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October 23rd to 29th 2020
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News	2
Comment	20
Lifestyle	22
What to do	28
Health&Beauty	32
Food&Drink	36
Sport	37

THEATRE
BANDERAS
REVEALS NEW
MUSICAL
PLANS

The Malaga actor is to direct and star in Company at his Soho theatre next year **P23**



Spain's regions agree standardised rules while support for curfew grows

Regional Health ministers met with national government ministers on Thursday to work out common procedures for extending restrictions

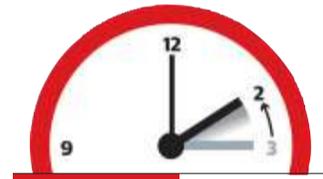
Amid increasing calls from some regions of Spain for measures to allow nighttime curfews, national ministers and officials met with their local counterparts on Thursday to attempt to further standardise rules.

The new national plan will have four levels of alert, but in

the end officials stopped short of curfew measures for the worst affected areas, amid legal uncertainty.

On Thursday, 20,986 new cases were added to the government's rolling total and the national case rate was 368 per 100,000 in the last 14 days. **P2&3**

Don't forget!
Clocks go back
on Sunday
morning at 3am



INSIDE

Numbers of wild boar
roaming into urban areas
are increasing on the Costa del
Sol due to a lack of control **P14**



Representatives of the Ladies European Tour and local authorities this week. **JOSELE**

Casares to host the Solheim Cup

World-class golf. The best women golfers will meet on the Costa del Sol in 2023 as the Finca Cortesin course is confirmed as the venue for the next Solheim Cup. **P37**

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Andalucía tightens restrictions, from stricter mask rules to selective curfews

The regional government first wants to check the legality of its nighttime movement ban in Granada and hopes national rules will be set

SUR

SEVILLE. The Junta de Andalucía regional government toughened anti-Covid rules this week while calling on central government to insist on nighttime curfews in the worst-hit areas nationally.

On Thursday the regional cabinet put in place its first strict curfew on the Granada city area. Movement will be banned from 11pm to 6am as soon as a court approves the measure. Judges have been asked to verify the legality of the unilateral rule, given the current absence of a state of alarm decree from central government to support it.

The measure is also subject to any extra rules a committee of health ministers from all regions meeting nationally was due to agree on Thursday evening.

Andalucía is among those regions calling for central government to take the lead in bolstering legal back-up to the toughest local actions.

More restrictions on bar opening times and mass, controlled testing are being added to the Andalusian cities of Seville, Jaén and Cordoba as well as 13 other smaller municipalities, including Teba in Malaga. Bars and res-



The Andalusian regional minister for Health, Jesús Aguirre, explains the latest data on Thursday this week. EFE

taurants in those places must now close at 10pm and reduce their occupancy.

Mask rules extended

Those practising sport, such as running and cycling, across the region in busy areas will now be forced to wear their masks. In addition masks will have to be worn at bar and restaurant tables or bars if people are chatting and not actually eating or drinking.

“The evolution of the contagions has grown at a worrying

rate; it’s time to strengthen the measures to protect the health of the people of Andalucía, with the support of the experts,” said Elías Bendodo, regional government spokesperson on Thursday.

The regional Health minister,

Jesús Aguirre, added that he viewed “in a positive way” any national measures to implement selective nighttime curfews.

Earlier in the week, the Junta president, Juanma Moreno, had told the regional parliament that he



Borders were closed to non-essential travel in Navarra on Thursday. EFE

Measures could range from the stricter curfews to closing bars at 10pm and recommending that people don’t leave their homes at night.

Case numbers rise

Spain has seen its contagion levels continue to rise in the past week. On Thursday 20,986 new cases were added to the central government statistics. This week Spain’s official figures broke the one-million case barrier.

Granada and several northern

areas of Spain joined Madrid this week with local restrictions of movement in and out of them. The northeastern region of Navarra had its borders closed from

Granada and several northern areas of Spain joined Madrid this week with local restrictions of movement

NEW JUNTA MEASURES

► **Face masks for individual sports.** The obligation to wear face masks has been extended to runners and cyclists practising sport in areas where there are large numbers of other people. **This applies to the entire region of Andalucía.**

► **Face masks in bars and restaurants.** The face mask rule has also been extended to cover customers in bars and restaurants while seated at tables or at the bar when they are not actually eating or drinking. **This applies to the entire region of Andalucía.**

► **Granada curfew.** The increase in hospitalisations in Granada has led the Junta to call for a curfew between 11pm and 6am in the city and 30 surrounding towns and villages.

► **City restrictions.** Seville, Cordoba and Jaén will be subject to the same restrictions already in place in Granada. These include reduced bar opening hours and reduced numbers of guests at events.

wanted central government to act.

Case rates vary by province

Within Andalucía, there are wide variations in case rates. While the regional average on Thursday was 294 cases per 100,000 in the last 14 days, Granada province topped the list of the eight regional provinces with a 640 case rate, followed by Seville province with a rate of 351. Among the lowest case rates was Cadiz and Malaga provinces with 147 and 163 respectively.

Thursday by its regional leaders for all but essential travel

The Castilla y León region was asking for nationwide curfew measures on Thursday, with several of its largest cities facing local restrictions on movement.

The regional governments of La Rioja and Aragón also stayed one step ahead of national government coordination plans on Wednesday by decreeing localised confinements.

Faced with growing case rates, La Rioja said that from today, Friday, its borders would be closed until 7 November, except for essential travel, such as to work or school. Non-essential shops will also close at 9pm.

“We have to take a further step toward the measures, be decisive and act in all the region,” said the La Rioja government.

In Aragón the regional government there announced that the capitals of its three provinces, Zaragoza, Huesca and Teruel, would face non-essential travel restrictions.

Politicians put off decision on nighttime curfews, despite growing support

The national Health ministry discussed the proposal with regional ministers at their regular meeting on Thursday afternoon

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MADRID. The government’s Health ministry met with the health chiefs of Spain’s autonomous regions on Thursday afternoon to discuss nationwide guidelines on more severe lockdown measures which include possible nighttime curfews.

The scheduled, regular meet-

ing was held against a background of increased calls from some regional presidents for a nighttime lockdown. Politicians and experts were debating ways to give legal cover to the move, which is seen as currently not possible without a state of alarm decree.

In the end politicians put off the difficult curfew decision for a future meeting, while agreeing to standardise the approach to restrictions in other ways.

In central government’s plan being discussed with the regions on Thursday, it was reported that four different levels of alert would be established.

INFECTION RATES

14-day case notification rate per 100,000 inhabitants (on Thursday 22 October).

- ▶ Andalucía. 294.2
- ▶ Malaga province. 163.4
- ▶ Granada province. 640.4
- ▶ Almeria province. 160.8
- ▶ Cadiz province. 147.0
- ▶ Cordoba province. 339.8
- ▶ Seville province. 351.2
- ▶ Jaén province. 474.0
- ▶ Estepona. 133.3
- ▶ Marbella. 244.8
- ▶ Mijas. 123.3
- ▶ Fuengirola. 139.5
- ▶ Benalmádena. 199.6
- ▶ Malaga city. 157
- ▶ Nerja. 61.6
- ▶ Spain. 333 (Weds.)
- ▶ Madrid. 432 (Weds.)

Mass testing and early closing in Teba, Almáchar and Cuevas de San Marcos

The 14-day case notification rate per 100,000 inhabitants for Malaga province was 163.4 on Thursday

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MALAGA. New regulations brought in this week by the Junta de Andalucía have affected numerous towns and villages whose Covid-19 infection rate is especially high.

In the province of Malaga, the inland village of Teba, with 71 positive cases among 3,700 inhabitants, the new rules mean that bars and restaurants must be closed by 10pm, and only open to 50 per cent of capacity before then.

Numbers of guests at weddings and funerals have also been cut further to 30 and 15 respectively.

With a 14-day case notification rate per 100,000 inhabitants currently at 1,276, the regional authority is to carry out mass Covid testing as it has done previously in Sierra de Yeguas and Villanueva de la Concepción.



Testing this week in Cuevas de San Marcos. NITO SALAS

Mass screening with rapid antigen tests will also be carried out in the village of Almáchar in the Axarquía where 16 cases have been recorded among a population of no more than 1,800. Some 320 local residents, selected randomly, will be tested this Friday

and Saturday.

Also subject to further restrictions similar to those affecting Teba this week is the village of Cuevas de San Marcos. The new measures include the closure of public parks and gardens.

In Cuevas de San Marcos, 330

local people were tested for Covid-19 on Tuesday this week. The increase in the number of positive cases in the village amounted to a 14-day rate of 3,500 per 100,000 inhabitants, sparked by an outbreak in a care home where so far 100 cases have been reported.

New cases

The latest figures reported on Thursday for Malaga province showed an increase of 306 new cases in the previous 24 hours. Six new Covid-related deaths were reported, making 88 fatalities so far this month and 463 in Malaga province since the start of the pandemic.

The regional Health authority reported 23 new outbreaks in Malaga province this week accounting for 168 new cases. Half of them are in the Malaga health district, six on the Costa del Sol.

The 14-day case notification rate per 100,000 inhabitants in Malaga province was at 163.4 on Thursday.

There were 203 people with Covid-19 in hospital, 30 of them in intensive care.

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Work has begun on the new water deposit for Mijas Pueblo

MIJAS

The works, which will cost over one million euros, are being financed through an extra charge on the municipal water bills, approved in 2018

IVÁN GELIBTER. Work to build the new water deposit in Mijas Pueblo - which has been made possible thanks to a special charge on municipal water bills for infrastructure projects - began this week.

The project is being carried out jointly by the council and the Acosol water company and it was officially launched by the mayor, Josele González, the councillor for Infrastructure and Public Works, José Carlos Martín, the General CEO of Acosol, Carlos Cañavate and Executive CEO Manuel Cardeña.

Mijas council is in charge of these works, which will cost around 1.3 million euros and should be completed in five



The project was officially launched by the mayor this week. **SUR**

months. This deposit will not only guarantee the water supply but also the pressure for it to reach people's homes, especially in the area around the village, and is something the council has been calling for in recent years. It will supply about 10,000 cubic metres of water to peo-

The new deposit will provide about 10,000 cubic metres of water and is something the council has been calling for in recent years

ple's homes, and "thanks to team work it is closer than ever to becoming reality," said the mayor.

González stressed his appreciation for Acosol's collaboration since the new management took over, and the company's commitment to improving the infrastructure in Mijas, where several hydraulic improvements are planned. "Thanks to their positive attitude, we are going to get this finished as soon as possible so the people of Mijas can benefit from it," he said.

The council believes that in a few months it will be possible to talk about a 'before and after' in terms of water supply to Mijas Pueblo, said José Carlos Martín, as the traditional lack of water will be a thing of the past when all these projects have been completed. These will improve the quality of the service and they include a network of impulsion pipes up from Las Lagunas.

The project is being financed thanks to an agreement reached two years ago between Mijas council and the regional government's Environment and Land Organisation ministry, under which the local authority is permitted to apply an extra charge to carry out works of this type. This is a special tax applied within Andalucía for domestic water consumption, which is then used to finance any type of water-related infrastructure projects.

Council threatens to withdraw licences for outside terraces if they are not kept clean

BENALMÁDENA

I. GELIBTER. From now on, owners of bars, cafés and restaurants in Benalmádena will have to keep their terraces clean and tidy or have their licences to use them withdrawn. This is one of several rules announced by the mayor, Víctor Navas, this week. He reminded the owners that it is their responsibility to look after the areas outside their premises but said that in some cases this isn't being done.

"Keeping the town well-maintained and clean is down to all of us. Council workers are not there to clean areas of the street where the bars and restaurants have their terraces; that is their own responsibility," he insisted, stressing that the pandemic obliges the local authority to be "extremely rigorous" in this respect.

In the next couple of weeks Local Police officers will also be checking that shops which display their wares outside are also complying with the rules.

Fuengirola hotels receive nearly 600,000 euros of assistance

FUENGIROLA

I. G. Hotels in Fuengirola have begun to receive financial assistance from the council. Rosa Ana Bravo and Rodrigo Romero, the councillors for Finance and Tourism respectively, say 22 local hotels have benefited so far and those that have not applied can still do so until 30 October. This payment is part of the Plan for Economic and Social Reactivation, which applies to hotels, hostels, pensions and apart-hotels in the municipality, a sector which has been hit particularly hard by the pandemic. "So far we have granted 22 payments totalling 595,500 euros," says Rosa Ana Bravo.

Rodrigo Romero says the council has tried to find ways to help local businesses, such as temporary exemptions from rubbish collection charges or street occupancy fees for kiosks and municipal concessions.

"We want to do what we can to help these businesses to survive and enable people to keep their jobs," he says.

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Inside the Roman baths in Guadalmina. **JOSELE**

Guadalmina Roman Baths to be converted into a tourist attraction

The third-century ruins lay abandoned for a long time and are in a very bad state of repair so the project will take several years

SUR IN ENGLISH

MARBELLA. The 'Bóvedas de Guadalmina' Roman baths, one of Marbella's most important archaeological sites, are to be rehabilitated with the aim of preserving them and making them a first-class tourist attraction.

These Roman remains, situ-

ated beside the Guadalmina river and next to the beach, date back to the third century but are currently in very bad condition. They have been unprotected for years, as they were discovered in the 17th century but were not classified as a Site of Cultural Interest until 2007.

The Junta de Andalucía's Minister for Culture, Patricia del Pozo, said this week that the project will take several years and will be carried out in stages. The first of these will be to ascertain the exact state of the ruins and draw up plans, and this will be included in the Junta's 2021 budget.

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British national shot in the face during Marbella bar brawl

Five were arrested after the shooting, which took place during a fight that broke out in Nueva Andalucía, on Saturday night

SUR

MARBELLA. A British man in his fifties was admitted to Malaga's Hospital Regional on Saturday night with gunshot wounds to the face.

The man, who was shot twice during a fight, was admitted to the hospital's intensive care unit following surgery to remove a bullet. His condition was described earlier this week as "very serious".

The National Police arrested five people, also reported to be British, in connection with the shooting.

The emergency services received a call just before 9pm on Saturday, reporting a fight that broke out in a bar in Avenida del Prado, on the Aloha estate in Nueva Andalucía. The caller informed of the use of a firearm and said that a man had been



Paramedics attend the victim at the scene. **JOSELE**

Emergency services received a call saying that a fight had broken out in a bar on the Aloha estate in Nueva Andalucía

shot. Ambulance and police services were sent to the scene. A National Police patrol in the area located and arrested five individuals allegedly involved

in the incident.

The victim, who, according to sources, suffered injuries to the nose and an eye, was taken initially to the Costa del Sol hospital in Marbella, but was then transferred to the Hospital Regional (formerly Carlos Haya) in Malaga due to the gravity of his injuries.

The man is apparently a tourist, who was staying on a luxury development in Estepona, sources told SUR.

112 REPORTS



An ambulance at the home of the victim. **SUR**

MIJAS

Pensioner shot during attempted burglary in luxury villa

F. TORRES / J. CANO. The Guardia Civil are looking for two men after a 70-year-old British man was shot by intruders in his lux-

ury villa in Mijas Costa. The incident occurred at around 8.30 on Wednesday morning.

The victim was shot in the leg after apparently confronting the men when he heard them in his house,

The alleged burglars fled the scene without taking anything of value.

MALAGA

Glass stands up to attempted ram raid in Calle Larios shop

Á. F. / J. C. The window of a mobile phone shop on the pedestrianised Calle Larios in Malaga was left with significant damage on Wednesday morning after two hooded men rammed the shop front with their vehicle and then hit it with bats. The would-be thieves, however, were unable to break the glass and left empty-handed. The shop opened as usual.



Damage to shop front. **SUR**

MALAGA

Worker killed in accident on industrial estate

F. TORRES. A man, aged around 55, died on Tuesday morning after losing his balance while carrying an iron plate which then landed on his neck and head.

He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The incident, classified by police as a workplace accident, occurred on the Santa Cruz industrial estate in Malaga city, where the worker was well known.

MARBELLA

Armed men arrested after police chase

F. T. Two British men, aged 29 and 30, were arrested in Puerto Banús recently following a brief chase after the pair skipped a police checkpoint, almost running over several officers.

The driver of the luxury vehicle, with British plates, made a sudden manoeuvre but the police acted quickly to block the vehicle. Inside, police found a revolver and several cartridges.

MALAGA

Tourist held for refusing to wear a mask five times and spitting at police

J. C. / Á. F. A 22-year-old British tourist was arrested in Malaga on Sunday after spitting at police officers when they told him to put on his face mask.

The man, who was approached while drinking alcohol on the seafront promenade near the Malagueta beach, was with two friends who both followed the officers' instructions.

Despite being asked to put on a mask five times in English, he continued to refuse, becoming aggressive with officers and spitting at them.

He was arrested, but became so agitated that he was taken to hospital where he was restrained and sedated.

According to his sister and girlfriend, who provided his passport so he could be identified, he had not taken drugs, but had drunk a lot.

They also said that bouts of aggression were not unusual for him.



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The Axarquía's own Caminito del Rey is ready to welcome walkers

The highlight of the renewed El Saltillo walkway to be opened on Monday is the new suspension bridge, the third longest in Spain

ANTONIO M. ROMERO

MALAGA. The so-called 'Caminito del Rey of the Axarquía' will be officially opened by the provincial government, Diputación, on Monday. The path, which runs along a gorge between the municipalities of Canillas de Aceituno and Sedella, will be unveiled as the latest part of the Gran Senda (Great Trail) circle of walking routes around the province.

The walk's real name is El Saltillo and it begins in the central square of Canillas de Aceituno and covers eight kilometres (round trip), giving spectacular views of the Almanchares river.

The highlight of the route is the new suspension bridge, made of wood and steel, which at 50 metres is the third longest in Spain.

The provincial government invested around 600,000 euros in the project, which the authority's president, Francisco Salado, has described as "a major attraction" for the area.

The route, which will be free to use, was built on an existing path but significant improvements have been made to increase safety and ease of use of the walkways, some of which are 100 metres above ground.



The view from one side of the newly built suspension bridge. DIPUTACIÓN DE MÁLAGA

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Norwegian family get their home back but squatting nightmare isn't over yet

Siblings Lisbeth and Jørn Hokholt are now able to access their home after 13 months but inside everything is "completely destroyed"

EUGENIO CABEZAS

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. After 13 months described as "a real nightmare", Norwegian siblings Lisbeth and Jørn Hokholt have regained entry to their property in Caleta de Vélez, which had been occupied by squatters since September 2019 until they left voluntarily a few weeks ago.

During this time, the brother and sister have only been able to come to Caleta once, last De-



The siblings outside the property which was occupied until now. SUR

cember, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

However, when they can next make the trip, they will be required to take stock of the damage that has been caused to the

property, built by their parents at the end of the 1960s.

"It's been completely destroyed," said Eduardo López-Chicheri, the family's lawyer, who went inside accompanied by the police, after receiving the news that the squatters had left.

"In furniture alone, they've stolen more than two thousand euros' worth, but they've also destroyed doors, wardrobes and partition walls, and taken the bathroom fittings," he said.

The lawyer explained that the court in Vélez-Málaga, which had been handling the case, has been informed that the family would be officially reporting the squatters, who had been identified by police during a visit this year, for the damages and theft.

HERE AND THERE

ÁLORA

Malaga-Seville trains to stop at El Chorro

A. JIMÉNEZ. The regional medium-distance trains between Malaga and Seville will now also stop at the El Chorro-Caminito del Rey station, said Álora Mayor Francisco Martínez and PSOE national MP Nacho López on a visit to the area on Wednesday.

At present only two trains stop there daily in each direction and it is hoped that the service will increase back to five.

Both men also said that the town hall and the Public Works ministry were "still looking into" having the Malaga-Álora Cercanías train line extended to El Chorro.

MALAGA

Flights to Valencia to start from 1 December

P. MARTÍNEZ. Malaga and Valencia will from 1 December be connected by a new air route operated by budget airline Ryanair. The low-cost operator has included the route as part of its new strategy to strengthen national connections following pandemic restrictions on international travel.

Flights will run three times a week between the two cities which are notoriously poorly connected. Other new national routes include: Alicante-Vitoria (twice a week); Barcelona-Lanzarote (four a week); and Palma-Jerez (two).

"With these new flights, the company continues to support regional trade and local tourism," it said.

Drug gangs in Malaga city have been 'renting' rooms to squatters to look after their marijuana crops

FERNANDO TORRES

MALAGA. The National Police in Malaga have uncovered an increasingly common practice among drugs gangs in the city: allowing squatters to stay in properties in return for them looking after their marijuana crops.

As two detectives told SUR, this is particularly prevalent in poorer areas where the gangs can take advantage of individuals' financial situation to ensure that their plants are kept safe, are watered correctly and everything is in order for a successful crop. "They want their drugs to be controlled as much as possible, so it's a win-win situation," said one of the investigators.

