



**MARVEL'S
SUPERHEROES
OF THE FUTURE
WILL BE MADE
IN MALAGA**

Two local artists,
Carmen Carnero and
Natacha Bustos, join the
elite Stormbreakers **P16**

Businesses prepare to reopen in Costa towns as Covid-19 infection rates fall

The Junta de Andalucía is due to meet today, Friday, to confirm where non-essential services can resume

Several municipalities on the Costa del Sol, including Malaga city, Marbella, Estepona and Vélez-Málaga, are hoping to reopen their non-essential businesses this Saturday

following a fall in their Covid-19 infection rates. The Junta de Andalucía said this week that from now on measures would be reviewed after seven days, not 14.

This puts 17 towns in Malaga province in a position to pull up their shutters, providing today's figures, to be studied by experts at a delayed meeting, remain lower. **P3**



Regional president Juanma Moreno (centre) visited the new facility in Estepona on Monday. **SALVADOR SALAS**

Estepona hospital opens with a pledge for Marbella

During a visit to open the new, local Estepona hospital, Junta president Juanma Moreno announced that the extension of the main Costa del Sol hospital would be rushed through as a matter of urgency. Currently, because of the pressure on the Marbella hospital, the new Estepona facility can only take in Covid patients referred from there. **P2**

Tech giant Google to set up a new cybersecurity centre of excellence close to the city's port

Malaga's old military headquarters building will be converted into a new cybersecurity hub for Google, with 40 engineers. The "great talent" available in the region was quoted among the tech giant's reasons for choosing the city. **P7**

The property market on the Costa del Sol continues to thrive **SUPPLEMENT INSIDE**



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Junta to fast-track 75-million-euro Costa del Sol hospital expansion works

MARBELLA

Regional president Juanma Moreno announced on Monday that the scheme would also include the refurbishment of the rest of the hospital

JOSÉ MARÍA MARTÍN

MARBELLA. The Junta de Andalucía is to fast-track the contract for the long-awaited work to complete the extension of the Costa del Sol hospital in Marbella.

In Estepona on Monday for the inauguration of the town's new specialist hospital, regional president Juanma Moreno said that the tender for the works would be processed as a matter of "urgency".

"I've given instructions to break the deadlock affecting the extension of the Costa del Sol hospital for once and for all," Moreno said.

The budget to complete the works, which have been at a standstill for the last ten years, will be 75 million euros. The sum will also go towards the total refurbishment of the existing part of the hospital which is operating at full capacity with a catchment area of almost half a million people.

Increasing the number of beds

This will include the redistribution of the outpatients clinics and the refurbishment of the surgery blocks, as well as extending the range of services provided and increasing the number of beds and consulting rooms.

"We are going to take a hospital on the verge of collapse and turn it into a centre for the 21st century," said Moreno.

"That's why we believe that it is very important, once and for all, to take on this commitment for an area which has seen a clear growth in population, with a huge presence of foreign residents and a great tourism impact," he said.

The Andalusian president said that once the extension works were completed, and thanks to the newly opened Estepona hospital, the quality of healthcare in the area -the province with the fewest beds per head of population in Andalucía- would leap forward "decades".

Mayor of Marbella Ángeles Muñoz welcomed the announce-

ment "that we've been waiting for for years". She added that the project "which stopped during the previous PSOE government and never started again" should have been restarted much sooner to cover the entire population of Marbella.

The mayor said that the project going through the system as a matter of urgency means that

some usual bureaucratic steps, which could mean delays of up to six months, would be avoided.

While Muñoz admitted that specific dates could not be given, she said she hoped that works could start in "a few months" and that the project would be complete "in the next two years".

Works to extend the Costa del Sol hospital started in 2007.

Three years later a conflict with the construction firm halted the works. The firm eventually went into administration.

The breaking of the deadlock began in 2018 when the Junta de Andalucía, then run by the Socialist PSOE, released 12 million euros to revoke the contract. This was paid when the PP had taken over the regional authority.



Moreno (second right) with García Urbano (right) and hospital directors during the opening. E. P.

Estepona's new hospital will open properly in the coming months "when the pandemic lets up"

ESTEPONA

A date is yet to be set for the hospital to be fully opened as it will continue to care for Covid patients from Marbella

JOSÉ MARÍA MARTÍN

ESTEPONA. The long-awaited opening of the Estepona High Resolution Hospital finally arrived on Monday at a ceremony attended by the president of the Andalusian regional government, Juanma Moreno. However, despite the fanfare, the centre is still not fully open, with Moreno explaining that the hospital would continue to attend Covid patients referred from the Costa del Sol Hospital "un-

til the pandemic lets up". As a result, a specific date for its full opening remains unclear.

Moreno described the Estepona hospital on Monday as "another health infrastructure project that suffered delays of many years despite being very necessary". Specifically, the hospital has opened "after more than twelve years of waiting", he said.

The regional president explained that two million euros has been invested in the separation of care circuits in the surgical area, the creation of isolation areas for functional tests and examinations, as well as to expand spaces and redesign units.

In addition to this investment, a further 3.2 million euros has been spent on the

first phase of supplying equipment and furniture for the hospital's current needs.

In the coming months, once the pandemic situation has subsided, the new hospital will open its doors definitively to provide care for more than 100,000 residents of the westernmost part of the Costa del Sol, which includes the municipalities of Estepona, Manilva, Casares, Gaucín, Genalguacil and Jubrique, as well as the large number of holidaymakers who visit the area every year.

The mayor of Estepona, José María García Urbano, described it as "one of the most important days in the history of the town".

"The town hall prioritised this investment, setting aside 16 million euros to build this hospital," he said.

Andalucía to roll out vaccine for over 80s not in homes but must revise overall plan

ÁNGEL ESCALERA

MÁLAGA. The Junta de Andalucía initiated plans to vaccinate those over 80 years of age who do not live in residences, against coronavirus this week. This was rolled out in Ronda on Thursday, though many of those receiving jabs were in their 90s as the vaccination plan continues to lag.

The Junta has been forced to revise its vaccination roadmap after Spain's Ministry of Health said that the Astra-Zeneca vaccine should only be given to people between 18 and 55 years old.

This, along with a shortage in vaccines arriving, means that Andalucía is set to fall well short of the 70 per cent vaccination rate target for the summer.

Regional government spokesman Elías Bendodo, who also announced that the first dose of the vaccine would now be given to home help personnel (around 35,000 workers), has urged central government to demand more doses for Spain from the EU.

More than 100 coronavirus deaths recorded for the third day in a row in Andalucía

EUROPA PRESS

SEVILLE. The Junta de Andalucía confirmed 104 deaths with Covid-19 on Thursday, the third consecutive day with more than one hundred fatalities following the 114 on Wednesday and 126 on Tuesday (the worst daily figure of the pandemic).

The regional government's ministry of health has also recorded 3,506 infections in the last 24 hours, higher than the 2,971 on Wednesday but notably lower than the 6,733 cases seven days ago.

In addition, the cumulative incidence rate in Andalucía has dropped to 631.3 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in the last 14 days, which is 49.5 points down on Wednesday and 251.6 fewer than a week ago.

Nationally, 17,853 cases detected on Thursday represents a 41 per cent fall compared to the same time the previous week.

"We are going to take a hospital on the verge of collapse and turn it into a centre for the 21st century"

Seventeen Costa towns await review as they hope to be able to reopen businesses this weekend

A number of places may be able to reopen earlier than expected after the Junta announced it will now review restrictions every seven days, not 14

SUR

MALAGA. Owners of bars, restaurants and non-essential shops, as well as museums and cinemas, hope to be able to reopen until 6pm in 17 municipalities in Malaga province (Malaga city, Marbella, Vélez-Málaga, Estepona, Coín, Genalguacil, Pizarra, Alameda, Benamocarra, Alfarnate, Cartajima, Casares, El Borge, Faraján, Ojén, Teba and Villanueva de Tapia) from Saturday, as they await today's review of the Covid-19 incidence rate.

On Thursday, all of the towns had 14-day cumulative incidence rates for Covid-19 of below 1,000 per 100,000 inhabitants, the threshold set by the Junta de Andalucía to order the closure of non-essential business.

The potential return to work comes earlier than expected for some municipalities, after the re-



Closed terraces on the beach in Marbella this week. JOSELE

gional government changed its method of reviewing the infection rates and imposing restrictions this week.

Now the authority will meet once a week with its committee of advisors - on Thursdays (though this week pushed back to Friday) - instead of twice, and, when measures have to be taken, these will be reviewed - and lifted when possible - after seven days and not the previous 14. From next week, the

measures confirmed on Thursdays will come into force the following Saturday.

The limits for restrictions to come into force remain the same: when a town's 14-day cumulative incidence per 100,000 inhabitants is above 500, its municipal borders are closed, with only justified movements to other towns allowed. This still affects most of the main towns on the Costa del Sol.

The closure of non-essential

business, in force once the rate passes 1,000, could affect only ten towns or villages from Saturday - Villanueva del Trabuco, Canillas de Albaida, Cañete la Real, Algatocín, Arriate, Benaolán, Cortes de la Frontera, Montejaque, Ronda and Jubrique.

Alcohol ban

Another change in the restrictions announced this week is the ban on the sale of alcohol from 6pm. The reason, explained president Juanma Moreno in a tweet, was that if bars have to close at 6pm, then alcohol should not be on sale elsewhere after that time to avoid drinking in the street and to "reinforce respect for the restrictions".

This new restriction will not come into force until it has been published in the region's official gazette (BOJA).

At the same time as announcing the changes to the restrictions, the regional authority called for caution.

"We must not relax, that would be the biggest mistake," said Moreno this week. "We're on the right track but the battle is by no means over."

ANDALUCÍA RULES

Movement

Regions: Andalusian border closed.

Provinces: No movement between provinces.

Municipal: Border closures in towns where the 14-day case rate is more than 500 per 100,000 inhabitants.

Non-essential business

Until 6pm: In areas with a 14-day rate of less than 1,000 per 100,000 inhabitants, bars, restaurants and non-essential shops must close at 6pm.

Closed: In areas with a rate of more than 1,000, bars, restaurants and non-essential services cannot open at all.

Night curfew

10pm to 6am: All Andalucía.

Socialising

Maximum of 4 people: Indoors and out.

Alcohol sales

Banned after 6pm: A new restriction pending confirmation in the BOJA.

i Visit www.surinenglish.com for daily updates on Covid-19 figures and restrictions, including a handy interactive map.

HOSPITAL

Helicópteros Sanitarios Hospital introduces a cardiac rehabilitation programme

MARBELLA

SUR. Ischemic heart disease and cerebrovascular disease are the two cardiovascular diseases which cause the greatest amount of cardiovascular deaths, accounting for 60% of the total cardiovascular death rate: 31% from coronary disease and 29% from strokes.

In Spain alone, every year there are 70,000 cases of acute coronary syndrome from acute myocardial infarction (heart attack) and angina pectoris.

The death rate has decreased considerably over the last decade, particularly at hospitals, due to new pharmacological treatments and surgical treatments, especially

when applied early by implanting stents.

However, more than 50% of heart attack patients don't reach the hospital in time and cardiovascular mortality remains one of the main causes of death all over the world. Prevention is still one of the best allies when it comes to reducing cardiovascular death rates.

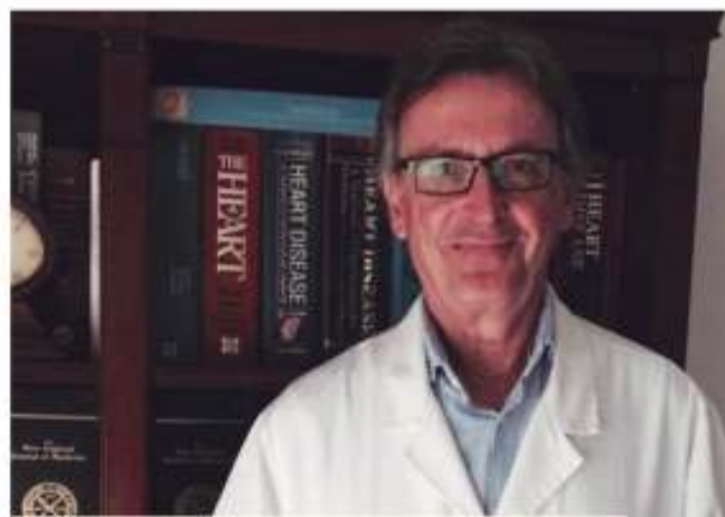
Exercise plays an important role in this field and is recommended for all patients with a history of heart attacks; to this respect cardiac rehabilitation includes a variety of recommendations and activities which have been shown to reduce mortality and improve

quality of life. These cardiac rehabilitation programmes are carried out at hospitals over a period of between 8 and 12 weeks in 2 or 3 sessions per week.

Due to the fact that compliance to pharmacological treatments is not as good as doctors expected, a cardiac rehabilitation programme with close monitoring has proven to bring very favourable results, showing a high rate of adherence and good clinical results in all aspects, from exercise programmes to control of risk factors and psychological evaluations.

At Helicópteros Sanitarios Hospital, cardiologist Emilio González Cocina, together with other professional nurses, physiotherapists and psychologists, has created a team which has developed an entirely new understanding of prevention programmes through telemedicine, so patients can do the entire programme online depending on each patient's age and individual characteristics.

All of this has brought positive results towards meeting short-term goals such as controlling risk factors and improving quality of life. In the long term, this has proved to give these patients a greater life expectancy.



Cardiologist Emilio González Cocina. Helicópteros Sanitarios



Helicópteros Sanitarios Hospital. Helicópteros Sanitarios

Nine arrested as office linked to the mayor of Marbella's husband is searched

Those detained included a former bodyguard of Ángeles Muñoz, who has distanced herself from the investigation and strongly defended her husband's honour

J. CANO / Á. FRÍAS / I. LILLO / J. DUEÑAS

MARBELLA. National Police have searched an office linked to Lars Gunnar Broberg - the husband of the mayor of Marbella, Ángeles Muñoz - and have arrested nine people including a Local Police officer (who was once Muñoz's bodyguard) and several Swedish citizens.

SUR has learned that the police operation is linked to financial crimes, but confidentiality around the case has so far prevented full details emerging.

Sources also confirmed that the events were not related to either Marbella council or the activities of Ángeles Muñoz as mayor, beyond the fact that she is the wife of one of those being investigated.

The mayor also stressed this week that there was no link to her



Lars Gunnar Broberg (r) with his wife, Ángeles Muñoz (l). JOSELE (FILE PHOTO)

on a personal or professional level, saying: "Once reporting restrictions are lifted on the case, everything will be there in black and white, and I am also absolutely sure, on a personal level, of the honour and the entire professional career of my husband."

It is reported that Broberg received a call from the police early on Tuesday morning in which he was summoned to an office linked to him. The businessman, who is in his 70s, accompanied by a rela-

tive, found the police waiting for him.

When officers finished their search, in which they took some documents, Broberg was allowed home and was not taken to the police station for questioning.

The Swedish property developer has previously been involved in controversies related to his properties and business activities in Marbella and neighbouring Benahavis.

112 REPORTS



CCTV footage of the alleged robbery taking place. SUR

MARBELLA

Two men arrested over staged supermarket heist

Á. FRÍAS / J. CANO. Two men have been arrested and charged with various crimes after a Marbella supermarket manager (one of those arrested, a 41-year-old man of Spanish nationality) claimed to have been the victim of a robbery where 16,000 euros in cash was stolen from his store's safe by an armed thief last November.

They might have got away with the charade if police hadn't found the thief's mobile phone whose data linked the suspects.

