.

I bought a couple of shirts without trying them on because I was in a hurry, and when I got home and put them on, they were too large. When I went back to the shop to get a smaller size,

they told me didn't have any, so I asked for a refund. They said that they could not refund but that I could change the shirts for any other item. I didn't find anything I liked so I insisted on getting my money back, but they refused and offered me a voucher. I asked for the complaints book, but they said in a very rude way that they did not have one. I had thought that all businesses were obliged to have this?

It is indeed. If the client has a complaint about the service received or the product bought, they are entitled to lodge a complaint with the person in charge of the establishment, and to write it down on a complaint form. If they do not have a complaints book or refuse to give it to you, you can contact the local police for them to appear and register the problem.

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**Chocolate in
the orchid
house**

Visitors to the orchid house in Estepona this week were greeted by the scent of chocolate coming from the flowers of the unusual Stanhopea tigrina. The Orquidario reopened to the public on 1 July.

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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

10 JULY 1936

The launch of the Andalusian anthem

Bandera Blanca y Verde was first performed in Seville just one week before the Civil War broke out

Andalusians, stand up and demand land and freedom for a free Andalucía, Spain and mankind, claims the song Bandera Blanca y Verde. The Green and White Flag, which is the official anthem of Andalucía, was performed for the first time during a concert by the Municipal Band of Seville. The concert took place in the Andalusian capital on 10 July 1936, just one week before the start of the Spanish Civil War (1936-39).

Although the music is believed to have been inspired by a religious canticle sung by Andalusian peasants and farm workers, the melody is attributed to composer José del Castillo Díaz. The lyrics for the an-

them were written by Blas Infante, a politician, historian, musicologist and writer who designed the flag from which the anthem takes its name. Infante, who was born in Casares (Malaga) in 1885, discovered the canticle (Santo Dios) while studying in Archidona and he brought it to the attention of Castillo, who adapted and harmonised the melody.

Known as the 'father of Andalusian nationalism', Infante was responsible for initiating the first assembly of Ronda in 1918, which embraced the flag and emblem as national symbols. Following the elections held in February 1936, the Andalusian campaign intensified in favour of the Autonomy Statute, and Infante was proclaimed president of the new Assembly.

As both a regional autonomist and a libertarian socialist, Infante was a target for the Franco regime and he was among numerous political fig-



An artist with the framed words of the Andalusian anthem. SUR

ures executed at the outset of the Civil War.

Castillo, a staunch freemason, shared Infante's political tendencies. He was dismissed from his position as conductor of the municipal band at the end of the war and later imprisoned in Burgos. He was released in

1942, and lived out his life under the eye of the regime until he died in Seville in 1955.

The original score for the anthem was destroyed during the war and only one manuscript for piano survived, but the song has been adapted by numerous composers and musicians ever

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Bandera	Flag
Blanco	White
Verde	Green
Tierra	Land
Libertad	Freedom
Humanidad	Mankind
Himno	Anthem
Concierto	Concert
Campesino	Peasant
Compositor	Composer
Componer	To compose
Letra	Lyrics
Historiador	Historian
Escribir	To write
Diseñar	To design
Encarcelado	Imprisoned
Partitura	Score
Escudo	Shield

since. The song was reconstructed during the democratic transition after the death of General Franco in 1975: in 1977, Andalusian poet and singer Carlos Cano recorded a new version which included the participation of several friends of Infante.

The anthem, flag and shield were officially adopted during the Andalusian Statute of Autonomy in 1981.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

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GARDENING

Giant pelican flower

Aristolochia gigantea is a woody, twining, perennial vine, native to forest areas found from Costa Rica and Panama to Brazil. Common names include giant pelican flower and Brazilian Dutchman's pipe. It is also sometimes listed by the synonym *A. clypeata*.

Unlike *A. grandiflora*, which is renowned for the foetid stench of its blooms, the flowers of *A. gigantea* have a lem-

ony fragrance, according to John Rumbelow and his wife Christine from Villanueva del Trabuco who sent in the photos below.

The scent attracts pollinating insects, mainly flies, which are

temporarily trapped inside the pouch-shaped flower, transferring pollen and receiving a fresh dusting before the calyx relaxes and they can climb out.

The vine has large, heart-shaped leaves up to 15cm across which are bright green and covered with whitish hairs on the underside.

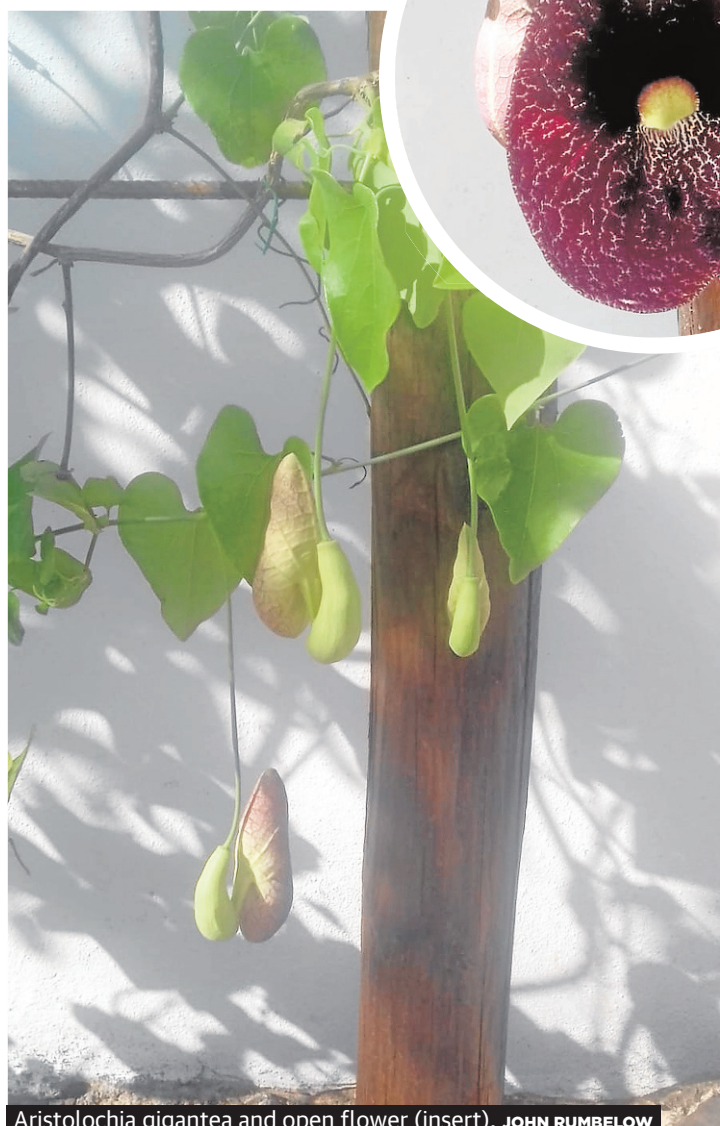
In partial shade, *Aristolochia gigantea* will produce velvety, burgundy blooms, the single petal covered with white veins and leading into a yellow throat, throughout July and August.

After flowering is over, papery capsules form containing many brown, cylindrical seeds. Propagation can be carried out by collecting and sowing the seeds or by taking stem cuttings.

Being a vigorous climber, *Aristolochia gigantea* needs some support. It is not drought-hardy and will need watering as the soil dries out. In winter it can be pruned back.

The genus name is derived from the Greek word *aristos*, meaning best, and *locheia*, meaning childbirth or delivery. This is believed to refer to the structure of the flower of some of the species which resembles a human foetus in a womb.

The common name Brazilian Dutchman's pipe refers to the shape of the flower which is said to resemble the Meer-schaum pipes, once common in the Netherlands and in Germany.



Aristolochia gigantea and open flower (insert). JOHN RUMBELOW

READERS' PHOTOS

Anniversary present

SUR in English reader Melvyn Balderstone sent in this photo of his 'tree of colour' which he created by hanging colourful pot plants from a fruit tree in his garden. He says, "My tree of colour: in lockdown it was our 57th anniversary, so I made a tree of colour for my wife."



MELVYN BALDERSTONE



HANS SCHMID

Out of Africa

This photo of a stunning king protea (*Protea cynaroides*) was sent in by Hans Schmid of Casares. It is the National Flower of South Africa and the flowers can measure up to 30cm across.

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

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

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

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Mijas to host festival celebrating the cultural customs of the Celts

The Celtic Festival will focus on modern and traditional Celtic pipe and drum bands, along with traditional dancing and a themed market

TONY BRYANT

MIJAS. The Mijas Tourism Department has teamed up with Big M Promotions once again to host the second edition of the Celtic Festival, an event that presents live music and entertainment, along with a themed market.

The festival will focus on modern and traditional Celtic music, with pipe and drum bands like The Surpipes Band and Gaiteros Pipers, while Irish, Scottish, Welsh and fire dancing will be supplied by Mamen Garro. There will also be performances by Amigos de Guinness, Finndogg Macrae, and multi-instrumentalist band Xábega y Percutora.

The term Celtic generally



refers to the languages and respective traditions of Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, the Isle of Man, Galicia, Asturias and Brittany and this festival will highlight the cultural customs of this widely diverse culture.

The festival will be held in the municipal auditorium in Mijas Pueblo on Saturday 8 August. Doors open at 8pm and the show gets going at

9pm.

At the time of going to press, organisers were uncertain if refreshments would be available due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The festival is free, but by ticket only. Tickets are available from the tourist offices in Mijas Pueblo and La Cala de Mijas. Organisers have stressed that face masks must be worn in order to gain entry.

EXHIBITIONS

Francisco Martín Molina

NERJA. Monday to Saturday 10.30am - 2.30pm. C/Pintada 27. The exhibition of art by Francisco Martín Molina has re opened to the public. More information on Facebook: Exposición Francisco Martín Calle Pintada.

The Russian Museum

MALAGA. Edificio Tabacalera, Avda Sor Teresa Prat. The new annual exhibition features true-to-life works from the past three centuries. From still lifes of the 18th century to everyday scenes painted only a few months ago, the museum has created a tour consisting of 163 works in a succession of rooms. Until April 2021.

