



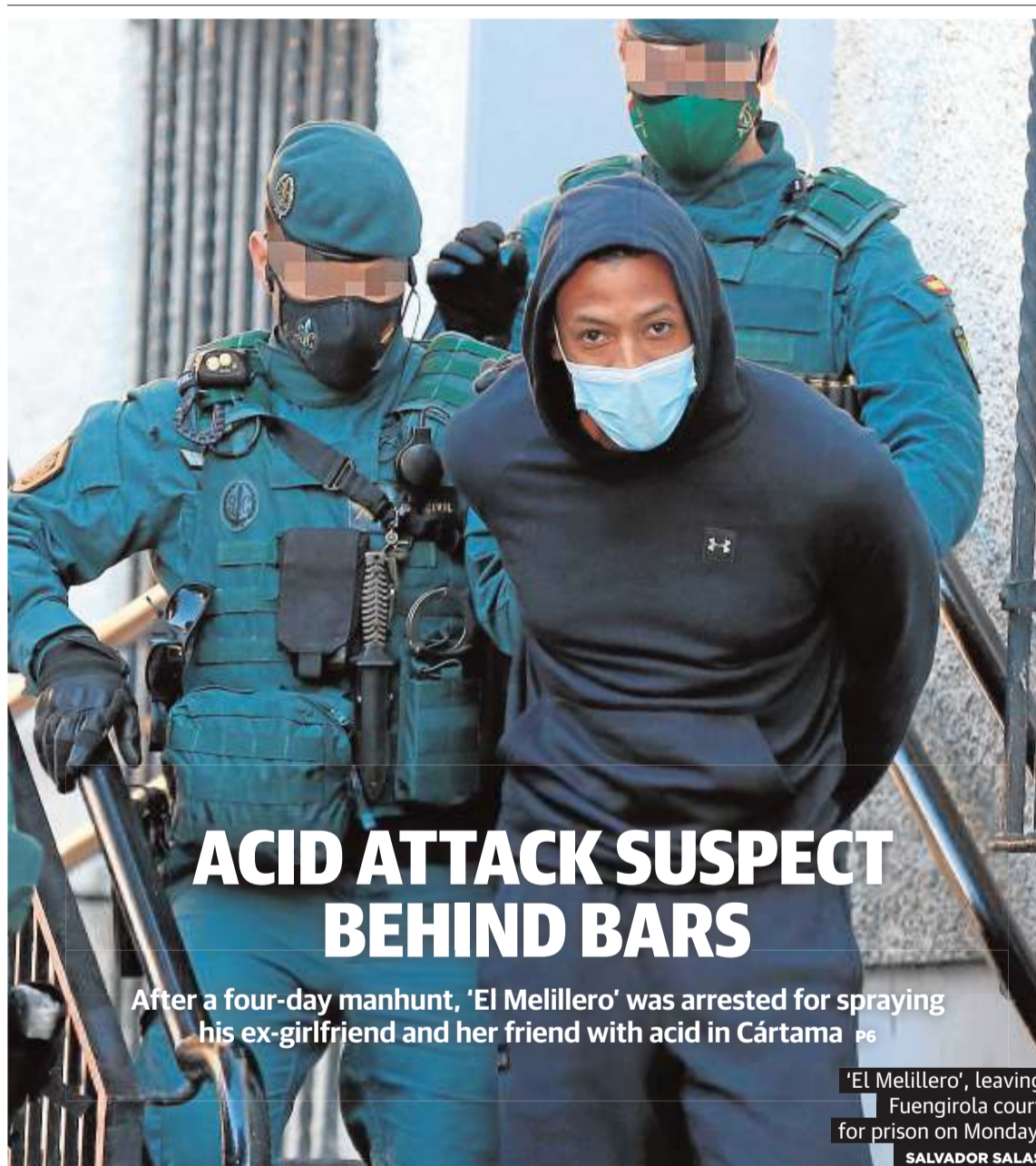
Government rejects regions' calls for an 8pm curfew and lockdown powers

The new restrictions in place in Andalucía mean the closure of municipal borders where the case rate is above 500

Vaccine certificates to be issued in Andalucía after second dose is administered

Death rate. Statistics from last year reveal the effects of the first wave of the pandemic **P4**

The night curfew remains at 10pm in Andalucía after the central government rejected calls from several regions to be able to force residents to stay at home from 8pm. The current state of alarm provides the regional authorities with sufficient tools to control the virus, said Health minister Salvador Illa this week. He also rejected requests to be able to impose stay-at-home lockdowns. Municipal borders have been closed in many towns in Andalucía and all non-essential businesses have been ordered to close completely in areas where the 14-day case rate per 100,000 inhabitants exceeds 1,000. **P2-3**



ACID ATTACK SUSPECT BEHIND BARS

After a four-day manhunt, 'El Melillero' was arrested for spraying his ex-girlfriend and her friend with acid in Cártama **P6**

'El Melillero', leaving Fuengirola court for prison on Monday. **SALVADOR SALAS**

Eighty per cent of Costa travel agencies are still closed due to pandemic crisis

A holiday destination's vaccination rate is now key to the recovery of the sector, say professionals

Around 80 per cent of travel agencies in Málaga province have not reopened since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. While processing refunds is the main activity of those that are open, experts in the sector say people will only start thinking about holidays when the vaccination rate is stepped up. **P12**

Marbella's Puente Romano to play host to a major ATP Tour tennis tournament this spring **P32**

Costa del Sol entertainers join campaign to help fellow singer through illness **P27**

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More restrictions come in with no sign of growth slowing down in Covid cases locally

The Junta has been refused permission for a curfew at 8pm in the region as mass testing and priority phases of vaccination continue

SUR

MALAGA. More Andalusian towns face stricter Covid-19 measures from this weekend, according to the a new restriction package announced by the regional authority last Friday.

The measures come in response to the sharp rise in cases of Covid-19 since the beginning of the year, much greater than in the previous two waves of the pandemic.

As well as banning movement between the eight Andalusian provinces and bringing non-essential business closing time forward to 6pm, the measures also included the closure of municipal borders as the number of cases increases.

The limits set by the Junta de Andalucía depend on the 14-day reported case rates per 100,000 inhabitants for each municipalities. If the figure reaches 500 - as it has done now in the majority of cases - municipal borders are also closed, restricting movement between towns and villages.

And when a 14-day rate of 1,000 cases is reported, all business activity (including bars, restaurants and non-essential shops) must cease completely. These restrictions are in force for at least 14 days.

The authority reviews the figures every Monday and Thursday, with any changes coming into force the following Wednesday and Saturday, respectively.

Most of the main Costa del Sol towns (Marbella, Estepona, Mijas, Fuengirola, Benalmádena, Cártama and Rincón, among others), as well as Malaga city, reached the 500-case limit on Monday, while others, including Torremolinos, joined them on Thursday.

Meanwhile Ronda and Villanueva del Trabuco joined the list of towns with a case rate of more than 1,000 on Thursday, meaning all non-essential business must close from Saturday. Coín and Alhaurín el Grande are also in this situation.

Thursday's figures

The 14-day case rate per 100,000 inhabitants for Malaga province as a whole on Thursday was 794 (last week it was 432), just ahead of the global figure for Andalucía of 740 (405 last week).

New restrictions for all Andalucía

1 Regional and provincial borders closed



It is not permitted to enter or leave the region of Andalucía or any of its eight provinces without a justified reason. Exceptions include for healthcare appointments, education, to care for the elderly or dependents, to return to place of residence, to work, for legal or administrative procedures or force majeure.

2 Curfew stays at 10pm



No going out between 10pm and 6pm. The current night curfew continues as it was last week. The Junta de Andalucía wanted to bring it forward to 8pm, as did other regions, but central government did not authorise the change after meetings this week.

3 Bars, shops and restaurants to close at 6pm



Business activity hours reduced. Non-essential businesses may only stay open until 6pm. After that time only services considered essential may operate (food stores, pharmacies, health centres, etc).

4 Municipal borders closed when infection rate reaches 500



Movement between municipalities is not permitted. People may not cross municipal borders (except for justified movements) when the Covid-19 14-day infection rate per 100,000 inhabitants is above 500.

5 Closure of all non-essential business when rate hits 1,000



No bars, cafeterias or non-essential shops. If the 14-day infection rate reaches 1,000, all non-essential businesses must close their doors completely.



6 Gatherings limited to four people



Less social contact. The maximum number of people permitted at social gatherings has been reduced from six to four.

7 Schools stay open



Primary and secondary schools can remain open as before. Classes will continue to be held on site in primary and secondary education. Universities can also hold on-site classes unless the area is in risk level 4.

MALAGA PROVINCE (AS ON THURSDAY 21 JANUARY)

Infection rate of more than 500:

Key towns with municipal borders closed and 6pm closing: Campillos, Carratraca, Tolox, Cártama, Estepona, Manilva, Fuengirola, Mijas, Marbella, Benalmádena, Malaga city, Rincón de la Victoria, Villanueva del Rosario, Gaucín, Sayalonga, Comares, Vélez-Málaga, Genalguacil, Algarrobo, Benarrabá, Alhaurín de la Torre and Canillas de Albaida.

From Saturday 23 January: Torremolinos, Viñuela, Archidona, Riogordo, Casabermeja, Humilladero, Cortes de la Frontera and Alozaina.

Until Saturday: Ronda and Vil-

lanueva del Trabuco

Infection rate of more than 1,000

Key towns with municipal borders closed and non-essential businesses closed all day:

Cañete la Real, Alfarnate, Vélez-Málaga, Alcaucín, Moclinejo, Álora, Faraján, Teba, Almargen, Monda, Alameda, Salares, Ardales, Igualeja, El Borge, Benamocarra, Cartajima, Coín, Alfarnatejo, Alhaurín el Grande, Algatocín, Cútar, Álora, Mollina and Arriate.

From Saturday: Ronda and Villanueva del Trabuco.



Checkpoints at municipal borders are more likely this week. **SUR**

Thursday also saw the highest ever daily new-case figure reported for the province of Malaga: 1,652.

Curfew and lockdown

Central government doesn't authorise stricter measures

The nighttime curfew remains between 10pm and 6am after the central government refused the request of several regions, including Andalucía, to bring it forward to 8pm.

The conditions of the current state of alarm affecting all of Spain do not allow authorities to establish a curfew earlier than 10pm or to impose a strict stay-at-home lockdown, another tool regions have requested.

At a meeting with regional health departments on Wednesday, central government's Health Minister Salvador Illa refused to change the curfew or to allow lockdowns. He said that the current state of alarm decreed on 25 October gave plenty of scope for the regions to tighten restrictions to control the virus.

"We have flattened the curve twice before," he said. "When we bring in restrictions on a Monday, we don't see results on the Tuesday; we see them in two Mondays' time."

Hospital pressure

Plan activated to increase beds and surgery cancelled

The president of the regional government, Juanma Moreno, announced this Tuesday that Andalucía is to reactivate the 'Plan 4,500' to increase hospital bed numbers.

The region's health service would increase its capacity from just over 12,000 conventional beds and 1,200 intensive care beds to a total of 15,200 conventional beds and 2,600 ICU beds.

In Andalucía there were 3,043 patients with Covid in Andalucía's hospitals on Thursday (there were 1,791 last week), 432 of them in intensive care.

On Thursday in Malaga province there were 638 people in hospital with Covid-19, occupying 23% of the total number of beds. Seventy-two of the patients were in intensive care.

Meanwhile the explosive advance of the third wave of the pandemic has forced two of Malaga's major hospitals to suspend scheduled operations in order to make more beds available both on the wards and intensive care units.

To make the most of resources and in the face of the avalanche of patient admissions caused by the virus, both the Regional Hospital and the Clínico have said

they will give priority to “urgent surgical operations and those of cancer patients or with heart ailments that must be resolved with surgery”.

Health sources consulted by SUR said that there has been no choice but to postpone a series of non-urgent operations.

The measure will continue until pressure on hospitals is relieved.

Testing

Contact tracers overwhelmed as mass screening continues

Random voluntary testing continued in several villages and towns in Malaga province and the Costa del Sol this week, as cases continued to surge.

Some 1,000 people were summoned for the voluntary test in Marbella on Monday in the mobile testing unit parked at the Palacio de Congresos. Of the 430 tests that were eventually carried out, only seven positive Covid-19 cases were found.

On Wednesday, opposition councillors called for a mass voluntary screening to be carried out in Estepona too.

The task of keeping track of these positives and their contacts has become almost impossible in the face of the sheer volume of phone calls that contact tracers have to make on a daily basis.

For each person who tests



A young man called for testing is swabbed in Malaga province this week. SUR

positive in a PCR test or rapid antigen test, an average of six or seven contacts must be followed.

Primary care professionals have told SUR, “It is impossible to carry out good tracking with such a high number to trace.”

It's not only the tracers who are overwhelmed, but also the personnel in charge of taking the samples for the tests that diagnose SARS-CoV-2. Similarly, the laboratories where PCRs are carried out are under increased

pressure that can cause delays in the delivery of results.

“The best thing that the population can do is to minimise their contacts and leave their homes as little as possible,” advised the public health experts.

Vaccine

Certificates to be issued as second doses administered

The coronavirus vaccination campaign in Andalucía has entered the phase of injecting the

second dose of the Pfizer-BioNtech vaccine in care homes and to frontline healthcare workers, as three weeks have passed since their first injections.

The Andalusian government announced on Tuesday that in “the next few days” the patients who have received the two doses of the vaccine “will be able to prove it through a QR code”.

The certificate will allow the user to demonstrate that the required doses of vaccine have

been administered “so that they can prove it for a trip or any activity that requires it,” said Junta spokesman Elías Bendodo at a press conference.

Bendodo said that Andalucía had administered 163,048 doses of the coronavirus vaccine by Tuesday, representing 75.3 per cent of the number received. The Junta plans to hold back 20 per cent of the total received each week to guarantee the delivery of the second jabs in case of any supply delays.

The Pfizer-BioNtech vaccine is said to be 95 per cent effective and it takes a week from the second dose for immunity to build.

At the Hospital Clínico a hundred health professionals received their second doses this week.

On Monday, the first dose was given to about a thousand professionals who deal with potential Covid patients in private hospitals in Malaga.

The Malaga College of Physicians has warned that the rate of vaccination across the region is slow and more doses of vaccines are needed.

Because of production changes at the Pfizer plant in Belgium, the number of doses that will arrive in Spain for a few weeks will be reduced by 41 per cent, although from the end of February there will be a significant increase in supply.

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MARBELLA - FUENGIROLA - MANILVA

The first wave of coronavirus caused 354 excess deaths in Malaga province

Figures from the Andalusian Institute of Statistics for the second quarter of 2020 give a better understanding of the impact of the virus

MATÍAS STUBER

MALAGA. The Andalusian Institute of Statistics and Cartography (IECA) has now published the figures for deaths in Malaga province during the second quarter of 2020. This information has made it possible to compare the figures for 2019 and analyse the impact of the first wave of coronavirus, which began in early March although the first case officially reported in the province was on 28 February. During that first wave, there were 354 more deaths locally than there had been in the same period a year earlier.

In the first three months of 2019 there were 3,540 deaths, and 2,977 people died in the following three months. During the same periods in 2020 there were 3,723 and 3,148 deaths, respectively. The total during those first six months of 2019 was 6,517, and in 2020 there were 6,871. The difference is the number of excess deaths during the first wave of the virus.

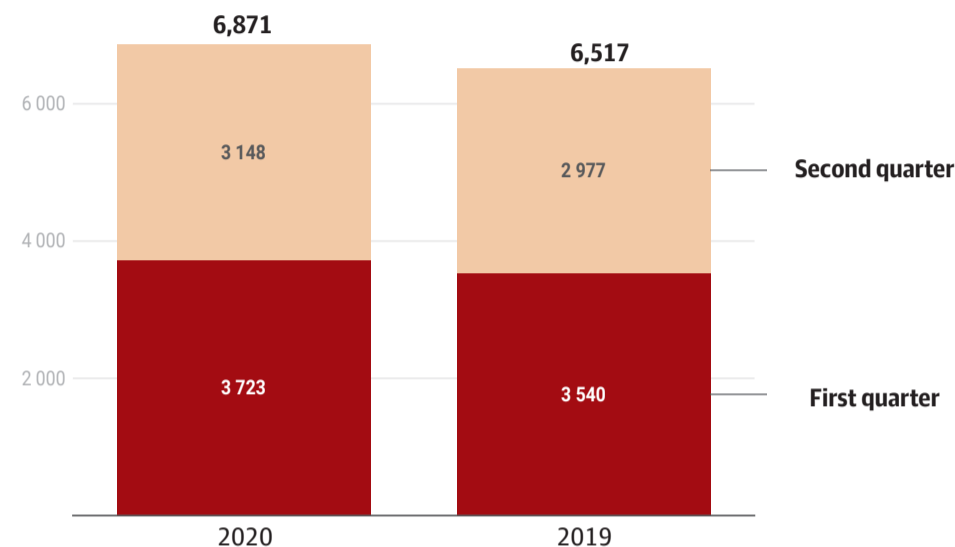
The excess deaths occurred in a relatively balanced fashion. More people (183) died in the months that coincided with the explosive start of the pandemic, which began in early March, than in the second three months (171). These figures demonstrate the impact of the first wave of the Covid-19 virus.