In many cases these plantations, typically of up to 300 plants, are initially set up by professionals, but in others, the installations are more rudimentary and can lead to numerous problems, including fires.

Another problem is friction with neighbours. Disturbances occur primarily because of the smell, which in turn informs other gangs of the presence of a plantation and can lead to 'vuelcos' (thefts between gangs, often involving firearms).

These plantations are "particularly lucrative", said one officer, because they cut out shipping costs. "The penalties for these crimes almost never lead to prison," he added.

Regional government gives Brick Beach project green light

The pioneering recycling plant designed to turn construction waste into sand is the first of its kind in Europe and will be funded by EU money

AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. The Junta de Andalucía regional government has given the green light to a project that will see construction waste converted into sand to regenerate the beach in Mezquitilla.

The Brick Beach project, which has been in the pipeline for two years, involves a recycling plant being built in the Taramillas area of Vélez-Málaga, near the town's waste-water plant.

Pioneering project

The pioneering project is being funded mainly with European Regional Development Funds (ERDF), with 20 per cent of the five-million-euro cost coming from Vélez-Málaga town hall, Malaga University and the Junta de Andalucía, among others.

It is hoped that other European



The Brick Beach project is designed to regenerate Mezquitilla beach. A. P.

coastal towns will copy the project and that it helps to end the recent proliferation of illegal construction waste dumping grounds.

Vélez-Málaga's councillor for business and employment, María José Roberto, who is responsible for the project, said that not only could the project be replicated in other European cities but that it would "encourage alternative and sustainable tourism".

The project has been delayed partly due to initial rejection by opposition parties at Vélez-Málaga town hall. However, there has been no recent objection either from the opposition, or from residents living near the proposed recycling plant site.

The Junta's report is now in the hands of Vélez-Málaga town hall. The plant is expected to be finished by June 2021.

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MAKING IT EVEN EASIER TO LIST PROPERTIES

New website launched for David Lloyd's online estate agency for Spain

Sell4LessSpain.com, the Online Agent by David Lloyd covering Spain, Portugal and Gibraltar has this week launched a new version of their website, aimed at making the process of listing property even simpler.

Simon Pelling, Managing Director told us "Our clients typically are in their late 50's to 80's and we needed to make sure our website, whilst incorporating the latest technology and features, was intuitive to a mature market. The changes we have all had to live with this year have made more people turn to technology for everything, from online grocery shopping, Zoom calls with the family to selling your property - I believe we have seen a 3-5 year increase in awareness of this approach in the past year."

The company operates from London and Marbella and cur-

rently has listed around 650 properties across Spain, the Spanish Islands, Gibraltar and Portugal.

Customers are offered 3 levels of service, the most basic free service "Bronze" being a listing on the Sell4LessSpain platform only; "Silver" extends to include listings across the major portals including Zoopla, Primelocation, Kyero, ThinkSpain and many more. The top level "Gold" service extends this to include Rightmove Overseas and Idealista. With all services there are options such as photography, viewing service, premium listings, etc.

Simon told us "The market has been very challenging this year. People initially wanting to complete sales before the Brexit deadline, then the closure of the market due to Covid. We are now seeing people turning to us to allow them to price their property with-

out incorporating 5-7% uplift for the agents fees, and in the knowledge our marketing provides maximum exposure to customers across the portals we work with."

Tennis Legend and Businessman David Lloyd joined Sell4LessSpain last year as an Executive Director. He joined the business having had first-hand experience of Sell4LessSpain as a customer. The team at Sell4LessSpain aim to make sure all properties are live on the sites the customer has subscribed to within 24 hours and provide excellent customer service.

"The new website incorporates a savings calculator making it easier for people to identify the tremendous saving they make working with us," Simon continued. "Online/Hybrid agents are now accepted and commonplace in the UK, but the saving is marginal as traditional agents fees in the UK are so low. In Spain, where agents charge typically 5-7% plus IVA (VAT), the saving is massive even on the lowest priced property."

See the new website for yourself at [Sell4LessSpain.com](https://www.sell4lesspain.com)

HERE AND THERE



Mountaineers at the top of Pico del Cielo on Sunday. SUR

NERJA

Climbers mark breast cancer awareness day

E. CABEZAS. Around 30 mountaineers from Torre del Mar and Periana climbed Nerja's Pico del Cielo mountain last Sunday to raise awareness of breast cancer, ahead of International

Breast Cancer Day last Monday.

Members of Torre del Mar's beach running club were joined by other climbers to ascend the 1,508-metre peak, not only to mark the day, but also to thank the Axarquía's association for women with breast cancer, Asociación Esperanza, for the work they do to help and support people with the disease.

TORRE DEL MAR

Lux Mundi now able to accept donations

J. R. Lux Mundi Torre del Mar has announced that the centre is now able to accept donations of household goods, books, DVDs, CDs, clothes and other items for its second hand shop. The shop is open every Friday morning from 11am to 1pm during the weekly coffee morning. E-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org. Website: www.lux-mundi.org for more information.

PERIANA

Periana open-air market to restart

J. R. Periana's monthly open-air market will be starting up again this Sunday from 10.30am to 2.30pm at Restaurante Finca Oasis Las Palmeras on Camino Río Seco. Stalls cost five euros each and stall holders are required to provide their own tables and sun shade. Use of masks is obligatory and social distancing rules will be in place. To book a stall call: 630 594 961.

NERJA

Nerja's Calle Diputación to be pedestrianised

E. C. Nerja town hall announced on Wednesday a 300,000-euro project to pedestrianise Calle Diputación. The street connects Avenida Castilla Pérez and the Balcón de Europa and is one of the few central roads still open to traffic. The project will be entirely financed by Malaga's provincial authority and the street's namesake, the Diputación, and will result in the whole road becoming a pedestrian zone.



Calle Diputación in Nerja. E. C.

TORRE DEL MAR

Theatre "unreasonable" according to opposition

A. P. A new theatre, which is to be built on land near the indoor swimming pool in Torre del Mar, has received criticism from opposition spokesperson, Francisco Delgado, who said the eight-million-euro project, was "unreasonable" during the current health and impending financial crisis. Vélez-Málaga town hall revealed last week that the project would still go ahead and is to be built in four separate phases.

NERJA

Further delays to sewage treatment plant

E. C. Nerja's new sewage treatment plant is still waiting to be connected to the electricity supply so that it can go into testing phase. The latest date set by mayor José Alberto Armijo was mid-October. The town hall has recently awarded a contract worth over 10,000 euros to Ingeagua SL to write a financial viability report which will be used in negotiations with Aguas de Narixa SL, who will manage the plant.

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Concerns raised that coastal path works have affected Río Real archaeological site

MARBELLA

The town hall has cleared part of the area for the construction of a new part of the Senda Litoral but Marbella Activa believes some remains have been disturbed

HÉCTOR BARBOTA

The Marbella Activa association has warned of the need to protect the archaeological remains located at the mouth of the Río Real, where the town hall is currently carrying out work for a new section of the coastal path.

The group has informed the

Andalusian regional government and the local administration that the clearing work carried out on the seafront to the south of the Río Real Playa residential development, some 200 metres long, is where the Phoenician site of Río Real is located.

According to the association, on initial inspection you can see that stones and ceramic remains that appear to correspond to the same historic period of the site have been disturbed.

The work was carried out by machinery, so the group has sent a note to both the town hall and the Culture department of the Junta to ask if it was carried out under archaeological supervision, as the area is included within the bounda-



The area in which the works have been carried out. **JOSELE**

ries of the site, as well as in the protection area of the no longer valid PGOU approved in 2010. The area is also falls within the protected zone around the Río Real tower, designated by the Junta as a BIC (an asset of cultural interest).

The town hall maintains that the clearing work carried out was only at the surface level and therefore didn't require archaeological supervision, unlike those that will begin soon, on 2 November, which will have an archaeologist on the scene.

According to the councillor for Public Works, Diego López, the work carried out has not affected the BIC, which occupies some six square metres and on which no action has been taken.

Anti-processionary caterpillar treatment begins on almost 14,000 pine trees

MARBELLA

HÉCTOR BARBOTA. A total of 13,528 pine trees in 76 different areas of Marbella are being treated in order to protect against the processionary caterpillar.

The councillor for Parks and Gardens, Diego López, announced the measure on Wednesday, saying that plant health "is a priority for the government team and the conservation and maintenance of the extensive mass of trees requires prevention work, which this year has a budget allocation of 175,000 euros".

The councillor explained that, if untreated, caterpillars could cause the trees to rot. They are also known to seriously endanger dogs' lives and pose a potential threat to humans too.

Treatment of the trees, using endotherapy in the majority of locations, is being carried out in large parks and green areas around the town, having started on 1 September. It is expected to be completed on 5 December, before spring when the caterpillars usually leave their nests.

López explained that endotherapy was the preferred method as it is "has no effect on the health of people and animals". The insecticide is injected directly inside the pine and kills the caterpillars when they eat the needles.



Bocanegra, Langley and Arbouin with representatives of UHY Fay & Co, Caixa Bank and Gilmar. **SUR**

Business communities discuss the challenges of Brexit and the new normal

An event organised by the BCC and CIT Marbella was attended by the British consul, among business representatives

EFE

MARBELLA. Representatives from the British and Spanish business communities got together on Tuesday morning in Marbella for an event organised by the British Chamber of Commerce in Spain (BCC) and the CIT business association in Marbella to analyse opportunities in the 'new normal'.

BCC Vice-President for Andalucía Derek Langley opened the event, stating that despite Brexit

and the coronavirus pandemic, the UK is still the biggest investor in Spain. So far this year investment in this country from the UK amounts to eight billion euros, 56.9% of foreign investment in this country, he said.

Also speaking at the event, British Consul Charmaine Arbouin stressed the need for both Britons and Spaniards to adapt to the new situation from 31 December 2020 when the UK's Brexit transition period comes to an end.

"We don't know what's going to happen, but people will still come [to Spain]. In fact the British are still coming with an interest in buying and investing," said the consul, who took the opportunity to urge all British nationals resi-

dent in Spain to make sure their residency papers are in order before the end of the year.

Arbouin pointed out that both for British individuals and businesses in Spain there was likely to be more bureaucracy from next year.

Vice-President of CIT Ricardo Bocanegra said that while investment from the UK had slowed this year, he was confident that it would pick up after the transition period. He too predicted an increase in paperwork and bureaucracy after the UK exits the EU.

Speakers at the event included Setareh Mohregi, International Department Director at Gilmar Real Estate; Bernard Fay, Founding Partner at UHY Fay & Co; Inmaculada Domecq, Tax Director at UHY Fay & Co; and Maryna Yatsenyuk, International Premier Clients Manager at Caixa Bank & Sector Director at Hola Bank.

Representing Marbella town hall was Councillor for Foreign Residents Remedios Bocanegra.

HERE AND THERE

MARBELLA

Horse-drawn carriage licences to be withdrawn

H. B. The days of the horse-drawn carriages in Marbella are numbered. The local council has approved a plan to withdraw the licences, compensating the around a dozen of the 19 permit holders 30,500 euros each before the end of the year.

The council has said that having horse-drawn carriages in the town was incompatible with its pedestrianisation plans and that the carriages were not as popular with tourists anymore.

ESTEPONA

Run-down buildings could be forcibly sold

J. M. MARTÍN. Estepona council has approved a municipal ordinance that will force owners of dilapidated buildings to maintain them to guarantee the public's safety and improve the town's image.

If owners don't comply, the town hall will include the property on its municipal register. If after one year there is no progress, procedures will be started to force the sale to the town hall which will use the land for social use.

CASARES

Fears of unauthorised access to protected site

J. M. M. Various groups have denounced new acts of vandalism at the Sima Hedionda 4 archaeological site in Casares, declared an Asset of Cultural Interest (BIC). The vandalism was first spotted on 3 October and the complaint is being processed by the Guardia Civil. Since then, however, it has become clear that the original lock installed in 2015 had been destroyed and replaced by another of inferior quality, raising fears of repeated unauthorised access.

MARBELLA

Law change requires investment in Banús

H. B. A new law change approved by the Junta de Andalucía brings mixed news for the concession holders of the Puerto Banús marina. On the one hand it will end the uncertainty over the length of the contract, confirmed at 75 years, but that places the end date in 2043. That, however, can be extended to 99 years (until 2067) if the equivalent of 20 per cent of the marina's current valuation is invested in the next four years.

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COMMUNITY SPIRIT



Michael and his sisters earlier this year in Cómpeeta. **SUR**

Tackling the highest peak in Malaga in aid of Cudeca hospice

CÓMPETA

The novice hiker originally intended to climb Mount Maroma in April but was forced to cancel his attempt after the pandemic struck

TONY BRYANT

CÓMPETA. A British expat is preparing to walk up Mount Maroma, the highest peak in Malaga province, in memory of his mother and to raise funds for the Cudeca Hospice.

Leicester-born Michael Moorcroft, 51, who has lived in Cómpeeta for three years, originally planned to tackle the 2000-metre-high mountain in the Sierra de Tejada earlier this year, but the coronavirus pandemic forced him to cancel the event.

He will now attempt the challenge on Sunday 22 November

and is back in training for the gruelling hike.

The novice walker, who expects the journey to take around nine hours to complete, will be accompanied by Cindy Jones, a well-known Cómpeeta resident who has been raising funds for Cudeca for more than 12 years. Cindy will attempt the challenge on a quad bike in order to place the Cudeca banner on the peak of the mountain.

Michael and Cindy will set off from the Tourist Office in Cómpeeta at 9am, and they are urging people to join them to raise awareness of cancer. Those who would like to accompany the couple are advised to wear suitable footwear and bring a packed lunch and plenty of water.

Michael's mother Fran Moorcroft, who died in 2019, was an active Cudeca supporter for more than 20 years.

For more information, call Cindy Jones on 665 156 467.

Virtual pet shows and cookbooks to raise funds for animal charity

AXARQUÍA

J. RHODES. Axarquía Animal Rescue charity is running two fundraising events during October and November. The first is an online 'pawstival' where the charity is inviting people to submit photos of their pets in a number of categories. The winners will be chosen through a poll on the charity's Facebook page.

The second is a cookbook catering for all diets. Recipes for starters, mains, desserts and drinks and snacks for animals are wanted. Photos and recipes should be emailed to aarfundraiser@gmail.com by 15 November.

Skydivers to present over 4,000 euros to local charities

NERJA

J. RHODES. The total raised by the four Axarquía-based skydivers in aid of local charities is 4,020 euros, between the Go Fund Me webpage and donations made in various establishments around Nerja.

Laura Leanne Downes, Rachael England, Sharon Anderson and Hannah Conlan, who took the plunge from Cordoba airport on Saturday 10 October, will be presenting the money to the three charities at the Fountain bar in Nerja.

The chosen charities are AAR and APAA animal rescues and Nerja Solidaria.



The presentation of the cheque to the local AECC branch. **SUR**

CLC World foundation marks Breast Cancer Day with donation

MIJAS

SUR. The Mijas-based Fundación CLC World marked World Breast Cancer Day earlier this

week with a 3,000-euro donation to the Spanish cancer association AECC.

Receiving the cheque, the president and vice-president of the local branch of AECC Paula Cas and Paloma Gómez, expressed their gratitude.

The funds will go towards the day-to-day costs of the organisation which offers social, psychological and therapeutic support to cancer patients.



Organisers and sponsors on the beach last weekend. **SUR**

Volunteers collect 300 kilos of rubbish in Carvajal cleanup session

FUENGIROLA

SUR IN ENGLISH. Around 80 volunteers answered the calls of the environmental charity Mi Moana and the Diving with Nic team to join a beach and underwater cleanup session in

Carvajal, Fuengirola, last weekend. The group collected some 300 kilos of rubbish including face masks, cigarette butts, rope, fishing lines, cans and bottles.

The event was organised in collaboration with Fuengirola town hall and sponsored by Specsavers Ópticas Fuengirola, TOGI Data and Ecocean Green Solutions.

Mi Moana has removed a total of 3,000 kilos of rubbish from the region's beaches since the charity was founded.



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Long-awaited recognition for young talent

Certificates have been delivered to some of the best contributors to last March's Education and Learning supplement

RACHEL HAYNES

MALAGA. Just a week before Spain was locked down back in March, SUR in English published the annual Education and Learning supplement, showcasing the work of youngsters from the area's international schools. The coronavirus unfortunately prevented the

usual presentation event from taking place at the SUR offices.

Now, with the new term well under way, and children back at school with suitable protection and distancing, we have been able to deliver certificates to some of the youngsters whose work was selected by a panel of judges in the poetry, short story and artwork categories.

Online : All selected work can be found at www.surinenglish.com/education/ Download the supplement from <http://print-edition.surinenglish.com/>

EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT AWARDS

Best primary poem

Cielo Davies: Swans Primary School.



Best primary story

Nicolás Minguela Espinosa de los Monteros: Laude San Pedro International College.



Best secondary poem

Jessica Newton: Swans International School.



Best secondary story

Eva Lucía Kielstra Ortega: Laude San Pedro International College.



Best primary artwork

Erik Shektor: Kids Club El Campanario.

Best secondary artwork

Lisa Xiao: Aloha College.

This year's Remembrance Sunday activities disrupted by pandemic

A scaled-down event will go ahead at the Salón Varietés Theatre, but the service at St George's Church in Malaga has been cancelled

TONY BRYANT

COSTA DEL SOL. The plans of the British community on the Costa del Sol to mark Remembrance Sunday this year have had to be adapted to the pandemic situation.

Royal British Legion Spain South (the RBL) has announced that its annual Remembrance Day services have been scaled back due to the Covid-19 restrictions. After careful consideration, the RBL decided to host just one of its usual Armistice Day

ceremonies.

This will take place in the Salón Varietés Theatre in Fuengirola on Sunday 8 November at 10.30 am. Organised by the RBL Mijas, the event will be attended by branch members, although there will be no parade. District President Neal Topliss, who will lead the service again this year, told SUR in English that the event will be "unlike previous years".

"Unfortunately, although there will be Standards present, because of Covid-19, they won't be

After careful consideration, the RBL decided to host just one of its usual Armistice Day ceremonies.

mobile. Because of capacity restrictions, priority will be given to ex-service personnel, the armed forces and members of the RBL," he said.

St George's cancelled

The service at St George's Anglican Church in Malaga and the laying of wreathes on the war graves in the English Cemetery will not go ahead this year. The event is usually organised by the Royal Air Forces Association Costa del Sol (RAFA) and the Torremolinos branch of the RBL, but both organisations have decided it would be best to cancel the event for the safety of its members.

"The church is not large and seating is close together, which is not sensible in view of Covid-19," RBL-committee-member Mary Le Corney explained.

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Lack of control causes rise in numbers of wild boar in urban areas on the Costa

Easy access to food and water is attracting the animals, but residents are worried about being attacked or traffic accidents

IGNACIO LILLO /
HÉCTOR BARBOTA

MALAGA. Wild boar, potbellied pigs and 'cerdolies' (the name given in Spanish to a cross between the two) have become a common sight in many residential areas on the Costa del Sol, especially in Mijas, Marbella and Benahavís.

The abundance of food (in rubbish bins, and some people feed them) and easily accessible water in parks, combined with a lack of measures to control them and no natural predators, have contributed to the considerable increase in numbers.

While some local residents like to see them, others are not happy and regularly complain to their local town halls because they are afraid of being attacked in the parks or that the animals will cause traffic accidents.

In Mijas, which is most affected, videos and photos are regularly posted on social media showing the animals on a road or close to school entrances at the start of the day. Through the UPLBA union, we spoke to a Local Police officer who has already reported the situation.

"We see boars and pigs nearly every day," he said, and confirmed that numerous people have phoned the police, especially to report sightings in La Cala de Mijas, Avenida del Limonar and La Noria. In fact, one call was from parents of pupils at El Chaparral school, inform-



An adult wild boar and two youngsters caught in a cage-trap in a Marbella park. **SUR**

THE STATISTIC

60

wild boar have been captured by the SCAES group using bows and arrows in urban areas of the Costa del Sol, but it is currently unable to operate as it is waiting for an official report

ing that the animals were close to the school gates when the children arrived.

"There are a lot of them and they pose a danger, especially

because of the risk of traffic accidents on the road between Mijas and Fuengirola and in Cerros del Águila," he said.

The officer said part of the problem is that some residents of different nationalities put food out for the animals, which makes the situation worse. "These are wild animals but until something untoward happens, nobody is going to do anything about the problem. Something ought to be done. We have spoken to our superior officers, but nothing has changed so far," he explained.