Centro Pompidou

MALAGA. Muelle Uno. The semi-permanent exhibition is entitled De Miró a Barceló. Un siglo de arte español. Pablo Picasso, Joan Miró, Salvador Dalí and Luis Buñuel were precursors of new ways of seeing and creating and their legacy still lives on. This chronological journey through a century of Spanish art shows that the generation of contemporary artists has kept alive the spirit of the avant-garde with extraordinary energy.

Centro de Arte Contemporáneo

MALAGA. Until 23 August. Calle Alemania. The CAC Málaga reopened with an exhibition called Opus Nigrum by the Mallorca artist Pep Girbent. The display includes drawings and paintings inspired by film clips. The CAC also has an exhibition by Seville artist Juan Lacomba entitled Aquí A Lo Lejos consisting of 175 works on display until 30 August.

Cela - Picasso

MALAGA. Until 4 October. Museo Casa Natal Picasso. The exhibition entitled Trozo de Piel demonstrates the relationship between two geniuses, Pablo Picasso and Camilo José Cela. It consists of documents and photos symbolising the shared affinities and passions of the two friends.

Gustav Klimt

MALAGA. Until 31 July, 11am - 10pm every day. Muelle Uno. An immersive multimedia experience which demonstrates the works of the

Austrian artist through modern technology. Tickets: info@elorodek-limt.es Find them on Facebook.

Thyssen Museum

MALAGA. Until 13 September 9.30 - 2.30pm. 7 - 9pm Tuesday to Friday. 9.30am - 9pm Saturday and Sunday. During a brief stay in a sanatorium, Henri Toulouse - Lautrec created 39 drawings in crayon about the circus. These works were reproduced in two stages using a photographic technique in 1905 and 1931. The museum also has a permanent exhibition entitled Maestros Antiguos with works by artists from the 12th and 17th centuries as well as many other collections up to the beginning of the twentieth century.

Museo Revello

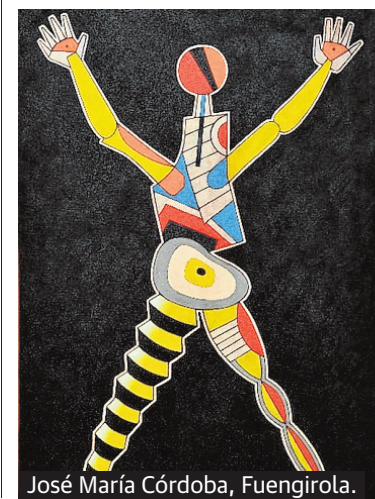
MALAGA. Closed Mondays. Calle Afligidos. Félix Revello de Toro is a distinguished Malaga artist. Around 117 of his works are on display in the museum which regularly holds workshops and art classes for children and adults etc. More information call: 952062069 or email: museorevellidoetoro@gmail.com

Art Marbella

MARBELLA. From 24 September until 3 October. Palacio de Ferias y Congresos. Art Marbella will be holding its sixth international modern and contemporary art fair. This year it will co-ordinating with Marbella Design for the first time.

Gallery Art Club

FUENGIROLA. Until 24 July. Calle Quemada. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 11am - 2pm. Exhibition of art works by Lars Hedin and Edom Alemu as well as Magga



José María Córdoba, Fuengirola.

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José María Córdoba

FUENGIROLA. Until 20 September. Weekdays 6-10pm except Mondays. Museo de la Ciudad, C/María Josefa Larrucea.

The exhibition Odiseo consists of paintings and drawings created by José María Córdoba and influenced by James Joyce's books.

David Sancho

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE. Until September. Sala de Exposiciones, in the Municipal library.

Antequera artist David Sancho has travelled widely and has captured the colours of some of the countries he has visited on canvas. The exhibition includes works he com-

pleted after visits to Istanbul, Morocco and India as well as some of the Jardín Botánico La Concepción in Malaga and of his home town, Antequera.

18X2. Coleccionismo Institucional de Málaga

ANTEQUERA. Until 30 September. Tues - Sun 10am - 2pm and 7pm - 9.30pm. MAD, C/Diego Ponce 12. The exhibition unites 36 works from the Diputación de Málaga and the Fundación Unicaja collections.

LIVE CONCERTS AND MUSIC

Jueves del Verano

MÁLAGA. July, August.

30 July, 9pm. Centro Pompidou. A concert by Malaga singer Julia Martín.

6 August, 9pm. Museo Ruso. Proyecto Dasein with Miguel Ángel S Mirando (harp), Pablo Valero (flute) and Francisco Ruiz (viola) will play pieces by composers Borodin, Glinka, Dubois and Debussy.

13 August, 8pm. Centro Pompidou. Proyecto Dasein accompanied by soprano Elena Garrido.

AC DC tribute concert

TORREMOLINOS. 10 July, 9.45pm. Avda Palma de Mallorca.

TNT, the AC/DC tribute rock band, will be performing all the band's greatest hits as part of the town's Tenemos Talento summer calendar of events. More info: www.torremolinos.es/agenda

Chamber music

MÁLAGA. Museo Picasso Málaga. 10€.

17 July, 8pm, 9.15pm. Trío Mainake will play works by Franz Schubert and Beethoven.

Jazz

MÁLAGA. Museo Picasso Málaga. 10€.

10 July, 8pm, 9.15pm. The Arturo Serra Trío.

Conciertos en la Cuarto Fase

GRANADA. 10, 11 July, 9.30pm. Plaza de las Culturas, Centro Cultural Caja Granada.

This evening is a concert by Josele Santiago and David Krahe followed by Sr Chinarro with special guest J from Los Planetas, on Saturday evening. Tickets: <http://www.entradas->



AC/DC tribute, Torremolinos.

cajagranada.es/

Acoustic July

VILLANUEVA DEL TRABUCO. 17, 24, 31 July, 10.45pm. Plaza del Prado. Every Friday evening from 17 July there will be a live concert taking place in the Plaza del Prado (main square) in the village. <http://www.villanuevadeltrabuco.es/> or Facebook

Orquesta Cámara Mediterránea

ALMUÑÉCAR. 12 July, from 10.30pm. Parque El Majuelo. The Mediterranean Chamber Orchestra will be in concert in the park.

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

MÁLAGA. 17, 18 July, 9.30pm. Patio of the Centro Cultural La Térmica.

Members of the orchestra will play pieces by Mozart and Bellini in the first half and Sorozábal, Chapí, Vives Soutoulo/Vert, Torroba and Giménez in the second half. With soprano Berna Perles and baritone Damián del Castillo.

Málaga Gira

MÁLAGA. From 25 July. Cortijo Torres municipal auditorium.

A series of rock, pop and flamenco concerts will take place from July to September. Information and tickets: www.malagadeporteyeventos.com/instalaciones/auditorio-municipal-cortijo-de-torres

Starlite Festival

MARBELLA. From 30 July until 29



Julia Martín, Pompidou.

August. Nagüeles quarry.

A shortened version of the festival will include David bisbal, El Arrebato and Pablo López, flamenco performers Diego El Cigala, Miguel Poveda and Sara Baras as well as Spanish comedy duo Los Mornacos. Many of the original stars booked such as Tom Jones, Lionel Richie and Bonnie Tyler have been re-scheduled for 2021. Tickets and information: Ticketmaster and El Corte Inglés.

Marenostrum

FUENGIROLA. From 11 July until 5 September. Castillo Sohail.

The Marenostrum 'Edición Limitada' festival offers more than 35 musical, cabaret and comedy performances. Find more information at <https://marenostrumfuenengirola.com/>



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FLAMENCO

Tomatito

ALMUÑÉCAR. 18 July, 10pm. Parque El Majuelo.
La Caña Flamenca presents a concert with legendary guitarist Tomatito.

Flamenco

MÁLAGA. Museo Picasso Málaga. 10€.
11 July, 8pm, 9.15pm. Virginia Gámez, a young Málaga flamenco singer accompanied by Andres Cansino on the guitar.
18 July, 8pm, 9.15pm. 'Alba Molina sings to Lole and Manuel'. The daughter of two icons of flamenco demonstrates the character of her voice in this tribute to her parents.

MORE IDEAS

Magic and acrobatics

MIJAS. 19 July, 10.30pm. Auditorio Municipal Miguel González Berral.
The illusionist Dani Danielo, acrobat Anthony Jones and juggler Manolo Carambolas present their new show. Free entry but limited spaces. Information: cultura@mijas.es

Online choir

FIND YOUR VOICE One hour singing sessions every Wednesday at 5pm. Local opera singer Clarice Williams runs the Find Your Voice Vocal Studio which raises money for charities as well as allows people to get together for a chat and sing songs from a varied repertoire. Participi-



Jardín Alpujarra, Granada.

pants do not have to be competent singers. registration 5 euros. Facebook Find Your Voice Vocal Studio.

Jardín de la Alpujarra

PÓRTUGOS. 12 July.
Isolation Inspiration is the first gardening event of the year for the Jardín de la Alpujarra. Stroll around the beautiful gardens and enjoy a picnic in the grounds. Entry 20€ (includes picnic) by booking only. info@jardinalpujarra.com or call: 646430656

The Lions Mexican Night

LA CALA DE MIJAS. 21 July, 7pm. Village Inn, Riviera. 10€.
Prize for best Mexican fancy dress, a quiz and a raffle. Meal of chili con carne with rice and a glass of wine, beer or a soft drink. Tickets: Lions'

charity shop La Cala. Call: 637185533

O. V. FILMS

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

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

MÁLAGA. Centro de Ocio, Plaza Mayor, Avda Alfonso Ponce León. Tel: 902902103. www.yelmocines.es
Where'd You Go, Bernadette: 20.00 (Tues).
The Gentlemen: 21.30 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Rincón

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA. C/ Arroyo Totalán. Tel: 902220922. www.yelmocines.es
Where'd You Go Bernadette: 20.00 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Vialia

MÁLAGA. Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902220922
The Gentlemen: 21.00 (Tues).
Where'd You Go Bernadette: 20.10 (Tues).