This figure of 354 excess deaths does not match the official statistics from the Junta de Andalucía. Up until 30 June 2020, the regional government's Health Ministry had announced 287 deaths due to Covid-19. The daily report issued by the Junta used the data which was being provided by the eight provinces of Andalucía. This discrepancy may be due to the fact that the information published at the start of the pandemic, which coincided with several adjustments to the way the figures were being registered, could have been incomplete.

There is also the possibility that the figure for excess deaths included people who had underlying health conditions, or those who did not receive the treatment they needed. Many people stopped going to health centres and hospitals because they were too afraid of catching the virus. Some patients with chronic ill-

Deaths in Malaga Province

Comparison of the first two quarters of the year (2019 - 2020)



Deaths in Malaga province by age group

First and second quarters of the year

2019 2020



Age between 60 and 100. In the first quarter of 2020, there were 177 more deaths than in the first quarter of 2019.

Source: IECA.

nesses found that their treatment had been interrupted.

The figures also enable us to see noticeable peaks in the most vulnerable age groups who suffered from serious illness.

In the 60 to 100-year-old age range there were 177 excess deaths in the first quarter of 2020. Although there can be no official confirmation until the figures are published for the third and fourth quarters of last year, the evolution of the pandemic, which is now in its third wave, means that the figure for excess deaths may have to be corrected.

In Malaga, the total number of deaths from coronavirus since the start of the pandemic, according to the regional Ministry of Health, was 830 as at 15 Janu-

ary 2021. The increase in infections in the third wave, sadly, will mean that figure will be exceeded in the coming days and weeks.

Negative population growth

The figures for the second three months are also worrying in terms of the demographic evolution in the province. More people died than were born in Malaga. From 1 April to 30 June

last year, 3,018 babies were born in the province, but if this is cross-referenced with the 3,148 deaths in the same period, we end up with a negative growth of 130.

Nor is this the only data to show a drop in the birth rate in recent years. There were 3,099 births in Malaga province in the second quarter of 2019, and 3,018 last year. The figure for population growth is also nega-

tive if we look at the first six months of last year, when there were 6,079 births compared with 6,265 in 2019. In 12 months, the number of births had dropped by 186.

If we look at the figures for the eight provinces in Andalucía, the drop in the birth rate and the negative demographic situation are the same. In the region as a whole there were 15,693 births and 17,382 deaths in the second quarter of 2020.

The figures also show that in Andalucía, the number of births where at least one parent was a foreigner was 2,691, which was 17.1 per cent of the total, and Malaga stands out in particular, because at the end of June that figure was 24.4 per cent.

Negative population growth.
130 more deaths than births in Malaga in the second quarter

3,018 Births in the second quarter of 2020

3,148 Deaths in the second quarter of 2020

3,099 Births in the second quarter of 2019

2,977 Deaths in the second quarter of 2019

In Andalucía there were 1,689 more deaths than births in the second quarter of 2020

In the second quarter of 2020, 15,693 births, 17,382 deaths and 1,678 marriages were registered in Andalucía

The number of excess deaths does not match the figures for Covid deaths registered by the Junta, which totalled 287

More people died than were born in the second quarter of 2020. There were 3,018 births and 3,148 deaths



4 things Brexit has changed for UK nationals in Spain

By Chris McCann, Senior Partner, Blevins Franks

What does the post-Brexit landscape look like for UK nationals who live or enjoy spending time in Spain? Here are 4 key things that changed on 1 January.

1. UK nationals are 'third country' nationals by default

When the Brexit transition period ended on 31 December 2020, the UK became a 'third country', with UK nationals losing the automatic right to study, work and live in the EU.

Fortunately, Britons who can prove they were legally settled in Spain in 2020 can maintain citizens' rights protections under the Withdrawal Agreement. This provides the right to remain and come and go in Spain, with broadly the same access to benefits as citizens for as long as you remain resident here.

However, these rights will only apply to Spain. To gain full EU citizenship as a UK national – unlocking the freedom to live and work in any EU country – you need to become a Spanish citizen (possible after ten years' residence).

2. Non-EU residents can only stay

in the EU for a limited time

Coronavirus restrictions aside, UK nationals who don't have Spanish residence or EU citizenship can still travel to Spain without a visa – but there are new limitations. Now, non-residents will only be allowed to spend 90 days in any 180-day period here (longer stays will require a permit).

Note that this restriction covers the entire Schengen zone, which includes most EU countries plus some EEA states. For example, if you stay in a Spanish holiday home in June, July and August, you will use up your allowance in one go and be unable to re-enter the country – or any other Schengen state, for any period of time – until the end of November.

Calculating your allowance is not as simple as it seems. As the time is treated as a rolling rather than a fixed period, you will need to count 180 days backwards from your arrival date in any Schengen country and track your stay to check you will not exceed 90 days at any point.

You therefore need to take extra care when planning trips to Europe to

avoid illegally overstaying or being denied entry. As well as making sure your passport is valid for at least six months, be prepared to show a return ticket and answer questions at the border about the duration and purpose of travel.

3. Applying for Spanish residence is less straightforward

With freedom of movement pre-Brexit, Britons did not always need to meet stringent requirements to become EU resident and could apply once already there. Now, those wanting to live in Spain have to meet the legal immigration requirements and provide the correct documentation in advance. You will need to go to the relevant consulate or embassy in the UK and wait for your paperwork to come through before moving.

To successfully apply, you will need to demonstrate you have "sufficient" annual income to support yourself and any dependents without relying on the state. While this has always been a condition of EU residence, it has not always been enforced, plus the income thresholds for third state nationals are generally higher than

for EU citizens.

There are, however, special visas and fast-track residence programmes available – such as the 'golden visa' – that can make moving to Spain much easier.

4. UK financial arrangements may not work as before

Unless they already have arrangements in place to work in the relevant EU country, UK banks, advisers and other financial providers may no longer be able to legally service EU residents. This is because Brexit dissolved automatic 'passporting' rights for UK financial services in the EU.

So if you live in Spain and have a UK-based adviser, check they can still support you. If you have UK bank accounts or other investments, you may be restricted from making changes, such as moving funds or applying for new services, or they may be closed altogether. And in some cases, you may find that UK assets and investments attract a higher tax bill in your country of residence now they are non-EU/EEA assets.

Making the most of the new landscape

Although this is how things stand now, there are many unresolved aspects of Brexit, so the UK may still agree preferential arrangements with Spain on issues such as immigration requirements and UK financial services.

You should, in any case, regularly check your tax and financial planning remains suitable for your family's circumstances, so it is sensible to review your arrangements now that things have changed. Talk to a locally-based, cross-border specialist who can help you take advantage of available opportunities and ensure you are suitably prepared for this post-Brexit world.

Blevins Franks accepts no liability for any loss resulting from any action or inaction or omission as a result of reading this article, which is general in nature and not specific to your circumstances.

Still using a UK-based financial adviser?

Now that the UK is no longer an EU member state, UK-based advisers cannot use the EU 'passporting' system to provide regulated financial services to EU residents. Ask your adviser if they can continue advising you and carrying out instructions, or if there are restrictions. We have already seen major UK banks write to clients in Spain withdrawing services.

UK-based advisers are also unlikely to have the deep understanding of the Spanish regime necessary to provide the most tax-efficient financial planning solutions. Our local advisers are regulated, authorised and have the experience and knowledge to advise on all aspects of financial planning in post-Brexit Spain.

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Acid attacker captured after four-day manhunt and six others investigated

The fugitive known as 'El Melillero', accused of spraying acid on two women in Cártama earlier this month, has been refused bail

ALVARO FRÍAS / JUAN CANO / FERNANDO TORRES

MALAGA. The huge four-day manhunt to find the man responsible for the acid attack on two women in Cártama on 12 January came to an end last Friday with the capture of the suspect - 27-year-old José Arcadio D.N. (also known as 'El Melillero').

According to sources, he was held following a high-speed police chase which began after he was spotted riding a motorbike in Mijas by Guardia Civil officers. A huge police presence was deployed (around 200 officers) and the bike was found at the side of a road in Entrerrios, a point that connects the towns of the Guadalhorce valley with the Costa del Sol. It appears that the fugitive had crashed the bike.



José Arcadio was arrested in a farmhouse. **SUR**

National and Local Police officers joined the search which was now on foot in rough, rural terrain. A National Police helicopter provided air support to prevent the wanted man escaping again. He was eventually found hiding in a farmhouse and was arrested after four days on the run.

After appearing before a judge in Fuengirola on Tuesday, José

Arcadio was refused bail and was sent straight to prison in Alhaurín de la Torre. After one night, he was placed in isolation for his own protection, given the nature of the crime he committed and the perceived "status" he had.

Planned escape

During searches carried out following his arrest, police seized

50,000 euros in cash, believed to have been set aside to help El Melillero flee the country.

Police are looking into the involvement of six others, including José Arcadio D.N.'s brother, for aiding and abetting El Melillero's escape.

The owner of the grey Volkswagen Golf in which José Arcadio fled the scene of the attack, has also been sent to prison.

Another line of investigation is that of decoys. The day after the acid attack the Golf was spotted and up to 20 police vehicles were involved in a chase at speeds of up to 200km/h. A Guardia Civil officer was almost run over at a roadblock but managed to fire a round that pierced the coolant reservoir and the car was found abandoned in Mijas. It was believed that the driver of the car was El Melillero - but sources now suggest it was someone else.

And on the night of the alleged attacker's arrest last Friday, another person was arrested riding a motorbike with a similar appearance to the machine being ridden by El Melillero in an apparent at-

tempt to throw police off his trail.

Still in hospital

Sandra, the alleged attacker's ex-girlfriend, and Cristina, her friend, were the two young women sprayed with acid in the attack in Cártama last Tuesday.

The attack on the two women happened while they were sitting in a white Mini. A grey VW had blocked the traffic and there was an altercation. Witnesses said a young man left his vehicle, approached the car and sprayed acid through the partially lowered window of the women's car.

Local Police officers were first on the scene and a few minutes later paramedics arrived. They called for the support of an air ambulance due to the nature of the women's injuries.

Sandra, 26, was flown to the Intensive Care Unit of the Virgen del Rocío Hospital in Seville where she remains in a serious condition.

Last Friday, at a protest to show solidarity in the women's home town of Casabermeja, the mayor gave SUR an encouraging update: "The acid has not damaged Sandra's vital organs; at least there is one ray of light."

Cristina, meanwhile, is still in the Hospital Regional in Malaga. The 28-year-old underwent successful surgery on Tuesday morning, primarily cleaning the area for a future graft.



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Suspect in Estepona fatal stabbing extradited from UK to Spain

The man, arrested in Leeds, has been sent back to Spain to face the courts in connection with the death of 19-year-old Ulrich

FERNANDO TORRES

MALAGA. The suspect wanted in connection with the fatal stabbing of a young man in Estepona last November is back in the hands of the Spanish authorities.

The 21-year-old man had fled to the UK after 19-year-old victim, Ulrich, was stabbed through the heart by a car driver after a traffic incident.

The courts in Estepona issued an international arrest warrant and the British authorities arrested the man in December, when he was travelling on the A-58, near Leeds in Yorkshire. Now he has arrived back in Spain to face the courts after being extradited from the UK.

The events that led to his arrest took place on 18 November in the vicinity of the Diana shopping centre in Estepona. At around 2.30pm, a traffic incident took place be-

tween the victim and his alleged assailant as reported by the National Police.

The investigation determined that Ulrich, who lived in an apartment in the Las Acacias complex with his parents and two brothers, was out walking. When he was going to cross a pedestrian crossing, he was almost run over by the white Mercedes that the suspect was driving. The latter had to brake sharply. Apparently, the driver left the scene in his car at first, before returning a few minutes later. The National Police said that the man got out of the vehicle and stabbed the victim, without saying a word, in the heart, which caused his almost immediate death.

After the driver fled the scene, the only lead police had was the suspect's white Mercedes with a British number plate, which was found when a transport company was preparing to move it from Spain to England.

Police then put a name to the alleged killer. In addition, they found that he had managed to leave the country and take refuge in the UK.

For more information call Linea Directa on 952 147 834 or visit lineadirecta.es

Two drug trafficking gangs dealt blows with series of arrests

COSTA DEL SOL

SUR / EUROPA PRESS. Two drug trafficking gangs operating on the Costa del Sol have been dealt blows this week with a series of arrests.

The Guardia Civil have smashed a huge network that used high-speed boats to deliver hashish to the Andalusian coastline from North Africa before it was distributed to other European countries.

In 'Operation Vinculada', 45 people of Spanish and Moroccan nationalities have been arrested for allegedly belonging to a criminal organisation, illegal possession of weapons and money laundering.

Twelve raids, including locations in Malaga and Cadiz, were carried out which recovered 1.6 tonnes of hashish as well as five high-speed boats and four pleasure boats - two of them with false bottoms to conceal drugs. The craft were valued at more than 1.3 million euros in total.

According to the Guardia Civil the boats were kept in industrial warehouses that the gang rented in Malaga and Cadiz and were only put into the sea when they were

going to transport drugs.

Investigators said the "enormous infrastructure" of the network allowed it to operate simultaneously in several Andalusian towns, thus making the investigation difficult.

Finnish gang leader held

In a separate operation National Police officers have arrested a man in Marbella who is the alleged leader of a Scandinavian criminal organisation dedicated to the trafficking of ecstasy between Spain and Finland.

The 33-year-old man, of Finnish nationality, was arrested on the Costa del Sol after 18 months of investigations and is awaiting a court appearance.

A simultaneous operation in Finland saw the arrests of three men, aged between 21 and 30, all Finnish and alleged members of the criminal network. Three house searches were carried out in which some 100,000 ecstasy pills, two rifles and a pistol were recovered. In two apartments linked to the suspect in Marbella, the police seized computer equipment, mobile devices and 30,000 euros.

Crowd attacks man in Malaga after he sprayed a woman with acid

MALAGA

J. C. / Á. F. / F. T. National Police officers in Malaga have arrested a man who is accused of spraying a woman with a hydrochloric acid, known as aguafuerte in Spain and used for cleaning.

The woman's screams immediately alerted the residents of the La Palmilla neighborhood of Malaga city, where a large crowd gathered in a matter of minutes, attacking the man before the arrival of police on the scene on Wednesday night.

In a shocking video of the incident the mob rebukes the suspect, whom they accuse of being an abuser and kidnapper. Surrounded by numerous people, the man is punched and kicked, as well as being hit with an umbrella and broom.

The National Police intervened and arrested the 31-year-old. Police also arrested the 55-year-old victim after questioning as she had an arrest warrant against her name.

112 REPORTS



The child, accompanied by a police officer. **SUR**

ALGARROBO

Lost four-year-old reunited with family

E. C. A four-year-old boy has been reunited with his family after he became separated from his parents at a supermarket. The boy decided to try and find his own way home (a journey of almost 15 kilometres) and began walking alongside the A-7206 main road heading north.

Fortunately, just 300 metres into his dangerous journey a vehicle stopped and asked the boy where he was going. Immediately the driver called the 112 emergency number and the Algarrobo Local Police quickly arrived on the scene to take care of the child.

MALAGA

Six Chinese nationals arrested in drugs raid

J. C. / F. T. Local Police in Malaga who raided an industrial unit in the city found almost 3,000 marijuana plants inside.

During the raid on the premises on the Guadalhorce industrial estate six people were arrested, all of Chinese nationality, according to sources.

Inside officers discovered an intricate electrical installation that included fans, thermostats and other devices to help the plants thrive.

ESTEPONA

Private security held over armed robberies

J. C. / Á. F. National Police officers have arrested three men - all of them private security guards - who allegedly beat up a colleague and tied up a couple to rob luxury homes on a residential development in Estepona last August.

Police say that the robbers were hooded and armed when they launched their attack on the security gatehouse, assaulting the on-duty security guard and immobilising him with their own handcuffs.

HOSPITAL

Helicópteros Sanitarios use the latest technology to guarantee safety in their interventions during the pandemic

An innovative system guarantees air quality in operating theatres used for patients with heart conditions

MARBELLA

SUR. The prestigious scientific journal *Eurointervention* has just reported that there are a greater number of complications related to myocardial infarction and its treatment in people who suffered from Covid-19 at the time of the heart attack.

On the other hand, the number of patients treated for myocardial infarction during the COVID-19 outbreak has decreased compared to the previous year, among other reasons because many people are afraid to go to hospitals, which may end up causing greater complications for people who must be treated for heart problems.

As we know, Coronavirus is a virus with positive single-stranded

RNA; they are responsible for diseases in animals but also in humans. Until now, Coronavirus had caused illnesses in human beings ranging from the common cold, the most frequent, to more severe diseases such as SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome). A new Coronavirus is responsible for the current pandemic with the initial focus in Wuhan (Hubei, China), in December 2019. Finally, on 12th March 2020, the WHO announced the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic.

The Helicópteros Sanitarios hospital, in collaboration with the German company B. BRAUN, one of the world's leading suppliers and manufacturers for the healthcare sector, has implemented in the Interventional Cardiology Unit of its healthcare centre one of the first systems for reducing the bacterial and virus charge of the air in environments at risk of aerial contagion (STERYBOX), such as operating theatres.



^Doctors Luis Iñigo, Eduardo Molina, Pedro Brugada and Juan Sieira. **HSH**



<The Interventional Cardiology Operating Room at Helicópteros Sanitarios. **HSH**

This device uses the well-known properties of the UV-C germicidal radiation at 254 nanometres (UVGI) and, specifically, the capacity of denaturing the genetic material of the cells it strikes, by inactivating every type of microorganism present in the air (bacteria, germs, moulds, viruses). The germicidal radiation, which is isolated inside the device, prevents the spreading of the dangerous UV-C rays in the environment and it eliminates any side effect detrimental to health; the air is aspirated by the device through noiseless axial fans and it is then submitted to an intense UV-C radiations field through a patented coil system; the air is purified and ready to be released into the environment, thanks to a continuous change of air.