On Monday, police raided the Estepona home of the alleged robber, a 29-year-old German man. There they found two firearms, several fake guns, clothing that was worn during the robbery, luxury watches and a cash-counting machine. They also identified the mobile phone box that matched the device that had been dropped near the supermarket.

MALAGA

Squatters discover mummified corpse

J. C. / Á. F. The corpse of a practically mummified man was discovered in a property in Campanillas (Malaga) last week by a pair of squatters who forced their way into the house to occupy it. The advanced state of decomposition suggests that the death of the 80-year-old happened some weeks ago. As there were no signs of violence, it suggests that he died alone and of natural causes.

MALAGA

Gang that robbed from rental cars is broken up

I. MÉNDEZ. National Police have broken up a criminal gang suspected of stealing items, primarily from tourist rental cars parked at shopping centres mainly in Malaga, Torremolinos and Fuengirola.

Police have recovered 4,320 euros in cash, 38 cameras, 45 electronic tablets and several other items, and six people have been arrested.

MALAGA

Woman hospitalised in spectacular crash

Á. F. / J. C. Police are investigating a car crash in Malaga city that left a woman, 22, seriously injured in intensive care last week. The events unfolded after a traffic patrol spotted smoke coming from the underside of a BMW. They signalled for the driver to stop but he carried on and crashed into a roundabout which catapulted the car into the air and it landed on a vehicle which had stopped to let the woman out.

A fire broke out and the woman



The scene of the crash. SUR

had to be freed after being trapped under one of the cars, suffering serious injuries.

Initial investigations point to brake failure but SUR sources say that the driver - a 57-year-old - tested positive for alcohol in a breathalyzer test.

MALAGA

Parents of baby with cocaine in system are held

Á. F. / J. C. A mother who took her eleven-month-old boy to hospital with "stomach problems" has been arrested - along with the father - after the baby tested positive for cocaine. The child had to be rushed to ICU where he remained for a month, until being moved to a ward in mid-January, where he remains.

MALAGA

Paddle surfer rescued from Malaga beach

E. P. The alarm was raised on Sunday as two paddle boarders encountered difficulties and were being carried out to sea on San Andrés beach in Malaga city. A rescue boat was sent to the area by which time one had returned to shore. The other required rescuing but said he didn't need medical attention.

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Police mount major anti-drug trafficking raids across southern Spain

ÁLVARO FRÍAS / JUAN CANO

MALAGA. At the time of going to print, officers from the Guardia Civil were carrying out a major operation against cocaine trafficking in the provinces of Malaga, Seville and Cadiz with early-morning raids taking place on Thursday.

Sources told SUR that there have been raids in the La Palmilla area of Malaga city, in luxury developments in Marbella and Mijas, and in farmhouses in Alhaurín de la Torre and Alhaurín el Grande. It is also reported that raids took place in Cadiz province, including in the city, Algeciras and Los Barrios, as well as in the Seville town of El Arahál.

According to the same sources, the raids produced more than a dozen arrests.

Some 300 officers are involved in the operation, belonging to the Central Operational Unit (UCO) and the Drug Trafficking Coordination Agency (OCON), deployed by the government in the Campo de Gibraltar and surrounding areas to take down drug trafficking gangs.

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Ideas sought over what to do with closed La Cala hospitality school

The CioMijas hotel and training centre has been abandoned since 2015 and the Junta wants to get a range of professional views

IVÁN GELIBTER

The regional ministry for Employment this week sent out a call to tourism industry professionals to give their views on the future of the CioMijas hospitality school and hotel in La Cala de Mijas. It has been abandoned since 2015.

The Junta de Andalucía said the aim was to analyse the different alternatives for using the current buildings -the four-star hotel and the student residence building- with the aim of optimising their future use.

The regional representative for Employment in Malaga province, Carmen Sánchez, said on Monday



The previously pristine pools at CioMijas are now in a sorry state. SUR

that this proposal wasn't a call for tenders, but an "invitation" for interested parties to visit and say what they would do given the chance. Taking part in the consultation won't influence any future tender process, the Junta added.

Interested parties need to register by email at gestion-

cio.ma.sae@juntadeandalucia.es, after which a guided tour will be arranged so that they can assess the complex and "obtain the necessary information for the preparation of the proposal to be submitted". This proposal must be sent within 10 working days of the visit.

Torremolinos is seeing a steady increase in its foreign-resident community

In five years the number of nationalities on the municipal census has increased from 114 to 127

TONY BRYANT

Torremolinos has become one of the towns on the Costa del Sol with the most nationalities among its inhabitants.

The municipal 'padrón' census shows that since 2015, the resort has steadily increased its number of residents from 67,585, of 114 different nationalities, to 70,562 of 127 nationalities. Around 80 per cent are Spanish, while the remainder are from Europe, Africa, Oceania, Asia and the Americas. The countries with the biggest communities are Morocco (1,864),



Torremolinos is a town with enormous cultural richness. T.BRYANT

UK (1,718) and Italy (1,237).

The town hall claims that the data reinforces the idea that Torremolinos is a town "open to the world" and one that represents an

"enormous cultural richness based on coexistence".

Mayor José Ortiz said, "Torremolinos is a town of tolerance, respect and diversity."

IN BRIEF

TORREMOLINOS

Residents advised to check that health centre details are up to date

T. BRYANT. Torremolinos town hall has advised those in the expat community who have rights to public health care to check that their contact details are correct and up to date on the system. This is part of its Covid-19 vaccination plan.

Those wishing to update details can obtain the necessary form from the Foreign Residents office in La Carihuella.

This need to update applies to those, mostly pensioners, who have medical assistance by means of a E121 or a S1 form.

FUENGIROLA

Three new self-cleaning toilets boost public facilities on the beach

T. B. In a bid to improve services on its beaches, Fuengirola town hall has installed another three self-cleaning toilets along the town's promenade. The toilets, which are accessible to people with reduced mobility, are automatically cleaned after use.

The resort now has 14 toilets spread along its beaches.

"We continue to work to improve services so that Fuengirola continues to move forward," mayor Ana Mula said.



Mula at one of the new toilets. SUR

CÁRTAMA

Remodelled square with new leisure space reopens to the public

T.B. Cártama town hall has announced that the remodelling project of Plaza El Pilarejo in Estación de Cártama has been completed and is now open to the public. Constructed on several levels, the new leisure space has undergone a complete reform, with the installation of artificial lawns, LED lighting, a children's play area and urban-style furniture. The work was carried out through the Agricultural Employment Promotion Programme (PFEA), with an investment of 52,188 euros.

TORREMOLINOS

Plans unveiled for the completion of Avenida Carlota Alessandri refit

T. B. Torremolinos town hall has announced its plans to finalise the revamp of Avenida Carlota Alessandri in Montemar.

The improvement of one of the main access routes to the town will be carried out on a stretch of 1,000 metres and involves the installation of public utilities, waste disposal collection points and the improvement of pedestrian accessibility. The council initially began revamping the stretch, at the northern end of the avenue, in 2019.

The project will also include the removal of bollards and the relocation of palm trees in order to create another 80 parking spaces.

The work is financed by the provincial authority of Malaga (Diputación) and will cost 743,000 euros. The final stage of the work is expected to begin in April and will take approximately five months to complete.

Mayor José Ortiz said, "It is a complete and integral project that allows us to support economic activity and refurbish an area that is in desperate need of rejuvenation."

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More business owners plead for urgent help in latest car protest

About 100 vehicles, twice as many as last time, drove around Marbella sounding their horns to demand that the council draw up the conditions for Covid-19 financial aid

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

MARBELLA. "Every time a sign saying For Sale or To Let goes up in a shop window, it means a family with children is suffering, it's a business that nobody can afford to pay for now and people don't know how they are going to survive. What will the future be like for a town that is full of dead shops?" asks Carmen Martínez.

Carmen has been running the Ángel House shop for 12 years. This week, she was one of over 200 people who took part in the motor procession organised by the Plataforma de Comerciantes y Hosteleros de Marbella. One hundred vehicles drove around the town, sounding their horns to draw attention to the terrible time being experienced by this sector.

From 9am there was movement to be seen in Bulevar Pablo Ráez. The participants began to stick posters on their vehicles. This was the fifth time they have taken to the streets, but far from losing interest, more and more people are joining in. On 20 November 50 cars took part, and this time there were about 100.

Nahuel Klappenbach, the spokesman for the group, explained why they are doing this: "The situation is more than extreme. There needs to be a rescue plan, like there was at one time for the banks, and the way they have rescued other strategic sectors in this country. Things are really bad. They're leaving it too late and not doing enough," he said. "We need help in the most direct way possible, and for as many people as possible to receive it".

During the tour of the town, passers-by applauded, other cars showed support by sounding their horns and many people took photos with their mobile phones. A variety of people took part in the protest. Ana Pérez owns the Double A fashion shop in the Old Town. "We are surviving thanks to my husband's salary and we have to use part of that to pay the accountant, rent, telephone, electricity, alarm, IVA and other expenses of the business, even though it is closed," she says.

Stanley Rossenov has worked in different shops in Puerto Banús for the past 18 years. Before Christ-

mas, he opened one of his own, the Religion clothing shop. "I thought things were going to get better. I never imagined we would have to close completely," he says. "As this is a brand new business, my wings are being seriously clipped."

Some employees were also there to support their bosses, including Rosana Petensen and Luna Klappenbach, who work at Gipsy Marbella. They believe the politicians are being insensitive. "They just don't care," says Rosana. Although his sector isn't as badly affected, locksmith Rodolfo Neira also took



More and more people are joining the protests in Marbella. SUR

part, to support friends who own businesses "and can't earn a living now".

The group accuses the authorities of a lack of empathy and is calling on the council to announce the conditions for financial assistance

as soon as possible. "This month they are finally going to pay for the Christmas competition. Imagine how long it is going to take if they still haven't drawn up the conditions for financial help," says Nahuel Klappenbach.

Google puts Malaga on the map with plans for a cybersecurity centre

The technology giant has also announced the first private undersea cable to connect Spain with the United States and the United Kingdom

NURIA TRIGUERO

MALAGA. Google has chosen Malaga as base for a cybersecurity centre of excellence that will have an international reach. It will be located in the old provincial military headquarters on Paseo de la Farola (near the Muelle Uno shops and marina), which will be completely renovated to adapt to its new role.

The technology giant will have

2,500 square metres of space to relocate the more than 40 engineers who make up the Virustotal team and who are currently based at the University of Malaga.

There will also be space for the public and businesses, where "training, talks, workshops and mentoring on cybersecurity" will be given, according to company sources.

"The choice of Malaga to host this new Google hub is not by chance," they say. "This region has great talent."

Google began its association with the city of Malaga in 2012, when it acquired VirusTotal, a firm founded by local man Bernardo Quintero. He has since become one of the top managers



The former military building is opposite the Centre Pompidou. S. SALAS

of Google's cybersecurity division worldwide.

The centre doesn't yet have an opening date as the renovation works of the building will be "long and complex".

650 million euros

Google also announced other projects aimed at promoting the digitisation of Spain, with investments worth 650 million euros, at a meeting on Thursday between the Vice-President of Google Iberia, Fuencisla Clemares, and Nadia Calviño, the

Council advises foreign residents in the public health system to get ready for vaccine

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

MARBELLA. The councillor for Foreign Residents, Remedios Bocanegra, and councillor for Health, Enrique Rodríguez, have held a virtual meeting with the presidents of foreigners' associations in Marbella and representatives of the business community to inform about how to access the coronavirus vaccine.

Addressing those who have the right to be part of the public health system, Bocanegra explained that "we have recently received numerous queries about the vaccine, who will have the right to be vaccinated, how it will be organised and what they have to do to be in the Andalusian health system".

The councillors said that all citizens of other countries who are registered as self-employed or have work contracts will be eligible for the vaccine as they are already in the Social Security system, and so will those who already hold a medical card.

During the meeting, they provided details of what people have to do if they want a medical card. "They need to take a series of documents to the health centre, including the certificate to show they are registered at the town hall, which must be dated at least three months before applying," said Bocanegra. Pensioners will also have to register the S1 document from the social security system in their own country.



The old San Modesto electricity station in Nerja. E. C.

Town hall looking to buy former electricity plant to convert into visitor centre

NERJA

E. CABEZAS. In a statement published last week, Nerja town hall announced that it has started negotiations with electricity company ENDESA to buy a former electricity station near the Chillar river.

Should the project go ahead, the town hall will convert the old San Modesto building, which includes a number of annexes, into a centre to control visitor numbers at the popular beauty spot, as well

as a visitor centre with information about the history of electricity production in Nerja and the Axarquía.

According to the statement the town hall is hoping to use European funding for the project.

The river Chillar has become a popular place, particularly in summer, for hiking and other sports, but there is currently no control over visitor numbers, which has led to accidents and environmental damage in recent years.

Debts mount up for Nerja Cave amid uncertain future and 2021 festival cancellation

NERJA

E. C. The Nerja cave foundation revealed earlier this week that it has applied for three loans since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, totalling 1.3 million euros. Much of the money will cover salaries for the approximately 30 members of staff employed at the historical site.

With two closures of around four months in total and a drastic drop in visitor numbers last year, the cave registered just 140,000 tickets sold in 2020, compared to 410,000 in 2019.

“With the loans we have enough money to pay our staff until the end of April,” said foundation manager, Chema Domínguez. “After that we’ll see. I want to be optimistic and say we’ll start to see an increase in visitors from April or May, but it all depends on the situation,” he added. This year’s international dance and music festival has also been cancelled.

HERE AND THERE



The land which has been earmarked for the new park. E. C.

TORRE DE BENAGALBÓN

Ambitious Benagalbón park plans reactivated

E. C. Rincón de la Victoria town hall announced on Monday plans to reactivate a project to build a new park in Torre de Benagalbón. The 80,000 square-metre park would be developed on land

next to La Marina school. Plans include a reptile and amphibian research and visitors centre, an area for entomology and insects, greenhouses and an astronomy centre. Although a budget for the ambitious project has not been set, the town hall has already confirmed one million euros of EU funding and further funds from the provincial government.

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

Conman arrested over widow's inheritance

E. C. A 43-year-old Spanish man was arrested last week on suspicion of conning a widow out of 52,510 euros, the inheritance left to her after the death of her husband in 2019. The investigation started in November 2020 when the woman became suspicious that she had been the victim of a scam. Investigations revealed that the man has a criminal record for similar offences.

TORROX

Town hall fined for breaking heritage law

E. C. Torrox town hall has been fined 3,000 euros for carrying out restoration work without a licence around the town’s lighthouse, which is home to the remains of a third-century Roman settlement. The original fine of 5,000 euros for breaking the 2007 Andalusian Historical Heritage Law was reduced by 40 per cent for prompt payment.

MEZQUITILLA

Further setback for Brick Beach project

E. C. The Junta de Andalucía has requested a series of environmental reports from the company behind the innovative Mezquitilla ‘Brick Beach’ project in Vélez-Málaga, including details of compliance with new laws regarding marine life and bird protection. The project to use recycled materials to replenish the beach was due to be completed this spring. A new date has been set for December.



Mezquitilla beach. E. C.

NERJA

Local company awarded roadworks contract

E. C. Local company Transportes Antelo S. L. has been awarded the contract to carry out repairs to a 11.2 kilometre-long section of Nerja’s Carretera de la Miel road. The works will include improvements to the drainage and road surface. The work is expected to take one month to complete with a budget of 128,000 euros. Mayor José Alberto Armijo said the work was “good news” for tourism and agriculture in the town.