Up to five caught in one day

In Marbella, wild boar and pigs moved into the centre of the town during the months of lock-

down, and things have hardly changed since. So far this year the council has captured around 50 of these animals, sometimes four or five of them in one day. They live in the hills and when the sun sets they come down to the residential estates to look for food, normally in groups.

Marbella council is hoping the Junta de Andalucía will send experts in archery to hunt the animals in the central urban areas, as they did before, but until then they are trying to deal with the problem on their own.

They put food in cages to tempt the boar inside so they can trap them, but on several occasions the animals have been so big that they didn't fit in the

cage. This system is mainly being used in the hills behind the town, such as Bello Horizonte, Xarblanca, Puerto Rico, Lomas del Pozuelo and Elviria, where wild boar can be seen practically every day.

Even though this year these animals have caused traffic accidents, some people are against the idea of them being caught and there have been cases where the cages have been broken in order to free the animals. Sometimes, the cages are removed. Council workers periodically have to replace signs warning people not to feed the boars and pigs, because these have also been damaged.

Using archers for control

At the beginning of this year, the Junta de Andalucía authorised the Servicio de Controladores con Arco de Especies Silvestres (SCAES), which controls numbers of wild animals by shooting them with bows and arrows, as the only group permitted to hunt those that cause problems in urban areas. So far about 60 animals have been killed in this way in particularly problematic areas and their meat, when it was suitable for consumption, has been donated to soup kitchens.

However, this team is currently inactive because it is waiting for a report from the central government office in Malaga, which has been requested by the Guardia Civil, explained Daniel González, the head of SCAES.

"We are receiving numerous requests for help from places like Marbella, Mijas and Benahavís, but we can't do anything until we have all the documentation and permits we need," he said.

A spokesperson at the government office said that the report it is preparing for the Guardia Civil will lead to a resolution which will determine whether or not it is possible to control the wild boar and pigs in this way and, if so, under what conditions.

Mijas puts signs up prohibiting people from feeding wild animals

I. LILLO / H. BARBOTA

MALAGA. The problem of wild boar and pigs inhabiting urban areas is made worse by some residents, predominantly foreigners, who like them and put food down for them, even though they are wild animals. Logically, this attracts more of them to the area, especially mothers with their young, and that causes even greater concern for pedestrians and drivers.

"At this rate I'm going to have to dress like a bullfighter when I take the rubbish out," said one

resident on social media. Although so far there have been no reports of anyone being attacked by the animals, there have been several accidents involving cars and motorcycles which collided with them in the middle of the road, especially at night.

Mijas council has put signs up reminding people that it is prohibited to feed wild animals. Aranzazu López, the councillor for the Environment, admits that there are now considerable numbers of wild boar and different types of pigs frequenting the area,



One of the signs warning that feeding wild animals is prohibited in Mijas. **SUR**

and her department has received many complaints. They in turn pass these on to the regional government's Ministry of Agriculture, Fishing and Sustainable Develop-

ment, because the councillor says this is something they have to deal with. Her team are also holding meetings with ministry representatives to coordinate measures to

stop the animals coming down to urban areas.

With regard to the signs banning the feeding of wild animals, she said, "We have seen that in some areas people are putting food down for them, and that attracts them.

"We are asking people to make sure they deposit their bags of rubbish properly in the street containers because otherwise the animals will come looking for it and that can be dangerous."

Although the Junta de Andalucía authorises the use of packs of dogs to chase the boar and pigs away, and their capture in cages, López prefers a softer approach, calling on people to abide by the rules to prevent undesirable situations occurring.



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No-confidence motion by Vox fails

After a fiery speech by conservative PP leader Pablo Casado against Santiago Abascal's hard-right party, only Vox's 52 MPs voted 'yes' to toppling Pedro Sánchez

SUR

MADRID. The Socialist-led coalition government of Pedro Sánchez survived a vote of no confidence in parliament on Thursday. The motion had been brought by the hard-right Vox party and only its 52 MPs supported it. It was only the fifth no-confidence motion brought against a government since democracy was restored in 1978.

Although the PSOE-Socialist and Unidas Podemos (UP) coalition has only a wafer thin majority of support in Congreso with the help of minority parties, it wasn't expected Vox's motion would succeed this week.

Most speculation during the two-day debate was how the conservative Partido Popular (PP) party would vote.

While some thought its MPs would abstain, rather than support Vox, a party that has been taking votes from it on the right, in the end Pablo Casado's PP voted against.

In what was seen as a fight for



Abascal on Thursday. REUTERS



Casado is applauded by his MPs. EFE

Abascal read out the names of all the people that had been killed by Basque terrorism

ascendancy on the Spanish right, Casado told Santiago Abascal, Vox's leader, "We aren't like you because we don't want to be like you, it's as simple as that," adding in reference to the no-confidence debate: "You've called us here to waste our time in the middle of a second wave of [Covid] contagion."

During the debate on Vox's bid to win power, Abascal had launched stinging attacks on Pedro Sánchez's government.

Abascal said that it was "a government against Spain, against the nation and against the King".

He presented a plan to save costs, including doing away with the 17 devolved regional assemblies and centralising power.

As part of his speeches to MPs, Abascal spent time reading out the names of all those who had been killed by ETA Basque terrorism, which ended nine years ago, in criticism of the government's concessions to the EH Bildu left-wing Basque party.

Addressing MPs from the PP, Abascal said, "I need to ask for your vote. It's in your hands to show that between us all, despite the huge differences, we can build an alternative to this disaster."

When announcing that the PP would vote against Abascal, Pablo Casado said, "He doesn't want to change the government but rather overtake the PP, but he should abandon all hope."

"We say no to the split you want, to the polarisation that you need as much as Sánchez does."

For his part during the debate, Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said there was no way that Abascal could portray himself as "saviour of Spain".

Valencia region aims to stop the need for pets being put down by some of Spain's strictest rules

SUR

VALENCIA. The Valencia regional government, which also covers the Costa Blanca, is introducing tough new rules with the aim of reducing the number of animals put down to zero.

The region will legally recognise that pets "have feelings" and will raise fines given out for abuse to up to 45,000 euros.

Among the new rules is a strict code of "responsible ownership", where a set of humane living conditions for pets has to be followed.

The updated law will also ban pets being displayed in shop windows and being given out as prizes. In addition, pets must not be permanently tied up or taught by owners to act aggressively.



The Royal Family were welcomed by traditional Asturian bagpipers. EFE

Princesa de Asturias prizes awarded with full social distancing

Among the winners at the prestigious annual ceremony were the UK's Hay Festival, poet Anne Carson and Spanish healthcare workers

SUR

OVIEDO. The annual Princesa de Asturias prize-giving ceremony took place in Oviedo last Friday in the presence of the Royal Family. The prizes reward national and international individuals and groups for outstanding achievement in different walks of life. They are widely watched across Spain.

This year the ceremony, combining Royal pageantry with Asturian regional traditions, was greatly scaled back.

Instead of guests gathering in the Campoamor theatre in Oviedo, the regional capital, a small number of guests, the winners and the Royals filled the covered inner courtyard of

the neighbouring historic hotel.

The awards are named after the Princess of Asturias, the heir to the throne. This year was only the second year that 14-year-old Princess Leonor, King Felipe's eldest child, addressed the audience directly.

Princess Leonor appealed to young people's "sense of responsibility" in helping beat the Covid-19 pandemic. She added that she was following "very closely" the difficulties Spain was going through.

Varied prizewinners

Among this year's winners were: Carlos Sainz, rally driver, in the Sports category; Canadian Anne Carson in the Literature category; the UK-originated Hay Festival for Communications and Humanities; John Williams and the late Ennio Morricone, film score composers, for Arts; and Spanish health workers on the front line against Covid-19 in the Concord category.



The Princess of Asturias gives rally driver Carlos Sainz his prize. EFE



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Huge new Antequera MegaHub logistics park moves a step closer

ANTEQUERA

With the help of a bank guarantee from Unicaja, work can soon start on the 102-hectare site that will solve the shortage of large warehousing locally

IGNACIO LILLO

Malaga province took a big step forward this week towards a much-needed logistics park to meet the growing demand for larger warehouses for the distribution of goods.

On Wednesday Unicaja Banco agreed with shareholders of the Antequera scheme to provide a 22-million-euro bank guarantee that is seen as key to getting the public-private initiative started.

MegaHub Andalucía, as it will be known, will be built on over 102 hectares of land next to Bobadilla railway station, in inland Malaga province. The project has been talked about for 15 years and is expected to cost 39 million euros. In time it could grow to 392 hectares and create 2,500 local jobs, say the promoters.



Launch of the current project in Antequera in December 2019. A. J. GUERRERO

Antequera is considered an ideal location as it is positioned close to the geographical centre of Andalucía, with good motorway links to large cities and ports. Moreover, there is a shortage of space on the Costa del Sol to build the next-generation warehouses that companies need to distribute their goods

locally. The site would also be linked to the rail network.

The scheme is being driven by local businessman Domingo de Torres and the Junta regional government will put up 17 million euros.

Construction should start in early 2021 with the first firms moving in in 2023.

MALAGA

52 Coca-Cola workers to move and 26 to retire

SUR. In total 52 workers at the Coca-Cola bottling plant in Malaga, which is to close, could be moved to jobs in other parts of Spain. Meanwhile 26 other staff will be offered early retirement. These are conditions that the multinational is offering, according to the CCOO trade union.

Negotiations are under way between the firm and unions over shutting the 60-year-old site by Malaga Airport next month. As reported previously in SUR in English, production will move to a larger factory in Seville province.

ANDALUCÍA

Analysts predict regional GDP will fall up to 13.9%

N. TRIGUERO. The outlook for the Andalusian economy shows no signs of improving, according to the latest study by analysts linked to Unicaja Banco. Analistas Económicos de Andalucía (AEA) believes that the economic output of the region will drop between 11.7% and 13.9% in 2020.

For next year, the regional GDP will bounce back with growth of between 6.7% and 5.4%, the economics experts report.

They also calculate that the Andalusian unemployment rate will be 25% at the end of this year and stay high, at between 25.2% and 26.5%, in 2021.

SPAIN

Glovo delivery riders to be treated as staff

SUR. The Work ministry has signed on 11,000 cycle-couriers as Glovo employees to the Social Security system. It says that the riders, who are increasingly used by restaurants to deliver takeaways, are not really self-employed as almost all their regular work comes from Glovo. The ministry is demanding Glovo pays 16.2 million euros in backdated Social Security contributions that the firm "avoided" by asking riders to register as 'autónomos' (self-employed). Glovo said that the firm still had the right to appeal the decision.

THE EURO ZONE MARK NAYLER

Getting to the point



Predictably, the no-confidence motion brought by Vox against Spain's Socialist-led minority government this week degenerated into name-calling and finger-pointing, in which each side labelled the other as "totalitarian", amongst many other savage epithets.

Lacking as he does cross-party support for the motion, Vox leader Santiago Abascal also knows that it's unlikely to remove the Socialists and their junior partner, leftist Podemos, from power. But that's not the point: by leading the criticism of the government's management of the Covid crisis and its preferred methods of operating, Abascal hopes to undermine the Popular Party (PP)'s status as Spain's main opposition party, and to portray Pablo Casado's Conservatives as a spent force.

The Vox leader's no-confidence motion against Pedro Sánchez is undoubtedly part of that ongoing (and fairly successful) project, but it's misleading to characterise it solely as a sideways attack on the PP, or to dismiss it as nothing more than well-timed gamesmanship.

In doing so, the charges that Vox makes against Sánchez's administration are glossed over or ignored, instead of receiving the attention that they deserve. Frothing, furious Abascal does himself no favours in this respect, either: he taunts and mocks the prime minister, rather than soberly presenting arguments for consideration. As always with Spanish politics, one has to look beyond personal insults and bickering to get to the actual point.

One of the reasons stated by Vox for bringing the no-confi-

dence motion is Sánchez's "criminal management of the pandemic". The charge of criminality in this context may be difficult to substantiate (and, one senses, will never actually be pursued), but Abascal is right to question whether Spain's government has used the powers it possesses under a "state of alarm" wisely or justly. Many complex issues have been raised by Sánchez's handling of the virus, from the defensibility of total lockdowns to the practice of introducing measures that curtail freedoms with little or no scientific justification.

The broader criticism Vox makes of the Socialist-led coalition concerns "democratic degeneration", a charge which also holds weight, despite how overwrought its presentation has been. Throughout the last few months, Sánchez has largely ruled by Royal Decree - that's to say, by hurriedly passing legislation via this emergency mechanism, without first presenting proposals to parliament, or indeed to anyone other than the members of his cabinet.

Questionable Covid policies have been approved behind closed doors and restrictive measures have been introduced with zero notice and/or scant justification. Is this way of operating an abuse of the powers temporarily granted to the government under a "state of alarm"? Again, it's a point that deserves consideration, not to be written off as right wing conspiracy-mongering. This goes for many - but by no means all - of Vox's criticisms of the Sánchez administration, no matter what their true purpose might be, or how hysterical Abascal's rhetoric often is.

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British Chamber of Commerce in Spain

New anti-Covid restrictions introduced in Gibraltar

"I know you are sick of hearing this message but you may get very sick if you don't heed this message," said chief minister Fabian Picardo

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. With Covid-19 cases rising sharply the Gibraltar government has introduced new restrictions, some of which are 'strongly advised' and others which can be legally enforced.

People over the age of 70 and those who are immunosuppressed are asked not to leave their homes unless absolutely essential, and if they do then they should wear a mask. Masks are strongly advised in general for everyone over the age of 10 in busy places such as Main Street and Irish Town, where social distancing is difficult to maintain.

People are also strongly advised not to attend funerals unless they are a direct relative of the deceased, and to wear a mask if they do, and not to attend communal worship if social distancing is not possible.



Restaurants are affected. **SUR**

Services will be broadcast online.

The new measures which can be enforced by law mainly affect bars, cafés and restaurants. The maximum number of people who can sit at one table in a restaurant has been reduced from 10 to eight and live music in these venues is now banned.

Tables must be booked in advance and details of all customers at the tables must be taken by the establishment and kept.

Last orders for alcoholic drinks

has been brought forward to 11pm and only one alcoholic drink per person at a table is to be permitted at last orders.

Restaurants can continue to close at 1am, as can bars with their own kitchen, but any bars, pubs or clubs without their own kitchen must stop serving by 9pm and close at 10pm.

Bars, clubs and other establishments must now block off their pool tables and darts facilities so that customers cannot use them.

With regard to Chatham Counterguard, an area which has come under frequent criticism because of the numbers of people who congregate there, all restaurants must now close at midnight and masks are mandatory in the leisure area except when sat at a restaurant table. Only people sat at a table will be served, and capacity is limited to three metres per person in the usable external common area.

It is also unlikely that organised Christmas parties will be permitted in restaurants, bars etc this year.

Full details of these and other new measures can be found on the Gibraltar government website.

IN BRIEF

TRAVEL

Malaga-Gib helicopter service announced

D. B. From the end of this month there will be a scheduled helicopter service between Malaga and Gibraltar on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, operated by Spanish company Hélicity which already runs a helicopter connection from Malaga to Ceuta and Algeciras.

The helicopter, a twin-engined Agusta Westland 139, seats 15 passengers and the flight time will be 25 minutes. The flights will leave Malaga at 9am, and depart from Gibraltar for the return trip at 9.35am.



The Agusta Westland 139. **SUR**

The flights on this new service can be booked online via the Hélicity website, and current prices per person appear to be just under 140€ for a one-way trip.

CULTURE

Women's chess is coming to Gibraltar

D.B. The fourth stage of the Women's FIDE Grand Prix 2019/20 series is to take place at the Caleta Hotel from 17 to 29 January next year.

In January 2020, the Gibraltar International Chess Festival celebrated its 18th edition. Since the series began in 2003, almost

all the world's top female players have taken part, including the greatest woman player of all time, Judit Polgar, and it has become a word-class event.

The Minister for Sport, Steven Linares, says he is delighted to have secured the event locally and that it highlights Gibraltar's commitment to chess, in particular to the women's game, and that the government is looking forward to a "magnificent event".

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LETTERS
TO THE EDITORA hand for the eagles of
Benalmádena

I read the moving article in SUR in English dated 9 -15 October that highlighted the financial plight of the Raptor Centre at the top of the cable car (in Benalmádena).

Over the years I have made several visits to the centre and have always been entertained by their demonstrations of raptor flying and their standards of care for the birds.

A group of us visited last Sunday and once again enjoyed our day. It's really tragic that, due to no fault of their own, Jurgen, his son Jan and their voluntary helpers are in danger of having to close due to lack of visitors.

This wonderfully diverse collection of birds would then be lost to us all here and our visitors.

Can I ask you to publish the times of their flight displays which at the moment are 11am and 1pm Saturdays and Sundays?

Enjoy a visit there, take your photographs and maybe leave a contribution in the box on your way out. That way we may enable them to continue. **GARTH NICHOLSON**

Dealing with mobile
distractions

I refer to the letter last week (October 16th to 22nd) which concerned a woman in a supermarket queue who was oblivious to the cashier asking her to come forward to the till since she was glued to her mobile phone.

I remember a similar incident when a cashier refused to attend to a client engrossed in her telephone saying that she would dedicate herself one hundred per cent to the customer as soon as she was prepared to do the same.

PETER SANDERSON

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THE MUSIC MAKER
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Lead 'em and weep

On the outskirts of Valladolid, a medieval Spanish city up in the north west of the country there's a street called - rather magnificently - Calle Me Falta Un Tornillo ('I'm Missing A Screw Street'). What makes this funny is the fact that it's where the local branch of IKEA is located. About ten years ago, the Swedish multinational was foolish enough - as owners of the land - to ask the locals which street name they thought would be best for its location, presumably believing that names like 'The Garden Of Sweden' and 'Swede Child O' Mine' would be forthcoming. Unfortunately, they were ignoring a basic tenet of human existence - offering power to the masses inevitably ends in disaster.

This week we'll be celebrating our fifth anniversary down at The Shakespeare. Last year I had the bright idea of asking each of our regular customers to suggest three songs to be played during the evening of our party. Dear Lord, it was a disaster. Everyone complained about everyone else's choices and the whole event was marred by all of us having to listen to song after song that nobody liked except for one person in the room dancing embarrassingly in a forced and false manner even when it was a Leonard Cohen number.

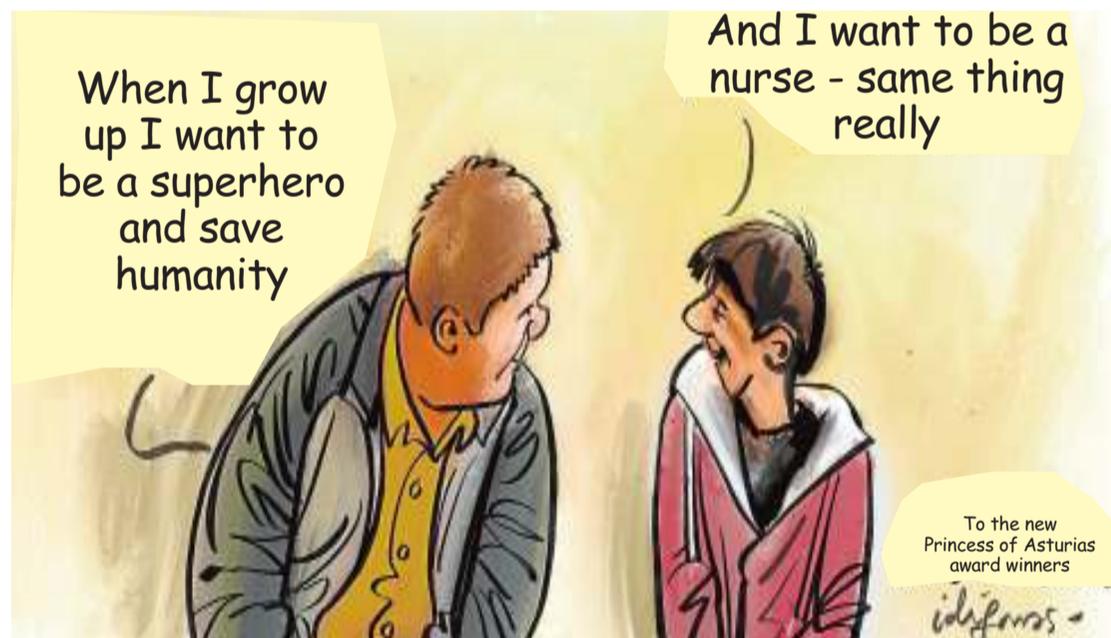
In the United Kingdom, the RRS Sir David Attenborough is the lead boat of the Autosub Long-Range class of autonomous underwater vehicles. All well and good. Except that it isn't because the very same vessel was originally called Boaty McBoatface following a public vote on the issue in 2016. This

is simultaneously utterly hilarious and very scary. It's quite clear that we, the masses, can't be trusted with anything vaguely serious. That's why, through our taxes, we employ a bunch of half-witted politicians to lead us nowhere fast. We know they're pretty useless, they know they're pretty useless and they know that we know they're pretty useless but it all works ok because we need the illusion of leadership.