We would like to congratulate Helicópteros Sanitarios Hospital and B. Braun for this important initiative that will undoubtedly benefit many people.



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HERE AND THERE

TORRE DEL MAR

Town centre car park reopens after revamp

E. CABEZAS. Torre del Mar's busy Isla del Sol car park, on central Calle Duque de Ahumada, reopened last Friday after a major makeover.

Energy-saving lighting has been fitted and clearer parking spaces marked out. The pavement and a number of plant pots have also been removed to create more space.

The work comes following improvements to the surrounding street and the opening of the town's new library in 2019,

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA

Cave rental contract up for renewal

E. C. The current rental agreement for the Cueva del Tesoro cave in Rincón de la Victoria, between the town hall and the family of Manuel Laza Zerón, finishes on 1 March and so far the two sides haven't started negotiations for its renewal. The town hall has rented the cave from the family of the researcher and professor since 1991, on a 15-year term basis for 32,000 euros a year.

On Monday the councillor responsible for the cave, Antonio José Martín, said that the town hall would "be in touch with the family in the coming weeks" to negotiate the contract and that the cave was "important for tourism" in the town.

Laza Zerón, whose family have owned the cave since 1950, told SUR that his family was at the town hall's "disposition" to negotiate, but that there were a number of issues to take into consideration, including damage sustained to the cave and a commitment from the council to preserve and protect it.

He also highlighted an outstanding court decision over a disagreement between Laza Zerón's family and the town hall over the economic value of the cave.

Reservoir connector to help fill up La Viñuela



Patricia Navarro and José Juan Jiménez, Mayor of La Viñuela. SUR

Work is due to start on a short link at Churriana, near Malaga, to connect the western Costa water system with the Axarquía

EUGENIO CABEZAS

LA VIÑUELA. During a visit to La Viñuela reservoir on Wednesday, the Junta de Andalucía's representative in Malaga, Patricia Navarro, said that the regional government

hopes to have a 'bypass' "ready by the summer" which will help channel water from La Concepción reservoir in Marbella to much-larger La Viñuela in the Axarquía.

The 1.4m-euro link pipe will be at Churriana, near Malaga Airport. It is designed to divert water coming from La Concepción, which is currently 70 per cent full, to La Viñuela, which is just under 30 per cent of its capacity. Currently La Concepción frequently has to pour water into the sea as it fills up.

TORROX

Tougher measures to prevent illegal dumps

E. C. Mayor of Torrox Óscar Medina announced on Tuesday tougher measures and more surveillance in an effort to tackle an increase in rubbish being illegally dumped in the town's river beds. Medina said that the amount of agricultural waste, including plastics, as well as building and general rubbish has increased in recent months and called on residents to collaborate. He added that anyone caught would be fined.



Rubbish in a Torrox river. SUR

FUENGIROLA

Pet-friendly town produces digital guide to goods and services

SUR IN ENGLISH. Fuengirola council has produced a digital guide to help people find information about pet shops and related services, beaches where dogs are permitted, dog parks, hotels which allow guests to bring their pets and much more.

Users of the Travelguau.com website have voted Fuengirola the third best destination in Spain for a holiday in the company of their pets, and the mayor, Ana Mula, says the town has always been a pioneer in this field and has a reputation for being "friendly and respectful towards animals".

The guide, which can be downloaded from the council website, is called Bienvenidogs and is designed for resident pet owners as well as visitors.



Fuengirola mayor Ana Mula

COSTA DEL SOL

Age Concern closes drop-in centres due to Covid restrictions

T. BRYANT. Due to the latest restrictions to curb the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, Age Concern has announced the temporary closure of its drop-in centres in Los Boliches, La Cala de Mijas, Mijas Pueblo and Benalmádena.

The organisation made the decision to ensure the safety of its clients and volunteers, but has stressed that the weekly social meetings will resume as soon as possible. However, the charity will continue to offer help with medical appointments, and it has also resumed its 'buddy call' service for clients who are lonely or isolated.

The 24-hour hotline (652537615) remains open and the welfare team are on hand for advice and information.

ESTEPONA

Las Cañas project has now been completed

J.M.M. Estepona council has now completed the new path which runs alongside Las Cañas stream, and this means that people from outlying residential areas such as Torre Vigía, La Resinera, Las Joyas and Selwo will have easy access to the town centre along the coastal path, and somewhere to walk and cycle for exercise. The project has cost 148,645 euros and is part of the council's Productive Investment Plan.

The project at Las Cañas also benefited from the local authority scheme to plant more trees, as 235 poplars have been added along the new route.



The first stone being laid. JOSELE

ESTEPONA

Work begins on million-euro port project

J.M. MARTÍN. Work is about to begin to improve access to Estepona port and connect it with the seafront promenade, part of a project costing nearly 1.2 million euros. The first stone was laid this week by Elías Bendodo and Marifrán Carazo, both of whom are ministers in the regional government, accompanied by the mayor of Estepona, José María García Urbano, and the president of the provincial authority, Francisco Salado. The works are expected to take six months to complete.



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Bicycles and scooters banned from city's pedestrian areas

Fines will range from 60 to 200 euros for users caught riding on pedestrianised streets, pavements and paseos from last Monday

IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. The most eagerly awaited day for pedestrians and most feared for cyclists and scooter users in Malaga city has arrived.

On Monday a new local bylaw came into force that bans cyclists and scooter users from riding them on Malaga's pavements, pedestrianised streets and promenades.

The fine for riding in these areas will be between 60 and 200 euros, although city councillor



A cyclist on Paseo del Parque in central Malaga this week. SALVADOR SALAS

José del Río clarified that during January fines will not be issued, but Local Police will be informing users of where they are allowed to ride: mainly on cycle lanes and the new, controversial

30 km/h lanes on roadways. The councillor said that the latter will be subject to stringent speed controls to make sure that cars and motorcycles stick to the limit.

New online map tool for the province launched by the Diputación authority

The Idemap website has been two years in the making, and although aimed at professionals has much to interest the public, officials say

MATÍAS STUBER

MALAGA. The Diputación de Málaga, the local government authority for the whole province, has launched an interactive tool drawing together a variety of up-to-date maps of Malaga province.

Compiling all the information for the site, called Idemap, into one place and building the web has taken officials two years.

Users accessing the web (ide-map.es) can find topographical photos, relief maps and satel-

lite images. There is also a lot of georeferenced data, such as local council facilities, municipal street plans, walking routes and cultural and natural points of interest.

President of the Diputación Francisco Salado explained at the virtual launch last week that the website can also be used on mobile phones and is built with open software, which has kept the costs down.

"It will be a very useful platform, not only for the day to day management in the town halls, the Diputación itself, other authorities and planning bodies, but also for the general public," he explained.

The environment tab will be expanded in time to include a lot more information on the local landscape.

HERE AND THERE



Bendodo, Del Pozo and Manuel Barón visited the site on Monday. A. J. G.

ANTEQUERA

Dolmen museum to open at the end of 2021 with temporary exhibitions

ANTONIO J. GUERRERO. The Antequera Dolmen Museum will open its doors at the end of 2021 with two temporary exhibitions.

However, its permanent collection will not be inaugurated until 2022, after almost 35 years of projects, planning and promises.

The announcement was made

by the regional government's Elías Bendodo and Patricia del Pozo, who have visited the works, along with local mayor Manuel Barón.

The plan is to bring back some of the artefacts found in recent times that did not stay in Antequera due to lack of space.

Referring to the years of delays, Bendodo said, "I was 10 years old when we were promised this museum. Therefore, today is magnificent news after 4.5 million euros of investment."

MIJAS

Council pays back wrong 'plusvalía' tax to Briton

IVÁN GELIBTER. A Briton who used to have a home in Mijas has become the first foreigner to obtain a refund voluntarily from the town hall for the 'plusvalía' (increased land-value tax) paid after selling his property for less than he bought it.

According to Carlos Comitre of law firm Ley 57, previously the council in Mijas did not recognise non-resident Europeans' right to a refund on the controversial tax without a court fight first.

MIJAS

Endesa finds no faults in Las Lagunas supply

I. G. Residents in part of the Las Lagunas area of Mijas say they are still having problems with electricity supply despite the power company, Endesa, saying it can find nothing wrong.

A fault at a substation in mid-December caused blackouts across the municipality and locals claim supply is still not fully back to normal in the Las Flores area, near the Coin road. The mayor of Mijas has written to Endesa to complain.

SALES

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HERE AND THERE

BENALMÁDENA

Mayor seeks to avoid future housing on Tivoli

I.G. The mayor of Benalmádena, Víctor Navas, has said he wants the Junta de Andalucía to give extra planning protection to the land currently occupied by the popular Tivoli World amusement park

to prevent any housing development speculation in the future. Recognising the importance of the park for the resort, he has asked experts at Malaga University to look at ways that regional planning law can be applied beyond existing protection in the council's own town plan. He aims to guarantee the land for use for tourism infrastructure for perpetuity.



Navas (left) at the gates of well-known Tivoli World this week. **SUR**

MALAGA

Hairdressers seek cut in IVA rates at protest

J. SOTO. Malaga city's Plaza de la Constitución was one of many places across Spain to see a peaceful protest by hairdressers on Wednesday. The sector wants the government to reduce the IVA on their services from 21% to the 10% rate, as it was until 2012 when the previous PP government increased it.

Club La Costa goes into liquidation - Covid pandemic and Brexit blamed

Administrator says he hopes that "at least half" of the resort's 700 jobs in Mijas will be saved

IVÁN GELIBTER

MIJAS. Club La Costa World, whose headquarters are on Mijas Costa, has announced that it has gone into liquidation.

The bankruptcy administrator, Juan Carlos Robles, told SUR that the liquidation affects seven companies in Spain and one in the UK.

Robles stressed that this liquidation does not affect the real estate property titles owned by many - the 'timeshare' business.

After being bombarded with calls, Robles clarified that these will remain "intact". He said, however, that a large part of the support services will not be in full operation during the coming months.



The Mijas Costa headquarters. **SUR**

CLC World has around 700 workers who could lose their jobs, both at the Mijas headquarters and in Tenerife. Many of them have been laid off since last year through the ERTE furloughing scheme.

The administrator said that the first objective of this process was to try "at least" to save half of these jobs. To do this, he proposes creating a series of "productive units" that can be sold off.

Robles clarified that he is trying to maintain a minimum activity in some areas - such as maintenance - because this would facilitate the sale of these units with "greater ease".

CLC has issued a brief statement saying that with regret it has had to make "some difficult decisions".

It added that the position of its resorts, current members and customers will stay "the same as always" - within what Covid restrictions allow - and it is currently working to save as many jobs as possible in Tenerife and on the Costa del Sol.

According to the bankruptcy administrator, both the Covid virus and Brexit have affected the business equally. "You can't go for a year with no activity," said Robles.

Town hall hopeful

News of the liquidation has shaken Mijas as a large part of the employees of CLC World are local people.

The town hall sent out a message this week in which it maintains its hope that CLC World will get back on track. "It has always been a benchmark in tourism, not just in the province [of Malaga] but in southern Europe," said municipal sources.

They added that CLC was known for its "great involvement in the town", and that it hoped that as many jobs as possible could be preserved "under the circumstances".

Around 80 per cent of travel agencies in Malaga are still closed

The sector believes that 20 per cent of these businesses will never reopen because of the severe impact the pandemic

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. Eighty per cent of travel agencies in Malaga province have still not reopened since closing when the lockdown was announced in March last year.

Many others are only open part-time, but all they are doing is organising refunds for cancelled flights, cruises and organised trips. This is not as easy as it sounds, it is calculated that travel agencies in Spain are still owed between 350 and 400 million euros in refunds from airlines for flights which were suspended because of the pandemic.

Sergio García, the president of the Aedav association of travel agencies in Malaga province, said at least 20 per cent of business

and 600 jobs will be lost completely as a result of the pandemic, and he describes the outlook as "bleak".

The sector is relying on the Covid-19 vaccine to relaunch tourism in the area. Rosa María Díaz, of Abies Travel, which specialises in group holidays, said the first thing tour operators are asking now is whether the area has a good vaccine rate.

"People can't wait to start travelling again, but they will only go to the places they believe are safest and that's why it is essential for the vaccination process to be speeded up," she says.

García believes it will take another two or three years for the travel agencies that survive this crisis to get back to levels of business that were normal in 2019.

"At present sales are less than 10 per cent of what they were, and people are only travelling for business or visits to relatives. Nobody is going on holiday, and this won't change until many more people are vaccinated," he said.

Claudia Jones

October 1950 -January 2021

Claudia Erina Jones, beloved wife to David and friend to so many.

Passed away on 14 January after a short and courageous fight against complications from cancer.

She leaves an irreplaceable void in the hearts of David, her sister Barbara, brothers-in-law Don and Dick, sister-in-law Ann, nephew Dan, niece Liv and great-nieces Anna, Ellie, Molly and Amber. As well as her countless friends on the Costa and around the world.

A loving, loyal and vivacious person, she made a great impact on all she met, and will never be forgotten by any who had the privilege to know her well.

If you wish to make a donation in her memory, please send directly to
AECC Asociación Española Contra el Cancer



Age Concern Estepona founder Vera Ivers dies, aged 89

SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. Age Concern Estepona and Manilva has reported the loss of the branch's founder, Vera Ivers, MBE, who died at the age of 89 at her home in Leek, England after a long struggle with ill health.

Vera spent her life helping people through her work in mental health within the NHS and in the community and was awarded an MBE in 1999 for services to older people in the community.

After moving to Spain, in 2002 she was tasked by Age Concern UK with looking into this area of the Costa del Sol. This work resulted in her setting up an ACO

(Age Concern Organisation) in the Estepona and Manilva area.

Vera was the first president, overseeing the fundraising and the opening of the charity shop in May 2004.

She stood down in September 2004 due to ill health and moved back to the UK as her health deteriorated, but she remained active with charity work and her involvement with U3A.

"Vera was caring, compassionate, forthright and understanding. A lovely lady who devoted her life to others. She will be missed by those who knew her but they will remember her for the influence she wielded on their behalf,"



Vera Ivers. **SUR**

said the organisation.

Age Concern Estepona and Manilva is still working hard in the community and has recently moved to a new shop. Vera's work led to the expansion of Age Concern into three branches along the Costa del Sol.

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Category: I



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Variety: Navel group. Category: I



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Eating vegetables and greens is an essential part of a balanced diet, so the Carrefour centres in Estepona, Mijas, Fuengirola, Torremolinos and Valle del Guadalhorce place a wide selection of fresh and seasonal fruit, vegetables and greens at the disposal of their clients.

To guarantee freshness, quality and flavour, these hypermarkets have agreements with vegetable farms and local suppliers so clients can enjoy the taste of freshly harvested produce at the best prices.

That's why the entire fruit and vegetable section occupies a prime place in the

area known as La Plaza (The Square). This allows clients to see, in a glimpse, where each item on sale is displayed. A global vision that facilitates shopping and improves time optimization.

As well as local producers, Costasol has a wide range of Sabor a Málaga (Málaga Flavour) brand products and agreements with suppliers from the Axarquía and other places in the region. In addition, there is a selection of Bio and organic products for the more conscientious consumers. All of this makes their fruit and vegetables a benchmark for quality.



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Carrefour Valle del Guadalhorce
C.C. La Trocha,
Ctra. Coin-Cártama, Km 1. Coin

Regional health minister in hot water over getting vaccine ahead of frontline workers

Four town mayors not in high-risk groups have been suspended for being vaccinated ahead of others

SUR

MURCIA. There were calls for resignations on Thursday this week after it emerged that the minister

for Health in the Murcia Region, Manuel Villegas, had been vaccinated against Covid-19 despite apparently not falling into one of the priority categories.

As well as the ministers, several high-ranking officials along with some staff in his offices had also had the jab, it was reported.

Villegas admitted that he had the first injection "last week" as he is a qualified doctor and the

ministry has said that only qualified health workers in his team have had it.

The UGT union had reported that some office workers at the regional health service itself had been vaccinated ahead of frontline staff.

Murcia is controlled by the PP in coalition. Coalition partners and opposition parties called for Vil-

legas to resign this week.

The events in Murcia came after last week it emerged several local mayors across Spain had been vaccinated ahead of priority groups in their municipalities. Four were suspended by the Socialist party this week. The majority claim that they took the vaccine to save a spare dose going to waste.



Manuel Villegas

Catalan politics gets tied up in knots as judges overrule change of election date

SUR

BARCELONA. The political situation in Catalonia was growing more complex by the day this week as the regional government there battled with the courts to try to move the planned elections on 14 February to 30 May.

Catalonia has been without a firm government for almost a year after the pro-independence coalition collapsed, and last autumn former president Quim Torra was banned from public office.

Catalan vice-president Pere Aragonès, who is acting president, announced last week that the date set for a regional vote, 14 February, would need to be moved to 30 May as the election set-up couldn't be guaranteed due to the pandemic.

This was followed at once by complaints to the courts over the change, with allegations that the current regional ministers could keep suspending elections indefinitely by blaming Covid-19.

On Tuesday this week Catalonia's top court suspended the change of date and gave the regional government 48 hours to argue its case better.

Pere Aragonès urged the courts to act "responsibly" in finally allowing the change of date, saying he "would fight to the end" to hold later elections in May.

Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said on Wednesday that Catalonia needed a fully functioning government "as soon as possible".

Four killed in Madrid city centre explosion 'caused by gas' at church-owned building

The main hypothesis is that a faulty boiler in the basement had a leak as repairs were being carried out on it ahead of the tragedy

MATEO BALÍN

MADRID. A powerful blast destroyed a building in the centre of Madrid on Wednesday afternoon. Three people were pronounced dead the same day and a fourth person died on Thursday of his injuries.

The six-storey building on Calle Toledo, in the historic centre of the capital, was church-owned and had parish community and welfare services on the lower floors for the nearby Virgen de la Paloma church. On the upper floors was accommodation for priests.

Nearby there is also a care



The devastated building on Calle Toledo on Wednesday afternoon. ATP

home, Los Nogales La Paloma. A spokesman for the residence has reported that "no resident or employee has been injured".

Rubble and masonry fell into a schoolyard next door, where classes were luckily suspended due to the Covid-19 crisis.

Police were still investigating the explosion but the early hypothesis was that a build-up of gas was the cause. The building's boiler in the basement was being repaired and one of the dead named on Wednesday had been working on it.

Residents, who included priests, had contacted the electricity company after a strong smell of gas; the dead workman, David Santos, was a churchgoer who had been called to lend a hand. A colleague escaped with injuries.

Investigators said they had been surprised by the ferocity of the explosion.

THE EURO ZONE
MARK NAYLER

In the shadows



The testimony given in a London courtroom this week by Corinna Larsen - emeritus king Juan Carlos's former lover - isn't new. It was in an expansive interview with the BBC last August, granted just after Juan Carlos fled Spain amid fraud allegations, that the German businesswoman first claimed that her life and the lives of her children had been threatened in 2012 by Félix Roldán, chief of Spain's intelli-

gence services between 2009 and 2019.

The scope of this particular scandal now extends beyond just Larsen and Juan Carlos and hints at the existence of dark forces at work behind the scenes - ones that operate with great power, just out of sight, and that fiercely protect their own.

The allegation itself is another heavy blow for a once-beloved monarch, who Larsen

says issued the threat against her. It's one thing to be accused of fraud and to be suspected of holding questionably acquired funds in offshore accounts; but it's quite another to be accused of issuing a death-threat to your former lover, in order to protect your family's public image.

In May 2012, when the menacing hints to Larsen were allegedly made by Roldán, that image had already been dirtied. News had just broken that Larsen had accompanied Juan Carlos on an extravagant hunting trip to Botswana the previous month, as Spain endured a gruelling recession. It was during this holiday that Larsen claims her Monaco flat was raided by Spanish authorities, on the hunt for documents per-

taining to the "financial and business dealings" of Carlos and the royal household.

Why, one wonders, were these documents so incriminating? Did they perhaps concern the same kind of topic as an illicitly taped conversation released in 2018, in which Larsen claims to have seen the former king returning from "Arab countries" with suitcases literally bulging with cash?

This revelation was caught on tape by former undercover police officer and spymaster Jose Villarejo, who recorded all of his conversations with rich and powerful figures. Like Juan Carlos, Villarejo's fall from grace over the last few years has been swift and brutal: once a lauded policeman, who won his first medal in the 1970s for

helping to combat ETA, he subsequently worked in the shadows for Spain's political and business elite, allegedly building up a personal fortune in the process. Villarejo was arrested in late 2017 on charges of bribery and money laundering and his first criminal trial is scheduled to begin today.

As a Spanish academic told The New York Times back in 2019, the key question is whether Villarejo's antics as an undercover agent show that "there is a 'deep state' that governs in the shadows" in Spain. The alleged threats made on Juan Carlos's behalf against Larsen in 2012 make one wonder the same thing, and prompt speculation about just how powerful this parallel, shadowy state might be.

Vaccine campaign in full swing in Gibraltar as Covid-19 deaths rise

A second delivery of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine arrived from the UK on Wednesday evening and a third is due within the next week.

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. Chief minister Fabian Picardo issued a statement describing Monday as “our saddest day,” as the number of people who died from or with Covid-19 had risen to 45.

“I am shaken to the core by the knowledge that, since I addressed Parliament just 72 hours ago, 21 of our fellow Gibraltarians have died of complications

relating to Covid-19. Gibraltar has not experienced such loss of life in such a short time since the 1951 explosion of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary ammunition ship, the Bedenham,” he said.

Unfortunately, the situation

has continued to worsen, and by Wednesday 53 people had lost their lives, although the number of infections has gradually been reducing since Gibraltar went into lockdown again on 2 January.

Picardo also said that the vaccine brought hope, and 4,875 more doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine were delivered to the Rock from the UK on Wednesday evening. A further delivery of 6,825 doses is expected very shortly.

So far, over 7,000 people have been vaccinated, including frontline staff, over-65s and the clinically vulnerable, and nursing students from Gibraltar university have been fully trained to assist the

Health Authority by administering the vaccine.

Despite the lockdown restrictions, some people are still failing to wear a mask when out and about in the town centre, and the

Royal Gibraltar Police even took to social media to highlight the fact that one resident had been fined and taken to court for repeatedly refusing to do so, despite having no medical or other reason not to comply.



The second delivery

IN BRIEF

BREXIT

Schengen framework explained to Lords

D.B. Members of the UK's House of Lords EU Committee asked questions about the proposed new Schengen arrangement for Gibraltar during a virtual session with the chief minister on Tuesday. He assured them that the framework for a UK-EU treaty on Gibraltar's future relationship with the EU contained nothing which would change sovereignty, jurisdiction or control.

HISTORY

Medallion of Honour for Second World War hero

D.B. Rear Admiral Sir Kenelm Creighton, a Royal Navy commander who defied orders from the French authorities and his own superiors in order to protect Gibraltarian evacuees during WW2, is to be posthumously awarded the Medallion of Honour. A plaque commemorating him will also be placed by the Evacuation Monument at the Waterport roundabout.

CRIME

Police raise a laugh on social media

D.B. Social media can be amusing as well as informative: on Thursday the Gibraltar police posted a photo on Twitter with the comment “It seems someone has lost a bag containing £1500 worth of cannabis. If you think this property might be yours, please call in to New Mole House as we'd like to talk to you about it”. It seems unlikely that anyone will take up the invitation.

LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Dealing with the pandemic

I am getting a little frustrated at young Mr Mark (knows it all) Nayler pontificating on how the world should follow his (and Sweden's) advice on dealing with the pandemic.

He should note that Sweden's death and infection figures are now severe and reaching those of the UK; that its mature citizens are aiming to sue the government for using their lives in a deathly and proven unsuccessful experiment called 'fast herd immunity'; and that Sweden's deaths and infections outstrip all their closest neighbours, some in triplicate.

Over the years he obviously hasn't noticed how alcohol tends to make folk act more flamboyantly (lager louts), carelessly (road death and accident figures), antisocially (gender and other violence), so cutting the hours of its availability might result in the very least at less folk forgetting to wear their face masks sensibly, or stop them from belligerently forcing their possibly infected breath on others in the name of personal freedom.

I sincerely hope he doesn't contract Covid-19 himself and have to burden the overworked, underpaid and perilously endangered first responders whose predicament he seems to either know nothing about or care even less.

As for suggesting that the aged should be locked away, 'for their own good...', he might like to read more carefully the paper he warbles on writing for and note that a great many 'aged' are out 24/7 feeding and caring for the homeless, the children of the poor, the animal shelters in vast number, risking their own lives as voluntary front liners and always wearing their mask, with their little bottles of hand sanitiser tucked in their purses. Does he not realise that as well as the front liners and the aged, the so called 'vulnerable' are the sick, the overweight, and especially the babies who have not yet developed immunity to anything.

Common sense as practised in New Zealand could have knocked the pandemic into the past already far quicker than anything he has suggested so far.

GILL SCOTT GRIBLER

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THE MUSIC MAKER
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The tooth hurts

This should be entertaining," is, under normal circumstances, a phrase designed to delight the ears, offering a prelude to forthcoming fun, games and general shenanigans. It's somewhat less appealing, however, when the orator is your dentist and he's poised to extract a tooth which had crumbled in defeat over Christmas, having been filled more often than my favourite pint glass. He may or may not have rubbed his hands in glee before commencing work; it's hard to recall the details.

Apparently there was so little actual tooth left to yank on, we were all set for an extraction requiring the highest of skill sets. Well, it's always good to put top professionals to the test and I was glad to do my bit with a dodgy molar.

Having never had a tooth out before, and my only experience

of such things being a vague recollection of my granddad disappearing into the back kitchen with some string dangling from his mouth, a slamming door and a muffled grunt, followed by the old boy returning to the parlour clutching a bottle of whisky, I didn't know what on earth to expect. I did ask if they were going to give me gas at one point which caused not a little mirth.

Anyway, off we set with a double anaesthetic injection, not a particularly good sign I felt. Neither was my brilliant dentist's "Mmm" noise as he delved into the abyss. It reminded me of the one a car mechanic expels shortly before informing you that the repair might go horribly wrong but, not to worry, he's got a mate with lovely Mondeo he wants to sell.

Nothing hurt very much, but I'll never forget the crunching sounds that rattled around my

head, like an over zealous insect diner enjoying a feast of corn-flakes and crisps within the confines of my cerebral cortex.

Not to worry, though, it was soon all over and José had done a magnificent job, spending quite some time stitching me up, mumbling something to himself about that was where the secret to success always lay. Indeed, by the time he'd finished, I felt royally embroidered.

He showed me the end result on a screen above me, and then, bizarrely, asked me if I'd like to keep the tooth. Er, no, thanks. What kind of weirdo takes the thing home? Where would you keep it? On the mantelpiece next to the under-fourteens Lancashire five-a-side trophy you once won?

No, I'll be happy never to see that little blighter again, thank you. The tooth, I mean, not José - he's a marvel.

IDÍGORAS



SUR in English

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THE BOTTOM LINE
TXEMA MARTÍN

Unsettling times

There's no denying that the start of this year is proving unsettling. Extraordinary events are gradually taking place in a world so bizarre that it would be tiresome to list all its extravagances.

On Wednesday, for example, the new President of the United States was sworn in at a ceremony which, without an audience, gave the impression that it was some sort of undercover act, especially if

we take into account that everything in America is always welcomed as something spectacular. However, the lack of brouhaha was not due to the pandemic, but to the rebellion.

The seizure of the Capitol was very serious, even if to us it seemed like a parade of rednecks and brainless nump-ties, of whom there are always too many and never too few.

The rebellion had taken place in the country that boasts the oldest democracy in the world; it seems we're all slowly learning the key lesson of this millennium: everything is more fragile than we could ever imagine.

Trump spent his last day as president signing pardons and then flew on Air Force One to his Palm Beach mansion, which is a bit like Florida's version of Benidorm. Meanwhile, on social media, the inauguration gathered pace as Twitter gave the official account of the President of the United States, @POTUS, to Joe Biden. @realDonaldTrump is still censored, and that doesn't seem quite right either, but that's another matter...

Biden's inauguration was attended by Jennifer Lopez (her surname doesn't have an accent because she's from the Bronx, don't you know...) and Lady Gaga,

who is a singer I find very tiresome, mainly because she always seems to be hellbent on proving that she's a better singer than Madonna.

I see a lot of people on the left celebrating Biden's victory as if he's going to save the world. But let's not kid ourselves: the fact that Biden is demonstrably better than Trump doesn't mean he's any good either. He does at least have a modicum of intelligence and looks like he will be a much more decent president - but that's not so difficult given who his predecessor was.

Everything that happens in the US affects us. Joe Biden is the same age as the mayor of Malaga and my impression is that his mandate will propel Francisco de la Torre to yet another forthcoming candidacy, which should be worthy of a place in the ever exciting Guinness Book of Records.

INTERNATIONAL FAMILY LAW

Modification of divorce measures due to pandemic crisis

MÁLAGA & MARBELLA

SUR. In the current uncertain scenario due to the pandemic crisis, couples are facing more barriers to getting divorced, including court closures and delays, reduced income, and devaluated businesses and stock. Add to this that many family law hearings are very limited and/or delayed and criminal cases are given priority. The delays are driving more couples to consider mediation as an alternative, where a family law expert is hired to facilitate an agreement between both parties. In our experience mediation is always advisable, even more when for those cases affecting various jurisdictions.

Another potential barrier to couples separating is some can't afford to rent or buy another place, to live in or their friends or family members are too worried about COVID-19 to let them to move in.

On other grounds, as unemployment rates and economic

uncertainty are increasing, it would not be a surprise if some parents were wondering whether it is possible to modify the measures that govern their economic relationship with their children or former spouse.

At the end of April, the Spanish Government released a law (Real Decreto-ley 16/2020) that enabled parents to seek judicial alteration of the economic related measures in those cases where there was evidence that the economic situation of the obliged party had "substantially" varied as a consequence of COVID. This law had a validity limited in time, and it is no longer applicable. However, the economic impact of the pandemic does not seem to be reaching to an end and it is necessary that debtors are aware of the possibilities that the law offers to those whose finances are struggling.

The Spanish Civil Codes states (article 91) that the measures



Frepik

agreed by the parties or imposed by the Judge can be modified "when the new needs of the children or the change in circumstances of the spouses make it advisable". According to the case law of the Spanish Supreme Court, there are several requirements that petitioner shall meet to ask for an alteration of the measures:

- The de facto situation must

have changed after the adoption of the original measures.

- This change of situation must be substantial, meaning that it must affect to the core of the measure and not only to an accessory aspect. This translates that if such situation would have existed in the original proceeding, a different measure would have been adopted.

MAYTE GARCIA
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- The change of situation must be prolonged in time and stable, and not due to conjunctural reasons.

- This situation must not have provoked by the petitioner. If the parent who wish to modify the measures has entered into this situation voluntarily, the modification will not be agreed by the Court.

This proceeding can be conducted through a petition to the Court (legal representation is required) or be decided upon mutual agreement of the parents. However, we strongly advise that in case such an agreement is reached, it is filed for ratification to the Court, especially if it involves economic measures such a decrease in the children's alimony, in order to make the agreement fully valid and enforceable between the parties.



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◀ Keeping fit

Street exercise with expert Blanca Fernández.

VIVIRBYV.COM

ing meals too, prepared with local Okm seasonal goodness. My few days at Hotel V provided not only the motivational kick start I needed but fuelled me with ideas of how to keep up the good intentions at home.

Healthy steps

Life can be full of small recalibrations, as we learn from our challenges, experiences, and the positive impact of others - all helping us navigate a better course. This seems to be amplified as we embark upon a new year. January presents us with that annual 'nudge', almost an obligation, to go beyond just fine-tuning daily life, and to instead make more decisive, healthy changes, to break bad habits, reinforce better ones and build a more fulfilling life for the year ahead.

Yet, this new year, as we continue to be in and out of lockdowns, with many gyms closed and our social lives limited, motivation might feel in short supply. We need to be more resourceful than ever to find ways to eat well, get fitter, keep positive and cultivate our overall wellbeing. More than ever, we need to start making those first few healthy steps in the right direction.

Morning ritual

My day usually starts with me reaching for my iPhone on the nightstand, launching the news apps, and then scrolling through social media. I know it's not a healthy habit. So, whilst in Vejer, it was great to be reminded of how one can start the day with mindfulness and positive intentions. Blanca took me through a simple, short yet powerful routine combining meditation and stretching.

At the V by V retreat, yoga is offered on the spectacular roof terrace with Vejer's old town at your feet, or deep under the property, in the ancient aljibe cistern, a unique place that has now been converted into a peaceful, cosy, and calming space for massage, and meditation. Yet Blanca also explained that at home, just by giving ourselves 15 to 20 minutes in the morning alone, sitting on a rug, and following a guided meditation or yoga class online, one could maintain this positive morning ritual.

Healing nature

Exploring the nearby natural parks of Los Alcornocales, La Breña and the Estrecho are an integral part of the wellness programme. Professional, bilingual guide Carlos Milburn has a passion for the local forests, leading hikes that can build strength and

Wellness, at home and away

Getting in shape for 2021. The natural surroundings of Andalucía can provide inspiration and motivation for a healthier and happier year, even if you have to stay at home

► Relax.

A massage, a special treat to add to a regular stretching and meditation routine.

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► Eating well.

Chef Alberto Reyes prepares Okm healthy cuisine with local seasonal produce.

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ANDREW FORBES



I was navigating the labyrinthine streets of Vejer's old town in a whole new way. Instead of pausing to have a glass of wine and a tapa, or to capture panoramic vistas on my iPhone, I was instead doing tricep dips against street benches, lunges whilst overlooking the Plaza de España, and then punching and jabbing at the air.

My mentor in this street fitness body-toning class was Blanca Fernández, who leads the yoga

and exercise elements of VIVIR by V, a new destination wellness retreat at the town's boutique Hotel V.

Take it to the street

I have to admit that, at first, I felt a little self-conscious exercising in the centre of old town. As I did step-ups beside the fountain, a few masked retired folk looked on in bemusement. I'm more used to the anonymity of the gym, but in this Covid-19 era, it's smart

to make the most of our immediate surroundings and get fit in the fresh air. Lockdowns have inspired new ways to exercise, so the closure of our local gyms is no excuse to be a coach potato.

Leaving the apathy of 2020 behind, I headed for Vejer de la Frontera, the postcard-perfect hilltop town in Cadiz province, to try VIVIR by V, which includes daily yoga, hiking, body toning, and restorative massage.