Cine Albéniz

MÁLAGA. C/ Alcazaba, 4. Tel: 902360295. www.cinealbeniz.com
Under The Skin: 17.30, 19.50, 22.05.
Apocalypse Now, Final Cut: 18.30

Cinesur Miramar

FUENGIROLA. Avda de la Encarnación. Tel: 952198600.
The Gentlemen: 17.55

Blues Festival returns with three of Malaga's most established performers

T. BRYANT

MIJAS. The Mijas Blues Festival returns to the open-air auditorium in Mijas Pueblo tomorrow (Saturday), and this year's event will present three of the most-celebrated blues performers on the Costa del Sol.

The star attraction will be Richard Ray Farrell and The Leisure. Born in New York in 1955, Richard has not only mastered the art of singing and playing the blues, he has literally lived the blues for best part of his life.

Now based in Malaga, Richard began busking around Europe and during his 40-year career he has worked with many of the true giants of traditional American blues.

As well as delivering his own compositions, Richard performs the music of some of his own favourites, including Muddy Waters and Robert Johnson.

Also on the line-up are The Lito Blues Band, Malaga's most established Spanish blues outfit, and Mama



Richard Ray Farrell returns to the Mijas Blues Festival . SUR

Paula. Formed in 1989 by talented guitarist Lito Fernández, The Lito Blues Band has built its reputation by performing hundreds of concerts along the coast, and also with their incalculable appearances at many of Spain's blues festivals.

Mama Paula should need no introduction, as she too

has been working on the coast for many years. Prior to coming to Spain, Paula played at venues like The Royal Albert Hall, and she is now considered one of the best live acts on the local music scene.

The festival starts at 9pm and entrance is free, but early arrival is advised due to crowd restriction policies.

The road to a vaccine against coronavirus is full of obstacles, so caution is needed and each step needs to be short and safe. Experts agree that a truly reliable project is unlikely to be ready before the end of this year, and mass vaccination will not be possible until some time in 2021.

Are we close to a vaccine?

Last week the World Health Organization (WHO) sounded less optimistic than previously, when it said that none of the dozens of vaccines being researched or the 17 which are being clinically tested at present (a report from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine puts the figure at 23) are sufficiently advanced to be able to confirm that there will soon be an effective, safe vaccine, even though several pieces of research are now in the second or even third phase, which consists of injecting thousands or dozens of volunteers to see if it really stops contagion.

The WHO prefers not to predict a date for the vaccine, but believes that by the end of the year we should have results about the candidates. If so, mass vaccination will begin some time in 2021.

Who is ahead?

The vaccine from Moderna Biotechnology in the USA and one from Oxford University and AstraZeneca laboratory are among the most advanced in terms of large-scale testing. Several Chinese projects are at the forefront of research, in particular the CanSiBIO company, which has already obtained authorisation for its vaccine to be given to soldiers in the Chinese army.

On Wednesday, the German company BioNTech and Pfizer Pharmaceuticals announced positive preliminary results for their joint vaccination project, the BNT162b1, which is "capable of



The long road towards a vaccine

Cautious. The WHO sounds less optimistic and experts believe mass vaccination against the coronavirus will not be possible until some time in 2021

ÁLVARO SOTO



generating a neutralising antibodies response in humans at higher or equal levels to those observed in sera from convalescent patients, and at relatively low doses," according to the companies.

And Spanish projects?

Five of the research groups financed by the Ministry of Science already have a prototype for a vaccine or vaccine candidate and have begun tests to evaluate their immunogenic capacity and possible toxicity. One of these prototypes has already successfully completed the immune response study to the vaccine in mice. The other groups hope to complete the development of their prototype vaccines in the next few weeks and test them on animals between then and September. Out of all these projects, it is estimated that four will be at a stage where they can start to be tested on humans in December this year.

Will there be vaccines for all?

All the countries are adapting their

pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries in order to produce vaccines on a large scale from an effective prototype. Here, "the action of the European Commission and the solidarity among member states means that we can anticipate that vaccines will be guaranteed for the Spanish population," says the Ministry of Science, which has given grants to four biotechnology companies that will be able to produce the vaccines.

It is also important that the production overlaps with the research in order to save time. But the challenge isn't easy. Mariano Esteban, a researcher at the CSIC National Biotechnology Centre, who heads one of the most advanced Spanish vaccine projects, believes there will not be a global vaccination until the end of 2021.

Are people who have a flu jab vulnerable to SARS-CoV-2?

Last week the Ministry of Health issued a rather surprising statement, telling us what we already knew. "There is no scientific evidence to prove that anyone who has had a flu vaccine is at greater risk of catching SARS-CoV-2 or having Covid-19," it said.

This would seem obvious, were it not for the fact that a report allegedly produced by professionals at the Barbastro Hospital in Huelva has been doing the rounds on social media, claiming that an excipient (a substance used to blend the contents of medication or give them flavour) in the flu vaccine, polysorbate 80, triggers an inadequate immune response.

"The scientific evidence shows that the flu vaccine prevents the illness caused by the flu virus and reduces the numbers of people at most risk of serious illness who have to be hospitalised, or who die from flu. It reduces the care burden on the health system," the statement said.



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How to lose weight and keep it off

ANALYSIS
TATE MCCLELLAN



Lose Weight Without Feeling Hungry!" "Lose 10 lbs in One Week!" How many times have you heard these pitches? Did you ever spend money on a book or pills because of such promises? Most people go on and off diets several times during their lives for one simple reason: diets don't work!

Every diet is somewhat insidious. In the beginning, the dieter usually loses several pounds with ease. But those lost pounds are often gained back fast as soon as the diet is finished.

Why does this happen? According to numerous scientists, if we start to deny our body its usual foods in the quantities to which it is accustomed, and be-

cause our body cannot differentiate between purposeful dieting and real hunger, it automatically goes into a defensive mode and tries to store fat.

Fat does not want to melt

In the beginning fat deposits are not affected at all as the body uses easily accessible energy sources, which are located mainly in the liver and muscles: sugars or one of its derivatives - glycogen. Therefore, initially a body loses glycogen and water, because every gramme of glycogen is tied to four grammes of water. Rapid weightloss in the beginning of any diet can be explained, therefore, by a significant loss of liquid from tissue.

The body starts to burn fat

only after three to five days of dieting. Even then, however, the body has an array of defensive mechanisms. It tries to protect the status quo by shifting to an "energy-efficient" metabolic regimen, lowering it by as much as 30%. After the initial period of weightloss due to water loss in the body, weight reduction takes place very slowly.

At the same time, when calorie intake drops, certain hormones and enzymes are activated. For example, the enzyme LPL (lipoprotein lipase) fights to protect fat deposits. This enzyme is activated constantly with another hormone - Noradrenaline. As a result, any diet burns fat only partially, but it affects the highly desirable muscle mass. Also, once fat

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Costa Angels are pleased to report that not only were they fortunate enough to continue to provide service to their clients during the recent COVID-19 health crisis but they also managed to do so without infection to clients or carers by following all necessary precautions.

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cells are in the body, they cannot be eliminated by dieting; they will only shrink.

Life after dieting

During the first few days after finishing a diet, the body's metabolism is characterised by a high degree of inertia as it programmes itself to use nutrients more economically.

Also, the highly active enzyme LPL ensures that fat cells are getting filled quickly. As a result, those pounds, which were lost with enormous effort, come back with a vengeance. Those who jump from one diet to another run the risk of damaging their metabolism - metabolic inertia on one side and super activity of the enzyme LPL might become chronic.

If weight reduction is your goal, then you must choose a proper method for losing weight. What is necessary is a change in thinking and lifestyle. If you want to lose weight and keep it off, you will need to follow a proper diet for life - and combine it with exercise. Analyse your eating habits and present diet according to the following points:

Ideal path towards "ideal weight"

Accept the reality of your body type (ectomorph, endomorph, mesomorph). Your ideal weight is that weight when you are healthy and energetic.

Choose a weightloss diet you can follow as an overture for your subsequent diet for life - well-balanced and nutritionally complete with a variety of wholesome foods.

The more slowly you lose weight, the less chance your metabolism will get out of control.

Understand the psychology of your eating: think about when and why you eat. Do you eat when you're sad? Do you often



Exercise is essential. SUR

Those who jump from one diet to another run the risk of damaging their metabolism

eat in restaurants? This is much more important in the long term than counting calories.

The second most important weapon (besides proper nutrition) still remains physical activity. Those extra calories you spend at first seem unimportant - one hour of dancing, for example, is only 300 calories. Sustained physical activity, however, stimulates the metabolic rate, which remains high even 15 hours after exercise! Take advantage of that by doing muscle-building exercises regularly - even 20 minutes of weight training, three times a week, will do wonders for your metabolism! Physical activity also mobilises bowel activity, lowers the appetite, and improves one's mood.

When you feel better, you will enjoy the increased feeling of energy and vitality your new eating habits are giving you. Suddenly, you will no longer be "dieting", but simply eating properly. When you do that, those extra pounds will melt off and you will eventually reach your ideal weight - a weight that can be maintained for life.

The most important thing to remember about dieting is that fast diets don't work in the long run. If you go on a diet, you will eventually have to go off of it and a yo-yo pattern of weight gain and loss will set in. Determine your body type, accept it for what it is and eat a well-balanced wholesome diet with a regular exercise regimen you can live with.

Miracle diets do not work; a proper diet and exercise plan will!

Tate McClellan, MBA/MS is ACE Health Coach (USA), former Miss Georgetown/Washington, DC, fitness competitor, classical pianist and Positive Psychology Specialist.