As the US elections hove into view, and every Tom, Dick and Harry expresses an opinion on the outcome, we must remember that we're only able to offer such glib perspectives because our system works that way.

We need our leaders, not to lead necessarily - although that would be nice - but rather just to look the part so that we don't have to.

IDÍGORAS



SUR in English

Published by: PRENSA MALAGUEÑA S. A.
Director General: ANTONIO GONZÁLEZ

Editor in Chief
MANUEL CASTILLO
Publications Director
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THE BOTTOM LINE
HÉCTOR BARBOTA

All that scum

A shooting in Marbella is always bad news. Even worse is when through sheer force of habit it stops being news.

For too long now the pearl of the Costa del Sol has grown used to living with incidents of this kind, and while sometimes it seems that they come in waves, it's hard to remember when was the last time

that the town went for a couple of months in a row without hearing the sound of gunshots.

Specialist analysts might well differentiate between the cases and say that not all shoot-outs are the same.

There are the typical score-settling shootings against gangland bosses who came to the Costa del Sol looking for some

peace and quiet that lasted until their past caught up with them.

Then there are the murders that creditors use to warn their debtors that there is a type of business where failing to pay back a debt is not an acceptable option.

Then there are the revenge shootings over the theft of goods or a battle over territory.

There are the fights between gangs from the Campo de Gibraltar area who have been pushed further east by police pressure.

And there are the brawls among drunkards who, in line with the sector in which they develop their, let's say, professional activity, go around armed with guns to be ready for events that could fit into any of the aforementioned categories.

The people of Marbella couldn't care less about these differences.

They have been hearing for years that there's nothing to worry about, that Marbella is a safe town and that these incidents are a kind of toll payable for living in a place that attracts a large number of people with stacks of money, including the undesirable ones with their ill-gotten gains.

Those arguments have always been deplorable, but now, due to the profusion of this kind of incidents, they cannot be tolerated.

Denying a reality or being determined to ignore it won't help to change anything.

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IN THE FRAME

Buying a house in Spain in 2010 proved to be a crucial turning point in the life of Ian Cockburn. Following an early career as a chartered accountant, then as a business manager and entrepreneur in the IT industry, Ian returned to college in order to fulfil a lifetime passion to become an art historian.

He gained a Bachelor's degree in Art History (BA) from Birkbeck College, and a Master of Arts (MA) in Medieval Spanish Art History from the Courtauld Institute of Art in London. Ian now specialises in the nearly 800 years of Moorish occupation and the Christian reconquest of medieval Iberia.

Founder and director of an art tours company, specialising in guided cultural tours in Spain, plus lecturing in London at institutions such as the Christies Education and the London Art History Society, the historian's next project will be a lecture for The Arts Society Benahavis.

Passion for Islamic art

Born in Liverpool in 1950, Ian met his wife Jaqueline at university and it was she who introduced him to art history. The couple began visiting galleries in London and this was the beginning of his fascination with the world of historic art.

His passion for Islamic architecture was enriched when he visited the Alhambra Palace in Granada in 1975, which he recalls as "absolutely magical".

The couple brought a house in Gaucín ten years ago and this reawakened his love of Islamic art, which has become his specialist subject. Following a trip to see the colossal mosque-cathedral in Cordoba, the 70-year-old historian became "completely hooked".

"It was around about the time we brought the house that I was doing my first de-

A lifelong passion for Islamic art

Ian Cockburn. After a long career in the IT industry, the British art fanatic returned to college in order to obtain a degree in medieval Spanish art history

TONY BRYANT



gree in Art History. Once I had finished that, my wife discovered that the Courtauld Institute of Art was doing a Masters in Medieval Spanish Art History, and I thought this was just perfect for me," Ian explains to SUR in English.

Ian soon realised that the subject went beyond the architecture, and he became fascinated with the whole material culture and history of Moorish Spain.

"From my point of view, the history of Islamic Spain is just as important as the art history: the two things blend together extremely well. Most of my lectures try to give the listener a sense of the history, as well as looking at the incredible architecture and the silks, the ivory and the ceramics," he says.

The Arts Society

Ian is also an accredited lecturer for The Arts Society, an

umbrella organisation that is made up of individual art societies, four of which can be found on the Costa del Sol. One of these is the Arts Society Benahavis, which offers a variety of art history lectures, although today, these are all done via Zoom, and not at the town hall, as was the case before the pandemic struck.

The society's objective is to further the enjoyment, knowledge and awareness of the Arts internationally and to stimulate interest in the cultural heritage of Spain.

Ian's forthcoming lecture, titled Political Intrigue, Sex and Murder at the court of the Cordoba Caliphate, focuses on the ivory workshops that were licensed by the Caliphal court in 10th-century Cordoba. These workshops were renowned for the exquisite beauty of the carved ivory they created, which were given as



▲ The art historian and accredited lecturer spends his time between his homes in London and Gaucín. **SUR**

hence the title of the lecture.

"This lecture is one of the most intensive, because it covers the history, the architecture and the rest of the material culture of Islamic Spain in just one hour. The pyxis, for example, is very interesting. It's a very beautiful object and is very intricately carved. There is a non-standard interpretation of the imagery that claims it was given to the prince as a threat. There is a fantastic depth of story in just that one single object," Ian says with a hint of excitement.

Education project

Ian, who spends his time between London and Gaucín, is also trustee and honorary treasurer of Art History Link-Up (AHL-U). This is a charity that offers an education in art history to young people regardless of their background.

Working in partnership with The National Gallery, The Dulwich Museum, schools and other institutions, AHL-U provides accredited courses where there is a gap in provision in the formal education sector.

"The charity was set up by a teacher who wanted to take art history into state schools, because it is a subject that is mostly taught in public schools in the UK. It is particularly aimed at students from challenging back grounds that do not usually get the opportunity to study the subject. Because most are teenagers, this is a subject that blows their socks off, because it gives them access to a privileged environment," the art specialist says passionately.

The lecture Political Intrigue, Sex and Murder at the court of the Cordoba Caliphate will take place on Zoom next Tuesday, 27 October.

i theartsocietybenahavis.com

Ian is also trustee and honorary treasurer of Art History Link-Up, a London-based charity that provides accredited Art History courses for students from challenging back grounds

gifts between court members or visiting dignitaries.

The lecture will feature the history of the al-Mughira pyxis, a cylindrical box carved in ivory and given to Prince al-Mughira as a coming of age present. The box can be interpreted according to Islamic tradition, or interpreted to expose a complex story of sex, intrigue and murder during a succession crisis in Cordoba,

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SUR
in English

Banderas to direct and star in the musical Company at his Soho theatre from next autumn

The Hollywood actor has set aside eight months of his schedule to bring this Stephen Sondheim show to Malaga city

REGINA SOTORRÍO

MALAGA. It will be the last to re-open, but don't for one moment think that things have been standing still at the Teatro del Soho CaixaBank in Malaga city. Antonio Banderas, who had led the theatre project, made this very clear during a theatrical press conference he gave at the theatre on Wednesday.

The curtain rose and backed by an orchestra and twenty artists on stage, Banderas sang a number from the musical Company, the next show to come to the theatre.

The Hollywood actor has set aside eight months of his schedule from September 2021 to feature almost daily as the main character and director of the show. Besides on Gran Vía in Madrid, never before has a show been on for such a long time in a single city in Spain. Banderas, however, is confident



Antonio Banderas performed a song from Company at a theatrical press conference on Wednesday. S. SALAS

that the general public will respond with the same enthusiasm as they did with the last show, A Chorus Line, for which all the tickets sold out almost immediately and the run had to be extended.

Banderas will stick with more or less the same line-up as the last production, owing primarily to the fact that mass auditions aren't possible at this moment in time. However, the actor believes he has a

“strong company” capable of adapting to any new show.

Company, a musical comedy that premiered on Broadway in 1970 and won six Tony Awards (including Best Musical), now takes

THE MUSICAL

- ▶ **Name.** Company.
- ▶ **Composer and lyricist.** Stephen Sondheim.
- ▶ **Playwright.** George Furth.
- ▶ **Premiere.** 1970, Broadway.

shape in the hands of Banderas in a free version with a “dreamlike” feel. While in A Chorus Line he couldn't “change a comma” for rights issues, Stephen Sondheim encourages new and different productions of his work.

Banderas explained that the Soho CaixaBank will be “completely” transformed to welcome the show with the idea of installing a circular stage, with the audience around it. “It's a daring and complicated proposal that we're going to deliver,” promised Banderas.

However, the show will only be able to go ahead, the actor said, if all 840 seats in the theatre can be filled.

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GARDENING

Sweet orange jessamine

The autumn is a time of year when the bright flowers of summer start to fade and the garden or patio can start to look a little drab and boring. This glossy leaved perennial flowers nearly all year round but more so as temperatures drop and has the added bonus of being sweetly perfumed.

Murraya paniculata is native to southeast Asia, China, Japan and Malaysia, as well as Australia. It is a member of Rutaceae, the citrus family. Common

names include orange jasmine, orange jessamine, China box, chalcas and satinwood.

Orange jessamine is tolerant of just about any soil which is free-draining. It grows rapidly to start off with and then slows down once mature.

The waxy, creamy-white, star-shaped flowers form in clus-

ters at the ends of the branches and are sweetly scented. They attract lots of bees and butterflies at a time of year when food sources for pollinating insects are finishing.

After the flowers, the oval, orange-red berries are an important food for birds during the winter.

The glossy, dark-green pinnate leaves are made up of up to seven leaflets, and the dense, bushy growth make it an ideal plant for a hedge. Alternatively it can be grown as a specimen plant in a border or large pot.

As it grows quite rapidly for the first few years, it will need regular, but not hard pruning, to keep it in check. Eventually it can reach around two metres tall.

It is not frost hardy and thrives in dappled shade or in a situation where it only gets full sun in the morning during the summer. Fertilising once every three to four weeks during the growing season will keep it healthy.

Propagation is by seed or by stem-tip cuttings.

In its native countries it is valued for its essential oils, the yellow heart wood and for its medicinal properties. The flowers are used for scenting teas, the leaves used for treating diarrhoea, dysentery, swellings, sprains and snake bites. The leaves are also used to make a mouth-wash for toothache.

The roots are ground and used as a sweet scented face powder (Thanaka powder).



Murraya paniculata and fruits (inset). WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

READERS' PHOTOS



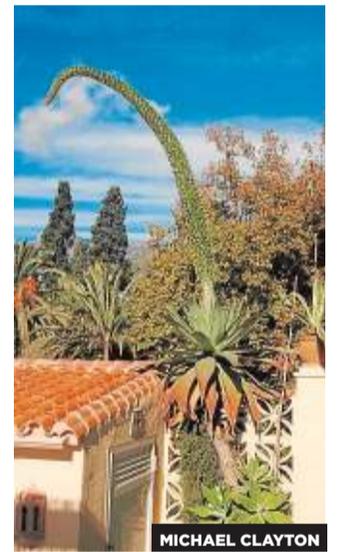
CAROLINE SELLERS

Umbrella plant in flower

When you see a plant outside of its 'normal habitat' it can be difficult to identify. This photo was sent in by Caroline Sellers who spotted it in Puerto Banús. It is a Schefflera, more commonly seen gracing the corner of a lounge or office and rarely seen in flower.

Agave attenuata

Michael Clayton in Marbella sent in this photo of a graceful swan neck Agave in flower on his terrace. He says it flowers very rarely but when it does it's quite spectacular and the bees love it. Agaves are members of the Asparagaceae family and many come armed with nasty spines at the tips of the leaves. However *Agave attenuata* is an exception and is much more gardener friendly.



MICHAEL CLAYTON

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 (surenglish) or Twitter (@SUR_English).

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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

23 OCTOBER 2013

Bank of Spain announces end of recession

Unemployment figures in Malaga had fallen to 34 per cent between July and September, while the average was just under 25 per cent

On Wednesday 23 October 2013 the Bank of Spain announced that the country's recession, which had begun in 2009, was over.

National GDP growth of 0.1 per cent between July to September 2013 meant a slight increase and enough for the bank to declare the end of the financial crisis, which had crippled the nation for four years.

The Economic Bulletin issued by the Bank of Spain indicated that, compared with the same

period in 2012, the GDP had improved on the government's year-on-year forecasts for the third quarter, ending September with a fall of 1.2 per cent, instead of the predicted 1.3 per cent.

The Bank of Spain's director, Luis Linde, said at the time that employment had "moderated its descent", as it had only fallen by 0.1 per cent.

The positive tone continued on Thursday 24 October with updated unemployment figures; the rate in Malaga province had fallen, albeit to a still depressing 34 per cent.

In Spain the figure was just under 26 per cent.

According to the EPA (active population survey) results published on 24 October, unemployment in Spain fell by 72,800 in the third quarter



Luis Linde speaking to the press about his "positivity" in 2013

of 2013, taking the total down to 5,904,700; a reduction of 1.2 per cent on the previous quarter.

Then finance minister, Luis de Guindos, told King Juan Carlos on the Thursday that the 0.1 per cent was a "first and modest step forward".

When the monarch showed

an interest in the economic situation, De Guindos was also able to discuss the latest EPA figures, which revealed that 39,500 jobs had been created in the third quarter of 2013.

The minister pointed out, though, that the end of the recession would not automatically

mean the creation of employment but that it could pick up by the middle of 2014 when the GDP growth was greater than 0.7 per cent.

By 2014, Spain was enjoying economic growth and an influx of tourists helped boost the economy and lower unemployment rates.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Banco	Bank
Recesión	Recession
Desempleo	Unemployment
Porcentaje	Percentage
Financiero	Financial
Crecimiento	Growth
Trimestre	Quarter
Contabilidad	Accounting
Resultado	Result
Caer	To fall
Subir	To rise
Mejorar	To improve
Parado	Unemployed
Desigualdad	Inequality
Mercado	Market
Inflación	Inflation
Hipoteca	Mortgage
Empresario	Business owners
Economía	Economy



Luis de Guindos in October 2013.

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Evita's five days in Andalucía

Musical. The West End hit *Evita* is currently being performed at the Salón Varietés theatre in Fuengirola. But Eva herself first took Andalucía by storm in 1947

ALEKK M. SAANDERS



The West End and Broadway production of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's iconic musical *Evita* is now playing at Fuengirola's Salon Varietés theatre. Until 25 October, the theatre's major production for this season, directed by Peter Mitchell, tells the story of the early life of the Argentine political figure Eva Perón, the second wife of President Juan Perón. In the summer of 1947, Eva Perón came to Spain on an official visit and is said to have left the country as another woman, probably as she is shown in the musical.

The trip lasted 18 days. On 7 June, Eva Perón arrived in Madrid where the following day she gave a speech, dressed in a fur coat in front of half a million people gathered in the Plaza de Oriente, near the Royal Palace. After Madrid, Eva visited Barcelona and other smaller cities across the country. Three of them were in Andalucía.

Eva Perón stayed in this region for five days. She had almost the same routine every day: meeting civil and military authorities; visiting a Cathedral or an important factory; a short sightseeing tour; attending gala dinners; and greeting people mostly from a open-topped car.

Granada

The first stopover on Eva's Andalusian tour was Granada. She arrived at Armilla aerodrome on the afternoon of Sunday 15 June. It was the last day of the Corpus Fair in which *Evita* managed to participate. It's said that in Granada Eva's brother, Juan Duarte, who officially accompanied her during the visit, managed to flaunt his fame as a womaniser. The incident happened in Sacromonte where local gypsies invited the guests for a party.

In Granada Eva Perón visited the tombs of Spanish monarchs Ferdinand and Isabella in the

Capilla Real de Granada as well as the Palacio de Generalife and even the munitions factory in El Fargue.

Seville

On Monday 16 June *Evita* arrived in the capital of Andalucía, Seville. The Provincial Labour Delegation had declared a public holiday to facilitate the massive influx of people to welcome the first lady of their beloved Argentina. The people of Seville turned out en masse to catch a glimpse of *Evita*. The road from Tablada airport was lined with cars and thousands of Sevillians greeted her enthusiastically during the entire procession. In Seville *Evita* Perón stayed at the iconic Hotel Alfonso XIII. The journey from the hotel to the City Hall was described by journalists as the apotheosis of the visit.

The balconies were brightly decorated, young people dressed in flamenco costumes released doves into the sky. The Argentinian First Lady was honoured by soldiers at the gates to the City Hall.



▲ **Granada.** Eva Perón's visit to the city went from cathedral to feria. **SUR**

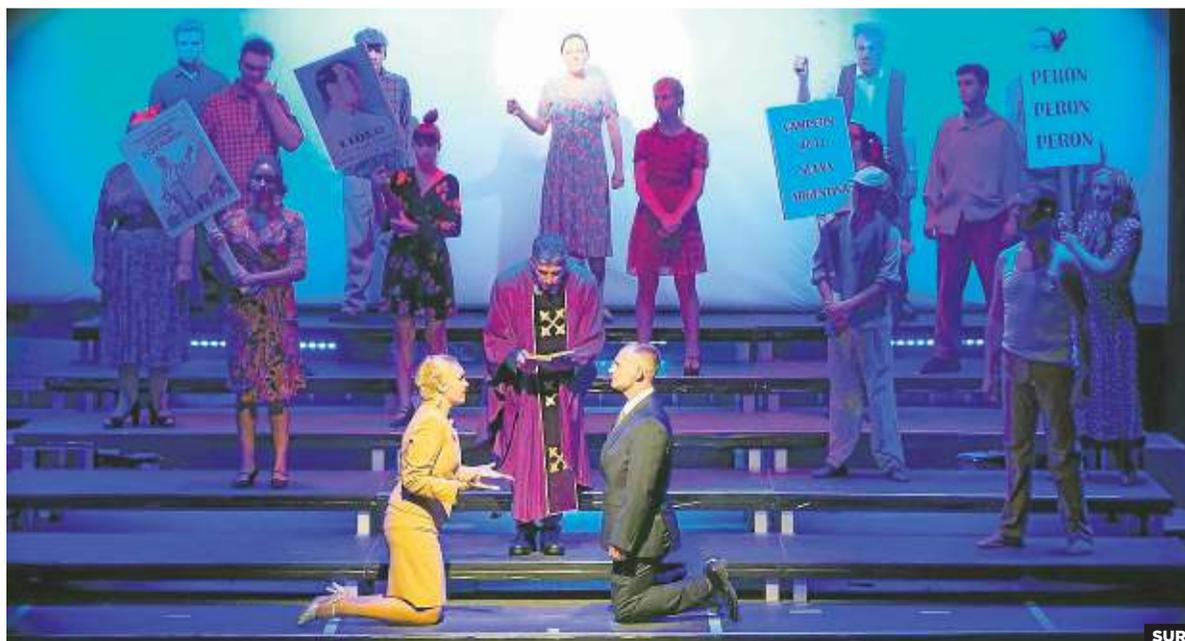
◀ **Seville.** *Evita* kneels before the image of Our Lady of Hope Macarena. **SUR**

▼ **Madrid.** The popular visitor gave a speech from the Royal Palace in Madrid. **SUR**



Sell-out shows

The Salón Varietés Theatre in Fuengirola's run of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's celebrated musical, *Evita*, has been a great success. The theatre's major production for this season, directed by Peter Mitchell, was originally planned to be staged earlier this year to mark the 35th anniversary of the theatre. The musical, which includes all the iconic songs, has played to sell-out audiences since its opening last week; the show runs until Sunday 25 October.



Evita was impressive and she did not stop offering words of thanks to the people of Seville for their warm welcome. She promised to pass on their greetings to President Perón. That ceremony finished with a huge firework display. According to the chronicles of that time, the Andalusian capital was "euphoric" over *Evita*'s visit.

Huelva

For Huelva, Wednesday 18 June was undoubtedly a very special day. At around 7.30pm *Evita* arrived by car preceded by an escort of motorcyclists. Huelva prepared the same type of welcoming as Seville - with bright costumes, enthusiastic speeches, flags and anthems.

In Huelva *Eva Perón* was especially elegant. A reporter wrote: "Mrs Perón wore a printed suit of natural silk and a hat made with lilac and white flowers; she wore black shoes, earrings and a gold brooch."

In Huelva *Eva Perón* was accompanied by a very special escort of numerous horsemen who carried young women dressed in Andalusian costumes. The red carpet that covered the pier led to a Navy speedboat which took the honoured guest to Punta del Sebo and the monument to Christopher Columbus.

Evita's Andalusian trip ended on 19 June. An Iberia plane with the Argentinian First Lady on board headed to Santiago de Compostela where *Eva* still had five more days of entertainment from the Franco authorities.