PERIANA

Prison for ex Guardia Civil sex predator

E. C. A former Guardia Civil officer has been sentenced to two and a half years in prison for sexually abusing a 10-year-old girl between 2010 and 2011.

The girl was the daughter of an employee at a bar in the village, which was then owned by the former officer’s wife.

According to the judge sentencing the accused, the abuse took place “on various occasions” to “satisfy his sexual desires”.

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City police begin controversial fines for cycling on pavements

Around one hundred people were issued with fines in Malaga in the first week after the grace period came to an end

IGNACIO LILLO / D. BALMER

MALAGA. After a recent by-law change, police in Malaga city have begun fining those caught riding bicycles and electric scooters outside designated areas. A ten-day grace period following the law coming into force ended on 1 February and those who flout the rules by riding their vehicles in pedestrian areas will now be fined. The local council estimates that, within the first week, up to one hundred people fell foul of the new rules. The regulations have provoked much debate, with many criticising their impracticalities.

The fine issued to cyclists is 60 euros, while those caught using scooters improperly face a 200-euro penalty. The heftier



Socialist party members and campaigners on Wednesday. SALVADOR SALAS

punishment is because of the higher speeds these vehicles can reach. The two places where most offences have taken place are Calle Alcazabilla in the city centre and the Pablo Ruiz Picasso

promenade.

At the seafront, as with in several other areas, what has proved controversial is that the 30km/h lanes in which cyclists and scooter riders can travel are con-

sidered dangerous by many, as car drivers too often do not adhere to the speed limit. In the city centre, scooter users have complained that they have no option but to cross through pedestrian areas, particularly as they are not permitted to travel through the Alcazaba tunnel.

The Socialist (PSOE) group on Malaga council, critical of the current regulations, has suggested making the 30km/h lanes exclusively for the use of bikes and electric scooters. Meanwhile, the regional government has committed to creating a specific bike lane on the Picasso promenade. Moreover, local police will use speed detectors to deter motorists from exceeding the limit in 30km/h lanes.

These changes, however, have not satisfied Ruedas Redondas, a group which promotes bicycle usage in the city. The organisation is fighting to change the law and to create more cycle-only paths. They will hold a protest ride against the current situation this Sunday, 14 February. This will take place starting from the port at 11am.

The group has also created a petition - currently with more than 6,400 signatures - but spokesperson Kay Farrell said they hoped "to get many more".

Taxis to bring in fixed fares and app payment among measures to tackle competition

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. Taxis in Andalucía have been given the green light to upgrade their services this week in an attempt to fight off competition from firms such as Uber and Cabify. After two years of debate, the Junta de Andalucía approved on Tuesday the decree for the "modernisation and flexibility" of the taxi sector in the region.

The main changes introduce the possibility of sharing a taxi with other users to make the journey cheaper, thanks to individual payments made through an app.

Customers will be able to ask for a fixed maximum fare for a previously contracted service and taxis will be obliged to accept credit cards.

The new regulations will come into effect after their publication in the BOJA, the Junta's official gazette, in the coming days.

Plan to convert city's old Correos building into an 'iconic and remarkable' hotel

The owner's lawyers have been searching for land to compensate the council for changing the land use under town planning rules

JESÚS HINOJOSA

MALAGA. The new owner of the Correos building in Malaga city, Israeli oil magnate Haim Tsuff, thinks he may have found a solution to the problem which has delayed the conversion of the old Post Office headquarters into a top class

hotel. Tsuff, who acquired the building at auction over a year ago for 23.5m euros, has been studying various options to obtain the change in the planning rules which would be needed to proceed with the project.

Under the current regulations, the building is only classified for social purposes, which means it could be turned into a home for the elderly, student residences or a children's home for example, but not a hotel.

There are two ways round a situation like this. In exchange for modifying land use under the Ur-



The building is covered in netting because its walls are in bad repair. SUR

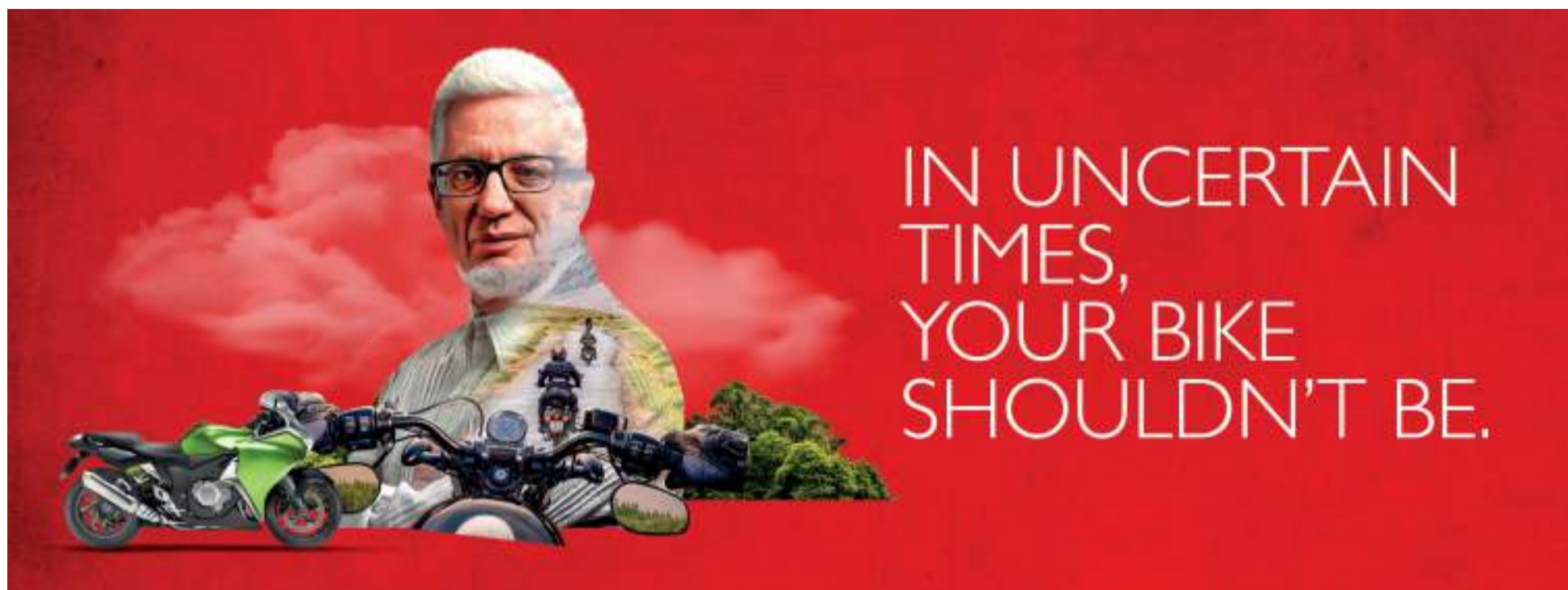
ban Plan, an owner can give the council the same amount of land, or the financial equivalent. Although Tsuff could do the latter, Malaga council is not keen because it would have to use the funds to

find and purchase land within two years. Now, lawyers for Haim Tsuff believe they have found a site which may be suitable, and if so the Correos building will become an "iconic and remarkable hotel".

Extra staff at ITV centres are already reducing the backlog

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. Waiting times for vehicle ITV tests are now shortening in the province, as extra inspection staff have been assigned to help clear the backlog. In just a few days, the delay, which was three months in some areas, has been reduced by half and in some cases appointments are now available in the same week. The ITV centres have been sending text messages to many vehicle owners with an appointment date earlier than scheduled.



High-flying local clergyman becomes an archbishop and the Papal Nuncio to Benin

GIBRALTAR

Monsignor Mark Miles is believed to be only the first archbishop and second ambassador to come from the Rock

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. Pope Francis has appointed Monsignor Mark Miles, who is from Gibraltar, as Apostolic Nuncio to the Republic of Benin in West Africa and elevated him to the status of Archbishop. The 53-year-old is believed to be the first Gibraltarian to become an archbishop and only the second to be an ambassador. He speaks English, Spanish, Italian and French

and has often acted as interpreter for Pope Francis on international trips.

Miles was ordained a priest in September 1996 and joined the diocese of Gibraltar. He graduated in Canon Law, and was awarded a Licentiate in Theology.

He entered the diplomatic service of the Holy See in July 2003 and served at the Vatican representations in Ecuador and Hungary and in the Section for General Affairs of the Secretariat of State. In 2019 he was appointed as Holy See Permanent Observer at the Organization of American States (OAS).

The Gibraltar government has congratulated the archbishop-elect, who is still fondly known locally as Father Miles, on these latest appointments.



The Union Flag was flown from the castle for 24 hours. SUR

Gibraltar marks 69 years of Queen Elizabeth II's reign

GIBRALTAR

D. BARTLETT Gibraltar flew the Union Flag on its emblematic Moorish castle on Saturday 6 February, to mark the 69th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne in 1952, upon the death of her father, King George

VI. The Governor of Gibraltar, Sir David Steel, and the government of Gibraltar paid tribute to Her Majesty as she entered the 70th year of her reign. The Queen has paid one visit to the Rock, in May 1954, and was accompanied by Prince Philip, Prince Charles and Princess Anne.

IN BRIEF

HISTORY

Name chosen for Bronze Age man

D.B. Gibraltar Museum's latest reconstruction, the head of a Bronze Age man from the Russian steppe whose cranium was found in Bray's Cave, is to be named Yantar, which means amber in Russian. He had been buried with an amber bead.

COVID

Coronavirus cases continue to fall

D.B. The number of active cases of Covid-19 continues to drop in Gibraltar, although the authorities warn that it is still vital to comply with the regulations. This week the fourth consignment of vaccines arrived on an RAF flight from the UK, with another 14,000 doses.

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Aerial view of UWC Atlantic College, outside Cardiff. EFE

Princess Leonor to attend sixth form at a Welsh school in a medieval castle

MADRID

SUR. Princess Leonor, heir to the Spanish throne, will attend boarding school at a medieval castle in Wales, the Royal Household said on Wednesday. The 15-year-old daughter of King Felipe and Queen Letizia will begin her International Baccalaureate in the autumn at the UWC Atlantic College, west of Cardiff.

Atlantic College was started in 1962 by the same founder as Scot-

land's Gordonstoun School and its 350 students from up to 80 countries study a curriculum centred on community involvement.

The stay in Wales will cost 75,000 euros, which the Royal Family will pay from their annual grant. Many of the pupils attending study free with scholarships.

Leonor is said to have won through in an anonymous selection process. Her father went to Canada aged 16 to study before military training.

Government coalition partners row over whether Spain is a real democracy or not

MADRID

SUR. The partners in the coalition government have been rowing this week over whether Spain should see itself as a real democracy or not.

Last week, Foreign Minister Arancha González Laya, of the PSOE party, caused a stir when she said that Spain was ranked as one of the only 23 full democracies in the world, in a strong criticism of Russia.

Pablo Iglesias of Podemos and deputy PM disagreed, and said: "It's true to say there isn't full, normal democracy."

He claims that King Juan Carlos leaving the country and delayed judicial appointments are examples of why Spain shouldn't be so confident in its position. Russia has said it now doesn't know which minister is telling the truth.

Defence Secretary, Margarita Robles, of the PSOE, said Spain was "a world example".

IN BRIEF



Illá during the campaign. EP

BARCELONA

Voters in Catalonia go to the polls on Sunday in uncertain election

SUR. Voters in Catalonia go to the polls on Sunday in regional elections called after the separatist ruling coalition collapsed.

The mainstream Socialist party, under ex-Health minister Salvador Illa, could emerge the biggest party. Still unclear is the size of the combined vote of the separatist parties.

A time slot has been set aside at the end of the day for those with Covid-19 to go and vote.

MADRID

EU warns funds come on condition of reform

SUR. The Vice-President of the European Commission, Margarethe Schinas, has told Spain that the 140 billion euros of post-Covid-19 support promised can only come if there are national economic reforms. "Nobody is going to sign 27 blank cheques... It's our duty to future generations," he said.

Schinas was speaking at a forum organised by Vocento, parent company of SUR.

MURCIA

Bishop apologises for 'jumping vaccine queue'

SUR. The Bishop of Cartagena has said sorry for accepting his first Covid-19 jab during a routine vaccination at a seniors home in Murcia in January.

The bishop said it was the centre's managers that put him on the list for the jab as he is a frequent visitor there.

Although he isn't a formal chaplain there, he appeared as chaplain on the paperwork, as "the computer programme didn't allow another job title".

THE EURO ZONE MARK NAYLER

The culture of corruption



Bringing a welcome change from endless, repetitive Covid headlines, the Luis Bárcenas trial kicked off in Spain's High Court on Monday. As yet, there's no proof to support the former Popular Party (PP) treasurer's claim that its then-leader and prime minister, Mariano Rajoy, knew about parallel bookkeeping and cash donations; but, in a way, that's beside the point.

Rajoy is damned if he did and damned if he didn't.

What if the dour Galician, prime minister of Spain from 2011 to 2018, did know about the party-wide slush fund and kept it quiet? If so, he's arguably just as culpable, if not more so, as the other PP figures serving time for corruption during his stint at the helm. And if he really didn't know what was going on - if, as he said when tes-

tifying in 2017 in the linked Gurtel case, he "ran the politics, not the accounting" - then he'll be criticised for not having a handle on his own party while in charge. It's his word against Bárcenas', and one of them is lying.

Bárcenas' sudden desire to confess everything is apparently an act of revenge on the PP, which failed to keep the former treasurer's wife out of prison in return for his silence (Rosalía Iglesias began a twelve-year sentence last November in connection with the Gurtel case). In a sense, he has nothing to lose: he's already serving a lengthy jail term for this role in the Gurtel scandal and, as such, is a dangerous entity for the PP. Bárcenas

claims that Rajoy was "perfectly aware" of the dodgy finances and that he shredded papers to destroy evidence, unfortunately not realising that his diligent accountant kept copies.

If what Bárcenas alleges is true, then Rajoy's lying to protect his reputation. The former Conservative premier always played on the image of being the bumbling Grandad-figure, the kind of guy you'd have over for tea and a natter, and it's actually quite difficult to imagine him taking kickbacks and cash bonuses. But it's not impossible: he was, after all, a Spanish politician. It's a pity that former spymaster Jose Villarejo - also now in prison for fraud - wasn't lurking in Rajoy's office

with his trusty tape recorder. Then we'd know who's telling the truth.

All these scandals ultimately reduce to two things: getting richer and doing favours for your mates, who in turn do you favours. It seems to be a method of operating that's deeply ingrained in Spanish politics, regardless of party affiliation (the Socialists are by no means squeaky clean in this respect, either). Pablo Casado, who took over as PP leader in 2018, said in a radio interview this week that the party of Bárcenas and Rajoy "no longer exists"; but changing the figurehead doesn't necessarily cleanse the party, and it certainly doesn't transform a culture.



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Malaga province sees its GDP sink the most of all mainland Spain

A Bank of Spain report has revealed that only the Balearic and Canary Islands have had their local economies hit harder by the pandemic

NURIA TRIGUERO



MALAGA. Last year, the Spanish economy suffered the biggest fall since the Spanish Civil War in the 1930s. Its GDP sank 11% on average, one of the sharpest declines of any developed country and well ahead of the estimated world average of a 3.5% fall.

Some Spanish provinces have fared much better or worse than others, however. Hardest hit are the Spanish islands and the Mediterranean Costas, according to a Bank of Spain survey published on Wednesday this week.

Malaga, including the Costa del Sol, is the province on the mainland that has seen its economy contract the most with a 17% fall. Only the two island groups fell further: the Balearics, by 27%,

and the two Canary Islands provinces - Las Palmas and Santa Cruz de Tenerife - by 21% and 19% respectively.