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The secrets of the 'snoring' tuna

Mercamalaga. Several of the stalls at the main wholesale market in the province carry out the spectacular artisan butchering of bluefin tuna, one of the most popular delicacies in the world, every morning



AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ



▲ **Cuts.** Upper and lower loins, belly and parts of the head are among the finest cuts of tuna. **SALVADOR SALAS**

► **Butchering.** Fernando Jiménez, cutting up a 150-kilo bluefin tuna at Mercamalaga. **s. s.**

◀ Mercamálaga. Rafael Jiménez, Álvaro González and José Carlos García before the ronqueo at stall 6. **S. SALAS**



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The cutting-up of an Atlantic bluefin tuna isn't something most people see very often, but that doesn't mean it doesn't often happen. At Mercamalaga just outside Malaga city, one of the biggest wholesale markets in Andalucía, whole tuna fish are cut into pieces using artisan methods almost every day, but only a few people are there to see it. One of the market stalls which does so on a daily basis can be found in module number 6, Ramón Adreu Alvarado. It is run by Rafael Ji-

ménez Sánchez from Rivadepa, one of the biggest shellfish wholesalers. "We have been doing it for about a year now. We generally cut up between three and eight tuna a day, depending on demand. Most of it has been pre-ordered," says Fernando Jiménez, who is in charge of the process and has been doing it for three years, after being taught by a much older colleague. Fernando explains that the traditional way of cutting the tuna up is known as 'el ronqueo',

which sounds rather strange because it comes from the same root as 'roncar', or 'to snore' in English. "It comes from the noise the knife makes when it scrapes against the backbone. That's when it 'snores', he says, although people mostly identify the term with the manual method of extracting the parts of the tuna which can be eaten. "The idea is to cut the tuna as cleanly as possible to get the most out of it," continues Fernando, who uses four knives of

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different sizes for the job and usually spends less than ten minutes on each fish.

For the fish and shellfish stalls at Mercamálaga, the 'ronqueo' is a task carried out early in the morning, even before the first customers arrive, which means before 5am.

The idea is to have it prepared for when the siren sounds to indicate that the fish stalls in this market are open for business, says Rafael Jiménez.

Last year Mercamálaga sold 38.29 billion kilos of fish and shellfish (32.65 billion of fresh fish, 2.47 billion of frozen fish, 2.15 billion of fresh shellfish and 1.02 of frozen shellfish).

The 'ronqueo' starts with the head, from which parts of the interior are used; the 'morro' and 'morrillo' are in the upper part of the head, and are very popular due to their high fat content and intense flavour.

Although in Cadiz it is traditional to also use the 'facera' or 'carrillada' of a tuna, which come from the face, this is not the case at Mercamálaga. They don't use the 'parpatana', a piece extracted from behind the tuna's jaw, either.

Among those watching Fernando Jiménez is renowned Málaga chef José Carlos García, who owns the Michelin-starred restaurant of the same name on Muelle Uno.

The tuna is cut into pieces early in the day, before 5am when the first customers arrive

The term 'ronqueo' comes from the noise made when the knife comes into contact with the tuna's spine

It takes Fernando Jiménez less than ten minutes to cut up the fish, which could weigh 200 kilos, by hand

"It's not the first time I have come to a 'ronqueo', but it is something that always attracts me and I didn't want to miss this opportunity," he says. Standing beside him is the owner of the restaurant Asador Iñaki, Iñaki Teijón, and Rafael Jiménez, who owns the Ravidepa stall.

Dissection, step by step

The three watch closely as the tuna is cut into pieces in the traditional way. The one before this weighed 200 kilos. Fernando starts by separating the roe, then continues with the four loins, the two upper and two lower. First he begins to remove the

'ventresca', or stomach. It comes from the so-called 'lomo blanco'. It is much fattier and very popular with many consumers. It is during this process that the knife scrapes against the backbone and makes the 'snoring' noise.

Once the stomach is removed, Fernando starts to separate the upper loins from the lower ones and the 'tarentelo', which is the part between the stomach and the 'cola blanca' or white tail.

In just nine minutes, Fernando has completed the process of cutting up the tuna, before the curious and expectant gaze of José Carlos García and Iñaki Teijón. Meanwhile, at the stall they are arranging the merchandise ready to sell, and preparing several orders ready for delivery.

At exactly 5am the siren sounds to signal the start of the day. The doors to the fish and shellfish section of the market are opened. Today, customers can buy the best cuts of the tuna: loins, sirloin, central part of the loin, stomach, tarentelo, black tail, which comes from the upper part, white tail, which is from the lower, and parts of the head.

Rafael Jiménez rejects parts such as the roe, spine and the white and black 'espinetas', which are pieces of the tuna which would also be used in places such as Cadiz.

What's on a label?

ANDREW J. LINN



The media love it when they can break news about any sort of fraud, whether in the world of art, finance, or simply wine. The untiring interest may be due to the fact that there are often well-known personalities involved, and wine is, anyway, sort of sexy.

The major scandals to date have invariably been based on the counterfeiting of the world's greatest vintages, like dressing up an inferior wine to appear like one of the world's greatest. Rudy Kurniawan is serving a 10-year jail sentence in the US for doing just that, caught out when he counterfeited magnums of a famous Burgundy for a year when no magnums were used.

So why should anyone bother to make a cheap wine look like an older wine from one of the lowest value regions of Spain? Redolent of the decades-long battle between cava producers Freixenet and Codorniu, two Valdepeñas giants have accused each other of selling young wine as vintage. Felix Solis and García Carrión process millions of litres in Europe's largest wine-producing region, but something was seriously wrong with their ac-

counting, as they declared sales of more crianzas and reservas than had been declared for all the wine in their inventory. No prizes for guessing that if you bought a Viña Albali Reserva, for example, there was a good chance it was an unaged wine from the latest vintage. The problem of course is that when we buy wine, we tend to believe what we read on the label, even though the information shown is possibly the least informative of any alimentary product we buy.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Corcovo 24 Barricas

One of the really excellent reds to come out of Valdepeñas is the barrel-fermented Shiraz from the Corcovo bodega. Unusually, for both the grape variety and the fermentation method - eight months in oak on lees - it is hard to compare it with any other Spanish wine, and worth seeking out. Around 10 euros.





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The wine tourism experience comes to rural Ronda

The Bodega Doña Felisa, founded in 1999, has four special suites in the upper levels of the winery offering luxury accommodation

JAVIER ALMELLONES

RONDA. One of the leading wine companies in the province, Bodega Doña Felisa in Ronda, has been welcoming people to experience wine tourism in its luxurious accommodation since 2018.

In the upper part of the huge bodega are four suites available for those who want the 'full immersion' treatment. Each room has views of the extensive vineyards that surround the property and are named after the grape varieties that the bodega uses the most, Syrah, Tempranillo, Cabernet and Merlot.

Bodega Doña Felisa offers a

package which includes an overnight stay for two people including breakfast with a visit to the vineyards followed by a tasting of its main brands.

"It is an ideal option for those who want to switch off in a remote and quiet place, but also for those who want to experience quality wine tourism," explained Alberto Hernando, commercial director of the bodega.

Just twenty minutes by car from Tajo, the bodega is a short distance from the nature reserves of the Sierra de las Nieves and Grazalema.

Bodega Doña Felisa, founded in 1999 by José María Losantos and Gema Alonso, has become the first company in the sector in the province to offer exclusive accommodation within its facilities. Although in other parts of the country there are wineries that have hotels, there are not many like this, in which there are a small number of personalised rooms in the same place



The bodega offers accommodation as well as wine tasting and tours of the vineyards. SUR

where the wine is made.

The bodega also offers wine-tasting packages, guided tours of the vineyards and winery. They have an alliance with the Chivo de Canillas company and with the Sabor a Málaga brand whereby visitors can sample a pairing menu composed of four wines: Cloe Chardonnay with Ensalada Malagueña, Cloe Rose

with Gazpacho Rose, Red Seis+ Seis with goat kid cannelloni or Red Doble Doce with leg of goat kid supplied by Chivo de Canillas, at La Sociedad restaurant in Canillas de Aceituno.

Bodega Doña Felisa has over a dozen different wines on offer. The reds predominate with Chinchilla Roble, Encaste, Seis + Seis, Doble Doce and Mercure. There

is also a white wine Cloe, a rosé Cloe Rose, a dry sparkling wine called Cloe Brut Nature and a sweet version called BF Maestro.

All of these wines are available to purchase on their website individually or in mixed groups and there is also a booking section for the accommodation, tours and other wine tourism experiences.



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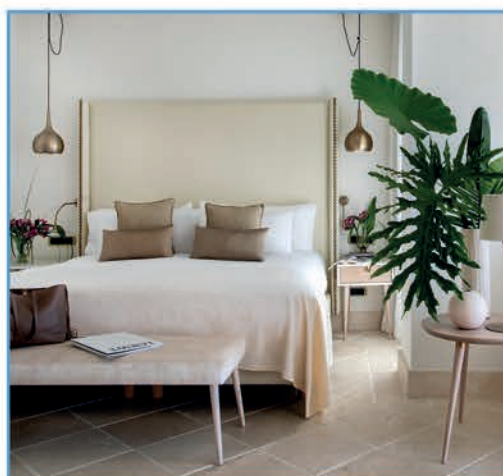
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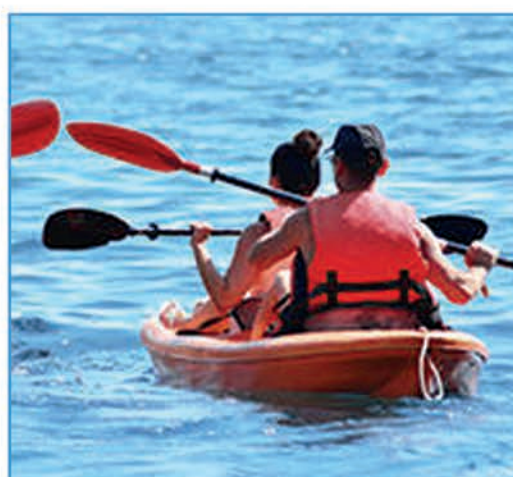
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Malaga pick up vital points to put them in the driving seat to stay in Segunda

Two draws, one win and an impressive no goals conceded means Malaga are comfortably positioned with only three games of the season left to play