After visiting Spain, *Eva Perón* continued her European tour to Italy, France, Switzerland. The trip to Great Britain was cancelled as the royal family refused to receive her.

Some say that the trip to Spain changed *Eva Perón*. According to the opinion of journalist Ángeles Blanco, who wrote the 2019 book *Los Dos Viajes de Evita* (The Two Trips of *Evita*): "She came to Spain as *Eva Perón* and 18 days later left as *Evita*."

On the tiles

Know the 'Ateneo'...? At the heart of the city centre, it's the place to go if in search of Malaga's cultural identity

REVIEW
GEORGINA OLIVER

A night out on the tiles - "reelin' and a-rockin... till the break of dawn" - already feels like a hazy recollection to many revellers hit by pandemic restrictions. In Paris, once known as the capital of the French Touch, curfew jokes in the vein of "What next? Virtual pyjama parties?" are the *dernier cri*.

On both sides of the Pyrenees, former partygoers have had no alternative but to 'downsize' from clubbing to lo-fi home lounging; and whilst ravers will always be ravers, pumping up the car stereo to full volume... softer, more genteel cultural thrills are set to enjoy a boom. "Early dinner" menus are the latest restaurant marketing ploy.

In the know

Corona or no corona, autumn is upon the Costa. The clocks go back on the last Sunday of October. The streets near the seafront will soon be strewn with desiccated palm tree fronds.

A poetic aura, imbued with a familiar sense of melancholia, envelops the centre of Malaga, propitious to the intimacy of smaller-scale artistic events - the polar opposite of summer blockbusters...

Arty Malagueños nip into relatively low-key venues such as the Ateneo de Málaga, 'en camino' for the warmth of their homes, after a spot of shopping on Calle Larios.

Just off the Plaza de la Constitución, at the beginning of Calle Compañía, which leads to the Thyssen Museum, the Ateneo is open from 6 to 9.30pm, Monday to Friday.

Founded half a century ago, housed since 2000 in a narrow, lofty historical building adjacent to a church, which belonged to Jesuit fathers during the first of its multiple and varied incarnations, this congenial athenaeum has developed a unique identity, over the decades.

The secret of its success? Perhaps the welcoming atmosphere that pervades its quaint unassuming premises, and the engagingly eclectic spectrum of 'tertulia'-style gatherings and exhibitions it proffers. This distinctly old-skool 'Asociación

cultural' has somehow managed to become a hub of contemporary art and photography, and that duality is part of its charm.

Malaga Patterns

What caught my eye - and imagination - last time I walked up the steep staircase leading from the ground-floor display (in this instance, a group show curated by Soho gallery El Estudio Ignacio del Rio...)? An exhibition with a mission. To be

seen until 27 November, Malaga Patterns maps out and decodes the visual identity of its conceptor's beloved city, via the ornamental motifs recurrent in its tiles, mosaics and cobblestones.

Ancient or recent, hydraulic cement floor and wall tiling is ubiquitous in Malaga. Hence the power of fascination of the eponymous bilingual (Spanish/English) companion book, also masterminded by graphic artist Nielo Muñoz; at the

crossroads of conceptual artwork and photographic 'city-logue', Malaga Patterns whisks the reader from past to present, from churches with a Mudejar influence all the way to Daniel Buren's design for the Pompidou Centre aka 'El Cubo'.

Virtual landmark

One of the Ateneo de Málaga's special attractions is an "amazing maze" conceived by Malaga-based artist, Ernst Kraft.

Situated in a courtyard,

THE BOOK

Title: Málaga Patterns.

Author: Nielo Muñoz.

Number of pages: 164.

Price: 20 euros.

Edition: Bilingual in Spanish and English.

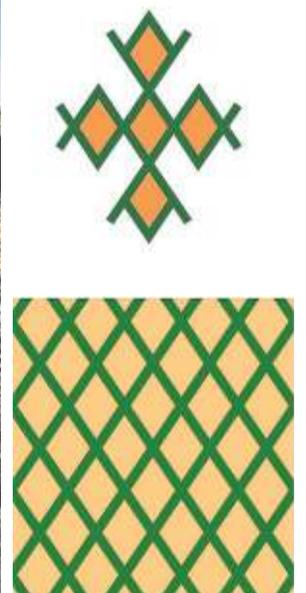


which the Ateneo shares with a primary school, this contemplative labyrinth - visible to the public from its inner windows only - leads the onlooker step by step to a "highly symbolic" central image, representing a human brain. For a bird's eye view of the maze, go to Google maps and search for El Laberinto del Patio de Ernst Kraft.

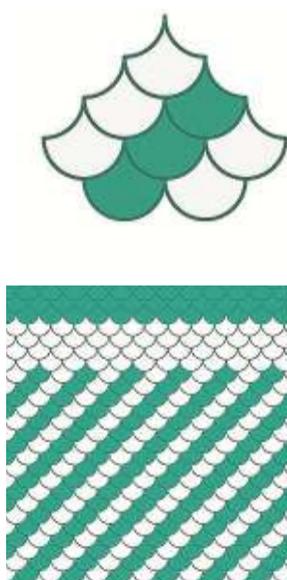
MALAGA PATTERNS



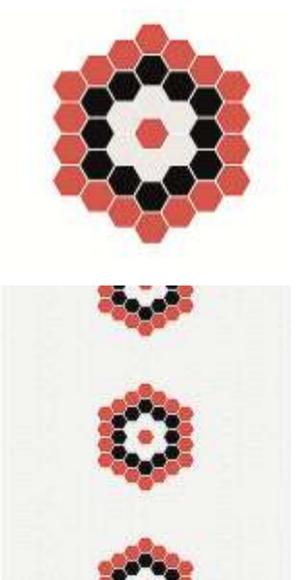
Iglesia de San Juan. The church consecrated by the Catholic Monarchs opens the tour with the decoration of its façades, which have become the prominent feature of the building at the heart of the old city centre. **SUR**



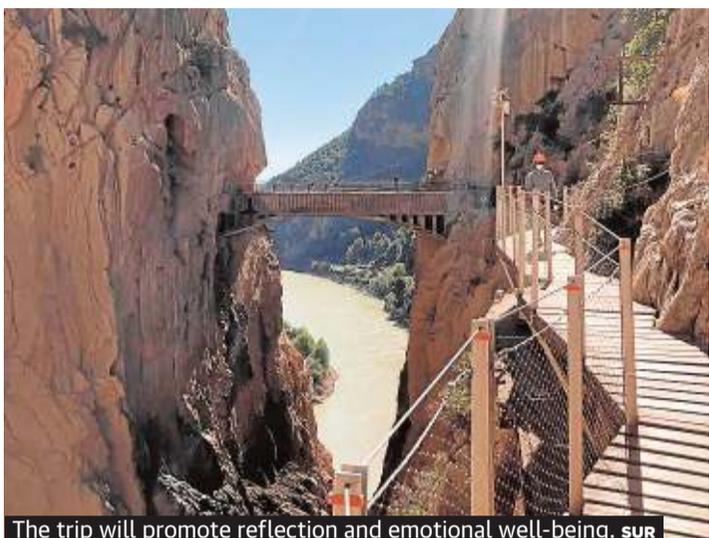
Atarazanas Market. The tiles on the market building's roof form a decorative pattern of crosses, one of the aesthetic delights of the building designed by Joaquín de Rucoba. **SUR**



La Concepción Botanical Garden. The cupola built in 1920 and located on the southern hill of the garden has a roof made of green and white scale-shaped glazed tiles. **SUR**



La Térmica. For Nielo Muñoz the building now occupied by the cultural centre "is full of gems, starting with its iconic hexagonal floor tile, which is used as the emblem of the centre and decorates its corridors". **SUR**

The trip will promote reflection and emotional well-being. **sur**

All Saints pilgrimage to the Caminito del Rey

TONY BRYANT

MALAGA. Father Louis Darrant from St George's Church in Malaga is preparing to lead a group of pilgrims on the Caminito del Rey on Saturday 7 November. The theme of the day is 'Friends above and friends below', which the priest hopes will give the pilgrims the chance to reflect on the significance of the Christian festival of All Saints.

The allocated time to begin the Caminito is 10.45am from Ardales, and the group will meet at 10.30 for the traditional rite of the Blessing of Pilgrims.

Father Louis, who was appointed as chaplain of the church earlier this year, is asking each pilgrim to try to raise 100 euros in sponsorship to support chaplaincy funds. "Many people from both a faith and secular background are rediscovering pilgrimage as something which promotes both reflection and emotional well-being," Father Louis explained.

The adventurous priest has also begun preparations for a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela next year. For more information about how to register for either pilgrimage, call 630909131.

EXHIBITIONS

David Tomé

LAS LAGUNAS DE MIJAS. Until 16 November. Casa de la Cultura. DUALidades is an exhibition by photographer David Tomé. The photos show two different realities in the same location, in the same shot. There is no cheating or double exposure, just shots that seek the complicity of the observer. A proportion of sales will go to the Alzheimer's and other Dementias Association AFA in Mijas Costa and Fuengirola. For a guided tour email: contactme@davidtome.com

Women

LA CALA DE MIJAS. Until 26 October. Centro Cultural La Cala. This is a collective exhibition by twelve artists and a sculptor with works based on the theme Women.

Ana Barriga

MARBELLA. Until 21 November. Galería Yusto/Giner. La Ermita industrial estate, C/Madera, 9. The exhibition La Vida del Difunto by Ana Barriga consists of 12 large format paintings using mixed media (oil, enamel, marker, spray can). Viewing is by previous appointment only. Email: galeria@yusto-giner.com Call: 951507053.

José Miguel Chico López

MALAGA. Until 23 October. Galería JM, Duquesa de Parcent 12. De Gente en Gente is an exhibition of works by José Miguel Chico López.

ACA exhibition

MARBELLA. Until 2 November. Magpie Art Gallery, C/Virgen del Pilar. The Art and Culture Association Marbella has organised this exhibition by Granada resident Andrés Aguilera Teruel.

Malaga Picasso Museum

MALAGA. Museo Picasso Málaga, Calle San Agustín. Collection. Dialogues with Picasso. Collection 2020-2023 is formed by 120 works by the artist. These include the cubist sculpture Glass of Absinthe (1914) and the painting Susanna and the Elders (1955). www.museopicassomalaga.org.

The Russian Museum

MALAGA. Edificio Tabacalera, Avda Sor Teresa Prat. Temporary exhibitions. The two temporary exhibitions currently at the museum are Rompiendo el Silencio. El cine Mudo en Rusia (Breaking the Silence. Silent Film in Russia) and



José Miguel Chico López, Malaga



Macarena Pozo, Malaga.

Andrèi Tarkovsky. Maestro del Espacio (Master of Space). Andrèi Tarkovsky was one of the most influential Russian artists of the 20th century and forerunner of innovative techniques in the cinema of the time. In conjunction with this exhibition is a series of silent movies, with some of the most iconic Russian, Italian and American films available until 4 April 2021.

Annual exhibition. The current annual exhibition at the Russian museum 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.

Centre Pompidou

MALAGA. Muelle Uno.

Nicolás de Staël. Until 29 November. Born in St Petersburg in 1914 but exiled in France, Staël exhibited for the first time in 1944. His abstract works reflect an austere and sombre time, but gradually incorporate more light and colour towards 1952 when he adopted a more figurative style of painting.

From Miró to Barceló. The semi-permanent exhibition is entitled De Miró a Barceló. Un siglo de arte español. (A century of Spanish art). 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.

Charo Carrera. Until March 2021. The main staircase in the Centro Pompidou is the site for the painting Si yo, Si tú by veteran artist Charo Carrera.

Centro de Arte Contemporáneo-CAC Málaga

MALAGA. C/Alemania.

Nan Goldin. Until 25 October. American artist Nan Goldin is the author of a sequence of video clips entitled Siren in Espacio 5 of the gallery.

Bosco Sodi. Until 6 December. Ergo Sum is the first solo exhibition by Bosco Sodi in Spain. It consists of 30, large, black, monochromatic paintings and several golden sculptures.

Philippe Pasqua. Until 29 November. El Lado Oscuro is the title of this exhibition which encompasses 40 works completed by artist Philippe Pasqua over the last 30 years. It includes large format paintings,

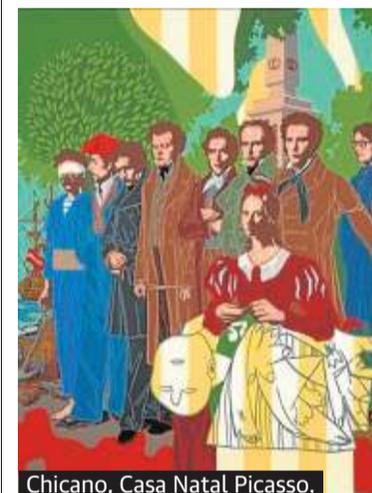
drawings and sculptures. The majority of the pieces portray faces and nudes of disabled children, transgender persons, prostitutes and members of his own family.

Fernando Clemente

MALAGA. Sala Coracha, behind the Museo del Patrimonio Municipal. Around sixty works created over the last fifteen years by Fernando Clemente entitled I Love Pintura.

Carmen Thyssen Museum

MALAGA. C/ Compañía, 10. 9.30 - 2.30pm. 7 - 9pm Tuesday to Friday. 9.30am - 9pm Saturday and Sunday. **Collection.** A journey through mainly Spanish art from the Old Masters through Romantic Landscape and Costumbrismo, Précieux Style and Naturalist Painting and Fin-de-Siècle. **Masks. Metamorphosis of Modern Identity.** Until 10 January 2021. The new season's exhibition running consists of over 100 works by national and international artists.



Chicano, Casa Natal Picasso.

Macarena Pozo

MALAGA. From 30 October until 1 December. Sala Alfajar, C/Císter. The exhibition NO DOLOR by artist Macarena Pozo includes works completed since 2016 using the technique of mezzotint.

When words transform into art

MALAGA. Until 31 October. Sociedad Económica de Amigos del Paí, Plaza de la Constitución.

Patrimonio Bibliográfico Malagueño: La Biblioteca de la Económica. Una Herencia Compartida is an exhibition of around 60 books, magazines, photographs and documents from the 1850s that record the modernisation and culturalisation of Malaga.

Robert Harding, Shinto

MALAGA. Estudio de Ignacio del Río, C/San Lorenzo.

Around half a dozen of Harding's creations are included in the exhibition which demonstrates this artist's ability to combine industrial and natural elements in dynamic sculptures.

Flex Your Camera

MALAGA. Until 31 October. Espacio Cero, UMA, Bulevar Louis Pasteur, 23. The exhibition traces 40 years of the history of the US record label Dischord Records which was an icon of Punk Rock. It consists of around 50 photographs and videos of the Punk Rock era at its peak.

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Malaga- Passau Cultural Exchange

MALAGA. Until 1 November. MUPAM. The exhibition consists of 34 works to commemorate the artistic exchanges between Malaga and the city of Passau in Germany over the last fifteen years. In total 21 artists from Malaga and 13 from Passau combine their works in this free exhibition.

Los Machados

MALAGA. Until 12 December. Centro Cultural Fundación Unicaja. Plaza del Obispo.

Around 200 pieces are on display that form the legacy of the poets, the Machado brothers Antonio and Manuel. It includes photos, drawings, documents and transcripts, many of which have not been exhibited in public before.

Americans on parade

MALAGA. Until 30 November. Fnac Malaga.

British photographer George Georgiou has won The British Journal of Photography Project prize in 2019 and two World Press titles for his photos. His exhibition shows that despite the segregations in US society due to race or wealth, the American people come together for the annual parades in these photos.

César Dezfuli

MALAGA. Until 20 December, Alianza Francesa, C/ Jacinto Verdaguer.

The exhibition Passengers consists of a collection of 118 photographs of refugees taken as they were rescued from their rubber boats on the Mediterranean. The photographer has met with 65 of the people photographed in the project which began in 2016.

Enrique Brinkmann

CHURRIANA. Until 5 January, 2021. Casa Gerald Brenan, Calle Torremolinos.

Artist Enrique Brinkmann has an exhibition of 12 of his works entitled Estrellas para Brenan, Obra Gráfica, a personal tribute to the writer. Brinkmann has exhibited in the MOMA in New York as well as many other museums and art galleries around the world.

Marilyn Manson 21 Years in Hell

MALAGA. Until 22 January. La Térmica. Free.

British photographer Ralph Perou took photos of the extravagant, dark and peculiar American rock star Marilyn Manson over a twenty-one year



Manson/Perou, La Térmica.

period. Thirty of his photographs from the book '21 Years in Hell: Manson/Perou' are on display at the Térmica in Malaga city.

Eugenio Chicano

MALAGA. Until 16 March. Casa Natal Picasso.

The first director of the Casa Natal Picasso, Eugenio Chicano, died in November 2019 leaving a substantial artistic legacy. The artist dedicated some of his works to Picasso and the museum has selected some of these for an exhibition in his honour.

Nigel Gilbert

EL MORCHE. Until 28 October. Bio Beach Club.

An exhibition of prints influenced by comic strips and Japanese woodcuts. Ink line and wash are used to set down shapes, tones and textures. Colour washes are overlaid to build up a graphic effect in-depth.

Armonía de Colores

UBRIQUE. Until 20 November. Sala de Exposiciones, Antiguo Mercado de Abastos.

An exhibition of paintings created by Manuel Lozano.



Armonía de Colores, Ubrique.

LIVE CONCERTS AND MUSIC

OFM Chamber Music concerts

MALAGA. Auditorio de Museo Picasso de Málaga.

17 November, 8pm. Cuarteto Mainake.

Tickets: www.museopicasso-malaga.org

La Cochera Cabaret

MALAGA. Avda de los Guindos.

23 October, 10pm. Antonio Romera "Chipi" accompanied by Javier Galiana on the piano, will be singing some of his past hits as well as new compositions.

Coyote Saloon concerts

LAS LAGUNAS. Fridays and Saturdays throughout October.

23 October. The Moneymakers

30 October. The Lost Boys.

Reservations essential. More info Coyote Bowling Saloon Facebook page.

Evita

FUENGIROLA. Until 25 October, 7.30pm (7pm Sundays). Salon Varietes, C/ Emancipación.

A tribute to the musical Evita with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice. Box Office: 952 474542 or email: boxoffice@salon-varietestheatre.com



Freddie/Cher tribute, Fuengirola.

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

MALAGA. 29, 30 October 8pm. Teatro Cervantes.

Conductor José María Moreno guides the orchestra through Édouard Lalo's Spanish Symphony with violinist Sergey Malov in the first half followed by Tchaikovsky's Symphony N°6 (Pathétique). Tickets: <https://www.unientradas.es/>

Two Legends

FUENGIROLA. 30, 31 October, 7.30pm. Salon Varietes, C/ Emancipación.

Freddie Mercury and Cher, two of the biggest icons in musical history take to the stage with their dancers in this mini rock concert. Box Office: 95247 4542 or email: boxoffice@salon-varietestheatre.com

Freddie Mercury and Cher

CALETA DE VÉLEZ. 1 November, 5.30pm. Baviera Golf. 50€.

Freddie Mercury and Cher tribute acts as entertainment and a three-course menu. Reservations: email info@RSB-golf.com or direct from the restaurant at the golf club. More info: 722490013

Michael Bublé tribute

FUENGIROLA. 6, 7 November, 7.30pm. Salon Varietes, C/ Emancipación.

Peet Rothwell, Europe's top Bublé tribute act, will be performing some of the singers greatest hits. Tickets from box office: 952474542 or email: boxoffice@salonvarietestheatre.com

41st Festival of Jazz

GRANADA. From 30 October until 2 November. Teatro Isabel la Católica

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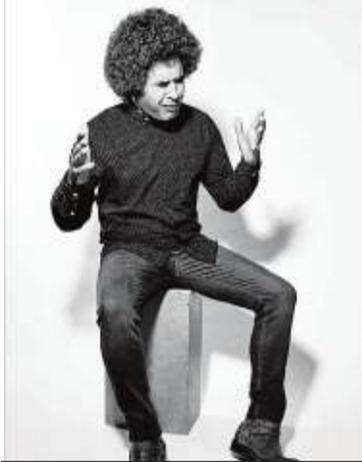
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Flamenca a Compás

LAS LAGUNAS. 24 October, 9pm. Plaza de Fuerzas Armadas.

'Flamenco Puro' with Ismael Tamayo (vocals) and José Antonio Rojas (guitar). Tickets only from Casa de la Cultura or Casa Museo Mijas.



Flamenco al Compás, Las Lagunas.

Rosario la Tremendita

MALAGA. 24 October, 10pm. La Cochera Cabaret, Avda de los Guindos. Singer, composer and producer as well as multi-instrument musician, La Tremendita will be in concert.