The Bank of Spain information reveals that only ten of the fifty Spanish provinces have seen a drop in economic activity that is worse than the 11% national average, although those ten hardest-hit have larger populations and make up a third of the size of the country's economy.

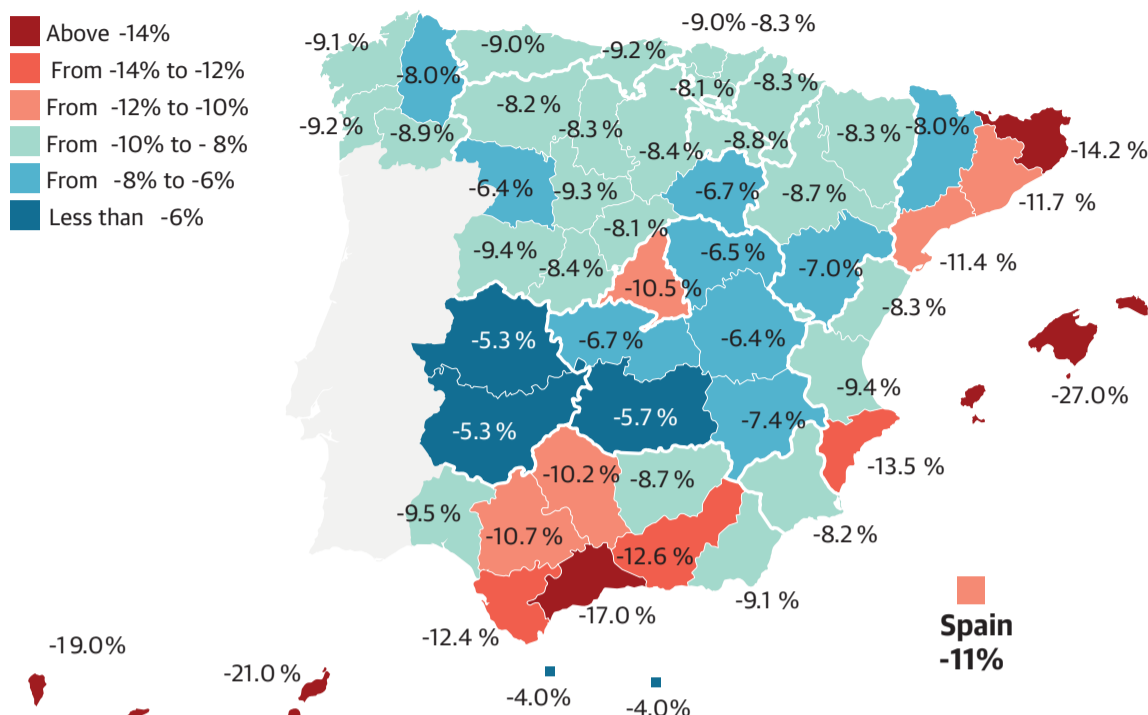
The six most-affected provinces in order are: Balearics, Las Palmas, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Malaga, Gerona and Alicante. The Bank of Spain says they are characterised by "the importance of the tourist sector, especially the part linked to foreign demand".

On the other hand, the regions with smaller falls in activity are those with least exposure to international tourism. These are the Extremadura region (with falls of 5.3% in both Cáceres and Badajoz provinces) and the provinces in the Castilla-La Mancha region, as well as Zamora and Teruel.

These areas also have a higher proportion of their day-to-day activity made up of sectors less affected by Covid-19, such as farming and the public sector, and their economy is less dependent on the movement of people.

Fall in GDP in 2020

Estimated year-on-year change by Spanish province



Jet2.com delays the restart of flights and holidays to the Costa until after 14 April

COSTA DEL SOL

SUR. The fifth largest airline flying to the Costa del Sol, Jet2.com, will not resume its operations until at least 15 April.

The company had announced last October that it was suspending flights until 10 February, but has once again extended the date it plans to restart operations.

"Due to the current uncertainty and travel restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, we have made the decision to extend the suspension of flights until 14 April 2021 inclusive," said the company, which flew 964,123 passengers to Malaga in 2019.

The delay announcement affects all Jet2.com's international holiday operation.

Major airlines to launch an IATA digital Covid 'health passport' in March

INTERNATIONAL

PILAR MARTÍNEZ. Some of the world's largest airlines intend to implement a 'health passport' next month in an effort to revive the aviation sector and get passengers travelling again - and to do so safely.

The Travel Pass is an International Air Transport Association (IATA) initiative and consists of a mobile application, currently under development, which will allow travellers to store and manage Covid-19 test or vaccination certificates.

The association considers the app to be key to reopening borders without quarantines and reactivating the aviation sector.

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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Stevie Nelson

I read the article by Tony Bryant (SUR in English, 29 January) about our great companion of the Costa entertainment scene Stevie Nelson.

It brought back a lot of memories for me. He is a great musician and even brighter wit. Get well Stevie, we all love you.

FINION KENNY

A living eulogy

During the pandemic I have noticed that one of the big side effects of Covid-19 has been loneliness and isolation.

It caused a lot of pain and suffering. The worst part being that loved ones, especially the old and infirm, have died with no family members around to hold their hands, to tell them they are loved, and just be there for them when they transition, hopefully to a better place.

I came across an idea in a second-hand book I bought in-between lockdowns that's maybe of use, namely to write a living

eulogy to friends and family members - to tell them how much they are loved and liked while they are still here with us, and not said at their funeral when it's too late.

My wife has already done three. One to her elderly mother and another to her two sisters.

She said, "Not enough people today show their loved ones how they really feel."

So I wrote my first living eulogy this week to one of my best friends ever. Telling him how valuable he is in my life. How he makes a difference.

At the moment it's hard to reach out and hug someone, but a letter, an email, a phone call or social media can help to show that we care. That we really care.

So on Saturday when my friend is 30,000 feet above Spain flying back to England due to Brexit, I am hoping that when he reads the letter (to be opened half an hour after takeoff) that I will put a smile on his face, perhaps a tear of joy.

It's the least I can do.

ANTHONY RUIZ

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

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

Soft sell

A good number of music studios around the world have a sign hanging in the control room which reads "What would Neil Young do?" It's a tribute to his much-admired, no-nonsense approach to recording. Significantly, the same sign is never seen in dressing rooms at live venues anywhere because the answer to the question in this context would probably be "play an interminable guitar solo that nobody except baldy blokes who find it hard to get a girlfriend are interested in". Still, we always forgive him these aberrations, remembering all of the sublime songs he's recorded.

The whole question took on a new twist last month when our friend Neil sold his entire back catalogue to a UK investment company for 150 million dollars. They have vowed to use his music "tastefully", apparently. Stand by, then, for Powderfinger appearing on washing detergent adverts and Old Man pushing

pension schemes.

Bob Dylan has sold his wares for 300 million dollars and Stevie Nicks 80% of hers for a mere 100 million. I've done some rough calculations on this basis, and have come to the conclusion that, in relative terms, I'll be able to offload all of my songs for about seven euros fifty and a couple of pints of lager. The big question here is, of course, why is all of this happening?

Well, I did begin to research the subject on the internet but there were too many mentions of capital gains tax and some other mind-numbing stuff and, next thing I knew, I was waking up prostrate on the sofa, dribbling steadily down my new jumper. Anyway, surely it's clear that the principal reason for these extraordinary sales is that recorded music doesn't make any money anymore. Streaming services pay five dollars per seventy gazillion plays; ok, that may not be an exact figure but it's

something along those lines. Nobody buys CDs these days and even if they did manage to find a record shop which hasn't been converted into a coffee emporium, they'd arrive home with their brand new purchase only to remember they haven't had a CD player since 1998.

The whole situation is compounded by the fact that many people are quite happy to listen to music on their mobile telephones, a practice which results in anything being played - from Mozart to McCartney - sounding like a radio station that isn't tuned in properly. Music has become a kind of aural wallpaper, ever-present but barely stirring any emotion. Not to worry, being an eternal optimist, I have faith that all of this will change for the better over time as part of the natural order of things.

In the meantime, however, we're left in a kind of limbo. What would Neil Young do? Keep On Rockin' In The Free World, I imagine.

PACHI

Coach Pellicer, there's an animal rights demonstration outside La Rosaleda stadium!!!



SUR in English

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

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THE BOTTOM LINE
RACHEL HAYNES

Three-way confession

Malaga and anyone who moves around in it are currently caught up in the controversy over the new bylaw that bans bikes and electric scooters from pavements and pedestrianised streets, forcing them out into dangerous traffic.

I caught up with a cyclist, a driver and a pedestrian to see how they feel.

The Cyclist: I never liked riding on the pavement, weaving my way among the pedestrians who have a habit of changing direction suddenly and getting in the way, but I confess I did it. I can see how that's a problem, but what do you do when the cy-

cle track just stops and turns into a pavement? Now, on my regular journey across the city, to do things properly, I have to ride a bit on a cycle track, join the traffic on the road when the track ends, dismount to walk across a pedestrian crossing to reach the start of a new cycle track that ought to be connected with the first but isn't. And the cycle tracks are great until you come across one of the many vans that use them as loading bays, or the pedestrians with their heavy shopping trolleys who've realised that the tracks are smoother than the pavements, or the runners. As for the new 30km/h lanes

where traffic must give priority to bikes and scooters, on one hand it gives me a feeling of being given the freedom the city - we cyclists can claim our place on the city's roads. But so far I've preferred to get off and walk.

The Driver: I must confess I don't like bikes on the road. It's annoying when you get behind one and have to chug along in first or when the rider wobbles and swerves in front of you. I admit I find it hard to stick to 30km/h on the new lanes and often go faster, but hardly any bikes use them anyway. And I also admit that I'm not used to looking out for a cyclist on a cycle path at a crossing; I'm accustomed only to look out for movement at pedestrian speeds before pulling out.

The Pedestrian: Thank goodness they've taken cyclists and scooters off the pavements. They might claim they're in control when they swerve round me, but I don't know that. I confess, though, that I've some-

times stopped suddenly to chat, blocking a cycle track without realising, or crossed without looking.

So, the answer lies in 'convivencia' as the Spanish beautifully say: everyone existing happily together, being respectful of each other, understanding the other's position.

But in this case, all three ought to understand one another, because they are all the same person; they are all me.

I am a cyclist, a driver and a pedestrian (no electric scooter yet). Many cyclists also drive cars, many drivers ride bikes and everyone walks to a certain extent.

But we all take our roles very seriously, depending on which hat - or helmet - we're wearing at the time.

So city hall, let's have those cycle tracks joined up, with separations that make it difficult for pedestrians to 'invade' them; and let's have the 30km/h lanes cordoned off just for bikes and scooters... it's for our own good, to save us from ourselves.



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ANTONIO
JAVIER LÓPEZ

It was a stroke of luck that she registered for that particular course, to gain some credits towards her Fine Arts studies at Granada university. She had done some work as an inker in the past, but when she began her degree she almost forgot about the world of comic cartoons. Then, one of her teachers at the university saw some of her work and told her, "You really ought to draw."

Carmen Carnero still can't quite believe what has happened. She started focusing on that type of work again, went to endless fairs to showcase her skills, then to London for an interview, passed through the doorway at Marvel, and now she is one of the Stormbreakers, the new group of eight artists from all over the world who will be working on the future of the graphic novel. Carmen is now at the forefront of her type of art, and will share the privilege with Natacha Bustos - also from Malaga. "Now you have another superpower," she says, winking at her.

The editor-in-chief at Marvel, C. B. Cebulski, and creative director Joe Quesada, have said the company is thinking of giving its biggest projects to the group to "identify them as the next generation of elite artists" at Marvel. As well as Natacha and Carmen, the group includes Patrick Gleason, Josh Cas-sara, Juann Cabal, R.B. Silva, Iban Coello and Peach Momoko.

Their countries of origin, and even their opinions, are important to this project, Natacha says: "I think they were looking for another type of profile, with artists from different places and with different styles, and I think this diversity is really cool."

So, the Stormbreakers are taking over from the Young Guns programme which Marvel launched in 2004 to promote its most promising artists, all of whom fitted a similar profile: white, American and male. Now, all the focus is on the work of these eight creators.

"Marvel sets you a target, and puts the spotlight on you. Now I look at the people who were in Young Guns and if I become half of what they were, that would be more than welcome," says Carmen.

This 37-year-old has worked on series such as Captain Marvel, Spiderman: Miles Morales, X-Men, Hellions and Stars. "To be honest, I have no idea what my style is," she says, laughing. "I don't think it's defined yet, and I wouldn't like it to be already determined. I feel that artistically I am still young and before defining myself any more I would like to try a lot of different things, like using paint in the comic,



NATACHA BUSTOS

Few artists can boast of having drawn a series for Marvel. Natacha has done so with Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur, in more than 40 issues. Spiderman: Miles Morales and Black Cat are other titles on which this creator, who loves doing cartoons, has participated.



The future of Marvel, drawn in Malaga

Comic books. Natacha Bustos and Carmen Carnero are now among the Stormbreakers, the legendary company's group of elite artists from all over the world who will lead it into the future



CARMEN CARNERO

This 37-year-old from Malaga avoids labels when putting a name to her style. Captain Marvel, Spiderman: Miles Morales, X-Men, Hellions and Stars are some of the series on which she has worked during a career which began almost by accident when she signed up for a particular course while studying for a degree in Fine Arts.



or photography, or print... I'd like to be able to incorporate all these influences in my work".

In response to the same question, Natacha says she is comfortable with a definition of her work that she heard some time back: pop realism. It is a style inherited by the cartoon aesthetic and she has exercised it in titles such as Spiderman: Miles Morales, Black Cat, and above all Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur, the Marvel series in which she has participated since it began in 2015, and of which there have been more than 40 issues.

Born in Ibiza in 1981 and brought up in Malaga, Natacha came back to the province after studying Fine Arts at Granada university and trying to make a name for herself in the comic industry from Barcelona.

"I'm really grateful to be part of this group," she says. Like Carmen, she believes it is very important to "keep your feet on the ground", even as one of the Stormbreakers.

"If you work professionally in a particular market and you're paid for your work, you can make a living from comic books, but it is always going to depend on the jobs you're given. You really have to put a great many hours in on this. I set myself a challenge some time ago to make a living this way, and it looks as if I'm on my way to doing that now," she says.

Job stability

The contract with Marvel is a blessing for these artists as it provides job stability, as the Stormbreakers are to be given different commissions over the next few years.

"It feels like being chosen as part of something like the Dream Team, and now we have to set to work," says Natacha. "It's really enjoyable.

Nearly every day there are emails saying things like 'Today we're going to draw front pages in the style of certain influences', for example Black Panther. Right now it seems like a game, not as serious as we thought it would be, and much more fun.

Also, when you know you have work coming in for the medium term, that gives you security," she says.

For Carmen, the surprise of being selected as one of the Stormbreakers has still not worn off.

"I'd been thinking that they wouldn't keep me on at Marvel," she says, "I still can't get over the fact that I am now part of this group, when Spain has so many incredible cartoonists."

She is also well aware that it isn't going to be easy. "You have to work really hard. You can be here today and not tomorrow. You have to work, and work, and work... you can't sit back and relax".

For now, though, Carmen and Natacha are both living their dream, as elite artists at Marvel.

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

12 FEBRUARY 2005

Madrid's Windsor Tower goes up in flames

The investigation never established whether there were people in the tower just before the fire broke out

Flames swept through the Windsor Tower, a skyscraper in the heart of the financial and business district of Madrid, late on Saturday 12 February 2005, completely destroying the 32-storey building.