SEGUNDA DIVISIÓN

Match day 40

Racing-Huesca	Saturday, 17.00
Las Palmas-Mirandés	Saturday, 19.30
Cádiz-Fuenlabrada	Saturday, 21.45
Deportivo-Extremadura	Sunday, 17.00
Numancia-Ponferradina	Sunday, 19.30
Lugo-Girona	Sunday, 19.30
Zaragoza-Oviedo	Sunday, 21.45
Almería-Rayo	Monday, 19.30
Sporting-Málaga	Monday, 19.30
Elche-Albacete	Monday, 21.45
Alcorcón-Tenerife	Monday, 21.45

Clasificación

Equipo	J	G	E	P	GF	GC	PT
1. Cádiz	39	19	12	8	49	35	69
2. Huesca	39	19	7	13	51	41	64
3. Zaragoza	38	17	10	11	53	43	61
4. Almería	38	16	12	10	58	38	60
5. Girona	38	15	11	12	43	38	56
6. Elche	39	14	13	12	47	40	55
7. Fuenlabrada	39	13	15	11	42	37	54
8. Rayo	38	11	20	7	51	42	53
9. Tenerife	38	14	11	13	47	41	53
10. Alcorcón	39	12	17	10	50	48	53
11. Mirandés	39	12	17	10	53	56	53
12. Sporting	38	13	11	14	37	33	50
13. Las Palmas	39	12	14	13	41	43	50
14. Málaga	39	10	19	10	32	31	49
15. Ponferradina	39	11	15	13	42	46	48
16. Deportivo	39	11	15	13	39	55	48
17. Oviedo	39	11	14	14	43	49	47
18. Lugo	39	10	15	14	37	50	45
19. Albacete	38	11	12	15	30	42	45
20. Numancia	38	11	11	16	40	46	44
21. Extremadura	39	8	13	18	37	52	37
22. Racing	39	4	18	17	37	53	30



0-0 RAYO-MÁLAGA

Rayo Vallecano: Dimitrievski; Advíncula, Saveljich, Catena, Luna (Saúl, 74'); Mario Suárez, Isi (Álvaro García, 74'), Oscar Valentín (Juan Villar, 59'), Trejo, De Frutos, Qasmi. Unused substitutes: Santamaría, Morro, Martín, Velázquez, Dani Moreno, Comesaña, Joni, Andrés.

Málaga: Munir; Cifu (Ismael, 88'), Juande, Lombán, Diego González, Juankar (Cristo, 83'); Renato (Juanpi, 58'), Keidi (Rolón, 83'), Ramón (Benkhemassa, 46'), Tete, Buenacasa. Unused substitutes: Gonzalo, Mikel, Quintana, Rafa Camacho, Iván Jaime, Juan Cruz, Larrubia.

Referee: Trujillo Suárez. Yellows for Saveljich, Óscar Valentín, Juande, Luna, Lombán, Tete, Juankar and Málaga coach Sergio Pellicer.

Ground: Vallecas.

Sturdy defensive show earns Malaga the point on the road they came for

HENRY FLYNN

Malaga still have the best defence in Segunda and it was used to good effect to claim a point on the road as they held Rayo Vallecano to a goalless draw in their first of three games in a week in Vallecas last Thursday night.

After the game, manager Sergio Pellicer likened the encounter to a “boxing match” and praised his team’s display against a side well placed to end the season in the division’s top half.

“I am really pleased with the players, they are the ones who made it happen,” he said after the contest, in which his team reduced Rayo to very few chances.

“We have added points in our last four games. We have to keep this going.”

Malaga were without regular captain Adrián and top scorer Armando Sadiku due to suspension, but the team – set up to thwart their opponent’s attack – stood up to the task.

Rayo troubled the Malaga goal after three minutes, but Alejandro Catena’s header from a corner was cleared off the line by Juankar.

Soon after, keeper Munir was forced into a save from winger Jorge de Frutos who ran at the Malaga backline before unleashing a powerful shot.

The home team had a penalty appeal too, but the referee deemed midfielder Óscar Trejo to have fallen too easily under the pressure of Keidi Bare.

Keidi himself fashioned a rare chance for Malaga, but Rayo stopper Stole Dimitrievski reacted well to stop his long-range effort.

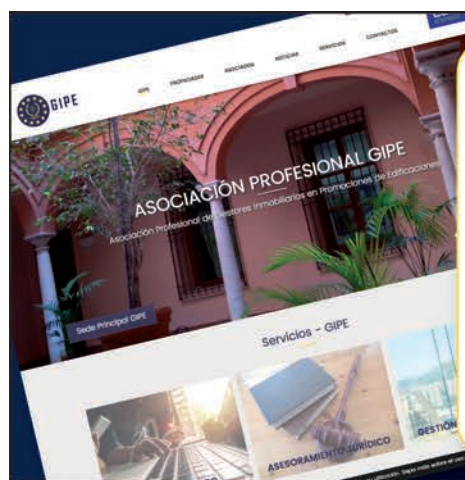
After half time, defender David Lombán tried his luck from a much further distance, but the aspirational strike from his own half was just off target.

The attempt summed up Malaga’s priorities, in a game where perhaps a point was more important than risking anything through attacking adventure.



As for Rayo, De Frutos came close again for Paco Jémez’s side, but he could not control his low shot which fizzed wide of the post.

Midway through the second half, Malaga’s best chance of stealing an unlikely away victory arrived when forward Sergio Buenacasa, in for Sadiku, headed straight at Dimitrievski, following substitute Juanpi’s free-kick delivery.

Rayo kept their visitors under the cosh in the final 20 minutes, but it was one of Malaga’s own players that almost got their breakthrough goal as stoppage time approached. Luckily for them, Munir was on his toes to prevent Juande putting through his own goal.



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Wing-back Cifu challenges for the ball. **SALVADOR SALAS**

Keidi sent off again but ten-man Malaga snatch another draw against direct rivals

H. FLYNN

Malaga laboured to a 0-0 draw at home to Albacete at La Rosaleda on Sunday night, their second match in three days which was made all the more difficult when Keidi Bare was dismissed for two clumsy yellow card challenges in two minutes.

After both qualifying for the La Liga promotion play-offs last campaign, each side went into the fixture with their objectives now fixed on evading the relegation trapdoor, and it showed in what was a tight encounter.

Albacete started the game more convincingly, with forward Dani Ojeda seeing his shot blocked excellently by wing-back Cifu from close range after seven minutes.

His strike partner Roman Zozulya also posed a danger to Malaga's defence, and showed nice footwork in the box before improvising an overhead kick effort just over keeper Munir's crossbar after ten minutes.

Malaga, in contrast, looked short of ideas, their only chances coming from two Juanpi free kicks which were well saved by Albacete's 19-year-old goalkeeper Gabriel Brazão.

The opening 45 minutes typified both teams' lack of goals so far this season, but in the second half, Keidi did his best to liven up

0-0 MALAGA-ALBACETE

Malaga: Munir; Cifu, Juande, Lombán, Diego González (Hicham, 80'), Juanpi; Juanpi (Benkhemassa, 72'), Keidi, Adrián, Tete (Buenacasa, 61'), Sadiku. Unused substitutes: Gonzalo, Renato, Rolón, Mikel, Cristo, Ismael, Ramón, Iván Jaime, Quintana.

Albacete: Brazão; Pedro, Arroyo, Kecojević, Fran García (Caballo, 83'); Acuña (Álvaro, 58'), M. Mesa, Barri (Jon Erice, 75'), Ojeda (Chema Núñez, 75'); Manu Fuster (Susaeta, 83'), Zozulya. Unused substitutes: Tomeu Nadal, A. Rodríguez, Caro, Víctor Segura, Navarro, Abdul, Miguel Ángel.

Referee: Vicandi Garrido. Keidi sent off for two yellows (72'). Bookings for Arroyo, Sadiku, Adrián, Diego González, Buenacasa and Álvaro.

Ground: La Rosaleda.

a tight game and saw his long-distance shot parried away by Brazão.

The away team received a boost halfway through the second period with Keidi's dismissal but, even with the extra player, Albacete didn't have the answers going forward.

Malaga survived Albacete's final attacking charge in injury time, with Munir's failure to gather Jiménez's shot sparking pinball inside the box before defender Álvaro Arroyo fired over the crossbar.

Yet another match finished goalless for Malaga, the fourth out of the previous six. An uninspiring yet effective restart to the campaign sees Pellicer's side unbeaten since losing to Huesca on 12 June.

Hicham goal in crucial six-pointer drags Malaga one step closer to safety

H. F.

Hicham Boussefiane scored the only goal of the game at La Rosaleda on Wednesday night to lift Malaga above opponents Deportivo in the Segunda table and cap off a positive week for the side.

Coach Sergio Pellicer introduced the Moroccan early in the second half, and he provided Malaga's first goal in nearly five hours of league football, finishing emphatically past Deportivo goalkeeper Dani Giménez.

After the clash - which as recently as 2018 was a familiar La Liga fixture - Pellicer said: "If we win against Sporting Gijón [their next match on Monday], we will celebrate it as if it were a title."

In a nervous opening, both teams appeared wary of losing and were content to play defensively. When Mohamed Benkhemassa - starting a match for the first time since January - won the ball in mid-field, he fed Armando Sadiku who fired the Blue and Whites' first attempt wide.

Juanpi, so often the creative engine spurring Malaga on, forced Giménez into a save midway through the first half with a well-struck free kick.

1-0

MALAGA-DEPORTIVO

Malaga: Munir; Cifu, Ismael, Lombán, Juande, Juanpi; Benkhemassa (Luis Muñoz, 53'), Juanpi (Renato, 85'), Tete (Hicham, 53'), Adrián (Rolón, 53'), Sadiku. Unused substitutes: Gonzalo, Mikel, Buenacasa, Cristo, Ramón, Iván Jaime, Quintana, Juan Cruz.

Deportivo: Dani Giménez; Bóveda (Merino, 69'), Mujaid, Bergantiños, Montero, David Simón (Christian Santos, 69'); Gaku (Borja Valle, 46'), Vicente Gómez; Aketxe, Beavue (Mollejo, 59'), Çolak (Hugo, 59'). Unused substitutes: Jovanovic, Ba, Luis Ruiz, Montero, Gandoy, Valín, Juan Rodríguez.