There are generous and tempt-

This year we need to be more resourceful than ever to find ways to eat well, get fitter, keep positive and cultivate our overall wellbeing

stamina, burn fat, and also inform and entertain. I learnt about the curative qualities of the wild herbs from aromatic rosemary to a type of Jerusalem sage, and how Andalusians used to forage for coastal Mediterranean juniper and the tender hearts of the Mediterranean fan palm.

During regional lockdowns, taking local walks is a satisfying way to get fit, and calm the mind. There's something captivating about nature that just erodes feelings of anxiety, stress, and apathy. There's a wealth of apps online that detail local routes in Andalucía, so making time in the week to get lost among pine trees might be just what the doctor ordered.

Super food

Healthy eating isn't about denial suggests VIVIR by V Chef Alberto Reyes. Well known in Vejer for his creative fusion cuisine, Reyes is the expert behind the three daily meals and the healthy snacks enjoyed during the retreat.

Don't expect calorie-limiting, pared-back meals. Instead, Reyes believes a healthy, stable weight comes from eating fresh, predominantly vegetarian foods. Each meal starts with a cleansing, digestive-friendly infusion based on natural spices like turmeric. Returning home, he encourages us to make the most of lockdown by visiting our local farmers' markets and creating our own 0km meals.

His menus are grounded in the seasons, so at the moment

it's hearty winter vegetables, with layers of flavour thanks to smoking or roasting, lots of fresh herbs and some exotic spices. Expect starters of delicately smoked aubergine with rocket, tofu, and pomegranate; and main courses of wild artichoke with fennel puree - winter never tasted so good.

Puddings are on the menu too, but there's no refined sugar. Sweetness comes from natural unprocessed sources. It's a good trick to try at home. In fact, the rice pudding with coconut and lemon grass was so good, I'm sharing the recipe below.

What's more, getting fit after Christmas doesn't necessarily have to mean 'Dry January' either. Alberto sees wine as part of the joy of eating, and his meals are paired with organic, natural sulphite-free wines. I mean, right now with everything that's going on, I am not giving up wine... but switching to 'cleaner' organic wines seems an easier enough step.

Living life

VIVIR by V (<https://vivirbyv.com/>) is an all-inclusive retreat based at Hotel V, a restored historic old town property, with a triple-level roof terrace, charming courtyard, and guest rooms with underfloor heating. Packages are for a three-night weekend or a full week, and promise to invigorate and inspire a healthy, holistic lifestyle that we can maintain at home.

It's something to put in the diary for when provincial borders reopen.

RECIPE

Healthy coconut rice pudding

Healthy, exotic coconut rice pudding with roasted pineapple - a recipe by Chef Alberto Reyes.

For the infused coconut milk:

4 cans of organic coconut milk
80g of galangal (or substitute ginger)
5 kaffir lime leaves
20g ginger
15g lemongrass

Add the ingredients together and leave to infuse overnight.

For the rice pudding:

140g rice
280ml of water
1 litre of infused coconut milk
120g of coconut sugar

Gently cook the rice with the water until the water is absorbed. Then add the infused coconut milk until absorbed and then finally add the coconut sugar. Put aside to cool.

For the roast pineapple:

1 pineapple
Bake in an oven at 180°C for 90 minutes. Then allow it to cool and peel.

Serve the rice pudding with slices of baked pineapple and garnish with mint.

Mijas YouTube star causes stir with Andorra move

El Rubius says he's moving to the Principality because "all" his friends are there, but that the tax benefits are obviously a "plus"

REGINA SOTORRÍO

MALAGA. A famous YouTuber from Mijas has courted controversy after announcing he is moving to Andorra.

Rubén Doblas Gundersen, better known as El Rubius, has justified his move by claiming that "all" of his friends are already living in the Principality.

The 30-year-old, who was born to a Spanish father and a Norwegian mother, grew up between his

parents' two countries and posted his first YouTube video in 2006.

He went professional in 2011, and now boasts some 39.5 million subscribers on the platform thanks to his gaming videos and vlogs, making his channel the 36th most popular in the world.

Although he claims that being closer to his friends is the motivation behind his move, he concedes that Andorra's lower taxation rate is "obviously a plus".

Indeed, many of the friends to whom he refers are fellow YouTubers who have already been enticed by Andorra's 10% maximum income tax rate, compared to the 47% upper limit in Spain.

Among those critical of the exodus is another Spanish YouTuber Alejandro Fernández, also known



El Rubius has millions of fans. SUR

as Alexelcapo. He argues he and his fellow high-earning stars have a responsibility to make a fair contribution to the system, and that the ongoing pandemic has demonstrated the vital role that public services play in society.

However, El Rubius remains defiant. He claims that, if it were purely for tax reasons, he "would have left years ago", and underlines that he has spent the last ten years paying into the Spanish system.

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DENISE BUSH

GARDENING

The tree grape

This bizarre looking South African succulent is an ideal plant for the dry, Mediterranean climate. It is known by many names; wild grape, tree grape, Namibian grape, elephant's foot and butter bush among others but its official botanical name is *Cyphostemma juttae*. The genus *Cyphostemma* is included in the grape family Vitaceae but is not edible; all

parts of this plant are toxic and have an extremely acrid taste which is off-putting to most animals. It is slow growing with a swollen, bottle-shaped trunk that acts as a reservoir for water and can reach up to two metres tall in ideal conditions. Specimens up to four me-

tres have been found in the rocky, semitropical forests of Namibia. The fleshy, blue-green leaves have serrated edges and can be quite large, sometimes reaching 30cm long. In extreme temperatures the tree grape is deciduous but it can withstand 40°C heat and small periods of frost. In the height of the summer, the sun may scorch the leaves so some afternoon shade is preferable. Like all succulents, the soil must drain freely as water-logging will kill it. If grown in a container use a cactus mix to prevent the stem rotting or keep the tree grape under cover when it rains.

The swollen trunk (or trunks) develops a papery, peeling surface and holds water, making the tree grape drought resistant although occasional watering in dry spells will help to keep it healthy. A liquid feed during the growing season will also be beneficial. In summer, tiny inconspicuous flowers appear followed by bunches of grape-like fruit which turn red and then purple when fully ripe. Propagation is easy by seeds sown in early summer but they may take months to germinate and are slow to grow. The tree grape can also be propagated from cuttings which can be rooted in coarse sand.

The La Concepción Botanical Gardens has an example of *Cyphostemma juttae* which is laden with the grape-like fruits at the moment.



Cyphostemma juttae in flower and fruits (inset). WIKIMEDIA

READERS' PHOTOS



EIJA KOVANEN

A money tree

Eija Kovanen from Fuengirola sent in this photo of her money tree (also called lucky or jade plant) which is in full bloom. It's botanical name is *Crassula ovata* and it's a native of South Africa.



CAROLINE SELLERS

Crown of thorns

Euphorbia milii has succulent bright green leaves and pretty red flowers but lethal thorns. It's common name 'crown of thorns' is derived from the belief by some that the crown of thorns worn by Jesus Christ at his crucifixion was made from stems of this plant.

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@diariosures.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](https://www.facebook.com/surenglish)) or Twitter ([@SUR_English](https://twitter.com/SUR_English)).



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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

22 JANUARY 1972

ETA releases abducted tycoon Lorenzo Zabala

The self-made industrialist was the first businessman to be kidnapped by the Basque terrorist organisation

Lorenzo Zabala Suinaga, creator of the Motobic moped that was popular during the 1950s and '60s, was released after being held captive for four days by Euskadi Ta Askatasuna (ETA) on 22 January 1972. A self-made industrialist with a great entrepreneurship deeply rooted in Eibar, Zabala was the first businessman to be kidnapped by the Basque terrorist organisation.

In September 1970, ETA's official line moved in favour of a workers' front policy which stressed the

importance of finding democratic solutions to national oppression.

The kidnapping, which had a great social impact, took place as Zabala was on his way to the Preincontrol company, of which he was managing director. Workers at the factory that made the Motobic had been on strike because of forced redundancies and the possible closure of the company.

Zabala's car was stopped in the town of Abadiño by four terrorists, who fired several shots in the air to intimidate the business man. Eye witnesses claimed that

Zabala clung to the steering wheel and began to honk the horn, but the terrorists managed to sedate him, before bundling him into a Seat 124 and making their escape. He was taken to Munguia, a town in the province of Vizcaya.



Lorenzo Zabala, with his Motobic in a museum in Eibar last year. **SUR**

ETA claimed responsibility several hours later and, in a statement, said that they would kill Zabala if the demands of the workers were not met within five days.

Zabala's wife met with workers' representatives and members of the board the following day in order to bring the dispute to an end and secure the release of her husband. They eventually reached an agreement, which included Zabala's resignation, to

end the strike. Three days later, he was freed near a pine forest on the road linking Bilbao with Vitoria.

The disorientated businessman, who had suffered a severe head injury incurred during the abduction, was picked up by a lorry driver, who took him to the authorities in the nearby town of Durango. Police blamed the kidnapping, throughout which Zabala had remained blindfolded, on the Fifth Assembly. Known as

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

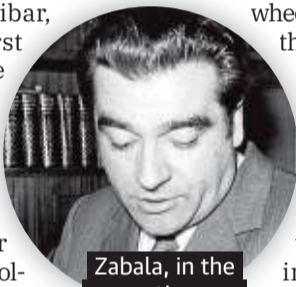
Empresario	Business owner
Secuestro	Kidnapping
Motocicleta	Moped
Bicicleta	Bicycle
Rescate	Rescue
Liberación	Release
Fábrica	Factory
Huelga	Strike
Volante	Steering wheel
Pinar	Pine forest
Disparos	Shots
Testigo	Witness
Herida	Wound
Amenazar	To threaten
Arraigado	Rooted
Aprendiz	Apprentice
Camionero	Lorry driver

ETA Fifth, this element was aligned to the National Front's armed struggle and was the centre of gravity for the nationalist left.

Born in Eibar in 1928, Zabala was an apprentice mechanic who, in 1948, built an auxiliary engine to attach to his bicycle. He called it the LZ and it was the beginning of the Motobic.

Zabala died in Eibar at the end of last year.

Bilingual crossword inside back page



Zabala, in the seventies. **SUR**

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Nothing seems normal anymore. Many expats are getting used to expecting the unexpected. If you have concerns about the impact the Coronavirus pandemic may have on insurance policies, Linea Directa would like to reassure its customers that their car insurance policies are one constant to be relied on in these uncertain times.

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EXHIBITIONS

Mesopotamian art

MARBELLA. Museo Arqueológico Municipal.

The exhibition at the archaeology museum consists of various pieces from different periods in the history of ancient Mesopotamia. The collection is owned by Estepona resident and French architect, Jacques Cavo.

Manuel López Toirán

ESTEPONA. Until 10 February. Casa de Las Tejerinas, Plaza de las Flores. The exhibition consists of 15 sculptures carved out of wood and 10 painted wall-mounted planks.

José Nicolás

ESTEPONA. Until 4 February. Casa de Las Tejerinas, Plaza de las Flores. Ten paintings of medium and large format by Murcia artist José Nicolás Zomeño will be on display.



Street Art, Torremolinos.

Torremolinos Street Art

TORREMOLINOS. Caseta Municipal de Asociaciones. The initiative includes workshops and activities for persons between 14 and 35 as well as a tour of the town's murals on 30 January which will include exhibitions of hip hop and break dance. On 13 February and 13 March there will be workshops on creating graffiti, urban dance and customising tee-shirts. To register email: juventud@torremolinos.es or call: 659 870 542.

3D tour of museum

COÍN. Online.

The Centro Antonio Reyna Manescau, dedicated to the 19th-century Coín-born painter, has opened its doors to the whole world by creating a virtual tour of its exhibition rooms. Find the link halfway down the page on <http://turismocoin.com/>

Malaga Picasso Museum

MÁLAGA. Museo Picasso Málaga, Calle San Agustín.

Metamorfosis. From 27 January until September. An exhibition of around one hundred paintings, ceramics, drawings and bronzes by artist Miguel Barceló will be on display. www.museopicassomalaga.org.

Centre Pompidou

MÁLAGA. Muelle Uno.

From Miró to Barceló. The semi-permanent exhibition is entitled De Miró a Barceló. Un siglo de Arte Español (From Miró to Barceló. A century of Spanish art). 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. The main staircase in the Centro Pompidou is the site for the painting 'Si yo, Si tú' by veteran artist Charo Carrera.

Dar la Cara. Until 11 April. This latest exhibition consists of photos and videos by 26 artists. Classic portraits are mixed with contemporary and innovative styles, sometimes surreal and disquieting.

Centro de Arte Contemporáneo - CAC Málaga

MÁLAGA. C/Alemania.

AAron. Until 4 April. Santiago Navarro, pseudonym AAron, is exhibiting Soy Mi Jardín, a collection of various pieces including videos and 60 art works completed during quarantine.

Museo Revello de Toro

MÁLAGA. Until 24 January. Closed Mondays. C/Afligidos.

Félix Revello de Toro is a distinguished Malaga artist. Around 117 of his works are on display in the

Inward exhibition to reflect confinement



Fran Doblas at the opening of her Escape Inwards exhibition. SUR

TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. The Casa de las Navajas in Torremolinos is hosting a new exhibition of photographs and artwork by Malaga artist Fran Doblas. Under the banner of Escape Inwards, the exhibition was initiated during the lockdown, when she invited friends and colleagues to participate in a questionnaire. She also asked them to send a selfie that reflected how they coped with the confinement. The questionnaire was a self-reflection exercise and the artist used this, along with a portrait of

the participant, to create a visual collage that represents individual stories in a metaphorical way.

The artists explained that the exhibition, which runs until Sunday 14 February, "brings to mind some very uncertain moments when we did not know what was happening. This has marked us as a society and this project is designed as a reflection towards what we really feel".

The exhibition can be viewed from Friday to Sunday between the hours of 11am and 2pm, and from 4pm until 6pm.

museum which regularly holds workshops and art classes for children and adults. The temporary exhibition is entitled Revello y la Transición Española and consists of ten works completed between 1978 and 1997.

Museum Jorge Rando

MÁLAGA. C/ Cruz del Molinillo.

www.museojorgerando.org

Expressionist museum of work by

painter and sculptor Jorge Rando.

Marilyn Manson, 21 Years in Hell

MÁLAGA. 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 period. Thirty of his photographs from the book 21 Years in Hell: Man-

son/Perou are on display.

Creadores 2020

MÁLAGA. Until February. La Térmica. Free.

Six young artists, Abel Jaramillo, Virginia López-Anido, Delia Boyano, Antonio Ruiz Montesinos, Jorge Isla and García & Fernández are exhibiting works which include installations, photographs, posters, collages etc.

María Maquieira

MÁLAGA. Until 9 February. Casa Amarilla, C/Santos.

Roma 09-21 is the title for this exhibition consisting of works by artist María Maquieira.

Rafael Alvarado

MÁLAGA. Until 26 February. Ateneo Málaga, C/Compañía 2.

The exhibition space at the Ateneo is currently exhibiting a selection of works by Rafael Alvarado. The collection is entitled La ciudad laberinto and depicts the streets of the city before the pandemic, a thriving centre with crowded pavements made treacherous by the scourge of the electric scooters.

Manu Guayre

MÁLAGA. Until 7 March. Casa Amarilla, C/Santos.

#Off Yellow is the title for a series of irreverent works in the style of poster art by young Catalan artist Manu Guayre.



Manu Guayre, Malaga.

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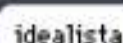
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EXHIBITIONS

Juxta Litus

MÁLAGA. Until 31 January. Alfájar Sala, C/ Císter, 1. Entitled Juxta Litus (Close to the shore), this exhibition includes the gallery's recent ceramic works.

Creadores de Conciencia

MÁLAGA. Until 19 March. Salas Minogorance, Archivo Municipal y Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País de Málaga.

An exhibition by 40 journalists consisting of 120 photographs which reflect on the situations which connect with the conscience of the viewer. The photos have all been published in major newspapers around the world and feature scenes in far away places such as Syria, Colombia, Venezuela, Iraq and Egypt as well as others closer to home.

Brujas sin Coloquios

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Until 7 February. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.

Granada artist Lucía Díaz has been working on a project that represents the history and legends about witches that has persisted since Arabic times by way of the tradition of Andalusian ceramics.

Being With Trees

GIBRALTAR. Until 13 March. Gustavo Bacarissas Gallery.

This exhibition, entitled 'Being with Trees', will showcase around 100 works from over 40 artists. These form part of the internationally acclaimed group of artists The Arbo-realists, also featuring the Urban Contemporaries with some Gibraltar artists. Email: info@culture.gi.



Janey Godley, Burns Night.

LIVE CONCERTS AND MUSIC

OFM Chamber Music concerts

MÁLAGA. Auditorio del Museo Picasso de Málaga.

2 February, 7pm. Harmoniemusik Málaga. www.museopicassomalaga.org

Siempre Mozart

ONLINE. 23 January, 7pm. 15€. Online talk (in Spanish) and recital to celebrate the child prodigy's 265th anniversary. Information: 654013232. Reservations: reservas@musica-conencanto.org

Country and Western

MIJAS. 30 January, 1.30pm. 35€. La Sierra Restaurant, Cerrado del Águila

'World class' Michael Jackson tribute comes to Malaga

The Legend Continues reproduces the essence and panache of one of the greatest entertainers of all time

T. BRYANT

MÁLAGA. Fans of Michael Jackson will enjoy a spectacular tribute show dedicated to the King of Pop that will be held in the Sala Trinchera in Malaga city on Sunday 7 February.