It was 11.30pm when the fire broke out on the 21st floor.

However, investigations showed that it had been burning for some time before it was detected.

The building's fire alarm system was not working as it was in the process of being updated to comply

with new fire safety laws, having been installed when the tower was completed in 1979.

The fire quickly spread upwards, affecting first the eight floors immediately above the 21st, where flames were visible. Broken windows and debris started to fall to the ground from the top floors.

The official investigation never established the cause of the fire although one theory was that an employee had been smoking in the offices of consultants Deloitte where the blaze started. However, the investigation never confirmed whether there were people in the tower at the time or not.

Unanswered questions about the fire have fed a number of theories over the years.

There were no casualties although three fire-



The fire ripped through the upper part of Windsor Tower. **SUR**

men were treated for smoke inhalation.

Madrid's main El Corte Inglés store had to be evacuated of all cleaning staff on the Saturday night.

Eighteen fire engines were the first to arrive, followed by a further 15 vehicles. It was not until after 5pm the following day,

however, that the flames finally died down.

A large area around the building was cordoned off, which prevented around 600,000 office and shop staff from going to work and brought all commercial and financial activity in the Azca district to a standstill. El Corte Inglés remained closed for several



After the fire was extinguished. **SUR**

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Torre	Tower
Edificio	Building
Rascacielos	Skyscraper
Llamas	Flames
Arder	To burn
Humo	Smoke
Incendio	Fire
Bomberos	Fire brigade
Actualizar	To update
Seguridad	Safety
Teoría	Theory
Oficina	Office
Hormigón	Concrete
Inhalación	Inhalation
Ventana	Window
Deslojar	To evacuate
Fachada	Façade
Normativa	Regulations
Planta	Storey

weeks.

A crisis committee set up by Madrid City Hall announced the following Monday that the tower would be demolished.

The demolition of Windsor Tower was completed in August 2005, and a 23-storey replacement called Torre Titania was built from 2007 to 2011.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

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DENISE BUSH

GARDENING

Purple stonecrop

Most gardeners are familiar with stonecrop, also called sedum or ice plant, which has become a very popular, low maintenance succulent found in many gardens. Purple stonecrop, botanical name *Hylotelephium telephium* (atropurpureum group) is not quite so common, but is a stunningly beautiful plant with the same easy-to-care-for char-

acteristics.

Purple stonecrop has broad, deep-purple leaves, (turning almost black as they mature), on dark-red stems and masses of pink, star-shaped flowers throughout the summer and into autumn. It forms a dense, compact clump in spring which gradually

opens out with the weight of the flower buds at the ends of the branches. Sometimes the central part of the clump is left bare but this can be fixed by doing what is known as a Chelsea chop, cutting back a third of the stems in May, around the time of the Chelsea Flower Show in the UK. It may seem harsh as a third

of the flowering stems will be removed, but the resulting new growth will prevent the clump from losing its compact shape. Like all succulents, it will withstand short periods of drought but occasional watering when the soil has dried out is advisable. Although not fussy about soil type, it must be well-drained; sedum roots do not like to get waterlogged. A good location is a spot where it will receive full sun most of the day, with a small amount of shade in the afternoon.

Purple stonecrop dies back to the ground in winter but the brown flower heads can be left on until early spring as they are quite ornamental. Stonecrop doesn't need a lot of feeding; once every other year is enough.

Every two to three years the clump can be divided to produce new plants. Lift the whole plant out of the ground and chop through using a spade or sharp knife. Replant straight away.

The flowers of the stonecrop produce lots of nectar and are very attractive to bees and butterflies. No part of the plant is poisonous, not to humans or animals.



Hylotelephium atropurpureum and close up (inset). WIKIMEDIA

READERS' PHOTOS



MARIA HILLEN

Plectranthus verticillatus

The Spanish call this plant 'planta del dinero' (money plant) but it is also called Swedish ivy in English although it is not related to the ivy family. This photo was sent in by Maria Hillen.



LINDA RISEBOROUGH

Hardenbergia violacea

The false sasparrilla or purple coral pea, botanical name *Hardenbergia violacea*, is a member of the pea family and native to Australia. This photo was sent in by reader Linda Riseborough who has this vining plant in her garden.

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

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

your photos to english@diariosur.es or send them to SUR in English, Avda Dr Marañón 48, 29009 Málaga, with a caption and a few words of explanation. Alternatively, you can send them to us via Facebook (surenglish) or Twitter (@SUR_English).



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EXHIBITIONS

Fran Doblas

TORREMOLINOS. Until 14 February. Casa de la Navajas.

'Escapar Hacia Dentro' is a project started during quarantine last March and records, via photos and collages compiled by the artist, how individuals managed the lockdown.

Torremolinos Street Art

TORREMOLINOS. Caseta Municipal de Asociaciones.

The initiative, which includes workshops and activities for people between 14 and 35, 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.

Cuerdas del Viento con Máscaras de Tiempo

FUENGIROLA. Until 26 February.

Casa de la Cultura.

Argentinian artist Luz Ortiz de Rozas is exhibiting a selection of her imaginative works.

Alfonso J Marín

MIJAS. Until 15 February. Casa Museo de Mijas.

Local artist Alfonso J Marín will be displaying some of his sculptures.

Ten years without Juan Antonio

MIJAS. Until 1 March. Centro Cultural, La Cala de Mijas.



Street Art, Torremolinos

Ten years have passed since the disappearance of 32-year-old climber and experienced speleologist Juan Antonio Gómez Alarcón. He vanished on 20 July, 2010 while walking from Ojén back to his house in Mijas, a route he knew well. The exhibition includes photographs of the missing man as well as details of the search.

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.

Although currently closed due to the

pandemia, it is possible to see works from the Meret Oppenheim exhibition in the museum on the website www.museopicassomalaga.org under 'exposiciones digitales'.

Centre Pompidou

MÁLAGA. Muelle Uno.

Although currently closed due to the pandemic, it is possible to see some of the exhibitions on the website <https://centrepompidou-malaga.eu/>

Carmen Thyssen Museum

MÁLAGA. C/ Compañía, 10. 9.30 -

2.30pm. 7-9pm Tuesday to Friday. 9.30am-9pm Saturday and Sunday.

The past collections of the Thyssen museum can be viewed online at www.carmenthyssenmalaga.org

Museo Revello de Toro

MÁLAGA. C/Afligidos.

Félix Revello de Toro is a distinguished Malaga artist. Around 117 of his works are on display in the museum. Although currently closed due to the pandemic, it is possible to see some of his works on display in the museum on the website www.museorevellodetoro.net

Museum Jorge Rando

MÁLAGA. C/ Cruz del Molinillo.

www.museojorgerando.org
Expressionist museum of work by painter and sculptor Jorge Rando. Although currently closed due to the pandemic, it is possible to see some of the exhibitions on the website. www.jorgerando.org



The original olive press at Riogordo museum. J. R.

La Molienda goes online

JENNIE RHODES

RIOGORDO. This year's Riogordo olive festival, La Molienda, will be held online. The event is taking place tomorrow, Saturday 13 February.

The festival will start with ideas and recipes for a Mediterranean breakfast incorporating extra virgin olive oil from the renowned Malaga chef Daniel Garcia Peinado. This will be followed by a virtual tour of the olive groves around Riogordo.

Dr Simon Poole will present a live presentation and Q&A on zoom: Health and Well-being Beyond the Pandemic - the Case for the Sustainable Mediterranean Diet Reset. Simon Poole MBBS DRCOG is a Cambridge based medical doctor and authority on the science and application of the Mediterranean diet.

To register visit Facebook - La Molienda de Riogordo where you will find a link to the event. Or email: lamolien-dariogordo@gmail.com

COLLEGE

Never Give Up on their Future

MÁLAGA

Kirsty Ridyard. It is essential that in these difficult, uncertain times, everything possible is done to try to minimise disruption in education. Schools here in Andalusia are still deemed essential so are permitted to remain open despite other closures. Perhaps it wasn't hard to foresee that closing schools would result not only in slowed progress of study skills and knowledge but also various mental health issues: in any case, it is a reality which many students are now living.

With a wealth of different education options here in Málaga, it's never been more important to make careful, informed decisions about our young peoples' future. Phoenix, a Sixth Form College, works with students in two of the most important years of their education, 16-18 years (equivalent to Bachillerato in the Spanish system). We teach the British International A-level system, which allows students to specialise in 3-4 subjects, all taught in English.



For those that wish to apply to Spanish universities, we offer complementary PCE (Selectividad) courses, which are validated by UNED to facilitate entry. The atmosphere is cosy, familial and certainly International - around half of our students are Spanish, and others come from the UK, Belgium, Holland, Sweden...

"This is much better than a normal High School," says Rocio, in Year 12. "If you do it like they do in normal classrooms, you're forced to do what they tell you to do. You're more stressed and you have less opportunities for yourself. Here, we can focus on what's more difficult for you, or in the things you are more interested in".



We strive to help students achieve their individual potential, whatever that may be. Our maximum class size is twelve students and they have access to teachers outside class for help, guidance and moral support - never more necessary than now. Phoenix College began initially as an online academy, so if we need

to go online due to another lockdown, our staff are experienced and committed to making alternatives to classroom teaching as effective and enjoyable as possible - and swiftly implemented. Hopefully we will soon see the end of this pandemic, but whatever the future holds, we will continue to meet challenges head on, always with our students' futures as our priority.

Kirsty Ridyard is Co-Director of Phoenix College Málaga.



MORE INFORMATION

Find out more at our online event at 6pm on Thursday February 18th 2021. FMI see our website www.phoenixcollegemalaga.com or call 952 22 02 75 or write to info@phoenixcollegemalaga.com.

EXHIBITIONS

Galería Benedito

MÁLAGA. *Calle Niño de Guevara.* The current exhibition of works by Juan Tenorio consists of a series of landscapes of New York and London full of colour and movement. They can be viewed, as well as other art works, on the gallery web site: galeriabeneditoshop.com

La Térmica

MÁLAGA. *La Térmica.* Free. Although currently closed due to the pandemia, it is possible to see some of the exhibitions on the website www.latermicamalaga.com

Being With Trees

GIBRALTAR. *Until 13 March.* Gustavo Bacarías Gallery. This exhibition will showcase around 100 works from over 40 artists. These form part of the internationally acclaimed group of artists The Arborealists. Email: info@culture.gi.

Sobre la Mujer

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA. *Until 8 March.* La Casa Fuerte Bezmiliana. Twenty-eight art works in different



Women, Rincón de la Victoria



The Silk Road, lecture

styles and media all on the theme of women.

LIVE CONCERTS AND MUSIC

Fran Perea

MIJAS. 20 February, 8pm doors open from 7pm. Teatro Las Lagunas. 15€. Canciones para salvarme is the title of this concert by Malaga musician and actor Fran Perea. More information: <https://lacocheraentradas.com/>

TALKS / LECTURES

The Arts Society Benahavís

BENAHAVÍS. *Lectures online.* The lectures are broadcast online using Zoom for members and supporters. theartsocietybenahavis.com
23 February. Oscar Wilde – Up close by Giles Ramsay. "I put all my genius into my life; I put only my talent into my works." I examine the public and private life of one of the world's most original and controversial artists. Born into a moderately respectable Dublin family Oscar Wilde recreated himself as an international celebrity and wrote a series of short stories and plays that charmed the world. In 1890 he also published the last of

the great myths – The Picture of Dorian Gray. Ten years later Wilde, devoured by his fame, his demons and his decadence, would be dead. Visitors can register for 10€ at gracievilla@gmail.com

The Arts Society de la Frontera

SAN ROQUE. *Lectures online.* The Arts Society de la Frontera streams lectures to its members via Zoom. Free for members, 12€ for visitors. Visitors can register by contacting lucianaobrien1@gmail.com
17 February, 11am. The Silk Road and the Sea: China's Windows on the World, presented by Ann Haworth.

CHARITY

ARCH

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE. *Open every Sunday 9am - 2pm.* The ARCH team at the Rescue Centre for Horses and Donkeys has resumed its popular Sunday open mornings. Visitors can come and meet the volunteers and the current residents. More information on Facebook: Centro Andalusi de Rescate de Caballos or www.horserescuespain.org

MORE IDEAS

Lux Mundi

FUENGIROLA. *Fridays, 10am - 1pm.*

Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, C/Nueva 3.

Only the Boutique open at the moment in the Lux Mundi Centre. Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 1pm. Call: 952474840 or e-mail: luxmundif@gmail.com.

Taizé Prayer. 18 February, 7pm. Nuestra Señora del Carmen church. 25 February, 7.45pm. San José church.

Taizé prayer is a monthly invitation to join in prayer. Send an email to be included in them.

Lux Mundi

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

Coffee mornings with coffee, tea or fruit juice with a piece of cake. A boutique with a range of new and nearly new clothing and accessories and also a wide stock of second hand English books.

Craft Group. Mondays, 10am-1pm in the centre. The craft group will be making cards in various styles including Iris paper folding, decoupage and other projects. 5€.

Diver Arte for children

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

Art workshops dedicated to the His-



Natura Málaga, Malaga

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

Natura Málaga

MÁLAGA. 14-16 May. Palacio de Ferias y Congresos, Malaga. The annual health and sustainable living fair is planning to be held in May as usual in Malaga Congreso centre. This year it will include the new Naturauto, where the latest in ecological and sustainable vehicles will be on display. There will also be stands promoting a variety of products, workshops and conferences. www.naturamalaga.com

Cultural month kicks off this weekend in Fuengirola

The culture agenda will include a photographic exhibition, a jazz concert and performances by the Municipal Band

TONY BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. Fuengirola town hall has announced a series of free cultural events that will take place throughout February. The schedule, which will be staged at different locations in the town, will include exhibitions, performances of the Municipal Band and a jazz concert by celebrated singer Javier Ojeda.

The inauguration of a collective photographic exhibition hosted by students of the Municipal Photography Workshop will take place at the Collective Image Studio at 5pm today (Friday). Reflections of a Crisis is a visual example of the economic consequences of the pandemic. The exhibition can be visited on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7.30pm until 9.30pm until 15 March.

Javier Ojeda, singer of



Javier Ojeda will offer an afternoon of jazz this weekend. SUR.

iconic 1980s pop band Danza Invisible, will present his latest project at the Palacio de la Paz Auditorium on Saturday 13th February. Ojeda has teamed up with several renowned musicians to present an afternoon of jazz, which will begin at midday. The concert will be limited to 200 people.

Lovers of traditional brass band music can enjoy two concerts by the Fuengirola

Municipal Band. The first concert will take place at the Palacio de la Paz at midday on Sunday 21. A second concert will be held in the Plaza Pedro Cuevas in Los Boliches on the following Sunday (28) at 12.30pm in order to mark Andalucía Day.

Covid-19 measures will be in force at all events and reservations must be made on www.fuengirola.es or by phoning 952 58 93 52.



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How much is genetic?

Genes determine our eye colour, but also whether we have tooth decay, how much hair we have and even how cross we get

YOLANDA VEIGA



When a blonde baby is born to dark-haired parents, members of the family cast their minds back to see which grandparents or great-grandparents had blonde hair, as if to justify this difference which has 'skipped' a generation or two. In fact, it is not unusual for this to happen. It is often the case that one child in a family 'takes after' their father or mother and another doesn't seem to resemble anybody on either side. Actually, they do, but rather than a physical similarity it might be in the way they walk, their skill at solving maths problems, being a born leader or quite the opposite.

"Physical similarities are obviously determined by genes, so if your parents have blue eyes it is very probable that yours will be blue as well. And the same applies if your parents are very short, have a high IQ or if your father loses his hair before he is 30.