Antaño

MALAGA. 25 October, 8pm. La Cochera Cabaret, Avda de los Guindos. Young Malaga musicians will recreate the music of flamenco icons such as Manolo Caracol, La Paquera de Jerez, La Repompa, Pepe Marchena and la Niña de los Peines among others. With Virginia Gámez and María Almenro.

THEATRE AND DANCE

Danza Málaga

MALAGA. Until 1 November. Teatro Cervantes / Echegaray. www.teatro-cervantes.com

As part of the Teatro Cervantes 150th anniversary celebrations the dance festival includes 29 events and 16 shows throughout October. Tickets cost 20 euros for Teatro Cervantes

and 15 euros for Teatro Echegaray. There are also two shows for children (tickets 6 euros).

TALKS / LECTURES

The Arts Society

NERJA. Lectures online.

The Arts Society Nerja starts a new season of lectures free online for members and supporters. The broadcast can be seen live on the Art Society YouTube channel.

27 November, 2pm. Indian Modern Art. Lecturer Georgina Bexon.

18 December, 2pm. Great Exhibitions and the World's Fairs. Lecturer Matthew Denney.

The Arts Society Benahavís

BENAHAVÍS. Lectures online.

The lectures are broadcast online using Zoom for members and supporters.

27 October, 7pm. Ian Cockburn will talk about political intrigue, sex and murder at the court of the Cordoba Caliphate. Book: Lyndawoodin.1@gmail.com Visitors can register for 10€ at graciesvilla@gmail.com

Online art course

MALAGA. Lectures online from 29 October.

The online course is in Spanish and is called Arte de Vanguardia 100 Años Después. It consists of six lectures totalling 25 hours by art professionals on some of the most important art movements of the 21st century including cubism, surrealism and dadaism. More information: cur-sovanguardias@mpicassom.org

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ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE. Open every Sunday 9am - 2pm.

The ARCH team at the Rescue Centre for Horses and Donkeys have resumed their popular Sunday open mornings. Visitors can come and meet the volunteers and the current residents. More information on Facebook: Centro Andalusi de Rescate de Caballos or www.horsescue.org

Book and art sale

MALAGA. 25 October from 12.30pm. St George's Anglican Church, A Book and Art Sale will take place at St George's Anglican Church, located in the grounds of the historical Cementerio Inglés, Avenida de Pries 1, close to the bullring.

Halloween Gala for Triple A

MARBELLA. 31 October. Puente Romano Supper Club. 150€

A three-course dinner, including house wines, live entertainment by The Purple Revolution, Purple Rain prince tribute. Halloween costumes requested but not mandatory. Raffle and jewellery auction. All proceeds go to Triple A. Reservations call 682 112 233 or Whatsapp.

MORE IDEAS

Free Spanish courses

NERJA. Nerja Cultural Centre, Calle Granada, 45.

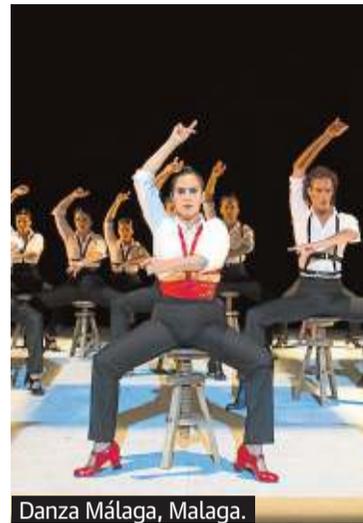
Free Spanish courses for beginners, basic and conversation levels. Limited spaces. To enrol call 671567105. Classes run until June 2021.

Lux Mundi Taize Prayer Meeting

TORRE DEL MAR. 30 October, 8.15pm. San Andrés parish church. Place a candle with the names of loved ones who have departed and pray for all those who have lost their lives through the pandemic. Send an email or Whatsapp to be included in the prayers. Call: 952 543 334 or email: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

Lux Mundi Taize Prayer Meeting

FUENGIROLA. 18, 26 November. Nuestra Señora del Carmen and San



Danza Málaga, Malaga.

José churches, respectively.

To be included in the prayers, email luxmundif@gmail.com

Lux Mundi

TORRE DEL MAR. Fridays, 11am - 1pm. Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, Avda Moscatel.

19 November, 17 December. Trip to Gibraltar. Various departure times and pick-up points. Tel.952 543 334 or email: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

Guided walks

CÁRTAMA. Cártama town hall.

Limited places. Reservations up to Friday before the walk at Cártama town hall or call: 951 010 872

25 October. Cordoba mountains and Sierras Subbéticas.

22 November. 16km Quejigo Route into the town of Jubrique in the Seranía de Ronda.

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Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

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

Tel: 902902103. www.yelmocines.es
The Secret: Dare To Dream: 19.35 (Tues).

Trolls' World Tour: 19.10 (Tues).

Tenet: 21.00 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Rincón

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA. C/ Arroyo Totalán. Tel: 902220922.

www.yelmocines.es
The Secret: Dare To Dream: 20.10 (Tues).

Trolls' World Tour: 21.20 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Vialia

MALAGA. Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902220922

The Human Voice: 20.30, 21.30 (every day).

Gauguin from the National Gallery, London: 20.00 (Mon).

Six Minutes To Midnight: 19.50 (Tues).

Hope Gap: 20.10 (Tues).

Tenet: 18.20 (Tues).

Cine Albéniz

MALAGA. C/ Alcazaba, 4. Tel: 902360295. www.cinealbeniz.com

Falling: 19.45, 21.55 (every day).

The Human Voice: 19.05, 20.35 (every day).

Rifkin's Festival: 16.45, 19.00 (every day).

Hope Gap: 17.30, 20.05, 22.30 (every day).

Cinesur Ingenio

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Avda Juan Carlos, 1. Tel: 667773187.

The Human Voice: 17.30, 20.05, 22.30 (Fri, Sat); 19.05 (Sun); 21.00 (Mon, Tues).

Dinner and recital by award-winning Japanese violinist

TONY BRYANT

SAN PEDRO. Project Music will host a special concert dinner night at the D-Wine Restaurant in San Pedro on Thursday 28 October.

The concert will feature award-winning Japanese violinist Lamaya, a musician celebrated for her unique artistic range. The performance will include Latin, Celtic, classical Argentinian tango and flamenco.

Lamaya, who began her career at the age of eight, has performed with some of flamenco's top artists and she has given solo concerts and performed at festivals in Europe, America, Asia and Africa.

She has also studied solo performance, music composition and conducting at vari-



Award-winning violinist Lamaya will perform in San Pedro. SUR.

ous renowned institutes throughout the world.

Tickets for the event, which starts at 7.30pm, cost 65 euros and will include a welcome drink on arrival,

dinner and wine.

Capacity restrictions will be enforced so a reservation must be made on PMMTickets@mail.com, or by calling Anita on 644242365.

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Lessons of life in the fight against breast cancer

Experiences. Four women who have suffered from the illness say it is essential to carry on, be positive and never give up, because "you can overcome this"

ÁNGEL ESCALERA



► **Talk.**
The three women listening to a psychologist at the AECC. **F. HINOJOSA**



► **Campaign**
Framed photo as part of the AECC initiative to mark International Breast Cancer Day. **FRANCISCO HINOJOSA**



Every year, over 1,100 women in Malaga province are diagnosed with breast cancer. That's the bad news. The good news is that nearly 90 per cent of them overcome the illness. October is International Breast Cancer Awareness Month and on the 19th it was International Breast Cancer Day, so we spoke to four women who have had the illness, to find out about their experience. In every case, their message was the same: "Never give up; you can get over this," they told us with a smile.

Ramoni Fernández had to give up her work as a seamstress due to breast cancer. She loved her work, but refused to let this get her down.

"I was very ill, but now I feel

fantastic and I'm happy in what I do. It takes a lot of strength, but you have to fight to beat cancer; you have to adapt your way of life to deal with it," says this 67-year-old who is originally from Linares but now lives in Fuengirola and is an active volunteer with the Asociación Española contra el Cáncer (AECC) cancer charity. "If life gives you a second chance you have to grasp it and never give up," she says, firmly.

After her mastectomy in June 2006, at the San Cecilio hospital in Granada, Ramoni had to deal with another problem: her body rejected the prosthesis three times. In the end surgeons reconstructed her breast using fat and tissue from her own body. Despite the difficulties,

she remained upbeat and enjoyed the weddings of her son and her daughter. The birth of her grandchildren also encouraged her to carry on: "Seeing my grandchildren grow up has given me life," she says.

Although she no longer sews professionally, she does so as a volunteer for the AECC association, making masks and cushions for women who have recently undergone breast cancer surgery at the Costa del Sol hospital in Marbella.

"It is essential to stay active and enjoy things. I feel very happy, collaborating with the Association against Cancer," Ramoni says.

María del Mar Aranda, who is 52, feels the same. When the lockdown began, she had re-

cently undergone surgery for a breast tumor.

"I have never seen my oncologist without a mask. On the days I left home to go for chemotherapy at the Costa del Sol hospital, the road was completely empty. I had never seen anything like it," says María del Mar, who had spent the four years before her diagnosis on the African island of Zanzibar (Tanzania). What she saw and learned in Africa helped her to cope with her illness, for which she is currently receiving radiotherapy sessions at the Clínico hospital in Malaga.

This civil servant had decided to try a completely different way of life, which is why she went to Zanzibar. There, she worked first as the manager of a small hotel and then for a construction com-

pany based in the Canary Islands. When she noticed a lump in her breast one day, she suspected that it could be a tumor and decided to return to Malaga, where she was diagnosed with cancer on 10 February.

"We tend to think that cancer is something that happens to other people, but not to us, but in fact it can happen to you and if it does then you have to take things as they come," she says. "I'm very pleased with the Spanish health service. I appreciate it even more after my four years in Africa. Health is the most important thing. Without it, you have nothing," she says.

Clinical test in Cordoba

Mariela Bernardi is 37 and originally from Argentina. She lives



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▲ **Collaboration.** Mariela Bernardi, Ramoni Fernández and María del Mar Aranda, at the Asociación del Cáncer offices in Malaga. FRANCISCO HINOJOSA

in Marbella and has just started taking part in a clinical test to combat the metastasis which is affecting her head, liver and bones, deriving from an inoperable breast tumour that was de-

tected in 2017.

She has had chemotherapy, radiotherapy and immunotherapy, and now she hopes the clinical tests which are being carried out by the Reina Sofía hospital

in Cordoba will be the answer.

In order to travel to and from the hospital, she has applied to the AECC for financial assistance and transport.

"This is an experimental treatment and I don't know how long it will take, but I am positive and feeling strong in my mind, which is absolutely essential in order to fight cancer with more strength. I will get over this," she says, with absolute certainty.

MariLu Jaime, who is 40, also sounds very positive. She is an English teacher at the Colegio San Francisco de Asís in Mijas Costa, and has just finished five chemotherapy sessions to combat a cerebral metastasis which occurred following breast cancer in 2019.

"I have always been a negative sort of person, but now, on the other hand, I see my illness as something positive. It's like a way of learning that I have to go through to change my way of life. This is a lesson which I am accepting with optimism. One has to appreciate life and be happy," she says.

Nearly 90% of breast cancer patients survive

Over 1,100 women in Malaga will be diagnosed with breast cancer, the most common type among the female population, this year

ÁNGEL ESCALERA

MALAGA. More and more people are surviving breast cancer nowadays, thanks to early diagnosis and advances in treatments. In Malaga province, around 88 per cent of women with a breast tumor overcome it and are alive five years after being diagnosed, says Dr Emilio Alba, the director of medical oncology at the Regional and Clínico hospitals in Malaga.

Breast cancer treatment in Malaga province has never been better, with access to the latest drugs and technology

He says that in general the situation regarding breast cancer in Malaga has never been better, with effective screening and prevention measures, no delays in diagnosis, highly trained multidisciplinary teams and access to the latest treatments and drugs. He does, however, say there is room for improvement in terms of reconstructive surgery.

Unfortunately, the pandemic has caused some delays in carrying out radiography tests which are necessary to confirm cases of breast cancer, so oncologists in Malaga are seeing fewer new patients this year.

Profile

In Andalucía, breast cancer patients are usually over the age of 50, although the risk of developing the illness can begin at 40. Risk factors include smoking, alcohol, obesity and a sedentary lifestyle. The Andalusian Medical Oncology Association says over 5,000 women will be diagnosed in the region in 2020.

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 **GRUPO DENTAL CLINICS**



"Further restrictions or another lockdown in winter time would be worse than before"

Jesús Romero Head of Neurology at the Quirón hospital in Malaga

Romero warns of the dangers of a new lockdown: "With fewer hours of daylight, the effect on people's health would be greater"

MATÍAS STUBER

MALAGA. In the summer, we have an extra hour. In winter, an hour less. That is a ritual that we repeat every six months. Everybody copes differently with this change in the time. Some people feel low in the winter months, and are then euphoric when summer arrives and the days are longer. Independently of how we feel, there is something that marks the rhythm of our interior clock: the light, says Jesús Romero Imbroda, who is the head of Neurology at the Quirón hospital in Malaga.

As well as explaining how changing the hour affects our health, this specialist also warns that this year differs to others. We

are in the midst of a pandemic which - what a surprise - can also affect our health with regard to the imminent onset of winter time.

As a doctor, are you in favour of changing the hour or not?

In principle, it isn't a question of taking a group decision on whether it is something positive or negative. It is an artefact of political regulation. If they tell us the reason for it is that it saves energy, and it is beneficial for the economies of countries, I have no objection. The problem this year is related to the pandemic. Due to the lockdown in March, people have enjoyed fewer hours of sunshine than normal. When the hour changes at this time of year, the days get shorter. Because of lower exposure to the sun, which is what we have seen during the pandemic, there could be problems in the long term. For example, vitamin D deficiencies.

Why do we talk about summer



Jesús Romero at the Quirón hospital. SALVADOR SALAS

time and winter time? Is there a scientific reason or are they just names?

There is no specific scientific reason. I understand it is that way because the time changes before the start of summer and the start of winter. Nothing more than that. **Are we human beings guided by daylight?**

Absolutely. Our biological changes are linked to the Circadian rhythm. That is the number of hours we sleep and the number of hours we are awake. Light is essential to all that. Light stimulates a series of mechanisms and darkness causes other changes which facilitate sleep, and those are associated with the recuperation of the systems involved in the human body.

The change to summer time has a greater effect than the change to winter time, because we sleep an hour less

A new lockdown would be different; people won't go onto their balconies to clap for the emergency services because it will be dark, cold and rainy

Does the change in the hour disturb our internal body clock?

The change in the hour does disturb it, yes, but so does the arrival of winter. That has been shown in studies of people in Northern European countries who have little exposure to the sun. There, the incidence of depression and other psychiatric pathologies is greater. In the Latin countries, where there is greater exposure to the light and you can be outside more, the incidence of depression is lower. There is a clear seasonal characteristic in psychiatric pathologies.

This internal clock; is it the same, and does it work the same way for everybody?

In terms of health, yes. The chronometer is determined by the pineal gland, which is a gland in the brain that segregates the hormone called melatonin. The secretion of melatonin is stimulated by an absence of light, when we are going to sleep. When we induce sleep, the melatonin is segregated and that helps us to sleep. **So how does the change in the hour affect our rest?**

The change to summer time has a greater effect than the change to winter time. When we go into summer time, we sleep an hour less. Sleeping less can lead to irritability and anxiety. Now we will sleep an hour more, so it will be easier to adapt to the change. Although you also have to remember that it is anomalous for us to lose hours of daylight.

What effects can this change of the hour have at a neurological level?

With regard to health, it has been clearly shown that the change in the hour makes us more irritable. In some cases it can lead to anxiety. That mainly happens in the first few days.

Does the change in the hour affect adults and children in exactly the same way, or are there differences between them?

There are some differences. Children adapt better. They barely notice the change. That means they absorb it better. Adults, whose hours of sleep are very defined and organised, notice it more.

For many people, the change to winter time makes them feel sad. Is the lack of daylight the only reason for that?

I would say to a large extent, yes. We human beings think we are very capable but in fact we are strongly linked to the climate, time, atmospheric pressure and changes in the season. We see that in illnesses. Epileptics, for example, have more convulsions when there is a full moon. And we still don't know why that is.



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Flu jabs in Andalucía: people over 65 are currently the priority

The campaign has been brought forward to October and some vaccinations can be given in places other than health centres and hospitals if necessary

JOSÉ LUIS PIEDRA

SEVILLE. The Junta de Andalucía began this year's anti-flu campaign on Wednesday, and people aged 65 or over are currently being given priority. The regional government expects to vaccinate 1.4 million of over-65s in Andalucía, and appointments can now be made at health centres.

The Junta's Minister for Health and Families, Jesús Aguirre, launched the campaign by having his flu jab, and called on others to do the same. "This year it is more important than ever, because the groups at risk from flu are also those at most risk from Covid-19," he said. He explained that this will be a long campaign, and everybody who needs a flu jab will be able to have one. Medical and social workers have already been vac-



The Junta says everyone who needs a flu jab will be given one. EFE

When there are atmospheric changes, patients who get migraines suffer much more. If your sleep is disturbed and you suffer from pathologies like depression, you are going to feel even more sad. Then that sadness is due to the change in sleep pattern and fewer hours of daylight. Some illnesses have a seasonal pattern. There is more depression in winter. Light makes the brain happy, it is the element that switches it on.

We are still in the midst of a pandemic. Would further restrictions or even another lockdown make the change to winter time feel even worse?

Yes. The situation would be more difficult. In a new lockdown, for example, the scenes where people went onto their balconies to clap for the emergency services wouldn't happen again. It will be dark, cold and rainy. Those hours we spent outside in the light, in homes which had outside space of course, were very healthy for us during lockdown. Winter time worsens the consequences of possible restrictions or lockdowns. As a neurologist, it worries me, es-

pecially, that elderly people will get worse because of a lack of cognitive stimulation.

In other words, it would be a lockdown with fewer hours of daylight.

Right now, we are seeing the consequences of locking down a population. I am one of those who believe that there is a danger in lockdowns. Above all, for illnesses which are not Covid. We see that the health system can't cope and delays ensue. With regard to lifestyle, which is what interests people in general, a lockdown with fewer hours of daylight is likely to be more detrimental for the health than the last one.

Can you give us some advice or recommend what we can do to mitigate the effects of the change in the hour? ?

Don't anticipate or bring forward the change in the hour in an attempt to acclimatise the body, but don't resist it either. Just act normally, as if the hour hadn't changed. In two or three days your body will have adapted. In other words, don't anticipate or delay that adaptation. Just go along with it.

nated, as have residents of homes for the elderly.

Some people can apply to have their flu jab at home, such as those over the age of 75-80, those with multiple illnesses, convalescents and people who have been sent home from hospital and would have difficulty going to the health centre because of their state of physical or mental health.

In some cases it can also be arranged for flu jabs to be given elsewhere, such as community areas,

by prior appointment. This can be requested via the Salud Responde app, ClicSalud or directly with the health centre.

The health authorities also recommend that everyone born in 1954 or 1955, and anyone with a predisposition, should also have the pneumococcal vaccine Prevenar 13, which can be given at the same time as the flu jab and has been available free of charge for adults in Andalucía since May 2019.

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A crazy week

ANDREW J. LINN



Politics and the world of wine and food rarely meet, unless it's about duty increases. So the news this week has been abnormal. It started with Donald Trump threatening to postpone his promised financial stimulus package that would avoid 75,000

layoffs in the US airline and restaurant business. The reason? He announced the funding would have to be postponed until after the election, interpreted as: 'If you vote for me and I am re-elected, I will make sure the funds are delivered.' Coercion or what?

Almost as serious (!) is the EU's proposed renaming of the veggie-burger. Under pressure to call things what they really are and not to copy established food identities, a ruling that since it contains no meat it cannot be called a burger. The EU will propose it's rechristened 'veggie disk'.

So back to Trump. Having tweeted repeatedly that all foreign-sourced manufacturing should come back to America, an analysis of the items used by his hotel chain shows them to be sourced almost exclusively from China, whether bathroom fittings or steak knives. But Trump

should know that outsourcing is not a guarantee of success.

The catastrophic Trump Vodka was made in Germany and bombed spectacularly, probably because marketing tradition dictates that it is hard to market a product under the name of someone who has never used it. (Trump is teetotal and blames alcohol for his brother's early death.)

Assurances that it would out-sell the No 1 brand, Grey Goose, and become the most popular mixer in the USA, were never fulfilled, although it enjoyed some success in Israel because it was unintentionally kosher.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Monte Real Blanco 2019

Spain's white wines, particularly those from Rioja, have never had a good press – until recently. The Airen grape could never compete with Godello or Chardonnay, but all that has changed. This very agreeable blend of Airen and Malvasia does the trick, and the price is good too at around 7 euros.