Performed by Cuban singer and choreographer Miguel Concha - considered one of the best Jackson imitators in the world - The Legend Continues is based on Jackson's last concert tour to announce his farewell from the stage, a tour that was interrupted by the singer's unexpected death in 2009.

Concha reproduces the essence and panache of the celebrated idol, and his show is complemented by a spectacular stage show with complicated dance routines, replica costumes and, of course, iconic hits such as Thriller, Billie Jean and Smooth Criminal.



Miguel Concha's show offers all the panache of the real thing. SUR

A physical education teacher by profession, and a passionate singer and dancer by nature, Concha began imitating Jackson at the age of five. He has become Sony Music's official impersonator, winning numerous competitions and appearing in a variety of television shows; while the Rolling Stone magazine proclaimed him the

best Jackson impersonator in South America.

Tickets for the show, which will start at 12.30pm, cost 15 euros in advance or 20 euros at the door and are available from www.wegow.com.

Capacity restrictions and Covid-19 protocol will be enforced, so early reservations are advised.

Golf and Resort.

The Cowboys and Kisses show is packed with classic country and western music accompanied by 'cow-girl' dancers. It is presented by Johnnie G and Melissa Carver and will feature songs by legends such as Johnny Cash, Dolly Parton, Glen Campbell and Shania Twain.

Burns Night

ONLINE. 25 January, 8pm (Spanish time).

Scots comic Janey Godley hosts the Big Burns Supper 2021 free digital show with musicians, comedians, actors, aerialists and historians from across the world. KT Tunstall, Donovan, Tide Lines, Dougie Maclean, Robert Softly Gale and Amy Conchan are confirmed for exclusive performances and unique reflections on Burns' work. Watch via Facebook or Youtube. www.bigburnssupper.com

Dúo Humaina

ALMUÑÉCAR. 24 January, 7pm. Casa de la Cultura de Almuñécar. The concert with clarinetist Luna Orts and pianist David García will feature works by composers G. Finzi, A. Messager, F. Chopin, B. Pérez Casas, M. Mangini and J. Horowitz.

Queen and Bee Gees tributes

MIJAS COSTA. 30 January, 9pm. Teatro Las Lagunas, Camino del

Albero. 15€.

A tribute to two great legends, Queen and the Bee Gees. Ticket office opens two hours before the show. Info: teatrolaslagunas@gmail.com

FLAMENCO

Paseos Flamenco

MÁLAGA. 24 January, El Palo, 31 January Plaza de la Merced. 10 - 11.15am.

For groups of up to six persons. Contact 687 607 526 or email: flamenca-malaga@hotmail.com

THEATRE AND DANCE

LaSal theatre

MÁLAGA. 30, 31 January, midday. Teatro Cánovas. 8€.

Aimed at a young audience, the LaSal Teatro company presents a contemporary dance performance based on the theme of the home and the uncertainties that surround it. Tickets: www.juntadeandalucia.es/cultura/teatros/teatro-canovas

Romeo and Juliet

MÁLAGA. 29 January, 7pm. Teatro Cervantes. 24€. The Teatro Clásico de Sevilla perform an adaptation of William Shakespeare's classic story of Romeo and Juliet. Tickets: www.unientradas.es/

TALKS / LECTURES

The Arts Society

NERJA. Lectures online.

The Arts Society Nerja season of lectures free online via Zoom for members and 10€ for supporters. www.theartsocietynerja.com

26 January, 6pm. Did the Spanish Inquisition have a bad press? Exploring the art of half-truths in Renaissance Europe. Lecture by Dani Munoz.

The Arts Society Benahavís

BENAHAVÍS. Lectures online.

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

26 January, 7pm. How Viruses Inspire Purity in Architecture and Design by Alejandra Carazo. The so-called Spanish Flu of 1918-20 cost at least 20 million lives. What is less well



Lecture, Benahavís.

known is that it provoked a revolution in architecture and design. Out went the superfluous decoration and furniture that were hotspots for dirt and disease. In came a new emphasis on pure lines, natural light and air. In 1925 Gerrit Rietveld designed the Schroder House with an innovative window system that eliminated the barrier between the inside and outside. He was followed by other pioneers such as Miles Van der Rohe, Le Corbusier and Frank Lloyd Wright. The talk will highlight their iconic designs and demonstrate why they have a relevance for today.

MORE IDEAS

Diver Arte for children

TORREMOLINOS. Until 8 May, 12-1.30pm. Centro Cultural Pablo Ruiz Picasso.

Art workshops dedicated to the History of Art for children. Painting and creativity workshops and exhibitions of works. Registration at the centre or call: 952053835.

Health workshops

MIJAS. Sala de Danza Teatro Las Lagunas. Free.

Courses to learn how your diaphragm works and to improve the quality of movement in your shoulders, neck, pelvis, spine.... Register by email: cultura@mijas.es or call: 952590380. Free but each participant should donate 3kg of non-perishable foodstuffs to the food bank at the start of the course.

Relax your body and mind. 30 January, 10am-1pm. Flexibility, mobility, relaxation myofascial self-release and guided relaxation workshop. Relieves pain. Increases mobility and flexibility. Eliminates restrictions. Reduces muscle tension. Increases relaxation. **Body awareness and breathing course.** 31 January, 10am-1pm. First part will be about becoming conscious of how you breathe. The second part will be awareness of your body and how to improve movement with gentle exercise.

Film workshops

MIJAS. Casa Museo de Mijas. Free.

Learn how to make low budget films. Register by email: cultura@mijas.es or call: 952590380. Free but each participant should donate 3kg of non-perishable foodstuffs to the food bank at the start of the course.

Introduction to making a video using a chroma key. 6 February 9am-2pm **Writing a screenplay and recording a video using a mobile phone.** 13, 14 January, 9am-2pm.

Introduction to a reflex camera for filming a video. 20, 21 January, 9am-2pm.

O. V. FILMS

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

Cine Albéniz

MÁLAGA. C/ Alcazaba, 4. Tel: 902360295. www.cinealbeniz.com **The Father:** 16.10 (every day); 12.10 (Sat, Sun). **23 Walks:** 16.05 (every day); 12.00 (Sat, Sun)

Baked beans or tuna?

ANDREW J. LINN



In Britain they open a can of baked beans for a quick snack. In Spain a can of tuna.

Tuna is almost the ideal food. It can be used in salads, omelettes, canapés, sandwiches, etc, and is guaranteed

to be cheap, tasty and relatively healthy. But we cannot continue eating it for ever - and maybe should start cutting back.

The boats of the big canning companies fish with long lines that stretch for many kilome-

tres, but these also catch sea turtles, marine birds, and sharks.

In 2015 Greenpeace warned that issues such as sustainability should not be ignored, but for every fishing boat observing good practices, there are another 20 that have no interest in such matters.

In some countries, and the USA is at the forefront, producers have committed to only supplying 100 per cent sustainable canned tuna; elsewhere, however, it is just a case of pulling them out of the sea until there will be no more.

The other concerns that

should concentrate the minds of regular purchasers include slave labour practices commonly found on many vessels, and a conscientious awareness of the dangers of eating it too often.

Tuna contains mercury, a heavy metal that can affect the brain and other vital body organs. The Washington Post, for example, is only one source advising against eating it more than once monthly, unless it is labelled as 'light'.

More than 80 per cent of the tuna sold in the US comes from unsustainable, destructive sources but Europe is way behind. Back to baked beans?

WINE OF THE WEEK

Marimar Estate Acero Chardonnay

This wine was made as a tribute to Miguel Torres's sister, who has run the Californian Russian River winery for decades. It was nominated an exceptional wine in the 2020 US Chardonnay Masters. Acero (steel) is in the name, and the judges decided it was unusual to find such a good Chardonnay with no barrel ageing. Not cheap as transport costs influence. €29.90.



Chef develops a new superfood under the sea

Ángel León Chef of the sea

Zoster is an environmentally friendly type of sea grass that grows in salt water and is high in protein and Omega three

GUILLERMO ELEJABEITIA

MADRID. Ángel León has been making a name for himself as a chef for years thanks to his imagination with seafood at Aponiente, his three-star Michelin restaurant in El Puerto de Santa María (Cadiz). He has elevated discarded fish to haute cuisine, turned plankton into an ingredient for human consumption and even has a range of marine sausages. But his latest discovery transcends the culinary and could put him in history books.

He and his crew have managed to cultivate zoster, a sea grass, which could revolutionise human nutrition and stop climate change. -Is this the most important discovery of your career?

-Without a doubt. We have been

working on the dream that there may be fruits, roots or other forms of food we could grow in the sea but we never imagined we would find a cereal.

-You have received approval from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization?

-Yes, they have confirmed that this is a new product that had not previously been considered a food and that this was the first time an attempt had been made to domesticate it. The possibilities are enormous. If resources are put into this discovery, we can possibly cultivate other products under the sea.

-When do you think this grain could be grown on a large enough scale to be considered an alternative food?

-We are still in a research and development phase, but I think that in two years we could have a seed bank in El Puerto de Santa María with the capacity to plant in other parts of the world and see how it evolves. It won't be expensive agriculture, it doesn't need fresh water or fertiliser and

we hope to obtain a yield of 4,500 kilos per hectare.

-What advantages does zoster have over other cereals?

-I compare it to rice mostly, which has a similar growth cycle of about nine months, but with other nuances and a different texture. We could say that it is a hybrid between rice and quinoa. It doesn't contain gluten, it has a lot of protein and we're talking about the first cereal with omega three.

-And in the kitchen?

-You can do anything with it that can be done with rice, from eating it whole grain or refined, to making flour and pasta. It takes two minutes longer to cook than normal rice. To tell the truth, I still haven't had a chance to experiment, I've been obsessively focused on planting. In September this year when we harvest around 22,000 kilos, I will get into the kitchen and create some great dishes for Aponiente.

-The process of domesticating a wild cereal cannot have been easy.



Ángel León, chef of the sea, with the zoster grains. ÁLVARO FERNÁNDEZ

-There has been a lot of trial and error. We have lost crops due to temperature changes in the Strait but we have learned what tidal flow is required, the light and the temperature it needs. We have the help of marine biologists, but for them it is also new.

-The benefits are not only found in the kitchen though?

-Right. At an ecological level the

plant is fantastic because it is home to many species of fish, fixes the soil and brings an impressive amount of oxygen into the environment that can fight climate change. It also offers an economic alternative to degraded coastal areas. Here in Andalucía there are 200 kilometres of abandoned marshes that could be given a new life thanks to underwater agriculture.



Using plant power to make eco beauty products

Organic enterprise. Alicia Jiménez and Nicolas Trudu set up their company in Riogordo two years ago and sell online and at markets in the Axarquía

JENNIE RHODES



Nicolas and Alicia behind their stall at Trapiche market earlier this month. J. RHODES

When Alicia Jiménez's neighbour taught her about plants as a child, little did she know she would be using that knowledge to run a business.

Jiménez and her partner Nicolas Trudu have been running Aletheia Nature from their home in Riogordo for two years. They produce and sell ecological, plant-based beauty products, using as many locally grown species as possible.

Alicia explains that ingredients for the company's wide range of solid shampoo, conditioner and deodorants, as well as soaps, perfumes, creams and lotions, include locally or home-grown lavender, aloe vera, marigold, chamomile and rose hip.

However, for other products, such as coconut, neem and argan oil, which have to be sourced from abroad, the company

ensures that their suppliers are organic and ethical.

The couple, who are both 32, started the online shop and selling locally at markets about two years ago but have been working on developing the products for around 10 years.

Despite going on to study to be a teacher at university, Alicia never lost the fascination for plants that her neighbour had ignited.

Since then, learning about the power of different plants used in plant-based beauty products and treatments has come from a lot of self-teaching: reading books, online research and connecting with other people who are considered experts in the field.

Alicia says she has been able to help locals who suffer from skin conditions such as psoriasis and dermatitis, possibly

caused by the chemicals used in agriculture in the Axarquía and in particular those involved in the local olive industry. "There are lots of olive growers who have skin complaints caused by the chemicals they use on the olives," she explains.

Combinations of ingredients such as marigold and chamomile, she says, are excellent for skin conditions such as dermatitis; and marigold mixed with star flower (borage) works brilliantly to help soothe burns.

Alicia has developed a range of creams, soaps and even a natural toothpaste. For these she uses ingredients such as coconut oil, which she says has natural antibacterial properties; lavender and orange which are said to be nature's antiseptics; and cloves, which Alicia swears by for warding off insects, especially fleas and ticks. She has a

Chamomile and marigold are good for treating skin conditions while orange and lavender are nature's antiseptics

Alicia Jiménez has been fascinated by the power of plants since a neighbour taught her about their properties as a child

spray for human use and is hoping to develop one which can be used on dogs and cats.

Nicolas, who is Italian and has been in Spain for seven years, is responsible for the website. He also has a background in permaculture, so he nurtures the

plants used in the treatments, while Alicia is in charge of the formulation of the products.

The couple plan to start running courses on how to use different plants in beauty products and teach people about their healing properties. She says that while she hasn't used her university degree directly, the teacher training she received will "help with the delivery" of her courses.

As well as reaching clients online, the couple also have a stall at Trapiche farmer's market on Tuesdays and Cómputa market on Wednesdays. However, these will not be going ahead for the time being due to the current restrictions on movement.

Further information :
www.aletheianature.es
Facebook: Aletheia Nature

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Local entertainers come together in support of popular expat musician

FUNDRAISING APPEAL

Friends of Steve Nelson raised over 10,000 euros in the first 30 hours of an appeal to help pay for private health care and medical assistance

TONY BRYANT

MIJAS. The name Steve Nelson will probably be familiar to those involved in the entertainment and music scene on the Costa del Sol. Steve has worked with numerous artists since arriving in 1982, and now many of them have come together to support the 67-year-old musician, who has been suffering with health and financial problems.

Steve's complications began last year, when he was hospitalised with suspected jaundice. However, doctors found a growth on his pancreas which had caused intestinal problems.

He was due to have surgery earlier this month, but, after testing positive with Covid-19, his operation was cancelled.

He is now at home and requires full-time care, so friends have set up a GoFundMe page (Steve Nelson's Recovery) to raise money to help pay for private healthcare and emergency medical assistance.

As a result of his condition, Steve has been unable to work and has lost his regular income, which had already been drastically reduced due to the crisis.

The GoFundMe target was set at 10,000 euros, but this figure was exceeded in less than 30

hours. The fund currently stands at 15,000 euros, so organiser Wayne Robinson has decided to keep the appeal running.

Steve's daughter, Layla, also a popular singer on the local circuit, told SUR in English that her father has been overwhelmed with the response.

"Words cannot actually express how grateful we are to everyone. We are totally overwhelmed by all the kindness, love and support we have received during these challenging times. It's been an extremely emotional rollercoaster, but dad is a fighter and we will get through this," she said.

Steve will need continued home care before his operation and ongoing care afterwards in order to get back to work, although it could be some time before he makes a full recovery.

"We haven't been advised on the exact recovery time as it all depends on the patient, but it could be weeks or even months,"

"It's been an extremely emotional rollercoaster, but dad is a fighter and we will get through this," says daughter Layla



Steve Nelson has been performing on the Costa del Sol since 1982. **sUR**

Layla explained.

Steve has been an integral part of the music scene on the coast and his popularity, both on and off stage, has been endorsed by the reaction from the local music sector, which, as Layla pointed out, has been "amazing".

"This has made me realise

just how much my dad is admired on the coast. We have been inundated by messages and calls from bars and fellow musicians wanting to organise events and concerts to help raise money for my father's recovery. It has been absolutely incredible," she said.

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Mayor of Estepona (c) presents Cudeca with the cheque. **SUR.**

Estepona town hall joins the Cudeca Sunflower Effect campaign

ESTEPONA

T. BRYANT. Estepona town hall boosted the Cudeca Sunflower Effect campaign last week with a donation of 6,339 euros. The money was raised last year at a charity concert in the municipal auditorium given by popular flamenco singer Miguel Poveda.

Mayor José María García Ur-

bano handed the cheque to Financial Director Rafael Olalla and Coordinator of Institutional Relations Aurea Peralta in a presentation held in the town hall.

Rafael Olalla said, "We appreciate the huge support of the local people, as well as the invaluable personal involvement of the mayor, who has encouraged the people of Estepona to join Cudeca's campaign."

The campaign, which aims to raise 185,000 euros to maintain a home care team consisting of a doctor, nurse and social worker specialising in palliative care, will continue until 31 of January.

Butterfly skin charity loses 80 per cent of its income due to the coronavirus pandemic

Some 306 families from all over Spain cope with this rare disease thanks to the support provided by Debra, a Marbella-based association

JOSÉ MARÍA MARTÍN

MÁLAGA. A Costa del Sol-based charity has reported a huge 80 per cent drop in its income as a direct result of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Debra Piel de Mariposa association, founded in and operating out of Marbella, offers support to families of patients suffering from Epidermolysis bullosa, a genetic disease that makes the skin, from birth, as fragile as the wings of a butterfly, hence its common name.

During 2020 - and as a result of the pandemic - the association has seen a dramatic 80 per cent drop in its income as its charity shops were forced to close and fundraising events during the year were cancelled.

They have been "very complicated months" but efforts have focused on maintaining the direct care team for families, according to Natividad Romero, a nurse and coordinator of the organisation.

This team is made up of three social workers, two psychologists and five nurses, who support 306 families.

"We have had to focus on births and end-of-life situations," said Natividad.