"In terms of character it is more difficult to determine how much is inherited and how much is learned, but the basic personality traits like extroversion, introversion or an aggressive temperament do have a high percentage of heritability," says Dr Juan José Tellería, secretary of the Spanish Human Genetics Association (AEGH) and lecturer at Valladolid University.

To a large extent, then, we are

all like our parents, but who we are is also the result of environmental factors. For example: "If you separate twins and take them to live in different countries, you will see how their physical similarities gradually diminish because of those different environments. The food in each country, sports habits, whether or not we smoke, the infections we suffer during our lives, all those mould our physical appearance. It will not change the shape of our nose or ears, but it will affect weight, the risk of contracting vascular illnesses, the early appearance of wrinkles, etc," he explains.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS The 'lottery' of eye colour'

It is the amount of melanin that determines eye colour, and that depends on genetics. "If the father and mother have blue eyes it is highly probable that their daughter will as well, but if one parent's eyes are a different colour, the child might take after either of them," says Dr Tellería.

In fact, the blue and green colour in eyes is actually the result of a lack of tonality in the iris. "This blue colour is the result of how light is diffracted in the eye. It is like the so-called blue sea. The sea isn't blue, it just looks as if it is," he says.

Returning to the subject of inherited traits, although it comes as a surprise if two parents with brown eyes have a blue-eyed child, there is a biological explanation.

"Eye colour is determined by a dozen genes, so the final result will depend on how those genes are combined. Your father received genetic load from your grandfather and grandmother, and you receive it from your father and your mother. If your paternal grandmother had blue eyes and those genes carry more weight in you, you will inherit the colour of your grandmother's eyes. It's as if that genetic load had been hidden, because it was different in your father and he has brown eyes, but the blue tone reappears in the granddaughter".

Snub nose, sign of identity

"Facial morphology such as the shape of the nose, the ears and the chin is determined by genes, although that doesn't necessarily mean you are going to have the same ears as your parents. Just like the eyes or any other physical trait, the genes involved in determining the shape of the ears may have combined in such a way that this aspect has not replicated. But in the case of identical twins, if one has a snub nose, for example, the other will as well, because they share 100 per cent of their DNA. While in those who come from different ova there is no reason for them to resemble each other much because they only share 50 per cent of their genome," says Dr Tellería.

Even the way we walk!

Every physical aspect can be inherited, and this includes even more than people imagine. The amount of hair we have and how likely it is to fall out, the strength of our nails, length of eyelashes and fingers, moles on our skin... even our way of walking. The way we walk is not a gesture, or not just a gesture, but "has to do

with bone structure, and that is something strongly influenced by the genes", says Dr Tellería.

Height has nothing to do with the food we eat

Is my daughter going to be tall? Many parents keenly await paediatric check-ups, to see if their little one is going

to be taller than average. But spurts in growth, beyond those which are normal at each age, depend a great deal on what a child has inherited from his or her parents.

"Height is extremely inheritable and in developed countries where there are no nutri-

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tional problems it is almost exclusively down to genes,” says Dr Tellería.

“In developing countries, on the other hand, environmental factors do have more of an influence. Imagine a poor country where one child is well-fed and another goes hungry. The first will certainly grow taller, and this height difference will be not so much due to genes as to environmental factors, in this case better nutrition. In Spain we do not have these differences, so if a child is short it is because his or her parents are as well,” says Dr Tellería. That may be the case nowadays, but in times of hunger such as during the post-war period, the environmental influence did make a difference. The proof of this is that the later generations, who have not been through such hard times, are taller.

Tooth decay can also be ‘inherited’

Tooth enamel, the propensity to suffer dental caries... these are aspects where genetics have an influence, although so does the environment. “If your parents have a sweet tooth you will grow up thinking it is normal to eat sweet things so you will be more likely to have tooth decay, not just because your parents do but because you have ‘inherited’ habits which favour them, in this

nesses, etc. It is not easy to distinguish how much of that is inherited and how much is learned: “However a study carried out by American researcher Ned A. Dochtermann of the University of North Dakota says 52 per cent of character traits depend on genes,” says Dr Tellería. He also says the influence is notable from the beginning: “What the foetus experiences inside the womb affects the way it develops. A woman who suffers ill-treatment produces a high level of stress hormones, cortisol, and it would not be exceptional for that baby to suffer neurological problems, personality disorders or attention deficit,” he warns.

Extroversion is a given trait

We inherit our basic personality traits and they will determine whether someone is extrovert or introvert, passive or active, organised or disorganised, meditative, persistent, or reflective. “Aggressive temperaments are also inherited,” says the doctor.

goes against our wishes, but intelligence, just like being tall or short, seems to be a matter of genetics.”

The environmental factor obviously does have an influence: an environment that favours studying will contribute to better academic results even though someone doesn’t have a very high IQ.

“My parents were Physics and Maths teachers and I have the same way of processing information as they have, but if my family had not had the means to allow me to study or if I had simply not grown up in a suitable environment for study, I would never have been able to become a doctor,” says Juan José Tellería, as an example.

tends to happen in generations of families,” says the doctor. “Something similar occurs with the social niche one occupies: if a family is led by parents who are leaders in their field or in their business, it is probable that these behaviours will be replicated in their children, and that happens whether your father is a police officer or shopkeeper. It doesn’t have to do with genetics so much, but what you have seen and

learned, and how comfortable you feel in that social environment. And you do feel comfortable because it is an environment you know, because you have lived with it at home.”

How does DNA ‘work’?

“We have more than 22,000 genes and when we are born we receive two copies of each, from our mother and our father. The genes are information and, depending on how each cell uses these genes, the result is one thing or

another. That’s why two brothers with the same biological parents may not look alike. The functioning of the genetic can be compared with an orchestra. The instruments are always the same, but depending on how they are combined, the melody changes,” says Dr Juan José Tellería.

Elite athlete parent, professional sportsman son

An elite athlete has to have a specific personality: they have to be persistent, be prepared for hard work and able to set an aim in the long term and work to achieve it, at a time when most young people tend to want immediate satisfaction. These are basic personality traits which are inherited, so it is not unusual that in a family where a parent is an elite athlete, the children will become the same.

I recognise that gesture...

“You move your head just like your father,” or “You make the same gestures as your mother.” People often say this to us but it has nothing to do with genetics. Gestures are learned. The language that accompanies gestures, however, the verbal one, is another matter. “That is tremendously heritable, because the ability to dominate a language is a superior ability of the brain and is strongly related to intelligence,” says Dr Tellería.

Roles can be replicated, but that is not because of DNA

“Everybody occupies a place in society, has a type of role: one might be a leader, another a collaborator, someone always causes trouble and another is always ready to lend a hand, and that

Intelligence

“It’s curious, but if twins are separated and brought up in different environments and are then given an IQ test at the age of 20, the result will be practically the same. However, if the family in which they live has adopted a child and he or she and the biological child of that family are educated in exactly the same way, their results in the IQ test will differ because genes have a greater weight than their environment,” says Dr Tellería.

However, he also says that intelligence will not become evident until adolescence. “In the pre-school stage the genetic influence on intelligence in children is no more than 30 per cent, but it rises to over 70 per cent when they reach the age of 18 to 20. That is when this genetic inheritance flourishes and the differences between people become more obvious. That sometimes

case a taste for sugar. The same applies to dental hygiene. In homes where people clean their teeth regularly, children present fewer dental problems,” explains this specialist.

CHARACTER

It starts in the womb

Our family conditions the way we are, even the career we study for, which is why we have ‘sagas’ of doctors, lawyers, family busi-

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◀ Pancakes and crepes are easy to make and use few ingredients.

Pancakes from humble origins



◀ **Chocolate version.**
A pancake made with cocoa powder and filled with chocolate spread.

Ancient recipe. Pancakes and crepes are derived from one of the oldest methods of making bread

ESPERANZA PELÁEZ



Next Tuesday is Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day, a day traditionally before the start of Lent, when people made basic pancakes to use up eggs and fat before starting the Lenten fast.

Although time and many gen-

erations of cooks have refined and improved the basic recipe, pancakes and crepes are derived from one of the oldest methods of making bread. To make them doesn't need a lot of skill or experience, unlike other doughs, and they are therefore perfect for introducing

children to cooking as they love the soft texture and neutral flavour.

Thanks to archaeologist Amaia Arranz-Otaegui, there is evidence that flat breads are so ancient that their origin predates the development of agriculture and therefore the cultivation of wheat. The

charred crumbs that her dig found in one of the oldest kitchens in the world in north Jordan are around 14,000 years old. Around this fire pit were flat stones that suggest that the crumbs, whose ingredients included wild wheat (*Triticum*

nonococcum), water and some dried, ground root vegetable, were from flat breads cooked on these stones.

After the arrival of agriculture, the selection and diversification of wheat varieties began but it took another seven to ten thousand years for bread flour to appear. In other words, humans were eating porridge and flat breads of different compositions long before 'bread' as we know it, was made.

Ancient-style flatbreads are still found in most cultures. When the main ingredient consists of flour from cereals, beans or seeds that lack the gluten needed to keep them spongy once baked, they are sometimes used like bread, to soak up gravy and to wrap other foods. This is the case with Mexican maíz tortillas, the huge African injeras (Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan), dosas from the south of India and south east Asia (made from rice and bean flour), and the Breton crepes in France, made from buckwheat flour. Russian blinis are now made from wheat flour as well as other ingredients including yeast, but their humble original formula consisted of cooking fermented oat paste in a frying pan.

In other cases, such as the French crepe or its many equivalents across Europe, wheat flour is used and the batter is enriched with various ingredients such as milk, brandy or beer, sugar and butter and in Galicia, pigs blood.

The humble, but in its own way sophisticated crepe is the result of enriching a very basic dough for special occasions. In fact, Asturian frixuelos and Galician filloas are related to carnival festivities, just as American pancakes were originally. French crepes are traditionally associated with the Feast of Candlemas; Chandeleur, which commemorates the Child Jesus being presented in the temple, and blinis, with Maslenitsa, which celebrates the return of the sun in spring.

Small pancakes or tortitas, in



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◀ Small pancakes can be stacked or filled in layers.

all their different forms, are usually made with some type of raising agent which can be obtained by using beer or water from fermented cereals, using stiffly beaten egg whites, a chemical agent or yeast. The batter is left thicker and left to rest longer. To make crepes all that is needed is to mix water with nearly any type of flour and cook it in a greased frying pan. For best results, the mixture must be beaten

well to get rid of any lumps and left to rest so that the flour can soak up some of the liquid. If you want to enjoy more intense flavours, try grinding whole grains or seeds in a coffee grinder. This is especially worth doing for buckwheat as it is high in fat and the flour goes rancid quickly. Not only will you achieve a better taste but also the mucilage contained in the grain which binds the flour will develop better.

RECIPE

Buckwheat pancakes

Buckwheat is a highly nutritious pseudo-cereal that has been cultivated for around 6,000 years. It is a good source of protein and fibre, magnesium, copper and manganese as well as the B vitamins riboflavin (B2) and nia-

cin (B3). It contains all the nine essential amino acids that humans need but can only get in food and contains no gluten, so is ideal for people who have gluten intolerance. These pancakes can be served with sweet or savoury fillings.



BUCKWHEAT PANCAKES

Ingredients
250g buckwheat flour or buckwheat grains
500ml water
2 medium eggs
40g melted butter
Pinch of salt.

Method
At least two and a half hours before making the pancakes, grind the buckwheat grains (if using) into a fine flour using a coffee grinder. Buckwheat is a soft grain and therefore easy to grind although the result may not be as fine as purchased flour. Mix the flour with the rest of the ingredients. Leave the mixture to rest for at least two hours so that the flour can absorb the liquid and thicken. The mixture should be thick enough to cover the back of a spoon. Heat a greased frying pan and pour in a little of the mixture to thinly cover the base of the pan. cook over a moderate heat. There is no need to flip the pancake, the filling (ham, egg and cheese) can be placed on top and heated through.

Anyone for soup?

ANDREW J. LINN



Are you a soup person? There are people who like, even adore, soup, and there are those who would not care if they never saw a plate again for the rest of their lives.

But while accepting that soup is liquid food, can it ever be as exciting as roast suckling pig or coq au vin? If we are dieting, perhaps soup is a good option, although on second thoughts perhaps not, unless we make it ourselves.

Many restaurant soups come overcharged with butter and cream, and we can never really be sure what they contain, although a good stock should be the basis for any worthwhile soup.

Soups around the world

If you are German, soup is never far from your thoughts at mealtimes, and not to be served soup when invited to a German home will probably mean that the hosts are not keen either.

Eastern European 'soups' are thicker and meatier than the classic more liquidy versions, and, rather like Spain's satisfying 'sopa de pescado' (fish soup), are ac-

tually broths containing vegetables, potatoes and meat or fish.

Nothing is less appetising than a dish of watery fluid with only a sprig of parsley for decoration.

And if you are Jewish you will instinctively believe chicken soup to be 'mother's penicillin', a cure-all for practically anything short of a sprained ankle.

If you are Chinese of course you will eat your soup at the end of the meal rather than at the beginning.

Spain is unique for its cold soups: gazpacho, ajoblanco, aguacate, etc, and, particularly in the summer, these are hard to refuse.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Monte Real Blanco Fermentado en Barrica

Rioja is for red wines, right? Well yes, until recently, but now, to many people's surprise, there are some excellent whites being made.

Barrel-fermented rather than stainless-steel tank-fermented, this fine example made by Bodegas Riojanas, costs a laughable 5.20 euros.



While accepting that soup is a liquid food, can it ever be as exciting as roast suckling pig or coq au vin?



Malaga made to pay for defensive lapses and fail to win at home yet again

Real Zaragoza made the most of slack marking to extend Malaga's winless run at La Rosaleda to three and a half months

DARYL FINCH



MALAGA. It is now three and a half months since Malaga last won a game at home, with Real Zaragoza the latest team to take all three points from La Rosaleda on Sunday evening.

A poor defensive display from Sergio Pellicer's team cost them any chance of victory, with the visitors rarely required to exert themselves having taken the lead as a result of double lapse as early as the 11th minute. First, Juan Narváez escaped the attentions of Ismael Casas far too easily on the goal line before he was able to chip a cross to the middle of the area where James Igbekeme easily won a header against Alexan-



A fine strike from Luis Muñoz briefly gave Malaga hope. **SALVADOR SALAS**

der González.

A poorly executed offside trap nearly allowed Narváez to get on the scoresheet himself moments later but the forward remarkably missed the target in the one-on-one with keeper Juan Soriano.

Zaragoza, who came into the game with the worst away record in the division, doubled their lead

just before half time when defender Carlos Vigaray, completely unmarked, headed home Sergio Bermejo's freekick from the right.

In search of a way back into the game, Pellicer altered Malaga's formation in the second half, ditching the back five which had struggled in the first half and brought on winger Joaquín Muñoz for a bit of added attack-

ing impetus. However, with Zaragoza sitting on a comfortable two-goal lead, Malaga lacked the creativity to unlock the door.

A goal finally did come in the final ten minutes through an unlikely source. Holding midfielder Luis Muñoz unleashed a thunderbolt from 20 yards into the top corner to give his side hope. That, though, quickly evaporated

1-2

MALAGA-ZARAGOZA

Malaga: Soriano; Alexander González (Joaquín, 46'), Ismael (Orlando Sá, 82'), Lombán, Juande, Cristo (Matos, 46'); Luis Muñoz, Cristian; Rahmani (Jairo, 72'), Caye Quintana (Jozabed, 82'), Chavarria. Unused substitutes: Dani Barrio, Mejías, Julio, Guerrero, Larrubia, Loren, Andrés.