Visitors enjoy the flavours of the area during last weekend's Sabor a Malaga gastronomic market. **TONY BRYANT**



Chef Juan Antonio Ortega. **T. B.**

ads and pâtés made with the popular 'salchichón', a soft pork and spiced sausage that is cured for just a short time and is popular all over Spain.

The chefs also cooked up an array of culinary delights and these included grilled tuna with cashew marinade, pickled chicken, avocado with crystallised prawns, and bull's ball tomato jam.

Visitors were also invited to take part in workshops and cooking lessons, as well as sampling olive oils, artisan beers, wines and coffees.

The market adhered to the current health and safety restrictions enforced to stop the spread of the coronavirus, and along with capacity restrictions and the compulsory wearing of masks, all visitors were temperature tested before entry.

The mayor claimed that the Sabor a Málaga markets are becoming "a new tourist attraction".

"The initiative launched by the provincial government of Malaga represents a firm commitment to the products of this land. This connects with citizens, tourists and visitors, and that makes Torremolinos a perfect window for the export of our products."

The major objective of Sabor a Málaga is to unify the highest quality products in the province under a global image. The brand was launched in 2011 by the provincial government and incorporates over 400 companies from the local food industry.

Torremolinos plays host to the flavours of Malaga province

The Sabor a Málaga food fair was held in the town last weekend to coincide with World Malaga Sausage Day

TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. The gastronomic market organised by Sabor a Málaga, the brand that promotes products from Malaga province, arrived in Torremolinos last weekend.

The food fair was launched to coincide with World Salchichón de

Málaga Day (a day devoted to the area's own type of sausage), which is celebrated on 15 October.

Hundreds of visitors enjoyed the three-day event, which promoted wine, olive oil, goat's cheese, blood sausage and chorizo, coffee, honey, artisan cakes and preserves.

The producers, many of which

were family-run businesses, came from towns and villages such as El Burgo, Pizarra, Arriate, Coín, Alhaurín el Grande, Casabermeja, Ardales and Yunquera.

The 18-stall market, which was opened by Mayor of Torremolinos José Ortiz, offered a variety of cooking demonstrations given by some of the area's top chefs.

These included Juan Antonio Ortega, chef at the Oveja Negra restaurant in Torremolinos; Sergio Garrido, from the Populus tavern in Malaga; and Raúl González, head chef at Calanova Golf Club restaurant in Mijas.

Friday's demonstrations included recipes for lasagne, sal-



Juan Marín and Marta Figueras-Dotti lift the Solheim Cup next to Francisco Salado and representatives of other institutions. JOSELE

THE FIGURES

100,000

golfers in Spain, according to the RFEG.

1.2 million

foreigners travel to Spain a year to play golf.

The event was also attended by Marta Figueras-Dotti, President of the Ladies European Tour (LET), as well as the President of the Royal Spanish Golf Federation (RFEG), Gonzaga Escauriaza. She highlighted the importance of golf as an engine of economic recovery at a delicate time for Spain.

"Great news"

"Hosting the Solheim Cup in our country is great news both for the sport of golf and for Spanish society as a whole. Once again we will have the opportunity to show the world the excellence of our golf facilities and all that goes with them. The announcement comes at a perfect time as it gives us the opportunity to help accelerate the recovery of the tourism sector. Let's work and enjoy this spectacular sporting event right now," said the RFEG chief.

Casares confirmed as venue of the 2023 edition of the Solheim Cup

The women's equivalent of the Ryder Cup was presented on Monday and will take place at Finca Cortesin from 18 to 24 September 2023

JOSÉ MARÍA MARTÍN

MARBELLA. It's been a long time coming but now it's official: the Solheim Cup will be held on the Costa del Sol in 2023.

The competition, the most important on the international women's calendar, takes place every two years and in 2023 it will be held from 18 to 24 September on the courses at Finca Cortesin in Casares.

Its managing director, Manuel Cardena, pointed out that these are 'sustainable courses', thanks to a collaboration with Acosol which means that the facilities are irrigated with 100 per cent recycled water. "We are committed to events of this importance on a global level, as they highlight the work we carry out with regard to caring for the environment, sustainability and the circular economy," he said.

'Women's Ryder Cup'

Puerto Banús in Marbella was the setting chosen for the official presentation on Monday of this prestigious tournament, which pits the best players from Europe against their counterparts from the United States in what is the women's version of the Ryder Cup.

The institutions who collabo-

rated to bring this tournament to Spain for the first time (Marbella, Benahavis and Casares town halls, the Malaga Diputación provincial authority and the Andalusian regional government's Tourism department) were all represented at the event.

The regional minister for Tourism, Juan Marín, said that he believed that the Costa del Sol "will once again be an international benchmark", as well as expressing his pride at bringing the highest level of women's golf to Andalucía.

Diputación president and Turismo Costa del Sol chief Francisco Salado also took part in the presentation and wanted to make it clear that having the Solheim Cup come in 2023 confirms that southern Spain is a world leader in the golf sector. "It will generate synergies, employment and economic growth, not only on the coast or in the province but in all Andalucía," said Salado.

"Golf helps to limit the effects of seasonality and generates employment. We must remember that in 2019 we were chosen as the best golf destination in all of Europe," he added.

For her part, the mayor of Marbella, Ángeles Muñoz, said that "it is an event that will go beyond sport", adding, "we will have the opportunity to showcase what we have to offer, which ranges from our excellent climate, to our hotels, our organisational capacity, our gastronomy, our leisure and also our culture".

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Malaga move into the play-off places with important win away in Zaragoza

A goal and an assist from Pablo Chavarría gave the visitors the best possible start at La Romareda on Sunday evening

DARYL FINCH



After two games without a win, Malaga picked up an unlikely three points on the road as they beat Real Zaragoza 2-1 at La Romareda on Sunday evening to move into the play-off spots.

Coach Sergio Pellicer made a host of changes from the side which struggled to break down ten-man Las Palmas last week, reverting to a five-man defence, with Alberto Escassi dropping in to shield debutant Juan Soriano between the sticks.

Midfielder Ramón returned to the side but it was forward Pablo Chavarría, making his first start since joining from Mallorca, who made the most telling contribution.

Following a VAR review, it was confirmed that the Argentinian had indeed given the visitors the lead in the 14th minute when he headed Yanis Rahmani's cross from the left back where it came from and into the side netting, giving keeper Cristian Álvarez no chance.

Just twelve minutes later, Chavarría was involved again, chasing Ramón's speculative long ball towards the corner flag before teeing up his striking partner Caye Quintana for the second. The on-loan Cadiz man slid to connect with the cut-back from the right, getting enough purchase on his



Cristian, Escassi and Jozabed celebrate an important victory at La Romareda. AGENCIA LOF

effort to squeeze it through the keeper's grasp.

With the scoreboard showing 2-0 after just 26 minutes, Zaragoza head coach Rubén Baraja changed his side's tactics, narrowing the field, allowing his midfielders to get on the ball more. Malaga, by contrast, were happy to cede possession and apart from Luca Zanimacchia drawing a superb reaction save from Soriano from

a set piece, the hosts barely created any openings in the first half.

In fact it was Chavarría again who had the first chance of the second half but was unable to squeeze his shot past Álvarez from a tight angle.

However, the urgency of the situation started to be felt and Zaragoza started to have some luck down their left-hand side. First, Juanjo Narváez whipped a shot

just wide of the far post after getting the better of Iván Calero; then Carlos Nieto had his half volley fisted away by Soriano.

The Malaga resistance was eventually broken with seven minutes plus stoppage time to go when Narváez's low cross from the right evaded Josua Mejías, Juande, Escassi and Calero to be tucked in at close range by former Malaga captain Adrián who

Pellicer: "I'd give our performance a ten out of ten. The boys are working very hard"

BORJA GUTIÉRREZ

MALAGA. Head coach Sergio Pellicer praised his players after Sunday's victory in Zaragoza. "For me today I give the players a ten out of ten," he said in his post-match press conference.

"They're working so hard and we've just come off a difficult few weeks."

The Malaga coach, who saw his game plan executed to perfection on the field, reiterated that the result came exclusively as a result of hard work and focus:

"There's no magic wand or magician here. We work very, very hard and it has to remain that way."

Pellicer explained that to avoid a repeat of going two games without scoring, "we have to be modest, remember where we've come from and focus on picking up

points. That's the only way we can keep the pressure off".

When asked about the changes he made, Pellicer highlighted the importance of having a strong squad. "Some players, like Jozabed and Lombán need a bit more time but we've got players who can come in and contribute."

One area in which this is especially in evidence is in goal. "We've got a good problem to have. We wanted good competition and we have it. Both [Soriano and Dani Barrio] will get chances to play."



SALVADOR SALAS

Introducing 15 new faces

Malaga sporting director Manolo Gaspar (front) presented the club's 15 new signings (minus Matos) in one go in an unprecedented event at La Rosaleda on Tuesday. Players (from left to right) Dani Barrio, Luis Muñoz, Chavarría, Caye Quintana, Jozabed, Calero, Jairo, Joaquín, Cristian, Rahmani, Mejías, Escassi, Orlando Sá and Soriano told reporters the objective this season was to avoid relegation.

MALAGA FEMENINO

League opener in doubt as players and staff test positive for Covid-19

M. RIVAS. Malaga have asked the Royal Football Federation (RFEF) to postpone their women's team's opening league fixture against Cáceres on Sunday after several players and coaches tested positive for coronavirus.

Though the club had made no statement on the matter until Tuesday, it is believed that training was halted before the weekend after the test results came through.

1-2

ZARAGOZA-MALAGA

Zaragoza: Cristian Álvarez; Tejero, Atienza, Guitián, Nieto (Pep Chavarría, min. 80); Larrazabal (Bermejo, min. 46), Eguaras, Javi Ros (Adrián, min. 65), Zanimacchia (Vuckic, min. 46); Narváez, Gabriel Fernández (Papunashvili, min. 65). Unused substitutes: Ratón, Francés, Jair, Zapater, Buyla, Rai.

Malaga: Soriano; Calero, Mejías, Escassi, Juande, Matos; Chavarría (Cristian, min. 67), Luis Muñoz (Lombán, min. 91), Ramón (Benkhemassa, min. 77), Rahmani (Jairo, min. 77); Caye Quintana (Jozabed, min. 91). Unused substitutes: Dani Barrio, Benítez, Larrubia, Julio.

Goals: 0-1 Chavarría (min. 14), 0-2 Caye Quintana (min. 26); 1-2 Adrián (min. 83).

Referee: Ortiz Arias. Yellow cards for Juande, Chavarría and Tejero.

Ground: La Romareda.

had come on as a second-half substitute.

The visitors, though, were able to hold on and seal what was a well-deserved victory. The win lifted them up to the play-off places (6th), just three points off early leaders Espanyol.

However, that could soon change with three matches in the space of a week coming up. At the time of going to print, Malaga were preparing to face Sporting Gijón at La Rosaleda. Visiting Malaga on Sunday are Mirandés (kick-off 8.30pm), before the Blue and Whites travel to face Mallorca next Wednesday night.



A LOOK AT LA LIGA
ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports

Crackpots

Valencia under Peter Lim is a shambles and the fans have found more creative ways to show their discontent



How do you spot a director of Valencia football club in the streets? Easy, just listen out for the Mexican musicians!

With disgruntled supporters unable to use traditional forms of showing disdain – waving white handkerchiefs and generally booing – they thought laterally and booked a mariachi band. You know, the chaps in big hats, playing guitars blowing horns and signing jolly Latino ditties. It's a million times better than a plane flying over the stadium.

You could say the Valencia fans refuse to be silenced. Something had to be done when the club from the third largest city in Spain was humiliated by their neighbours from the small outpost of Villarreal.



File photo of owner Peter Lim at the Mestalla. EFE

Dani Parejo, until a few weeks ago the Valencia captain, scored a spectacular winner for Villarreal, to take to the top of the table and leave his old club in the bottom half. It was poetic justice for Parejo who was told he could leave for free as part of a clear out at the Mestalla in the summer.

Basically, all the star players were pawned off in an effort to reduce the wage bill by 40 per cent; Rodrigo headed for Leeds and Ferrán Torres joined Manchester City as the club raised 60 million euros.

Valencia is a shambles. Billionaire Peter Lim runs the club from his empire in Singapore. He frequently summons his henchmen to Asia to order them to make changes which very rarely improve the club. He's changed the coach on nine occasions in his five-year reign. Only once did he make a sound appointment.

Marcelino, a time served manager, mopped up the mess from Gary Neville and his other predecessors. He won the Copa del Rey, qualified for the Champions League and pointed them in the right direction. Within a few months he was gone. His parting statement: "They didn't tell me why they didn't want the Copa,

only that it was a minor tournament and that I could be putting the main goal [Champions League qualification] at risk."

Javi Gracia, once of Malaga, recently of Watford, is possibly the humblest coach you can meet. Even Javi's patience snapped in the summer when he offered his resignation. He was effectively told that he'd need to buy himself out of his contract at a cost of three million euros. They are that desperate for funds!

One of the few valuable players remaining, Geoffrey Kondogbia will also be contributing to the club's finances by paying a fine for the following Instagram statement: "Having already destroyed an ambitious project, you had to deceive your coach and, finally, me. Thank you."

And that is why a business lunch for the President's men in the centre of Valencia was disturbed by the Mexican band. Even when they ditched their paella, the musicians followed them to the club's offices.

It's quite a contrast to Villarreal who play at the Estadio Cerámica, an exceptionally well-run club in Spain's pottery region. Valencia appears to have its share of crackpots.

Administrator considering a capital increase to secure club's long-term future

José María Muñoz knows that the club needs increased solvency if he is to be able to carry out the next phase of his job

ANTONIO GÓNGORA

MALAGA. With Malaga finally able to comply with La Liga's spending rules with the last-ditch ERE redundancy procedure for the majority of their high-earning squad, eyes now for judicial administrator José María Muñoz are on securing the club's financial situation heading into the future.



José María Muñoz

With debts still unpaid and income now considerably lower (more than a quarter down because of the pandemic alone), Muñoz is now looking at medium- and long-term solutions and is leaning towards a capital increase.

This, however, is a highly complex and risky process should it

not be completed successfully. The club's current circumstances, with it unclear who will own what percentage of the club after legal proceedings are completed, make it even more difficult to develop this initiative. Ousted club president Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani currently owns the majority of shares but could have a portion seized by the courts. The BlueBay hotel group, meanwhile is entitled to just under half of Al-Thani's shares according to a court ruling (though this decision is under appeal and is not yet final).

Al-Thani's shares (49 per cent of which are claimed by BlueBay) are held by NAS Spain 2000 and this is why the administrator requested that control of this company be seized by the courts. The judge finally agreed to this on Wednesday.

This could pave the way for a capital increase that would allow for the arrival of new investment, whether internal or external, in order to fund the club's push achieve its aims - ultimately to return to the top flight.

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Aira: "I knew from the moment I was first called that the only objective this year is promotion"

José Manuel Aira Marbella head coach

The new coach will lead the team during the most demanding season in the club's history, with the sole objective to earn promotion to Segunda

JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

MARBELLA. The new Marbella hierarchy didn't want to take any risks for their second push for promotion to professional football. Despite previous coach David García Cubillo achieving the highest points total in the club's history last year without any real prior experience on his CV, the pair have parted company and the man to replace him on the sideline is José Manuel Aira.

Aira comes with a wealth of experience in the promotion battle to Segunda, managing four teams (Racing de Ferrol, Murcia, Albacete and Cultural y Deportiva Leonesa). Three years ago he won promotion with Albacete, where he coincided with now Marbella sporting director Víctor Moreno.

Now the focus of both parties is to repeat the trick in Marbella.

-What conclusions have you been able to draw from pre-season?

-It was very positive. We have laid the foundations for the ideas we want to implement. We have a team that is very receptive to the messages we give them every day.

-What do you think of the complicated format of the final season of what is currently known as Segunda B [in three phases]?

-Let's see. Having been involved in the play-offs for promotion here recently, I didn't like it at all. But now, having reflected on it, I find it very exciting, with many nuances that will force teams to go one hundred per cent every day.



José Manuel Aira, the new Marbella coach, at the club's offices. **JULIO RODRÍGUEZ**

-Does the new-look squad have what it takes to be promoted?

-Yes, and absolutely yes. In the end I knew what set-up there would be here. I knew that they [the sporting director and his team] would meet our [the coaching staff's] expectations. Communication is fluid, 24 hours a day, for everything concerning the first team. They work every day to give us the best and now it's our turn to give repay that effort on the field to reach ours goals.

-Is it a superstition or a way of keeping the pressure off not to say the word 'promotion'?

-No. I knew from the moment I was called that there's no other objective than to fight for promotion and take the club to where we all want it to be. With this clear, we must now focus on fulfilling it in the short term.

-How will we be able to know that this is an Aira team?

-We want to be a team that shows

ambition, work hard and is committed. Everything depends on having the courage to play in the opposition's half. We must be chameleon-like because we have to compete against teams that will demand different ways of playing. We want our ideas to prevail; we want to be dynamic, happy.

-Knowing the club's ambition and yours, will the Copa del Rey be as important as promotion?

-As competitive as we are, but also dreamers, we want to give everything in every competition we play. First we'll see what we have in front of us and how we're doing in that moment.

-To progress the project further you'll need more time. So why did you only sign for one year?

-Renewals have to be earned, not because of what you've done before. The results I got in the past doesn't mean I deserve a longer contract.

-With the late arrival of signings

and injuries, when do you expect the team to be at its best?

-If there's one thing about this format it's that it won't wait for anyone. The key ideas have to be in place now.

-Deportivo, Racing, Extremadura, Cultural... are Marbella at the same level as these teams which expect to go up?

-Yes, for me we are. Everything that surrounds Marbella is pointing towards us being in that group. They, the ones that you named, are also aware of our potential.

-What is the best and worst thing about coaching Marbella?

-There are a few. [The best things are] the fact that they thought of me for this project, that I'm allowed to get on with doing my job and the excitement felt by everyone as we look to reach professional football. The worst thing for me personally is that my family are so far away, in A Coruña.

A point apiece as Marbella begin new season with tricky away day

J. RODRÍGUEZ

ALGECIRAS. José Manuel Aira's first competitive match as Marbella didn't go exactly to plan on Sunday but the Costa side nonetheless came away from the Nuevo Mirador with a hard-earned point against Algeciras.

The Marbella onslaught in the opening quarter of an hour could have resulted in two goals. First, Esteban Granero's free-kick from 22 metres hit the base of the post before Cordero rattled the crossbar with a header from the resulting corner kick.

The visitors, however, couldn't maintain their momentum in the second half and Algeciras came out of their shell, led by Alcázar. The forward's speed and direct running caused Marbella problems and he had two chances saved by Herrero in the 58th and 71st minutes.

A point is never a bad result in Algeciras but the side will expect to claim all three when Marino visit the Antonio Lorenzo on Sunday.



Algeciras keeper Vallejo kept a well-deserved clean sheet. **J. R.**

Rincón, one win away from reaching the Copa del Rey for the first time

If the local team wins their qualifying match, they will face either Sevilla, Betis, Granada or Cadiz in a one-legged match, possibly at La Rosaleda

JUAN RAMÓN PADILLA

MALAGA. Local team Club Deportivo Rincón are one game away from playing in the Copa del Rey for the first time in their history, but to do so they must win a one-off qualifying match on 11 November.

Neither their opponent nor



The players in a pre-match team photo. **J. R. PADILLA**

the venue has been confirmed yet, but they will face one of: Tomares from Seville, Ceuta, Chinato from Extremadura, Rusadir from Melilla or Racing Murcia. The prize, the Andalusian Football Federation has confirmed, would be a game against one of the four Andalusian teams in La Liga (Sevilla, Betis, Granada or Cadiz). The club's management have already enquired about using Malaga's La Rosaleda stadium for the match.

Rincón have been given a spot in the Copa qualifiers as a result of winning the Andalusian Cup, beating Tomares in a penalty shoot-out.

Puente Romano creates its own Covid 'bubble' for the Marbella Challenger which returns tomorrow

A limited number of spectators will be allowed for the latter stages of the competition which will be streamed live online

J. R.

MARBELLA. The Marbella Tennis Open returns this weekend with a whole host of health and safety measures in effect to protect both participants and spectators.

In collaboration with main sponsor AnyTech365, the Costa del Sol will once again play host to a quality tournament, an ATP 80 Challenger, that will be played from this Saturday until Sunday 1 November at the Puente Romano Tennis Club in Marbella.

Last year Pablo Andújar won a great final against the current world number 27, Benoît Paire. This year, however, will be a lot different. For a start, the whole tournament will be streamed live on the AnyTech365 and Marca websites (the later rounds on Eurosport and LaLiga-SportsTV), with spectators not allowed to enter the venue during the early stages.