The risk of contracting coro-

Children affected by the genetic disease Epidermolysis bullosa. **SUR**

Despite the shortage of funds, efforts have focused on maintaining the direct care team for families

navirus is greater for people with butterfly skin. They have open wounds all over their bodies, which is a major source of infection.

This has forced many to remain isolated in their homes and has severely limited the association's ability to help them.

Hopes for 2021

"It is difficult to forecast what's going to happen this year. Let's hope that the vaccine returns a bit of normality that will bring back our economic support," said the coordinator.

Among the challenges for 2021 is, in addition to the return to normality, the group's work to raise awareness for the rare disease, for which there is no cure.

Currently, Debra Piel de Mariposa is the only national support organisation for families living with this disease.

They have made important advances throughout their history. So much so that, thanks to a coordination system with different hospitals across Spain, they have the ability to offer a rapid response to the detection of a birth with the disease.

"In 24 hours, or a maximum of 48 hours, a direct care team from the association will be at the centre in question to give advice to professionals and to support families," Natividad said.

i More information :
www.pieldemariposa.es



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No transfer activity likely as Malaga continue to pay the price for past mismanagement

The club is still paying for the dismissals of Víctor, Caminero and Muñoz - as well as a coach who never actually arrived

ANTONIO GÓNGORA

MALAGA. The January transfer window may be open, but Malaga almost certainly won't be doing any business this month as judicial administrator José María Muñoz struggles to get to grips with the club's debts.

While the current wage bill is within La Liga's limits and the club has secured a five-million-euro loan to remain solvent, various debts which have arisen from past mismanagement continue to be problematic in the current day.

While several problems date back to the early years of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani's tenure as majority owner and president, some of the most pertinent are



Caminero and Víctor were sacked without an agreement in place. S. SALAS

from more recently, while the club was already in Segunda. For example, at one moment, the club was paying the wages of three coaches at once: Víctor Sánchez del Amo, Juan Muñoz

and Lucas Alcaraz. The latter didn't even coach the team - the sheikh didn't approve of the choice of coach but the contract had already been signed.

In the case of the first two, settlements were not reached before they were dismissed. This mistake was also repeated in the case of sporting director José Luis Pérez Caminero and acting general director Joaquín Jofre. As their settlements were not resolved in a quick and amicable fashion, the process was protracted and in some cases had to go through the courts. Consequently, the end result was much more expensive.

The sum to be paid to Muñoz, Víctor (and his staff), Alcaraz and Caminero is around two million euros - more than 15 per cent of the club's annual budget.

In the case of Richard Shaheen, the man charged with running the club at the moment of the intervention of the courts, an agreement was also later reached and came at a cost of around 100,000 euros.

Another debt to come through

the courts is a further 1.3 million euros in unpaid agents' fees.

Playing staff

When Malaga were relegated from La Liga in 2018, many of the playing staff didn't have clauses written into their contracts which reduced their wages in the event of relegation. This meant the squad's wage bill was enormous. However, the club's strategy was to push for immediate promotion so many of the players stayed on. Some even stayed on during the following season until the club went into administration. As buyers couldn't be found for these players by now on inflated wages, the club eventually released eight as part of an ERE collective dismissal - also at a great cost.

As a result, administrator Muñoz's job now centres on managing all these debts, renegotiating terms and rescheduling for the payments to ensure that the team can progress on the field in the short term, while safeguarding the club's future in the long term.

Construction kicks off again at the new Academy in Arraijanal

After more than two years of delay, equipment has arrived on site to start work on a scaled back first phase of the club's new 'sports city'

ANTONIO GÓNGORA

MALAGA. The building works at Malaga's new Academy, or 'sports city', finally started on Monday at the Arraijanal site, close to Malaga Airport.

With constructors Hermanos Campano at the helm, the work on the new facilities has been resumed after two years stopped due to lack of financing.

The severely scaled-back plans for phase one of the ambitious project will focus on building the playing fields and the bare minimum of facilities necessary for the 'sports city' to function.

The 'mini Academy' will be made up of two artificial grass pitches but not the third, turf, pitch that was originally planned. Changing rooms and a small car park will also be built.



Work on the site restarted this Monday. SALVADOR SALAS

It will be a sports complex very different to the one originally planned, but it will be completed little by little when the club can.

The current works have a budget of around three million euros which represents a very significant reduction compared to the initial project costs.

Who can use it?

The club is currently looking into how best to use the facilities. With only two pitches in the plans for now, instead of three,

a maximum of four teams can train at one time.

The club will need to evaluate how to balance the needs of all age groups of its youth teams, as well as decide whether the reserve team, Atlético Malagueño, or the women's team can play their home fixtures there.

According to SUR sources, all youth operations will be run from here and therefore it will be in operation practically all day, every day.

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Malaga react too late and crash out of the Copa del Rey

Caye Quintana reduced the arrears in the second half but it's Granada who progress to the next round

DARYL FINCH



Malaga's Copa del Rey adventure was brought to an end on Sunday afternoon as Granada ran out 2-1 winners at La Rosaleda to progress to the last 16.

The La Liga side didn't exert themselves in the first half but nonetheless had a two-goal lead by the break. Fede Vico's low free-kick gave them the lead in the 16th minute, after it took a deflection off Alberto Escassi to send keeper Juan Soriano the wrong way.

Granada doubled their lead just 12 minutes later after slack marking from Escassi allowed Jorge Molina to slide home his side's second from a cutback from the right-hand side of the penalty area.

Malaga coach Sergio Pellicer rang the changes in the second half and his side responded well,



Fede Vico's freekick deflected off Alberto Escassi to give Granada the lead. NITO SALAS

with Yanis Rahmani nearly catching out former Malaga keeper Aarón at his near post. The stopper scrambled across to push the ball onto his own crossbar.

The pressure intensified and eventually in the 76th minute Caye Quintana reduced the deficit. The forward's flicked header from Cristian's freekick was pushed by Aarón onto the inside of the post before the ball trickled back across the face of goal where Caye was on hand to tap

home for good measure.

Substitute Joaquín then came close with a mazy run down the right side but his effort was deflected into the side netting.

A barrage of set pieces followed but few ultimately came close to troubling the Granada goal, with Cristian struggling to get past the first man on several occasions.

"We could have equalised"

"There were plenty of moments when I thought we could have equalised," said Pellicer following the game. "We finished the game with a centre-back in attack, the keeper was coming up for set pieces and we had the opposition calling for the whistle and going to a back five... From the very first day we gave this competition our all."

1-2

MALAGA-GRANADA

Malaga: Soriano; Mejías, Escassi, Juande, Alexander; Quintana (Luis Muñoz, 73'); Jairo, Ramón (Caye Quintana, 46'), Joza-bed (Cristian, 69'), Rahmani (Joaquín, 57'), Orlando Sá (Chavarría, 46'). Unused substitutes: Dani Barrio, Ismael, Lombán, Cristo.

Granada: Aarón; Pepe Sánchez (Montoro, 85'), Nehuén, Vallejo, Foulquier; Milla (Duarte, 85'), Eteki; Soro (Kenedy, 56'), Fede Vico (Herrera, 68'), Puertas, Jorge Molina (Soldado, 68'). Unused substitutes: Andorinha, Neva, Machís, Luis Suárez.

Goals: 0-1 Fede Vico (16'), 0-2 Jorge Molina (28'); 1-2 Caye Quintana (76').

Referee: Del Cerro Grande. Yellow card for Juande.

Venue: La Rosaleda.

Sergio Pellicer, the third longest serving head coach in Segunda

BORJA GUTIÉRREZ

MALAGA. Malaga head coach Sergio Pellicer, who this month celebrates a year in the post, is incredibly the third longest serving coach in Segunda.

Pellicer is behind only Las Palmas' Pepe Mel (21 months) and Ponferradina's Jon Pérez Bolo (18 months).

Since the departure of Javi Gracia in May 2016, no coach has offered the same level of stability as Pellicer. Not even Michel (31 games) nor Víctor Sánchez del Amo (29) reached the 41 matches overseen so far by Pellicer.

Reserve side self-isolating as a coach tests positive for Covid-19

B. GUTIÉRREZ

MALAGA. The entire squad of Malaga's reserve team, Atlético Malagueño, are now self-isolating after a member of the coaching staff tested positive for coronavirus.

As was the case last year when a player received a positive test, the players have picked up their training regime at home pending further tests to give them the all clear. None of the players nor staff have shown any symptoms.

Though it has not been announced officially, this week's game against Antequera is likely to be postponed.

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Malaga Femenino finally pick up a win after eight matches

The Blue and Whites came back from behind to beat La Solana who are direct relegation rivals

LA SOLANA
MALAGA

2
3

ADG

LA SOLANA (CIUDAD REAL). After

eight games without a win, Malaga returned from Ciudad Real with all three points on Sunday, following a 3-2 victory over La Solana.

The bad state of the pitch (with one wing virtually unplayable) contributed enormously to a lack of rhythm and individual errors all over the pitch.

That said, it was a quick counterattack from the hosts that caught Malaga out after just 10 minutes - and Paula finished off the move.

The same player could have

made it two but her freekick came back out off the crossbar.

It took Malaga half an hour to compose themselves and that was precisely when the equaliser came. A poor clearance by the defender was seized upon by Tati who calmly finished past the keeper.

The visitors were much improved in the second half and quickly took the lead when Encarni tapped home the rebound after Edna's shot was stopped by the keeper.

The third also came courtesy



Marbella players surround the referee following the sending off. J.R.

Red card condemns Marbella to yet another goalless draw

Albert Planas controversially saw red just before half time on the insistence of the linesman

JULIO RODRÍGUEZ



MARBELLA ALGECIRAS

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O

MARBELLA. Having been bogged down by too many draws this season (almost half of their games played so far), on this occasion Marbella were happy to take a point from a goalless draw.

The Costa side welcomed Algeciras on Sunday having been

on a poor run of form and had to play more than half the game having gone down to ten men after a highly controversial red card.

The non-eventful opening 45 minutes took a dramatic turn just before half time when Alfred Planas received his marching orders following a clash with opposition keeper Guille Vallejo. While it seemed obvious that the referee would give the decision in favour of Marbella, red was eventually produced for Planas on the insistence of the linesman.

Algeciras smelled blood in the second half and they had two almost identical chances to score, with Telis and Ubis both hitting the left-hand post following corners.

However, Marbella were the team pushing for the breakthrough in the closing stages but couldn't quite get the better of the resolute Algeciras defence.



The Malaga players celebrate one of their goals on Sunday. ADG

of Encarni who applied a finish to a cross from the right to seal victory for Malaga who still made things difficult for themselves as they conceded to Irina with

nine minutes to go.

The win doesn't lift Malaga out of the relegation zone, however, but keeps them within touching distance of safety



A LOOK AT LA LIGA
ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports

The magic of the Copas

The Spanish cup competitions have injected a much-needed dose of drama in the last week



To generate worldwide interest in Spanish football, Real Madrid and Barcelona need to be in the headlines - and this week they haven't let us down.

Real captured attention by losing to a third-tier team, with Casanova emerging as a romantic hero, while Barcelona blew a cup final with Lionel Messi showing that he is human after all.

Tradition counts for little in Spanish football at the moment: the Copa del Rey changes rules and regulations every year and they just seem to make up what constitutes the Super Cup on an annual basis.

We still don't know who the Copa champions will be for 2020, as the final has been delayed until April when hopefully fans will be able to witness the all-Basque final. The 2021 edition, meanwhile, pressed on with some notable giant-killings.

The current rules dictate that clubs with a lower standing will be drawn at home to those with a higher status. Atlético were first to succumb to lower league opposition, but they were upstaged by capital rivals Real who ticked every box for cup clichés.

Hosted by a Segunda B side, taken to extra time, the matchwinner is the fantastically named Juanan Casanova. It doesn't stop there. Alcoyano ended up with ten players as Real threw on superstar super-subbs like Toni Kroos, Karim Benzema, Marco Asensio and Eden Hazard to join Marcelo, Casemiro and Isco. But it doesn't even stop there... the man of the match was a goalkeeper who turns 42 at the end of the month.

It's not too often that the manager of Barcelona has sympathy for the manager of Real Madrid, yet Zinedine Zidane could have sent Ronald Koeman a message saying: "I know exactly how you feel."

Koeman had been chipper after a decent run led his Barcelona team to the final of the Super Cup. This is the competition that is traditionally played in pre-season on a home and away basis between the Liga and Copa winners.

This year it was decided to take it to Saudi Arabia but because of the pandemic, and because there isn't yet a Copa winner, it was a compromised com-



Asier Villalibre quite literally blowing his own trumpet. AFP

petition between the Copa finalists, Barcelona and Real Madrid. Cordoba and Malaga hosted the semis with a final in Seville.

The Clásico didn't emerge as Barcelona met Athletic Bilbao in the final. The marketing departments at HQ needed something special to make the experiment happen and Lionel Messi didn't let them down.

The footballing god showed his human side by lamping the annoying Asier Villalibre in mid-run and was shown the first red card of his Barcelona career. Now Messi faces a ban of up to a

dozen games according to reports. It's unlikely that La Liga will suspend the poster-boy who sells the brand globally, so expect previous good behaviour to be factored in.

The final image of the Super Cup final was Villalibre blowing his own trumpet. Yes, the player literally blowing his own trumpet as part of the mass musical celebrations.

Athletic are still on course for a cup double if they can go on to beat Real Sociedad in the 2020 final in April 2021.

Oh, the magic of the Copas.



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IN BRIEF

KARATE

Quintero secures first gold medal of the year

SUR. Malaga karate star Damián Quintero has earned his first gold medal of 2021 after winning round one of the national league in Alicante. After overcoming Sergio Galán in the kata final, he will

now turn his attention towards the international championship beginning in Lisbon in February. This will be a chance to measure up his rivals ahead of the Tokyo Olympics.

Also victorious in Alicante was fellow Malaga karateka María Torres, who took gold in the 68kg+ kumite final against Marta Pascual.

FOOTBALL

Marbella, training base for Spain's youth teams

P. L. ALONSO. Marbella has been announced as the official base for Spain's national male and female youth teams. The initial three-year agreement will also apply to the futsal and beach soccer teams and will see the Spanish Football Federation collaborate with the council to create new sports facilities for international events.

WALKING FOOTBALL

Competition curtailed by current restrictions

SUR. The Hidromaster South of Spain Walking Football League, scheduled to start on Saturday, has had to be suspended following new local restrictions. With players unable to leave their towns and villages and the Finca Naundrup venue closing, the committee will meet on 26 January to discuss an interim competition.

RUGBY

Differing fortunes for Marbella and Nerja

SUR. Marbella RC got their year off to a good start with a 19-12 away victory over CAR Coanda in Group C of the División de Honor B, which has been badly affected by postponements (Malaga will next play on 14 February). Meanwhile in the Andalusian Second Division, Nerja lost their first home game in ten months 49-15 to CR Bahía 89.

Davidovich to miss the Australian Open

The local tennis star and coach Jorge Aguirre have both tested positive for coronavirus

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

MALAGA. Malaga tennis player Alejandro Davidovich (54th in the ATP ranking) definitively ruled out competing in both the Australian Open, the first Grand Slam of the season, and the ATP 250 in Melbourne in the preceding week, in a post published across social media on Monday. This came after the 21-year-old, as well as his coach Jorge Aguirre, tested positive for Covid-19 on 7 January.

"We thought about the possibility of travelling to Australia in the next three days and quarantining for another two weeks. But to then



Despite the test result, Davidovich is "practically asymptomatic". **EFE**

train for only three days and then play five sets at the highest level could be dangerous and jeopardise the rest of the season because the probability of injury is very

high," Davidovich wrote.

Despite the disappointment, Davidovich was upbeat. "We will try to get wild card entry for two Challengers so that I can get that sharpness ahead of the indoor tour."

One of the options available will be the Quimper Challenger in France in the first week of February, which is also played indoors.

"In perfect shape"

Despite the positive tests, Davidovich confirmed: "We're in perfect shape. Jorge had slight symptoms and I am practically asymptomatic."

"On the one hand I feel very sad to miss the first Grand Slam of the year, but on the other hand very happy, because we have come through without complications and I can prepare my return."

Major ATP Tour event to come to Marbella this spring

From 4 to 11 April, Puente Romano will host the most prestigious tennis tournament to be held in Malaga province in the Open era

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

MALAGA. There was good news for Marbella as the ATP Tour announced its updated schedule on Wednesday, with an ATP 250 tournament coming to Puente Romano from 4 to 11 April.

The AnyTech365 Andalucía Open, as it will be called, will be the most prestigious tennis tournament to be held in Malaga province since the start of the

Open era.

The tournament will follow, and not replace, the lower-tier ATP Challenger 80 competition taking place at the same venue between 27 March and 4 April. This will be the fourth edition of the tournament held in Marbella and will double up as a chance to qualify for the higher-category event that follows.

The Challenger tournament will feature 32 players, compared to 28 participants in the ATP 250. Sixteen teams of doubles will also compete in both events.

The tournaments will be played across four clay courts at the club, while players will be accommodated at the five-star Hotel Puente Romano on site.



Williams seals Super Cup win for Athletic

Athletic Club were crowned Spanish Super Cup champions on Sunday after beating Barcelona 3-2 after extra time. Iñaki Williams scored the winning goal at La Cartuja in Seville before Lionel Messi received his first red card in the Barcelona shirt. Athletic got to the final after seeing off Real Madrid at La Rosaleda (2-1) last Thursday. In the other semi-final in Cordoba last Wednesday, Barcelona required a penalty shootout to get the better of Real Sociedad.