Zaragoza: Ratón; Vigaray, Francés, Jair, Pep Chavarria (Nieto, 89'); Eguaras, Igbekeme (Adrián, 66'), Francho (Zapater, 89'); Narváez, Bermejo (Peybernes, 89'), Alex Alegría (Gabriel Fernández, 75'). Unused substitutes: Azón, Tejero, Zanicchia, Atienza, Larra, Sanabria, Iván.

Goals: 0-1 Igbekeme (11'), 0-2 Vigaray (45'); 1-2 Luis Muñoz (82').

Referee: Trujillo Suárez. Yellow cards for Alexander González, Orlando Sá and Ismael (after being subbed off).

Venue: La Rosaleda.

when Pablo Chavarria's header sailed over the bar and with it all hope of a comeback.

"We lacked decisiveness," was Pellicer's post-match conclusion. "We didn't make the most of the spaces nor win enough second balls. We have to be more aggressive. The team can't concede the same number of goals in the second half of the season as we did the first."

Next up, Malaga travel to Gijón to take on Sporting on Sunday (kick off 9pm) - coincidentally the last team the Blue and Whites beat at home.

Professional clubs not expecting fans to return before the end of the season

Spectators have been absent from all Primera and Segunda games since March 2020 and the third wave and the slow rollout of the vaccine mean this is unlikely to change

SERGIO CORTÉS

MALAGA. Almost eleven months after the last game to be played at La Rosaleda with spectators (coincidentally also against Real Zaragoza), the prospects of getting fans back into grounds is not great, despite the wishes of the clubs

themselves.

Professional football in Spain (the top two divisions) has been played behind closed doors since the start of March 2020 and now the majority of teams assume that fans won't return before the end of the current season. At Malaga, bosses are no longer contemplating any scenario where spectators are allowed back in despite there still being 15 weeks to go until the scheduled end of the season.

On 15 January, the president of the High Council of Sport (CSD), Irene Lozano, was due to meet with the presidents of LaLiga, Javier Tebas, and the Association of Basketball Clubs (ACB), Antonio

Martín, to analyse the possible return of fans. However, the surge of the third wave of the pandemic put paid to those plans.

The ACB has already suggested that it will ask the CSD for an injection of 10 to 12 million euros to avoid the bankruptcy of the competing teams after they experienced an average 20 per cent loss of income without fans.

LaLiga, in contrast, was clear in the summer that its clubs had to budget under the understanding that there would be no income from season tickets and box offices to avoid any significant shortfalls this year.

However, despite this certain

level of peace of mind from an economic point of view, teams in the top two tiers are hoping that fans, in some capacity or other, even in limited numbers, are able to attend at least some games in the upcoming three and a half months. However, the third wave and the slow rollout of the vaccine are likely to prove obstacles.

At present, players and staff are expected to follow strict protocols to avoid any matches being postponed (there has only been one so far, Sabadell-Alcorcón). For this reason, since last week, FFP2 masks have been required for anyone who can currently enter Primera and Segunda stadiums.

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Late Farfán goal snatches a fortunate point for Femenino

The Blue and Whites were behind for much of the game and were saved twice by the offside flag

MALAGA **1**
GRANADILLA B **1**

MARINA RIVAS

MALAGA. A last-gasp equaliser secured a fortunate 1-1 draw for Malaga Femenino at home to Granadilla B on Sunday afternoon.

The Blue and Whites made a composed start against the side from Tenerife but the breakthrough was not forthcoming and their opponents gradually felt their way into the encounter, taking the lead in the 28th minute when forward Aithiara was found on the edge of the box to strike home and give them the lead.

Their one-goal advantage was maintained until halftime, and Malaga were let off the hook following the restart when Granadilla had a goal ruled out as Ainhoa was judged to be offside.

Malaga's search for an equaliser was met with frustration, as any promising play was let down by a lack of cutting edge in attacking areas. Nati Gutiérrez's side con-



María Farfán celebrates her late equaliser. **SALVADOR SALAS**

tinued living dangerously and were again saved by an offside flag which ruled out Cindy's goal out on the hour mark.

Gutiérrez rang in the changes as Malaga pushed for an unlikely equaliser. Opportunities remained limited, until the Costa side earned a corner deep into stoppage time. With just seconds remaining, the ball was whipped in and found substitute María Farfán. The defender poked home from close range for her first of the season and to earn Malaga a draw.

Given the overall balance of play, the point almost felt like a victory, and sparked scenes of celebration from the Malaga players.

Loss leaves Marbella third from bottom to pile the pressure on coach Aira

CADIZ B **1**
MARBELLA **0**

ADG

CADIZ. Marbella did little to ease their relegation worries as they fell to a 1-0 loss at Cadiz B on Saturday afternoon. The defeat means they lie third bottom of Group 4A of Segunda B and increases the pressure on boss José Manuel Aira.

Marbella's hopes of bouncing back from last week's defeat to Tamaraceite were met with an early blow when a corner for the hosts found Sergi Fernández and his header set up Saturday Erimuya, who scored to give his side a fourth-minute lead.

Fifteen minutes in, Marbella had their first chance, but captain Añón was unable to hit the target. Ten minutes later, Cadiz B nearly doubled their advantage, when Nieto's freekick was cleared for a corner.

At the start of the second half, Marbella had calls for a penalty waved away as the referee did not deem a handball to have occurred. Despite being the better side after the break, Marbella did little to trouble Flere's goal. Their best chance came in the 72nd minute, when Callejón's freekick was headed behind by Fernández.

The visitors had a couple more half-chances as full-time approached but couldn't find an equaliser. Deep into stoppage time, Tremarco had a chance to get that elusive goal, but his shot sailed harmlessly over the bar.

Overall, Marbella were unable to capitalise on a much-improved second half performance, and the side clearly missed the injured Alfonso Herrera.

The result sees Cadiz B leapfrog Marbella on the head-to-head rule. Aira's side will hope to get back on track at Linense on Wednesday afternoon.



A LOOK AT LA LIGA
ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports

History repeating

A move to Spurs was supposed to reinvigorate Gareth Bale; instead he's become an unwanted sideshow - again



Yet again Gareth Bale has become an unwanted sideshow rather than a showstopper. Zinedine Zidane will be smiling wryly as he sees José Mourinho face familiar questions about the mysterious star.

The Welshman was supposed to return to the Premier League in a blaze of glory, rekindling the incredible natural talent that made him a 100-million-euro footballer and three-time Champions League winner. But Real Madrid's problem is now Tottenham's. You could translate previous Spanish quotes from Zidane and get the same responses from Mourinho in English.

In July 2019, following the Bayern Munich match, Zidane said: "Gareth didn't come on because he didn't want to." Fast forward to February 2021 and the Spurs boss was left explaining Bale's absence to the media at Goodison Park: "I wouldn't say an injury, not at all, [there were] some feelings he was not happy with."

At his best, winning European finals with overhead kicks, Bale is up there among the legendary. He was rightly compared to Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo. Now he's likened to the unfortunate Darren Anderton who was nicknamed 'Sicknote'.

The issue with Messi and Ronaldo is getting them to sit out the odd game. The problem with Bale is getting him to play the odd game. At Real Madrid he started only two of the last 19 Liga games; at Tottenham he's started only two of 22 Premier League matches.

Often the FA Cup is a useful opportunity for game time. However, the day after he posted "Good session today" on Instagram, his manager was left explaining he preferred spending time with the club's sports scientist rather than his colleagues at Everton.

Posts on his Instagram are not willy-nilly, they cost \$185,000 per message if



A familiar sight - Gareth Bale as an unused substitute. **EFE**

you want to reach his followers. But he's in danger of losing followers as his presence as a footballer diminishes. Mourinho swerved the Bale dilemma, doesn't select him and is probably counting down the days until he sends him back to Madrid.

At Real he reported a twisted ankle, thigh strain and infec-

tion, as well as the refusal to go on as a sub. At Spurs the issues have been knee, calf, and a preference to have a scan rather than jump on the team bus to Merseyside.

It doesn't appear there's a scan of the body which can reveal what is going on in his head. We all have friends who have a list of ailments to get them out of work or gatherings. It appears he's just fallen out of love with the job.

In the summer he must return to Real Madrid with a year remaining on his reported 600,000-euro-per-week contract. The added issue is his non-EU status which further restricts his selection. It could be that he's paid off as a compromise. Then he can concentrate on his true sporting passion which appears to be golf.

But it isn't only his football that's hurting. I was surprised to discover that his golf handicap is close to four. Without his usual winter and spring on the Spanish courses, his game is really going to suffer.

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Countdown begins to the Copa de la Reina final in Malaga

The finale of the biggest cup competition in Spanish women's football will see Barcelona take on Logroño at La Rosaleda this Saturday

MARINA RIVAS

MALAGA. Malaga will become the centre of women's football in Spain tomorrow (Saturday) as it hosts the final of the Copa de la Reina at La Rosaleda stadium.

The match, which will be played behind closed doors, will be the first women's match to be played at the stadium in its history. It will also be the first women's final to be played in a Champions League stadium.

It's a duel that will pit reigning La Liga champions Barcelona (with 16 domestic titles) against underdogs Logroño, who have reached the final for the first time.

The event was presented last Thursday at the Andalusian Institute of Sport (IAD) in Malaga and

was attended by the president of the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF), Luis Rubiales; the Andalusian regional minister for Education and Sport, Javier Imbroda; the vice-president of the Malaga provincial government, Juan Carlos Maldonado; and the mayor of Malaga, Francisco de La Torre.

Maldonado said: "There have been many finals for which Malaga has been chosen. It's not going to be done in the way we had planned, but it will still go ahead thanks to all of our efforts.



The presentation of the match last Thursday. RFEF

Events like this motivate us to continue working for women's equality."

Rubiales concluded the event by highlighting the involvement of the institutions: "The Junta, the Diputación and Malaga city

council are a great example of how to coordinate and organise events. Malaga has always been there, ready."

The match, which kicks off at 5.30pm, will be broadcast on free-to-watch Teledeporte.

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Tickets for the AnyTech365 Andalucía Open in Marbella go on sale

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

MALAGA. Tickets for the AnyTech365 Andalucía Open, which runs from 27 March to 11 April at the Puente Romano Tennis Club in Marbella, are now on sale to the general public.

The first few days of the ATP Challenger 80 tournament will be played behind closed doors but entry for spectators will be permitted from Thursday 1 April for the elite ATP 250 stage of the tournament.

Pandemic permitting, spectators will be allowed in the stands for every day of competition in the ATP 250, with the capacity limited to the amount recommended by the authorities at the time of the event.

In the event of a reduction in seating capacity, the order of purchase will be respected.

Tickets are available from 15 euros and can be purchased from the official website (www.andaluciaopen.com). As well as tickets for individual days, tickets for every day of the tournament and VIP specials are also available.

According to the tournament organisers, they will operate a "fair refund policy" for those people who, due to mobility restrictions during the event, are unable to use the tickets they have purchased.

Among those confirmed to be participating is Italian Jannik Sinner. At just 19 years of age, he is the defending champion of the Next Gen ATP Finals, is currently 32nd in the ATP rankings (the highest of his career) and he has just come off the back of victory in the Great Ocean Road Open, an ATP 250 tournament in Melbourne prior to the Australian Open.

The full list of participants will be published in a few days.

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THE STARS



Aquarius
January 21st - February 19th
Change that has been on the cards could come to fruition sooner rather than later, and this week might see the cogs moving faster, and perhaps a significant step forward being made.



Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Are you giving yourself too much of a hard time over something? If it's making you stressed, then this week can see things reaching a crescendo.



Aries
March 21st - April 20th
With two powerful planets squaring off with each other, tensions could reach a peak over this week. You may have a desire to resolve an ongoing issue.



Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Having problems with authority? As uncomfortable as this feels, the search for a solution may give a different perspective that changes everything.



Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Feeling pulled in two different directions? It may be that something fresh will emerge that is exactly what you want, and on recognising this you'll feel empowered.



Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
If you need the help of an expert or mentor to give you wise advice, then this is the time to look, as any assistance can certainly make life easier.



Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
As sobering Saturn makes an edgy aspect to electric Uranus, a new beginning may be on the cards, and it might be down to the people you've been mixing with.



Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Things may seem more complicated than they are. Your routine could be disrupted, and for a while things might not go as planned.



Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
You are contemplating some brilliant ideas and may be eager to set them in motion, yet something is stopping you. Is it something you could fix, or emotional issue that needs sorting?



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
The Sun's move into your romance and leisure zone can be a call to tap into your creative abilities. This might be especially necessary if you are faced with an issue that seems insoluble.

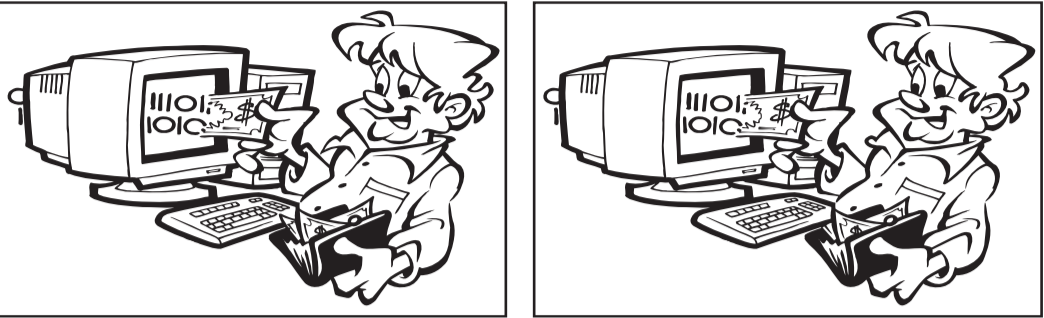


Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
As Mercury forges ahead it can pay to experiment with various ideas, as there might be more than one way to get the outcome you desire. Fancy some pampering? Go for it!