Goals: 1-0 Hicham (61').

Referee: López Toca. Yellow cards for Benkhemassa, Gaku, Mujaid, Christian Santos, Mollejo and Depor coach Manuel Pombo.

Ground: La Rosaleda.

The deflated expressions on the coaches' faces told the story at half time, as their teams cancelled each other out in the first 45 minutes. As if to communicate his frustrations, Pellicer made a triple substitution soon after the interval, as Tete Morente, Benkhemassa and captain Adrián made way for Luis Muñoz, Esteban Rolón and Hicham.

It was Hicham who made the telling difference, bursting through Deportivo's backline and scoring masterfully following Juanpi's defence-splitting pass. This decided what was a turgid game in Malaga's favour and helped to distance them further from the relegation zone with just three games remaining.



Hicham runs to the bench where Pellicer celebrates his winner. **Ñ. SALAS**



Víctor on Tuesday. **M. FERNÁNDEZ**

Former Malaga coach Víctor reaches agreement with the club over his dismissal

MARINA RIVAS

MALAGA. Coach Víctor Sánchez del Amo and his former employers, Malaga CF, reached an agreement in court on Tuesday after the club admitted to unfair dismissal.

Víctor lost his job when a sexual video went viral after he fell victim to an alleged attempted extortion. The club removed him from his post for the damage allegedly caused to its reputation.

However, the club has now accepted responsibility and a financial settlement has been reached. "Justice has been served," said Víctor's lawyer, Francisco Valverde.

After the hearing, which lasted less than an hour, Víctor told reporters that he was glad that the matter could be settled, stressing that dealings with the club had been a lot more amicable since the change in management at the top. "After turning their back on someone for having been a victim of crime, for me I thought it was very unfair," he said. However, Víctor admitted that he made several concessions as his way of helping the club out of the difficult financial situation it is in so that "the problems can start to be solved and that the fans can enjoy their team again".

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A LOOK AT LA LIGA
ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports

A gap opening up

Decision after decision has backfired at the Camp Nou and much of Barcelona's squad is now over the hill with no replacement in sight



When they look back at the history book on this La Liga season, it will go down as one of the least notable in decades.

The motivation has been to just complete the campaign; but, in truth, it is mainly a year of transition with Real Madrid a little further down the line than their great rivals, Barcelona.

It took a while for Real to adjust to life without Cristiano Ronaldo and they needed Zinedine Zidane to return to the club to lead them out of a maze.

He's built on the rock that is Sergio Ramos and started to oversee a rebuild that relies on youthfulness and organisation.

Ramos has been nothing short of magnificent in driving all those around him and setting the standards required to take ti-

ties. The old-timer has weighed in with nine goals this season, including three vital penalties in the space of three weeks since football restarted.

The young players such as Marco Asensio, Vinicius Júnior and Rodrygo have a role model to emulate.

Over at the Camp Nou, life is far less harmonious. The club seems to have lost its identity and decision after decision has backfired.

The key has always been to have a replacement in the building before the current occupant of the shirt is past the peak of his powers. Andrés Iniesta and Xavi Hernández departed when there was still fuel in the tank; that was the Barça way. The problem is that they failed to have the replacements ready.



Barça are still too reliant on Luis Suárez and Rakitic. AFP

Philippe Coutinho, Arthur and Frenkie de Jong were all expensively imported to fill the roles of the legends, yet none have reached the benchmark required. It is a mish-mash.

Ivan Rakitić is still a prominent player, albeit a couple of years past his sell-by date. Samuel Umtiti has never advanced, Nelson Semedo hasn't made the grade, Arturo Vidal doesn't come

close to reaching the standards of a Barcelona player and Martin Braithwaite was a bizarre panic signing. In an ideal world, Luis Suárez would have been sold last summer and Lionel Messi would be utilised far more sparingly.

It's hard to put a finger on exactly when it all went wrong. It has been a slow progression of ill-considered decisions.

A decade or so ago, there was a bunch of academy graduates competing for places, but the well has dried up. Riqui Puig and Ansu Fati are both getting game time, but they are years away from their peak.

Nobody was surprised when it was reported that the whole first team squad was available for potential transfer. Reports have emerged about even Messi contemplating leaving the club. This would normally be unthinkable, but it may be a consideration.

Plans must be made for post-Messi life. Do they cash in right now to splash out on an alternative superstar? Break the bank to invest in Kylian Mbappé or swallow their pride and re-sign Neymar?

There's a real danger that Real Madrid are creating a distance between the two clubs and Barcelona are just falling further behind.

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Date set for Marbella's first match in the play-offs for promotion

MARINA RIVAS

MALAGA. Almost four months after the football season was curtailed, Marbella will be back in action next week. The town and its surroundings have been chosen as the venue for the Segunda B play-offs and David Cubillo's side will start their campaign at the Marbella Football Centre against Peña Deportiva on 18 July (10pm).

Marbella are one of the clear favourites to go up but only time will tell in what shape the squad is in after such a long break.

Two of the 16 teams fighting for promotion will earn their spot in Segunda next weekend as the four Segunda B group leaders before the stoppage face off. The winners of Castellón-Logroñés (La Rosaleda, Saturday 10pm) and Cartagena-Atlético Baleares (La Rosaleda, Sunday 10pm) will earn spots in the second tier next season.

The losers of those two games will then join the six winners from the first round in the second. The winners of those games will then progress to the final round where the winners of the two games will earn the other two promotion spots.

Nerja fires starting pistol on Spanish athletics

Local athlete Ouassim Oumaiz claimed gold in the 5,000m, the distance in which he hopes to become an Olympian

MARINA RIVAS

NERJA. Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia may have monopolised all of the major athletics meetings in the last few years but it was Nerja which gave the starting pistol for Spanish athletics following the stoppage because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Enrique López Cuenca stadium in the town welcomed many of the country's top athletes on Saturday for the 2020 Nerja Challenge, sponsored by local restaurants Pulguilla and Ayo.

Around 150 spectators attended, in accordance with safety measures, for the event which lasted around two hours as just five races took place. In any case, every event boasted major names from the national athletics scene.

One of the races that gener-



The men's 5,000 metres, with the crowd in the background. M. R.

ated most interest was the men's 1500m, with two-time Olympic champion in the 800m Kevin López; European under-23 champion Ignacio Fontes; and other international competitors such as Mariano García and Gonzalo García on the starting line. First across the finishing line was Fontes with a good time of 3:40.78, to start the season. In the women's category of this distance, the winner was Lucía Rodríguez from Madrid.

It also proved to be a special day for local athlete Ouassim Oumaiz. The young man from Nerja took part in the 5,000m on his home track, the distance in which he hopes to become an Olympian and in which he made his official debut on Saturday. Up against the Olympic record holder in the 3000m steeplechase, Fernando Carro, both set a personal best but it was the time for Oumaiz to shine, winning with a time of 13.31.45.



Two-time champion, Alonso. EFE

Fernando Alonso to make F1 return after re-signing with Renault

DAVID SÁNCHEZ DE CASTRO

MADRID. Two-time world Formula One champion Fernando Alonso will return to the sport at the age of 39, it was announced on Wednesday.

Alonso has re-signed with Renault, the team with which he triumphed in 2005 and 2006, after quitting the sport at the end of 2018.

During his time out, Alonso became a two-time winner of the Le Mans 24 Hours (in 2018 and 2019), won the world endurance championship and also competed in this year's Dakar Rally.

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THE #BETTERTOGETHER REVOLUTION

Aresi, a property management and administration company located on the Costa del Sol, has revolutionised the market in residential management with their way of understanding the sector

MÁLAGA

SUR. Aresi property management and administration company proposes an innovative management model supported by a great back office and with the support of an entire team behind it.

The difference this company provides compared to other management and administration companies is the efficiency and quality of its services. At Aresi, clients benefit not only from a property manager and administrator but also from an accounts department, technical supervisors who visit the communities and a 24-hour call centre to provide a specialised, comprehensive service.



Lina Zilakauskienė, CEO of Aresi (left) and Isabel Román, head of the Costa del Sol branch (right). . Aresi



As company CEO Lina Zilakauskienė explains, their main goal is to take care of the communities they manage and accompany the owners and residents in all situations, no matter how complicated they may be.

Decalogue of good practise

Aresi was born as part of the European group City Service, experts in residential management with more than 20 years of experience in different countries including

Baltic countries, Spain, Poland and Russia.

The company, which has a strong local presence in Manilva, Ojén, Benahavís, Casares, Estepona, Marbella, Mijas and Benalmádena, proposes the #BetterTogether revolution, the company's motto.

As Isabel Román, head of the Costa del Sol branch, explains: "Our secret is that we know our communities very well because we're locals. For that reason, as well as understanding day-to-day problems, we're also prepared to

attend our clients in different languages, we have a multidisciplinary team and extensive training in the sector."

To this respect it is worth underlining that Aresi has made great achievements in the communities it manages, such as getting town councils to tarmac the access roads to residential complexes which were difficult to get to, or even having hunted a snake on one of the complexes to guarantee residents' safety. "We're here through thick and thin," Román reports.

The Costa del Sol at heart

The company's determination to settle on the Costa del Sol comes, as CEO Lina Zilakauskienė explains, from their consideration that "it has a lot of potential and a strong need for top notch services, such as those we provide."

Not in vain, Aresi expects to continue to grow in the area. "Our objective is peoples' wellbeing and peace of mind. That's why we innovate to enable out commercial offers to adapt to the current requirements and target the direct client-administrator relationship."

For that reason, the company has launched the "Good as new community" campaign, through which new clients can access an extra fund to carry out improvement projects without having to rely on extra fees or costs, simply for committing their business to the company.

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THE STARS




Aquarius
January 21st - February 19th
Offers coming your way brighten up future prospects. Maybe you feel a little bit guilty about starting to enjoy yourself? No need.




Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Recent confusion is not helping you to get back on an even keel. Get out a pad and pencil and write down what you do and don't want. That done, plan how you will go about getting it moving.




Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Keep up any exercise and good diet changes that have been made recently. High energy could make you feel emotional.




Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Always sensible but also impatient, be your own best friend this week. Consider all the possibilities before you act on instinct.



Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Are you still struggling with what is the 'new normal'? Be assured that things will gradually settle down. To balance this, get physical!




Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Getting rid of any negative things or people in your life gives the chance of a new beginning. Say 'thank you' nicely to those who have helped you but move forward swiftly.



Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Something this week brings a much lighter feeling to your life. Being a social animal usually goes in your favour but recently it has been stifled. You need to give yourself some TLC.




Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Give yourself a good talking to this week if your enthusiasm starts to wane. Everything is getting lighter in your life. Maybe it is still hard to see it. Look closer.



Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Some things that need to be done can only be done by you this week. The usual back-up crowd may not be there, at least not in the flesh. Take comfort from the fact that they would like to be.



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
That someone is watching your performance you can be sure. That you know who it is may not be so clear. If this makes you feel uneasy I would say that good intentions are all around you.

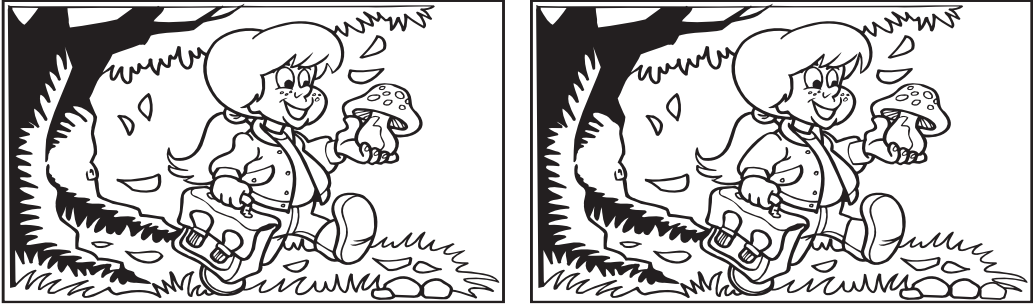


Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
There is something a bit airy-fairy about your thinking this week. Finances could be involved and need handling. Balance the books rather than ignore them and it will soon be resolved.

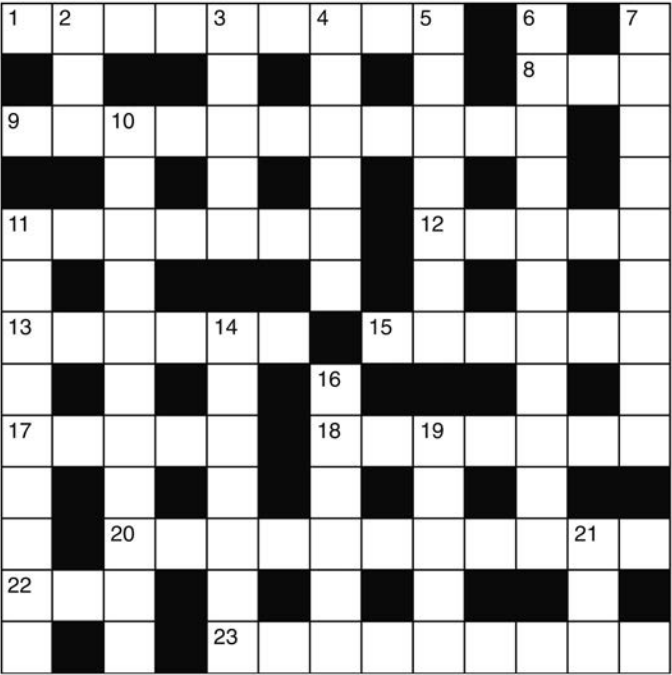


Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
The chance for personal growth (which may have been on hold) is now beginning. That, of course, needs more time for yourself.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11417



Across

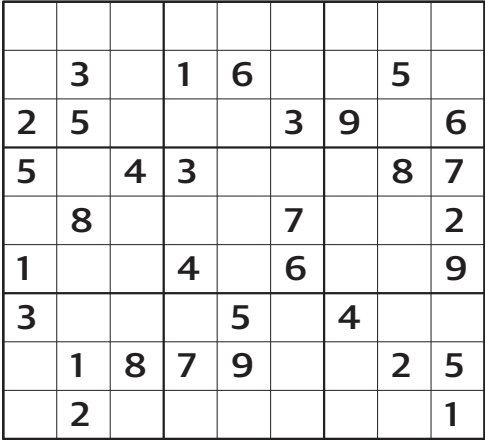
- 1 It's a cable used in northern waters (6,3)
- 8 With goings-on it would mean expenditure (3)
- 9 Tremendous anaesthetic used by very many (5,6)
- 11 Led race as obstruction removed (7)
- 12 Rated as commerce (5)
- 13 Current turn-on (6)
- 15 Curb newlywed about 50 (6)
- 17 It's lawful for all to change round for example (5)
- 18 He has no illusions about a string of names (7)
- 20 Tie EEC loner - he's after votes! (11)
- 22 A resort in Horse Guards Parade (3)
- 23 Deserts in weary state (9)

Down

- 2 On which to broadcast a tune (3)
- 3 Bury in uninteresting ceremony (5)
- 4 Measures depth of healthy specimen at first (6)
- 5 Half-fear somebody with teeth as settler of dispute (7)
- 6 Team's attack could put world in fear (7,4)
- 7 Unfortunately apt to take umbrage just now (2,7)
- 10 Does it ensure one gets a balanced diet? (7,4)
- 11 Actors unrestrained? Detach oneself (4,5)
- 14 Gather for prayer (7)
- 16 'Pen' sounds more correct (6)
- 19 Permitted to be said audibly (5)
- 21 Print measures from the last manuscript (3)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

Instructions
Complete the square making sure that every row of nine numbers includes all digits from 1 to 9, every column includes all digits from 1 to 9 and every 3 by 3 subsection includes all digits from 1 to 9



THE WORDPUZZLER

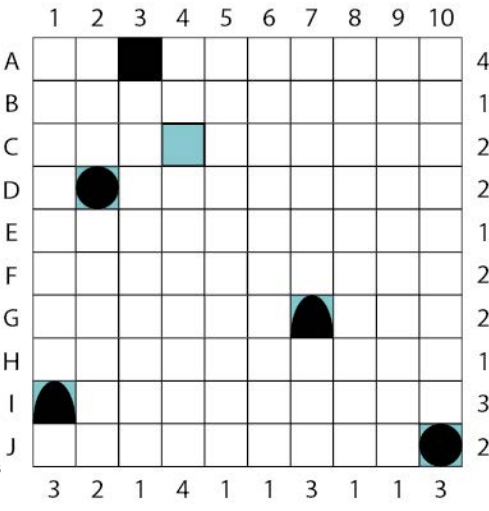
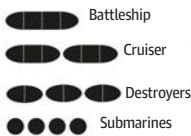


Can you identify the words missing from the TV catchphrases listed below?

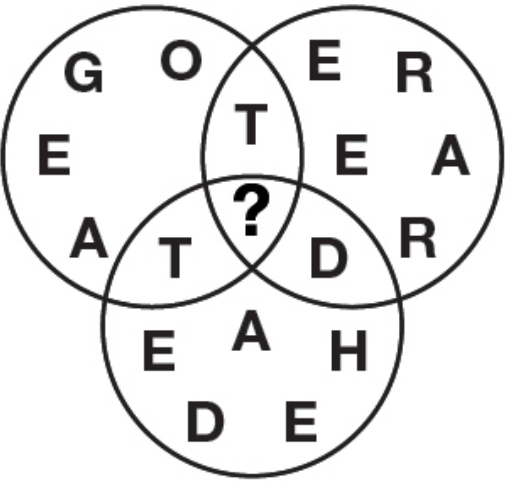
- 1. --- me up, Scotty
- 2. ---, good evening and welcome
- 3. It's goodnight from me, and it's goodnight from ---
- 4. Didn't he do ---
- 5. I've --- so I'll finish
- 6. I wanna tell you a ---
- 7. Your starter for ---
- 8. Ooh, you are ---
- 9. --- 'em, Danno
- 10. It's all in the best possible ---