Reigning Olympic champion Carolina Marín. **EFE**

Glory for Carolina Marín for the first time since 2019

EUROPA PRESS

HUELVA. Spanish badminton player Carolina Marín won the Thailand Open, the first Super 1000 of the season, after surprising world number one Tai Tzu-ying (21-9, 21-16) in the final of the tournament in Bangkok on Sunday.

Marín, who is from Huelva, has got her year off to the best

possible start, not dropping a set throughout the whole tournament, picking up her first title since 2019.

The reigning Olympic champion, triple world champion and four-time European champion is showing signs that she has fully recovered from the serious knee injury which kept her off the court for eight months.

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THE STARS




Aquarius
January 21st - February 19th
You are becoming a true mover and shaker, and with the Sun entering your sign for four weeks, you'll be looking into new ways to expand your influence.




Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
This week can bring unexpected events into the mix that alter your perspective on life. While it might be tempting to hurry things, a steady approach is best.




Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Whether online or off, boosting your friendships and liaising with the right people could coincide with dynamic change. With volatile energies on the field it is wise to think before you act.



Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Is there something you're keen to embrace? Give up any doubts and go for it. There are times when you could be your own worst enemy, even though this is your time to shine.



Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
When it comes to important matters involving the future or finances, it's best to consider the consequences first.



Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Keen to get your money working harder for you? Be very circumspect about new schemes that promise a lot and give little back.



Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
There is restlessness around your current job or business. You may have wished for change for some time, and this week can find you pursuing something more exciting.



Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Whatever you had before, you might be looking for something bigger and better. Regarding your lifestyle or your job, a shift is in the air that can take you on a journey of discovery.




Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
If you know what you desire, you might just get it this week, with some impulsive aspects encouraging you to take the plunge. Financially, avoid taking risks and research options in depth before doing anything.



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
The idea of change may be in the air, and you and your partner or family members might have been discussing new ideas.

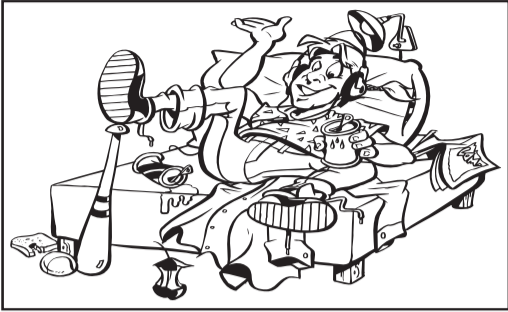


Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Innovative ideas can offer rich possibilities so keep them coming. Even so, if you need to reach a decision, the weekend is the best time to dwell on certain matters.

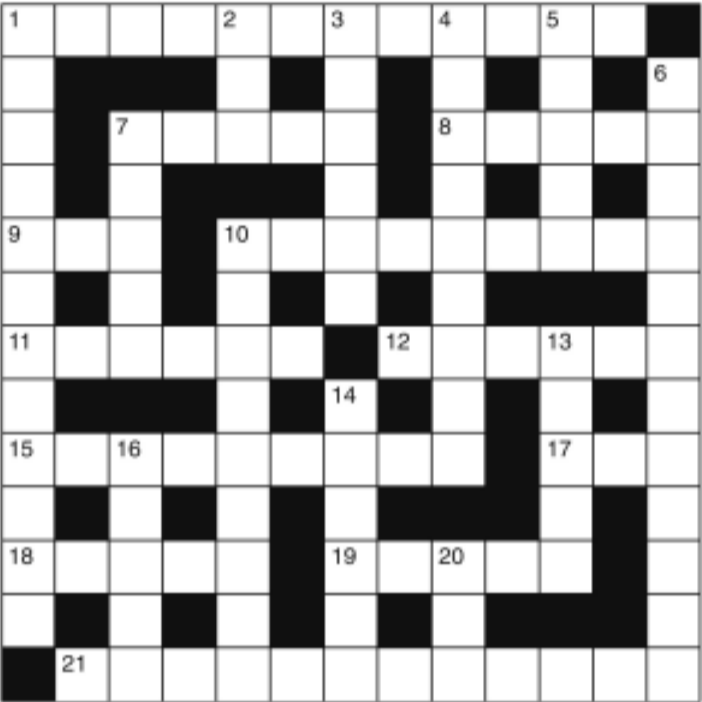


Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
Money can mean many things to many people, but this week you may begin to see it in a new light. New ways of enhancing your income could show up.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11445



Across

- 1 Two European nationalities will provide a fine finish (6,6)
7 Routine that's monastically assumed (5)
8 Coach attendants (5)
9 From the politician I learn nothing (3)
10 A most pure variety of cheese (9)
11 The kind of town that provides sea air (6)
12 Could its use replace the handkerchief? (6)
15 Universal commendation is exalting (9)
17 A garland from the Delectable Isles (3)
18 He gives a fellow gold (5)
19 One of Homer's relations (5)
21 Where the marathon competitor's found eventually (2,3,4,3)

Down

- 1 Could they be police posses on aircraft? (5,6)
2 "Pen's Mate" is a strong horse (3)
3 Having been offended, issued a statement (3,3)
4 Getting ready for a close shave? That could be a large hint (9)
5 For part of the fight, one is ringed by heavenly body (5)
6 Is it taken by the photographer on the spur of the moment? (4,8)
7 Game for Henry and mother (5)
10 A domineering type, but Rita is transformed when beset by unusual charm (9)
13 Not pleased about the French dish (5)
14 Crowning piece of decoration for one in the last round (6)
16 Arrest at home after chase (3,2)
20 One operating what contains electrical particle (3)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

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

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

BATTLESHIPS

Instructions Find where the fleet of ships (1 battleship, 2 cruisers, 3 destroyers, 4 submarines) are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some have been filled in to start you off.

- Battleship
● Cruiser
● Destroyers
● Submarines

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
A											3
B											1
C											3
D											2
E											3
F											2
G											0
H											2
I											3
J											1
	1	2	0	4	1	2	3	2	2	3	

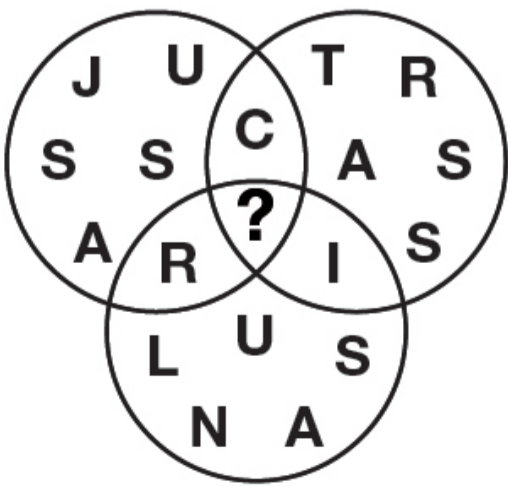
THE WORDPUZZLER

C	R	A	S	K	I	S	P	M	A
H	U	M	T	E	R	P	A	U	F
E	L	F	O	L	L	I	E	S	T
E	M	L	W	O	O	L	G	I	F
R	A	I	N	O	D	A	N	C	E
M	R	P	I	K	E	W	A	R	A
I	I	N	C	O	V	E	R	A	W
N	V	O	E	R	G	I	O	Y	I
P	A	R	I	S	H	G	R	A	N
A	N	A	T	E	S	H	I	N	D

Can you identify the words missing from the titles of the Gene Kelly films listed below?

1. Singin' in the ---
2. Words and ---
3. --- Girl
4. Ziegfeld ---
5. Inherit the ---
6. On the ---
7. An American in ---
8. Anchors ---
9. Thousands ---
10. Invitation to the ---

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
- Down
- 1) Statement (11)

5) Businessman (10)

11) Workers (12)

13) Chest (5)

14) I abused (5)

15) My (2)

16) Logo (8)

18) To damage (5)

19) Strike (6)

20) Factory (7)

21) Its (2)

23) Lorry driver (m) (9)

25) Small bottles (7)

27) Himself (2)

32) Wound (6)

35) To go (2)

36) Release (10)

40) Idols (6)

41) Witnesses (8)

42) Apprentice (8)

43) Keys (6)

46) Ear (5)

48) Moped (11)

50) They threatened (10)

51) Entrepreneur (11)
- 1) Redundancies (8)

2) Armed struggle (5,6) (11)

3) Rooted (m) (9)

4) Prayer rooms (9)

6) I beg (5)

7) If (2)

8) She solves (8)

9) They ordered (9)

10) You value (pl) (8)

12) I smelled (3)

14) I help (5)

17) Pine forest (5)

22) Phew! (2)

24) I'll go (3)

26) Jealous (f.pl) (7)

28) Efficient (6)

29) Bicycle (9)

30) Kidnapping (9)

31) Fateful (m) (8)

33) Flea market (6)

34) I drugged (6)

37) Cream (4)

38) To shoot (8)

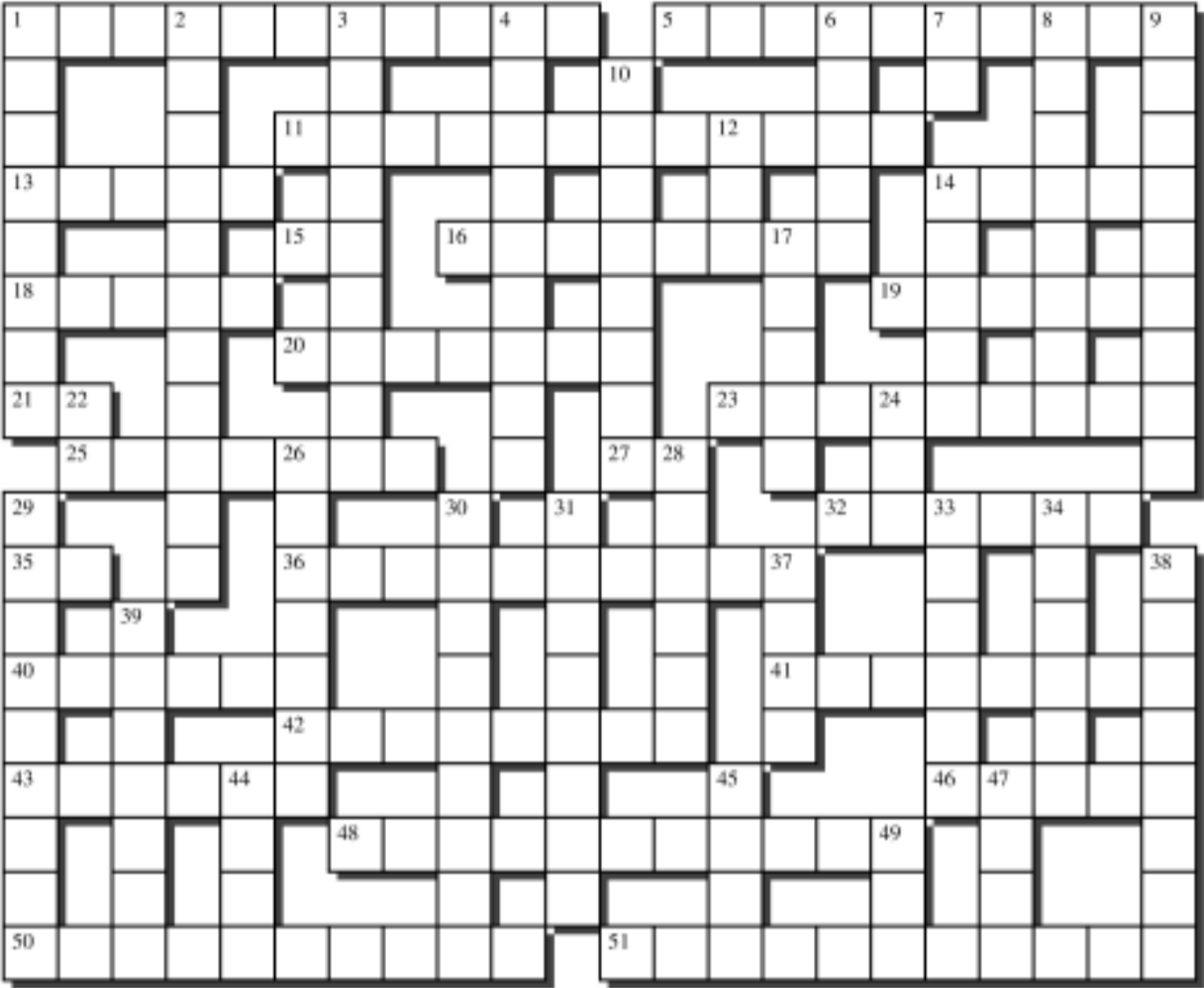
39) Steering wheel (7)

44) This (f) (4)

45) Paperclip (4)

47) Monkish (4)

49) Even (3)



ANSWERS

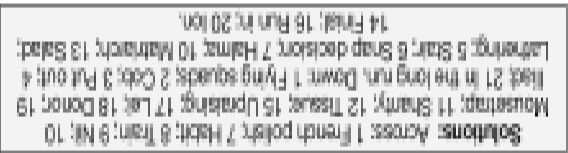
Quiz answers

Answer: A tightrope walker.
Of interest: The word funambulista comes from the Latin funambulus, from funis ('rope') and ambulare ('walk').
Answer: Molluscs
Of interest: Malacology is the branch of invertebrate zoology that deals with the study of the Mollusca (molluscs), the second-largest phylum of animals in terms of described species after the arthropods. Molluscs include snails and slugs, clams, octopuses and squid, and numerous other kinds, many of which have shells.

Language Crossword



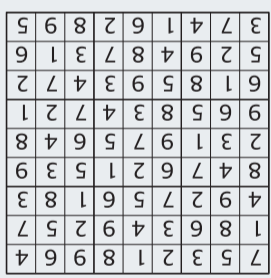
Cryptic Crossword



Wordpuzzler solution



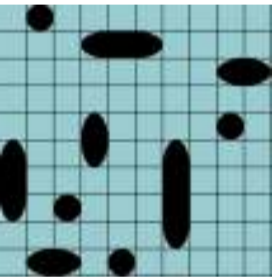
Sudoku solution



Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is I. Jurassic, Triassic, Silurian, all geological periods.

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



The church square

Last week: Genalguacil

The Plaza de la Constitución is located on the edge of the village and has fabulous views of the surrounding countryside.



THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

Share your opinion

How often does the news make you react in one way or another? How often do you want to share your opinion that something is silly, ridiculous, typical, unjust or annoying? Or you might read something and think: wow, that's nice, that's clever, that's interesting, that's a good idea or that's the greatest news for a long time.

Whatever your thoughts, they are probably worth sharing with the rest of our readers. We know that

nowadays there's an emoji for all of those aforementioned reactions and we can indicate how we feel without having to type a single word. But an original letter to the editor - just a few sentences - contributes so much more than a little smiley (or angry) face.

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At a time of year when the weather is unsettled and half of Spain is freezing cold, what could be better than wrapping yourself up in a bit of urban art? Two businesswomen from the Soho district of Malaga, tired of seeing nothing in the way of decoration but graffiti, decided to crochet covers for the orange trees which line the streets of the area.

"Well, this is supposed to be the arts district, so we thought we would draw attention to that fact," they say. And so they set about 'yarn bombing' Soho to attract new visitors.

Estrella Zurita and Estrella Malet, who are mother and daughter, own the Lock And Relax left luggage business, and they had time on their hands because there are so few tourists in the city nowadays. What began as a mother's hobby, something to do to pass the time, has become an initiative that is highly appreciated by other business owners and residents of the district. "We wanted to cheer things up a bit," they say.

Their aim was to decorate all 29 trees in the district, starting in Casas de Campos, the street in which their business is located, and they have almost completed the project.

The younger Estrella says all the designs are different and they are all hand-crocheted. The patterns are simple but colourful and are certainly eye-catching. The idea is for them to remain in place until at least the spring.

"The orange trees were looking very sad and a bit neglected," say these ladies, and as their idea has had such a positive response they have now decided



◀ Estrella Zurita and Estrella Malet putting one of the wraps in place. **SALVADOR SALAS**

Urban art brings warmth to Soho

Decoration. Two business owners with time on their hands decided to crochet colourful wraps for the local orange trees to attract new visitors to the arty Malaga district

JUAN SOTO



▲ The wraps are strikingly colourful and cover practically the whole trunk of the orange trees. **SALVADOR SALAS**

to repeat it but with different designs whenever there is an important event in the Soho district, such as the Goya award ceremony which is due to take place in March.

They are sure that this urban art will attract more visitors and will therefore help to boost business in local bars and shops when the pandemic is over. They are not seeking to make money out of the project. The Soho Malaga business association has paid for the materials, and this mother and daughter team receive no payment for their many hours of crochet work.

An international movement

The yarn bombing movement began several years ago, and in America a group called Yarn Bombing Los Angeles has been decorating their city in this way since 2010. One attraction of crochet is that it can be used in many different ways, including on trees, walls and buildings.

In Spain, there are several yarn bombing groups in cities such as Barcelona, Zaragoza, La Coruña and Valencia, and similar initiatives have taken place on the Costa del Sol and other parts of Andalucía. Unlike graffiti, these crochet decorations leave no lasting mark and have no negative effects.

However, when Estrella and her daughter began, they had no idea that yarn bombing was so popular. "We decided to do it after a girl from a photography college showed us some photos, and we thought how nice it would be to do something like that," they say. Once they started, they liked the effect so much that they are happy to continue to brighten up their local area as well as people's lives.

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