From the round of sixteen, from Thursday 29th until the final, a limited number of spectators will be able to attend with tickets available for purchase exclusively on-



Local authorities, organisers and sponsors at the tournament's presentation last week. J. R.

line, from www.entradium.com.

Bubbles

Players and staff will all be accommodated in the Puente Romano hotel with all the facilities at their disposal, so that leaving the premises won't be necessary. However, the players will be allowed in the shared facilities as little as possible and not allowed to have contact with any person

outside their 'bubble'.

Both players and staff will undergo PCR testing before and during the tournament. There will also be a reduced number of scorekeepers and line judges.

"Great environment"

"In March we were more than ready to start the tournament but due to the corona pandemic it was cancelled," said the tour-

namment director and CEO of Champ Events España, Ronnie Leitgeb, at the press conference to present tournament last week. "Now I am very happy that we are one of the few [tournaments] that are still able to go ahead. We have this great environment at Puente Romero where the players can stay in the hotel right next door to the tennis club and that helps a lot."

The press conference was also attended by the President of the Royal Spanish Tennis Federation, Miguel Díaz; the Sports councillor for Marbella, Manuel Cardena; the founder and CEO of AnyTech365, Janus R. Nielsen; the accommodation director of the Puente Romano Hotel, Javier Saavedra; the representative of Helicópteros Sanitarios, Javier Navarro and tenor Rodrigo Orrego.

Participants

Among the participants will be several players in the top 100 of the world rankings: the Italian Gianluca Mager (96th), Argentinian Federico Coria (86th) and Spaniards Roberto Carballés (99th) and Pedro Martínez (92nd).

The presence of Carlos Alcaraz, from Murcia, who at 17 years of age is already knocking on the door of the top 150, is bound to attract the most attention of fans of Spanish tennis, with many people singling him out as one of the country's great hopes for the future.

The most notable absentee, however, will be local boy Alejandro Davidovich who has other commitments but was expected to feature when the event was originally scheduled to take place between 30 March and 5 April.

Davidovich climbs to career-best ATP ranking after strong showing in Cologne

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

MALAGA. Having missed out on a spot in the final of the Bett1Hulks Indoors last week following his semi-final defeat to top seed Alexander Zverev, local tennis star Alejandro Davidovich is hoping to go at least one better in the second ATP250 tournament in Cologne (Germany) in the space of a fortnight, the similarly named Bett1Hulks Championship.

The 21-year-old is into the quarterfinals where he is likely to meet second seed Diego Schwartzman today, Friday, after seeing off American Steve Johnson in two sets (7-6 (3), 6-3) in the round of 16 on Wednesday.

In the latest ATP rankings released on Monday, Davidovich leapt up to 64th place - his career best so far.



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THE STARS

Aquarius
January 21st - February 19th
With the change in the season there is a chance to change and inspire. Tweak your day. Walk and exercise with friends.

Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Indulge your senses in things that improve wellbeing and mood. Doing things with your partner can be a great escape from stress.

Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Despite any restrictions you will manage to make contact with new people. This shows a new way forward. However, be sure to keep up contact with friends and relatives.

Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Changing the way that you feel about everyday life is not easy but we are all making adjustments. Look to young people and technical innovations.

Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
With your talent for seeing all sides of a situation you have been able to help others in a practical way. Now make sure you give a cheerful and optimistic face to the world.

Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
A few nice surprises greet you this week. Sometimes they are hard to spot as someone does not want to make a fuss.

Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
In these duller days we all need a bit of hope and colour. A lick of paint and bright cushions can make all the difference to your mood. Share walks with a friend to get that healthy glow.

Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
With your eyes firmly on the next thing you really are an inspiration. Small changes bring big results. That is something you should try and convince your friends of.

Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Aim to be more independent and go ahead yourself rather than rely on others. For every hiccup you encounter you will also find a smile.

Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
No incentive? Think of what you really crave in your life. Know that you can start the journey to get it. There are lot of negative people around at the moment. Is it fingers in ears time?

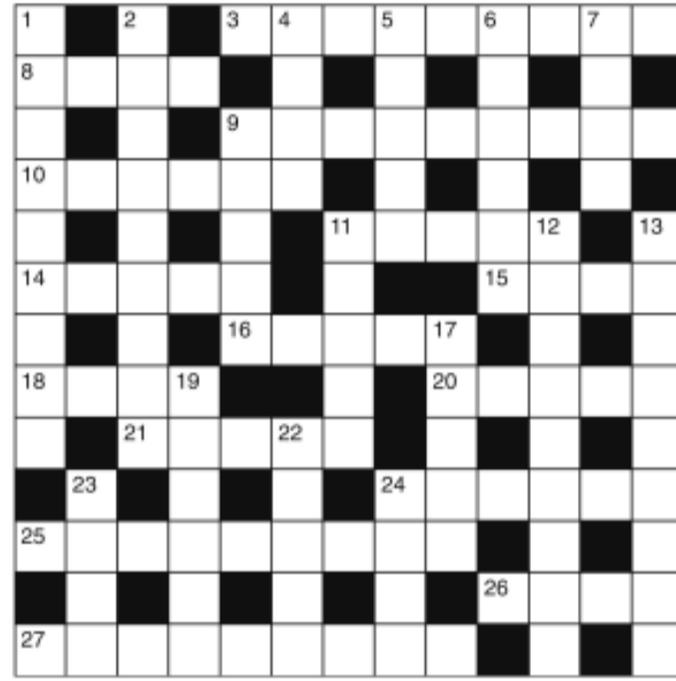
Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
The need or desire to stay indoors more does not mean that you cannot be outgoing with your emotions. Young relatives are keen to show the way on technology.

Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
When improving your own life you automatically improve the lives of others, from volunteering to getting together for chats or classes. Moments of fun can seem like gold dust.

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Across

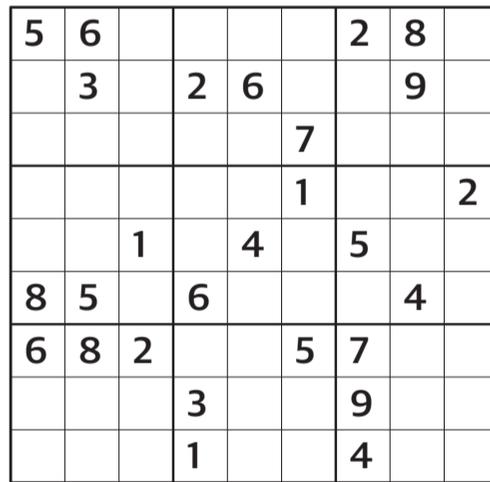
- 3 Beat a blow when really down (2,1,3,3)
- 8 One vehicle is terribly Russian (4)
- 9 Consequently a true lass.. (2,1,6)
- 10 ...is sexist in outlook (6)
- 11 Five stagger about in merry-making (5)
- 14 Gain time by excuses for market stand (5)
- 15 Started a revolution in the garden? (4)
- 16 Water lily meaning much to you and me? (5)
- 18 Finished to excess? (4)
- 20 Conceal losing half case in island (5)
- 21 Prohibit style of beard (5)
- 24 Make a paper come to light (6)
- 25 Black extract used in alcoholic drink on the rocks? (9)
- 26 The country looks different for rain (4)
- 27 Inefficient without spell on duty (9)

Down

- 1 Alternative route causes amusement (9)
- 2 Detail man to production in layers (9)
- 4 Press agency thanks ship (4)
- 5 Big entry in popular general class (5)
- 6 Ring with hole for getting clothes clean (6)
- 7 He expects to be paid, of course (4)
- 9 A tax for right to use coral reef (5)
- 11 Up and down it goes round and round (5)
- 12 Despair to fall in love? (4,5)
- 13 Clear bent for becoming officiating priest (5)
- 17 Opportunity for activity in a disco perhaps (5)
- 19 Polish again, only to get a snub (6)
- 22 The month for fooling? (5)
- 23 Desire the West to accept his reform (4)
- 24 Does something dramatic (4)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

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



THE WORDPUZZLER

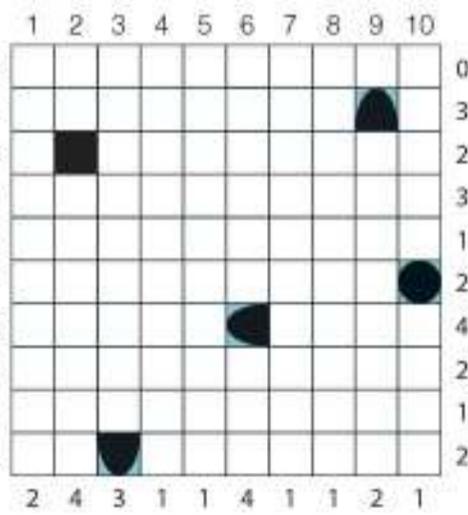
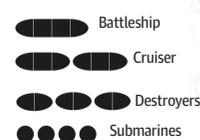


Can you identify the words that may follow 'air' from the clues listed below?

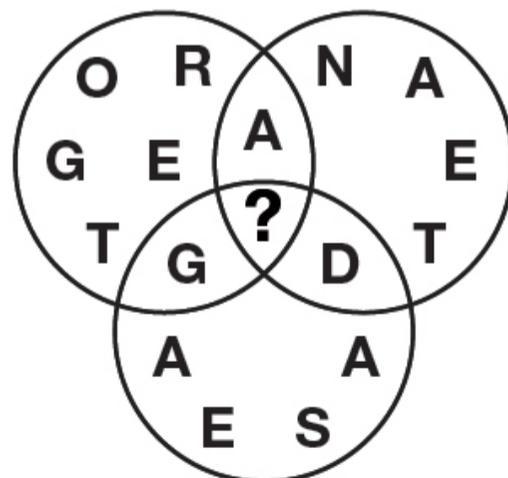
- 1. Shotgun
- 2. Interrogate
- 3. Cot
- 4. Send
- 5. Coercion
- 6. Footwear item
- 7. Factory
- 8. Attack
- 9. Container
- 10. Unit of distance

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 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?

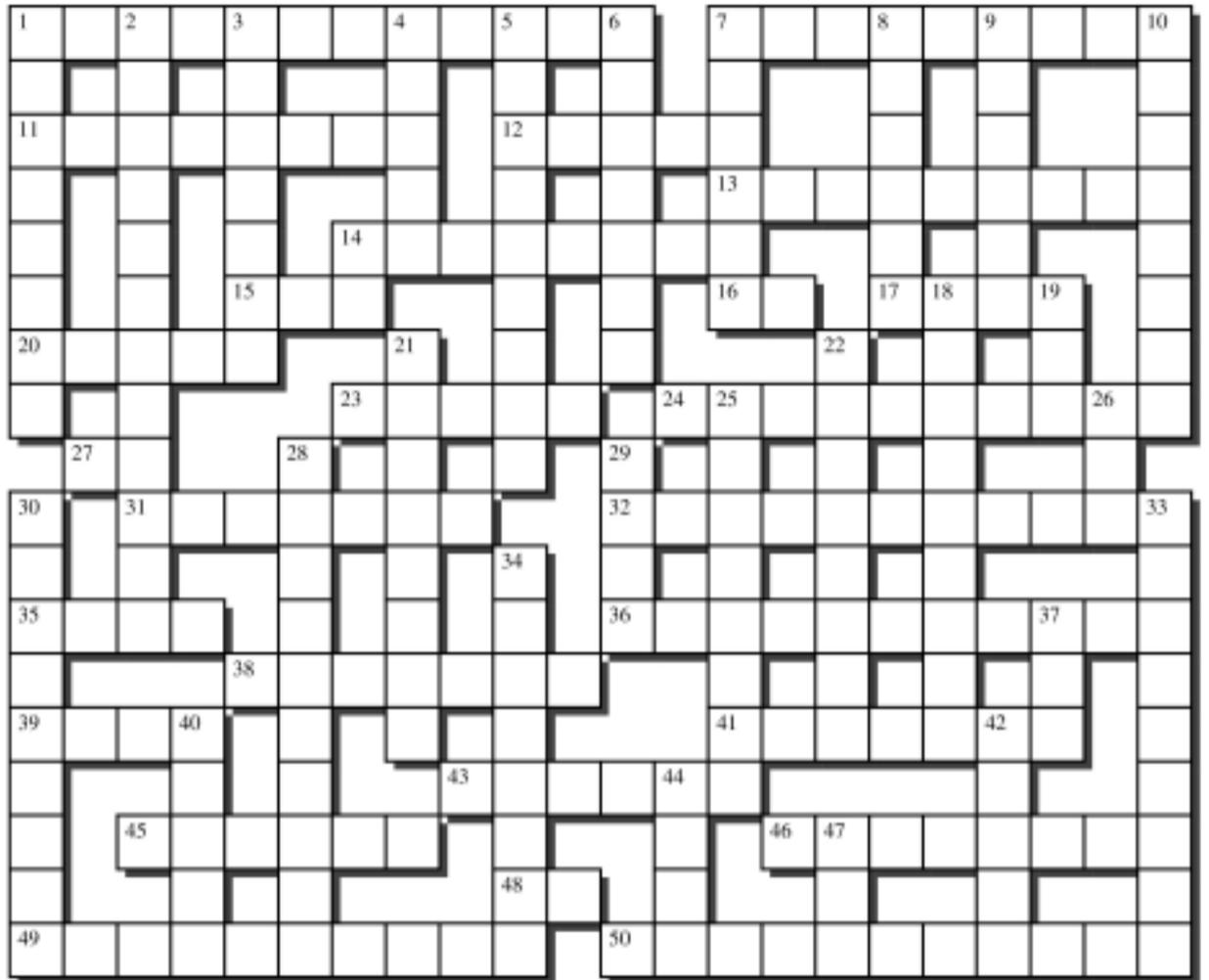
LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

Across

- 1) Recovery (12)
- 7) Quarter (9)
- 11) Contract (8)
- 12) Fibre (5)
- 13) Population (9)
- 14) Donation (8)
- 15) He hears (3)
- 16) If (2)
- 17) Brain (4)
- 20) You hate (5)
- 23) Rich (m.pl) (5)
- 24) Financial (f) (10)
- 27) My (2)
- 31) Dubious (m.pl) (7)
- 32) Inequality (11)
- 35) Silk (4)
- 36) Business owners (11)
- 38) Market (7)
- 39) Crazy (f) (4)
- 41) Diabolo (7)
- 43) Hangover (6)
- 45) Shoe (6)
- 46) National (8)
- 48) Ace (2)
- 49) Western (10)
- 50) Growth (11)

Down

- 1) Recession (8)
- 2) Accounting (12)
- 3) Unemployed (m.pl) (7)
- 4) Nickname (5)
- 5) Inflation (9)
- 6) Mist (7)
- 7) Cloths (6)
- 8) Miles (6)
- 9) Swedes (6)
- 10) Economy (8)
- 14) From (2)
- 18) Exclaimed (9)
- 19) Bravo! (3)
- 21) Mortgage (8)
- 22) Hose (8)
- 25) Bland (f) (8)
- 26) Estuary (3)
- 28) Percentage (10)
- 29) I hated (4)
- 30) Result (9)
- 33) Unemployment (9)
- 34) Rocky ground (8)
- 37) Gone (m) (3)
- 40) I added (5)
- 42) I cried (5)
- 44) To fall (4)
- 47) Like that (3)



ANSWERS

Quiz answers

Answer: Rita Hayworth.
Of interest: Margarita Carmen Canino was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1918. Her father, Eduardo Canino, was from Castilleja la Cuesta near Seville. She became part of the Dancing Caninos when she was twelve and was signed by Fox when she was 16. She died aged 68 from Alzheimers.
Answer: Ginger Rogers
Of interest: Virginia Katherine McMath was an American actress and dancer famous for dancing with Fred Astaire although he purported as saying Rita Hayworth was his favourite partner.

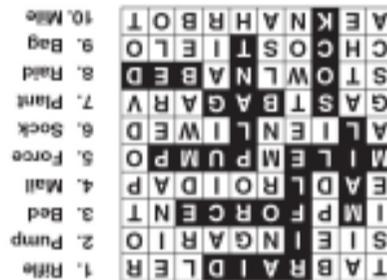
Language Crossword



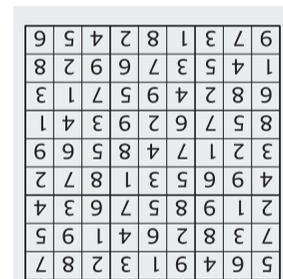
Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 3 All a low ebb; 8 Warm; 9 An a result; 10 Exiles; 11 Favel; 14 Ball; 15 Rose; 16 Lotus; 19 Over; 20 Over; 21 Debar; 24 Appeal; 25 Liquor; 26 Van; 27 Shmoo; Down: 1 Dwarves; 2 Laminated; 4 Toss; 5 Lunge; 6 Washer; 7 Ball; 8 Auld; 11 Fator; 12 Lose; 13 heart; 18 Calamity; 17 Scoop; 19 Rebut; 22 April; 23 Wish; 24 Act.

Wordpuzler solution



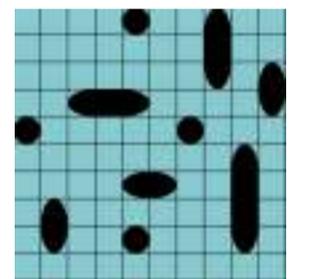
Sudoku solution



Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is M. Mortgage, mandate, damages, all financial terms.

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



Cake carrying monument

Last week: Écija

The large sculpture on the roundabout in Avenida Miguel de Cervantes in Écija, Seville is a tribute to the writer and was designed by a local artist Rafael González Armenta.



CORONAVIRUS ADVICE

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The Iberian lynx is slowly coming out of the ICU in which it has been for nearly two decades. The efforts of ecologists and the public authorities to rescue this species, which was in danger of extinction, are continuing to bear fruit: the lynx population has increased ten-fold since 2002, and 894 now roam freely on the Iberian peninsula.

After the first phase, which increased the number of individual lynxes, the conservation programmes are now focusing on connecting the different colonies to create a self-sufficient population. This will also improve the genetic variability of the species and help to make it stronger.

This has been a spectacular leap since ecologists raised the alarm about what appeared to be the inevitable disappearance of lynxes at the end of the 1990s. Since then, and thanks to the European Union's Life programmes in which administrations and conservation groups participate, it has been a race with numerous challenges. The first was to stop the decline of the species; then to begin breeding in captivity and reintroducing the cats into the most suitable environments; and finally to settle the lynx population in its historical territories.

The Iberian lynx project is the most highly praised conservationist programme of all and is the example to be followed for other species in danger of extinction. At the moment 583 lynxes are living freely, 476 (81.6%) in Spain and the other 107 in Portugal. In addition, 311 kittens were born in 2019. Most of the lynxes on the Iberian peninsula live in one of the four stable and consolidated communities in Andalucía: Andújar-Cardena (145), the Guarrizas river area in Jaén (71), Doñana-Aljarafe (69) and Guadalquivir in Cordoba (46), and a further three are loose in different parts of the region. There are also 84 in Castilla-La Mancha (84) and 58 in Extremadura.

One of the measures for evalu-

The rebirth of the Iberian lynx

10 times as many as in 2002.
The latest census shows that there are nearly 900 lynxes on the peninsula now, including adults and kittens

CECILIA CUERDO



A female lynx and her kitten. R. C.

583

Last year there were 583 lynxes on the peninsula, 107 in Portugal and 476 in Spain, and 311 kittens were born in 2019.

334

Andalucía is home to 70% of the lynxes in Spain (334), followed by Castilla-La Mancha and Extremadura.

ating success is the amount of reproducing females.

The Unión Internacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (IUCN) says that, for a species to move out of the 'in danger of extinction' classification and into merely being 'vulnerable', 125 reproducing females are needed for at least five years. This target was reached two years ago, and at the moment there are 188 reproducing females on the peninsula, 120 of them in Andalucía.

However, environmentalists aren't patting themselves on the back yet. "We're still only half way. It will take at least 20 years before we can say the species is recovered and in normal conditions," says Ramón Pérez de Ayala, the World Wildlife Fund coordinator of large carnivores.

Avoiding a limited gene pool

He explains that in the next five years the Life programme will focus on consolidating these populations and the settlements in which they are located, and connecting these territories. It is a fundamental task because it involves improving the genetic diversity of the lynxes and preventing the limited gene pool that debilitates any species and makes it less resistant to a change or threat from the ecosystem.

"The best way to connect them naturally is to create small communities in intermediate areas to shorten the distances, but it isn't easy," he says. The habitat has to be suitable; at least 10,000 hectares with sufficient rabbits, and where the closest human communities do not pose an excessive risk in terms of hunting or road accidents - the two main causes of death. As the numbers reintroduced are small, any incident can affect the balance of the population.

"We have previous experience and know what we have to do, now we just have to think about the best way to do it," says Pérez de Ayala.

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