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

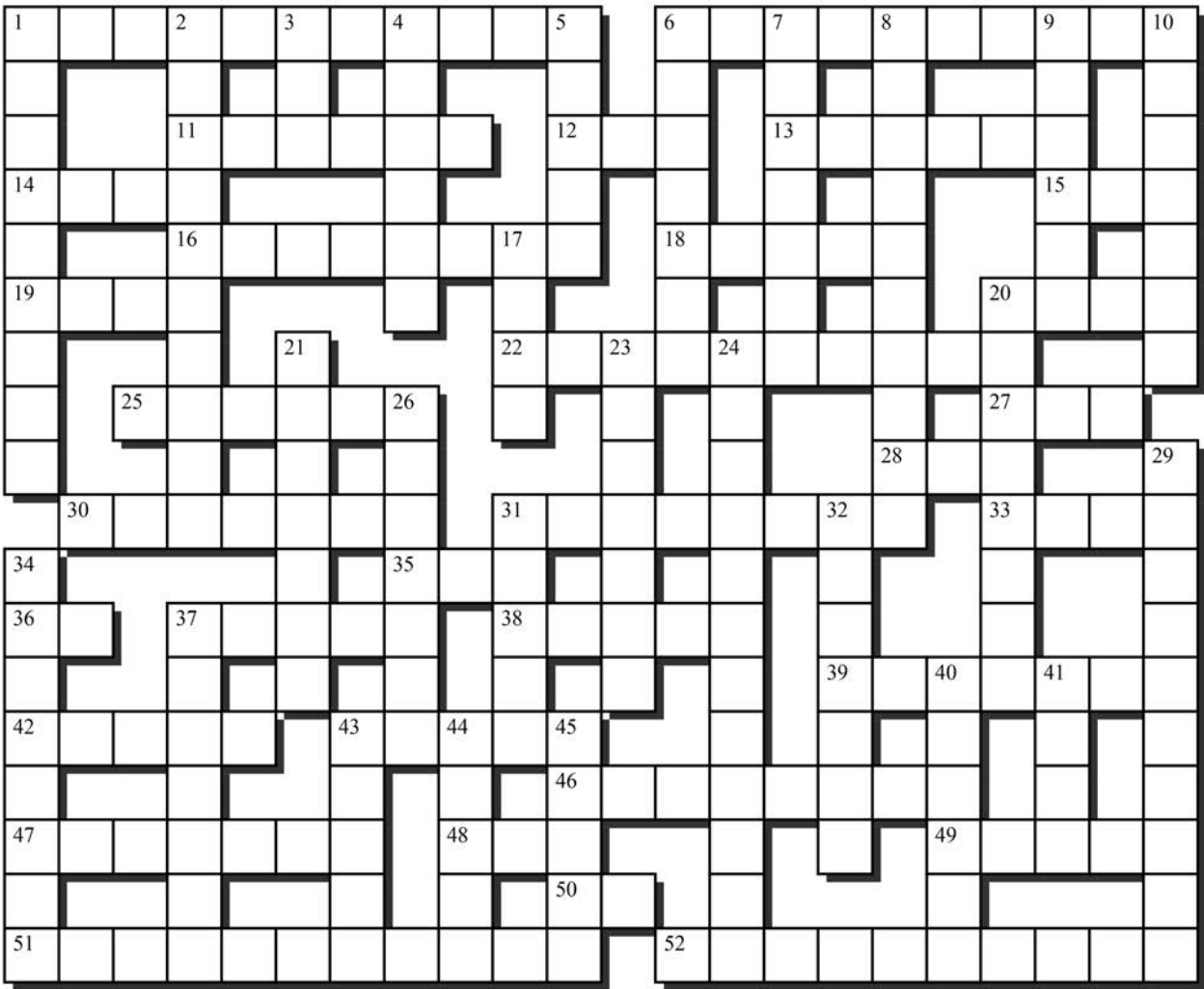


Instructions
Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters in each circle can be arranged to form words, names or terms on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across**
- 1) Historian (11)
 - 6) Musicologist (10)
 - 11) Not one (6)
 - 12) Such (3)
 - 13) Road (6)
 - 14) Abbot (4)
 - 15) She laughs (3)
 - 16) Statute (8)
 - 18) Anthem (5)
 - 19) They were going (4)
 - 20) This (f) (4)
 - 22) Beginnings (10)
 - 25) Land (6)
 - 27) With (3)
 - 28) To hear (3)
 - 30) To design (7)
 - 31) To compose (8)
 - 33) Island (4)
 - 35) Year (3)
 - 36) To the (2)
 - 37) Letterbox (5)
 - 38) (Me ___) I surrendered (5)
 - 39) It appears (7)
 - 42) Throne (5)
 - 43) Fence (5)
 - 46) Freedom (8)
 - 47) To level (7)
 - 48) Aunt (3)
 - 49) They bum (5)
 - 50) My (2)
 - 51) Imprisoned (m) (11)
 - 52) Concerts (10)

- Down**
- 1) Mankind (9)
 - 2) Tendencies (10)
 - 3) Rum (3)
 - 4) Matter (6)
 - 5) Rhythm (5)
 - 6) They stain (7)
 - 7) I succumbed (7)
 - 8) Composer (10)
 - 9) Smells (6)
 - 10) To order (7)
 - 17) I cover (4)
 - 20) To write (8)
 - 21) Scratch (7)
 - 23) It lights up (7)
 - 24) Knowledge (12)
 - 26) It starts (7)
 - 29) Peasants (10)
 - 31) Choral (5)
 - 32) Cham (7)
 - 34) Singer (8)
 - 37) Flag (7)
 - 40) I will walk (6)
 - 41) Age (4)
 - 43) Green (5)
 - 44) Lyrics (5)
 - 45) Poplar (5)



ANSWERS

Quiz answers

Answer: Big Daddy
Of interest: Shirley Crabtree Jr was an English professional wrestler like his father with a record-breaking 64-inch chest and better known as Big Daddy. He first became popular in the late 1950s, and early 1960s billed as the "Blond Adonis Shirley Crabtree."
Answer: Gopherwood
Of interest: Any of the answer options could be correct as translations vary and some believe 'gopher' meant planed, squared or pitched timber although English translations favour cypress.

Language Crossword

ACROSS:
1. HISTORIADOR 6. MUSICOLÓGO 11. NINGUN
12. TAN 13. CAVIAR 14. BARRIO 15. RIE
16. ESTAVI 17. THERIA 18. CON 28. OR
22. PUNCIPOS 25. THERIA 27. CON 28. OR
30. DISEÑAR 31. COMPOSER 33. ISLA 35. AÑO
36. 37. BUZON 38. RENDI 39. APERCE
42. TRONO 43. VALIA 46. LIBERTAD
47. NIVELAR 48. TIA 49. ARDEN 50. MI
51. ENCARGELADO 52. CONCIERTOS
DOWN:
1. HUMANIDAD 2. TENDENCIAS 3. RON
4. ASUNTO 5. RITMO 6. MANCHAS 7. SUCUMBI
8. COMPOSITOR 9. OLORES 10. ORDENAR
17. TAP 20. DESCRIBIR 21. ARAÑAZO
23. LUMINA 24. CONOCIMIENTO 26. ARANCA
29. CAMPESINOS 31. CORAL 32. NCANTO
34. CANTANTE 37. BANDERA 40. ANDARE
41. EDAD 43. VERDE 44. LETRA 45. ALAMO

Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 1 Baltic Sea; 8 Out; 9 Great number; 11 Cleared; 12 Trade; 13 Switch; 15 Bride; 17 Legal; 18 Realist; 20 Electioneer; 22 Spa; 23 Tiredness. Down: 2 Air; 3 Inter; 4 Sounds; 5 Arbitr; 6 Forward line; 7 At present; 10 Evening meal; 11 Cast loose; 14 Collect; 16 Writer; 19 Aloud; 21 Ems.

Wordpuzzler solution

1. Beam
2. Hello
3. Him
4. Well
5. Started
6. Story
7. Ten
8. Avul
9. Book
10. Taste

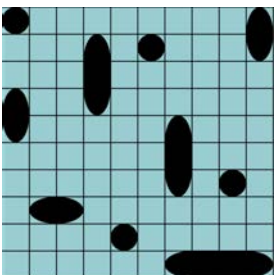
Sudoku solution

8	4	6	9	7	5	2	1	3
7	3	9	1	6	2	8	5	4
2	5	1	8	4	3	9	7	6
5	6	4	3	2	9	1	8	7
9	8	3	5	1	7	6	4	2
1	7	2	4	8	6	5	3	9
3	9	7	2	5	1	4	6	8
6	1	8	7	9	4	3	2	5
4	2	5	6	3	8	7	9	1

Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is C. Cottage, terraced, detached, all types of houses.

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



Last week: Marbella

A large pot plant sits in the middle of this small roundabout on Avenida Piedramar in Marbella near the Urb. Cortijo de Nagüeles.



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A virtual tribute to the Malaga hero of American independence

Macharaviaya. The Axarquía village joined the US cities of Pensacola and Galveston to celebrate 4 July in honour of Bernardo de Gálvez

EUGENIO
CABEZAS



The coronavirus pandemic has led to the cancellation of hundreds of events throughout Malaga province in the last four months. However, one of the annual events to still go ahead, albeit by video conference, was the Independence Day celebrations in the small Axarquía village of Macharaviaya.

Each year on 4 July the village pays tribute to Bernardo de Gálvez, a Spanish soldier who played a key role in the battle of Pensacola during the American War of Independence.

After 10 years of organising reenactments of the battle, which saw Macharaviaya-born De Gálvez and his troops beat the English, this year the reenactment had to take place via the internet.

During the 75-minute video conference, messages were exchanged between the cities of Pensacola and Galveston in Florida and Macharaviaya in Malaga as well as other parts of the world.

Macharaviaya, Pensacola and Galveston are "sister cities with great historic connections", said the local mayor, Antonio Campos, during the session.

From the village square, where since 2014 the Bernardo de Gálvez sculpture has stood, and



Mayor of Macharaviaya, Antonio Campos, during the virtual celebrations in Macharaviaya. **SUR**

dressed in period costume as well as the obligatory face mask, the mayor thanked the two US cities for their participation and said that despite the "critical situation we are experiencing with the coronavirus pandemic we cannot lose our history".

He went on to describe De Gálvez as a "hero shared between Spain and the United States".

A number of spokespeople from different authorities in the two US

cities went on to give further tributes to the Malaga soldier.

Sculpture

While the Covid-19 crisis has slowed down progress to a sculpture of De Gálvez upon his horse being created by Erik Kaposta, the sculptor has been able to continue with his work, which will be placed in a park in Galveston, the city which is named after the celebrated soldier.

Malaga historian Manuel Olmedo pointed out that 2021 will mark 20 years since research began into the historical figure of Bernardo de Gálvez

De Gálvez went on to become governor of Louisiana and viceroy of Nueva España. As well as the sculpture, composer Mary Carol is working on an opera in his memory.

Malaga historian Manuel Olmedo, who is also vice-president of the Bernardo de Gálvez association, added that 2021 will mark twenty years since research into Bernardo de Gálvez began.

"We have corrected and clarified many historical errors, including the fact that his second surname wasn't Madrid but in fact Gallardo, and that he didn't die from falling off a horse, or from being poisoned, but from a serious illness which he contracted in New Orleans," Olmedo who has written five books about Gálvez, pointed out.

Teresa Valcárcel, who is originally from Galicia but lives in the USA, also took part in the video conference. Valcárcel is behind an initiative which led to a portrait of De Gálvez being hung in Capitol Hill. The Spanish hero has also been named an honorary citizen of the USA. Only seven other historical figures have been awarded the title, including Mother Theresa and Winston Churchill.

Last Saturday's event finished with members of the local association staging a brief parade in costume around the soldier's statue in Macharaviaya, before the Spanish and US flags were raised while the national anthems of both countries were played.

Participants are hopeful that next year's 4 July celebrations will be able to take place with the usual US visitors.

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