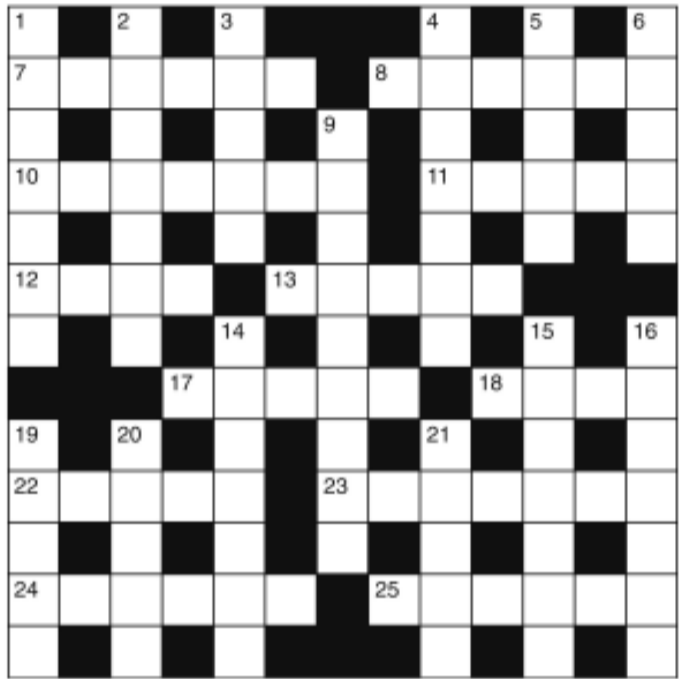


Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
Avoid escaping one situation, only to find yourself in a worse one. Decisions will need to be made, but a desire for positive change suggests that getting your priorities in order can be helpful.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11448



Across

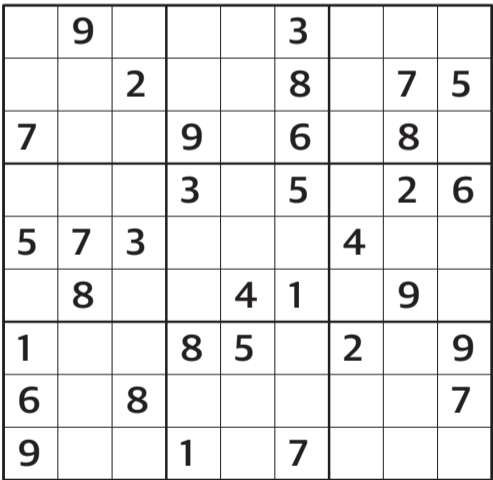
- 7 Strong dislike of headgear by Communist (6)
- 8 Does it give warning of night owl on the road? (6)
- 10 Wicked threats to destroy utterly (7)
- 11 Poet is fired (5)
- 12 Get rid of those who take part in 22, for example? (4)
- 13 European vegetable (5)
- 17 Made a catty remark? The first person married? (5)
- 18 Spots right wood (4)
- 22 A bit of co-operation needed for entertainment (5)
- 23 Disparage when weakened by illness (3,4)
- 24 Good points of inaccurate timers (6)
- 25 Employment when sick constitutes maltreatment (3-3)

Down

- 1 Scientific study of medicines? (7)
- 2 He composed dances for US stars (7)
- 3 & 14 Down Final sentence to end the play at possibly? (5,7)
- 4 Refused to allow making of bread (7)
- 5 Shop in West or East Berlin (5)
- 6, 16 and 20 Down Scorns early French predecessor of Chunnel (5-7,5)
- 9 Sketch rips and cause to cry (4,5)
- 14 See 3 Down
- 15 Nothing in the sailing vessel is in lavishly decorated style (7)
- 16 See 6 Down
- 19 Body of type coming my way (5)
- 20 See 6 Down
- 21 Containing relative pronoun, clearly (5)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

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



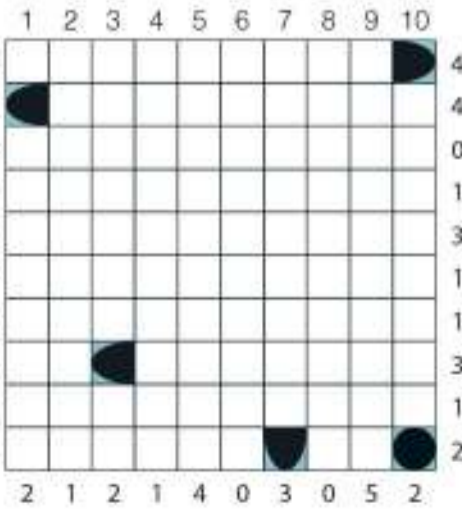
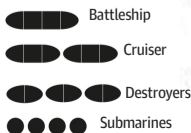
THE WORDPUZZLER



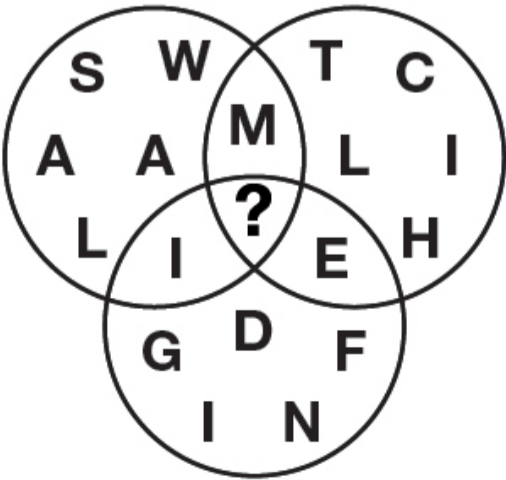
- Can you identify the words that contain 'war' from the clues listed below?
- 1. Cautious
 - 2. Profit
 - 3. Contort
 - 4. One of Snow White's companions
 - 5. Admonish
 - 6. Verruca
 - 7. Craven person
 - 8. Goods
 - 9. Fairly hot
 - 10. Look out

BATTLESHIPS

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



CIRCLEGRAM



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

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across
- 1) Financial (m) (10)

6) Skyscraper (11)

12) Sacrifices (11)

13) Leisure (4)

14) Smoke (4)

15) It is (2)

16) Her (2)

17) He walks (4)

18) Opaque (m.pl) (6)

21) From (5)

24) I perceived (7)

25) Twilight (5)

26) To evacuate (9)

29) Paranoid (f) (9)

33) Otter (6)

34) Cigarette (10)

35) More (3)

36) Wing (3)

38) To the (2)

39) Fire brigade (8)

43) Sun (3)

45) Press (6)

46) Mite (5)

50) Theory (6)

52) Diabetic (m) (9)

53) To install (8)

54) Regulations (9)

55) They updated (12)
- Down

1) Façade (7)

2) Rules (6)

3) Us (3)

4) Fire (8)

5) Ruin (5)

7) She warns (5)

8) Chaos (4)

9) Building (8)

10) Safety (9)

11) Wine (4)

15) Spirals (9)

19) Storey (6)

20) To cooperate (8)

22) To destroy (9)

23) Concrete (8)

27) Flames (6)

28) Ha! (2)

30) Neon light (4)

31) Island (4)

32) Inhalation (10)

37) They put out (8)

40) Era (5)

41) Office (7)

42) Window (7)

44) I offered (6)

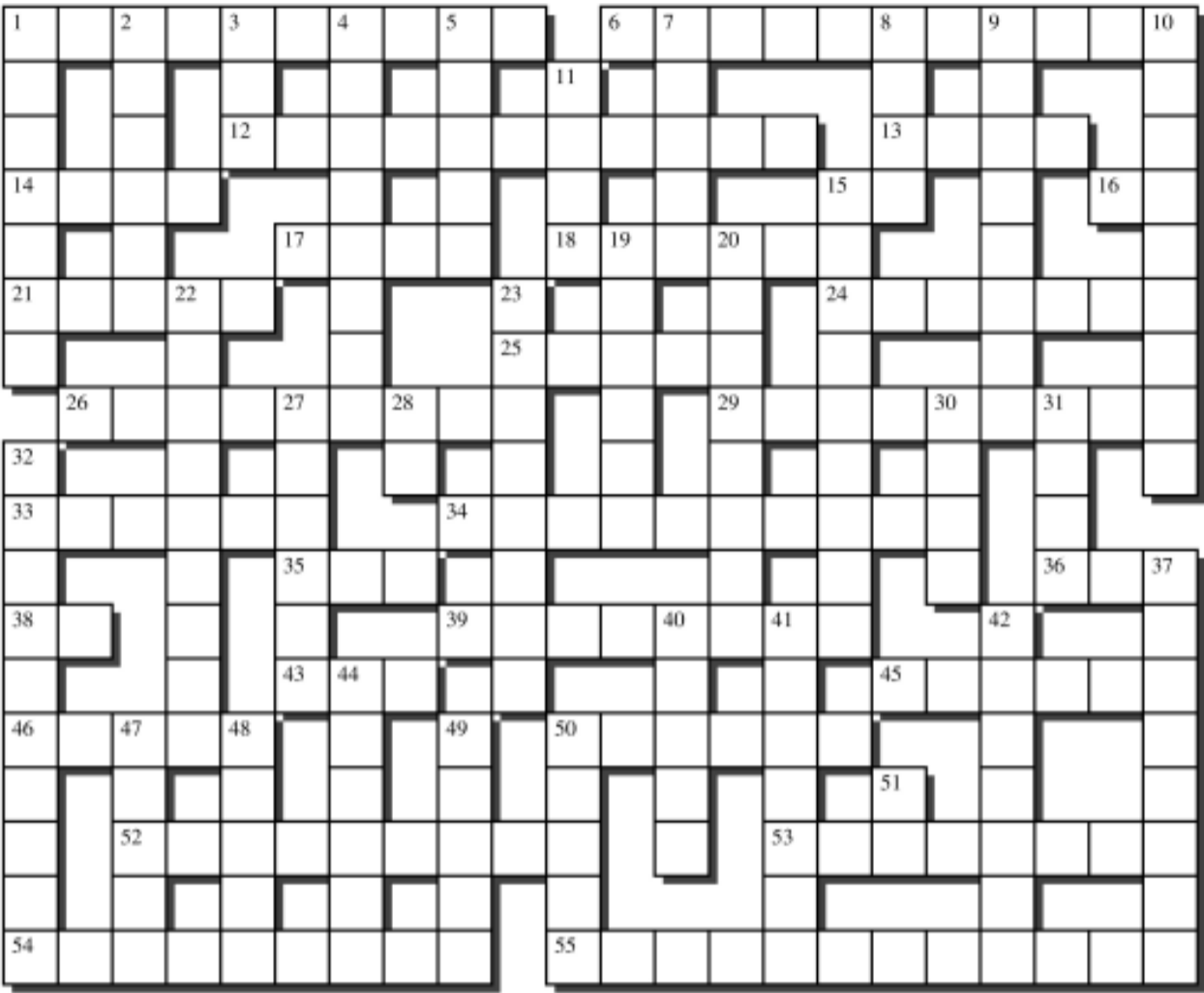
47) To burn (5)

48) If only! (5)

49) Friend (f) (5)

50) Troop (5)

51) Ace (2)



ANSWERS

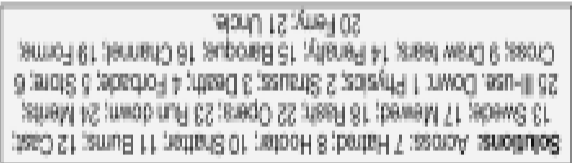
Quiz answers

Answer: Golden Gate Bridge.
The suspension bridge spans the Golden Gate, the 1.6 km-wide strait connecting San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean. It was initially designed by engineer Joseph Strauss in 1917 and construction began 5 January, 1933. It was opened in 1937.
Answer: Roger Miller
Of interest: King of the Road became a huge hit for the country singer when it was released in 1964. The lyrics tell of the life of a hobo who, despite being poor reveals in his freedom, describing himself as the “king of the road”.

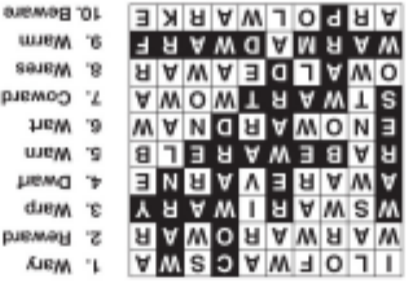
Language Crossword



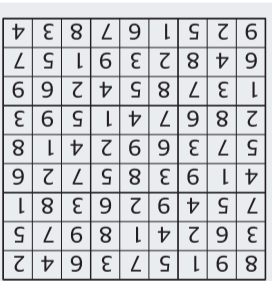
Cryptic Crossword



Wordpuzzler solution



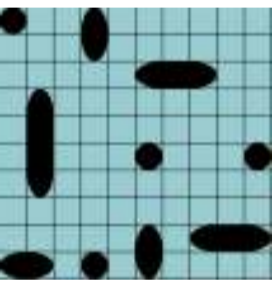
Sudoku solution



Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is L. Williams, Mitchell, Fielding, all British comedians.

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



A view of the church

Last week:
Gaucín

This picturesque view with an old bridge in the foreground can be seen from Calle Tenerife in Gaucín.



THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

Benalmádena - Get snapping!

We're all fond of Benalmádena, the popular Costa del Sol beach and mountain resort that is home to many international residents and, pandemic aside, a favourite holiday destination. At SUR in English we are preparing a special supplement which aims to reflect just how much our readers appreciate the town. You can help by sending in a photograph that captures the essence of Benalmádena. It could be funny, artistic, romantic, poignant... so grab your camera and get to

work. With some drier weather on its way, you will have the perfect opportunity to rediscover some of Benalmádena's attractions, from its wide beaches and the yachts in Puerto Marina to the monument dedicated to Columbus and the pretty Pueblo. Send your photos by 21 February - no more than three images per person - by email to english@diariosur.es, Twitter @SUR_English or Facebook @surenglish. We aim to publish the best and you may even win a prize!

A hidden Baroque jewel

Heritage. An 18th-century chapel that stands amid a social housing complex in Malaga city is about to be restored by the Junta

JESÚS HINOJOSA



Few people are aware of this, but hidden amid one of the social housing projects in the area behind Calle Mármol in Malaga city, where the districts of La Trinidad and El Perchel meet, there is an architectural treasure, a Baroque chapel which has survived between the apartment blocks in Plaza Imagen.

Despite the building works and numerous changes which have taken place in the area over the years, this remarkable chapel has remained as a reminder of a Malaga which used to be filled with churches, convents and chapels, so many of which have disappeared from the urban landscape over the centuries.

Praying the rosary

The tower which houses the chapel was built shortly before 1713 and was part of a church run by one of the many groups of faithful of that time who used to pray the rosary through the streets. According to Rosario Camacho, Professor of the History of Art at Malaga university, this would have been the Congregación del Rosa-



Fire. Dorao and Bernal inspect the Baroque plasterwork which has been blackened by fire and will have to be cleaned. FRANCIS SILVA

rio de la Aurora María.

This congregation paid homage to an image of the Virgen de la Aurora, and in all probability they prayed to her in this chapel. In 1739, this group of devotees moved to a new church beside the Guadalmedina river (it is now the local headquarters of the Cáritas charity) and this one was then run by nuns from the first Dominican convent in the city until the end of the 18th century.

The nuns' house

During the 19th and 20th centuries the church, which was referred to locally as "the nuns' house", was used as a community centre for residents until it was demolished in 1998 to make way for a development of social

► A new access will be needed for the octagonal chapel tower which is located between blocks of flats.

housing. However, the developers decided to leave the Baroque chapel standing. Its interior contains valuable plasterwork which art experts say is very similar to that which decorates the impressive chapel of the Virgen de la Victoria, the patron saint of Malaga city. On the exterior, remnants of the fake brick decoration that covered its eight sides can still be seen, as this is an octagonal construction.

After many years of neglect, the Junta de Andalucía, which

owns this 18th-century building, finally decided to restore it and has commissioned architect Ignacio Dorao to draw up the plans for this so that the contract for the rehabilitation works may then be put out to tender.



The congregation paid homage to an image of the Virgen de la Aurora, and in all probability they prayed to her in this chapel

Dorao was commissioned by the Junta to design the complete restoration project using experts with experience in this type of construction from centuries past.

SUR went with Ignacio Dorao and Junta-representative Juan Jesús Bernal on a visit to this disused chapel. Inside, the tower is currently divided into a ground floor and two upper levels, and this splits what was the original room of the chapel into two parts. These floors which had been added will be removed.

The plasterwork on the dome of the chapel is very impressive. It has been blackened by fire but even this cannot hide its early polychromy. Eight reliefs of the Virgen de la Aurora stand out.

Below these are others which are smaller and contain verses referring to the scenes which feature the Virgen. However, only four of these texts remain because the others have been destroyed by vandals who, after the fire, also removed much of the Baroque decoration that framed the windows.

"My intention is to open up the windows again so the light can come back in," said Ignacio Dorao, whose plans will need to be given the go-ahead by Junta technicians.

"It really is impressive," said Juan Jesús Bernal, who is keen to get the project under way as soon as the plans are finalised. Nevertheless, both men agree that to complete the definitive restoration of the chapel, it will be necessary to create another access separate from the apartment blocks amid which it stands.

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